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

ANNUAL SEERAT PROGRAM ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2013 @ DUS, EVANSTON, IL!!!

SOME LESSONS FOR KIDS DELIVERED BY PARENTS ACCORDING TO QUR'AN AND HADITH – AKTER BHUIYAN

We all want our children to grow up to become responsible good Muslims. But the question is “How do we do that?” Some parents have become so busy nowadays either with their jobs or with their social lives that children are often neglected. They may be ignored or left for hours with television or computer or they may be sent to day-care centers at a very early age to be cared for in groups by other people. But parents should remember that moral teaching and guidance are fundamental to raise kids. Kids are a trust given to parents. Parents will be held accountable for this trust on the Day of Judgment. If parents take care of kids in a perfect way and give them Islamic lessons, they will be free of the consequences on the Day of Judgment. The children will become better citizens and good Muslims, In Sha Allah.

As Allah (SWT) has said in Qur'an [66:6]:

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ وَأَهْلِيَهُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ
وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ
وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦﴾

“O you who believe! Save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is Men and Stones ...” The question then is “How do we save ourselves and our kids and families from hell fire?” We need to show them the right way and teach them the difference between right and wrong. If we recite Holy Qur'an, and try to understand Surah Luqman (verses 12-19), we find what excellent words of wisdom were passed by Luqman (A) to his sons and convey the same to our kids, families, relatives and friends, it may help our kids and families to become ideal families, In Sha Allah.

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Eid Prayer Schedule @ DUS (2013/10/16)

- 1st prayer is at 9:00 AM by Khatib Hafiz Dr. Saaf Qadri
- 2nd prayer is at 10:00 AM by Khatib Imam Abdullah Mahmoud Shibly

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The followings are the lessons which parents can offer to kids per Surah Luqman (verses 12-19):

- Always be thankful to Allah (SWT)
- Not to do Shirk (associating others with Allah in His Divinity)
- To be kind and good to parents
- To obey parents unless they command what is wrong
- To understand that all our deeds, however minor, are recorded and will be brought to light
- To establish Salah (Prayers)
- To enjoin what is ma'ruf (right) and to forbid what is munkar (evil)
- To bear what befalls him with patience (sabr)
- To avoid pride, arrogance and boastfulness
- To be modest in speech and manner

In addition, parents should teach children Islamic manners in accordance with the beautiful example of the Prophet (PBUH). Such habits include honesty, truthfulness, gentleness, politeness, consideration for others, helpfulness, tidiness, and cleanliness. Now, if we take a look into the following Hadith, we will see Parents' responsibilities for the care and upbringing of our children are mentioned. The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Take care! Each of you is a shepherd and each of you shall be asked concerning his flock; a leader is a shepherd of his people, and he shall be asked concerning his flock; and a man is a shepherd of the people of his house, and he shall be asked concerning his flock; and a woman is a shepherd of the house of her husband and over their children, and she shall be asked concerning them." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Similarly, it is the duty of parents to respect the rights of their children. Let me share you a story. Once a man came to Umar ibn Al-Khattab (the second Khaleefah of Islam) and complained to him of his son's disobedience. Umar (RA) summoned the boy and spoke of his disobedience to his father and his neglect of his rights. The boy replied: "O Ameer al-Mu'mineen! Hasn't a child rights over his father?" "Certainly", replied Umar. "What are they Ameer Al-Mu'mineen?" "That he should choose his mother, give him a good name and teach him the Qur'an." "O Ameer al-Mu'mineen! My father did nothing of this. My mother was a Magian (fire worshipper). He gave me the name of Julalaan (meaning dung beetle or scarab) and he did not teach me a single letter of the Qur'an." Turning to the father, Umar said: "You have come to me to complain about the disobedience of your son. You have failed in your duty to him before he has failed in his duty to you; you have done wrong to him before he has wronged you."

Usually, Children take their parents as role models. If parents are lazy and careless, the children will also take laziness and carelessness to be normal behaviors. If they tell lies, children will regard lying as a normal behavior. The same applies to smoking, drinking, rude manners, swearing and all other bad habits. There is no way for parents to motivate their children to practice the Islamic virtues without they themselves not respecting the values. Finally, if you show your child that you are good in every aspect of your life and keep your faith in Allah (SWT), then your child will rise to meet your expectations In Sha Allah.

I once asked my cousin, “Is life very short?” She replied, “Yes.” I asked her about her husband, who had passed away a few weeks before. She replied with faith that, that much was his allotted time. Nobody can change that time a single moment. But there is some emptiness somewhere. We all went to see her in Los Angeles in the convalescent care facility where she was residing temporarily, as she couldn't take care of herself. Because of her illness, she became totally dependent. We were sitting in an open visiting area. My kids were playing there. She was enjoying the children playing and the gentle breeze. Though her speech was a little slurred, I understood what she was saying as I knew the background. I felt very sad for her.

Our life on this earth is unstable. It is full of difficulties, unhappiness, helplessness, diseases and distress. We are just travelers in this world. We can't make anything permanent here. We have to travel this world with faith and dignity and only with the things we need to survive. God created us as human beings with His Mercy. He gave us the ability to choose good or bad. It is our duty to try our best to do the right thing. All of us are ultimately travelling towards the truly permanent world.

God created all the souls. The soul is blown into every human being when the fetus is 120 days old in the mother's womb. (Ref: Abortion in Islam). When a body is given a soul, life begins. And when the soul leaves the body, life ends and death begins. A soul's final destiny is either Heaven or the Hellfire depending on its level of obedience towards God during its life. But God can forgive us; He has power over everything.

During their journeys through life, the soul and its body travel through four different worlds:

1. The mother's womb - where the soul joins its body.
2. This world – where we all live for a fixed period
3. The grave - the 'Barzakh' period: the stage between this world and the Hereafter
4. The Hereafter - The final destination of all human beings.

“Birth” is the door between the 1st and 2nd stages and “Death” is the door between the 2nd and 3rd worlds. It seems scary, but not for the

righteous people. From the Holy Quran, we know that “Every soul will taste of death. And ye will be paid on the Day of Resurrection only that which ye have fairly earned.” Quran, Al-Imran (3:185).

We have very limited knowledge over everything, except that much knowledge God has granted for us. In the Quran, Allah (SWT) tells our beloved Prophet (SAW) to tell people regarding the soul: “It is one of the things, the knowledge of which is only with my Lord. And of knowledge, you (mankind) have been given very little.” [Qur'an Al-Isra 17: 85]

So before death comes to us we have to be prepared to stand and give explanations for all of our deeds, in front of our Lord! Oh my God, I am shivering thinking of that; I have to stand in front of Him.

Within few days I heard that my cousin passed away. I pray that may God forgive her and accept her good deeds. Ameen!

I recently received some property from my father who passed away (may Allah have mercy on him). It is now my property. I remember my cousin was saying that she didn't get her portion of the property yet. Now, however, it is too late for her to receive anything. We learn from this that we have to do the necessary actions before time runs out. Sometimes people hesitate to give their property to their daughters, which is a sin. Death may approach at any time and the obligations you have towards people must be fulfilled before it is too late to do so. May God allow us to fulfill our responsibilities and protect us from doing major and minor sins. Ameen!

During our lifetime we experience ups and downs. Due to illness we sometimes lose the ability to make decisions. It is important for us to think ahead of time, how to take care of our medical needs when we become unresponsive. A member of the family can be made responsible for making decisions in such situations. So we should write advance directives such as a living will or durable power of attorney. That will help us with directions of future care or some legal representatives who will make decisions, if by chance we are not able to do that.

A few days ago, I went to visit my neighbor, whom I feel is like my mentor in both worldly and spiritual matters. After she was diagnosed with a difficult disease which often has a short life expectancy, I felt very vulnerable to anything. When I asked her how she feels, she told me that she feels better

knowing that somebody still cares for her, mentioning that I went to visit her. It is very important for us to visit our sick relatives, friends and neighbors. Sometimes little things bear so much significance. May God give us the ability to reflect upon the meaning of life. Ameen!

Lastly, the truth is from the Holy Quran: “Say: ‘truly, my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and my death are (all) for Allah, the Cherisher of the Worlds.’” [Quran, Al-Anaam, 6:162] Oh God! Please guide us in this world and hereafter. Ameen!

SEVEN BASIC RULES OF BROTHERHOOD – SAJID AHMED

- 1) Wish for other people what you wish for yourself and act upon that wish
- 2) Do not exploit another person just because you can
- 3) Be grateful for what you have to prevent jealousy and enmity between brothers
- 4) Stay completely honest in your relations with people to avoid conflicts from misunderstandings and lies
- 5) Communicate with people to understand them better and avoid conflicts
- 6) Remember that you will be held accountable for all of your actions on the Day of Judgment
- 7) In case of conflict, do not hold grudges or any hard feelings for an extended period of time

Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid & Community Center

Upcoming events:

- 2013/10/05: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM
2013/10/16: Eid-ul-Adha Prayer @ 09:00 AM and 10:00 AM [subject to moon sighting]
2013/10/19: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM
2013/11/02: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM
2013/11/16: Annual Seerat Program @ 4:00 PM
2013/12/07: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM

To donate, please visit:

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

Start Date	Fajr	Zuhr	Jumma	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
10/1/2013	6:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:15 PM	Sunset	8:15 PM
10/6/2013	6:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	5:00 PM	Sunset	8:15 PM
10/13/2013	6:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	4:45 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
10/27/2013	6:20 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	4:30 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
11/1/2013	6:20 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	4:30 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
11/3/2013	6:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	3:15 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
11/17/2013	6:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	3:00 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM
12/1/2013	6:15 AM	1:30 PM	1:15 PM	3:00 PM	Sunset	8:00 PM

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