



# WAHDAT

"A publication of the Islamic Education Center"



FEBRUARY 2003 (1<sup>st</sup> ZIL-HIJJ 1423 IS EXPECTED TO BE ON 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY) Subject to moon sighting.

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To receive IEC programs information via email please contact the director of library and publishing.

## Muslim dignity

As 1423 winds down it becomes incumbent upon us to reflect on the days of yore. Marked by threats of war, registration and detention, and the continuing blatant violations of human rights across the Islamic landscape, this year was no different than the previous one. How troublesome it must be for the Awaited Savior to see his 'Grandfather's *Ummah* hurt and tortured regularly. It all began with the violation of the oath of Ghadeer, at Saqeefa of Banu Sa'da. Usurpation of right to be God's representative became a norm for the power hungry rulers and the acceptance of such cowardice became the norm of the ruled. All this, despite the built in mechanism mandated by the Almighty that would encourage dialogue, public debate and solutions to their social and other ills. Namely, the Hajj. It fell on the grandson of the Prophet (S) to displayed in Karbala, in admirable fashion how to regain the lost property of the Muslims: Dignity.

## Al-Hadi School



# LI

Congratulations to Ali Irani, Grade 8, for qualifying for the State Championship of the First Annual Reader's Digest Word Challenge competition. The Texas Statewide Championship is in San Antonio on the 21st of January.

We pray for Ali's continued success in every challenge! (Editor's note: We will post the results of the championship in the next issue inshA...)

## Sunday School

Sunday School Hours:  
10:00 am -1:30 pm

Each Sunday the IEC overflows with the community children attending Islamic classes. Subjects include Dinyat, Iklaaq, the Holy Qur'an and

Islamic history and offer our children the opportunity to peek into vast treasure of Islamic knowledge that otherwise is unavailable to public going school children.

All children get to pray in jama'at (congregational prayer) which, provides a child with a sense of community and belonging. It is apparent in this modern western society that many individuals are seeking some form of identity. Many are finding that Islam is their long lost or newly found way of living that is most suitable for a life based on moral and ethical values.

Although Islam does not advocate a once a week injection of Islamic thought and culture in its children, we find this the least that we can do for them. After all one of the rights of children is that their parents make them morally upright Muslims.

Please enroll your child(ren) in this school and become a part of the landscape that is always seeking volunteer teachers and other types of assistance. Your children will be amongst the 135 students that are currently enrolled. Please contact Br. Hasan Ali Khan/ Sr. Shehnaz Merchant for more information.

## Library / Bookstore

Community members are encouraged to visit the library and make use of its ever-expanding inventory and resources. For instance we were able to help the registered Haji's (scheduled to leave Feb-27<sup>th</sup>) with Hajj related literature. A non-Muslim school child was assisted in her research on Islam. A brother wanted to learn the procedure for Salat al-Lail (Night Prayer); he found a reference book that helped. These are just a few examples of how we can help you.

Please drop by to get to know your IEC Library.

## Self Development

The *Self* is our biggest and most staunch enemy who is permanently and continuously at war with reason; by listening to Satanic whispers he attacks the reason to get it isolated and ultimately silenced, so the he becomes the sole-contender in the battle field. Imam Ali (AS) says:

**“Take over the possession of your self through continuous struggle”**

(Amlikoo anfusakum bi-dawami jihadiha)

## What is Shi’ism?

Shi’ism is not a new religion. It begins with the beginning of Islam. The embodiment of the code of religion, that is, the seal of the Prophets (SA) planted the tree of Shi’ism together with Islam; with his own hands, he watered it and looked after it. The plant grew up to be a green tree, which began blossoming in the life-time of the Holy Prophet (SA). But it had not yet born fruit, when the light of Prophethood was put out

We are not alone in advancing this claim. Even the eminent scholars from among the Sunni’s agree with us. For instance, ‘Allamah Siyuti in his famous commentary “ad-Durrul Manthur” says in connection with God’s words “Hum khayrul barriyah – they are the best of created beings” (Qur’an: Sura Bayyana:7)

“Ibn ‘Asakir quotes Jabir ibn Abdullah as saying: “We were present in the company of the Holy Prophet (SA) when ‘Ali came towards us. Seeing Ali (AS) the Prophet (SA) said: “I swear by God the Almighty, who is the Master of my life, that he (‘Ali and his shias shall be successful on the Day of Judgment.”

The question is, are we worthy to be called the Shias of ‘Ali?

## This Time in History

On the 18<sup>th</sup> month of the migration of the Prophet from Makkah to Madina, as the pilgrims were returning from Hajj, the Prophet convened at a place known as Ghadir Khum. On this solemn occasion he addressed his nation his last covenant. The following account of this historical event was reported by Ahmad ibn Hambal in his *Masnad*.

We were with the Prophet under the shade of trees and after performing the noon prayer he took Ali’s hand and said: ‘Don’t you know that I am more heedful of the faithful than their selves?’ And they (the congregation) said: ‘Yes (we do). And he said: ‘Don’t you know that I am more heedful of every faithful than his self? And they said: Yes. He then held Ali’s hand and said: ‘Of Whomsoever I have been a leader Ali is his leader. May God lead those who follow him and oppose those who oppose him. Afterwards, Omar (ibn al-Khattab) met Ali

and said to him: ‘Congratulations, O son of Abu Talib you have become the leader of every faithful man and woman’.



**“The day of Eid al-Ghadeer is the most valuable and precious Eid for my Ummah.”**

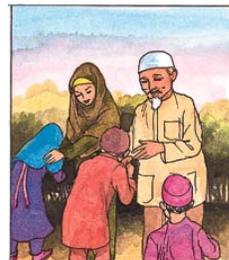
Prophet Mohammad (S A)

This and other evidence convinced a group of the Prophet’s companions that Ali was the most entitled of all Muslims to the caliphate and Imamate. They also found further support for their conviction in the interpretation of the term *Wilayat*, or leadership mentioned in the following Qur’anic verse:

Your leader is only God, and His messenger, and those who believe; who establish prayer and pay zakat while they are bowing down in prayer (5:55)

## Kids Corner

Many of the community children participated in the celebration of the birth of Imam ar-Ridha (AS). It was a reflection of how the IEC, al-hamdul... is always looking for ways to connect to all segments of the Houston community. For those of our children who were unable to attend here are some highlights for you.



**“O’ Allah! Forgive me, my parents and all my brothers and sisters but be not a helper of the wrong doers”**

Holy Qur’an, Nooh:28

Prophet Nooh (AS) was selected by Allah (SWT) to guide his people to be good and avoid bad. He immediately agreed to Allah’s (SAT) command and began teaching his people the requirements of the Creator. However, he found it very difficult to convince others about his beliefs and in fact was ridiculed and insulted in doing so. However, this did not stop him from doing his duty. He gave people examples of why they needed to believe in Allah (SWT) such as the planetary system, our own creation from clay, the rains that sustain us and the vast earth full of His signs for us to ponder on.

Allah (SWT) is the sole Author of the Holy Qur’an but the Book in itself is not sufficient for us. Therefore, Prophets (S) and Imams (Leaders) were chosen to interpret the deep meanings of the lofty words. Imam ar-Ridha was an example of one such Imam who holds a special place in the Muslim heart.

## What does the Holy Qur'an say in regards to our duty of performing Hajj?

The performing of Hajj was made obligatory in the 9<sup>th</sup> year of Hijrah. It is one of the basic foundations of Islam, and a sacred devotional act through which Muslims get nearer to Allah, the Exalted. Allah (SWT) says: "... and Hajj is a duty to Allah on mankind whoever is capable of doing it, and whoever denies (it), then surely Allah is above any need of the worlds" (Ale-Imran : 97)

## What are some of the objectives and advantages of Hajj?

In addition to the fact that the Hajj is a holy devotional duty, it has many objectives in the human life. The feeling of brotherhood and equality would be obtained by practicing it. All pilgrims wear the same unified, towel-like two-piece cloth 'Ihram, while performing the 'Umrah and the Hajj. In this period Muslims should gather and discuss the affairs of their lives and beliefs and become acquainted with each other's social and political problems. They should exchange their experiences, advices, opinions and good habits. Through the rituals we get accustomed to patience, modesty, sociability as well as avoiding lying, backbiting, enmity etc. On the 10<sup>th</sup> day animals are slaughtered in order to feed the poor and hungry around the world, thus Hajj serves as a means of alleviating hunger also.

## What are some of the conditions of Hajj?

Performing of Hajj is wajib once in a life time providing these conditions are met: 1) Able to financially afford it and physically endure it, 2) Maturity, 3) Sanity and 4) Free (ie he/she must not be a slave, owned by another person)

## Jurisprudence

The pillars of the ritual prayer

1. Making one's intention known
2. Takbeer (saying Allahu Akbar)
3. Qiyam (standing upright)
4. Rukoo' (bending forward)
5. Sujood (two prostrations/cycle)

Other than these five acts, other actions or words are not the pillars of the ritual prayer and if by mistake they increase or decrease, the ritual prayer is invalidated.

*-taken from Tahrir al Wasila (Imam Khomeini, RA)*

**"The prayer of Islam  
is a mode of ascension  
for the believer"**

## Holy Qur'an and Nahjul Balagha

The Holy Qur'an has been distorted many times and the best example of this distortion is the verse 33:33 (Ayat-Tatheer). It leaves no room for including the wives of the Holy Prophet in the Ahlul-bayt or anybody else other than the Abna'ana, Nisa'ana, and the Anfusana of the verse of Mubahila (3:60). Particularly if the verses preceding 33:33 and its following verses and the verses of Sura Tahreem dealing with the wives of the Holy Prophet are taken into consideration and that the verse 33:33 is applicable only to those who are in the highest stage of accomplishment possible for mankind, and that the wives of the Holy Prophet were subjected to severe warning from God against their behavior with the Holy Prophet and that two of these ladies had been even asked to repent (66:4) on account of the deviation of their hearts from the right course and that ladies better than them in all respects had been available among the Muslims women (66:5). Had they been of the same standard as those mentioned in 33:33, they would have been included in Nisa'ana of 3:60.

## Community/Youth/Sports

The IEC soccer league Zil-Hijj Soccer tournament is scheduled to begin February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Four teams will compete for the Abul Fazl Award, named for the courage, strength and loyalty Hazrat 'Abbas displayed for Imam Hussain A.S. in the battlefield of Karbala. The round robin tournament will last for four weeks. Community members are welcome to come and cheer for the teams.

The IEC soccer club meets every Sunday at the Alief Soccer Club at Westheimer parkway/Barker Cypress Rd at approximately an hour and a half before sunset. It is open to all community members and guarantees a healthy and challenging workout.

# 1st Zil-Hijj

**Congratulations on the marriage anniversary of  
Amirul Mo'mineen Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb and the  
Lady of Light Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA)**

The Wahdat team welcomes contributions, comments and suggestions from its readers. You can give feedback via [wahdatnews@yahoo.com](mailto:wahdatnews@yahoo.com)

