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Al- Masroor

MAGAZINE



"NATIONS CANNOT BE REFORMED WITHOUT
THE REFORMATION OF YOUTH"

HAZRAT MIRZA BASHIR-UD-DIN MAHMOOD AHMAD (MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HIM)

HOW IS ISLAM A RELEVANT RELIGION IN THIS DAY & AGE?
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Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Australia



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"Perseverance in striving to
attain the delight in Salat will
eventually melt the heart and
grant it that delight."

HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH V
HAZRAT MIRZA MASROOR AHMED

(MAY GOD BE HIS HELPER)

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The excerpt above is sourced from a Friday Sermon
delivered by His Holiness (ATBA) on the 20th of January,
2017.

This sermon highlights the importance of salat in
congregation and how it is the key to success, and fulfils
the purpose of life.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SALAT

According to Islamic Teachings

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Allah the Almighty states in the Holy Qur'an:

أَتْلُ مَا أُوْحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ

Surah al Ankabut; Verse 46

The translation of the verse above is as follows:

"Recite that which has been revealed to thee of the Book, and observe Prayer. Surely, Prayer restrains one from indecency and manifest evil, and remembrance of Allah indeed is the greatest virtue. And Allah knows what you do"

Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Masood Narrates:

"I asked the Prophet (ﷺ) "Which deed is the dearest to Allah?" He replied, "To offer the prayers at their early stated fixed times." (Sahih Bukhari - 527)

Hazrat Abu Hurairah Narrates:

"Verily the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: The five (daily) prayers and from one Friday prayer to the (next) Friday prayer, and from Ramadhan to Ramadhan are expiations for the (sins) committed in between (their intervals) provided one shuns the major sins." - (Sahih Muslim - 233c)

Something that we find when we study Islam and the Holy Qur'an is the immense emphasis put on the importance of Salat. It has been given one of the highest statures in Islam, being declared the second pillar of Islam.

There are also many teachings that if we study, we see that Salat is one of the most important aspects of a Muslim's life.

From these teachings, we learn that offering Salat, properly, in the congregation and on time is paramount for any Muslim who strives for nearness to Allah (SWT). The offering of salat regularly and consistently is also imperative for us to be able to develop and inculcate good habits within us.

“

*Surely, Prayer
restrains one
from indecency
and manifest evil*

Holy Quran: 29:46

”





How Can You Benefit from the Example of a Drunkard?

In the words of The Promised Messiah:
Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (AS)

The Promised Messiah (as) states: 'I see that when a drunkard does not get the pleasure and joy of drinking alcohol, he carries on drinking till he can experience the joy of alcohol and eventually becomes intoxicated. A wise and intelligent person can benefit from this example.

That is by becoming consistent in Salat. One continues to offer Salat until they attain pleasure, just as a drunkard has a certain pleasure in mind which is his ultimate objective. When a drunkard drinks alcohol, he sets a certain standard of pleasure in his mind which he seeks to attain. Just as he sets a target of the level of intoxication, a spiritual person – a believer – should also set himself a target for his spirituality which he should attain through Salat. After a concerted effort through a steadfast approach, one will eventually attain that pleasure.

'Thus, one should expend all energy of the mind and all of one's effort in order to achieve this level of pleasure in Salat. Should one establish pleasure in prayer with at least the same level of sincerity and passion as the restlessness, anxiety and anguish of a drunkard, then I tell you truly... that he will most certainly attain its true pleasure. If one continuously expresses this anguish before Allah Almighty in their Salat, they will certainly be able to experience its pleasure and delight. Thus, perseverance in striving to attain the delight in Salat will eventually melt the heart and grant it that delight. Allah Almighty states that Salat saves one from indecency and evils; but it is observed – people ask this question as well – that despite offering Salat, people commit wrong and evil deeds.'

Malfuzat, Vol. 9, pp.7-8 1985 edition, published in the UK

Salat in Congregation; the Key to Success and Fulfilling the Purpose of Life

Friday Sermon of His Holiness, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V
Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (ATBA) - 20/01/2017

We all know that Salat is obligatory upon Muslims. The Holy Qur'an has repeatedly drawn our attention towards the importance of Salat in various ways. The Holy Prophet (sa) has also stated that Salat is the essence of worship.

In fact, the Holy Prophet (sa) also stated that abandoning Salat leads a person closer to disbelief and Shirk [associating partners with God]. Moreover, expounding on the importance of Salat, the Holy Prophet (sa) stated that the very first thing which mankind will be accounted for on the Day of Judgment will be regarding their Salat. If one succeeds in this, they will be among the prosperous and will attain salvation; otherwise, they will have incurred loss and ruination. The Holy Prophet (sa) also gave guidance in order to make children observant in Salat. The Holy Prophet (sa) stated that one should urge their children to offer Salat when they reach the age of seven. After the age of ten, they may even adopt certain strict measures to make them observant in Salat.

However, if parents themselves are not regular in observing their Salat, then how can they urge their children to do so? Or, what kind of effect will it have on the children if they hear this Hadith [sayings of the Holy Prophet (sa)] and instruction of the Holy Prophet (sa) in a religious gathering or through any other means but at home, they do not see their own father observing Salat? Surely, the children of such fathers will think that this instruction has no significance, in fact, by undermining the importance of one instruction, they will also diminish the importance of all other injunctions in the view of their children.

Such people are not only incurring their own loss, as stated by the Holy Prophet (sa), but are causing their progeny to suffer loss as well. Parents express great concern to fulfil their children's worldly ambitions and endeavours while showing no concern where they really ought to. For a true believer [Mo'min] Salat is not the only thing which spiritually purifies them from all impurities, just as the Holy Prophet (sa) cited the example of a stream running outside a person's door and stated, 'if a person were to bathe in it daily, five times in the day, will any kind of impurity remain on him?' The Companions (ra) submitted, 'O Messenger (sa) of Allah! Surely, such a person will be pure from any form of impurity.' Upon this, the Holy Prophet (sa) stated, 'the same as in the case of the five daily prayers; Allah Almighty forgives one's sin and removes one's shortcomings as a result of it and no kind of impurity is then left in the soul of a person who observes the five daily prayers.' Thus, there can be no impurity left in the soul of one who offers the five daily prayers.

Hence, this is the importance of Salat which the Holy Prophet (sa) has beautifully illustrated through this example. However, as I mentioned earlier, the commandment is not to merely observe Salat, in fact, further details have been given to true-believing men in order to rid their souls of any impurities. The Holy Prophet (sa) stated, 'Whoever performs the ablution at home and then walks to the house of Allah i.e. the mosque, in order to observe the obligatory Salat, then one step of his will expiate his sins and the other step will elevate his status.' In other words, every step of his will earn him a reward.



Preparations for the Prince of Peace (AS)

The arrival of an illustrious prince in his realm is hailed by a general commotion. Every department is set in motion, and preparations befitting the occasion are made in the country and in the towns. There is a show of strength to warn evil-doers and check the forces of disorder. Every effort is made to smooth and decorate the prince's path and provide facilities for his visit. Prisoners are set free in his honour, and offences are condoned as a mark of royal mercy, so that all may heartily partake in the festive celebration of the auspicious occasion. Similar is the case with a heavenly Messenger. God is the Supreme Ruler of the universe, and His Messengers are Divine Princes.

During times of extreme spiritual darkness, the mercy of God necessitates the raising of a Divine Messenger to reform and regenerate humanity and to bring mankind back to God. Angels are, therefore, set to work and preparations are made for his advent. Movements are set on foot to counteract the forces of evil. The hearts of men are inclined to God. Means are discovered that prove helpful to the propagation of truth. Facilities are provided and arrangements are completed for the commencement of his work. But all this is done in a peculiar manner. It is not every eye that can see the hand of God. The work of His Servant often starts in a humble manner;

material means are not placed at his disposal in the beginning. He works against overwhelming odds, but angels help him most mysteriously, and he succeeds finally in establishing an order of things in which virtue, peace, and prosperity reign supreme. The same happened with the Promised Messiah A.S, who was born in 1835.

The papacy had been the greatest stronghold of the Trinity; hence the Unity of God was moved against it and forces were born from within the fold of Christianity that dealt blows to its prestige and were a warning of the approach of one who was to raze its fortresses to the ground. The whole of Christendom was shaken to its foundations when in 1812 Napoleon transported to Fontainebleau Pious VII, the then vicegerent of 'the only begotten son' of God. By the year 1830, The Revolution of Paris dealt a severe blow to the Holy Religion and further weakened its prestige. It established a bourgeois monarchy in France, and Catholicism lost its privileged position as the State religion. The repercussions of the Paris Revolution were felt all over Europe. The provinces of Romagna and the Marches in Italy rose in 1831 and shook off the papal yoke with surprising ease. The liberal movement also progressed throughout Europe.

Preparations for the Prince of Peace (AS)

Turkey had been looked upon as the seat of the Muslim Caliphate, and a religious halo was supposed to surround the Turkish Sultan. But as the time had come to establish in the world a true caliphate by the birth of the Promised Mahdi A.S, Turkey had to be divested of much of her glory and power. In 1832 she lost Greece, which became an independent State by the Treaty of London. Her lessened prestige had already received a severe blow from the bombardment and capture of Algiers by the French in 1830; and her position was further embarrassed by revolts in Bosnia and Albania, when news reached Constantinople that Muhammad Ali, the viceroy of Egypt, had invaded Syria in 1831. He was looked upon as the champion of Islam against the infidel caliph. He became master of the holy cities along with Syria. Turkish power simply collapsed before him.

As it was reserved for the Promised Messiah A.S to bring to perfection the work of all the Prophets of God who had appeared in various parts of the world throughout the ages it was necessary to provide for him facilities which had never been granted to any of his predecessors.

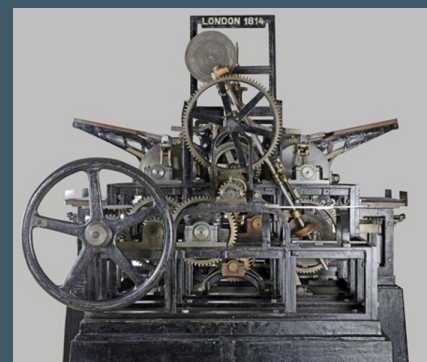
His privileges were, therefore, unique. Not only was the geographical study of the world completed before his advent—but inventions were made by means of which the various parts of the world were brought more closely together than ever before.

Means began to be devised for the carrying on of worldwide propaganda, and ways of communication began to be developed which abolished the old barriers of time and space.

The iron press was invented by the end of the 18th century, and the first practical printing machine run with steam power was produced and put into use in 1814. As for conveyance and transport, the first practical steam carriage was constructed in 1802 and by 1824 several such vehicles were being used with considerable success. Daimler invented in 1885 the internal-combustion motor consuming petroleum spirit. The first steamship began to ply between Liverpool and Glasgow in 1815. The first railway line was opened in Great Britain in 1825. Electric telegraphy came into use in 1820 and communication between the various parts of the globe was thus very much accelerated. The first magneto-electric machine was devised in 1832.



Telegraph machine from the 1850's



Early steam powered press machine

Preparations for the Prince of Peace (AS)

The minds of the people were also turned towards the coming event. The followers of all religions seemed to expect the Promised Reformer. The Muslims expected, according to the prophecies contained in their scriptures, the appearance of the Mahdi and the Messiah. Their expectations, like the expectations of the Jews at the advent of Jesus A.S were strange and mythical. They expected somebody who would come in the guise of a temporal king, a bloody warrior who would kill all infidels by waging a holy war and thus bring about the promised millennium. In 1831 William Miller of America began to lecture, arguing that the two thousand three hundred days mentioned in Daniel 8:14 meant 2,300 years, that these years began with Ezra's A.S going up to Jerusalem in 457 B.C., and, therefore, would come to an end in 1843. Miller then urged his hearers to make ready for the final coming of Christ in that year for, according to Roman chronology, he declared, the year was 1844. There was great excitement. Many left their businesses and, in white muslin robes, on house-tops and hills, awaited the epiphany. Edward Irving (1792-1834), a divine of the Scottish Church and founder of the Catholic Apostolic Church, also believed in the near approach of the second advent.

There was another movement that gathered strength at the time of the birth of the Promised Messiah A.S; and, like the sounding of a trumpet in the heavens, it seems to have been a signal for the uplift of humanity. It was the movement for the emancipation of the slaves of the world.

In 1831 Garrison started the Liberator in Boston, which proved to be the beginning of an agitation that eventually pervaded and filled every part of the country. The Anti-Slavery Society was organised in 1833, and the Slave Emancipation Act, freeing all slaves throughout the British empire, came into force in 1834. As a result of this, thousands of slaves were emancipated at once. It looks very much like the custom of releasing prisoners and freeing slaves on the birth of a royal son.



VOL-1 of the Liberator

A mighty prince indeed, whose birth occasioned so many and such great preparations on a scale that was truly global.

O Allah bless and give prosperity to Mohammad and his people- Thou art indeed the Praiseworthy, the Exalted. All praise belongs to Allah, Lord of all the Worlds.



Written by:
Tasleem Ahmad
Fateh

Majlis: Parramatta
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The Key to living a healthy lifestyle

The key to living a healthy lifestyle relies on controlling three aspects of your life. The most important being diet, followed by exercise and finally looking after your mental health.

Diet requirements are mostly never met due to our busy lives and because of this, we need to remember the basics such as eating three meals a day. Having foods that consist of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat milk. Moreover, choosing lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs and nuts. Avoiding sugar enhanced drinks such as soft drinks or energy drinks and not eating heavy meals during hot summer months.

Regular exercise can prevent many health problems such as heart disease, an increase in cholesterol and many more. Exercising can lead to having higher self-esteem and self-confidence and help in controlling weight gain. Exercise doesn't have to be intense, 30 minutes of modest training or exercise per day can be very beneficial no matter what the exercise or training may be. Starting slowly and gradually increasing can help from getting strains and injuries.

Lastly, having good mental health can change your perspective on life and allow for a more enjoyable and sought out lifestyle. This can be achieved by getting the required 7-9 hours of sleep. Furthermore, taking a walk and reflecting on what you should focus more on in your life and avoiding the harmful and unbeneficial things. Try and make planned conversations with others and learn to say "no" when something doesn't feel appealing. And finally, let yourself be pleased about the little achievements in your life and they allow you to pursue that feeling for the harder challenges.



About the Author

Haseeb Tahir is currently serving as the Nazim Isha'at for Majlis Woodcroft - Region South Australia, and is a valuable member of the MTA Team. Alongside his contributions to the community, Haseeb is currently working as a Real Estate Agent and has also started his own cinematography production company.

"تبلیغ احمدیت، دنیہ میں کام اپنا دارلعمل ے گویا، عالم تمام اپنا پوچو جو نام اپنا، خدام احمدیت"

HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH IV - HAZRAT MIRZA TAHIR AHMED
(MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON HIM)

Adhering to the advice presented to khuddam by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (RHM), all khuddam should know that our purpose in this world is to spread the true teachings of Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

With that being said, it isn't always easy to present rebuttals to the arguments made by some individuals regarding controversial topics, and it's difficult to present a cohesive point without first educating ourselves.

A common accusation we hear is that

"Islam is backward religion and The Qur'an is a violent book"

These accusations are predominantly based on the

'Apostasy Verses'

To learn more about this topic, read the article on the next page, which provides a coherent overview and answers to these accusations.

How is Islam a relevant religion in this day & age?

A closer look at the “Apostasy verses”

This is a statement often made by supposed pundits, commentators and politicians hoping to appeal to populist and right wing groups, often using the following verse as evidence: “Kill the idolaters wherever you find them, and capture them, and blockade them, and watch for them at every lookout...” (The Holy Quran, 9:5). However, does the Holy Quran really condone violence? The simple answer is that it most definitely does not. For the sake of argument though, let us entertain the idea that it does. According to the PEW Research Centre (2017) there are an estimated 1.6 billion Muslims in the world and 600 000 in Australia (ABS 2016). Even if one percent of Islam’s 1.6 billion followers believed in this radical statement, they would form the greatest army (in terms of numbers) the world has ever seen. If they really believed in the verse quoted earlier without understanding its context, they would have wiped out most of the world’s population.

But we know as a matter of fact, that is not the case. We know that the majority of Muslims are peace loving and law abiding citizens. We know this because, although some critics tell us otherwise, the Holy Quran does not condone violence and Islam is a peaceful religion. How can a Religion, whose name literally means peace, condone violence? It is unwise and dangerous to cherry pick a verse to forward one’s own personal agenda. There are verses in the Holy Quran which refer to specific situations or a particular context and those which offer universal spiritual principles. To understand the verse quoted earlier, we have to understand the circumstances at the time of revelation and the context.

At the time Verse 9:5 as quoted earlier was revealed, Muhammad (SAW) and his followers had begun to establish themselves securely. They had returned triumphantly to Mecca without violence, most Meccans themselves had become Muslims, and many of the surrounding pagan Arab tribes had also accepted Islam and sent delegations to the Prophet pledging their allegiance to him. Those that did not establish peace with the Muslims were the bitterest of enemies, and it was against these remaining hostile forces that the verse commands the Prophet to fight.

The verses that come immediately before 9:5 states, “Those with whom you have treaties are immune from attack.” It further states, “Fulfil your treaties with them to the end of their 3 Syed Muneeb Janud term, for God loves the conscientious.” Now, in its proper context, verse 9:5 can be properly understood. This was a guidance to the Prophet at that specific time to fight those idolaters who, as 9:4 mentions, violated their treaty obligations and helped others fight against the Muslims. It is not a general command to attack all non-Muslims, and it has never signified this to the overwhelming majority of Muslims throughout history. Had it been so, then every year, history would have witnessed Muslims attacking every non-Muslim in sight. This yearly slaughter never occurred. Though the present verse is only one example, none of the Quranic verses that mention fighting justify aggression nor propose attacking anyone because of their religious beliefs.

The fundamental Quranic principle is that fighting is allowed only in self-defence, and it is only against those who actively fight against you. Indeed, Islam is a religion that seeks to maximize peace and reconciliation. Yet, Islam is not a pacifist religion; it does accept the premise that, from time to time and as a last resort, arms must be taken up in a just war. If the enemy inclines toward peace, however, Muslims must follow suit: “But if they stop, God is most forgiving, most merciful” (The Holy Quran, 2:192). Likewise: “Now if they incline toward peace, then incline to it, and place your trust in God, for God is the all-hearing, the all-knowing” (The Holy Quran, 8:61).

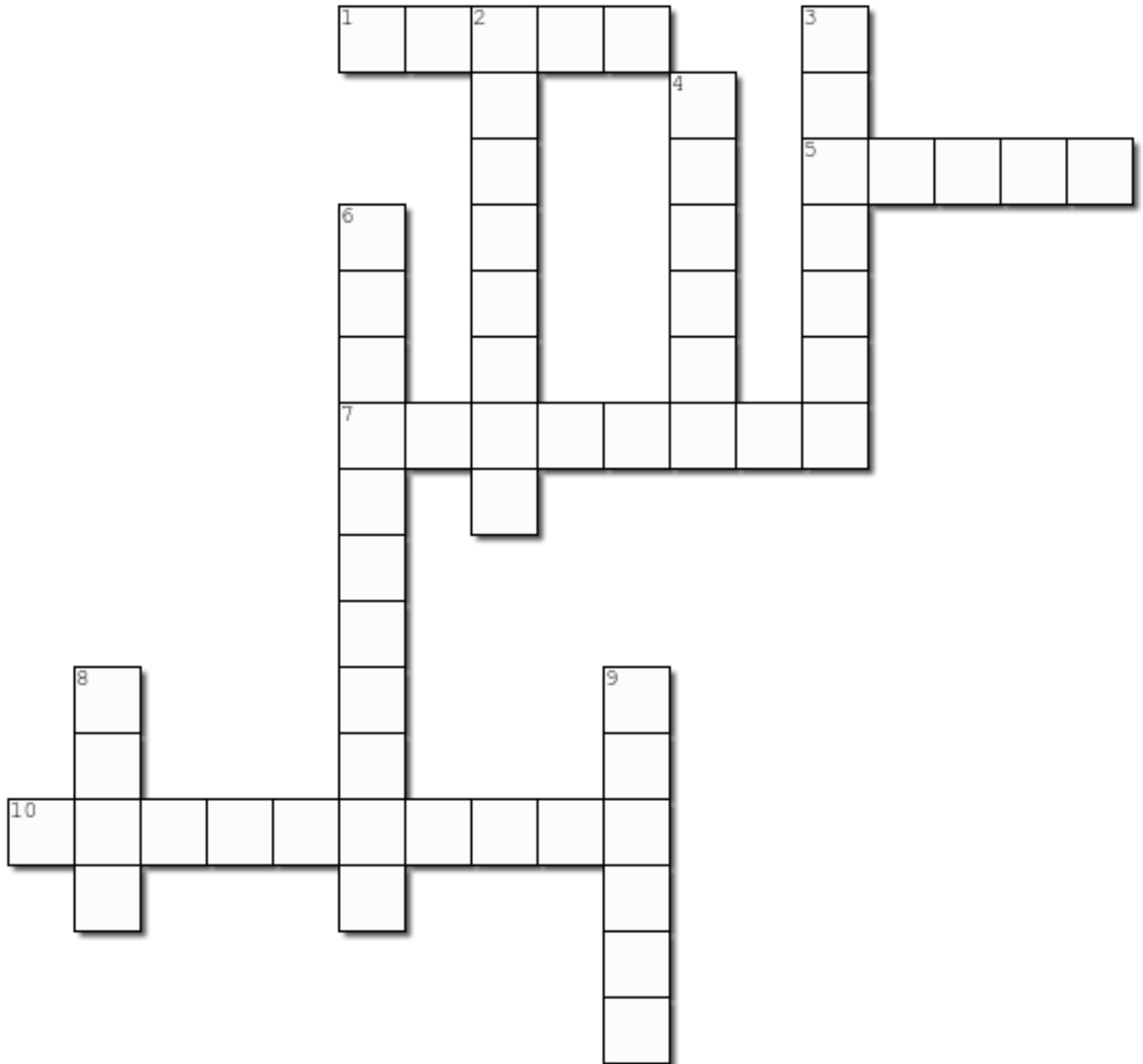
Misconceptions about Islam arise, because too many people form their views on Islam based on headline news and statements from politicians who want to divide us. If we really want to better understand Islam, we need to read the Holy Quran ourselves, study the life of the prophet Muhammad and meet Muslims face to face.



About the Author

Syed Muneeb Janud is currently serving as the Qaid Majlis for Majlis Woodcroft, Region South Australia, and is also a valuable member of the external/media relations in the local community. He completed his studies last year and is currently working as a primary school teacher.

General & Religious Knowledge Crossword



Across

1. What is the main ingredient in Vegemite
5. The scripture revealed to Hazrat Abraham (AS)
7. Where the first Ahmadi Bai'at took place
10. The tallest mountain in Australia

Down

2. What is officially the most liveable city in Australia
3. The Caliphate following the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW)
4. The 21st Chapter of the Holy Qur'an
6. Who established Khuddam e Ahmadiyyat
8. The third article of faith
9. Australia's most successful Olympian

"NATIONS CANNOT BE REFORMED WITHOUT THE REFORMATION OF YOUTH"

HAZRAT MIRZA BASHIR-UD-DIN MAHMOOD AHMAD
(MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HIM)

KHUDDAM PLEDGE

I BEAR WITNESS THAT THERE IS NONE WORTHY OF WORSHIP EXCEPT ALLAH. HE IS ONE AND HAS NO PARTNER, AND I BEAR WITNESS THAT MUHAMMAD (SAW) IS HIS SERVANT AND MESSENGER

I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE THAT I SHALL ALWAYS BE READY TO SACRIFICE MY LIFE, WEALTH, TIME AND HONOR FOR THE SAKE OF MY FAITH, COUNTRY, AND NATION.

LIKEWISE, I SHALL BE READY TO OFFER ANY SACRIFICE FOR GUARDING THE INSTITUTION OF KHILAFAT-E-AHMADIYYA.

MOREOVER, I SHALL DEEM IT ESSENTIAL TO ABIDE BY ANY "MAROOF" DECISION MADE BY KHALIFATUL MASIH. INSHA'ALLAH.

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