

NEWS BRIEF

Various news bits from Muslim Communities in North America, Europe and other Parts of the world *submitted by our Team of Local, National and International Correspondents*

Religious Director's Report **For the year 2017 & 2018**

Dear Al-Haqq Readers

Introduction

Salaamun Alaikum. I am pleased to present my annual report for the years 2017 and 2018 for the readers of Al-Haqq Newsletter.

IHS Office & Centre

Our office and drop in Centre has remained quite busy throughout the year. We help a number of individuals with government forms, such as taxation, immigration, applying for various credits, and letters of reference. Each year a number of marriages are solemnized at the IHS Centre, along with mediation, and in some sad cases, divorces. Weekly gatherings held by the Waterloo-Wellington Jamaat and our Arabic speaking brothers and sisters, coupled with more frequent programs during the holy times of Muharram and blessed Ramadhan, keep the IHS Centre active on a regular basis. We are members of Interfaith Grand River, which have been having their monthly steering Committee at the IHS Centre for over two years now. Our 12th annual Interfaith gathering in December went well, AlhamduLillah, giving those attending an opportunity to hear prayers from different faith traditions. Our keynote speaker, Shaykh Arif Jaffer spoke on the theme of “*Gratitude*” and was appreciate by those present. As in the past, we had members of Interfaith Grand River (IGR), and numerous municipal, provincial and federal officials present, along with community leaders and elders.

For the office, I would like to appreciate the efforts of Sr. Shama Murtaza, Sr. Duaa Al-Aghar, and Br. Hussain Walji for maintaining the day to day operations at the Office. Br. Murtaza Ali advises us with the accounts, and oversees the financial procedures of the IHS. For over three years, he has been putting in full time hours voluntarily, working diligently to get backup documents and enhanced accounts from the numerous charities we work with around the world. Now, with the project underway, he has been communicating with our construction contractor, Mr. Jason Drier.

More on our project will be mentioned later in this report. Sr. Layla Bigelli, even though she moved to St. Thomas, looks after the incarcerated Muslims, spending many hours reading their letters and replying their concerns. We pray for her and her son's good health. Shaykh Shafiq Hudda ensures that the overall functions of the Office and IHS are going well, serves as our project manager, as well as reporting our activities to the Mara'ja in Qum and Najaf. Sr. Salha Ismaeel (Umm Ali) helps us keep the Centre clean



and tidy on a weekly basis. As part of our effort to improve efficiency and reduce costs, we have a postage meter for our mailings. A lot of time is saved instead of putting physical stamps on envelopes.

For the eighth and ninth straight years, we had summer day camps for young children, which went well. Special thanks to Sr. Shehed Hadi, who was the main Camp Leader, along with Br. Faizan Haider assisting her. Camp leaders included Sr. Farzeen Naqvi, Sr. Kamla Batool, Sr. Somama Batool, Br. Mohammad AlHassan, Br. Ali Marhon, Br. Noorollah Baghe Amiri, Br. Ali AlMatar, and Br. Akil AlTamimi. In addition, Br. Hussain, Sr. Umm Ali and Sr. Duaa assisted as and when required. We were fortunate again these two years to receive government funding for summer students, under the federal Canada Summer Jobs for Youth program.



Weekend School

The Husayni Madresa, one of the oldest divisions of the IHS, has been flourishing under the leadership of Principal Sr. Shama Murtaza, whom I re-appointed to continue serving for the term 2016-2018. Being at a high school facility has greatly improved the learning environment of the Madresa, since students are sitting on proper desks and chairs. The importance of Salaat ul Jamaat is imparted to them, and a spacious cafeteria provides an opportunity to hold the assembly comfortably. Numerous new ideas have been implemented by Sr. Shama, and her main assistants Sr. Tooba Murtaza and Br. Syed Taha Taqvi.

Branch Offices & Affiliates

Our Branch Offices always play an important role in representing the IHS in their respective areas. Br. Murtaza Hudda and Br. Gulamabbas Hudda have been working hard in England to do IHS work. They ensure that the Al-Haqq Newsletter is sent out from there in a prompt efficient manner, as postal rates are cheaper than sending from here for international mailings. The registering of Al-Murtaza Foundation has reduced our dependence of another charity in the United Kingdom, namely Lady Fatima Charitable Trust. We now work through the Foundation, headed by Br. Murtaza, to undertake our financial work in England. Sr. Yasmin Jamal in our Alberta office also collects and remits religious dues to head office, and actively propagates new books and literature published by IHS, and other new books that we receive from our publishers.



The United Muslim Women of Canada, Toronto Chapter, is the most active chapter of the UMWC. The food bank helps provide temporary relief to numerous families. We are extremely pleased with the volunteer work performed by Chair Sr. Anisa Ali and her team consisting of Sr. Nasim Daya and Sr. Munira Alimohamed and many other active hard working individuals. Sr. Sabira Devjee in Edmonton has been collecting funds, and medicine in the past, to purchase medical supplies

for the poor Iraqis, especially in the south of the country, with the assistance of Dr. Bayan Al-Araji. Thousands have been helped under this project of the IHS.

The respective report will give an overview of what work was done during the year.



Dr. Bayan distributed blankets for needy families in Iraq



Dr. Bayan distributed Back to school supplies for kids in Iraq



Dr. Bayan distributed new shoes for kids in Iraq

Al-Haqq Newsletter is our information arm. Hard copies are mailed out to those who wish, while the electronic version is available on our web site. We have even been informed that a number of articles and sections of Al-Haqq have been translated into different languages, including French, Swahili, and Farsi, and distributed in various parts of the world. Over 30 countries receive the Newsletter, now in its 33rd year of publication. Readership is estimated at over 10,000 across the globe. For those who may not know, Al-Haqq is the longest continuously running Shia periodical in North America, Alhamdu Lillah. Sr. Zainab Rajani, Al-Haqq's Editor, continues to compile the articles, informative stories, and creative sections of the Newsletter.

IHS directly operates a number of humanitarian projects overseas. One of them is the Karbala Humanitarian Service (KHS). Headed by Shaykh Munawar Ali Rashid, many in the holy city of Karbala are given food and shelter assistance, and children, often orphans, are sponsored giving them a chance to secure a future for themselves.

We have been providing religious services to people in the Horn of Africa, specifically Ethiopia and Djibouti, and even Somalia, through the hard work and effort put in by Br. Hashim Ali Okera. IHS is renting a number of places where locals congregate for weekly programs, Muharram and Ramadhan ceremonies, as well as educational seminars. Unfortunately, due to reduced donations and financial realities, we have had to drastically reduce our activities in Ethiopia. Br. Hashim had to curtail many services being provided, as a result. We hope that Mo'mineen will come forward and contribute towards the Horn of Africa fund so that this work can resume. At times the IHS helps needy individuals and families in Pakistan, and for this work we coordinate with Br. Hasan Aly Poonawala, Br. Sarwar Ali and Br. Ali Naqi Taqi, who ensure that the help is provided in an efficient and proper manner. Following his move to the USA during the year, Br. Hasan Aly appointed his son Yawar Abbas to continue working in Pakistan. We also count upon social worker Br. Sarwar Ali, who has spent years serving the Mo'mineen all over Pakistan.

IHS works closely with many organizations, whose goals and objectives are similar, all over the world. Most importantly is our relationship with the Office of Hazrat Ayatullah Seestani in Qum. For many years now, IHS has secured exclusive rights to publish and distribute the English translation of the writing of Grand Ayatullah Seestani. We are aware that the amount we remit for our royalty payments are used for housing projects and many other charitable work undertaken by the senior scholar. We are also working with Lady Fatima Charitable Trust in England, whose Director Br. Amirali Karim passed away recently; The Desk & Chair Foundation in England; Imam Ali Foundation in England; Beta Charitable Trust; Comfort Aid International based in Houston, USA; Al-Noor School of Karachi, Pakistan; Zahra School in Qum, Islamic Republic; Tawheedul Muslimeen Trust in Lucknow, India; Iman Foundation in Bombay, India; Shaheed Foundation in Karachi, Pakistan.

We cooperate with a number of organizations within Canada, including Wali ul Asr School, Al-Baqir Academy, Lady Fatima Association of Milton, Islamic Shia Jamaat of Waterloo Wellington, Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of Kitchener Waterloo, Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Toronto, and the North American Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Organization (NASIMCO), and others. In an effort to get Canadian Muslims more active in the voting process, IHS works with The Canadian Muslim Vote (TCMV) during provincial and federal elections, to encourage political activism in the community.



Project Update

The past year was an encouraging and exciting year for the IHS. After so many challenges, delays, and roadblock, we finally managed to get the project underway. Following the completion of all formalities from various authorities, and the accompanying approvals, we held our ground breaking ceremony in September. At the same gathering, we announced that the contract to build the new multi purpose was awarded to Mr. Jason Drier, of the Drier Construction Group, following bids by four other candidates. The IHS Executive examined all the bids and selected DCG based on references, price, and overall commitment to the project. The ground breaking brought members of the public, Mayors of Kitchener, Waterloo & Wilmot Township, federal and provincial members of the legislature. It was an emotional and historic time for the entire community, marking a major turning point for our future. Once ready, the Centre, Insha-Allah (God willing) will be a beacon for all Muslim Shias in the area, comprising of a Masjid, Husainiyyah (Main Hall), Ghusl/Kafan (Washing & Shrouding) room, school Classrooms, IHS Offices and much more. In the next phase, funds permitting, we are hoping to have a Gymnasium and fitness area. Following the September 2017 ground breaking, digging of the initial foundation started in December.

Once the New Year sets in, the construction company will be removing all the soil and earth from the dig. Due to the cold conditions, no further major work will be done in the first two months. Thereafter, additional work will continue, with the laying of the foundation base, levelling of the land, elimination of the current shed that is on the property, and preparing for the main pillars of the structure. At this time, we are projecting a need for \$250,000 per month. We are requesting Mo'mineen to help with whatever they can, and please encourage their family and friends to do the same. By the end of 2018, the foundation has been completed, and in the beginning part of 2019, we should start seeing the building taking shape. Our Fund Raising committee will be approaching people as best as they can, but I request you all to come forward even if you have not been contacted. In case we are able to raise funds faster, the building will be completed sooner. At the end of the year, we have just enough funds to get us through the first part of the construction. We have also borrowed funds internally to ensure that we keep moving forward, and have reached out to three financial institutions to secure a one million dollar loan or line of credit. This is a back up in case we are slow in our fund raising effort, and hope that we will not need to use it! Donors can contribute towards various portions of the Centre, including the Ladies Main Hall, Gents Main Hall, Ladies Masjid portion, Madresa Classrooms. A plaque will be placed in the respective area, recognizing the contribution. Every donor will be acknowledged, regardless of the amount given, on a large monumental plaque that will be set later.

Conclusion

At this time I will request you all to recite Sura Fatiha for all those who have passed away, over the past year. (Al-Fatiha).

In closing I would like to thank the many, many volunteers who have been serving the IHS, giving their time, energy and efforts, for no other reason than the pleasure of ALLAH. May the Almighty reward them greatly, and bless them in their respective lives.

I appreciate the hard work and time put in by my Executive colleagues, namely Br. Sayyid Sajid Marhon, Br. Muhammad Abbass Hyder, Br. Abu Ali Al Tamimi, Br. Abu Wassam, and Br. Syed Habibullah Mahboobi. There are many people who have worked and done things for the IHS but have preferred to remain anonymous. To all them, I say a special thank you. Last, but not the least, I thank my wife Rosemin for all her support and encouragement, without whom I could not do what I am doing to serve the community. If anyone has been hurt or offended by anything that I may have said or done, I sincerely apologize to them.

May Allah, ta'ala, hasten the return of our Awaited Imam (as) Al Mahdi, for whom we are performing all this work, to establish justice throughout the world.

By Br. Sultan Hudda

14th IHS Annual Interfaith Meal

Dr. Taha Taqvi was the keynote speaker and the topic was “Aiming for Peace”. The 14th annual IHS Interfaith meal gathering was on Wednesday December 19th, 2018. Many dignitaries attended our 14th annual IHS Interfaith meal gathering .



Pledge Form for I.H.S New Building

Islamic Humanitarian Service



81 Hollinger Crescent
Kitchener ON N2K 2Y8
ihsecretariat@gmail.com
<http://www.Al-Haqq.net>



I Pledge a total of \$ _____ towards the New Building of Islamic Humanitarian service .

Name	
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City	
Province	
Country /Postal Code	
Telephone	
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Please specify if this amount is Khums . ☐ If So, Please state the Marja name so that the appropriate receipt is obtained. Ayatollah _____

I plan to make this contribution in the form of :

☐ Cash ☐ cheque ☐ credit card

Credit card Type	
Credit card number	
Expiration Date	
Authorized Signature	

Donors in the United Kingdom may send their contributions to **Al Murtaza Islamic Foundation** and claim Gift Aid under our reciprocal agreement with them.

Al Murtaza Islamic Foundation.
Attn: IHS Building Project
24 Bracknell close
Luton Bedfordshire Lu4 0TL UK

Donors in the USA can contribute to Comfort Aid International, respectively, under our reciprocal agreement with them. **Comfort Aid International**

Attn: IHS Building Project
3415 West Lake Mary Blvd #954152
Lake Mary FL 32795 USA

Islamic Perspective on Migration and Wall on the Southern Border by Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him)

Submitted by Br. Mohammed Khaku

Dr. Martin Luther King saw three “evils” - racism, poverty, and the War and somehow these three evils are all tied together. The triple evils of racism, economic exploitation, and militarism are a great problem. The great challenges facing mankind today are militarism and mass incarceration, while the present administration is obsessed with wars and guns.

A Century of U.S. Intervention in South America has created unprecedented an Immigration Crisis.

Over a century US has intervene in Latin America by Coup d'état, by CAFTA, economic warfare and sanctions. To-day Trump administration has declared an emergency at the southern border and national spotlight now shines on building the wall.

It is heartbreaking to see images of Central American children being separated from their parents and held in cages due to the Trump administration's “zero-tolerance” policy. U.S. takes no responsibility for the conditions that drive Central American migrants to the border. How can 11 million people and over 3 million “dreamers” live in the shadow of our society. U.S. empire thrives on amnesia.

Where are the faith leaders?

Remember Mathew 25:35 “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”. I am going to pin this article to the Islamic traditions related to migration. What was our Prophet's response to injustice and oppression? How do we answer the call?

One has to look back at immigration through the lens of the Abrahamic and Islamic perspectives to learn from the stories Prophet Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Jonah and Prophet Muhamad. All these Prophets faced injustice and oppression and had to migrate seeking just allies and safety.

For Muslims Prophet Muhammad is seen as exemplar, whose life sets as an example for us in every aspect of life, so Who is Muhammad?

Prophet Muhammad rose four years after the death of Justinian, 570 AD like the midday sun from the horizon of Arabia (Mecca) and dissipated intense darkness around the globe on the day he was born. It was a place of chaos where morality had been traded for power, decency for pleasure and where daughters were buried alive. His personality embodied the courage of Moses (Musa), civility of Huru'n, patience of Ayoub, magnificence of Suleiman, and humility of Jesus (Issa).

Prophet Muhammad was an apostle, philosopher, orator and legislator. His leadership stands unappalled in the annals of history. He despised the pomp of royalty, but carried dutifully the duties as husband and father. He kindles the fire, swept the floor, milked the cows, and mended his own shoes and garments. He was destroyer of idols and the man who moved not only armies, empires and dynasties, but millions of people, Gods, altars, belief and souls in the belief in the one God and book Quran, where every letter of which become law. He created a spiritual community (Ummah) which blended together people of every tongue and of every race. He created a lasting revolution in the world. He was a perfect human being with truthfulness, trustworthiness, generosity and beauty that his followers were attracted to him like a magnet. At the beginning of the mission, his followers were only three, but after his demise he had millions of followers all the way to China, Europe, Russia and North Africa.

What is the concept of Migration and Immigration according Islam?

The term for migration in Islam is Hijra. The Qur'an speaks of the migration experience of many prophets prior to Islam in the holy book especially its numerous verses on Prophet Adam migration from heaven to earth and many

Migration can take place for many reasons such as injustice, oppression, freedom of religion, economic or simply for relocation for education, safety and prosperity. Many Muslim scholars refer to a verse in the Qur'an. The verse says "Was not the earth of God spacious enough for you to flee for refuge" (4:97) so according to Islamic teaching every part of the earth is God's land. However, we have created borders or correctly the imperial nature of forefathers created these borders. There were no borders 1400 years ago. Prophets and People would travel freely to gain knowledge or do business.

Once the prophet started preaching the oneness of God many tribes including the Quraysh tribe waged wars against the Muslims, torturing and even killing many of new converts to the religion. To protect the community Prophet began series of migrations.

Significant well-known journeys of migration in the history are the Hijrah of prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina, 617 CE Hijrah Jaffar bin Abu Talib to righteous Christian Kingdom of Abyssinia (modern day Ethiopia) and the migration of the grandson of the prophet Muhammad Imam Hussein for safety due to the prosecution by Umar bin Saad to Iraq.

However, the most important migration in the history of Islam is the migration of Prophet from the city of Mecca to Medina, where there were large number of Christians and Jewish people. This migration is marked as the beginning of Islamic calendar. The Prophet, his family and the followers had to leave Mecca due to the threat of assassination, economic sanctions and boycott by the wealthy oligarchy of Mecca which also lead to the death of Prophet's wife Khadija due to starvation. The Prophet call this "the year of grief" (Huzn).

The narration of the Muhammad hiding in the cave is a thought provoking that a spider miraculously spins its web across the cave while a dove sat calmly near entrance to make it seen as if no one was inside of it. The animals knew which side of justice they stood on. As the Prophet when entered Medina he was welcomed with open arms. His words in poetry were "O people, give unto one another greeting of Peace, feed food unto hungry, honor the ties of kinship and pray in the hours when people sleep. Thus, shall enter Paradise in Peace."

He declared Medina a city of brotherhood with the verse "Remember when you were enemies. God has united your hearts and through his grace you have become brothers" (3:103). This brought prosperity and created a warm environment for immigrants to strengthen the community through love. Medina became a sanctuary city welcoming strangers to be its residents. Medina become the most diverse city which broke the concept of Arabian tribalism based on blood and changed it with concept of a "community" or "Ummah". Prophet Muhammad created a document call The Constitution of Medina *Dustūr al-Madīnah* (المدينة دستور), also known as the Charter of Medina in Arabic (صحيفة المدينة)

To conclude my essay, it is important to elaborate on the implication of this tradition in our modern-day context. America itself is an immigrant society. Today we live in similar times, as people throughout the world face grave economic and

social injustices, with 68.5 million refugees and 258 million migrant workers through economic warfare and wars around the globe. (<https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>)

(http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/Migration-Report2017_Highlights.pdf)

Millions and millions of people have walked along the same prophetic path of displacement and migration since the time of Muhammad some 1400 years ago. After the genocide against the American Indian and forced migrations of millions of enslaved Africans, it is the central narrative of United States and most of us have some type of immigration story. We are not being ask to share our wealth, but each of us must ask what is our prophetic response and especially for the Shia's who are waiting for the Mahdi to reappear to create a peace and justice will we be raising our voice for 11 million undocumented

immigrants and 2.6 million behind bars. We should raise our voice? Speak Up! Silent No More! Stop separating children from their parents, stop deportations and NO to build the wall. The Prophet says, "You cannot be a real believer unless you want for your brother what you want for yourself".

American Muslim Need to Vote to Elect Judges & Imam Ali's Principle of Good Governance

Submitted by Br. Mohammed Khaku

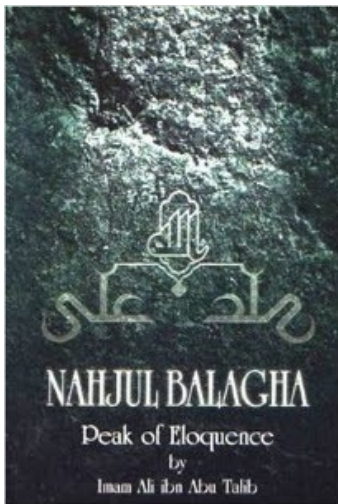
This May we will have primaries to elect judges and District attorneys in Pennsylvania (USA). It is unfortunate we do not exercise more zeal over municipal election as the presidential elections. As we select judges & district attorney, who have to be not only truthful, humble and honorable but should know the law. This year is a year to elect judges in Pennsylvania. Let's do it well this year as it will matter a great deal to lives in our communities.

Hazrat Ali's Principles of Good Governance –

Hazrat Ali (as) had written a comprehensive letter to – articulating principles of public policy – for the guidance of the newly appointed Governor to Egypt, Malik al Ashtar. He eloquently explains the status and role of the judiciary in Islam:

In this fascinating directive, Hazrat Ali advises the new governor that his administration will succeed only if he governs with concern for justice, equity, probity and the prosperity of all. The letter explains the governor how to select judges, its qualifications and the compensation. Selected passages from the text are reproduced below:

<https://simerg.com/literary-readings/literary-reading-hazrat-alis-principles-of-good-governance-early-muslim-style-2/>



[Hazrat Ali's Principles of Good Governance – Early Muslim Style « Simerg – Insights from Around the World simerg.com](https://simerg.com/literary-readings/literary-reading-hazrat-alis-principles-of-good-governance-early-muslim-style-2/) Hazrat Ali (a.s.) had written a comprehensive letter – articulating principles of public policy – for the guidance of the newly appointed Governor to Egypt, Maalik al Ashtar. In this fascinating directive, Hazrat Ali advises the new governor that his administration will succeed only if he governs with concern for justice, equity, probity and the...

Thus, we see that Islam provides for an independent and impartial judiciary. As law in Islam stands at the apex of social organization, those who administer the law must likewise be elevated and kept independent of executive control. Also, it is the duty of the judges to stand firm for justice, though doing so may become detrimental to their own interests.

An example that shows how just and impartial the Islamic judiciary must be is when Imam Ali went to court regarding a piece of armor in the possession of a Jew. As the evidence submitted by Hazrat Ali was apparently insufficient, the judge gave his verdict in favor of the Jew. The Jew was so impressed by the fairness of the Islamic justice system that he immediately returned the armor to Hazrat Ali and embraced Islam.

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"For this Nation to remain true to its principles, we cannot allow any American's to be denied, dilute, or defiled. The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties, and we will not see its luster diminished."

Ronald Regan

Conflicting US, Saudi campaigns drive up oil prices

(Courtesy :<https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2019/03/27/592001/Oil-prices-US-Saudi-sanctions-Iran-Venezuela>)



Saudi King Salman (2nd from L) dances the 'ardha' or traditional sword dance with US President Donald Trump in Riyadh.

Renewed concern over supply declines brought on by US sanctions on Iran and Venezuela and reductions in global production are driving up prices.

On Wednesday, oil prices extended the previous session's rise, with Brent creeping up by 17 cents to \$68.14. The gain came after the global benchmark rose 76 cents to \$67.97 a barrel on Tuesday.

It came after Venezuela's main oil export port of Jose and its four crude upgraders failed to resume operations amid a massive power blackout which Caracas has blamed on US cyberattacks.

US sanctions on Iran and Venezuela have removed more than 2 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil from daily global supply, according to Reuters.

The United States currently produces more than 12 million bpd of crude, more than 3 million bpd of which is exported.

Omid Shukri Kalehsar, a Washington-based energy security expert, says oil sanctions against Iran and Venezuela allow the US to overtake their share of the world market.

"If Iran and Venezuela keep oil production and exports at the same level, no one can take their place. Therefore, sanctions against Iran and Venezuela benefit not only the United States but also OPEC," he told Russia's Sputnik news agency.

On Monday, the US government issued an alert, warning the oil shipping industry against flouting its unilateral sanctions against Iran.

"Any violations of prohibitions or weaknesses in compliance that result in sanctionable conduct exposes the shipping community to significant risks and can trigger severe consequences," the Treasury Department's under-secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, Sigal Mandelker, said in a statement.

According to Shukri Kalehsar, the US "uses energy exports as a driver in its relations with other countries, and together with the use of such a tool as sanctions, this factor has become decisive in shaping US foreign policy."

Last month, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with top oil executives to press them on following the Trump administration's policy of reducing Iran's oil exports to zero.



Iran's Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zangeneh rejects President Donald Trump's attack on OPEC, saying the US president himself is behind a surge in oil prices.

The outreach represented a significant new campaign to sway industry executives to Trump's "energy dominance" agenda that seeks to advance diplomatic and policy objectives through rapidly expanding US oil and gas exports.

Pompeo said America's newfound shale oil and natural gas abundance would "strengthen our hand in foreign policy".



The US is waging a new campaign to drive OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers out of Europe after cutting Iran and Venezuela out of the market with sanctions.

At OPEC, Saudi Arabia is at the forefront of a campaign for higher oil prices to balance its budget which is under heavy strains because of the kingdom's costly war on Yemen.

For the record, when US President Donald Trump announced sanctions on Iran last year, he assured that stepped-up production by Saudi Arabia would make up for any shortfall in world supplies resulting from the loss of Iranian barrels.

Higher oil prices are a political headache for Trump, offsetting Republican claims that his tax cuts and rollbacks of federal

NASA to unseal untouched Moon samples of Apollo for 1st time in 50 years

(courtesy: <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2019/03/12/590865/NASA-Moon-samples-Apollo-missions>)



Scientist-astronaut Harrison H. Schmitt collects lunar rake samples at Station 1 during the first Apollo 17 extravehicular activity (EVA) at the Taurus-Littrow landing site, December 11, 1972. (Photo by NASA)

NASA says it has assigned nine technical teams to study several untouched samples from the Moon's soil and rock layers which were brought back to the Earth by three Apollo missions to our nearest celestial body nearly 50 years ago.

According to a [statement](#) published on the US space agency's official website on Monday, four teams from NASA, and five teams from University of Arizona, University of California Berkeley, US Naval Research Laboratory, University of New Mexico and Mount Holyoke College/Planetary Science Institute were tasked with the scientific testing.

The teams have been awarded a combined budget of \$8 million to conduct their scientific analysis on three lunar samples, carefully stored and never exposed to the Earth's atmosphere for the past half century, in an attempt to further deepen our understanding of the Earth's sole natural satellite.

NASA said the samples had been brought back to the Earth by the Apollo 15, 16 and 17 manned missions, respectively carried out in July 1971, April 1972 and December 1972.

"By studying these precious lunar samples for the first time, a new generation of scientists will help advance our understanding of our lunar neighbor and prepare for the next era of exploration of the Moon and beyond," said Thomas Zurbuchen, Associate Administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington, DC.

"This exploration will bring with it new and unique samples into the best labs right here on Earth," he added.

According to the statement, six of the nine teams will analyze a sample, containing 800 grams of lunar rock layers still encased in a "drive tube", which was delivered to the Earth by astronauts Harrison Schmitt and Gene Cernan during the Apollo 17 mission.

"That core preserves not just the rocks themselves but also the stratigraphy from below the surface so today's scientists can, in a laboratory, study the rock layers exactly as they existed on the Moon," it said.

The remaining three teams have been tasked with analyzing two specially-curated samples left over from the Apollo 15 and 16 missions that have been frozen or stored in helium since they arrived on the Earth.

“Returned samples are an investment in the future. These samples were deliberately saved so we can take advantage of today’s more advanced and sophisticated technology to answer questions we didn’t know we needed to ask,” said Lori Glaze, acting director of NASA’s Planetary Science Division in Washington, DC.

All the lunar samples the US space agency collected during the Apollo missions were extracted from a few places on the Moon.

However, through the use of remote sensing data NASA confirmed that the Moon is a complex geologic body, and that orbital studies of the lunar surface show types of rocks and minerals that are not present in the Apollo sample collection.

NASA also said that the samples would not be opened right away as the teams first have to discuss on the best way to open them in an attempt to avoid contaminating them and maximize the science to be gained.

The teams are expected to study how exactly water is stored in the highly-irradiated rock on the lunar surface in an experiment that was commenced half a century ago. They will also investigate space weathering, the geologic history of the Apollo 17 landing site, and past volcanic activity on the Earth’s moon.



Forty-seven years ago today, humans for the first time managed to step on their nearest celestial body: Moon.

On July 20, 1969 NASA’s Apollo 11 became the first manned-spaceflight ever to land humans on the Moon. Some six hours later, on July 21, the American astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped on the lunar surface from the Apollo Lunar Module (LM) and became the first human to step on the lunar surface, followed by Buzz Aldrin, some 20 minutes later.

The two pioneers collected 21.5 kilograms of lunar material as their invaluable souvenir from the alien world, while the third astronaut, Michael Collins, was busy piloting the Command Module Columbia alone in lunar orbit.

Their successful mission was followed by five similar ones, all carried out by NASA, between 1969 and 1972, with Apollo 17 became the last of the series amid the heyday of the space race between the US and Russia.

Russians won the first stages of the space exploration when they sent Sputnik, the first artificial Earth satellite, into an elliptical low Earth orbit on October 4, 1957, another landmark achievement, but lost the game when their biggest rival, the US, launched the first manned mission to the Moon.

Female Iranian neurosurgeon performs over 500 surgeries

(courtesy: <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2019/01/27/586970/Soheila-Saami-neurosurgeon-UAE-Germany>)



A female Iranian neurosurgeon has performed some 500 operations so far and turned into one of the most professional surgeons in her field.

Soheila Saami, 28, is a student of Professor Madjid Samii, who is a prominent internationally-recognized neurosurgeon. Born in 1989, Saami is a graduate of a university in the United Arab Emirates.

She finished her General Medicine program six years ago and currently works as a last-year resident of neurosurgery at Germany's International Neuroscience Institute under the supervision of Professor Samii.

Fars News Agency has conducted an interview with this young successful lady. Excerpts from the interview follow:

Q: How many surgeries have you performed so far?

A: The number of the surgeries I have performed alone exceeds 500 but I have done more than 3,000 operations as assistant surgeon.

Q: You live outside Iran, but you are wearing an Islamic headscarf in all your photos and surgeries. Why is that?

A: In my opinion, it is up to an individual to choose the kind of her or his clothing. I chose to wear hijab consciously. The way I dress is the same in Iran and Germany.

Q: Isn't hijab a limitation for you?

A: Hijab has not been a limitation for me as far as performing surgeries are concerned. Of course, I'm not saying that you can do everything while wearing hijab, but, on the other hand, we cannot say one is unable to do social, sports or other activities while wearing hijab.

Q: Are you going to travel to Iran and practice medicine there?

A: I travel to Iran once or twice a year. I'm very interested to practice medicine in Iran, and if the conditions are provided, I will offer services in Iran. And if the situation for permanent presence in Iran is not provided, I will definitely practice medicine in Iran several months a year.

Q: As the last question, what's your idea about Professor Samii?

A: I believe Professor Samii is a unique person. Everybody can watch videos of Professor Samii at the age of 80 on social media and read the comments of prominent neurosurgeons about him. He has also written many books and articles all of which attest to the fact that Professor Samii is the best.

Professor Samii was chosen as the founding president of Madjid Samii Congress of International Neurosurgeons (MASCIN) in 2003. He was also picked as the best surgeon of the year in 2018. All these bear testimonies to the fact that he is a distinguished and superb surgeon.

(Source: ifpnews.com)

ATTENTION ALL KHUMS DONORS

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In The Name of The Almighty

The Honourable Scholar Sayyid Murtaza Al-Kashmiri, may his achievements continue,

As-Salamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatoh

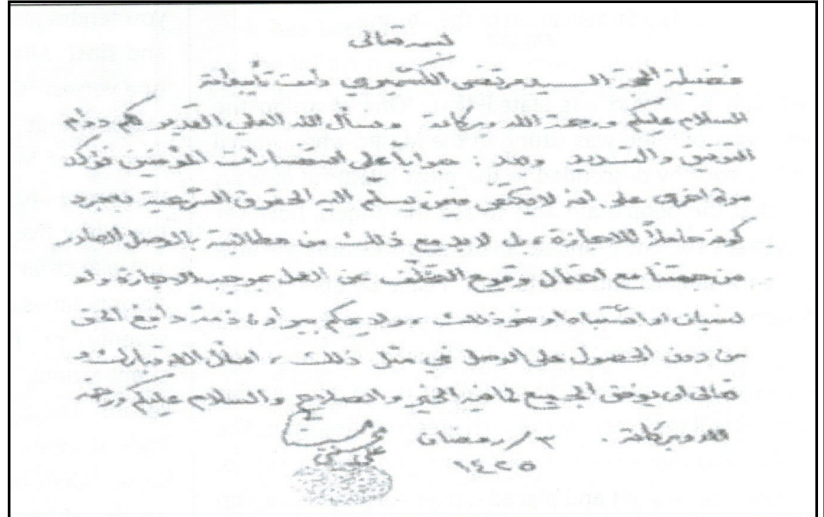
I ask Allah The Most High, The Omnipotent to always guide and support you.

In response to inquiries from Momineen, we emphasize once again that paying Islamic dues to whoever holds an authorization (Ijaza) is not sufficient. A demand for a receipt issued by must be made [to the person receiving the Islamic dues]. Bearing in mind that discrepancies in adhering to the Ijaza may occur either through forgetfulness, error or similar situations. A clear conscience by the payer (of Islamic dues) cannot be attained unless a receipt is obtained as above.

I ask Allah The Blessed The most High to grant everyone that which is good and beneficial.

Wassalamu alikum warahmatullah Wa-barakatoh

Seal and signature of Ali Al-Hussaini as-Seestani



Dedications

This space is dedicated to readers of *Al-Haqq* and their family members who have passed away. Please recite Sura **Fatiha for them and all Marhumeen**

Those who would like to include names of their deceased in this section are requested to contact the Editorial Address stated in the inside front cover. There is no charge for this service.

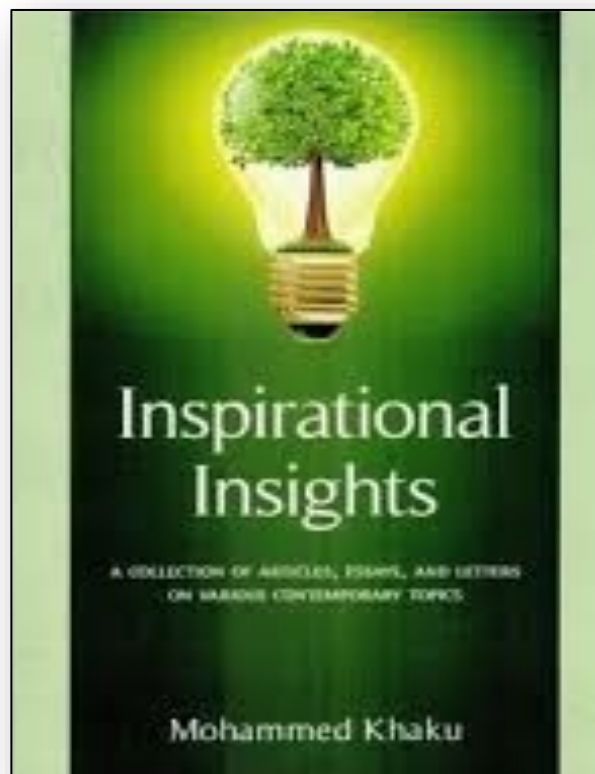
1. Marhum Anver Bhair Rahimtula; Dundas, Canada.
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5. Marhuma Syed Mumtaz Fatima ,Karachi, Pakistan.
6. Marhum Hassan Ali M. Jaffer of Mombasa, Kenya.
7. Marhuma Parveen Rizvi, Bint-e- Syed Fasahat Hussein; Ontario, Canada.



Inspirational Insights

Author: Mohammed Khaku

In an era of finger pointing, 'fake news', and politicians who polarize, civilized society needs calmer voices who seek to promote understanding rather than blaming. For the last dozen years, the author has been such a voice. While the reader might not always agree with the author, there is no doubt his goal has been to educate an increasingly secular audience about the positive aspects of Islam. The book is a collection of articles, essays and letters on various contemporary topics.



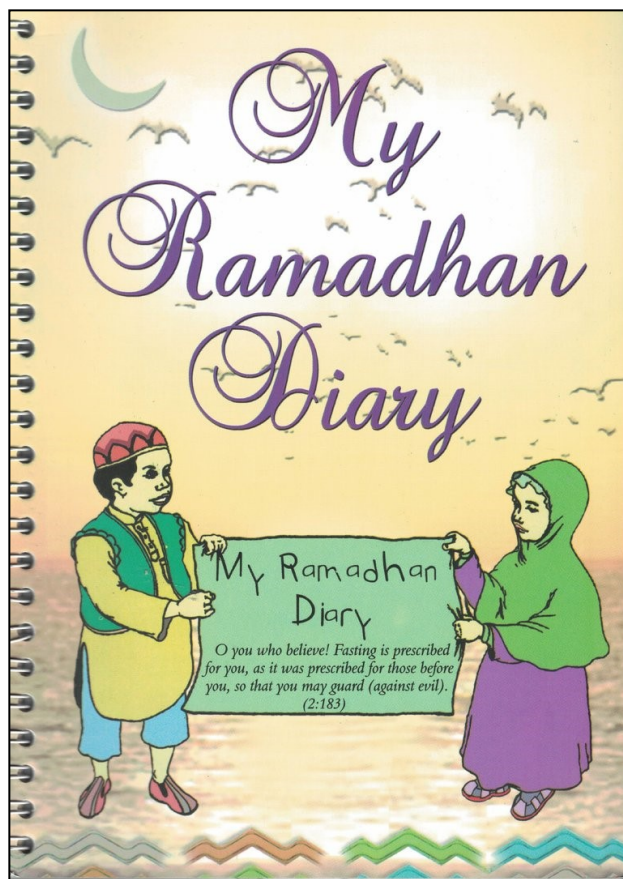
The price is \$16.00 and the money will go toward building fund for our new centre.

My Ramadhan Diary

Author: Umm Ally

This Ramadhan Diary has many of the common duas for the month, including the dua for when you see the new moon, for breaking your fast, and all the small daily duas. It also has the dua for every specific day of Ramadhan, along with space for notes for each day.


It is an excellent book for the kids, especially in the month of Ramadhan, the price is \$7.00 only.




AL-HAQQ NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENTS

Readers are encouraged to provide important news stories and Islamic articles that would be of interest to all of the readers of al-Haqq throughout the world to the correspondent nearest you. If there are none in your vicinity and you would like to serve in this capacity, then please contact the Editor. The editorial address is located on the inside front cover of this issue or email us at alhaqqnewsletter@gmail.com

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12 TH IMAM [A] CONTEST 1440

APPLICATION FORM:

Name: _____ Age _____ Gender: M / F
Address: _____ City _____
Tel: _____ Fax: _____
Email Address: _____

CONTEST DETAILS:

Please read the following instructions carefully before you proceed to the contest:

1. The contest is divided into two age groups: Junior Youths, i.e. 12-17 years old, and Senior Youths, i.e. 18-28 years old.
2. Contestants must submit this application form along with the answers.
3. The last few questions require short answer or essay-type response. Such response cannot exceed 250 words each.
4. Deadline to submit the 12th Imam [A] Contest:

September 15th 2019

5. Answer can be sent to
Islamic Humanitarian Service
81 Hollinger Crest.
Kitchener ON N2K 2Y8
Or by email ihsecretariat@gmail.com
6. 1st place in each age group gets full set of I.H.S. publications .2nd place in each age group gets three books of I.H.S. publications .Only contestants living in Canada or USA qualify for awards.

RECOMMENDED READING GUIDE FOR ANSWERS:

1. Discussion Concerning Al-Mahdi, by Ayattullah al-Uzma Hajj Shaykh Lutfullah Saafi Gulpaygani.
2. Kitab Al-Irshad, by Shaykh Mufeed.
3. Traditions of the Ahl al-Bayt(A bundle of flowers), compiled by Ayatullah Faqhi Imani.
4. Traditional Reports on the Hidden Imam, compiled by Ayattullah al-Uzma Hajj Shaykh Lutfullah Saafi Gulpaygani.
5. Day of Judgment, by Sayyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi.
6. Al-Ghayba, Occultation, by Ibn Abu Zaynab An-Nu'mani.
7. Holy Quran and Imam Mahdi, compiled by As-Sayyid Farhat Husain Al-Moosawi.

12th Imam [A] Contest :Senior Youth (Ages 18-28)

1. List Five titles of the 12th Imam [a] and define what each of the titles mean?
2. According to ahadith, one of the signs of the coming of the 12th Imam [a] is that two thirds[2/3] of the world's population will be destroyed. Describe the two major causes of this massive destruction/death.
3. What dua'(supplication) should be recited after Fajr Prayers to ensure a place in the Imam's army?
4. The Imam of our 12th Imam [a] started at a very young age. Provide two distinct examples from the holy Quran (including the verses) that demonstrate that age is not a factor when it comes to the representatives of God.
5. What city will be the capital of the Imam [a] when he establishes a global government?
6. What city will be the capital of the cursed Sufyani[1] who will wage the war against the 12th Imam [a]?
7. According to *ahadith*, what is the same of the cursed Sufyani [1]?
8. Quote a *hadith* of the Holy Prophet [s] in which he identified the 12 Imams [a] (with complete bibliographical reference). The *hadith* is used by the *Shia* to provide evidence to demonstrate that the Holy Prophet [s] explicitly identified his successors, i.e. the Imams of the Ahlul-bayt [a].
9. Provide an *ayah* from the Holy Qur'an that refers to the belief in the unseen (*ghaib*). This verse is used by *mufasssireen* to prove / explain the concept of *Ghaibah* of 12th Imam [a].
10. Some of the signs of the *dhuhoor (reappearance)* of the 12th Imam [a] are similar to the signs of the coming of the Day of Judgment. Provide two examples of such signs.
11. Write a short poem in praise of our beloved 12th Imam [a] (*maximum 10 line poem*).
12. Provide the fill translation of the short prayer for the Safety of the Imam [a]. This Prayer is commonly recited after *Salaat*.

Short Answer Questions (maximum 250 words for each question)

13. A student asks you, what is the rationale behind the *Ghaibah* of the 12th Imam [a]? Although this question can only be truly answered by the Almighty Creator [a], how would you answer this question with respect to the need, reason (s), and consequences of the period of *Ghaibah*.
14. When 12th Imam [a] will go to the city of Medina with his army, he will do something that will

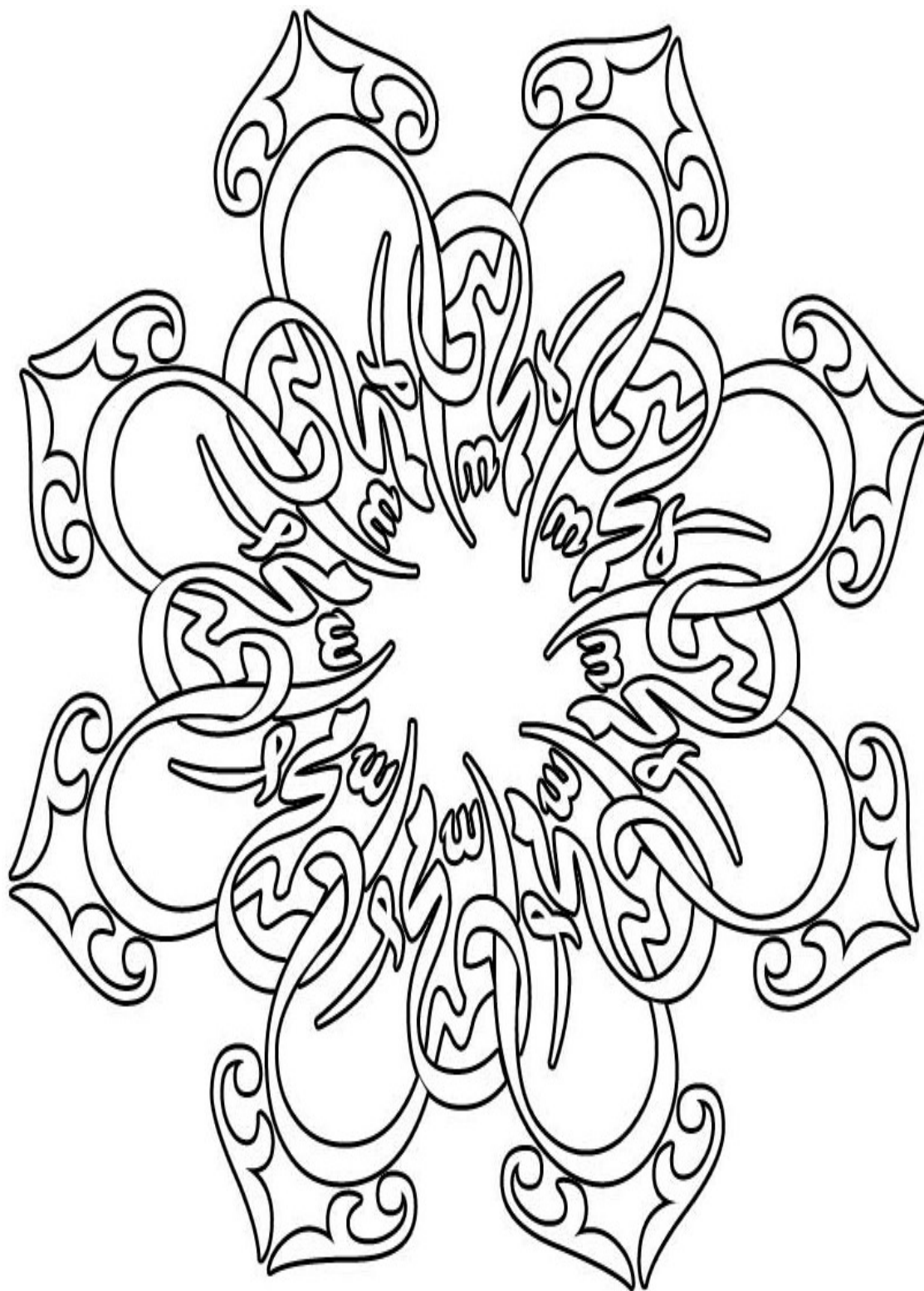
12th Imam [A] Contest :Junior Youth (Ages 12-17)

- 1- How old will the 12th Imam be on 15th Shaban ?
- 2- What is the name of the blessed mother of the 12th Imam and where is she from?
- 3- How long did the period of Ghaibat –e– Sughra last?
- 4- What are the complete names of the 4 representatives of the 12th Imam during Ghaibat –e– Sughra?
- 5- People with weak Iman have a hard time believing that Imams[a] can talk and have complete knowledge when they are born .Which Prophet's example can you give to clam this confusion of some people?
- 6- Name the four holy personalities who are buried in Samarraah, Iraq?
- 7-Which Prophet will be assisting the 12 ?Imam [a] when he returns?
- 8- How many Followers will initially rise and pay allegiance to the Imam [a]?
- 9- Quote a hadith of the Holy Prophet [s] about the 12 Imam [a].Provide the complete refernce for the hadith you quote.
- 10- What are the highly recommended amaal for 15th Shabaan ?
- 11-The 12th Imam [a] is to Prophet Isma'eel [a], as Prophet Issa [a] is to —————-?
- 12- The 12th Imam [a] is said to frequent / visit many Masaajid throughout the world on a weekly and yearly basis—list three of these sacred places of worship and when (i.e. on what day or month) the 12th Imam [a] is reported to be there.

Short Answer Questions (Maximum 250 words for each question)

- 13- The world cannot survive without the presence of the Hhjjat of the Almighty [s], i.e. Imam of the time [a]. Explain this concept using proof from the Holy Quran ?
- 14- If you had the opportunity to meet the 12th Imam [a] for one hour , what would you tell him or talk to him about?

KIDS COLORING PAGE





ROQUIYA'S KITCHEN

Submitted by
Duaa Al-Aghar

Persian Kabob

Ingredients

- 1 (8 ounce) container plain low-fat yogurt
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon dried mint
- 2 pounds beef top sirloin, cut into large cubes
- Add all ingredients to list

Directions

1. In a large bowl, mix the yogurt, onion, and mint. Place the beef cubes in the mixture. Cover, and marinate at least 6 hours in the refrigerator.



2. Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat. Place the marinated beef cubes on skewers, and grill, turning occasionally, 15 minutes, or to desired doneness.

Kunefe

Ingredients

- Sutarfeni 300 grams
- Cottage cheese
- Sugar 2 1/2 cups
- Butter melted 1/2 cup + to grease
- Paneer (cottage cheese) 1 inch thick slabs 4
- Lemon juice 1 tablespoon
- Lemon grated peel 1
- Butter slab 100 grams



Directions

1. Heat sugar with two and a half cups of water till the sugar dissolves. Let the mixture come to a boil. Add lemon juice and lemon peel and continue to boil for about five minutes. Remove from heat.
2. Grease a small aluminium tray with one tablespoon of butter. Put some of the kadayif into the tray and press. Keep a slab of paneer and press gently.
3. Put some more kadayif over the top and press gently once again. Keep the tray on the gas burner. Drizzle some melted butter all round and cook over low heat till the underside turns reddish. Turn over and continue to cook till the other side turns red too.
4. Pour sugar water on top and wait till it gets absorbed. Keep a large slab of butter on top and serve immediately.