



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



THE CALL

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Editorial

Gay Marriages?

**SURELY YOU COME TO MALES WITH LUST INSTEAD OF FEMALES.
 NAY YOU ARE A PEOPLE EXCEEDING BOUNDS. (QUR'AN; 7: 81)**

It is now legal! Gay marriages are acceptable to the Canadian authorities. This is perhaps a natural consequence of the fact that the Church, through its priesthood has been indulging in widespread homosexuality. What is astonishing is that such indulgences are no longer confined to the Catholic Church, where it might be argued that celibacy of the clergy may be a mitigating factor. Bishop Rev. Jeffrey John, who has been recently appointed as Bishop of Reading in England, has admitted to a long-term relationship with another man.

MALADY

Thus both major sects in the Christian world, namely the Catholics and the Anglicans have been afflicted with this malady at the high levels of their spiritual

structure. The question must therefore be asked, whether the Bible and its teaching have contributed to this type of behaviour in the priesthood? Certainly those who preach the Bible must be convinced of its teachings. To indulge in homosexual behaviour and still continue to preach the word of God for many years, without a conscience of guilt, must suggest that the Bible and its teachings provide a sanctuary for such illicit conduct.

SEX IN THE BIBLE

It cannot be denied that the Bible promotes a deep resentment for women. This may in fact have driven some of the clergy to homosexuality.

The message of the Bible is that women are to be treated as chattels. They are used and abused for sexual pleasures. Even an incestuous

relationship finds itself in the Holy Scriptures.

The seeker after truth may refer to the following: *Deuteronomy* (21; 1-10), *Genesis* (12; 15, 16; 2, 20; 2, 19; 8, 30- 36, 30; 15), *Judges* (14; 20, 16; 1, 2 *Kings* 11; 4-5, 12; 11-12, 16; 22).

(The *Holy Bible* - *New American Catholic Version*).

MARY

The attitude of the Bible, and the historical Church, towards women is well documented. The only woman who has been given dignified status is Mary. The Church has promoted her to the Virgin Mary the Mother of God, to erase the shame of having a child, out of wedlock. The Bible suggests that she was rebuked by her own son, Jesus.

(Luke 2 ; 48,49)

It is only the Qur'an that promotes the true dignity of Mary.

"The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a messenger : messengers before him had indeed passed away. And his mother was a truthful woman. They both used to eat food."
(Qur'an ; 5 :75)

The Qur'an places women on a high pedestal by making it obligatory for men to

marry them. It categorically states:

"And whoever among you cannot afford to marry free believing women (let him marry) such of your believing maidens as your right hands possess".
(Qur'an; 4:25)

The Qur'an is the only Scripture in which explicit laws pertaining to marriage are enunciated. It specifically states that marriage must be between a man and a woman

as exemplified in the verse quoted. It scorns marriage between men and men.

" SURELY YOU COME TO MALES WITH LUST INSTEAD OF FEMALES. NAY YOU ARE A PEOPLE EXCEEDING BOUNDS ".

(Qur'an ; 7 : 81)

Lets Hear our Young Ones

Paper presented on the occasion of Meelaad -un -Nabi Celebrations 2003

By Miriam Mohammed

(Form Four Student- Naparima Girls High School, San Fernando)

Assalamu 'alaikum...

We have all come here to observe the coming into the world of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) at this Meelaad-un-Nabi -- function. Some people here have come to a function like this 5, 10, 15 maybe 20 times. But I wonder how many people here have gone away from each of those functions knowing more than they did before, having learn't something new. If you are asked to tell someone about the birth of Muhammad, how many of us can really tell something of value to that person? When I think of a Qura'nic function, I think about a lecture by the Imaam, one by another member of the

jamaat, two songs, last ten chapters and then food. Why is it that I am able to stereotype our functions? Is it because they are all for the same occasion or is it because we don't take the initiative to try and institute change into the programs? How can we allow people to go home without a new idea in their minds...without something different to think about? This is the 21st century. As we try to propagate Islam, it is necessary to grow with the ever-changing needs of the people of our time. To put it simply - Allah never meant for us not to have fun. Islam is a beautiful religion but as we have

become more and more serious in presenting Islam, we have become so strict that we have forgotten how to have fun. Instead of it being a way of life to us, it has become a totally different aspect of our lives. When we enter the mosque, we are expected to be totally different people. We have to dress, act, speak and even think differently. All fun and games are put aside and we pretend we are totally interested in what is being said, even when the information presented to us is not in a form that we can understand or have us enthusiastic and interested. We do this because the elders seem

to tell us that we should be able to understand everything that is going on or if not we should act interested even when we're bored stiff. I can vouch for many young people who even though would not admit it, they are forced to act interested and act as if what is being presented to them is amazing.

To clear any misconceptions, I am by no means saying that Islam is boring. What I am saying is that we have to become interested in our religion to make other people interested. Today, people aren't just accepting concepts off the bat, especially our youth, they want to know that other people also accept this and they want to see something interesting and logical. Something that they can understand and identify with. Life isn't always fun but to learn and understand, we need to be involved in something we enjoy and that should be our religion. I have not seen anything that in my mind more deserving of such interest. How many people here can really say that they know a lot about Islam? (Except Maulaana of course). That any question posed to them by the community can be answered. Maybe no one can. How can we propose to show the world a perfected religion if we ourselves don't know what Islam is about?

I have to give due praise to the Anjuman as the breakfast meetings that they arranged for the youths were very effective in creating interest and forging better relationships with the

other jamaats. However, every time we try something new ..we must take into consideration every element of a project that can make it better . We needed to have resource personnel who knew more about their given topics. Many of them knew a little about what they were talking about but some were just as lost as we often were. You may say that this was supposed to be a learning experience for us to show our resourcefulness and~ how much work we had done before may have contributed~ but anyone who deals with young people can tell you that you have to set the right atmosphere for interaction or you will find yourself in a single person conversation. At present, if the youth feel intimidated they would not express their views. We also would not express our views if we feel that we would not be taken seriously and this is felt quite often. If youths are told that they will be heard they would not speak. If they see someone truly listening without judging them, only then they will speak. They can't be pressured into anything because the doors will only be shut tighter . The series of breakfast meetings was a remarkable step in the right direction. We need to be even more innovative in our quest to present knowledge. Why not try plays and skits? I do wonder if there are any Imaams or Maulanas that would object to the youths having skits. Since we are all so competitive, why not have a competition for plays and short skits on the life of Muhammad

or various stories that we should know about? This would give us reasons to research the stories and give our interpretations. Maybe we can adapt them to today as Islam is a religion for all times. Or why not a youth camp? We have always been hearing about a fabulous camp at the beach that used to be held years ago. It has been suggested many times among the youth to have this again but why not make it happen? This would be an ideal opportunity to introduce Islam in the new era to us, to encourage comradery and to have some good old-fashioned fun. It has to be presented in such a way that would keep us interested, let us understand more about our religion and help us to answer the questions that have been building in our minds. You never know, maybe some answers would come to questions that we don't have. We cannot believe in what we don't understand. We can't be Muslims only by name and our outward appearance. We have to understand the religion and believe in the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and to do this we have to have a better understanding of the Qur'an and a greater interest in it.

We need to be more open to new, creative and more modern ideas. Someone suggested that we have calypsos and raps written for fun about the Prophets . I think that if suggested in a different forum, a lot of people would oppose it . But why can't we? If it would build enthusiasm. Why not try it out? We don't always have to stick to the

ways things are normally done or the normal way of thinking. Change can be very good . And it can be fun. We could use all kinds of different songs as someone pointed out that

many of the songs we sing can be very boring.

“As usual” should be a term broken out of our language. From now on ...Let’s be “unusual”.

I thank you for listening to my ideas and I sincerely hope that some of them would be taken into consideration.

Ameen.

Qur'an

**“Marry such women as seem good to you”
(Qur'an 4: 3)**

**“And of one of His signs is that He created mates for you from yourselves that you may find quiet of mind in them and he put between you love and compassion.
(Qur'an 30: 21)**

**“He it is Who has created you from a single being and of the same kind did He make his mate that he might find comfort in her ”
(Qur'an 7: 189)**

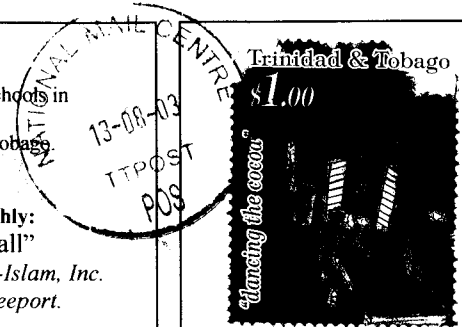
**“Men shall have a portion of what the parents and the near relatives leave. And women shall have a portion of what their parents and near relatives leave.”
(Qur'an 4: 7)**

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Hadith

**“ Select (fit) women (in respect of character) for your seed, and marry (your) equals and give (your daughters) in marriage to them ”
(Ibn Majah; 9: 46)**

**“ A woman is married on account of four things; on account of her wealth, and on account of (the nobility of) her family, and her beauty, and on account of her character, so attain success with the one possessing nobility of character ”
(Bukhari; 67: 16)**

**“The widow shall not be married until she is consulted, and the virgin shall not be married until her consent is obtained.”
They said, Messenger of Allah! How shall the consent be obtained? He said, “ (It is sufficient) that she remains silent ”
(Bukhari ; 67 : 42)**