



NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 | Issue 11

November 2022 | Rabi ul Awal - Jumada Al-Awwal 1444

“Do not falter or grieve, for you will have the upper hand, if you are true believers.”

{Aal 'Imran, 3:139}

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“Allah the Most High said, ‘I am as My servant thinks of Me...’”
{hadith Qudsi - sacred hadith}

DO I HAVE ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE? SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

Come and learn from our health experts about Alzheimer’s disease. We welcome the Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer’s Disease (MCCFAD) who will present “Do I have Alzheimer’s disease, come learn from health experts” on Tuesday, November 15th at 6 PM in the IONA banquet hall. Food and beverages will be served, along with a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

Saturday, November 15 from 6-8 PM Food and Beverage will be served.



More on page 4

My Ongoing Love for Our Prophet Muhammad^(Saw) ...

It’s no coincidence that when I wrote this post it was the 12th day of Rabi’ul Awwal, the day the Prophet...

★ YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE ★

2022 ELECTION

More on page 2

Get The Vote Out, 2022 Elections

The national elections are approaching fast. November 8 will be here before we know it and we must make sure that...

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCTOBER 4, 2022

Get The Vote Out

The national elections are approaching fast. November 8 will be here before we know it and we must make sure that we fulfill our obligation to vote. Those who are eligible to vote and not registered, should get registered ASAP. Those that would like to vote absentee ballot, meaning by mail, should sign up by October 24, 2022. You can register to vote in person all the way up to and on election day. You can use this link to register and for more information <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>

There are many issues that will be affected by the outcome of this upcoming election. Critical issues like poverty, water rights, voting rights, military issues, education, line 5 here in Michigan, among others. Based upon the margin of victory and voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election, the Poor People's Campaign: National Call for A Moral Revival calculates that if only 1% more of Low-Income Non-Voters had turned out, it would have likely altered the result. Their impact on the 2020 election further confirms this.

The Islamic Organization of North America fully supports voting and civic engagement regardless of political affiliation. Allah (SWT) says: "O you who believe! Stand out firmly for Allah as witnesses to justice and let not the enmity and hatred of others make you swerve from justice. Be just: that is nearer to piety, and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Well-Acquainted with what you do." (Qur'an 5:8)

Many scholars, past and present, have concluded that 'giving testimony' is obligatory even if not asked. Zayd ibn Khālid al-Juhani reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said, "Shall I not inform you who the best witness is? He is the one who gives his testimony before he is asked for it." (Muslim) Taking part in U.S. elections does not diminish one's deen if a Muslim is using their right to voice their opinion through voting. Certain rights that are incumbent on us to uphold and protect could be affected by an election. A greater harm might be averted by using our voice to vote. Burdens on others in our shared society may be lifted or alleviated by our vote. So we must bear witness as we have been commanded to.

Commenting on voting, "Voting is not a choice, it is an obligation. People should exercise their right to vote and vote their conscience," said Imam Mustapha Elturk, Ameer of IONA.

Please do not delay in securing your voter registration or your absentee ballot. Registered voters may visit the Michigan Voter Information Center, <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/AVApplication>, to apply for absentee ballot.

END

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2022 - 2023 SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are accepting students ages 5 to 17 (limited space available).

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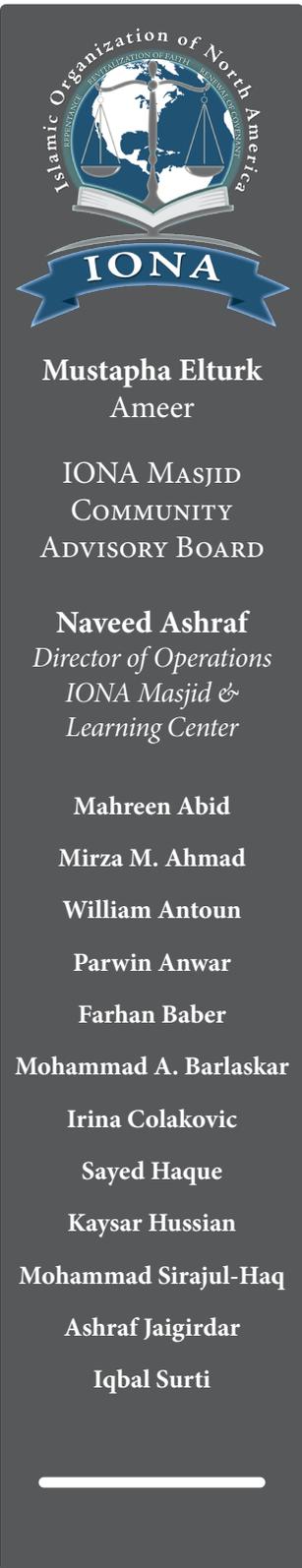
Subjects Taught: Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic Studies (Hadith, Sirah, etc.)

Dress Code: Proper Islamic dress is required for both boys and girls. Girls must wear a navy Jilbab and a white scarf and boys must wear navy pants (blue jeans allowed) and white shirts or T-shirts. No shorts allowed.

To apply, please visit ionamasjid.org and click on Education tab and follow the link to Sunday School.

For more information, please contact the principal, **Sr. Souad**, at **248-872-2169**.

REGISTER ONLINE at IONAMASJID.ORG



Spirituality and Emotional Well-being - Part 2

Lack of spirituality is a source of anxiety and depression: Lack of spirituality and connection with Allah (SWT) is indeed a cause of anxiety and depression. The first story that appears in the Qur'an is the story of our father Adam (AS). In surat al-Baqarah we are told that Allah (SWT) wanted to place a vicegerent on earth. Adam and Eve receive their training before settling on earth to assume the role as vicegerent. While in the garden, Iblis entices them to disobey God. They fall in the trap and feel remorseful. They repent and ask for forgiveness. Allah, the Forgiving, accepts their repentance and forgives them. Prior to being dispatched from the garden to assume his role, Adam receives clear instructions from his Lord.

"We said, 'Descend all of you from here (the garden), and whenever guidance comes to you from Me (as it certainly will), whoever follows My Guidance, they will have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve.'" (al-Baqarah, 2:38)

The same story is repeated in surat Ta Ha with additional information. Adam, while getting ready to assume his appointment, is once again instructed, "He (God) said, 'Descend you two (Iblis and Adam) from here (the garden) as enemies to each other. Nonetheless, whenever guidance comes to you from Me (as it certainly will), whoever follows My Guidance, shall neither go astray (and be lost) nor be depressed.'" (Ta Ha, 20:123)

He then informs us of the consequence of turning away from His guidance. He says, "And whoever turns away from My remembrance (guidance) will certainly have a miserable life and We shall raise him up blind on the Day of Resurrection." (Ta Ha, 20:124)

The wicked soul that deviated from Allah's guidance will complain, "He will say, 'My Lord! why did you raise me up blind while I had sight before.'" (Ta Ha, 20:125)

Allah (SWT) swiftly replies, "He will say, 'This is how it is, when Our revelations (guidance) came to you, you ignored them, so today you will be ignored.'" (Ta Ha, 20:126)

Misery and gloom will extend to the next world, but

the difference is that it will be eternal.

One who is oblivious of God's guidance will not only lose the good life of the hereafter but be in a state of total darkness in this world. Most of our stress, anxiety, and depression is due to lack of adherence to the Guidance of Allah (SWT). Even those who pray and fast and fulfill cultural rituals while not heeding the Book of Allah and the tradition of the Prophet (SAW) will go through such states of mind and find themselves miserable and depressed.

It's clear that lack of spirituality, connection with God and holding fast to His guidance as well as to the prophetic tradition is a major source of anxiety and depression. Positively, regardless of one's socio-economic condition, connecting with God and following His commands, living by His wishes and guidance will help the individual overcome such states of mind and guarantees peace and contentment within one's soul and heart.

"Those who have (real) faith, their hearts find peace through the remembrance (zikr) of Allah. Is it not in the remembrance of Allah hearts find peace?" (al-Ra'd, 13:28)

One of the names of the Qur'an is *al-Zikr*, the Reminder, hence, the most effective *zikr* is to connect with Allah (SWT) through His Book.

The Prophet (SAW) hailed the strong believer. He said, "A strong believer is better and is more beloved to Allah than a weak believer, and there is goodness in both. Safeguard that which benefits you and seek help from Allah and do not lose heart. If something (bad) befalls you, don't say, 'If only I had done this instead,' rather say, 'Allah has decreed what He wills,' for surely the phrase, 'If only' opens the way for satan."

A strong mu'min is a true believer who is cognizant of Allah (SWT) and does his/her very best to live by His commands and guidance. On the other hand, a weak believer could be a Muslim who, although he/she may be praying and fasting, is spiritually disconnected from Allah and His guidance. Often times such people blame either themselves, others or sometimes God



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SISTERS CORNER

My Ongoing Love for Our Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is an Active Work in Progress

It's no coincidence that when I wrote this post it was the 12th day of Rabbi' Awwal, the day the Prophet Muhammad (saw) was born. He was described on numerous occasions to be more beautiful than a full moon, may Allah (S) send His infinite peace and blessings upon him. He was a mercy and a gift to mankind, a man of wisdom and grace. We, as Muslims, are taught from a young age to love the Prophet Muhammad (saw), to follow his sunnah, study his life, memorize his hadith and to send peace and blessings upon him.

The love of the Prophet is something ingrained in our identity as Muslims, after all we bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah (S), and Muhammad (saw) is His Prophet and messenger.

But what does loving the Prophet truly mean, and how can we embody his sunnah in our daily life? Is our love for the prophet stagnant and superficial? Do we go about our lives acknowledging his importance in our faith, sending peace and blessings upon him from one Friday to the next, and occasionally following our fard prayers with a sunnah? Or, is our love for the Prophet, peace be upon him, active, always moving and changing positively?

Are we constantly striving to follow in his footsteps, studying his seerah (life's journey), reflecting on his hadith, and analyzing his behaviors and mannerisms in order to implement them in our own lives? Do we truly love the Prophet Muhammad (saw) unconditionally, the way his companions loved him?

As we go through the various seasons of life, it is only natural for our spirituality to also experience its own highs and lows. The path to pleasing Allah (S) and attaining janah is not an easy one and requires frequent check in's and renewal of intentions. Similarly, we may find our love for the prophet fluctuate in intensity from time to time. We will also need to continuously nurture that love in order to strengthen our relationship with him.

How can we expect ourselves to love the Prophet if we are not working on that love, stoking it, tending to it, learning more about it?

How I reinvigorated my love for the Prophet Muhammad (saw)

I recently was invited to attend a weekly local halaqa (study circle) centered around the seerah of our beloved Prophet Muhammad. I firmly believe that every aspect of our lives is divinely orchestrated and that my spur of the moment invitation was not by chance. After attending the first week, I felt as though Allah (S) knew what my heart needed at this moment of my life. It's as though I was specifically chosen to attend this blessed gathering in order to revive my love of my Prophet and Messenger.

Over the course of the week after attending that first halaqa, I reflected on my intentions for attending the gathering and why I chose to touch base with my relationship with the Prophet. I found myself looking back at my younger self, someone who had been deeply immersed in her Islamic School upbringing and had been surrounded by the seerah and hadith of the Prophet.

I longed for those days that were centered around the teachings and sunnah of our prophet, where my heart was linked to him in a way that made his presence in my life feel almost tangible. I found myself remembering a time in my life not too long ago, a time that I was grieving the loss of a dear loved one and was reminded by doing a deep dive into the life of the Prophet, that it was okay for me to nurse my grief and that the Prophet Muhammad (S) himself grieved the loss of many throughout his lifetime.

This, in turn, led me to reflect on just how humane the Prophet Muhammad (saw) really is, and that although he is a Prophet and the best of mankind, he was also just as human as we are. His hadith and seerah show us how to carry out our daily lives, how to live every step of the day just from observing his actions and mannerisms.

There is divine wisdom in sending down messengers and prophets who are human,

Continues on page 6

who are relatable in the way they carry out their daily lives and express their emotions.

I found myself looking at my children and wanting to provide them with a similar experience as my own, rooted in a pure and deep love for our Muhammad (S).

I know in order to instill love for another, I must lead by example. And that starts with attaining knowledge. The importance of studying the seerah and life of the prophet Muhammad is directly linked to the love and importance the Prophet holds in our lives as Muslims. Fully knowing the Prophet, peace be upon him, through the study of his life inevitably leads to admiration and increases our love of him.

Being reminded of Prophet Muhammad (saw) helps us see the mercy, the rahma, in our lives. That will in turn spark rahma around us and ease the way in which we respond to situations that come our way.

“And We have sent you (O Muhammad saw) not but as a mercy for the Aalameen (mankind, jinns and all that exists)” [Quran 21:107]

In this blessed, joyful month of Rabbi’ Awwal, I extend an invitation for you to be amongst those who are active lovers of the Prophet. I invite you to revisit your relationship with our beloved Messenger and cultivate a deep love for Muhammad (saw). With so many resources accessible online, I encourage you to take this month for you and your family to get to know the Messenger of Allah (S) on a deeper, more intimate level.

KIDS CORNER

JUDGING TOO QUICKLY MOTIVATIONAL STORY

A 24 year old boy seeing out from the train’s window shouted...

“Dad, look the trees are going behind us!”

As his Dad smiled, a couple sitting nearby, looked at the 24 year old’s childish behavior with pity, when suddenly he again exclaimed...

“Dad, look the clouds are running with us!”

The couple couldn’t resist and said to the old man...



Image source: Shutterstock

I ask Allah (S) to help us in seeking the Prophet’s guidance through his teachings. May Allah (S) count us amongst those who will have the privilege of meeting with our beloved Muhammad (saw) at his hawd and drink from his hands, a drink that will quench our thirst on the day of judgment. Ameen.

Allāhumma salli wa sallim alā Sayyidinā Muhammadin miftāhi bāb rahmat Illāh, adada mā fī ilm Illāh, salātan wa salāman dāiymayni bi dawāmi mulk Illāh, wa alā ālihi wa sahabihi adada kulli dharratin alfa marrah.

“O Allah! Bestow mercy and peace upon our master Muhammad, the key to Allah’s Gates of Mercy – equal to that which is in Allah’s knowledge—a mercy and peace that last as eternally as Allah’s sovereignty, and upon his family and companions” – equal to every atom one thousand times over.

Danah Shuli

Courtesy of hautehijab.com

“Why don’t you take your son to see a good doctor?”

The old man smiled and said...

“I did and we are just coming from the hospital, my son was blind from birth and he just got his eyes today.”

Courtesy of: <https://islamcan.com/islamic-stories/judging-too-quickly-motivational-story.shtml>

Spirituality and Emotional Well-Being - Part 2 (cont'd)

for their misfortune and the trials they are made to receive.

A true believer, mu'min, is worry free. The Prophet (SAW) eloquently describes the affairs of the true believer, "How amazing is the affair of the believer. There is good for him in everything and that is for no one but the believer, mu'min. When something good happens to him, he expresses gratitude to Allah and that is good for him, and if hardship comes his way, he endures it patiently and that is better for him." Surely, the true believers heed the advice of Allah (SWT), "O believers! Seek help through patience and prayers, for Allah is with those who patiently persevere" (*al-Baqarah, 2:153*)

We should be grateful to Allah (SWT) for giving us what it takes to overcome the challenges of life. We have the final Guidance, the Qur'an, and the tradition of the Prophet (SAW) who, according to his wife Aishah (RAA) was, 'The walking Qur'an.'

No person, not even Musa (AS) who complained, "O my people! Why do you hurt me when you know I am the messenger of Allah sent to you," (*al-Saff, 61:5*) have gone through trials like Muhammad (SAW). He was abandoned and ridiculed by the people he loved the most as they claimed he was a liar, magician, sorcerer, crazy, and more. As an introvert, he (SAW) kept things inside and did not complain. He may have succeeded in hiding his feelings from people but he could not hide them from the All-Hearing, All-Seeing. By way of consoling His Prophet, Allah (SWT) reveals, "Indeed, We know how your heart is distressed by what they say." (*al-Hashr, 15:97*)

Consider the event of al-Ta'if that occurred soon after the loss of two of the dearest persons to him and supporters of his mission, his wife Khadijah (RAA) and his uncle Abu Talib. The Prophet (SAW) who wished nothing but good for the people of al-Ta'if finds himself rejected, detested and ostracized. The people of al-Ta'if pelt him with stones as they chase him out of the town. That year was marked as, "the year of sadness."

The Prophet (SAW) relieves his distress and anxiety by expressing his feelings to the One who listens.

*"To You, my Lord, I complain of my weakness,
lack of support and the humiliation
I am made to receive.*

*Most Compassionate and Merciful!
You are the Lord of the weak, and you are my Lord.*

*To whom do You leave me?
To a distant person who receives me with hostility?
Or to an enemy You have given power over me?*

*As long as you are not displeased with me,
I do not care what I face.*

*I would, however, be much happier
with Your mercy.*

*I seek refuge in the light of Your face
By which all darkness is dispelled
And both this life and the life to come
are put in their right course against
incurring your wrath
or being the subject of your anger.*

*To You I submit, until I earn Your pleasure.
Everything is powerless without your support.*

Certainly connecting with Allah (SWT) will greatly help us overcome any type of anxiety and depression. We must have full confidence and complete trust in Allah (SWT). As mentioned in the sacred hadith, "Allah the Most High said, 'I am as My servant thinks of Me...'" We must have the conviction that His Mercy encompasses all things and that only He can relieve us from hardships and comfort us with solace, peace and tranquility.

We pray, "O Allah, we seek refuge in You from anxiety, sorrow, weakness, laziness, miserliness, cowardice, the burden of debts and from being overpowered by men." Ameen.

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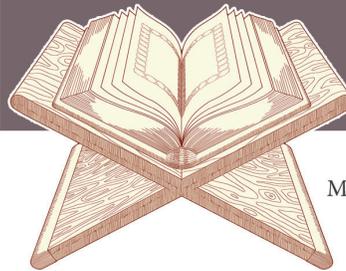
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Date	Fajr	Iqama	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqama	Asr(S)*	Asr(H)*	Iqama	Maghrib	Azan	Isha	Iqama
Tue 1	6:33	6:45	8:05	1:21	2:00	4:01	4:43	5:00	6:28	6:33	7:49	8:00
Wed 2	6:34	6:45	8:06	1:21	2:00	4:00	4:41	5:00	6:27	6:32	7:48	8:00
Thu 3	6:35	6:45	8:08	1:21	2:00	3:59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

* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi | ~ Daylight Saving Time

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.



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