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English Monthly



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January 2023 Bengaluru Pages 20 Rs. 40

Jamadi-us-Sani / Rajab - 1444 H

## Life Achievement Award to Dr. Malika B. Mistry



Dr. Malika B. Mistry, a retired Professor of Economics from Poona College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Poona, was awarded the prestigious Life Time Achievement Award by the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) in their 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference organized in collaboration with the Population Research Centre at the Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022. This was given to her for her professional excellence as a Population Scientist. Prof. Sharma, the President of the IASP and Head, of the Population Research Center, Institute of Economic Growth, felicitated her with a citation and shawl. IASP is a prestigious and well-known body of population scientists from all over India. ■

## India and Indonesia Ulemas and other Religious Leaders Hold Dialogue Agree to Develop a Joint Narrative on De-Radicalization



Abdul Bari  
Masoud

**New Delhi:** In the first kind of dialogue, the Ulemas and other religious leaders from India and Indonesia concurred that it is essential to collaborate in order to create shared narratives on de-radicalization. They held a dialogue on 'The Role of Ulema in Fostering a Culture of Interfaith Peace and Social Harmony in India and Indonesia' at the India Islamic Cultural Centre on November 29.

After the day-long deliberations, they issued a joint statement to highlight this point and commended Ulema's role in



spreading education, and fostering peace in the respective societies.

"Contemporary challenges of religious radicalization and extremism in India and Indonesia were discussed along with the need

to counter disinformation and propaganda that can impede peaceful coexistence among the followers of different faiths," the statement said.

They further stated that it was

important to work together to create shared narratives about de-radicalization after recognizing the crucial role that ulemas and other religious leaders, as well as education, play in preventing radicalization and extremism.

"The religious leaders agreed that a better understanding among different faiths is a constructive element in the efforts to build harmonious societies. The participants denounced all hate speech, prejudice, propaganda, demonization, violence, and conflict and condemned the misuse of religions for these ends," the statement said.

» Page 14

### IV Correspondent

**Pune:** The poor performance of state waqf boards has become a major cause of concern to the Muslim community opined former Union Minorities Minister K Rahman Khan who was delivering an opening speech at the two-day national waqf conference held at the Azam Campus in Camp here. The conference passed a draft resolution that seeks to create a post of waqf ombudsman at the centre and states to keep a close tab on the

## Two-day national conference on Waqf

*The dismal performance of Waqf boards  
is a matter of concern: Rahman Khan*



waqf boards' activities across India. The conference held on November 26-27 titled "Understanding True Nature and Management of Auqaf for Better Protection, Performance, and Development" was attended by lawyers, academicians, intellectuals, former bureaucrats, and lawmakers.

Rahman Khan, who was the chief guest at the opening session, claimed that the reason why waqf boards were established was not being met, and as a result, they

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Staff Writer

## Muslim League launches 'Journey of Harmony India' Mission

**Mumbai:** The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) has launched "Journey of Harmony India," a message of peace and love, in response to the rising levels of hostility in society because of the divisive politics of the RSS-BJP.

As part of this campaign, peace gatherings are being conducted around the country, and efforts are being made to unite Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Dalits, and Tribal groups. Participants in these programmes expressed the opinion that the initiative should have started much earlier given how frightening the country's communal situation has become. In this regard, on December 6, a meeting in Mumbai focused on promoting intercommunal harmony took place. Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal, the president of the Kerala Muslim League and the head of the IUML's political advisory committee, presided over it. A good turnout was seen at the



gathering held at the Haj House. Thangal stated that the IUML has been working hard to promote friendly connections between the various communities through this project. It has been attempting to bring all democratic, secular forces inside and outside of parliament together in order to fight for justice, peace, and harmony throughout the country, he noted. Maulana Khalilu Rahman Sajjad Nomani, a speaker at the conference and a member of the executive committee of the All India Muslim Personal Law

Board, stated that such programmes for inter-communal unity ought to have been started much earlier because hatred is rife in the country. Maulana Nomani said it is sad that we did not pay enough attention to the country's deteriorating communal situation; as a result, it has grown into a massive problem. He insisted that in order to halt the wave of hatred, we must act like we are at war.

Abdur Rahman C. H., the leader of the Muslim League, stressed that it is vital to convey the message of love and peace. We

began this endeavour in Kerala and will have similar gatherings in other parts of the country. He

issued a warning that some political forces in the country are attempting to stoke tension across communities. ■

**Maulana Nomani said it is sad that we did not pay enough attention to the country's deteriorating communal situation; as a result, it has grown into a massive problem. He insisted that in order to halt the wave of hatred, we must act like we are at war.**

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A B Masoud

## Jamaat Islami Chief Urges to Help Jamaat in the Creation of a Just Society



**New Delhi:** Inaugurating a national programme to commemorate the 75 years journey of the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) on Sunday, Jamaat President Syed Sadatullah Husaini urged the fellow countrymen to join hands with the organisation for the creation of a just and peaceful society based on religious values and spirituality. He was speaking at the inaugural programme at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi in which prominent personalities and various representatives of several non-Muslim communities were present.

Husaini stated that the primary objective of the JIH is to call people to be obedient of one Almighty God (Allah) and struggle to create a value-based society, on the basis of His teachings. "With this two-point agenda, the JIH has been continuously working for the last 75 years," the JIH president said while highlighting 75 Years of Determined Struggle of the organisation in this regard. Highlighting various objectives of the JIH, he explained that the core objective was to introduce religion, hold dialogue and discussion for permanent peace, harmony and better understanding among people of various faiths. The JIH President said, "The main role of the JIH has been to give positive dimensions to religion.

There is a growing concept that religion and politics have been detrimental to the cause of society. It generally becomes a reason for conflict and violence. All the problems we can see today are simply because of the exploitation of religion and the use and misuse of religion for the vested interest. And people who do this have nothing to do with religion and spirituality. The message the JIH has given is that religion should be used to create a peaceful and equitable society where there should be tolerance, justice, and respect for the rights of other communities. Religion can play a very important role in creating a plural society. The formation and reform of society should be based on religion. Religion should become an important factor for a just society. In this regard, the JIH has led by example and its core message is religious but at the same

time, JIH has also played a remarkable role in bridging gaps between the communities and has established forums for dialogue and discussion with them. We want to establish peace within communities. It is only through dialogue and discussion and good rapport between communities, peace can be established in our country. JIH has a model through which the issues and problems of our country can be resolved. JIH wants to have a debate and discussion on it for the betterment of society. It is the contribution of JIH that has made the interfaith dialogue and discussion a movement in the country. JIH has always worked for justice with the help of like-minded people, civil society and human rights groups, NGOs, and organizations working for peace and communal harmony. JIH is also working to provide social and economic justice, and

equality to the weaker sections of society and marginalized and oppressed people and for this, JIH has initiated various organizations. Dharmik Jan Morcha established by JIH in various parts of India with the help of religious leaders from different faiths is continuously working for communal amity. Dharmik Jan Morcha has also become a movement. Another platform, Forum for Democracy and Communal Amity (FDCA) is working for peace and justice, communal harmony, and democratic values."

The JIH chief also highlighted the contribution of various organizations, big or small, working on all social fronts and doing welfare work for the upliftment of society, to provide justice to the oppressed people, to give voice to the marginalized, to provide education and also in the field of healthcare. The

organization has worked for the people in every aspect of their life. Husaini also shed light on the contribution of the Students Islamic Organization of India (SIO) for giving a new dimension to the student movement, the women's wing of the JIH, and the Girls Islamic Organisation (GIO) for the creation of awareness about Islam. He added that ladies and girls account for 40 percent of the JIH cadres.

On the way forward, Husaini held that in the present atmosphere, the relevance of struggle of JIH increased manifold. Appealing to all to work together for the reconstruction of society to establish peace and value-based society, he said, "it is the need of the hour that the religious leaders with the help of spirituality should come forward to join hands for a peaceful and a just society."

On this occasion, JIH Vice President Prof. Mohammad Salim Engineer delivered a welcome speech. ■

**All the problems we can see today are simply because of the exploitation of religion and use and misuse of religion for the vested interest. And people who do this have nothing to do with religion and spirituality**

«Page 1

were unable to protect and develop thousands of waqf holdings scattered around the country.

"Illegal occupation of waqf land can be vacated and the law has given enough powers to the state boards to evict the encroachers but is the waqf board taking the necessary steps to remove them is a big question. It is seen that across the country, waqf boards have been showing dwindling and dismal performances. The board members including mutawallis (caretakers) are found fighting amongst themselves which in a big way has affected the functioning of the board and weakened them considerably," the former minister underlined.

He further pointed out that "The very purpose of waqf is being defeated as the properties are not being developed for the upliftment of the community. The duty to protect and develop the waqf property is the religious right of every Muslim and if they ignore and keep silent on ongoing encroachment of waqf properties, they are committing a crime. It is the responsibility of the community and every Muslim to rise to the occasion to protect the waqf properties."

It is to be mentioned that under Rahman Khan, the Joint

Parliamentary Committee on Waqf prepared an extensive report on waqf properties.

According to the Shariah law, waqf is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious, or charitable purposes.

Conference convenor and former chief commissioner of income tax Akramul Jabbar Khan bemoaned the Muslim community's lack of interest in waqf issues. Jabbar Khan also suggested building colleges, hospitals, schools, skill development centres, and dispensaries on waqf holdings for the community's empowerment.

"It is a shame that thousands of acres of waqf land have been lost due to a lack of groundwork and interest by the Muslim community. Until the community turns out in substantial numbers, the waqf land liberation work will not gather momentum. Waqf resources through development can bring about a transformational change in the lives of Muslims in the country and lead to the development of the nation. Commercial development of waqf land is the need of the hour to alleviate the community's plight," he said, who is also an advisor of Maharashtra Waqf Liberation and Protection and Task Force (MWLPT).

## Two-day national conference on Waqf

**"Illegal occupation of waqf land can be vacated and the law has given enough powers to the state boards to evict the encroachers but is the waqf board taking the necessary steps to remove them is a big question."**

He also asked that the government quickly correct the incorrect numerical values assigned to acres of Waqf land.

In his remarks, Delhi-based Institute of Objective Studies (IOS)'s Vice Chairman, Prof Mohammad Afzal Wani said that the Holy Prophet Mohammad's suggestion to Caliph Omar in response to a crisis led to the establishment of the waqf.

"The waqf property must be tied and it must get perpetuity and not get sold" was the original philosophy of waqf. Every effort made in this regard by Muslims now is a knee-jerk reaction. During the Ottoman Empire, 2/3rd of the Muslim property was waqf and

only 1/3rd was with the public as they believed in the institution and were not afraid of the property. We must believe and trust in waqf and create the character and skill to manage it", Prof Wani said.

Nobody else in the world, according to Prof. Z. M. Khan, Secretary General of IOS, has democratized waqf more than Islam.

"Indian Muslims are realizing the reality on the ground and waking up to the changing times. They are rapidly adopting urbanization and womenfolk are making painstaking efforts to educate their children. If mothers are taking such major steps toward child education, then a major change is on the anvil which will lead to the development of the nation. Waqf is one of the most important tools for national and social progress for the community," Prof Khan said.

The conference has been planned, according to Salim Mulla, president of MWLPT, to raise awareness of waqf. For the two-day national waqf conference in Pune, about 40 intellectuals from diverse professions across India have gathered to discuss how to best use waqf properties for the benefit of the Muslim community, he stated. The conference highlighted the legal point that state governments

are required by law to provide yearly reports regarding waqf under their jurisdiction.

The resolution, emphasizes the boards' need to provide the Central Waqf Council with annual audit reports. A waqf board must be disbanded if it fails to deliver.

The other resolutions included hiring workers, outsourcing, prioritizing, and setting up local committees in accordance with the legislation. A broad research cell made up of experts from diverse fields should be established concurrently at the national and state levels. The aforementioned organizations ought to communicate regularly with waqf boards and release an annual report on their operations.

Conference convenor Jabbar Khan said, "The draft resolutions will be sent to Union and state governments. It is high time that the state waqf boards are made accountable to the government and measures undertaken along the lines of our resolution will lead to the socio-economic empowerment of not only the Muslim community but other citizens. It will lead to an increase in revenue for the boards including the government and the earnings can be channelized for construction of educational and social infrastructure as part of national development." ■



## IV Correspondent

## New Unani Regional Research Institute opens in Assam

**New Delhi/ Silchar:** In a boost to the Unani medicine system in Northeast India particularly in Assam, a new Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM) was set up in Silchar at Veterinary Bazar, Ghungoor, and Silchar, Assam.

At a ceremony held November 20, Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, Government of India inaugurated the new Unani Research Institute.

Speaking on this occasion, Sarbananda Sonowal said the 50-bed RRIUM, Silchar hospital would meet the needs of the Assamese people in terms of healthcare. He added that Assam's hills and forests are home to a wide range of medicinal herbs and plants and that this institute would



concentrate on using these resources for the good of all people in addition to conducting other Unani medicine research and development projects.

In his remarks, Parimal Suklabaidya, Minister of Transport, Fisheries, and Excise for the Government of Assam, stated that traditional medical systems, including Unani Medicine, have always played a significant part in addressing the

needs of the world health care system. He added that Unani Medicine will contribute more through this institute to raising the caliber of medical treatment provided in the area.

Dr. Rajdeep Roy, MP, Silchar, stated that the establishment of indigenous medical systems has received special attention from the Indian government and that the foundation of this institute, which cost about Rs. 45 crores, is

a significant step in that direction.

MP from Karimganj, Kripanath Mallah said that Unani Medicine is an integral part of our healthcare system and it is going to play an important role in research as well as healthcare delivery in the region.

Pramod Kumar Pathak, Special Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, said that the Government of India has always paid very special



attention to the development of indigenous systems of medicine in India. It has been providing increasing funds and support for the multi-faceted development of Ayush systems including Unani Medicine.

Earlier, Prof. Asim Ali Khan, Director General, Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), Ministry of Ayush, expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Ayush and the Government of Assam for their support in the establishment of RRIUM, Silchar.

Mihir Kanti Shome, MLA, Udharbond, Aminul Hoque Laskar, Former MLA, Sonai, Rohan Kumar Jha, Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar and others graced the ceremony. The inaugural ceremony concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Akhtar Hussain Jamali, Research Officer In charge, RRIUM, Silchar. ■

## Zeena Akhtar

## Qur'an Provides Noteworthy References to Climate Change Issue

**Aligarh/ New Delhi:** As the whole of mankind is grappling with the rising temperatures of the planet earth, the Holy Qur'an presents noteworthy references to this burning problem. In November last month, the annual UN Climate Change conference was held in Egypt.

Dr. Faiza Abbasi, Director of the UGC Human Resource Development Center at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), delivered a presentation titled "Climate Change, Carbon Sequestration, and the Significance of Trees in the Holy Quran" at the K A Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies. She highlighted the Holy Quran's notable references to climate change and emphasized that it is the responsibility of humanity to stop it.

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace



Be Upon Him) was enthusiastic about planting trees and urged his Companions to do so by saying, "Whoever plants a tree and carefully cares after it until it grows and yields fruit is rewarded (Source: Musnad)". She stated in a lecture on the utmost care for the preservation of trees on November 21. This proverb is adequate to inform us of Islam's concern for the environment.

"Planting a tree is a 'Sadaqah jariyah' (continued charity) in Islam, for the poor and the rich alike. Whenever a human being or even an animal shelters under the shade of a tree or relishes a fruit that it produces, the planter will earn rewards, even after his or her death", Dr. Faiza pointed out.

She added: Faith-based action for increasing the green cover of the planet is the way forward to

mitigate the challenges of global warming and climate change.

"Islam teaches humanity to take care of the earth. Muslims believe that mankind should act as guardians of the planet and that they will be held accountable by the Almighty for their actions.

Prof Faiza Abbasi stressed: "It is an opportune time to deliberate upon the issue as world leaders have assembled in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt for the CoP 27 - UN Climate Change Conference, 6 to 18.

She also discussed how the Holy Quran makes reference to trees in numerous verses and revealed that the K A Nizami Center would soon be developing a garden with trees and other flora that are referenced in the Quran.

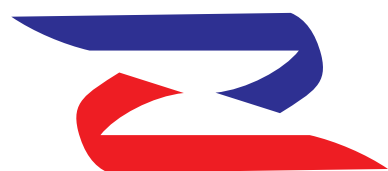
It is recalled that the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) concluded on 20 November in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, with a

decision to establish and operationalize a fund to compensate vulnerable nations for 'loss and damage' from climate-induced disasters. The UN Secretary-General welcomed the decision, calling it "an important step toward justice." He at the same time called for "a giant leap on climate ambition" stressing the need to "drastically reduce emissions now."

Presiding over the lecture, Prof Abdur Raheem Kidwai (Honorary Director, K A Nizami Center) said: "Faith-based ecological movements and especially Islamic Eco-Theology is gaining ground as a multidisciplinary approach to environmental conservation across the world".

Dr. Arshad Iqbal also spoke on the plants mentioned in the Quran.

The programme was conducted by Syed Mohammad Mobashshir, and a vote of thanks was offered by Mohd Salman Ghauri. ■



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## AMU Holds Development and Social Entrepreneurship Workshop

Staff Writer



Dr Ruha Shadab

**Aligarh:** Dr Ruha Shadab, the founder, and CEO of the LedBy Foundation, spoke about complicated societal issues and how social entrepreneurs may fill leadership gaps and assist individuals in acquiring the abilities and attitudes required in an increasingly varied and interdependent world.

She was presented as a resource for the workshop on "Professional Development and Social Entrepreneurship" at Aligarh Muslim University's Department of Business Administration's Frank and Debbie Islam Entrepreneurship Incubation Centre (FDIEIC) (AMU) held on December 2. The programme was organised by FDIEIC and the LedBy Foundation.

Dr Ruha highlighted tales from her

experience as a social entrepreneur, illustrating how her Harvard University training and extensive work at the NITI Ayog, the Clinton Health Initiative, and the Gates Foundation gave her the skills to lead social entrepreneurship.

She asked students to consider contributing usefully and urged them to enrol in LedBy programmes to develop their professional abilities.

Women from underprivileged areas can become the next generation of female change-makers with the aid of professional training and mentoring, Dr Ruha emphasized.

In his summary of the session's main ideas, Dr Ahmad Faraz Khan pushed for the early and precise formulation of problem statements. He urged students attending the workshop to find the areas of their strengths with advice from mentors.

In his opening statement, Mohammad Maaz Husain (Incubation Manager, FDIEIC) stated that the workshop's goal was to develop women's leadership potential and give them a venue for networking and training.

He urged action to increase the number of Indian Muslim women in formal employment, academia, and business.

The motion for thanks was later extended by Maaz Husain.

## 'Discontinuation of Pre-Matric Scholarship not good for Minority Students'



IV Correspondent

**New Delhi:** On discontinuation of the Pre-Metric Scholarship for students of Classes 1 to 8 from the minority community, JIH Markazi Taleemi Board's (Education Board) Secretary Syed Tanveer Ahmed said it is a matter of grave concern. He alleged that the government was depriving the students belonging to the minority community of their legitimate rights in the name of the Right to Education (RTE) and the objective of providing a level-playing field to all.

Tanveer told reporters at the monthly briefing that it would

hamper the students of minorities in the crucial years of their early education and increase their dropout rate and further damage

their prospects of securing a bright academic career. He underlined that several surveys demonstrated that minorities, especially Muslims, lagged in both primary and higher education while the pre-matric scholarship supported the poor, underprivileged, and marginalized students both girls and boys, to access educational opportunities. Urging the government to restore the pre-matric scholarships once again for students of Class 1 to 8, he added, "The future of all such students now hangs in balance."

## 48 AMU students get hired by IT Businesses

**Aligarh:** In a campus recruitment drive sponsored by the General Training and Placement Office and the Training and Placement Office of the Department of Computer Science, 48 Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) Masters in Computer Application and Engineering students were hired by top IT firms Cognizant, LTI Spark, and KiwiTech.

Prof. Aasim Zafar stated that "the

hired students have been chosen to work in various capacities in major international firms after difficult online aptitude exams and technical interviews" (Chairman, Department of Computer Science). Saad Hameed, the general training and placement officer, congratulated the hired students and urged them to work hard and serve as brand ambassadors for AMU.



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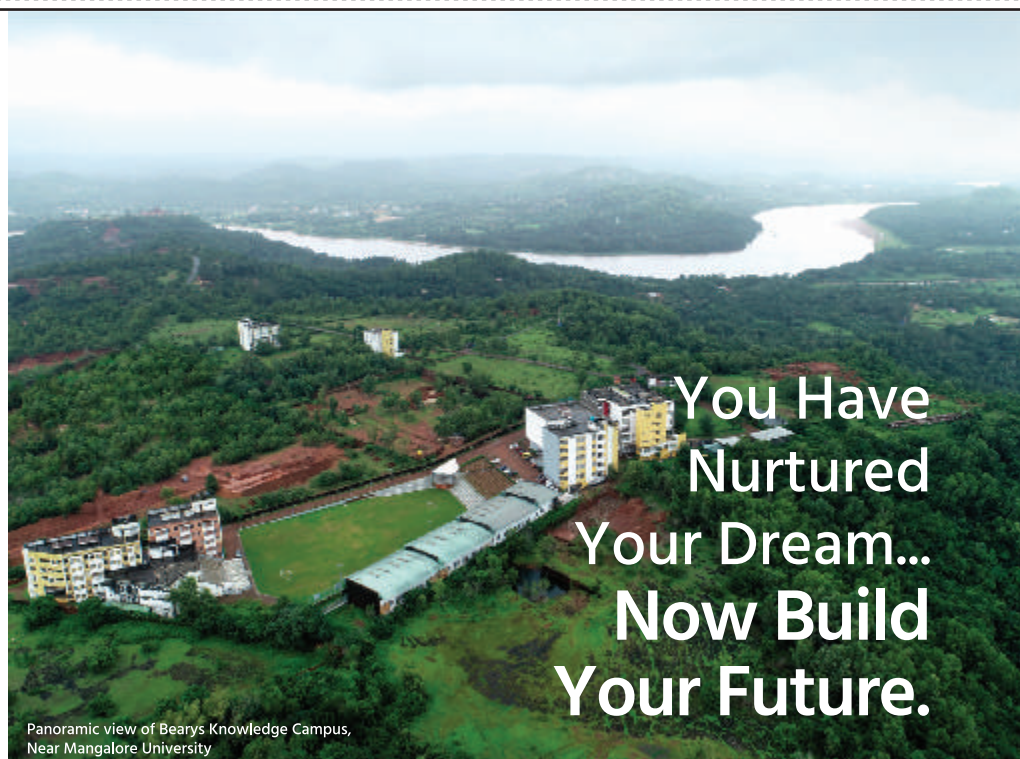
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Mohammed Ilyas

On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022, I sat in front of my TV to watch the opening ceremony of the biggest sporting event- the FIFA World Cup. With the skepticism and cynicism from the Western media over the past couple of months, my expectation for the ceremony was not very high.

But my expectations proved me wrong. The opening ceremony of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was one of the greatest events I witnessed in the 25 years of my event management experience, or rather, in my lifetime. They managed to make it entertaining for people around the world, sports fans and non-fans alike while keeping the roots of Arab and Islamic culture. The conversation between Morgan Freeman and Ghanim Al Muftah was a cherry on top of the ceremony.

This intrigued me, and I thought this might be an excellent time to schedule my long pending business trip to Qatar. I will experience the World Cup while also getting my work done. While arranging my trip, I came across something new - Hayya (literal meaning: come; in this context: welcome) Card. This was another concept I was impressed with, making it easier for fans worldwide to enter Qatar without the hassle of a visa.

Once all the arrangement was set, I left for the Kempe Gowda

international airport (Bengaluru) in India. Arriving at the airport, it took me 15 minutes to get inside the gate. Check-in 40 minutes, and immigration 30 minutes. And then, after another 30 minutes, reach the plane's entrance. Seeing the procedure on a typical day in Bengaluru airport, I wondered how long it would take me in Hamad International Airport during a World Cup.

I remember vividly there were 7,000 flights scheduled to operate to and from Qatar that week. My flight was scheduled to land at 6 AM. I informed my friend, Shan, CEO of Asheghar Digimentors, and he said he would reach the airport by 6:30 AM to pick me up. I almost scoffed, thinking it would be impossible to get out of the airport in this peak time in just half an hour. Once again, Qatar surprised me with its management. From the time my flight landed to when I reached the exit gate; it took me 10 minutes. Everything from immigration to receiving luggage was automated. When I called and said I am out to Shan about this, a resident of Qatar, even he was shocked by the efficiency of the management.

I thought to myself; this is just the beginning. I wonder what other surprises Qatar has kept in store for me. And to put it mildly, I was not disappointed. In a conversation about the World Cup with Shan, I learned he went to watch a match with his wife and 5-year-old daughter. If you have been to other



international tournaments, you would know that stadiums are not very family friendly as you find over-excited and drunk fans during the match. That did not seem to be a problem here as alcohol was banned in stadiums and fans enjoyed it regardless in the stadium, before, during, and after the match.

For the 29 days that World Cup continued, Qatar filled itself with colors and vibrance and stayed alive 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It became a country that never slept. The quality of life in Qatar is something to cherish and praise. Fans enjoyed different Fan Zones, the Fan Festival, Souq Waqif, Corniche, Lusail Boulevard, and Katara, to name a few. With their security and management, the host country ensured the fans and locals didn't face concerns about safety and security. With their inclusivity, they made sure fans from all cultures and parts of the world felt welcome as they displayed players from all countries in West Bay buildings and made every activity multilingual. With their free metro and shuttle bus service, they made sure traffic was not an issue. With their entertainment activities, they made sure fans and locals did not

get bored at any time of the day. And with their perseverance, the host country ensured everyone had fun by simultaneously upholding their Islamic roots.

While the Western media kept pointing fingers at Qatar and fished for mistakes and negativity in FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 arrangements, Qatar stood resolute. It proved them wrong not with words but with actions and results. The host country disproved all the worries of Western media and showed that one could have fun without alcohol and that a small country could host the biggest sporting event in the world.

Amidst all this, I had to remind myself that I was here for a business trip. While the atmosphere screamed enjoyment, the offices functioned as usual. I had multiple meetings for my business deal with a leading company, Asheghar Digimentors, owned by His Excellency Shiekh Jassim Bin Mohamed Al Thani. The meetings were a success, and even during the sessions, I got a lot of insights into Qatar. Director of Asheghar Digimentors, Mr. Ahmed Adiyotil, who lived in Qatar and among Qataris for the past three to four decades, spoke highly of Qatar's hospitality, involvement in FIFA World Cup, and vision. I also got to witness their hospitality and all other arrangements personally. Of all the global events I have been to as an event management business and spectator in the past 25 years, this has to be the best-

managed event. This is coming from someone who has handled global events in corporate, sports, conferences, entertainment, music festivals, fashion, charity, and exhibition sectors. Supreme Committee deserves special appreciation for making this happen and managing it efficiently. As an event management initiative, my company has been planning to start a cricket premier league in the gulf countries for the South Asian cricket enthusiasts residing in the region. We were in a dilemma about where to start this initiative. After 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022, I am no longer in a dilemma. I am going to start this in the country that hosted the best World Cup, Qatar.

Qatar welcomed everyone with their "Hayya," and fans united here as one from every corner of the world. Little did they know that all of their dreams would be fulfilled and they would be the witness to the most incredible World Cup hosted in the history of FIFA.

At Davos Qatar Emir promised to the world – this edition of FIFA world cup will be special one – yes indeed this world cup has been special one and host nation - you are the champion.

(The writer Advocate MOHAMMED ILYAS a Bangalore based Entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist and running a multination event management company last 25 years also professional lawyer, Founder/Director, Boombox, Gold leaf, Deccan law associates, author can be reached - +91 9886479786, ilyasadvc@gmail.com) ■



Ehab Hassan

It wasn't until I got older that I realized *we're living in stoppage time*. I finally started to understand that that's what our life is. A few precious moments to give it all we can even though we don't know how much time we have on this earth. We only

know that our time is short. At any moment, our time will be up and our whistle will be blown. If we're tired, then we go without rest. If we're thirsty or have other desires distracting us from our mission, then we do without them, for just a little bit longer. It's not a time for rest, but a time to give it everything we got no

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*A few precious moments to give it all we can.*



matter how exhausted we are. Anything we do, no matter how big or small could be our final play, our final moment. We give it our all because in this short time we have to prove ourselves so that, by the grace of Allah, we can live forever as champions. We see people around us dying every day. Some die after long,

**Anything we do, no matter how big or small could be our final play, our final moment. We give it our all because in this short time we must prove ourselves so that, by the grace of Allah, we can live forever as champions.**

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Dr Muhammad Wajid Akhter

## Five Inspirational Takeaways from the Qatar World Cup

Sometimes it feels like we are living in two parallel worlds. If you follow the media in certain countries, this is the worst World Cup in memory. Their analysis drips with Islamophobia and condescension that is so visceral that it isn't even used against the Russians in the killing fields of Ukraine.

Yet, if you go past the usual suspects – the same ones who had precious little to say about World Cups or the Olympics being held in those bastions of human rights, Russia and China -, you see that the story is quite different. You hear about a World Cup that has been done in a unique way, not just a European World Cup in a different location.

**Here are 5 inspirational lessons we can take away from Qatar 2022:**

### 1. Qatar – How they dealt with the Haters?

The Qatar World Cup was mired in controversy from the minute it was awarded. Some of the issues are indeed legitimate although in need of contextualization, such as the treatment of migrant workers. I do not seek to belittle these problems. However, many "controversies" reeked of a superiority complex that was altogether different.

They could have fought fire with fire. Although Qatar did challenge the stereotyping and biased reporting, they let their actions do the loudest talking. They put on a fantastic World Cup, that was safe, well-organized, and welcoming to

everyone. The rest of the world is seeing reports from those who are there saying how much they have enjoyed themselves, been blown away by the hospitality, and are appreciative of the facilities made available for them.

### 2. Championing the forgotten and hidden Fans

In the rush to condemn Qatar, most of the media have not reported on the fact that this is the most disability-friendly World Cup in history. The opening ceremony involved a prominent influencer who suffers from a rare genetic condition. Supporters in wheelchairs have accompanied the teams before their kick-off, and specialist commentary has been made available for blind football fans following the games. The stadiums themselves are built with step-free access and facilities keeping the differently-abled in mind.

Unfortunately, the Muslim world tends to fall behind others when it comes to supporting our brothers and sisters from the disabled community. The World Cup showed that this does not necessarily need to be the case, and with a lot of thought and a little effort, we can make societies more accessible to all.

### 3. There can be a World without Alcohol

Can you imagine a major world tournament being hosted without alcohol? It was unthinkable until a month ago, and yet, here we are. We've been sold this lie that alcohol is a necessity in order to be



able to function on the world stage. Whether it is a business meeting in a firm or a gathering of notables in any field – not having alcohol present was unimaginable.

Qatar has proven that not only is alcohol not a necessity for events to be successful, but it is also preferable. We've lost count of the number of times people have said that there is a real family-friendly atmosphere at this World Cup when compared to others. There are virtually no reports of violence, brawls, or public indecency that are par for the course for not only most major sports tournaments but even minor league matches.

### 4. The Moroccan Miracle

At the start of the tournament, there were several teams from the Muslim and Arab world involved. However, as each of them got knocked out, the last team

standing was Morocco. Against all odds, they continued to progress and did so in style.

Within a short space of time the Moroccan team was adopted by Muslims all across the world as well as African nations. How was this possible in a sport as territorial and nationalistic as football?

The answer can be seen in this video below where the Moroccan team clearly understand that they're playing not just for their country, but they represent something far bigger. They understand that the hopes and dreams of billions of people who dream of a world in which the old order does not dominate them. Not only that, but they are also the antithesis of most football teams, celebrating with their mothers and not celebrity girlfriends, or thanking God for not building their own cult following.

### 5. Palestine in our Hearts

The country whose flag has been displayed most often during this World Cup doesn't even have a team here. Yet, time and again, no matter who is playing and who wins or loses, the Palestinian flag inevitably turns up on the screen and often on the pitch.

This is the first World Cup held in the Muslim world, and it was always inevitable that we would talk about issues that were important to us. Raising the flag of Palestine isn't just a counter-cultural protest. It tells the world that even though we may be playing football and enjoying the

World Cup, we have not forgotten that the majority of our brothers and sisters still live under the legacy of colonialism and injustice.

### Bonus Point

The most important legacy of this World Cup? When Morocco won the quarterfinal against Portugal, my phone was inundated by WhatsApp messages in groups as diverse as Nigerian Imams and Indian Muslim Doctors all celebrating their victory. Most of these people have never even been to Morocco, and yet they were celebrating as if their own team had won. This wasn't just jumping on the bandwagon. There was something deeper going on here.

Now imagine if we took this success from the sporting field and directed it toward science and technology. Now imagine if we took the Palestinian chants and included real action to help those in Yemen, Somalia, and Afghanistan. Now imagine if we took the confidence and ability of one of the smallest Muslim nations to pull off one of the largest tournaments in the world in style and extrapolated that to the many other problems plaguing the Muslim world.

The Moroccan victory, the Palestinian chants at the Qatari World Cup put this all together and what you have is a Muslim world that is more confident and more united than many would like to believe. And when the Muslim world is united, no matter who holds the trophy, we all win. ■

## 1st Muslim World Cup host Qatar seeks to change views on Islam

*The first Muslim nation to stage a football World Cup sees the global as an opportunity to introduce millions of people to Islam and change misconceptions about the religion*

a giant chandelier.

Dorinel Popa, a 54-year-old accountant, said the couple was taking a first look at Islam.



Canadian couple Dorinel and Clara Popa pose for a picture inside Doha's Blue Mosque, Doha, Qatar, Nov. 29, 2022. (AFPPhoto)

"We have a prejudice against the



culture and the people," because of a lack of exposure to others, he said.

### Coffee and faith

"We have some thoughts in our heads and now maybe some of them will change," added his wife, a 52-year-old doctor.

The Qatar Guest Center, which supervises the Blue Mosque, has brought dozens of Muslim preachers from around the world to Qatar for the tournament.

Outside the mosque, there are booklets in different languages explaining Islam and the Prophet Mohammed, along with Arabic coffee and dates.

Syrian volunteer Ziad Fateh said the World Cup is "an opportunity to introduce millions of people to Islam" and change misconceptions about the religion.

"We explain to people more about ethics, the importance of family bonding, and respect for neighbors and non-Muslims," he added.

Near the mosque, volunteers managed a table aimed at visiting women with a sign saying: "Ask me about Qatar."



Young football fans watch a five-minute virtual reality tour of Islam, near Doha's Blue Mosque, Doha, Qatar, Nov. 29, 2022. (AFP Photo)

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JI Koul Jalali

Terrorism still continues to be one of the most serious challenges confronting mankind. India has been hit hard the most, particularly by cross-border terrorism. It has already declared zero tolerance against it and vowed to eliminate it. During the last over five years, India has made persistent efforts in the United Nations and outside of it to ensure united action against the scourge. The efforts have started to yield results. The counter-terrorism committee of the United Nations Security Council in its special meeting held in India on the 28th and 29th of October unanimously urged all member states of the UN to ensure zero tolerance against terrorist activities and vowed to deal with menace more vigorously. In its declaration, the Committee reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It also urged all member states to deny access to terrorists to safe havens and bring to justice all persons supporting or planning terrorist attacks. The special meeting declared that terror financing is an important aspect of combating terrorism, and it should be effectively curbed.

Apart from Naxalite and similar forms of terrorism which arise mostly from economic causes, terrorism confronting the whole world springs mostly from radicalization and extremism

attributed to Islamic ideologies. Ulemas could be catalysts in changing the radicalized mindset of those involved in fomenting terrorism through wrong interpretation of ideology. Unlike many other religions, they cannot question the revelations made in the holy Quran even though these are wrongly interpreted. Consequently, Islamic extremism and terrorism have become a world problem. No alternative has come up so far which could rid the Islamic world of its ills and enable it on its own to live, adjust and co-exist with the rest of the world. During the thirties of the last century Mustapha Kemal popularly known as Ataturk, father of the Turkish nation, appeared to have found a way out. His liberal and progressive interpretation of Islam opened doors for Turkey to become a full-fledged member of the comity of European nations. His views and actions were acclaimed but these did not last long. Now for over three decades, Turkey has been going back. Later during the present century hopes were rekindled by democratic elections in Tunisia in 2011 followed by elections in some other Muslim countries. The development was termed as 'Arab Spring' but it too failed to bring

## Sufism Can Help Combat Terrorism

***The tenets of Sufism can go a long way in dealing with the menace of terrorism. Its universal appeal has the potential to heal and rejuvenate.***



about a renaissance. It only indicated that the Islamic world is not yet ready or prepared for a change on progressive or liberal lines based on true meaning of Islam. Sufis being far fewer in number have not been able to influence much of the rest of the population with their liberal outlook. Of late some Muslim countries have started to adopt liberal attitudes, particularly towards social and cultural issues on their own.

There has been a growing realization that apart from actions against terrorism at the governmental level, the civil society too must play a vital role in the elimination of scourges like terrorism. Hope was created when a dialogue was held in New Delhi late last month between Indonesian and Indian delegations of Ulema and leaders of other faiths in which it was made clear that Ulemas have a vital role to play to counter

radicalization and extremism by propagating progressive ideas and thought. In his opening speech at the dialogue, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said that we should focus on the real message of our religions which call for humanism, peace, and understanding. He observed that fissures appeared among the Caliphs after the death of the Prophet on the question of legitimate heir with each faction attempting to outdo the other by exposing a more radical interpretation of Hadis. It is here that the Ulemas have a leading role to play in educating the people about the original tolerant and moderate principles of Islam, he said. He pointed out that the holy Quran itself teaches that killing one

person is like killing all humanity and saving one is akin to saving humanity and said that Islam ordains 'Jihad Afzal' that is Jihad against one's senses and ego. Mohammed Mahfud Coordinating Minister for political, legal, and security affairs of Indonesia in his keynote address at the event said that such discussions give us the opportunity to learn from each other. Many a time we witness people who use their religion as a doctrine of absolute truth and readily blame others. We must go out of this and improve. Religion, he added, should be a source of peace not the reason for discord, conflict, or violence. It should be a unifying tool, not a divisive instrument, he remarked.

(The writer is a journalist, former IIS officer and producer. The views expressed are personal. Source : <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2022/>)

**Hope was created when a dialogue was held in New Delhi late last month between Indonesian and Indian delegations of Ulema and leaders of other faiths in which it was made clear that Ulemas have a vital role to play to counter radicalization and extremism by propagating progressive ideas and thought.**

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## 1st Muslim World Cup host Qatar seeks to change views on Islam

Those who stop are also offered Arabic coffee.

A Palestinian volunteer, Somaya, said most of the questions concerned "the veil, polygamy, and whether women are oppressed in Islam."

Qatar's record on women's and gender minority rights has been heavily scrutinized in connection with the World Cup.

Nearby, visitors can watch a five-minute virtual reality tour of Islam.

The campaign is being pursued across Qatar.

The sun sets behind a mosque in Doha, Qatar, Nov. 8, 2022. (AFP Photo)

### Happiness in Islam

In the Pearl district, where many expatriates live and frequent its expensive cafes and restaurants, murals have been painted with quotes from the Prophet Mohammed urging good morality.

Upscale shopping malls carry advertisements promoting Islam.

In the Souq Waqif market, where thousands of fans gather every day, free books and pamphlets are left in one alley with a sign saying: "If you're looking for happiness ...

you will find (it) in Islam."

Near the Souq, the Sheikh Abdulla bin Zaid Islamic Cultural Center is open 12 hours a day for tours.

Some Muslim leaders in Qatar have called for efforts to encourage visiting football fans to take up Islam.

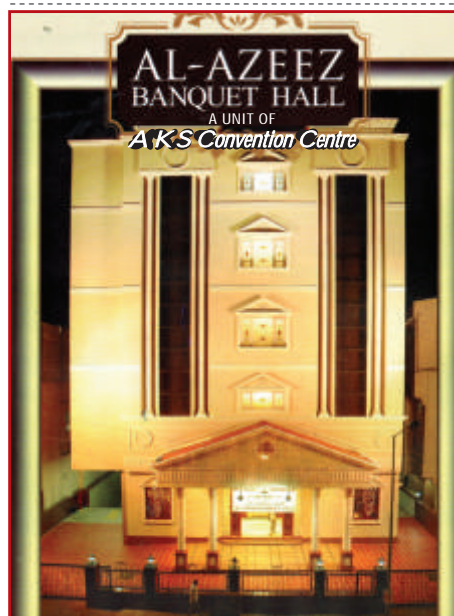
Sultan bin Ibrahim Al Hashemi, a professor of sharia law at Qatar University who heads the Voice of Islam radio station, said the World Cup should be used to inspire people, as well as counter Islamophobia.

Hashemi told AFP that in his meetings with foreign fans: "I will offer them to take up Islam."

"If I find the opportunity, I will offer them, Islam, with ease and grace, and if I do not find the opportunity, I will tell them that you are our guests and our brothers in humanity."

He also stressed that Islam does not accept conversion through coercion.

An official at Qatar's ministry of religious endowments told AFP that the state's goal was not "the number of converts to Islam, but rather the number of those who change their opinion about it."



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Syed Tahsin  
Ahmed

We have a large number of community-based NGOs or Non-profit organizations which are managing mosques, schools, colleges, hospitals, orphanages, madrasas, old age homes, etc. They are registered as Trusts Societies or Companies or as Waqf institutions. Most of these institutions (which we call *ideas* in Urdu) function in a most unprofessional manner and are not exposed to management techniques. As registered NGOs, they have to fulfill many obligatory requirements like adhering to their bylaws, proper maintenance of documents/accounts and getting their accounts audited by an external auditor or chartered accountant. These are procedural and legal requirements. But my focus here is on the management skills required to be adopted by them.

#### Birth Pangs

The fallacies of our community organizations start right from the day a Trust or Society is formed. A group of people comes together for a certain cause, picks their favourites, and all become founder members. It would have been more prudent to select members who know about the activity proposed to be taken up. How often do we across illiterate persons who are heading the governing body of an educational institution or laymen managing a hospital? There are educational institutions exclusively for girls, but they have no women members. You will find office bearers of a mosque committee who are not regular for the *namaz*. We have seen tenants of a Waqf institution becoming the President or Secretary of the managing committee by overcoming the restrictions through *Benaami* tenancy. How can you expect that action will be taken for non-payment of rent, sub-letting, and other violations? All such people take high moral ground and can be heard giving big sermons about what is right and what is wrong. This is the bane of the community.

#### Peter F. Drucker: Management Ideas

Peter Drucker, a management expert has written an engaging book titled "*Managing the Non-profit Organization - Principles and Practices*". In this book, he provides apt examples and explanations of the mission, leadership, resources, marketing, goals, and much more pertaining specifically to NGOs. To address the key issues at the practical level, he interviews nine experts

## Community Organizations: Need for Introspection

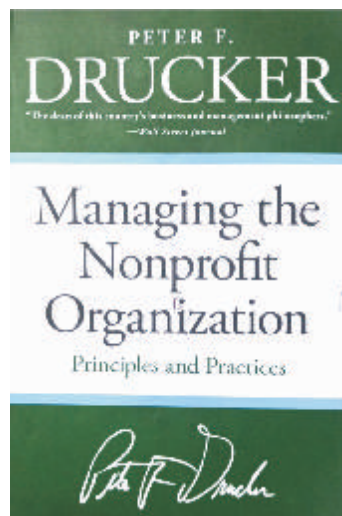
from different fields including a Vicar of a Catholic Diocese. The book has many guidelines for the effective management of NGOs which are very useful for professionally managing our Trusts, Societies, and Waqf institutions.

#### Mission Comes First

"Non-profit institutions exist for the sake of their mission, and this must never be forgotten", says Peter Drucker. How often we see that a Trust formed to run a school venture to open an old age home, a Trust formed to run a hospital starts a madrasa or a Society formed to run a college opens a Dialysis Centre. Diversification may succeed for a corporate entity but not for an NGO. They must stick to their mission. Similarly, Waqf institutions should not abandon the *Mansha-e-Waqif* (the purpose for which the Waqf was formed by its dedicator) wherever possible. Many NGOs, instead of becoming the leaders in the field of their original mission, slip into oblivion by putting their fingers in an altogether different field of activity.

#### Change From "fund Raising" To "fund Development"

Napoleon said that there were three things needed to fight a war. The first is money. The second is money. And the third is money. "That may be true for war, but it's not true for the non-profit organization. There (for NGOs) you need four things. **You need a plan. You need marketing. You need people. And you need money**" says Peter Drucker. Money is always scarce in an NGO, and you have to mobilize donations or what is popularly called the "*Chanda*" collection. For this, you must sell your concept and not your product. Also, it is always advantageous to raise money from people who want to participate in the cause, but who are not beneficiaries. Peter Drucker however cautions that "a non-profit institution that becomes a prisoner of money-raising is in a serious identity crisis. This is why non-profit people have now changed the term they use from 'fund raising' to 'fund development'. Fundraising is going around with a begging bowl, asking for money because the *need* is so great. Fund development is creating a constituency which supports the organization because it *deserves* it". The donor participates through giving. Let me give an example. *The Puttayanapalya Welfare Association*, Bangalore gives the orphan children some amount in the form of a cheque, food packs, pre-used clothes, tiffin carriers, chocolates, etc. every month. But instead of collecting donations,



they ask the donors to adopt an orphan by sending all the details about the child. The donor can participate in the monthly distribution program and hand over the cheque. They also send a photo of the child receiving the goodies by WhatsApp to the donor every month.

#### Need For Dissent

Quite often we have noticed in many of our organizations that when an important decision must be taken in a meeting of the *idaara*, the members remain quiet and give their approval. Later when it turns out to be a bad decision, they start blaming each other. Whose decision was this? Franklin D. Roosevelt had a simple rule: *if you have a consensus on an important matter, don't make the decision. Adjourn it so that everybody has a little time to think*. Peter Drucker opines: "*Acclamation means that nobody has done homework. There should be dissent and disagreement, but it should be constructive criticism*". More often we notice that our organizations are riddled with feuds, distrust, and ego clashes. Groupism thrives with members divided between two clashing personalities. Decisions are taken, not on the merits and demerits of the case, but for reason that who is backing it. Many organizations have gone into disrepute and destroyed themselves because of such internal feuds. Peter Drucker suggests that asking for disagreement openly gives people the feeling that they have been heard and they calm down. Another way to defuse an argument is to say "*Let's start by finding what we agree on*". The best way to resolve a conflict is to ask the two people who most vocally oppose each other to sit down and work out a common approach.

#### Board Of Management Or Governing Body

The Managing Committee or Board of an NGO institution must understand its real obligations and has to set goals for its own

performance. In organizations running institutions like schools, colleges, hospitals orphanages etc., quite often it complains that the Board meddles with the administration. Sometimes the management gives preference to a favourite non-performing employee, and this causes disenchantment among the sincere and hardworking staff. Peter Drucker points out that there will be troublemakers among the Board members themselves who abuse the Board to create a political platform for themselves or just to hear themselves talk. "Over the door to the non-profit's boardroom there should be an inscription in bold letters that says: **Membership on this Board is not power, it is responsibility**". Members/Trustees should know that they are here not for recognition by the community but for a commitment to service.

#### The Term Of Office Bearers

Peter Drucker raises another important issue that is very much

relevant to our Waqf institutions, Trusts and Societies: what should be the term of the members of the Board? In our institutions we see the President, Secretary, and other office bearers holding on to their posts till death. Peter Drucker says: "*For a good many older people, membership on the Board of a service organization is the last activity they have. They have retired from everything else. So they hold on to it*". He further says "that it is best to limit membership to two terms of, say, three years each. After that, you go off the Board. Three years later you may come back on again. But at age seventy-two or so, you go off the Board and *stay* off the Board".

All these issues need to be considered seriously if we wish to have healthy and vibrant institutions. Those who are heading our organizations have plenty of matters to introspect about. Will they? I hope they do.

(The author is a retired KAS officer and may be contacted at [tahsin789@yahoo.com](mailto:tahsin789@yahoo.com))

**There (for NGOs) you need four things. You need a plan. You need marketing. You need people. And you need money" says Peter Drucker**

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## New Year Resolutions:

### Understanding Procrastination, Its Consequences, and How to Overcome it and Save Your Every Year's Failing Schedule



Arshad Sayyed

Every new year comes with many new resolutions. Almost every single person on this earth plans something to follow, to accomplish, to achieve in life. Some might think about following healthy habits, joining the gym, learning new skills, and having a very prescribed schedule for the whole day throughout the year.

#### But how far does it last?

Some may start losing it from the very first week, and some may follow a for few days or weeks, or a couple of months but for maximum people, it does not last throughout the year. Why does this happen to almost everyone? Now Second thing is when you take the project in hand and you have a deadline of completing this project in 7 days. Many people waste/delay it up to the deadline and then spend sleepless nights to complete the project. This habit can also be seen in maximum people.

This phenomenon is widely known as Procrastination. And in this article especially on the new year, we are trying to understand what procrastination actually means. Why it happens and how to overcome it? So, we can actually follow our new year resolutions more effectively this time without failing. let's begin.....!!

#### What is Procrastination....??

"Procrastination is simply the action of unnecessarily avoiding, delaying or postponing something even after knowing its consequences, mostly negative.

This term is derived from the Latin word Procrastinatus in which Pro means 'Forward' and Crastinus means 'tomorrow'.

Basically, Procrastination is a common human tendency to avoid or delay a few things which they don't want to do, or that they feel like not doing it right now. No matter how organized and committed you are, there is always a chance of you getting involved for hours in trivial pursuits, especially in the age of social media we spend hours watching TV or unnecessary stuff on YouTube or scrolling feeds on Facebook, or watching reels on Instagram or shopping online, etc. when you should have been spending that time to finish your work/project.

There are so many reasons or excuses to justify procrastination behavior, out of them, a few key reasons are –

- Not knowing where to start?



- Not knowing how to do some tasks?
- Lacking the initiative to get started and perform the work
- Thinking of Finishing the job in time or at the last minute
- Not caring about the consequences
- Not feeling in the mood to do the task
- Making a habit of delaying until the last moment
- Carelessness
- Forgetting Behavior
- Not wanting to do something

Some researchers suggested that procrastinators are classified into two types:

**1. Passive Procrastinators:** Passive procrastinators are basically those people who are getting trouble making decisions and working on them.

**2. Active Procrastinators:** Active procrastinators are basically those people who purposefully delay a task to perform under pressure because they think it gives them a feeling of challenge and they feel motivated.

#### Procrastinator's Brain



Procrastination is commonly compared to an Instant Gratification Monkey because his brain is not evolved enough to calculate long-term outcomes as he is satisfied in short-term comfort zones. Whereas human is known for their foresight and can easily figure out long-term success by being Rational Decision Maker, due to their tendency of avoiding stressful work, one prefers to be an Instant gratification monkey than a Rational Decision Maker. And this behavior often leads him to panic situations.

#### Negative Impacts of

#### Procrastination :

Procrastination in small tasks is okay but once you made it a habit and started procrastinating in almost everything then it can cause a serious impact on various life areas.

- Negative impact on social, financial, and professional areas and a person's mental health.
- Bad consequences of missing deadlines
- Stress, Depression, low self-esteem, and inadequacy
- Anger and less trust in fellow people

#### How to Overcome Procrastination :

People Procrastinate because they don't see the benefits of long-term goals quickly. After all, your brain usually doesn't function that way. So, if you found a way to understand the benefits of long-term choices more immediately, then you can avoid procrastination more easily. The following are some methods:

- Design your Future goals and build temptations for them.
- Build a habit of making a to-do list, being consistent, and following the discipline by constantly reminding yourself of the fruitful results of it.
- Divide big tasks into small steps as your brain consider small tasks more achievable and this way you can complete overwhelming work comfortably.
- Try to eliminate the distraction as much as you can. Check what pulls your attention away and keep those distractions as away as possible.
- Be consistent, follow a daily routine, and make it long term habit which will definitely help you to kick out procrastination from your life for a long time.

New Year is a great opportunity to seriously consider all these aspects, understanding what we want to do in life, what we want to be in life. Understanding and adopting these habits, It will eventually lead you toward the goals you want to achieve in life.

(The writer is a Software Engineer, International NLP Master, Motivational Speaker)

## READERS RESPONSE

### The Importance of Reading

Sir,  
Apropos the article "The importance of Reading" (IV Dec 2022) by Mr. Tahsin Ahmed. The author has painstakingly stressed the importance of reading. But how long can we hold the people from bidding goodbye to the PRINT WORLD? Digitalization is picking up very fast. Information Technology is opening up new vistas every day. With the fast-changing trends, it looks very difficult to make our youth continue with what we had in our days and what we have been and are used to. Libraries are being digitized so fast that many premises are facing the danger of turning into graveyards of books. Typewriters have already become museum pieces. Huge volumes of Encyclopaedia Britannica are available on a very small chip and so is the case with six volumes of *Tafheem ul Quran*, *In the shade of the Quran*, and many other *tafaseer*. Similarly, great Literature in many languages is also digitized. Our youth will therefore certainly like to have access to all this reclining in his armchair instead of going to a library which is at quite a distance. We felt that the library gave us the perfect atmosphere for reading. But the likes and dislikes of today's youth have changed with the changing times. Even we have been changing. We have moved on from typewriters to mobiles, Laptops, and everything else. I would suggest that we should not be very sensitive about this and take things as they come. What cannot be cured can only be endured.

SNH Razvi,  
Former Secretary,  
Karnataka State Minorities  
Commission. ■

Sir,  
In today's world of screens, whether it be Smart TV, Computer, iPad, or a Smart Mobile Phone, Tahsin Ahmed in Dec 2022 issue of IV raises the topic of "The importance of reading". He starts with the penchant we had as young children to read comics, whether in the form of books, in newspapers, or in magazines No comics or cartoons were left unread. It gave sheer enjoyment, mental relief, and satisfaction. "Read" is a simple word. Easy on the tongue and lighter on the ears but when put in practice, carries a lot of weight with a great impact on the mind. The first step of



human beings toward literacy starts with reading and learning the alphabet. Allah chose the first word "Read" to reveal Qur'an on our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw). Knowing very well that Prophet was an "Ummi", Allah could have chosen many other words like "Say", "Tell", "Repeat" etc. But NO. The chosen divine word was "Read". This alone should be enough to tell us the importance of reading. It may also give a thought that the word "Read" proclaimed by Jibraeel (as) to Prophet (saw) would not make any sense in the absence of the book. Allah in his infinite wisdom knew this first word "Read" would lead to the entire holy book Quran, a guide to all mankind. Many millions will be pursuing this one-word "Read" to understand, seek guidance and memorize the entire Quran.

The writer bemoans how the younger generations are losing interest in reading books in print and paper. Even if they do, it is only limited to their syllabus. Reading books on various subjects be it fiction or nonfiction opens up the mind to think at a higher level and in different directions. Be it in the field of arts or science. Reading has a good and greater impact on the brain and thinking power. It encourages to be creative and innovation giving birth to new thoughts and ideas.

The lack of reading has created such poor communication skills, rightly suggested by the author, that even a graduate today cannot write a simple letter. Weak vocabulary, misspelled words, improper grammar and sentences are the main reasons for avoiding reading in print by youngsters. The writer ends the article in a beautiful manner. Suggesting starting the day by following Allah's command to "Read", read HIS Book Qur'an with word-to-word translation and its summary to understand what Islam is and seek HIS guidance.

I thank the author to bring forth this simple word and its impact on both the worldly life and spiritual life. If only we can understand and try to reach the depth of it.

Qazi Minhaj Azher,  
USA ■

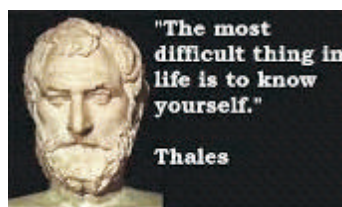




Moin Qazi

## What Has Life Taught Me

*Spiritual enlightenment and the pursuit of truth alone can give man the freedom he struggles for.*



worst, diseased sheep in his flock. Abel offered his best sheep to God. Abel's sacrifice was accepted while Cain's was rejected.

"And convey unto them, setting forth the truth, the story of the two sons of Adam - how each offered a sacrifice, and it was accepted from one of them whereas it was not accepted from the other. [And Cain] said: 'I will surely slay thee!' [Abel] replied: 'Behold, God accepts only from those who are conscious of Him.

"(Q5:27) Cain became arrogant and his faith turned weak. Although he fulfilled God's command of a sacrifice, his intention lacked purity of heart. Through his story we learn that merely performing outer acts of worship as required by religion, is simply not good enough.

The emphasis on humility in spiritual texts demonstrates that it's a trait that deserves to be revered. As Confucius once

defined it, humility is "the solid foundation of all virtues" -- and possibly the key to achievement. While humble people are often seen in today's corporate culture as unassertive, passive types, there's something truly powerful about them that we can all stand to emulate. Studies have associated humility with healthy adjustment, good leadership, and other positive emotions demonstrating that in order to reach total success, we could stand to benefit from getting in touch with our modest side.

It is in the autumn or the sunset of life that one realizes the true mission of one's life. It is then that he starts counting the regrets for his errancy. He feels if he is

given a new life, he will organize it around the lessons he has learned. The wrench is too great in almost every heart. But then there is no way he can make amends. The Sufi saint Bayazid says this about himself: "I was all revolutionary when I was young and all my prayer to God was 'Lord, give me the energy to change the world, As I approached middle age and realized that half of my life was gone without my changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to: 'Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come in contact with me, just my family and friends and I shall be content.' Now, that I am an old man and my days are numbered, my one prayer is, 'Lord, give me the grace to change myself.' If I had prayed for this right from the start I should not have wasted my life" ■

In every individual's life there comes a point when he must undertake a self-audit and self-evaluation when believers check their accounts in Heavenly currency terms. Life is really short, and it is only when you are at peace with yourself and the world that you can find the tranquility one needs in order to remember God and contemplate the realm of the cosmic powers. As a priest at the temple of the Oracle of Delphi in ancient Greece, Plutarch passed by an inscription on the temple wall every day that read "know thyself." This inscription is a means to begin to explore who or what you are in your essence beyond what you see in the mirror.

My parents taught me religion, culture, and spiritualism. But I must have imbibed something more – something which told me that all the world's thoughts, all the world's most beautiful languages, and literature, are but vehicles for that ineffable message which comes to the heart in rare moments of ecstasy. I have explored Western lands, Western manners, and the depths of Western thought and Western learning, to a considerable extent. But I have never lost touch with my Eastern heritage. Through all my successes and failures, I have learned to rely more and more upon the one true thing in life – the voice that speaks in a tongue above that of a mortal man.

As Plato said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." We need to set aside some time from our daily lives to reflect on and understand the harmony of nature, count our blessings, and radiate positive vibrations. These are all acts of faith.

Socrates said, "Know thyself". We must look into ourselves and examine ourselves before we examine or judge anybody else. We must have a sense of our rights and our responsibilities. We must keep examining what we are, and what we offer but also where we went wrong. We must have the courage to acknowledge our mistakes and redeem ourselves through corrective action—or else we may be too late in life, and we will have to suffer a deep wrench in our heart.

The quintessence of every creed is this: Just as we cannot survive without food and water, we humans cannot survive without a sense of the meaning or ultimate purpose of life—of life in general, and our own life in particular. Human beings are meaning-seeking creatures.

Starved of a sense of ultimate purpose in life, we are doomed, sooner rather than later, to fall prey to alienation, cynicism, anarchy, and even worse—to madness and suicide. "Life," says Pavlov "loses its attraction when it no longer has any purpose. Those who commit suicide make away with themselves because they feel life has lost its meaning. Their tragedy consists in having been unable to surmount a temporary phase of the inhibition of their goal-seeking reflexes."

**Spiritual enlightenment** and the pursuit of truth alone can give man the freedom he struggles for. How do we develop a spiritual life? How do we change ourselves so that we can live by the universal spiritual values of Islam? Based on the teachings of classical scholars including Imam Ghazali, practitioners have distilled seven steps to spiritual intelligence that guides us on how we can come closer to God: through the genuine seeking of God, discipleship of a spiritual director, learning and understanding spiritual intelligence, simplicity, and contentment, striving to practice, remembering God, and praying to Him, and self-inspection and self-control.

**The spiritual quest is an internal journey**, it is a psychic path. Very often, priests, rabbis, imams, and shamans are just as consumed by worldly ambition as regular seekers of material possessions. But all this is generally seen as an abuse of a sacred ideal. These power struggles are not what religion is really about, but an unworthy distraction from the life of the spirit, which is conducted far from the madding crowd, unseen, silent, and unobtrusive. Indeed, in many faiths, monks and mystics lock themselves away from the world to contemplate the mysteries of the cosmos. They shun the clamor and strife of history which is regarded as incompatible with truly religious life.

The struggle between good and evil is a continuous war with victory and defeat taking place each moment. We are often torn between truth and falsehood, greed and generosity, and happiness and regret. Is the struggle between good and evil as old as Adam and Eve? Their son Abel represents the forces of good, while the other son, Cain, represents evil. Both sought to worship God, and both were commanded by God to render a sacrifice. Under the influence of Satan, Cain chose as his gift the

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Laura El Alam

## PARENTING

## Prepare Your Children for a Successful Financial Future



When children are very young, it might seem unnecessary to teach them about financial matters. In fact, most people don't learn about saving, budgeting, banking, or investing money until they are young adults earning their first real paycheck. As a result, many are unprepared to make financially savvy decisions and often make major mistakes such as falling into debt or failing to budget for crucial expenses.

Muslims need to know how to handle money, including the Islamic rules about wealth and the practical, day-to-day skills that will enable us to support ourselves and our families. Waiting until adulthood to learn these strategies is extremely unwise. In fact, according to a study at the University of Cambridge, money habits are formed in early childhood and are basically set by age seven.[i]

So how can we teach our children to manage money responsibly from an early age so that they are prepared for the future?

### 1. Teach Them the Islamic Mindset

First and foremost, our children should learn that wealth is a gift from Allah, but also a test. We will all be questioned on the Day of Judgement about how we spent our money. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, *"The two feet of the son of Adam will not move on the Day of Judgement in front of his Lord until he is asked about five things: about his life, and how he spent it? And about his youth, what did he consume it in? And about his money, how did he earn it? And what did he spend it on? And how much did he act upon what he knew?"* (Tirmidhi)

It is also crucial for Muslims to

understand that "... in Islam, Allah is the true Owner of all wealth, and the individual is merely a trustee or executor whose role is to use the wealth and assets in a manner pleasing to Allah," according to an article about personal finance by Dr. Osman Umarji.

### 2. Instill a Love of Giving Charity

Sharing money with those in need is a fundamental principle of Islam, and we should model this to our children by letting them see us donate funds with a modest, kind, and generous attitude. Our kids should grow up with the expectation that part of their wealth will always be directed to charity. This will make paying *zakat* a natural part of their life. If children receive money for Eid, for instance, this is a teachable moment. Parents can help them calculate 2.5 percent of the total and encourage their children to donate that sum to a charitable cause. The Prophet said that "The wealth of a man will not diminish by charity." (Tirmidhi). Our children should absorb the Islamic principle that sharing with those in need will purify their wealth and

will, in fact, allow it to increase.

### 3. Encourage Them to Save and Budget their Money

If a child receives a gift of \$100, there are many options. She can either go to the store and spend it all on whatever strikes her fancy, or she can invest in her future. After setting aside 2.5% for charity (\$2.50), her parents can help her save most of the remaining money by opening a checking account. If she adds regularly to this balance as she grows, she can amass a substantial sum which she can then invest, or use for important purchases like her first car. Children are often impulsive and want to spend money as soon as they get it. Adults can help them think long-term about their financial decisions.

### 4. When the Time is Right, Introduce a Debit Card

With a checking account established, a preteen is probably mature enough to start using a debit card. Using a debit card will help your child understand how to keep track of his money in the bank and will be safer and more convenient than carrying cash. Since a debit card requires the buyer to pay for the item immediately, in full, from

their checking account, there is no chance of interest accruing. It is also impossible for the child to go into debt when paying with a debit card because he can't spend more than he has. Make sure to opt out of overdraft coverage. If your child tries to make a purchase when he doesn't have enough funds in his checking account, the transaction will simply be declined.

### 5. Show them How Much Everyday Items Cost

If they have never gone to the store and purchased a gallon of milk or a jug of laundry detergent, children will have no idea how much everyday necessities cost. They are less likely to waste food and supplies if they clearly understand how much money everything requires. One solution is to allow your child to help with the week's grocery shopping. Tell him how much money the family can spend, have him plan the week's meals, and then let him do the grocery shopping as independently as he can. Seeing how much money it costs to stock a refrigerator, pack school lunches, and buy basic supplies will help prepare your child to run his own household. Similarly, show your child the monthly utility bills and let her help pay them. Explain how to write checks and balances in a checkbook. Realizing how much

electricity, phone lines, heat, and water costs will likely inspire kids to be more thoughtful about how much they consume. It will also prepare them for a future where those bills will be theirs to pay.

### 6. Model Good Financial Decisions and Let Your Child Hear Your Thinking Process

"I like this new shirt, but I don't really need it." "That new car is tempting, but the monthly payment is more than we can comfortably afford." "If we start saving now, we can take a family vacation in July." "The new washer and dryer will cost around \$1,000, so we need to save \$100 per week for 10 weeks." "I don't always need the latest gadget. My old cell phone works just fine." Children are listening to our conversations and watching our decisions. If we want them to behave in a fiscally responsible and ethical way, we need to live as role models.

With effort and mindfulness, we can inculcate in our children a conscientious and knowledgeable approach to money, InshaAllah. It's never too early to start teaching our children about financial literacy and modeling appropriate behaviors.

*Laura El Alam is a first-generation American Muslim. A prolific writer, Laura has published articles in numerous sources.* Source: <https://www.soundvision.com/article/prepare-your-children-for-a-successful-financial-future>

**Sharing money with those in need is a fundamental principle of Islam, and we should model this to our children by letting them see us donate funds with a modest, kind, and generous attitude.**

«Page 1

It said that in order to create safe, peaceful, and prosperous societies, religious leaders from both countries with sizable Muslim populations Indonesia, which has the largest Muslim population in the world, and India, which has the third largest stressed the importance of making every effort to foster mutual understanding, trust, and respect.

"The ulemas also shared views on the experience and practice of Islam in multi-religious societies like India and Indonesia. They appreciated the prevalence of religious freedom, pluralism, and equality before the law in both societies," it said.

The ulemas have a key role in educating the public about the original tolerant and moderate values of Islam and fending against radicalization and extremism with forward-thinking ideas and thought, according to National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, who stated this earlier in his opening

## India and Indonesia Ulemas and other Religious Leaders Hold Dialogue Agree to Develop a Joint Narrative on De-Radicalization

remarks.

Underlining the threat posed by radicalization, he said opposition to extremists and terrorists should not be painted as a confrontation with any religion.

"None of the ends for which extremism, radicalization, and the misuse of religion are employed are justifiable on any ground. This is a distortion of religion against which all of us need to raise our voices. Extremism and terrorism are against the very meaning of Islam because Islam means peace and well-being (Salamati/Asalaam). Opposition to such forces should not be painted as a confrontation with any religion. That is a ruse", he said.

"Instead, we should focus on the real message of our religions, which stands for the values of humanism, peace, and

understanding. Indeed, as the Holy Quran itself teaches, killing one person is like killing all humanity, and saving one is akin to saving humanity. Islam ordains that the most excellent form of Jihad is 'Jihad Afzal' – that is, Jihad against one's senses or ego- and not against innocent civilians," Doval further said.

He stressed the significance of ulemas in Islamic society and stated that the discussion's goal was to bring Indian and Indonesian ulemas and scholars together to foster tolerance, harmony, and peaceful coexistence, which would help in the fight against violent extremism, terrorism, and radicalization.

Doval urged the need to create a shared narrative on de-radicalization and stated that hate speech, bigotry, propaganda,

demonization, violence, conflict, and the exploitation of religion for personal gain had no place in a democracy.

The dialogue was a novel idea because Mohammad Mahfud MD, the coordinating minister for political, legal, and security matters, was visiting India at Doval's invitation together with a delegation of ulemas and other religious figures from Indonesia. Mahfud had been invited by Doval to attend the second India-Indonesia Security Dialogue on March 17 in Jakarta while he was in Indonesia.

Mahfud, the Indonesian counterpart of NSA Doval, accepted the invitation to visit India and stated his desire to bring a delegation of Indonesian ulemas and other religious leaders there so they can connect with their Indian

counterparts in a more "formal context," according to the Indian officials.

The Delhi-based India Islamic Cultural Centre organized the event. The event in total had three sessions. The first session was on 'Islam: Continuity and Change' while the second and third sessions were on 'Harmonising Interfaith Society: Practices and Experience' and 'Countering Radicalisation and Extremism in India and Indonesia', respectively.

Ajit Doval and Prof. Dr. Mohammad Mahfud were the chief guests who delivered the opening address and the keynote address. Former Union minister M J Akbar and Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain (Retired) and Akhtarul Wasey, Chairman of Khusro Foundation, addressed the gathering from the Indian side. Indonesian Ulema Masykuri Abdillah, M. Cholil Nafis, and Abdul Moqsi Ghazali besides Abdul Mu'ti and M Zaitun Rasmin addressed their respective sessions.





Maisah

Long before modern civilization revealed more about climate phenomena and the earth's life cycle, the Prophet Muhammad SAW had first given a prophecy regarding this omen. In a hadith narrated by Abu Hurairah, Rasulullah SAW said:

*The Prophet's prophecy (nubuwwah) that the arid Arabian Peninsula will return to green will come true after 1400 years.*

The greenery of the Arabian Peninsula is expected to come true in the near future with high enthusiasm from Saudi Project's push for its climate change commitments by increasing its environmental protection and energy transition programs, such as the **Saudi Green Initiative** and the **Middle East Green Initiative** which were first announced last year by Crown Prince Mohammed

## Hadith of Greenery in Arab Countries

### Hadith of Prophet Muhammad about Greenery in Arab Came True after 1400 Years

“Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (PBUH) as saying:

**'The Last Hour will not come before wealth becomes abundant and overflowing, so much so that a man takes Zakat out of his property and cannot find anyone to accept it from him and till the land of Arabia turns into meadows and rivers.'**

(Sahih Muslim 157c / Book 12, Hadith 76)



Bin Salman.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is investing further in the green transition by announcing it will donate \$2.5 billion to the Middle East Green Initiative on Monday, November 7th. The funds will be used for the next ten years.

The Middle East Green Initiative was launched by the Crown Prince last year with the aim of reducing

carbon emissions from regional hydrocarbon production by more than 60 percent. It is to plant 50 billion trees in the Middle East and restore an area equivalent to 200 million hectares of degraded land.

#### What is the Saudi green initiative?

- 50 Billion trees to be planted across the Middle East.
- Fifty percent of energy will come from renewable energy projects by 2030.
- Sixty percent reduction in carbon emission in the Middle East.
- Thirty percent of Saudi land will

be protected, including its' coastal ecosystem.

The plan is also said to cover 30 percent of the Kingdom's area or 600,000 square meters of land that will be converted into protected areas, and efforts will be made to protect the surrounding environment.



Since the launch of the Saudi Green Initiative alone, more than 18 million trees have been planted in Kingdom and 17 new initiatives have been launched across the country to restore natural greenery and protect against the effects of

climate change.



The Prophet's hadith, which will soon come true through the Saudi authorities' greenery initiative, is a reminder and warning for all of us that the signs of the end are getting closer. Let us strengthen our faith by carrying Prophet's and Allah's commands and staying away from all its prohibitions – before this dreadful day occurs.

(Maisah is a Muslimah and journalist for The Islamic Information based in Indonesia. Studying Law at Maritime University of Raja Ali Haji. **S o u r c e :** <https://theislamicinformation.com/blogs/hadith-of-prophet-muhammad-pbuh-greenery-in-arab-came/>)

## QURAN SPEAKS TO YOU

### Turn to Allah in All Situations!

**Never say about anything, “I shall do this tomorrow,” without adding, “if God so wills.” Should you forget, then call your Lord to mind and say, “I pray that my Lord will guide me even closer than this to what is right.” (Al-Kahf 18:23–24)**

belong to God at the beginning and the end.

What this means in practice is that every person should think and plan as they wish, but they must always remember to rely on God's help and guidance. They should realize that they only have the faculties of thinking and deliberation that God has given them. This should not lead to laziness or disinterestedness. On the contrary, it should give us more strength, confidence, reassurance and resolve. Should events reveal that God's will has moved in a direction different to what we planned, we should accept this with contentedness and reassurance. We submit to God's will, because it is beyond our knowledge until God makes it known.

This is the method Islam instills into the minds of its followers. Hence a Muslim does not feel alone when he plans or thinks of the future. Neither does he show any conceit or arrogance when he succeeds, nor is he overtaken by depression and despair when he fails. In all situations, he remembers God, feeling stronger for relying on Him, expressing gratitude to Him for his success, and resigned to whatever God's

will may determine.

(Should you forget, then call your Lord to mind) (Al-Kahf 18:24). This is what a Muslim should do

when he forgets to relate his intentions to God's will. He should remember God and renew his reliance on Him. He should also

hope to remain always conscious of God, turning to Him in all situations and all future actions, always saying (**I pray that my Lord will guide me even closer than this to what is right**) (Al-Kahf 18:24).

This short prayer indicates that it is not so easy to always turn to God in all affairs. Hence the prayer to try always to maintain it and improve on one's situation.

(Translated by Adil Salahi)

## MASJID-O-MADRASA ABDULLAH BIN ZAID (RAZ)

Assalamualaikum Warahmathullahi wa barakatuh, Dear brothers, this is to bring to your kind notice that Masjid-o-Madrasa of “Abdullah bin Zaid (RA)” popular colony Bommanahalli, Bangalore. Has been planned to extend the masjid place due to huge crowd of Musalliyan-e-Kiram, So the management has decided to expand the Masjid Premises on the either side of the Masjid which covers the area of 2400 sq.ft. which costs Rs. 1,20,00,000 (1.2 crores). Therefore, the cost for Per sq.ft. is Rs. 5,000/ and Per Musalla is Rs. 40,000, As of Now Rs. 45,00,000 (45 lakhs) has been collected, urgently we need Rs. 75,00,000 (75 Lakhs). And the owner of land has made a agreement of 6 months from 1st September to End Of February, As of now four month is already Passed, And now 2 Months are Left to pay the Remaining Amount, So Kindly request you to participate in Khair of Akhirath for yourself & also on behalf of you Marhomeen for Isal-e-Sawaab & Sawaab-e-Jariya. Jazakallahu Khair.

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**A Muslim does not feel alone when he plans or thinks of the future. Neither does he show any conceit or arrogance when he succeeds, nor is he overtaken by depression and despair when he fails. In all situations, he remembers God, feeling stronger for relying on Him.**





Moqheeta

## A Conscious Heart

This write-up of mine is more like a little peek into my past and present. I would like to share how my childhood observations led me to ultimately connect to my real identity. Allah swt has been *As Saboor* with me, He led me patiently from one phase to another and made me see things from the right perspective. To begin with, I must start by telling you about somebody. An elderly lady clad in a humble white cotton saree, silvery wavy hair tied in a simple plait at the back, - this is the image I hold of my grandma. She used to like to help my mum with the food preparations, simple chores like plucking the mint leaves, taking the seeds out of the pea pod, or sorting the veggies after the shopping. Whatever the chore might be, one *tasbeeh* I often used to hear my grandmother proclaim was **Subhan Allah**. She used to exclaim this at things that looked so insignificant and common to me. The layers of an onion, the closely placed peas inside the pod, the colour of a beetroot, the arrangement of corn kernels....it could've been anything to everything. But she never missed saying **Subhan Allah**.



This practice of hers always left me confused. Why does she say **subhan Allah** for trivial things? Was **subhan Allah** not a *tasbeeh* to be recited 32 times after salah? Or to be done 100 times on those special nights? This is where my *deen* was limited to. As a family, we were quite thankful and a wee bit proud to be studying at one of the prestigious schools of the time. The English language was given preference (which is the same case even now). Some ostentatious things do not change!!! Observing fasts during Ramadhan, praying salah on special occasions, having a Quran teacher to help complete the recitation of the Quran, covering the head when attending a religious function...this was the arrangement of religious education and practice for me. I also took pride in calling myself a SECULAR Muslim

because that made social situations easy for me. I didn't feel it is necessary to carry my Muslim identity everywhere. And I chose to believe that I am balancing the two worlds just fine. The *Deen* and *Duniya*.

Allah swt has been merciful and patient with me. He made me learn about the life, about people, the world, cultures and myself, and my purpose as a human. Allah swt *al Hakeem*, moved me to another part of the world. A part that is considered the epitome of cultural excellence, the land of the Queen - England. Allah ta'ala had His subtle plans for my transformation and He also had my grandma's **Subhan Allah** to make complete sense now.

For me as a human, the move was quite distressing. New people, new culture. But Allah is *Al Haadi*, the guide, and planner of my life, He knew how the move would benefit me.

He made me come across people of different ethnic backgrounds who chose Islam and were so comfortable with the new religion they embraced. They carried the *Deen* with such clarity and totality. This was an opportunity for me to contemplate. Who am I? Why did I always feel I needed to put *Deen* and *Duniya* in two separate boxes? Why did I classify myself as a secular Muslim? I am a Muslim and that is all it should be.

Secular Muslim, liberal Muslim, religious Muslim, practicing Muslim, fanatic Muslim, extreme Muslim. Who started these labels? Allah and His Prophet didn't call people by such labels. These are the labels we gave ourselves to fit into certain situations and to classify other Muslims.

With the time I spent with others, one thing became clear to me, no matter how hard you try, you can never please everyone. The people around you, the cultures around you, keep changing. But I should uphold my identity no matter where I am. I can't operate from different boxes.

Allah wants a Muslim to simply submit with all his heart. A Muslim who holds a pure, conscious, and acknowledging heart will naturally carry himself with utmost caution. After all, can a pure heart hold malice and rancour against anyone? Can a conscious heart ignore the signs of Allah and his responsibilities towards people? Can an acknowledging heart be in denial of his fate and carry an ego?

The Quran mentions **Qalb-e-Saleem**, whose literal meaning is an undamaged and sound heart.

Allah swt says "*The Day whereon neither sons nor wealth will avail, except him who brings to Allah Qalb-e-Saleem (a pure heart).*" [Al-Quran 26:88-89].

Now I understand why my grandma used to say **subhan Allah** for things that I concluded as unremarkable. She had a conscious heart. She was pained by others' pain, she was happy at other people's achievements, and she could see Allah's work of art in everything and that made her proclaim glory be to Allah.

The conscious heart will automatically acknowledge Allah's message in everything around him.

It responds to situations, people, and things around them as Allah wants him to. People who are constantly conscious see the beauty and purpose in everything.



And after decades of my grandma passing away, I can still connect to her. Now I also say **subhan Allah** when I look at the most beautiful creations made by Allah swt (which at one point I assumed to be so insignificant). A blade of grass, the perfect placement of the corn, and the smell of an orange peel, puts in awe of the mighty creator. Maybe a very small level of consciousness has also entered my heart.

My journey of learning and observing is on. There is so much to learn from Muslims who stand up for their faith in spite of all the difficulties. Muslims who say **alhamdulillah** at the first instance of calamity. Muslims believe that difficulties come from Allah and the solution will also come from Allah. Muslims are always grateful no matter what troubles them. Muslims are always pure at heart. I feel there is a long way for me to go till my heart transforms into **Qalb e Saleem**. ■

## Love of Allah

Amtus Salam



Searching for a new sight, my bored eyes turned away from the busy tarmac to a young girl, with a pretty dress on. She happily hopped around with the ever-watchful eyes of her parents on her. They had ready smiles whenever she rushed to them enveloping her with love.

Their loving gaze took me back to my childhood days. I was not aware then, but I was a world to my parents. Born after many failures, I was cherished by them and the whole family. Every new frock design had to be sent to the tailor and each new frock I wore was to be clicked. Seema studio was the name of the studio and with each new photo, a new background. I remember their worried hushed talks when I was sick, ever caring about my wellbeing.

The giggling of the little girl broke my reverie and brought me back to the present. I watched this love in amazement as I realized ALLAH KNEW. Allah knew what He was creating when He made parents. He created them gently, as the cool wind on hot days, with utmost softness for their child. And on the same hand, most ferocious as the

lioness on a hunt, relentless when it came to the protection of their little ones. Our creator knew what was required of a parent and He created them.

My mind still lingering on this wonder, reminded me of my teacher's explanation of the mercy of Allah. It is huge. Almighty has sent only a percent of his mercy on earth. Humans show this same love and *reham* in different relationships in all walks of life. Animals don't kill their young ones because of this mercy. The rest of 99% of mercy is reserved for Allah's servants in Jannah. **Subhan Allah!** What it must be like. If parents' love is something so beautiful, then what must love, and mercy is like when shown by the creator Himself? **SubhanAllah**.

Gathering my thoughts, still thinking how many signs in nature to see the greatness of the Almighty, I walked towards my waiting plane, throwing a last glance at the girl and her parents. (The writer is a busy mum of four boys living in Hyderabad. She loves to utilize her time to the fullest and tries to be involved in activities that please her Rabb) ■

## Improve Your Emotional Intelligence



Sana Rubiyana

Emotional intelligence is the awareness of and the ability to manage one's own emotions and have empathy for others.

### Signs of Emotional Intelligence

- An ability to identify and describe what people are feeling
- An awareness of personal strengths and limitations
- Self-confidence and self-acceptance
- The ability to let go of mistakes
- An ability to accept and embrace change
- A strong sense of curiosity, particularly about other people
- Feelings of empathy and concern for others
- Showing sensitivity to the feelings of other people
- Accepting responsibility for mistakes

- The ability to manage emotions in difficult situations

### Some ways in which you can improve your emotional intelligence-

#### Self-Regulation

- Identify your triggers
- Name your emotions
- Practice healthy living
- Stay connected with friends

#### Self-Awareness

- Identify early attachment experiences that may have influenced how you currently manage your emotions
- Practice mindfulness to connect with your emotions
- Ask for feedback from others around you

#### Social-Skills

- Identify non-verbal cues in others
- Practice active listening skills
- Empathize with others

(The writer can be contacted at sanarubiana@gmail.com) ■



## Letting Go of Depression in Darbhanga!

The Discover Yourself Workshop was held on the 25-27 December 2022 at Dr. Zakir Hussain T.T College, Benta, Darbhanga, Bihar. It was organized by the Social Empowerment Trust.



### Some of the Participants share their Experiences:

- This workshop opened all the doors of my heart. It taught me to listen to my heart instead of my mind. It is Awesome!!!
- This workshop is needed for the spiritual development for the present youth.
- Everyone must attend this workshop and it is best to change oneself.
- It increased my understanding and it is mind-blowing.
- I got back my confidence, and I am in a state of calmness. Best workshop for self-improvement.
- This workshop changed my reality of life.
- The workshop helped me to come close to Almighty Allah.
- I forgave everyone from my inner self and became free.
- The workshop is amazing. I am feeling that I have missed many things in my life. Life is so beautiful.
- This workshop has changed my life. I am now energetic and experiencing peace.
- This workshop is a must because many are in depression and living in the past.
- The teaching techniques and presentation are excellent.
- Before the workshop, I used to listen to my mind but now I am listening to my heart.
- The workshop helped me to live in the present and remove the burden of the past.
- I have started seeing life differently, stopped reacting to everything, and speaking less.
- Something happened in my mind and I am feeling peaceful and good. Family members are also impressed seeing my changes.
- Before the workshop, I was facing many problems but after the workshop, my life changed, I am feeling very happy, and my father is very happy seeing the changes in me.
- I am a very emotional person, but those 3 days hit me really well and I have understood that life goes on whatever happens. We can live life without the burden of the past and life can really be good and interesting.
- Now, I have come to the stage of my life where believing in God and living according to His will is a more important part of my life.

**Khushnuma:** My life was in total confusion before attending this workshop. I could not understand what is right and what is wrong, which way I must take, who am I, and what I am doing. I did not know anything. After attending This workshop, I came to know what is right and wrong, I got the knowledge of who am I and why I am here. I thank sir, to become the medium to connect to reality.

**Farhana:** Before the workshop, I was very confused, but now, I have full energy. This workshop is very useful and satisfactory. I shared my feelings with my family and friends, and I am having a peaceful life.

**Inamul Hoda:** Before the workshop, I was seeing the world and people around me by my own created framework (opinions), now after attending the workshop, I see and observe

from a universal framework of humanity. Before anything negative happens, I used to blame others, but now I take responsibility and find solutions to problems.

**Mahafooz Alam:** Before the workshop, I had too much anger and damaged myself internally. I always used to blame Allah for anything happening wrong to me. I never thanked Allah for whatever I had in my life. After the workshop, my life shifted to the path of Allah. I accepted that I was wrong in many ways to judge people. I never forgave others and was always in depression and missing being happy with my family. I will implement the teachings of the workshop and create a new happy life. This workshop is life-changing.

**Nurullah:** All my family

members who attended the workshop were very excited and it has brought positive changes inside us. We have got a new perspective to look into our lives and treat others as human beings.

**Samsul Hida:** This workshop made a huge difference in my life. I got the distinction between mind and heart. Now, I do not react but calm down and respond. This workshop must be held so that many people benefit from this learning.

**Hai:** Before the workshop, I was sorrowful and low. I used to think always negatively and was worried about the future, can I be successful or not, and having regrets about the past. Now, I got the confidence to let go of the past and create my future. I am now at peace with myself. I really benefitted from the workshop and my life was altered. ■



### » Page 7

drawn out illnesses, and others suddenly and seemingly out of nowhere. How would we live our lives if we knew our time was short? I had a friend who was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Just days after I heard the news, he invited me to play an online game against him; a game I was already playing with other friends. I thought to myself what is he doing? Doesn't he realize that his days are numbered? Does he not know that he's dying? What is he doing with the life he has left? But then I thought to myself are my days not numbered? Am I not going to die? He's just more aware of it than I am. How am I making a difference in the world with the time that I do have? How am I preparing myself to stand before the Lord of the Worlds? When it's our time to go, what

will our legacy be? Will it be that we had a 9 to 5 job and were miserable doing it? Or will it be that we did something that mattered? Will it be that we impacted the lives of our family, friends, and those around us? Will it be that we took advantage of every day of our lives and made a difference in the world? Who will miss us when we're gone? Will we have any regrets, or did we live our lives to the fullest?

As I walked out of my office building one day, a coworker who I had never met before shared an elevator ride with me. We engaged in some small talk and started walking down the street, when I noticed that we were approaching a homeless man. So naturally, I avoided eye contact, and tried to look more

engaged in my conversation with my coworker. Then suddenly, my coworker told me it was nice talking to me and that maybe he would see me around some time. Then he turned to the homeless man with a dollar in his hand and with a huge smile on his face cried out, "Dave!" The homeless man, an elderly man in a wheelchair, replied, "Chris, how have you been?" I kept walking and thought to myself, now that's



a man who will be missed one day. That should have been me. Although we don't like to think of it too much, no one has ever escaped death. But we live our lives as if we may be the first. Allah (swt) says: "Every soul will taste death..." (Al-'Anbya' 21:35) I came across lyrics to a song once that read: "We are young, wandering the face of the earth, wondering what our dreams

might be worth, learning that we're only immortal for a limited time."

Allah (swt) says: "Until when the angel of death comes to one of them, he says, [For such is the state of the disbelievers], until, when death comes to one of them, he says, 'My Lord, send me back That I might do righteousness in that which I left behind'..." (Al-Mu'minun 23:99-100).

(Source: <https://muslimmatters.org/2014/06/14/stoppage-time/>) ■

**He turned to the homeless man with a dollar in his hand and with a huge smile on his face cried out, "Dave!" The homeless man, an elderly man in a wheelchair, replied, "Chris, how have you been?" I kept walking and thought to myself, now that's a man who will be missed one day. That should have been me.**



**Dear brothers and Sisters:**

I read the following obituary note on the Facebook page of Mr. Zia UsSalaam.

I felt deeply moved to read the account.

Zia Us Salaam writes: "Haji Abdul Qayyum devoted 54 years of his life to Madrasa Hussain Bux, a historic seminary in Old Delhi where our freedom fighters often gathered. He was an honest muezzin. For many years he maintained files of the madrasa. For around half a century, he would get up a couple of hours before sunrise, offer his Tahajjud prayers, and recite the Quran. In between, he would make sure that worshippers had warm water for ablution, the ground under their feet would be without a speck of dust and the prayer mats sparkling clean. On Fridays, he would be a one-man army to clean the mosque for around a thousand



**Masjid Madarsa Hussain Baksh**

worshippers.

He asked no favours, and suffered no local politicians. Honest to his last bone, he spent his life in a one-room house attached to a madrasa. He supplemented his income by running a small shop near Jama Masjid. With limited income, he gave good education to his kids and never discriminated between sons and daughters. One of his daughters is a Ph.D. and teaches at Delhi University. His son-in-law is a Ph.D. in Hindi.

Yesterday, Muezzin Sahab breathed his last. In the fitness of things, he offered his Tahajjud prayers in the wee hours. A little later, he went for ablution before men gathered for Fajr prayers. As he sat cleaning himself for compulsory prayers, he had a heart attack, and collapsed right there. A few minutes later, he passed away right in front

of the hauz he had maintained with dedication for over 50 years. In the afternoon, after Zuhr, his funeral prayers were said in the same madrasa and Haji Abdul Qayyum left the seminary one last time, his bier being followed by hundreds of well-wishers. He was a man of great virtue and an unsung hero in the madrasa's attempt to provide quality education to the poor. May Allah grant him eternal life".

I felt a deep serenity in my heart as I thanked God for such wonderful witnesses to God in our own times. I couldn't but remember what the Holy Father Pope Francis wrote in his apostolic exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium (No. 252): "We must never forget that they (Muslims) 'profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, who will judge humanity on the last day' ... how Muslims both young and old, men and women, make time for daily prayer and faithfully take part in religious services. Many of them also have a deep conviction that their life, in its entirety, is from God and for God. They also acknowledge the need to respond to God with an ethical commitment and with mercy towards those most in need".

Joseph Victor Edwin SJ  
New Delhi-Vidya Jyoti College ■

## MATRIMONIAL WANTED GROOM

**Bangalore-based Sunni Muslim parents** invite an alliance for their daughter, 32 years, CA. Seeking alliance from a well-educated family (Working in Bangalore/Abroad). **Contact - 8217562719 / 9483962324 / WhatsApp 8147717659**

**Kuwait-based Sunni Muslim parents** seek Alliance for their daughter, 24 years, 5' 7", Weill Cornell Medicine, Qatar, and 1st year resident in Neurology, Case Western Uni, Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Groom should be from Bangalore based well-educated family, Doctor/Engineer, smart, good-looking, religiously inclined and practicing Muslim, able to balance Deen and Duniya, Respectful, Kind Hearted and having good humor, working in USA. **Contact: +96597861271, +96566594660.**

**SM (Sheikh) Bangalore** based highly educated (scientist) religious family invites alliance from a doctor, preferably PG for their daughter, practicing Muslimah, doctor, 30 years, 5.5, very fair, MBBS, DNB, OBG, pursuing part B, MRCOG, UK. **Contact: mobile 9 8 8 6 9 7 2 4 4 0 . email:fareedromani@gmail.com**

## WANTED BRIDE

**Sunni Muslim family** from Bangalore Retired parents (Gazetted Officers) seek alliance for their son aged 28+ height 5'10", BE (Bangalore), MS (USA). Currently working at an MNC in California (USA). Looking for an independent, family-oriented girl from a well-settled and educated family. The Girl should be educated with a BE., / M.E., / M.Tech., / BE.MS., / B.E.MBA., / MBBS / MD, MBBS/MS. Parents/family members can **contact us at + 91-9986642328 / +91-7795826021.**  
**E m a i l : ahmedsfamily44@gmail.com**

**Syed Sunni Muslim family** invites an alliance for their only son, a doctor, MBBS, fair, handsome, 35/5.8 ft, never married, residing in Mysore. The bride should be a doctor MBBS/MD, or a Software Engineer B.E (Computer Science). She should be fair, and from a respectable educated family. **Contact: +91 98455 09894**

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## Who Nurtured "Islamic" Terrorism?

A piece of advice from Ranjit Lal Madhavan!

The global drug trade is worth \$321 billion a year

Alcohol sales in the world are 1600 billion dollars per year

The global arms trade is worth about \$100 billion a year

The prostitution business is worth around \$400 billion a year in this world

The gambling business is around 110 billion dollars a year in this world

The gold business is 100 billion dollars a year in this world

The computer game business is worth \$54 billion a year worldwide

Islam stands against 2380 billion-dollar (One Crore 66 Lakh Sixty Thousand Crore Rupees) businesses every year!

Add to this that Arun Jaitley presented a budget of just \$336 billion in 2017. Each of the above industries is run by private corporate bosses.

If the world accepts the Islamic policy of not selling alcohol, liquor, and drugs, the loss will be

\$2000 billion in the drug mafia's business!

Islamic law will end the 100-billion-dollar arms mafia business if they attack other countries for petrol without causing chaos on earth, killing innocent people and shedding blood!

If the Islamic policy of not engaging in prostitution comes into force, the prostitution mafia's 400 billion-dollar business will end! Websites born of porn videos will be affected

If the world adopts the Islamic principle of no gambling, the 110-billion-dollar business of the gambling mafia will end!

If the world accepts the Islamic principle that a woman's nudity is her privacy and not an exhibition, the \$100 billion business of the porn mafia will end!

It is Islam that has waged war on this 2300-billion-dollar trade.

Will they welcome Islam without opposing it?

These mafias have bought the world media to make them Islamic terrorists and the media

mafia has grown and flourished by eating the bones thrown by these mafias.

They marched across the country chanting that Islam is terrorism. They nurtured terrorism with this money. The terrorism created by these mafias is called Islamic terrorism! Everyone said with one voice that Islam is extremism. For that, they themselves bought some Muslims with these billions of dollars.

Islam, which said that killing one is equal to killing all people, became a religion of extremism! If your eyes and hearts are not blinded by bigotry, open your eyes, and open your heart and hear... how skillfully they have led you away from the words of your Lord.

How skillfully they have impressed upon your hearts that Islam is terrorism!

Indeed, man is ungrateful to his Lord - the Holy Qur'an!

Ranjit Lal Madhavan  
(Original article written in Malayalam)

## International Symposium on Life and Work of Eminent Scholar Husayn Tabatabai

*'Allama prepares a synthesis of all streams of Islamic thought'*



**New Delhi:** Ayatullah Reza Ramazani, secretary general of the Ahlul Bayt (A.S.) World Assembly, based in Tehran, gave the keynote address at the international symposium on the life and work of eminent Islamic scholar Allama Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Tabatabai held at Jamia Millia Islamia here. Academic and literary figures from Iran and India, as well as researchers, professors, students from various universities, religious and cultural intellectuals, and social scientists, participated in the seminar.

In his address, Iranian scholar Ayatullah Ramazani noted that Allama Tabatabai prepared a

synthesis of all streams of Islamic thought while emphasizing the application of ethical values in daily life for the achievement of peace and tranquility.

He stated that the 20<sup>th</sup>-century scholar believed that if one "follows and implements the divine teaching on ethics he can acquire peace of mind" while summarising the ideas and writings of the Islamic thinker.

Millions of people desiring to embark on a spiritual journey in order to uncover themselves" and comprehend the outer world have been profoundly inspired by Allama Tabatabai's ideas and works, which have enlightened intellectuals of all stripes, he added. The Iranian Islamic scholar, however, was not only a man of high moral character and sharp intellect; he also had a profound knowledge of Western hegemony and post-colonial imperialism.

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