

# TWELVERS

Issue 2 • November 2012 • MUHARRAM 1434

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SHEIKH JAFFER  
LADAK**

## WOMEN

**TEACHINGS OF  
ZAINAB (AS)**

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*Plus*

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The months of Muharram and Safar offer the yearly opportunity to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (SWT) and the third Imam of the Shiite Muslims, at Karbala on the tenth of Muharram in the year 61. The tragedy and heroism of the event, the resistance and self-sacrifice of the martyrs, are remembered during these days by the Shias and Sunnis alike, and by the Shias with a special ardour, fervor and enthusiasm.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the ardour and enthusiasm inspired by the martyrs of Karbala is something unsurpassed in the history of religions. No individual or group in the history of the world has attracted such sustained admiration and love in the hearts of their followers as the martyrs of Karbala and in particular the figure of Imam Hussain (AS), an admiration which has not dwindled in the course of more than thirteen and a half centuries that have elapsed since that event.

In this issue of Twelvers Magazine, we focus on the great sacrifice in the history of mankind. We also pay tribute to Bibi Zainab (AS), whose patience and firm spirit broke the tyrant’s will. We must learn from the lessons of Bibi Zainab (AS), and take care that our faith is not only on our lips, but embedded in our hearts, and embodied in our lives and characters. Bibi Zainab’s example will live on forever, to inspire those who believe.

We also had the pleasure to chat with the visiting speaker at HIC, Sheikh Jaffer Ladak of Milton Keynes, on various topics. We are very thankful to him to give us some time from his busy schedule here in Orlando.

This month’s issue also covers the five best home remedies for colds, coughs and the flu as we enter the months of changing weather here in Central Florida. We offer guidance to enrolling your child at preschool, we offer job interview tips to help prepare you to interview effectively, special kids article on who is Imam Hussain (AS), who is Imam Zain Al-Abideen (AS), and what was the purpose of their sacrifice. Under the education section, we present pharmaceutical career, its requirements and qualities.

This issue also introduces the Ahlul Bayt Society at University of Central Florida that the youths of HIC have formed, along with youths from other Centers here in Orlando.



As always the credit goes to the vibrant youths of HIC for putting together this magazine with array of articles covering the vast topics that benefits the readers. We also received lot of good feedback to our inaugural issue for which we are very grateful.

The Editorial Board is very interested to hear from its readers. Email us at [twelvers@orlandocenter.org](mailto:twelvers@orlandocenter.org) and share your thoughts about the articles. Send in your articles that will benefit the community. Send in reports of various events occurring in the Muslim world. We would like to report events happening in Jamaats all over the world.

Between this issue of Twelvers and next, many members of HIC will have the good opportunity to travel to the sacred plains of Iraq. On behalf of the Editorial Board, I wish to congratulate them for attaining such invitation and wish them safe journey and ask that you keep our community in your prayers.

The Editorial Board also would like to congratulate all the members who were fortunate to have their Hajj performed. Inshallah Hajj Kabool.

Raza Dhanji

Dear Editor

Salaams. First of all, many congratulations on embarking on this project. It was long overdue. I refer to two articles that were published in Issue #1, “President Speaks” and “We Are The Champions”. The interview with Br. Riyaaz was very intriguing. You don’t get many opportunities where our community leaders open up to various topics. I thought the questions posed to the President were fair and captivating. It was enlightening to know from him that the Management is working diligently on the Education System especially the social service team. We look forward to getting more updates in near future on this project. I also want to congratulate the Union Sports Club for their maiden victory. It seems the victory was long coming and it came with a thundering performance. I am sure along with those who played in the team that won, there were lot behind the scenes who made all this possibility. I would request a column from Union Sports Club in every issue. Thanks

Esteemed Reader  
USA

Dear Editor,

It makes me very happy to see such a good effort put together by our community to make a magazine. The last issue was both, entertaining as well as informative.

Keep up the good work! And I’m also looking forward to the next issue!

Riyaz Khalfan  
Orlando, FL

Dear Editor,

Great communications vehicle to the community. Nice work.

Amir Siddiqi  
Orlando, FL



Dear Editor

Salaams,

On behalf of the Union Sports Club of Orlando Managing Committee I would like to take this chance to thank the Twelvers magazine for including an article that covered our May Tournament. It was very well written with great pictures and brought back the memories we lived during the tournament.

Looking forward to the next issue!

Hilaal Virjee  
Orlando, FL

Dear Editor,

Condolences to you, your team, the community, and the Imam of our time on the Revolution of Kerbala. Thank you for taking on this wonderful initiative to spread the Sublime message in the many forms of media. Ideally, multiple articles which relate to the evolution of thought and movement toward the future including current events’ impact on our lives would be highly beneficial to the youth and upcoming leaders.

Praying for the success of this community.

Anonymous  
Orlando, FL



Pareen Dhalla Wins NASIMCO Scholarship

An active youth of HIC and member of Twelvers Editorial Board, Pareen Mohamed Dhalla, was one of the recipients of this year’s NASIMCO scholarships, awarded to North American communities’ youths who excel in academic and community service.

Earlier this year, NASIMCO launched its Annual Scholarships for Community Service and Academic Achievement. The aim of the scholarships is two-fold. To recognize the tremendous accomplishments of our youth in academia and to show appreciation for the services they provide to our community and to promote excellence in our future leaders.

This year the number of scholarships awarded by NASIMCO increased to ten with a total amount of \$18,000 being awarded. NASIMCO thanks the generous families and individuals who float these scholarships in the names of their dear Marhumeen and/or foundations.

Sr. Pareen Mohammed Dhalla has been selected to receive the Marhum Mohamedali Kanji Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000.00.

*The Editorial Board would like to congratulate one of our own, Pareen, for this tremendous achievement and for making our community proud. Congratulations.*

HIC Attends Legal & Financial Seminar for Non-Profit Organization

Vice President, Raza Dhanji, represented HIC at the Legal & Financial Seminar for Non-Profit Organization organized by Muslim Advocates at George Mason University in Arlington, VA..

- The topics presented during the seminar included:
- Non-Profit Governance 101: What Every Muslim Non-Profit Leader Needs to Know
  - Financial Best Practice for 501(c)(3)s and Mosques
  - Protecting Religious Land Use: What Every Religious Organization Needs to Know About RLUIPA
  - Contact from Law Enforcement: Guidance for Community Leaders
  - International Charitable transactions and Organizations
  - Employment & Immigration Law Issues in the Workplace

Eid Celebrations at Madressa

Madressa celebrated Eid-ul-Hajj, Eid-ul-Ghadeer and Eid-e-Mubahila with various activities for the students.

Eid-ul-Hajj: To help children visualize the journey of Hajj, Br. Sultan Yusufali brought to life his Hajj pictures on a power point presenting during assembly. Each Hajj ritual was explained in detail with small anecdotes to engage the students in the once in a life time experience of pilgrimage.

Eid-ul-Ghadeer: 3 sixth grade students, Khadija Nemazie, Safiya Dewji and Mariam Abdulhussein presented a small skit explaining the importance and event of Ghadeer. The students confidently conducted a Q&A session after the skit to test student’s knowledge. After Madressa, the Parents Advisory Board (PAB) organized an ice cream social event for the students. Students were able to pick their choice of ice cream from an ice cream truck parked outside the Annex. The atmosphere was eccentric, filled with happiness and excitement.

EID-e-Mubahila: For assembly, students were presented with a game of Jeopardy with questions that would enhance their learning of the auspicious events of Dhilhajj and Muharram months. The boys were exhilarated to win the Jeopardy game. 4 classes have had their own celebrations in their classrooms to mark the end of the semester and enjoying the Eid atmosphere prevalent at the Center.

Madressa Celebrates the “Kiddos” of Classroom (Class 1)

Madressa has a large group of 15 class one students for the year 2012-20113. They have the privilege of occupying the newly renovated classroom. The renovation was possible by the tireless effort of the HIC Managing Committee and many other hardworking members of the community. The classroom is fully furnished with activity tables, shelves and comfy chairs for the little bodies. In addition, a nice roof over the stairs was installed to keep the students dry and safe. The teachers and assistants are grateful to HIC for their efforts and were excited to have such a dynamic group of students this year.

ALLENTOWN

SIJPA Jamaat Holds Madressa Teacher Training

On Sunday, August 26, 2012, Al-Ahad Madressah held a Teacher Development Seminar.

The seminar was conducted by Br. Brian Anthony. The seminar was offered to SIJPA membership at large, as well as the madressah teachers. Twenty- six members attended the seminar.

During this interactive seminar, participants learned how to prepare a lesson plan using concepts in contemporary education design to make the effort of learning more fun and meaningful for the students. Participants learned the concept of multiple intelligences, the idea that the mind has many functions and there are many ways to learn and explore concepts and information and many ways to express our thoughts and ideas.

NEW JERSEY

Controlling Nafs al-Ammarah Seminar

Mission Possible: Controlling Nafs al-Ammarah” was the title of the seminar held by Masjid-e-Ali New Jersey, on Sunday September 30th. While the event was open to the whole community, it was organized by and geared towards the youth.

Speakers included Syed Rizwan Rizvi, Syed Ammar Naqshawani, Dr. Farooq Bandali and Sr. Nicole Correr. The opening talk was presented by Syed Rizwan Rizvi who spoke of how Islam prescribes spirituality as a barrier against illicit carnal desires.

Thereafter, the program was split into three workshops: “Drugs and Alcohol Abuse”, “Domestic Abuse: Prevention and Support” and “Media’s role in Sexual Perversion”.

The program ended with a presentation by Sayed Ammar where he emphasized the role of hijab for both men/women and discussed the risks associated with its absence through the use of examples in Islamic history

MINNESOTA

NASIMCO Youth Retreat

The 3rd NASIMCO Annual Youth Leadership Retreat was held in Minnesota over Labor Day weekend. 25 participants and five facilitators came from across North America to take

part in a jam-packed weekend.

All the retreat activities aimed to fulfill the following goals:

- Enable participants to explore assumptions, beliefs and attitudes about themselves and their environment
- Develop the capacity for social and political leadership
- Facilitate spiritual and social upliftment of youth
- To enable the youth to realize their full potential

The retreat focused on the concept of ‘Thinking Outside the Box’. Activities included brainstorming common barriers that prevent youth from taking up active roles within their Islamic Centers, community labor, discussions on power and privilege, ongoing reflections on the Qur’an and concluded with formal presentations on the projects they worked on throughout the retreat.

MINNESOTA

Interfaith Food Packing at Kids Against Hunger

On Tuesday, October 9th, JIC joined Beth Shalom Synagogue, Union Congregational Church, and Brooklyn United Methodist Church for an interfaith food packing event from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Kids Against Hunger location in New Hope. 60 participants took part and packaged over 5,000 meals together for the children of the Philippines. We would like to thank all who participated

LOS ANGELES

SIJLA Members Participate in Fund Raising Walk

On September 22nd, a team comprising of members from the Shia Ithnasheri Islamic Jamaat of Los Angeles took part in a fundraiser walk for people with Alzheimer’s. The Muslim Memory Walkers was founded by Yasmin Kermalli in 1997. She has been motivated to continue walking until the Alzheimer’s Association reaches its ultimate goal: a world without Alzheimer’s.

To celebrate 15 years of support, the Muslim Memory Walkers raised about \$4,000 this year. 33 team members, including members of SIJLA (Shi’a Ithna’Asheri Islamic Jamaat of Los Angeles) and other centers in Los Angeles, participated in the walk on Saturday morning. This year, many walkers also attended a workshop organized by Mehdi Reza Hirji that focused on educating the general public about three main aspects of Alzheimer’s.



TORONTO

Mullah Asghar Memorial Library and Center (MARC) - Hajj Exhibition: From Ritual to Spiritual

Saturday, September 15. 2012 marked the opening of the Hajj Exhibition in Toronto, Canada. Over eight months in preparation, the team at MARC, has designed this exhibition to convey the deeply personal experience of Hajj - a journey of a lifetime, which touches the heart and transforms the pilgrim. The exhibition covers the route, rituals and rationale of this journey, with sounds and scenes to emphasize its spiritual awareness. At its inauguration, hundreds of visitors, young and old, from all faith communities were invited to deepen their understanding of the significance and history of the Hajj through numerous displays and presentations. Visitors were transported to the year 1325 as they viewed the epic journey of Ibn Battuta, one of the most famous travelers in history captured in the IMAX movie Journey to Mecca in the footsteps of Ibn Battuta.

The Vice President of the World Federation. Alhajj Munawwar Ratansi was accompanied by the President of NASIMCO Alhajj Gulam Najafi and President of Toronto Jamaat , Alhajj Ali Raza Rajani at the inauguration.

KITCHENER

Governance Seminar by NASIMCO

On Saturday, October 13, a Governance Seminar by NASIMCO was held at the Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of Kitchener-Waterloo (ISIAJ-KW), Ontario. The seminar is offered to all new committees and boards within NASIMCO member Jamaats. Its primary aim is to teach the meaning of service to the community as well as elaborating on legal rights and responsibilities.

The seminar held at the ISIAJ-KW was attended by the Executive Committee and Madressah of the Jamaat. It began with a tour of the centre and a meet and greet. NASIMCO facilitator, Br Mujtaba Dato, then made a presentation specifically catered to the Jamaat, touching on their constitution and history, Canadian non-profit law, demographics and other administrative requirements.

Feedback from the participants showed that the seminar was both informative and enlightening. They felt the delivery was professional and interactive and that it invoked the spirit of service in everyone, whether a newcomer to the EC or a long

standing patron of the Jamaat.

BRAMPTON

Community Member Receives Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal

Syed Abbas, of Brampton, received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for his commitment to community service including being a member of the Special Olympics swim team, the smile organization and several other community groups.

Recipients of the award must have made significant contributions to Canada or to a particular province, territory, region or community within Canada, or have an outstanding achievement abroad that has brought great credit to Canada. They must also be citizens or permanent residents of Canada.

PORTSMOUTH

Unifying Against Film “Innocence of Muslims”

Local Christian and Muslim leaders have joined forces to condemn the film recently made in America that expresses strong, anti-Islamic sentiments – and to condemn violent responses in various parts of the world.

The local leaders of four Christian denominations, and Muslim leaders from mosques and Islamic centres in Fareham and Portsmouth urged peaceful responses to the short online film ‘Innocence of Muslims’ that denigrates the Prophet Mohammed.

Protests against the film have continued in numerous countries such as Pakistan, Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia over the past week. A number of people have died including the US Ambassador to Libya, who was killed in Benghazi after demonstrators fired a grenade at the embassy.

The joint statement from Christian and Muslim leaders said that violent demonstrations were playing into the hands of those who wished to attack Islam.

DAR-ES-SALAAM

KSII Hayaat Fitness Center - A Roaring Success

Long overdue, the Youth affairs committee of Dar-es-salaam Jamaat launched an ambitious project of constructing a gym on top of the Imambara on the 3rd floor. In April of 2012, the gym opened its doors to both gents and ladies with a fanfare.

After 12 months of hard work and initiative, the chairman of the youth committee, Shane-Abbas Jessa and his committee, successfully launched a fully equipped gym with modern up to date facilities.

Initially designed to be a functional gym facility, Hayaat fitness center, has blossomed into a multi purpose center offering, a gym, Aerobics, Tae Bo and Yoga classes throughout the year. The center has also incorporated the 4th floor into a badminton court with future plans to expand into basketball and tennis court.

The fitness center has become a hub for youth, children and adults spending their evenings enjoying quality time with their children and friends playing table tennis, foosball, pool and carom besides the above mentioned activities.

Hayaat Fitness Center’s progressive general manager Mr. Zahir Somji (member of HIC) is on a crusade to bring awareness within the community of the advantages of a healthy lifestyle including regular vigorous exercise, healthy diet and avoidance of harmful habits. Through his regular up dates via mass e-mail to the entire community, Zahir has raised awareness through his probing questions of how our norms, like serving oily food for tabarruk while living in a tropical country rife with fresh fruit and juice, are not conducive to our health.

MOMBASA

Jamaat Launches Website to Honor Mombasa Marhumeen

On Friday 12 October 2012, the Mombasa Jamaat was proud to launch an interactive website [www.msamarhumeen.com](http://www.msamarhumeen.com) – this date corresponded to 25th Mahe Zilqaad, 1433 which is the auspicious day of Dahwul Ardh also known as Earth Day. The website is in honour of the many great personalities who made Mombasa their home over the past century, and who made Mombasa the culturally rich city it is today.

Great importance is given to visiting the graves of those no longer with us; Imam Jaffer-as-Sadiq (a.s.) has said: “Marhumeen recognize you (when you visit them) and feel lonely when you leave them”. It is because of this, our Jamaat has maintained its century old tradition of visiting the graveyard every Thursday and on other auspicious days to give the deceased our gift of Dua.

The website, with its clean and intuitive site-design allows users worldwide to search for the burial locations of marhumeen buried in Mombasa, as well as an easy to navigate menu with a wealth of information for members of the community. Finding the graves of any of the Marhumeen buried in Mombasa will now be much easier for those living in Mombasa as well as visitors to our beautiful city. The website, which has been extremely well received, offers its users multiple search functionality - including searching by location, grave number as well as first and last names.

SOUTH AFRICA

Women in Science Awarded Fellowships

On 24 August 2012, the Ministry of Science and Technology awarded Nargis Khatoon and Summaiya Thawer with a fellowship. Nargis and Summaiya were chosen among the 6 outstanding scientists across South Africa in the Masters category.

Every year the South African Ministry of Science & Technology, awards 6 outstanding Scientists at different levels (Researchers, Phds, and Masters) across South Africa. Mrs Naledi Pandor, The Minister of Science and Technology, is personally there to award the fellowships.

MELBOURNE

Professor Syed Masood - Shaping the Manufacturing Industry of Australia

Dr Syed Masood is a very respected and active member of the Panjtan Society of Victoria (PSV) in Melbourne, Australia. He has been the President of the PSV on numerous occasions, and has been teaching in the PSV Madressa for many years. He is currently serving as one of the Trustees.

Dr. Masood has recently been recognized for his recent breakthrough in which he has developed a technique to speed up the process for manufacturing metal parts. He has experimented with the composition of metal tools that manufacturers use to produce objects such as car components.

Professor Masood says 3D printing has many uses and will revolutionise fields such as construction and healthcare.

He expects 3D printers will be used in the future to reproduce body parts, including hips and even organs, in exact proportions to fit the patient. “Complexity is not a problem,” he says. “This is all very revolutionary technology.”

# TORONTO MADRESSA EXONERATED

ADDRESS BY ISIJ TORONTO PRESIDENT - ALIRAZA RAJANI

Maulana Rizvi, Respected Scholars, My Elders, Brothers and Sisters,  
Salamun aalikum warah mahtullilahi wabarakkatoou.

On this auspicious occasion of Eid e Mubahillah I wish you one and all - Eid Mubarak

By the grace of the Almighty I am also extremely pleased to advise you that at our meeting today with the York Regional Police announced that, after having conducted a thorough investigation, ISIJ and the East End Madrassah have been completely exonerated with respect to the complaint filed by Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center (Canada).

Obviously, this is very good news, and we are very pleased with the outcome. It has been a very difficult number of months for all of us – and it is a great relief to have this burden now lifted.

The police, in their official report, were very complimentary and appreciative of the co-operation that ISIJ demonstrated in the course of their investigation. And I think it's important that everyone know that the police treated us with great courtesy and politeness throughout the entire process.

I know how frustrating and hurtful this situation has been for all of us. We were publicly accused of terrible things. We were vilified by some in the media and by those pre-disposed to present Muslims in a negative light, playing on hurtful

stereotypes.

And, as the police rightly concluded, the whole thing was unfounded.

It's hard to keep your head down when under fire like that. It would have been easy to fire back. But now that the matter has been put to rest, we need to look back at how we handled it.

We followed the advice of our leaders, our legal counsel, our crisis team and other advisers. We took the high road. We made clear from the outset that we were innocent of any deliberate wrongdoing. The Madressah immediately removed the material from its website and subsequently issued an apology for any offense taken – even knowing that none had been deliberately caused. And we co-operated fully with the police.

And today I can tell you that our approach was absolutely the right one.

The police made clear to us that our level of openness and co-operation, and the immediate and unreserved apology that was issued at the outset, were very important factors in their determination that we held no malice toward the Jewish community.

Are we frustrated by the actions of the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center? Absolutely.

As soon as they advised us of their complaint, we offered to meet and discuss their concerns. They refused. Instead, they went to the media and the matter was sensatiolized. Then, they went to the police. They set in motion a very hurtful, very disruptive and very expensive investigation – one which further reinforced negative views among those who are pre-disposed to view our community with suspicion. And, as the police today confirmed, all of it was unfounded. We have been



completely cleared.

Notwithstanding their position on the matter, I will be writing to the President of the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center to make all of these points clear, and to express our profound disappointment with their organization and its actions.

I don't expect them to apologize. But they will certainly get the message.

And now it is up to us to spread the message throughout our community and to our neighbours that we have been completely cleared of wrongdoing by the police.

And it is also up to us to put this unfortunate chapter behind us, at the same time we have to take lessons from this to make sure that all our activities and processes are in accordance with the law and local sensitivities.

We have to give thanks to our community leaders and others for their hard work and wise counsel in managing this issue. Their course was the right one. The result is the one we have been praying for. Now is the time to give thanks – and to move on.

The EC would like to thank the Association of Canadian Muslims and Jews, Canadian Muslim Lawyers Association, Retired Chief of Police, York Region Armand La Barge, Dr Karen Mock, Noor Cultural Centre Samira Lakhani, Imam Abdul Hai Patel, Ihsaan Gardee, Council American-Islamic Relations - Canada and others who stood by us steadfastly during the crisis.

On a personal note my sincere thanks and gratitude go to the members of the crisis team namely Maulana Syed Muhammad Rizvi, Shabbir Jeraj, Habib Meghjee, Hasina Alidina, Mazahair Dhirani, Nazir Gulamhussein, Ghulam Sajan, Shiraz Sheriff, Akil Karim, Razaak Damani, Shehnaz Kermali, Bashir Versi, Sabi Ahsan, Fatema Dada, Masuma Jessa, Anees Fazal, & the rest of the EEM team, and last but not least to Shafiq Ebrahim for his leadership of the crisis team and bringing much needed external resources to bear that helped us shepherd this matter to its rightful conclusion.

Wasalaamun alaikum warah mahtullilahi wabarakkatoou.

//  
*at our meeting today with the York Regional Police announced that, after having conducted a thorough investigation, ISIJ and the East End Madrassah have been completely exonerated."*



# STANMORE HUJJAT WITHDRAWS

## STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWEL FROM COEJ

Further to the message of 20th October, we wish to inform you of the reasons and history behind the Executive Committee’s decision.

### HISTORY

The matter of our fair and equitable representation in Council of European Jamaats has been an issue since the new Constitution was formulated in 2007. Under the new Constitution, the London Jamaat’s representation was reduced to one seat in the Council of thirty.

As a consequence of this, our influence on policies and in decision making within CoEJ has been completely curtailed. This unfortunate matter has been recognised and debated by successive London Jamaat Executive Committees. In 2010, the then President of London Jamaat, Sheikh Mustafa Jaffer presented a fair resolution requesting four additional Council seats, but this was totally rejected. The motion was defeated in spite of Mustafabhai and members of his committee visiting and talking to some individual Jamaats explaining the rationale.

It is crucial to appreciate that requesting additional representation is not for reasons of power or veto, but is a reasonable, fair and an equitable request. If we were to demand proportional representation, then we would expect to have at least fifty percent of the Council seats, if not more, due to our large population which makes up close to fifty percent of our Community in Europe. Four additional seats can hardly be construed as unreasonable. If one looks at Africa Federation, the oldest established Federation within

our Community, it will be noted that Dar es Salaam Jamaat has a much bigger share of the seats and votes than any other Jamaat. One cannot argue that the system in Africa is different to that in the West, since NASIMCO too has a similar structure where Toronto Jamaat likewise has a bigger representation.

### ACTION PLAN

When the current EC came into office a few months ago, the President Shabirbhai Mamdani met with Alhaj Ahmedbhai Dungersi and Dr Husein Jiwa the CoEJ President, to discuss London Jamaat’s representation in CoEJ. It was suggested by Dr Jiwa and Ahmedbhai that as the previous request by Sheikh Mustafa Jaffer for four additional seats had been defeated in the Council, on this occasion London Jamaat applies for two additional seats, which if successful would result in our representation becoming three seats out of thirty two, as opposed to the current one seat out of thirty. Again, it should be noted that such a request would be extremely modest and reasonable.

On this basis, the London Jamaat submitted three Constitutional amendments. Dr Jiwa and Shabirbhai embarked on consultation with other Jamaats seeking support for the London Jamaat resolutions. They visited Hyderi and Peterborough Jamaats, had a conference call with Birmingham Jamaat, Dr Jiwa telephoned Leicester and Milton Keynes Jamaats, and Shabirbhai spoke on telephone with Milton Keynes Jamaat. All the Jamaats showed strong support for the Resolutions, except that the Birmingham Jamaat did not agree on one of the three Resolutions, and

asked for time to consider.

### THE CONFERENCE

At the Conference on 6th October 2012, it was unfortunate that except for Hyderi and Peterborough Jamaats, all the other Jamaats reneged on the agreement reached previously. All the three Resolutions were defeated. This was rather disappointing, especially as the Jamaats had been consulted not only by Shabirbhai, but by Dr Jiwa as well, the President of CoEJ.

We were disconsolate that once again our application to have fairer representation had failed, a sentiment that was also echoed by Alhaj Ahmedbhai Dungersi. The Hyderi delegation felt the same way. It was agreed both our ECs would discuss the situation and take appropriate joint action. Soon after the meeting, the leadership of CoEJ issued a statement stating that the outcome of the conference was, in the long term, not in the best interest of CoEJ, yet nothing was done to prevent this unjust outcome during the conference.

### AFTERMATH

On 8th October, Shabirbhai received a telephone call from Dr Liaket Dewji, President of Hyderi informing him that Hyderi EC had resolved unanimously to withdraw from CoEJ until such time as there is a Constitutional Conference of CoEJ and a new Constitution based on fair representation is adopted. Our office bearers met to discuss the situation and agreed we should follow the same course, but only if approved by the EC. Years of talking and proposing constitutional amendments had not yielded any fair or equitable results. A special EC meeting, which requires a 10 day notice, was then convened for 19th October. At that meeting, after careful consideration and

robust deliberation, the EC decided unanimously to withdraw from CoEJ. Unfortunately after the meeting concluded, we had a text from Dr Dewji saying due to pressure from CoEJ and World Federation officials, they had rescinded their decision to withdraw, which was surprising, considering that just an hour before our EC meeting commenced, Dr Dewji had confirmed that Hyderi Jamaat was awaiting Hujjat Jamaat’s decision and both Jamaats would withdraw membership simultaneously. Our decision, in any case, was independent to that of Hyderi.

### WAY FORWARD

We believe that a meeting of all European Jamaats is scheduled for some time in December, although we are not certain under what Constitutional Clause, what the agenda is likely to be or for that matter how binding would the decision of such a meeting be.

We strongly believe in the unity and structures of our communal institutions and are fully committed to a future both within CoEJ and WF. We sincerely hope that common sense, fairness and equality prevail at the CoEJ deliberations in December and decisions made which would be conducive for us to once again join CoEJ, and play our rightful role.

We trust that this gives you a much better picture of the unfortunate events. We will keep you informed of any further developments in this matter

With salaams and duas

Lyakat Jaffer  
Hon Secretary  
For and on behalf of the Executive Committee

*We sincerely hope that common sense, fairness and equality prevail at the CoEJ deliberations in December and decisions made which would be conducive for us to once again join CoEJ, and play our rightful role.”*



Muharram/Safar: Moving Forward

By Irfan Karim

Another new year is upon us, and unlike most other traditions, this particular New Year brings us grief and sadness. While the reason for this sorrowful mood is apparent, we have to take a step back and ask ourselves if these Muharram/ Safar traditions really do impact our lives and if they do, to what extent? Vibrant and spiritually uplifting programs are in store for the upcoming months. Be it our guest speakers, Sheikh Jaffer Ladak and Zakira Rabab Askari, youth programs such as discussions and blood drives, children’s workshops, or recitations of marsia and nawha, there is little doubt that the message of Aba Abdillah remains alive in our hearts. However, will our chest beating and tears have an impact on our souls for the rest of the year, or will we blindly follow traditions and end up resorting to our old ways?

While there are countless examples of loyalty, faithfulness, and bravery we can take from Karbala, a few examples are worth noting. When he was left stranded on the plains of Karbala on the day of Ashura, Imam Hussein did not let the time of prayer become something of less importance. If there ever was a time and place where someone had an excuse to postpone prayers, this would have been it. However, despite having a role model like Hussein, we all insist on making excuses to delay prayers, regardless of how meaningless our pretenses may be.

Another example is that of forgiveness; when the killer of Hazrat Ali Akber came to our fourth Imam and asked for a place to stay, our Imam, knowing who this man was, treated him like a guest, despite knowing of his previous despicable acts.

We should now move forward and apply such lessons to our daily lives. We often act out of our own interests, and the example of Sakina bringing her younger brother’s interests before her own is one that is forgotten. If our actions are to be accepted in these moths, there is no doubt that they have to come with a realization of the mission’s bigger picture.

We all must reflect on an individual and community basis, and take away lessons from this tragedy in order to make our actions fruitful and meaningful. Regardless of age and/ or

gender, an example lies for each of us among those present in Karbala. From the baby Aliasghar, to the infant Sakina, going to the youthfulness of Qasim, Aun, Muhammad, and Ali Akber, to the loyalty of Hazrat Abbas, and the faithfulness and patience of Bibi Zainab and Kulsum, there is nowhere we can turn to for better role models.

Our culture has, Alhamdulillah, taught us the love of the Ahlul Bayt, which is why we continue to commemorate the tragedy of Karbala year after year. However, the time has come, especially in a day and age when our youth question our practices, to focus on the bigger picture. Do we shed tears only because of the gruesome details that describe the death of the martyrs? Or do we cry for the real reason behind Imam Hussein’s sacrifice? Do we really strive to shun everything Yazid stood for and uphold everything Hussein stood for?

Imam Hussain’s Sacrifice: Shock and Awe Therapy for Civilization

By Husain Jaffer

Mankind currently lives in an era of religious evolvement that has created a large divide on how people view life. Various sects of Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and other faiths continue to form; creating considerable number of gaps amongst them. Regardless of the truth being evident, society has opted to cover-up history in an attempt to shape the present as well as the future for worldly gains. However, despite 1400 years of history after the demise of Prophet Muhammad (a.s.), one event of valor/sacrifice still remains in the heart of every Shiite Muslim in the 21st century and is an inerasable event universally accepted by humankind-the sacrifice of his grandson Imam Husain in Karbala.

In an era where constant attempts are made to distort morals and virtues for human beings to abide by, Imam Husain’s sacrifice has firmly held up the doctrine of faith for those who seek the code of living a pure life. Below are excerpts of an article titled “Husain-the Universalist” written by the late Sayyid Ali Mahdi, an eloquent poet and writer:

“If the moral standards of human behavior were as high as they were in the person of Husain the world would be a better place to live in, is the obvious interference. His incredible cool and superhuman moral courage to achieve his mission stirs our deepest emotions. His exemplary conduct,

throughout, and adorable conscience tore Yazid’s monstrous designs to shreds. The virtuous people will continue to do their duty to maintain righteousness in the world and in this they are entitled to universal recognition and support. Husain’s acceptance of persecution in the cause of humanity was most convincing and moving proof of God’s immanence in men. He was a man par excellence who maintained the highest standards set by the martyrs and heroes of all ages. With a courage that was more than human he managed to leave a message to the entire world: ‘Do not submit to exploitation, of any kind; maintain a tenacious grip over a city; better die with honor than live in shame’. He surely deserves universal recognition. ‘He is an immortal heir of Universal praise’...

He was the odor of sanctity, the beauty of holiness. Here is a resolute hero, well past the prime of life, who prepared to brace himself to confront the lurking menace of the acrimonious campaign of the powerful Caliph- to forestall a social and moral disaster...

The conflict between good and evil remains perpetual. Both persist in their efforts to sustain. We are besieged by irresistible evil forces. We helplessly oscillate between the two and find ourselves pathetically bogged down in this quagmire. But somehow “the foot prints’ of Husain, ‘On the sand of time’, show us the way...

He administered a shock treatment, to achieve this aim, the world of Islam came out of the deep slumber, with a jolt, as a direct result of his sacrifice. He deployed a singular strategy; lost the battle yet won the campaign. The total effect was immensely impressive all of which stemmed from his steadfastness that is to faithfulness to the religious principles. Husain established a new moral and religious consensus to which even most of his opponents felt constrained to make obeisance.”

As you’ve seen through the excerpts in Sayyid Ali Mahdi’s article, Imam Husain provided that electric jolt to steer mankind towards goodness and morality. No soul can erase his legacy for eternity for his actions are an unalterable footprint in history.

Humans use logic and proofs as a standard practice to develop standard principals in a variety of subject matters. Here is one for thought: Recently some media material against Prophet Muhammad (a.s) surfaced to discredit his

beloved personality that created a lot of uproar throughout the world. One can only ask: how can such horrid accusations have any merit after being informed of the calculated shock and awe treatment gifted by his grandson, Imam Husain, for humankind?

Fiqh Corner

Courtesy of www.sistani.org

**Question** : I have a question about Matam (Azadari) and the manner our people are holding Muharram rituals.

**Answer** : It is not appropriate of the mourners to violate the commemoration method received by the righteous predecessors (Salaf-e Saleh) in mourning the martyrdom of the Lord of Martyrs, Imam Husain (a.s.).

**Question** : Is mourning for Imam Hussain and other Infallibles (a.s.) recommended?

**Answer** : Yes, it is recommended and God will reward those who sincerely revive their memories and commemorate their martyrdom?

**Question** : What is the philosophy of Azadari (mourning and lamentation) for Imam Husain?

**Answer** : There is no doubt that the tragedy of Kerbala, when ascribed to the killers, is a criminal and terrible act. However when ascribed to Husain (A) himself, it represents a conscious confrontation and a courageous resistance for a sacred cause. The whole nation had failed to stand up to Yazid. They had succumbed to his will, and deviation and regression towards the pre-Islamic ways were increasing.

Passiveness by Husain (A) in this situation would have meant the end of Islam as we know it. Thus Husain (A) took upon himself the responsibility of the whole nation. The greatest tragedy was that one who stood up for the noblest of causes, the defense of Islam, was cut down in so cruel a manner.

It is for this reason that the sacrifice of Husain (A) is commemorated annually throughout the Muslim world. Our sorrow never abates as we relive the tragedy.

The commemoration of Ashura on the 10th of Muharram every year serves to remind us of the sacrifices of the family of the Prophet (S). It also makes us aware of the people, then and now, who tried to destroy Islam and the family of the Prophet (PBUH) and all that they stood for - as well as those who watched, listened and did nothing.

# ROUTE OF IMAM HUSSAIN (AS) FROM MAKKAH TO KARBALA

Courtesy of Syed M. R. Shabbar

**1.** Saffah: Here Imam met Farazzdaq the poet whom Imam asked about conditions in Kufa. He said, ‘He said, ‘People’s hearts were with you but their swords were against you.’ Imam replied, ‘Allah does what he wishes. I leave it to him who proposes the just cause.

**2.** Dhat-el-Irq: Here Imam’s cousin Abdullah Ibne Jafar brought his two sons Auwn and Mohammed to their mother Hazrat Zainab and to help the imam. He tried to persuade the Imam to return to Madina but Imam replied, ‘my destiny is in the hands of Allah.’

**3.** Batn-er-Rumma: Imam sent a letter to Kufa with Qais bin Mashir, met Abdullah bin Mutee who came from Iraq. When he heard of Imam’s intention, he tried to stop him. He said Kufans were not faithful and could not be trusted. But Imam continued his journey.

**4.** Zurud: Imam met Zohair Ibne Qain. Zohair was not among the followers of Ahlulbait. But when Imam told him of the purpose of his journey Zohair gave all his possessions to his wife, told her to go home and said that he wished to be martyred with the Imam.

**5.** Zabala: Imam learnt from two tribesmen coming from Kufa of the death of Hazrat Muslim. Imam said, ‘Innan Lillahe wa Inna Elaihe Rajeeon. Indallah-Nahtasib Anfusana.’ ‘We are for Allah and we shall

return to Him who surely accounts for our sacrifices. Asadi Tribesmen tried to dissuade the Imam from his journey but he persisted. Here Imam told his companions the news of the death of Muslim and Hani and that people in Kufa were not prepared to be their helpers. Imam said, ‘Those who want to depart leave now.’ Hords of various tribesmen who had followed the Imam in the hope of collecting the booty realised their false hopes and scattered to their own homes. Only 50 odd people remained.

**6.** Batn-e-Aqeeq: Imam met a man from the Tribe of Akrama who told him that Kufa was no more a friendly town and was now surrounded by Yazid’s army. No one could get in or out of the town. But the Imam carried on.

**7.** Sorat: Imam stayed the night here and in the morning ordered his companions to take as much water as they can.

**8.** Sharaf: While the Imam was passing from this place, one of his companions shouted that he could see the approach of an army. Imam asked for a safe place, preferably a mountain behind them. A guide took them to the nearest mountain.

**9.** Zuhasm: It was here that Imam met Hurr’s army of 1000 men. They were thirsty so Imam ordered his men to give them water. Imam himself helped several thirsty soldiers to drink. Even animals were given water to drink. Zohr prayers were led by the Imam and all followed him including Hurr’s soldiers. Here Imam told Hurr about many letters from Kufa. He said, ‘O People of Kufa, you sent me your delegations and wrote me letters that you had no Imam and that I should come to

After leaving Makkah there were 14 places mentioned in history books where Imam either stayed Or met people or gave sermons.

unite you and lead you in the way of Allah. You wrote that we Ahlulbait are more qualified to govern your affairs than those who claim things to which they have no right and act unjustly and wrongly. But if you have changed your mind, have become ignorant of our Rights and have forgotten your promises, I shall turn back. But he was denied to turn back by Hurr’s army and was lead to by-pass Kufa.

**10.** Baiza: Imam reached Baiza the next day and delivered one of his most famous sermons. ‘O People, the Prophet has said that if a man sees a tyrannical ruler transgressing against Allah and the Prophet and oppressing people but does nothing by word or action to change the situation then it will be just for Allah to place him where he deservingly belongs. Do you not see to what low level the affairs have come down...? Do you not observe that truth has not adhered to and falsehood has no limit? And as for me, I look upon death as but a means of attaining martyrdom and I consider life among transgressors as nothing but an agony and an affliction.’

**11.** Uzaibul Hajanat: Here Imam stayed away from the army of Hurr and met Trimmah bin Adi. After having learnt about the Kufan abandonment of his envoy it was clear that he had no hope of support or even survival in Kufa. Nevertheless he refused an offer of safety, if not success extended to him. Trimmah pleaded to him to accept the offer of 20,000 trained men of his tribe to help him if he wanted to go to Kufa or he could retire to the mountains and safety. Imam replied to Ibne Adi, ‘Allah bless you and your people. I cannot go from my word. Things are destined. It is clear from this reply that he was fully aware of the dangers he would face and that he had a certain strategy and plan in mind to bring about a revolution in the conscience of the Muslim Ummah. He did not try to mobilise

military support which he could easily have done in Hejaz nor did he try to exploit whatever physical strength was available to him.

**12.** Qasr-e-Bani Makatil: It was evident here that Kufa was no more his destination. As Hurr did not want to leave him, he by-passed Kufa and took a new route. Resting in the afternoon he uttered ‘Inna Lillah.’ His 18 years old son Ali Akber approached him and enquired. Imam said that in his sleep he had heard someone saying that these people were going to their deaths. Ali Akber asked, ‘Are we not on the Right path. Death meant nothing to them. Death of this kind transforms into the glory of martyrdom.

**13.** Nainawa: At this place a messenger of Ibne Zaid brought a message for Hurr not to leave the Imam. The battered caravan passed through Ghaziriya to a place called Karbala. Imam sighed, asked for the name of the place. Someone said Kerbala. Imam said, yes, this is the place of Kerbin-wa-bala. (a place of pain and torture.) Let us stop here for we have arrived at our destination. This is the place of our Martyrdom. This is Karbala.

**14.** Karbala: On the orders of the Imam, the tents were erected near the river which was a tributary of the River Eupheretes some miles away.

Poem By Al-Farazdaq

# POEM ON IMAM ZAINUL ABEDEEN (AS)

By: Mohamedraza Janmohamed

This is the descendant of Husayn and son of Fatim, daughter of the Messenger through whom darkness scattered.  
This is he whose ability the valley (of Mecca), recognizes, and whom the (Sacred) House recognizes (as do) the sanctuary and the area outside the sanctuary (al-hill).  
This is the son of the best of all Allah’s servants. This is the pure pious man, the pure eminent man.  
When Quraysh saw him, their spokesman said: Generosity leads to the noble qualities of this (man).  
He belongs to the zenith of glory which the Arabs of Islam  
When he comes to touch the corner of the wall of the Kaaba, it almost grasps the palm of his hand.  
He lowers (his eyes) because of modesty and (eyes are) lowered due to his solemnity. Hence (none) speaks with him but when he smiles.  
In his hand there is a cane whose smell is fragrant because of the hand of the one who is wonderful and noble.  
The prophets are indebted to the outstanding merits of his grandfather, and the nations are indebted to the excellencies of his nation.  
The light of guidance comes out of the light of his forehead (which) is like the sun whose rising scatters the dark.  
His plant (origin) is derived from the Messenger of Allah. Its elements, nature, and qualities are good.  
This is the son of Fatima, if you do not recognize him, the prophets of Allah were sealed through his grandfather.  
Allah had already honored him, and his excellencies occurred through that in the tablet of the pen.  
Your words ‘who is this’ do not harm, the Arabs and non-Arabs recognize him whom you deny.  
Both his hands are relief; their profit is general; they are equal hands; deprivation does not befall them.

He is the carrier of the burdens of the peoples when they are overburdened. His merits are pretty; ‘yes’ is pleasant with him.  
He does not break promise; blessed is his soul; his courtyard is ample; he is brilliant when he determines.  
(He is) from the people whose love is religion; whose hate is unbelief; nearness to them is refuge and protection.  
If the Allah-fearing are numbered, they are their Imams, or (if) it is said, who is the best of the world’s inhabitants?, it is said, they are.  
None of the generous can (access) their far-fetched objectives, nor can people vie with them (in generosity) even if they are generous.  
They are rain when a crisis is intense and lions, the lions of a forest, when war is violent.  
Poverty does not decrease their munificence. It is the same for them whether they are rich or poor.  
Evil and tribulation are pushed away through love for them, and through it kindness and blessings are regained.  
Their remembrance is advanced in every affair after the remembrance of Allah, and words are sealed through it.  
(Their) noble natures and their hands full of liberality do not allow abasement to occur in their courtyard.  
Which creature is excluded from the priority and favors of this (Imam)?  
Whoever thanks Allah thanks the priority of this (Imam in belief in Allah), for nations have attained religion from the House of this (Imam)

# PRESCHOOL: BABY STEP

By: Pareen Dhalla



**A**s a teacher in the Little Rams Learning Center at my alma mater, Lake Mary High School, I have seen the importance of preschool first hand. Preschoolers, like the ones I interacted with, thrive on new experiences. A child’s brain development is the highest during their first four years of life. At the age of three and four, children yearn to learn new things and discover things out on their own. Preschool does focus on academic aspects but is more of a socializing center for children. At this age, socialization is a key point in their lives. They learn to be able to separate from their mother and father and learn to make new friends who they might share interests with. This also makes starting kindergarten a lot easier for them. By interacting with other children in activities such as playing with toys or coloring, they are able to step outside of their own comfort zone and expand their boundaries.

In preschool children also learn to start using their brain to think things through. With simple thinking skills, kids are able to fix their own problems. For example, while doing a puzzle, if a child is unable to fit the last piece of the puzzle in properly, they realize they must turn the piece to fit it into the puzzle. Preschool also gives kids the skills they will

need when they do start kindergarten. Important skills such as raising their hands, getting in line, sharing and compromising are all necessary for kids to learn before they head off to kindergarten. A kindergarten classroom setting differs greatly from a preschool setting. Children are expected to be more independent in kindergarten than in preschool

Children in preschool learn to increase their fine motor skills and gross motor skills. Fine motor skills are skills that are used in drawing, coloring, pointing while gross motor skills are skills used in jumping, running, walking etc.. In preschool, they learn to just be able to color and scribble outside of the lines. By kindergarten they learn to properly grasp the pencil and print their name. Their hand eye coordination in preschool also increases due to small activities such as threading beads and tying their shoe laces.

Enrolling your child in a preschool before sending them off to kindergarten prepares them for what is to come ahead. They will be able to discover the world on their own, learn how to interact with others and transition into kindergarten smoothly. Kindergarten can be a rough transition for children, but if they start off going to preschool they become acquainted with the classroom environment and the social skills needed to be in Kindergarten.



# JOB INTERVIEW TIPS AND ADVICE

Courtesy: Alison Doyle

**J**ob interviewing never seems to get any easier - even when you have gone on more interviews than you can count. You are meeting new people, selling yourself and your skills, and often getting the third degree about what you know or don't know.

Here are job interview tips to help prepare you to interview effectively. Proper preparation which help alleviate some of the stress involved in job interviews and the more you prepare, the more comfortable you will be interviewing.

## Job Interview Tips Practice

Practice answering interview questions and practice your responses to the typical job interview questions and answers most employers ask. Think of actual examples you can use to describe your skills. Providing evidence of your successes is a great way to promote your candidacy. Also have a list of your own questions to ask the employer ready.

## Research

Prepare a response so you are ready for the question What do you know about this company? Know the interviewer's name

and use it during the job interview. If you're not sure of the name, call and ask prior to the interview. Try to relate what you know about the company when answering questions.

## Get Ready

Make sure your interview attire is neat, tidy and appropriate for the type of firm you are interviewing with. Bring a nice portfolio with copies of your resume. Include a pen and paper for note taking.

## Be On Time

Be on time for the interview. On time means five to ten minutes early. If need be, take some time to drive to the interview location ahead of time so you know exactly where you are going and how long it will take to get there. Here's more on preparing for an interview.



## Stay Calm

During the job interview try to relax and stay as calm possible. Take a moment to regroup. Maintain eye contact with the interviewer. Listen to the entire question before you answer and pay attention - you will be embarrassed if you forget the question!

## Show What You Know

Try to relate what you know about the company when answering questions. When discussing your career accomplishments match them to what the company is looking for. Here's how to make a match between your expertise and the company's requirements.

## Follow Up

Always follow-up with a thank you note reiterating your interest in the position. If you interview with multiple people send each one a personal thank you note. Send your thank you note (email is fine) within 24 hours of your interview.

## Avoid Common Interview Mistakes

What shouldn't you do when interviewing? Here are the most common job interview mistakes, blunders, and errors a candidate for employment can make. Take the time to review these mistakes before your interview, so you don't have to stress out about blunders after it. More Job

## Interview Tips

Tips for phone interviews, second interviews, lunch and dinner interviews, behavioral interviews, interviewing in public, and more advice for interview success.

## Phone Interview Etiquette

Phone interview etiquette is just as important as in-person job interview etiquette when it comes to getting hired. That's because, regardless of how you interview, a successful interview will get you to the next stage of the hiring process.

You'RE  
HIRED!



*Your preparation should also include a heads-up to the people you've chosen as references. Let them know they might be getting a call, tell them a little about the company, and mention some of your skills and strengths that could be valuable for this particular job."*

# THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

ZAINABIYA CHILD SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

By: Fatema Somji, Dubai  
Courtesy: ZCSS

**W**e were all taught to “seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave,” (as per the teachings of our Holy Prophet (SAW)) but imagine the rewards when we provide knowledge from the cradle to the grave.

As a mother, I thought long and hard about the perfect gift for my daughter’s first birthday party, as the date drew closer and closer, the party was set up and I wanted to give my daughter and all the children at the party something meaningful. I didn’t know what I was going to give, but I knew it had to be meaningful, something that would mean something to Zaynab as she got older, something that captured her interest, and something that would make a difference.

Knowing that Zaynab would grow up in a world where she could achieve her dreams, pursue a career and be given the gift of education, I realised the plight of over ONE BILLION people who would never have that opportunity. As a parent you would want the best for your children but it broke my heart to realise that other parents cannot even afford to send their children to school.

It dawned on me that I could sponsor a child in Zaynab’s name, better yet; I could sponsor a child in the names of all the children who were to attend the party and give all the children a certificate thanking them for their donation.

There are over 2.2 BILLION children in the world, and over a BILLION of them live in poverty. Over 121 MILLION



children cannot afford to go to school, and out of those that do, 33% of them drop out before they can learn how to read or write.

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Not only was he right, but if every parent who could afford to sponsor a child sponsored one today, we as a human race would be taking a huge step toward eradicating child poverty.

The party was over, and Zaynab’s friends’ parents loved it and we thought if we sponsored one child every year for the duration of our children’s lives, it would make allow the Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme to educate more children. More importantly we would teach our children about giving, and it would be an easy way to secure the future of the human race.

# PRESCRIPTION SUBSCRIPTION

CAREER: PHARMACIST

By: Pareen Dhalla

**W**hen you think of the pharmaceutical career, most people think of just standing behind a counter filling prescription bottles. We don’t realize the variety of positions within pharmacy such as oncology, critical care, ambulatory and infectious disease.

Pharmaceutical scientists don’t only fill prescription bottles but also help unravel, develop, and test new medications every day. They learn about how different molecules and compounds work in the body and how medications react to them. Pharmacists also give patients advice on which medications will. According to U.S. News Best Jobs 2012 list, pharmacists landed at number three following Software Developers at number two and Registered Nurses at number one.

Education Requirements:

- At least two years of undergraduate coursework is required. Some required courses include anatomy, biology and chemistry.
- Some programs also require that students obtain a Bachelor’s degree and take the PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test)
- Pharm.D (Doctor of Pharmacy Degree) programs are usually 3-4 years long and include courses such as pharmacology and medical ethics.
- Pharm. D applicants must pass two exams to obtain a license. One exam is based on basic pharmacy skills and knowledge. The second exam deals with pharmacy law.

Important Qualities:

1. Communication Skills: This career involves giving advice to customers, therefore being able to communicate and clearly explain how to take the medication, the side

- effects etc.
2. Detail Oriented: Pharmacists are held responsible for making sure that the prescriptions they fill are corrected. One small mistake can lead to very serious health issues.
  3. Analytical Skills: Being able to assess what a patient needs and understand what the patient has been prescribed is an important job in pharmacy.

On a typical day a pharmacist will:

- advise physicians and other health practitioners on the selection, dosages, interactions, and side effects of medications;
- monitor the health and progress of patients in response to drug therapy;
- advise patients and answer questions about prescription drugs, including questions about possible side effects and interactions among different drugs;
- provide information and make recommendations about over-the-counter drugs;

Pharmacists may also

- give advice about diet, exercise, or stress management;
- help patients manage conditions such as diabetes, asthma, smoking cessation, or high blood pressure;
- advise patients about durable medical equipment and home healthcare supplies;
- complete third-party insurance forms and other paperwork;

Pharmacists who own or manage drugstores may supervise personnel, as well as have other general managerial duties.



# IN CONVERSATION WITH SHEIKH JAFFER LADAK

By: Zaygamali Hemani

The Editorial Board of Twelvers had a pleasure to sit with visiting speaker at HIC, Sheikh Jaffer Ladak. During the conversation, Sheikh was gracious enough to answer various questions. The Editorial Board thanks Sheikh for obliging to our request for interview.

*EB: Welcome back to Orlando! How do you like it here?*  
Sheikh: I call it home away from home, I love it here. I’ve been to Orlando about 15 times!

*EB: Growing up in England, what was your dream career? Was it always to be an Imam?*  
Sheikh: I’ve gone through an evolution of dreams. As most kids I first wanted to be a professional football (soccer) player! In fact, its still my dream, maybe one day, I might be the next Lionel Messi haha! I then wanted to design cars, and then I wanted to become a lawyer. Finally started working full time in recruitment and took interest in studying and presenting Islam.

*EB: At what point in your life did you decide you wanted to become an Imam?*  
Sheikh: When I came back from Hajj in 2005, I began a systematic study of Islam and intended to serve Islam full time about 4 or 5 years ago.

*EB: Where do you see yourself in 20 years?*  
Sheikh: I plan on continuing the study of Islam for as long as God gives me breath and with that whatever position God allows me to attain in that service is sufficient for me.

*EB: Being a Sheikh must be a demanding job, what are something you like and dislike about it?*  
Sheikh: The things I love about serving Islam are the ability to



give back and literally change an individual’s life or a whole community’s thought process and direction. It is an honor to think that Imam (a) is present watching and endorsing what we are doing. I dislike people not aiding this religion to move forward in the challenges of this time..

*EB: Serving as a sheikh, there must have been some intense moments in your life where you say to yourself “I love my job”. What is the most moving thing you’ve ever witnessed?*  
Sheikh: Off the top my head, there was once a community I visited and a group of brothers, young, about 16 to 18 years old on new years eve, and I saw them playing computer

games like fifa. I said to them “what are you doing?” They said “We would normally be at a club for New Years, but you’ve inspired us so much that we thought for the first year we should just stay in.”

*EB: What differences do you see between the communities here in the U.S and your own communities back in England?*  
Sheikh: The UK is a lot more densely populated with centres, Islamic cultures and ‘Ulema as compared to the US; what this allows for is great exchange of ideas and youth interaction with each other. The States however have a greater proportion of youth eager and hungry for Islam; they are as Imam Ali

(a) states “an uncultivated land; and so whatever you sow on them will grow”.

*EB: What do you love about Islam, what would you say is the most important factor of Islam?*  
Sheikh: Islam has considered every facet of a persons existence. It is the only all encompassing religion and with that it has the ability to constantly provide its followers with the ability of growth unlike. What I love the most is the Quran and Imam al-Mahdi (AS).

*EB: There is a considerable amount of controversy over your statement about women becoming Marj’aa, is there anything you would like to classify further about it?*  
Sheikh: This is not my opinion, this is the opinion of some of the grand Ulama of our time, with the debate starting from scholars like Ayatollah al-Kho’i until date. From the Fiqhi perspective there is either no evidence or a definite lack of evidence to state that a woman can not reach the heights of scholastic leadership - there is no doubt in this whatsoever; it is rooted in gender bias, so once we learn to relinquish this gender bias, so do we relinquish the outdated law! Another point is, there are many speakers that are speaking of this issue, such as Sheikh Arif Abdulhussein of Birmingham, Sheikh Muhammad Naqvi of Milton Keynes and Syed Ammar Nakshwani of Hyderi as well as myself. It is a common Hawzawi question that is becoming a prominent one. The reason why I bring it up is a) because it demonstrates the growth of law in our era and b) it should inspire our sisters to reach the heights they can.

*EB: An interesting question, if there was one thing you could go back in time to change, what would it be? Be it Islam or your personal life.*  
Sheikh: I don’t think I would change anything because everything happens for a reason; possibly reasons greater than my own understanding. Having said that if I could improve on one thing from my past, it would be to learn the



Arabic language at the beginning of my Islamic studies.

*EB: Zanjeer, right or wrong? What’s your opinion?*

Sheikh: Everything has a time and place; one of the next developmental stages of our law will be when it becomes based on region which would declare such a law based on its regional perceptions. To answer the question specifically, I don’t have a problem with Zanjeer as long as it does not severely harm the body. And God knows best.

*EB: Looking back at your presentation on Islam and Anthropology, an evolutionary perspective. So in layman’s terms, for the people who were unable to attend, is evolution Islamically acceptable?*

Sheikh: In my opinion, we have evolved, but not from monkeys or apes. We are our own species. Look at Chapter 95, Verse 4 in the Quran, “Certainly we have created man in the best of make.” but that does not discount the possibility of the continuous evolution to Homo Sapien. As we continue to uncover the anthropological secrets and reconcile them with Qur’an and Ahadith, we will get closer to the realities of our history. As Imam Ali (a) says “Blessed is he who knows where he came from”. And God knows best.

*EB: What is your opinion about Gaza and Israel, the conflicts, what is the solution?*

Sheikh: According to international law, Israel is an illegal and illegitimate state. For too many people, this is a religious conflict whereas in reality its about Zionists having usurped land that’s not theirs. The solution is for the leaders of the Middle East to take a stance and state that they will not serve the agendas of nations that seek to prop up the state if Israel. According to our Ahadith, when Imam al-Mehdi (AS) returns from Makkah, the first place he will go to is Jerusalem. Therefore if its our Imams first agenda, it should our first agenda too.

*EB: Do you feel like youth’s today are too heavily influenced by western culture? Is it negative or positive?*

Sheikh: Every culture has its positives and negatives; the negatives of the West include the culture not being based on morality or God-consciousness however the positives include freedoms and love for charitable causes.

*EB: What was your first car?*

Sheikh: My first car was a Peugeot 306. However my best car

was the Audi R8.

*EB: A question appealing to our youths, are you an Android or an Apple guy? Why?*

Sheikh: I used to be an pc guy, but many of the youths from the Orlando Jamaat converted me into a Apple guy on my first visit.

*EB: Where do you see the Islamic society in 50 years?*

Sheikh: I see us fighting the same battles we are fighting today, which include matters of unity and modernism and matters of structure and leadership. The only way we can get out of this cycle is if the youth realize their roles and responsibilities and make changes for the better.

*EB: Where do you see Muslims in politics in 50 years?*

Sheikh: Theres neither the quantity nor quality of muslims in politics at present. At the moment were lacking both in the West. Therefore, to make a change, we need to produce outstanding thinkers in politics, in 50 years, we can not only suggest our kids to become doctors, dentists and pharmacists and so on, but perhaps we can also suggest them to enter the social, political and humanitarian sciences as careers.

*EB: Any advice for our youths?*

Sheikh: Three advices; 1) Remain attached to the masjid. 2) Whatever interests you, find a way to give back to Islam and humanity through those areas. 3) At the moment, as a community, we are not reading. I urge the youth to read Islamic books on a regular basis, especially the Quran, even if its just 10 verses a day.

*EB: How do youths today in the western culture stay away from temptations? We all know a lot of Haraam things are extremely accessible here in America today.*

Sheikh: Firstly, if you don’t put yourself in a situation where there is temptation, you wont have to fight it. Secondly, if you are in a situation where there is a lot of temptation, if you gain the strength to say no the first time, you will have the strength to say no every single time, God-Willing.

*EB: Thank you very much Sheikh, its been a great pleasure to chat with you.*

# PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

By: Farhana Khera, Director, Muslim Advocates

Capping a hard-fought presidential election, Americans cast their ballots and set the course for our nation for the next four years. I wanted to reach out today to share my views on the work ahead of us and why today I am more hopeful and more determined than ever to achieve our mission of a free and just America for all Americans, regardless of faith.

In his first term, President Obama took steps toward ensuring the freedom and equality of all Americans, including American Muslims. He enacted the most significant strengthening of our nation’s anti-hate crimes laws since the 1960s, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. His administration also increased its attention to defending the rights of all Americans to be able to build and expand their houses of worship, defending the Muslim community in numerous cases of local opposition to mosque projects.

While these are important steps, there are still significant challenges ahead. It is my hope that in a second Obama term, we will see greater progress toward our goal of an America where all people regardless of faith are treated fairly and equally. At Muslim Advocates, we plan to press for change on the following key challenges:

**Reducing Anti-Muslim Bigotry and Violence:** The level of anti-Muslim bigotry and violence has reached a crisis point, with one of the deadliest hate crimes, the deadly rampage at a gurdwara in Oak Creek, WI, a mosque in Joplin, MO torched to the ground, and a spate of hate crimes targeting Muslims and other religious minorities happening all in the last few months. Last evening, we also learned that some key members of Congress who propagated anti-Muslim hate will no longer be in office. That is a good sign and gives us hope. In September, Muslim Advocates spearheaded a coalition letter

of close to 100 organizations that have called on President Obama to host a summit on religious tolerance to tackle this serious issue. On the heels of the election results and the rejection of bigotry, we plan to renew the push for a summit.

**Ending Discriminatory Spying and Other Law Enforcement Activities That Target Americans Simply Because They Are Muslim:** Muslim Advocates has an important lawsuit pending in federal court against the New York Police Department (NYPD) challenging its discriminatory surveillance program that targets innocent Americans Muslims. But it is not just the NYPD. The FBI, Customs and Border Protection and other law enforcement agencies also have policies or practices that allow them to single out American Muslims for greater scrutiny simply because they are Muslim. While Muslim Advocates pursues redress in the courts, we will also renew a push for the administration to revise federal guidance to ban religious profiling and for Congress to pass the End Racial Profiling Act to stop these biased policing practices once and for all.

**Ensuring President Obama Fulfills His Commitment to Ease Hurdles to Charitable Giving:** In his historic address in Cairo, Egypt, in 2009, President Obama pledged to ease hurdles to charitable giving facing the American Muslim community. Charitable giving is both a religious and civic responsibility for American Muslims and must be protected. Muslim Advocates will renew its efforts to urge the President to make good on his promise. We know progress is not going to be fast or easy on these or other issues. It will require a steadfast commitment and thoughtful and strategic leadership – what we do best at Muslim Advocates – as well as the active involvement of American Muslims and all Americans who believe in our mission of freedom, justice and equality for all.

# UNION SPORTS CLUB OF DAR-ES-SALAAM

Historically the club's inception got underway in 1933 when a cricket team was formed. The outbreak of second World War restricted activities but the formation of its first volleyball team under the captaincy of FHR revived activities of the club.



First Ever League Championship - 1954

**Standing (l to r): Ali Virjee, Habib Virjee, Hussein Bachoo, Afzal Dadoo, Raza Panju. Standing (l to r): Gulamhusein Haji, Amir Versi, Bashir Punja, Pyarbhaj, Abdurasaool Virjee, R.R. Jaffer, Roshan Dadoo. On the ground (l to r): Raza Virjee, Amir Sumar.**

In 1952 the community's sports enthusiasts held meeting under the shade of a mango tree at Chungani ground. The meeting was presided by Abdurasaool Virjee and it officially launched the Daressalaam Ithnashris' first ever club, Ithnashri Sports Club.

In 1956 the other clubs belonging to the community like

Phelomaths Club(tabletennis), Twilight Club(badminton) and Radio Club(snooker) which all had been formed to cater for the sporting needs of the community joined hands with Ithnashri Sports Club to form the Ithnashri Union. It took under its wings the literary, nursery school, volunteering, employment as well as the sports portfolio with Bashir Rahim as its first Chairman.

There was keen interest in badminton and tabletennis during the early fifties. In 1956 a tabletennis tournament was held and won by Amir Dadoo. Mohamed Pirbhaj took the honours in 1957 and 1958. He also won the Tanganyika Open Student Championship and became its first Champion in 1958. The badminton field brought laurels and it produced three National Champions in Raza Virjee, Ahmed Ratansi and Mohamed Nurmohamed. Yusuf Somji made his mark on tennis courts.

For a decade, the period between late sixties and early seventies, the club had mixed fortunes in cricket and volleyball, its two main sporting activities. The club reigned supreme in volleyball, Ithnashris trademark since 1943, and they dominated the Daressalaam scene winning innumerable trophies. However championship in cricket eluded Ithnashris.

In 1972, falling in line with the National Sports Council's directive, Ithnashri Sports Club became Union Sports Club with its sporting activities centred at the Boarding House. It had two cricket pitches and a volleyball court. In 1983 a squash court was built. Presently the club consists of some 300 playing and non playing members.

The club over the years has produced many fine administrators who have not only managed the affairs of the club but also gained prominence in the administration of Regional and National cricket bodies-RR Jaffer, Mohamed Pirbhaj, Raza Kara, Yusuf Dhalla and Ibrahim Jivraj are some members of the club who have held high offices in these associations.

The club has had also its fair share of representation in the National Cricket Team.

The club is a regular participant in the Annual Tarmohamed Abdul Gani Memorial Tournament. Having successfully hosted the 1982 competition in Daressalaam it will again host in December this year the 9th TAGMT tournament.

Though Union Sports Club's performance outside the country does not merit much acclaim its synonymity with cricket in the local context is similar to our leading soccer clubs of Yanga or Simba symbolizing football. Union's biggest plus point is the tremendous spirit that it exudes. It is the team spirit that has been Union's binding force since its inception.

The first cricket team after the war revolved around certain established players who till then had been playing for the other teams. In its very first season in 1951 under the leadership of Abdurasaool Virji it finished runners up to AK Sports Club.

Cricket continued to flourish under the captaincy of FHR until his departure in 1953 for Congo. By then the team had been moulded into a fighting unit, and then FHR's younger brother Muslim Kara carried along the good work for the first half of 1954 season until he also left the country. Finally Pyarali Merali carried the baton to the finishing line, leading it to its first league championship in 1954. The team then had mixed fortune and it was demoted to the second division in 1961, only to bounce back into the senior league in the following year.

The Zanzibar Revolution of 1964 saw the exodus of the community to the mainland where Zanzibar's high caliber cricketers joined hands with Ithnashri Union and consolidated it. In 1972 participating under the new name Union Sports Club it finished runners-up. 1973 marked the glorious reign

of Union when after 19 years it won the championship under the captaincy of Amir Yusuf. The championship was lost in 1974, regained in 1975 but lost again in 1976. The period since 1977 has witnessed Union's most outstanding period in its history. Its supremacy has been undreamt of. It has been not only winning the league every year but also dominating the knockout and other tournaments.



Championship eluded for 19 years and was regained in 1973

**Standing (l to r): Hasnain, Hussein Sultan, Shabir Jivraj, Lyakat Khimji, Naushad Kermalli, Raza Kara, Ibrahim Tejani, Shakir Sheralli, Mahmood Rahim, Hussein Dadoo. Sitting (l to r): Mohamed Nathoo, Munawer Noormohamed, Amir Yusuf (captain), Yusuf Dhalla, Yusuf Kabana, Bahsir Tejani, Mahmood Noormohamed.**



# HEY AUTISM

## Verily with difficulty there is ease

*By: Dilshad Ali  
Courtesy: Altmuslimah*

Spring break on the beach: Are we a couple of free-wheeling college students on Daytona Beach? Nah. We're a family of five (seven with my in-laws included) who decided to come to a beach in South Carolina because it seemed the only place that everyone, especially our eldest son, would have some fun.

The question asked of me by so many leading up to this trip was: What do you think will happen? Meaning, our family's life – in a way – has been held hostage the past several months by the extreme behavioral changes in Lil D. So, what will happen if we take our family out of our home and the home/school routine, which has been both a safe haven and a kind of prison for Lil D of late? How will we handle him in an unfamiliar environment?

It's the beach, I told everyone. It's the ocean. It's the one thing that has made him happy in the past. So, it can't be any worse than what's been going on at home and school. It can only be the same, or better.

Would it be like the reunion of two old souls in some epic Hollywood love story? Their eyes meet. Would the love rekindle? Would the spark still be there?

Two and a half days ago, after arriving at our rental house the night before, we woke up in the morning, hurried through our breakfast, and walked to the beach. No swimsuits, no beach gear – just wanted to scope the place out.

As we stepped down from the boardwalk and onto the sand, the sounds of the ocean filled our ears, the gentle waves crashed on the beach, and the sun shone warmly, brightly, and with the promise of good times.

Lil D stood at the edge of the water, shoulders hunched, fingers gripping his shorts to pull them away from the wetness.

Then a grin broke out on his face. He stepped into the surf,

gingerly at first, then with greater confidence. The bromance was back. Hello, old friend. It's so nice to see you again.

For Once, Obvious Ease

When autism makes life for Lil D and the rest of us very tough, when we are thrown off our game (which is quite frequently), when we are unable to find answers despite extensive detective work as to why, WHY this has changed or that is happening or why self-injurious behavior has become such a daily part of Lil D's life, I think of an ayat (verse) from the Qur'an: "Verily with difficulty there is ease. Verily with difficulty there is ease."

It's a line that is repeated twice, to tell us that in the most difficult of times, ease will come. Ease is there. I think of this, and sometimes it gives me comfort, and sometimes it brings profound frustration.

God forgive me. I know I should believe, but I am fallible, I am weak. Islamic scholars say that the ease that is promised is not necessarily obvious. God works in mysterious ways, as the saying goes, and when hardship is upon us, ease comes in ways we may not see at first or ways we may never grasp. But, the scholars say, ease always comes. It's a comforting, but hard concept for me to trust.

But, in the last two and a half days, ease for Lil D and our family was obvious, blatant, overt, and any other adjectives I can think of. The Qur'anic ayat was fulfilled in a way so clear and noticeable that I was humbled. At the end of our first full day here, when the children were asleep and we were going to bed, I turned to my husband and said, "Do you know this is the first full day when he hasn't ..."

"Don't say it!" my husband said. Don't jinx it. But I'll say it here – the first full day that Lil D did not hit himself, bite himself, pull his hair, or even seem on edge. He was happy.

Of Course, Autism Has No Magical Cure

The second day was the same, and yesterday morning was perhaps the best time in the waves. We left our youngest at the rental home with the grandparents and took Lil D and his sister to the beach.

It was just magical. Lil D climbed on his dad's back and hugged him tight as they swam through the waves. He laughed, he made amazing eye contact, he was right there with us, without autism clouding our connection.

When we walked back to our rental home, Lil D, who always walks 10 feet behind us, ran up to his father and spontaneously hugged him, saying "thanks for bringing me here" with his eyes.

It was one of those moments drenched in sunbeams and star bursts.

But – yes, there is a "but" – the magic has since ended. Lil D is having the same issues and problems in the past 24 hours. In a crazy, grim way, we feel a little better. This beach experience is not a magical cure. Moving to a beach town will not keep autism at bay. Of course we knew that, but at least now we have confirmation.

On day one, I thought to myself, autism, you lose. My son is happy. On day four I say, ok autism, you can't take the first two days away from us. We had blessed ease, and we are thankful for every second of it.

# COUGH, COLD & MORE

*By Fatema Jaffer*

Despite Florida being known for its very warm and sunny weather, the temperature actually does drop during the winter bringing more sweaters, less shorts, and a little more cough medicine than the usual. But instead of spending more time running to the store or in the doctor's office getting prescription medicine, especially with spending most of our nights at mosque, there are a few home remedies that will do just what you need to clear up your throat and nose and get rid of the constant coughs:

Raw honey and lemon for sore throats

A mixture of fresh lemon juice and raw honey provides soothing relief for sore throats and helps stop the tickle that stimulates coughing. Raw honey is high in nutrients and enzymes which kill bacteria and viruses. The vitamin C and antioxidants found in fresh lemons boost the immune system, speeding healing. Together these two home remedies are a powerhouse for getting over a cold and sore throat. Mix the juice of 1/2 the lemon with 2 to 3 tablespoons of honey and sip throughout the

day as needed.

Mullein tea for coughs and congestion  
Mullein tea is well-known for relieving chest congestion from coughs, colds and the flu. It acts as an expectorant, loosening trapped mucous and soothing sore throats. Make mullein tea by filling a tea ball or strainer with dried mullein herb and steeping in a cup of boiling water for 10 minutes. Sweeten with raw honey and drink as needed to relieve symptoms.

Other remedies that help with boosting your immune system and keeping your body warm and healthy, fighting the cold from settling in such as a garlic tea immune enhancer and my favorite, chicken soup – not only helping you feel better, but also very tasty. With these home remedies, we'll keep our bodies healthy and keep a good attendance at mosque since we won't be getting sick.



SHIA STUDENTS  
AT UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA  
FORM  
AHLUL BAYT SOCIETY

By The Ahlul Bayt Society



# AHLUL BAYT SOCIETY @ UCF

W e as Hussainis, we as Jaffaris, are blessed beyond measure, to be endowed with the love of the Holy Prophet and his immaculate progeny. Therefore, in order to propagate the message of Aal-e-Muhammed (a.s.) throughout the world, youth who are members of both, the Florida Shia community & students of the University of Central Florida (UCF), the 2nd largest university in the United States, and 5th on US News & World’s Up-and-Coming National Universities list, have banded together to create the Ahlul-Bayt Society. Our motives behind this initiative were the realization that we had a treasure that was too great not to share.

The mission of Ahlul-Bayt Society is to support and promote the teachings of Islam through the Holy Qur’an as exemplified by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the members of his household known as the Ahlul-Bayt (peace be upon them all). Our Infallibles were leaders of not only Shias, but rather all beings, physical or otherwise, and thus it is our responsibility to direct humanities attention to a reality which they may not have realized.

The goals of the organization are inclusive of, but not limited to the following:

- To bring The Ahlul-Bayt (a.s.) into the public light, by informing students, faculty, staff, and the

local community, what they, i.e. The Infallibles, preached, did and stood for throughout their respective lives.

- To promote and foster sectarian unity among Muslims via intra-faith dialogue.
- To promote and foster monotheistic unity among Abrahamic Faiths via inter-faith dialogue.
- To act as a liaison organization to unite youth members of the local Shia mosques within the community, and the greater community at large.
- To cultivate a healthy social network for Shia students on campus, where they can meet individuals who have common beliefs, values

& morals.

We realize that we can’t do this alone, and need your help. We urge you to support the mission of the 14 Masoomeen through your contributions. We have a series of events planned for the Muslim & non-Muslim communities alike, just waiting in the pipeline. Your support will help spread the teachings of Islam in a new arena. We invite you to help us in any way possible, whether logistically, intellectually, or via any service which may help us attain our aforementioned goals.

Our first event, “Tribute to Peace: Roses for the Prophet (SAW)” was an amazing success Alhamdulillah! We had roses and flyers being passed out throughout the event. The student body seemed to really appreciate our motives and our approach in portraying our Holy Prophet. That

being said, we had people asking our members questions and we even received a few “thumbs up” for what we were doing. Multiple interviews were made on people’s perception of Islam and the Prophet prior to this event and their view now, after reading the various quotes by the Prophet (PBUH) and by credible figures in history. All in all, the event was



enjoyed by both the members and student body. We would like to thank everyone who took part in this project; may Allah (SWT) reward you in this world and the hereafter. Videos and pictures have been recorded and inshAllah by the end of the month, a final compilation of the media will be released.

We would like to thank you for considering the opportunity of partnering with the Ahlul-Bayt Society, inshAllah. If you have any questions regarding our organization, our fund management, or our projects, please feel free to contact us at [absocucf@hotmail.com](mailto:absocucf@hotmail.com), [absocucf@groups.live.com](mailto:absocucf@groups.live.com) or visit us at [www.absknights.org](http://www.absknights.org)

JazakAllah!  
Khuda Hafiz/Feeamanillah,





# MATCH PERSONALITIES

Match the quotes to personalities by writing the corresponding letter in the personality box:

PERSONALITIES		QUOTES	
1.	Imam Hussain (As)	A.	May I be your ransom O son of the Prophet of Allah! I am the one who had stopped you from returning back and had accompanied you all along and had forced you to alight here....now I apologize to Allah regarding what I have done, then do you think that my repentance will be accepted?
2.	Edward Gibbons	B.	Prophethood and Imamate has always been decreed for my fathers and ancestors long before you were even born.
3.	Jawaharlal Nehru	C.	In a distant age and climate the tragic scene of the death of Hazrat Imam Hussain (as) will awaken the sympathy of the coldest reader.
4.	Hazrat Hurr (AS)	D.	Praise be to Allah! If this water would have been destined for me, I could have drunk it.
5.	Hazrat Muslim bin Aqeel (AS)	E.	Is this the custom of justice that you sit your women-folk and maids behind veils, while you captivate and parade the daughters of the Prophet of Allah (pbuh)?
6.	Basheer bin Jazlam	F.	There is a universal appeal in this martyrdom. Hazrat Imam Hussain (as) sacrificed his all, but he refused to submit to a tyrannical government... The power of faith to him, is the greatest force, which regards all material force as nothing. This sacrifice is a beacon light of guidance for every community and every nation.
7.	Sayyada Sakina (AS)	G.	We are the Household of the Prophethood, the source of Messengership, the descending place of angels; through us Allah has begun (His favours), and with us He has perfected (His blessings); whereas Yazid is a sinful man, a drunkard, killer of innocent people, and one who openly indulges in sinful acts. A person like me can never pay allegiance to a person like him.
8.	Imam Zainul Abedeen (AS)	H.	I do not desire to have anyone as my father-in-law after the Prophet of Allah (pbuh).
9.	Sayyada Zainab (AS)	I.	I shall weep upon my brother all through my life, who was born as the best of creatures after the Prophet (pbuh), the tears shall flow upon my cheeks similar to the flood and rain waters and shall never dry up.
10.	Sayyada Rabab (AS)	J.	Although you have severed my right hand, I shall keep defending my religion as also my positively truthful Imam, who is the son of the chaste and trustworthy Prophet.
11.	Sayyada Umm Kulthum (AS)	K.	O people of Yathrib, There is no place for you to abide here, Hussain has been killed for which my tears flow, his body laid in Kerbala smeared in dust and blood, while his head was being paraded upon a lance from place to place.
12.	Hazrat Abbas (AS)	L.	Death to me is sweeter than honey.
13.	Companions of Imam Hussain (AS)	M.	By Allah, O our Master! O Aba Abdillah, we shall never betray you!
14.	Hazrat Qasim bin Hasan (AS)	N.	I have not seen a more harsh man than Yazeed, nor have I seen an infidel and polytheist worst and more tyrant than him.

# Muharram Word Search

S D M A W N A D L F O L S W  
U B E B G K J L A O U W S X  
C L F M A J D L I B Y F R L  
D Q J W M N I K P A Z X A W  
Y R S L P A I K E A K Y B T  
K I Z X S H H A R S Y B B H  
S C R G K J P U Z A U D A E  
C D H R R C H C M K W G S R  
J A I P G S I V T I I T I S  
R M U H A R R A M N X Q W U  
S F T G D U W J V A L V C Z  
R W L L M I S A Q L S X Z N  
Y T N I E S S U H M A M I F  
E M M I C X X T V Q V J M X

Abbas  
Aliakbar  
Aliasghar  
Ashura  
Awn  
Imam Hussein  
Muhammed  
Muharram  
Qasim  
Sakina  
Zainab

## Who Is Imam Hussain (AS)

Imam Husayn (a), the third Imam, was born on 3rd Sha’ban 4 A.H. in Madina. On his birth, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (a) prophesied that the faith of Islam would be rescued by his second grandson, Husayn (a). Like his father and brother, he was very learned, kind, brave and self-sacrificing.

In his days Yazid, the son of Mu’awiah ascended the throne. He was an unjust and irreligious person. He was known for his devilish character and brutish conduct. As soon as he came to power, he began to violate the rules and laws of Islam. In addition to this, he also claimed to be a caliph and a successor to the Holy Prophet of Islam. To get this position confirmed, he decided to compel Imam Husayn (a) to take an oath of allegiance to him.

Due to an impudent person like Yazid becoming the caliph, there arose a danger for the people again to adopt un-Islamic beliefs and customs.

The responsibility for protecting Islam and human rights thus fell on the shoulders of Imam Husayn (a).

The people of Kufa had not recognized Yazid as a caliph. They invited Imam Husayn (a) to come to Kufa and guide

them. He, therefore, left for Kufa accompanied by a few young men, ladies and children and some sincere friends. While on his way, he had to face Yazid’s armed forces. In order to save the faith preached by his Holy grandfather, Imam Husayn (a) decided to face these satanic forces in the field. He and his companions fought valiantly and most of them were martyred. This happened at Karbala - a desert area in Iraq - on the tenth of Muharram 61 A.H.

The tenth of Muharram is called the day of Ashura’. On this day, Muslims all over the world commemorate the unmatched struggle of Imam Husayn (a) and his companions against tyranny. They mourn these martyrs who laid down their lives for the safety of Islam.

The sacrifices rendered by Imam Husayn (a) for the safety of Islam is unparalleled in the history of the world. He said: “In my view it is a blessing to lay down one’s life in the path of Allah and nothing except humiliation can be gained by extending one’s hand of co-operation towards the tyrants”. We should be prepared to make the greatest sacrifices for the safety of Islam.

## Questions

- Who was Yazid and what sort of person was he?
- Why did Imam Husayn (a) proceed to Kufa?
- How did Imam Husayn (a) meet Yazid’s challenge?

# TYRANNY IS CONDEMNED

“Whoever harms others, will become a loser”. (Surah Taha, 20:111).

In the above verse, the Almighty Allah warns the evil-doers and declares every evil deed to be unlawful. One who harms another person, makes fun of him, talks ill of him behind his back or accuses him falsely is an evil-doer.

Those who infringe upon the rights of others, hurt them or usurp their belongings, are evil people.

If we do not look after our parents, bother them and disobey their orders, we are guilty of doing evil to them. We commit evil deeds if we tease our brothers and sisters or misbehave towards our class-mates.

We should not forget that Almighty Allah does not like the evil-doers.

# WHO IS IMAM ZAINUL ABEDEEN (AS)

The fourth Imam Ali (a) was born in Madina on 15thJumadi I, 37 A.H. He was very pious and was usually busy praying to Allah. For this reason, people called him Zayn al-Abidin (Ornament of the worshippers) and al-Sajjad (One who prostrates).

He was the only son of Imam Husayn (a) who survived after the tragedy of Karbala. Thereafter, he devoted himself to Allah’s worship and guidance of the people.

Imam Zayn al-Abidin (a) was very mindful of the welfare of the sick, the needy and the poor. He usually left home late at night with some food and money. Without being observed by the general public he reached the houses of the needy and

delivered these things to them. After having done this, he returned home.

It was the keen desire of Imam Zayn al-Abidin (a) that people should become learned. He, therefore, encouraged all the Muslims, especially the children, to acquire knowledge.

One day he saw a group of children studying together, This pleased him very much. After saying Salam in reply to their greetings, he said:

“O dear children! Study well You are children today but will grow up after some time. Take care that the knowledge you acquire should be beneficial for humanity”.

The invaluable collection of the Imam’s edited supplications is known as “Sahifa al-Kamila.” The collection is an invaluable treasury of wonderfully effective supplications to Allah in an inimitably beautiful language. Through these supplications, the Imam gave all the necessary guidance to the faithful during his seclusion.

Only that knowledge is worth acquiring which is beneficial for humanity.

## Questions

- 1. Why is our fourth Imam called Zayn al-Abidin?
- 2. How did Imam al-Sajjad (a) usually help the people?
- 3. What advice did Imam al-Sajjad (a) give to the children whom he saw studying together?

# REFLECTIONS TALK TO US!

- 1. How many family member and companies of Imam Hussein (as) can you name who gave their life for Islam on the day of Ashura?
  - 2. What does Muharram mean to you?
  - 3. What is something you can take from this Muharram?
- Answers will be featured in the next issue.

BY FATEMA DEWJI

# TEACHINGS OF BIBI ZAINAB (AS)

## ONE OF THE GREATEST ROLE MODELS

By Fatema Jaffer

When the month of mourning comes and we begin to hear the stories of the extreme difficulties and hardships Imam Husain (a.s) and went through, we also look at the roles played throughout and the support and defense for the Imam given by members of the family such as Bibi Zainab (a.s). To understand how this woman was able to do what is unknown to us, we look at her life and to see how she grew up. To realize the true personality of this great lady it is essential to look at the calamities and tragedies that she faced. Her ability to withstand these great anguishes led her to being known as Ummul-Masaib (the mother of grief). If we look at ourselves, we would not be able to tolerate just a single one of those woes which Bibi had to endure. Bibi saw the ark of Hussain drowning in a sea of thirst and brought it to shore.

Allah says:“Those who convey the message of Allah and fear Him, do not fear anyone except Allah.” Janabe Zainab acted on this to the full, shouldering the responsibility of conveying this message, tolerating difficulties whilst doing so. In her actions, she left behind a legacy of patience and the upholding of truth. She taught that with strong faith and remembrance of Allah any difficulty can be undertaken, any crisis can be tackled without losing heart. Bibi Zainab had two great missions to reveal the truth. One was to show the true face of Yazid and his followers, and the other was to uncover who the Ahlulbayt really were and what their importance was. At every step of her long journey she fulfilled these two missions, ready to abandon everything to accomplish them. After her sacrifices, Bibi became a verification

of the following words of Allah; “Those who believed and migrated and strived hard in Allah’s way with their possessions and their lives are far higher in rank in Allah’s view. They are those who achieved salvation.”

In countless occasions in the past, the servants of God have faced great barriers to spread the word of Allah. Ibrahim faced

the burning fires of Namrud, but continued to raise the voice of truth. Musa accepted having to flee his homeland, but carried on the message, “There is no God but Allah.” The seal of the Prophets, withdrew from the holy city of Mecca, but the cries of “Say there is no God but Allah. You will succeed.” continued on through the ages. When the nation of Muhammad lost their way, the world heard the echoes of the truth, the message of the prophets from the mouth of Hussain, the son of Ali and Fatima. Imam Hussain preserved the message of the Prophets, from the first to the last, and became Waarisul Ambiya (the inheritor of the prophets). In the past, it was the sacrifices of Hajra, the support of Khadija, the assistance of Fatima that kept

the message of those servants of God alive.

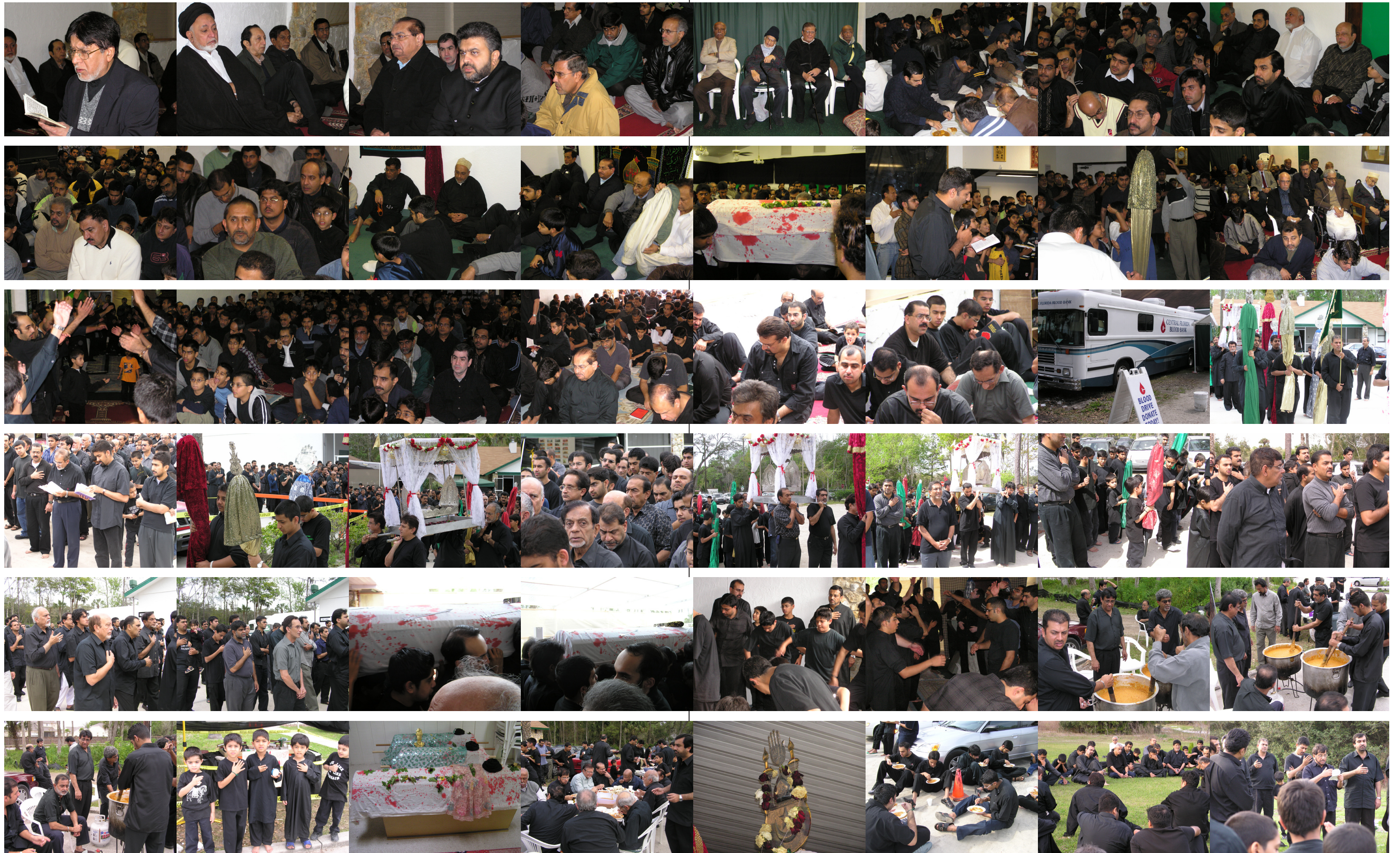
For Imam Hussain, it was none other than that great lady, Janab-e- Zainab who became the saviour of his message. This daughter of the household upon whom Allah had bestowed the mantle of purity in Surah Ahzab, sacrificed her cloak to protect the withered tree of Islam from the fierce gales of disaster. In the face of calamities, she appeared a mountain of strength.





# ASHURA DAY AT HIC - 2004

DOWN MEMORY LANE







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