



SRI LANKAN MAJLIS - QATAR

Community Welfare and Development

Symposium 2013



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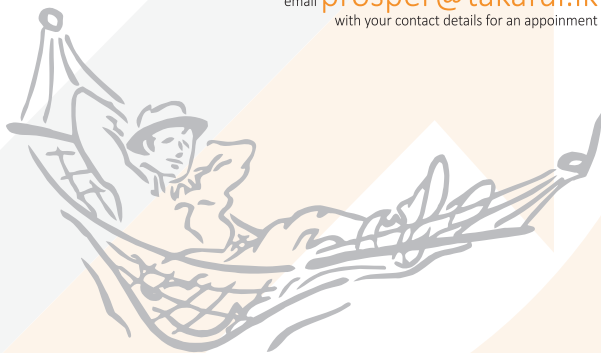
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SRI LANKAN MAJLIS - QATAR

Symposium 2013

9th May 2013

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State of Qatar - QATAR

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MESSAGE

I convey my best wishes to the members of the Sri Lanka Majlis Qatar on the occasion of holding the “Symposium 2013”

The President has informed me that SLMQ has had a successful year 2012, where many activities were completed for the benefit and welfare of its members and the Sri Lankan Community in Qatar.

I am pleased to observe that SLMQ continues to build goodwill and friendship among our expatriates through a multifaceted agenda. The charitable dimension and the attention that SLMQ pays to the needy are noteworthy features, of its activities.

The annual symposium over the years has become the most eagerly awaited activity of the SLMQ’s calendar. I believe that the symposium will contribute, towards widening the knowledge of the membership.

I wish the members of the Majlis and their families every success.

Jayantha Palipane
23.04.2013



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In the Name of Allah, The Most Merciful & The Most Beneficent

May The Peace, Blessing & Mercy of Almighty Allah be upon all of you.

It is with great pleasure & honor to address you as the president of SLMQ, on the occasion of 12th SLMQ symposium, which is one of the important and an eventful day in the calendar of SLMQ. On behalf of the Executive Committee I welcome each one of you on this day and as SLMQ members we have the ability to make changes that will benefit the needy.

I am proud to state that the year 2012/13 has been another successful year in the long journey of SLMQ. We have many Projects and events accomplished both locally in Qatar as well as back home in Sri Lanka. We had our calendar of events for the members and the Sri Lankan community at large as usual in this as well. A key achievement was the inauguration of our Bachelors' wing last October. Since inception, we had few successful events targeting the Bachelors who deserve to be looked after due to lack of facilities. Many more activities are lined up for the rest of the year.

Back in Sri Lanka we continued to support various initiatives for the benefit of many needy families, specially the Widows. We continued to provide necessary equipments and utensils for them to be self employed. All these were carefully evaluated and done through our sister Associations working in several areas in Sri Lanka.

We continued to strengthen our relationship with other Associations operating in Qatar for the common benefit of all Sri Lankans living in Qatar

Finally I thank our Patron H.E. Jayantha Palipane, The Ambassador of Sri Lanka for his continued support and cooperation and all the members of the Embassy Staff for their support at various times.

We also thank Sheikh Mufti Ismail Menk for joining us this evening to enlighten us by sharing his knowledge. Our thank goes to all our sponsors and well wishers who have helped SLMQ to achieve it's goals. There is no SLMQ not for any members. We thank all our members for their continued patronage and support throughout the year.

Wish all of you a pleasant and a memorable evening.

Wassalam

M. Hazim Hamza

President - SLMQ



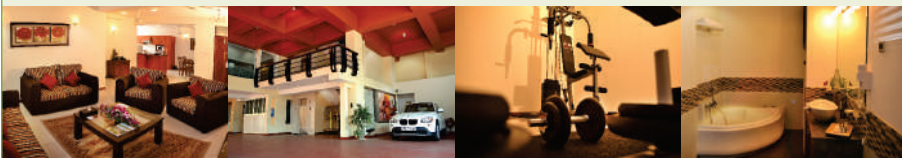
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All praise to Almighty Allah. Peace, Blessings & Mercy of Almighty on the last and final Messenger Prophet Muhammed (SAW), His Companions and all those who followed thereafter.

SLMQ has grown from strength to strength as the parent organization of the Muslim community living in Qatar over the last decade. As such it is with great pleasure that we present our activities during the past year.

Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) held its eleventh annual symposium on Friday, 25 May 2012 at Gulf Paradise Hotel. The keynote speaker in this year's event was Mufthi Ismail Musa Menk from Zimbabwe who delivered the keynote speech on the title "Unity & Brotherhood" which was the theme of the evening.

During the Ramadan 2012, SLMQ engaged in several activities including Ifthar Programmes for members as well as the general public. As in the previous years, SLMQ conducted Eid Prayers at the Sri Lanka Embassy premises both on Eid Al Fitr and Eid Al Adha.

SLMQ successfully staged its Annual Cookery Challenge Competition 2012 for its members on 28 September 2012 at Tariq Bin Ziyad Secondary School for Boys. The evening also enlightened with a live salad competition for men.

On 18th October 2012, SLMQ conducted a lecture on "Parenting and Child Psychology by a visiting educationalist from Sri Lanka at Tariq Bin Ziyad Secondary School for Boys.

As part of its broader objective of serving the entire Muslim community living in Qatar, SLMQ initiated to formally inaugurate its "BWING" to cater to the wider Sri Lankan population. In this respect, SLMQ BWING organized a lecture titled "The Way to Happiness" an interactive evening presentation in an Islamic perspective specially designed for the "hard working" force.

SLMQ BWING had its first career guidance programme for 2013 on Friday, 18 January 2013 at FANAR. More than 60 youth in their various stages of their career attended the workshop. The renewed career service of SLMQ was also launched at this program.

Cont...



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SLMQ conducted a full day program on "Personal Development and Time Management in Light of Islam" on 25th January 2013. More than 25 participants benefitted from this course conducted by Rushdi Ismail.

SLMQ organized competitions among the Sri Lankan students in the State of Qatar to mark the 65th Independence Day of Sri Lanka on 01st February 2013 at the Sri Lanka Embassy premises for the 12th consecutive year. Public Relations Department of Ministry of Interior facilitated the winners of Sub Junior Coloring Competition.

To mark the Qatar National Sports Day, SLMQ Challenge Trophy cricket tournament was held on 12th February 2013 at the Old Indian School Grounds for the second consecutive year. Zahira College Colombo Qatar OBA won the SLMQ Challenge Trophy 2013 in a heavily contested final with SSC Wakrah.

SLMQ had many public programs during the year which were attended by hundreds of Sri Lankans in Qatar.

SLMQ in association with other associations in Qatar took the lead in organizing an awareness program regarding the communal harmony and responsibilities of the citizens by Mufthi M.I.M. Rizvi. SLMQ hosted a public program titled "Responsibilities of the Today's Youth" by Ash Sheikh Arkam Nooramith (Rashadi), "Today's Challenges and Responsibilities of Muslim Ummah" by Ash Sheikh Yoosuf Mufthi and "Sri Lankan Muslims and Contemporary Undertakings", The President of Muslim Council of Sri Lanka and senior journalist Mr. NM Ameen, Dr. Inamullah Maseehudeen and Eng. Abdul Rahuman delivered speeches at this public event.

For the first time in Qatar, SLMQ organized "Community Meeting", a concept to connect with all Sri Lankan groups to work together on common issues affecting the Sri Lankans in Qatar and have a unified voice in matters of national interest. The first meeting was held March 26, at Gulf Paradise Hotel.

We thank our members and the community at large for their participation and we look forward to the continued support to have more meaningful and useful programs to the community in Qatar and serve much better to the communities in Sri Lanka through our projects.

We are indeed grateful to the almighty for the success of these programs and I take this opportunity to warmly welcome all the invited guests and members of SLMQ the Symposium 2013.

Mohammed Lafir

General Secretary - SLMQ

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VISION

To lead the Sri Lankan Muslim community in Qatar as a forum in its unity, prosperity and growth.

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 activities.

OBJECTIVES

To develop and strengthen cordial ties among families, communities and other associations, thereby deriving greater benefit for the community.

Educational and Religious Activities

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

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 Muslim 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
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The friendship of Abu Bakr and the Prophet (pbuh) started at a very early age, which later proved to life-long and history-making. The Prophet (pbuh) in his last sermon stated that *"No one has been a better companion to me than Abu Bakr"*.

From early years, Abu Bakr was known for good and upright nature. He was honest, truthful and kind-hearted. These qualities won him respect among the people.

Following revelation to Prophet (pbuh), Abu Bakr was the adult male to accept Islam. During the various stages of the Prophet's (pbuh) mission to spread Islam, Abu Bakr proved to be great companion and served the Prophet (pbuh) with great distinction.

As soon as he became a Muslim, he began to preach Islam to others like Uthman, Zubair, Talha, Abdur Rahman bin Auf and Saad bin Waqqas who later became the pillars of Islam. Abu Bakr's was a wealthy merchant, and his wealth came to the rescue of many helpless Muslim slaves like Bilal. He bought them from their inhuman masters and set them free.

The Prophet (swt) conferred Abu Bakr with the title 'Siddiq' because of his strong and ready acceptance of the faith.

Abu Bakr was the main companion who accompanied the Prophet (pbuh) on the historic migration to Medina. Abu Bakr took part in all the battles that the Prophet (swt) had to fight including at Ohud and Hunain.

Following the death of Prophet (pbuh), Abu Bakr made the famous address: *"O people! If anyone among you worshipped Muhammad, let him know that Muhammad is dead. But those who worship Allah, let him know that He lives and will never die. Let all of us recall the words of the Qur'an. It says, 'Muhammad is only a Messenger of Allah There have been Messengers before him. What then, will you turn back from Islam, if he dies or is killed?'"*

Following the death of Prophet (pbuh), Abu Bakr was elected the first Caliph by the general consent of the people. During the Caliphate of Abu Bakr, he showed great exemplary leadership qualities including securing the safety of the frontier with the Byzantines; the war on the imposters; and the conquests of a number of territories.

After a brief illness, Abu Bakr passed away in 13 AH at the age of 63. He was buried by the side of the Prophet (pbuh).

Because of his exemplary character, Abu Bakr has the unique distinction of being referred to in the Holy Quran in several verses. For instance: *"He being the second of the two, When they were in the cave and when Muhammad said to his companion 'Grieve not, surely God is with us,' then God came to their help, and protected them with an army which they saw not". - {9:40}.*

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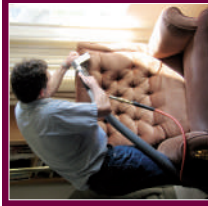
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Umar Ibn Alkhattab was the 2nd Caliph of Islam. He was born in Mecca to the Adi branch of the Quraish tribe.

When the mission of the Prophet (pbuh) was still in the early stage, Islam was still weak and helpless and when the chiefs of Mecca were up against it. One night the Prophet (pbuh) raised his hands and turned his eyes heavenward. "Lord!" he prayed, "make Islam strong with either of the two men, Amr bin Hisham or Umar bin Khattab. The prayer was instantly granted. Allah (swt) chose Umar to serve Islam.

The coming over of Umar made a difference for Islam, which earned him the title of Farooq.

One of the first actions which Umar did was to request the Prophet (pbuh) to openly say prayers in the Kaaba. This was the first prayer of its kind said in the Kaaba.

Following the death of Abu Bakr, Umar was elected the 2nd Caliph of Islam. During his Caliphate, Umar had successfully conquered the land of Iraq, Iran, Syria and Egypt.

It was the usual practice of Caliph Umar that he would patrol the streets and suburbs of Madina to watch the interests of the people, and attend to their needs.

Umar was the first to realize the necessity of the proper sifting of the traditions. Umar accordingly founded the science of Hadith. During his Caliphate, Umar took steps to ensure that the teaching of the Holy Quran was spread extensively, and that a large number of persons learnt the text by heart so that there could be no possibility of any corruption in the text. Under the orders of Umar, hundreds of schools were opened throughout the length and breadth of the Islamic world for the teaching of the Holy Quran.

Umar issued instructions to all concerned regarding the enforcement of the Hijri calendar.

Umar was known for his great knowledge and wisdom. He often expressed his thoughts in words conspicuous for their wisdom. A number of his sayings have come down to us, and these show the depths and dimensions of his thoughts and expressions.

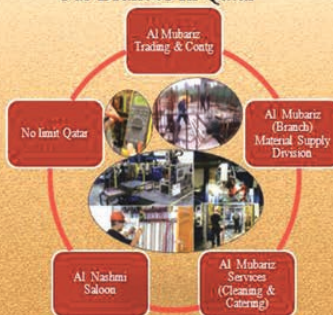
Many instances are on record when Umar gave a particular opinion and that opinion was later on corroborated by Allah and confirmation thereof was communicated to the Holy Prophet through Gabriel. That is why the Holy Prophet repeatedly said: *"God speaks through the tongue of Umar."*

In 644 AD, whilst leading the fajr prayer in the Prophets mosque, Umar murdered by the Persian slave Firoz. Umar is buried next to the Prophet (pbuh).



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Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) successfully staged its Annual Cookery Challenge Competition 2012 for its members on 28 September 2012 at Tariq Bin Ziyad Secondary School for Boys from 6.30 p.m to 9.30 p.m.

The evening also enlightened with a live salad competition for men. There were six contestants participated in the live salad competition.

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MOMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT



SLMQ COMMUNITY MEETING



SLMQ, organized “Community Meeting”, a concept to connect with all Sri Lankan groups to work together on common issues affecting the Sri Lankans in Qatar and have a unified voice in matters of national interest. The first meeting was held March 26, at Gulf Paradise Hotel.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013



Standing from left – Mr. Riza Mohamed, Mr. Iqbal Samdin, Mr. Tharik Cassim, Mr. Hafeel M Zubair, Mr. Ashkaf and Mr. Rifaz Marikkar.

Sitting from Left – Mr. Mohammed Lafir (General Secretary), H.E. Jayantha Palipane (Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the State of Qatar), Mr. Hazim Hamza (President)

Not in the Picture – Mr. Nazly Yousuf, Mr. Shahard Nazir, Mr. Shadir Hassan

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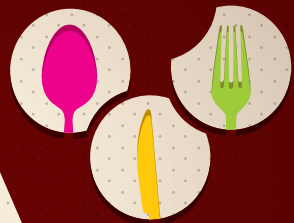
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Othman was born in Mecca and belonged to the Omayya branch of the Quraish. When Othman grew up, he became a cloth merchant. His business grew rapidly and he came to be looked upon as a top business man of the city. He often visited Syria in connection with his business. Flourishing business brought him both wealth and position.

It was Abu Bakr who won Othman for Islam. He and Othman were great friends. As soon as he heard the message of Islam, he accepted it. He was one of the first Muslims.

Othman was conspicuous for his strong moral character. He was handsome and wealthy, and many women were attracted to him, but he never touched a woman beyond wedlock. In the immoral society of Makkah in the age of ignorance, he led a chaste life. He never touched wine. He did not gamble, and took no part in the frivolities which formed the pastime of the youth of Makkah.

The Prophet (pbuh) gave to him his daughter, Ruqayya in marriage. Uthman migrated with Ruqayya to Abyssinia. He returned from Abyssinia and then migrated with his wife to Yathrib in 622. In Yathrib renamed Madina, Uthman carried on his business as a merchant. His business flourished, and Uthman and Ruqayya lived on happily for sometime in Madina.

In 624 C.E. Ruqayya fell ill and died when the Prophet (pbuh) and the Muslims were fighting with the Quraish at the battlefield of Badr. The news of the Muslim victory of Badr was received at Madina when the good lady was being buried. The Holy Prophet could not attend the funeral of Ruqayya.

Othman was then married to Umm Kulthum the third daughter of the Prophet (pbuh). Umm Kulthum died in 630 barely six years after her marriage.

Othman already well known for his generosity stepped up his beneficent activities. He financed the project for the extension of the Prophet's mosque in Madina; purchasing the "B'er Rauma"; and liberal contribution for the financing of the expedition to Tabuk. Due to Othman's significant generosity, the Prophet (pbuh) gave him the tiding of paradise in the world to come.

During his caliphate Othman took several measures with a view to promoting the purposes of Islam. This included the successful conquering parts of Spain, Island of Cyprus and Transoxiana

Caliph Othman was murdered by rebel movement and he is buried in Medina.

YWMA – SINGLE MOTHER ASSISTANCE PROJECT

SLMQ together with YWMA in Sri Lanka assisted to over 24 single mothers to set up their own income sources. Sewing machines, gas cookers and electric ovens were distributed among them. The Project was partially funded by SLMQ member contributions.

YWMA – VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG LADIES

SLMQ in association with YWMA sponsored a fully fledged vocational training program for under privileged young ladies. Many benefited from this vocational training and found suitable career opportunities.

NOORIYYA ARABIC COLLEGE

This is a registered Arabic College in Trincomalee District, which was finding difficult to accommodate additional students due to lack of bathroom facilities. SLMQ sponsored to upgrade the sanitary facilities of the College.

CONTRIBUTION FOR A CENTER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

SLMQ contributed to cater educational facilities to children with special needs. This education center is located in Dehiwala, Sri Lanka and in operation successfully. SLMQ also made financial contribution to set up this facility.

FIRE VICTIMS IN QATAR

SLMQ immediately responded and provided relief to over 120 Sri Lankans who were badly affected by a fire in their labour camp in Shahniya Area. These laborers were left by the company without any facilities including basics such as food, washroom, accommodation, and clothing. Despite being in this state, they were forced to report for work following morning. SLMQ provided best possible assistance to these victims in association with Sri Lanka Community benevolent Fund.

HAMEED AL HUSSEINI COLLEGE

SLMQ provided financial assistance for a teachers' training programme at Hameed Al Hussein College – Colombo to enhance the quality of teaching methodologies in key subjects.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR NEW MUSLIMS

SLMQ financially contributed for a vocational training facility for new Muslims which trains brothers who newly embraced Islam in various vocational training including carpentry and masonry for their livelihood.

FLOOD RELIEF IN SRI LANKA

SLMQ, as in every occasion before in a crisis situation back in motherland, organized a fund raiser programme to assist the victims of the continuous flood situation in Sri Lanka. The Funds were provided to help the needy for the supply of basic amenities and medical needs.

DONATION TO SRI LANKA CANCER HOSPITAL

SLMQ took part in Stafford School Eid Carnival and donated the 50% of all collections made to the Cancer Hospital Sri Lanka through Stafford School. A substantial amount was contributed through this Eid Carnival.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SLMQ sponsored to share 50% of expenses of a major scholarship programme with its affiliated body Al Huda Foundation for vocational training courses for youth with Insight Institute – Sri Lanka.

STAFFORD SCHOOL - AVURUDU POLA

SLMQ took part in the Avurudu Pola 2013. 25% of the sale proceeds were donated to School Development Fund while the rest of the collections from this Avurudu Pola will be used for a refurbishment and renovation of rural hospital in Sri Lanka.

In addition, the SLMQ members' children and families took part in a special kid's zone activity and contributed 50% of collections for the School Development Fund and the rest to the Hospital project.

This project is still ongoing and more funds are being sought to complete the project. The Project will eventually cost approximately QR 95,000 at completion.

OTHERS

SLMQ provided a part contribution for surgical expenses to a deserving patient to perform a lifesaving surgery.



Al Huda Foundation

(An Affiliate of Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar)

Doha

State of Qatar

Email – alhudafund@gmail.com

Website – <https://sites.google.com/site/alhudafund/>

Message from Al Huda Foundation

Al Huda Foundation ("The Foundation") was established in November 2006 by a group of Sri Lankan professionals living in the State of Qatar. It was formed with the primary objective to persistently pursue to uplift the education of needy Muslim students in Sri Lanka. The Foundation is dedicated and determined to help these needy and talented students by providing them with much-needed financial assistance to continue their higher education. Initially commencing with a handful of members, *Alhamdulillah* the Foundation has grown steadily in size and content during the past six years with current membership strength of over 100 active members.

Primary Objective

To provide financial assistance to needy candidates who are identified by the members eligible for assistance to continue their higher education.

Progress update

The Foundation currently provides scholarship for more than 85 students across major education streams including commerce & finance, medicine, islamic studies, engineering and arts. By the grace of Allah, as of now 40 students have benefited from the scholarship and have successfully completed their higher education and are self sufficient now, helping the Sri Lankan society at large.

In 2013, The Foundation has joined hands with SLMQ to commence scholarships for vocational training programs for needy Sri Lankan youths. We continue, together with SLMQ, to explore more diversified opportunities to educate and uplift the Sri Lankan community.

Finally, we would like to thank the President, the Executive Committee and the Members of the SLMQ for their continuous support in our activities. We wish the SLMQ Symposium 2013 to be a grand success.

For more information please visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/alhudafund/>

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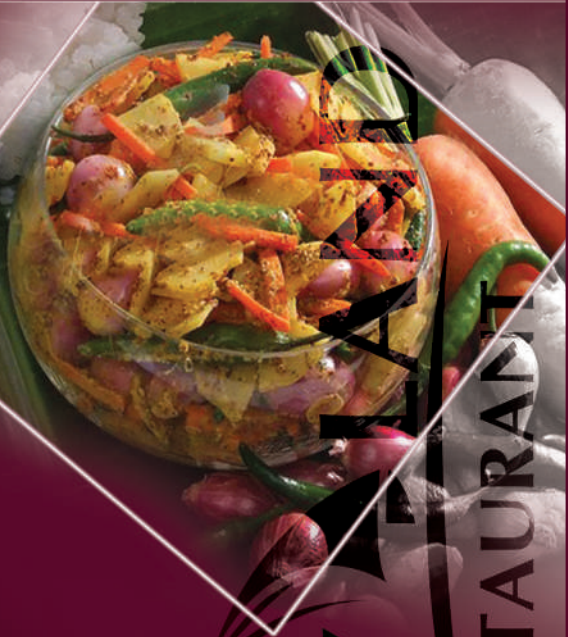
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May Allah be pleased with him

Ali was the 4th Caliph of Islam. He was the cousin of the Prophet (pbuh), as Ali's father – Abu Talib was the Prophet's Uncle.

When Ali was born, the Prophet (pbuh) took Ali to his own home and brought him up like his own son. He did this to take a little burden off the shoulders of his loving uncle. But this had another effect too. Ali grew up in the atmosphere of virtue and piety which no other home could provide.

Ali was over nine years of age when the Prophet (pbuh) was called to the Divine Mission. He was the first youth to join the fold of Islam.

Prophet (pbuh) gave away his daughter, Fatima, to Ali in marriage. She was his youngest daughter and the most dearly loved of all. Ali realised the honor done to him. He married no other wife as long as Fatima lived. Hasan and Husain were the sons of Ali and Fatima.

Fatima passed away in early 633 C E, barely six months after the passing away of the Prophet (pbuh). She was only twenty-nine years old at the time of her death. Her marriage lasted for a short period of eight or nine years only. During this period she gave birth to five children, three sons and two daughters.

Ali was the most learned man of his age. He was a living encyclopedia of knowledge and learning. Because of his knowledge and wisdom he is known as the "Second Solomon". His wise sayings and aphorisms have attained the status of classical proverbs. He was the first person to write a grammar of the Arabic language. Among the early Muslims he is the only person whose collections of writings have come down to us under the title of Nahj-ul-Balagha (The way of eloquence).

He was a distinguished poet. He enjoys fame as the "Father of Rhetoric". He was an authority on Mathematics. He was a master of the science of Physics. He had deep medical knowledge. After the Prophet (pbuh), Ali is regarded as the greatest philosopher of Islam. He was a calligrapher and his handwriting was beautiful.

He was the first person to learn the Quran by heart. According to commentators there are at least three hundred verses in the Holy Quran which have an implied reference to Ali. After the Prophet (pbuh), Ali was the chief judge among the early Muslims. He is regarded as the "Father of Fiqh".

Generosity was one of the main attributes of Ali. Ali was the hero of many a battle fought in the lifetime of the Prophet (pbuh). With the exception of the battle of Tabuk, he joined all battles and expeditions.

Ali was martyred in 661 in the city of Kufa in Iraq.



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Eid Prayers



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My Dear Sister,

Know, my dear Muslim sister, that you are man's sister and half of humanity. You are a mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, granddaughter or grandmother. *The Prophet said, what translated means, Women are, indeed, men's partners.* [Abu Dawud]

You are a member of the great nation of Islam, the best nation ever produced for mankind. No other nation on earth has more great men, leaders and conquerors than this nation. It is the nation of guidance and the straight religion, and it leads humanity to righteousness and truth. It transforms people from worshippers of slaves to worshippers of the Lord of slaves, from life's pressures to the pleasures of the Life after, and from the injustice of other religions to the justice of Islam.

Your ancestors, great women of Islam, were one of the main reasons for this great nation to take this great place among all nations. Allah, who granted Islam to this nation, made a high place for Muslim women, and decreed that they share in the responsibilities of enjoining truth, forbidding evil and raising the flag of Islam. He said, what translated means,

"The believers, men and women, are loyalists of one another, they enjoin righteousness and forbid evil, they offer their prayers perfectly and give the Zakat, and obey Allah and His Messenger. Allah will leave His Mercy on them. Surely Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise." [Quran 9:71]

Allah has given Muslim women what they can bare of orders and duties. He is the God Who knows His creation,

"Should He not know what He created? And He is the Most Kind, All-Aware (of everything)." [Quran 67:14]

My dear sister, you are called upon today to truly become an active member of the Muslim nation, strive to establish victory for Allah's Word, implement the Quran and help build the generation of Iman.

Be proud of your religion and the religion of your ancestors. Be a good example for your sons and daughters and sincere in your belonging to this mighty nation.

Know that honor is an honor to all wise people, and that adultery is dishonorable to all nations, even if some called it freedom. Know that adultery is also done with the eyes by seeing, with the ears by listening, and with the mouth by kissing, as was mentioned in a Hadith related by Imam Muslim.

Your happiness is in being an obedient and believing daughter, a loyal and generous wife and a pious and merciful mother.

Know that prayer is the cornerstone of Islam. Charity is a major cause for gaining forgiveness and for repentance to be accepted. Hijab is an honor and protection for you.

Beware of the loyalists of Satan who want to lead you astray.

Perform your duty and do not be a cause for destruction. Be a maker of righteous generation that will lead mankind, again, to what is right and proper, to the great religion of Islam.

Be a slave of Allah, righteous and descendent of righteous women and know your role in building this great nation.

Compilation – Mohammed Lafir

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Abdullah ibn Umar was born to Umar ibn al-Khattab and his wife Zaynab bint Madh'uwn in the year 614. Abdullah also accepted Islam at a young age, but he was not allowed to join the Prophet (pbuh) in battle until he was fifteen. The first battle he fought in was against the army of Abu Sufyan during the Battle of the Trench.

It was recorded from Abu Salim, that Prophet (pbuh) said that "Abdullah would be a good man if he would pray the tahajjud prayers." Abu Salim said: "After that, ' I and Abdullah would not sleep during the night."

From an early age, Abdullah ibn Umar showed great eagerness to be accompanied with the Prophet (pbuh) in all his tasks. He had accepted Islam before he was ten years old and had made the Hijrah with his father and his sister, Hafsa, who was later to become a wife of the Prophet (pbuh). He was also turned away from the Battle of Badr and it was not until the Battle of the trench that he and Usamah, both now fifteen years old and others of their age were allowed to join the ranks of the men, not only for the digging of the trench but for the battle when it came.

From the time of his Hijrah until the time of his death more than seventy years later, Abdullah showed himself in the service of Islam and was made among Muslims as "the Good One, son of the Good One", according to Abu Musa al-Ashari.

He learnt from the greatest teacher of all, Prophet (pbuh). Abdullah would observe closely every saying and action of the Prophet in so many occasions, and he would practice what he observed closely.

For example, if Abdullah saw the Prophet (pbuh) performing Salat in a particular place, he would later pray in the same place. If he saw the Prophet (pbuh) making a supplication while standing, he would also make a dua while standing. If he saw Prophet (pbu) making a dua while sitting, he would do the same.

Once in a journey, he saw the Prophet (pbuh) come down from his camel at a place and pray two rakats, and he had to pass on the same route, he would stop at the same place and pray two rakats. In a place in Makkah, he once observed the Prophet's camel making two complete turns before he came down and prayed two rakats. Abdullah ibn Umar when he happened to be in the same place at another time, made his camel complete two turns before making it kneel and come down. He then prayed two rakats in the same manner as he had seen the Prophet (pbuh) do.

(Compiled by Uzair Shuaib, 11 years).



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Asma Bint Abu Bakr Bint Siddiq was born in 595 AD. Asma was the sister-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the daughter of Abu Bakr ibn Siddiq. She was a very noble and trustworthy woman. She was given the nickname of Dhat-An-Nitaqayn – she of the two belts. She was given this name by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself.

Asma was the older sister of Aisha, the wife of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). She was ten years older than her. Asma married Zubayr ibn Al-Awwam (RAL). She gave birth to two sons named Urwa ibn Zubayr and Abdullah ibn Zubayr

Asma was the eighteenth person to accept Islam. When the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) sought refuge in a cave outside Mecca on the occasion of migration to Medina, it was Asma who used to carry food to them under the cover of darkness. She also was known to be a very brave woman.

She had a very sharp and intelligent memory, and many Hadiths were attributed to her. She died in 73AH when she was around 100 years old.

Zainab Shuaib (9 years)

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