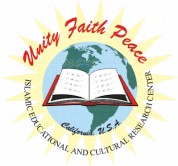


In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Prayers and Peace upon His Noble Messenger ﷺ



Islamic Educational & Cultural Research Center

CALIFORNIA, U.S.A

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IECRC Newsletter

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IECRC Newsletter Editorial Board

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*IECRC Wishes Everyone in
the Bay Area and Around the
World Blessings of the
Islamic Hijri Year 1426.*

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“BLACK” MUSLIM HISTORY

“O mankind! We have indeed created you from one man and one woman, and have made you into various nations and tribes so that you may know one another; indeed the more honorable among you, in the sight of Allah, is one who is more pious among you; indeed Allah is All Knowing, All Aware.”

[Al-Quran 49:13]

In the Islamic worldview the yardstick for spiritual hierarchy amongst human beings is singular: **piety**, as enunciated by the above-mentioned verse of the Holy Quran, the Divine Text of Islam. All other distinguishing elements such as color, race, language, gender and so forth are intended to enrich the fabric of the human society, not to break it apart.

The Divine Intent is further illustrated in the words of Allah Almighty's Beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) who advised humanity in His famous farewell address:

“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.”

This universal message if taken to heart and applied with attitudes that transcend utopian idealism, is certain to bridge rifts, heal

wounds, and breed a social infrastructure that caters to the welfare and well being of each member of society – indeed this is the final goal of the *Shari'ah* (Islamic Law).

However, human history has been far from ideal. Despite constant Divine Guidance through the institution of Prophethood - beginning from Prophet Adam, Noah, Abraham and culminating in the Prophets Moses, Jesus and finally the Holy Prophet Muhammad (prayers and peace of Allah be upon them all), the human report card is far from making the honor roll. Once again, Divine Mercy comes to the rescue. The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“All of the children of Adam make mistakes. The best of those who make mistakes are the ones who repent.”

The observance of “Black History Month (BHM)” in the United States is an ongoing effort in making reparations to the painful experiences of African Americans in this country. February marks the beginning of this annual celebration that has existed since 1926. Much of the credit can go to Harvard Scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who was determined to bring Black History into the mainstream public arena. Woodson devoted his life to making “the world see

the Negro as a participant rather than as a lay figure in history.” In 1926 Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week, which took place during the second week of February. Woodson chose this date to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln - two men who had greatly impacted the black population. Over time, Negro History Week evolved into the Black History Month that we know today - a four-week-long celebration of African American History.

The struggles for equality and justice as played out by El Hajj Malik al-Shabbaz (Malcolm X) and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for the restoration of civil rights of African Americans in the United States are well known and commendable. However, “Black History” vis-à-vis Islam is much older than these experiences. One of the first personalities of African, specifically Abyssinian (modern day Ethiopia) descent who rose to the occasion to lift up the light of Truth during the days of ignorance (*jahiliyya*) was none other than Hazrat Bilal ibn Rabah (may Allah be pleased with him), the very dear and beloved Companion of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Those were the days when people

were mired in tribal wars; fraternal bitterness, grudges and enmity was commonplace, the sword was the solution to the most minor of disputes, slavery was institutionalized where humans were sold by humans, slaves and servants were treated inhumanely and tortured, the strong would devour the weak whose voices were completely suppressed and unheard, any claim for justice was crushed, usurious dealings with its inherent oppression was the business of the day, gambling and looting was routine, women were treated as chattel, baby girls were buried, and stone idols were considered divine. In short, humans were leeches upon humans, and to compound the ignorance, those perpetrating such crimes indulged in arrogant self-praise considering such evils as laudable.

To alleviate the misery of such abominations, in the midst of

(continued on next page)

this darkness, arose a light of Divine Guidance – a symbol of Allah’s Mercy, a Personality whose lineage, veracity, trustworthiness and integrity were well known. He ﷺ was from the *Bani Hashim*, the noblest of the Arab tribes and was famous as “*Al-Amin*” – “The Trustworthy”, loved by all. He ﷺ was very kind, loved the children and the old, cared for the youth, nursed the sick, served the poor, fed the hungry, embraced the orphans, freed the slaves, was kind to the animals, and spread peace. He ﷺ was the epitome of wisdom, magnanimity, truthfulness, benefit, and greatness.

He ﷺ called people to the worship of the One True God, commanded them to keep their minds pure from all evil, to be truthful, to keep their promises, to respect the ties of kinship, the rights of neighbors, to refrain from crimes and bloodshed, to be helpful to others, and to live with the people of the other religions peacefully and justly. He ﷺ asked them to serve the poor, the sick and the sufferers. He ﷺ prohibited them from hating anyone. He taught virtue, decency, justice, respect, manners, and the etiquettes of being civilized. He transformed hearts and mind, purified them, and illumined the hearts with faith in the One True God, Creator and Sustainer of the Universe. He created a community where there was no illegitimate fighting and no enmity, where the exemplary message of brotherhood was established through the *Ansaar-Muhaajir* relationship. (This was the historic comradeship instituted by the Holy Prophet ﷺ between the Muslims who emigrated from Mecca – the *Muhaajir* and the residents of Medina – the *Ansaar*.) This was the message of Islam.

For adherence to such lofty yet innate human principles unmarred by the human ego, the early Muslims were subjected to the most inhumane of treatments. Some of the earliest converts such as Hazrat Bilal رضي الله عنه were slaves, poor & humble. Hazrat Bilal’s رضي الله عنه owner Umayya ibn Khalaf inflicted immense suffering on him. History books tell of him tying a rope around Hazrat Bilal’s رضي الله عنه neck and dragging him on the burning sands of Arabia, and placing huge, burning, hard rocks on his abdomen. The cause for Khalaf’s vengeance was simply because Hazrat Bilal رضي الله عنه heeded the call of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and held on to it so staunchly that no amount of tormenting would budge him

from his newly found love. When the Holy Prophet ﷺ learnt of Khalaf’s mistreatments, He ﷺ had him freed through Hazrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him), another one of the Holy Prophet’s ﷺ great Companions. Hazrat Bilal رضي الله عنه was one of the seven early Muslims who bore such great hardships and held on to the rope of Truth when being Muslim was not materially beneficial, on the contrary it was detrimental and dangerous to one’s honor, property, and life itself. Hazrat Bilal’s رضي الله عنه steadfastness in his love for the Truth and the Truth-Bearer ﷺ is eloquently versified by Hazrat Allama Iqbal (may Allah have mercy on him), the great 19th CE century poet-philosopher of Pakistan:

*“Jafaa jo Ishq mein ho vo jafaa hee naheen;
Sitam na ho
to muhabbat mein kuch mazaa hee naheen”*
*“The injury in love is not real injury;
in fact, if there is no suffering,
there is no taste in love”*

Hazrat Bilal’s رضي الله عنه utter devotion was also amply rewarded by the Holy Prophet’s ﷺ great love for him. He ﷺ made Hazrat Bilal رضي الله عنه the comrade of a relative of His ﷺ, a noble Hashmite, in the *Ansaar-Muhaajir* relationship. This exemplified the Truth cutting the chains of social hierarchy. Hazrat Bilal رضي الله عنه was the Holy Prophet’s ﷺ *muezzin*, one who recited the Call to Prayer. There are famous heart-warming narrations about how the time for prayer would not come in until Hazrat Bilal رضي الله عنه gave the *Adhan* (call to prayer).

Another great personality who was a pillar of support to the Truth during the early days of Islam of African descent was King Negus of Abyssinia. When the early Muslims were undergoing the aforementioned persecutions, the Holy Prophet ﷺ gave them permission to emigrate to his kingdom, as this king was known for his justice. When the case of the Muslims was eloquently presented in the king’s court by Hazrat Jafar (may Allah be pleased with him), a Companion of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, the king’s heart and mind were swept away by such a noble message and he granted sanctuary to the Muslims in his kingdom. This act on the king’s part was highly commendable as he was under immense pressure from the Arab persecutors of the Muslims who had tracked them down to Abyssinia. However the king re-

mained steadfast in holding on to the truth.

Wherever Islam traveled, its high ideals and noble principles transformed people and societies. However, the black-white divide once again became increasing pronounced with the European domination of Africa between the latter half of the fifteenth and the nineteenth centuries, which involved the enslavement of millions of African peoples. It has been estimated that Africa alone supplied some 20 million slaves over three centuries in order to satisfy the American demand for labor. This has taken its toll on the psyche and social stratification of people of African descent especially in European countries today. The Africans in their native countries also suffer the repercussions of a post-colonial world. The pious men and women who have tried to uphold the true and pristine Islamic teachings have always been a cohesive and inspiring force in their communities to attempt to provide unification and healing.

It is therefore very clear that Islamic teachings call for the abolishment of all unjust treatments of people based on the color of their skin, or any other factor for that matter. If such practices exist today where people are held in bondage against their will and without compensation, then this is a practice completely antithetical to Islam. As is obvious from the above exposition, Islamic “Black History” or more aptly and respectfully put, “Bilali History” is as old as Islam itself. Men and women of African descent have stood up for the truth from Hazrat Bilal رضي الله عنه to Malcolm X.

As a famous African proverb says that “However long the night, the dawn will break.” As the world moves towards increased cross cultural understanding and improves communication between its various groups in the true spirit of “getting to know one another”, our children can hope for a bright future where each human being is provided the basic resources to be the best they can and contribute positively to society. □

Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri

Dr. Qadri is the Founder of IECRC. He is a renowned Islamic scholar from Pakistan, with expertise in both modern education and traditional Islamic sciences, having completed the 18 year Dars-e-Nizami course from Pakistan.

Allah (Most Glorified & Exalted is He) says in His Noble Quran:

“... Say (O dear Prophet Mohammed - peace and blessings be upon him) ‘I do not ask any fee from you upon this, except the love between close ones’; ...”

[The Holy Quran 42:23]

The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“When I am loved, then my family members, whom I love should also be loved.”

[Tirmidhi Shareef]

“*Muhammadun Sayyidul kawnayni wa thaqalayni
Wal fareeqayni min ‘urbin wa min ‘ajami*”

Muhammad ﷺ is the Master of the two worlds and the two beings (humans & jinn)

And the Master of the two groups, those that are Arabs and those that are not

– from the *Burda Shareef* of Imam Shareefuddin Al-Busiri (may Allah be pleased with him)

THE TRADITION OF URS (MEMORIAL)

A civilization that remembers and observes its foundational people and its historical milestones is a successful one. This is so because such observances act as a continuous educational ground for the emerging generation, i.e. the youth, to learn, understand, absorb, apply and therefore transmit the untainted spirit of the civilization forward for the betterment of humanity at large.

It is in this spirit that the Islamic tradition observes the “Urs” of those it considers its foundational people: the *Awliya* – the Friends of Allah Almighty, the Saints (may Allah have mercy on them all). *Urs* is an Arabic word which means happiness. It is generally observed on the day that a Saint passes away into the Divine Realm. Although it may seem outwardly contradictory to the novice observer; to the Saint, his or her separation of soul from the earthly body represents THE moment of happiness as it is a freedom from the imprisonment of this ephemeral world and a return and re-union with the Divine. It is to remember their lives, sacrifices, and contributions; to be inspired by them, and to send tokens of gratitude in the form of special prayers that we remember the days of our Noble *Awliya* (may Allah have mercy on them all).

Each Islamic month is filled with a goldmine of such *Urs* anniversaries. Although it is beyond the scope of this brief article to mention in detail about the lives of each of these great luminaries, this series will insha Allah mention some of the key shining stars of each month. Details on some of these great personalities can be found in the Articles section at the IECRC website at www.iecrcna.org.

1. Muharram

4th: **Hazrat Khwaja Hassan Basri**

Year: 116 Hijri / 734 CE

Resting in: Basra, Iraq

5th: **Hazrat Baba Fareed-ud Deen Ganj Shakar**

Year: 664 Hijri / 1265 CE

Resting in: Punjab, Pakistan

8th: **Hazrat Imam Zayn-ul Abideen**

Year: 94 Hijri / 712 CE

Resting in: Madina Munawwara

10th: **Hazrat Imam Husayn**

Year: 61 Hijri / 680 CE

Resting in: Madina Munawwara (Blessed Head) & Karbala, Iraq (Blessed Body)

20th: **Hazrat Bilal ibn Rabah**

Year: 21 Hijri / 641 CE

Resting in: Damascus, Syria

2. Safar

19th: **Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh**

Year: 465 Hijri / 1072 CE

Resting in: Lahore, Pakistan

25th: **A'laa Hazrat Imam Ahmed Raza Khan**

Year: 1340 Hijri / 1921 CE

Resting in: Bareilly Shareef, UP, India

28th: **Hazrat Imam Hassan**

Year: 50 Hijri / 670 CE

Resting in: Madina Munawwara

29th: **Hazrat Pir Meher Ali Shah**

Year: 1356 Hijri / 1937 CE

Resting in: Golra Sharif, Punjab, Pakistan

3. RABI'UL AWWAL

12TH: **THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD (ENDLESS PEACE & PRAYERS OF ALLAH ALMIGHTY BE UPON HIM, HIS FAMILY, & HIS COMPANIONS)**

YEAR: 11 HIJRI / 632 CE

RESTING IN: MADINA MUNAWWARA

14th: **Hazrat Khwaja Qutb-ud Deen Bakhtyar Kaki**

Year: 653 Hijri / 1255 CE

Resting in: Delhi, India

21st: **Shaykh Abdul Haqq Muhaddith Dehlvi**

Year: 1052 Hijri / 1642 CE

Resting in: Delhi, India

22th: **Syeda Bibi Rabiya 'Adawiya Basri**

Year: 185 Hijri / 801 CE

Resting in: Basra, Iraq

29th: **Ummul Mu'mineen Hazrat Juwariyah**

Year: 50 Hijri / 670 CE

Resting in: Madina Munawwara

May Allah Almighty be pleased with them & have mercy on them all! Aameen.

□

THE GREATNESS OF HAZRAT IMAM HUSAYN (MAY ALLAH BE WELL PLEASED WITH HIM)

The Islamic Educational & Cultural Research Center observed the momentous occasion of Ashura in three different locations in Northern California on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of Muharram in the cities of San Jose, Hayward, and Fremont, respectively. The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the twelve-month Islamic lunar calendar.

In the Islamic tradition, the number of months in the sight of Allah Almighty is twelve, four of them being sacred [Al-Quran, 9:36]. Muharram is one of these four months, and Ashura being the 10th of Muharram holds tremendous significance. Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be well pleased with him), the 11th century CE scholar and Sufi Saint of Iraq, and fountainhead of the Qadri Spiritual Order, relates a saying of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) in his magnum opus "Al-Ghunya", that this is the day in which Allah Almighty created the heavens and the earth; it is the day in which great prophets such as Adam, Abraham, and Jesus (peace be upon them all) were born, and is also the day in which some of them were delivered from their enemies, such as Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) from the Pharaoh. However, the most significant event that took place on the day of Ashura in the eyes of Muslims is the martyrdom of the very dear and beloved grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) at the hands of the tyrant Yazid, the then governor of Syria. The San Jose Ashura gathering featured Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri, founder of IECRC, who delivered a very educational and moving speech via telephone recounting the reasons that climaxed in this sad, and yet pre-destined occurrence that epitomizes sacrifice in the struggle for upholding the truth.

Dr. Qadri explained that the episode at Karbala (in Iraq) was that of love, betrayal, and steadfastness on the path of truth. Yazid, the son of Amir Mu'awiyah (may Allah be pleased with him) had taken up leadership of Kufa (in Iraq) and was demanding allegiance from Hazrat Imam Husayn (may Allah be pleased

with him), the blessed grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). Yazid was a blatant and blasphemous transgressor of the Shari'ah (Islamic Law). He had made categorically forbidden acts of drinking alcohol, fornication, usury etc. commonplace. He had tied horses to the blessed Mosque of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), and they had soiled its sanctified precincts. The people of Kufa were terribly dissatisfied with Yazid and begged and pleaded with Hazrat Imam Husayn (may Allah be pleased with him), who was resident in Mecca, to come and relieve them from Yazid's tyranny and wrongdoings. They sent bagful of letters making their case asking Hazrat Imam Husayn (may Allah be pleased with him) to come to Kufa and take over from Yazid, promising their allegiance to the Imam. After assessing the situation and its direness, Hazrat Imam Husayn (may Allah be pleased with him) eventually decided to leave Mecca with his family to heed the desperate call of the people of Kufa. However, upon the Imam's arrival, the Kufis turned back on their word falling prey to pressure from Yazid. Hazrat Imam Husayn (may Allah be pleased with him) tried to reason with the Kufis, reminding them of their letters inviting him, asking of them what he had done to them that had made them thirsty of his blood, reminding them that he was the grandson of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and son of Hazrat Ali (may Allah ennoble his countenance). However all this fell on deaf ears and Yazid's army of 22,000 began to lay siege to the 72 members of Hazrat Imam Husayn's group (may Allah be pleased with all the martyrs). They were cut off from the river *Furat* (Euphrates) at the banks of which the battle took place in the city of Karbala. The 72 unarmed & unprepared men, women and children were made the recipient of barrage of arrows. However, they put up a brave fight in which hundreds of Yazidis were also killed. The massacre climaxed in the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husayn (may Allah be pleased with him) at the hands of the enemy.

IECRC's observance of this sad and historic event also took place in Hayward where

poignant couplets reminiscing and informing the young generation of this significant turning point in Islamic history were recited. They were reminded to not take Islam for granted as it has reached us through the sacrifices of our great ancestors such as Hazrat Imam Husayn (may Allah be pleased with him) who gave up his life but did not give in to the hands of a wrongdoer.

The same spirit was echoed at IECRC's Fremont gathering at the Munoz Hall, where Maulana Ramzan of the Bayview mosque of San Francisco eloquently expressed in the words of Hazrat Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti (may Allah have mercy on him), the 12th century CE Sufi Saint of India who wrote the following Persian lines in praise of Hazrat Imam Husayn (may Allah be pleased with him):

*Shah ast Husayn baad Shah ast Husayn
Deen ast Husayn Deen panaa ast Husayn
Sar daad na daad dast dar dast-e-Yazid
Haqqa ke bina-e laa ilahaa ast Husayn*

*Husayn is the king, Husayn is the king of kings
The Deen (Islam) is Husayn,
the protector of the Deen is Husayn
He gave his head,
but did not give his hand in the hand of Yazid
In reality, Husayn is the foundation of
"La ilaaha illallah" (There is no God but Allah)*

It behooves all Muslims to remember this great personality who gave up his life so that Islam could be protected and reach us today to provide a haven of peace. Hazrat Imam Husayn's (may Allah be pleased with him) example is in clear contradistinction with taking one's own life or that of others, as these acts are completely outside the pale of Islam. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) never taught to retaliate, only to bear hardship with patience. What Hazrat Imam Husayn's (may Allah be pleased with him) martyrdom signifies is the ultimate sacrifice in the struggle to oppose falsehood. Each one of us can learn lessons in patience & sacrifice from this great life - lessons that are needed more than ever during the modern age. □

HAZRAT DAATA GANJ BAKSH (MAY ALLAH HAVE MERCY ON HIM)

The 19th of Safar (March 30, 2005) marks the *Urs Mubrark* (Anniversary) of Hazrat Syed Abul Hasan Ali bin Uthman al-Hujwari رحمته اللہ علیہ, famous as Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh رحمته اللہ علیہ (Bestower of Spiritual Treasures) or lovingly called Daata Sahab رحمته اللہ علیہ. This great scholar and Sufi Saint was born in Hujwer in the town of Ghazna, Afghanistan. He lived during the 5th century Hijri / 11th century CE, and was well versed in all the Islamic Sciences such as *Tafseer* (exegesis) of the Holy Quran, *Hadeeth* (Traditions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ), *Fiqh* (Jurisprudence), and *Ilm-ul-Kalam* (Theology). Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh's رحمته اللہ علیہ spiritual lineage traces back to Hazrat Junayd al-Baghdadi رحمته اللہ علیہ (d. 910 CE).

In the course of his spiritual journey, Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh رحمته اللہ علیہ traveled physically to many countries such as Syria, Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkestan, and so forth where he met and studied with innumerable scholars and Sufi Masters. He traveled for forty years never missing a single congregational or Friday prayer. Upon the command of his Shaykh, he migrated to Lahore, Pakistan during the later part of his life where he passed onto the Realm of Divine Beatitude around 465 Hijri (1072 CE).

Among his literary masterpieces are the *Kashf-ul-Mahjoob*, *Minhaj-ud-Din*, *Kitab-ul-Fana-wal-Baqa*, *Bahr-ul-Quloob*, *Ar-ri'aaya-Tahqeequl-Lah* and so forth. However other than his magnum opus, the famous "*Kashf-ul-Mahjoob*", all the other books have been lost. The *Kashf-ul-Mahjoob* is an unparalleled treatise on Tasawwuf (Sufism) and the oldest text on this essential topic. Originally authored in Persian, it has been translated into many languages including Urdu and English. The great 14th century CE scholar and Saint from the Indian Subcontinent, *Mehboob-e-Ilahi* Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya رحمته اللہ علیہ states that if a seeker cannot find a Spiritual Guide (*Murshid*), reading the *Kashf-ul-Mahjoob* will facilitate and expedite this search. Maulana Abdur Rahman Jami رحمته اللہ علیہ the 15th century CE classical Persian poet says about the *Kashf-ul-Mahjoob* that it is one of the most reliable books in the field of Tasawwuf; all the subtleties and truths

have been compiled in it.

The *Kashf-ul-Mahjoob* was written at the request of a student of Tasawwuf at that time, who had asked the Shaykh to compile a comprehensive study on this topic as a guide for spiritual aspirants. The Shaykh competently demonstrates in his illustrious book that there is no conflict between Tasawwuf and Shari'ah, which are the two eyes of Islam, the former pertaining to the internal and the latter to the external aspects of the Deen (religion). The *Kashf-ul-Mahjoob* expounds on "when Sufism was made to leave Islam," in contradistinction to the so-called modern day allegation of "when Sufism entered Islam". Hazrat Ali Hujwari رحمته اللہ علیہ also describes different kinds of Sufis. According to him, there are three types: 1) *Sufi*, 2) *Mutasawwif*, and 3) *Mustasawwif*. The *Sufi* is the one who has annihilated himself or herself and is living eternally with Allah Almighty. Such a person emerges from the human state and is united with Reality. The second kind according to Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh رحمته اللہ علیہ is the one who is constantly engaged in spiritual striving to attain a higher state and tries to follow the footsteps of the exalted Sufis. The third kind is one who dons the appearance of the Sufi merely for the sake of wealth and position. He does not have any real connection with either the Sufi or the one trying to attain this lofty station. These definitions indicate that Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh رحمته اللہ علیہ, who lived almost a 1000 years ago understood very well the artificial "Sufis" who were abusing the institution of Tasawwuf for their personal gains. Such charlatans unfortunately existed then and exist now as well. However, this does not and cannot nullify the reality of Tasawwuf, nor should it cast a shadow on it as an institution nor on the pure and pious Sufi Masters.

Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh رحمته اللہ علیہ said that the external without the internal is hypocrisy and the internal without the external is misguidance. He said that after *Iman* (faith) the most important thing is purity. Without external purity, the ritual prayer is not accepted; and without internal purity it is not possible to know Allah Almighty. Internal impurity relates to all the diseases of the heart such as envy, grudge, religious ostentation, ingratitude, etc.

Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh رحمته اللہ علیہ preceded Hazrat Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti رحمته اللہ علیہ famous as Khwaja Ghareeb Navaaz رحمته اللہ علیہ the famous 12th century CE Sufi Saint, into the Indian Subcontinent. As a matter of fact, Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Navaaz رحمته اللہ علیہ spent 40 days of seclusion at the mausoleum of Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh رحمته اللہ علیہ, upon the completion of which he wrote the following famous lines of poetry:

***Ganj bakshe faize aalam
Mazhar-e-Noor-e-Khuda
NaaqisaaN raa Peer-e-Kamil
KamilaaN raa rahnuma***

*Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh رحمته اللہ علیہ benefits the worlds reflecting the Divine Light
The Perfect Guide for the imperfect people
providing direction to the perfect ones*

When Hazrat Baba Fareeduddeen Ganj Shagr رحمته اللہ علیہ, the second generation spiritual vicegerent of Hazrat Khwaja Ghareeb Navaaz رحمته اللہ علیہ, came to Lahore to pay his respects he could see so much blessing descending upon his *Darbar* (mausoleum) that he did not wish to put his foot on this blessing and therefore arrived at the *Darbar* pulling himself by his elbows! The highest honor that could be bestowed on Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh رحمته اللہ علیہ is that Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani رحمته اللہ علیہ said that he would have taken Hazrat Daata Sahab رحمته اللہ علیہ as his *Murshid* (Spiritual Guide), had he lived during his time. (Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani رحمته اللہ علیہ was born around the time that Daata Sahab رحمته اللہ علیہ passed on to the Realm of Divine Beatitude).

The Shaykh's blessed mausoleum currently stands visited by devotees from around the world, especially during the time of the annual *Urs* celebration, when people throng by the hundreds of thousands. As a matter of fact, thousands of people visit everyday and have their prayers accepted because of the blessedness of the place. May Allah Almighty give us the Guidance and Divine succor to recognize the grand station of this great *Wali* (Friend) of His and the ability to follow in his footsteps. Aameen. □

IECRC'S 3RD ANNUAL NATIONAL MILAD SHAREEF CONFERENCE

WILL INSHA ALLAH BE HELD IN THE

WITH EMINENT SCHOLARS,
UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, &
OTHER COMMUNITY NOTABLES

SUMMER OF 2005

PLEASE VISIT
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FOR MORE DETAILS!

GYAARWEEN# SHAREEF

Women & Children gather on the 11th of every Islamic month to honor and remember the life and contributions of Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be well pleased with him)

Please call 510-475-7867, 916-687-7868 or 408-629-6524 if you would like to participate.

اے ایمان والو

by
Dr. Mohammad Abdullah Qadri
(Coming Soon Insha Allah!)

This CD is comprised of a series of Urdu talks by the eminent Shaykh explaining different aspects of verses of the Holy Quran that begin with:

"Yaa Ayyuhal ladheena Aamanu"

COMMUNITY NEWS

Condolences: "To Allah we belong and unto Him is our return."

IECRC requests the community to perform *Isaal-e-Sawab* (i.e. read verses of the Holy Quran and send its rewards to the deceased soul) for the following people who have recently passed away: Zaheerul Hasan Jilani Chandpuri رحمة الله عليه (Pakistan), Zuleikha Hashim (Pakistan), Lal Mohammad (Fiji), Father of Malik Bhai: Mohammad Basheer Ahmed (Pakistan), Tariq Khan (Pakistan), Mufti Mehboob-ur-Rahman (Pakistan), Brother-in-law of Brother Mohammad Rocha of Fresno: Umar bin Fatima (Africa), Syed Shameem Ahmed, Shuhd Basidiq, Feroz Hussain, Marghoob Qureishi, and Farrukh Burney. May Allah have mercy on their souls.

Aameen.

Prayers: IECRC requests your special prayers for Brother Muntaz of Fiji who is very ill. Father of Brother Tariq Chaudhry of Bayview Mosque in San Francisco is alhamdulillah recovering from stroke but still needs your prayers for full recovery insha Allah.

Births: IECRC sends hearty congratulations to Brother Sharaaz Khan Qadri & Sister Fatima Sharaaz Qadri on the arrival of little Owais Sharaaz Khan. Also Mubarak to Brother Aftab Javed & Sister Nusrat Javed on the birth of their newborn, Shaheer Ahmed Javed. A very special congratulations to the happy parents from Modesto, who had a baby born prematurely at 5 months

in very critical condition but through the *waseela* (means) of *Ruqya* and prayers in the Dhikr gatherings is now healthy and growing masha Allah. May Allah Almighty bless them all. Aameen.

Weddings: Congratulations to Amina & Ismail, daughter & son-in-law of Brother Yusuf Chaudhry. May Allah Almighty bless the young couple. Aameen.

Good News: Alhamdulillah, one of the youth from Tracy has recovered from drug addiction through the blessing of the Dhikr gathering and Spiritual Healing. Another gentleman from Vancouver, Canada who was addicted to both drugs and alcohol has recovered completely through the *Ruqya* treatment, alhamdulillah.

To sponsor future editions of our newsletter or advertise in it, please contact us at 510-732-6786.

Thank you for your support.

IECRC COMMUNITY SERVICES

IECRC Counseling Service

IECRC conducts Spiritual Counseling sessions every other Sunday between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM at **Munoz Hall, 109 J Street, Fremont, CA 94536**. (Please call 510-732-6786 or 408-835-7786 for exact dates.)

The Spiritual Counseling & Healing Center is unique in that services are provided free of charge to all people, irrespective of their color, creed, race, and religion. The center serves people who come from all over the USA and abroad. Services are provided for all types of ailments that range from benign aches and pains to severe conditions such as cancer and psychological ailments. Alhamdulillah, by the Mercy and Power of Allah Almighty, patients with depression, migraine, hyperactivity and other serious illnesses have received benefit from our center. Alhamdulillah, two more branches of this center operate in the greater Bay Area:

Sacramento Branch: Please call 916-687-7868 for details.

San Jose Branch: Please call 408-629-6524 for details.

This Sunnah (practices of the Holy Prophet ﷺ) of Spiritual Healing in Islam is conducted through the recitation of the Holy Quran and *du'as* (prayers). Unfortunately, these days there are many people who misuse this practice; we advise our readers to be cautious. There are many Hadeeth (sayings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) related to this dying Sunnah, which can be found on the IECRC Web site (www.iecrcna.org).

IECRC Weekly Dhikr Gatherings

IECRC conducts weekly Dhikr sessions every Sunday at 6:00 PM at: **Munoz Hall, 109 J Street, Fremont, CA 94536**.

The evening comprises of:

- Quran Recitation
- *Naat-e-Rasool* (poetry in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ)
- Educational Talk on different Islamic topics
- Dhikr (collective recitation of Allah's Beautiful Names)
- Salaam (salutation) on the Holy Prophet ﷺ
- Fatiha (recitation of the Holy Quran over food)
- Dinner (the continuing tradition of *Langar-e-Qadria*)

Similar Dhikr sessions are conducted in the greater Bay Area in:

* **Sacramento on every other Sunday evening.**

Please call 916-687-7868 for details.

* **San Jose on every Friday at 7:30 PM.**

Please call 408-629-6524 for details.

As Allah Almighty says in His Glorious Quran:

"Only in the remembrance of Allah is the solace of hearts."

[Al-Quran 13:28]

This spiritual gathering is a comprehensive solution to modern man's many ailments of stress, depression and anxiety. To learn more about the importance of Dhikr, please visit our website.

IECRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sacramento Counseling & Dhikr Move to a New Location

The Sacramento Branch has started to conduct Dhikr and Counseling every other Sunday (next session is April 3rd, 2005) in a hall in the heart of Downtown Sacramento. The address is:

Kamon Cafe
1015 9th Street
(Downtown) Sacramento, CA 95814.
Please call 916-687-7868 for details.

Monthly Donations Through PayPal

It's easy and convenient if you have a credit card. Simply visit www.iecrcna.org/donation.html and go

to the PayPal section. Even \$1 a day, if given regularly will go a long way for us insha Allah! Small but continuous good deeds are much more beneficial than large but infrequent ones.

Items for Sale

Some generous members of our community have donated beautifully calligraphed verses of the Holy Quran, and Allah Almighty's Glorious Names to IECRC. The former are available in gold embroidery on black velvet cloth and the latter work of art is hand calligraphed on baked paper in easy to hang wooden frames. Please call 510-732-6786 if you are interested. All proceeds go towards IECRC.

PETITION UPDATE

IECRC launched a petition in late 2004 voicing our strong disapproval for a historically false, academically poor and blasphemous book written against our Beloved Prophet (prayers and peace of Allah Almighty be upon Him). Alhamdulillah, this petition collected over 140,000 online signatures by people of conscience from around the world. IECRC has written letters of concern to bookstores that carry this unworthy book on either their regular or online shelves requesting that such misleading literature be removed. IECRC is awaiting responses from these bookstores. Details about the petition can be found at www.iecrcna.org/iecrcnaftp/petition.

IECRC PUBLICATIONS

The following are IECRC publications by Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri :

1. *Blessings on the Prophet Muhammad* ﷺ – The Meaning, Relevance & Importance of Sending Blessings and Greetings on the Best of Creation ﷺ
2. *Revising Love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad* ﷺ – The Solution to the Contemporary Muslim Condition
3. *Living in the Abode of Peace and Purification* (co-authored by Dr. Syeda Saiqa Zubeda)
4. *Islamic Treatment of Jinn, Magic & The Evil Eye* (co-authored by Dr. Syeda Saiqa Zubeda)
5. *Quranic Therapy – Heal Yourself Part 1*
6. *Quranic Therapy – Heal Yourself Part 2*
7. *Ramadan* – The Month of Patience, Empathy & Self-Purification
8. *Peace & Tolerance in Islam*
9. *The Muslim World* – Hope in the New Millennium
10. *The Science of Dreams*

IECRC is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, non-political community based organization that requests your support to continue and expand its services. Any donation towards this noble cause is greatly appreciated.

Your donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. You may mail us a check at the P.O. Box address provided at the bottom of this page, or

Donate online by visiting:

www.iecrcna.org/donation.html

We encourage you to setup for automatic monthly withdrawal using your credit card.

For any financial questions related to IECRC, please contact Brother Shaanawaz Khan Qadri at info@iecrcna.org.

Thank you for your support!

IECRC AUDIO PRODUCTIONS

The following speeches by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri are available through IECRC on audio cassette:

English

- 1 Love of the Holy Prophet ﷺ
- 2 The Islamic Culture
- 3 The Concept of Spiritual Healing
- 4 Quranic Therapy - Heal Yourself (also available in print & CD)
- 5 Heal Yourself in the Light of Quran & Sunnah (also available in print & CD)
- 6 The Philosophy of Love with Allah in Tasawwuf/The Necessity of a Spiritual Guide
- 7 What is Tasawwuf: An Answer by Hadrat Ali bin Uthman al-Hujwari (may Allah be pleased with him) known as Hazrat Data Ganj Bukhsh
- 8 The Concept of Jinn in the Light of Quran and Sunnah
- 9 Islam and Soul Orientation (Dr. Manzooruddin Ahmed)

Urdu

- 1 *Ishq-e-Mustafa* ﷺ aur Munafiqat
- 2 *Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi ka Jawaz / Madina-e-Munawwarra ke Naam*
- 3 *Durood-o-Salam Maulana Qasim Nanotwi Dar-ul-Uloom Deoband aur Maulana Mohammad Zakarya Tableeghi Jamaat ki Nazar Mein*
- 4 *Durood-o-Salam Ki Fazeelat*
- 5 *Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi* ﷺ Tareekh key Ainey Mein
- 6 *Allama Iqbal (rahmatullah alayh) ka Hadrat Bilal (radiallaahu anhu) ko Salam*
- 7 *Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi* ﷺ Sawal/Jawab
- 8 *Allama Iqbal ka Shikwa aur Jawab-e-Shikwa (side A) / Allama Iqba aur Ishq-e-Mustafa* ﷺ (side B)
- 9 *Karamat-e-Awliya*

The following *Naats* are available through IECRC on audio cassette:

- 1 *Allah-hi-Allah* – Sufiana Kalam recited by Zahid Chaudry Qadri (Punjabi)
- 2 *Yaadey Madinah* – Naat recited by Syed Mansoor Shah (Urdu)
- 3 *Zikr-e-Rasool* ﷺ – Naat recited by Naveed Iqbal Rahmani (Urdu)
- 4 *Guldasta-e-Naat* – recited by various Naat reciters (Urdu)

IECRC's CD Releases:

1. *Allah Kay Naamon Se Apna Ilaj Kijiye* – Dr. M.A. Qadri (Urdu)
2. *Arabic Qasaid* - Shaykh Hisham Kabbani and His Ensemble
3. *Hamd-o-Naat* - Mehdi Hassan
4. *Aqeedat Kay Phool* - A collection of Hamd and Naat from Various Reciters (Urdu)
5. *Hamd and Naat* - Imani Rasheed (English)

To obtain any of the above cassettes, CDs or books, please contact IECRC through telephone, email or written correspondence.

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iecrcna-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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