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In the name of Allah, the most Gracious and the most Merciful



Symposium - 2017

27th April 2017
Doha Marriott Hotel

Sri Lankan Majlis - Qatar
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www.slmq.org

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VISION

To lead the Sri Lankan Muslim community as a forum in it's unity, prosperity and growth.

MISSION

To bring all Sri Lankan Muslim families resident in Qatar under a common platform and conduct activities of educational, religious, cultural and charitable backgrounds.

OBJECTIVE

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 and Workshops
- Competitions for Children and Adults
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- Hajj and 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.

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MESSAGE

Sri Lanka Majlis (SLMQ) is one of the few organizations which is under the patronage of Sri Lankan Embassy. It interacts with the Sri Lankan Muslim community in Qatar. Their contribution towards the welfare and advancement of Sri Lankan Muslim community both here and in Sri Lanka seems to be satisfactory. Its performance during the current year in the sphere of arts, culture, sports, language and education are monumental events that all the members could be proud of.

SLMQ – being a member of Sri Lanka Coordinating Committee (SLCC), maintains a discrete balance between and among the communities, exhibiting the members 'will' for peaceful co-existence with all irrespective of ethnicity, race, cast and creed.

At the eve of 16th Anniversary of SLMQ, I take this opportunity to convey my heartiest congratulations and best wishes for all those members who made dedicated commitments to foster "friendship with all and enmity with none". May Almighty God Allah Bless upon all of you!

P.D.P.S.A. Liyanage
Ambassador
16.04.2017

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President's Message



In the name of Allah The most Gracious and The Most Merciful

*All praise be to Allah, The Almighty, and The Lord of the Universe.
May the Peace and Blessings be upon His Final Prophet and the
Messenger.*

It is with great pleasure and much delight I extend a warm and sincere greetings to all of you on the occasion of the 16th Annual Symposium of Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar.

From the humble beginnings of a handful of individuals, today SLMQ consists of over 200 families and have our relationships established through a well-coordinated network spanning across government ministries, private organizations and other social and religious associations in Qatar, the SLMQ enforces its key role - community building and development with wider vision today.

SLMQ has had its own theme for each year in the past and concentrated on contributing to the development of the selected theme. The theme for the year is "Empowering our Youth" where we intend to execute selected programs to empower the youth during the coming period.

We are excited about our future as a team. With the growth that SLMQ has seen over the years, we look forward to build a stronger community together. As President for the year 2017, I am honored to serve this organization and its members. We have an exceptional legacy to serve as our foundation as we work together to build a better platform to our future generations.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I would like to thank H.E. A.S.P. Liyanage, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka who has been a source of inspiration and motivation for all our activities. My sincere appreciation goes to Mrs. K.H.C. Sankapali, the Second Secretary and all the staff of the Embassy of Sri Lanka as well for their continuous assistance.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our Guest Speaker Sheikh Sajid Ahmed Umar who graciously accepted our invitation to deliver the keynote address today.

I would like to thank our Corporate Sponsor Ooredoo Qatar who has become a pillar of strength and has been supporting us since 2006. All other sponsors and well-wishers deserve our appreciation for their continued support and confidence that they have placed on us.

Finally I wish to express my sincere appreciation for all our members for their loyalty and support throughout our journey from the beginning.

May Almighty Allah keep all of us in the right path, guide everyone to serve the humanity and grant strength to be of service to the communities in the future.

Mohammed Lafir

President, SLMQ



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Report from the General Secretary

In the name of Allah The most Gracious and The Most Merciful

All praise and thanks belong to almighty Allah alone, the one all high, the one all merciful. Blessings and peace be upon Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the last messenger of Allah.



It is with great pleasure that I present this report on behalf of the Executive Committee for the Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar.

The Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar's (SLMQ) chosen theme for the year 2017 is "Empowering our Youth". The theme was chosen to emphasise SLMQ's commitment to open horizons and bring new opportunities for our youth.

The focus this year is a natural step further from our last year's theme of Enriching Lives. We pride ourselves in building bridges and joining families. A strong family unit is the foundation for our youth to flourish. It is not only necessary that we empower our youth, but it is paramount that we give them the opportunities to thrive.

Returning back to our Annual Symposium, it is usually held in May of each year, however, in 2016 due to various reasons, it was shifted to September. We have now returned to our usual calendar slot of holding the symposium.

Since the last Symposium, SLMQ has conducted many events, reaching out to young and old, individuals and families.

After several events in Ramadan and in the latter part of the Summer months like our Family Day, in November we invited Ash-Sheikh Mufti Yoosuf Haneefa to deliver a series of Islamic Lectures.

In December, we had our Annual General Meeting, where the incumbent Executive Committee was elected.

In January 2017, we invited Ash-Sheikh Sajid Umar to deliver a series of lectures. Sheikh Sajid, who is our key note speaker today, was invited with a lot of affection, due to his ability to engage with youth and relate to the challenges they face.

In February, the Competitions to mark the Independence Day of Sri Lanka was also held with many children participating in the Essay, Drawing, Colouring and Speech competitions. In the spirit of Empowering our Youth, we handed over the baton to two of our youth to conduct the proceedings. A huge thank you and congratulations for a job well done. We also embraced the digital age with Facebook live streaming of the proceedings too.

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Report from the General Secretary



The Qatar National Sports Day event was planned and was ready for execution in February. However, due to the adverse weather conditions, the Executive Committee made the decision to postpone the event on health and safety grounds. Nevertheless, the delayed Sports Day event held in March at Simeisma Youth Centre, was a definite success with joint teams of children and adults having a wonderful time.

In April, we hosted another guest, Ash-Sheikh Abdul Haliq, who delivered a series of lectures.

Alhamdulillah, we were able to have events every month since last November and bring our community together.

Simultaneously, we worked on initiatives back in Sri Lanka too. Some of these are listed below

A Project with Muslim Aid to help deserving women who are single/widowed breadwinners of the family in the Colombo district and provide aid to increase their own earning capability was successfully completed. There were 25 families benefitting from this project enabling them a permanent source of income. You would have seen the video today that provided an update.

As you all can see, a number of activities have been delivered this year and we are indeed grateful to Almighty Allah for the success of these programmes and make supplications to the Almighty Allah to grant the same success and more in future as well.

On behalf of the SLMQ Executive Committee, I warmly welcome all our members and invited guests and value your esteemed presence this evening for the 16th Annual Symposium of SLMQ.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to make the SLMQ programmes during this period, an eventful and successful one.

Asaf Bakeer Markar

General Secretary



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دعوة للمناسبات

Dawa'h Events

Message from Al Huda Foundation



Al Huda Foundation
(An Affiliate of Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar)
Doha
State of Qatar
Email – info@alhudawelfare.org

Message from Al Huda Foundation

Al Huda Foundation ("The Foundation") celebrated its 10th Anniversary in November 2016. It was formed by a group of Sri Lankan professionals living in the State of Qatar with the primary objective of persistently helping to uplift the education of needy 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 10 years with current membership strength of over 150 active members.

Primary Objective

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

Progress update

The Foundation currently provides scholarship for more than 140 students across major education streams including Commerce & Finance, Medicine, Engineering, Islamic Studies, Law and Arts. By the grace of Allah, as of now around 150 students have completed their studies with the assistance of the foundation and are self-sufficient now, helping back the Sri Lankan society at large.

In 2013, The Foundation 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. In addition, Al Huda works closely with SLMQ for fund collection drive for any special aid projects such as the Aluthgama Rehabilitation project and the 2016 Flood Relief project etc.

Finally, we would like to thank the President, the Executive Committee, the Advisory Committee and the Members of SLMQ for their continuous and unconditional support in our activities. We wish the Symposium 2017 to be a grand success and hope it will be a remarkable one in the history of SLMQ.

For more information please feel free to reach us through our official email info@alhudawelfare.org.

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Symposium - 2016



The Annual Symposium 2016 was held on Friday, the 27th May 2016 at the Doha Marriott. The keynote speaker was Sheikh Yawar Baig. The theme for the 2016 symposium was "Enriching Lives". The souvenir was released by the Chief Guest H.E. prof. (Dr.) W.M. Karunadasa, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the State of Qatar.



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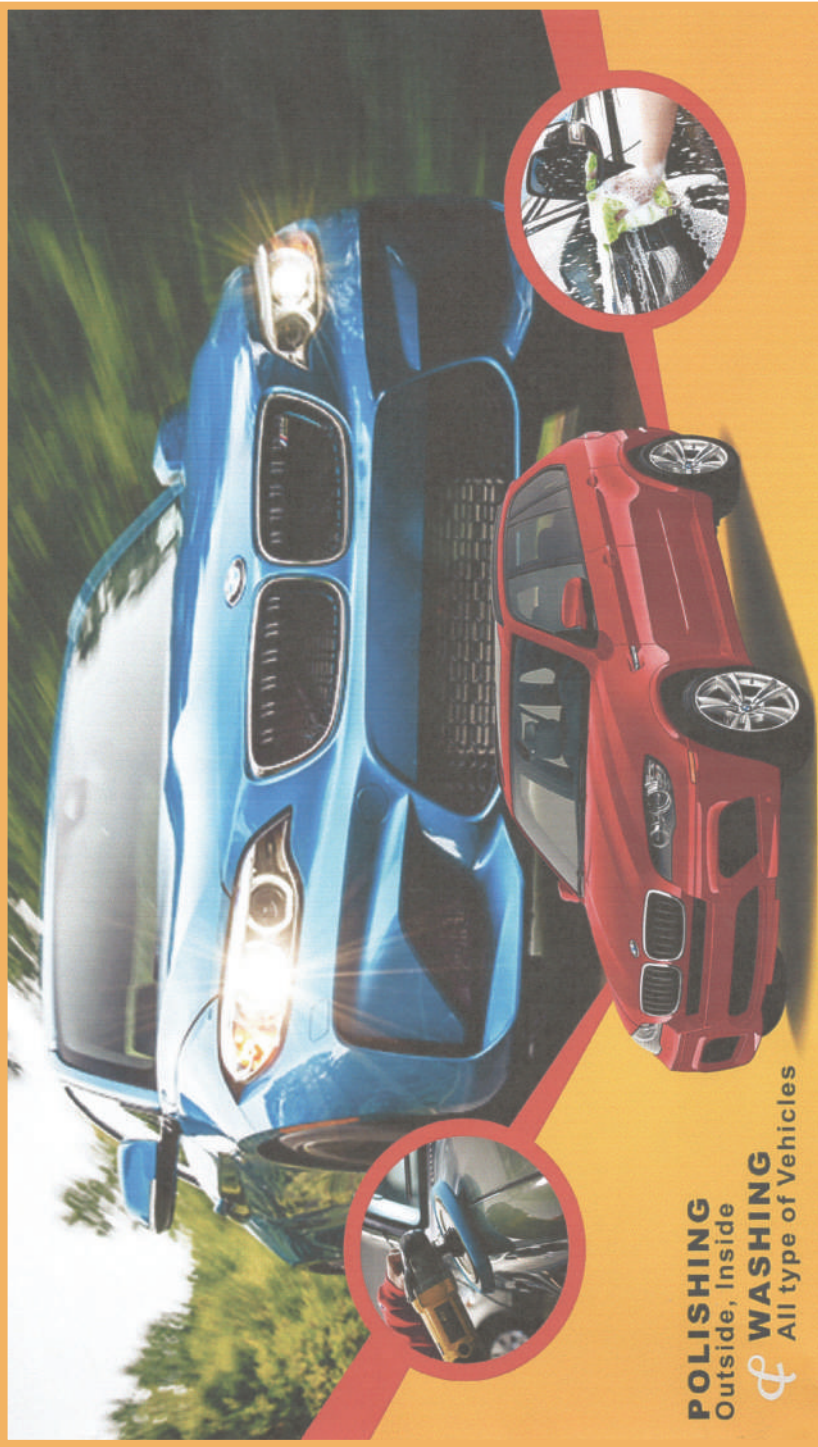
The Month of Ramadan 2016



First Ifthar was the community Ifthar co-organized in association with Sheikh Thani Bin Abdulla Foundation for Humanitarian Services (RAF) and The Ministry of Interior (MOI) Qatar on Friday, 10 June 2016 at Al Arabi Stadium.

The SLMQ Family Ifthar was held on Saturday, 11 June 2016 at Al Maha Academy for Boys.

The Community Ifthar organized by the Embassy of Sri Lanka was held on Friday, 24 June 2016 at the Embassy premises with the participation of all community members.



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Family Fun Day

A family entertainment day out was organized for the member families of SLMQ on Friday, 25th November 2016 at a farm house location in Umm Salal Ali.

A number of events including games and fun activities were organized for the enjoyment of the families and children on this day.



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Family Sports Day 2017

SLMQ hosted an event to mark the Qatar National Sports Day at Sumaisma Youth Center for its member families on Friday, 31 March 2017 from 2.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. The event was originally planned to be held on the Qatar National Sports but was postponed due to bad weather conditions that prevailed at the time.

The event included separate sports activities for Ladies, Gents and children. The gents' sport activities included Elle (the Sri Lankan version of Baseball type sport), and other traditional sports and fun games of Sri Lanka.

The Ladies' had their activities separately including fund games and other traditional sports.

The boys' and girls' had their share of activities in 25, 50 meter races, ball passing, badminton and basketball.



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I dream of the world's greatest pilot who flies the world's best carrier, taking people to places they could only dream of as children, exuding effortless charm and hospitality such that every person desires to meet him, train with him, and learn from him.

I dream of an unsurpassed surgeon who walks the corridors of the best hospitals in the world, followed eagerly by dozens of wide-eyed interns paying attention to every word that crosses his lips. He completes the most intricate of operations and has the most rarest of knowledge and skills; he strives and perseveres in saving thousands of lives in the most internationally acknowledged of ways.



I dream of a scientist who has reached the pinnacle of success and is the pillar of every conference and symposium the world has ever hosted in relation to his field, because he has in his intellect that which others are yet to acquire. He ponders and reflects, fearlessly imagines and stretches the boundaries of that known further than ever done before.

I dream of a school principal overwhelmed by the countless job offers he receives from the most recognised educational establishments the world has ever witnessed. One who is sought after by the world's most elite governments, and who, with fierce determination and focus, endeavours to build several schools of his own aiming at redefining excellence. He utilises his utmost passions and skills into building the next century or even two.

I dream of a sportsman who is excellent in effort and continuously strives to redefine his boundaries. He fearlessly chases every record in the field of play and serves as an inspiration to every aspiring athlete; one who is followed by millions spanning all across the globe, not only for his talent but for his unmatched character, generosity and wisdom. He inspires the youth to dream big, be relentless in their pursuit of their ambitions, and to aim high even when all the odds are piled up against them.

I dream of a thousand selfless, visioned billionaires running multinational business empires with scores of people that love them. Businessmen and women who have earned every penny's worth of their fortune in a praiseworthy ethical manner whilst keeping their fortunes in their hands and not their hearts. They work tirelessly and

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Let's make our dreams a reality!

selflessly day in and day out to support the scholars and propagators, the poor and the needy, the old and the young, developing a world that truly can be called a better place.

I dream and **I dream** and **I dream** that from our Ummah will arise these giants! Giants that will inspire generations!

I dream of ambitious leaders with the passion and drive to spark a never-ending change in this world. I hope that there will rise from amongst us heroes and heroines who aspire to reach nothing short of excellence and whose lofty ambitions will be a guiding light in this dark world.

Above all, **I dream** of all these giants looking like Muslims, behaving like Muslims, speaking like Muslims whilst living only for the sake of Allah Almighty Alone. When they address the entire globe, every ear of every listener becomes attached to every movement of their lips, because they are who they are! And when they begin their lingering address, they begin with the words: "Indeed all praises belong to Allah Almighty alone, we praise Him, we seek His assistance and we seek His forgiveness..."

This is my dream that I believe is possible with "Laa Ilaaha Illallah"! These simple words that make excellence the minimum requirement. These simple words that demand the four I's of success being present in our lives; Ikhlāas (sincerity), Ilm (knowledge), Ihsaan (excellence) and Istiqāamah (steadfastness)!

I dream, because things do not happen to Muslims! Rather Muslims happen to things!

I dream, because Muslims were placed on earth to teach, to be inspirational, to invent, to relate and formulate!

I dream, because we were only sent as givers and not takers!

I dream, because for Muslims; dreams were never that which you saw in your sleep, but rather that which keeps you awake and stops you from sleeping!

I dream, I dream, I dream, and I believe!

Dream big, work hard and together let's assume our podiums of excellence and make our dreams a reality!

Your brother,
Sajid Umar



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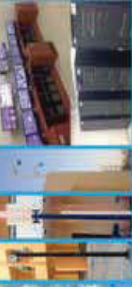
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Independence Day Competitions 2017

SLMQ conducted its Independence Day Competitions among Sri Lankan children living in Qatar for the fourteenth consecutive year on Friday, 24 February 2017 from 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. at the Sri Lanka Embassy premises.

The competition included Public Speaking, and Colouring while the Essay Writing and Drawing Competitions were concluded earlier on 03 February 2017.

The public speaking competition was adjudged by senior toast masters from Doha Toast Masters Club, while art and drawing specialists from Sri Lankan School adjudged drawing and coloring competitions. Two senior academics judged the essay writing competition.

The prizes and certificates were awarded to the winners by the Charge D'Affairs at the Embassy of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mrs. K.H.C. Sankapali.





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Enriching Lives

Implementation Partner



As part of its theme in 2016, SLMQ implemented the enriching lives project in the Colombo district to uplift the living standards of 30 selected vulnerable families.

The central part of Colombo has become a predominantly low income residential area with many slums and shanties. Half of the population of Colombo has been living for many years in slums, shanties and other types of low income settlements.

This area is not only marginalized due to economic vulnerability but also has been under the control of the members of the under-world gangs and drug dealers. This pushes the community into economic, social and cultural vulnerability.

There are many broken families in the area which has resulted in many widowed women who are compelled to carry forward their life without male support or proper income. The economic and social vulnerability of the area deprived the children in accessing school and to receive quality education. These with other reasons have led to degradation of these communities which has resulted in many anti-social elements like underworld gangs, drug addicts and drug dealers emerging from this area.

Project title "Enriching Lives"

Objective Economic Empowerment

Sustainable Livelihood support for the vulnerable / women headed families in Colombo and suburbs

Number of beneficiaries 30 families



Projects in Sri Lanka

Classroom Project for Fathima Balika Vidyalaya - Badulla

SLMQ funded to build a classroom building for Fathima Balika Vidyalaya, a school situated in the remote area of Badulla district.

The classrooms will be used for accommodating the primary children of the school and was a much needed support for the ailing children of the area.



Projects in Sri Lanka

Darul Hasanath Children Home

SLMQ funded the construction of the dining and kitchen complex for the Darul Hasanath Children Home in Hemmathagama. The Children Home houses nearly 150 orphan children at the location and does a great service to the community by rehabilitating orphan children who have suffered due to various social issues.



SLAS Seminar

SLMQ, in association with local organization in Puttalam, conducted a seminar to guide the candidates who wish to sit for the Sri Lanka Administration Services examination in March 2017. There were more than 50 participants benefitted from the one day seminar and was a great success. SLMQ aims to replicate the same seminar series island wide to encourage the youth to join the administration services in the government sector in Sri Lanka.



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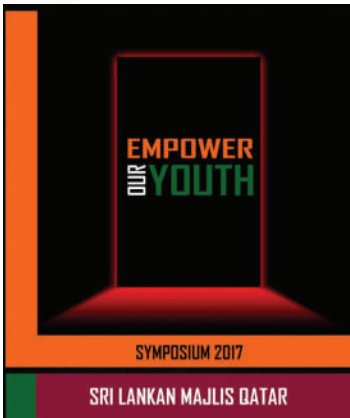


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Empowering Our Youth



In today's complex world, a world where uncertainty and violence becomes the order of the day, people throughout the world are faced with issues ranging from unemployment, hunger, human trafficking, prostitution, unwanted pregnancies, sexual health issues and insecurity, young people cannot be expected to grow and thrive by chance alone.

The Youth are the future of the world. Across the world, every nation do everything to engage the youth positively and to prepare them to take their community ahead in the global market; no wonder, most entrepreneurial endeavor target this age group.

Unfortunately, as much as this is being done, it is still an undeniable fact that young people all over the world are still unable to achieve their potentials because of a system that naturally put them at a disadvantage.

To prepare our youths for the challenges of life ahead, an initiative that is far more intentional is required: a supportive circle of peers and adults, a group where value is placed on truth, connection, compassionate and co-creating lives.

SLMQ has chosen the theme for the year, to enlighten the importance of Empowering Our Youth!



Annual General Meeting - 2016

The Annual General Meeting of SLMQ for the year 2016 was held on 23rd December 2016 at Fanar Auditorium.

A new Executive Committee headed by Mr. Mohammed Lafir was elected to conduct the SLMQ affairs for the year 2017. Mr. Asaf Bakeer Markar was elected as the General Secretary and the following brothers were elected to be part of the executive committee.

Mr. Riza Mohamed	– Vice President
Mr. Manar Mansoor	– Treasurer
Mr. Ahmed Rila	– Public Relations Coordinator
Mr. Rifky Ahamed	– Projects Coordinator
Mr. Ameerudeen Moulana	– Member
Mr. Mohamed Rifkhan	– Member
Mr. Salman Ramees	– Member
Mr. Shahard Nazir	– Member
Mr. Saad Cader	– Member



Appreciation from MOI

The Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar – SLMQ received an appreciation award from the Ministry of Interior Qatar (MOI) for its outstanding contribution to the community activities in Qatar at the Arab Human Rights Day celebrations held at the Civil Defence Auditorium on 19th March 2017.



Nurturing the Society

SLMQ conducted a series of lectures aimed at the Sri Lankan community in Qatar on 03rd and 04th November 2016 by Sheikh Mufti Yousuf Haniffa.

On Thursday, 03rd November 2016, a lecture titled “The role of a family in nurturing the society” was delivered at Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center after Isha Prayer.

On Friday, 04th November 2016, a lecture titled “Speaking with Beautiful words are also a part of charity” was delivered at Al Atiyyah Masjid in Industrial area.



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Towards a happier Life

SLMQ conducted a series of lectures aimed at the Sri Lankan community in Qatar on 07th and 08th April 2017 by Ash Sheikh Abdul Haliq.

On Friday, 07th April 2017, a lecture titled “Towards a happier Life” was delivered at the Masjid next to QNB branch in Industrial area.

On Saturday, 08th April 2017, a lecture titled “Social Degeneration and Remedies” was delivered at Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center after Isha Prayer.

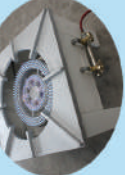


The Three “I”s for Ultimate Success

An Islamic Lecture titled “The Three “I”s for Ultimate Success” By Sheikh Sajid Umar was held on Thursday, 12 January 2017 at the Stafford Sri Lankan School at 7pm, followed by dinner.

The members of SLMQ and their families participated in this event which marked the first event for the new executive committee.





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How the Prophet Empowered the Youth

Throughout his noble life, Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) had emphasized the significance of the youth. He empowered the young men and women of his time and left behind an extraordinary legacy that continues to inspire young people till this very day. The Prophet was a genius in dealing with the youth. Love was the underlining factor behind his relationship with the youth. His charisma and personality attracted children, teenagers, and young adults to his message in droves.

The Prophet's message was an empowering message that transformed the youth in becoming the best they could be. The Prophetic approach in interacting with the youth was that of anchoring the soul to its innate nature: the fiṭrah. With love and empathy, the Prophet nourished the youth; he instructed them, advised them, empowered them, and developed them. He developed them emotionally and spiritually. He demonstrated to the world the incredible heights that could be reached with young people marching in the frontlines.

The Prophet knew very well the greatness and potential of the youth. For this reason, he was extremely keen on engaging them. Added to this, the youth possessed a profound love for the Prophet. The bond was such that they were ready to sacrifice their own lives for him. The Prophet had a very special place for the youth in his heart. From the children in his family to the young people in the community, everyone got to experience the warmth of his presence and love. Love was the underlining factor behind the Prophet's relationship with the youth. The love that the youth possessed for the Prophet transcended this world and translated into unimaginable acts of courage and sacrifice.

It was a part of his nature to show compassion by way of embracing, kissing, cuddling, smiling, etc. In the contemporary world, we are advised by doctors to provide such form of attention to children as this positively impacts their growth.

This practice was intrinsically a part of the Prophet's conduct. Any child or young person who would encounter the Prophet would be deeply affected by his merciful conduct. Usama bin Zaid narrated:

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How the Prophet Empowered the Youth

“Allah’s Messenger used to put me on (one of) his thighs and put Al-Ḥasan bin ‘Ali on his other thigh, and then embrace us and say, “O Allah! Please be Merciful to them as I am merciful to them.”

How did the Prophet develop such a strong connection with the youth? Why was he so successful in attracting the young generation to his cause?

Love was the underlining factor behind the Prophet’s relationship with the youth. The love that the youth possessed for the Prophet transcended this world and translated into unimaginable acts of courage and sacrifice.

The following narration found in the great hadith collection of Imam al-Nawawi, encapsulates the genuine nature of the Prophet and his relationship with a young Jewish boy:

Anas (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

A young Jewish boy who was in the service of the Prophet fell ill. The Prophet went to visit him. He sat down by his head and said to him, “Embrace Islam.”

The little boy looked at his father who was sitting beside him. He said: “Obey Abul-Qasim (i.e., the Messenger of Allah).”

So he embraced Islam and the Prophet stepped out saying, “Praise be to Allah who has saved him from Hell-fire.”

The privilege to serve the Prophet was something that every Muslim desired. The Jewish boy was privileged to serve the Prophet and was honored by the Prophet visiting him during his illness and witnessing his shahadah before his death.

Another one of the servants of the Prophet was a young boy by the name of Anas ibn Malik. Because Anas was so close to the Prophet, he knew the inner and outer aspects of his character.



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How the Prophet Empowered the Youth

Maintaining a calm demeanor with a servant is a challenging task let alone if that servant is also a child. Despite all of this, the Prophet still displayed the finest of conduct with those who were under his authority. In describing the Prophet's impeccable character, Anas says,

"I served Allah's Messenger for ten years, and, by Allah, he never said to me any harsh word, and he never said to me about a thing as to why I had done that and as to why I had not done that."

In the history of the world, has there ever been a master with such immaculate character? There has not been a man in history known for treating his servants in such a kind way, not for a day or two, let alone for ten whole years.

It is quite natural for a ten year old to make a mistake and for an adult to correct or discipline. However, the Prophet's approach was wise, gentle, cool, calm, and collected. Youth need love and understanding—this is what the Prophet provided them with. Anas describes the touch and the aura of Prophet in the following words:

"I found the hands of Allah's Messenger softer than silk. I never smelt a perfume better than the smell of Allah's Messenger."

Another story is of Zayd ibn Harithah, a youth servant of the Prophet during the days in Makkah. Zayd used to live with the Prophet, making him a regular recipient of the Prophet's kindness and love. One day Zayd's father and uncle came to Makkah with the intention of liberating him.

Upon their request, the Prophet gave Zayd a choice to either go with his father or to stay with him. Without hesitating, Zayd told the Prophet that he wanted to stay with him. He told his father, "I have seen certain things with this man and I will never leave him to go anywhere. "Most surely, Zayd found in the Prophet what he did not find in anyone else. He loved the Prophet and the Prophet loved him.



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How the Prophet Empowered the Youth

Two or three years after Zayd's death, the Prophet mentioned him and said, "He was one of the people I loved the most."

These stories exemplify the fact that if love is shown to the youth, then surely it will be reciprocated in the most amazing of ways.

The Prophet mobilized the youth under his banner through empowerment. Across all continents and cultures, youth empowerment is one of the most discussed and applied programs/processes in the world today. Thriving societies have more opportunities for young people to contribute their skills and talents. It is a way in which youth can make positive changes in their lives and in the lives of others.

The need for agency and a sense of authority is a vital factor for young people. It is a mechanism whereby they explore the "real world" and see where they "belong." One's youth is a phase in life, if directed properly, can be a means of immense positivity and good. If misdirected however, it can be a means of destruction and tragic consequences.

The Prophet was fully cognizant of the potential of the youth. With his incredible foresight, he utilized and empowered the youth in his community. They were taught how to be real "men" and real "women" and indeed their greatness was visible through the extraordinary contributions they had left behind.

Zayd ibn Thabit, was among the generation of youth who were empowered by the Prophet. He was hardly thirteen years old when he came to seek permission from the Prophet to attend the historic battle of Badr. He was not granted permission to join the Muslim Army, as he was too young at the time. However, this did not prevent Zayd from contributing to the cause of Islam. The Prophet saw that Zayd had a sharp intellect and an unwavering thirst for knowledge. Hence, he empowered him through scholarship. He instructed, "Zayd, learn the writing of the Jews for me."



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How the Prophet Empowered the Youth

Enthusiastically, Zayd went about learning Hebrew and shortly after, the Syriac language. This brilliant young man eventually found himself serving as an interpreter and scribe for the Prophet. During the caliphate of Abu Bakr, he was appointed to lead the massive project of compiling the Qur'an in a book form. He was an expert in the Qur'an and a scholar of the highest caliber. Till this day, anyone who opens up a copy of the Qur'an is forever indebted to the great youth scholar, Zayd ibn Thabit, for his outstanding service to Islam.

This case presents to us some very valuable lessons. The Prophet's methodology in identifying the skills of Zayd and then empowering him with that was one of the key reasons behind his success. It is imperative for us to pinpoint the talents within our communities and put them to work in order to bring about positive change.

The Prophet invested in the youth and placed his trust in them. He did not hesitate in assigning them pivotal roles despite their age. This provided the youth a feeling of "belonging." The youth felt special because the Prophet entrusted them with serious responsibilities. Take Mus'ab ibn 'Umayr for example.

The Prophet selected Mus'ab to carry out the task of teaching Islam to the people of Yathrib, while many older and more experienced companions were present—the likes of Abu Bakr, 'Umar, 'Uthman, 'Ali, and others. He knew Mus'ab was fully capable and thus empowered him through this honorable post.

Entrusting youth with leadership roles can be daunting a task, but if done with precision and thought, there will be astonishing results.

From the Seerah of the Prophet, we can deduce that in order to further a cause and establish a viable community, elders must delegate significant roles to the youth and place confidence in them. This will create a culture of respect in the younger generation for the older generation. Moreover, it will generate fresh new leaders who are capable of handling new challenges in an ever-changing world.

Source: aboutislam.net

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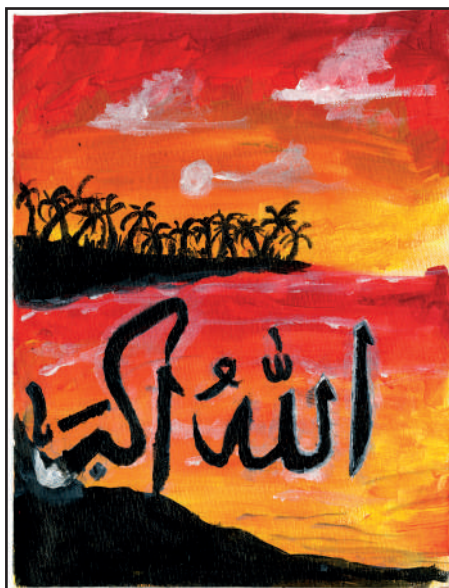
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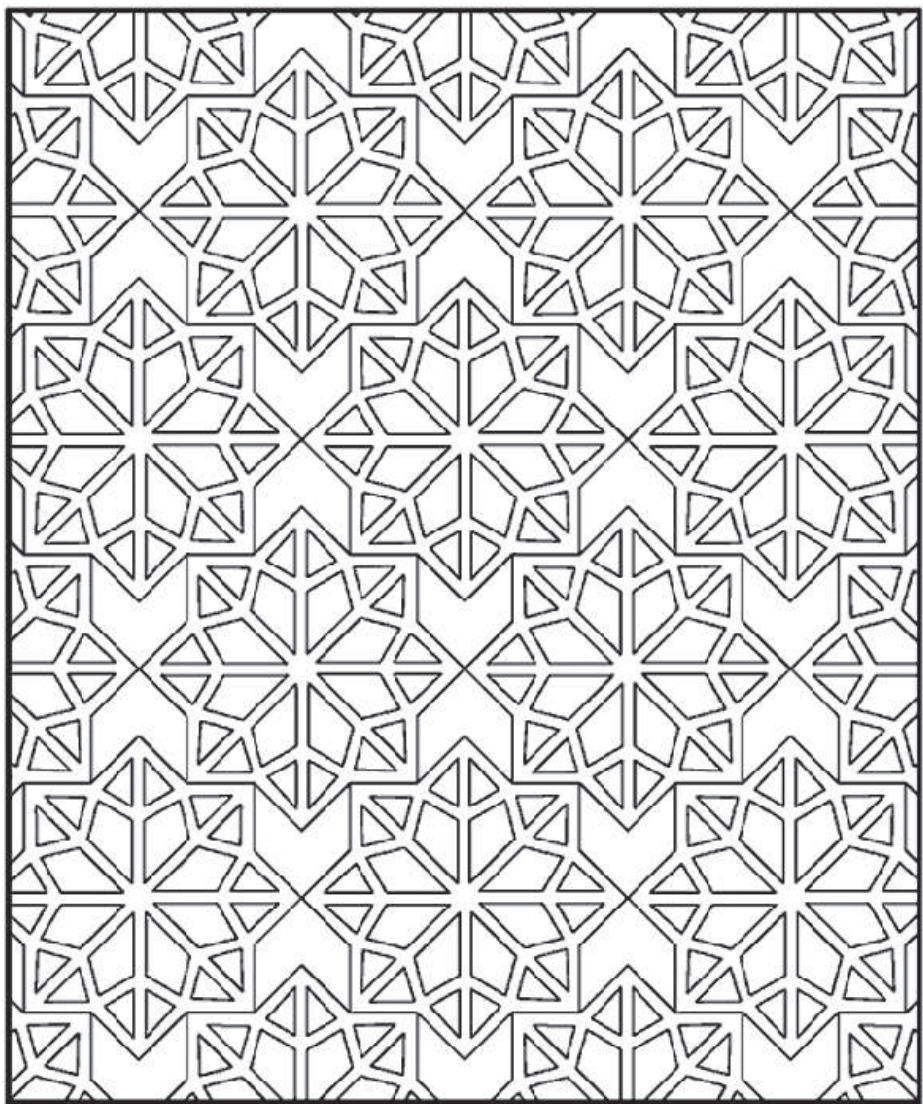
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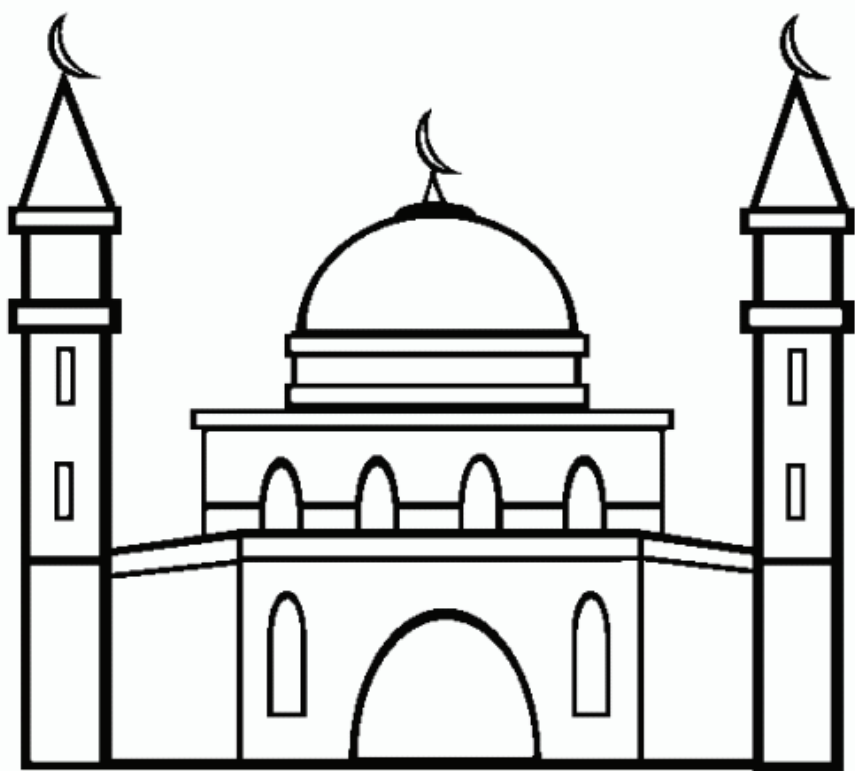
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