



In the name of Allah, The most Merciful, The most Kind.

The West London Islamic Post

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**'Verily this
brotherhood of
yours is a single
Brotherhood and I
am your Lord and
Cherisher:
therefore serve
Me (and no other)'
Al-Qur'an 21:92**

In this Issue:

- The Lion of the Desert
- Caring for the Orphan
- Lecture at the Masjid by Sheikh Yasir Qadi on Sat 12th March at 4.00pm- What is Real Happiness?

**Don't Miss the
UKIM Tsunami
Bazaar on
Saturday the 19th
of March 2005.
Raising Funds for
the Orphaned
Children of South
East Asia**

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An Exalted Example of Character

Referring to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) Allah (swt), says,

*"And you (stand) on an exalted standard of character" (Al-Qalam 68:4);
"Ye have indeed in the Messenger of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the praise of Allah" (Al-Ahzab 33:21).*

The uniqueness of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is that he was not only a great person in his own time, but he is great for all times, for all people of any race, colour, nationality or geographical location. His example was profound for the 7th-century Arabs and it is perfect also for the throngs of humanity living now in the 21st century. He is an ideal example for the rich and poor, for young and old, for rulers and

ruled, for the most intelligent as well as the most common people. Allah sent him as His Prophet for all humanity. Allah says in the Qur'an:

Say: O people! I am sent unto you all, as the Messenger of Allah, to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: there is no God but He: it is He that gives both life and death. So believe in Allah and His Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, who believed in Allah and His Words: follow him that (so) you may be guided2 (Al-A`raf 7:158).

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) practiced what he preached. He very carefully and meticulously followed the Qur'an, Allah's Word that was revealed to him. He followed and lived the Qur'an at every moment in every detail of his life. His

life was the reflection of Allah's Words. He became the Qur'an in person, the embodiment of the Qur'an, or one may even say in a metaphorical sense "the Word in flesh." It is reported in a hadith: Sa'd ibn Hisham said that he asked `A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her), "Tell me about the character of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). She said, "His character was the Qur'an" (Ahmad).

The morality of the Prophet (pbuh) was not restricted to just a few moral attributes, but included diverse traits and aspects of life. He was kind, compassionate, caring, generous and humble, but he was also...

Continued on Page 4

Islam Taster Day 2005

The Masjid organised a special inter-faith event on Sunday the 23rd of January. It was arranged in celebration of Eid-ul-Adha and included lunch and a presentation by Dr Ahmad Ibrahim on the significance and commonality of this occasion, which marks the occasion when Abraham (pbuh) was tested by His Lord to sacrifice his son Ishmail (pbuh), the willing son was however divinely replaced by a lamb. Local church leaders, members of their congregation and the community at large were present on the day.



West London Islamic Centre Condemns the 7th of July Atrocity

The UKIM West London Islamic Centre unequivocally denounced the vile London Bombings which took place in July.

Our thoughts, our prayers and condolences go out to the families and victims of this terrible atrocity. As citizens and residents of this great, tolerant and peaceful city, we share the concerns and fears of fellow Londoners. We use the same transport and live and work in the same buildings and an attack on this great city is an attack on us all.

Islam expressly condemns the use of violence against civilians and innocents. Furthermore Allah (swt) states: 'Believers! Be upright bearers of witness to Allah, and do not let the enmity of any people move you to deviate from justice. Act justly, that is nearer to God-fearing. And fear Allah, surely Allah is aware of what you do' (Al-Qur'an 5:8).

The Lion of the Desert

We go back in history to 1862 where a young boy of a poor household was born in a town controlled by the Uthmany Khilafa. This young man was brought under the care and tutelage of one of the Shuyookh in his home town, his father died when he was 16. He eventually developed a lifestyle of not sleeping more than 3 hours every night in order to get up to pray to Allah at the last third of the night and recite Qur'an until Fajr. He memorized the Qur'an, and was known to have finished his revisions in its entirety every seven days, regardless of the sufferings he encountered in his life.

His courage and wisdom was pronounced, and he was an exemplary character. This was evident on one of his caravan trails to Sudan as a young man. A lion had deterred the people from entering a particular path. He learned of this lion during the journey, where upon he consequently took it upon himself to face this crisis head on. Unlike other men in the caravan, he carried his shot gun, rode his horse and went after the lion. He came back with the lion's head much to everyone's surprise and gratitude. This earned him the name "Lion of Cyrenaica."

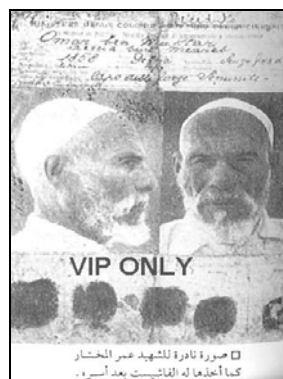
An upbringing of courage and upright religiosity had a massive effect on him. His character would not only change the course of his tribe, country and people, but also the world of Muslims in the post colonial era.

In his twenties he was known for his maturity beyond his years as well as his wisdom, for he continued to solve tribal disputes. His people listened to him for his manners were known to be great, he was eloquent, balanced in his speech, and appealing to those who listened. His thirties were marked by the dawn of the Colonial Era, as it began to spread its cancer to the rest of the world. At the time when the world was being ravaged by European nations, this man stood firm for Islam and faced the colonizers with his valour. He fought fiercely against the French with a group called the Sanusies.

As part of a global feast on the so-called less civilized nations, Italy joined the European nations in causing havoc in the southern part of the hemisphere by colonizing North Africa. It was

during this time, this man, in his fifties, gathered his forces in the face of an invasion attack against Libya, his homeland.

To pacify his resistance army, the Italians offered him high ranking positions and wealth. In return, they demanded that he surrendered. He responded in a famous quote saying, "I'm not a sweet bite of a meal anyone can swallow. No matter how long they try to change my belief and opinion, Allah is going to let them down." They then offered him to leave his town to live closer to the ruling party complete with a monthly salary, but he again refused by saying, "No, I will not leave my country until I meet my Lord. Death is closer to me than anything, I'm waiting for it by the minute."



This man, whose seventy more years of age had not prevented him from fighting, was the soul of his people's resistance against hopeless odds. He gave his people hope against an army thousands more than his own, equipped with more modern weapons, airplanes and armoury while he and his men starved in the mountains with nothing on their backs but their rifles and horses. He successfully began to strike the Italians where it hurt. He hit firmly, swiftly, harshly yet justly those who thought occupying Muslim lands, oppressing, imprisoning, and torturing Muslims, was going to be effortless.

The Italians soon stepped up operations by burning and pillaging villages. Women, children and the elderly were not spared and people were gathered and placed in concentration camps. He was persuaded to retreat to Egypt, but this man refused to turn his back on the enemy knowing well that his chances were dim against a force that was swelling by the minute.

When asked why he continued the fight, he stated that he fought for his religion, and he sought nothing more than to remove the occupiers from his lands and that regardless of the outcome, victory comes from Allah.

After countless battles, he was wounded and captured alive. He and his companions defended themselves until at last his horse was shot dead under him, causing him to fall to the ground. He was shackled and brought to an Italian military post in a city called Suluq. With his faith, heroism and courage he earned the respect even of his enemies.

The military officer who interrogated him said, "When he came to my office I imagined to see someone like the thousand of murabiteen who I met in the desert wars. His hands were shacked, he had broken bones caused by fighting, dragging himself barely able to walk. He was a man not like normal men, he stood in my office as we asked him and he answered in a calm, clear and collective voice. When he gathered to leave, the brightness of his face, like the sunshine amazed me and shook my heart. My lips shivered towards the end of the conversation whereby I ordered him back to his cell to stand before a court in the evening."

The biggest scholars of his time from the Sanusies, who previously fought with him against the French and British, did not come to his aid in time. Instead, many of them became loyal to the Italians by giving them Muslim lands in exchange for clemency, monthly salaries, and free taxation. On the contrary, this man took out his Qur'an, held it, he gave an oath to Allah that he would not stop fighting the occupying oppressors even if it meant fighting them alone until victory had been attained or he becomes a martyr. In the last twenty years of his life, he led and personally fought in 1000 battles. When the Italian general made him a final offer to make him their puppet, he answered, "I shall not cease to fight against thee and thy people until either you leave

my country or I leave my life. And I swear by Him who knows what is in men's hearts that if my hands were not bound this very moment, I would fight you with my bare hands, old and broken as I am." It was then that the Italian general laughed and ordered him to be hung. His hanging took place before hundreds of tribes in 1931. The intent to scare the Muslims, did not succeed. The opposite took place, his hanging shook the entire Muslim world, and numerous resistances took place specifically in North Africa.

The man, whose mug shot spoke his legacy, is none other than Omar alMukhtar, whose legacy will live until the day of judgement, Inshallah. With his blood, he drew the stories of victory, he became a legend of legends, and a guide for those who wanted to live in honor at a time of humiliation. Those who betrayed him were not imprisoned nor hung. They died a normal death, possibly even in luxury and wealth, under the protection of the occupying Italians. However, they died, their name died with them, and they will answer their Lord for their treachery.

Omar alMukhtar lived, and fought hard in the days of his life. He was shackled, imprisoned, then hung but his story lives on. He was attached to Allah, depending on Him, and accepting that which Allah had decreed upon him. He asked Allah to become a martyr and this is what he attained, Insha'Allah. May Allah raise his position in Paradise.

Written by Sheikh Ahmad Jibril, in the third end of the night of Oct. 12 2004. DVD & video copies of Lion of the Dessert are available at most good video outlets.



Caring for the Orphan

The message of Islam is all about helping people, relieving suffering, spreading goodness and removing harm. The end doesn't justify the means. We are supposed to do good things in a good way and not resort to counteracting evil with evil.

"The good deed and the evil deed cannot be equal. Repel the evil with one which is better..." (Fussilat 41:34)

In recent times the world stood shocked at the disaster that devastated so much of Asia. And in response to the inbuilt goodness that exists within the human soul, mankind stretched his collective hand to render assistance. This is a phenomenal example of human brotherhood that is rarely experienced these days which witness continuous war, injustice, and oppression.

The tides of evil abound this world and have done since the beginning of time and will continue to do so until the end. These tides of evil are only counteracted and held at bay by corresponding tides of goodness. Just like darkness disappears with the rays of light, and cold disappears with warmth, likewise evil disappears with goodness.

A new catastrophe has hit Asia which is already reeling under the weight of trauma and suffering caused by the earthquake and consequent tidal wave. Child traffickers have taken the opportunity to make use of the chaos that prevails to steal away helpless, vulnerable orphans to use or to sell as they wish. Posing as relief workers or parents these evil creatures take away young children. Where does that leave us? Allah tells us in the Qu'ran that He offered the Amanah (being the caretakers of the world) to the heavens, the earth and the mountains...

"Truly, We did offer Al-Amanah (the trust and all the duties which Allah has

ordained) to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, but they declined to bear it and were afraid of it. But man bore it. Verily, he was unjust to himself and ignorant of its results." (Al-Ahzab 33:72)

Well the reality is that we have this responsibility. Whether or not we live up to it is our decision but we will be judged for what we did in our lives as well as for what we didn't do. A man once came to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh), and complained that he felt hardness in his heart. The Messenger of Allah said,

"Would you like that your heart becomes soft and that you acquire what you need? Be merciful with the orphan, pat his head and feed him from what you eat. This will soften your heart, and enable you to get what you need."

[At-Tabaraanee & As-Silsilah as-Saheehah]

Do you think you will be resurrected in the company of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and all the other prophets – Jesus, Moses, Abraham, David, Solomon, Elias, Adam (peace be upon them all) – if you just sit back and watch the world, keeping a nice comfortable emotional distance, without striving to fulfill the trust Allah gave us? Paradise doesn't come cheap. We have to work for it. Simply calling ourselves Muslims is not a guaranteed ticket to Paradise!

If all it takes is giving some money, urging others to give, helping out in our own communities and so on, well then that's a start. What does it mean to help an orphan? Well it could mean Paradise.

There is no justification to simply turn our heads away and pretend we don't hear – because we all know what has happened and what is happening now, as well as the threat of what can possibly happen in the future. If the devastation of so many countries didn't touch your heart, if the stories of heart-

broken people who lost loved ones didn't touch your heart, if the accounts of homes and businesses destroyed didn't touch your heart, if the pending epidemics and starvation that millions face didn't touch your heart, then the story of sad, lost, weary vulnerable children who have been recently orphaned and are now the target of child traffickers to be sold into the sex industry must touch your heart. And if it doesn't then pray to God because perhaps you no longer have one.

The Prophet (pbuh) said, "One who cares for widows and the poor is like those who fight in the way of Allah or those who spend their days fasting and their nights praying."

Article by Sr Selma Cook at www.islamonline.net

MASJID EVENTS & NEWS

UKIM & Al Fitrah Present:
Sheikh Abu Amar Yasir Qadi [of Islam Channel] & Sheikh Abdul Ghani Al Bashir on 12th March 2005. Programme as follows;
1.30pm Sisters Q&A
4.00pm The Role Model for our Youth- Sheikh Bashir
6.15pm What is Real Happiness- Sheikh Yasir Qadi

The brothers from Islamic Care would like to thank the Masjid congregation for their warm response to their appeal to register on their foster and adoption list.. Islamicare.org is a non-profit, volunteer organization who simply link Muslims who want to foster and adopt children to social services.

07092 201 201

Sat 19th March '05
10am-5pm



UKIM TSUNAMI CHARITY BAZAAR

Raising Funds for the Orphaned Children of South Asia

Barbecue • Book Stalls • Guest Speaker • Food Stalls • Dawah Table
 Children's Activities • Islamic Goods & Clothing • Separate Sisters Area
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VENUE: West London Islamic Centre, Brownlow Road, London W13
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Please Attend with Your Friends & Family, Everyone Welcome.
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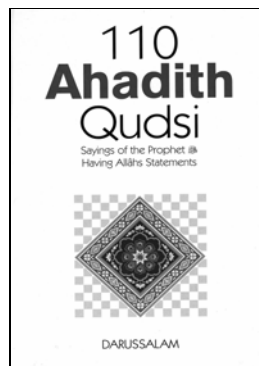
The Last Messenger of Allah (swt) put his index and middle fingers together and said, "I and the person who looks after an orphan and provides for him, will be in Paradise like this." (Reported in Al-Bukhari)

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Al-Kitab: Visit us for the Latest Books, Audio & Islamic Goods

Al-Kitab Bookshop is situated inside the West London Islamic Centre and has been operating for some 5 years. The bookshop stocks an array of Islamic books and merchandise. Brothers and sisters the knowledge is available, why not buy your loved ones a gift this, which they can benefit from forever. The Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) said,

'He who treads the path in search of knowledge, God will make that path easy, leading to Paradise for him and those people who assemble in one of the houses of God (masjids), recite the Book of God, and learn and teach the Koran. There will descend upon them tranquility, mercy will cover them, the angels will surround them, and God will mention them in the



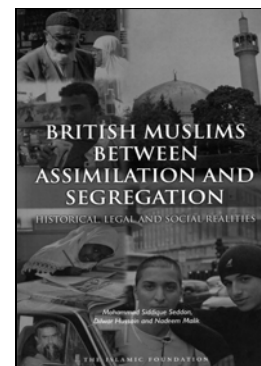
presence of those near Him. [Muslim]

Ahadith Qudsi (sacred Ahadith) hold a distinct place amongst the sayings, deeds and approvals of the Prophet (pbuh), as the authority of these narrations is attributed to Allah through the Prophet. 110 such Ahadith relating to daily



life are presented in this excellent collection.

The Four Great Imams is a superb audio lecture of 13 CD's which focuses on the characters, families, teachers, students, society and lives of the four Imams who have traditionally been presented as the founders of Islamic



Jurisprudence or Fiqh.

British Muslims between Assimilation & Segregation looks at the historical, legal and social realities of British born Muslims. The book analyses religious attitudes, beliefs, nationality, citizenship, migration and community.

An Exalted Example of Character Continued

...strong, brave, eloquent, wise and insightful. He was a great planner, organizer and thinker, yet he was also a man of faith, trust and devotion to Allah.

He was involved and active with his family and community but he did not neglect his prayers, fasting and devotion to Allah. Actually, he prayed so much that no one prayed like him. He was exemplary as a teacher, preacher, imam, leader, statesman, judge, commander of the armies as well as a husband, a father, a grandfather, a businessman, a neighbour, and a friend.

Before he received the honour of Prophethood, he was known among the people of Makkah as "As-Sadiq Al-Amin," the most honest and trustworthy person. He kept this character throughout his life. He never broke a pledge or promise. Even his enemies could not accuse him of being dishonest.

He was a most humble person. He used to mingle with the poor and sit with them. He stopped people standing up for him. He used to sit wherever there was a place available in an assembly and never sought a prominent or elevated place. The newcomers sometimes would not know who the Prophet among the people was. When he entered the city of Makkah as a conqueror leading a big army, he entered in a most humble manner. In a unique demonstration of humility his forehead was touching the saddle of his camel!

He was the most merciful person. Allah called him [a mercy to the worlds] (Al-Anbiya' 21: 107). He was merciful to his family, followers, friends, even enemies. He was merciful to young and old, to humans and to animals. Those who persecuted him in Makkah and killed his relatives and his followers, when they were defeated in the battles and brought as

captives, he forgave them. He never extracted revenge or retaliation. He was the most forgiving person.

Constancy was a very important aspect of his moral behaviour. Once he established some good way or practice he used to follow it and adhere to it always. He used to say "The most dear deed to Allah is the one that is performed regularly, even if it is a little" (Al-Bukhari). May Allah (swt) grant us the ability to follow in his footsteps and embrace the Qur'an and his Sunnah.

REGULAR MASJID ACTIVITIES

- Dars-E-Qur'an & Hadith on Saturdays 6pm
- Islamic Study Circle for brothers re-starting soon
- Islamic Study circle for brothers & sisters (Somali) on Sundays 1.30pm
- Sisters Quranic Circle 10am-12.30pm (Mon & Saturdays)
- Childrens Quranic Classes (Monday to Friday 5pm-7pm & Saturday mornings from 10am-1pm)
- Quran Lessons (adults) Sun, Mon, Thurs after Isha
- Keep-fit Boxing sessions on Thursday 7.30pm and Sundays 2.30pm (Brothers)
- Mother & Toddler Group Tuesday 10-12.30pm

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