



November 2005

WAHDAT

A publication of the Islamic Education Center



Date of 1st Shawwal is November 3rd or 4th depending on moon sighting

“He whose eyes shed tears for our blood which has been shed, or for our rights which have been usurped, or for the humiliation meted out to us or to one of our Shiites, Allah shall accommodate him in paradise for a long time.”-- Imam Sadiq (AS) in *Amali of Sh. Mufid*

Book Review of 'Shia Political Thought'

By Br. Hassan Syed

Shias' views on politics have increasingly gained attention, especially after the Islamic Revolution. However, there has not been much literature on this topic in the English language, thus making Ahmed Vaezi's *Shia Political Thought* a much needed and welcome addition to Islamic literature.

Shia Political Thought deals with Islam's view on politics, the concept of Wilayat al-Faqih and the role of democracy in Islam. The book begins by discussing the separation of state and religion, whether Islam can be applied in the present age, how changeable and adaptable Islamic laws can be, and how an Islamic political system can produce true freedom for its citizens. Vaezi then delves into the concept of Wilayat al-Faqih. He includes the difference between Marja'ia and Wilayat al-Faqih, the ahl-Sunna concept of Caliphate, the various aspects of Wilayat and its scope. The book later seeks to provide rational arguments for the political model of guardianship as opposed to other political ideologies. The final chapter includes discussions on democracy, religious democracy versus other forms of democracy and how Islam incorporates democracy within its ideology.

Ahmad Vaezi is an eminent scholar of Qom, who has been teaching there for over 10 years and is a visiting scholar at the University of Cambridge.

We are thankful to the Islamic Center of England for donating this book to our library.

The following books have also been donated to the IEC library by Islamic Center of England:

1. *Imam Mahdi, Justice and Globalization*
2. *Islam and Feminism: Theory, Modelling and Application*
3. *The Theory of the Governance of Jurist (Wilayat al-Faqih)*

Community members are welcome to check out the books from the IEC's al-Zahra library and provide book reviews for everyone's benefit.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution

A question that we have seen comes up in almost every General Body meeting is the inclusion of ladies in the IEC Board. A written petition was filed with the Board stating the reason for the proposed amendment. The Board, in consultation with the A'lim reviewed the proposed amendment and the A'lim has given his final approval on the proposed amendment with the following stipulation.

Ladies can run for the position of Director provided that they meet the criteria set forth in article 5.4 of the constitution and the additionally prescribed conditions as follow.

- The maximum number of lady Directors shall be two.
- All lady candidates, married and single must seek expressed consent from their husbands and parents respectively, to serve on the Board. Exception to this rule shall apply for those single ladies who have no living parents or legal guardians.
- Ladies shall not be allowed to run for the position of the Chairman or the Secretary.

The final step of the procedures for constitutional amendment is to present the proposed amendment to the General Body for ratification and InshaAllah this will be accomplished in the upcoming General Body meeting on Saturday, November 12. The IEC Board recommends approval of this amendment.

Please donate for the Pakistan Earthquake Relief Fund

<http://www.iec-houston.org/estore>

Collected so far: \$ 30,000

Goal: \$ 60,0000

"We will surely test you with a measure of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth, lives, and fruits; and give good news to the patient. 2:155"

"Heaven lies under the mother's feet"

By Sr. Saima B. Rizvi

The honor of having the heaven under her feet is not bestowed upon a woman the moment she becomes a mother; rather she has to earn it. She has to earn it everyday and in every way, with each action, each word and each breath she takes. She is the first teacher to her child, her arms and lap are the first school he/she will attend; she is the first guide to the world of faith.

One must not forget that a woman does not become a mother with the birth of her child but in actuality when the child is conceived in her womb. Her responsibilities begin at the beginning of the nine-month period before the child sees the light of day. Science has only just proven that a child is aware and receptive of its surrounding even in the mother's womb. But long before that Islam had instructed a woman what to do and not do during that period. How she behaves, what she eats to what she reads mould the mind of her child.

Bringing a child into the world is easier compared to raising it. The initial years in a child's life are most important and crucial, because it is in that time that the character of the child is formed. These years are spent in the mother's care. How she guides the child onto the path of faith, leads to the honor of whether she has earned the heaven under her feet or not.

Our holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) spent just a few years with his mother Hazrat Aaminah (A.S.), but her influence caused him to be called Sadiq and Ameen. On various occasions he (P.B.U.H.) declared the importance and value of a mother. The role she plays in our society cannot be undermined. She is a guardian of a treasure whose value only time reveals, and she is the only one who can increase or decrease the value.

When Imam Ali (A.S.) stepped up to Marhab's challenge in the battle of Khandaq; he introduced himself with these words "*My mother has named me Haider...*" **One must stop and think what influence did she have on him that he was the most devoted companion to the Prophet (P.B.U.H.). She was the one who went to the Ka'ba for help when she was in the most pain. She poured courage into him through her "sheer". When he choose to marry Hazrat Umul-Baneen (A.S.), he knew what type of character her son would have. She reared the sons with such devotion to Imam Hussain (A.S.) that Hazrat Abbas (A.S.) called him his master rather than brother all his life.**

Only a mother can instill the values one needs to walk the path of faith. Imam Khomeini (R.A.) lost his father as a young child. His mother raised him to be what he became: a Nayab-e-Imam .One has only to think how she guided him, so he could guide the rest of us.

Young Mohammad Tabatabai stunned the world when he memorized the Holy Quran at the tender age of five, went onto get a P.H.D. and other honors, not to mention that he later opted to become an Alim at a young age. Reason: his mother, the manner in which she took on the responsibility of mother hood.

Hazrat Fatima (A.S.) was a mother of four at the time of her death; at age eighteen. Two of them were Imams and a daughter whose courage shook the world and whose words kept Islam alive. It's not the quantity but the quality of time she spent with her children that Islam will always be grateful to her.

Along with being a guide the mother makes the constant sacrifices, physical and emotional. She will remain awake with her feverish child and not utter a single word of complaint. One cannot help but make the parallel between a Loving Allah (S.W.T.) and a compassionate mother. Interestingly, the Quran does not portray Allah (S.W.T.) as exclusively male or female. As a matter of fact, by revering our mothers, we are paying respect to Allah (S.W.T.).

Imam Ali bin Hussain (A.S.), the great-grandson of the Prophet (P.B.U.H.), said: "Coming to the rights of relatives, it is the right of your mother that you should appreciate that she carried you [in her womb] as nobody carries anybody, and fed you the fruits of her heart which nobody feeds anybody, and protected you [during pregnancy] with her ears, hands, legs, hair, limbs, [in short] with her whole being, gladly, cheerfully and carefully; suffering patiently all the worries, pains, difficulties and sorrows [of pregnancy], till the hand of God removed you from her and brought you into this world."

A mother is a silent and constant teacher. She teaches with what she does and doesn't do. Words are not her only tools. Motherhood is the most challenging job that Allah had to offer the humans, he choose women for it. For he knows what sacrifices it entails and that only a woman can make them.

EID CARNIVAL

COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE EID CARNIVAL THIS FALL

AL-Hadi PTO invites you all to a fun filled EID Carnival. Mark your calendars:

When: Sunday, November 13th, 2005

Time: 1:00 pm till 5:00 pm (Starts right after Sunday School)

Attractions: Pony Ride, Mad Science Show, Slime Booth, Giant 22' slide, Obstacle Course, Moon Walk, Ball Crawl, 3 in 1 sports challenge, a variety of mouth watering food stalls and much much more....

Bring your entire family. Invite your friends and spend a nice day enjoying the carnival. All proceeds are for the benefit of Al-Hadi School.

Donation box for Pakistan Earth Quake Relief Fund will be available.

ISLAMIC RADIO AGAHI

NOW 2 HOURS PROGRAM

10 AM - 12 NOON, EVERY SUNDAY

KGOL 1180 AM

- Tafseer-e-Quran
- Hamd / Naat
- Talks of renown scholars around the world
- World News in Islamic perspective & global context
- News Analysis & Reviews on contemporary issues
- Youth Presentations
- Live Q/A session with Moulana Shabbiri

For more info, please call 281-345-8641.

Parenting Tip of the Month

Gain the trust of your children by following through on your promises to them. Making false promises or giving false hopes just to deflect a current situation can lead to children losing confidence in their parents.

IEC CAMP 2005 – Camp AL-WILAYAT

Rescheduled for

November 18 - 20, 2005

CAMP OVERVIEW

Enjoy the nature, reflect on your progress in life, get away from city life, join the community, spend time with family and have fun while learning a whole lot more. All this at the IEC Camp AL-WILAYAT on Nov. 18th (Friday) to Nov. 20th (Sunday). This camp is open to community members of ALL ages (children under the age of 11 years must be accompanied by a parent/chaperone). We hope to make your camping experience a fun and rewarding one. Maulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri and Maulana Abbas Ayleya (Seattle) are scheduled to attend as well. Please join us!

Br. Syed Jaffar (Email: jaffar0@hotmail.com or (832) 875 3800)

Sr. Madiha Zaidi (Email: madz786@yahoo.com or (281) 684 2425)

Programs for the month of November

Yaum al-Quds

Internation Day of Quds

Friday, Oct 28th

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Hermann Square, City Hall

901 Bagby St

Buses will be available for taking and bring back the participants.

"I invite Muslims all over the globe to consecrate the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadhan as 'Quds Day' and to proclaim the international solidarity of Muslims in support of the legitimate rights of the Muslim people of Palestine." - Imam Khomeini (R.A.), Ramadhan 1399AH (August 1979)

EID-UL-FITR

Thursday, Nov 3* or Friday, Nov 4*

Takbirat	8:00 am
Salat-e-Eid	8:30 am
Khutba	8:45 am
By Hujatul Islam Moulana Ghulam Hurr Shabbiri	
Snacks	9:15 am

Please note: There will be only one salat.

Demolition of Janat-ul-Baqi

Thursday, November 10*

{Night of 8th Shawwal*}

Maghrib Prayer	5:46 pm
Surah Yaseen	6:00 pm
Isha Prayer	7:00 pm
Marsia/Salam	7:15 pm
Majlis by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri	7:30 pm
Dua-e-Kumail	8:15 pm

General Body Meeting (GBM) & Dinner

Saturday, November 12

Maghrib Prayer	5:45 pm
Dinner & GBM Registration	6:00 pm
Isha prayer	7:00 pm
General Body Meeting (subject to the quorum requirement)	7:15 pm
Youth presentation	8:15 pm
Speech by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri	8:30 pm

* * * EID PORTRAITS * * *

Put on your best dress for the EID portrait. Al-Hadi PTO is inviting several professional photographers to IEC at the General Body Meeting dinner on November 12th to take a memorable portrait of you and your family. Proceeds will benefit Al-Hadi school. Please take advantage of this opportunity and freeze this memory in time, to keep for ever.

Eid Carnival

Sunday, November 13, 2005

1:00 – 5:00 pm

Camp al-Wilayat

Rescheduled for Nov. 18th - 20th

Shahadat of Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)

Sunday, November 27*

{Night of 25th Shawwal*}

Maghrib Prayer	5:46 pm
Dua from Sahife Sajjadia	6:00 pm
Isha Prayer	7:00 pm
Marsia/Salam	7:15 pm
Majlis by Moulana Hurr Shabbiri	7:30 pm
Matam	8:15 pm
Tabaruk	8:30 pm

We welcome articles or 'Letters to the Editor' from our community members. Businesses are also welcome to advertise in the newsletter. This newsletter reaches 500 Houston families. The cost of advertising is \$30 for ¼ page, \$50 for ½ page.