

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Prayers and Peace upon His Noble Messenger ﷺ



Islamic Educational & Cultural Research Center

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Inside this issue:

Reflections on the Earth-quake in Pakistan	2
Tradition of Urs – Part 3	4
IECRC 3rd Annual Milad Shareef Conference Report	5
The Nature of Fasting	5
IECRC Services	7
IECRC Conducts Taraweeh	7
Request for Prayers	7
IECRC Publications & Audio Productions	8

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IECRC wishes everyone in the Bay Area and around the world the blessings of the Holy month of Ramadan.

RAMADAN: LEARNING GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE BOUNTIES OF ALLAH ALMIGHTY

From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief

Ramadan is the fasting month for Muslims, when over one billion Muslims throughout the world fast from dawn to sunset, and pray additional prayers at night. It is a time for inner reflection, devotion to Allah, and self-control. Muslims think of it as a kind of tune-up for their spiritual lives. Ramadan is derived from the Arabic root word *ramida* or *ar-ramad* denoting intense scorching heat and dryness, especially of the ground. From the same root is derived *ramdaa*, sunbaked sand, and the famous proverb: "*Kal Mustajeer minar Ramadaa binnar*" - to jump out of the frying pan into the fire. Others said it is so called because Ramadan scorches out the sins with good deeds, as the sun burns the ground. Some said it is so called because the hearts and souls are more readily receptive to the admonition and remembrance of Allah Almighty during Ramadan. The entire month of Ramadan is in essence a celebration of the Holy Quran's revelation, which is described as a

"Guide and Mercy for those who do good." [Luqman 31:3]

Ramadan celebrates God's Mercy by which He sent a guiding light in the Holy Qur'an that leads human life towards the path of good and virtue and protects the

human soul from evil and vice. As such, the very concept of sin, in the Islamic tradition, is known as an act of oppression against one's own soul for forcing it into a state that is antithetical to its very nature and created purpose [Aal `Imran 3:117, among many other verses]. When a soul persists in sinning, it becomes a slave to its own lower desires, a prisoner of its own passions [Al-Furqan 25:43]. Fasting helps to identify social evils and frees the soul by suppressing the lower self of worldly desires and raising the God-conscious soul. By depriving the body of life's basic necessities for some hours, one is able to teach the soul self-restraint and self-control from evils such as anger, revenge, lying, stealing, depression and so forth. The Prophet (prayers and peace of Allah Almighty be upon him) also warned Muslims not to make fasting an uneventful ritual that has no affect on the character and habits of a person:

"If anyone does not refrain from lies and false conduct, God has no need for him to abstain from his food and drink."

Gratitude towards Allah: Ramadan is the month of thankfulness and gratitude towards Allah Almighty. When the soul enters

into a station of gratitude and submission to its Lord, through fasting, there is a recognition that life has been given by Allah as a gift and trust to be used for good works that reflect God's mercy, compassion, love, generosity and the like. In fact, the Holy Qur'an says that the natural inclination of our souls is to submit to God's Will by having sincere belief in One God and doing righteous acts of worship [Ar-Rum 30:30].

Attainment of Taqwa: The Holy Quran describes attainment of *Taqwa* to be the real purpose of fasting [2:183]. But, what is *Taqwa*? According to Sayyid 'Umar ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him):

"A person with the quality of Taqwa is like a person walking with caution on a thorny road. The way he would take care to save his clothes from getting entangled in the thorns, so is a person with Taqwa conscious of every action he does (for fear of falling into wrong)."

Let us all begin to live a life of *Taqwa* this Ramadan to avoid the 'thorns' that come our way in the form of worldly temptations in the material world and society in general. Islamic life is

built on two important principles: Spirituality and Morality. Both of them are important and inter-related. Islam teaches us that one cannot be a true believer unless one's character is good. Morality also has two aspects: morality on the personal, individual or micro level, and morality on the collective, social or macro level. Islam emphasizes both personal and individual morality as well as the collective and social morality. In the Holy Qur'an, Muslims are commanded to fast so that they may "become pious". This piety and devotion is especially felt during Ramadan, but we all must strive to make the feelings and attitude stay with us during our "normal" lives. That is the true goal and test of Ramadan. Ramadan is a very special time for Muslims, but the feelings and lessons we

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experience should stay with us throughout the year. May Allah accept our fasting, forgive our sins, and guide us all to the Straight Path. May Allah bless us all during Ramadan, and throughout the year, with His forgiveness, mercy, and peace, and bring us all closer to Him and to each other. Ameen. □

Dr. Syeda Saiqa Zubeda

Dr. Syeda Saiqa Zubeda is the Executive Director of the Canadian Women Counselling Centre (CWCC) where she provides employment counseling, information and referral services for women & families. She is also working as a settlement officer and Job Club facilitator at the Progressive Intercultural Services Society in British Columbia, Canada. Prior to this, Dr. Syeda worked as the Principal of the Canadian Institute of Islamic Sciences, Toronto, Canada,

for three years. She designed and taught the Islamic curriculum for the Institute. Dr. Syeda obtained her Ph.D. in Islamic Political Sociology and was awarded two gold medals from the University of Karachi, Pakistan. She has authored five books and contributes to CWCC and IECRC's quarterly newsletter as well. Dr. Syeda can be reached at cwcc04@yahoo.ca.

REFLECTIONS ON THE EARTHQUAKE IN PAKISTAN

The past year has witnessed natural disasters from all areas of mother earth: her waters in the Tsunami, her air in Katrina, Rita, & Wilma, and most recently, her land in the intensely devastating 7.6 earthquake in Pakistan affecting millions of people (official to date death toll is 79,000) many of whom lived simple and pious lives. Such tragedies have brought in their wake immense loss of human life (plant & animal life as well), irreparable injuries to the human body, massive destruction of social infrastructure, and countless wounds on the souls of the survivors in the form of broken relationships, broken hearts and broken dreams. Do these overt signs of Allah Almighty's Majesty (*Jalal*) indicate His Wrath or His Mercy?

No doubt the human condition has deteriorated to the extremes of materialism couched in a non-spiritual paradigm that could justifiably warrant such global Divine Wrath. However, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace & Prayers of Allah Almighty be upon Him) has taught us that

"... Allah Almighty's Mercy prevails over His Wrath ..."

[Hadeeth Qudsi, Al-Bukhari Shareef]

The evidence of this Mercy becomes apparent when one's worldview is holistic, which in Islamic terms means it includes life in totality, the major portion of which is: The Afterlife. The mercy in the losses and pains of this ephemeral life on earth can only be recognized and felt when one views them in the context of the Hereafter, which is one of the basic articles of Islamic faith. The Islamic tradition teaches us that we experience pain for two reasons: 1) to cleanse our sins, and 2) to raise us in spiritual ranks.

It is a consensus amongst Muslim scholarship that those who perish in natural calamities die as martyrs (*shaheed*). A Muslim who passes away as a result of drowning, a fire, or buried in collapsed rubble is awarded the same status as someone who passed away in the Path of God (*fee sa-beeliLlah*). The rewards of the Hereafter of such souls are immense. One is not even to consider them as dead as Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran:

"And do not utter regarding those who are slain in Allah's cause as 'dead'; in fact they are alive, but it is you who are unaware."

[Al-Baqarah 2:154]

Every Muslim prays for "*Khatima-bil-Khayr*" - i.e. a blessed ending to this earthly life. What more blessed a way to go than to die a martyr in the holy month of Ramadan, next of course to passing away as a believer in Madinatul Munawwarah - the Blessed City of the Most Beloved of Allah Almighty, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Prayers of Allah Almighty be upon Him)?

Those who survive such catastrophes must begin to heal the wounds, both physical and emotional and begin their lives anew. However here again is an opportunity for gaining some good for the Hereafter. The Islamic tradition teaches us that there are two responses to any given situation: patience (*sabr*) or gratitude (*shukr*). A calamity necessitates the response of patience and a blessing the response of gratitude.

Of course the Islamic spiritual legacy sparkles with lofty souls - the Saints, the Noble Friends of God, the *Awliya Kiram*, (may Allah be well pleased with them), who are grateful even during a calamitous occasion;

however, such are the truly close ones - *almuqarraboon* to Allah Almighty. This is indeed a time to observe the miracles of these great Saints whose prayers are facilitating people being pulled out of the ruins alive after 10 or even 11 days! These miraculous occurrences are reminiscent of the very famous historical narration of how, the crown of the Saints, Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (d. 1166 CE, may Allah be well pleased with him) by the command of Allah Almighty, made a sunken ship with its wedding party arise alive and well after 12 years in deep sea [Tafseer Naeemi]. These miracles that Allah Almighty conducts at the hands of His Beloved Friends are clear for those who can see them in the midst of the rubble. It is indeed a time when we must invoke the help of these great *Awliya Kiram* (may Allah be well pleased with them). [It is to be noted that *Istighaatha*, i.e. invoking the help of Allah Almighty's *Awliya Kiram*, has become a highly misunderstood concept today. For clarification, one must ponder on the narration of Allama Ibn Katheer (d. 1372 CE, may Allah have mercy on him) in his famous "*Bidaya wan Nihaya*", that the Noble Companion of the Holy Prophet (peace and prayers of Allah Almighty be upon Him), Hazrat Khalid ibn Waleed (may Allah be pleased with him) used to say "*Ya Muhammada*", beseeching the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon Him) for help during his combat endeavors. And this was after the Holy Prophet, peace be upon Him, had returned to the Realm of Divine Beatitude.] This is also a time for all of us to turn to Allah Almighty in sincere repentance (*Taubah*) and to earnestly seek His forgiveness (*Istighfar*).

Physical injuries no doubt cause much pain and need immense patience to bear, and also require monetary resources to

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Allah *subhaanahu wa ta'aala* says in His Noble Quran:

“O People who Believe! Fasting is made compulsory for you, like it was ordained for those before you, so that you may attain piety.”

[Al-Baqarah 2:183]

Hazrat Abdullah ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) related about the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

“When the month, of Ramadan began, Allah's Messenger ﷺ set every prisoner free and gave to every beggar.”

[Mishkat Shareef]

“Fasrif hawaahaa wa haadhir an tuwalliyahu Inna-lhawaa maa tawallaa yusmi aw yasimi”

***Restrain the lower self from its desires and be vigilant against making it your master!
Verify whomever the desires of the lower self overpowers, it destroys them or makes them lazy***

— Qaseedah Burdah Shareef of Imam Shareefuddin Al-Busiri
(may Allah be pleased with him)

IECRC SENDS ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO EVERYONE AFFECTED BY THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN PAKISTAN. WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY AND FOR THE SURVIVORS WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO PUT THEIR LIVES BACK TOGETHER AGAIN. TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH THE WORLDWIDE RELIEF EFFORT, VISIT:

http://www.iecrcna.org/iecrcnaftp/iecrc_site/earthquake.html

(continued from previous page) heal. If such a situation is borne with patience, endurance, and resilience, its fruits will be seen in the Hereafter, God willing, and to a great degree in this world as well, as Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran:

“... indeed Allah is with those who patiently endure.” [Al-Baqarah 2:153]

More painful than physical injuries however is the loss of loved ones. Who can console the mother who lost her only grown son to the earthquake, or the woman who lost her husband and father of her 7 children, or the 2 year old who lost both parents, or the husband and father who lost his wife and all his children, or the newly wed groom who lost his beloved bride, or the elderly woman who lost her husband of 50 years? Do any of us have words that could console such devastated hearts? Only Allah Almighty's Words can console through the Blessed Lips of His Beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Prayers of Allah Almighty be upon Him):

“My faithful servant's reward from Me, if I have taken to Me his best friend from amongst the inhabitants of the world and he has then borne it patiently for My sake, shall

be nothing less than Paradise.”

[Hadeeth Qudsi, Al-Bukhari Shareef]

Such overwhelmingly painful situations also present an opportunity for those not directly involved in the disaster to show their compassion and generosity giving life to the Blessed Prophetic Tradition that when one limb of the Community (*Ummah*) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) hurts, the rest of the body responds. As the most recent earthquake in Pakistan has shown, putting aside political differences, groups within and well wishers outside the country are working relentlessly to supply warm clothes, blankets, tents, medicines, food and any item that is deemed necessary to help the situation. As a country, Pakistan is facing the greatest disaster management challenge ever in its recent history. However with everyone pitching in, including mobile phone companies, television channels, celebrities, and the common folk, it seems like a show of true camaraderie uniting the country in perhaps a way it could not have been united before. And those living abroad are also being extremely generous

with their wallets and above all, prayers. Perhaps there was some confusion and a show of selfishness in the early hours; however it seems to have become overshadowed by an immense display of solidarity by good hearted people across the globe. It is an age old saying that “Necessity is the mother of invention” and the dire situation has indeed brought people together to invent the most creative ways to help.

Even those who do not have the ability to help in monetary ways have much to offer. The first and foremost is prayers. We must pray for forgiveness for those who have passed away and also send them the rewards of our good deeds (*Isaal-e-Sawab*). This not only increases them in spiritual ranks in their celestial abode but also increases us in a similar manner in our terrestrial residence. And we must pray for the survivors that Allah Almighty for the sake of His Beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), makes all matters easy for them and that they heal quickly and are able to reap the best rewards from their situation. Such conditions also give each one of us the incentive to augment

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TRADITION OF URS (MEMORIAL) - PART 3

This is the third in our four part series that highlights the *Urs Mubarak* (Blessed Memorial) of the great Saints of the Islamic tradition in order that we may remember their luminous lives and immense contributions and be inspired to follow in their Prophetically guided footsteps.

7. RAJAB

4th: **Hazrat Imam Al-Shafi'ee**
Year: 204 Hijri / 820 CE
Resting in: **Cairo, Egypt**

6th: **Hazrat Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti**
Year: 633 Hijri / 1236 CE
Resting in: **Ajmer Shareef, Rajasthan, India**

9th: **Hazrat Ibrahim (son of the Holy Prophet ﷺ)**
Year: 10 Hijri / 631 CE
Resting in: **Madinah Munawwarah**

10th: **Hazrat Salman Farsi**
Year: (35 or 36) Hijri / (656 or 657) CE
Resting in: **Al-Mada'in, Iraq**

27th: **Hazrat Shaykh Junaid Baghdadi**
Year: 297 Hijri / 910 CE
Resting in: **Baghdad Sharif, Iraq**

27th: **Muhaddith Imam Tirmidhi**
Year: 279 Hijri / 892 CE
Resting in: **Tirmidh, Uzbekistan**

8. SHA'BAN

2nd: **Imam-e-Azam Hazrat Abu Hanifa**
Year: 150 Hijri / 767 CE
Resting in: **Baghdad Sharif, Iraq**

3rd: **Umm-ul Mu'mineen Bibi Hafsa**
Year: 41 Hijri / 661 CE
Resting in: **Madinah Munawwarah**

6th: **Hazrat Bibi Kulsum (daughter of the Holy Prophet ﷺ)**
Year: 10 Hijri / 631 CE
Resting in: **Madinah Munawwarah**

15th: **Hazrat Abu Yazid al-Bistami**
Year: 260 Hijri / 874 CE
Resting in: **Bastam, Iran**

18th: **Hazrat Lal Shah Baaz Qalander**
Year: 672 Hijri / 1274 CE
Resting in: **Sevan Sharif, Sindh, Pakistan**

9. RAMADAN

3rd: **Khatoon-e-Jannat Bibi Fatima tuz-Zahra**
Year: 11 Hijri / 632 CE
Resting in: **Madinah Munawwarah**

9th: **Hazrat Abdullah ibn Mas'ud**
Year: 32 Hijri / 653 CE
Resting in: **Madinah Munawwarah**

10th: **Umm-ul Mu'mineen Hazrat Khadija tul-Kubra**
Year: pre-Hijri / 619 CE
Resting in: **Jannatul Mu'alla, Makkah Mukarramah**

17th: **Umm-ul Mu'mineen Hazrat Aysha Siddiqah**
Year: 58 Hijri / 678 CE
Resting in: **Madinah Munawwarah**

18th: **Hazrat Khwaja Bahauddin Naqshband**
Year: 786 Hijri / 1384 CE
Resting in: **Bukhara, Uzbekistan**

21st: **Amir-ul-Mu'mineen Hazrat Ali**
Year: 40 Hijri / 661 CE
Resting in: **Najaf, Iraq**

21st: **Hazrat Shams Tabrez**
Year: 674 Hijri / 1276 CE
Resting in: **Multan, Pakistan**

22nd: **Hazrat Imam Ibn Majah**
Year: 273 Hijri / 887 CE
Resting in: **Qazwin, Iran**

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

REFLECTIONS ON THE EARTHQUAKE IN PAKISTAN (continued from previous page)

our lives with skills that can help the *Ummah* of our Beloved Prophet (Peace and Prayers of Allah Almighty be upon Him). Indeed this is the ultimate purpose of life – to serve others unconditionally. Perhaps we can enhance our first aid skills or become trained in trauma counseling so that we may be able to help. These are all good deeds (*amal salih*) that the Holy Quran consistently speaks of whenever it mentions belief (*Iman*). Therefore such a negative state of affairs presents a positive opportunity for humanity to increase its good deeds.

It is then clear that it would be judgmental and self-righteous to think of such calamities as a Wrath from Allah Almighty punishing people for their sins. We must always have a good opinion (*husn dhan*) of Allah Almighty and of His creation. Allah

Almighty has said that:

"I am as My servant thinks I am..."

[Hadeeth Qudsi, Al-Bukhari Shareef]

These calamities are definitely on the other hand, wake-up calls and trials, for those directly affected, as well as for those looking on from afar. Those who are directly affected are however much more likely to benefit from the opportunities such trials provide to better their lives spiritually. And we all need to better our spiritual lives. But will we take heed? Such tragedies also remind us as onlookers how grateful we need to be for all the ease in life that we are blessed with.

In the Islamic tradition, the frequent occurrence of natural disasters is a sign for the nearing of the end of Time. This is not a call for panic, but a call for preparation. We must as a community, become pre-

pared for how to deal with such a situation God forbid we are faced with an earthquake or its like. How will we immediately care for our children, elderly, disabled, and sick ones? Do we have in our homes a reasonable storage of clean water, baby food, and medicines? Let us pray that Allah Almighty for the sake of His Beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Prayers be upon him), protects all of humanity from all catastrophes. And if it is in His Will & Wisdom that we must face one, then may He Almighty give us the ability, wisdom and preparedness to deal with the situation in a just and compassionate manner. Ameen. □

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The views expressed in IECRC's Newsletter articles reflect those of the authors and not necessarily of IECRC itself.

IECRC 3RD ANNUAL MILAD SHAREEF CONFERENCE REPORT

IECRC held its 3rd Annual National Conference on Sunday June 19, 2005 at Hayward's Centennial Hall, entitled: "Celebrating the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him): Creating Spiritual & Social Harmony for Humanity". The purpose of IECRC's annual conferences, which are focused on the being, life, message, and above all, love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), is to educate about essential human values and how these can be fostered for the betterment of societies and humanity at large. The Conference drew several hundred people from across the country. The panel of presenters included Dr. Usha Sanyal, Author & Adjunct Lecturer at the Department of History, Queens University of Charlotte, North Carolina; Rev. Kelly Childress, Spiritual Care Coordinator and Chaplain at Kaiser Hayward; Mr. Sharaaz Khan, Director of IECRC; Syeda Zille Humma Ayyaz, Research Scholar at IECRC; Mufti Azeem, Imam at Yuba City Islamic Center; Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri, Founding Director of IECRC, who delivered his important address remotely; and world-

renowned Quran reciter, Qari Syed Sadaqat Ali of Pakistan.

Hayward's Mayor Roberta Cooper sent IECRC a written message of welcome, congratulations and good will on the occasion of its 3rd Annual Conference. She expressed pleasure at IECRC's choice of Hayward as the location for their special event. "I encourage all residents of Hayward to learn more about the Islamic culture. I am confident that this conference will educate many about the Islamic people by celebrating Islamic heritage and culture," she wrote in a letter she sent in lieu of her not being able to attend.

Mr. Sharaaz Khan of IECRC expounded on the theme of the Conference that the society around us is a reflection and extension of our internal condition. "It is when there is spiritual harmony within us that we can expect to see social harmony around us", he explained. He advised that in order to eliminate social ills such as discrimination, hatred, bigotry, and violence, one has to remove from within us arrogance, anger, despair and other shortcomings that plague

the individual at the spiritual level. For this he reminded the audience, we must turn towards the being, character, example, and life of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), who always returned personal harm with goodness, always smiled in the face of hardship, and was always satiated with the bare minimum. At the occasion of IECRC's 3rd Annual Conference, Mr. Sharaaz Khan has released his latest book: "The Spirit of Islam" which is available from the IECRC office.

Dr. Usha Sanyal of Queens University, North Carolina, presented her research paper "Ahmed Raza Khan: his scholarship, spirituality, and love for the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him)" that she had specially prepared for IECRC's 3rd Annual Conference. The audience was impressed by her thorough scholarship and in-depth research of this towering 20th century CE personality, who is considered a renewer (*Mujaddid*) of the Islamic tradition. This pivotal Islamic leader, she explained, was the greatest defender of the station, honor and respect for the being and message of harmony of the Holy Prophet

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THE NATURE OF FASTING

Have you not seen the stick of incense?
Burn itself to ashes it must
So others might receive its fragrance
The nature of giving is such

Have you noticed the leaves of tea?
How they must withstand hot water
Soothing the nerves of one and many
Through their exquisite and sundry a flavor

Have you noticed the green trees?
How they must absorb the heat of the sun
Giving the traveler a shade to please
And producing life-sustaining oxygen

Have you not seen the ore of metal?
How it must melt in the heat of the kiln
So the impurities may burn or settle
And the precious metal we may dress in

Have you noticed the black coal?
How it must withstand tremendous pressure
For years and years to reach its goal
To become a diamond for our pleasure

Have you not seen our father and mother?
How they give up everything
So their children can be more than better
And can have the best upbringing

And our Beloved Prophet Muhammad
Countless Prayers and Peace of Allah Be Upon Him
How He stayed up all night, never tired
Continuously praying to Allah to forgive our sins

Such indeed is also the nature of fasting
To increase within us, the spirit of service
The self, must always be annihilating
And truly in this, is lasting bliss ☐

Shagufta Ahmad, Qadri

IECRC MILAD SHAREEF CONFERENCE REPORT (continued from previous page)

Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). Dr. Sanyal is the author of *Devotional Islam and Politics in British India: Ahmad Riza Khan Bareilwi and His Movement, 1870-1920* (London: Oxford University Press, 1999), which is based on her Ph.D. dissertation at Columbia University, New York. IECRC appreciated her outstanding work with an award of academic excellence.

Rev. Kelly Childress, Spiritual Care Coordinator and Chaplain at Kaiser Hospital in Hayward, shared her views and experiences offering services to terminally ill patients. She remarked that during a patient's last moments they are faced with the most essential questions about life and caring for their spiritual needs is vital. She emphasized the universal message of both Prophet Jesus and Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Prayers of God Almighty on them both), of visiting and taking care of the sick. She quoted from Biblical scripture and Buddhist wisdom about the importance of considering everyday one's last and thereby living it to its fullest. Rev. Childress' one-of-a-kind spiritual care effort at Kaiser is laudable, in its integration with modern day medical healthcare. IECRC appreciated her with an award and hopes for continued collaboration with Kaiser in serving the local Hayward community. At the occasion of its 3rd Annual Conference, IECRC released a concise publication outlining the Islamic practice of Spiritual Healing called "*Ruqya*" which has contributed towards the healing of hundreds of patients with ailments be they psychological, physical, spiritual or emotional through IECRC's bi-weekly services in this area.

Syeda Zille Humma Ayyaz of IECRC presented a research article quoting many of the greatest scholars and Saints of the Islamic tradition and what they have written about the status of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). She enlightened the audience in her powerful speech about the creation of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), and how His coming into this earth demands a celebration, and how He demands our utmost respect and honor. She also emphasized the importance of loving the family of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).



Mufti Azeem, Imam at Yuba City Islamic Center explained that according to the Islamic tradition, the entire universe was created for the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), who is the most beloved to God Almighty. He pointed out that the tradition of *Naat* (poetry in praise of the Holy Prophet, Peace Be Upon Him) recitation has been in practice since time immemorial and has come down to us through the fragrant speech and scholarly pens of the likes of the Companions of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and the scholars and Saints of the Islamic tradition such as Maulana Rumi, Shaykh Saadi, and Maulana Jami (may God have mercy on them all).

Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri, Founding Director of IECRC, a most noble and renowned scholar from Pakistan, gave an extraordinarily informative talk explaining the status of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) and the importance of commemorating and celebrating the *Milad Shareef* (Blessed Birth) as a form of "*Eid*". He said that it is imperative that people understand that the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) had called Friday as a day of "*Eid*" for the Muslims. He explained that the celebration of coming of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) signifies gratitude towards Allah, for had it not been for it, the other two celebrations would not have come into existence. Dr. Qadri gave his live address remotely via telephone.

There was also a PowerPoint presentation by Mr. Shakeel Rehman on IECRC's history, mission, goals, objectives, and future plans at an organizational level. He informed the audience of IECRC's accomplishments and solicited their support to make IECRC's efforts more effective and widespread.

There was a wonderful children's program where children as young as 3 years old recited poetry in praise of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). Sisters Syeda Zille Humma Ayyaz and Fatima Sharaaz Qadri compered this outstanding section. Syeda Zille Humma emphasized the importance of teaching children from a very young age about the importance of loving the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), which is the impetus for following the Divine teachings God Almighty sent to humanity.

The guest of honor was Qari Syed Sadaqat Ali of Pakistan who recited the Holy Quran and *Naat* in his famous voice quenching the thirst of the eagerly awaiting audience. There were many other very talented *Naat* reciters who presented their heart-warming pieces. Mr. Akhtar Shah, a well-known community member, compered the adult section.

The program included free refreshments and dinner. There were many IECRC publications and audio releases available that document IECRC services as well as promote the *Tasawwuf* (Sufi) based teachings of Islam. On the occasion of its 3rd Annual Conference, IECRC released its 8th quarterly Newsletter that contains many research articles and IECRC & Community news. This issue published Mayor Roberta Cooper's letter of goodwill to IECRC.

On behalf of IECRC Board of Directors and members, Mr. Ayyaz Yousaf, Managing Director of IECRC, offered a vote of thanks appreciating all the speakers and reciters who took time out from their busy schedules to make IECRC's 3rd Annual Conference a great success. He also thanked the numerous volunteers whose phenomenal efforts allowed for a smooth and organized program. Mr. Yousaf thanked members of the media for helping to advertise this event including Mr. Mian Shahbaz, Bureau Chief of Pakistan Times, PTV Prime, Pakistan Link & KCBS. He especially acknowledged Mr. Shahid Hussain of SubRang TV of Yuba City for his comprehensive video coverage of the entire event. Mr. Hussain had also provided coverage of IECRC's Conference last year in Newark. □

IECRC COMMUNITY SERVICES

Counseling Centers

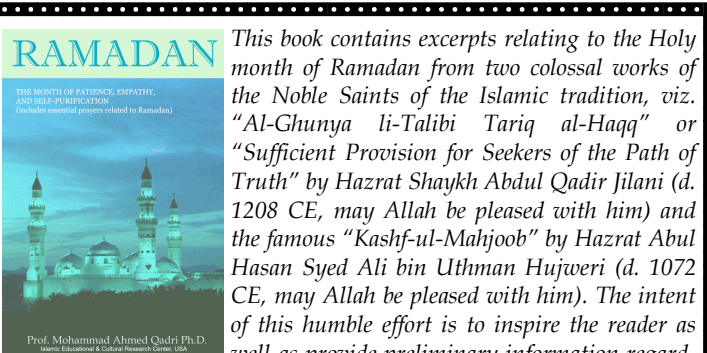
IECRC conducts Spiritual Counseling sessions every other Sunday between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM at 37270 Niles Blvd, Fremont CA 94536. (Please call 510-732-6786 or 408-835-7786 for exact dates.)

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 916-669-8809 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).



This book contains excerpts relating to the Holy month of Ramadan from two colossal works of the Noble Saints of the Islamic tradition, viz. "Al-Ghunya li-Talibi Tariq al-Haqq" or "Sufficient Provision for Seekers of the Path of Truth" by Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (d. 1208 CE, may Allah be pleased with him) and the famous "Kashf-ul-Mahjoob" by Hazrat Abul Hasan Syed Ali bin Uthman Hujwari (d. 1072 CE, may Allah be pleased with him). The intent of this humble effort is to inspire the reader as well as provide preliminary information regarding the basics tenets of fasting. The topics of the jurisprudence rulings according to the Hanafi School of Thought related to fasting are also covered and have been taken from the famous text "Noor-ul-Idaah" by Allama Hasan bin 'Ammar Shurumbulaali (b. 1659, may Allah have mercy on him) and "Bahar-e-Shariat" by Maulana Amjad Ali A'zami (may Allah have mercy on him). The last section in this booklet contains prayers that are pertinent to this Holy month, especially those relating to the special nights of the last ten days, taken from the famous "Sham-e-Shabistaan-e-Raza" of A'laa Hazrat Ahmed Raza Khan Bareilvi (may Allah be pleased with him). This book was first released by IECRC in 2003 with a revised edition in 2004. It is available online at http://www.iecrcna.org/Books/Ramadan_Booklet_Single_Pages.pdf.

Weekly Dhikr Gatherings

IECRC conducts weekly Dhikr sessions every Sunday at 5:30 PM at: 37270 Niles Blvd, Fremont CA 94536. This includes Community *Iftars* during the Holy month of Ramadan.

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:** Saturdays at the Sierra 2 Community Center. Please call 916-669-8809 for timings and directions.
- * **San Jose:** Fridays 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." [13:28] This spiritual gathering is a comprehensive solution to modern man's many ailments of stress, depression and anxiety.

Monthly Gyaarhween Shareef

Conducted on the 11th of every month of the Islamic Hijri calendar, this auspicious, spiritual gathering commemorates Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be well pleased with him): his life, contributions and spiritual benefits. This is currently an all women and children service only. For further information please call: 510-475-7867, 916-669-8809, or 408-629-6524.

IECRC CONDUCTS TARAWEEH

Fremont: 37270 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536; Isha Prayer: 8:30 pm
For more information, please call 650-290-1234 / 510-732-6786.

Sacramento: Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St, Sacramento, CA 95818
For more information, please call 916-669-8809.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

Inna liLlaahi wa inna ilayhi raji'oon

We request you to send *Isaal-e-Sawab* (i.e., to dedicate the rewards of your good deeds; at the least this is the reading of *Surah Al-Fatihah* once, and *Surah Al-Ikhlaas* 3 times) to the souls of those who have been martyred in the recent devastating earthquake in Pakistan. We also request your sincere prayers for ease for the survivors.

IECRC PUBLICATIONS

The following are IECRC publications by Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri and his research staff:

1. **Blessings on the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:** The Meaning, Relevance & Importance of Sending Blessings and Greetings on the Best of Creation ﷺ
2. **Reviving 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**
11. **The Spirit of Islam: A Glance into the External and Spiritual Dimensions of Islamic Practice** (Sharaaz Khan Qadri)
12. **Spiritual Healing in Islam**

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

For any financial concerns or questions related to IECRC, please email us 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 Buksh
- 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-Munawarra ke Naam*
- 3 *Durood-o-Salam Maulana Qasim Nanotvi 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 Iqbal aur Ishq-e-Mustafa ﷺ (side B)*
- 9 *Karamat-e-Awliya*
- 10 *Ey Iman Walo – CDs 1 & 2 (Dr. Mohammad Abdullah Qadri)*

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 Qasa'id – 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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