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HADITH

Narrated Abu Musa: Some people asked Allah's Apostle, "Whose Islam is the best? i.e. (who is a very good Muslim)?" He replied, "One who avoids harming the Muslims with his tongue and hands."

Salah: Life's Forgotten Purpose

Man has taken many journeys throughout time. But there is one journey that nobody has ever taken.

Nobody—except one.

On a vehicle no man has ever ridden, through a path no soul has ever seen. To a place no creation has ever before set foot. It was the journey of one man to meet the Divine. It was the journey of Muhammad, prophet of God, to the highest heaven.

It was *al Israa wal Miraaj* (the magnificent journey). On that journey Allah took his beloved prophet to the seventh heaven—a place not even angel Gibreel could enter. In the Prophet's mission on earth, every instruction, every commandment was sent down through angel Gibreel. But, there was one commandment that was not. There was one commandment so important, that rather than sending angel



Gibreel down with it, Allah brought the Prophet up to Himself. That commandment was *salah* (prayer). When the Prophet was first given the command to pray, it was to be fifty times in a day. After asking Allah to make it easier, the commandment was eventually reduced to five times a day, with the reward of the fifty. Reflecting upon this incident scholars have explained that the process of going from fifty to five was a deliberate one, intended to teach us the true place *salah* should hold in our lives. Imagine for a moment actually praying fifty times a day. Would we be able to do anything else but pray? No. And that's the point. What greater way

than that to illustrate our life's true purpose? As if to say, *salah* is our real life; all the rest that we fill our day with...just motions. And yet, we live as if it's exactly the opposite. *Salah* is something we squeeze into our day, when we find time—if that. Our 'lives' don't revolve around *salah*. *Salah* revolves around our 'lives.' If we're in class, *salah* is an afterthought. If we're at the mall, the Macy's sale is more urgent. Something is seriously wrong when we put aside the very purpose of our existence in order to watch a basketball game. And that is for those who even pray at all. There are those who have not only put aside their life's

“Consider for a moment what Satan did wrong. He didn’t refuse to believe in Allah. He refused to make one sajdah.”

Salah

purpose, they have abandoned it completely. What we often don’t realize about the abandonment of *salah* is this: No scholar has ever held the opinion that committing *zina* (fornication) makes you a disbeliever. No scholar has ever held the opinion that stealing, drinking or taking drugs makes you a disbeliever. No scholar has even claimed that murder makes you a non-Muslim. But, about *salah*, some scholars have said he who abandons it, is no longer Muslim. This is said based on a *hadith* such as this one: “The covenant between us and them is

How many of us will be among those who say “we were not of those who prayed, or we were not of those who prayed on time, or we were not of those who made prayer any priority in our lives?” Why is it that if we’re in class or at work or fast asleep at the time of fajr and we need to use the restroom, we make time for that? In fact, the question almost sounds absurd. We don’t even consider it an option not to. And even if we were taking the most important exam of our lives, when we need to go, we will go. Why? Because the potentially mortifying consequences of not going, makes it a non-option.

prayer, so if anyone abandons it, he has become a disbeliever.”

[Ahmad]

Imagine an act so egregious that the prophet would speak about it in such a way. Consider for a moment what Satan did wrong. He didn’t refuse to believe in Allah. He refused to make one *sajdah*. Just one. Imagine all the *sajdahs* we refuse to make. Consider the seriousness of such a refusal. And yet, think how lightly we take the matter of *salah*. *Salah* is the first thing we will be asked about on the Day of Judgment, and yet it is the last thing that on our mind.

We feed our bodies, because if we didn’t, we’d die. But so many of us starve our souls, forgetting that if we are not praying our soul is dead. And ironically, the body that we tend to is only temporary, while the soul that we neglect is eternal.

The Prophet said: “The first thing which will be judged among a man’s deeds on the Day of Resurrection is the Prayer. If this is in good order then he will succeed and prosper but if it is defective then he will fail and will be a loser.”

[Tirmidhi]

On that Day, the people of paradise will ask those who have entered Hell-fire, why they have entered it. And the Quran tells us exactly what their first response will be: “What led you into Hell Fire? They will say: ‘We were not of those who prayed.’” (Qur’an, [74:42-43](#))

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Jazak Allahu
Khayran

Sharon Sunday school of Islamic Studies

This article is a series of article talking about different Islamic schools at ICNE.

Philosophy

With the name of Almighty Allah, the most merciful, the most beneficent: There is one God, creator of the universe and the heavens. We belive in Allah, His messangers, His revelations, His angles. Allah sent messangers and revealed the Knowledge for the complete guidance for His creation. He sent messangers with the right messages to various communities and the last messenger is Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) to whom the last revelation was sent in the form of Qur'an. Qur'an is the complete guidance for the mankind.

Mission

Our mission at Sharon School of Islamic Studies is to educate and train our children according to Qur'an and Sunnah. Train them to establish proper prayers, develop good behaviors and respect humanity. We prepare them to participate in the

community building.

Teaching Islam to children at various levels is one of our main aims. In our preschool through 8th grade classes, we educate our children about the principles of Islam, Qur'anic values, and the Sunnah. Year around we offer multiple activities, including Qur'an competitions, Surah memorization competitions, and activities such as Eid festivities and picnics. One of our most exciting events of the year is the graduation ceremony, where students are rewarded for their outstanding performance throughtout the year.

Levels and courses

We have a well structured grade system with nine levels starting form pre-K/KG to grade eight. we have a well designed islamic studies curriculum, divded into four categories as follows: Religion, Arabic language, Qur'anic reading and Memorization.

Timings and Tution

Every Sunday the school begins at 9:45 AM and adjourns at 2:00 PM,

devided in four periods of 45 mins each. We hold a 30 min assembly before salat-ul Zuhar in the masjid followed by Zuhar prayres with jamah.

Our tution is \$350/child/year with an additional \$125/child upto four children. After which there is no charge. Fee for books is \$25/child.

Please visit us at www.icne.net



"Our mission at Sharon School of Islamic Studies is to educate and train our children according to Qur'an and Sunnah."



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Introductory Islamic Financial Ethics- Seminar

By Sharik Purkar

“Great topic and Good job on organizing this event I wish it was longer. Hope to see more events with different topics organized frequently to educate community on the whole.”



“If possible arrange another session like this which may be useful for average Muslim's day to day life like family life, marriage, raising children, tolerance among different ethnicities.”



“Great program. Need to be more interactive in terms of Q & A doesn't like written questions.”



QUINCY, MA- Imam Khalid Nasr of ICNE Quincy Masjid started off the Introductory Islamic Financial Ethics: *An Intensive on the Basic Fiqh of Financial Transactions* with a recitation from The Holy Qur'an. The Seminar was the first of its kind open for the general public in the area. The aim of the seminar was to, in a few hours, shed light on the major financial issues that relate to lives of the Muslims in a *Riba* Driven society. The seminar featured four scholars of *Sharia* namely Imam Khalid Nasir, Sheikh Suheil Laher, Mufti Ikram ul Haq and Sheikh Taha Abdul-Basser.

from MIT who is currently pursuing his PhD in Islamic Studies, continued the general yet precise approach of Imam Khalid. Sheikh Suheil started off his speech by referencing Greek Philosophers who had, centuries before the advent of the Prophet (ﷺ), condemned Usury or *Riba* as a means of exploitation that makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. He continued to say that the prohibition of *Riba* is not something new to the *Ummah* of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) but that the previous nations, Jews and Christians, also forbade Usury before eventually making it Halal for

Imam Khalid was the first to take the floor and his main topics included giving the audience a basic introduction to financial and general ethics of the Islamic *Sharia*. Imam Khalid started off with a *Ayah* of the Holy Quran where Allah affirms man's, Muslims and Non-Muslims included, love for wealth and money and hence the responsibility to get them in a *Halal* way and spend them in a *Halal* way. The Imam was keen in making clear the fact that Scholars simply do not have the answers to everything, some issues require the help of a

themselves. Sheikh Suheil went on to describe some types of business that are clearly *Haram*. He concluded his speech by mentioning the steps one must take to repent after having taken *Riba*.

The next two speakers, Mufti Ikram ul Haq and Sheikh Taha Abdul-Basser, took a much more detailed and technical approach, giving a brief description of the intricate matters of "Islamic Financing". Mufti Ikram's speech mostly consisted of outlining all the types of Halal trades and how each of them work. Sheikh Abdul-Basser addressed more details

specialist in a specific field of concern. Although his speech consisted of mostly general topics, Imam Khalid did make note of some types of businesses that are clearly *Haram* and some that are *Halal*. Imam Khalid concluded his speech by reminding the audience that the validity of a business is not decided by us (the general population or the *Ulema*), it is based on over 500 *Ayats* of the Quran and over 2,400 *Hadiths* of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ).

The next speaker, Sheikh Suheil Laher, a graduate

about the more practical aspect of things, and also whether things that concern mostly the Western Muslim community are Halal or not.

The Seminar, which concluded with an hour long question and answer session, was overall a well received success according the attendees through a survey. An estimated 100 people attended, with cooperation from all. Imam Khalid Nasr of Quincy did a follow-up halaqa of sorts where he emphasized the need and the benefit of such events. Over the entire seminar was well planned and well