



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful



THE CALL

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Editorial

Crescent vs the Moon

In Islam there are two major festivals. The Festival of `Eid-ul-Fitr and the Festival of `Eid-ul-Adha.

`Eid-ul Adha

`Eid -ul-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice, is undoubtedly the bigger `Eid. *Bakra-`Eid*, as our Urdu speaking forefathers would have called it. It is the time when the Pilgrimage to Mecca is performed. The performance of Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. There can therefore be no doubt about the importance of this festival to Muslims.

`Eid-ul Fitr

`Eid-ul-Fitr is the festival of the Breaking of the Fast. It is also a major festival in Islam. In Trinidad & Tobago, `Eid-ul-Fitr is a Public Holiday. And has been so for more than a quarter of a century. There is a strong lobby however, among some of our Islamic clerics to propose the changing of the Public Holiday from `Eid-ul-Fitr to `Eid-ul- Adha. The argument being that it is easier for them to determine the date of `Eid-ul-Adha rather than the date of `Eid-ul-Fitr. `Eid-ul-Fitr is the

first day in the Islamic month of *Shawwal*. `Eid-ul-Adha is the tenth day in the Islamic month of *Zil Hijjah*.

Crescent

Since the Islamic months are determined on the basis of a crescent, our clerics have difficulty in 'sighting' it, particularly if **Allah** is in a bad mood (*astagfirullah*) and obscures it with bad weather conditions on the last day of the month. On the other hand, `Eid-ul-adha is ten days after the month starts. There will be ten days to rectify any 'sightings' due to **Allah's** indiscretion (*astagfirullah*) in not providing better weather conditions for its 'sighting'.

It is to be noted that it is not the merits of the Festivals, which are the arguments for the change, but rather the ability to 'sight the moon'.

So important is the 'sighting' that advertisements have been placed in the daily newspaper to assure the public of Trinidad & Tobago that 'moon-sighting committees' have been set up. What a misnomer! It might have been more appropriate to use the terminology 'crescent sighting committees'.

The *Qur'an* and *Hadith* refer to 'Hilal' –Crescent for the determination of the months as opposed to 'Qamar' - Moon when it is speaking of it as a satellite of the earth. Our scholars must decide what constitutes a 'crescent' and what constitutes a non-crescent. The Islamic months begin with the 'crescent' nothing else!

Is a 'sighting' 41 hours after the birth of the moon to be considered as a 'hilal'? This is the fundamental question, which our scholars must address.

Jihad

The present 'Jihad' between *Dar Uloom* and *ASJA* on moon sighting, to the extent that one organization has virtually called the Spiritual Head of the other a 'liar', must be condemned. Islam allows divergence of opinion on non-fundamental issues of our faith. The sighting of the moon is not a fundamental issue. Our scholars must show better respect and decorum, particularly when such issues are committed to print for widespread circulation.

SUCCESS

Synty Shazima Jahoor (B.Sc)

This Feature address was delivered at the Ahmadiyya Anjuman's Award and Recognition Function at the Ahmadiyya Anjuman's Mosque, Fireburn, on the occasion of Miraj 2002. The function was held to honour fifty four (54) of our youths who were successful at the S.E.A, CXC, 'O' and 'A' Level and at Tertiary Level Exams.

I wish to congratulate the young men and women whom we are honouring today. A very special congratulation also, to your parents and teachers.

Now that you have gotten past one stage in your growth you would be moving on to another. Some of you would be moving on to Secondary School, some to A' Levels, some to University and some of you would be entering the world of work. It is the duty of every Muslim to keep learning, to seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave. So if this is your intention you have very noble aspirations. I can tell you that it is a challenge but you become all the wiser for it.

Goals

Each of you can consider yourself a success because you achieved what you set out to do. Some of you may have set your own goals, that is, what you wanted to achieve and some of you may have been told what you should do by your parents. Either way you worked hard and you were rewarded with excellent results. I would like to give you some advice on how you may be able to continue to attain excellence. *Insha Allah*, you would find it useful in charting the course of your lives. The Qur'an

alludes to success and the ones who are successful, many times. Success can take many forms; prosperity, fulfillment, happiness. It is however a relative concept, this means, it is different for each person.

For most people these days it is having a good job and lots of money, for the boys it is probably a nice car. For the girls it's probably the ability to buy the most fashionable clothes and shoes. For some it is a happy family life, for some it's world domination, they want to take over the world like 'pinky and the brain', or rather Mr. George Bush and Mr. Tony Blair. Who's the brain in that outfit? For some success lies in reaching *Jannah*.

Work and Sacrifice

You can accomplish one or all of these things if you really want to! It is important to remember that those who have achieved greatness, have not done it all at once but rather over a period of time... and many have had pitfalls along the way. When the *Holy Prophet Muhammad* (SAWS) started his mission of relating *ALLAH'S* message to the people of Arabia he was mocked and almost stoned to death by one group, the people of a place called

Taif. His success in spreading the words of *ALLAH* did not come easily. It came with hard work and sacrifice. The very same people who first refused the message of Islam accepted it wholeheartedly years later. In the very same way you may pass some exams with flying colours, some you might barely pass and some you might fail!

Failure

Failure to accomplish something is not all bad because there may be a lesson to be learnt from that failure – you need to work harder, or possibly *ALLAH* Almighty is trying to steer you in another direction not let you get swell headed.

Luckily for us we have guidance in the *Noble Qur'an* and *Hadith* which give us the criteria for success, that is, how to go about achieving prosperity, wealth and fulfillment.

Miraj

We recently commemorated the *Mi'raj* where Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) ascended into the heavens by the permission of *ALLAH*. There *Rasulallah* (SAWS) received a package for success, *Salah*. Five times a day the call to prayer is made with the words *Hyalal Falah, Hyalal Falah* – Come to success,

Come to success. If you wish to accomplish anything prayer is essential. In the very same chapter of *Al Qur'an* which speaks of the *Mi'raj* is the following verse,

"That man can have nothing but what he strives for; that (the fruit of) his striving will soon come in sight; then will he be rewarded with a reward complete" (53: 39-41)

Make your thoughts and actions pure and free from evil. For *ALLAH* says in (*Surah 91 verses 9-10*)

"He will indeed be successful who purifies it, and he will indeed fail who corrupts it." The soul is being made reference to here.

Plan

You need to plan, If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Set goals for yourself these are long term plans ... have an idea of where you want to be 10 years from now.

Set objectives ... short-term goals... know what you would like to accomplish by next week set a target for studying for your end of term exams. However we must remember, in all our plans, that they

depend for their success on how far they concur with *ALLAH'S* Will and Plan. His Universal Will is supreme over all affairs.

Make good use of your spare time. Read *Qur'an*, *Hadiith*, go to a class to learn a special skill, write poetry, get a part time job, teach at your *maktab*. For the *Prophet Muhammad* (SAWS) said

"He whose two days are equal is indeed a loser."

Be optimistic and hopeful that you will succeed, that is proper Islamic ethic as described here in (*Chapter 65 verses 2-3*) of *Al Qur'an*,

"And for those who fear ALLAH, He (ever) prepares a way out, and He provides for him from (sources) he never could imagine. And if anyone puts his trust in ALLAH, sufficient is (ALLAH) for him. For ALLAH will surely accomplish His purpose: Verily, for all things has ALLAH appointed a due proportion."

Practice, patience and steadfastness. *ALLAH*, the Merciful, says in (*Surah 94 verses 5-6*)

"Surely with difficulty is ease. With difficulty is surely ease."

You should not give up when the going gets tough; this period of hardship will soon pass, and the period of success and victory will follow.

Strive to be amiable, trustworthy and honest while having firm conviction in your beliefs. This is particularly important for those of you who are about to enter the workplace.

Respect your parents, teachers and mentors they will respect you. You will surely receive a reward for your efforts, thus the greater your efforts the greater the rewards.

Always remember that the things of this world are fleeting but *ALLAH* is not, and to Him is our return. True success may be in understanding that success or failure is all in *ALLAH'S* plan and will occur only by His permission. All we can really strive for is to please Him.

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True Stories from the Life of the Prophet Abraham

Eid of Sacrifice (Eid-al-Adha):

by Sher Muhammad Akhtar

O my father! Do what thou art commanded; if God please, thou wilt find me of the patient ones” -- (The Qur'an: 37:102).

Hundreds of years ago the father of Prophets – Abraham – had a vision that he was sacrificing his son. And in order to carry out the command of Allah he sacrificed a herd of camels and distributed the flesh amongst the poor. The next night he again had the same dream and believing it to be a true one, as all his dreams were, he thought that Allah wanted more sacrifice from him. Early in the morning he sacrificed more camels. The third night he again saw himself sacrificing his own son. He did not sacrifice camels this time, but he called for his son, *Ishmael*, and said,

“O my son! I have seen thee being sacrificed in a dream; what sayest thou?” -- (The Quran: 37:102).

The son knew that his father was a prophet of Allah, so without any demur or hesitation he replied,

“O my father! Do what thou art commanded; if God please, thou wilt find me of the patient ones” -- (The Qur'an: 37:102)

Not only the Patriarch's son, but also his wife well knew that her husband as a man of character and an apostle

of Allah. She received the news very cheerfully. All three were making every thing ready to do what they were commanded to.

The mother took her only son and gave him a bath and new clothes to wear. The father was sharpening his knife, so as to enable his son's throat to be cut easily. The boy was happy and ready to go with his father to the altar. When they were leaving the house, the mother gave a farewell kiss on the forehead of the boy and thus did she show her submission to the commandment of Allah.

Father and son were going to the altar when on the way, Satan tried to dissuade the young man from going to the place of sacrifice, but he turned a deaf ear to his protestation. Satan then turned to influence the mother saying that her husband was mad, who was going to sacrifice his son to affect a mere dream. She too did what her son had done.

At the Altar the son threw himself prostrate before his illustrious father, who blindfolded as he was, lest his parental love should come in the way, applied the knife to his son's throat. An exemplary conduct of complete submission to the will of Allah; sacrificing his only son in His way! The soul of Abraham within himself was praising the Lord, saying:

“My prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are all for God, the Lord of the worlds”.

Angels stood metamorphosed, as it were, into lifeless pictures and overcome by extreme anxiety. “God is great; God is great; God is great; God is great; there is no Allah, but He. And God is great; all praise for God.” Abraham was about to cut the throat of his only son. But lo! He heard a voice from Above:

“O Abraham! Thou hast indeed shown the truth of the Vision; thus We reward the doers of good. Surely this is a manifest trial” -- (The Qur'an: 37:104-106).

The Patriarch laid down the knife and there was rejoicing mingled with thanksgiving that God had accepted the Sacrifice. It dawned on him what his Vision really meant – viz., that what God wanted was not the blood of his son but the sacrifice of that highest of love which a father has for his son and vice-versa. It was the sacrifice of personal passion that was acceptable to God and that was done both by the father and the son. The father and son fell down in prayer praising their Lord to mark this great act of self-sacrifice at the call of Allah a ram was sacrificed.

This was the first Eid of Sacrifice (*Eid-al-Adha*), and in commemoration all Muslims celebrate it every year.

Name

Address

