



NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 | Issue 3
March 2023 | Sha'ban - Ramadan 1444

“The believing men and believing women are allies of one another. They enjoy what is right and forbid what is wrong and establish prayer and give zakah and obey Allah and His Messenger. Those are the ones whom Allah will bless with mercy. Surely, Allah is Almighty, Wise” (Al-Tawbah , 9-72)

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“The most complete of believers in faith are those with the best character, and the best of you are the best in behavior to their women.” (al-Tirmidhi)

RAMADAN 2023

IOAN is pleased to announce, based on the Fiqh Council announcement, the dates of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr for the year 2023/1444 AH.

First Taraweeh Night: Wednesday, March 22nd

First Day of Fasting: Thursday, March 23rd

Eid-al-Fitr (First day of Shawwal): Friday, April 21st

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Monthly Family Dinner March 17th, 6:30 PM

Bring your family and friends to spend an evening with your community!



More on page 3

Faith in Action Part 2 - The Islamic Worldview

There is a fundamental difference between Islam and Iman, Islam or legal Iman is a verbal attestation of...



**Serving Food Every Friday
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

Serving hot and delicious food every Friday from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Every Friday IONA Cafe will be serving lunch. Come and grab the delicious food the cafe will be serving.

All proceeds go to the Masjid.

First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and the second one starts at 1:30 PM

Announcements

16TH QUR'AN CONFERENCE



Mustapha Elturk
Ameer

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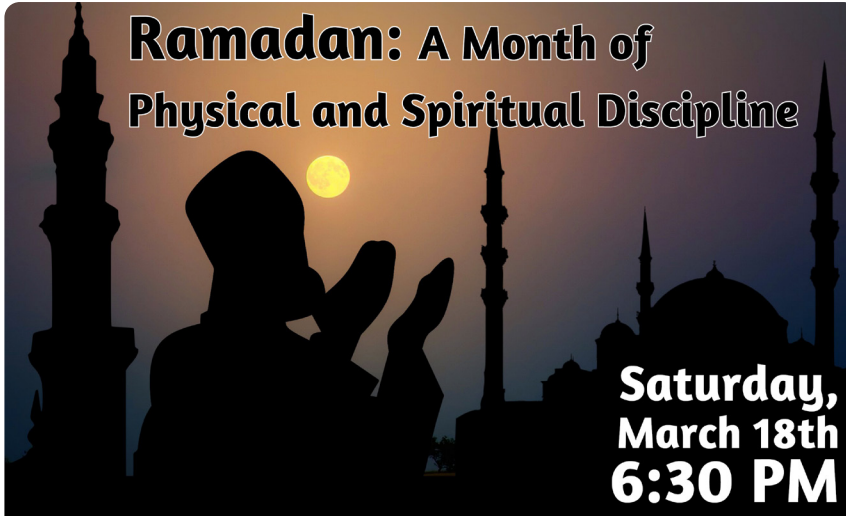
Kaysar Hussian

Mohammad Sirajul-Haq

Ashraf Jaigirdar

Iqbal Surti

Md Shafi Uddin



Ramadan: A Month of Physical and Spiritual Discipline

**Saturday,
March 18th
6:30 PM**

Speakers:



Dr. Saadia Mian



Imam Aly Lela



Imam Mustapha Elturk

Scan the QR
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gle/ZJ4emeBBw-
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Islamic Organization of North America (IONA)

Ramadan Mubarak

We Wish You A
Blessed Ramadan

First Night of Taraweeh

Wednesday, March 22 (After Isha)

First Day of Fasting

Thursday, March 23 (Ramadan 1)

Community Iftar Dinners

Friday, March 24 (Ramadan 2)

Friday, March 31 (Ramadan 9)

Friday, April 7 (Ramadan 16)

Friday, April 14 (Ramadan 23)

Fundraising Dates

Friday, March 31 | Budget

Friday, April 7 | Soup Kitchen

Friday, April 14 | Masjid Maintenance

Wednesday, April 19 | Lailatul Qadr | Expansion Project

Eid Prayers: Friday, April 21

First Salah - Takbeer 7:30 AM | Salah 8:00 AM

Second Salah - Takbeer 9:30 AM | Salah 10:00 AM

Friday Sermons: First Jama'ah 12:10 PM | Second Jama'ah 1:30 PM

IONA SISTERS PRESENTS

COMMUNITY HALAQA

SISTERS ONLY

TIME MANAGEMENT

ALIMAH SAMREEN

**SUNDAY
MARCH 26TH
2:30 - 4:30 PM**

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IONA Women's
BOOK CLUB
on page 7

SYNOPSIS OF AMEER MUSTAPHA'S FRIDAY KHUTBAH

Faith in Action Part 2 - The Islamic Worldview

There is a fundamental difference between Islam and Iman. Islam or legal Iman is a verbal attestation of the profession of faith. Whereas Iman or true faith is verbal attestation in addition to action. It is a state of the heart according to the profound ayah that shed light on the difference between Islam and Iman from Surat al-Hujurat, *“The Bedouin Arabs said, ‘We believe.’ Say (O prophet), ‘You have not believed but rather say we surrendered (submitted to Allah) for (true) faith has not yet entered your hearts.’”* (al-Hujurat, 49:14)

Additionally, the true believers were described in Surat al-Anfal (8:2-4) The attitude of a true believer (mu'min) is, when Allah's name is mentioned their hearts shake and when the Qur'an is recited, their faith in God (Iman) grows, intensifies and becomes strong. The third attribute is that they put their trust solely in Allah, the majestic. They are constant in their prayers and spend for the pleasure of Allah on the cause of humanity and the cause of Islam from what Allah (SWT) has provided for them. For such believers, Allah (SWT) testifies that indeed they are the true sincere believers giving them the good news of paradise.

The believers (mu'mins) mentioned above are individuals who see the world in a particular lens. The world is flooded with ideologies and worldviews that make one puzzled and confused. Atheism is on the rise due to a lack of spiritual support and a reliance on science alone. Pagan Arabs, at one time, were also confused. Allah Almighty sent Muhammad (SAW) to teach them and the rest of the world about themselves and the universe. The first thirteen years of his mission were dedicated to the teaching of Iman or the Islamic world view, i.e. belief in Allah, belief in the hereafter (akhirah) and in the institution of prophethood.

Bear in mind that Islam does not only consist of a belief in a deity, a set of rituals, and social customs. It is a complete socio-politico-economic system – a divinely inspired system or social order that is a complete way of life for the benefit of humankind.

Unlike the man-made social orders of Communism, Socialism, Capitalism and Secularism, Islam is a comprehensive social order based on Divine guidance.

Islam's social order, however, will not flourish and prosper unless one understands the Islamic thought and worldview. In order to truly understand and appreciate the philosophy of Islam one needs to look at the big picture. Unless one is aware of and familiar with other worldviews one will not appreciate the Islamic worldview.

For instance, the Naturalism worldview of atheists, agnostics and existentialists believe that the material universe is one-dimensional and is all that exists. There is no such thing as spirit or soul. Everything can be explained on the basis of natural law. They view man as absolutely material and as the chance product of a biological evolution.

They believe that human species will one day cease to exist. To them Truth is discerned from scientific proof only. Only what is verified by the five senses is real and true. They believe morals are individual preferences or socially useful behavior. In other words, no objective values and morals exist.

On the other hand, consider the Pantheism worldview. Hindus, Buddhists, Taoists, and New Ageists among others subscribe to this worldview. Their beliefs are diametrically opposed to Atheism. They believe that only spiritual dimensions exist and everything else is an illusion. Brahman (or God), is eternal, impersonal and unknowable. In other words, they believe everything that exists is part of God or that God is in everything and everyone. They believe man is spiritual, eternal, and impersonal. To believe that you are an individual is an illusion.

They see Truth as the experience of unity with the “oneness” of the universe; Truth is beyond all rational description. They believe that there is no distinction between good and evil. Instead, “unenlightened” behavior is that which fails to understand essential unity.

The Islamic worldview on the other hand teaches the existence of a personal God who created a finite material world and that reality is both material and spiritual. The Universe as we see it has a beginning and an end. Humans are a special creation of God. They are personal, eternal, spiritual and biological.

The Islamic creed teaches that the Truth about God is known only through revelation. Metaphysical truths are also learned through revelation while the truth about the material world is gained through both revelation and the five senses in conjunction with rational thought. Moral values are the objective expression of an absolute moral being.

By delving into the Qur'an and Prophetic hadith we understand the true reality of our existence and the universe around us. Learning and genuinely believing in such knowledge will help us shed all false worldviews. It will help us live this temporary life in a peaceful and harmonious way with our fellow human beings as well as the environment.

This world view is articulated in a hadith where Jibril (AS) appeared as a man while the Prophet (SAW) was in the company of some companions. Angel Jibril (AS) asked the Prophet (SAW) many questions. Among them were: What is Islam? What is Iman? What is Ihsan?

In response to, ‘What is Iman?’ Allah's Messenger (SAW) replied, ‘Faith is to believe in Allah, His angels, His books and scriptures, His prophets and messengers, and to believe in resurrection and the hereafter.

Continues on page 6

SISTERS CORNER

Sitting In Our Emotions – What are We Doing to Help Ourselves Before Seeking External Supports?

How many of us have needed help to overcome something or learn to manage something in our lives? Did outside help actually help you? If not, then did you ever consider what work you did internally before seeking external support?

Seeking help when we need it the most is no simple task. You know this if you have gone through a difficult time in your life when you were in desperate need of a helping hand. But, you did not have it in you to reach out and seek aid. So how are we supposed to get the help we need when we need it? What could be more important than seeking help?

I would argue that self-reflection, self-awareness and accountability are essential before reaching for and receiving help. The concept of introspection and self-reflection is not foreign to us as Muslims. The Prophet Muhamad (saw), just like many prophets and messengers before him, practiced this while searching for the truth before receiving the revelations.

Self-Awareness Before Seeking Help

During times of difficulty, it is important to give yourself some grace and allow yourself to go through all of the emotions. As someone who lost two loved ones in the same year, nursing my grief and being gentle with myself while doing so was an integral part of my healing journey. Being self-aware of my emotions and feelings helped me express them to those around me in a way that was beneficial, in order to receive the help I needed from others.

After giving myself the time I needed to fully feel the pain and loss I was going through, I started to recognize what type of help I needed in order to move on. I did not rush the process, nor did I suppress my feelings, but rather came to terms with the will of Allah (S) and allowed myself to fully submit to Him.

So, unless we are aware of our own feelings, our own issues and our own problems and/or challenges, how can we be ready to receive help?

Throughout this process of self-awareness, there comes a time when you will need to pinpoint your struggles and areas of need in order to communicate them to those around you. This also comes with the realization that seeking help starts from within – it starts with you. No one will be able to help you if you yourself are not able to help yourself or have the willingness to do so. Similarly, happiness comes from within. Others cannot make you happy, if you yourself cannot find happiness, once again, within yourself.

Accepting Accountability for Ourselves

For far too many reasons, asking for help does not come easy for many of us. If you are anything like myself, I find it hard to let go of control. A sudden change of plans can easily throw me off. For this reason, taking the time to self-reflect, and be aware of what it is you need help with and what your issues are around this is important before seeking help.

Throughout my journey for healing after my loss, I learned that help will not find me. Rather, I need to find the help from within and others to carry on. A friend to confide in, self-love, domestic help with chores and errands, spiritual reflection, as well as professional help are all forms of aid that are for you to explore and take advantage of.

Then there is accountability.

If we are struggling with something, if we are spiraling, how willing are we to look at ourselves, recognize that we may be making wrong decisions or letting ourselves be influenced by unhealthy things before seeking external help? If help is offered to us and we have not even come to terms internally that we need to change something or that we need to seek a different path, chances are that external help will not benefit us.

In order to seek help, you must first be willing to receive it and hold yourself accountable. As Ustadha Hosai Mojaddidi explains here, allowing yourself to go through your emotions and take your time to navigate your struggles in life is important, however there is a fine line that should not be crossed; letting those emotions embody you and take control. “Balance is feeling coupled with rational thought. Without this balance, we will ironically bring more pain to ourselves and our world,” advises Hosai.

She goes on to write, “The emphasis on ‘feelings’ over rational thought is a slippery slope that has proven destructive. Look around and you’ll see how our obsession with individual subjective emotions and experiences at the expense of the welfare of the collective is destroying our families, societies and world.

“We need to restore the balance. While seeking external validation from flawed human beings is inevitable, our faith calls us to strive higher and seek God’s approval; He is free from any and all imperfections and elevates our souls and liberates our minds from the subjugation of our ego and the enslavement of needing praise from others.”

There is so much wisdom in what she advises. Yes, we must feel what we feel. It can be helpful to sit in our feelings and emotions and self-reflect on why we are feeling the way we are and what we can learn from it, what we can change about ourselves. But this only comes from thinking rationally along with examining our feelings. If we are willing to do the hard work of self reflection and self awareness of what has led us to the situation we are in, only then can we truly receive the guidance of Allah (S) and external help.

Let’s also not forget that the mercy of Allah (S) is endless, and He is always there for us, even when we are not there for ourselves. In those moments in life, when you are at an all-time low, seek refuge in the One who created you and is The Most Compassionate.

Danah Shuli

Courtesy of Hautehijab.com



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HOW KIND IS ALLAH!

There lived an idolator in the past who made an idol out of stone and would worship it everyday. He would call it upon it by saying "Ya Sanam." For seventy years, he worshipped this idol. One day by mistake he uttered "Ya Samad" instead of Ya Sanam. Samad is a name of Allah which means The Self Sufficient Master. Allah Ta'ala immediately replied back to this idolator by saying "I am present oh My slave." The angels asked Allah why He replied to him since he didn't even call upon Him intentionally. Allah told the angels that for seventy years I have been waiting for this servant of mine to turn towards Me!

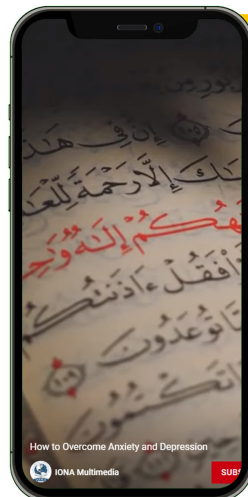
If a mother has only one child then how much would she love him? He would be the coolness of her eyes and the comfort of her heart. But if this son calls her saying "Mommy" more than four or five times, she would get irritated even though she loves him more than her ownself. On the other hand, when we call Allah once, He replies back to us 70 times by saying "Labbaik Ya Abdi (I am here oh My slave)." How unfortunate we are that we have not recognized our Allah who is so Kind, Merciful and Forgiving.



Courtesy of islamcan.com



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Faith in Action Part 2 - The Islamic Worldview (cont'd)

All creation is created by one Creator; the One, Eternal, and Absolute God. He is not limited to the material, space, or time. He is forever. He is One and alone. All good attributes belong to Him. He is the Creator, the Protector, the Sustainer, the Merciful, the All-hearing (al-Sami'), the All-Knowing (al-'Aleem). He is Omnipotent (All-Powerful), Omniscient (All-Seeing), and Omnipresent (He is everywhere at the same time). He is the Master of the universe and He is Peace. He is beyond our imagination and comprehension.

Allah (SWT) employs angels to administer His kingdom. They carry out His orders exactly and accurately. They are constantly engaged in the worship of God and have no inclination to sin.

Since the dawn of humanity, Allah (SWT) sent righteous humans called prophets and messengers to guide their respective communities to the worship of the One God. They are God's representatives on earth, Khulafa'. They are the best models. Based on certain hadiths, some scholars believe that God has sent 124,000 Prophets and among them 315 messengers.

Muhammad (SAW) was the last Prophet and Messenger of Allah. Unlike his predecessors, He (SAW) was sent to the entire mankind. *"We have not sent you (O Prophet) but as a universal messenger to all people, giving them glad tidings and warnings. But most of them do not know."* (Saba', 34:28) His universal message, *"Unity of God – Tawheed,"* echoed those of his predecessors, *"Worship (and obey) Allah, you have no god other than Him. Will you not take heed?"* (al-Mu'minun, 23:32) Muhammad (SAW) was entrusted with the transmission of the last divine message, to establish the divine social order, Islam, and the promise of salvation for humanity.

Allah sent scriptures, commandments, and laws to mankind through His messengers. Muhammad (SAW) is also the last recipient of the last scripture, the Qur'an. The Qur'an is the Word of Allah (SWT) conveyed to Muhammad (SAW) through the angel of revelation, archangel Jibril (AS). It is the divine constitution for mankind. It is a comprehensive religious philosophy. It addresses man and contains detailed guidance of the worship of Allah and exhortations regarding right and wrong, truth and falsehood, good and evil. It provides moral guidance, social behavior, and a historical narrative outlining general moral lessons and promises of Paradise.

To the last point made on resurrection after death and the Day of Judgment, the entire record of every person (their good deeds and wrongdoings) will be presented before God for final judgment. The one who excels in goodness will be rewarded, and the one whose evils and wrongs outweigh his/her good deeds will be punished. Those who come out successful in this judgment will go to Paradise, and the doors of eternal bliss will be opened to them forever. But those who are condemned and deserve punishment will be sent to Hell.

This is how Muslims see the world through the lens of faith, Iman. Iman is our worldview and Islam is the manifestation of this worldview and ideology. Islam as a complete socio-politico-economic system

based on divine guidance. *"Surely, the only acceptable deen (way of life) to Allah is Islam."* (Aal Imran, 3:19)

On August 31, 2006, then President George W. Bush at the 88th Annual American Legion National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, said: *"The war we fight today is more than a military conflict. It is the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st century."*

In 2010, in a speech at the University of Texas, George W. Bush reiterates his position on the so called "War on Terror." He said, *"I believe this country is engaged in an ideological struggle of a kind we have never seen before."*

The Qur'anic prophecy makes it clear. *"It is He (Allah) who has sent His Messenger (Muhammad) with the Guidance (Qur'an) and the true deen (system – Islam), that He may make it prevail (and triumph) over every other deen (all other ways of life), even though those who associate (others with Allah) may hate it."* (Al-saff, 61:9) The prophecy will inevitably come to pass.

In the end, Islam will triumph and the divine system, the politico-socio-economic order, will be established and Divine Justice will prevail.

The good news comes with a warning, *"Whoever seeks a way (of life) other than Islam, it will not be accepted from him/her, and in the hereafter s/he will be among the losers."* (Aal 'Imran, 3:85)

As conscious believers, we must establish the deen on ourselves first and then our families, communities, and promote it until it is established over the whole globe.

Unless we develop a real sense of Iman and fulfil our religious duties that include ordaining good and forbidding evil, we will remain in a state of humiliation and disgrace.

Imam Malik (RA) in his famous quote said, *"The latter part of this Nation will not be rectified except by that which rectified its first part."* In other words, *unless we revive our iman through the Qur'an and the Sunnah as the first generation did, our condition will only worsen. Allah (SWT) made it clear, "Verily, Allah will not change the condition of a nation until they change what is in themselves."* (al-Raid, 13:11) Allah will certainly help those who help themselves.

It appears that the process of revival will mainly come at the hands of converts. Allah (SWT) is using the handful of true believers and replacing those who turned their backs on the mission with converts with firm conviction. We are witnessing a surge in educated converts defending and promoting Islam. Allah guides whom He wills to His deen.

May Allah (SWT) help us be among His servants who follow the footsteps of Muhammad (SAW) and his righteous predecessors, ameen.

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Islamic Organization of North America

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FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH



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MARCH 2023

IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqama Timing

Date	Fajr	Iqama	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqama	Asr(S)*	Asr(H)*	Iqama	Maghrib	Azan	Isha	Iqama
Wed 1	5:36	6:15	7:08	12:50	1:00	3:51	4:37	5:00	6:25	6:30	7:43	8:00
Thu 2	5:34	6:15	7:06	12:49	1:00	3:52	4:38	5:00	6:27	6:32	7:44	8:00
Fri 3	5:33	6:15	7:04	12:49	1:00	3:53	4:39	5:00	6:28	6:33	7:45	8:00
Sat 4	5:31	6:15	7:03	12:49	1:00	3:53	4:40	5:00	6:29	6:34	7:46	8:15
Sun 5	5:29	6:15	7:01	12:49	2:00	3:54	4:41	5:00	6:30	6:35	7:47	8:15
Mon 6	5:28	6:15	6:59	12:48	1:00	3:55	4:42	5:00	6:31	6:36	7:48	8:15
Tue 7	5:26	6:15	6:58	12:48	1:00	3:56	4:43	5:00	6:33	6:38	7:49	8:15
Wed 8	5:25	6:15	6:56	12:48	1:00	3:56	4:44	5:00	6:34	6:39	7:50	8:15
Thu 9	5:23	6:15	6:54	12:48	1:00	3:57	4:45	5:00	6:35	6:40	7:51	8:15
Fri 10	5:21	6:15	6:53	12:47	1:00	3:58	4:46	5:00	6:36	6:41	7:52	8:15
Sat 11	5:20	6:15	6:51	12:47	1:00	3:59	4:47	5:00	6:37	6:42	7:53	8:15
Sun ~12	6:18	6:45	7:49	1:47	2:00	4:59	5:48	6:15	7:39	7:44	8:54	9:15
Mon 13	6:16	6:45	7:48	1:47	2:00	5:00	5:49	6:15	7:40	7:45	8:55	9:15
Tue 14	6:15	6:45	7:46	1:46	2:00	5:01	5:50	6:15	7:41	7:46	8:56	9:15
Wed 15	6:13	6:45	7:44	1:46	2:00	5:01	5:51	6:15	7:42	7:47	8:57	9:15
Thu 16	6:12	6:45	7:42	1:46	2:00	5:02	5:52	6:15	7:43	7:48	8:58	9:15
Fri 17	6:10	6:45	7:41	1:46	2:00	5:03	5:53	6:15	7:44	7:49	8:59	9:15
Sat 18	6:08	6:45	7:39	1:45	2:00	5:03	5:54	6:15	7:46	7:51	9:00	9:15
Sun 19	6:07	6:45	7:37	1:45	2:00	5:04	5:55	6:15	7:47	7:52	9:01	9:15
Mon 20	6:05	6:45	7:35	1:45	2:00	5:04	5:56	6:15	7:48	7:53	9:02	9:15
Tue 21	6:03	6:45	7:34	1:44	2:00	5:05	5:57	6:15	7:49	7:54	9:03	9:15
Wed 22	6:02	6:45	7:32	1:44	2:00	5:06	5:57	6:15	7:50	7:55	9:04	9:15
Thu 23	First Day of Ramadan - Ramadan Mubarak											

Please refer to Ramadan Prayer schedule in the special Ramadan issue coming soon

* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi | ~ Daylight Saving Time

First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and second sermon is at 1:30 PM



IONA aims at transforming its members and surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek God's forgiveness to earn His pleasure. IONA members seek His mercy and grace in this life and in the hereafter. They rejuvenate their souls through internal struggle (jihad) and spiritual exercise in worship of the Creator, God most glorified. The strength of their belief in God almighty gives them the courage to promote good and forbid evil, and to engage in the struggle to establish social, political, and economic justice.



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IONA center is always in need of funds in order to keep the Masjid running and maintained at all times. Your continued support is always appreciated.