

PARADISE

December
2001

A Monthly Publication of Huntsville Islamic Center

EDITORIAL

Once again, it is hard to express all feelings and emotions when it comes to describe or talk about the brotherhood, unity, and on top of that, the generosity of the **Muslim Community of Huntsville, Alabama.**

Last night was a blessed night indeed. I am very sure that everyone, in his or her deep heart, was saying "I am proud to be a member of this blessed community." It was a night that made the *Shaytan* run away horrified and very disappointed after witnessing the faithfuls of our community gathered and showed willingness to continue their tradition of support and endorsing good causes that will lead to the prosperity of our religion and our future generation in this land.

Last night, the *Educational and Youth Center* expansion project got another boost, *Alahmdu lillah*, from our beloved community when the words were translated to actions and the emotions were transformed into pledges of support; and those who were there, with their families, were determined to make it a successful event for all to remember.

All praise be to Allah (SWT) for His endless Help and countless Support; and many thanks to those who donated and pledged a donation for the sake of Allah defying all the whisperings of the *Shaytan*. Also, we extend our thanks to the brothers and sisters who volunteered their time and effort for this cause, we ask Allah to reward them the best of rewards.

For those brothers and sisters who didn't have a chance, for some reason, to be there we say: *Don't miss this chance of doing good, it is after all for your own benefit when nothing will benefit you except your good deeds. Join your brothers and sisters and be part of this wonderful community of ours.*

Asalamu Alaikum,

Majdi

Say: "O my Servants who have transgressed against their souls! despair not of the Mercy of Allah: for Allah forgives all sins: for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful" [39:53]

What a great call and a great opportunity for repentance that is always open till the Day of Judgment. No matter who you are, where you are, or how far you went a way from the straight path of Allah, the repentance door is still open and will remain open. Now, in this blessed month of Ramadan, this door is wide open for those who seek repentance. Those who seek repentance Allah (SWT) will be there to answer their call and to forgive their sins as long as they are sincere. Though Allah (SWT) is not in need for our worship, yet He will be greatly pleased by the repentance of his servant, because He is the most Merciful, the Most Forgiving. *Anas bin Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, reported: Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said: Allah is more pleased with the repentance of a servant as he turns towards Him for repentance than this that one amongst you is upon the camel in a waterless desert and there is upon (that camel) his provision of food and drink also and it is lost by him, and he having lost all hope (to get that) so he lies down in the shadow and is disappointed about his camel and there he finds that camel standing before him. He takes hold of his nose string and then out of boundless joy says: O Lord, Thou art my servant and I am Thine Lord. He commits this mistake out of extreme delight " Al bukhari, no.1595".* Yet we need to be merciful with ourselves and seek the guidance of Allah (SWT) and repent. Now it is you and only you who will take this decision, be honest to your self and be merciful with your self and please Allah (SWT) with your repentance. Do not postponed it because it's too early, I'm still young and healthy!!, may be next Ramadan I'll repent!!. Allah only knows whether you'll make it even for the end of this Ramadan. Remember that if the time comes for your departure, NO one can delay it for one single minute, so we better be prepared!!.

Repentance, however, should not be just a temporary reaction for the days of Ramadan and then going back to square one. The first step in repentance is to stop doing what we need to repent from, that might be a evil act or behavior "this should end" or it might be a short coming of leaving an obligatory duty for us as Muslims, like not performing the prayers "so keep the prayers". The second step in repentance is to regret what was been done before repentance and ask Allah (SWT) for forgiveness from these deeds. The third step is to decide NOT to go back for any of the bad deeds before repentance and again here we need to remember and realize that Allah (SWT) knows and sees all what we do. Brothers and sisters, let's all decide to make this Ramadan make a difference in our life, repent to Allah and remind whom we care about to do the same.

Thank you

For a successful Fundraising Dinner

May Allah bless you all and reward you the best

If you didn't have a chance to participate, your help and generous support are still needed.

**The Virtue of Speaking Up For
a Muslim in His Absence**

* From Abu'l-Darda' (RA): The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:

"Whoever defends the honor of his brother, this will be a protection for him from the Fire"

* From Asma' bint Yazid (RA), who said: The Prophet (PBUH) said:

"Whoever defends his brother's honor in his absence, will be entitled to Allah's protection from the Fire"

* The Prophet (PBUH) said:

"Whoever defends his brother's honor, Allah will protect his face from the Fire of the Day of Resurrection"

* From Mu'adh ibn Anas al-Juhani: The Prophet (PBUH) said:

*"Whoever protects a Muslim from a hypocrite, (probably he said:) Allah will send an angel to protect his
Flesh from the Fire of Hell; and whoever accuses a Muslim of something,
seeking to disgrace him, Allah will detain him on the bridge of Hell
until he has been fully punished for what he said."*

SOCIAL ETHICS IN ISLAM

The rules of refined social ethics is as necessary to teach today as it was with the rude Arabs whom the holy Prophet had to teach in his day. These are briefly described in Sura Al-Ahzab 33 , Ayah 53 in THE HOLY QUR-AN, and those are:

- (1) Enter not a friend's house without permission.
- (2) If invited to dine, do not go too early; you are asked to dine, not to wait for the preparation of the food.
- (3) Be there at the time appointed, so that you enter when you are expected and invited.
- (4) After the meal, do not get familiar with your host, especially if there is a great distance between him and you.
- (5) Do not waste time in tittle-tattle, causing inconvenience and perhaps annoyance to your host.
- (6) Understand what is proper behavior for you; host may be too polite to ask you to depart.

All these have a social bearings: respect and delicate consideration for others are among the highest virtues.

Compile by: Syed Iqbal Ahmad.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Friday Night Study Circle: (will resume after Ramdan)

Study circles for brothers and sisters at 7:30 p.m.

Monday and Wednesday Nights Short Reminders:

Short reminders after Isha prayer.

Sunday School and Study Circle: 10:30-1:00

Sunday School for children and study circle for brothers and sisters.

Prayer Times at the Masjid

Fajr:	5:30 a.m.
Duhur:	12:15 p.m.
Asr:	2:45 p.m.
Maghrib:	Sunset
Isha Tarweeh:	7:00 p.m. (7:30 after ramadn)
Jumu'a (Friday):	12:30 p.m.



Muslimah

HIC Sisters' Page
 Editor: Sr. Zakiyyah Shakoor

Have your Iman Increased Lately?

T **H** **E** Messenger of Allah *sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam* said:

"Iman wears out in one's heart, just as the dress wears out (becomes thin). Therefore, ask Allah to renew Iman in your hearts."

Iman, therefore, becomes old and wears out just as the case clothes. In addition, sometimes, the believer's heart becomes cloudy because of committing sins. The Prophet clearly mentioned this later case, when he said: **"Each heart has its own passing cloud, just as the moon when it is shining and there comes a cloud that replaces its brightness and darkness. Whenever it (the cloud) moves on, it (the moon) will shine yet again."**

Sometimes, a cloud overtakes the moon's brightness and replaces it with darkness, but when this cloud moves on, the moon will become bright and shining again. This is the exact case with the believer's heart, for sometimes a dark cloud overtakes the heart, because of indulging in sin. This dark cloud will prevent the light of Iman from filling the heart and will only go away when one strives hard to increase his Iman, depending on Allah. Then, the cloud will certainly vanish and the heart will once more regain its full health and brightness.

In the process of healing weak Iman, it is important to know that Iman increases with *WORKING* the *GOOD DEEDS* and decreases by *INDULGING* in *SIN*, for Iman entails acknowledgement with the tongue, belief in the heart implementing the commandments. Furthermore, Allah (SWT) said:

"That they may grow more in Faith" [48:4]

And "Which of you has had his faith increased?" [9:124]

Also, the Messenger of Allah said:

"He among you who witnesses an evil, let him change (stop, remove) it with his hand, if he could not, then with his tongue, and if he could not, then with his heart, and this is the weakest Iman." Bukhari

Some of our righteous Salaf (ancestors) said, *"It is a sign of the slave's knowledge and wisdom that he concerns himself with enhancing the status of his Iman when it experiences a decrease. Also, it is a sign of the slave's knowledge and wisdom to know if his Iman is on the increase or on the decrease. Furthermore, it is a sign of one's knowledge and wisdom that he knows why and where the evil whispers of Satan are coming from."*

It is important to know that it is a turn to the worse and a dangerous precedent to let the decrease in Iman that the heart is experiencing lead to abandoning some of the obligations. Such behavior leads one to be among the criticized persons and obliges him to repent to Allah and to immediately start solving the weakness of his Iman. On the other hand, when the decrease in Iman only leads to abandoning some of the preferred acts of worship, then one must strive hard in this case to perform such preferred acts with patience and endurance until his heart regains its health. In this regard, the Messenger of Allah said, what translated means, **"With regards to each act of worship, there is a period of increased activity, and after each period of increased activity, there is a period of decreased activity (that follows it). Therefore, if one settles down to that which is a part of my Sunnah, he will be the successful one. As for he who settles down to the opposite, then he is destroyed."** [Ahmad and Sahih at-Targhib].

EID U R K

Eid will be, *insha'a Allah*, either on Saturday 12/15 or Sunday 12/16
Please check our web site (www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org)
for announcement on Friday night.
Or call HIC (721-1712) after 9:00 pm.

Eid Prayer will be held at HIC at 8:30 a.m.
May Allah accept your worship and bless you all!!!

Eid Dinner and Party

Eid pot-luck dinner will be on Saturday, 12/22/2001 at HIC at 6:00 p.m.
Qur'an Memorization Contest awards will also be distributed during the party.

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