
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY OF SEATTLE NEWSLETTER

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Sermons of Khalifa-tul-Masih

Hassan Khan

The following are the tarbiyyat (moral training) issues Hazoor spoke about in his January sermons.

Jan 4, 2008: - One should make financial sacrifices only for the sake of Allah's pleasure

-Children should be encouraged to make financial sacrifices from an early age, especially to the blessed scheme of waqf-e-jadid

-Jammats should concentrate more on encouraging financial sacrifice from inactive members vs active members.

Jan 11, 2008: - Muslims should be aware that the 'Dajjal' is hatching plans to bring changes to the Holy Quran.



Hazrat Khalifa-tul-Masih V

-They should be convinced that the teachings of the Holy Quran are perfect and not be ashamed of them as being too violent or too old.

-The Quranic teachings are fair and only permit fighting when the enemy turns to violence first.

-Muslims should pay heed that the 'imam of the age' has declared that fighting for religion has been abrogated and should only employ tactics that are used by the enemy i.e defend faith with the written word.

Jan 18,2008:-One should strive to acquire the wisdom taught by the Holy Prophet PBUH eg fairness, absolute justice, knowledge, astuteness and making appropriate use of things in accordance with occasion.

-Muslims should make the Holy Quran the guiding light for everything and put its teachings into practice.

Jan 25, 2008:-Ahmadis should 'purify' their hearts and bringing in themselves a revolutionary change and stay away from falsehood, depravity, envy and filth.

-They should also strive hard to purify and win over the hearts of other too so that the religion of Islam triumphs over all others. One can start with helping the poor of the world to win them.❖

Events Calendar February 2008

2/3/2008 12:00 PM	General Meeting
2/17/2008 12:00 PM	Aux Meetings
2/24/2008 10:00 AM	Amila Meeting

Importance of Education

Dr. Abid Haq

What is meant by "Education"? It is the center and key element of all advanced civilizations. This is one of the definitions that come to mind when asked about higher education.

These days, a college education is essential for a successful career. In college, students can determine their strengths and weaknesses in whatever path they decide to pursue. A college education is the first step towards being self-sufficient and mature. College provides the chance to express one's creative abilities and contribute to the betterment of society.

Education is important for two reasons. The first is that the training of the human mind is incomplete without education. It teaches mankind to think in order to make informed decisions. The second reason is that it enables one to use all available information to improve one's internal and external world. Without education you are trapped in a closed room. With education the room has its windows open to the outside world.

What does Islam say about education and the pursuit of knowledge? When the Holy Quran was first revealed to the Holy Prophet of Islam, (peace be upon him) 15 centuries ago, the very first word of the very first verse was 'Iqra'. This means "Read" in Arabic. The angel Gabriel commanded the Holy Prophet, (peace be upon him) to read. The verse says:

"Read! In the Name of your Lord Who created you. He has created man from a clot of blood. Read! Your Lord is Most

Generous. He taught man by the pen. He has taught man what he knew not" [96:verse 1-5]

The Arabic word for knowledge is ilm, which pertains to Islamic knowledge or matters related to Islamic law.

Many Quranic verses stress the importance of seeking knowledge for the good of mankind and putting one's potential to maximum use. Here are a few examples:

"A person with knowledge is better than the one without it" [39:10]

"People are encouraged to travel in search of knowledge" [18:66]

"God will raise the status of those who possess knowledge" [58:12]

"With knowledge, man can rule the forces of nature" [45:13]

This is why Islam attaches great importance to the attainment of knowledge. The Holy Prophet, (pbuh) made seeking knowledge obligatory upon every Muslim, and he explained that the superiority of the person who has knowledge over the one who merely worships is like the superiority of the moon over every other heavenly body. By saying "The ink of the scholar is more precious than the blood of the martyr" he stressed the importance of learning. He also said that seeking knowledge is a way to heaven: *"Whoever follows a path in the pursuit of knowledge, God will make a path to Paradise for him."*

The great importance attached to learning in Islam can be understood from an event in the life of the Holy Prophet, (peace be upon him). After the battle of Badr in which the Muslims were victorious against a much larger army, seventy enemy soldiers were captured. In order to benefit from their education, the Holy Prophet, (PBUH) declared that if any prisoner taught ten Muslims to read and write, he would be set free.

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Islamic civilization experienced a renaissance from the 8th century to the 13th century. Under the Abbassid Dynasty, Islamic culture became a blend of Arab, Persian, Egyptian, and European traditions. The result was an era of stunning intellectual and cultural achievements.

Islamic scholars translated works of philosophy from China, India, and Greece. They studied both Greek and Indian mathematics and made important contributions to the science. The most famous Islamic mathematician was Al-Khawarizimi, who pioneered the study of algebra. His textbook on the subject was the standard in European universities for centuries.

Muslim scholars were skilled in astronomy. They studied eclipses, the rotation of the planets, and accurately calculated the circumference of the earth at a time when the rest of Europe thought that the world was flat.

Many advances were made in the field of medicine. Muslim physicians and pharmacists were required to pass medical exams before treating patients. Their hospitals had separate areas for trauma cases, which is the basis for today's emergency rooms. They developed surgical treatments for cataracts and used a variety of herbal remedies. Ibne Sina, (Avicenna) the renowned Islamic physician, wrote a book called "Canon of Medicine", which was an encyclopedia of Greek, Arabic, and his own knowledge of medicine. This book became the standard medical text in Europe for the next five hundred years.

The founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad preached the benevolent

message of Islam -- peace, universal brotherhood, and submission to the Will of God. He promoted education among his followers and was the author of over 80 religious books.

The Ahmadiyya Community has also produced its share of world famous scholars such as Professor Abdus Salam, the first Muslim Nobel Laureate in physics, and Sir Zafrulla Khan, who became the President and Chief Judge of the International Court of Justice at the Hague, and the President of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Both of them have been recognized by the world community for their outstanding achievements to mankind.

Our Community offers a clear presentation of Islamic wisdom, philosophy, morals and spirituality as derived from the Holy Quran and the practice of the Holy Prophet, (peace be upon him). We advocate peace, tolerance, love and understanding among followers of different faiths. Our Community strongly rejects violence and terrorism in any form. It firmly believes in and acts upon the Quranic teaching: "There is no compulsion in religion."

Because the Ahmadiyya Community, believes in and practices the True Islam as taught by the Holy Prophet, (peace be upon him), it has reached the four corners of the Earth. Wherever the Community is established, it endeavors to portray the beneficial influence of Islam through social welfare projects, community service, educational institutions, health services, and scholarly publications. Ahmadi Muslims have the distinction of being a peaceful and law-abiding community. ❖

Taleem-ul-Quran Activities

Waseem Ahmad

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (atba) established department of Talim-ul-Qur'an and Waqf-e-Aarzi in 2005. Following are some of the guidelines by our National Markaz:

- Daily recitation of the Holy Quran: The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) preferred to read the Holy Qur'an at the Fajr time.
- Listen to the Holy Qur'an - Listen to other members of the family reciting the Holy Qur'an or play a tape on and listen to the recitation.
- Simple and correct reading of the Holy Quran taught by parents or elders at home, regularly.
- Hold Classes to teach the Quran at various levels.
- The people who know how to read the Holy Quran should learn the translation.
- To learn basic Arabic Grammar to understand the meaning of the Holy Quran.
- Benefit from MTA.
- Memorize verses of the Quran - Holy Prophet (SAW) said that those who memorize the Qur'an will be among the noble and those who act upon it with intensity will be granted twofold reward.

To follow these guidelines in our Jama'at currently we are holding a word-by-word translation class during our general body meetings every first Sunday of the month. We have had several classes on how to recite the Holy Qur'an correctly and inshaAllah will be starting these classes again. May Allah enable us and give strength to pay full attention towards the message of our Lord, to recite the Holy Quran regularly, to learn its translation, to understand its meaning, to act upon its teachings, and to propagate this message to the rest of the world.

A Poem by Promised Messiah AS

The grace and beauty of the Qur'an
Is the light and life of every Muslim;
The moon is the beloved of others,
Our beloved is the Qur'an.

I searched everywhere,
Its peer could not be found;
Why, after all, should it not be unique:
It is the Holy Word of the Gracious Lord.

Every word in it is a living
And everlasting spring;
No orchard has such quality,
Nor is there a garden like it.

The Word of the Gracious God
Has no equal;
Be it a pearl from Umman,
Or a ruby from Badakhshan.

How can the word of man
Equal the world of God?
There is divine power; here is helplessness;
The difference is so obvious!

In knowledge and eloquence,
How can man equal Him;
Before Whom even the angels
Confess ignorance.

Even the tiny leg of an insect,
Man can never create;
How is it possible for him
To create the Light of God?

O people, have some regard
For the grandeur of the Great Lord;
Hold your tongues now
If you have even a hint of faith.

To consider someone equal to God
Is an act of great infidelity;
Have some fear of God, dears!
What a lie and calumny this is!

What veils of ignorance
Have enveloped your hearts!
You are indeed guilty of an error;
Desist! if you have any fear of God.

I bear no ill will to you, brothers,
This is only a humble advice;
My heart and life are an offering
For anyone who has a pure heart.