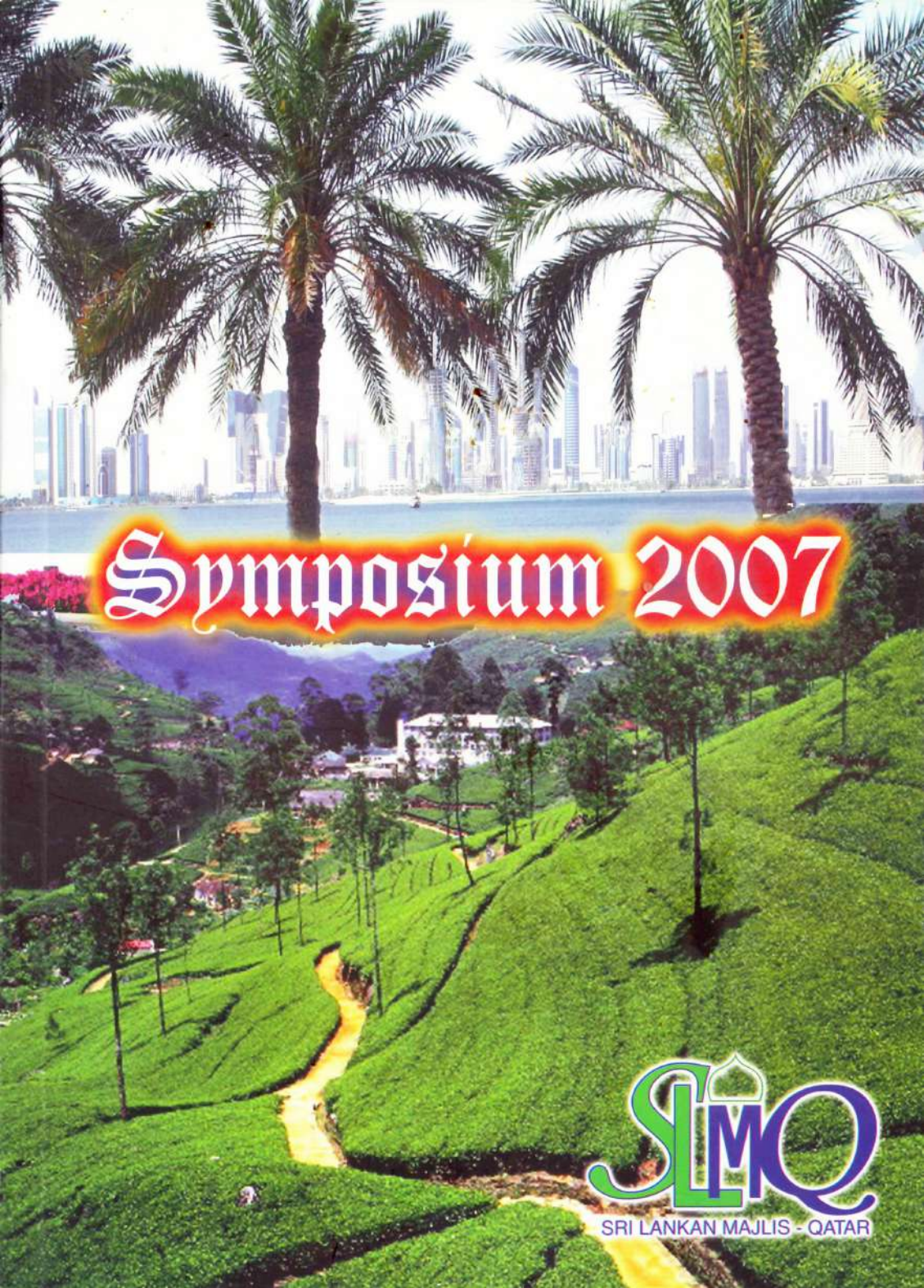

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S.B. ATUGODA
AMBASSADOR

MESSAGE FROM H.E. THE AMBASSADOR

It is always a pleasure to be associated with the 'Sri Lankan Majlis' in their well organized programmes. During the year 2007 I had the privilege of participating in all their charity and cultural events and also the Eid programmes.

The Majlis plays a very vital role in bringing together the Sri Lankan community in Qatar, assisting them whenever their services are called for, both in Qatar and Sri Lanka.

The Annual Symposium is an occasion, when they look back at a closing year full of achievements, with a sense of fulfillment, and also plan for the next year with great promise.

It too is an occasion when they share joys with their friends, away from the Motherland; they renew their bonds of friendship and build new links with the Sri Lankan community in Qatar.

I convey my most sincere wishes, for a very successful Symposium.

S.B. ATUGODA
AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA
IN THE STATE OF QATAR



Gulf Business Machines

President's Message



In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious & The Most Merciful.

All praise be to Allah, Lord of the Universe and May peace and blessings be upon his Last Prophet & Messenger.

Assalaamu Alaikkum Warahmathullahi Wabarakaathuhu !

With great pleasure I express my warm greetings & Best wishes to all our members as well as, all our well wishers on this historic occasion of the 6th annual Symposium 2007,

SLMQ Symposium is a remarkable occasion for us & well-wishers, which highlights one of the prestigious annual events of the SLMQ calendar. Symposium brings everyone together to look back and ponder on the various projects launched in the past and focus on the future projects with the objective of serving the deserving.

Since the inception, SLMQ has grown to be one of the prominent Sri Lankan organizations not only in Qatar, but also in the entire Gulf & back at home, with the blessings of Almighty and the support of committed people. The number of projects & activities carried out till date both in and out of Qatar within this short span of time would speak a volume and this year has not been an exception.

Such a success would not have been possible if not for the unconditional support received from many. His Excellency S.B. Atugoda, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to State of Qatar, who is also our patron has always extended his fullest support at all times. I would like to extend my gratitude to our previous Ambassadors, their Excellencies A.L.M. Yousuf and Meerasahib Mahroof for their guidance and encouragement.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all our Sponsors and well-wishers for their continuous support towards SLMQ's cause. In addition, it's my duty to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Symposium steering committee, Excom members and all our members for their dedication, commitment and tireless effort to make this Symposium 2007 a resounding success.

May Almighty Allah Guide us in the correct patch.

Mohammed Hilmy Ghaffoor.
President.

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Honorary General Secretary's Report



Assalamu Alaikkum Warahmathullahi Wabarakathuhu

It gives me great pleasure to submit this report for the year 2007. All praise be to Almighty Allah, SLMQ had yet another successful year, supporting worthy Projects in Sri Lanka and organizing many useful events in Qatar for the benefit of SLMQ membership

Projects in Sri Lanka

Advanced Level Scholarship: 1st Batch. 2006-2008 : Scholarship for needy Advanced Level students, continued for the 2nd successful year. Their progress is monitored by the SLMQ-Colombo and recipients are gathered every quarter to discuss their progress. Workshops are conducted to provide guidance and ensure maximum returns. Twenty five students were selected to receive Rs. 750/- a month through out their study period of 2 years.

2nd Batch 2007-2009 : In 2007, SLMQ approved scholarships for a further batch of 25 Advanced Level students.
Islahiyyah Arabic College – Madampe: A well established Arabic College in Madampe, managed and supervised by Hizbul Islam Trust (inc.), provides graduation in Islamic studies and various other subjects. They partially cover the cost for each student. Out of the total of 147 students, 101 students needed this support. SLMQ approved support for 7 students for 1 year, @ Rs.1,500/- per student per month amounting to Rs. 126,000/- in total.

Zahriya Arabic College – Olana, Hemmathagama: Zahriya Arabic College in Hemmathagama has over 100 students following Arabic and Hiflul Qur'an courses, is in dire need for renovation of its premises and basic furniture. SLMQ approved Rs. 125,000/- to cover the cost.

Bridge in Silmiyapura: SLMQ has allocated Rs. 100,000/- for the construction of a bridge in Silmiyapura. This will benefit the villagers and students to have convenient and quick access to Mosque and schools.

Sponsorship for a Medical Student: Awarded a partial sponsorship for one of our member's child to pursue under graduate studies in the field of Medicine during the first year, in 2007.

Activities in Qatar

Eid Fiesta: The calendar year started with the Eid Fiesta on the 2nd day of Eid Al Azha. Many games and activities were organized for all our members and their families with excellent participation from everyone

Cont..



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Honorary General Sec.../ Continued

Religious lectures: Religious lectures were conducted throughout the year. In March, a lecture was arranged at FANAR Auditorium which was delivered by Moulavi Ziyaudeen on the topic of Prayer, it's importance and repercussions in missing it. Another lecture was delivered in June by Moulavi Najmul Hussain on the topic of The life of Prophet Mohammed SAW and his teachings for the mankind. It was held at the Doha Grand Hotel. SLMQ, had the privilege of hosting the prominent scholar and well known speaker Dr. Yousuf Estes from USA, in September 2007. This event was co-sponsored by Qatar Guest Center.

Qur'an Class Competitions : The annual competitions were held for our Quran class students in April at Gulf Paradise Hotel. More details on the event are given under the Qur'an class page.

Cookery Competitions: Annual Cookery Competitions were held in September 2007, at Doha Grand Hotel in 6 different categories (2 Curries, 2 kinds fruits and Fruits Carving), by our members' families. A live Salad Competition was held for men and HE S.B. Atugoda, the Ambassador graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Director of Qatar Guest Center attended as Guest of Honour.

SLMQ Ifthar : The annual SLMQ, Ifthar function was held for the 6th consecutive year on 21st September at Gulf Paradise Hotel. Prominent scholar Dr. Bilal Phillips delivered the key note address and spoke on Repentance.

Ifthar at the Sri Lankan Embassy : SLMQ took the initiative to organize the annual Ifthar function at the Sri Lankan Embassy for all Sri Lankan Muslims in Doha, in October 2007 at the Embassy premises. The entire event was funded by well wishers and among the invitees were Ambassadors from India and Malaysia. Moulavi Burhan was flown in from Sri Lanka to deliver the key note lecture and was sponsored by Al Mana Freight Services.

Eid Prayers: The Eid Prayers were held on the day of the Eid at the Sri Lankan Embassy premises. The prayers were conducted by Moulavi Ansari and the sermon was delivered by Moulavi Munaf Nahoor.

Arabic Classes: For the first time, a Spoken Arabic Course was conducted for members during the months of August/September this year. 10 members successfully completed the course which was conducted by Moulavi Munaf Nahoor in collaboration with Qatar Guest Center.

Beach Cleaning Campaign. : This year's annual Beach Cleaning campaign was conducted with the collaboration of the Sri Lankan embassy in March 2007 and was well attended by all our members.

The 6th annual SLMQ Symposium is held today, and hope all of you will have a memorable evening. I would like to thank all those who contributed to make SLMQ 2007 Calendar an eventful one. Finally I ask Allah (SWT) to record all our efforts in our book of good deeds.

M. Hazim Hamza
General Secretary

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2007



Standing from left : Althaf Hamza , Zulficar Jiffry (Treasurer) , Mohamed Shiraz , Rizvi Muhammed , Mohd Ghaffari , Mohd Jabir , Mohd Najad
Seated from Left : Imthiyas Samsudeen (VP Projects), Hilmy Ghafoor (President), His Excellency S.B.Atugoda (Patron) , M.Iqbal Akram (VP PR) Hazim Hamza (Genneral Secretary)
Absent : Muharra Aarif

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Introduction to SLMQ

OUR MISSION

To bring all Sri Lankan Muslim families resident in Qatar under a single united group and conduct activities of educational, cultural, religious and charitable nature.

OUR OBJECTIVES

To develop cordial ties among families, communities and other associations.

Educational and Religious Activities

- Skill development programs
- Seminars & Workshops
- Competitions for children and adults
- Quran & Islam Teachings
- Haj & Umrah piligrimages

Charitable Activities

- Scholarships for needy students
- Janaza assistance
- Assistance to needy families
- Charity bazaars

Social and Welfare Activities

- Sports events
- Eid celebrations
- Family gatherings/picnics
- Job Bank

Membership

All Sri Lankan Muslims families resident in Qatar are eligible to apply for membership by filling an application form available with Executive Committee members. For further information, please contact info@srilankanmajlis.org


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Our Accomplishments

In Sri Lanka

- Continued the Scholarship program for the 2nd year, to support G.C.E. Advanced Level students in 25 districts.
- Started the Scholarship program for new batch of another 25 Advanced Level students to study G.C.E. Advanced Level.
- Granted Scholarship program for 7 students at Islahiya Arabic College for one year.
- Granted Financial Assistance to Zahriya Arabic College to renovate its premises and to purchase basic equipments.
- Granted Financial Assistance to build a bridge at Silmiyapura connecting the Mosque & the Village.
- Granted Financial Assistance to support a needy medical student to pursue under graduate studies.

In Qatar

- Independence Day competitions : An open competition for all Sri Lankan children in colouring, drawing, essay writing and public speaking to mark the 59th Independence Day.
- Islamic lectures for all.
- Open cookery competitions
- Ifthar function at Doha Grand Hotel.
- Ifthar function at the Embassy premises.
- Bi-weekly Quran classes for children.
- Annual Beach Cleaning program with the collaboration of Sri Lankan embassy.
- Conducted Eid prayers at the Sri Lankan Embassy premises.
- Conducted spoken Arabic Classes for members.

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Symposium 2006 at a glance



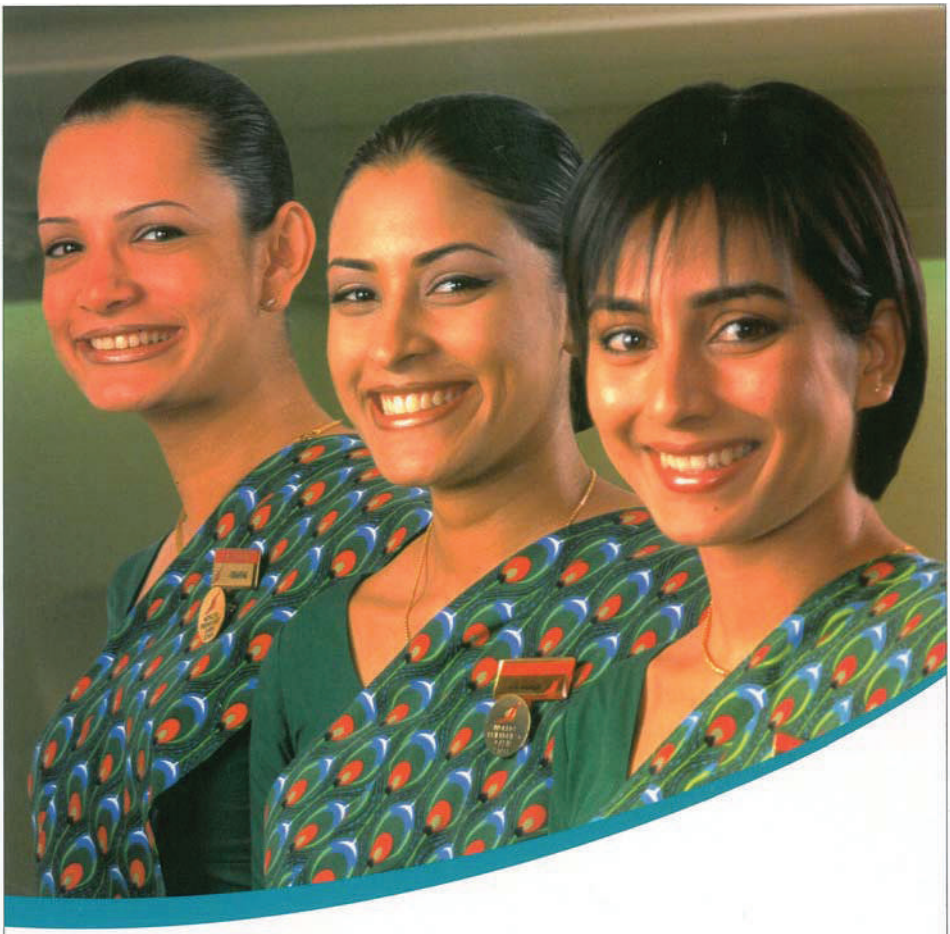












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Competitions to mark the 59th Independence day of Sri Lanka





















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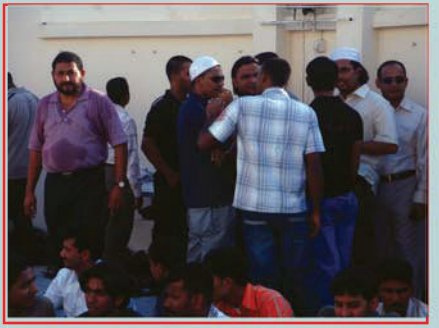
Eid Prayers conducted at Sri Lankan Embassy













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SLMQ - Quran Classes

Quran Classes are being successfully conducted for the sixth consecutive year. This is the foremost important project of SLMQ, benefiting all Sri Lankan Muslim children living in Qatar. Five qualified teachers with much interest and dedication, provide coaching for Qur'an recital in Thajweed method for children aged between 5 and 14 years.



Other community children also take advantage of these classes.

During the year, more focus was exerted on teaching of Qur'an lessons, Duas (supplications to be recited for different occasions & actions), Hadith etc.

The Annual Quran class competitions were held in April 2007 at Gulf Paradise Hotel. SLMQ children actively participated in various events such as Qur'an recitation, Qur'an memorization, Islamic Speeches and Islamic Quiz. All competitions were adjudged by independent Judges. The Principal of Shanthinikethan Indian School Mr. Thajammul Hussain, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



Classes are held on Saturday mornings from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and on Monday afternoons from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm at Shanthinikethan Indian School, Najma. For inquiries please contact Mrs. Munzira Jiffry on 4429016, Hazim Hamza on 4400295/5839051 or Mohammed Jabir on 5759527

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Cookery Competition















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The Scholarship Program

Since the inception of SLMQ, we have been supporting various educational programs for deserving bright students through Scholarship programs. This has been one of the key projects and till date undertaken many such programs for students following advanced level & undergraduate studies, coming from different areas. SLMQ supported the following scholarship programs in 2007:

Ongoing scholarship project. :-

Continued the scholarship project for the needy 25 Advanced Level students for the 2nd successive year. This scholarship program was started in July 2006 where a monthly payment of SL Rs. 750.00 is given to each beneficiary for a period of 2 years till 2008.

District	No of Students
Ampara	2
Badulla	1
Colombo	2
Galle	1
Gampaha	3
Hambantota	1
Jaffna	1
Kandy	3
Kalutara	3
Kegalle	3
Kurunegala	2
Matara	1
Nuwara Eliya	2
Puttalam	1
Trincomalee	2

Regular feed back been received through SLMQ-Colombo, the coordinators of the project in Sri Lanka and the progress so far was very encouraging, as the beneficiary students are continuing to perform exceptionally well in studies.

New Scholarship projects.

Started another scholarship program in 2007, for a new batch of 25 Advanced Level students from different parts of Sri Lanka. This program will be continued for a period of 2 years and spearheaded by SLMQ-Colombo wing. Regular workshops and seminars are conducted to provide career guidance and motivate the students. A sum of SL Rs. 750.00 is allocated monthly towards this cause.

Granted scholarship program for 7 needy students to pursue their studies at Islahiya Arabic College for a period of one year. Islahiya Arabic College provides licentiate Certificate in Arabic language and Islamic Sharia. It's a full time course of 6-year duration and SLMQ funded this project at a monthly cost of Rs. 1,500.00 for one year, amounting to Rs. 126,000.00 in total.

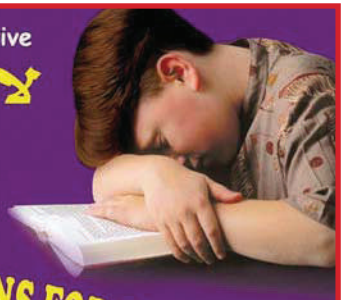
Granted financial support for a needy medical student in Qatar, to pursue under graduate studies abroad. This is the first educational project undertaken in Qatar by SLMQ.





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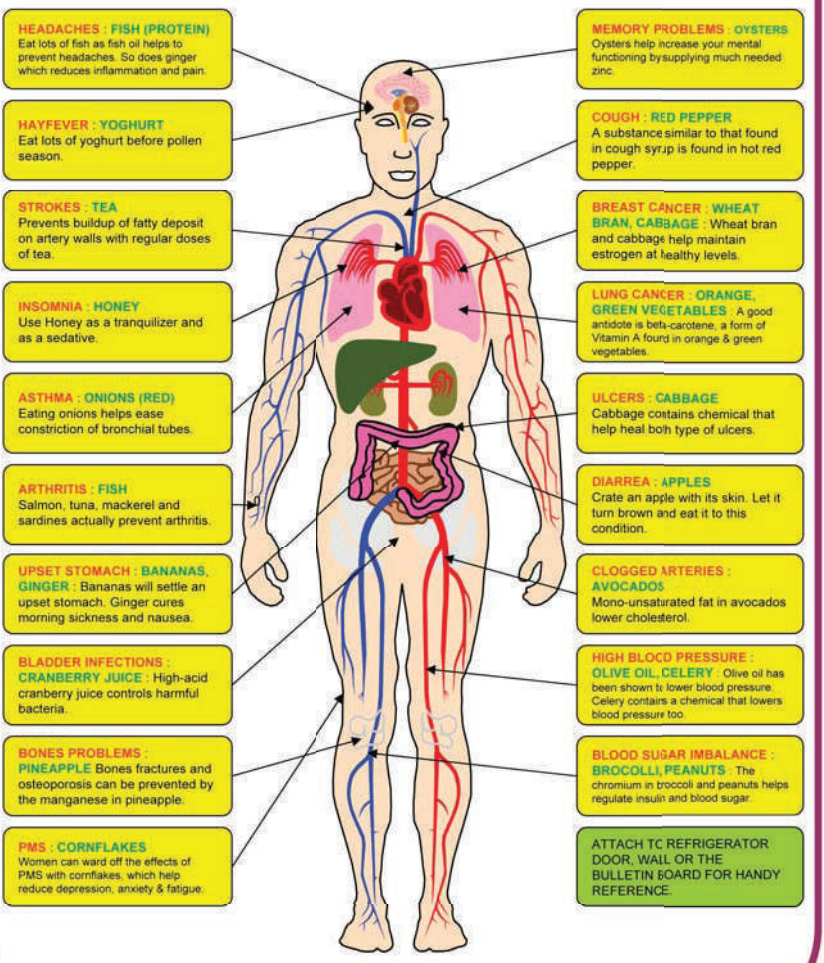
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Beach Cleaning campaign



As part of our commitment to maintain a cleaner environment, in March 2007 SLMQ joined hands with Sri Lankan Embassy and Sri Lankan Co-ordinating Committee organising it's annual Beach Cleaning campaign in collaboration with Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Agriculture. The Sri Lankan Ambassador His Excellency S.B. Atugoda was the Chief Guest and a large number of Sri Lankans participated in this year's event.

SLMQ coordinated and partly sponsored this event with the Municipal Authorities. A vast number of activists including children participated in this event covering a large area along the east coast of Qatar.



His Excellency S.B. Atugoda greeted and thanked the enthusiastic participants who cleared truck loads of waste materials from the Beach.

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Ifthar Reception

SLMQ hosted two Ifthar functions this year. The annual SLMQ Ifthar function for members was held with great success for the 6th consecutive year on the 21st of September at Gulf Paradise Hotel.

This was the first event organized by SLMQ at the inception and this year it was well attended by a large number of families including newly arrived families and invited guests. One of the prominent scholars Dr. Bilal Phillips, delivered a guest lecture on Repentance and was well received by the audience followed by a question & answer session. The Tharavih prayers were conducted by Maulavi Haniffa Ansari followed by dinner.



This year too, SLMQ organized the annual Ifthar function at the Sri Lankan Embassy premises for all Sri Lankans living in Qatar with the collaboration of Sri Lankan embassy in October 2007 at the Embassy premises. Over 400 Sri Lankan brothers & sisters attended this event including Ambassadors from India & Malaysia. Many sponsors and well wishers came forward to support this event. Special guest lecturer Moulavi Burhan was flown from Sri Lanka to deliver the key note lecture and his visit was sponsored by Al Mana Freight Services.



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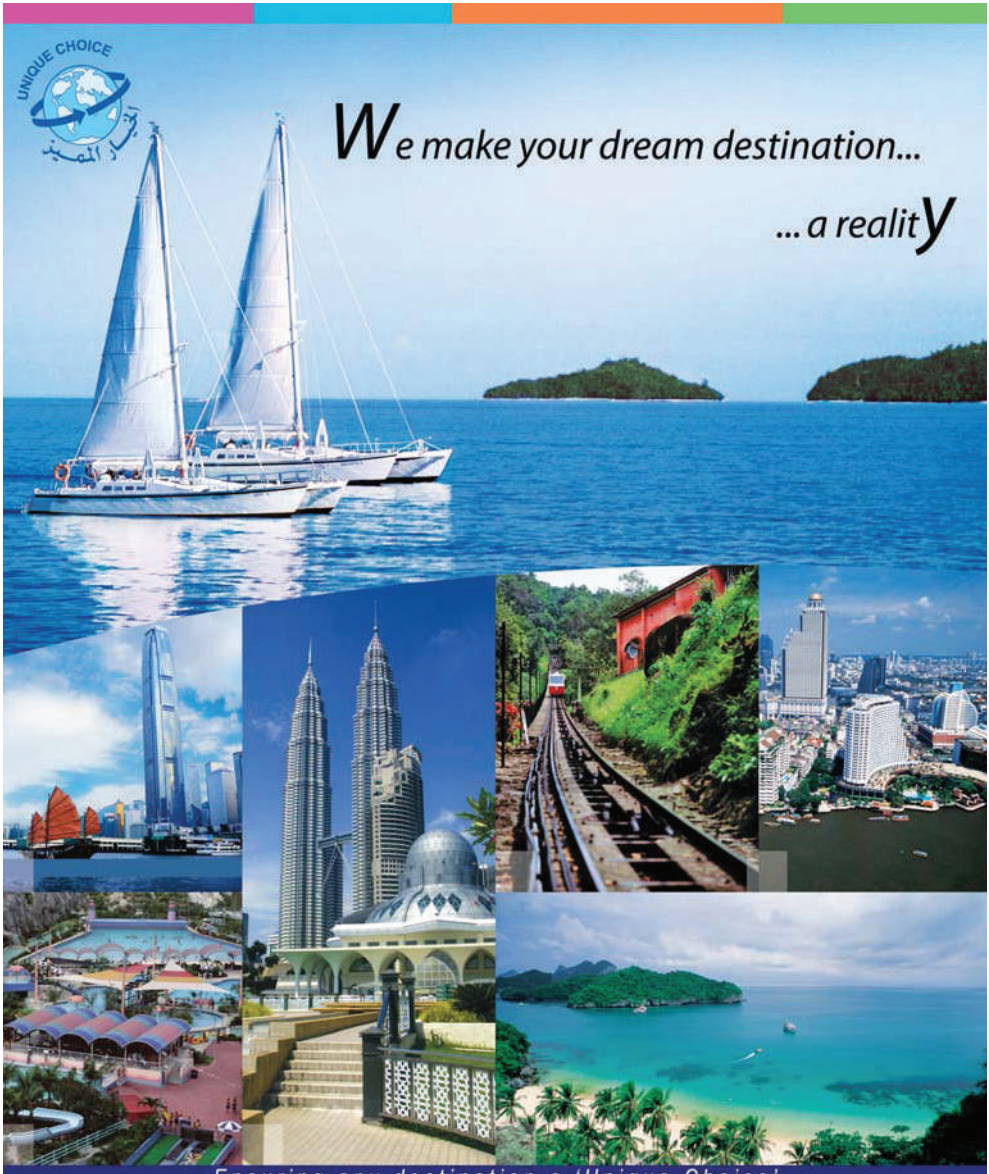
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The Seed

A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business.

Instead of choosing one of his directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you." The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued. "I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story.

She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed.

Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure.

Six months went by - still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil - He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick at his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful -- in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

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When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!" All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the financial director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his Seed, Jim told him the story.

The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive! His name is Jim!"

Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new CEO the others said?

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today.

But, I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers.

When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive!"

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.
If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.
If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.
If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment.
If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective.
If you plant hard work, you will reap success.
If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.

So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later.

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Knowledge v/s Wealth

Hazrat Ali once replied to a group of ten learned men who said, "We seek your permission for putting a question to you."

Hazrat Ali replied, "You are at perfect liberty."

They said, "Of knowledge and wealth, which is better and why. Please give a separate answer to each of us."

Hazrat Ali answered in ten parts:

1. Knowledge is the legacy of the Prophets; wealth is the inheritance of the Pharaohs. Therefore, knowledge is better than wealth.

2. You are to guard your wealth but knowledge guards you. Therefore, knowledge is better.

3. A man of wealth has many enemies, while a man of knowledge has many friends. Hence, knowledge is better.

4. Knowledge is better because it increases with distribution, while wealth decreases by that act.

5. Knowledge is better because a learned man is apt to be generous while a wealthy person is apt to be miserly.

6. Knowledge is better because it cannot be stolen while wealth can be stolen.

7. Knowledge is better because time cannot harm knowledge but wealth rusts in course of time and wears away.

8. Knowledge is better because it is boundless while wealth is limited and you can keep account of it.

9. Knowledge is better because it illuminates the mind while wealth is apt to blacken it.

10. Knowledge is better because it induced the humanity in our Prophet to say to GOD.

"We worship thee as we are your servants," while wealth engendered in Pharaoh and Nimrod the vanity which made them claim God-head.

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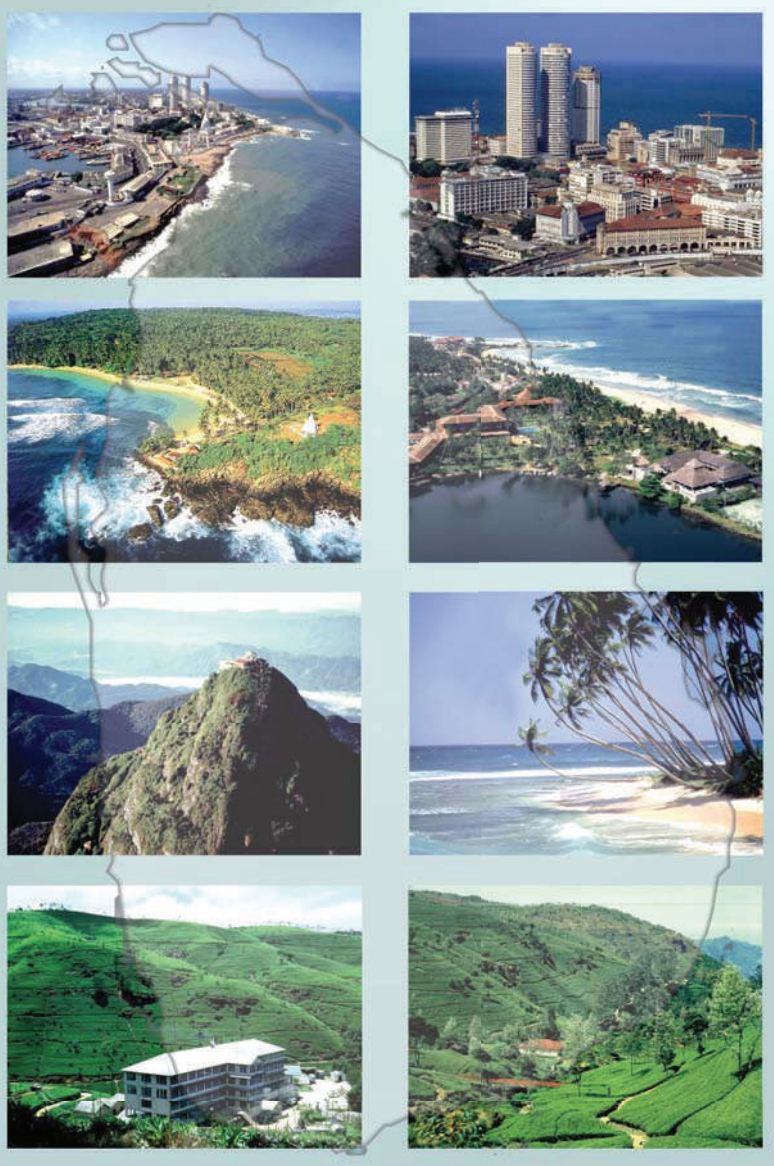


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Envier's eye

* Envy is one of the major sins which is bound to destroy good deeds as fast as the fire burns the wood and dry grass to ashes. "Jealousy eats away at good deeds, just as fire eats away at firewood." [Sunan Ibn Majah]

* Envy was described as a sickness by the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam.

* Envy is hating that good happens to others.

* Envy is displeasure with Allah's decree and His granting blessings upon others.

* "Faith and envy do not go together in the heart of a servant." [Ibn Hibban, saheeh]

* "The people will be fine as long as they do not envy one another." [At-Tabarani with trustworthy narrators]

* Envy is a characteristic the Jews displayed towards the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, causing them to inflict him harm.

* Envy leads to hatred.

* The Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, described envy as a shearer of the religion.

* Muslims are commanded in Soorah al-Falaq to seek refuge from the evil of the envier when he envies.

* Envy is worse than miserliness; this is because the miser only stops himself from having good but the envier dislikes the favours of Allah bestowed upon His servants.

* No one attains true belief until one loves for one's brother what one loves for oneself.

* It is said that the people who have the greatest degree of restlessness are the envious. Such person has no peace and is continuously grieved.

* The greatest harm from envy comes to the envier, who with one's displeasure with Allah's decree attains a great loss to oneself. Al-Mubarrad recited the following lines: The eye of the envier always sees scandal, bringing out faults and hiding the good. He meets you cheerfully, with a smiling face, while his heart conceals his true feelings. The envier's enmity comes without provocation, yet he accepts no excuses while he attacks.

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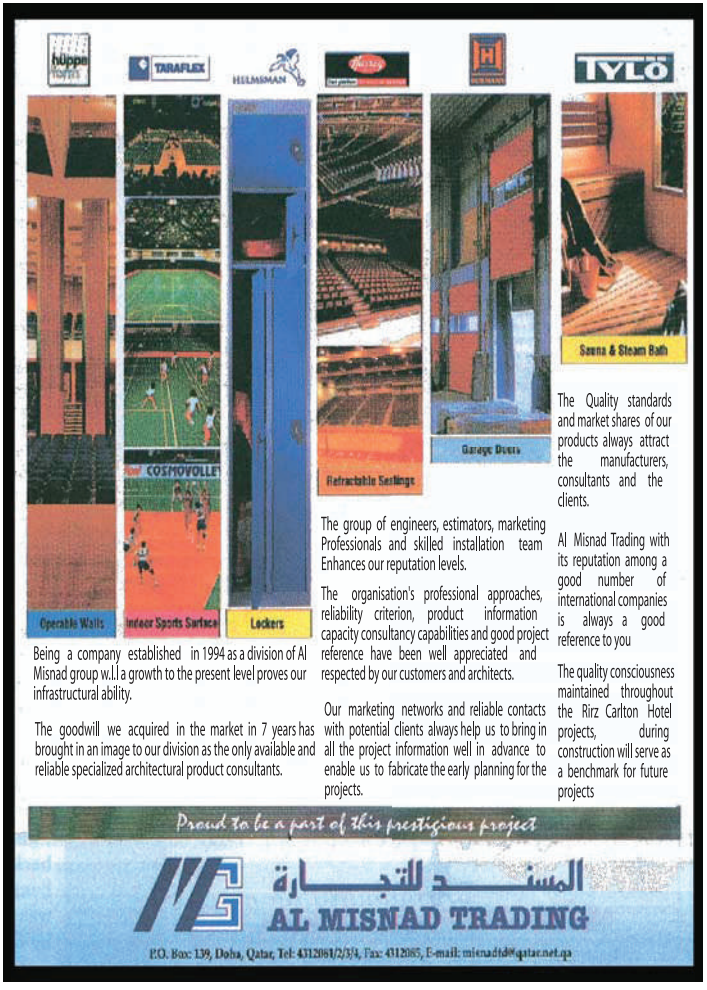
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How far is the sun?

A man asked Imam Ali (a.s.) in Masjid-e-Kufa, "What is the distance between me and (pointing towards the sun) and the sun".

It is worth mentioning here about the complexity of this question. This man was an Arab. And in the Arabic language the numbers or count is limited upto one thousand (1000). The count in Arabic does not exceed 1000. The answer to the question this man asked dealt in millions (distance). It was like a challenge to Imam Ali (a.s.) to answer him in a convincing manner without confusing him.

The man got convinced and walked away.

But it is for us now to ponder on what Imam Ali (a.s.) answered:
"If an Arab horse starts walking from here and continues walking for 500 years, then he (horse) will reach the sun."

Imam Ali (a.s.) said "If an Arab horse...", the average speed of an arab horse is 22 mph (miles per hour). If a horse runs the full day (24hours) it will cover approximately 520 miles. This gives us the distance the horse will cover in 24 hrs (one day).

To calculate the distance covered by the horse in one month we multiply it 520 by 29.5 (Taking an average of the number of months in Urdu calendar. Assuming that 6 months are of 29 days and 6 months are of 30 days.). It gives us something around 15,500. The horse covers 15,500 miles in one month (30 days). To get the distance that he will travel in one year we multiply it by 12. Since there are 12 months in a year. It gives you 1, 86,000. Then multiply 1, 86,000 by 500 as the horse should run for 500 years. It gives you 9, 34, 00,000 miles.

Now if you ask an astronomer about the distance of sun from the earth he will tell you that the distance is never constant. The orbit of the earth is oval in shape. Sometimes it comes nearer to the sun and on occasions it distances itself from the sun. When the earth is closest to the sun its distance is 9, 10, 00,000 miles and the distance when it is farthest from the sun is 9, 48, 00,000 miles.

When you take an average on these two distances it comes around 9, 30,000 miles.

Imam Ali (a.s.) 1400 years back told us about the distance of the earth from the sun. This also proves that Imam Ali (a.s.) was a genius in Astronomy, Zoology and Arithmetic.

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Quran: A Teacher to Modern Scientists

The Quran was revealed 1400 years ago to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a guidance for all humanity. The entire Quran has been committed to memory by millions of Muslims around the world and has been preserved by Allah from any interpolations, for continuing guidance. Although the Quran is a religious book with a total of about 6600 plus verses dealing with many aspects of a person's life, about 1000 of those verses are of scientific nature, none contradicting established scientific facts.

Besides providing guidelines in personal, social, moral and spiritual spheres of humanity, the Quran touches upon diverse scientific topics like astronomy, geology, embryology, genetics, biology, archeology etc. Some of these are mentioned below to prove the Quran's Divine origin.

The Big Bang

Currently, the Big Bang model of the origin of the universe is the cosmological paradigm most widely accepted by astronomers. It holds that about 15 billion years ago the universe began with the explosive expansion of a single, extremely dense matter, the primordial mass. Only after the development of radio telescopes in 1937 that, the necessary observational precision was achieved in order for astronomers to arrive at the above conclusion. What does the Quran say about our universe's origin?

"Do not the unbelievers see that the Heavens and the earth were joined together, then We split them apart." (21:30)

Expanding Universe

In 1925, Edwin Hubble (after whom the Hubble Space telescope is named) provided the observational evidence for the expansion of the universe. Stephen Hawking (author of 'A Brief History of Time') states: "The universe is not static, as had previously been thought, it is expanding". So what did God reveal in the Quran, 1400 years ago?

"And the firmament, We constructed with power and skill and verily We are expanding it" (51:47) ("We" is the Arabic plural of respect, not the Christian plural of 'trinity")

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Quran: A Teacher to Modern Scientists

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The Existence of Sun's Orbit

Ancient people use to believe that the Sun revolves around the earth. Later, Nicholas Copernicus in 1512, laid his Heliocentric Theory of Planetary motion, which placed the sun motionless in the center of the solar system with all the planets revolving around it. Modern science tells us now that the sun too is not still, but is in motion.

The sun traveling at roughly 150 miles per second takes about 200 million years to complete one revolution around the center of our Milky Way Galaxy and 25 days to make one complete rotation around its own axis. See how beautifully and accurately God revealed this phenomenon in the Quran:

"It is He who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon, all (the celestial bodies) swim along, each in its orbit with its own motion." (21:33)

Conquest of Space by Human

Human exploration and the conquest of space began with the launching of the Russian Satellite, Sputnik I on Oct. 4, 1957. Then followed the launching of humans into space, which eventually led to a manned space flight to the Moon on July 20th, 1967. Thus the dream of humanity since the dawn of civilization to go beyond the earth to the heavens was realized.

The Quran, 1400 years ago, clearly predicted human's advancement and the possibility of space flight.

"O assembly of Jinns and humans, if you can penetrate the regions of the heavens and the earth, then penetrate them! You will not penetrate them save with a power (of God)." (55:33)

The Protective Atmosphere

Earth is constantly bombarded by meteoroids that disintegrate upon the atmosphere and by lethal rays emitted by the sun. This UV radiation is absorbed by the Ozone layer forming the outer fringe of our atmosphere. Thus our atmosphere along with its Ozone layer is a protective covering for us. Life possibly could not have existed without it. How meticu

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lously, does our Lord sustain and protect us against this atmospheric destruction.

"And We have made the atmosphere a protective roof, yet do they turn away from the Signs which these things point to." (21:32)

Gender Determination

The concept of "Gender Determination" as being described by geneticists is one of the outstanding information revealed to us in the Quran. This information is now a known fact, that sperms are the deciding factors in determining the type of gender (male or female) in the new embryo. This determination through the male sperm is due to the fact that sperms have an X and Y chromosomes, while the female ovum has only X Chromosomes (X, X). Through the Quran, The Almighty informs us that it is the male sperms that determine the type of gender for the new offspring:

"Does man think that he will be left uncontrolled (without purpose)? Was he not a drop of sperm emitted (in humble form)? Then did (God) make and fashion (him) in due proportion. And of him He made two sexes, male and female..." (75:36-40)

Existence of Pairs in All Creation

Before the dawn of the modern era, humans conceived that only animal life was divided into two genders, male and female. Then the discovery was made that this phenomenon was present in plants and vegetation too. We have found this reality existing in every creation, animate as well as inanimate, though in different forms. In electricity, these two genders can be classified as positive and negative. North and south pole describe it in magnetism, electron and proton in atoms, matter and antimatter etc. Even bacteria could be positive or negative, while the truth is; this creation is made of pairs. At the time the Holy Quran was being revealed in the 7th century C.E., we knew of pairing in animals and plants only, but the Quran describes the phenomenon in the most lucid manner:

"Hallowed is He, Who created pairs in all things, those that grow from the earth and of themselves, and what they know not." (36:36)

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Prophet Mohammed's (SAW) Last Sermon

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

This sermon was delivered on the ninth day of Dhul Hijah, 10 A.H. (632 A.D.) in the valley of Mount Arafat. The contents of the message were collected from different narrations, and there are other parts to it that are not mentioned here. This sermon still needs the authenticity of all of its parts to be checked.

"O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether, after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore, listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and take these words to those who could not be present today.

O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and that He will indeed reckon your deeds. Allah has forbidden you to take interest, therefore, all interest obligations shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer inequity. Allah has judged that there shall be no interest and that all interest due to Abbas bin Abdul-Muttalib (the prophet's uncle) shall henceforth be waived.

Every right arising out of homicide in pre-Islamic days is henceforth waived and the first such right I waive is that arising from the murder of Rabiyah bin Al-Harith (relative of the prophet). O Men, the unbelievers indulge in tampering with the calendar in order to make permissible that which Allah forbade, and to forbid that which Allah had made permissible. With Allah the months are twelve; four of them are holy; three of these are successive and one occurs singly between the months of Jumadah and Shaaban. Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

O People, it is true that you have certain right with regard to your women, but they

(contd....)

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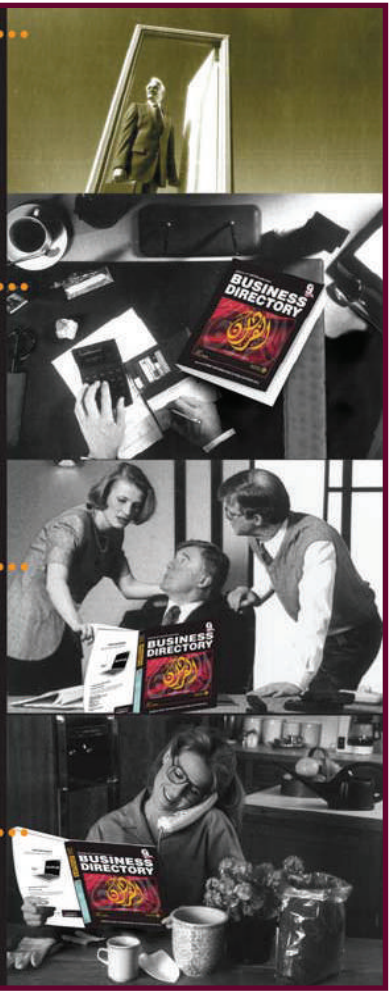
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Prophet Mohammed's (SAW) Last Sermon

(continued from previous page)

also have rights over you. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never commit adultery.

O People, listen to me in earnest, worship Allah, say your five daily prayers, fast during the month of Ramadhan, and give your wealth in zakat. Perform Hajj if you can afford to. All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black, nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is the brother of another Muslim, and that Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to your selves.

Remember, one day you will appear before Allah and answer for your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O People, and understand my words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the Quran and my example, the Sunnah, and if you follow these you will never go astray.

All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others, and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better that those who listen to me directly. Be my witness O Allah, that I have conveyed Your message to Your people."

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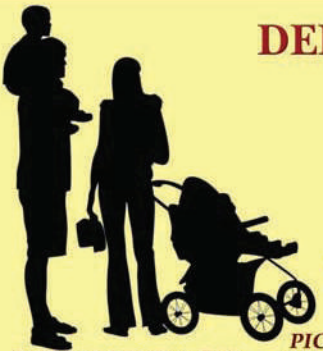
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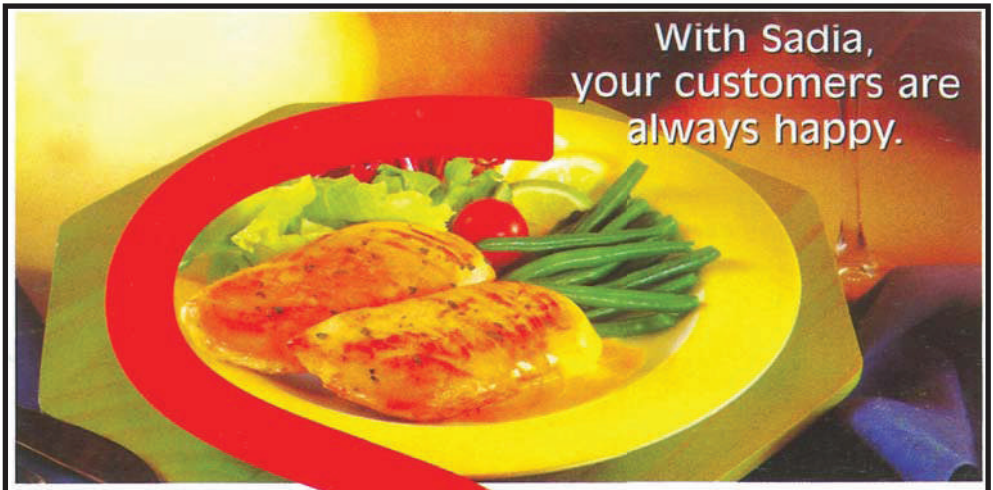


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Envy – a disease of the heart

Strictly speaking, envy (hasad) is hatred and disliking the good condition of the envied one. This is of two types:

1) The blameworthy type of envy is unrestricted dislike of the blessings bestowed upon the envied. This is the type of jealousy that incurs blame, so when one hates something he is then hurt and grieved by the existence of what he hates, and this becomes a sickness in his heart such that he takes pleasure in the removal of the blessings from the envied even if this does not result in any benefit to him except the single benefit of having the pain that was in his soul removed. But this pain is not removed except as a result of his continuously watching the envied so that the jealous person finds relief when the blessing is removed, but then it becomes more severe as is the case of the one who is sick, for it is possible that this blessing, or one similar to it, returns to the envied. This is why the second group said: 'It is a desire to have the blessings removed,' for indeed the one who dislikes the blessings bestowed upon other than him desires them to see removed.

2) That he dislikes the superiority of that person over him, and he desires to be like him or better, so this is jealousy and has been called ghubta, and the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, called it hasad in the hadith reported by both al-Bukhari and Muslim from the hadith of ibn Mas'ood and ibn `Umar, radiallahu 'anhumaa, that he, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, said, "There is no envy except in two cases: a person to whom Allah has granted wisdom, and he rules by this and teaches it to the people, and a person to whom Allah has granted wealth and property along with this the power to spend it in the cause of Truth."

This being the wording of Ibn Mas'ood. The wording of Ibn 'Umar is, "A person to whom Allah has given the Qur'an and he recites it night and day, and a person to whom Allah has granted wealth and property from which he gives in charity night and day." So the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, forbade hasad, with the exception of two cases which are referred to as al-ghubta, meaning that a person loves the condition of someone else and dislikes that this person be superior in this way (without his wishing that it be removed from that person).

So if it is asked: 'Then why is this (ghubta) called envy when he loves only that Allah bestow these blessings upon him?' It is said, 'The starting point of this love is his looking towards the favours Allah has bestowed upon someone else and his disliking that this person be favoured over him. So if this other person were not present then he would not have desired these blessings. So because the starting point of this love is this dislike that someone else be made superior to him, then this is called envy due to the love following the dislike. As for desiring that Allah bestows favours upon him without consideration of people's material conditions then this is not envy at all.'

This is why the generality of mankind have been tried with this second type of envy that has also been called al-munaafasah (competition) because two people compete in a single desired matter, both of them trying to attain the same good. The reason for their trying to attain it is that one of them dislikes that the other be blessed with this matter over him just as any one of two competitors dislikes that the other beat him.

Competition is not considered blameworthy in general, rather it is considered to be praiseworthy when competing for righteousness. The Exalted said, "Indeed the pious will be in delight.

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Envy – a disease... / Continued

On thrones, looking on. You will recognise in their faces the brightness of delight. They will be given to drink pure sealed wine. The last thereof (that wine) will be the smell of musk, and for this let those compete who want to compete." [Al-Mutaffifeen (83):22-26]
So one is commanded to compete for these delights and not compete for the delight of this fleeting world.

The souls do not envy the one who is in severe hardship and this is why the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, did not mention it even though the mujaahid, fighting in the Way of Allah, is superior to the one who is spending wealth.... Similarly, the Prophet, sallallaahu 'alaihi wa sallam, did not mention the one who prays, fasts and performs the pilgrimage, because there is no tangible benefit attained from the people for these actions by which the person can be exalted or disgraced, as can be attained in teaching and spending.

Fundamentally, envy occurs when someone else attains power and authority; otherwise the one who is performing these actions is not normally envied, even if this person be blessed with far more food, drink and wives than others, as opposed to these two blessings of power and authority, for they cause a great deal of envy.

Allah praised the Ansaar with His saying, "And they have no jealously in their breasts for that which they have been given (the muhaajiroon), and give them preference over themselves even though they were in need of that." [Al-Hashr (59):9] As for the jealousy that is totally blameworthy then Allah has said with regards to the Jews, "Many of the People of the Book wish that if they could turn you away as disbelievers after you have believed, out of envy from their own selves even after the truth has become clear to them." [Al-Baqarah (2):109]

'They wish' meaning that they hope to make you apostatise from your religion out of jealousy. So jealousy was the deciding factor behind their wish even after the Truth had been made clear to them. This because when they saw you attain what you attained of blessings – in fact they saw you attain that which they themselves had never attained – they became jealous of you.

Similarly this is mentioned in another verse, "Or do they envy men for what Allah has given them of His bounty? Then We have already given the family of Abraham the Book of Wisdom, and conferred upon them a great kingdom. Of them were (some) who believed in him (Muhammad) and of them were some who averted their faces from him and enough is Hell for burning (them)..." [An-Nisaa' (4): 54-55]

"Say: I seek refuge with the Lord of the Daybreak. From the evil of what He has created. And from the evil of the darkening (night) as it comes with its darkness. And from the evil of the witchcrafts when they blow in the knots. And from the evil of the envier when he envies." [Al-Falaq (113):1-5]

So the one who is jealous, hating the favours bestowed by Allah upon someone else is an oppressor, going beyond bounds due to this. As for the one who dislikes that someone else be blessed and wishes to be blessed in the same way, then this is forbidden for him except in that which will bring him closer to Allah. So if he were to wish for something that has been given to someone else which would help bring him closer to Allah then there is no problem in this. However, his wishing for it in his heart, without looking to the condition of someone else is better and more excellent.

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Envy – a disease... / Continued

Then if this person were to act, dictated by this jealousy, he would be an oppressor going beyond bounds, deserving of punishment unless he repents. Jealousy is one of the sicknesses of the soul, and it is an illness that afflicts the generality of mankind and only a few are secure from it. This is why it is said, “The body is never free from jealousy, but debasement brings it out, and nobility hides it.” It was said to Al-Hasan Al-Basree, “Can a believer be envied?” He replied, “What has made you forget Yoosuf and his brothers, have you no father? But you should keep (this envy should it occur) blinded in your heart, for you cannot be harmed by that which you did not act upon in speech or action.”
So the one who finds that he harbours jealousy in his soul towards someone else, then it is upon him to treat it with patience and taqwaa of Allah, and dislike it being in his soul... As for the one who actually takes a stance against the envied, either with words or actions then he will be punished for this, and the one who fears Allah and is patient and does not become one of the oppressors – Allah will benefit him for his taqwaa.

In the hadith there occurs, “There are three sins from which no one can be saved: jealousy, suspicion and omens. Shall I tell you of what will remove you from this: When you envy do not hate, when you are suspicious then do not actualise your suspicions, and when you see omens then ignore them.” Reported by Ibn Abi Ad-Dunya from the hadith of Abu Hurairah.

In the Sunan from the Prophet, sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, “You have been afflicted with the illness of the nations that came before you – jealousy and hatred. They are the shearers, I do not mean the shearers of the hair, rather they are the shearers of the religion.” [At-Tirmidhi, at-Tabaranee and al-Hakim who said it was saheeh].

So he called jealousy an illness just as he called miserliness an illness in his saying, “And what illness is worse than miserliness.” [Ahmad, Hakim and others, saheeh]

In the first hadith jealousy was mentioned along with hatred. This is because the envier, first of all dislikes the bounty bestowed by Allah upon the one who is envied, and then begins hating this person. This is because the hatred of the thing being bestowed leads to hatred of the one upon whom it is bestowed, for when the blessings of Allah are bestowed upon an individual, he would love that they go away, and they would not go away except by the one who is envied going away, therefore he hates him and loves that he not be there.

Jealousy necessarily leads to desire and hatred just as Allah informed us of those that came before us that they differed, “After there came to them knowledge out of mutual hatred and desire.” [Aal ‘Imraan (3):19]

“Do not envy one another, do note hate each other, do not oppose each other...” [Al-Bukhari and Muslim] “By the One in Whose Hands is my soul, none of you believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.” [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Greed is a sickness as is miserliness, and jealousy is worse than miserliness, as occurs in the hadith, “Jealousy eats away at good deeds, just as fire eats away at firewood.” [Sunan Ibn Majah]

This is because the miser only stops himself from having good but the envier dislikes the favours of Allah bestowed upon His servants.






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- **Transportation – Local as well as within GCC**
- **Warehousing and distribution services**
- **Project and bulk logistics**
- **Cruise Agency incl land arrangements**
- **Ship Chandling**
- **OPA & Owners representation**
- **Offshore services**
- **Crew Change & Representation**



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SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZING COMMITTEE 2007



Standing from left : Althaf Hamza , Zulficar Jiffry (Treasurer) , Arshad Ahmed , Rizvi Muhammed , Mohd Ghaffari , Mohd Jabir , Mohd Najad
Seated from Left : Imthiyas Samsudeen (VP Projects), Hilmy Ghafoor (President), His Excellency S.B.Atugoda (Patron) , M.Iqbal Akram (VP PR) Hazim Hamza (Genneral Secretary)
Absent : Muharra Aarif, Nazeem Yakoob, Mohd Fahmy & Ameerudeen Moulana

" Best wishes to Sri Lankan Majlis - Qatar

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