



In the name of Allah, The most Merciful, The most Kind.

# The West London Islamic Post

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***'Verily this  
brotherhood of  
yours is a single  
Brotherhood and I  
am your Lord and  
Cherisher:  
therefore serve  
Me (and no other)'  
Al-Qur'an 21:92***

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Brothers & Sisters**

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## **Hajj: The Journey of a Life Time**

Many Muslims consider Hajj to be an action that they perform when they have become old and infirm, they are misguided in thinking that such a great action should be performed after they have lived the life of fun they want first and then they can ask Allah for forgiveness. Firstly, this mode of thought is an affront to Allah's decree, that man should submit to him throughout his life, secondly a cultural trend has been passed down to today's youth, but what in fact is the correct view of Hajj in Islam.

Allah has made the pilgrimage an article of faith and an obligation on His servants, He says,

*'...And Hajj to the House is a duty that mankind owes to Allah, those who can afford the expenses, and whoever disbelieves (denies Hajj), Allah stands not in need of any of his creatures.'*  
*Al'Qur'an 3:97*

Ali, may Allah be pleased

with him, narrates,

*'One who fails to perform Hajj though he can afford to do so, it does not matter whether he dies as a Jew or a Christian'*

One should embrace any opportunity to fulfill the duty of performing Hajj, as the Prophet (pbuh) said,

*'Hasten the performance of the duty of Hajj, for nobody knows what may obstruct it'*  
*Narrated in Ahmed*

Hajj is not a journey of the body such as one may take to a vacation spot or tourist attraction. It is a journey of the soul and heart. When one pays a careful attention to the verses speaking of Hajj, they will find that verse after verse concludes with an order of being conscious of Allah's presence, or a reminder of Allah's bounteous favor upon us, or a link between Hajj and the final day.

Abu Hurayrah (ra) narrates: I

heard the Prophet say,

*"Whoever performs Hajj and does not commit any Rafath (obscenity) or Fusooq (transgression), he returns (free from sin) as the day his mother bore him" Bukhari*

So we can see the strong encouragement to perform Hajj in the Qur'an and the Sunnah as quickly as one can afford and arrange. It is not to be restricted by age but rather by ability, anyone who can perform the pilgrimage should do so. And even regular optional visits to Allah's House have been encouraged. The Prophet (pbuh) said,

*"Allah says, 'Verily, a servant I made his body healthy for him, and I expanded for him livelihood. Five years will pass upon him and he does not come to Me, except he is deprived.'"*  
*Sahih Al-Jami*



## A Pilgrim's Tale of his Journey to Makkah

**“When he was in Makkah, Al-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, who is also known as Malcolm X wrote a letter to his loyal assistants in Harlem, New York, he wrote:**

Never have I witnessed such sincere hospitality and overwhelming spirit of true brotherhood as is practiced by people of all colors and races here in this ancient Holy Land, the home of Abraham, Muhammad and all the other Prophets (peace be upon them all) of the Holy Scriptures. For the past week, I have been utterly speechless and spellbound by the graciousness I see displayed all around me by people of all colors.

I have been blessed to visit the Holy City of Mecca, I have made my seven circuits around the Ka'bah, I drank water from the well of Zam Zam. I ran seven times back and forth between the hills of Mt. Al'Safa and Al'Marwah. I have prayed in the ancient city of Mina. And I have prayed on Mt. Arafat.

There were tens of thousands of pilgrims, from all over the world. They were of all colors, from blue-eyed blondes to black-skinned Africans. But we were all participating in the same ritual, displaying a spirit of unity and brotherhood that

my experiences in America had led me to believe never could exist between the white and non-white.

America needs to understand Islam, because this is the one religion that erases from its society the race problem. Throughout my travels in the Muslim world, I have met, talked to, and even eaten with people who in America would have been considered white – but the white attitude was removed from their minds by the religion of Islam. I have never before seen sincere and true brotherhood practiced by all colors together, irrespective of their color.

You may be shocked by these words coming from me. But on this pilgrimage, what I have seen, and experienced, has forced me to rearrange much of my thought patterns held previously, and to toss aside some of my previous conclusions. Despite my firm convictions, I have always been a man who tries to face facts, and to accept the reality of life as new experiences and new knowledge unfolds before me. I have always kept an open mind, in my intelligent search for the truth.

During the past eleven days here in the Muslim world, I have eaten from the same plate, drunk from the same glass, and

slept on the same rug – while praying to the same God – with fellow Muslims, whose eyes were the bluest of blue, hair was the blondest of blonde and skin was the whitest of white. I felt the same sincerity that I felt among the black African Muslims of Nigeria, Sudan and Ghana. We were truly all the same brothers.

I could see from this, that if perhaps white Americans could accept the Oneness of God, then perhaps they too, could accept the reality of the oneness of mankind and cease to measure, and hinder, and harm others in terms of their indifference towards diversity.

With racism plaguing America like an incurable cancer, the so called 'Christian' white American heart should be more receptive to a proven solution to such a destructive problem. Perhaps it could be in time to save America from imminent disaster- the same destruction brought upon Germany by racism that eventually destroyed the Germans themselves.

Each hour here in the Holy Land enables me to have greater spiritual insights into what is happening in

America between black and white. The American Negro never can be blamed for his racial animosities- he is only reacting to four hundred years of the conscious racism he has endured. I believe though that the whites of the younger generation, in the colleges and universities, will see the writing on the wall and many will turn to the spiritual path of truth, the only way left for America to ward off the disaster that racism, immorality and un-godliness inevitably must lead to.

Never have I been so highly honored. Never have I been made to feel more humble and unworthy. Who would believe the blessings that have been heaped upon an American Negro? A few nights ago, a man who would be called in America a white man, a United Nations diplomat, an ambassador, a companion of kings, gave me his hotel suite, his bed. Never would I have thought of receiving such honors-honors that in America would be bestowed upon a king, not a Negro. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all the Worlds.”

Yours sincerely,  
Al-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz  
(Malcolm X)

**All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black nor a black has any superiority over a white – except by piety and good action.**

**Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not therefore do injustice to yourselves.**

**Remember one day you will meet Allah and answer your deeds. So beware: do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.**

~~ Prophet Muhammad(pbuh) ~~

## Islam Taster Day

Its good to talk..the Masjid will be arranging an event to mark Eid-ul-Adha, especially geared for those who wish to know more about this auspicious Islamic occasion. There will be a free lunch and small presentation. Please invite your non-Muslim friends and colleagues, invitations have been sent to local churches, schools, libraries and councils. Please view the advert opposite and we look forward to seeing you

## Up & Coming Events/Activities

- Eid Prayer Timings are as follows: 8.30 am, 9.15, 10.15 and 11.15. There will be no parking in the Masjid due to food & bookstall set up.
- Beginners Qur'an & Tajweed classes for adults starting soon, contact Br Atta-ur-Rahman in bookshop
- Mother & Toddler Group Eid-ul-Adha gathering, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 10-1pm (sister only).

## Spending in the Way of Allah

Charity is one of the most important and rewarding actions in Islam. It is the hallmark of a Muslim to be charitable; being tight-fisted and stingy is not something that is associated with true Muslims aspiring to follow the final Messenger, Muhammad (pbuh). Among the types of charity that a person can give is Zakat, this meets the needs of the poor in society, it strengthens the relationship between the rich and the poor. It helps a believer purify himself and draw blessings from Allah. Allah says,

*'And whatsoever you spend of anything (in Allah's cause). He will replace it. He is the best of those who grant sustenance.'* Al'Qur'an 34:39

*'Those who are delivered from the greed of their own souls— they are the successful.'* Al'Qur'an 59:9

It is well known from the Sunnah and the actions of the early pious generations that if they committed any mistake, bad deed, or anything perceived by them to be unworthy behaviour, they would always pay some Sadaqah as an 'expiation' for their behaviour. One can never imagine the impact that a very small act of kindness at a critical moment can have!

In such a religion of mercy and ease, it is clear that one should never under-estimate the value of small good deeds, especially giving charity, and even more so when you give to others what you might have some need for.

The Messenger of Allah said,

*"There is no day in which the slaves of Allah arise except that two angels descend, one saying, "O Allah, replace the*

*charity for the one who spends!" whilst the other says, "O Allah, destroy the wealth of the one who holds back (from giving in charity)".*

To give Sadaqah will be a proof of ones faith and commitment to Allah. It is the expiator of our mistakes, and a very small amount can bring unimaginable spiritual and material rewards, both in this life and in the Hereafter. It protects one from the Fire of Hell and extinguishes our sins. It leads to blessings in the wealth one has in this world as well as the best possible investment in the Hereafter, personally managed by the best of advisors, Allah the Almighty, the Most Merciful.

Brothers and Sisters please donate generously towards the Masjids Qurbani and Tsunami Appeal. You can select from a number of countries to which you

would like to send your Qurbani or Sadaqah contributions. Please contact Br Abdul Hamid or Imam Attur-Rahman in the Masjid bookshop. The Tsunami Appeal has already generated £5413 which was immediately sent to affected areas in South Asia.

**"And spend (in charity) of that with which We have provided you, before death comes to you, and he says, My Lord! If only You give me respite for a little while (ie to return to the life of this world) then I would give Zakah of my wealth, and be among the righteous" Qur'an 63:10**



And when his Lord tried Abraham with certain words, he fulfilled them. He (God) said: Surely I will make you an Imam (leader) of men.  
The Holy Quran

**ISLAM TASTER DAY**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2005**

**1 to 3 pm**

**Come and join us as we celebrate Eid-ul-Adha - marking the sacrifices made by Prophet Abraham.**

**Free lunch** will be given to all visitors.

A number of Mosques and centres across the country will be hosting the event.

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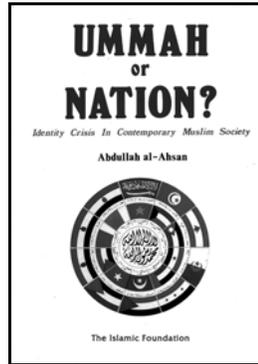
**Maqam-i-Ibrahim**  
Contains footprints of Prophet Abraham, which is located next to the Holy Kaaba, Mecca.

## Al-Kitab: Visit us for the Latest Books, Audio & Islamic Goods

Al-Kitab Bookshop is situated inside the West London Islamic Centre and has been operating for some 5 years,

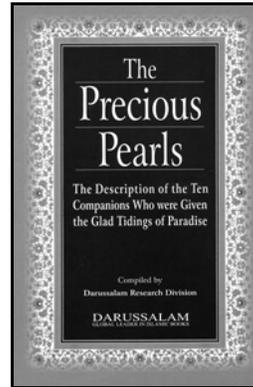
The bookshop stocks an array of Islamic books and merchandise. Brothers and sisters the knowledge is available, why not buy your loved ones a gift this Eid, which they can benefit from forever. The Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) said,

*'He who treads the path in search of knowledge, God will make that path easy, leading to Paradise for him and those people who assemble in one of the houses of God (masjids), recite the Book of God, and learn and teach the Koran. There will descend upon them tranquility, mercy will cover them, the angels will surround them, and God will*



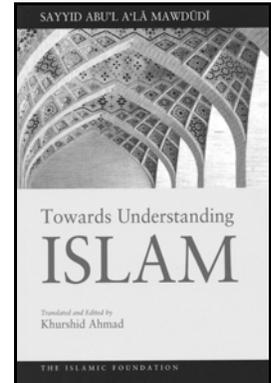
*mention them in the presence of those near Him. [Muslim]*

Ummah or Nation? Is a study of identity crises in modern Muslim society. It surveys the literature on the development of nationalism in Muslim countries and examines the status of the Ummah and nation-state identities on



contemporary Muslim nation states. An interesting read.

A tremendous book for the youth of today, The Precious Pearls describes the character and lives of ten companions who were given the glad tidings of Paradise. Reflect on the greatness of our Muslim hero's from our Islamic past,



who built the most glorious and powerful civilization of all.

Newly designed edition of this popular & classic rendition. Towards Understanding Islam is clear, simple, precise, a superb intro to Islam and gift for anyone interested in Islam.

## Don't Miss the Best Days of the Year

Starting January the 12<sup>th</sup> we enter the best ten days of the year. There are no other days more rewarded than these ten. They are first ten days of the Islamic month Dhul-Hijjah. Unfortunately many of us do not know about their status, and just let them drift by...

If there was some great sale advertising ridiculously low prices you will find many of us there waiting in long lines, just to get the spectacular deals. Well we should all hurry to catch this great sale that Allah is advertising. It's all come all served!

*The Prophet (pbuh) said, "No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these days." His companions asked, "Not even jihad in the way of Allah?" He said: "Not even jihad, except for the man who puts his life and wealth in danger and returns with neither." [Muslim]*

Subhan'Allah, how merciful is our Lord. So what can we do? One could read Qur'an,

read literature to increase our Iman, help our Muslim neighbor, give charity (even a smile is charity), volunteer at our Masjid, fast, dhikr (remembering Allah), etc...

*The Prophet said: "There are no days more loved to Allah for you to worship Him than the ten days of Dhul-Hijja. Fasting any day during it is equivalent to fasting one year and to offer salatul Tahajud (late night prayer) during one of its nights is like performing the late night prayer on (Lailatul'Qadr) the night of power" [Tirmidhi]*

So if we can why not at least try to fast one day during these days so we would have one years fasting on our records towards the purchase of the next life. Ibn Abbas said that the Ayah:

*"Remember Allah during the well known days," Al-Qur'an 2:203*

refers to the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijja. We should say Allahu-Akbar (Allah is great), Alhamdulillah (all praise &

thanks are to Allah), La'ilaha il-Allah (there is none worthy of worship but Allah), etc. This is what the Prophet told us to do during these days, that isn't to much to ask for, and on the 9<sup>th</sup> day it will be the day of Arafat. We should all try to fast this day because the Prophet said: "It is an expiation for the sins of the preceding year and the current year." [Muslim]

Brothers and sisters in Islam, don't let this opportunity slip away, May Allah forgive and have mercy on us all.

## REGULAR MASJID ACTIVITIES

- Dars-E-Qur'an & Hadith on Saturdays 6pm
- Islamic Study Circle for brothers re-starting soon
- Islamic Study circle for brothers & sisters (Somali) on Sundays 1.30pm
- Sisters Quranic Circle 10am-12.30pm (Mon & Saturdays)
- Childrens Quranic Classes (Monday to Friday 5pm-7pm & Saturday mornings from 10am-1pm)
- Quran Study Circle for brothers (English) on Thursdays at 7.30pm
- Keep-fit Boxing sessions on Thursday 7.30pm and Sundays 2.30pm (Brothers)
- Mother & Toddler Group Tuesday 10-12.30pm

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