

December 2007 - Thw al-Qi` dah 1428
 In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

EID Aladha will be
 Wednesday 12.19
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Dear Brothers and Sisters,
 Assalamu alaikum

Unfortunately, your beloved Masjid is sad because it is not always treated with the respect it deserves. I should be treated as well as, if

not better than, your own homes. I was built as a sacred sanctuary for you to worship Allah. You use the bathroom improperly and leave a terrible mess. My doors, walls, counters are abused. Food, drinks and all sorts of trash are left on my floors. A few dedicated people clean me up but very quickly I am despoiled again. People wonder why I require so much money to keep me presentable for faithful worshipers and visitors. I beg all children and adults to make a conscientious effort to care for me in the way I deserve and as Allah commanded. If you see garbage on the ground, pick it up and dispose of it without waiting for someone else to do it. Don't throw stones at me or in the parking lot. Don't step on my flowers. Don't scratch or leave fingerprints on walls, doors and windows. If everyone pitches in, you'll be amazed how clean I will look - all the time! Be proud of me, your deen and do this is for our own sake and, above all, for the sake of Allah.

Thank you for being mindful of my simple but earnest request.

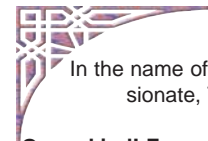
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This newsletter is compiled by the Public Relations Committee (PRC) members include Akif Shaikh, Sohail Hussaini, Timothy Hyatt, Ridwan Rashid, Sarah Tawil, Jordan Trcka and Mohamed Soliman.

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Your beloved Masjid is sad,

Jazak Allah Khair Your Beloved Masjid	When you leave garbage behind and step on my flowers,	dirty and destitute. If everyone pitches in to give me a clean look,
Your beloved Masjid is sad, Because the behavior of some has been bad.	It takes the effort of many to restore me counted in terms of hours.	You'll be amazed at how little effort it took.
Trash is left on my floors And marks are made on my walls and doors.	It's good to laugh and play, But remember I'm also a place to pray.	May Allah guide you to take care of me, So I can provide a clean sacred sanctuary.
I'm left to look like a mess, This makes me sad, I must confess.	If you don't help clean up and contribute, I'll be left to look	So do your part physically and financially, And we'll carry on together most happily.

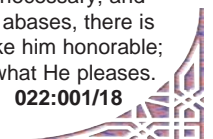


In the name of Allah, The ompassionate, The erciful

O mankind! Fear your Lord. Lo! the earthquake of the Hour (of Doom) is a tremendous thing.

Do you not see that Allah is He, Whom obeys whoever is in the heavens and whoever is in the earth, and the sun and the moon and the stars, and the mountains and the trees, and the animals and many of the people; and many there are against whom chastisement has become necessary; and whomsoever Allah abases, there is none who can make him honorable; surely Allah does what He pleases.

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Interfaith Activities and Representation = Dawah

Our Muslim community is represented through our direct or indirect interactions with others at work or in public. Some of those we interact with know of our faith by looking at us. Others know by prior exchanges with us, by our behaviors, our expressed beliefs or by our modest behaviors such as our prayer breaks, trips to the mosque for Friday jumah or by our fasting during Ramadan. I am proud to represent Islam through my community involvement and consider it an important element of dawah.

As a member of the ICCR community since 1999, it has been my honor and privilege to serve on the Board of Directors and the Public Relations committee for several terms along with other fine members of our community who have given many unselfish years of their time to honestly provide a fair and efficient structure to the ICCR.

Since 2003, I have represented the Muslim community on the Board of Directors for the Inter Religious Council of Linn County (IRCLC). The IRCLC is a wonderful long time local interfaith group which was started about 15 years ago with Imam Taha Tawil as one of its founding members! An early 2006 offshoot of the IRCLC has been the Children

of Abraham (COA) of which I became a steering committee member. The COA's mission is to break down barriers between the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths and create bridges to understanding by teaching and learning from each other. The COA has held several successful public community forums to accomplish this (including at the ICCR and the Mother Mosque twice each). This is not a short term venture and so much more needs to be done.

The COA would like to expand its adult groups and create an interfaith youth corps. We truly need the additional dedicated support and representation of our Muslim brothers and sisters to supplement the limited time Imam EIKhaldy, Imam Taha and Chairman Hassan Igram have been able to give with their multiple demands and busy schedules.

Please contact me at my home number 294-9591 or any ICCR board member if you could please consider helping in any capacity with our interfaith presence to project a positive image of our deen and fulfill our dawah missions.

Timothy Hyatt

Secretary, ICCR Board of Directors Member, IRCLC Board of Directors, Steering Committee Member, Children of Abraham

THE TEN DAYS OF ZIL-HAJJ

Authentic Hadith indicate the first ten days of Zil-Hajj are one of the most blessed ten days after the month of Ramadan. All good deeds, Salah, Sadaqa, and other forms of worship are extra rewarded by Allah (SWT).

The pilgrims who are performing Hajj are already on their journey to Makkah but the people who stay home should also prepare and observe the sanctity of these blessed days.

Cleansing:

Authentic Hadith indicate to do person-

al cleaning in advance before 1st of Zil-Hajj. This includes Nail and Hair cutting. During the blessed ten days hairs and nails should not be cut.

Takbiraat:

Recite Takbiraat after every Salah starting the night of 1st Zil-Hajj. Takbiraat should be continued three days after the Eid.

Fasting:

Fasting can be done from 1st to 9th Zil-Hajj. However, one day of fasting on 9th Zil-Hajj is most recommended. The

10th Zil-Hajj is dedicated for celebrating Eid-ul-Adha so fasting is forbidden on this day.

Eid-ul-Adha Celebration:

Eid should be celebrated in a whole community welcoming each other with greetings. Eid Salah and listening to Kutba is required. Going with family is recommended in a large community congregation. It is Sunnah not to eat anything before Eid Salah but eat after. Eating food cooked from sacrificed meat is part of celebration with friends and family [Continued page3](#)

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

EID

EID is on Wednesday: Takbeer will be at 8:30am, Khutba at 9:00am, Breakfast after Khutbah. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm catered by Sr. Shadia (\$7/adult) on Eid day along with children activities at Play Station (1:00PM-4:00PM). There will also be a balloonist and candy bags for kids at the masjid after Eid prayer.

Membership Dues:

We urge our Muslim brothers and sisters to pay their membership dues if they are current members of the ICCR or to register to be members if they have not done so.

It is one way to show support for our community and participation to the good up-keeping of the ICCR

Sacrifice:

The Sacrifice should be done after Eid Salah. It can be done during the three days (10, 11, 12 of Zil-Hajj). During these three days no good deed is better than doing Sacrifice for Allah (SWT).

Sacrifice meat should be shared among family, friends, and poor in the community. The shares are one third each for family, relatives and friends, and poor. However, this is not strictly required. If some one has a big family more can be taken for family. Also, if the family is small then more can be given to poor. The purpose of sacrifice is to please Allah (SWT). The requirements for this Sacrifice for Allah (SWT) is not like Zakah. You may do Sacrifice even if you are not rich. More than one sacrifice may also be done even if you don't need to. Sacrifice can be done on behalf of late parents or relatives.

The Journey of Hajj:

The journey of Hajj is a step by step process starting from home. Every step should be observed with reverence for Allah (SWT). Allah (SWT) has promised that any Muslim who performs Hajj with purity, performs all the required steps, refrain from obsenity and fighting will be cleansed and forgiven of all sins just like the first day a baby is born. People arrive in huge numbers from all over the world to this small desert land where nothing grows. But miraculously, Allah (SWT) provides for all the people. The host people and the environment should be respected. Their protection is part of sacredness of the event. These

days with modern facilities we have much more resources and convinences. However, there are so many more people. You will still feel the difficulties and test of your patience and perserverance to perform all the step and still maintain your composure. Reverence of Allah (SWT) and a constant awarness of His presence is the best companion. It will keep your courage high and give you the energy to perform even against the difficulties.

Once you reach Makkah the actual Hajj process is not that long. It is a matter of being at four or five different places at the right time. The only purpose of traveling to these places is worship and to make special suplications to Allah (SWT). All the steps are given by Prophet Mohammed (SAS) according to the way it was revealed to him. Observing the steps in the exact sequence and perfecting them as he described is the final objective.

Arriving from overseas the pilgrims wear Ahram clothes. They first perform Umra at Haram the Grand Mosque of Kaba in Makkah. This includes going around Kaba in Tawaf, and going between Safa and Marwa to do Sae'e.

Normally there are a lot of nice hotels to stay for extended time in Makkah. However, for performing Hajj the pilgrims must arrive on 8th Zil-Hajj in another place named Minah near Makkah. Here the stay should be a temporary setup in a tent. Since these days the event is organized by travel groups each group have separate tents and

facilities. The only focus is worship of Allah (SWT) and Salah. Each group assign group leaders who are experiened in the Hajj process. The group leaders direct the pilgrims and perform Hajj with them.

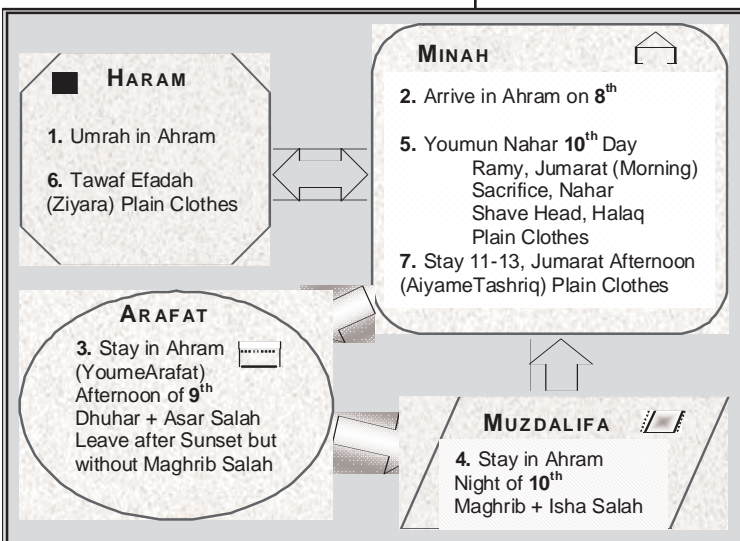
Ninth day of Zil-Hajj is the main Hajj day. Pilgrims conragate in the ground of Arafat which is a few miles away from Makkah. Here again the only purpose is to do prayers and suplications. After Sunset pilgrims leave Arafat and arrive at another ground called Muzdalifa. Here pilgrims spend the night under the sky without any tent. In the morning they leave to return back to Minah.

On tenth day of Zil-Hajj pilgrims perform a number of steps in a sequence. The first of those is to do Ramy, throw stones at Jumarat. This is a separate place and event in itself. However, it is still within the limits of the ground of Minah. It is very crowded so lots of patience and organized effort is required. On the way back from Jumarat pilgrims can perform sacrifice, Nahr. After sacrifice they may have their heads shaved, Halaq. Women cut some hair. After these steps pilgrims change from Ahram clothes to plain clothes.

The pilgrims then proceed to Haram, the Grand Mosque of Kaba in plain clothes to perform Tawaf-ul-Efada. They also do Sae'e between Safa and Marwa just like it is done in Umra. The Grand Mosque is full to its capacity on this day. It is a very crowded event. A lot of energy and perserverance is needed. Each year about three million people visit the Grand Mosque on this day. The government issues about 2 million visa for world wide for Hajj. Moreover, about a million overseas workers already in the country also do Hajj since most employers give Hajj holidays. Furthermore, about half a million local people also do Hajj.

The pilgrims then return to Minah and stay there for additional days. Each day they go to Jumarat and throw stones. They may leave on the 12th Zil-Hajj. They may stay in Minah until 13th.

Some pilgrims start returning home on 12th Zil-Hajj. Some of them leave for Madina to visit the Prophet's Mosque. Still some pilgrims extend their stay in Makkah. Nevertheless, they all leave the grounds of Minah. In Makkah there are many nice hotels and rental places near the Grand Mosque. Many pilgrims stay for some more time after Hajj. They do extra worship before returning home.





Sara Tawil

In the spirit of Hajj season, many Muslims from all around the world are preparing for this lifetime journey. This fifth pillar of Islam stems from the rituals of our father Prophet Abraham and our mother Hager, may Allah be pleased with both of them. In reference to last month's article, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal views on the perspective of da'wa for Muslim women through the many lessons learned from the life of our beloved mother Hager- may Allah be pleased with her. I wonder if we can truly comprehend the extent of her leadership and significant contribution to the establishment of Mecca. Only when we truly understand her sacrifice and everlasting presence in the history of Islam, can we

In the spirit of Hajj season

fulfill our obligation to society at large.

Allah entrusted our mother Hager to launch the Muslim Ummah's legacy. She understood that with this trust that Allah bestowed upon her, comes a profound responsibility for generations to come.

Surely, her faith was illustrated in her reply to Prophet Abraham: "if this is the will of Allah, then He will not forsake us." This unconditional trust in the will of Allah along with her patience for His sake, are the components for success in this life and in the hereafter. "And We appointed, from among them, leaders, giving guidance under Our command, so long as they persevered with patience and continued to have faith in Our Signs (32:24). This is indeed a universal recipe for the success of da'wa work that can be applicable in Muslim & Non-Muslim communities at any place and at anytime. What's more, Hager's physical movements in desperation due to extreme hunger and thirst and lack of water, when she was left alone with her infant son Ishmael in the arid desert, became the rituals to be followed during Hajj by both Muslim men and Muslim women.

Our inclination as women is to hide behind ideologies, which claim that women are not fit or required to engage in Da'wa. This could not be further from the truth according to the Qur'an. Islam teaches us that Allah requires Muslims, males and females, to promote what is just and forbid what is evil. Furthermore, Allah promises both men and women the same reward in the end. "The believers, men and women, are protectors one of another: they enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil: they observe regular prayers, practice regular charity, and obey Allah and His Messenger. On them will Allah pour His mercy: for Allah is exalted in power. Allah hath promised Believers, men and women, gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein, and beautiful mansions in gardens of everlasting bliss. But the greatest bliss is the good pleasure of Allah. That is the supreme felicity" (9:71, 72).

We must not get discouraged when our efforts appear to us as inconsequential. Our duty and service to Allah is to do our best, be visible in the larger community, and realize that the end result of any effort that has been made for the sake of Allah only, is ultimately in His hands alone.