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

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER



Alhamdulillah, another successful fund raising event was concluded at the Holiday Inn in Skokie, IL on the 5th of April 2014. The collection of photographs on this page attempts to highlight the evening. Sheikh Kifa headlined the evening as our keynote speaker and fundraiser. With the mercy of Allah (SWT), in excess of \$150,000 was raised in new donations and pledges. To view additional pictorial coverage of the event the [link](#) here can be used. Many thanks to Saif Chowdhury for providing us with all the beautiful images to capture the essence of the evening.

As Rasool Allah said, that the Quran has four Rights:-

1. Qirat:-To read the Quran.
2. Tilawat:-To understand and act upon its guidance.
3. Tadabbur:-To comprehend its teaching.
4. Balaghat:-To preach and convey its message.

1.) Recitation/Study:

The first obligation upon a Muslim towards the Qur'an is the recitation and reading of the Qur'an. In Surah Muzammil, verses 4 and 20, Allah says, "And recite the Qur'an in measure" (73:4) "And recite the Qur'an whatever is easy you". (73:20).

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, "The best among you is one who learns Qur'an and teaches it." (Sahih Bukhari). Also, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said "Learn Quran and recite it. Indeed the example of a person who learns how to read the Quran, recites it and acts upon it, is like that of a bag full of musk, the fragrance of which spreads throughout the entire house...." [Tirmizi]

2.) Reflection:

The second right of the Qur'an upon Muslims is reflecting upon its content. Deep thinking is demanded of the Qur'an. Allah says, "With clear proofs and writings, We have revealed unto thee the Remembrance that thou may explain to mankind that which has been revealed for them, and that they may reflect." (Qur'an 16:44). Again, in Surah Muhammad, Allah says, "Will they then not meditate (reflect) on the Qur'an, or are there locks on their hearts." (47:24) This reflection will lead to stronger Iman and a better understanding of the Qur'an so that we can act upon its teachings.

3.) Action:

The third right of the Qur'an is for us to act upon its teachings and apply them whole heartedly in all aspects of our lives - individual, family and social. As Allah says in Surah As-Saff, "O you who believe, do you say which you do not do? It is grievously hateful in the eyes of Allah that you say what you do not do." Narrated by Labeed bin Zaid, it is reported that the Prophet (pbuh) mentioned something serious and said that it will happen when knowledge will be lifted. Zaid said, "O messenger of Allah, how will knowledge be lifted while we are studying it and teaching it to our children, and our children are studying it and teaching it to their children?" The Prophet (pbuh) said "I thought you are the wisest man in the town. Do you not see the Jews and Christians read the Torah (Old Testament) and Injeel (New Testament) but do not act upon any of it?"

4.) Preach and convey its message:

Finally, we have to learn, teach, spread, and communicate the message of the Qur'an in every possible way and do Dawah work. Prophet (pbuh) emphasizes the importance of communicating the Qur'an's message. "Communicate from me, even if it is only one ayah (verse) of the Qur'an."

In conclusion, I would like to say that Muslims should work with any Quran Halaqa. The purpose of the Halaqa is to get together to read the Qur'an and reflect on the many signs present within it. Coordinator of Quran Halaqa should encourage discussion and thought provoking conversation. The group is a circle of sorts, with no teacher, and anyone and everyone is welcome to share their personal reflection of the assigned ayahs for that week or month. I am personally a member of a Quran Halaqa which is an open and safe space where all ideas can be shared, and thus it is likely that participants will have differing viewpoints and conclusions.

I was sitting on the bleacher and enjoying watching a soccer game. My two sons were playing at the soccer field by Universal School. It was extremely joyous for me to watch the game. I was remembering a day, almost thirty years ago, when my brother in my native country, Bangladesh, used to go to the Dhaka Stadium to watch the game between "Abahani" and "Mohammedan" teams. At that time, I could not understand the fun in watching the game.

The small boy is running with the ball by his foot with so much force and power. His intention is to tackle the ball, protect it and kick it in to the goalpost. When the ball is in his possession, it is his responsibility to protect it safely, and after making a goal, he puts his possession in a safe and expected place-- the best use of his possession.

In this world, we possess so many things-- our life, wealth, children, education, property, etc. When we possess these, we become responsible for them. We are required to earn with our hard labor and sweat, and we must make sure our earnings are "halal," or pure.

Everything in this world belongs to God, Almighty. So whatever we have, big or small, has been bestowed upon us by God. In a broader sense, we are just sharing God's ownership, as nothing absolutely belongs to us. We owe him, with how much He sanctioned for us for a certain period of time. From a Sahih Muslim Hadith (6397), we know that how much a person will earn is predestined in the mother's womb, and nothing will be added or subtracted from it.

After possession comes the responsibilities and obligations-- how to spend all these safely, carefully and wisely in the right place, similar to the boy putting the ball in the goalpost. On the Day of Judgment, when we will stand in front of our Lord, we will be asked how and where we spend our earnings, as we don't have absolute right of our ownership.

In Islam, donating through "Zakat" is an obligation, which means we have to give 2.5% of our excess earning to poor and needy person. The other one is "Sadaqa," which means giving to the less fortunate above the legal requirements. These things will purify our wealth.

One other very important way to use our possessions is to not be stingy towards our own family. It is our duty to fulfill their needs, but not in a wasteful way.

So the clear, simple equation is "more possession = more responsibility." The best way to solve it is to donate more. If we can do that, then we will have less headache and burden when we will be judged on the very scary and hard day, "the Day of Judgment."

Finally, the Holy Quran says,

"The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah and then do not follow up what they have spent with reminders [of it] or [other] injury will have their reward with their Lord, and there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve." (2:261-262)

May God help us to the best use of our possessions! Ameen!

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE — SAJID AHMED

The spirit of competition has been ignited in the Chicagoland area and is stoked by the bellows of Islam. Last week, hundreds of youth from around the city and even beyond gathered in Benedictine University to compete in a vast array of subjects at this year's Muslim Inter-Scholastic Tournament (MIST). MIST is, according to its website, a "fun, educational, interactive program of competitions and workshops geared towards bringing high school students together from around the nation to develop leadership, communication, and other creative skills, all while gaining a deeper understanding of Islam and Muslims." Students competed in areas ranging from Quran, to oratory ability, to art and more.

But before competing, one must ask oneself the reason for such pursuits. Fortunately, it is not difficult to find a concrete answer in the teachings of the Prophet (S) promoting friendly, if earnest, competition amongst the Muslim community. Regarding the first row in prayer, the Prophet (S) said: "If people only knew what was in the call to prayer and the first row, and could find no other way to get it than drawing lots for it, they would certainly draw lots for it (meaning they would compete)." [Agreed upon] The noble Messenger (S) openly encouraged the pursuit of excellence; the parable of the first row can be applied to all sectors of life, whether strictly religious matters or not. The golden ages of the Muslim community only happened at a time when Islamic adherence and spirituality were at their highest, and when scholars from among the people pioneered new ways of looking at the world and interacting with it. Had those brilliant intellects not strived for advancement back then, many of the commodities and subjects we now take for granted would not exist.

However, it is imperative that we maintain our focus not for benefit in this life, but solely for that which is with Allah (SWT) in the hereafter. The Niyyah is key, as the Prophet (S) said in a well-known hadith that even if a person performed the Hijrah (migration to Madinah) for a cause other than for Allah (SWT) only, his reward will be only for that cause and not with Allah (SWT).

With our intentions secured, it is this competitive spirit for the sake of Allah that will ultimately revive our Ummah and make it vibrant and strong once again.

Dar-us-Sunnah Masjid & Community Center

Upcoming events:

2014/06/07: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM
2014/06/21: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM
2014/08/02: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM
2014/08/16: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM
2014/09/06: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM
2014/09/20: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM
2014/10/04: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM
2014/10/18: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM
2014/11/01: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM
2014/11/15: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM
2014/12/06: Tafseer ul Quran and Dars e Hadith Program (Bangla) @ 06:00 PM
2014/12/20: History of Islam Program and Story Time for Children (English) @ 06:00 PM

To donate, please visit:

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