

Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence 1988-2018

MOBILE SERVICE TEAM 24 Hrs SERVICE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION

**KOOL NEST**  
Kooling the soul of your business  
Ph: 25567798, 25512319



In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

# Islamic Voice

24 Pages

Rs. 25

Bengaluru

English Monthly

April 2020

Vol. 33-04 No. 400

Shaban / Ramzan - 1441 H

Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence 1988-2018

MOBILE SERVICE TEAM 24 Hrs SERVICE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION

**KOOL NEST**  
Kooling the soul of your business  
Ph: 25567798, 25512319

## Suspension of Islamic Voice Print & Web Edition

It was January 1987. A pall of gloom was hanging over the Muslim community in Bangalore. An incident in the city had left some intellectuals from the community wondering if Muslims had lost their voice. There was virtually no English media of their own at that time to express their stand on various issues. Muslims were not inclined towards writing on issues that mattered.

In such a scenario, we decided to set up *Islamic Voice* with the intention of focusing on spiritual values as well as social issues. We wanted to present the true essence of Islam. We started off with eight pages in black and white. I remember sitting late hours at night choosing the articles, making the layout and even driving on my scooter to the printers, along with my trusted assistant Mr. Prabakhar on pillion.

Slowly, we increased the number of pages to 16, and then to 32. In the days when there were no mobile phones and Internet, our writers would send handwritten stories to us by post! We were printing 15,000 copies, which was a fairly impressive number.

Our presence in Bangalore in particular, and in Karnataka in

general, grew more visible and advertisers began placing their ads in *Islamic Voice*. The 32 pages also included glossy colour pages, which attracted advertisers. Advertising revenues supported printing costs, salaries, writers' remuneration and overheads. This continued till about the end of 2016. In between there were ups and downs, but in all these more than 30 years we did not miss even a single issue, by Allah's grace and mercy. I sincerely thank all the readers and advertisers for the unflinching support they extended to us.

From 2018, as a result of economic changes and other factors, the situation has changed. We are now facing a major financial challenge. It is now very difficult to get advertisements. Our advertising revenue has been declining, and we still have to pay our printers and cover all the other costs.

It has been a roller coaster ride through 2019 and now 2020. The number of new subscribers is pathetically small. The reading habits of many people have changed. They are now glued to their mobile screens and access



the latest news from there. Perhaps it makes little sense for us to continue the magazine.

Now with corona virus around and the resultant slowdown of business all around, we will be suspending the print and the web edition of *Islamic Voice*, at least till such time that, God willing, the clouds clear.

We thank you for your support! We would appreciate suggestions, ideas and support from the readers.

Readers could Email to: [workmailedit@gmail.com](mailto:workmailedit@gmail.com) / [editor@islamicvoice.com](mailto:editor@islamicvoice.com) or What's App to : 6360226419

Sadathullah Khan  
Editor  
*Islamic Voice*

## Coronavirus: An Islamic Perspective

The coronavirus is a reminder to us all of our weak state. Allah says: "Mankind was created weak"

Allah has blessed us with a religion that is complete and perfect for all times and places. Allah tells us in the Qur'an:

*"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as your religion"*

We also have in the Prophet (sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam), the best of examples, as Allah says in the Qur'an:

*"Surely there was a good example for you in the Messenger of Allah"*

Whatever problem or issue a Muslim is facing, he returns back to Allah and his Messenger for

*"All h sends us tests to see how we will react and handle them. How are we going to respond? When you hear the news that your umrah trip is cancelled because of this virus, how will you respond? When you hear your flights have been cancelled, your loved ones have fallen ill, how will you respond?"*



By Adil Saleem

guidance; there is nothing that happens in the life of a Muslim except that his religion has a solution to it.

We recently heard about the coronavirus which is spreading to a number of countries, affecting the lives of many people, causing death to others.

There are a number of thoughts that should cross the mind of a Muslim when they hear something like this. Below are some points that a person must remember and internalise when they see or hear of such incidents:

### Trials and tribulations

*Trials and tribulations are part of life*, this is something that Allah informs us of and warns us so that when we are afflicted, we remember that it is ultimately Allah who controls of our affairs. It is He who will provide help and His knowledge of our affairs surpasses our restricted intellect. As He says in the Qur'an:

» Page 11

**GPJ GOLD PALACE Jewellers**

Special Offer up to 50% OFF on making charges

Join Our Swarna Saving Scheme

BIS Hall Mark Jewellery  
Arrival of New Bridal Jewellery

#126, Dispensary Road, Parallel to Commercial Street  
Bangalore - 560 001, Ph: 080-25592155, 25598681  
Email: [goldpalace\\_signature@yahoo.com](mailto:goldpalace_signature@yahoo.com), Website: [www.goldpalacejewellers.org](http://www.goldpalacejewellers.org)

## Buy Gold Jewellery from RISHABH GOLD PALACE

Gold jewellery makes every occasion special with its brilliance and glamour. Whether you are buying a Gold Jewellery for yourself or a loved one, it's important to know what you are purchasing. After all, when you're investing in something so precious and rare, you should make an informed choice. Here's a quick guide to help you get yourself the best deal out there.

Familiarise yourself with Gold Jewellery before you make the purchase. Good starting points are the 916 - KDM, BIS-Hallmark, Tax-invoice and Return Value. This important language of Gold Jewellery will determine the value and therefore the price you will pay for your big purchase.

Being aware of what you are buying is key to getting the best Gold Jewellery experience, one that will last a lifetime. Find the right piece of Gold Jewellery after doing your homework thoroughly. Lastly, don't be afraid to ask questions or request for an expert opinion at **RISHABH GOLD MOBILE NUMBER 9342457222**, if you're still unsure.

Knowing what to consider when buying Gold Jewellery is a step in the right direction, but you also need to make the all-important purchase at the right jeweller to be assured of quality and value. Trust and authentication are a must when you're investing in Gold Jewellery, whether for the first time or as a repeat customer.

**RISHABH GOLD PALACE** is the Karnataka's favourite jeweller, not only offers a variety of designs but also the promise of **916KDM-HALLMARK GOLD JEWELLERY** quality. Trusted by generations, the jewellery follows a stringent procurement process for its Gold Jewellery.

### RISHABH GOLD PALACE

NO. 914, NAGARTH PET MAIN ROAD, NEAR RAM MEDICALS, OPP KHANKAR SAARES, BANGALORE-02

PHONE NO.: 1800-313-2628, 9342457222, 080-42047748, 080-41241384, 080-40943002, 080-22297821



## The Muslim Running for Mayor In Christian Bavaria

Ozan Iyibas looks like a typical politician out to win votes ahead of a municipal election in southern Germany's Bavaria region. But he is the first Muslim standing for the Christian Social Union (CSU) in a predominantly Catholic region. "I don't see any contradiction in this choice," says the 37-year-old. "It's a question of values. The values of my religion are very close to those of Christians."

While Iyibas won the local CSU's nomination unanimously, such support is not always a given in the region where party chief Markus Soeder in 2018 ordered crosses to be displayed at the entrances of all public buildings, as a way of honouring the region's "cultural heritage".

In another Bavarian village, Wallerstein, resistance from local CSU members was so great against a Muslim candidate that the hopeful was forced to pull out of the race. "It was not about me, but about my faith. For example, an argument is that the C in CSU and I as a Muslim did not go together," Sener Sahin said.

Party top brass had sought to



intervene in Sahin's favour, but the rank and file would not budge, even though Sahin is a successful entrepreneur who was both player and trainer in the village football club and whose wife is Catholic.

Iyibas, who is of Turkish origin and an adherent of Alevism, a secular branch of Islam, said he has been brought up to feel at ease in a predominantly Catholic environment from a young age. "When I was little, my mother took me to a church and I asked

her why. She replied that if we were going to live here, we needed to understand and share the values of this country. That's what I have done."

Iyibas is convinced his party is changing. For him, a "new conservatism" could arise that "honours tradition but innovates at the same time". And he is hopeful that "in five or 10 years' time, (religion) won't be an issue". But he still faces an uphill battle to win over local far-right supporters.

## Pope Francis Warns Against 'Unfair' Solutions to End Israel-Palestine Conflict

The head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, has cautioned against "unfair" solutions aimed at ending the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. In a speech during a visit to the Italian city of Bari to reflect on peace in countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, Pope Francis lamented the many areas of war and conflict, including in the Middle East and Northern Africa. He spoke of "the still unresolved



conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, with the danger of

not fair solutions, and, thus, presaging new crises." The Pope didn't cite any specific proposals.

A new US peace plan would let Israel annex all of its settlements along with the strategic Jordan Valley. It would give the Palestinians limited autonomy in several chunks of territory with a capital on the outskirts of Jerusalem, but only if they meet stringent conditions.

## The Muslims Of Auschwitz: Tales of Tragedy And Heroism

Parman Romonov and Kaim Abdijew were Soviet prisoners of war captured by the Nazis. Their dates of birth and death are recorded, but nothing else – they are among a small number of Muslims who met their end at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi concentration camp, and little is known about them. Some seventy-five years ago, the huge Auschwitz camp in south-west Poland was liberated from the Germans by the Soviet Red Army. Among those starved, gassed and slaughtered in this and other Nazi camps were Muslims from North Africa and central Asia.

The deaths and the many others here

were "crimes against humanity", secretary-general of the Muslim World League, Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa, told world leaders as they gathered to mark the anniversary. "That is to say, a violation of us all, an affront to all of God's children," he said.

Of the 1.3 million people, mostly Jews, who were detained in the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex until 1945, 1.1 million never made it out alive. A dearth of records, however, has made it difficult to establish exactly how many of the detained were Muslims. "We know very little because very little documentation survived," says

Pawel Sawicki of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. "But from the shred of information we have, we can find two groups of Muslims among the prisoners. The names look far more linked with the Arabic culture than Russian."

Some seemed to be Soviet prisoners of war while others were arrested by the Nazis in France, and were from the North African colonies. Some records recovered by the Soviets suggest that 53 of 400,000 registered Auschwitz prisoners were Muslims. The "Death Books" recorded by the Nazis at Auschwitz listed five prisoners as Muslims, but omit records from several months in

## Document Confirms Brutal Treatment of Uyghurs In China

Fresh reports have emerged about the extent of the crackdown by Chinese authorities against Muslim Uyghurs in the central region of Xinjiang after a leaked internal Communist Party document was obtained by German media. And on Feb. 21 Amnesty International released case studies showing how China is systematically harassing Uyghurs and other Chinese Muslim minorities overseas.

The newly leaked document, known as the "Qaraqash Document" or "Qaraqash List" in reference to the Xinjiang town referred to in the document, shows that detainees were put into what China described as "re-education systems" for offenses related to common religious practices such as growing a beard or wearing a veil.

It also describes how authorities are using advanced surveillance techniques millions of cameras are installed across Xinjiang to track "every face, every family and every movement" of Muslim-minority Uyghurs, Deutsche Welle said.

Other people have been incarcerated for applying for a passport and not leaving the country and even having too many children in violation of China's One Child policy, even though most ethnic minorities had traditionally been excluded and the policy has since been relaxed.

Speaking about Amnesty's case studies, Patrick Poon, its China researcher, said: "These chilling accounts from Uyghurs living abroad illustrate how the far-reaching shadow of repression against Muslims from China extends far beyond its borders.

"Even when Uyghurs and members of other minorities flee persecution in Xinjiang, they are

not safe. The Chinese government will find ways to reach them, to intimidate them and, ultimately, attempt to bring them back to face a grim fate including by pressuring other governments to return them."

Amnesty analyzed information from about 400 Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Uzbeks and members of other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups living in 22 countries across five continents between September 2018 and September 2019.

In 2019, leaked internal documents showed how the campaign against Uyghurs in Xinjiang, which began in earnest following July 2009 sectarian riots, has been stepped up under the leadership of Xi Jinping.

In 2014, the Chinese president called for a "struggle against terrorism, infiltration and separatism" in Xinjiang. The documents showed how Xinjiang party secretary Chen Quanguo ordered local officials to "round up everyone who should be rounded up" after taking charge of the region in 2016.

Construction of the 21st century's first mass concentration camps began shortly afterwards and various estimates from rights groups, helped by satellite imagery, have estimated that 1-2 million people have been interned.

Yet many countries who rely on Chinese trade and investment, including much of the Muslim world, have either remained silent or been guarded in their comments about the camps where more than 100 people have been documented to have died and where torture and rape have been reported to be commonplace.

(Extracted from [www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com))

between 1940 and 1941.

Much of the research on Muslim concentration camp prisoners was conducted by the now deceased German historian Gerhard Hopp, who wrote about it in his 2005 book *Germany and the Middle East: 1871-1945*. Mr Hopp's research estimates that at least 1,000 Muslims were detained by the Nazi regime. "Arabs were never among the 'privileged' inmates, but they are today among the forgotten victims of the Nazis," Mr Hopp wrote in 2002.

The subjection of Muslims under the fascist wave of Second World War wasn't limited to Nazi-occupied territory. In Croatia, a fascist regime established a camp to

murder as many as 12,000 Bosnian Muslims, Croats and other suspected opponents. In Russia, hundreds of Tatar Muslim prisoners of war, believed to have been mistaken as being Jewish due to their physical appearance, were executed by the SS in 1941.

Numerous examples of Arab and Muslim rescue efforts during the Holocaust have been recorded. Muslim majority Albania was the only European country to rescue all of its Jews and save more that came through the border. In Tunisia, Si Ali Sakkat, a former mayor of Tunis, sheltered dozens of Jews who had escaped a labour camp.

(For details, see [thenational.ae](http://thenational.ae))

## Muzoon Almellehan Awarded German Peace Prize

**Education is the key to the future. Muzoon Almellehan has known this since she was 14 years old. But she lives in a Jordanian refugee camp. And since then she has been fighting for better education for children in crisis zones.**

Just a few years ago, when she was 14 years old, bombs started to fall on Muzoon Almellehan's hometown of Daraa, in south-western Syria. Civil war was intensifying, and her parents saw escape as the only alternative. They left the country with their four children in 2013. They landed in Jordan in Za'atari, the second-largest refugee camp in the world. Although her father asked her to pack only the bare necessities, Muzoon carried a suitcase full of books with her. "Even as a child, I knew that education was the key to my future, so when I fled Syria, the only belongings I took with me were my school books," the now 21-year-old explained to UNICEF in June 2017.

Despite her exceptional situation, Almellehan was still hungry to learn. But education was not a priority for most people in the camp, where a feeling of hopelessness prevailed, so they



did not participate in the educational opportunities offered. Almellehan went from tent to tent, trying to convince parents and children of the importance of school. "If you have an education, no-one take it away from you," she said again and again.

Those were the seeds of Almellehan's commitment to achieving better access to education in crisis zones. In 2017 she was appointed UNICEF goodwill ambassador the youngest ever, at 19, and the first with official refugee status. In this capacity, Almellehan, who now lives in Britain, has returned to Za'atari, met girls in Chad who fled from Boko Haram and spoken to senior political representatives at the G20 summit in Hamburg about the millions of children forced to flee their homes as a result of conflicts, wars or natural disasters. *Time* magazine named her one of the 30 most influential

teenagers in the world in 2017.

Almellehan is proud of her work as a UNICEF ambassador: "As a refugee, I saw what happens when children are forced into early marriage or manual labour" she said. "They lose out on education and they lose out on possibilities for the future," she added. "This is why I am proud to work with UNICEF to help give these children a voice and enable them to go to school."

Recently, Germany honoured Almellehan's commitment with the Dresden Peace Prize. The prize association praised her extraordinary courage and commitment. "In the face of great resistance, she has stood up for children and young people, and she continues to fight for their educational opportunities," Beate Spiegel of the Klaus Tschira Foundation, which sponsors the €10,000 award.

Kim Phuc Phan Thi, the 2019 prizewinner, gave the laudatory speech. The woman is known as the "Napalm Girl" thanks to a 1972 photo taken during the Vietnam War that shows her as a child, naked and screaming after a napalm attack on her village. The image contributed to a change in attitude among Americans toward the war.

The International Peace Prize "Dresden Prize", as it is officially known, was awarded in 2020 for the 11th time.

(Extracted from [en.qantara.de](http://en.qantara.de))

## Female Syrian Doctor Inspires Women

A female Syrian doctor who ran an underground hospital in a besieged rebel stronghold says she hopes an Oscar-nominated documentary showing her work will encourage other women and girls to demand equal treatment with men. Amani Ballour, 32, is seen facing bombardments and shortages of food and medicine while also challenging sexist attitudes in "The Cave", which was shortlisted for best documentary feature at this year's Academy Awards.

"I hope it will inspire women to change their situation," Ballour said. Ballour grew up in eastern Ghouta, just outside Damascus. She originally hoped to become an engineer, but was overruled by her family, who said it was an unsuitable career for a woman but agreed that she could become a doctor. Having completed her general medical studies, she abandoned her training in pediatrics to treat the injured in previously rebel-held eastern Ghouta during a five-year siege. As medical facilities faced constant bombardments, doctors were forced to move underground for safety and created the subterranean hospital known as The Cave, where Ballour worked from 2013. The pediatrics specialist was just 29 when colleagues elected her to run the hospital and had to contend with widespread sexism as well as danger and shortages of essential supplies.

The film shows one man telling her a man would do a better job,

and women belong at home with their families. "Of course that makes me angry," said Ballour of those who questioned whether she was up to the job. "I wanted to prove that women can do more."

The film's director Feras Fayyad said he was inspired by seeing how Ballour and her fellow female medics fought to reclaim their rights in the hospital. Ballour agreed to work with him on the condition that filming never compromised care for patients. "Our main goal from this film was to tell the truth because we thought at the time that no one will survive," she said. But she had no idea that she was to be the main subject of the film and was initially upset that it did not focus more on the suffering of the children she treated. "I tried to encourage the women, to tell the young girls that you can be important," she said. "When I was a young girl no one told me I could be a doctor or an important thing ... all the people around me said you will get married and have children," she added.

Ballour finally had to flee to Turkey in 2018 when the Syrian regime regained control of the region and the hospital was shut down. From there, she campaigns on women's rights and is working to raise funds for the Al Amal fund created in her honour, which will support female leaders in war zones and offer education for young women from Syria and other conflicts.

## US City Appoints Its First Muslim Police Chief

The city of Paterson in the US state of New Jersey appointed its first Turkish-American and Muslim police chief the other day. Ibrahim "Mike" Baycora was sworn in with his left hand on a

copy of the Quran as Paterson's 17th police chief during a ceremony at city hall. He has been serving at the city's police department for more than three decades.

## UNESCO Chief Highlights Importance of History's Lessons

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay on Friday hailed how well Saudi Arabia's cultural gem of AlUla has been preserved and the lessons future generations can learn from the region's history. Speaking at the Hegra Conference of Nobel Prize Laureates, which was being held at the site's Maraya Hall, Azoulay highlighted the importance of the site in promoting a cultural exchange. She joined more than 20 Nobel Prize winners and 100 leading thinkers at the forum to discuss global social issues, and offer solutions in areas including education, technology, health

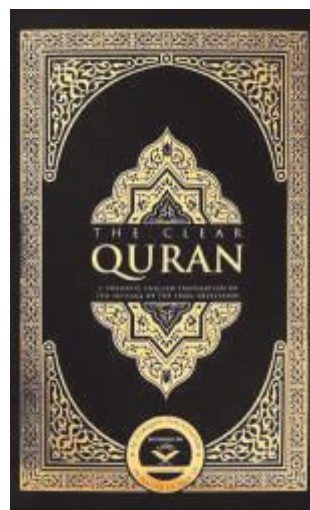
care and sustainability.

The UNESCO leader said that she had been impressed by AlUla's historical diversity and the lessons it offers visitors. "This ensures that heritage is a motive for peace, education and so much more."

Asked what the most pressing issue facing the world today was, Azoulay said: "Right now we have an emergency, first and foremost, it is our relationship with nature. We need to learn how to live with nature in harmony, it's something that we've lost. And that is our challenge."

# THE CLEAR QURAN™

The Best Modern English Translation In The World!



THE CLEAR QURAN™ is one of the most eloquent attempts to masterfully and accurately capture the elegance and vigor of the Quran in the modern English language. Its clarity for an average reader is evident in the choice of easy to understand words and phrases that reflect the beauty, flow and power of the original text. Along with just enough footnotes to clarify complex and contextual meanings, and brief Surah (chapter) introductions, this copy groups verses and titles them based on the theme of those verses (hence the word Thematic in the title), to provide internal coherence to readers – Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Thanks to the dedicated team of scholars, editors, and proof readers led by Dr. Mustafa Khattab, we believe that THE CLEAR QURAN™ is the finest translation of the Final Revelation in the English language available today.

**Sold on Amazon INDIA by Keywords 'THE CLEAR QURAN'**

**For wholesale or bulk orders (52 pcs box) at discounted price please call Haider Ahmed at 91 96867 51573 or email : [haiderjamal95@gmail.com](mailto:haiderjamal95@gmail.com)**

## New Age Media Outlets Have Given Individual Women Their Voices Back

By Maria Hanif Al-Qassim

In 1936, in an effort to westernize Iran, Reza Shah banned the women of his country from wearing the veil. Police were ordered to physically remove the veil from any woman who wore it in public. Across Iran, women were beaten and had their headscarves and chadors torn off. While many of the country's westernized upper class hailed this as a bold move to yank Iranian society into modernity, what Reza Shah ultimately did was turn dress into an integral problem of Iranian politics. Decades later, after Ruhollah Khomeini's 1979 revolution against Reza Shah's son, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the issue of the veil was again a central theme. This time, the new Islamic authorities imposed a mandatory dress code that required all women to wear the Hijab.

Even today, pictures of women from either time period are used to demonstrate how pious or modern a state is or used to be. Though the vast majority of such "before versus after" images come from the east (Iran, Afghanistan and the Gulf states, for example), it is by no means an oriental issue. Women are instruments of public propaganda wherever you go.

In the West, numerous political parties use women and their bodies as propaganda tools in different ways. Debates about birth control and abortion resurface in every election in many Western states. In others, certain dress codes are still being imposed in the name of "liberalism." In 2016, a number of French cities famously banned burkinis, citing disrespect to "good customs and secularism."

There is a long history of male politicians using women to benefit their political agenda, submit to the demands of religious groups, or simply gain public support. And the reason they keep using women this way is because it is a strategy that works.

Projecting the impact of any policy or legislation on women and framing it in such a way that emphasizes patriarchal notions of family honor, social purity, male chivalry and guardianship is a sure and quick way to rally people around your cause. On the other hand, promoting policies that allegedly "liberate" or empower women or position the state, party or society as ones that are progressive is a sure strategy to win over women and liberals.

It remains as true as ever that men everywhere always have an opinion when it comes to women. All it takes for someone aiming for stronger social or political standing is to

gauge public opinion and do some quick math and see which women-related policies will yield the biggest gains in terms of votes or economic benefit. Funnily enough, what is deemed acceptable or not for a woman to do, wear or be can conveniently change based on these same factors.

Prior to the Second World War, most American women were homemakers. Nothing seemed odd about it, and no one thought to start a campaign to let housewives know that they could be anything else. Until the war, that is. Once America entered the war, men went off to fight in their millions.

The government then initiated a massive publicity campaign to persuade women to replace men on the assembly lines in factories and defence plants. They produced posters and film reels of glamorous women in the workplace to entice the homemakers to serve their country as part of the home front labour force. We are all familiar with Rosie the Riveter, the confident-looking woman wearing coveralls and a red bandana and flexing her muscles under the headline, "We Can Do It!" Rosie became the inspiration for female liberation. But why did it take war to break out to give women the chance to make life choices?

During the 2012 presidential election in Egypt, a joke that demonstrated the use of women in serving political agendas went viral. The joke went something like this: "If you vote for the Islamists, your mother will be forced to wear a burka. If you vote for the liberals, your mother will be forced to take off her hijab. Is there anyone we can vote for that would leave our mother alone?"

Egyptian humor always gets me, but that particular joke hit something closer to home because it sums up the reality of women as instruments of propaganda around the world. In a previous article, I wrote that women's bodies are a center for proxy wars between various adversaries trying to get back at one another. Women will always be viewed as objects and tools for self-gain so long as they are seen as extensions of a male and not as independent entities with free will and choice.

For the longest time, our narrative has been written by men. This included what we were allowed to wear, what we were allowed to do and who we were allowed to be. We are now in a position to tell our own stories, create our own icons and pave our own paths to make the world look more like the "us" we choose to be.

In the Middle East, women now have multiple outlets at the tips of their fingers to tell the world who they are. With the rise of social media and the regression of traditional media, women have more control over the content they want to put out to the world. Social media has also given us the platform to create virtual groups to support one another, discuss our ideas, hone our talents and push the boundaries set for us by others.

New age media outlets have given individual women their voices back, and we should use them to empower one another and claim the position we want to take in the world.

Access to formal and informal education is another factor that has worked in the favor of women over the past few decades. This incredible access to knowledge through various platforms has enabled women to learn more about their rights, abilities and opportunities in every field. Gone are the days when knowledge was monopolized by a certain gender or social class. Women today are more aware of religious debates and various views, are able to fight social barriers with their emotional intelligence and mastery of skills that are valued and sought after by modern economies, and are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge for today's job markets. This simple yet profound fact continues to empower women all over the globe.

As of 2015, the ratio of female to male tertiary enrolment in the region is 108 percent. However, 13 of the 15 countries with the lowest rate of female participation in the workforce are in the Arab world. Although Arab women's progress in formal education has not yet earned them the economic progress they deserve, there is every reason to believe they will soon succeed in achieving greater economic prosperity. It is estimated that, by 2025, the market power of women's participation in the workforce could add \$2.7 trillion to the region's economy.

Arab women have also proven to be resourceful, courageous and risk-tolerant when it comes to entrepreneurship. In 2018, a study showed that a third of startups in the Arab world are founded or led by women a higher figure than that of Silicon Valley. Their ability to leverage the internet and engage through online platforms has enabled them to overcome societal barriers to entering the workforce and starting their own businesses.

*(Maria Hanif Al-Qassim is from Dubai and writes on development, gender and social issues).*

*(Extracted from an article on newageislam.com)*



## WOMEN'S VOICE

### Egypt Court Backs Niqab Ban on Cairo University Staff

A top Egyptian court has ruled in favour of banning female academic staff at Cairo University from wearing the Muslim face veil, known as the *niqab*, lawyer Ahmed Mahran said. The decision taken by the Supreme Administrative Court rejected appeals against a 2016 lower court verdict banning the *niqab* on grounds that it impeded interaction between students and

teachers.

Most Muslim women in Egypt wear the headscarf, or *hijab*, which covers the hair but not the face. The *niqab* is largely worn by women of ultra-conservative backgrounds. The ban was introduced in 2015 by a previous head of Cairo University, two years after the 2013 military ouster of Islamist president Muhammad Mursi.

### Belgium to Hire Female Theologians

Female theologians will soon be able to assist Muslim women in Belgian mosques. The Muslim Executive of Belgium (MEB) plans to hire 18 female theologians and preachers for this plan. According to Belgian newspaper RTBF, the procedure is underway. These women will be responsible for spiritually accompanying and assisting women and girls from the Muslim community. The project started several years ago, said Salah Echallaoui from MEB. He

explained that these women would be "almost the same as imams, except for leading prayers". These theologians and preachers will participate in the religious life of the community, they will be in and around the mosques, and they will be able to deliver lectures, participate in religious ceremonies such as circumcisions and weddings. They will also be listening to people and solving their couple problems from a religious and theological perspective, he added.

### Saudi Women To Participate In Popular Sports

The Quality of Life Program 2020 is targeting participation of 1.2 million Saudi women in popular sports. Sources said that the plan includes the establishment of 21 new clinics for women during the year 2020.

It also aims to achieve the participation of 40 women in international sports. All these are part of the initiative to empower women to contribute to the sports system with the theme "Diversity and Inclusion."

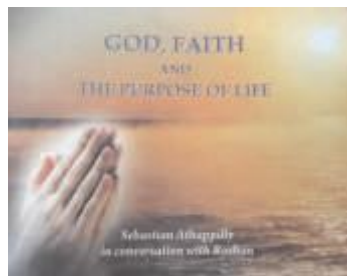
### Women Journalists Awarded



The Wire's senior editor Arfa Khanum Sherwani and freelance journalist Rohini Mohan have jointly won the Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Women Mediaperson, 2019. The award is given annually to an outstanding woman mediaperson. It was first given in 1982 and since then has named a woman journalist who has made a difference through her work. The awardees have been representatives of English, Hindi and vernacular media, from a cross-section of backgrounds.

## Conversation about Faith in God

This book is written in a mode that might appeal to people from diverse faith backgrounds (and agnostics and atheists too!).



**Title:** *God, Faith And The Purpose Of Life*  
**Author:** Sebastian Athappilly (in conversation with Roshan)  
**Publisher:** Dharmaram Publications, Bangalore  
**Year:** 2019  
**Number of pages:** 127  
**Price:** Rs. 150  
**Email ID of Publisher:** dpoffice3@gmail.com

Reviewed by Haris F. Farooqui

**Is material success the only success? Can materialism be enough for a person's spiritual and emotional wellbeing? If there is a God, then why is there so much suffering, stress, and negativity around us? Why does evil exist?**

This book discusses several of these questions, and in a manner easily fathomable for a general reader who has no in-depth knowledge of theology or philosophy.

Existential questions are something that people often shy away from asking, fearing that they might get uncomfortable answers, which may demand them to change completely their outlook on life, and their own lives as well. Often, people do not want to know about the unknown because they are afraid of the answers that they may receive. There are certain questions which some people sometimes even refuse to think about. This book talks about some such questions.

One issue that the book discusses in quite some detail is death. Many people are scared to talk about death. According to atheists, death puts an end to all the hopes, joys, ambitions, dreams, and desires of the individual and they are considered to have become extinct. But Fr. Sebastian argues very logically that if there is a life before death, then definitely there is a life after death. Death is not the end of human existence. Rather, life continues (in some

other realm, as all God-centred religions teach).

Is material success the only success? Can materialism be enough for a person's spiritual and emotional wellbeing? If there is a God, then why is there so much suffering, stress, and negativity around us? Why does evil exist? If God is, how can we reach God? Do we need to follow any dogmas or any particular religion? How should religious leaders respond when people act cruelly in the name of God and religion? If you sometimes reflect on these sorts of questions, you might find this book inspiring.

This book is written in a mode that might appeal to people from diverse faith backgrounds (and agnostics and atheists too!). Believers in God can benefit from many of the issues the book highlights. It might help refine their understanding of religion. It might also make them more appreciate of the need and usefulness of friendly interfaith interactions, one example of which is this inspiring book.

## A Real Gem

This book is a great way to learn more about the Islamic spiritual tradition as well as a means to learn how to put its wisdom into practice.

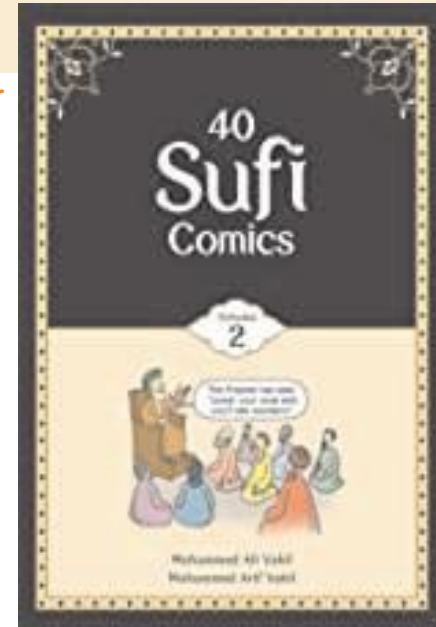
**Name of the Book:** 40 Sufi Comics Volume 2  
**By:** Mohammed Ali Vakil & Mohammed Arif Vakil  
**Published by:** Sufi Studios, Bangalore (www.suficomics.com)  
**Pages:** 126  
**Price:** Rs.400

Reviewed by Qalamdar

The Bangalore-based Sufi Studios has brought out yet another beautifully-designed spiritually-instructive book. Like their earlier publications, this one is a real gem. It presents precious wisdom from the Islamic spiritual tradition in comic form, which makes for easy and enjoyable reading.

The book is divided into four broad sections: 'Spirituality', 'Worldly Life', 'Heart & Wisdom' and 'Relationships With People'. Each section consists of a number of lessons that provide guidance on righteous living in line with the teachings of Islam. 'How a Family Makes You Stronger', 'Anger Management' and 'A Lesson on Time Management by Prophet Abraham' and 'A Heart That Prays' these are just some of the many topics that the book deals with, showing how the wisdom from the Islamic tradition can be applied in daily life.

This book is a great way to learn more about the Islamic spiritual



tradition as well as a means to learn how to put its wisdom into practice. It makes for a lovely gift. The wisdom that it is rooted in being universal, the book has relevance for everyone, irrespective of religion.

The authors Mohammed Arif Vakil and his brother Mohammed Ali Vakil and the rest of the Sufi Studios team deserve our heartfelt appreciation for the great service they have rendered by bringing out this beautiful book.

Two people have a conversation about faith in God (and the lack of it), the ultimate purpose of human life and other such existential issues. The conversation is no longer confined between them though, but is shared with others in the form of a book: *God, Faith And The Purpose Of Human Life*.

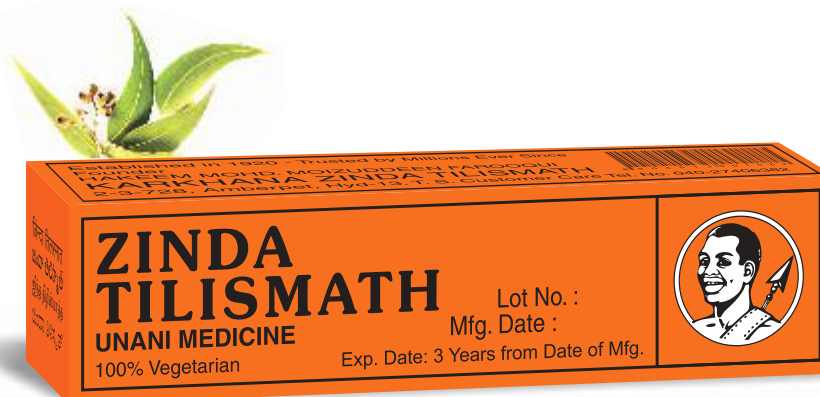
This book is a sort of discussion, in Q&A form, between two inter-religious friends. One of them, Fr. Sebastian Athappilly, is a Catholic priest and a noted Indian Christian theologian. His friend Roshan does not identify exclusively with any one particular religious tradition or community and is interested in promoting understanding and friendship between people from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. Roshan has plenty of existential questions to ask, and Fr. Sebastian responds to them with great finesse and clarity.

One of the major issues that the two friends discuss is arguments for and against belief in the existence of God. Fr. Sebastian ably presents a number of arguments against theoretical and practical atheism. Along with this, he underscores the importance of faith in God in leading a truly meaningful life.

There are several basic questions about life which each individual ought to ask themselves (it is another matter that not many people may give these questions the attention that they deserve). This includes the origin of human beings, their purpose in coming to Planet Earth, the way to lead a meaningful life and what happens after they die. Other such questions include: How did the universe come into being? Was it made by God? Is God real? If God is real, what proof is there of God?

# ZINDA TILISMATH

*Zinda Tilismath Gives Fast Relief from Cold, Cough, Sore Throat, Headache & Body Pains*



ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED COMPANY

**FARAH BUILDERS PVT. LTD.**  
**FARAH POLYSACKS PVT. LTD.**

**30/1, Grant Road,  
 (Vittal Mallya Road)  
 Bangalore- 560 001.**

**Phone : 22215970/22213579**

## Goal of Education

**By Amin Valliani**

The writer is an educationist with an interest in religion.

**According to key teachings of some major world religions, humans are considered to be the crown of creation. Man has been bestowed with the potential capacity of knowing his origin, maintaining and developing his status and above all acquiring spirituality. These are the prime goals of all education in Islam.**

However, the present-day education system is mainly directed towards his social uplift. This has made today's man highly competitive but self-centred and busy in the rat race. It is the frantic pace of modern life that leads to more greed in the hearts and minds of people and the ultimate result is a stressful life.

Therefore, the present-day education system needs some revisiting. The basic element of spirituality is required to be incorporated in curricula whereby the present generation may get a sense of all-encompassing divinity. It makes humans grateful to their Lord. This brings satisfaction in life while ungratefulness ruins life. The Holy Quran reprimands such a person who is ungrateful to his Lord and bears witness to this fact.

Gratefulness in all circumstances is the first step in the direction of spiritual education. It can be started as early as when the child is in his or her mother's lap. The

child may be taught in the early years that the mother's lap is the greatest gift of Allah for an infant. This would impact his whole life and the child would remain submissive to Allah.

*Man today is competitive but self-centred.*

Today, we live in a civilised world, but, unfortunately, observe countless uncivilised acts on a daily basis. In many parts of the world, the law of the jungle or deep sea prevails. In the jungle, the lion is known to be king because of its might and violent behaviour. In its presence, all other animals become fearful as it devours them. Similarly, in the deep sea a big fish eats up smaller fish. With the present system of education, this world has come to resemble a jungle or the sea where the system of existence is based on might. If one is mighty, strong and powerful, then one is considered great.

The education system can address such aberrations. There are two types of education, formal and informal. Formal education consists of basic schooling when a child is admitted to a nursery and then moves on to primary and secondary school and then to college, and ultimately ends up with a university degree. One is called educated or literate on the basis of the formal education received. It provides certification and tools to get employment in society. In today's world, formal education is considered essential while the informal system is

mostly ignored, although it is equally important.

No society can envision development unless its citizens are formally and informally educated. Spiritual education can simultaneously be imparted formally as well as informally.

Formal education is time-bound while informal education is continued all through life. Every person learns from his day-to-day experience to remain thankful and submissive to his/her Lord. This creates harmony in life and helps people define who they are, and their role in society.

Many societies around the world, with good education at the formal level, are yet to get rid of negative mindsets. There are individuals who speak of justice and tolerance but behave like tyrants. Their actions belie their words and they display bestial manners. Thus these forces continue to play havoc due to the lack of spirituality in practical life.

In order to shed bad habits, spirituality should be incorporated in school curricula, and parents be made part of curricula. They may be lectured on the need for a spiritual environment in their homes by academia.

Without spirituality in the education system, the situation resembles a horse without legs or a car without wheels. Therefore, spirituality should be part and parcel of the whole education system.

## UPDATE

### Visit My Mosque Day

**For the first time in Vaniyambadi, a mosque opened its doors to people from different faiths as a step towards building peace and harmony.**



**Over 400 men and women from different faith backgrounds visited the mosque.**

**By Ehsan Ahmed**

**Vaniyambadi:** The Students Islamic Organisation of India (SIO), the students' wing of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, organized a "Visit My Mosque" Programme at Masjid-e-Khaderpet, Vaniyambadi (Tamil Nadu) on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. It was a step towards strengthening inter-faith relations and building peace and harmony among the people of different faiths.

Over 400 men and women from different faith backgrounds visited the mosque in the morning till about sunset time. Over 25 volunteers were designated with different responsibilities such as welcoming the guests, registering their personal details, taking them to the different portions of the mosque and explaining to them the rituals and concepts of Islam and finally providing snacks to them. The visitors were taken to the place from where the Adhan (call for prayer) is delivered. The words and the meaning of Adhan were also explained, following which they were explained about the timings and names of daily five time prayers and why the timings vary in hours. The visitors were also taken to the qabristan (graveyard) which is situated adjacent to the mosque and details about the funeral prayers and Akhirah (life after death) were also discussed.

Visitors also got a chance to get to know about the social activities that take place in mosque through different committees such as Masjid Sevai Kuzhu (Mosque Service Committee) etc. Ammu,

who is a lawyer by profession said that God has gifted her, by giving an opportunity to enter into a mosque. She also said that if everyone concentrates more towards the akhirah (life after death), definitely peace will prevail throughout the world. Kulasekaran, a Tamil writer commented that through this programme, he acquired the in-depth knowledge of Islam and the most attractive feature of Islam that he liked was the prayer in congregation.

A student from a local college, Rakesh said that life is very short. Everyone should spread only love and peace in this world. Another guest Vinodh expressed that he liked the way Muslims stand in a row, shoulder to shoulder, during prayers without any difference of poor and rich. On commenting about the graveyard, he mentioned that he was having a different assumption of Muslims' graves such as every person or every family will have their graves reserved and each grave will have its own design etc., but he was amazed to see the simplicity and the uniformity of graves.

Akash mentioned that he felt very happy after spending some time in the mosque because it was his wish to visit a mosque and learn about Muslims and Islam.

Rosary, a schoolteacher, attended this programme with some of her students. She said that this programme has helped her in eliminating some of the misconceptions that she had about Islam.

family has to complete legal formalities such as the death certificate; it has to ask someone to bathe and shroud the body. This requires extraordinary skill, so the entire family and its friends have to contribute for the orderly performance of all rituals and the burial itself.

On such an occasion financial concerns are also critically important, especially for poor or middle-class families. They have

to draw money from all sources in order to arrange for a decent burial. Sometimes borrowers remain indebted for a number of years.

In rural areas, some families bury their dead in their ancestral graveyard while others use some corner of their fields as a graveyard. In major cities and towns, government-owned cemeteries are used but they are in a messy condition.

## LIVING ISLAM

### Final Journey

**According to some sources, the tradition of burial in Islam is based on an event, as described in the Quran, when a son of Hazrat Adam killed his brother. As per the Holy Book, Allah sent a crow who scratched the ground to show him how to hide the dead body of his brother.**

**By Amin Valliani**

**We are here for a short duration in eternity. Sooner or later, every human being is to die as the Holy Quran says "Every soul shall taste death, then to Us will you be returned" (29:57).**

With death, the connection between the human soul and body terminates, the soul takes its own flight while the body requires disposal in the shape of burial or cremation. Burial is used by the major Abrahamic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. According to some sources, the



tradition of burial in Islam is based on an event, as described in the Quran, when a son of Hazrat Adam killed his brother. As per the Holy Book, Allah sent a crow who scratched the ground to show him how to hide the dead body of his brother.

Therefore, different Muslim communities bury their dead according to their specific culture and traditions.

The death of any family member is a sombre occasion but the untimely death of any member in some tragic accident is all the more poignant. At this point, the

bereaved family needs not only soothing words for their grieving hearts but also practical help to arrange the burial.

Imagine a family who loses a loved one all of a sudden. The family knows nothing about the burial procedure; it needs succour in its hour of grief, to acquire a burial space in an already saturated graveyard. Though the graveyard is owned by the local government, dealing with the gravedigger is an ordeal one must pass through. Besides, arranging for a hearse, fixing time for the funeral procession and receiving condolences from visitors all make the tragedy more taxing.

In addition to the above, the

## Memorial Lecture Explores Self-Identity In Islamic Thought

A recent lecture programme to commemorate a 20<sup>th</sup> century Belgian Jesuit missionary who worked in Kolkata explored the selfhood and identity in Islamic thought. The fourth Victor Courtois Memorial Lecture was held at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata on March 7. Islamologist Father Victor Courtois, a Catholic priest, who died in Kolkata in 1960 aged 53, is considered the pioneer of Christian-Muslim dialogue in Kolkata. The lecture entitled 'Who am I? An Exploration of Selfhood and Identity in Islamic Thought' was presented by Yusuf Jha, a researcher in Islamic Theology at the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom by a video link.

In his welcome address, university vice chancellor Jesuit Father Felix Raj highlighted the importance of interreligious understanding and the need for bringing people together in the present context of divisiveness and interreligious tensions. Jesuit Father Victor Edwin, the secretary of New Delhi-based Islamic Studies Association, said Father Courtois fostered relationships between Christians and Muslims,



much before the Church realized the need of reaching out to other religions. According to Father Edwin, polemics and debates marked the history of Christian-Muslim relations in the past. Father Courtois ushered an era of relationship and respect in such an era. The Belgian missionary taught that Christians and Muslims are brethren since God is the father of all humans. Father Courtois encouraged that Christians and Muslims to not shy away in giving witness to one another's faith.

The fundamental call of Islam is to affirm the oneness of God and worship the one God. Yusuf Kha affirmed that the call to surrender to one God is a call to see the One even though we observe the 'many' in the phenomenal level. The speaker affirmed that God is the foundation of this oneness and diversity. God is the hidden

treasure, noted the speaker. In order to be known, God out of love brings about creation. Drawing on the teachings of the Qur'an, Yusuf explained that God is known to creation through God's beautiful names, which are attributes of God. The attributes are imprinted in the soul of every human person.

Therefore, the ultimate goal of every human person is to experience this Oneness of love with God, wherein the egoic sense of the separate seeker is annihilated (*fana*) and he remains through God (*baqa*) witnessing this Oneness. Drawing from the Sufi traditions, Yusuf noted that every seeker under guidance of his/her sheikh walks the Sufi path moving from one Station (*maqamat*) to the next consistently going through different 'states' (*hal*) patiently waiting for the movement of God's grace.

(For details, see [mattersindia.com](http://mattersindia.com))

## Jesuits In South Asia Denounce Communal Violence In India

The Jesuit major superiors of South Asia have spoken out against the recent riots that broke out in Delhi. The Jesuits condemned the "apparent complicity of the police forces in the violence" and called the inexplicable postponement of legal procedures "deplorable". The major superiors released their statement signed by Fr George Pattery SJ, President of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia, on 5 March during their annual meeting in Godavari, Nepal.

"The concerned citizens know that the hate speeches and divisive politics of the recent elections in Delhi, the all-pervasive hate-

politics and mob lynching of the last decade and the attempts to appropriate 'nationhood and religion' for majoritarianism would all lead to inconceivable consequences for the body politic," they said.

"We pledge to protect the integrity of the Constitution and to preserve the ethos of our nation that was shaped by the founding fathers and mothers of our motherland after prolonged struggles and sacrifices for independence, and has been nourished by sages and saints of many religions from time immemorial," the statement read.

The major superiors urged the Central Government "to immediately withdraw the hastily

enacted discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Population Register (NPR) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC), and initiate a process of dialogue with all concerned".

In their statement, the major superiors also appealed "to all concerned citizens, especially the Indian Jesuits and our institutions 1) to initiate processes of reconciliation among peoples and religions; 2) to continue serious study and research on the ramifications of CAA and NRC for the conceptions of nation, citizenship, and the Constitution; 3) to join peaceful protest movements opposing CAA, NPR, and NRC whenever and wherever possible; and 4) to support rescue works in the areas affected by communal violence".

The Jesuit Conference of South Asia had earlier joined over 200 Christian leaders across India in condemning the Citizenship Amendment Act when it was passed in December 2019, engendering waves of protests across the country.

(Extracted from [www.jcapsj.org](http://www.jcapsj.org))

## Church Calls On Christian Journalists To Stand For Truth



Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto of Delhi addresses the 25th National Convention of Christian Journalists in New Delhi on Feb. 29.

Church leaders in India have urged Christian journalists to stand for the truth and the voiceless. More than 100 media persons and students of communication from all over India attended the 25<sup>th</sup> National Convention of Christian Journalists in the national capital on Feb. 29. "Media is a vocation and a mission, so Christian journalists have a duty to stand for the truth and speak for Dalits, tribals, the downtrodden and the voiceless," Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto of Delhi said during his keynote address. "Unfortunately, the watchdog has become a lapdog in the race for sensationalism, sometimes not even checking the facts, and it is very dangerous for a democratic country. The role of the media is to tell the truth and only the truth, but it has become a casualty. It is sad that they have diverted from their responsibilities."

The convention, organized by the

Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA), addressed the theme "Journalism today: Pragmatism triumphs over principles." An association of Catholic newspapers and periodicals, news agencies and publishing houses, journalists and teachers of journalism, the ICPA is one of the oldest and most active Catholic press organizations in Asia. Founded in 1963 by the editors of three dailies (*Deepika*, *Kerala Times* and *Thozhilali*) and of five weeklies (*The Examiner*, *The New Leader*, *The Herald*, *Sanjivan* and *Rakno*), the ICPA now has over 110 members, including some of the country's leading Catholic periodicals and publishing houses and several Catholic journalists and teachers of journalism. Patna Jesuit Father John Barrett, the founder-editor of Hindi Catholic weekly *Sanjivan*, brought together the editors of these Catholic periodicals in Delhi to launch the association.

(Extracted from [ucanews.com](http://ucanews.com))

## Be Eager To Relate With Muslims, Jesuit Asks Christians

Christians should show greater eagerness to relate with Muslims in these critical times, says Jesuit Father Victor Edwin, the secretary of the Delhi-based Islamic Studies Association. "The Church invites Christians to approach Muslims with profound respect. The rich religious heritage of Muslims is the sign of God's presence and action in the world. An eagerness to relate with Muslims in these times is most essential for a Christian," Father Edwin told the March 8 session on Christian-Muslim relationship at the Centre for Peace and Spirituality (CPS) in Kolkata. According to him, paying close attention to the "sacred texts of Muslims" is necessary to engage in a deep and serious



dialogue with them. "In meeting with Muslims by our presence, I believe, we share and learn from one another of what our authentic religious experiences teach us," added the Catholic priest who teaches at the Delhi-based Vidyajyoti College of Theology. The session was attended by the members of CPS Kolkata team and four students from the Department of Theology, Morning Star College, Barrackpore, near Kolkata.

**Wanted Business Partner**

Should Have Good Idea's  
Extraordinary Vision With  
Innovative Concept  
Independent Decision  
Taking Capacity

Please Contact:  
**9845049539**  
Mr Hanif, Bangalore

Start your day with a cup of fresh Tea

**DARJEELING TEA CENTRE**

Live Life the Healthy way  
Piyo More Chai everyday

Taste the world's  
most favourite Beverage

# 345, 32nd Cross, Tilaknagar,  
Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 041.

## Selling Face Masks For Just Rs 2, Amid Growing Shortage

At a time of great demand for face masks, the commonly used personal protective gear against coronavirus, a pharmacy shop in Kochi in Kerala is selling masks just for Rs 2. Cochin Surgicals, a surgical store owned by Kochi residents Thasleem and Nadheem, has sold more than 5,000 face masks in just two days for Rs 2.

Nadheem, the co-owner of the shop, told ANI: "We have sold around 5,000 masks at Rs 2 each in two days. We decided to sell masks at a reasonable price especially to the common people like hospital staff and students."

Thasleem PK, co-owner of Cochin Surgicals, said: "We bought the masks at Rs 8 or Rs 10 and are selling at Rs 2, while others are selling at Rs 25."

"Kerala is going through a one-of-a-kind situation now. We don't know what's going to happen,



maybe tomorrow I might contract the disease. When we heard there was a shortage of masks, especially for hospital staff, we suddenly decided to sell all the stock we had at a low price. And within two days, our stock has been completed. Most was sold to medical teams and hospitals,"

*The News Minute* quoted Thasleem as saying.

The duo hopes their act inspires others to stop hiking the prices of essential commodities in the larger interest of public good.

(For details, see [www.thecongnate.com](http://www.thecongnate.com))

## Catholic Groups Team Up To Help Delhi Riot Victims

Various groups of Catholics in Delhi have decided to pool their resources and personnel for relief and rehabilitation works among the victims of sectarian violence in the national capital. They met March 10 under the leadership of Archbishop Anil Couto of Delhi and decided to work under the banner of the archdiocese and witness Christian services of love and compassion.

Presentation Sister Anastasia Gill, a member of the Delhi Minority Commission and among the first Christians to reach out to the riot victims in northeastern Delhi, narrated her painful experience in Shiv Vihar, a worst affected area. She requested the Conference of Religious India (CRI) and others to get involved personally rather than just donating material goods for the relief camp. She thanked the director of the archdiocese's Holy Family Hospital for sending doctors and nurses with medicines to the affected areas. She also informed the gathering that Church groups have already formed teams to work in relief camps. She suggested the CRI members to join the local parish priest and heads of various institutions to send volunteers to help in distribution of relief material and to counsel women and children traumatized by the riots.

A legal team led by Jesuit Father Arun will help file First Information Reports and monitor people's security requirements

The meeting began with the screening of a documentary film prepared by students of Vidyajyoti Theology College to explain the circumstances and the conditions of relief work awaiting the Church groups. Vidyajyoti principal Jesuit Father P R John conducted the meeting.

Anshu Anthony, a lay leader and the main coordinator of the relief work, shared his experience in and called for more volunteers to help the riot victims.

The meeting suggested that the Church should form peace committees and organize rallies later to build up peace and brotherhood in various parts of the national capital.

John Dayal, another lay leader, suggested a fact finding team to assess the victims' loss, create legal teams to get maximum compassion for the victims through court. He also urged the Catholic groups to collaborate with other Churches, activist and NGOs for effective implementation of the government schemes.

(Extracted from [mattersindia.com](http://mattersindia.com))

## Great Gesture

### Muslims Give Up Claim To Disputed Land As Gesture Of Gratitude To Sikhs

Muslim and Sikh communities have decided to put an end to a 10-year-old land dispute which had led to riots in Saharanpur in 2014 and resulted in three deaths. As a gesture of gratitude for help offered by Sikhs during the north east Delhi riots, the Muslim community has decided to forego its claim on a piece of land that had been purchased by the Gurdwara management. The Muslim party has decided to forego its claim on the piece of land. Instead, they will be allotted land at another location nearby and the Gurdwara management will pay for the construction of the mosque.

"In view of the great service and support rendered by the Sikhs to Muslims in Delhi throughout the protests and most recently during the riots in Delhi, the Masjid committee in Saharanpur decided to give up its claim over the land as a token of gratitude and

thanksgiving," Nizam Pasha, who represented the Muslim side in the Supreme Court, told *The Quint*.

The petitioner, Moharram Ali, has also said that the gesture comes as a show of gratitude for the help and aid provided by the Sikh community to affected families in Delhi's communal violence. "Sikhs stand for humanity. They help people in need. The helped people affected by the communal violence in Delhi. This is God's work," he told *The Quint*.

Apart from the sense of gratitude felt by the Muslim community, the efforts made for a truce by the district magistrate Alok Kumar Pandey, who had pushed for an amicable resolution, also played a role.

(Extracted from [thewire.in](http://thewire.in))

**"ALLAHU AKBAR"  
ALLAH IS GREAT**

## Kerala's First Muslim Woman Panchayat President Passes Away

Ayishakutty, 91, the first woman panchayat president from the Muslim community in Kerala, passed away recently. A native of Nannammukku in Malappuram, she had been undergoing treatment for age-related illnesses. She became the president of Nannammukku panchayat in 1979. She had been an inspiration to many women as she courageously took up the path of politics and social service at a time when many women, especially from her community, were not allowed to go out of their houses. Despite warnings not to go out and speak publicly citing gender and religious issues, Ayishakutty chose to get education and interact with people



to learn the problems in society. She became the first woman to complete SSLC in Ponnani taluk. A Congress leader, she was also the first woman panchayat president in Malappuram district. After completing the first term as panchayat president, she served as a member from 1984 to 1991. She

became the president of Nannammukku panchayat again in 1995. Apart from being active in politics, she also worked as a teacher at AMLP School, Punnayurkulam, Thrissur.

Abdul Kareem, the present panchayat president of Nannammukku, said Ayishakutty was a powerful leader who had implemented several development projects in the panchayat. "She had introduced the project to provide land to the landless people in the panchayat. Also, she worked relentlessly to end the drinking water problem and other issues in the agricultural sector in the panchayat," said Kareem.

(For details, see [www.newindianexpress.com](http://www.newindianexpress.com))

## Migrant Labourer Tops Malayalam Literacy Test

A 26-year-old Bihari woman has proved language is no barrier as she emerged the topper in a literacy examination conducted in Kerala for migrant labourers. Romiya Kathur, hailing from a village in Bihar, scored the first rank with full 100 marks in the examination held by the Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority recently. She had reached Kerala in search of a job along with her husband Saifullah and settled down in Umayanallur in southern Kollam district in



2014. The mother of three, who runs a juice parlour here, had written the exam at a local higher secondary school carrying her four-month-old baby daughter, Thamanna.

A total of 1,998 migrant labourers

had appeared for the literacy exam in the second phase of the scheme "Changathi" across the state on January 19. Changathi (Friend) project is aimed at teaching migrant labourers, living in the state, Malayalam within four months.

Mission director P S Sreekala visited Kathur at her home here recently and congratulated her for the rare achievement.

(Extracted from <https://www.thenewsminute.com/>)



## My Mother's Apple Jam

By Niggy

I was glad that my mother left behind neither any burdens or bitterness. I strongly believe this was by God's grace and because of her spiritual life and for being kind, forthright and disciplined.

When they left this world, saints and prophets probably did not leave behind many material things. But of course they left behind a treasury of goodness which people could learn about and benefit from.

Sometimes when I think of some people whom I personally knew and who have passed away, I wonder what they left behind. My mother is on top of my mind most often when I think of this. The first thought that comes to my mind is that she did not leave behind any burdens or bitterness amongst the people who knew her, including myself. This, I believe, could be because of the kind of life she led.

As a humble teacher in a school, she worked hard in order to contribute to the running of the home. Disciplined and polite, she was a straightforward and forthright person who did not wear a mask. I often wondered how she handled situations like an invitation to a wedding or some other such social gathering. She was not into gossiping with friends or relatives. If she felt she could not go for a gathering, she would politely decline the offer to the host in a way that never offended anyone. No excuses or explanations were given by her. She just would say that she could not come. My mother was not a people-pleaser. May be that is one reason people respected her.

Clutter and clatter were not part of her life. Any work she did be it cooking in the kitchen or going out for shopping she did without making a big noise or fuss. I remember her telling me not to fetch any more eggs till the last egg

in the fridge was over. She was in charge of the kitchen, which she kept spic and span always. Food and other such things were never hoarded or wasted. She was a super planner and trusted God immensely. If she was asked what there would be for breakfast the next day, she would say "Let the morning arrive first"!

The most important aspect I adore my mother for was her simple spirituality. She really never liked listening to people lecture about religion or be preachy about it. She did not preach or impose her faith on anyone. Occasionally, she would read the Quran. She was conscious of her prayers and if due to overwork or overload of work she missed a prayer, she would complete it later even if she was very tired.

Always doing things for others and making sure that everybody around her was comfortable, my mother did not make time for herself to relax. Probably the only time she really did get time alone was during her prayers and when she went out shopping she to fetch things for the house. Rarely did she pamper herself by buying clothes and things like that.

My mother's cupboard was as uncluttered as her mind was. She had very few clothes and did not want to accumulate more. She had just enough for daily wear and for going outside. When she passed away, maybe I found that she had left behind only two pairs of footwear and a single handbag.

My mother never worried about tomorrow about issues like what would happen to her if she fell sick and who would take care of her and all other such fears that many of us often break our heads and sometimes our lives too over.

Hilariously for someone like me

who ran to a doctor or reached for a medicine for even a mild fever, my mother kept clear of unnecessary medication. She had body pains didn't take any medicines for this. She had her own way of patiently dealing with the matter quietly. When she fell sick shortly before she passed away, only when others heavily pressurised her did she go to see a doctor. When I last spoke to her on the phone, she was gasping for breath, but her spirit was so strong that she did not fall into the dreaded trap of the ventilator or life-support system in the hospital. God took her soul peacefully.

Sometimes, people die leaving behind properties which their children start quarrelling over bitterly, or incompletions on various issues which can become a burden for their children or others to sort out. They bequeath a big bundle of burdens and other such baggage.

I was glad that my mother left behind no bitterness. I strongly believe this was by God's grace. She led a humble, unassuming, uncluttered spiritual life and was a kind, forthright and disciplined person. This, I feel, must have something to do with the fact that she passed away leaving behind no burdens.

A day after my mother left the world, I opened the fridge and found a box of apple jam made by her just a day before she had died. She left behind sweet memories not only for me but also neighbours who speak about her fondly. A neighbour said to me one day, "Did you know that whenever my child cried, your mother would open the door and ask me why the child was crying and asked if she could help out?"

What one may or may not inherit materially from those who have left this world is really not a big

issue. But what is of real importance is what, if anything, we can inherit by way of values that they have left behind. In these terms, my mother left behind a great deal for me. My mother's

apple jam which she left behind for is a lesson for me: To live a life in a way that when you die, you leave behind some sweetness, or at least you should depart without leaving any burdens and bitterness!

### COMMUNITY ROUND-UP

#### Institute Honours Jesuit Educationist & Muslim Scholar

The Henry Martyn Institute in Hyderabad, a pioneering specialized institute of Islamic studies, has honoUred a Jesuit educationalist and a Muslim scholar for their contribution to Muslim-Christian relations. Church of South India Bishop Pushpa Lolita, vice-chairperson of Henry Martyn Institute, on March 18 conferred Doctor Litterarum on Jesuit Father Thomas V Kunnunkal, the president of Islamic Studies Association of Delhi, and Akhtarul Wasey, professor emeritus, Islamic Studies and the president of Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

Father Kunnunkal was the principal of Delhi's Xavier's School for 14

years (1962-1974 and 1977-1979). The Jesuit also headed the Central Board of Secondary Education for eight years. He also launched the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Even now, eight months into 94 years old, he writes short articles for publication.

Professor Wassey taught at Jamia Millia Islamia (Central University) in New Delhi. Formerly he worked as the director of Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies at Jamia Millia Islamia, Vice-chairman of the Urdu Academy Delhi and a member of the Executive Board of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language.

(Extracted from mattersindia.com)

#### Convocation Ceremony of Empower India Foundation's Master Trainers Development Programme

**Bengaluru:** The first batch of trainers from Master Trainer's Development Programme had a colourful graduation convocation programme. About 29 Trainers received their Post-graduate Diploma in Life Skills development. The programme under the flagship of 'India-2047' vision document was initiated a year ago in Bengaluru by Empower India Foundation to develop Master Trainers in life skills for catalysing the development of people in backward areas of the country. Prof. Nishath Khalida Parveen, Vice-Chairperson, Empower India Foundation presided over the function and Mr Anis Ahmed, General Secretary welcomed the gathering. Mr E.M Abdul Rahiman, Chairman of EIF delivered the convocation address. Well, known Trainer and life coach A.W Sadathullah Khan was the guest of honour.

Mr Abdul Wahid Sait launched 'Grasstop - The Trainer Network', at the event. Grasstop is a national network of life skill trainers to mobilise trainer community for the social good.

## Engineering & Architecture Aspirant Look no further... ADVANTAGE BEARYS



- Bearys Institute of Technology
- Bearys Enviro-Architecture Design School
- BIT Polytechnic  
MANGALORE

**100%**  
Scholarship to meritorious & deserving students

**100%**  
Placement Guaranteed

**63+**  
Placement Drives

**No**  
Capitation fees or Donations

### ADMISSIONS OPEN 2020-2021

- **B.E.**  
(Civil, Mechanical, CSE & ECE)
- **B.Arch**
- **M.Tech**  
(Mechanical & CS)
- **Ph.D**  
(Mechanical Engg.)
- **Diploma**  
(Civil & Mechanical)

LARGEST SCHOLARSHIP OF OVER  
**₹3 Crores** dispersed

**Highest Placement in Region**

Our graduates are successfully employed in MNCs and other reputed companies in India & abroad in GCC countries, the Far East and USA.

**Bearys Knowledge Campus, Boliyar**  
(Near Mangalore University)  
Mangalore - 574153

T +91 824 2235 000/2235 1000  
E admissions@bitmangalore.edu.in  
[www.bitmangalore.edu.in](http://www.bitmangalore.edu.in)  
[www.beads.edu.in](http://www.beads.edu.in)

**CET CODE:**

**BIT - E180 & BEADS - E247**

- Approved by AICTE & COA
- Affiliated to VTU.
- Recognized by Govt. of Karnataka



**+91 9900 06 68 88**  
**+91 9739 45 92 07**

## Teens Pen Book on Muslim Women Real-Life Heroes

You might think the library is the place where you'll find every type of book in the world. But that wasn't the case for two teenagers from Michigan (USA) who couldn't find any books about Muslim women. Sisters Zena Nasiri, 17, and Mena Nasiri, 15, started 'Girls of the Crescent', a nonprofit organization that increases the number of books in libraries and schools with Muslim female characters. Now the ambitious sisters have taken their project a step further and wrote their own book that showcases amazing Muslim women from past to present.

Two years ago, Zena and Mena were given a school project to research an inspirational historical figure. "We wanted to do the project on some Muslim women because our mom would always tell us stories about them," Mena said. "And they were really inspirational because we could connect with them." Zena picked Fatima al-Fihri, a Muslim woman credited with establishing the world's first university. Mena



picked Sabiha Gökçen, believed to be the world's first female combat pilot. However, they realized that the school and public library didn't have any books about their heroes or any books with Muslim female main characters. "That was the first time we realized that there was a lack of representation and diversity in the books we had access to," Mena said.

Sometime after the project, the girls reached out to the PTA of Rochester Community Schools and asked for funding to add

books with Muslim characters in the school's media centre. The response to the idea was very positive and books were placed in the libraries of most of the schools in the district. "We got around 200 books into the Rochester Community School District," Zena said. The sisters had to do a lot of research and find books that had Muslim female characters. They made a list on their website and arranged books by age range and genre. 'Girls of the Crescent' has donated over 700 books to school libraries and public

libraries. Their work has also spread to other US states and even different countries. The sisters have donated books to schools in Morocco, Hong Kong, France, and England. "We have a donation that's ready to ship to Nigeria as well so we're really excited about that," Zena said. "We hope we can continue to reach people around the country and the world."

For most of the local donations, Zena and Mena started reaching out to see which schools and libraries were interested in donations. Then people from around the world started reaching out to them personally. "For places around the world, it's usually people finding us on social media and they want books for their schools and their libraries and they contact us," Zena said.

Zena and Mena are excited to share their new project their own book that continues their goal of

making female Muslim characters more accessible. The book is a biography of 50 inspirational Muslim women going back to the Islamic 'Golden Age' to more modern figures. The book will feature women such as Raha Moharrak, who climbed Mount Everest; Ibtihaj Muhammad, who was the first woman in hijab to compete for the United States in the Olympics, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai. Their project has truly gone full circle and the girls are thrilled about having their own book in libraries across the world. Zena and Mena shared some of their favorite books that have inspired them in their journey. "Both of our favorite book of all time is 'The Lines We Cross' by Randa Abdel-Fattah," Mena said. "We definitely recommend that one." 'Girls of the Crescent' is always looking for new books with female Muslim characters. They take suggestions on their website. They encourage people to reach out to their organization to add Muslim characters to their schools and libraries.

## Somali Woman Promotes Peace through Art



A famous young female Somali painter is speaking through her paintings across Somalia, and people are noticing. Nujuum Hashi Ahmed's paintings are about the day to day life of the common Somali citizen. Her paintings are about peace, an end to the conflict in the country and Somalia where there is abundant food and prosperity. Her art studio is located in her small apartment in the capital Mogadishu. She spends most of her time painting. One of her paintings depicts a woman who has a hand covering her mouth as if being muffled and prevented from speaking out. "I want to continue making this beautiful image of Somali girls because we as Somali females can do whatever we decide to do in our lives, and we can create our own lives without fearing anyone. Our society is a male-dominated society, but we are struggling and fighting against that domination, that we also can make our dreams come true through our hard work and we can speak out and be heard," said Nujuum. Forced to flee her home in Mogadishu due to war in 2007, she went to the city of Hargeisa in Somaliland, a self-declared but internationally

unrecognized republic that is still considered part of Somalia. In Hargeisa, she studied nursing and practised it at Hargeisa General Hospital among other places, following in the footsteps of her father, who also worked in the health industry as an anaesthetist. But this is not the only thing she picked up from her father. "My father used to do paintings and drawings but he never shared them with anyone. That is where I got my inspiration from him. That is when I started doing my own art." Nujuum stayed in Hargeisa juggling between painting and nursing until peace returned to Mogadishu. "I used to do paintings on the streets, even on the roads and everywhere, just to relax my soul from the war and the pain that we have gone through in our childhood."

Nujuum tackles various day to day aspects of life in Somalia through her paintings, including the rights of women, politics, peace and conflict. "I am not afraid of anyone, as long as God is with me and always protecting me. I know some people really believe that art is a bad thing. I trust that art can create and store our culture, our existence as Somali people.

"It can create this experience and this history that we will leave for the next generation. I believe that every community and every country and every culture needs to be stored. I am doing this for my country so that one day people will take notice that art was very

important," she said.

"I am trying to build a positive image about my country, so I am not afraid of anyone except my God, and I am sure He is protecting me. It is not easy to be an artist and a woman in Somalia because people believe that women should not be in the focus, they should just stay home and do nothing, and just maybe have babies and raise a family. I never give ears to those people. I continue to have my own life," she explained.

For Nujuum, a stable and prosperous Somalia is her greatest dream. She wants the youth to bring change and lasting peace to Somalia in any way possible. "It is my dream to have a small interior design company and studio where I sell my artworks and a little space to teach other talented young Somalis to have the art skills they need. I want to work and teach others to have skills so that they can support their lives," she said.

(Extracted from aa.com.tr)

## Malala Is My Hero, Says Her Father

Most people know Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in 2012 by the Taliban for demanding girls' rights to education, but few have heard of the playful squabbles she has with her brothers or the doting relationship she shares with her parents. Malala's mother Toor Pekai Yousafzai and father Ziauddin Yousafzai provided a peek into the family's lives beyond the fame and humanitarian work to a captivated audience at the Emirates Airlines Festival of Literature recently. Ziauddin was in Dubai to promote 'Let her Fly', his book that traces the inspirational journey of Malala's father from a boy in Shangla in Pakistan to a man who broke with tradition. He was joined by his wife Toor Pekai and the session was moderated by founder of the Cross Red Lines dialogue series Manal Omar. The Yousafzais vehemently believe that prosperity in a home and the society-at-large can happen only through women's education. Their



daughter Malala is now in her final year of studies at Oxford University and continues her work with the Malala Fund, a nonprofit organisation that advocates human rights and education of women and children.

Ziauddin said: "I am an equal partner of Toor. I have two feminist sons and a feminist daughter. In a patriarchal society such as ours, daughters are known by their fathers. I am proud to be known as Malala's father."

Malala's mother Toor Pekai said: "I've always told my children to tell the truth and to stand for what is right. Boys and girls are equal and though people might be of different colours and races, everyone is equal." She advised parents to listen to their children. "When children get scared, they

don't say what they feel," she said. Meanwhile, Ziauddin called the Yousafzais a family of five that is rich in terms of moral value where love, respect and empathy is very important. "We came from a lot of adversity and poverty. We would've never thought we'd reach where we are today. When a lot of people ask me what I do right in raising my daughter, I tell them about what I did not do. I did not clip her (Malala's) wings."

Both Ziauddin and Toor Pekai were critical of the patriarchal system that has not allowed girls' education in the Swat Valley. "The government at that time, even today, is very patriarchal. There are a lot of opportunities for men, but very little for women." Toor Pekai said she did fear for the family's lives when they were outspoken against the Taliban, referring to the conflicts in 2012. She said: "But I realised, if I didn't raise my voice, then who would."

(Extracted from khaleejtimes.com)

## Coronavirus: An Islamic Perspective

“Do you think you that you will enter Paradise without such [trials] as came to those who passed away before you? They were afflicted with severe poverty and ailments and were so shaken that even the Messenger and those who believed along with him said, ‘When [will] the Help of Allah [come]?’ Yes! Certainly, the Help of Allah is near!”

**Allah sends us tests to see how we will react and handle them.** How are we going to respond? When you hear the news that your umrah trip is cancelled because of this virus, how will you respond? When you hear your flights have been cancelled, your loved ones have fallen ill, how will you respond?

Allah says in the Qur’an:

“And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient”

So how do we respond to a calamity? Allah tells us immediately after the previous ayah:

“Who, when disaster strikes them, say, ‘Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return.’”

A Muslim is patient in trials; he knows Allah will never forsake him, nor will Allah burden him with a trial that is more than what he can handle.

**This is not something new**

**Illnesses and viruses such as the coronavirus are not something new,** nor is the fact that people are afflicted with illnesses.

The companions once asked the Prophet (sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam):

“Oh Messenger of Allah, who from amongst the people were tested the most? The Prophet (sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam) responded and said, the Prophets, then the next best and then the next best.”

**We see the great Prophet of Allah, Ayyub (alayhi al-Salam), was tested with a great illness.** His story is synonymous with patience. He lost everything; his family, wealth, and health. Some narrations say he was bedridden for 18 years, tested with a great illness, yet we find he did not give up hope in Allah and turned to him in this great trial. Some scholars have said that his illness was so severe that his flesh dropped from his body and nothing remained on him except his bones and muscles.

Allah tells us his story in the Qur’an:

“And Ayyub, when he called to his Lord, saying ‘Harm has inflicted me and You are the Most Merciful’”

“So We answered him and removed his affliction and We gave him his family and the like of them with

them, as a mercy from Us and a reminder to Worshipers.”

The story of Prophet Ayyub is one filled with lessons for us to ponder over. The virtue of patience is shown to us in the Prophet Ayyub through some of the most dire situations that one can come across in life.

**Taking necessary precautions**

A Muslim should not overreact; at the same time he should not be oblivious about a situation and do nothing!

Taking the necessary means and then relying upon Allah is something which is emphasised in Islam.

“One day Prophet Muhammad (sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam), noticed a Bedouin leaving his camel without tying it. He asked the Bedouin, ‘Why don’t you tie down your camel?’ The Bedouin answered, ‘I put my trust in Allah’. The Prophet then said, ‘Tie your camel first, then put your trust in Allah’.

We also find in the incident of Umar (ra?iy Allahu anhu) taking necessary precautions is a must when you know of a harm or potential danger that could afflict you.

Umar ibn al-Khattab was traveling with a group of companions during his reign. They approached a town in which it was said had a contagious /infectious disease. Umar asked his group whether they should proceed or return (to Madinah). The majority of the companions said they should go back but some said they should proceed. Then one companion said he knew a hadith where the Prophet (sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam) said, “If you hear that this disease exists in a country, do not travel to that country.” So Umar decided that they should go back. Another companion asked him whether he was running away from qadar. Umar replied that they were moving away from one qadar to another qadar.

Whenever there is a problem, a challenge, or any hardship which we can remove, overcome, solve, or minimise, we must do so.

Many of the health guidelines given by the NHS are in fact normal practices for Muslims, some of which are as follows:

**1. Washing hands: this is a part of ablution, a Muslim's daily ritual of purity.**

**2. General cleanliness**

The Prophet (sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

“Cleanliness is part of faith”

Keeping our surroundings tidy, cleaning up after ourselves, and wiping surfaces down are all

aspects of cleanliness which must be adhered to in these situations.

**3. Covering your mouth when sneezing**

The Prophet would cover his mouth when he sneezed. This basic etiquette can take big part in the stopping of the spread of viruses

“Whenever the Messenger of Allah (sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam) sneezed, he would cover his mouth with his hand or a piece of cloth.”

**4. Quarantine in times of viruses which can spread**

The Prophet gave instructions on what to do if there is an outbreak. Abd al-Rahm n ibn Awf (radiy Allahu anhu) that he said:

“I heard the Messenger of Allah (sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam) say: ‘If you hear that it (the plague) is in a land, do not go there, and if it breaks out in a land where you are, do not leave, fleeing from it.’”

The Prophet (sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam) also taught us how to protect ourselves by maintaining our adhkar from the Sunnah. One such dua that he taught us was:

“In the name of Allah with Whose name nothing can harm on earth or in heaven, and He is the All-Hearing, All-Knowing”

**Being positive and having an optimistic outlook**

Always have a positive outlook regardless of the situation you're in, this is what our Prophet Muhammad (sall Allahu alayhi wa sallam) taught us, when he told us

“Amazing is the affair of the believer, verily all of his affairs are good and this is not for no one except the believer. If something of good/happiness befalls him, he is grateful and that is good for him. If something of harm befalls him, he is patient and that is good for him.”

He also said:

“There are no omens, but the best of it is optimism”

**Conclusion**

The coronavirus is a reminder to us all of our weak state. Regardless of our social standing and our financial position, we are helpless. Allah says:

“Mankind was created weak”

Situations like this remind us to turn back to Allah. Allah controls everything and he is the one that can relieve us from our difficulties, we must return to Allah and seek refuge in him and ask his protection.

NOTES:

[1] Muslims

[2] Tirmidhi

[3] Tirmidhi

(Extracted from [www.islamicity.org](http://www.islamicity.org))

## VIEW FROM MALAYSIA A

# Coronavirus: Human Vulnerability and Lessons

The Association for Community and Dialogue (Acid) is deeply saddened by the outbreak of coronavirus that has spread rapidly in the city of Wuhan, China, and in a smaller scale in some countries.

The Philippines has reported the first coronavirus death outside China. It is saddening to see another report on an outbreak of H5N1 bird flu in Hunan province in China. Acid would like to extend our hand of solidarity with the affected families of Wuhan and the global family.

In Malaysia quite a number of preventive measures have been instituted by the authorities and in the private realm to combat the coronavirus. The media have done a good job keeping us informed about the disease and the government's measures to combat it.

In mosques, churches and temples, congregations have been reminded on steps to contain the coronavirus. In hospitals I notice quite a number of people wearing masks. This shows that people have taken the disease seriously since the information concerning the deadly virus was disseminated.

Various measures have been instituted, from the policy level right down to individual hygiene. But the fundamental truth is that, with all the hype about technological and security advances in the world, there is still a form of human vulnerability to events that are beyond the comprehension of the finite human mind even though we might have the best scientific community and technological progress in the world.

In Malaysia there is so much talk about nationalism, race and religion. How would race and ideological religion help when what is required is common collaboration among all national and global communities to look for solutions affecting humanity such as the cure for diseases? **When there is a virus epidemic, every human being is affected.**

It is ironic that the president of China used the word “demonic” to describe the coronavirus, when

materialist, atheist China does not believe in God and principles of good and evil. If there is something demonic, there should be also something good, and if there is something good, there should be a moral law that creates goodness and that moral law has its origin in the belief in God. This requires an understanding that good means are as equally important as good ends. In any disease prevention, there should be the means and the ends related to hygiene and its related ecosystem.

The limitations of understanding the right means and ends call for spiritual humility. One does not know everything and there are situations that are beyond human comprehension. **The very belief in God should empower humanity to seek wisdom through our own being and to live in solidarity with one another which is beyond ideological limitations.**

Hopefully, our common human vulnerability to this deadly virus will inspire people around the globe to create more medical discoveries for the common good of humanity instead of channeling national budgets to manufacturing and selling military equipment to war-torn countries and harboring the delusion that human security as whole can be merely protected through national economic, scientific and military advancement.

Wisdom requires focusing on the essential, which is the spirituality of life and how to empower life through self and community development that is less materialistic and focuses more on the value of human persons than false security. **The coronavirus and other diseases, over decades, have shown us how vulnerable we are in this planet and the need for spiritual humility.**

*Ronald Benjamin is a human resources practitioner based in Ipoh, Malaysia. He is currently secretary of the Association for Community and Dialogue (Pertubuhan Kebajikan, Komuniti dan Dialog).*

(Source: [www.islamicity.org](http://www.islamicity.org))

**BASHA'S EVERSHINE GROUP**

15, Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore-560 001.

Ph.: +91-80-2222099 / 40094009,  
Fax: +91-80-2273238 / 41233990.

Factory: Lakshmipuram, Kuppam, Pin: 517425  
Ph.: 08570-256936 / 256937 / Fax: 08570 255250  
E-mail: [contact@evershinegranites.com](mailto:contact@evershinegranites.com)  
Website : [www.evershinegranites.com](http://www.evershinegranites.com)

**EVERSHINE GRANITES Pvt. Ltd.**  
**MONUMENTAL MEMORIALS**

At a time when fear and new forms of extremism have blinded many to tolerance and peace, one man is attempting to prove to the world that Islam is indeed a religion of peace and that what we see in the media and across the world today are just cynical exploitations

In an attempt to put on full display to the world that Islam is indeed a religion of peace, British national Farid Feyadi, 40, has undertaken a journey of thousands of miles to reach Mecca from London entirely on foot.

"My achievement is delivering a message that Islam is peace; Muslims are peaceful people," he said. He said he hopes this would inspire the "young generation" to persevere in leaving their mark on the planet.

A Mancunian designer and inventor, Feyadi recounted his journey to Anadolu Agency while stopping off for some respite in Istanbul: "As a Muslim, I believe each of us is an ambassador of this religion. We have a big responsibility on our shoulders to represent Islam and Muslims in the best way to the world. I tried to do something in a very peaceful way to show Islam is a wave of peace that draws from the word 'Salaam' (the Arabic word for peace)," he said, decrying the "bad impression" of the religion and "horrible" deeds committed by the Daesh terrorist organization, supposedly in its name.

Though he initially wanted to make the pilgrimage via bicycle, he later decided to go on foot once he found out that others had made the journey in the same manner.

"I said if they can do it, why shouldn't I? So, I decided to do it by walking. When I told my friends, they didn't believe me," he recalled.

Making the pilgrimage to Mecca – a religious obligation for Muslims with sufficient means – on foot is an honor and blessing, he said. "I started this journey on Nov. 3, 2019. I have never experienced travel like this, I have traveled by plane; I have booked nice hotels, but never like this. I was so excited," he said.

Once he had made the five-day journey from London to the port of Dover, he took a ferry over to France. Boarding the ferry Feyadi said, he was "so excited because I

## 'Walk For Peace' from London to Mecca: A British Muslim's Story

In an attempt to put on full display to the world that Islam is indeed a religion of peace, British national Farid Feyadi, 40, has undertaken a journey of thousands of miles to reach Mecca from London entirely on foot.

couldn't believe I was doing it".

Feyadi said he had to change the trolley he was using to carry his essentials three times so far due to his lack of experience and had faced difficulties along the way.

"I've had so many dangerous encounters while camping in places far from cities.

There were times I was scared, so then I decided to camp in city centers or places where there were people I could reach," he said.

So far, he has worn out four pairs of shoes and is now on his fifth and even takes medicines and vitamins every night to mollify the aching in his knees from every long day's journey.

### Summer Arrival

Feyadi plans to arrive in the sacred city of the Kaaba, where millions of Muslims journey every year, in July, as the scorching summer heat takes hold of the region.

"I've walked 4,000 kilometers to Istanbul. I pushed myself very hard to arrive here," he said, adding that he had roughly 2,700 kilometers to go.

After Istanbul, near Turkey's northeasternmost corner, Feyadi marched on southeastward to the capital Ankara and was on his way to the central city of Konya and from there, down to Antalya on the Mediterranean coast.

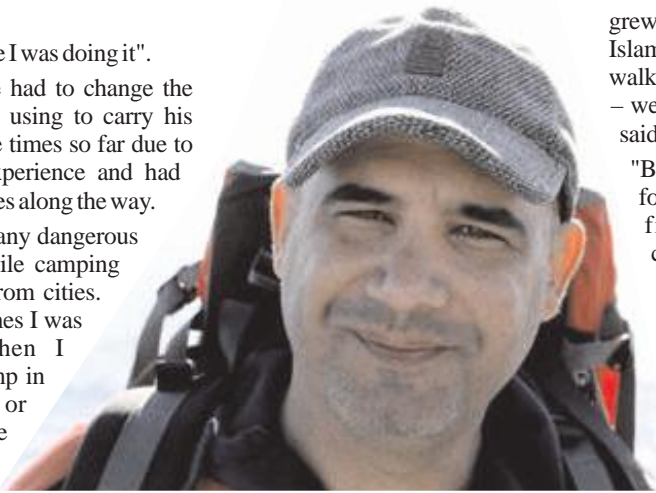
From there, he will make the only non-foot segment of his journey, catching a flight to Jordan to avoid the ongoing violence in Syria and Iraq.

"I will continue my journey to Saudi Arabia from Jordan. Hopefully, I will arrive in July," he said.

One reason for his late arrival, he explains, will be the weather, as the rising temperatures will prevent him from walking at his usual pace. According to his calculations, he has budgeted his time well and is about three weeks ahead of schedule.

Aside from his message of peace, Feyadi also aims to inspire hope in cancer patients across the world.

"I'm a kidney cancer survivor; I live with one kidney. I'm doing this project, and I walk around 60 kilometers every day. All these



Farid Feyadi said he hopes his walk to Mecca will inspire people to be stronger and kinder. (AA Photo)

blessings come from Allah. Without His help, I wouldn't have got this far. I've trudged through heavy rain, snow and freezing cold water," he said.

### Community Following

Feyadi said he wants to make more journeys in the future, this time with fellow travelers.

"I have a Muslim friend who has a Spanish background. Two years ago, he traveled from Paris to Mecca on foot. There is also a lovely Chinese friend of ours who

grew up in Paris and converted to Islam. We are planning to do this walk to Mecca again – or by bicycle – we haven't decided yet," Feyadi said.

"But my idea is that I want to form a group of about 20 people from every background, country or ethnicity, almost cultivating a small ummah (community of believers)," he added.

Some who have heard about his plans have excitedly asked to join him in his next project. "As a Muslim, when I heard this, I felt proud," he said.

### Turkish Hospitality

Feyadi said people from Bosnia, Albania and Turkey – where the most-commonly practised religion is Islam – had been particularly pleasant to him.

"I didn't want to take a break except for Sarajevo because it has a special place in my heart. I consider it the capital of Muslims in Europe," he said.

Alas, his "proper rest" would have to wait for Istanbul, he said, where he took a break from the road for a

few days.

"Turkey is magnificent historically. ... It's as if you are walking through history. It makes you feel proud," he said, expressing gratitude for the hospitality he has received in Turkey and Turkish communities elsewhere.

After Turkish authorities heard of his visit, Feyadi even met President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

"Turkish history is part of Islamic history, our glory. We are proud of it," he added. "I tell people I came here from London on foot, and they say 'OK, good,' but when I say 'I'm going to Hajj on foot,' their reaction flips 180 degrees ... They hug me, they kiss me, they ask if I need anything. They at least invite me to drink tea or coffee. I'm just speechless," he said.

### Islam, Religion of Peace

Feyadi said he wants to be an inspiration to future generations and deliver a message to the world.

"My achievement is delivering a message that Islam is peace; Muslims are peaceful people," he said. He said he hopes this would inspire the "young generation" to persevere in leaving their mark on the planet.

"I'm doing this and going to the holiest place in the world. I want to deliver a message to the world and also to Muslims: Whenever you receive an objection from ... the world, have a pure intention, pure heart. Open your heart to the world with peace and love," he said.

Feyadi said he is planning to write a book about his journey and hopes to open a photo gallery, too.

(source:anadolu agency)

## GUIDANCE

### Kindness Towards Animals

It is said that Prophet Muhammad was fond of horses and had cats as pets too.

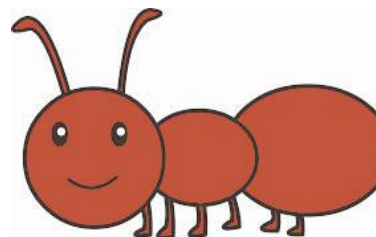
In Islam, every living creature, from humans to animals and plants has rights. As the superior species, it is our responsibility to look after animals and take care of them with kindness, respect and mercy. Killing an animal as small as an insect or even inflicting mental cruelty are completely forbidden in Islam. It therefore goes without saying that hunting for sport is out of the question. We are only allowed to kill animals for food, and even then, there is a strict set of rules to follow in order to show respect.

In fact, there is an entire chapter of the Quran named 'The Ant' which tells us about an encounter between the Prophet Solomon... Who had been given the very special gift of understanding and communicating freely with God's creatures... and a group of ants as described in these verses:

'Before Solomon were marshalled his troops of *jinn* and men and

birds, and they were all lined in orderly ranks. At length, when they came to a valley of ants, one ant said: 'Go into your dwellings ants, lest Solomon and his troops inadvertently crush you.'

The Prophet Solomon stopped his entire army immediately when he heard the ant, thanked God for this gift and then took a detour out of concern for these ants. Just think, he was not only one of



God's Messengers, he was also a king, wealthy beyond our imagination and the leader of an army of thousands of men, *jinn*s and animals. The reaction of

Solomon not only serves as an aspirational example, it also reinforces the fact that killing even one of the smallest creatures in the world is forbidden in Islam.

The Quran also uses animals on numerous occasions to describe the wonders of nature on which we must ponder and reflect, such as birds spreading their wings to fly: 'Do they not see the birds above them, spreading their wings and drawing them in? None, but the Lord of Grace holds them up. He sees everything.'

It is said that Prophet Muhammad was fond of horses and had cats as pets too. Having a pet animal is a responsibility... It should be given appropriate shelter, food and rest without neglect and their owner is held accountable for their well being. Prophet Muhammad said: 'God is kind and likes kindness in all things.'

(Extracted from 'Big Little Steps', by Mathilde Loujayne)

*In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

Mindfulness in Islam (*muraqabah*) is the state of being aware of oneself in relation to Allah. It is the opposite of heedlessness, negligence, and forgetfulness (*ghaflah*). We all know that we need to be more mindful in our prayers, acts of worship, and daily life, but what exactly can we do to cultivate this positive state of being?

Mindfulness is a skill like any other skill, so it takes practice and self-discipline to strengthen it over the long term. The principal tool for cultivating mindfulness is a specific meditation exercise designed to train ourselves to catch our wandering mind and return it back to Allah. But this practice must be coupled with knowledge of the nature of thought itself, to increase our awareness of how thoughts work and what we can do to better control our reaction to them.

Al-Ghazali explains this meditation as it was practiced in classical Islam:

*Then let him seclude himself in his private nook, limiting himself to the religious obligations and supererogatory acts. Let him sit and empty his heart of every concern: neither scattered thoughts of reciting the Quran, nor pondering over its explanation, nor the books of prophetic traditions, nor anything else. Let him strive to not think of anything concerning his affair except for Allah Almighty, continuing to sit in seclusion while saying the name of Allah constantly, with presence of heart... Upon that, if his intentions are true, his concerns are in order, and his diligence is improved, then he will not gravitate to his base desires and will not be preoccupied with idle self-talk (hadith al-nafs) related to the world. The reality of the Truth will shine in his heart.*

Source: *I'ya Ulum al-Din* 3/19

In other words, a Muslim should go into their room alone with the intention of silencing the mind from random thoughts and self-talk. This could be done in as little as 5-10 minutes a day. One should focus on Allah as the object of attention, being aware of ourselves in relation to Him, and becoming accustomed to feeling this state of mindfulness. This exercise will not only enrich our spiritual lives, but it will also benefit our physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Thoughts will begin to emerge during meditation in a five-step process:**

1. *Hajis*, a sudden fleeting thought.
2. *Khatir*, a thought given our

## How to Achieve Mindfulness in Islam



attention.

3. *Hadith al-Nafs*, self-talk or talking to oneself about the thought.
4. *Ham*, decision to act upon the thought.
5. *Amz*, determination to act upon the thought.

As we meditate, we are observing our thoughts from a neutral perspective as they unfold during this process. Ideally, we would like to be able to notice our thoughts in the initial stages of *hajis* and *khatir*, before they become more developed and we start talking to ourselves. Once the mind begins to wander in this manner, as it naturally will do, one should return to a state of mindfulness by saying the name of Allah or another supplication from the Sunnah.

Sometimes the Prophet (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) would become distracted and forget Allah for a brief moment, so he would ask forgiveness from Allah as a way to anchor his mindfulness and restore his remembrance.

Al-Aghar al-Muzani reported: The Messenger of Allah, Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam, said:

*Verily, at times there is fog over my heart, so I seek the forgiveness of Allah one hundred times in a day.*

Source: *?a?i? Muslim* 2702, Grade: *Sahih*

Al-Nawawi commented on this tradition, writing:

*It is said that it means the Prophet (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) had intervals of distraction from*

*remembrance of Allah, as remembrance was his normal state of affairs. When he had a period of inattention or distraction, he would consider that a sin and seek forgiveness for it.*

Source: *Shar? al-Nawawiala?a?i? Muslim* 2702

When we are in mindfulness meditation, we can use similar phrases from the Sunnah a name of Allah, a supplication, and so on to return our attention to Allah as soon as we notice our mind wandering. This is called *anchoring* our mindfulness, because over time our minds will associate these phrases with the feeling of being mindful. Every time we bring back our wandering mind via anchoring, it is like doing a mental push-up. It strengthens our mindfulness as if it were a muscle in the brain. It is as simple as that.

The purpose of meditation is not to suppress our thoughts, as this is impossible and counterproductive. Rather, the goal is to become aware of our thoughts as they arise, observe them, and allow them to drift away as we return our attention to Allah. Thoughts are like waves. They will inevitably appear, but they will go away if you leave them alone. Once you engage them or try to push them away, it only makes the waves more turbulent.

Ibn al-Qayyim likened random thoughts in the wandering mind to pedestrians who will eventually go away if you ignore them:

*Know that passing thoughts are not harmful. Indeed, they are only harmful if they are sought and*

*engaged. For a thought is like a passerby on the road; if you ignore him, he will pass by and depart from you.*

Source: *al-Jawab al-Kafi* 1/157

In this sense, we are not defined by our thoughts and we should not identify ourselves with our thoughts, a realization psychologists call *cognitive defusion*. Thoughts arise naturally, sometimes from the depths of the ego (*nafs*) but other times from the inspiration of angels or Satan.

Allah said:

*We have created humanity and We know what his soul (nafs) whispers to him. We are closer to him than his jugular vein.*

Surat Qaf 50:16

Abdullah ibn Masud, RadhiAllahu Anhu, reported: The Messenger of Allah, Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam, said:

*Verily, Satan has influence with the son of Adam and the angel has influence. As for the influence of Satan, he promises evil and denies the truth. As for the influence of the angel, he promises goodness and affirms the truth. Whoever finds this goodness, let him know that it is from Allah and let him praise Allah. Whoever finds something else, let him seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Satan.*

Then, the Prophet (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) recited the verse:

*Satan threatens you with poverty and commands evil, but Allah promises you forgiveness and favor from him. (2:268)*

Source: *Sunan al-Tirmidhi* 2988, Grade: *Sahih*

Many of our thoughts originate from such external sources in the most literal sense. Evil thoughts encouraging us to sin or terrifying us come from the devilish jinn. Therefore, we should not view them as residing within our essence, nor should we negatively judge ourselves simply for experiencing them.

Based upon this insight, our mindfulness meditation trains us to put distance between ourselves and our thoughts, so that we can better observe them and control our reaction to them. This is called finding the *reaction space*. If a thought is beneficial, we can pursue it on our own terms. If a thought is harmful, we can ignore it by returning our attention to Allah via anchoring.

Having access to the reaction space is a blessing from Allah, whereas lacking this space give Satan an advantage over us.

Anas ibn Malik, RadhiAllahu Anhu, reported: The Prophet, Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam, said:

*Deliberation is from Allah, and recklessness is from Satan.*

Source: *al-Sunan al-Kubra* 18651, Grade: *Hasan*

*Taanni* (deliberation) means to be careful and to take one's time to react properly. *Ajalah* (recklessness) means to react in a careless, rash, and knee-jerk fashion. As we train ourselves to observe our thoughts in mindfulness meditation, this will help us expand the reaction space and thereby apply appropriate deliberation before we act. It will prevent us from reacting in an extreme way to strong emotional states like anger or grief.

According to some of the early Muslims, learning to be mindful of Allah with regards to our innermost thoughts is the key to earning His protection from evil in the world and the Hereafter.

Al-Qushayri writes:

*Some of the predecessors said: Whoever is mindful of Allah Almighty in his thoughts, Allah will protect him in his limbs.*

Source: *al-Risalat al-Qushayriyah* 1/330

In sum, mindfulness of Allah can be cultivated through a specific meditation designed to help us control how we react to our thoughts. The core insights of this practice include knowledge of how thoughts develop, anchoring mindfulness by using supplications to return our attention to Allah, cognitive defusion or dissociating our identity from our thoughts, and expanding the reaction space or the amount of time between thought and reaction. This practice can enrich our spiritual lives, as well as benefit our physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

By Niggy

I was delighted when we made plans to travel to a spiritual centre in Tamil Nadu, not far from Pondicherry, near the sea. I really love the sea! I was happy that our luggage could be light as we wouldn't need any sweaters or shawls there! An overnight bus journey from Bangalore dropped us off at Pondicherry, from where we took another bus, getting down at a place from Anichangkuppam. From there it was a short walk down a road that leads to the sea and we reached our destination: Arul Jyothi Peedam.

When we talk about spiritual centres, one might imagine a big campus with huts around. But Arul Jyothi Peedam, run by Fr. Atlas Saint Antony, also known as Arul Jyothi Ananda, is set in a pretty building in a village, with simple and very comfortable rooms. Some 20 people can be hosted at a time here. Set up in 2015 with the help of his family and well-wishers, Fr. Arul visioned this as a place where he could spend time in silence and meditation in solitude. He also opened his heart and the doors of the Peedam to spiritual seekers too. "If seekers want, they will come here," he says in his soft-spoken, gentle and kind way.

At the Peedam, Jaya, the efficient caretaker, ensures that guests are served with healthy and delicious

## Finding Your Soul by the Sea!

**The Arul Jyothi Peedam offers a silent ambience for seekers who want to just be. For breaks in between, they can hop across to the beach or listen to a rooster call out!**



**Apart from the sea, the quietude, and the laidback and relaxed ambience of surroundings of the Peedam, among the many other things that I liked was the unassuming attitude of Fr Arul. He is very content staying quietly in his room. He does not seem to get perturbed over the future or about the disturbances of the world.**

vegetarian food, from breakfast to supper. A sit-out that opens out into a little patch of trees and plants is where meals are generally taken. Birds and butterflies flit about as people eat their food in silence.

I particularly liked the informal spiritual ambience of the

meditation hall, where Fr Arul leads the meditation in the morning at 6 and again in the evening, at 6.30 pm. You are free to follow your own practice of meditation or prayers as you sit silently. Evening meditation on the terrace gives you the chance to savour a view of the glorious sunset and then, when darkness sets in, you may be treated

to a beautiful sight of the star-specked sky.

The Peedam is just around a 5-minute walk to the beach. You can spend hours walking along the coast gazing at the waves or watching the fishermen getting back from the sea in little boats. Colourful seashells and naughty crabs running in and out of holes in the sand on the shore can make you want to reflect more on the greatness of God! Observing the vastness of the sea, one can be led to reflect on how small we are and how infinitely big the Creator must be!

Another delightful aspect of

staying at the Peedam is waking up to the call of the rooster! This fellow will follow his own timings. He could crow even at 1 am or 2 am too, so there may be no need for to keep an alarm-clock. You can get out of your bed when he calls!

Apart from the sea, the quietude, and the laidback and relaxed ambience of surroundings of the Peedam, among the many other things that I liked was the unassuming attitude of Fr Arul. He is very content staying quietly in his room. He does not seem to get perturbed over the future or about the disturbances of the world, sending out his positive message: "Be well, Be well. Be well". His emphasis on silence can be a great blessing for those who may come to the Peedam in the hope of spending some time in solitude and quietness.

Located far from the urban madness, Arul Jyothi Peedam is a centre where people from different faiths and communities are very warmly welcomed by Fr Arul. Amidst the chirping of birds, the sound of the sea, the call of the rooster and quiet mealtimes under coconut trees, seekers can find their lost souls, spending time to reflect on life and its purpose and meaning.

**For more details about Arul Jyothi Peedam, see <http://aruljyothipeedam.blogspot.com/>**



**By Rabbi Zalman Kastel**

My translation airphones went silent for a few minutes at the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies. For three days in Abu Dhabi, from December 2-4, mostly Muslim, but also Christian and Jewish; religious leaders, academics and politicians spoke to us in Arabic, English and French.

The speeches were simultaneously translated into the other two of the three main languages. That worked, until Imam Abdullahi Abubakar (83) from Nigeria spoke in his native language; Hausa.

This Imam had risked his life when he confronted an extremist gunman seeking to kill two hundred and seventy-five Christians that he had sheltered in his Mosque and home. The softly spoken, bearded, black man in the blue turban had told the attacker to kill him first, and succeeded in saving the lives of the Christians.

While many words were spoken at

## What this Australian rabbi learned from a Muslim peace forum

this Forum, it was his heroic deed and our inability to understand him that captured the spirit and a challenge of the forum, respectively.

As someone who is concerned about bridging the divide between Muslims, Jews, Christians and others, I found something reassuring in experiencing the forum. It was convened by one of the most accomplished Islamic authorities in the world, Sheik Abdul Bin Bahya.

The many hundreds of guests, from a vast number of countries between Mauritania to Afghanistan, were predominantly Muslim leaders. Many Christian and Jewish speakers were part of interfaith panels, reflecting a commitment to dialogue by putting it in to practice.

There was lively informal interaction outside the sessions between religious leaders of the different faiths. I noticed the acclaimed US Muslim leader Hamza Yusuf deep in conversation with one of the US based senior Rabbis late into the night. A UK based Imam was delighted to chat with me about Muslim and Hasidic spiritual singing. This was very common.



On the other hand, there was a lot of potential for dialogue that was not realised. The language barrier was a big factor. The Jewish delegation of a more than a dozen rabbis, based in the US and Israel, and two women, and many of the delegates from across Asia and Africa simply did not have any common language with which to connect. I felt bad, often, as I walked past people with unfamiliar cultural dress and we looked at each other, silently.

Our gracious Abu Dhabi hosts provided us with certified Kosher hot food that was served in a side room. On some occasions, some of us took our food out to the area where others were eating and joined them for meals. On other occasions many of us had our meals with our fellow Jews.

One day over lunch we discussed an alternative approach to a tradition

that seems to legitimise a view of non-Jewish people as inherently antisemitic. However, another version of this teaching focuses only to a particular person in a particular time. Perhaps more such internal conversations occurred and complemented those held between people with different faiths.

One strategy that facilitated dialogue was the small group breakout session. I joined twenty delegates in the South East Asia group. We discussed local words that carry the spirit of the forum. In Indonesia they have a word for religious moderation: Wasatia.

As part of Wasatia they strategically moved the study of caliphates from the religious law syllabus to the history section. An evangelical minister from Mindanao, in the Philippines taught us the word Kapua that combines being a good neighbour with seeing oneself in the other. I offered the term Ahavat Ha'ger love of the powerless stranger.

On reflection, I think I was too worried about words. The most moving part of the breakout session

was heartfelt sharing in Arabic by an older, Mufti also from Mindanao, Philippines, whose people have finally reached a peace agreement with their government. I did not understand what he was saying but it touched me because I could feel it came from his heart, rather than a performance from his head.

Another highlight was the Koranic singing and message of Farid Ahmed, in a wheelchair, from Christchurch. His wife was murdered in the attack but he forgave the killer. His heartfelt message to the white supremacists is: we don't hate you!

The forum culminated with the signing of a charter for a new alliance of virtue. It is hoped that this covenant between people of all faiths will enable us to relate to each other as partners rather than the "other".

I am less concerned about how much the words spoken or unspoken at the Forum will matter in the implementation of this noble effort. Instead I look beyond the words, to the sincerity in the hearts of those present and the deeds already being undertaken by many in that room and beyond it.

*(Rabbi Zalman Kastel is Director of Together for Humanity Foundation, a Christian, Jewish Muslim organisation that promotes Intercultural Understanding, primarily in schools)*



**0% CHEMICALS.  
100% CONFIDENCE.**



info@crystalblues.net

## Environmental Degradation as *Fasaad*

**The Quran condemns every form of fasaad. Hence, environmental degradation and destruction are obviously something that Muslims must seek to oppose and overcome**

**By Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz**

The word *fasaad* and related terms are used several times in the Quran. In Arabic, the word *fasaad* has a wider connotation than in Urdu. In everyday Urdu, *fasaad* is often equated with generally as violence, particularly rioting. But in Arabic, the word has a much broader meaning. It includes strife, depravity, rottenness, disorder and corruption and also connotes damaging something, not letting it remain in its original or proper condition or disturbing its balance. Understood in this way, the widespread destruction of the environment at a global level today is a very obvious form of *fasaad*. It entails overturning the fine balance that God established in the environment, this process being driven principally by human greed.

The Quran condemns every form of *fasaad*. Hence, environmental degradation and destruction are obviously something that Muslims must seek to oppose and overcome. Given the grave implications they have for the very survival of life on Earth, they are a very serious form of *fasaad*.



Despite this, however, few Muslims consider the environmental crisis as a form of *fasaad*. Many of us aren't even aware of the existence of such a crisis! In fact, through the reckless pursuit of a consumerist lifestyle, based on mindless exploitation of the bounties of Nature, many of us are actually deeply complicit in this *fasaad*.

The Quran clearly condemns those who are engaged in *fasaad*. This means that those who are responsible for the *fasaad* of environmental degradation are engaged in sin. The opposite of *fasaad* is *islah*, which denotes

maintaining a thing in its right condition and proper balance. Those who engage in *islah* are known as *musleheen*. They are the opposite of the *mufsideen*, those who engage in *fasaad*.

Muslims are supposed to be *musleheen*. They should be those who engage in actions of *islah* which are geared to oppose and overcome *fasaad*. Working for the restoration of ecological balance and opposing efforts to destroy the environment are acts of *islah*. And so, as *musleheen*, Muslims should be actively engaged in meaningful and constructive efforts to help improve the environment and overcome the environmental crisis. That is something that is part of their faith, a part of their role as *musleheen*. Despite this being so, relatively few Muslims are engaged in such meaningful efforts today.

Having been created by God, every single thing in the earth and in the skies and in between them is a sign or *ayat* of God. That means that all the components of our environment, be they on land, water or the air, are signs of God. Like the *ayats* or verses of the

Quran, they point to God's existence. This being the case, protecting the environment and respecting it is as binding on us as is respecting and honouring the *ayats* of the Quran.

The Quran (3:110) says this about the Muslim *ummah*:

You are indeed the best community that has ever been brought forth for [the good of] mankind. You enjoin what is good, and forbid what is evil, and you believe in God.

Members of this *ummah* are expected to engage in virtuous actions that draw people closer to God or *aamaal-e saleha*. And so, they must also engage in the virtuous action of working to oppose the *fasaad* of environmental degradation and of helping promote and preserve environmental balance. We must broaden our conventional understanding of *aamaal-e saleha*

to include such actions as well.

Planting trees and looking after them can be a form of *amal-e saleha*, as can joining movements for the protection of greenery and natural resources. So too can promoting solar energy to replace the use of diesel or petrol, engaging in clean-up drives in residential localities, saying 'No!' to plastic where possible, avoiding foods painted with chemical colours, exhorting people to give up the habit of spitting in public spaces, and so on.

One could considerably lengthen this list of eco-friendly *aamaal-e saleha* which we can do in our own individual capacity. Some of these may appear to be 'small' or 'ordinary' steps. But even if they are, that's alright! On the Day of Judgment, when we appear before God, even our smallest misdeed will be presented before us, just as will our smallest good deed.

Easy to spot a yellow car when you are always thinking of a yellow car.

Easy to spot opportunity when you are always thinking of opportunity.

Easy to spot reasons to be mad when you are always thinking of being mad.

You become what you constantly think about. Watch yourself.

**PLATINUM CITY**

YOU HAVE WATCHED THE GOLDEN GLITTER (IN GOLDEN ENCLAVE) YOU ARE WITNESSING THE DIAMOND SPARKLE (IN DIAMOND DISTRICT) NOW GET READY FOR SOMETHING MORE THE SOLIDITY OF PLATINUM!

**INDIA BUILDERS CORPORATION**

Sheriff Centre, 73/1, St. Mark's Road, Bangalore- 560 001.  
Tel. 22271797/ 22278133 / 22278134 / 22276167,  
Fax : 22278131, Telex : 0845-2425

حج اور عمرہ Umrah & Hajj Ahram Clothes and All Journey Requirements.

**Gulshan گلشن**  
A COMPLETE FAMILY SHOP

Bangalore's One-stop Fashion Showrooms - Four in a row in Cantonment Area

**Fashion Bazaar**

**Gulshan MEN'S SHOP**  
Exclusive Show Room for Grooms

- Suiting & Shirts
- Sherwani, Kurta Pyjama
- Prince Suit
- Readymade Suits
- Pathani Suits
- Lucknow Jubba
- Kashmiri Shawls etc.

**For Bride**

- \* Banaras Silk Sarees,
- \* Kahmiri Work Sarees
- \* Salwar Kameez,
- \* Ghagra Choli,
- \* Lacha, Salwar Suit etc.

**Reasonable Rates**

Apart from designer Burkha, New Counter of Imported Bhurkha's from Jeddah, Bahrain & Dubai are available. Scarf, Chaders, Salwar Kameez etc.,

**FASHION CENTER**  
Imitation Jewellery & Ladies Requirements etc.

**FASHION CORNER**  
All Marriage articles & Gifts Items etc.

**With Best Compliments From:**

No. 93, Arunachalam Mudaliar Road, (Opp. Islami Baithulmal Shadi Mahal), Shivajinagar, Bangalore - 560 051. Cont.  
Ph : 25554631 / 25361724 / 25567602 E-mail: gulshan\_fash@rediffmail.com



## Fasting – A Spiritual Experience

We must always realise that duties of worship aim primarily at the formulation of an attitude of mind which governs the behavior of the believer, which develops his conscience and helps him offer his worship in the proper manner and adopt a good standard of behavior in life. From our point of view, we must always take the religion of Islam as a whole, as Allah willed it to be, with all the duties it imposes on us and look at it in the light of our overall duty of obedience to Allah in every respect. We must take it as a perfect, harmonious whole, which includes situations which require strenuous effort and situations of ease and concession, trusting the wisdom of Allah who knows best. Fasting was first made an obligation in the second year after the Prophet's (Pbuh) settlement in Madinah. As a new duty, fasting was very hard for Muslims. Allah, therefore, gave a concession to those who find fasting too much of a strain and who can do it only with great difficulty. They were allowed not to fast, provided that they feed a needy person. He also made it clear to them that to feed the needy is highly commendable, whether it is done voluntarily, i.e, not in compensation for not fasting, or by doing more than the minimum required. The compensation required for making use of this concession is to feed one person for each day one does not fast, and increase it to feed two or three or more needy people for each day. This is the meaning of the statement- "He who does good of his own account does himself good thereby". Allah follows this by recommending that fasting has great benefits for us. Most immediately apparent to us is the

**'Believers, fasting is decreed for you as it was decreed for those before you, so that you may remain God-fearing! Fast a certain number of days. But whoever of you is ill, or on a journey, shall fast instead the same number of days later on. Those who find fasting a strain too hard to bear may compensate for it by the feeding of needy persons. He who does good of his own account does himself good thereby; for, to fast is to do yourself good, if you but knew it. It was in the month of Ramadan that the Quran was revealed, a guidance for mankind and as a self-evident proof of that guidance, a standard to distinguish right from wrong. Hence, whoever of you is present in that month shall fast throughout it; but he who is ill or on a journey shall fast instead the same number of days later on. Allah desires that you have ease. He does not desire you to be afflicted with hardship. You are, however, required to complete the necessary number of days and to extol the greatness of Allah for having guided you and to tender your thanks (to Him). If My servants ask you about Me, I am indeed near. I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls to me. Let them then respond to Me, and believe in Me, so that they may be wise'.**

(Al-Baqarah: The Cow: 2: Verses: 183-6)

fact that it teaches self control, bearing hardships and making a conscious preference of obeying Allah, even at the expense of one's own rest and comfort.

### Very Old, Men or Women.

These recommendations were made preliminary to the withdrawal of this concession from all people who are healthy and living at home. Fasting was soon to be made obligatory, without any concession. The concession continues only in the case of the elderly who find fasting much too hard to bear and are not fasting in Ramadan, but fasting on some other days. Imam Malik, the Prophet's companion, lived until he was no longer able to fast. He used to compensate for it by feeding the hungry. It applies only to the very old, men or women, who cannot fast. They are allowed to compensate by feeding a needy person for each day of Ramadan. It is the Quran that built the Muslim nation and Muslims must always be thankful to Allah for revealing the Quran



“It was in the month of Ramadan that the Quran was revealed, a guidance for mankind and as a self evident proof of that guidance as a standard to distinguish right from wrong.”

to them and they cannot express their thanks better than by fasting in Ramadan, the month in which the Quran was revealed. “It was in the month of Ramadan that the Quran was revealed, a guidance for mankind and as a self evident proof of that guidance as a

standard to distinguish right from wrong.” This is the verse which imposes the duty of fasting in

Ramadan on all Muslims who are healthy and living at home, abrogating the earlier concession except in the case of the elderly people. “Hence, whoever of you is present in that month shall fast throughout it”- this means, anyone who lives to see the month of Ramadan. It imparts to the Muslim a special quality of kindly forbearance which helps him fulfill all his duties and obligations as well as all his serious activities in life with an air of ease which is akin to the flow of water or to the growth of a tree. He is always reassured, confident and happy as he always feels Allah's mercy, and His desire that His servants should have ease, rather than hardship. The ill and the travellers are allowed to fast on later days so that they have a chance to fast a number of days equivalent to a full month, so that they do not lose any of the reward Allah

gives for lasting: “You are required to complete the necessary number of days and to extol the greatness of Allah for having guided you aright.” Fasting is indeed a blessing from Allah, for which He deserves to be thanked and magnified. “Allah says of Himself: “I am indeed near, I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he calls to Me.” How kind, compassionate and friendly. With such friendliness from Allah and closeness to him, the difficulty of fasting, no matter how great, appears very trivial. Every word in this verse adds to the air of friendliness and compassion. The fact that Allah considers the people His own, and answers them directly also adds to the air of compassion. He has not instructed His messenger to tell his people: “I am near.” He Himself gives the answer directly to His servants as soon as the question is made. He has not said “I hear their prayers”, but has assured them immediately by answering their prayers.

It is indeed a verse which fills the hearts of the believers with friendly reassurance and complete confidence. It makes their life happy, peaceful and secure. In this atmosphere of friendliness and compassion, Allah directs His servants to respond to Him and to believe Him. Their response and faith should lead them to be wise and to follow the right path. Thus, the final benefit from such response is theirs as well. Indeed, Allah does not need anyone. If people are wise and rightly guided, the benefit is theirs.

## HADITH ILLUMINATES THE HEART

### Hadiths About Smiling

Did you know that smiling has become a science and an art form required for the improvement of relationships, both social and economic? It's also necessary for diplomatic relations between individuals, communities, and countries. At the beginning of the 20th century, laughter was officially acknowledged as a science it was called “The Psychology of Laughter.” Gérard Jugnot, the French actor, once said, “Laughter is like a windshield wiper, it doesn't stop the rain but allows us to keep going.” Stressing the significance of smiling, Voltaire said, “Smile melts ice, installs confidence and heals wounds; it's the key of sincere human relations.”

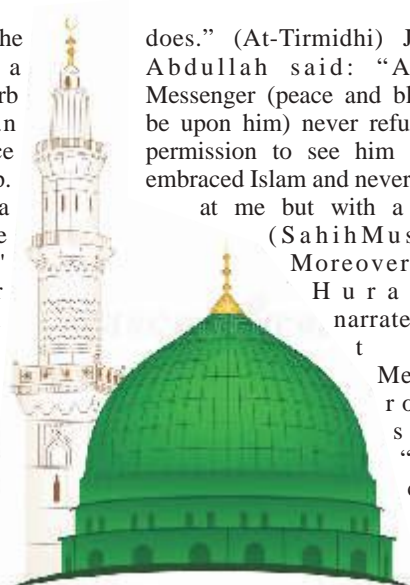
In a similar vein, the great playwright and poet, William Shakespeare said, “It's easier to get what you want with a smile

than with the tip of the sword.” Notably, a famous Chinese proverb relates that a man without a smiling face must never open a shop. Why? Because such a man will never be able to attract others' attention, conquer their hearts, or make them buy more!

### Smiling in the Prophetic Sunnah

Prophet Muhammad was always cheerful and bright-faced, according to historians. He always kept smiling in the face of his

Companions to the extent that Abdullah ibn Al-Harithibn Hazm said, “I have never seen anyone who smiles more than the Prophet



does.” (At-Tirmidhi) Jariribn Abdullah said: “Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) never refused me permission to see him since I embraced Islam and never looked at me but with a smile” (Sahih Muslim).

Moreover, Abu Huraira narrated that the Messenger of Allah said: “You cannot satisfy people

with your wealth, but satisfy them with your cheerful faces and good morals” (Abu Ya'la and Al-Hakim; Authentic hadith).

Abu Dhar narrated from the Prophet that he said, “Do not disdain a good deed, (no matter how small it may seem) even if it is your meeting with your brother with a cheerful face” (Sahih Muslim). And, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, “Smiling in your brother's face is an act of charity” (At-Tirmidhi; Declared Authentic by Al-Albani). Amazingly, smiling is equal to spending in the cause of Allah, without having to pay even a penny. This is, indeed, a Prophetic solution to those who desire to give charity but cannot afford it.

This is an endless wellspring, if we just know how to use it. If we use smiling, wisely and sensibly, we can win over hearts. They will be more open and prepared to listen to what we share about our beautiful faith. All we have to do is keep a beautiful smile on our face at all times. However, a senseless mechanical smile is not meant here; a fake smile cannot deceive anyone. What is meant here, is the genuine smile that stems from the depth of one's heart. The smile

which penetrates the walls of others' hearts and settles there. The smile that indicates and shows one's good character.

Abdullah ibn Al-Mubarak once explained regarding good character: “It is a smiling face, doing one's best in good, and refraining from harm” (Jami' at-Tirmidhi).

(Extracted from aboutislam.net)



### Hadith of the day

Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, “I guarantee a house in Jannah for one who gives up arguing, even if he is in the right; and I guarantee a home in the middle of Jannah for one who abandons lying even for the sake of fun; and I guarantee a house in the highest part of Jannah for one who has good manners.” [Abu Dawud 4800, authenticated by shaykh Al-Albaanee]

Sent with Hissni App

## Ummat-e-Nabi Charitable Trust

Do something amazing this Ramadan...  
Feed the Fasting...  
Donate



**Zakat for Food**  
**Zakat for Cloth**  
**Zakat for Education**  
**Zakat for Ramadan**



**Reg. 480/Beed Beed, Maharashtra**

So Plz deposit your Zakat in the following A/c  
**Ummat-e-Nabi Charitable Trust**  
A/c 80041234810 - IFC MAHG0004524  
Maharashtra Grameen Bank, Contact: 9922454505.  
E: shahanvazshaikh@gmail.com

## Islamic Relief & Research Trust Kashmir (Regd.)

Head Office: Opposite L.D. Hospital, Lal Mandi Road, Srinagar, PO. Box No. 70 GPO Srinagar - 190 001 (India)  
E-mail: hazimrashid@gmail.com, Website: www.irtweb.org Ph.: 0194\_2310843


### Appeal

Donate Generously your ZAKAT and SODAQAT to our registered voluntary charitable organization ISLAMIC RELIEF AND RESEARCH TRUST Kashmir Srinagar (India) for education and rehabilitation of two lakh orphans and sixty thousand widows of Kashmir. Two orphanages are run by DARUL EHSAN and DARUL MUHSINAT. Trust is registered and recognised by Ministry of Home affairs, Govt. of India under FCRA our FCRA registered account No. SB: 0008040100023713 with Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. B/o Chadoora Kshmir-India. Local A/c No. 0008040100023751 with Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. Chadoora. IFC Code:- JAKAO chadur.

- Abdul Rashid Hnjura, Founder

## MADRASA-E-RAHMAT-UL-BANAT

Residential Madrasa for Girls Under the Management of Al-Rahman Educational and Charitable Trust Reg. No. 68513-14  
No. 60, 20th Cross, 5th Block, HBR Layout, Near Fathima Masjid, Ring Road, Nagawara Circle, Bangalore - 560 045

### APPEAL FOR DONATION

Madrasa-e-Rahmat-ul-Banat is providing education and accommodation to 50 Orphan and Poor Girls.

Mohammed Shamir  
President,  
Ph: 9880619433

Online Transfer of donation through Canara Bank A/c No. 2827201001246  
IFSC Code: CNRB0002827, Branch: KFC Bhavan, Bangalore - 560 052

## BAZM - E - NISWAN CHARITABLE TRUST An Appeal

Bazm-e-Niswan wishes you all a very happy Ramadan - Mubarak. This is the month in which Allah's bounty, Mercy Grace & Forgiveness showers abundantly on the Ummah. Let us pray to ALLAH SWT to bestow us the will, the heart, the health and the means to fulfill our obligations of Salah, Fastings, Zakath & performing good deeds during this month. Allah's rewards are multiplied many times on these good deeds in Ramadan as per several hadiths.

Your generous donations, encouragement and support have given us the strength and motivation to accomplish all these programmes. We request your continued support, valuable guidance in all our endeavour. The main source of funds for our services is from Zakath, Sadaqah & Donations from large philanthropists like you.

Bazm is doing your work to wipe a tear, to reduce the pain, to care for the destitute, to educate a girl, to feed a mouth, to help a poor bride and to serve humanity in general. Therefore, we appeal to you to extend your whole hearted support and contributions. Our volunteers may come to meet you. You can also contact us or send a cheque or DD in favour of BAZM-E-NISWAN CHARITABLE TRUST to our address. All donations to us are exempted from Income Tax under section 80G.

### A brief overview of BAZM - E - NISWAN 's activities

Bazm-e-Niswan has been actively engaged in aiding & empowering several thousand women of all ages, especially those from the weaker sections of society for the last 45 years. With a firm belief that everyone deserves a helping hand and the right to live in dignity, Bazm has launched many initiatives, all designed to make women self sufficient by boosting their self confidence and providing them opportunities to be socially relevant. Some of these projects are:

- \*Bazm's signature project, the scholarship grant programme, since its inception in 1974, more than over 61,000 girl students have been benefitted from this scheme. They have qualified as Doctors, Engineers and Graduates in different fields. Some of these qualified doctors and engineers are working abroad.
- \*Care for the elderly is a major program of Bazm. Nearly 250 Men and Women are given a monthly allowance of Rs. 150/- in cash and food grains worth Rs. 450/- In addition, they are provided with four sets of clothing, Blankets, Bedsheets, Shawls and Sweaters besides Medicines, Spectacles and Medical Treatment.
- \*Assistance for the marriage of poor girls. This scheme provides essential bridal items for the marriage of poor girls to reduce their burden. Yearly around 300 girl will be benefited. So far more than 10000 girls have been benefited. From 1992, Medical Aid is offered by providing financial assistance to patients undergoing treatment for serious diseases.
- \*The Sahara self help program is another initiative of Bazm aimed at empowering women for economic self-reliance thro' self help program & vocational training
- \*Among other schemes being implemented by Bazm are to adopt Govt schools to improve the standard, infrastructure and academic excellence. \*Bazm support students in specialized coaching for PUC and CET aspirants.
- \*IQRA - A play home for kids with a difference. IQRA offers a beautiful and creative headstart for your child aiming to provide quality education. We also encourage children to learn the foundation of Islam and Islamic knowledge, which includes Islamic rhymes, Kalimas and Duas.
- \*DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION OF ISLAM - Bazm also conducts meetings, Daras programs & Lectures on Islam to educate its members on the right perspective of Islam and to help them live a life which harmoniously blend spirituality with world life. To further encourage this, Ijtima is being conducted at Dar-us-Salam, Queens Road, Bangalore on every first Wednesday of each month.

**Husna Ziaulla Sheriff, President.**  
# 37, Muniswamy Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore - 51. Ph: +91 089 22860023  
Email : hazmeniswan@hotmail.com www.bazm-e-niswan.org

## MAYMAR CHARITABLE TRUST (REGD.)

### APPEAL

Dear Brother/Sister  
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

The Ramadan enjoins me to convey my heartiest greetings to our entire brotherhood. This auspicious month of Ramadan highlights the significance of Zakath and Sadaqa.

With your help and contribution **Maymar Charitable Trust** is serving the poorest of the poor section of our society from past 26 years.

The main objectives of **Maymar Charitable Trust** are in the field of Education, Health & Hygiene, Medical Aid, Women empowerment and Self Employment schemes.

Brief reports on the activities are as follows:

- Educational Assistance: About 614 students ranging from middle school to the professional courses including BE, MBBS, IT and Business Administration courses were assisted through scholarships and counseling in the year 2018-19.
- Of the above 614 students 94 are orphans

Number of students assisted through last 5 years		Maymar Graduates through last five years	
Year	No. of Students	Year	No. of Students
2014-15	331	2014-15	37
2015-16	382	2015-16	34
2016-17	546	2016-17	50
2017-18	543	2017-18	49
2018-19	614	2018-19	36

• Health and Hygiene: Around 56000 (Fifty six Thousand) women and children were treated from April 2018 - February 2019 with free consultation and free medicine in our six clinics as follows:

Sl. No	Clinic Name	Female	Children	Total
1.	Maymar Clinic, D.J.Halli	4810	3513	8323
2.	Salaham Clinic, Pedrayanpura	5206	3237	8443
3.	Fathima Clinic, Gargondana Halli	7265	4077	11342
4.	Tayyaba Clinic, Avalahalli	5899	2557	8456
5.	Firasat Clinic, D.J.Halli	8574	3654	12228
6.	Alyha Clinic, Bada Main Sadaiah Road	5258	1329	6587
	<b>Total</b>	<b>37662</b>	<b>18657</b>	<b>56319</b>

• Medical Assistance: Chronic patients of Kidney, Heart and other ailments are helped.  
• Economic Aid: Financial assistance is provided to the hawkers and petty business women.  
• Tailoring Courses: Free tailoring classes are conducted for women at DJ Halli, Nayandahalli and Avalahalli. Successful students were issued certificates.  
• Conducting Computer Classes at DJ Halli including Tally Course.  
• Government Schemes (Mohalla Activities): By linking to Government Schemes like, Pan Card, Income and Caste Certificate, RTE, Health Card, ID Card etc. at D.J. Halli (Tannery Road)

We are very thankful to your valuable donations, support and participation in this noble task through the years.

We humbly request you along with your family and friends to be more generous in your contribution in the form of Zakath/Sadaqat to Maymar Charitable Trust.

Let your spending in the way of Allah may reward you to enormous returns and Aqre-Azeem in this world and hereafter.

Please call us on telephone no. 25596947/Mobile No. 9901671766 and we shall arrange to collect your valuable donations against receipt or you can transfer your contributions to our bank account directly.

**Our Bank details are as follows:**  
Central Bank of India, Cantonment Branch, Account No: 3250933619,  
MICR Code: 560016004, IFSC Code: CBIIN0280848  
**SYED HIDAYAT PEERAN** President  
**AMJADULLA KHAN** Secretary

No. 148, Golden Plaza, Jamma Masjid Annexe, Jamma Masjid Road, Shivajinagar, Bangalore - 560 051. Tel.: 080-25596947. www.maymar.org and email address: maymarblr@gmail.com

## RAHAT WELFARE TRUST

Registered under the Bombay Public Trust's Act, 1950. Regn. No E 13435  
Working Centre: @ Shaheen Urdu High School, Bharat Nagar, Off BKC, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051. Maharashtra. INDIA  
Admn. Office: Row House 5 A, Asmita Hill View CHS, Shrikanth Dhadway Marg, VIP Area, Mira Road 401107. Maharashtra. INDIA  
Email: rahat786@hotmail.com /rahattrust@hotmail.com www.rahatwelfaretrust.org Tel.: +91 9022411786 / 9892309785

### The Boy who Sold Eggs

**Selling Eggs.** Not many years ago it so happened that we visited a School with a Patron and Well-wisher. (With a heart of Gold!) A class was in session and the teacher was teaching. We found a young boy, lets call him Abdullah, sound asleep with his head on the desk... He was gently woken up and asked... "Why are you sleeping in school?" Sir, he said, my father is unemployed. I sit outside a liquor shop and sell boiled eggs till one a.m. in the morning to support the family....

**Silver Jubilee.** In our current twenty-five years of work in Rahat Welfare Trust we have come across many Abdullahs and Aminas. In some form or the other Rahat in its Silver Jubilee Year has been striving to ensure that the children who have enrolled to schools don't become drop-outs due to poverty or adverse personal circumstances. Rahat is currently focusing on the education of orphans, and students from single parent families. (Or families who are in distress due to medical issues like Cancer or Aids...). At any point of time Rahat has about a thousand children under its net... enabling them to take care of themselves and to live a life of Dignity and Self Respect. These are the role models who have shown that a better world is possible. These are the shining stars who have enriched our efforts and have given an abiding meaning to our work. And we say this with great responsibility: only Rahat would have picked up these Rahat children, majority of whom are orphans.

Stories. In passing we may mention that some of these Abdullahs and Aminas have grown up... (and we hope grown fat.) with spouses, kids, cars and Apartments. Like Majid Khan Rahat's Poster Boy of a Success Story who sends us Rs. ONE Lakh every year from Dubai... Or Dr Rabia, MBBS, who has a thriving practice at Sagar City, Andheri West, Mumbai. Or Prof Jabben. MSc in Maths... who teaches in a Degree College who has gone from Bharat Nagar to Panvel, Navi Mumbai... Or Sana whom we started tracking when she was in the 3rd standard, who has enrolled to the First Year of a Unani College. Welcome aboard, Dr. Sanal!! God Bless you all.

**Food for Thought.** Every year in Ramzan Rahat provides a 'symbolic' Iftar to hundred families/students.... Be it a Water Melon or Bananas or a Balda-Roll.... Cost about One Dollar. Send some amount specifically marked for "Feeding The Poor".

**ZAKAT COLLECTION.** Rahat activities are funded mainly through the Zakat collection in Ramzan every year. And Rahat does need funds on a consistent and larger level if it is to help more children like Zainab and Dr. Zarina and.... The list is endless... We therefore request you to send Rahat a part of your Zakat this Ramzan. (Donations are also welcome). No amount is too small not to be of help. Please ask at least two other persons to do the same. Zakat/Donations may be sent by a personal cheque in favor of Rahat Welfare Trust to our Administrative office address at: Row House 5 A, Asmita Hill View CHS Ltd, Shrikanth Dhadway Marg, VIP Area, Mira Road 401107. Maharashtra. INDIA. Donations of Zakat to Rahat are entitled to Exemptions under Section 80 G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Donors in Mumbai may contact us on 9022411786 or 9892309785, we will collect the Zakat from their home, office or shop. (PS: Assistance provided is restricted to Mumbai City and suburbs only). Thank You.

**Irfan Merchant, President**      **Zakat purifies your wealth**      Read. Reflect. Respond. Send.

## SAYEEDIYA YATHEEM KHANA / DARUL ULOOM SAYEEDIYA

### AN APPEAL

Alhamdulillah, the Darul Uloom Sayeediya Trust, established in the year 1988, is maintaining a Madrasa, a Masjid and an Orphanage - 'Sayeediya Yatheem Khana' (for boys). The Orphanage was established with the aim of providing free care and education to the deserving orphan students of our community. Hundreds of orphans are deprived of the privilege to study and it is our responsibility to take care of such children and provide them education. According to Ahadith one who takes care of an orphan is rewarded with heaven by Almighty Allah. Darul Uloom Sayeediya requests assistance from all welfare minded persons by way of sponsorship contributions or donations. They can help deserving Orphan students with sponsorship contributions - of Rs.18000/- per year @ Rs.1500/- per student per month from their Zakath / Sadaqaat or for 'Eisal-e-Sawab' of their deceased relatives.

All the students are being provided free education with boarding and hostel facilities. The source of income for the institution is donations from welfare minded persons of our community. All are requested to encourage the Management with their assistance specially during the holy month of Ramadan which is a month of Charity. It is hoped that your assistance to these deprived children will protect them from getting their lives destroyed and will, Insha Allah, make them educated responsible citizens of the Society.

**SAHRI and IFTAR:** Since there is no holiday in the institution during Ramadan students stay at the institution and observe fasts throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

**SAHRI and IFTAR arrangements** are made for the students and staff at the institution. Donors are requested to contribute for this arrangement or provide food grains etc. for this purpose.

May Allah grant acceptance to the noble acts of our donors who help the needy with the intention of obeying His commands and earning His pleasure and reward them highly. Aameen.

**For further details please contact:**  
**Moulana Syed Abdur Rahim Sayeed Rashadi,**  
Secretary, Sayeediya Yatheem Khana & Darul Uloom Sayeediya  
Sayeed Nagar, Kaval Byrasandra, Bangalore - 560 032 Mob: 98451 77695.

**Our bank account details:**

<b>SAYEEDIYA YATHEEM KHANA TRUST</b> A/c.No.0746010100000309 J & K Bank, Frazer Town Branch, Bangalore. (IFSC: JAKA0FRAZER) (Zero)	<b>DARUL ULOOM SAYEEDIYAH</b> A/c.No. 0746010100000698 J & K Bank, Frazer Town Branch, Bangalore. (IFSC: JAKA0FRAZER) (Zero)
---	---

## NIDA-E-YATEEM (VOICE OF ORPHAN BOYS) THE GAYA MUSLIM ORPHANAGE 102Years Service

A unique famous residential Institution of its kind of modern and Islamic Education

• 102 years services. • Many departments • Educational Stages: Nursery to Matric • Department of Qur'an Memorization: Matric with Hifz • Every year cent per cent (100%) result of Matric Board Examination • Distance Education (Approved by Aligarh Muslim University) Admission is going on for I.A., B.A., M.A., and Library Science (BLIS) for the session of 2019-20 • Computer Education also • Under the Kafala Scheme the annual expenditure of an orphan student is (Rs. 20,000/-) • Annual Expenditure: More than 25 Lakh Rupees • Source of Income: Donation of Muslim Ummah • The Institution bears all the expenditure of (70) orphan students. • Having co-operated the institution in possible form to get the great compensation from Allah. • The annual expenditure of an orphan student • Having constructed the rooms or halls on the name of your ancestor • The different ways of co-operation are • Zakat • Donation • Sadaquat • Ushra (Zakat of Agricultural production) • CHIRM-E-CURBANI or its price etc

**Remember:** 1) Donate the Bank Interest which is illegal for the Muslims, to orphan fund to eradicate illiteracy of the poor and orphan boys and to spread education. 2) A quality education in peaceful environment open space, Islamic dress and Islamic Uniform based on the syllabus of Bihar School Examination Board. 3) All facilities with food and lodging are provided free to the orphan boys just like a son whose father has died. 4) Hostel facility is also available for the external students at their own expenses. 5) Here audit is performed every year. Come and see yourself in the Institution, the great equality of uniformity how the orphan and non orphan students live together.

**NOTE:** ENAYETH (I.T.) INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE Approved by N.C.V.T (Government of India):- The Electrician Trade for session of 2018-20 is going on Admission for the session (2019-21) has been started for the trade of electrician and fitter.

### The Institution appeals you for your generous and sincere co-operation

This institution is registered under FCRA to accept the amount from Foreign Countries

<p><b>Foreign Donors</b></p> <p>• Donors from foreign countries may please send their donation to</p> <p>• NAME: THE GAYA MUSLIM ORPHANAGE</p> <p>• Bank A/C No. 300402010009187</p> <p>• Bank SWIFT Code: UBININBJAM or Bank IFSC Code: UBIN0530042</p> <p>• Bank Name: Union Bank of India (Main Branch, Gaya)</p> <p>• Address for Correspondence:- for sending the letters, cheques, drafts and money orders, use the following address. Hon. SECRETARY, THE GAYA MUSLIM ORPHANAGE At + P.O. CHERKI - 824237, Distt. GAYA (BIHAR) INDIA ☎ 9801213022, 9955655960</p>	<p><b>Indian Donors</b></p> <p>• NAME: THE GAYA MUSLIM ORPHANAGE</p> <p>• Bank A/C No. 300402010010581</p> <p>• Bank IFSC Code UBIN0530042</p> <p>• Bank: Union Bank of India (Main Branch, Gaya).</p> <p>• NOTE: See the documentary film NAZR-E-ENAYAT on the Internet "YOUTUBE" in which there is a brief history of both orphanages</p> <p>Dr. Farasat Hussain (President)      Dr. ZH KHAN (Hon. Secretary)      E-mail: gmocde@yahoo.co.in, Website: www.gayamuslimorphanage.org</p>
--	--

## NIDA-E-YATEEM (VOICE OF ORPHAN GIRLS) THE GAYA MUSLIM GIRLS' ORPHANAGE

(A National level standard Residential Institution decorated with modern and Islamic Education for girls)

• 32 Years' services • 19 Departments • Education: Nursery to Matric • Distance Education I.A. B.A. MA & Library Science (BLIS) (Approved by Aligarh Muslim University) Study Centre The Gaya Muslim Orphanage • Adult Education • Computer Education also • Vocational Centre: Cutting & Tailoring; (11) Batches (103) students • Zari Works: (7) Batches (65) students got the certificates. • Since 1993 to 2019, (97) Orphan girls and (64) Non-orphan girls passed the Matric Examination Bihar Board. • (9) (Qur'an Memorization) Students passed the Matric Examination with Hifz. • Annual Expenditure: Above (35 Lakh) rupees. • Source of Income: Donation from Muslim Ummah • The Institution fulfills all the requirements of (100) orphan girls • Under the kafala Scheme, the annual expenditure of an orphan girl is (Rs.20,000/-) • You also may join to this good deed bearing the annual expenditure of an orphan girl.

**Different ways of co-operation are:** Zakat • Donation • Sadaquat • Charity • Ushra (Zakat of Agricultural Production) • Dini (Islamic) Books • Purchasing of Land and paying the debts • The Salaries of One (1) month of the staff, above Rupees one Lakh Thirtyfive thousand (Rs.1,35,000/-) • Having constructed the rooms or halls on the name of your parents or relatives. • Donating the construction materials (Cement, Bars, Bricks or other things etc.) or its price.

**Remember:** 1) A Quality Education with low-expenses with Islamic education in peaceful Islamic environment, Open space Islamic culture, Islamic Dress and Islamic Uniform based on the Bihar Secondary Board. 2) The Bank Interest which is illegal for the Muslims, donate to orphan fund to eradicate illiteracy of the poor and orphan girls and to spread education. 3) All facilities with food and lodging are provided free to the orphan girls just like a daughter whose father has died. 4) Hostel facility is also available for the external girls at their own expenses. 5) Here accounts are checked every year and audit is performed. Everything is like an open book. 6) Come and see yourself in the Institution how the orphan and non orphan girls live together.

### The Institution is awaiting for your generous and sincere co-operation

The Gaya Muslim Girl's Orphanage has got the permission from the Home Ministry to take the amount from Foreign Countries

<p><b>Foreign Donors</b></p> <p>• Donors from foreign countries may please send their donation to</p> <p>• NAME: THE GAYA MUSLIM GIRLS' ORPHANAGE</p> <p>• Bank A/C No. 300402010009042</p> <p>• Bank SWIFT Code: UBININBJAM or IFSC Code UBIN0530042</p> <p>• Bank: Union Bank of India (Main Branch, Gaya)</p> <p>• Address for sending the letters, Cheques, Drafts and Money Orders, use the following address: Hon. GENERAL SECRETARY, 'THE GAYA MUSLIM GIRLS' ORPHANAGE' At KOLOWNA, PO: CHERKI - 824237, Distt. GAYA (Bihar) INDIA, ☎ 9934490190</p>	<p><b>Indian Donors</b></p> <p>• Donors from inside the country may please send their donation to</p> <p>• NAME: THE GAYA MUSLIM GIRLS' ORPHANAGE</p> <p>• BANK: A/C 300402010007752</p> <p>• Bank IFSC Code: UBIN0530042</p> <p>• Bank: Union Bank of India (Main Branch, Gaya)</p> <p>• NOTE: Donors through core banking are requested to send their address through E-mail or by Post so that the receipt could be sent.</p>
---	--

**Cheques and drafts to be made in the name of "THE GAYA MUSLIM GIRLS' ORPHANAGE"**

**Indian Donors**

• E-mail: thegayamuslimgirlsorphanage@gmail.com

• WEBSITE www.gmgco.org

**IQBAL AHMAD KHAN**  
Founder & General Secretary  
09934480190

**NOTE:** See the documentary film NAZR-E-ENAYAT on the Internet "YOUTUBE" in which there is a brief history of Girls and Boys orphanages

The "Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together", signed in Abu Dhabi a year ago by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, was widely hailed as a milestone, not only regarding relations between Christianity and Islam, but as a blue-print indicating the way to a culture of dialogue and collaboration between faiths. It is an appeal to put an end to wars and condemns the scourges of terrorism and violence, especially those perpetrated by religious motivations. "Faith," the preface reads, "leads a believer to see in the other a brother or sister to be supported and loved".

The document asks everyone to commit themselves "to work strenuously to spread the culture of tolerance and of living together in peace", putting an end to wars, environmental decay and moral and cultural decline, and to implement "an equitable distribution of natural resources which only a rich minority benefit from, to the detriment of the majority of the peoples of the earth".

**Protect family and life**

The two leaders underscore the need to protect the family that "is the fundamental nucleus of society" and safeguard the gift of life: "We condemn all those practices that are a threat to life such as genocide, acts of terrorism, forced displacement, human organ trafficking, abortion and euthanasia. We likewise condemn the policies that promote these practices."

**Never kill in God's name**

Furthermore, they declare "that religions must never incite war, hateful attitudes, hostility and extremism, nor must they incite violence or the shedding of blood. These tragic realities are the consequence of a deviation from religious teachings. They result from a political manipulation of religions and from interpretations made by religious groups." This is why everyone is asked "to refrain from using the name of God to justify acts of murder, exile, terrorism and oppression." The Pope and the Grand Imam remember that "God, the Almighty, has no need to be defended by anyone and does not want His name to be used to terrorize people".

**Religious freedom**

The Document states that "Freedom is a right of every person: each individual enjoys the freedom of belief, thought, expression and action. The pluralism and the diversity of religions, colour, sex, race and language are willed by God in His wisdom." For this reason "the fact that people are forced to adhere to a certain religion or culture must

## First Anniversary of Document on Human Fraternity

**Religions must never incite war, hateful attitudes, hostility and extremism, nor must they incite violence or the shedding of blood.**



(Photo: Pope Francis and Ahmad Al-Tayyeb)

be rejected, as too the imposition of a cultural way of life that others do not accept."

**No to discriminatory use of the term 'minorities'**

The Document states that "it is crucial to establish in our societies the concept of *full citizenship* and reject the discriminatory use of the term *minorities* which engenders feelings of isolation and inferiority."

**Recognize women's rights**

It goes on to state that it is "an essential requirement to recognize the right of women to education and employment, and to recognize their freedom to exercise their own political rights", in the effort to "free women from historical and social conditioning that runs contrary to the principles of their faith and dignity. It is also necessary to protect women from sexual exploitation (...). Accordingly, an end must be brought to all those inhuman and vulgar practices that denigrate the dignity of women. Efforts must be made to modify those laws that prevent women from fully enjoying their rights".

**Education in schools and universities**

Another demand contained in the Document is that "this Document become the object of research and reflection in all schools, universities and institutes of formation" and a "sign of the closeness between East and West, between North and South".

**Religions are bridges between peoples**

The Document on Human Fraternity was signed at the conclusion of an Interreligious Meeting at the Founder's Memorial in Abu Dhabi during

Pope Francis' Apostolic Visit to the United Arab Emirates from 3 to 5 February 2019. During that meeting, the Pope said: "There is no alternative: we will either build the future together or there will not be a future. Religions, in particular, cannot renounce the urgent task of building bridges between peoples and cultures. The time has come when religions should more actively exert themselves, with courage and audacity, and without pretence, to help the human family deepen the

capacity for reconciliation, the vision of hope and the concrete paths of peace."

The Pope's Apostolic Journey to the UAE garnered worldwide attention. During the flight back to Rome, in his conversation with journalists on board the papal plane, Pope Francis stressed that the Document was born "from faith in God who is Father of all" and follows "the spirit of the Second Vatican Council". On the following day, during the weekly General Audience on 6 February 2019, the Pope exhorted everyone to read and to study the Abu Dhabi Document because, he said, it "gives much impetus to go forward in the dialogue on human brotherhood". Many observers have pointed out that it opens new horizons not only for dialogue between Christians and Muslims. The UAE Foreign Minister, Sheikh Abdallah Ben Zayed Al Nahyan, for example, described the Pope's meeting with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar as marking a new phase in "relations between religions".

**Establishment of a Higher Committee on Fraternity Document**

In order to promote the ideals of

tolerance and cooperation contained in the Document on Human Fraternity, a Committee was established on 20 August 2019 in Abu Dhabi. Its task is to develop a framework for the realization of the objectives contained in the Document, to prepare the necessary plans for its practical implementation and to follow its application at regional and international levels, also by organizing meetings with religious leaders, heads of international organizations and others in order to promote concerted action. One month after its establishment, the "Higher Committee" met for the first time in the Vatican. Pope Francis received its members on 11 September and expressed gratitude and encouragement for their work, urging them to be "artisans of fraternity".

Last December, a meeting between the members of the Higher Committee, led by Cardinal Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, and by Judge Muhammad Abd al-Salam, and the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, took place in New York. They brought him a message from Pope Francis and from the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar proposing the establishment of a World Day of Human Fraternity on 4 February. Guterres expressed his appreciation and availability for the initiative.

(Extracted from vaticannews.va)

## Muslims cremate Hindu neighbour as relatives stay away during lockdown in UP

**Bulandshahr:** In a heart-warming gesture, a group of Muslim youth came together to perform the last rites of a Hindu man who died on Saturday.

The incident took place in Anand Vihar area and the matter came to light when the family posted a thanksgiving on the social media.

Ravi Shankar, 73, was battling cancer and died on Saturday.

Due to the lockdown, Shankar's relatives stayed away from the cremation. The Muslim neighbours of the family came forward and decided to help the family with the last rites. They not only took out the 'antim-yatra' while chanting 'Ram-Nam Satya Hai', but also performed the last rites of Ravi Shankar with proper Hindu rituals.

"Ravi Shankar was our neighbour and had expired two days back, after which we decided to help his family. All the Muslims from the

locality gathered and brought his body for cremation. After all, humanity is above anything else," one of the neighbours, Mohammad Zubair told reporters on Monday.

The neighbours have also assured the family of all possible help during the lockdown period.

Pramod, the son of the deceased, said: "All our Muslim neighbours helped us with the last rites,

everyone was very supportive. We are four siblings and our two sisters are married while my brother and I are left to take care of the family. I will always remain indebted to my Muslim neighbours who stood by us in this hour of crisis."

(<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/muslims-cremate-hindu-neighbour-as-relatives-stay-away-during-lockdown-in-up-63169>)

### ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

**Asian ELECTRICALS**

CLASS ONE LICENSED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS

No. 109/3, Millia Buildings, N.R. Road, Bangalore - 560 002. Phone: 2223 9808, 2229 4898

**WE UNDERTAKE ALL TYPES OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS ON TURNKEY BASIS**

## Jewish-Muslim Coexistence in Morocco

In Morocco, the oldest Arab Kingdom, coexistence was recently given a glimmer of hope with the opening of the BaytDakira, a spiritual and heritage space that seeks to preserve and enhance the Judeo-Moroccan memory in the old city of Essaouira. The museum is the latest in a long line of efforts to restore and redefine North Africa's Jewish roots.

Morocco's King Mohammed VI has visited the country's newly-opened 'House of Memory', showcasing historic Jewish-Muslim relations and coexistence in the coastal city of Essaouira. The Jewish community in Essaouira was once so numerous that there were 37 synagogues, with many families having arrived after their mass expulsion from Spain by the Catholic king in 1492. The new museum is housed in one such synagogue, built with carved woodwork by a wealthy merchant, adjoining his house, and details the life of Moroccan Jews. It includes the families and descendants such as Lord Belisha, Britain's minister of transport, finance and war during the 1930s and 40s, whose appointment to the post of minister of information was blocked for antisemitic reasons. His name is now known for the amber 'Belisha beacons' at pedestrian crossings. BaytDakira "testifies to a period when Islam and Judaism had closeness," said the king's adviser.

The tale of Al-Yahud Al-Maghariba (the Moroccan Jews) is not one that is often told. At their peak in the 1940s, they made up about 5 percent of the country's population and were critical to Morocco's trading businesses and guilds of craftsmen. After the creation of the state of Israel, the



Andre Azoulay, adviser to the Moroccan king, at the BaytDakira (House of Memory) Jewish museum.

community dispersed, some owing to panic and others to "Operation Yachin," a policy to encourage the migration of Jews from Morocco to Israel. But, as the stories of Libyan, Iraqi, Yemeni and Syrian Jews have been lost amid the conflicts of the Middle East, the Jews of Morocco are not just surviving, but thriving in a country they have called home for thousands of years.

To the Moroccan authorities, the country's Jewish community is a living symbol of its persistence as a religious sanctuary. For many centuries, the country's sovereigns have issued "dahir" decrees, according protection to communities and freedom of worship. In every Moroccan city, the "mellah" (Jewish quarter) is almost an annex of the sultan's palace, reflective of the symbiotic relationship between the country's primary executive and religious power and its Jewish business community. It was, therefore, only fitting that King Mohammed himself opened the BaytDakira, echoing the policy of his grandfather and namesake, who rejected Nazi orders to deport the country's Jewish community. "There are no Jews in Morocco; there are only Moroccan citizens," was his response to the Vichy

government of France's request to turn over Jews. He added: "I reiterate as I did in the past that the Jews are under my protection, and I reject any distinction that should be made among my people." While other rulers made common cause with the Nazis, Mohammed V, as "Commander of the Faithful", exercised his authority in the protection of not only Muslims, but all of his Jewish and Christian subjects too. During the course of the Second World War, not a single Moroccan Jew was handed over to the Nazi authorities.

The BaytDakira is part of a wider effort to restore the country's Jewish legacy. This has included the renovation of a dozen synagogues, 167 Jewish cemeteries and 12,600 graves in recognition of the importance of Morocco's Jewish heritage. In an era when issues in the 'Holy Land' have massively skewed the narrative of the Jewish role and contribution to Muslim societies, the case of Morocco is incredibly important. Some of the most prominent political, academic and cultural figures to originate from the Arab world in the last few centuries have been Maghrebi Jews.

To Andre Azoulay the current king's trusted adviser, who is touted as the most powerful Jew in the Muslim world projects such as BaytDakira are as much about correcting stereotypes and misconceptions as they are about preserving heritage. Speaking at the opening, he stated that in rejecting "amnesia, regression and archaism," what was once the region's only Jewish-majority city can now stand as an example of the diversity and cultural richness of living together.

## Indonesia: Planned Friendship Tunnel

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo recently gave the green light to the construction of an underpass to connect Jakarta's Istiqlal Grand Mosque to St Mary of the Assumption Cathedral, a Christian place of worship. The two buildings are located in Central Jakarta, in the heart of the Indonesia's capital, facing each other. For Widodo, the underpass will encourage brotherhood between Muslims and Christians. During an inspection of the ongoing work, Widodo told reporters that "This will be a 'friendship' tunnel. Someone suggested building a link between the two places of worship. I agreed. People will no longer have to cross the street." For most Indonesians, the Grand Istiqlal Mosque (built between



1961 and 1978) has always been a symbol of interfaith dialogue since it was designed by a Christian architect, Frederich Silaban. Sukarno, Indonesia's founder and first president, wanted the mosque to be built near the Assumption Cathedral and Immanuel Protestant Church as a show of the country's unity, religious harmony and tolerance. Every year, many interfaith and intercommunal initiatives are

undertaken during the main Muslim and Catholic religious holidays as a token of friendship and outreach, going far beyond simple courtesy visits.

For example, thanks to Card Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo, archbishop of Jakarta, Masses at the cathedral are rescheduled on the day when the world's most populous Islamic country stops to celebrate Eid al-Fitr to allow Muslims to use the church's parking lot.

At Christmas and Easter, members of the country's two major moderate Islamic organisations (Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah) provide security to the church and Catholic faithful.

(Extracted from asianews.it)

## US Delegation Lauds MWL's Peace Initiatives

Riyadh: Muslim World League (MWL) Secretary-General Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa recently met with a delegation of the US Congress. The delegates appreciated MWL's global efforts to fight extremism, violence and terrorism and the initiatives the organization has taken to promote dialogue between people of different cultures and to ensure intercultural harmony for the benefit of all mankind. They also commended MWL's efforts to promote interreligious and intercultural civilized communication.

Welcoming the delegation, Al-Issa stressed "MWL's commitment to fruitful communications with the US in the name of the Islamic Ummah's scholars and intellectuals in order to achieve common goals." "Everybody is counting on the relevant religious, intellectual and civil society institutions to contribute to a positive rapprochement between different religions and cultures" to help build an environment of love, cooperation, mutual respect and that rejects all forms of religious and cultural conflicts.

## Touching Gesture of Harmony



### Kerala Muslim Couple Hold Temple Wedding For Their Adopted Hindu Daughter

Abdulla and Khadeeja, a Muslim couple in Kasaragod district, celebrated the wedding of their daughter Rajeshwari at the Manyott temple.

Wearing a traditional silk wedding sari, with pink and golden hues, Rajeshwari from Kerala's Kasaragod district, bent down to touch the feet of her mother to receive her blessings. Her mother, Khadeeja, dressed in a burqa, touched Rajeshwari's head. This was the heartwarming scene of religious harmony that took place at a wedding in the state recently.

Rajeshwari, 22, is the adopted daughter of Abdulla and Khadeeja, a Muslim couple in Kasaragod district. Recently, she married Vishnuprasad, a Kanhangad native, at the Manyott temple. Across the state, there is widespread respect and admiration for Rajeshwari's foster parents, who are Muslim, for conducting a traditional Hindu wedding for their daughter.

Rajeshwari, who was born in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, was adopted by Abdulla and Khadeeja

at a young age after both her parents passed away. Rajeshwari's parents worked in Abdulla and Khadeeja's farm, which is how Rajeshwari first met the family. "She came here when she was seven or eight years old. After the death of her parents, she did not return back to Thanjavur. Now she is 22," Abdulla told *Mathrubhumi*. Though she had gone back to Thanjavur for a while, she soon returned to Abdulla and Khadeeja saying she did not want to go back. From then on, Rajeshwari grew up with the couple's three other children as their daughter.

When the possibility of an alliance with Vishnuprasad came up, Abdulla and Khadeeja visited his family. "We had told a few people to get her a good boy. A few boys came but we did not like them after a detailed inquiry. We were very particular about the character of the boy who would marry our daughter. Our main demand was that he should be a teetotaler," said Abdulla.

(Extracted from thenewsminute.com)

### For The Widest Range In Consumer Electronics

PHILIPS SONY BPL PANASONIC ONKYO JAMO SAMSUNG WHIRLPOOL BRAUN



Walkman, Two-in-one, Discman, CD Player, Portables, VCD/DVD, CD mini/micro, Amplifiers, Hi-Fi Separates, Speaker Packages, Sub-woofers, Home Theatre Systems; Televisions - Portable, Large Screen Rear Projection, DRC/100 Hz, Plasma, LCD; Refrigerators, Washing Machines, Vacuum Cleaners, Microwave Ovens, Irons, Personal Care Products, Mixer/Grinders...

M. G. Road, Tel : 41124594, 25589733

Airport Road, Tel : 2535 8192, 25359406

Modern Rad o Engineering Company

Cell : 9341212499

MODERN WORLD

**WANTED GROOM**

Sunni Bangalore based family seeking alliance for their Daughter aged 26 years working as a CONSULTANT PEDIATRIC DENTIST (MDS) in a reputed clinic. SLIM, WHEATISH, 5.4" HEIGHT. Suitable Alliance Preferably a Dentist / Doctor / Masters in any field (MDS / MS / MD), Sunni from a Settled and Educated Family. Email: kashaf123334@yahoo.com. Contact: +919740541956

22 Years, Fair, Beautiful, Urdu Speaking Sunni Muslim Girl, Hafiz Al Quran, Final Year MBBS Seeks Alliance From MD /MS Doctor Sunni Muslim Boys. Contact ayeshariyaz113@gmail.com

Sunni Muslim Parents From Bangalore Seek Suitable Alliance For Their Daughter, 27 Years, BE (Computer Science), Working. 5.4" Tall, Wears Hijab. Contact: 080 26637119 / 9448044919. E-mail: mgjaveedahmed@yahoo.com

Suitable Match for Good Looking Sunni Muslim Girl 24yrs/5'3" From Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Studying In Final Year of M.Optomety. Looking For Saiyed Well Settled Family. Preference: Doctor, Engineer, Business Age: 25-28 Contact: Faizankazi@Hotmail.Com; (M) 9428352403/9537863846

Looking groom for good looking Widow Sunni Saiyed muslim girl 33yrs/5'3" from Ahmedabad, Gujarat. She completed Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, looking for a well settled partner; age expectation 35-38Yrs. Contact: 9924378231 / 9825183098/shahejana9492.saiyed@gmail.com

**WANTED BRIDE**

SMU/Doctorate/Well settled, French citizen, (T.Nadu), Fair, Handsome Indian groom 29/5.8(1, 73cms).M.E, M. Res, PhD final year, Paris, FRANCE (with salary) & working as a Prof in University (Compl Salary). Participated in different conferences in U.S.A and EUROPE (U.K -SWEDEN ...etc).

Seeks alliance for their only son. We are looking for a beautiful, Fair, Graduate religious Indian bride from a respected Urdu Muslim Family willing to settle in France. Ct: nikah.paris@gmail.com, w.app: 00(33)626324628

SMP Seek Bride for Son Working as Asst. Prof. M.A, M.Phil., (PHD) in Govt. Degree Col in Dept. Of Col Edu. GOK, 35, 5.10'. Bride should be from well Edu bck Asst. Prof./Doctor/Class 1/2 Officer in GOK. Contact 9611995800 / 9632878387. Brokers Excuse.

Sunni Dr MDS (Ortho) 50,170, Fair, Never Married Seeks Religious Girl From ANY Place Or Professions. Please Write Details TO Email: nicesmile77@rediffmail.com

KARNATAKA TRUE ISLAM-PRACTISING MUSLIM, GOVT OFFICIAL--HIGHER EDUCATED FAMILY SEEK FOR THEIR BOY-SON, WORKING GOVERNMENT LECTURER IN GOVT COLLEGE, BRIDE SHOULD BE TRUE ISLAM PRACTISING, GOVERNMENT HIGHER OFFICIAL. CONTACT-WATTSUP: 97317 65312



**OPEN SPACE**

**Discovery Of God: The Source of True Bliss**

One who has found God has found everything. After the discovery of God, no further discovery remains to be made. Thus, when a man has discovered God, his entire attention is focussed upon Him. God, for him, becomes a treasure which he cherishes, and it is to Him then that he has recourse for all his worldly and eternal needs. God's world is a collection of atoms. In its elemental form, it all consists of one and the same type of inert matter; but God has moulded this matter into countless diverse forms: light, heat, greenery, flowing water. He has also invested lifeless matter with the properties of colour, taste and smell; and everywhere, He has set things in motion, having carefully controlled this motion by gravity. Discovering God who has made such a world is much more than just acquiring a dry creed. It means filling one's heart and soul with the radiant glow of divine light and opening one's mind to incredible beauty and delicacy.

When we eat delicious fruits, this gives us a great sense of enjoyment. When we hear beautiful music we are quite entranced by it. When a handsome child is born to a couple, their joy knows no bounds. Then what of our experience of God, who is the source of all beauty, joy and

virtue? On discovering Him, can one remain unmoved? This is something which is hardly imaginable, for such a sublime experience like coming close to a source of dazzling radiance must surely leave its mark on one.

Having endowed things with their unique qualities, God Himself must have qualities that His discoverers may savour. To discover Him, therefore, is to experience Him like a fragrance in the nostrils, a taste which excites the palate; a texture which is a joy to caress; a melody which touches the heart. To come close to Him is to live in an everlasting garden of brilliant colours and delicate fragrances. It is to hear such music that one might wish its enchantment to last forever.

The Creator of all light, God Himself is the most resplendent of all beings. He is the light of the heavens and of the earth, shedding His radiance on the personalities of all who discover Him. His is the greatest treasure-house of all true wisdom. He is the greatest repository of all true strength. His discoverers are so fortified by His strength and so enlightened by His wisdom that no flood or hurricane can carry them away. They cannot, once having known Him, do other than evolve into superior human beings.

(Source: spiritofislam.co.in)

**MANNAT MARRIAGE BUREAU**

WE ARE HAPPY TO INFORM THAT WE WILL PROVIDE DOCTORS, ENGINEERS, HIGHLY QUALIFIED OFFICIALS, MANAGERS, BUSINESSMEN, HAFIZ-E-QURAN, BOYS AND GIRLS WORKING IN INDIA, USA, UAE, KSA AND ABROAD FOR MATRIMONIAL SERVICES. WE ALSO PROVIDE SERVICE FOR WIDOW AND DIVORCEES TO CHOOSE THEIR PARTNERS.

**WE ARE PROFESSIONAL MATCH MAKERS WE ALSO UNDER TAKE BRIDAL MEHENDI AND MAKEUP FOR SATISFYING SERVICE CONTACT:**

**9845472555 - SYED ILYAS AHMED (B.E. Comp Sc, DCHS) VISIT TIMING: 11 AM TO 9 PM - MONDAY TO SUNDAY Website: www.mannatmarriagebureau.com**

**AJMIR SHAADI BUREAU**

Are you worried about your Children's Marriage?

You need not worry for any kind of matrimonial alliances like:

- ◆ Businessmen ◆ Doctors ◆ Engineers ◆ Pilots
- ◆ Govt. Employees ◆ NRIs ◆ Widows & Divorcees

**Don't Delay. Do it Today. Contact Immediately**

**Whatsapp: 9343585737 / 9341266289**

BESIDES C.K. JAFFER SHARIFF RESIDENCE, FRAZER TOWN, BANGALORE - 560 005. Website: www.ajmirshaadi.com

His grace

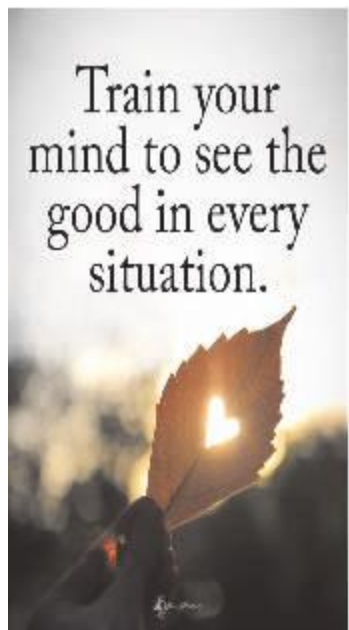


**KHALID'S**  
Caterers

*"One Trust is Worth Thousand Expert Opinions"*

**CELEBRATED CATERER FOR ANY CELEBRATION**

Kool Paradise. # 156, Narayana Pillai Street, Bangalore - 560 001.  
C/o. Shareef Brothers, # 50-51, Meenakshi Koil Street, Bangalore - 51.  
Ph : 2559 2667 (R) : 2557 7325 Cell : 98440 11067



786

**RISHTA**

**NO DOWRY, NO DEMANDS**

Qualified Boys & Girls

**WIDE CHOICE OF HANDSOME BOYS, PRETTY GIRLS FROM GOOD FAMILIES**

Doctors / Dentists / Engineers / Executive Architects / Industrialists / Businessman. Based India / Gulf / USA / CANADA

**DEANS**

**MATRIMONIAL SERVICES**

Flat No. 103, Maria Green, 1st Floor, Ramakrishnappa Road, Cox Town, Bangalore - 560005

**98452 01092 ALL DAYS**

**FORM IV (See Rule 8)**

**ISLAMIC VOICE**

1. Place of Publication	: Bangalore
2. Periodicity of its publication	: Monthly
3. Printers Name	: A.W.SADATHULLAH KHAN
(Whether citizen of India?)	Yes Chairman
If Foreigner state the country of Origin	N. A
Address	: No. 3/1, Palmgrove Road, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 47
4. Publishers Name	: A.W.SADATHULLAH KHAN
(Whether citizen of India?)	Yes Chairman
If Foreigner state the country of Origin	N. A
Address	: No. 3/1, Palmgrove Road, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 47
5. Editor Name	: A.W.SADATHULLAH KHAN
(Whether citizen of India?)	Yes
If Foreigner state the country of Origin	N. A
Address	: No.3/1,Palmgrove Rd,Victoria Layout, Bangalore-47.
6. Name & Address of the Owner	: ISLAMIC VOICE No. 3/1, Palmgrove Road, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 47

I, A.W.Sadathullah Khan, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 31-03-2020  
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Signature of the Publisher

Within 50 years, a third of all plant and animal species could be caught up in a mass extinction, as a consequence of climate change driven by ever-rising temperatures. Support for the prediction is backed by a series of separate studies of individual species survival in a world rapidly warming because of human commitment to fossil fuels.

Tiny marsupial insect-hunters in Australia could fail to adapt to ever-higher thermometer readings, and quietly disappear. As frogs and other amphibians in Central America are wiped out by invasive fungal pathogens perhaps assisted by climate change a set of snake species that prey upon them have also become increasingly at risk. And directly because the Arctic is warming faster than anywhere else on the planet, the polar bears of Baffin Bay in Canada are thinner than they were 30 years ago, and have fewer cubs. That's because *Ursus maritimus* hunts its seal prey on the sea ice. And as the winter ice forms later and melts earlier each decade, the bears have begun to go hungry.

Biologists, ecologists and conservationists have been warning for four decades that planet Earth could be on the edge of a sixth Great Extinction, as a consequence of the growth of

human numbers and human economies and the parallel destruction of natural habitat. They have also repeatedly warned that climate change driven by human-triggered planetary heating would inevitably accelerate the losses. But researchers from the University of Arizona (USA) have now confirmed the climate connection by using another approach: they decided to look directly at the numbers. They report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that they selected data from 538 species and 581 places around the globe. They found that 50% of the chosen species went extinct locally if temperatures rose by more than 0.5°C, and 95% if the mercury reached an additional 2.9°C.

In the last century, the planet has warmed by 1°C above the average for most of human history and prehistory. Right now, thanks to ever-increasing fossil fuel use and continued forest destruction, the planet could be more than 3°C warmer by 2100.

But the researchers also found that the climate factor most closely



linked to the extinction of any population was simply the maximum annual count – the hottest daily highs in summer. This also implies that extinction could be two or even four times as frequent in the tropics as in the temperate zones: it is in the tropics the reefs, the rainforests, the wetlands and savannahs that the world's species are concentrated.

North American researchers have been tracking the polar bears who hunt seals and mate in Baffin Bay, between north-eastern Canada and Greenland, for almost three decades. They report in the journal *Ecological Applications* that when sea ice retreats, the bears wait on

Baffin Island and live on their accumulated fat. In the 1990s, the average stay on land and away from the bears' preferred prey was 60 days. In the last decade, this rose to 90 days. Sampled females proved to be thinner than they had been, and were more likely to have one cub rather than two, all because unseasonably high temperatures in the Arctic mean that the hunting season on the ice is becoming ever shorter.

In 2004, the population of amphibians in a national park in Panama started to perish on a huge scale, and an estimated 30 species of frog and other creatures all but vanished in the wake of a pathogen fungus outbreak.

US scientists report in the journal *Science* that they set out to look at their wildlife observational data before and after the outbreak to measure the effect on the region's snake species that prey on amphibians.

**Rarely observed snakes**

Even though the scientists logged 594 surveys in the seven years before the outbreak and 513 in the six years that followed, they had to use mathematical techniques to come up with probabilities of local snake extinction, because snakes are hard to observe at any time. Of the 36 snake species recorded there, 12 have been observed only once, and five only twice. The bad

news is there is an 85% probability that there are now fewer snake species than there had been, simply because of the disappearance of amphibian prey.

The study also highlights another worry for conservationists and ecologists: extinction of species is happening at an accelerating rate, but biologists still cannot put a number to the total of species at risk. Most of them have never been described or named. Like some of the snakes of Panama, they will have gone before scientists even knew they were there.

The climate connection with the worldwide loss of amphibian species is still uncertain. The certainty is that climate change will make life too hot for many species that because what was once wilderness has now been cleared for cities, quarries, farms and commercial plantations can no longer shift to cooler terrain.

John Wiens of the University of Arizona, one of the authors behind the research that predicts massive extinctions by 2070, thinks there is something that can be done.

In 2015 in Paris more than 190 nations vowed to act to contain global warming to "well below" 2°C. "In a way, it's a 'choose your own adventure,'" he said.

"If we stick to the Paris Agreement to combat climate change, we may lose fewer than two out of every 10 plant and animal species on Earth by 2070. But if humans cause larger temperature increases, we could lose more than a third or even half of all animal and plant species, based on our results."

**AKS CONVENTION CENTRE**

**A FIVE-STAR TYPE MARRIAGE HALL**

- Located in the heart of the City.
- 3 Sophisticated, illuminated and airconditioned halls.
- Exclusive Air Conditioned Namaz Room.
- Separate Vegetarian Hall.
- Hi-tech Kitchen.
- Unique imported furniture.
- 250 Kw power backed up by two 320 Kva soundproof generators
- Separate lifts for Ladies & Gents.
- Spacious Parking in Basement.



For Further Details Visit / Contact : A.K.S Convention Centre

# 71, St. John's Church Road, Near Coles Park, Bangalore - 5. Phone: 080 - 25307700 / 25367700 / 25547700. Mobile: 98802-78700

**We Fabricate & Install**

- Atrium • Industrial Sheds • Mezzanine Floor • Meta Colour, Galvalume & Poly Carbonate Sheeting Metal Deck Roofing
- Auditoriums • Function Halls • Chain Link Fencing etc.

**The Steel Form**

70, Richmond-De-Regol, 1st Floor, Richmond Road, Bangalore - 560 025  
 Contact Person: Iqbal. A. Baig, Ph.: 98451 48737. Tel.: 080-22118119,  
 E-mail: steelform@rediffmail.com

*Adams Golden Heritage*  
**Wedding & Banquets**

Three Elevators of Twelve Passengers Each and One Service Elevator

# 13, Bore Bank Road, Benson Town, Bangalore-46,  
 Ph : 6596 4052 Mob : 9243425515



**GHOUSE TOURS & TRAVELS**

Hajj, Umrah & Ziarath

Recognized by Government of India, Recognized by Government of Saudi Arabia

Al Hamdulillah, We are

**Authorised Umrah Visa Provider**



Air Tickets and also other related Services

**Booking Open for Hajj 2020 Programmes. Contact Immediately**

# 3/1, 1st Floor, R.T. Nagar Main Road, Rahamath Nagar, Bangalore, India  
 E-mail: hmdghousebly@gmail.com

**Al-Haj H. Mohamad Ghouse, Prop.**  
 Cell: 98440 50531 / Tel: 080-23530531/32

## Adab Kids - Books For Young Learners



They were a group of professionals from the Muslim community who wanted English books for their children that they could read, enjoy and learn, forming their identity simultaneously. When they couldn't find this kind of resource, they decided to write and publish such books themselves. And thus was born the Adab Kids (www.adabkids.com) in 2015.

Five years after the publication of its first title, the Adab Kids has eight books to its credit, ranging from stories on historical figures and Companions of the Prophet to graphic novels. The team tries to include what they felt was important but was missing in children's books available in the market. One such thing was the absence of any stories about the luminaries in Muslim history – scientists, travellers, architects and thinkers who lived after the Prophet and his Companions. This led to the series 'Meet the Luminaries', introducing important Muslim thinkers and scientists.

Hasim (Managing Director of Adab Kids) explained to TwoCircles.net about the first title that came out from the Adab Kids on Imam Ghazzali, the renowned thinker and philosopher.

Personalities like him, Hasim opines, would help impart a positive historic sense to the Muslim children of modern times other than helping them create an identity. This series, Hasim adds, has five titles Imam Ghazzali (jurist, philosopher, theologian and mystic), Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (theologian and Sufi saint), Imam Abu Hanifa (theologian), Ibn Sina (philosopher, thinker, mathematician and theologian) and Ibn Haytham (scientist, father of modern optics).

Another series by Adab Kids is 'The Book of Fools' published in 2017, which is regarded as a unique series of 'Classics Retold'. It includes stories from the original works of Hanbali scholar, Ibn al Jawzi. These tales have been retold in a way that children would understand, and has attractive pictures to go along with. The idea behind 'The Book of Fools' series is "to impart the importance of intellect by telling the stories of fools," says Hasim.

Another remarkable series is 'Golden Tales' which provides glimpses from the life of the Prophet's companion and second Caliph, 'Umar al Farooq.' 'The Last Will' is the first title under the series 'History through Graphic

Novels.' It narrates the story of the Mongol invasion and devastation of the Muslim empire, followed by the acceptance of Islam by the Mongol rulers through colourful illustrations.

### Why the name Adab?

The term 'Adab' epitomizes the humanist concerns of classical Islamic education. *Adab* (respect/honor) stands for the ethical and practical rules of conduct deemed praiseworthy in the Islamic communities around the world. Additional connotations of *adab* include the knowledge necessary for a certain profession; good breeding (proper upbringing of children, their morals, and their good behavior); courtesy; etiquette and refined manners.

The initial team of six friends in Hyderabad, from various areas of Kerala, has now spread in several parts of the country and abroad. The group has a registered office in Kottayam from where the books are published. The stories are written by the group themselves who also serve as content editors and developers while professional artists do the illustrations.

In the modern times when children are more attracted to videos than books, Adab Kids cannot ignore immediate interests of the young generation. The publication is planning to upload video stories of some of the books on its YouTube channel too. Adab Kids' books can be bought online on their website, as well as on Amazon and Flipkart.

**(Material extracted from an article titled 'Adab Kids – Books narrating stories of Islamic Luminaries to young learners' by Najiya O on twocircles.net)**

Luxembourg, Sweden, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Singapore, Finland, Norway and Belgium. Most of the European Union (EU) countries, Japan and even Israel are shown to be more

authors published in the Global Economic Journal (vol. 10, Issue 3) titled \*An Economic Islamicity Index\* finds that Western nations apply Islamic principles in economics and business more than

**“ Most of the European Union (EU) countries, Japan and even Israel are shown to be more committed to 'Islamic' principles in dealing with economy and business than any Muslim country. ”**

the countries known as 'Islamic' or 'Muslim' by demography or constitutional declaration. The researchers picked up 208 countries to rank them on an Islamic Economic Index. They placed Ireland on the first place, followed by Denmark,

committed to Islamic principles in dealing with economy and business than any Muslim country. Malaysia is the first Muslim country in the list, at the 33rd place in the ranking of 208 nations. The US occupies 15th place, the Russian Federation and China are placed 45th and

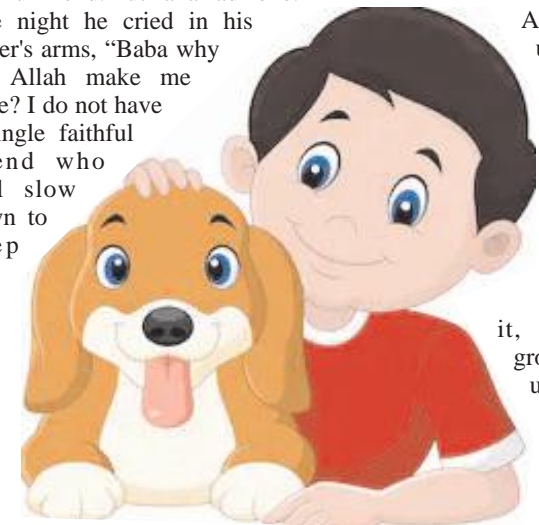
## TALE TIME

### Taha Finds a Faithful Friend

**Loving and taking care of his pet made Taha realize he wanted to make a livelihood caring for the animals in some way when he grew up.**

By Shahin Ashraf Ali

Taha was a mild mannered, sensitive and loving young boy. His parents adored him. Teachers at his school praised him and said he did well in studies. His classmates liked him for he always helped them in any way he could. Perhaps you may think such a boy would have at least one faithful friend. But Taha had none. One night he cried in his father's arms, "Baba why did Allah make me lame? I do not have a single faithful friend who will slow down to keep



**Rana Saab went indoors and returned carrying the puppy in his arms. "Choo chweet!" exclaimed Taha as he excitedly limped towards Rana Saab.**

"Please, let us adopt the puppy!" Taha implored.

Ammi looked unsure. "It would really be nice to have a pet at home. But it is a big responsibility. We have to feed it, exercise it, groom it, clean up if it makes a mess around the house, protect it and take care of it in many other ways,

pace with me at play or while walking to school and back"

Baba explained to Taha as best as he could that Allah has good reasons for everything that happens. We should keep our faith firm and a time will come when we will be grateful for whatever happened.

One day, Rana Saab, an animal welfare officer, came to live in Taha's village. "He is someone who has the authority to make sure animals are not ill treated or abused by anyone. If he catches a mean person kicking or throwing stones at a harmless animals on the road or birds in the trees, he may teach them a good lesson. Rana Saab has rescued many stray dogs, cats and other animals from torture and keeps them as pets." Baba explained.

"The grocer said Rana Saab has asked him to find a villager who is interested in adopting a recently rescued puppy." Baba informed Ammi.

throughout its life. If Baba and you help me with its care and keep, we can bring home the puppy," Ammi said.

"I will help Ammi," promised Taha. Baba too agreed to help.

Taha and Baba went to Rana Saab's farmhouse to bring home the puppy.

"I am happy to know you want to adopt a stray puppy, young man, but having a pet is a big responsibility." Rana Saab told Taha.

Taha smiled and nodded. Rana Saab went indoors and returned carrying the puppy in his arms.

"Choo chweet!" exclaimed Taha as he excitedly limped towards Rana Saab.

As if the little puppy and Taha were long lost friends, the puppy sprang out of Rana Saab's arms and jumped into Taha's outstretched ones!

And ever since then, Taha has had a faithful friend. His best friend never lets him feel left out or alone. Loving and taking care of his pet made Taha realize that he wanted to make a livelihood caring for the animals in some way when he grew up. And guess what? In a few years' time, Taha became the best veterinary doctor in the region!

**Trust that Allah has good reasons for what happens in our lives.**

## How 'Islamic' are 'Muslim' Countries?

Since 2010, two academicians at George Washington University, Scheherazade Rehman and Hossein Askari, have been publishing a study called the "Islamicity Index" based on how a country's economics, legal and governance, human and political rights, and international relations adhere to Islamic principles. In addition to the index determined to measure the Islamicity of countries, they use 12 basic economic principles to rank countries every year. These principles are fundamentally about equal economic opportunities, education and equal opportunity for employment for all, poverty reduction and prevention, and continuous social and intellectual development.

The recent study by both the

62nd. Some Muslim countries that are better placed in the ranking are Kuwait (42), Kazakhstan (54), Brunei (55), Bahrain (61), UAE (64), Turkey (71), Tunisia (72), Jordan (74), Azerbaijan (80), Oman (82), and Lebanon (87). Saudi Arabia occupies the 91st place. Indonesia, with the world's largest Muslim population, is ranked 104th.

Proprietor : **KHAMURDDIN KHAN** Mobile No.: 94483 70651

# MUBARAK CATERERS

SPECIALIST IN : MOGHLAI, PUNJABI & CHINESE DISHES, ICECREAM & FALOODA

We Undertake Catering for Marriage & all types of functions

No. 21/1, 'F' Street, Dispensary Road, Kalasipalyam, Bangalore - 560 002.  
Ph : 26706651/ 26612786/ 42017419 Cell: 98440 72872/ 99726 37851

Regd. with Registrar of Newspaper of India Under Reg. No. 45497/87  
Registered, Regn. No. KRNA/BGE/176/2018-2020  
Posted at Mysore Road Bangalore PSO, BG 560026 on 1st or 3rd or 7th of Every Month. No. of Pages 24  
Licensed to Post without Prepayment, Licence No: PMG BG/WPP/61/2018-2020 Published Date: 31-03-2020

**IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO: IV**  
**P.O. Box: 4705, Vivek Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 047. Karnataka (INDIA)**

## BASHEER'S

### Classic Caterers

30/6, Sultanji Gunta Road Cross, Opp. Madina Masjid, Bangalore - 560 051, Email: basheer.classiccateres@gmail.com  
Cell: 99001 58671, 98440 58671, 98860 28581

Proud to Serve You

# MUNEER'S M. K. CATERERS

OUT DOOR CATERING VEG. & NON VEG.

Head Office: # 20/2, Bradshaw Street, Haines Road Cross, Behind AKS Convention Hall, Bangalore - 560 051. E-mail: mkcaterers@live.in

Prop : **Muneer Ahmed** Mobile : 98860 97700 / 98452 18444 / 98450 44246

# Gayland's

Since 1962

## DIAL - A - PARTY

• Any Time • Any Place • Any Number

# 19, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore - 560 005.  
Ph: 6570 7147 / 4147 2567 / 3241 7370 Cell: 98867 14203.  
Email: razvi@yahoo.com Website: www.gayland.co.in / www.dialaparty.co.in

# 23/2, Richmond Road, Bangalore - 560 025. Ph.: 080-2221 4538 Cell: 98440 17708

## PRESTIGE TRADES

Interior needs (Plywood, Doors, Hardware, Modular Kitchen and more),  
DISTRIBUTORS AND DEALERS FOR:  
PRESTIGE BOARDS & PLYWOODS,  
JOLLY SOFT BOARDS, ALPINE BA BOARDS,  
GREEN PLY, CENTURY PLY, ARCHID PLY, BISON PANELS,  
CEMENT BOARDS, HETTICH HARDWARES, HAFELE, BLUM  
EBCO, OZONE, ARCHIS, PALLADIUM, MAGNUM,  
FILM FACE PLY ETC..... V3 HOME ZONE KITCHENS.

No.44-45, R.V. Road, Basavanagudi, Metro Pillar No-81 Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 004,  
Ph: 080- 26576888, Fax: 080-26576297,  
Email: prestigepanel@gmail.com  
www.prestigetrades.com

VEG. & NON VEG

## Nasir Caterers

Chinese Mughlai and Events

FOR EXQUISITE MEAL & MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

JUST CALL US ON:  
9880248143, 9945014309  
website: nasircaterers.com

Prop: **NASIR PASHA** S/o Haji Abdul Rasheed

Google Justdial YouTube Email: nasircaterers82@gmail.com

# 86, Timmaiah Road, Near Corporation School, Shivajinagar, Blore - 01  
#12, 1st Floor, Eidgah Complex, BSA Road, Tannery Road, Bangalore - 45

S.A. MUKHTAR

98867-91003  
98867-41003

# SR CATERERS

SPECIALIST IN: OUTDOOR CATERING VEG/ NON VEG

# 10, C/O S.R. BAKERY, HOSPITAL ROAD, BANGALORE-01

## Irshad's

### Roshan Caterers & Decorators

Caterers for all occasions  
Non-veg, Veg, Chinese, North Indian and Continental

No. 13, Richard's Square, (Next to Ressel Market) Bangalore- 51  
Ph: 32401903, 25592659, Mob: 9844012118  
E-mail: irshad.caterers@gmail.com

# TWIN CATERERS

EXCELLENCE THROUGH QUALITY

FOLLOW US ON

+919845066554 +919844066554 +919886811100

HM GROUP

## CHUTNEY CHANG

AT YOUR VENUE

~ OUTDOOR CATERING ~

TAILOR MADE MENU AS PER BUDGET

BUFFET WITH LIVE GRILLS

SPECIALIZED IN WEDDING & LARGE GET TOGETHER

CHUTNEY CHANG  
BUFFET RESTAURANT

Visit us at: www.fusionfoods.co.in  
MUSEUM ROAD • JAYANAGAR  
99725 49505

FUSION FOODS HM Geneva House No. 14, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560 052, Karnataka, India +91 80 2238 2288

# BOMBAY CATERERS

ON TIME - EVERY TIME *The Only International Caterer*

Bombay Caterers serving its Customers for the past 28 years.  
Contact for Engagements, Marriages, Valimas & Other parties  
For Online quotations and Door Step Delivery Please visit:  
www.bombaycateress.com, E-Mail: order@bombaycateress.com Gulam Rasool Khan, Proprietor

# 15, Dispensary Rd, Kalasipalyam, Bangalore- 02, Tel.: 26708562, 41224161, Cell: 9342808562 / 98440-57062.

# MEHER GROUP

- Enterprise
- Asset Management
- Care

# 52/1, Basappa Road, Shanthinagar, Bangalore - 560 027.  
Fax: 2222 5325, Phone: 2223 6879 / 2222 5625

# THREADWORKS

(Uniforms & Sportswear)

No. 1, 2nd Floor, A Block, St. Patrick's Complex, Brigade Road, Bangalore - 560025

Off: +91 80 2559 0077  
Mob: +91 98807 53905  
snkhan@threadworks.in  
www.threadworks.in

A Tradition of Electrical Excellence...

# excel traders

Dealers in Electricals Goods, Licensed Electrical Contractors and Engineers

PHILIPS LIGHTS & LUMINARIES  
OSRAM  
FABER  
MK MODULAR SWITCHES  
K  
TOYAMA  
Racold WATER HEATER  
V-GUARD  
HAVELL'S SWITCH GEAR HOME APPLIANCES  
BRAUN  
Hotstar  
Sunflame

Ali Mansion, Dispensary (N.C.) Road, Bangalore - 560 001. Phone : 25581135, 25581136, 25582449, 25582452, 25582786, Fax : 080-25583444 E-mail : info@xltraders.com, Website: www.xltraders.com

April 2020, Vol. 33-04, No. 400  
Printed and Published by Dr. A.W. Sadathullah Khan on behalf of Islamic Voice (Trust) and Printed at Abhimani Prakashana, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560010 Tel No. 080-23123141.  
Published at 3/1, Palmgrove Road, Victoria Layout, Bengaluru - 560047 Tel: 080-41126165.

April 2020 Editor: Dr. A.W. Sadathullah Khan