

“In the name of ALLAH, the BENEFICENT, the MERCIFUL”

NOOR-I-ISLAM

(INTERNATIONAL)

AHMADIYAH ANJUMAN ISH'AT-I-ISLAM (LAHORE), CANADA
MAY 2003

“AL-FATIHAH”

(CONTINUED FROM THE PREVIOUS EDITION)

“Master of the Day of Judgment” (4).

This refers to the day of reckoning, which heralds the beginning of a new life that will be in total contrast to our present transient one. The concept of a “Day of Judgment” has been all but obliterated and forgotten in today’s materialistic society. It has become a subject of satire and ridicule. In areas of education, law, national and international politics, it has been deliberately omitted or swept aside. Nevertheless, it represents a most basic and fundamental fact of human existence and should be cherished and reckoned with.

“You alone we worship, and to You alone we turn for help” (5). Everyone and everything is in need of **Allah** and His favors. Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) was known to appeal to **Allah**: “Help me to be mindful of You and thank You and worship You, the best I can.” He was reported to have advised: “When you have a specific need ask **Allah** to provide it, and when you are short of help seek it from **Allah**.”

“Guide us to the straight path, the path of those whom You have favored” (6-7). A straight line is the shortest distance between two points and is therefore unique. Whoever leads a straight and righteous life will be on the right path to **Allah**, for that is the one and only sure and direct way that leads to Him. **Allah**’s religion is one religion, preached by all prophets and messengers at all stages of human history. It is founded on the oneness of **Allah** who deserves total allegiance and full praise and on whom everyone and everything depend. This concept seems to be a matter for considerable confusion and debate among followers of some contemporary religions. But Muslims believe with certainty that everything in existence,

human or otherwise, is totally submissive to and dependent on **Allah** in every aspect of its existence, now and in the life to come. And there are no exceptions to this rule; neither among human beings nor other creatures. Those who deny or overlook this fact are doomed to ruin and humiliation.

On the other hand, whoever submits willingly to **Allah** and obeys Him and His Messenger, Mohammed (pbuh), will find the right and straight path and would follow it. **Allah** says elsewhere in the Qur’an:

Whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger [Mohammed] will be in the company of those whom Allah has favored: the prophets, the believers, the martyrs and the pious; and what good company they will be! (al Nisa: 69)

As for those who take other gods, or deities, besides **Allah** or disobey His commands, their plight will be hopeless and they will be wasted, wallowing under the combined effect of a total loss of direction and the wrath of **Allah**. People should strive to be clear and correct in their thinking and sincere in their vision and perception. Once shown the truth, people should uphold it, show humility towards **Allah** and kindness and compassion towards other beings.

(to be continued in the next edition)

[Spare some time for the cause of Islam and Ahmadiyat ----- it is your duty ----- write your thoughts and we will publish it here. This is an International newsletter, be a part of it. Send your articles to msnoor53@yahoo.com]

EDITOR'S NOTES

Hazrat Ameer, Dr. A. K. Saeed has sent a message and I am sure that most of you have already received that, but I would like to quote the message here, again, for our brothers and sisters who might have not read it:

"I moved to Lahore on 1st of March 2003 to devote maximum time to meet the requirements of my new appointment. I am looking forward to receiving your valuable suggestions and feedback to achieve excellence in our functioning. We have to work together and work very hard to spread Allah's message to the farthest corners of the earth. Above all I need your prayers that Allah may give me the strength and wisdom to shoulder my responsibilities."

We all pray for his health and also pray that Almighty Allah give him all the strength needed to accomplish the goals of Ahmadiyyat and that would be to spread Allah's message as given to us by His last Prophet Mohammad (*peace and blessings of Allah be on him*) and the Reformer

and Mujaddid of our time Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (*may Allah be pleased with him*).

Jalal Ud Dean of Fiji Islands is always very kind to comment on our newsletter and give his suggestions. We are thankful for his time and would request him to keep sending us his notes and advise.

Masood Ahmed from United Kingdom writes:

"It came as a pleasant surprise to receive such a wonderful and informative newsletter. Thanks for that and I would like to have it every month."

{Masood: Thank you very much for such nice and encouraging comments and we will make sure that you receive it regularly.}

Hila Pierkhan (Aunty Hila) from Surinam has sent a very nice and loving letter along with lot of prayers and good wishes, for which we are thankful to her and pray that Allah give her good health and all the happiness in her life. *Aunty: remember us in your prayers, please.*

Zahida Hydal from Toronto has some great supportive words for us and our newsletter and she wrote that she will be making copies of our newsletter and will distribute to jama'at members after the Friday prayers. That is a very commendable effort and only shows that by joining our hands together we can take this message of Allah across the globe. Thank you so much, Zahida, for your letter and efforts, May Allah bless you.

These are some of the letters that we received. We are thankful to all of our readers who take interest in our newsletter and communicate with us, we always value your suggestions.

Jazakumullah-o-Khairan.

This edition was going into press when the news came that **Mirza Tahir Ahmad Sahib** (Head of Rabwah Jam'at) **passed away** on the 19th of April. **Inna Lillahe WA Inna Elaihe Rajeoon.** Our heartfelt condolences, particularly to his family members and to Qadiani community in general. May Allah rest his soul in peace. Ameen.

(Sadiq Noor, Regina)

The JINN and what they can do to HUMANS

[Parks and Houses haunted by Jinn / Ghosts, Jinn "overpowering" humans (mostly women), People going to certain 'special' persons to control Jinn. Are they really some kind of 'Wicked Species?']

Almighty Allah tells us in the Holy Qur'an that He has other creatures whom we cannot see in their original form. These are the Jinn. There is nothing strange in our inability to see them, because there are numerous things which we cannot see, such as the angels, ultraviolet and infrared rays of light, the electric current and sound waves and frequency.

While believing in the Jinn is not one of the essentials of the Islamic Faith, which means that it cannot be considered in the same rank as believing in the angels, the fact that they have been mentioned in the Qur'an makes it obligatory for every Muslim to believe in the existence of the Jinn. To deny that existence is to deny part of the Qur'an. As such, it is the same as denying Islam altogether. Muslims believe that the Qur'an is revealed by Allah (God). This applies to every word and every verse it contains. Hence, we cannot accept parts of it and reject other parts. We either believe in the Qur'an as a whole, accepting that every word of it is revealed from Him to the Prophet who has conveyed it to us as it has been revealed to him, without any change or distortion, or else we do not believe in the Qur'an. It is useless to anyone to say: "I believe in anything that is in the Qur'an except for this or that idea." No matter how secondary that idea is, any person who says that has denied the Qur'an as a whole, and as such, has denied Islam. Hence, our belief that the jinn exist is derived from the fact that they are mentioned in the Qur'an.

We are also told that jinn can see us while we do not see them. Again this is not difficult to imagine because Allah can give any of his creatures power which He does not give to others. Moreover, they were created before the creation of man.

All this is mentioned in the Qur'an, which also specifies that the jinn are also required to believe in Allah, in the same way as we are. They will be held to account on the Day of Judgment, and then they will be either rewarded or punished, according to their deeds, in the same way as this applies to mankind. **Allah states in the Qur'an: "I have created the jinn and humans only to worship Me."** (51:56). **He also states: "The word of your Lord shall be fulfilled: I will fill the pit of hell with jinn and men."** (11:119).

Since they are required to believe in Allah and are held to account, it follows that they receive

messages. We are told in the Qur'an that the message of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) has been conveyed to them, as has been the message of Prophet Moses. **The Qur'an tells us: "We sent to you (Muhammad) a band of jinn who, when they came and listened to the Qur'an, said to each other: Harken! As soon as it was ended, they betook themselves to their people and gave them warning. 'Our people,' the said, 'We have just been listening to a scripture revealed since the time of Moses, confirming previous scriptures and directing to the truth and to a straight path. Our people, answer the call of the One who summons on to Allah and believe in Him. He will forgive you your sins and deliver you from a woeful punishment. Those that give no heed to Allah's summon shall not escape His judgment on this earth, nor shall anyone protect them besides Him. They are in gross error.'" (46 : 29-32)**

Obviously, since they are given this assignment and are held to account, it follows that some of them are believers and some are not. In the surah entitled, "The Jinn" the Qur'an quotes them as saying: **"Some of us are believers, while others are not; we follow diverse routes ... "** (72-11) They are also quoted as saying: **"Some of us are Muslims and some are wrongdoers, Those that embrace Islam pursue the right path; but those that do wrong shall become the fuel of hell."** (72:13-15) Allah has also challenged them to invent anything similar to the Qur'an, in the same way as He has challenged mankind. The challenge still stands. Contrary to the people's misconceptions, the jinn are not privy to God Knowledge. They have no knowledge of what Allah has chosen to keep to Himself, i.e. *Al-Ghaib*, which is a term often used in Islamic context to denote what lies beyond the reach of human perception. We also know that Allah made them subservient to the Prophet Solomon, and charged them with doing whatever he bids them.

The non-believers among the jinn are satans whose ancient father was Iblis. Although some people claim that Iblis was originally an angel, the Qur'an states that he was one of the jinn. Moreover, angels do not disobey Allah, while Iblis did. He is also stated to have been created from fire, as the jinn are.

Satan is man's enemy number one. He was the one who caused Adam, the father of all mankind, to fall from heaven. Satan continues to work as hard

as he can to prevent Adam's offspring from returning to heaven, by seducing them and tempting them to indulge in sin. Those who listen to Satan are rebuked in the Qur'an for listening to their fiercest enemy. From the Qur'anic text we also deduce that Satan reprocreates and has offspring who, like him, try to seduce people into following their own bidding in preference to Allah's command.

Allah has given Satan the ability to tempt and seduce us.

But He has given him no overwhelming power against us which we cannot repel. Nor did He give him the ability to cause us any benefit or any harm. All that Satan is given is the ability to scheme against us. His scheming is described in the Qur'an as "weak".

Satan's work is to whisper to men, tempt them and present to them as desirable things which are harmful to them. His program is a purely evil one. He encourages nudity and indecency. His first ploy against Adam and Eve was to tempt them off their clothes. Nudity, temptation and revealing clothes remain Satan's most effective weapons, even today. We are warned against this, and warned that we must not listen to Satan's disciples as they try to raise doubt in our minds and occupy us with futile arguments which benefit us nothing.

The Qur'an also makes it clear that as hard as Satan tries to persuade us to abandon the values of Islam, and much as he schemes against us to do so, he will let his followers down when matters comes to a head.

We read in the Qur'an: **"When Satan has ordered man to disbelieve and man has done his bidding, he says to him: 'I disown you here and now. I fear Allah, the Lord of all the worlds,'" (59:16)**

There is no doubt that the most effective weapon we can use against Satan is to remain always conscious of Allah and to fear Him. Once this is present in our minds, Satan can have little to do with us. We must also remember that Satan has assistants from among human beings. They are those who continue to call us to abandon the principles and values of Islam, encourage us to remove the idea of sin from our minds and indulge in promiscuous pleasures. Nothing is more devastating to the fabric of any nation than wanton promiscuity. Nothing can serve Satan's purpose as effectively as that. On the other hand, fearing Allah is the effective answer.

I suppose that the above answers all questions about the Jinn. The fact that the Qur'an describes Satan and his scheme as weak makes it absolutely clear that all frightening stories that circulate among uneducated people are false. Moreover, it is not possible for Satan or the jinn to "possess" any human being, man or woman. Those who are described as "possessed" may be suffering from some psychiatric or nervous disorders, and the jinn has nothing to do with these. Such disorders can be treated and cured in ways other than what we often hear about people supposedly able to overpower the jinn.

(Ibn Saleh - Canada)

PRAYER AND HEAD COVER *(for men only)*

There is a common notion in certain parts of the Muslim world which suggests that wearing some sort of a head cover during prayer is either strongly recommended or obligatory.

I am afraid that this concept is wrong. There is no Hadith which suggests that this is the case.

The Prophet did not recommend us to cover our heads when we pray. Indeed, when we are in the state of consecration, i.e. *IHRAM*, we are forbidden to cover our heads. When we pray, we certainly do not wear a cap or put a piece of cloth on our heads. We simply uncover our heads.

It is suggested by those who advocate the wearing of a cap in prayer that the Prophet did so all the time. To start with, we do not have any Hadith to suggest that this was the case. Furthermore, the Prophet conformed to the type of dress which was the standard one in his community.

At the Prophet's time, people in Arabia used to wear a head cover which was in the form of a turban. The Prophet used that and had it on when he prayed. But, non-Muslim Arab men at that time used the same head cover.

Therefore, we cannot see that it is obligatory to cover one's head when one prays. There is no specific instruction to that effect.

WOMEN IN ISLAM

(Wives, Mothers and Daughters)

Habiba Anwar
London – England

[The April monthly meeting in London was attended by the majority of members and this time, it was the children's turn to take part. We enjoyed a 'family day' where all the young children read Surahs, Poems, Stories and Nazams, and even the youngest of children took part and it was a truly pleasant afternoon. After the Asr Prayers, lunch was also offered to the jam'at members. Following is my contribution for "Noor-i-Islam International". This speech was read at this meeting.]

The religion of Islam recognizes the position of women to be equal to that of men, and in doing so has become the only religion in the world to hold such a high status for women. Unfortunately, due to increasing misunderstandings in the western world on Islam as a whole, there is much confusion and misinterpretation as to the status of a Muslim woman. The primary reason for this is probably the fact that most of the critics of our religion have not themselves read the Holy Qur'an. If they had, they would see that no other religion and certainly no other reformer have done what the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) have done to raise the position of women.

Before Islam and the teachings of the Holy Prophet, women were treated less as human beings and more as animals. They virtually had no rights whatsoever. For example, they were denied the right to own property. In fact they were considered to be property themselves. If their fathers or husbands passed away, they had no right to inherit their property. A woman herself was included in a man's estate, and passed on like a household object.

It was Islam that took her from this low and undignified position, and raised her to a position of respect, equal to men in the eyes of Allah. The same duties are bestowed upon men and women. They obey and worship Allah in the same way, and indeed are subsequently rewarded in the same way too.

Ch. 3 Verse 194 of Qur'an reads: ***"So their Lord accepted their prayers saying: I will not waste the work of a worker among you, whether male or female, the one of you being from the other."*** Then again, in Ch

4 of Qur'an – which is the chapter entitled Al-Nisa, dedicated to the rights of women – Verse 124 read: ***"And whoever does good deeds, whether male of female, and he or she is a believer – these will enter the garden, and they will not be dealt with a whit unjustly."***

Women do not pray in different ways to men, not do they fast or give charity in different ways. There are obvious physical differences between men and women but spiritually they are equal to men in every sense of the word. Allah does not love his male servants more than his female servants. He rewards everyone who follows the right path to become closer to him, regardless of his or her gender. Further to this, through the laws in Islam women have become protected from numerous forms of physical torture and abuse. Islam wiped out the barbaric custom in Arabia that involved infant daughters being buried alive. Daughters were seen as shameful, and surely a son would be more beneficial. Islam eradicated such ignorance by placing great respect on both mothers and daughters.

Ch. 42 Verse 49 in Qur'an reads: ***"He grants to whom He pleases daughters, and grants to whom He pleases sons; or he makes them both sorts, male and female."***

It is Allah's decision and Allah's decision alone as to who comes into this world. Children are a gift from Allah, and it is clear from the above verse that daughters are just as much of a blessing as sons.

The Holy Prophet was also known to say that if a person is able to raise just one daughter in appropriate Islamic manner, and see to it that she is respectfully married off, then that

believer would be guaranteed paradise. That is the extent to which daughters are valued in Islam, and were loved by the Holy Prophet himself. Also amongst the Holy Prophet's sayings is the beautiful quote that ***"Heaven lays at the feet of a mother."***

Islam appreciates that it is through mothers that society's great characters exist, for a mother shapes the personalities of the future generation through her vital position in the household. As well as this, Islam also raised the position of a wife to a higher honor than what it was in Arabia before. She is considered an equal and free partner in a marriage, and without her consent the marriage is invalid. She is a loving companion to her husband and he is to her.

Ch. 30 Verse 21 in Qur'an reads: ***"And of his signs is this that he created mates for you from yourselves that you might find quiet of mind in them, and He put between you love and compassion. Surely there are signs in this for people who reflect."***

A common misunderstanding about Islam in the eyes of non-Muslims is the sanctioning of polygamy, Yes, Muslim men are allowed to marry more than one woman but this is a rule to be put in practice strictly in exceptional circumstances. As already mentioned, in the days before Islam, widows did not even have the right to inherit their deceased husband's properties. For those unfortunate widows who had children too, they were left virtually homeless and their children grew up disadvantaged. Islam however changed this injustice by allowing polygamy in such circumstances so that women could share

inheritance and orphans could be treated justly. And a very important point to remember is that this sanctioning was given at a time when numerous battles were being fought. As a result, many men died leaving behind widows and children. So the permission of more than one wife was not put into practice for the pleasures of men, as is often suggested today by feminist interpretations. In fact if anything, it ensured that women would be comfortable, respected and protected from exploitation.

So, as we can see, women as wives, daughters and mothers are given the utmost honor in Islam and contrary to much controversial claims that Islam oppresses women, it is clear from many surahs in the Qur'an that this is untrue. One final verse that shows the equality between males and females in our religion is in Ch. 33 Verse 35: ***"Surely the men who submit, and the believing men and the believing women, and the truthful men and the truthful women, and the patient men and the patient women, and the humble men and the humble women, and the charitable men and the charitable women, and the fasting men and the fasting women, and the men who guard their chastity and the women who guard, and the men who remember Allah much and the women who remember – Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a mighty reward."***

May Allah grant us strength to follow His right path. Ameen

"Say: My prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are surely for Allah, the Lord of the Worlds" – 6:163 (al-qur'an al-kareem)

When man's love for the Creator is so great, when his life and death have no interest for himself but are solely for the name of Allah, then the Lord, Who loves those who love Him, causes His love to descend upon that person. From the union of these two loves springs up a light which cannot be perceived or realized by those who are bent low upon this earth. Thousands of the faithful and righteous have been murdered in cold blood by the worldly-minded because the world was blind to the light which had descended upon them. They were looked upon as covetous and deceitful contrivers, for it could not see their bright faces.

("The Teachings of Islam", by Mujaddid of 14th century, 107 years ago)