



Dar-us-Sunnah (DUS) Masjid and Community Center Newsletter

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER ON 7TH APRIL 2012 @ HOLIDAY INN, SKOKIE, IL!!!

FROM THE SEERAH OF OUR PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) – DR. BARA SARRAJ

This Hadith is an important piece in the family behavior and relationship between fathers and sons, though the topic is about the Niyah (intention) and its essence in reward for actions as well as giving money for charity.

Imam Bukhari narrated in his Sahih (the most authentic book in Islam after Quran) that Maan son of Yazid son of Akhnas (all of them are companions of the prophet Muhammad peace

be upon him (pbuh)) said: Yazid, my father, entrusted a person in the Masjid [this is a clue that the event took place in Madina] with an amount of money to give it to the needy as a charity [this is an indication that you can ask people to do the charity on your behalf]. I went to that person and asked him the money because I was in need. He got upset with me and said "I did not intend to give the money to the needy in my family" [look how polite the father was with his son,

no beating, no cursing, but just a brief upset statement]. Maan continues saying: thus, I raised the conflict to the prophet [what a great judge, plaintiff and defendant]. [Please, notice the son's strength without breaking the rules of respect with his father]. The prophet ruled: Maan, you deserve the money, and Yazid, you have the reward of your intention. A win-win situation!

Address:

2045 Brown Ave.
Evanston, IL 60201
Phone: 847-859-9606

Executive Council Members:

- Abdullah Mahmud Shibly (Imam)
- Muhammad Saiduzzaman (President)
- Zafar Ahmed (Vice President)
- Enamul Karim (Treasurer)
- Mohiuddin Ahamed
- Shariful Islam
- Mosaddeque Hossain
- Osman Ahmed

Resident Scholar:

- Abul Fatah Muniruzzaman

Inside this issue:

- PROPHET'S (S) NIGHT 2
JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM
- OUR FINAL GOAL OF LIFE 3
IS TO GET PARADISE
- NAMES OF ALLAH (SWT) 3

SAVE THE DATE!!!

ANNUAL OUTDOOR PROGRAM
TWIGG'S PARK, EVANSTON, IL
(ACROSS FROM DUS)

7TH JULY 2012 (SATURDAY)

NOON – 6 PM

TAFSEER / BBQ / GAMES / FUN

The Prophet Muhammad (S) was invited to spend the night at his cousin, Umm Hani's, house. The prophet had a brief slumber, after which he awoke and decided to visit the Ka'bah. While there he was overtaken by sleep once again, and so he lay down on the Hijr. The Prophet (S) states,

"Whilest I was sleeping in the Hijr Gabriel came to me and spurred me with his foot whereupon I sat upright, yet I saw nothing and lay down once again. A second time he came; and a third time, and then he took me by the arm and I rose and stood beside him, and he led me out to the gate of the Mosque, and there was a white beast, between a mule and an ass, with wings at his sides wherewith he moved his legs; and his every stride was as far as his eye could see."

The beast that the Prophet (S) was referring to is known as Buraq. The Prophet (S) rode Buraq while Gabriel (A) flew at a measured pace next to him, and they flew northwards past Yathrib (modern day Madina), until they reached Jerusalem. There they were met by many of the former Prophets, which included Ibrahim, Musa, and Isa among others. The Prophet (S) led these former Prophets in prayer at the site of the Temple. After prayer, two vessels were brought and offered to the Prophet (S), one contained wine and the other milk. He (S) took the vessel of milk and drank from it, but left that of the wine, and Gabriel (A) then declared, "thou hast been guided unto the path primordial, and hast guided thereunto thy people, O Muhammad, and wine is forbidden to you."

After these events in Jerusalem, the Prophet Muhammad (S) was taken up out of this life to Heaven. He mounted Buraq again, but this time from the rock in the center of the site of the Temple, and they flew upward. This journey was led by the Archangel Gabriel (A) himself in his complete celestial form. They ascended beyond the domain of earthly space, time, and bodily forms. As they passed through the seven Heavens he met once again those Prophets with whom he led prayer. They now appeared to him in their celestial reality, whereas before they had appeared to him as they had during their life on Earth. The Prophet (S) marveled at the vast transformation, and regarding Yusuf (A) he said that "his face had the splendor of the moon at its full, and that he had been endowed with no less than the half of all existing beauty." The Prophet (S) said of the Gardens he visited in the different Heavens:

"A piece of Paradise the size of a bow is better than all beneath the sun, whereon it riseth and setteth; and if a woman of the people of Paradise appeared unto the people of earth, she would fill the space between Heaven and here below with light and with fragrance."

The pinnacle of the Prophet (S)'s ascent was the *Lote Tree of the Uttermost End*, which is so named in the Qur'an. Also, one of the oldest commentaries based on the sayings of the Prophet (S) mentions: "The Lote Tree is rooted in the Throne, and it marks the end of

the knowledge of every knower, be he Archangel or Prophet-Messenger. All beyond it is a hidden mystery, unknown to any save God Alone." At the Lote Tree the Prophet (S) received for the command to perform fifty prayers a day, as well as the Revelation that contains the creed of Islam:

The messenger believes in what has been revealed to him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers; they all believe in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers; We make no difference between any of His messengers; and they say: We hear and obey, our Lord! Thy forgiveness (do we crave), and to Thee is the eventual course. (Surah al-Baqarah, ayah 285)

They descended from the seven Heavens the same way as they had ascended. The Prophet speaks of this saying: "On my return, when I passed Musa – and what a good friend he was unto you! – he asked me: 'How many prayers have been laid upon thee?' I told him fifty prayers every day and he said: 'The congregational prayer is a weighty thing, and thy people are weak. Return unto thy Lord, and ask Him to lighten the load for thee and thy people.' So I returned and asked my Lord to make it lighter, and He took away ten. Then I passed Musa again, and he repeated what he had said before, so I returned again, and ten more prayers were taken from me. But every time I returned unto Musa he sent me back until finally all the prayers had been taken from me except five for each day and night. Then I returned unto Musa, but still he said the same as before; and I said: 'I have returned unto my Lord and asked him until I am ashamed. I will not go again.' And so it is that he who performeth the five in good faith and in trust of God's bounty, unto him shall be given the meed of fifty prayers."

The Prophet (S) and Gabriel (A) then descended to the Rock at Jerusalem and returned to Mecca just as they had come. On their way back they overtook many southbound caravans, and upon reaching the Ka'bah they found that it was still night time.

We thus have it, the events that led up to the Revelation of the Islamic creed that we all must believe in as well as the establishing of Al-Salat that we must perform five times a day. This night was a night of many miracles, which began with the Heavenly steed Al-Buraq and culminates with the fact that only a very small amount of time passed on Earth through the duration of the entire journey. Thus, it is from the Prophet's (S) experience while still among us on earth that we get a direct glimpse of what lay in the hereafter. This fact should excite us all about the fate of the Believers because the Prophet (S) only had great things to say from these events.

In my childhood, when I was writing the essay "Aim in Life," I learned that "The aimless man is like a ship in the middle of the ocean without a destination." I was scared for the ship, and I wondered where it would go without direction. Then I figured that there must be a goal or target for the ship to proceed towards. I taught this lesson to my kids to keep them motivated. One day, for example, when my son told me that he wants to go to Mount Everest, I told him to make a goal and work on it, and Insha' Allah one day his wish may be fulfilled. But it is not easy to strive towards such a goal. You have to be an optimist, have to work very hard and overall ask for Allah's mercy. You can only try, but the final decision is in His hand.

Once we create a goal, we must identify priorities to determine the order of our responsibilities. We have to be focused on our goal, knowing our limitations and trying to make the right choices. If needed, we should take advice from an expert or an elder. We should try our best to do the right thing in the right time frame, so that later on we don't regret anything. But with our very limited ability, sometimes we can't solve the puzzle.

Allah (swt) gave us three main responsibilities: 1) towards our lord, 2) towards ourselves and 3) towards fellow people. It is so huge and unimaginable, knowing we will be asked for that by our lord. Taking care of our health, families, and children, earning halal money, and leading an honest life fall under our responsibilities. Fulfilling others' rights is also our responsibility. This includes breast-feeding a

child in his or her first two years of life, which is both the newborn's right and the responsibility of the mother to fulfill those rights. Allah (swt) provided the early newborn with some blessed food that can be tolerated by their delicate stomach and give them immunity-Subhanallah! Of course for that, there is reward from Him.

On the journey towards our goal, there are achievements. We must be thankful for all of our accomplishments and praise Allah in the best way possible. The Hadith of the Prophet (S) tells us of a way to thank Allah (swt).

Narrated by Mu`adh: The Messenger of Allah (Peace Be Upon Him) took hold of my hand and said, "O Mu`adh! By Allah I love you, so I advise you to never forget to recite after every prayer:

"Allahumma a`inni ala zikrika, wa shukrika, wa husni `ibadatika"

(O Allah, help me remember You, to be grateful to You, and to worship You in an excellent manner).

The journey towards a goal sometimes involves failure, the antonym of success. It may be very painful and disappointing, but it makes us bold and strong. Even if we feel sad, we should not break down. It increases our Iman, encourages us to be more patient, and makes us ask for His forgiveness and cope with the situation without blaming Him. I remember the verses of the Holy Quran, Surat Al-Imran, Ayah 160: "If Allah should aid you, no one can overcome you; but if He should forsake you, who is there that can aid you after Him? And upon Allah let the believers rely."

To continue proceeding towards our goal, there must be light---the Success,

which means a favorable or desired outcome of something attempted. As a believer we should not worry much about anything, but we have to try. Only Allah (swt) knows what true success is!

Our final desired destination (the point or place set for a journey's end) is "Jannah"(Paradise). Inshallah, we, all the believers, will go to Jannah, with His mercy and favor. But it is not free; we have to buy it with our good intentions and deeds.

May Allah (swt) grant all of us a worthwhile destiny. Ameen.

NAMES OF ALLAH (SWT) - SAJID AHMED

Al-'Adl (The Just): A judge is advised not to make decisions under the influence of anger. However, Allah (SWT) does not need that advice, for He is just and fair all the time. He will give you what you deserve, and even be lenient with His mercy. If Allah (SWT) was completely just with no mercy, there would be probably none to feel the fruits of Paradise. If you deserve something, He will give it to you, whether it is good or bad.

Al-Hakeem (The Wise) : Al- Hakeem is one of the most important names to me because it tells you that everything happens for a reason. It gives you a reason not to get overly angry when something happens, because there is a reason. The name Al- Hakeem tells you that Allah (SWT) knows the best for everything, so you don't need to worry about things that do not concern you.

Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid & Community Center

Upcoming events:

- 2012/04/07: Fund Raising Dinner @ 06:00 PM—Holiday Inn, Skokie, IL
2012/04/21: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM
2012/05/05: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM
2012/05/19: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM
2012/06/02: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM
2012/06/16: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM

To donate, please visit:

<http://www.darussunnah.org/>

Start Date	Fajr	Zuhr	Jumma	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
4/1/2012	5:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:45 PM	Sunset	9:00 PM
4/8/2012	5:30 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:45 PM	Sunset	9:15 PM
4/15/2012	5:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:00 PM	Sunset	9:30 PM
4/29/2012	5:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:00 PM	Sunset	9:45 PM
5/1/2012	5:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:00 PM	Sunset	9:45 PM
5/6/2012	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	9:45 PM
5/15/2012	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	10:00 PM
5/22/2012	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	10:15 PM
6/1/2012	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:15 PM	Sunset	10:15 PM
6/10/2012	4:45 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	6:30 PM	Sunset	10:25 PM

Disclaimer:

Barta (News) is a quarterly publication of Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid and Community Center in Evanston, Illinois, USA. The views and opinions expressed by the contents of this publication or its commercial sponsors do not necessarily reflect the policies and principles of Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid and Community Center. Furthermore, Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid and Community Center reserves all publishing rights of the material and may choose to terminate all agreements or part thereof at any time without any notification to anyone. Unauthorized use and/or duplication of any material in this publication by anyone is strictly prohibited without the written and official consent of Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid and Community Center.

Editorial staff: Javed Iqbal / Ishtiaq Ahmed / Ashik Rahman

Please write to us to provide feedback or to submit articles for possible inclusion in future issues of Barta.

The email address is ashikr@hotmail.com.