

Dhul Qa'dah

The sacred month

As the journey of our lives continues, we pass by various moments and occasions. We are entering Dhul Qa'dah, which is amongst the sacred months of Allah. It is also one of the months of Hajj. As Muslims we should be enthusiastic towards the arrival of Hajj and create the Hajj fever at home by talking about Hajj and the story of Ibrahim (May Allah bless him).

Meaning of sacred month

The 4 Sacred Months

Allah, the Almighty said,

“Surely, the number of months according to Allah is twelve (as written) in the Book of Allah on the day He created the heavens and the Earth, of which there are Four Sacred Months. That is the right faith. So, do not wrong yourself therein....” (At-Tawbah 9:36) *Page 2*

Announcements

>**Sisters event—The Significance of Dhul Hij'jah & Muharram** Sat 29th August 2pm—4pm @Bury Park Jami Masjid, 21 Bury Park Road, Luton (Brothers & Sisters)

>**Sanatain—2 year Islamic Diploma** starts—Sunday 30th August for brothers and sisters—more info contact: admin@zuhriacademy.com 07921 814758

>**HAJJ SEMINAR** by Shaykh Adam Kapadia - Sunday 30th August, 4.30pm to 8pm @Bury Park Jami Masjid (Brothers & Sisters)

>**HAJJ SEMINAR In Bangla** By Mufti Abdul Hannan, Sun 23rd August 5pm to 8.13pm @Bury Park Jami Masjid (Brothers & Sisters)

Discover Islam Centre delivers 'Islam Awareness Training' to Bedfordshire's Coaches *(PAGE 7)*



Jabir Ibn Hayyan (738-813) – the great Muslim chemist

The word “chemistry” traces back to the Arabic word “al-kimiya” over twelve hundred years ago. *Page 3*

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Dhul Qa'dah The sacred month ... continued

As Muslims we should be enthusiastic towards the arrival of Hajj and create the hajj fever at home by talking about hajj and the story of Ibrahim (May Allah bless him).

The Prophet (May Allah's Peace be upon him) said,

"The division of time has turned to its original form which was current when Allah created the Heavens and the Earths. The year is of twelve months, out of which four months are sacred: Three are in succession Dhul-Qa' da, Dhul-Hijjah and Muharram, and (the fourth is) Rajab of (the tribe of) Mudar which comes between Jumadi-ath-Thaniyah and Sha'ban." (Saheeh Al-Bukhari)

Allah created some months more sacred than others. The meaning of sacred is that it is forbidden to sin within these months. Although the prohibition of sinning is ongoing and general however in the sacred months it is more severe. Initially, warfare in this month was completely forbidden but later it was permitted. Hence there are records of the companions engaging in military action during these months after the demise of the Prophet.

Months of Hajj

The months of hajj are Shaw'wal, Dhul Qa'dah and Dhul Hij'jah. Although the main rites of hajj are in Dhul Hij'jah, a person can go in the state of ihram for hajj. Historically and even those people who don't have access to modern transportation, leave their houses months before hajj. Therefore Islam has made it permissible for people to enter the state of Ihram from the 1st of Shaw'wal. The state of ihram means to make intention for hajj and abstain from the normal clothing and adornments etc.

Once they reach Makkah they can perform umrah of Tamat'tu hajj and the arrival hajj tawaf in this month. The details of hajj will be discussed in the next issue, InshaAllah.

Conclusion

For people whose hajj is compulsory must perform hajj and start their preparation. Those who cannot make it should ask Allah to grant them the opportunity to perform hajj.

General people should remember the meaning of 'sacred month' and increase the good deeds and most importantly abstain from haram. *By Mawlana Rayhan*

Luton Muslim Journal

Luton Muslim Journal is a monthly journal which promotes Islam and Muslim contribution to the wider society. It has no affiliation with any political organisation. The journal covers various topics which effects the Muslims and the society.

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Jabir Ibn Hayyan (738-813) – the great Muslim chemist

Back then it was about trying to turn ordinary metals into gold or silver by subjecting it to heat and mixing it with other things. This was the job of the alchemist. In the eighth century the Arab alchemists acquired knowledge of al-kimiya from neighbouring Regions. And it was still considered a spiritual science, not an experimental one. It wasn't until later that al-kimiya became a branch of science in its own right, much like as we know experimental chemistry today.

One of the earliest scientists to have been credited for this was Jabir ibn Hayyan ibn Abdullah al-Kufi al-Sufi, who is known in the West as "Geber" or the "Famous Arabian Prince and Philosopher." Born in the year 738 in Tus in the Persian province of Khurasan, which is situated in today's Iran, he made his mark in Kufah under the patronage of the great Harun Al-Rashid (766-809).

With the execution of his father by the Umayyads, Ibn Jabir's family fell into poverty. This prompted Ibn Hayyan's mother to send him to Kufah. Here, he learned al-kimiya (from Jafar al-Sadiq) as well as other subjects like theology and medicine, before being recruited to the research centres of Baghdad where he was amongst a great number of Islamic scholars, philosophers and scientists.

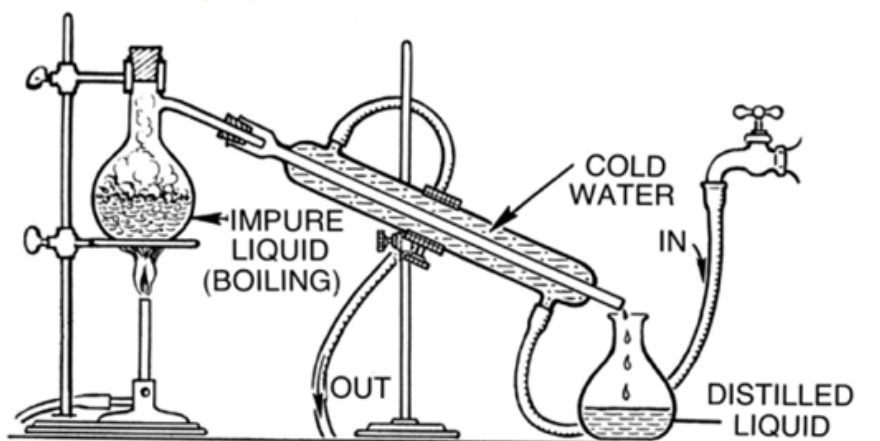
By now Ibn Hayyan became quite famous for his innovative experimental approach to al-kimiya. He founded a chemical laboratory in Kufah, where his experiments proved al-kimiya as a branch of learning just like astronomy and mathematics, not an art form of superstition which had overshadowed it till then. He was also known for his piety and a prolific writer with hundreds of books – most of which were lost when Baghdad was destroyed in the Mongol invasion in the thirteenth century. Ibn

Jabir achieved many breakthroughs in chemistry – a brief list is given below.

- 1) He classified chemicals into three broad categories: a) spirits (like sulphur, mercury) which he proved could be purified substances by heating; b) metals like golds, silver copper etc., and c) substances that could be made of both spirits and metals.
- 2) He pioneered the use of distillation and filtration in the purification of acids like sulphuric, hydrochloric and nitric acids, laying down the early ideas about acid-base theory.
- 3) He was able to dissolve solid gold and separate gold from silver.
- 4) He proposed terms like "alkali" and others.
- 5) He invented many experimental laboratory apparatus, and his laboratory in Kufah remained for over two hundred years after his death.

Today, when we come across common word like "chemistry" and "alkali" we should remember this great Muslim scientist Jabir Ibn Hayyan, who died in 813 at the age of 75, and was buried in Kufah. May Allah accept this great scientist.

By Dr Mammunur Rahman



Holidays- How to make the most of it ..

We are so used to holidays coming and going that sometimes we fail to benefit from them. That's right, benefiting from holidays is extremely essential for you and your family's development. Many parents perception of holidays is, 'it's a hectic time and a LOT of SPENDING'. This is true in most cases due to the wrong or rather naive approach to this wonderful occasion. This hadeeth fits perfectly with the theme of holidays.

Ibn Abbas reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said to a man and he was admonishing him, "Take advantage of five before five: your youth before your old age, your health before your illness, your riches before your poverty, your leisure before your work, and your life before your death." (Baihaqi in Shuabul Imaan)

Change our approach

We need to think of the purpose of holidays, why do we have them? Does it mean that we are relieved of all responsibilities? Here are some thoughts put together by some students;

>We need holidays so that we can focus on the more important issues of our life which is connecting with Allah. When we are in our day to day routine it is possible to lose focus.

>A holiday is a good time for us to do those things which we struggle to do in term time. E.g. meeting larger family, enjoying some quality time with our close family.

>Good time to memorise some portions of the Quran or to learn basic Tajweed.

By thinking like this we will all be planning for the holidays. It'll be a time of more achievements than waste.

Here are some tips for parents on things we can do in the Holidays to make our time more fruitful and productive.

>For parents it might be a good idea to theme the holidays with morals and character we wish to inculcate within our children. E.g. to teach young ones to say Salaam to whoever they meet. One may right the word of the day on a board clearly visible, and have small prizes for the ones who follow it.

>Go out or stay indoors and have a no wifi / internet time in the house. During this time you will realize that you as a family must interact more. This will be a good opportunity to play some games with the kids, or include stories of the Prophet's session.

>Have a designated time for Quran and follow it religiously. (best time is probably in the morning)

>Eat at least one meal a day together. You may go to a restaurant if affordable. This brings love between the family.

>Outdoor activities are necessary for the development of the children. Make the most of the summer. Children nowadays are reluctant to play outdoors due to technological advancements; however physical exercise is important so you may need to gently force them.

>Finally prepare for the next year. Now that you have had your break, start to actively prepare yourselves for the next year in advance.

The messenger of Allah *peace and blessings be upon him once said*

'There is no intelligence like (good) planning.' (Ibn Maajah)

By Mawlana Thaqib Mahmood

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Challenges of our Youth ..Continued

Young people living in this society are facing far greater challenges than ever before. This is made even more difficult when they are not sure of their own faith and are unable to answer simple questions with certainty such as: "Do you believe the Qur'an is from Allah?" or "Do you really believe in the Day of Judgement?"

There is a huge difference between knowing something and believing in it. The biggest evidence for having belief is in our actions. 'Actions speak louder than words' as the saying goes.

The problem we have is where culture and religion have become one, and so we end up doing things because they are cultural rather than a matter of faith. This results in young people growing up seeing that the only time people are passionate about their faith is when the number of taraweeh is discussed, or when Eid should be.

The Qur'an is also something which is often associated with a traumatic experience of being forced to read it, almost as a punishment in our youth, and this remains with people into adulthood.

We must raise our children with the understanding that the Qur'an is their companion and not something to fear, and that Allah is our master and we are His slaves. Too often we forget how a slave should behave when given orders by his Master. Rather we feel we can pick and choose what we wish to do and prioritise rather than submit.

With this in mind a youth circle will be commencing on 11th September at Dallow Road Community Centre, every Friday 7:30pm – 8:30pm for boys aged 11-18. If you are interested in attending please email me on a_nasim@hotmail.com

The circle is an effort to provide good company for young Muslims and a safe environment where they can air their fears, questions and doubts.

By Atif Nasim

Image Source:
1beautyofislam.blogspot.com





Training for
the PFA and
Football coaches



Islam awareness training for Bedfordshire's Coaches

Attended by members of the PTA & Luton Town Football Club

Discover Islam were recently approached by the Professional Footballers Association (PFA) to deliver an Islam awareness training session to Bedfordshire football coaches in August 2015. This presentation is now available for use by masajid and others in the community at www.discover-islam.co.uk/services/resources/

"Very good and informative training - If we could get Discover Islam on national TV to talk in that way, then many problems and misconceptions would disappear!"

Kevin Thoburn, Head of Community Trust
Luton Town Football Club 2020 Ltd

5 pillars of Islam—By Salsabil Tabassum (Year 5)

1. **Shahadah** – which is the first kalimah
2. **Salah** – which ends with salam
3. **Siyaam** – when you fast from dawn to dusk
4. **Zakat**- which is giving charity to the poor and needy
5. **Hajj**- which is fardh and you shouldn't be greedy

The people who follow the 5 pillars are the winners!



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