

August 2011

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AHMADIYYA  
MUSLIM COMMUNITY

United States of America

# Philadelphia Jamaat Newsletter

Holy Quran– Chapter 2 Verse 183-185

O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous -

[Fasting for] a limited number of days. So whoever among you is ill or on a journey [during them] - then an equal number of days [are to be made up]. And upon those who are able [to fast, but with hardship] - a ransom [as substitute] of feeding a poor person [each day]. And whoever volunteers excess - it is better for him. But to fast is best for you, if you only knew.

The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى  
الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾  
أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ فَمَن كَانَ مِنكُم مَّرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ  
مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ يُطِيقُونَهُ فِدْيَةٌ طَعَامُ مِسْكِينٍ فَمَن  
تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَهُ وَأَن تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ  
تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٨٤﴾

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْءَانُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ  
وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنكُمُ الشَّهْرَ  
فَلْيَصُمْهُ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ  
أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ  
وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَىٰكُمْ  
وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

## Hadith

Narrated by Abu Huraira:

The Holy Prophet<sup>SAW</sup> said, "Whoever established prayers on the night of Qadr out of sincere faith and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all his previous sins will be forgiven; and whoever fasts in the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith, and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all his previous sins will be forgiven."

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## Messages from Local President

1. Shortly we will be entering the Holy month of Ramadhan. As has become our tradition, InshAllah we will have recitation of the Holy Quran between Asar and Maghrib prayers everyday. All are welcomed to attend.
2. Aftar: InshAllah, we will have collective Aftar (breaking fast) on a DAILY basis, followed by Maghrib, Isha, and Taravee Prayers. In addition to this, special Jama'at programs will be held on the weekends, every Saturday and Sunday. Please make an effort to attend and partake in the blessings of breaking fast together.
3. Fidya: If for any health reason, one is unable to keep a fast in this Blessed month, he/she should pay for the feeding of a less fortunate person. The average cost of this is \$85.00. Please contact Rashid Butt Sahib, finance secretary regarding this.
4. Zakat: for those individuals that it is applicable towards, kindly make an effort to pay the Zakat, especially in this Blessed month.
5. Masjid Fund: please make a special effort to contribute to our Masjid fund as we are fast approaching our one year mark.

## Local Announcements

August 13th - Lajna Elections for Shura Delegates and Shura Proposals Immediately After Dinner and Before Isha Prayer (Suggestions for Shura Proposals should be sent to Sister Nusrat Bashir by August 6th)

August 30th - Eidul Fitr:

September 3rd to 4th - Nasir Cricket Tournament Khuddam National

September 18th - Cookout/Picnic

October 7th or 9th - Majlis ansarullah National Ijtema at baitur Rahman

October- Religious Founders Day

October 29th - Regional Waqfe nau Ijtema at Harrisburgh PA

## Our Faith, Our Lifestyle By Harris Raja

“Aye! it is in the remembrance of Allah that hearts can find comfort [13:29].”

Living in this pluralistic society that has multiple shades and dimensions, it is sometime hard to identify oneself. The goal of an Ahmadi Mulsim Khadim living in America is to keep his individual identity according to his faith and at the same time be an integral part of the society. This middle ground is often hard to understand and even harder to practice. If we look at the guidance provided in the Holy Quran it becomes simpler to understand that middle ground; however, practice is yet another level. The intent of this writing is to highlight the significance of being an Ahmadi Muslim and how our faith can be part of our lifestyle.

There are so many verses of the Holy Quran that provide necessary guidance to lead a successful life in this world and to create a heaven in the hereafter. However, for the sake of brevity I have chosen the following verses of the Holy Quran and will attempt to highlight the importance of making our faith, our lifestyle. Peace of mind and soul is the underlying drive for all pursuits of happiness in this world. We see people around us indulging in various activities with the end goal of achieving satisfaction. Allah Talah says in the Holy Quran:

Aye! it is in the remembrance of Allah that hearts can find comfort [13:29].

If we ponder over this verse and try to practice it in our daily lives, we will soon realize that this simple advice from

the Holy Quran will keep us from indulging in non productive and vain activities of pleasure.

Then, Allah Talah says in the Holy Quran:

Verily Prayer is enjoined on the believers to be performed at fixed hours.[4:104].

This again is a practical example of how our faith becomes part of our lifestyle. With daily chores and worldly activities, which are also necessary to lead a productive life, it is sometimes hard to keep track of our five daily prayers. Offering five daily prayers at their fixed times will not only regulate our day, it will constantly remind us about our true purpose of existence, which is to earn the pleasure of Allah Talah.

Friday is the Holy day for Muslims:

O ye who believe! When the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off all business. [62:10]

Allah Talah has enjoined upon us to come to the Mosque for Friday prayers. Taking time off for Jumma is sometimes tough and requires a serious effort on ones part. Offering Jumma is not an option, as clearly stated by the Holy Quran. There are numerous benefits of attending Jumma some of which are; education from the Friday sermon, praying in congregation, spiritually re-energizing for the new week and fostering brotherhood among the commu- nity.

Allah Talah says in the Holy Quran:

And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah and be not divided; [3:104].

Khilafat is that rope of Allah under who's guidance we can stay on the right path (sirat-e-mustaqim). Listening to Huzur's Friday sermon needs to be part of an Ahmadi Khadim's life. The closer we are to the Khalifatul Masih the stronger we hold fast to the rope of Allah. Writing letters to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih is another way of keeping intouch with him. This takes an active effort and commitment from all of us who proudly take our Khuddam oath.

Then Allah Talah says in the Holy Quran:

And everyone has a goal which dominates him; vie, then, with one another in good works. [2:149]

As an Ahmadi Khadim our goal is to earn the pleasure of Allah Talah and continue to strive in His direction. Our paradise lies in the obedience of our Lord. As we wake up for our day, go to work or school, spend time at home, go out for leisure or shopping, invite friend and family, in the car, on the plane, watching TV, browsing the internet etc, up until the time we go to bed, we need to think about our faith and constantly try to safeguard ourselves from everything and anything that can displease our Lord. If our days stand witness that we have spent our nights with Taqwah and our nights stand witness that we spent our days fearing Allah Talah, then we are assured by the Holy Quran:

And as for those who strive in Our path — We will surely guide them in Our ways. And verily Allah is with those who do good. [29:70]

## **Came with the Intent of Murder, but Entered Paradise**

The second faith-inspiring incidence in regards to a murder was one who was incited by the enemies of Ahmadiyyat. He decided to murder the Promised Messiah. He came with a stick to murder the Promised Messiah. On seeing the radiant face of the Promised Messiah, his hatred turned to faith. On hearing Promised Messiah speak he joined the fold of his faithful companions. Historian of Ahmadiyyat, Maulana Dost Muhammad Shahid Sahib writes:

Maulvi Muhammad sahib and Maulvi Abdul Aziz Sahib had been opponents of the Promised Messiah since the days of the publication of Braheen-e-Ahmadiyya. After he claimed to be the Promised Messiah, these opponents were infuriated and created a massive campaign of opposition against him. They went to the extent of openly encouraging Muslims to oppose the Promised Messiah. One day, a speaker excitedly said in a marketplace that Mirza is a disbeliever, and is harming Muslims. Whoever murders him will gain great reward and go straight to paradise. One ignorant man who had a stick in his hand was greatly impressed by this speech. He started inquiring about the house of the Promised Messiah, and eventually reached it. There was no guard outside his house, and everyone who wished was allowed to enter. The Promised Messiah was giving a speech in a room where some Ahmadi and non-Ahmadi friends were sitting around him, listening to his speech. That ignorant man entered the room carrying his stick. He stood against the wall waiting for the right moment. The Promised Messiah paid no attention to him and carried on with his speech. He [the ignorant] also started listening to it. After a few minutes, the speech changed his heart and he put his stick on the ground. He sat down so he could listen to the rest of the speech. One person from the gathering said, Huzoor, I have understood and accept your claim and I want to be among your followers. The ignorant man said, I have been moved by the sermon; I came here to murder you, as the speaker had said that I would attain paradise, but I liked what you were saying and I stayed for more. After listening to you, I am convinced that the sermon by the other maulvi was filled with unnecessary animosity. You are indeed true and I want to join your followers. The Promised Messiah accepted his ba'it (pledge of allegiance). At that time each ba'it was accepted individually in a separate room

## **A Murderer became the beloved of the Holy Prophet (saw)**

The first incidence relates to Hazrat Sheeba razi allah anho, who due to his hatred came to murder the Holy Prophet (saw), but benefitting from the light of prophethood, gained love, obedience, and selfless devotion to the prophet. Hazrat Mirza Bahiruddin raziallah says: It is narrated in historical accounts that during the battle of Hunain, a Meccan enemy named Sheeba joined the battle from the Muslim side. His intent was that when the two sides engaged in battle, he would (God forbid) murder the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). As the battle started, arrows from the enemy side created chaos. At one time, the Holy Prophet (saw) was surrounded by only a few companions. Sheeba took out his sword and started getting closer to the Holy Prophet (saw). He himself narrates, as he got near to the Holy Prophet (saw) he felt that a flame of fire was burning between him and the Holy Prophet. If he moved any closer to the Prophet, he would be annihilated by the flame. The Holy Prophet saw him and said, "Sheeba, come here." As he got closer, the Holy Prophet put his hand on his chest and said, "God, rid Sheeba of all evil thoughts." According to Sheeba, "as soon the holy Prophet pressed his hand on my chest, all my hatred and animosity left me and my heart was full of love for him. Then the Prophet said, Sheeba, now move forward and fight the enemy. At that moment the only thought in my mind was that I should find and lay down my life for the sake of the Prophet. By God, even if my father was alive and had faced me, I would not have hesitated in beheading him.

## ***Munir Ahmad Sanwal Sahib Sargodha***

Allah sends prophets and messengers as blessings not only for man, but for all the creations of Allah. Every being in this world gets a share of their kindness, love and blessings. Prophets are enemies, opponents, or ill-wishers for no one. The rain of their blessings falls on all; and friends and foes alike gain from it. They are like a vast ocean from which all creations benefit. These beloved souls of Allah hold an attraction that remove darkness for the blessed ones. They have such persuasive speech that they can make friends out of enemies. They can breathe spirituality into dead hearts, so they may fully enjoy life. Their enlightened faces radiate the affection, light, and guidance that can change sadness into happiness, make beloveds out of blood-thirsty people, assign good fortune to the ill-fated and turn murderers into those ready to sacrifice their lives. Due to their divinely granted power they can accomplish all this in minutes. Presented here are two incidences regarding individuals who came with the intent of murder, but succumbed to the power of faith and divinely granted powers, and thus gained eternal life..