



NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 | Issue 12

December 2022 | Jumada Al-Awwal - Jumada Al-Akhirah 1444

“Whoever has taqwa of Allah, He will erase his bad actions from him and greatly increase his reward” {al-Talaq, 65:5}

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“If you (even) ask your companion to be quiet on Friday while the Imam is delivering the sermon, you have in fact talked irrel If you (even) ask your companion to be quiet on Friday while the Imam is delivering the sermon, you are in fact guilty of idle talk (laghw)” Muslim{Abu Huraira}

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LIMITED SPACES, REGISTER NOW

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Monthly Family Dinner December 16th, 6:00 PM

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More on page 3

Even Kings Die: Lessons from History

Kings and queens ascend to the throne and kings and queens descend to the ground as do all...



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Announcements

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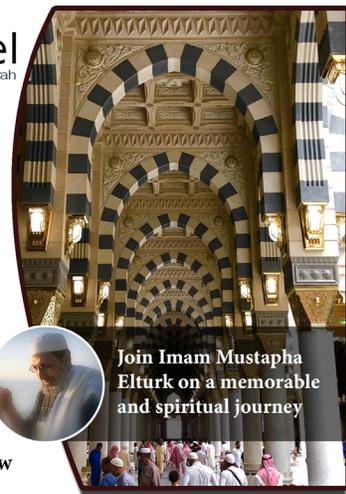
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SYNOPSIS OF AMEER MUSTAPHA'S FRIDAY KHUTBAH

Even Kings Die: Lessons from History

Allah (SWT) informs, *"Wherever you may be death will catch up with you even if you were in lofty towers or fortified castles."* (al-Nisa', 4:78)

After 10 days of mourning, Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest in Windsor Palace. Kings and queens ascend to the throne and kings and queens descend to the ground as do all people.

"From it (the Earth) We created you, into it we will return you, and from it we shall bring you forth once again." (Ta Ha, 20:55)

Everyone will unquestionably taste death. There can be no exception. *"Every soul will taste death then to us you will be returning."* (al-Ankabut, 29:53) Eventually we will die. Every living thing will cease to exist. Everything will perish and only Allah, only the almighty God, the true King, the Majestic, the Holy, the Living (al-Hai) never dies. *"All that is on Earth will perish but forever will remain the face of your Lord full of majesty and Glory."* (al-Rahman, 55:26,27)

No matter how many doctors attend to the king or queen when it is time to depart this mortal world no one can delay it for a moment. *"Say (O Prophet), 'The death you are running away from will inevitably come to you then you will be returned to the knower of the seen and the unseen and He will inform you of what you used.'" (al-Jumu'ah, 62:8)*

"God will not delay a soul when its appointed time (death) comes. Allah is fully aware of what you do." (al-Munafiqun, 63:11)

"Say (O Prophet), 'The angel of death put in charge of you will reclaim you and then you will be brought back to your Lord.'" (al-Sajdah, 32:11)

The world has witnessed cruel and merciless kings as well as kind and merciful kings. The first tyrant to challenge Allah was Namrud, the one whom Allah has given sovereignty, kingship and authority. *"Have you not considered (O Prophet) the one whom Allah made King and then disputed with Abraham about his Lord?" (al-Baqarah, 2:258)*

Namrud was the first ruler in history to initiate the theory of absolutism and divine right. He enjoyed absolute sovereignty with the notion of divine rights of Kings. Over time, it manifested itself and culminated in the deviation from the path of tawhid to the path of polytheism and shirk. Monarchical Absolutism by Divine Right became very popular and widespread after Namrud. It was practiced by the Pharaohs of Egypt, in India, in China, and most European monarchs followed suit, Louis XIV of France who died in 1715 is said to have proclaimed, 'I am the state,' meaning I am God.

Fir'oun was a tyrant king, *"Indeed Fir'oun arrogantly elevated himself in the land and divided its people into subservient groups, one of which he persecuted slaughtering their sons and keeping their women. He was truly among those who cause corruption."* (al-Qasas, 28:4) Allah (SWT) sent Musa to Fir'oun. *"Go to Fir'oun. He has transgressed all bounds."* (al-Nazi'at, 79:17) When Musa invited him to Islam, to submit to the will of Allah and be subservient to his Creator the Lord of the worlds, Fir'oun boastfully declared, "I am your lord most high." *"So God seized him with a punishment as an example in the life to come as well as in this life."* (al-Nazi'at, 79:24, 25)

He mercilessly drowned in the sea, a punishment well deserved for his cruelty and oppression. His body lays preserved in a museum in Cairo, Egypt.

Fir'oun was a mighty tyrannical ruler who persecuted the Israelites, the children of Israel, the descendants of Jacob (Israel). He rejected Musa and met his fate drowning along with his army in the Red Sea. Allah preserved his body as a sign for future leaders and kings. "We brought the children of Israel across the sea. Fir'oun and his soldiers pursued them unjustly and out of enmity but as Fir'oun was drowning he cried out I believe there is no god except that in whom the children of Israel believed and I am now one of those who submit."

His declaration of faith was not accepted for he was not sincere. Allah (SWT) reveals, *"What! Now! When previously you rebelled and you were one of those who caused corruption."* (Yunus, 10:91) Allah's plan was to save his body and make it a sign to future leaders and kings. *"Today we will preserve your body so you can be an example for people who come after you, surely many people are heedless of our signs."* (Yunus, 10:92)

In contrast to tyrant rulers like Fir'aun and Namrud there were good kings like Talut, whom Allah (SWT) chose to lead the Children of Israel, and Prophet Dawud (AS). They were rightly guided kings that led the Children of Israel in righteousness, fairness and justice.

King al-Najashi, the king of Ethiopia, was a good Christian king. The Prophet (SAW) permitted the early converts to Islam who were badly persecuted to immigrate to Ethiopia and seek asylum under King al-Najashi who was a just ruler. The polytheists confronted the king. Among the polytheists who pursued the converts to Ethiopia were Amr Bin al-'As and Abdullah Ibn Rabi'a. They tried to convince the king that they were renegades who left their religion and need to be brought back to the Quraysh in Makkah.

Ja'far Bin Abi Talib (RAA), the Prophet's cousin, was chosen as a spokesperson for the Muslims to the king and he rebutted, "O King! We were a people in a state of ignorance and immorality; worshipping idols and eating the flesh of the dead animals; committing all sorts of abomination and shameful deeds; breaking the ties of kinship; treating guests badly; and the strong among us exploited the weak. We remained in this state until Allah (S) sent us a Prophet, one of our own people whose lineage, truthfulness, trustworthiness, and integrity were all well known to us. He called us to worship Allah alone and to renounce the stones and the idols which we and our ancestors used to worship besides Allah. He commanded us to speak the truth; to honor our promises; to be kind to our relations; to be helpful to our neighbors; to seize all forbidden acts; to abstain from bloodshed; to avoid obscenities and false witness; and not to appropriate an orphan's property or slander chaste women. He ordered us to worship Allah alone and to not associate anything with Him. We believed in him and what he brought to us from Allah and we follow him in what he has asked us to do and we keep away from what he forbade us from.

Thereupon O King, our people attacked us; inflicted the severest punishment on us to make us renounce our religion and take us back to the old immorality and worship of idols. They oppressed us, made life intolerable for us and obstructed us from observing our religion so we left for your country choosing you before anyone else desiring your protection and hoping to live in justice and in peace in your midst." The king was impressed with what he heard and he gave them Asylum.

Continues on page 6

SISTERS CORNER

47 Safety Tips for Muslim Women - Part 1



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North American Muslims and their institutions have long been targets of Islamophobia. As wars and terrorist attacks become a norm, backlash and hate have become expected.

Muslim individuals, families, Masjids, schools, and organizations need to be prepared to beef up security. Visible Muslims, especially in women in Hijab, are at greatest risk.

Given these extraordinary circumstances, we are offering these updated safety tips. We first issued them immediately after the 9/11 attacks. However, we have enhanced them based on our current circumstances. Please share widely. May Allah protect all from harm regardless of their religious, racial, or ethnic background.

Your phone can save your life

- **Call 9/11** if you are in danger at any point, while walking, in the car, or anywhere else. With smartphones or camera phones in almost everyone's hands, these handy devices can save lives, including yours.
- **Filming an attack** as it happens and **taking a photo of a license plate** of a car trying to hit you are just two ways a perpetrator may back off. It will also provide evidence needed to put these hate-filled criminals behind bars if necessary.
- Consider purchasing a phone with just call and text options **for every family member**, especially kids in school.
- Make a habit of **charging phones the night before and never leaving home without them** in the mornings.
- **Download apps** that help family members keep tabs on each other's whereabouts, like Life360. Other apps you can download include those aimed at women's safety, students, and those that help you watch your back.

When walking or traveling alone

- **Always be aware of your surroundings.** This applies whether you are traveling alone or in groups. Don't just focus inwardly on your thoughts if you are alone, or your friends if you are together. Keep one eye out for your environment, looking out for suspicious characters, possible danger, etc. Also, don't assume that because your area has been "safe" thus far, that it will continue to be so.
- **Travel in groups.** "There is safety in numbers" is not just a cliché. It's true. Make a point of traveling together with family members headed the same way,

friends, or classmates, whether it's on public transportation, on campus, in cars, etc.

- **Change the route you normally travel by.** If you've taken the same bus, train, or highway to get to work or school, change your route. Even if it takes you a little longer, your safety is more important. By changing your route, you can avert possible attacks or harassment from those who know your schedule, method, and route of travel well. Please note though that you should avoid short cuts that take you through unfamiliar or unsafe areas.
- **Look confident.** Walk with a straight posture and your arms swinging by your sides. Avoid slouching or walking like a victim. This makes you an easy target for attackers.
- **Unplug your headphones while outside.** If you're used to listening to Quran, lectures, or music while outside, drop this habit. With your headphones or earbuds on, you cannot hear the approach of a possible attacker.
- **Note "safe houses" along your route.** Mentally note houses at intervals on each route you take that can be used as "safe houses" if you are attacked, such as shops or houses that you know to be occupied by a friend or acquaintance.
- **Make your way toward a crowd** if you feel you are in danger. Do not try to find a secluded place (e.g. restroom).
- **If you are physically attacked,** yell, shout and draw attention, do not allow the attacker to take you from that location or place you in a vehicle.
- **If you are verbally attacked,** keep calm and walk away towards a crowded space, inform security of the situation.
- **Keep your children close** if you are with your family. Do not let them roam around a playground, park, or store without you seeing exactly where they are.

In the car

- **If you are driving on a highway and someone is attempting to cause an accident,** keep calm. They are likely trying to frighten you so you will cause an accident and they can drive away. Ask someone in the passenger seat to video record the person, capture his/her face, car's model and color, as well as the license plate. Report it to the police right away. Authorities will not take action unless you have been assaulted. Note down the name and badge number of the officer. Also report it to CAIR.
- **Do not park your car on the shoulder** when dealing with someone trying to run you off the road. That person may have a gun and if you park, and you will

not be able to make a quick getaway.

- **Stay calm and drive to your nearest police station** if you fear you are being followed by a vehicle. Do not stop your car and if you do, make sure there is an exit and you won't be blocked in
- **Keep windows up and doors locked** even when driving to avoid unwanted passengers at intersections.
- When you park your car at any location **carry your keys** in hand if anyone harasses you draw attention by **pushing the alarm button on your security system**.
- **Also have your keys ready**, so that you can quickly get into your car.
- **But don't just get in right away**. Always check your car before entering, especially the back, for any intruders.
- **Never leave your car door unlocked**. Even if it means for one minute, keep all doors locked. Attackers have been known to lie in wait for such an opportunity.
- **Avoid parking in areas that are not well lit**. Where possible, park close to a school, a work entrance, or in a parking garage that has an attendant.
- **Be careful in parking lots**. Always be alert in parking lots, especially when it's dark. Ask someone to escort you to your car. Between cars and inside cars, it's easy for someone to hide and wait until an unsuspecting person comes along.
- If you park your car at a **university garage**, ask security to escort you to and from your car.
- **If you see a suspicious person** approaching or hanging around near your parked car, turn around and go back to an area where there are other people. Try to get an escort to your car through the campus or job security or local police.

Samana Siddiqui
Courtesy of soundvision.com

KIDS CORNER

ALLAH IS THE MOST FORGIVING

It was narrated that in the days that Musa (Alahi salaam) wandered with Bani Israel in the desert an intense drought befell them. Together, they raised their hands towards the heavens praying for the blessed rain to come. Then, to the astonishment of Musa (Alahi salaam) and all those watching, the few scattered clouds that were in the sky vanished, the heat poured down, and the drought intensified.

It was revealed to Musa that there was a sinner amongst the tribe of Bani Israel whom had disobeyed Allah (Subhanahu wa taala) for more than forty years of his life. Let him separate himself from the congregation, Allah (Subhanahu wa taala) told Musa (Alahi salaam). Only then shall I shower you all with rain.

Musa (Alahi salaam) then called out to the throngs of humanity, There is a person amongst us who has disobeyed Allah for forty years. Let him separate himself from the congregation and only then shall we be rescued from the drought. That man, waited, looking left and right, hoping that someone else would step forward, but no one did. Sweat poured forth from his brow and he knew that he was the one.

The man knew that if he stayed amongst the congregation all would die of thirst and that if he stepped

forward he would be humiliated for all eternity.

He raised his hands with a sincerity he had never known before, with a humility he had never tasted, and as tears poured down on both cheeks he said: O Allah, have mercy on me! O Allah, hide my sins! O Allah, forgive me!

As Musa (Alahi salaam) and the people of Bani Israel awaited for the sinner to step forward, the clouds hugged the sky and the rain poured. Musa (Alahi salaam) asked Allah (Subhanahu wa taala), O Allah, you blessed us with rain even though the sinner did not come forward. And Allah (Subhanahu wa taala) replied, O Musa, it is for the repentance of that very person that I blessed all of Bani Israel with water.

Musa (Alahi salaam), wanting to know who this blessed man was, asked, Show him to me O Allah! Allah (Subhanahu wa taala) replied, O Musa, I hid his sins for forty years, do you think that after his repentance I shall expose him?

Source: from the article by Shaikh Muhammad Al-Shareef.

coutusy of: <https://islamcan.com/islamic-stories/allah-is-the-most-forgiving.shtml>

Even Kings Die: Lessons from History (cont'd)

The next day, upon the claim of Amr that the Muslims were engaging in blasphemy about Jesus and Mary, the king summoned the believers once again and asked them about God, Jesus and Mary. He asked, 'Did your Prophet say anything about Jesus?' Jafar said yes. He then recited for him a section of Surah Maryam (19-32) that mentions the story of Jesus and his mother Mary (AS). Upon hearing the words of the Qur'an the king was moved to tears. He said to the Muslims, 'The message of your Prophet and that of Jesus came from the same source.' And to the delegates, Amr and Abdullah, he said, 'You go for by God I will never surrender them to you.' The king turned his attention to the believers and said, 'You're welcome; your Prophet is welcome. I submit that he is the Apostle whom Jesus had given good news. Live wherever you like in my country.' The pagan delegation returned to Makkah with their gifts in despair.

The King died as a Muslim and the prophet (SAW) prayed the funeral prayer (*salatul Janazah*) in absentia on the day he died. Even Kings die.

The British Empire that came to be known as the Empire on which the sun never sets, was so expansive it seemed as though it always had daylight in at least one part of its territory. The Empire may have brought prosperity to the royal family and to a certain extent to its subjects but on the other hand, people who lived on lands conquered by the empire were persecuted, discriminated against and exploited for their natural resources and raw materials. The Empire profited enormously from the slave trade and subjected people to suffering and hardship.

Queen Elizabeth II is succeeded by her son Charles, the Prince of Wales. At the moment of death, the throne passes immediately to the heir. Charles will be known as King Charles III. He is the 40th King. William the Conqueror was the first Monarch some 900 years ago. The Monarch has been the Supreme Head of the Church of England since 1558. King Charles made a declaration to uphold the constitutional government and in line with a tradition dating from the 18th century, he made an oath to preserve the Church of Scotland. After ascending the throne, he told faith leaders, 'The beliefs that flourish in and contribute to our richly diverse society differ. They and our society can only thrive through a clear collective commitment to those vital principles of freedom of conscience, generosity of spirit and care for others which are, to me, the essence of our nationhood. I am determined as king to preserve and promote those principles across all communities and for all beliefs with all my heart.'

This deviation from the traditional oath of being the defender of the faith that is the defender of the Church of England, the Anglican Church, to becoming the defender of faith, all faiths, may be seen as unconventional which could cause him much controversy and issues. King Charles has a soft spot in his heart for Islam and Muslim civilization. As the head of state, we don't know how he will rule. He vowed to be politically neutral but only time will tell how much he will be involved in the politics of England and the commonwealth countries that include 56 countries and 2.5 billion people.

In an article written by Ben Judah in the Washington Post entitled, 'Why King Charles III will surprise us,' he wrote, "As the Prince of Wales, he threw himself into the study of Islamic textiles, gardens and architecture. But he did not stop there. The king has also studied Arabic to understand the Quran." He also wrote, "In speeches as early as 1993, he warned that 'the degree of misunderstanding between the

Islamic and Western worlds remain dangerously high' and 'I believe wholeheartedly that the links between these two worlds matter more today than ever before.' Rejecting the popular narrative of a "clash of civilizations" brewing between the Muslim world and the West, the then-Prince of Wales went on to declare that Islam is 'part of our past and our present, in all fields of human endeavor. It has helped to create modern Europe. It is part of our own inheritance, not a thing apart.'" May he be true to his words. King Charles III, the then Prince of Wales, wrote the forward to the 1001 Inventions book published by National Geographic.

The last true king to rule in righteousness was Muhammad (SAW). He was, so to say, the uncrowned King, not of Arabia but of the world. He was the last Caliph, Vicegerent (*Khalifah*) of Allah (SWT) who served the cause of Allah and his subjects. "Muhammad is not the father of any of your men but is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of all Prophets and Allah has perfect knowledge of all things." (*al-Ahzab*, 33:40)

Adam (AS) was the first *khalifah* of Allah. Allah (SWT) announced, "And (mention) when Allah said to the angels, 'I am making a *khalifah* (vicegerent) on earth.'" (*al-Baqarah*, 2:30) This legacy of *khilafah* started with Adam (AS) and ended with Muhammad (SAW) and all the prophets and messengers in between.

If the body of the Pharaoh was preserved to serve as a reminder to all cruel and tyrant leaders and kings until the end of time, Muhammad's legacy (SAW) is etched in the Qur'an for eternity. It is in the hearts of the memorizers of the Qur'an (*huffaz*) to serve as a constant reminder to all people of the great man and leader who ever walked on the face of the earth. He (SAW) was described by Allah (SWT) in the Qur'an as, 'A lamp spreading light (*Sirajan Munira*).'

Muhammad (SAW) was an exemplary leader who ruled in righteousness. A man of kindness and compassion, fairness and justice. "Indeed, there is a great example in the messenger of Allah (*Muhammad*) for those whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and frequently mentions Allah." (*al-Ahzab*, 33:21) May Allah (SWT) guide us to walk in his footsteps and grant us his company and the company of the noble companions on the day of judgment. Ameen.

*Prophets and Messengers come, and Prophets and Messengers go.
Kings and Queens come, Kings and Queens go.
Leaders come, and leaders go.
Fathers and mothers come, fathers and mothers go.
People come and people go.
And do know that we are all children of Adam (banu Adam) and
Adam is from dust. Remember that you will indeed meet your
Lord and that He will indeed reckon your deeds.
We ask Allah for forgiveness and wellbeing for all, (afiah), ameen.*

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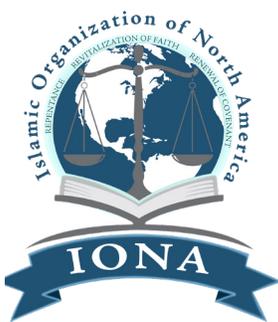
DECEMBER 2022

IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqama Timing

Date	Fajr	Iqama	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqama	Asr(S)*	Asr(H)*	Iqama	Maghrib	Azan	Isha	Iqama
Thu 1	6:07	6:45	7:41	12:26	1:00	2:42	3:19	3:30	5:03	5:08	6:31	7:45
Fri 2	6:08	6:45	7:42	12:27	1:00	2:41	3:18	3:30	5:03	5:08	6:31	7:45
Sat 3	6:09	6:45	7:44	12:27	1:00	2:41	3:18	3:30	5:03	5:08	6:31	7:45
Sun 4	6:10	6:45	7:45	12:28	2:00	2:41	3:18	3:30	5:02	5:07	6:31	7:45
Mon 5	6:11	6:45	7:46	12:28	1:00	2:41	3:18	3:30	5:02	5:07	6:31	7:45
Tue 6	6:12	6:45	7:47	12:28	1:00	2:41	3:18	3:30	5:02	5:07	6:31	7:45
Wed 7	6:13	6:45	7:47	12:29	1:00	2:41	3:18	3:30	5:02	5:07	6:31	7:45
Thu 8	6:13	6:45	7:48	12:29	1:00	2:41	3:18	3:30	5:02	5:07	6:31	7:45
Fri 9	6:14	6:45	7:49	12:30	1:00	2:41	3:18	3:30	5:02	5:07	6:31	7:45
Sat 10	6:15	6:45	7:50	12:30	1:00	2:41	3:18	3:30	5:02	5:07	6:32	7:45
Sun 11	6:16	6:45	7:51	12:31	2:00	2:41	3:18	3:30	5:02	5:07	6:32	7:45
Mon 12	6:16	6:45	7:52	12:31	1:00	2:42	3:18	3:30	5:02	5:07	6:32	7:45
Tue 13	6:17	6:45	7:53	12:32	1:00	2:42	3:18	3:30	5:03	5:08	6:33	7:45
Wed 14	6:18	6:45	7:53	12:32	1:00	2:42	3:18	3:30	5:03	5:08	6:33	7:45
Thu 15	6:19	6:45	7:54	12:33	1:00	2:42	3:18	3:30	5:03	5:08	6:33	7:45
Fri 16	6:19	6:45	7:55	12:33	1:00	2:43	3:19	3:30	5:03	5:08	6:34	7:45
Sat 17	6:20	6:45	7:55	12:34	1:00	2:43	3:19	3:30	5:04	5:09	6:34	7:45
Sun 18	6:20	6:45	7:56	12:34	2:00	2:43	3:19	3:30	5:04	5:09	6:35	7:45
Mon 19	6:21	6:45	7:57	12:35	1:00	2:44	3:20	3:30	5:04	5:09	6:36	7:45
Tue 20	6:21	6:45	7:57	12:35	1:00	2:44	3:20	3:30	5:05	5:10	6:36	7:45
Wed 21	6:22	6:45	7:58	12:36	1:00	2:45	3:21	3:45	5:05	5:10	6:37	7:45
Thu 22	6:22	6:45	7:58	12:36	1:00	2:45	3:21	3:45	5:06	5:11	6:38	7:45
Fri 23	6:23	6:45	7:59	12:37	1:00	2:46	3:22	3:45	5:06	5:11	6:38	7:45
Sat 24	6:23	6:45	7:59	12:37	1:00	2:46	3:22	3:45	5:07	5:12	6:38	7:45
Sun 25	6:24	6:45	8:00	12:38	2:00	2:47	3:23	3:45	5:08	5:13	6:39	7:45
Mon 26	6:24	6:45	8:00	12:38	1:00	2:48	3:24	3:45	5:08	5:13	6:39	7:45
Tue 27	6:24	6:45	8:00	12:39	1:00	2:48	3:24	3:45	5:09	5:14	6:40	7:45
Wed 28	6:25	6:45	8:00	12:39	1:00	2:49	3:25	3:45	5:10	5:15	6:40	7:45
Thu 29	6:25	6:45	8:01	12:39	1:00	2:50	3:26	3:45	5:11	5:16	6:41	7:45
Fri 30	6:25	6:45	8:01	12:40	1:00	2:51	3:27	3:45	5:11	5:16	6:41	7:45
Sat 31	6:26	6:45	8:01	12:40	1:00	2:51	3:28	3:45	5:12	5:17	6:42	7:45
Sun 1	6:26	6:45	8:01	12:41	2:00	2:52	3:28	3:45	5:13	5:18	6:42	7:45

* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi

First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and second sermon is at 1:30 PM



IONA aims at transforming its members and surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek God's forgiveness to earn His pleasure. IONA members seek His mercy and grace in this life and in the hereafter. They rejuvenate their souls through internal struggle (jihad) and spiritual exercise in worship of the Creator, God most glorified. The strength of their belief in God almighty gives them the courage to promote good and forbid evil, and to engage in the struggle to establish social, political, and economic justice.



Future Plan
Please continue supporting your center. Scan the QR code to donate

IONA center is always in need of funds in order to keep the Masjid running and maintained at all times. Your continued support is always appreciated.