

# WAH DAT



DECEMBER 09 / DUL-HAJJAH 1430 AH

## ME, MYSELF, AND I- THE BREAKDOWN OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY

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### HADITH OF THE MONTH

"O God, surely Thou hast confirmed Thy religion in all times with an Imam whom Thou hast set up as a guidepost to Thy servants and a light-house in Thy lands, after his cord has been joined to Thy cord!"

Imam Zainaulabideen  
Sahifa al-Kamilah

This is one of the articles from the *THE HIDDEN TRUTH BLOG* by Maulana Shabirri in *Houston Chronicle Online "Believe Outloud Houston Belief"* website. Other articles and posts can be accessed at <http://www.iec-houston.org/blog>. We need you active participation.

It seems that every few days we see in the news shocking incidents that expose the breakdown of the family structure in our society. The beating death of the Chicago student, the extramarital affairs of public figures such as: Senators John Edwards and John Ensign, Coach Rick Pitino and President Bill Clinton; horrific stories about mass murder, child abuse, negligent mothers and 'dead-beat dads'; soaring crime rates and cases of: gang violence, sexual offenses, high school dropouts, pre-marital sex, teenage pregnancies, abortions, homosexuality and the spread of AIDS and other STDs; pornography and depictions of sexuality in the media are all examples of a myriad of immoral, indecent and self-destructive behaviors that have plagued our society in our generation.

It is a known fact that the foundation of any society rests upon the moral fiber of the family unit. In other words, a society is formed from the homes of families; therefore, the well being of any society depends upon the strength of the nuclear family. That is why in all societies, the family structure is of paramount importance, and why human beings undertake many hardships and struggles in order to maintain a cohesive family life. One can say, therefore, that the development or destruction of a society directly correlates with the rise or fall of family values.

As with every society throughout the world, there is also utmost importance given to family life in Western societies, especially amongst families that strive to uphold "Christian" or other religious ideals. In this regard, Wikipedia asserts: "*American Christians often see their religion as the source of morality and consider the **nuclear family to be an essential element in society**. . . For example, the American Family Association, says; "(we exist) . . . to motivate and equip citizens to change the culture to reflect Biblical truth and **traditional family values**."*

Although, in the past, the family unit and family values were once "essential elements of society," it is unfortunate that this has changed during our new generation. It is quite evident that the family structure in Western societies now has slowly deteriorated to such an extent that one Christian publication, *The World Magazine* has stated: "*America's greatest domestic danger is the Breakdown of the Family*". In addition, I met with a Christian group who stated that they also believed the most important issue Churches are facing today is the breakdown of the family.

For example, in addition to the above-mentioned social ills of society, we also see the abandonment of basic family values such as: honor, dignity, discipline, modesty and respect for parents and elders, and how family values in the West have transformed from a God-centered, duty to the well-being of the family, to a self-centered attitude and concern for only "me, myself and I."

It appears that Individualism and self-indulgence has become more important and prominent than duty to the family, community or society. Catch phrases such as "Do Your Own Thing, "Mind Your Own Business" and "My Way or the Highway" have become commonplace in modern-day lingo reflecting widespread attitudes of selfishness and self-centeredness which says: "I can do whatever

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I want" without any regard for what is best for the family, community or society-at-large.

As a result of this self-indulgent individualism in our society, we often see 18 year-old teenagers being forced to leave the home to "make it on my own," while husbands separate from their wives to pursue extramarital affairs, mothers becoming more concerned about their own needs instead of the needs of the family; and children are taught to call 911 against their parents, while parents are confused about how to discipline their children. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that pets have become family members who are more important and treated better than human family members. Some people have even left large sums of money to their pets instead of people! All of these are clear signs of the complete breakdown of the family structure.

One may even question whether the family breakdown has been intentionally and systematically designed by the powers that be; however, that question is arguable and beyond the scope of this blog. What is clear, however, is that the breakdown of the American family can be directly attributed to the political and economic policies that were adopted in the past, whether intentionally designed to breakdown the family or not.

In contrast to this, Islam is a religion that pays utmost attention to the growth, development and moral fiber of the family unit. When a couple chooses to enter into holy matrimony, Islam has laid down a set of criteria and values that a man should look for in a wife and a woman should look for in a husband. These Islamic values include God-consciousness, piety and obedience to God, for Islam's mission is to develop a society of men and women who are obedient, God-fearing servants of God.

In an Islamic family system, every member of the family has rights, roles and responsibilities. For example, the husband has specified rights, roles and responsibilities in relation to the wife and children, and the wife has a different set of rights, roles and responsibilities in relation to the husband and children, and children have their own rights, roles and responsibilities in relation to the parents – all of which are specified and outlined in detail by God and His Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him), and which are coded in Islamic law and jurisprudence (Fiqh).

Therefore, with such detailed religious rules and regulations in place, the Islamic family system not only functions as a mini-government, but also exists as a microcosm of the ideal Islamic society, wherein the management

of all family affairs (i.e., executive, financial and ethical systems) have all been taken into consideration, addressed and dictated by God. This proves that the Islamic family system was revealed by God to Mankind, for only God, in His Infinite Knowledge and Wisdom, could conceive of the roles, rights and responsibilities for each member of the family that are equitable, wholesome and beneficial for each family member, while at the same time, beneficial for the family unit as a whole.

In conclusion, if we desire a harmonious society, it is vital that the religious leaders of Houston, who are dedicated to the teachings of the great Prophets Muhammad, Jesus, Moses, Abraham, and other divine Prophets (peace be upon them all) create channels of communication and dialog to help establish a strong and loving family structure; the products of which shall be faithful, obedient, kind and productive members of society.

In the coming months, we will discuss religious solutions to various family-related issues that have plagued our society in recent years. Our discussions will include some of the following topics: Marriage; Divorce; Raising Children; Youth Issues; Impact of TV on the Modern Family; and the Future of Mankind. We look forward to and truly appreciate your participation and contributions to these forthcoming discussions.

**IMAM SAJJAD CLINIC**

Imam Sajjad Clinic is open Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at IEC

Dec 6th Dr Bhojani - Internal Medicine  
 Dec 13th Dr Medhi - Family Medicine  
 Dec 20th Dr Barlas - Family Medicine  
 Dec 27th Dr Meghji - Family Medicine

## IMPORTANCE OF GHADEER

By Mohammad Sajjad Jafri

Eid -e- Ghadeer is one of our four Eid's and is the most important Eid according to a Hadith of Imam Jafar Sadiq A.S.. This special occasion happened on the Holy Prophet's Mohammad (S.A.W.) last Hajj on 18<sup>th</sup> Zilhaj in the year 10 A.H, 21st March 632 A.D.. When the Prophet was at Ghadeer -E-Khum, a pond near Johfa, Hijaz. Angel Gabriel told him to stop everyone and wait for other people to join. The following ayah of Holy Quran was then revealed: "O Apostle! Communicate that which has been sent down to you from your Lord, and if you do not, you will not have communicated His message, and Allah shall protect you from the people. Indeed Allah does not guide the faithless lot." (S.Maida: 5:67)

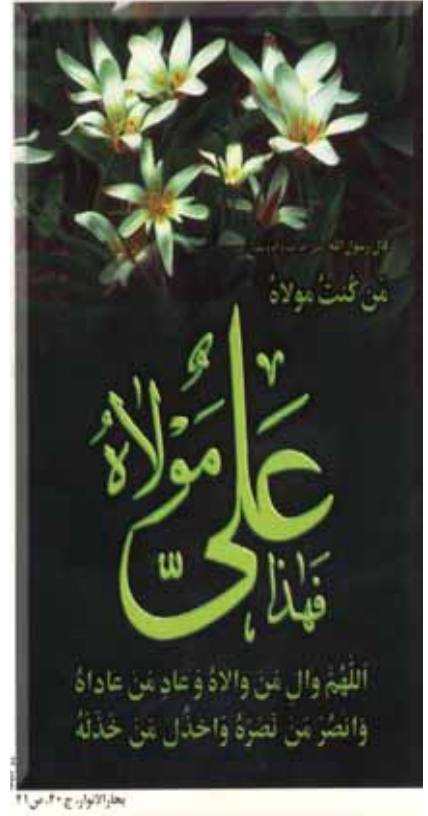
The Prophet actually waited for everyone behind to join and called back those who were ahead. He then delivered the longest sermon of his life after making a "mimbar" with the camel saddles stacked one over the other. It was the first historic pulpit erected of camel saddles. People in the thousands stood around it. The Prophet (S.A.W.) then climbed over it and enquired from the people, "Am I not superior to you all? Am I not your Maula? They replied "Certainly you are Apostle of Allah". Then he raised Imam Ali A.S. so high that everyone could see and said "Man kunto Maulaho fahaza Aliyun Maula"- to whosoever I'm the master/Lord, Ali is his master/Lord."The Prophet (S.A.W.) then recited a dua "O

Allah, be friend with Ali's friends, and be enemy with Ali's enemies". After the Prophet's declaration, the last verse of Holy Quran was revealed "Today I have perfected your religion for you, and have completed My blessing upon you, and have approved Islam as your religion."(S.Maida: 5:3).

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) then ordered for a tent to be erected and for every pilgrim to pay "bayt" or allegiance to Imam Ali A.S. Umar ibn Khattab was among the first to congratulate and pay his allegiance. He said Hurray, Hurray, O son of Abu Talib; you have now become my Maula and Maula of all faithful men and women". The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) ordered him to address Imam Ali A.S. as Amirul-Momineen. Alas, after the death of the Holy Prophet, most of them who had sworn their allegiance broke their allegiance.

The event of Ghadeer is important as we must not forget the importance of our 12 Imams. A verse of Quran talks about Imamat."Remember the day when we will summon every people with their Imam. (S.Bani Israel 17:11) Imamat is so important that without it we will be at a loss. Another verse states "And of them we made leaders (Imam means leader) to guide people as by our command as they were steadfast and they are of our signs we're quite certain."- (H.Quran 32:20)

Our Imam of the Age is hidden, so instead we go to the Imam's representatives. The 12 Imams are the 12 successors of the Holy Prophet. We would be at a loss without them. The Imam of our Age has to be within our hearts at all times. Eid -E -Ghadeer is there to remind us about Imamat



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Wiladat of Imam Naqi (AS)**  
**Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**15th Dhul-Hijjah**

Isha Prayers	7:00 pm approx.
Quran Recitation	7:20 pm approx.
Qaseedas	7:30 pm approx.
English Speech	7:45 pm approx.
Dua-e-Kumayl	8:30 pm approx.
Tabarruk	9:15 pm approx.

**Eid Al-Ghadeer**  
**Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Night of 18<sup>th</sup> Dhul-Hijjah**

Isha Prayers	6:45 pm approx.
Quran Recitation	7:00 pm approx.
Kids/Youth Presentations	7:10 pm approx.
***Qaseedas/Poetry	7:45 pm approx.
English Speech	
(Syed Muzzamil Rizvi)	8:30 pm approx.
Dinner	9:30 pm approx.
(Estimated cost of Program is \$2000.00)	

\*\*\* Poetry by (Syed M. Hassan Abbas Rizvi)

**Martyrdom Sons of Hazrat Muslim (AS)**  
**Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Night of 22<sup>st</sup> Dhul-Hijjah**

Isha Prayers	7:00 pm approx.
Quran Recitation	7:20 pm approx.
Salam / Mersia	7:30 pm approx.
English Speech	7:45 pm approx.
Noha/Matam	8:45 pm approx.
Tabbarruk	9:15 pm approx.

**Eid-e-Mubahila**  
**Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Night of 24<sup>th</sup> Dhul-Hijjah**

Isha Prayers	7:00 pm approx.
Quran Recitation	7:20 pm approx.
Qaseedas	7:30 pm approx.
Kids/Youth Presentations	7:50 pm approx.
English Speech	8:00 pm approx.
Tabbarruk	9:00 pm approx.