

NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 | Issue 2

January 2023 | Rajab - Sha'ban 1444



“This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allah.” {Al-Baqarah, 2:2}

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“I have been sent to perfect good character.”
{al-Muwatta’} Dawud

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



More on page 7

Monthly Family Dinner February 17th, 6:30 PM

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



More on page 3

Faith in Action - Islam vs. Iman (Part 2)

Another attribute of true believers is that they put their trust solely on Allah (SWT). They are certain that



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Announcements

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 Register at: <https://forms.gle/WLTzZybTcquX9gJk6>



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SISTERS ONLY

WHOLESOME DIET

THE IMPORTANCE OF EATING TAYYIB (PURE) FOODS

WITH

ALIMAH SAMREEN

IONA MASJID WOMEN'S AREA
 28630 RYAN RD, WARREN

SUNDAY
 FEBRUARY 19TH
 2.30-4.30PM

SCAN FOR THE WHATSAPP GROUP

IONA Women's
BOOK CLUB
 on page 7

- Islamic Organization of North America
 IONA
- Mustapha Elturk
 Ameer
- IONA MASJID
 COMMUNITY
 ADVISORY BOARD
- Naveed Ashraf
 Director of Operations
 IONA Masjid &
 Learning Center
- Mahreen Abid
- Mirza M. Ahmad
- William Antoun
- Parwin Anwar
- Farhan Baber
- Mohammad A. Barlaskar
- Ashfaqul Chaudhry
- Irina Colakovic
- Kaysar Hussian
- Mohammad Sirajul-Haq
- Ashraf Jaigirdar
- Iqbal Surti
- Md Shafi Uddin

SYNOPSIS OF AMEER MUSTAPHA'S FRIDAY KHUTBAH

Faith in Action - Islam vs. Iman (Part 2)

Another attribute of true believers is that they put their trust solely on Allah (SWT). They are certain that Allah will manage their affairs.

Most Muslims have pseudo trust in Allah (SWT). Why is it when one loses his or her job, for instance, they panic and complain, why me? True believers understand that whatever happens is because Allah permitted it to happen and that Allah has a better plan for them. True believers are optimistic and do not lose heart. They truly depend on and put their trust in Allah. They know He (SWT) will find a way out for them. Allah, the Kind and Generous never abandons His true slaves.

The Prophet (SAW) in a profound hadith narrated by Umar ibn al-Khattab (RAA) said, "If you were to rely upon Allah with the reliance due to Him, He would provide for you just as He provides for the birds. They go out in the morning with empty stomachs and return full." (al-Tirmithi)

To many Muslims the concept of reliance on Allah (tawakkul ala Allah, التوكل على الله) is vague. It is not sufficient to say, "I put my trust in Allah (tawakkaltu 'ala Allah, توكلت على الله)" without putting an effort into what one needs or wants.

The Prophet's analogy of the birds in this hadith is very insightful. It helps us understand that Allah (SWT) will do His part as long as we do our part. There are three lessons we may learn from the example of the birds.

1) In the early morning hours before the birds go out and seek their provision they congregate and engage in a ceremonial activity similar to a singing choir. Although the pleasant and soothing sound of chirping may seem entertaining to us, they are in fact, offering their morning prayer. They are glorifying Allah (SWT). "Do you not see that Allah is glorified by all those in the heavens and the earth, including the birds lined up in ranks? Each knows its prayer and glorification. And Allah knows what they do." (al-Nur, 24:41)

In Surat al-Isra, Allah (SWT) elaborates, "The seven heavens and the earth and all that is therein glorify Him. There is not a single thing that does not glorify His praises—but you do not comprehend their glorification. He is indeed Most Forbearing, Forgiving." (al-Isra', 17:44)

Therefore, the first condition to sincere reliance on Allah

(Tawwakul ala Allah) is to connect with Him through the daily prayers with emphasis on the dawn prayer (salat al-Fajr). The birds, among other creatures, in their own tongue have their own way of glorifying Allah (SWT) and we have ours. Prayers, prayers, prayers, were among the last words of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

2) Birds do not simply sit on a branch or on a line waiting for the provision to descend to them from the sky. They go out and seek for their provision. It is their innate nature that they use all necessary means to obtain their provision and they find it.

We, creative beings, must use all necessary means to seek for our provision. One must knock on every door and ask for a job if unemployed. One must toil and work hard to receive his/her provision. "And man will have nothing except that for which he has endeavored (to achieve). And that his endeavor shall soon be seen." (al-Najm, 53:30,31) We must have a firm belief that Allah (SWT) will provide for us just as He provides for the birds.

3) Have you seen any bird take with its wings and hoard whatever provision it finds after it ate its fill? No. The birds consume what they need and leave the rest. They know and trust that the same food they received today will be there for them tomorrow. The birds have absolute and complete reliance on Allah (SWT). They trust that they will find their provision each day so there is no need to become obsessed with hoarding. Indeed, there is no need for people to become obsessed with wealth and money or obtaining more than what they need. It is easy for hoarding wealth to become one's objective in life, when actually Allah (SWT) tells us we do not have to be filled with worry over this because as we see with the birds, we can go out each day and seek our provisions.

These three lessons can be learned from the birds in which the Prophet (SAW) used as an analogy for people to understand what true reliance on Allah (SWT), (tawakkul ala Allah), means. True believers are cognizant of and truly believe in Allah's promises, "And whoever is mindful of Allah, He will make a way out for them, and provide for them from sources they could have never imagined. And whoever puts their trust in Allah, then He is sufficient for them." (al-Talaq, 65:2,3) Also, "And whoever is mindful of Allah, He will make their matters easy for them

Continues on page 6

SISTERS CORNER

7 Parenting Methods to Show Your Intentions of Love with Grown Children

When our children are born, they come into this world with a vulnerability that demands our instincts to love and protect them. We hold them close; we love them with a fierceness that can't be described with words because the gift we have been given is so overwhelmingly powerful. All we can DO is love them.

However, that innocent, loveable baby that slept in the crook of your arm one day turns into a sullen, hard-edged teenager and then overnight morphs into an adult who towers over you, unrecognizable at times but with glimpses of that chubby-faced toddler. As parents of adult(ish) children, we may need help figuring out how to show our love to our adult children without overstepping the boundaries of adulthood they need to succeed.

I always say that my story is still being written, and this chapter into parenting older children just started for me and has been a series of lessons in learning that while my intentions in loving and caring for my grown children are still the same (as I'm sure is similar for so many other parents), how I execute upon these intentions has to change. Here are SEVEN basic things we can do to show our children that our intentions of love for them are unwavering through how we express this love.

Give these adult parenting methods a try (if you're not doing so already.) The bonus may result in a better, more intentional relationship with our children.

- 1) Let it go: Mamas, as your child grows, you will NOT be the center of their universe, and guess what? That is okay. Recognizing that you have moved into a more supportive role in your child's life allows you to have a front-row seat in their lives.
- 2) Bite your tongue: This may be one of the hardest things a parent can do but in reality, one of the most important. They are on their own journey and though it pains us at times, stepping back and allowing them to make their own mistakes is how they will grow. So the next time your child comes to you and tells you about an issue or idea in their life, fight the urge to explain how they are wrong. Instead, quietly nod and smile and keep your fingers crossed for success. Even if they ask for advice, consider if it's more helpful to guide them or let them figure it out, making the mistakes they may need to make along the way.
- 3) Soft landing: If you play your cards right when things go wrong, and trust me, they WILL go wrong, your child will come to you for comfort. But, comfort looks different as they get older. It looks like a sympathetic ear, a comfort meal, a place for them to turn without judgment. Creating a space where they can come during confusion, distress, or just a simple reset is how we, as parents, can show intentional love.
- 4) Speak their language: As your child ages, you may have a more challenging time understanding the world in which they live. It can even

feel like a different language at times. However, attempting to try and get to know them on their level shows an intentional effort to get to know their older self. Join them on social media and share funny TikToks and memes with them on Instagram. Watch a favorite show alongside them and casually mention it in your next Facetime conversation. Surprise them in your next text exchange with a strategically placed "W" or "sus." In speaking "their language," you shorten the communication gap between you. They may think it's lame or funny, but they'll probably also appreciate it. :)

5) Have your own life: I know, I know! You've been a mom for a long time, but guess what – you were a person before that. Now is a fantastic time to dust off your old persona and see what she can do now! Having your own life guarantees you aren't putting your nose into your child's life uninvited. I spend a lot of time with my mom clients at this chapter of their lives, and I love to remind them that life begins in your 40s!

Remember, even our own Prophet Muhammad (saw) received the holy message of Islam this chapter of his life, and look what an amazingly profound impact he had on the universe! It is now YOUR turn to rediscover that version of yourself as well. (NOTE: if you need a little help trying to figure this out, Mommying While Muslim is having a retreat Fill Up Your Cup Retreats by MWM, use: HH10 as an exclusive discount code for Haute Hijab Readers)

6) Trust them: You've done the painstaking work raising these little buggers. Now is the time to step back and trust that you've instilled in them the tools needed to succeed. Please remember, though; this will come with having to watch them fail or not get what they want at times. Failure is one of the most important things about becoming an adult, but probably the most challenging thing we can witness as a parent.

7) Pray: AND...always pray for them. The best gift we can give them as a parent is to pray for their health, success, and guidance.

Pray for yourself, as this portion of your parenting journey will be filled with highs and the lowest of lows. But nothing is more rewarding than watching your "baby" become a great human being. May our intentions to love and care for our children evolve into adult-oriented parenting practices as they grow. To quote one of my favorite books: "I love you forever, I love you for always. As long as I am living, my baby you'll be." Until next time,

Zaiba Hasan

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SAND AND STONE



Two friends Ismail and Ibrahim were walking through the desert, as the sun was beating down on their heads, and they were thirsty for water they began to argue. The argument got more and more heated and eventually Ismail struck Ibrahim across the face. Ibrahim felt hurt inside, but without anything to say, he wrote in the sand: "Today, my best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking, until eventually they came across an oasis, where they decided to stop and bathe. Ibrahim jumped in and began to wash, while Ismail sat back and relaxed. Suddenly Ibrahim began to scream and shout, he had developed a cramp and was having difficulty keeping his head above water, he was drowning.

Ismail dived in after him, and brought him gently to shore. When Ibrahim recovered from the shock, he scratched a message on a nearby stone:

"Today, my best friend saved my life"

Ismail who had saved and slapped his best friend Ibrahim, asked him, "Why, after I hurt you, you wrote in the sand, and now you write on a stone?"

Ibrahim, smiled and replied:

"When a friend hurts us, we should write his deeds in the sand, where the winds of forgiveness can blow it away, and when a friend does something good, we should engrave it in stone, where it shall remain for eternity."

Courtesy of islamcan.com

Faith in Action - Islam vs. Iman (Part 2) (cont'd)

(*al-Talaq*, 65:4). True believers have full confidence in their Lord and rely solely on Him for He (SWT) alone is the Provider. “*There is no god except Him. So, let the believers put their trust in Allah*” (*al-Taghabun*, 64:13).

May Allah (SWT) help us be among the true believers who put their trust in God absolutely. Ameen.

Moving on from the true believers’ conviction to action, a couple of traits are highlighted. “*(They are those who) are constant in the prayers and spend from that which We have provided for them*” (*al-Anfal*, 8:4).

While some Muslims occasionally pray their daily prayers, or culturally attend Friday and Eid prayers, true believers take prayers very seriously. In addition to performing their daily obligatory salah on time, they offer the supererogatory (nawafil) prayers. They pray with full humility (khusu’). You find them calm and peaceful in their prayers. They establish a connection with and feel the presence of their Lord.

The true believers are not concerned about nor are they distracted from worldly affairs. They are neither hasty nor heedless of what they recite. They are well aware of each word they utter.

For a Muslim, salah may be a burden. On the other hand, for a Mu’min it is joy and pleasure. The Prophet’s utmost joy and pleasure was in salah. According to Ibn al-Qayyim (RA) “*Salah is the coolness of the eye, the delight of the soul and the paradise of the heart.*” He also said, “*Whoever is delighted by the prayer in this world, will be delighted by nearness to his Lord in this world and the next.*”

Another trait true believers are known for is that they, “*Spend from that which We have provided for them*” (*al-Anfal*, 8:4).

The Qur’anic command, “*establish salah*” is typically used in conjunction with zakah, which is the obligatory charity. This mode of worship is incumbent upon all Muslims, practicing or non-practicing. True believers, however, go beyond paying the annual zakah and give to those in need out of love for Allah (SWT) and the cause of humanity.

Their attitude in regards to giving is mentioned in Surat al-Insan, “*We feed you only for the sake of Allah, seeking neither reward nor thanks from you*” (76:6). They spend in moderation, “*They are those who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor tightfisted, but maintain balanced spending habits.*” They spend for the cause of Islam.

True believers understand that what they have is not their earnings and hard work, rather it is a bounty (fadl) from Allah. They understand that all the treasures of the heavens and the earth belong to Allah (SWT).

Allah (SWT) concludes the passage describing the real and true believers, by affirming their truthfulness and the good news of Paradise, “*It is they who are the true believers. They will have elevated ranks, forgiveness, and an honorable provision from their Lord*” (*al-Anfal*, 8:4). Indeed, the Hellfire is forbidden on a mu’min.

Allah (SWT) will reward a Mu’min according to the level of his/her Iman. Surely, the Prophets, martyrs, and noble companions who gave their lives for the sake of Allah (SWT) will enjoy a higher rank with Allah (SWT). Nevertheless, even a Muslim with an iota of iman in his/her heart will be awarded Heaven and the eternal bliss of Paradise. The Prophet (SAW) explains, “*A strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than a weak believer, and there is good in both*” (Muslim).

May we change our condition for the sake of our own salvation. Islam is not going to win us Paradise but Iman will. We should all long for the eternal life and heavenly bliss of Paradise.

Indeed, “*The (true) believers are only those whose hearts tremble with awe whenever Allah is mentioned, whose faith (iman) is intensified (grows and becomes strong) whenever His revelations (ayat) are recited to them, and who put their trust (solely) in their Lord. They are those who are constant in the prayers and spend from that which We have provided for them. It is they who are the true believers. They will have elevated ranks, forgiveness, and a bountiful provision from their Lord*” (*al-Anfal*, 8: 2-4).

O Allah! Help us be among the true believers, Ameen

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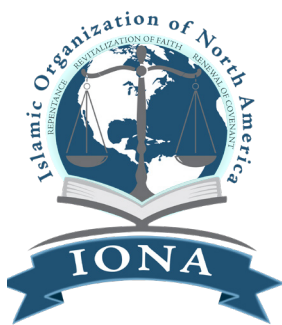
FEBRUARY 2023

IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqama Timing

Date	Fajr	Iqama	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqama	Asr(S)*	Asr(H)*	Iqama	Maghrib	Azan	Isha	Iqama
Wed 1	6:12	6:45	7:46	12:41	1:00	3:24	4:04	4:15	5:50	5:55	7:13	7:45
Thu 2	6:11	6:45	7:45	12:41	1:00	3:25	4:05	4:30	5:51	5:56	7:14	7:45
Fri 3	6:10	6:45	7:44	12:42	1:00	3:26	4:07	4:30	5:52	5:57	7:15	7:45
Sat 4	6:09	6:45	7:43	12:42	1:00	3:27	4:08	4:30	5:53	5:58	7:16	7:45
Sun 5	6:08	6:45	7:42	12:42	2:00	3:28	4:09	4:30	5:55	6:00	7:17	7:45
Mon 6	6:07	6:45	7:41	12:43	1:00	3:29	4:10	4:30	5:56	6:01	7:18	7:45
Tue 7	6:06	6:45	7:39	12:43	1:00	3:30	4:12	4:30	5:57	6:02	7:20	7:45
Wed 8	6:05	6:45	7:38	12:44	1:00	3:31	4:13	4:30	5:59	6:04	7:21	7:45
Thu 9	6:04	6:45	7:37	12:44	1:00	3:32	4:14	4:30	6:00	6:05	7:22	7:45
Fri 10	6:03	6:45	7:36	12:45	1:00	3:33	4:15	4:30	6:01	6:06	7:23	7:45
Sat 11	6:01	6:45	7:34	12:45	1:00	3:34	4:17	4:30	6:03	6:08	7:24	7:45
Sun 12	6:00	6:45	7:33	12:45	2:00	3:35	4:18	4:30	6:04	6:09	7:25	7:45
Mon 13	5:59	6:45	7:32	12:46	1:00	3:36	4:19	4:30	6:05	6:10	7:26	7:45
Tue 14	5:58	6:45	7:30	12:46	1:00	3:37	4:20	4:45	6:07	6:12	7:27	7:45
Wed 15	5:56	6:45	7:29	12:46	1:00	3:38	4:21	4:45	6:08	6:13	7:28	7:45
Thu 16	5:55	6:45	7:28	12:47	1:00	3:39	4:23	4:45	6:09	6:14	7:29	7:45
Fri 17	5:54	6:45	7:26	12:47	1:00	3:40	4:24	4:45	6:10	6:15	7:31	7:45
Sat 18	5:52	6:45	7:25	12:48	1:00	3:41	4:25	4:45	6:12	6:17	7:32	7:45
Sun 19	5:51	6:45	7:23	12:48	2:00	3:42	4:26	4:45	6:13	6:18	7:33	7:45
Mon 20	5:49	6:45	7:22	12:48	1:00	3:43	4:27	4:45	6:14	6:19	7:34	7:45
Tue 21	5:48	6:30	7:20	12:48	1:00	3:44	4:28	4:45	6:15	6:20	7:35	8:00
Wed 22	5:47	6:30	7:19	12:49	1:00	3:45	4:30	4:45	6:17	6:22	7:36	8:00
Thu 23	5:45	6:30	7:17	12:49	1:00	3:46	4:31	4:45	6:18	6:23	7:37	8:00
Fri 24	5:44	6:30	7:16	12:49	1:00	3:47	4:32	4:45	6:19	6:24	7:38	8:00
Sat 25	5:42	6:30	7:14	12:49	1:00	3:48	4:33	4:45	6:20	6:25	7:39	8:00
Sun 26	5:41	6:30	7:13	12:50	2:00	3:48	4:34	4:45	6:22	6:27	7:40	8:00
Mon 27	5:39	6:30	7:11	12:50	1:00	3:49	4:35	5:00	6:23	6:28	7:41	8:00
Tue 28	5:38	6:30	7:09	12:50	1:00	3:50	4:36	5:00	6:24	6:29	7:42	8:00
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

* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi

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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