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Understanding the Iqra Islamic School Investment Group Limited Liability Company, LLC

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"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Benjamin Franklin

Points of Interest

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Commonly asked questions about the relationship between Iqra and the Limited Liability Company (LLC) answered by LLC co-manager and Iqra Board member, Dr. Syed I. Nabi.

Explain in very simple terms the role of the LLC that was formed to assist Iqra, Utah's full-time Islamic School.

After extensive efforts for more than six months we were still unable to rent a building that would meet the city codes for a school. We found a pre-school that was for sale and that met all the regulatory building and licensing requirements for a school. The building was for sale for \$230,000. We decided to buy it, however, there was no money available and the choices were to get a loan from a bank on behalf of Iqra or to raise the money on our own.

Alhumdulillah, we were able to put together a group of people who would loan their money for three years for this noble cause. Our lawyer advised us to form a Limited Liability Company (LLC) and have LLC buy the Iqra building to protect the assets of these people. The LLC was the logical and legal way to assure these people that their money is not going to be lost. No profits were guaranteed or expected from the group members. It was hoped that in three years time Iqra would have enough funds to buy all shares of the building from the LLC. In that case the LLC would be liquidated and investors would get their money back in three years.

How did you convince people to involve themselves and their money in creating the LLC for Iqra to be established?

For the good cause that it is and for the blessings of Allah (SWT).

What would happen if the funds could not be repaid?

The understanding was that Iqra will be able to buy all the shares from the LLC and in the worst case scenario that if the funds could not be repaid, the building would need to be sold and that money distributed proportionately according to the owned shares of every member including Iqra.

Why does Iqra pay rent to the LLC?

It is a legal requirement.

Overall are the investors making money off of Iqra?

No. The returns were far less than they donated. See the financial summary and decide it yourself.

Did Iqra become "non-profit" because the investors were not making a large profit?

No, that statement is a big lie. Iqra has always been a non-profit tax-exempt school.

What is the current status of the LLC's shares?

Currently Iqra owns approximately 60% of the LLC, hence 60 % of the building, and needs \$92,500 to completely own the building.

Are the financial records of the LLC open to the public?

Yes. The financial reports are available, but the investors intentions were for the sake of Allah (swt) and thus prefer to remain anonymous.

3 Year Financial Summary of the LLC (12/31/2000 to 12/31/2003):

Total Rent Income	\$22,690.00
Taxes Paid	\$10,223.41
Utilities Paid	\$ 266.60
Property Maintenance	\$ 737.37
Profit to Investors	\$ 8,061.75
Profit to Iqra	\$ 3,633.23
Amount donated to Iqra by LLC investors	\$67,282.00

Kirin Nabi

A Hajj For My Daughter

Hesham A. Hassaballa

...Continued from last month's issue

On a Friday afternoon in February of last year, I checked my daughter's lab results in the Doctors' lounge in the hospital. Everything was normal...except for one test. The number was off the chart, and this could only mean one thing: my daughter had a disease called Ataxia-Telangiectasia. We got another more definitive test which confirmed the diagnosis.

We saw a pediatric neurologist, and he was very concerned about her physical problems. He ordered an MRI of her brain, and it was normal, thank God. He told us that if the MRI was normal, it was probably something she had since birth, and she will learn to adapt with time. We were very relieved, and this is what actually sparked the idea to perform Hajj that year in thanks to God.

Our daughter, however, only got worse. During the Hajj, she was hospitalized for pneumonia (unbeknownst to us), and when we came back my family told us what happened. We were still uneasy about the fact that she still was wobbly on her feet, and so we sought out another pediatric neurologist for a second opinion. She said pretty much the same thing as the first, but she ordered some extra blood tests just to make sure nothing else was going on.

On a Friday afternoon in February of last year, I checked my daughter's lab results in the Doctors' lounge in the hospital. Everything was normal...except for one test. The number was off the chart, and this could only mean one thing: my daughter had a disease called Ataxia-Telangiectasia. We got another more definitive test which confirmed the diagnosis.

Ataxia-Telangiectasia, or AT, is a horrific genetic disorder characterized by progressively worsening balance difficulty and chronic and repeated ear and sinus infections. In order to get the disease, our child has to have two AT genes.

My wife and I both have the gene for AT, and unfortunately, we each passed our genes to our daughter. Her balance problems will steadily get worse, and eventually she will be wheelchair-bound. In addition, children with this disorder are continually plagued with infections as the immune system is rendered weak by this disease. Our daughter has already had sinus surgery and tubes placed in her ears in order to deal with the numerous infections. In fact, infection is frequently what kills these children, and every day I deal with the very real possibility that I will one day bury my little one.

When we learned of the diagnosis, my wife and I were completely devastated. AT is a disease I learned about once for a test in medical school, but never in my wildest dreams did I think my own daughter would be stricken by this horribly crippling disorder. Seeing her struggle to walk each and every day makes me almost want to cry out in anguish, and it kills me to see her suffer through infection after infection.

No one else in our family has anything remotely similar to this condition. My wife and I are not even distant relatives, and so there was no way for us to know that we both carried the gene for this devastating condition. In fact, the mutations on my daughter's gene have never been seen before. But, I am not complaining. This is what God wanted for me, and I have to be patient.

This is why the Hajj was so invaluable. The Hajj taught me how to be patient with what God wants. I had to be patient through walking until my feet were blistered, almost being trampled to death twice, and being pushed and shoved everywhere I went. I had to be patient through sleeping most uncomfortably in the open air and praying until complete exhaustion.

Thus, after coming home and learning of my daughter's illness, I used those lessons I learned during the Hajj to help me deal with my new life reality. Had I not gone to Hajj

before finding out my daughter's diagnosis, I would have been in much worse shape emotionally.

There are many times I am tempted to say, "Why me?", but I resist this impulse. There are countless families who are going through much worse than this, and who am I to question God's Wisdom? Furthermore, whenever something good happens to me, I never ask "Why me?" I know this is a test from the Almighty, and I pray from the bottom of my heart I pass the test. This is what God wants for me, and I have to be patient.

I do not know what the future will hold for me and my family. The only thing I can do is live my life one day at a time, and use the tools the Hajj gave me to deal with having a disabled daughter. Every day I spend with her is a miracle. Every birthday we celebrate (we recently celebrated her seventh), is extremely precious. Every day I am with her is a beautiful gift from God. If, at the end of my life, the Lord God will shower me with His Mercy and admit me to Paradise so I can be with my daughter, then my life will have been a tremendous success. And everything I struggled through on earth would have been well worth it.

The above article originally appeared at <http://www.beliefnet.com>. Hesham Hassaballa is a Pulmonary and Critical Care physician currently practicing in Chicago. He is a columnist for Media Monitors Network and has written extensively for the Independent Writers Syndicate, a group of academics, journalists, and professionals who comment on issues from an American Muslim perspective. His commentaries have been published in newspapers around the country and around the world.

In addition to writing, Dr. Hassaballa helped found the Chicago chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations and has served on its executive board. He is also Coordinator of the Chicago Media Watch, an initiative of the Media Relations Committee of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago. He is author of the essay "Why I Love the *Ten Commandments*," published in the book *Taking Back Islam* (Rodale), winner of the prestigious Wilbur Award for 2003 Best Religion Book of the Year by the Religion Communicators Council.

One Time, One Sip, One Decision

Daniyal Afroz

There comes a time in every child's life where he/she is faced with dealing with alcohol. Sure parents do what is right and tell their children to stay away from alcohol, and that child might do everything in his/her power to do so. The child may be a perfect angel, but nothing can stop a child from making friends. A kid needs friends, and in this process of meeting people and getting new friends they will be faced with some kids who are not headed in the same direction that your child may be headed. It will be these kids who will make your child make the biggest decision of their life.

I have never drank alcohol in my life, but in my experiences with it I have had the same things run through my mind every time. It isn't that I am some bad high school kid who meets with other bad kids because I'm not and I don't. I wouldn't be writing for this paper if I was. When some kids run into alcohol they face a small amount of peer pressure, but not as much as some adults think. The major battle is with the child and themselves. When you look at that can, glass, or bottle you think to yourself "I know I shouldn't, but maybe nothing will happen if I do it just this one time". "What if I take

just one sip"? There are so many things that run through your mind. There is only one decision though. The decision should always be not to do it because one sip might not hurt you, but that one sip might lead to a lifetime of misery.

If you have a child, and if you have raised him/her properly then you should trust them because if there is one thing that I have learned from my life it is to trust people, and usually everyone is happier that way. Love and trust your kids, and if they know that you love them then they will try their hardest to never let you down.

Republicans View Iraq Responsible for Muslim Vote Shift

Geoffrey Fattah's article in February 9th issue of the *Deseret News*, "Muslim vote may shift to Demos", quoted Utah State Republican Party Chairman, Joe Cannon, "They would normally be our constituency, but for the small matter of Iraq I don't think there's anything we can do about that." I found it rather disturbing that the Republican leadership feels that Muslims may not vote for Republicans because of Iraq.

Perhaps the most important issues that have concerned Muslims during Bush's presidency have been the violation of civil liberties after 9/11 and the emergence of a strong neo-conservative element in Bush's presidency. When Muslims hear remarks such as reportedly made by Attorney General John Ashcroft, "Islam is a religion in which God requires you to send your son to die for him; Christianity is a faith in which God sends his son to die for you," they become fearful. To ignore this element and blame everything on Iraq is not only shortsighted but also shows a lack of interest on the part of the Republican party to reach out to Muslims.

As for the small matter of Iraq, most Muslims are probably happy to see Saddam go; however they are worried what a post Saddam Iraq would be like. Would the Iraqis be allowed to choose a leader who is concerned first and foremost for the welfare of Iraq or would they be blessed with a puppet who will empty its exchequers while remaining loyal to the U.S.? With the many data points available throughout history, the latter is most likely.

And then there is that other concern, did our administration lie about the supposed weapons of mass destruction that have yet to be found. I am all in support of having removed Saddam Hussein because he was a

menace to his people, but I wish our President would have told us that before we went to war. Also, does this mean we will now go in to every nation ruled by a dictator who is a menace to his people? There appear to be quite a few. Which one is next?

The actions of the current administration reminds us of Justice Louis Brandeis' concern that the "the greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning, but without understanding."

Nadeem Tusneem

"You can't change the world
But you can change the facts
And when you change the facts
You change points of view
If you change points of view
You may change a vote
And when you change a vote
You may change the world"

Depeche Mode

Register to Vote Today
<http://www.muslim-forum.org>

Muslim New Year

Nadeem Tusneem

February 21, 2004 marked the first day of the Islamic new year, 1425 A.H. (after Hijra). Muslims do not traditionally "celebrate" the beginning of a new year, but do acknowledge the passing of time, and take time to reflect on their own mortality.

Muslims measure the passage of time using the Islamic (*Hijrah*) calendar. This calendar has twelve lunar months, the beginnings and endings of which are determined by the sighting of the crescent moon. Years are counted since the *Hijrah*, which is when the Prophet Muhammad migrated from Mecca to Madinah (approximately July 622 A.D.).

The Islamic calendar was first introduced by the close companion of the Prophet, 'Umar ibn Al-Khattab. During his leadership of the Muslim community, in approximately 638 A.D., he consulted with his advisors in order to come to a decision regarding the various dating systems used at that time. It was agreed that the most appropriate reference point for the Islamic calendar was the *Hijrah*, since it was an important turning point for the Muslim community. After the emigration to Madinah (formerly known as Yathrib), the Muslims were able to organize and estab-

lish the first real Muslim "community," with social, political, and economic independence. Life in Madinah allowed the Muslim community to mature and strengthen, and the people developed an entire society based on Islamic principles.

The Islamic calendar is the official calendar in many Muslim countries, especially Saudi Arabia. Other Muslim countries use the Gregorian calendar for civil purposes and only turn to the Islamic calendar for religious purposes.

Muharram, the first month of the Islamic year is also one of the four sacred months. Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim says, "the best of fasts besides the month of Ramadan is the fasting of Allah's month of Muharram." Muharram also takes importance in Islam as it has the day of Ashura. This day, Moses left Egypt with the children of Israel.

Muharram is also the time when the grandson of Prophet Muhammad sacrificed his life in the pursuit of Justice. Babak Darvish touches on this in his article, Muharram, Karbala, and Imam Hussein.

A New Moral World Order

Nadeem Tusneem

The Merriam Webster Online dictionary defines marriage as either the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law, or the state of being united to a person of the same sex in a relationship like that of a traditional marriage. It goes on to say that marriage is an intimate or close union.

The Defense of Marriage Act, as proposed by President Bush, seeks to define marriage as "only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." This act will prevent homosexuals from reaping the legal benefits that a marriage may accord. However, it will not prevent them from maintaining an intimate union. It is equivalent to two people of the opposite sex having a relationship but not being married.

I am not in favor of homosexuality; in fact, I find it difficult to conceive how two people of the same gender could be in love with one another. However, I can not control their preferences. No matter what I may do to them, they will still be intimate with each other. Nor will the government by enacting the Defense of Marriage Act be able to change the feelings that two individuals of the same sex may have for each other. However, the feelings that those individuals may have for the government will probably change. They may begin to feel alienated or even discriminated against.

In a world where people don't even have to be married to have sex or have kids, marriage provides for an order in a chaotic world. It creates a sense of responsibility

between those who are intimate. It enacts a stable foundation for development of relationships. If it wasn't for marriage, we may be today living in a highly promiscuous world. These social benefits of marriage are much more important than any legal benefits that marriage provides.

In making an allowance for two men or two women to get married, the government will be able to improve the quality of social life by bringing order to a closet that has until now gone unchecked. However, by restricting two people of the same sex from getting married, the government risks opening a Pandora's box. Today, there is a ban on gay marriage; tomorrow, adultery, prostitution, drugs, and alcohol. So far so good; but that day will come when the government may not agree with our concept of morality. That is when it will hit us, how did we get here?

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The Issues That Most Matter to
you!!!**

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Kid's Corner

Sacrifice Of the Lamb

Just as the Prophet (S.A.W.), and his companions landed from their rides, and laid the loads down, it was decided that they would sacrifice a lamb for dinner.

One of the companions volunteered: "I will sacrifice the lamb."

Another: "I will skin it."

Third: "I will cook it."

Fourth: "I will...."

The Prophet (S.A.W.): "I will gather the wood from the desert."

The group: "O Messenger of Allah, it is not becoming of you to discomfort yourself as such. You rest. We will be honored to do all this on our own."

The Prophet (S.A.W.): "I know that you are eager to do it all, but Allah isn't pleased with the slave who distinguishes between himself and his companions, and considers himself better than others."

Then he went to the desert, and gathered some wood, and brought it to the group.

Moral: In Allah's eyes everyone is equal and should be treated equally no matter what their social status is.

Salaams From Great Great Grandfather

In the time of our 5th Imam, Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (AS) there lived a man called Jabir bin Abdullah.

Jabir was a pious man who was alive at the time of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

One day the Holy Prophet (SAW) told Jabir that he would be alive to see the Prophet's great great grandson Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (AS). The Holy Prophet (SAW) asked Jabir to give Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (AS) salaams from his great great grandfather, the Holy Prophet (SAW).

The Holy Prophet (SAW) passed away and Jabir remained alive for a long time just as the Prophet (SAW) had told him.

One day Jabir who was now a very old man, was visiting the house of Imam Ali Zainul Abideen (AS) when he came across a small child.

Jabir asked Imam Zainul Abideen (AS) who the child was. When Imam (AS) replied that the child was his son Muhammad Al-Baqir who was to be the next Imam, Jabir was so happy that he began to cry.

At last Jabir could give the message that he had been carrying with him for so many years.

Jabir turned to face Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (AS) and told him that his great great grandfather had asked him to pass his salaams to Imam (AS).

Moral: If you are given something to look after or pass to someone else (no matter how small) then look after it well as you are accountable for it.

Amna Sial

Hospitals

In the 9th century the very first hospital was made in Baghdad under the rule of the Abbasid Caliph Harun-ar-Rashid. After that one was completed, 5 more were built and used Greek, Persian and Indian methods of medicine during the 10th century. Because of large outbreaks of epidemics in Europe and the Middle East, another Abbasid Caliph named al-Muqtadir Billah enlarged the Health Department. Physicians went into rural areas and treated sick people in areas where no hospitals were available. Medical units were added on to jails to prevent new sicknesses from rising. Al-Muqtadir also built many hospitals including one on the bank of the Tigris River. Malpractice soon developed but was quickly put to an end after Sinan, the Inspector-General of Health required all physicians to have certificates and diplomas showing that they had the ability to do the job. Altogether during the Abbasid Caliphate there were around 34 hospitals in the Islamic world, which contained libraries that offered courses in medicine, trained physicians and treated patients.

Sami Safiullah

A Simple Smile Goes A Long Way

She smiled at a sorrowful stranger.
The smile seemed to make him feel better.
He remembered past kindness of a friend
And wrote him a thank you letter.
The friend was so pleased with the thank you
That he left a large tip after lunch.
The waitress, surprised by the size of the tip,
Gave part to a man on the street.
The man on the street was grateful;
For two days he'd had nothing to eat.
After he finished his dinner,
He left for his small dingy room.
He didn't know at that moment
that he might be facing his doom.
On the way he picked up a shivering puppy
And took him home to get warm.
The puppy was very grateful
To be in out of the storm.
That night the house caught on fire.
The puppy barked the alarm.
He barked till he woke the whole household
And saved everybody from harm.
One of the boys that he rescued
Grew up to be President.
All this because of a simple smile
That hadn't cost a cent.

...and THAT is the power of a smile! So smile away :)
Author Unknown

The editors and reporters of the Forum Monthly are always eager for new stories, fresh ideas, and original works. The *Forum Monthly* covers every subject: international, national, and community news, religion, health and science, business, media and entertainment, sports, education, cuisine, and the arts. We are also interested in analysis, commentaries, and opinions on subject areas of interest to both Muslims and non-Muslims in the the Salt Lake community. The views represented in the *Forum Monthly* do not necessarily represent the views of the Muslim Forum of Utah.

There is also a section for children called the Kids Corner. If your child has written a great story or a beautiful poem, submit it to us. If a beautiful drawing or a cartoon, we welcome it as well. If there is a book you have read, a movie you have seen, or a favorite restaurant you have visited, provide us a review. We are interested in subjects that interest you. If you are interested in being a writer for the Forum Monthly, we are interested in hearing from you. While we don't guarantee that we will publish everything that will be submitted to us, we hope that what we publish will make the *Forum Monthly* one of your favorite newsletters.

How to Submit your story or work to the Forum Monthly?

Please type your story and attach an electronic copy (text format) of your work to the e-mail addressed to: Newsletter@muslim-forum.org. Deadline for all submissions is the 15th of every month!

Forum Monthly Editors and Staff: Kirin Patel (Women's Editor), Amna Sial (Kids Page Editor), Sami Safiullah (Kids Page Columnist), Daniyal Afroz (Youth Editor), Benan Zahawi (Contributor), Asif Saberi (Editor), Babak Darvish (Editor), and Nadeem Tusneem (Editor-in-Chief)

Volunteer Corner

South Jordan Art's Council 254-1248 (Jenni Brown)

Guest Speaker Coordinator needed for an Earth Day educational fair held Friday, April 23, 2004.

Meals on Wheels 468-2456

Groups needed to deliver meals to the community's elderly. We will help you form a group of volunteers at your workplace, church or organization.

Globus ReliefFund 977-0444 (Sarah)

Help sort, process & package humanitarian aid for shipment to charities in Utah and overseas! Excellent school, scout or church group project.

Salt Lake Interfaith Hospitality Network 961-8622

Become a mentor! Work with families one hour a week.

Prisoner Information Network 359-3589 (Marianne)

Assemble and distribute hygiene kits and clothing packages, answer inmate mail, act as a legislative watchdog, etc. Hours flexible.

Cuisine Corner

Mango Bread

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour, sifted
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup oil
- 2 1/2 cups chopped mango (about 3 large)
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1/2 cup raisins

Combine first 5 ingredients. In a small bowl, beat eggs with oil and add to the flour mixture. Stir in mangos, lemon juice and raisins. Turn into 2 greased 8x4-inch loaf pans and bake at 350F (325F for glass pans) for one hour or until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Naan

- 1/2 cup homemade or store bought yogurt
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp sugar

**Submit your favorite recipe to the
Forum Monthly at:
newsletter@muslim-forum.org**

- 4 tbs butter, melted and cooled
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 pkgs quick rising yeast
- 3 1/2 cups unbleached white flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp poppy seeds or sesame seeds

Warm yogurt and stir in milk. cool. add baking soda, sugar, 2 tbs of the butter, eggs and yeast. Mix by hand until yeast dissolves. Stir in flour and salt. knead dough for 15 to 20 minutes until smooth and elastic. Cover and allow to rise 2x in size. Dust hands with flour and knead again for a few minutes. Divide into 8 balls, roll each ball into 10 inch pancake. Pull circles to get oval shape. Cover with plastic wrap, do not stack. let rest 20 minutes. Heat clay tiles and oven to 450 deg F. Mix remaining butter with seeds. flour a bread paddle and put dough on paddle. top with seed/butter mixture and slide onto oven tiles. Bake until bubbles turn golden about 4 minutes. Remove and brush bottom of loaves with water. Keep covered with plastic wrap until ready to serve.

Muharram, Karbala, and Imam Hussein: The Legacy of Prophet Muhammad's Grandson

Babak Darvish

The Islamic year begins with the month of Muharram and terminates at Dhu alHijjah. Its commencement with the month of Muharram and termination thereof with Dhu al Hijjah is an indication that the journey of religious life in Islam begins and ends with sacrifice, the implication being that a Muslims life in its entirety is molded with the intent of sacrifice. While [the month of] Dhu al Hijjah presents us with Prophet Abrahams intense love of God and an earnest desire to achieve shahadat, Muharram is an invitation to a practical witnessing [of surrender] to that shahadat by the martyr Imam Hussein. On the tenth of Dhu al Hijjah, Ishmael in his submission to God offers his head on the altar of sacrifice, but God accepts this act of submission prior to the separation of the head from the body. And on the tenth of Muharram, not just the grandson of the Prophet, but those of his kin, present their necks in resignation [out of submission] in the Heavenly courtyard of acceptance.

In the prohibitive month of Muharram, Imam Hussein, the household of prophecy [nubuwwat] accompanied with his companions [ashab] (who according to conflicting traditions number not more than 145), journey to the land of Karbala for the sake of upholding the sanctity of Gods religion, against an unjust, oppressive and dictatorial system, as they gathered to raise the standard of struggle. With the exception of the honorable ladies observing hijab and Imam Zaynul Abidin, all the honorable souls drank the cup of martyrdom. This is a momentous sacrifice in the history of mankind, which took place in the month of Muharram, and God the Almighty entered this as a sign (sha'ir) from the Muslim community [ummah] for eternity. So, the events of Karbala are not just for those who call themselves Shias but are important to every Muslim and every person of conscience.

The Event of Karbala ... Is it a mere historical happening? The martyrdom narrative and the events that transpired with Imam Hussein and the rest of his companions are duly remembered. In certain circles, this event and the martyrdom of Imam Hussein are treated as mere historical happenings liking it to the misfortunes and the mountains of hardship that befell other [mortal] beings, resulting in their martyrdom. Likewise, they regulate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, to just another historical narrative, not warranting any special merit.

Karbala in its entirety was about oppression, since it sprang from the message in the path of justice, and it sprang from the heart of reality in order to argue against that reality, to revolt against it and to change it.

This particularity has evolved over a certain period, with a rejection of its mentioning from the practical and conscious realm. There is a growing realization in the minds of people that the mention of the event of Karbala and the martyrdom of Imam Hussein lends towards Shia affiliations and is a task taken upon by them. As such, there is no importance attached towards propagating the event and martyrdom.

There is much that we can derive inspiration from in the anniversary of Imam Hussein and his martyrdom, since in his intellect which encompassed Islam, and in his heart which opened onto the human being, and in his movement which sprang from justice, goodness, and truth, he was a symbol for the meaning of a person who lived with Allah and sought inspiration from Allah for all aspects of his personality. So, when in our turn we seek inspiration from him,

it is not impossible for him to be confined to a certain time or place; nor can any one event summarize him. We have seen that some histories summarize Hussein in Karbala' and summarize Karbala' in the meaning of tragedy, and when they wish to broach the meaning of the revolution in Karbala', they limit it in a narrow circle.

How can we be a companion of The Prophet's Grandson? Whoever follows Islam and the Sunnah (Tradition) of Prophet Muhammad cannot pledge allegiance to an oppressor, or can such a person fight alongside an oppressor or excuse an oppressor or justify his oppression. Therefore, shorten your tears when they are tears of history, and let them flow when they are tears of the oppressed and downtrodden human beings. Karbala in its entirety was about oppression, since it sprang from the message in the path of justice, and it sprang from the heart of reality in order to argue against that reality, to revolt against it and to change it. Do you wish to be like The Prophet? If so, the issue is not to cry much, even though crying has its meaning. And the issue is not to mourn much and beat oneself, though that has its symbolism. Instead, the issue is to face reality in its entirety and to live that reality as Imam Hussein lived it and his family and companions lived it. They did not remain neutral in the face of the reality of oppression and arrogance. Do not move with Hussein in history; instead, move with him in reality, revolution, and change. So each of us should be Hussein, even if only one percent. Because when we live Hussein in his method, thought and spirit, and in his opening onto the issue of justice and liberty in the human being not only are we following the Sunnah (Tradition) we will find the audience of Muharram, Karbala and Imam Hussein among us today, and not just speak of its audience in 61 AH.

MUSLIM FORUM OF UTAH

Values Become Your Destiny

Mission: To improve the image and condition of the Muslim community in Utah by providing educational opportunities for Muslims and non-Muslims; foster the correct representation of Islam in the mass media; and develop and establish programs that will improve the conditions of all Utahans.

Vision: We envision a Utah where Muslims can become strong contributors to the economic, intellectual, and political growth of their communities.

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muslim forum of utah

India's Mahatma Gandhi once noted, "Keep your words positive; words become your behaviors. Keep your behaviors positive; behaviors become your habits. Keep your habits positive; habits become your values. And keep your values positive, they become your destiny."

The actions and speech of Prophet Muhammad shows how true these words are. Driven by positive values, Islam spread very rapidly from Morocco and Spain in the West to Indonesia in the East. As these values declined, so did the Islamic civilization. Today, much of the Muslim world finds itself in the clutches of corrupt and autocratic rulers, who care more for their well being than that of the people they rule over.

The lack of positive values in the Muslim world has trickled down from the leadership to the lowest levels in the society. Concerned much more with self preservation, people have not had the time to think about the principles that are important to them.

Religion is all about positive words, positive behavior, positive habits, and positive values. It is also about standing up for oneself without compromising ones principles. If as Muslims we can reach this stage, we could become strong contributors to the moral and intellectual growth of humanity.

Nadeem Tusneem

Community Calendar

March 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Women's Quran Recitation	1	2	3	4 Dua Kumail	5 Quran Study	6 Men's Swim- ming
7 Women's Quran Recitation	8	9 Convert Support Group	10	11 Dua Kumail	12 Quran Study	13 Women's Swimming
14 Women's Quran Recitation	15	16	17	18 Dua Kumail	19 Quran Study	20 Men's Swim- ming
21 Women's Quran Recitation	22	23 Utah State Caucus Meetings	24	25 Dua Kumail	26 Quran Study	27 Women's Swimming
28 Women's Quran Recitation	29	30	31			

Events for the Month of March

- Friday (Juma) Prayers
Khadija: 1:30 pm
Noor: 1:30 pm
- Swimming: At Dive Utah 4679 S.
2225 East from 2-4 pm \$3/adult and
\$1.50/child
- Quran Study at
Khadeeja: Friday 8 pm
Noor: Friday 7:30 pm
Iqra: Friday 7:30 pm
- Youth Open Discussion at Al Rasool
center around Maghrib time
- Dua Kumail at Al-Rasool on Thurs-
days at Maghrib time.
- Women's Convert Support Group:
2nd Tuesday of Each month at Whit-
more Library. 10:45 am
- Women's Friday Meeting is held at
Masjid Al Noor every Friday at 7:30
pm.

March 23, 2004

Utah Caucus Meetings For State and Local Officials

For Utah caucuses, political activ-
ists gather at neighborhood loca-
tions to vote. The caucus atten-
dees elect delegates to state and
county conventions!