



Islamic Center Newsletters

ICNEF, St. John's Bluff Road South, Jacksonville, Florida 32246 • 904-646-3462

CALENDAR

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

July 29, 2006 @ 5:30 P.M.
August 26, 2006 @ 5:30 P.M.
September 30, 2006 @ 5:30 P.M.

CORPORATE BOARD MEETINGS

July 30, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.

ICJAX MEETINGS

July 30, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.
August 27, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.
October 01, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.

IJAX MEETINGS

July 20, 2006 @ 7:00 P.M.
August 17, 2006 @ 7:00 P.M.
September 21, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

October 6, 2006

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AVOID A SIN!

THE SECOND BIGGEST SIN – MURDER

Compiled by: Prof. Irfan

Imam Bukhari has recorded in his Sahih (9/83/10) that Anas bin Malik narrates from the Prophet (PBUH) that the second biggest of all sins is murder of a human being; the first being Shirk which we read in the January issue. We also learned about the consequences of major sins and the rewards for avoiding them. It is common in many places to see honor killings, dowry deaths, abortions and even killings over property or religious intolerance. In this issue we will discuss murder as a major sin and educate ourselves about it. There is no doubt that capital punishment is allowed in Islam for manslaughter or for spreading mischief in the land however, this is done after a due process involving witnesses, judges and other legal experts. This article is about taking the laws in our hands and killing people.

What about killing a relative?

The earliest authentic reference of a man committing murder of a relative comes from no other source than from the Quran itself. As revealed in Surah AL-MAEDA (5.27-5.32) two sons of Adam (AS) made some offerings to Allah. Allah accepted it from one of them and not from the other. This made him very angry about it and told his brother whose offering was accepted that he intended to kill him. The other replied that Allah only accepts, from those who guard against evil. So even if his brother tried to kill him he would not stretch his own hands and fight as he feared Allah. May be this made the other brother angrier than he was before, so he ultimately killed him. Once he killed his brother, he did not know what to do with the dead body. Allah sent a crow to dig up the earth so that he might show him how he should cover the dead body of his brother. He regretted his actions but it was too late as his brother had already died. Allah further says that for this very reason, He prescribed that whoever unjustly slays a soul, it would be as though he killed all men; and whoever keeps a soul alive, it would be as though he kept alive all men.

What about killing our own children?

Allah talks about female infanticide at a few places. In Surah AT-TAKWIR (81.8-9), He mentions about questioning the female infant who was buried alive for her crime for which she was killed. In Surah AL-ANAAM (6.137) and again in (6.140) Allah talks about the evil custom of the pre-Islamic pagans when killing female children was common and says that 'Lost are those who slay their children, from folly, without knowledge, and forbid food which Allah has provided for them, inventing lies against Allah. They have indeed gone astray and heeded no guidance.' Again, in Surah AL-ISRA, (17.31) Allah says: Kill not your children for fear of want. We shall provide sustenance for them as well as for you. Verily the killing of them is a great sin.' In those days, the pagans had no choice but to wait until the baby was born. In our modern context, in the days of ultrasounds and MRIs, a selective killing in the form of abortions for boys or girls - even before their birth - is becoming very common. We are resurrecting this evil custom all over again. According to some scholars, unless there is a grave danger to the mother's life itself, abortions or such selective choices

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

will come under the guidance provided in these versus from the Quran as it does for those that are killed after their birth.

What about killing other Muslims?

Allah says in Surah AN-NISA (4.93) that if a man kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell, to abide therein for ever and the wrath and the curse of Allah are upon him, and a dreadful punishment is prepared for him. Allah says in Surah AL-FURQAN (25.68-70), that those who kill a person whom He has prohibited killing, except in the course of justice, will incur guilt, the punishment will be doubled on the Day of Resurrection and he will remain in Hell disgraced forever. Imam Bukhari has recorded in his Sahih (1/2/30) the Prophet (PBUH) having said that when two Muslims fight, both the killer as well as the murdered one will end up in Hell. When he was asked that it was all right for the murderer but why will the murdered one face the same penalty? He replied that the other surely had the intention to kill, that is why he fought in the first place. In another Hadith recorded by Ahmed, the Prophet (PBUH) also said if anyone helps in the killing of a Muslim to the extent of saying a word, he will meet Allah with "Despairing of Allah's Mercy" written on his forehead.

What about committing suicide?

Suicide is not only a cowardly act which ends the great gift of life that Allah has given us but it has very serious religious repercussions too. Allah says in Surah AN-Nisa (4.29) "... Nor kill (or destroy) yourselves: for verily Allah has been to you Most Merciful!" Muslim has recorded in his Sahih (1.199) that the Prophet (PBUH) said a person who killed himself with a weapon would be an eternal inhabitant of the Hell. He would have that weapon in his hand and would be thrusting it in his stomach for ever and ever, he who drank poison and killed himself would sip that in the fire of Hell where he is doomed for ever and ever; and he who killed himself by falling from a mountain would constantly fall in the Fire of Hell and would live there for ever and ever. In another narration recorded in the Sahih (1,205) on the authority of Abu Huraira that during the battle of Hunain, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said about a man who claimed to be a Muslim that in reality one of the inhabitants of the Fire (Hell). In the thick of the battle that man fought desperately and was wounded. When it was night he could not stand the pain of his wound and killed himself.

In another narration in the same reference, (1, 207) it is reported that a person suffered from a boil. As it was painful, he pierced it with an arrow. The bleeding did not

stop and as a consequence, he died. His entrance into Paradise was banned.

Bukhari has recorded (4.52.147) a narration from Sahl bin Sad As-Sa'idi that after a fight with the pagans, someone praised a man who had done the best job. The Prophet (PBUH) instead said he will be among the people of the (Hell) Fire. To find the reason one person started shadowing him. He accompanied him, and wherever he stood, he would stand with him, and wherever he ran, he would run with him. Finally the brave man got wounded seriously and he decided to end his life quickly. He planted the blade of the sword in the ground directing its sharp end towards his chest then he leaned on the sword and killed himself thus proving the prediction.

What about killing a non-believer?

People who have made a covenant with the Muslims, like Jews and Christians residing in Muslim lands live in our protection. As reported in Bukhari, if anyone kills a man who lives among us in our protection (one who has made a covenant) he will not experience the fragrance of Paradise. Tirmidhi reports that Allah's Messenger said: "Beware! If anyone kills a man who has made a covenant, whose life is guaranteed by Allah and his Messenger, he has broken Allah's guarantee, and will not experience the fragrance of the Garden, yet its odor can be experienced at a distance of fifty years journey."

In Sahih Muslim (41/ 6950), Abu Huraira has reported Prophet (PBUH) as saying that the world would not come to an end until a day when the murderer would not know as to why he has killed and the slain would not know the reason why he was being murdered. It would be because of general massacre and bloodshed and both the slaughterers and the slain would be in Fire

Bottom-line:

Let us avoid these unnecessary crimes, pray for forgiveness about sins committed unknowingly -- and Inshallah all of us will meet again in Jannah once we depart from this temporary earthly abode.

(All quotes from the Quran are from Yousuf Ali's translation as seen on the version used on MSA's website, Hadiths are from Bukhari, Muslim, and other references. If you see any mistakes or have comments, please let the author know at mkirfan@fccj.edu. If you have a question about this topic, write to: Ask Imam, ICNEFNews@yahoo.com)

GAINING KNOWLEDGE IS A MUST FOR MUSLIMS

By: Mobeen H. Rathore, MD

We as Muslims often forget that gaining knowledge is as much an obligation for us as many other aspects of our religion. Unfortunately the literacy rates among the Muslims of the world are the lowest amongst all other religions. Why is this? Our "religious leaders", "scholars" and "clerics" (by the way there is no organized Clergy in

Islam so it must be a bidah) have not stressed the importance of gaining knowledge. Even the educated Muslims want to get education to become engineers or physicians, or to get degrees for the sake of having the degree initials after their name and not have a great desire to gain knowledge. Muslims around the world and in the US seek wealth more than they seek knowledge and even

(Continued on page 3)

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(Continued from page 2)

those who have wealth show little desire to seek knowledge. Islam does not prohibit making money, after all our beloved Prophet (PBUH) was a businessman and did well as businessman. Many great Muslims were wealthy but all of them sought knowledge, and not just religious knowledge.

Knowledge is important in Islam after all Allah (SWT) first message to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was "Iqra", just that, should tell Muslims the tremendous importance of gaining knowledge.

Let us not forget what the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) told us, "A learned person is superior to a worshiper as a full moon is superior to all stars. The scholars are heirs to the prophets and the prophets do not have any inheritance in the shape of money but they do have knowledge as their legacy. Therefore a person who acquires knowledge acquires his full share (Abu Dawood and Tirmizi)" or "The search of knowledge is an obligation laid on all Muslims".

Once Ali (ABPH) when asked if it was better to seek wealth or knowledge, he said knowledge was superior for the following 10 reasons:

- Knowledge guards you; you have to guard your wealth.
- Knowledge is unlimited, wealth is limited.

- Knowledge illuminates the mind, wealth darkens it.
- Knowledge makes a man generous, wealth makes a man miserable.
- Knowledge increases when you share it, wealth decreases when you share it.
- Knowledge is the legacy of Prophets, wealth is legacy of Pharaohs.
- Knowledgeable persons have many friends, a wealthy person has many enemies.
- Knowledge cannot be harmed by time; wealth wears away in course of time.
- Knowledge cannot be stolen, wealth can be.
- Knowledge is better because it induced humanity in our Prophet (PBUH), wealth engendered vanity in Pharaoh and Nimrod.

So why are Muslims, even the so called enlightened Muslims living in the West (and the US) do not have the thirst for seeking knowledge. It comes from our "Islamic Clerics" who stress only the "Wasayal" and not the "Masayal" in Islam. They will tell you over and over and over how important it is to go out and do Dawah, clearly a very important part of Islam that all need to do. But not one will tell you that our beloved Prophet (PBUH) said, "A Muslim who goes (out of the house) in search of knowledge, is in Allah's way and remains so until return" (Tirmizi).

In 2006 Muslims are behind in every area of knowledge. We must impart to Muslims that gaining knowledge is the religious responsibility of every Muslim man, woman and child. Ibn Hazm is quoted as saying, "If knowledge had no other merit than to make the ignorant fear and respect you and scholars love and honor you, this would be good enough reason to seek after it....If ignorance had no other fault than to make the ignorant man jealous of knowledgeable men and jubilant at seeing more people like himself, this by itself would be reason enough to oblige us to feel it....If knowledge and the action of devoting oneself to it had no purpose except to free the man who seeks it from the exhausting anxiety and many worries which afflict the mind, that alone would certainly be enough to drive us to seek knowledge".

We must seek knowledge and imbibe in our children the desire to seek knowledge not just for worldly gains but also because it is our religious duty and our inheritance.

"A Muslim is never satiated in the quest of knowledge (good) till it ends in paradise (Tirmizi)."

HEALTHY HABIT

By Isra'a Ilyas

Always look for the truth.
If someone tells you are wrong,
don't get upset, ask what is the right way
and follow it.

(From: I love Islam)

CLASSIFIEDS

The *ICNEF Newsletter* is available to read online every 15th of every quarter (January, April, July & October) and mailed by US mail, the last week of each quarter. Our Newsletter goes to more than 1000 households in greater Jacksonville and the surrounding areas. Please support to pay for the publishing and distribution of this amazing publication.

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THE POET IQBAL

By Fatimah Mansoori - Age 8 years

Iqbal was born on February 22, 1877 in Sialkot, which is now in Pakistan. He went to Missionary School and Government College Lahore. He is famous for his excellent Urdu and Persian poetry. In 1930 he introduced the idea of Pakistan. The British were ruling India at that time and there was no Pakistan. People in Pakistan celebrate Iqbal Day every year. He went to England, Rome, Spain and Jerusalem. He was the first Muslim to pray in the mosque in Spain after the Muslims were driven out from there. His teacher Moulvi Sayyid Mir Hassan and his friend Sir Thomas W. Arnold had the biggest effect on his life. He passed away on April 21, 1938. This is one of his poems that my dad reads to me. I like it but I think it sounds much better in Urdu.

PRAYER OF A CHILD

On my lips is coming a wish-like prayer Lord!
May my life burn like a candle-like fire!
With my breath may the darkness depart,
With my light let every corner ignite.
Let my breath add to the beauty of my nation
Like how a flower adds to the beauty of a garden
I wish my life were a moth, O lord!
In love if I was with the flame of knowledge, O Lord!
May my task be to defend the poor
To love those who at heart are weak and sore
O My Allah! Save me from doing what is bad
On the path that is right, on that You lead!

MUHAMMAD

By Maria Ilyas

In the month of Rabi-Ul-Awwal
A lovely child was born.
His father died before his birth,
And his name was Muhammad.
Muhammad's mother was Aminah,
And when she died, he was there to mourn.
He was left in the hands of Abdul-Muttalib,
To young Muhammad the death of his grandfather,
Pierced him like a thorn.

Abu Talib took charge of Muhammad,
And he was very rich.
Muhammad became Al-Amin and people said he had
no glitch.

Rich lady Khadijah and Muhammad married happily.
One very dark and lonely night,
Muhammad sat in the Hira cave.
Angel Jibreel came and squeezed him tightly.
He told him that he was a prophet,
And Iqra! was the first word he gave.
Muhammad ran home full of fear,
And asked his wife to cover him up.
But shortly afterward Khadijah lay in her grave.

After persecution,
To Medina he migrated,
People rejoiced and welcomed him warmly.
After the Treaty of Hudaibiyah
For the rest of the world he prayed.

His exemplifies the best of humankind,
We should follow him because he is the mercy to mankind.
He showed us every aspect of Islam,
So love him more than yourself, keep in mind!

FOUR DAY YOUTH WORKSHOP - ISLAMIC HERITAGE

Dates: August 1st to August 4th 2006

Time: 10am to 3pm

Venue: Islamic Center of North East Florida

Workshop Topics

- Islam Today
- From Prophet Adam to Prophet Mohammad (S A W)
- The Rightly guided Khalifas
- Islamic Civilization

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SPIRIT OF ISLAM

Project by "WHYISLAM"
3rd, 4th and 5th of March 2006.

Alhamdulillah, we had another great Scholar Shaikh Yusuf Estes visiting Jacksonville and sharing his knowledge with our growing community on how to do Dawah, conveying the message of Islam and other subjects. He has his own website www.islamalways.com. Most of his lectures are telecast live at his website.

We had an Open house on Saturday where Non-Muslims were invited to come and listen to Shaikh Yusuf Estes; Alhamdulillah we had many Non-Muslims and 2 of them took Shahadah. The Open House was advertised on NPR and the Florida Times Union, together with personal invitations to colleagues and neighbors.

There were a total of 7 lectures including the Jumma Khutbah. Here is a brief summary of each lecture.

- **Jumma Khutbah** – Unity – The message was very clear, do not divide us by nationality, keep the Ummah united.
- **Friday Night – Dawa** - During this lecture Shaikh Yusuf Estes explained why it is important to have a balance of Faith and knowledge before we venture out in the path of calling people. We should be very clear in what we are inviting people to.
- **Saturday Fajr – Imaan** – He continued the lecture of Dawa from Friday with Imaan. Imaan increases with knowledge.

- **Open House – Saturday Morning** – Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (S) – This was the time where we had Non-Muslims at the lecture and Shaikh Yusuf explained the importance of Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (S) to the Muslims and what the Qura'n says about these Prophets.
- **Open House – Saturday Afternoon** – Prophet Muhammad (S) – In this session Shaikh Yusuf explained the importance of Prophet Muhammad (S) for Muslims.
- **Saturday Night – Conveying the Message** – Whenever we convey the message of Islam, Shaikh Yusuf suggested following some simple suggestions
 - Thank them for inquiring about Islam
 - Be calm and don't get emotional
- **Sunday Fajr** – Shaikh Yusuf Estes gave challenges you face after you take Shahadah, this lecture was directed towards Tom who took Shahadah on Saturday.

All these Audio CDs are available at the ICNEF bookstore. Other projects done/in progress by WHYISLAM Public Library Lecture Series at ICNEF Halaka (Sunday Morning for Women and evening for Men) Booth at UNF Billboards

For more information regarding Whyislam or Dawa projects please contact Makram Naba at 904 704 6362 or Muhammad Ilyas at (904) 403-3399 or visit the website www.whyislam.org.

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Itinerary

Friday	Jumua Prayer Marriage and Family (Refreshments)	1:30pm Islamic Center 7:00pm Jacksonville Masjid
Saturday	Fajr Prayer w/Tafseer (Breakfast)	6:00am Islamic Center
	Preparing for Marriage/Singles Workshop (Lunch)	11:00am Jacksonville Masjid
	Family & Community (Dinner)	6:00pm Islamic Center
Sunday	Taleem	2:00pm Jacksonville Masjid

Listed in the International Who's Who Among Intellectuals, and the National Who's Who Among Public Speaking Professionals, Imam Shuaibe is an author and an award-winning, nationally recognized, seasoned, platform speaker who has addressed hundreds of audiences for 20

plus years on topics of religion, world politics, human relationships, and societal evolution. In that time, he has traveled the country researching and developing leadership and achievement technologies. With more than 20 years

(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 6)

media experience-television, radio, and print, Imam Shuaibe is a dynamic and inspirational speaker. This combined with his background as an administrator in both the public and private sectors, has enabled him to develop a full spectrum of lectures and seminars/workshops that address creating and sustaining optimum human performance in all areas of human development.

Imam Shuaibe has addressed a variety of audiences, from the degreed to middle school students; the incarcerated to the physically free; secular and religious. He has addressed audiences for large and small companies and organizations, including the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco CA, Chiron Corporation of Emeryville CA, Yale University's School of Law, Howard University, University of California at Berkeley's Department of Affirmative action, Fordham University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, New York University, University of Washington in St. Louis, Xavier University, and many religious organizations of various faiths.

As an aid and supporter of Imam W. Deen Muhammad, Imam Shuaibe has been part of several distinguished delegations that have taken him around the globe on various educational, religious, interfaith, and peace missions. He twice accompanied Imam Muhammad, once during the Gulf Crisis. And he accompanied Imam Muhammad in delegations to Rome, Italy to participate in interfaith meetings between Muslims and Catholics.

Imam Shuaibe, a family man, is married to Yolanda, and has several children.

ACCOUNTING STRUCTURE AT ISLAMIC CENTER

By: Shuaib karim

Islamic Center has grown in the past many years and various accounts have been created to help with the various aspects of expenses. We have attached an envelope to show how you can help in the accounting process and at the same time to donate money to the account which you choose. Each account is described below. For further questions please contact the treasurer at khadimhussain@yahoo.com.

- **General Fund:** This fund is used for the daily maintenance of the Masjid, including salaries of the Imam, the custodian and any other employees of the Islamic Center.
- **Membership:** gives membership benefits like discount in Weekend school, burial plots.
- **New Muslim Fund:** This fund helps in giving out materials like Qur'an to New Muslims.
- **Needy Family Fund:** This fund is used as its name suggests helping families who need financial assistance.
- **Dawah Fund:** Used to do Dawah work, includes inviting guest speaker to the center, distributing material to non Muslims.
- **Other:** Any account created for special purpose, please write the account name.

We use your money on your instructions. Please write the fund name in memo field of your check. If nothing is written in memo it automatically goes to General operating fund. Please support your center and write check payable to Islamic Center of Northeast Florida, Inc. or ICNEF.

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IN THIS ISSUE:

AVOID A SIN! The Second Biggest Sin - Murder 1

GAINING KNOWLEDGE IS A MUST FOR MUSLIMS 2

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 2006 3

HEALTHY HABIT 3

CLASSIFIEDS 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ICJAX 5

THE POET IQBAL 5

MUHAMMAD 5

FOUR DAY YOUTH WORKSHOP - Islamic Heritage..... 5

SPIRIT OF ISLAM 6

GREATER JACKSONVILLE MUSLIM COMMUNITY PRESENTS: IMAM FAHEEM SHUAIBE 6

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IJAX 7

ACCOUNTING STRUCTURE AT ISLAMIC CENTER..... 8