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The MUSLIM WOMAN

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On this special occasion we received donations of over £700.- May Allah reward you all for your generosity .

We would like to thank all the members who worked so hard to make the evening a success.

Get Well Wishes

We thank Allah that our dear sister Kia Peckham is recovering well after her recent operation. We did miss you at the Eid Dinner.

Congratulations

We congratulate our dear friend Dr. Charis Waddy on the honour bestowed upon her by the Government of Pakistan who awarded her with the Sitara-e-Imtiaz. Sitara-e-Imtiaz is an award for those who have attained academic distinction in the fields of science, arts and literature. Also it is awarded to the foreign nationals who make a distinct contribution to the promotion of science, arts and literature in Pakistan.

Dr. Waddy studied at Oxford University and became the first woman to specialise in Arabic. Her books on the Muslim World, The Muslim Mind (1976) and Women in Muslim History (1980) have been recommended for school and college use in Australia, the USA , Canada, Sweden and Britain.

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MWA BUSINESS

ANNUAL MWA EID DINNER

by Nisa Ali

It was good to hear the echo of Eid Mubarak once again at our Eid-ul-Fitr dinner and to witness the embraces of friends who did not see each other for a long time, or missed each other on Eid day. We were happy that our Eid-ul-Fitr dinner which took place on Sunday, 13th May, was such a joyful occasion and has become an event on many a calendar. It is always a pleasure to receive our non-Muslim friends and representatives from various organisations and members whom we have not seen for a long time.

As usual the food was delicious, and I must admit that when I saw how many people were arriving after 5 pm, I wondered if we would have enough food for them. Alhamdulillah, there was sufficient and everyone was served.

Our evening started with a Qur'anic recitation by Sheikh Hamid Khalifa, followed by his son, Muhammed who also recited verses from the Qur'an. Our Assistant Secretary, Karima Mustafa introduced Dr. Charis Waddy who received an award from the Government of Pakistan for her contribution to a better understanding of the country, particularly the women of Pakistan in the Western World.

One of the most moving moments of the evening was when a young girl made a gesture to remind us of the meaning of Ramadan and its celebration. As a donation to Madina House Miss Suhra Ahmed handed me £1.35 which was her pocket money. Alhamdulillah there are Muslims who are sensitive to the needs of others.

ABDAHU WA RASOOLAHU

by Dr.S.Saeed

We have gathered together here to celebrate the most important occasion in the Muslim calendar. The birth of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) regarded by the Muslims as the most illustrious, magnificent, luminous, shining gift from God to humankind. "Abdahu wa Rasoolahu." This is an extremely happy and auspicious occasion for us.

As this is a gathering of ladies, children and our younger generation, I am not going to indulge in any theological or philosophical discussion, nor indeed am I going to say anything new on Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) birth/work/life mission. I am sure this is something that even the youngest muslim child would either know about or is in the process of learning from his mother.

So far the next few minutes that are

available to us, I think it would be appropriate to invite the younger generation born or being brought up in this country, to reflect upon the theme of REVELATION AND REALISATION. In other words think to what extent mankind in general and Muslims in particular have realised all that has been revealed by God to all the Prophets, and particularly to His last Prophet, Muhammad (S.A.W.). In these few minutes one could only hope to take a couple of verses from the Holy Quran and a few of the Hadith to make this point.

Why the theme of Revelation to Realisation? For some considerable time now I have been thinking of this, which to my mind is an extremely important theme; by the grace of God the title of my book which was published in 1984, is also "From Revelation to Realisation".

I always ask myself how much time to we, in this country devote to the understanding of Islam revealed in the Divine Book, and to the Hadith of the Prophet?

It is very important that we do, after all according to the Holy Quran, Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) is the last Prophet and the religion of Islam a complete religion. There would be no more educators in the shape of Prophets of God. So, as far as God is concerned education and humankind is complete. Humankind must therefore either

realise all that has been revealed so far, and walk in the light of that guidance or if he fails to do that, than indeed be prepared to sink.

In this connection, out of several Revelations observe Surah 15, verse 19: "And the Earth we spread out like a carpet, with firm mountains, and produced there in all kinds of things in due balance". Due balance is relevant here, is man interfering with that balance? and if so, than at what cost?

Think about Prophet Muhammad's concern... When he marched into Macca, he ordered not only that there should be no looting, but that not a single tree should be cut.

Further we have his saying: 'Verily the earth is God's. He causeth whom He will of His slaves to inherit it; and the final issue is in favour of the pious'

And further: 'Treat the entire earth as prayer carpet...' meaning treat it as something sacred, something to be respected, and not to be exploited. Take note of the modernity of Islam. Compare it with what is going on today.

1989 is almost at an end, the world and particularly "civilised nations" have realised what wrong they are doing to the Earth. Man has reached the moon but in the

process he is on his way to destroying the earth. The pollution of the environment, of the food we eat, of the water we drink, of the dying of the seals in the oceans, acid rain, the green-house effect, all these is surely taking mankind to the brink of extinction. So thinking of mankind is becoming certain day by day.

In Surah 10, v.44 God says: 'Lo! Allah wrongeth not mankind in aught; mankind wrong themselves'.

The realisation of doom has dawned on the western world or at least on some of them, and they are doing something about it even if it is too little too late. Whereas Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) said in the 7th C. to 'treat the entire earth as a prayer carpet'.

Again and again Allah warns in the Quran DO NOT SPREAD AGGRESSION ON MY EARTH. That God will never forgive the aggressors. Again the concept of 'aggression' is very relevant here and calls for understanding and reflection.

Now let us take another Revelation. Concentrate on verse 269 in Surah 2. 'He giveth wisdom unto whom He will, and he unto whom wisdom is given, he truly hath received abundant good. But none remember except men of understanding'. And further in Surah 6, v.97 God says: 'And He it is Who hath set

for you the stars that you may guide your course by them amid the darkness of land and sea. We have detailed our revelations for a people who have knowledge'.

You can see that emphasis on knowledge in the Quran. Our younger generation should be so very proud of this verse, they should come to grip with this verse, and try to realise it. Besides this there is another very important reference to the pen. For example S.96, V.1-5:

'Read in the name of thy Lord Who createth
Createth man from a clot. Read:
And thy Lord is the most Bounteous
Who teacheth by the pen.
Teacheth man that which he knew not.'

Think of the beautiful prayer of Prophet Muhammad to God, 'Rabe zidni Ilman'. The word "RAB" alone, has inspired deep reflection and extensive writing. Observe Prophets love for knowledge in his sayings, "Go to China if need be to acquire knowledge". Even if we take this to be a symbolic advice and I assure you, I do not think it is symbolic, it is the most dynamic most revolutionary, most modern, most up to date 7th Century Hadith. China at that time was at its peak in wisdom in knowledge and civilisation, as indeed, one would say today 'the West' is. What is more this beautiful Hadith is not restricted to boys or men only, nor does it say go to China to convert people to Islam but go to acquire knowledge, wisdom,

ways of doing things, learn.

Prophet Muhammad (SWA) was so very confident that a true believer would neither lose his belief, his Iman in God by such travels, nor indeed would he abuse the knowledge so acquired. Prophet's love for knowledge becomes clearer again, when we look at the historical facts of his upbringing. When the Prophet was growing from childhood to a young person he did not get the education that children of his age were getting at the time. (To be continued).

MARRIAGE BY APPOINTMENT

by Sally Brompton

When Laila El-Essawy started her Islamic marriage bureau two years ago, it was in response to the growing needs of Britain's Muslim community, caught between the cultural impasse of their own traditions and the British way of life.

Their plight was highlighted by the case of the Asian bride who was awarded 20,000 in slander damages over suggestions by her ex-husband that she was not a virgin when they married. The woman, Zahida Seemi, aged 30, wanted her reputation vindicated in order to be accepted among her people in Pakistan. Without that public vindication,

she felt that she would have no chance of remarrying.

Miss Seemi's case underlines the problems regularly encountered by the Asian community in Britain. "Young Asians who have grown up here have different expectations," says Anne Owers, general secretary of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. "Young girls going to school here, for example, expect more control over their own lives." Most Asian marriages in Britain are, however, still arranged - and the main problem for Asian families in a western society is finding suitable partners for their children. It was for that reason that Hesham El-Essawy, an Egyptian dentist, suggested his wife start a marriage bureau in their London home.

Now the Matchmaker bureau has around 200 Muslims on its books, ranging from a millionaire property tycoon to a hotel receptionist. Mrs. El-Essawy, aged 42, charges only the men - #100 to register and #500 for a successful marriage - and her introductions have resulted in five marriages.

When she started the bureau, Mrs. El-Essawy assured that it would be the men who contacted her; and that she would have to use her own contacts to find suitable women to whom she could introduce them. To her surprise, she has almost as many women as

man on her books. "She gets calls from parents almost begging her to find a partner for their daughters," says her husband, who is chairman of the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance. Dr. El-Essawy is anxious to emphasize the fact that "an arranged marriage is not a forced marriage". He acknowledges that forced marriages do occasionally happen in the case of "a very small despised minority. Certainly, in Islam, if you force someone to enter into a contract of marriage, the marriage, the marriage is not valid."

Sikandar Quraishi, co-ordinator of the Hackney Pakistan Women's Welfare Centre, acts as an unpaid matchmaker for the local Asian community. "First the parents come to us, and then they bring their children, and if we're satisfied that the youngsters are of suitable caste, education and everything else, we introduce them," Mrs. Qureshi says.

She also gets contacted by youngsters who have made their own choice of partner and are afraid to tell their parents. "We act as the middleman and contact their parents. Sometimes there is a problem because the parents may have already arranged for a partner to come over from Pakistan." If the parents refuse to accept that their child wants to marry someone of his or her own choosing, Mrs. Qureshi contacts aunts, uncles, the entire family if necessary, in the hope of finding eventual

acceptance. "We are very successful in that," she says. (The Times, 4.5.90)

Marvels in Arabic fetch 495,000.-

by John Shaw

A man who took an Islamic manuscript into Sotheby's with no idea what it was or whether it had saleroom value gained a 495,000 auction windfall.

Mr. Nabil Saidi, the firm's expert in Oriental manuscripts, identified it as an unrecorded copy of 'The Marvels of Creation and their Singularities', a 13-century encyclopedia of cosmology and natural history. The 76-leaf manuscript was written in Arabic and had 56 colour illustrations. It was written by al-Qazwini and dated back to the beginnings of manuscript painting in the Middle East.

It was estimated at 80,000.- - 120,000.- before the sale. The six main collectors in the Islamic field were at the auction and competed against each other before the document was sold to Oliver Hoare, the London dealer.

Mr. Saidi said: "This document just came in over the counter. It was one of those marvellous things that sometimes happen in your career. You tend to think you know where all the big manuscripts are but here was another."

A Koran signed by Hamdullah, a great

Ottoman calligrapher, circa 1515, was bought by the Turkish Government for 297,000 (estimated 70,000-80,000). The price is a world record for a Koran. It also bought a 16th century miniature for 8,800.

(The Times, May 1990)

Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef
Chairman
Forum For Social Studies
cordially invites you to attend
the 3RD DAWAH CONFERENCE
"ISLAMIC SOCIAL ORDER"

on
Sunday
July 15th 1990
at
Islamic Cultural Centre,
146, Park Road
London NW8
Time: 2.00 p.m.

For further details please contact:
F.F.S.S. Tel:01-854-4472 or
Br. A. Hakim:Tel:01-735-9635

HEALTH PAGE

HONEY FOR USE AS MEDICINE

by Laurie Croft

The majority of people in Britain today see honey to be a rather pleasant item of food. This, however, is a somewhat recent view, for throughout history honey has been valued as a important therapeutic agent. As medicine is now dominated by the marketing devices of the drug companies, it is very convenient to dismiss as a 'myth' the medical value of honey. Even many beekeepers have been led to accept this view, which is promulgated in the current beekeeping literature.

I maintain the simple view that if home-produced honey were to be available in place of that mass-produced, the health of the British people would be vastly improved. The tragedy is that Britain could easily be self-sufficient in honey production. Unfortunately, again, people have been hoodwinked into believing that this also is a myth.

Effect on Heat on Honey

The distinction between mass-produced and home-produced honey is that the former is heated. Throughout history the heating of honey has been thoroughly condemned. In ancient Egypt and Assyria there were penalties for any beekeeper found heating his honey. Extant records show clearly that honey must be 'untouched by fire'. The physicians in ancient Greece and throughout Mediaeval times all held this same view. As it is very convenient when working with honey to heat it, for example it makes the pouring of it very much easier, had these early peoples therefore discovered some empirical information that convinced them of its detrimental effects? In my opinion this seems very likely. So if honey is to be used in medicine today it must not have been heated to a temperature greater than that found within the hive: 90 - 97 degrees Fahrenheit.

KITCHEN TALK

by A. Muslim

Monkfish Kebab

Monkfish has a pinky coloured flesh with an outer grey membrane and looks rather unappetising raw. Don't be put off, however, the flesh turns completely white on cooking and it has a delicious flavour, rather like scampi.

Ingredients: (serves 4)

- 350 g monkfish fillet, cut into 3,5 cm dice
- 8 large unpeeled prawns
- 2 limes, cut into 1,5 cm wedges
- 1 large red pepper, seeded, cut into 3,5 cm dice

Marinade:

- 1 lime, juice only
- 1 tablesp. sunflower oil
- salt and ground white pepper

Sauce:

- 100 g quark
- 25g Boursin
- 1 tabalesp. lemon juice

Set grill to hot. Whisk together marinade ingredients until combined. Thread the fish, prawns, limes and peppers on to 4 kebab skewers, brushing each one with the marinade (reserve a little for cooking). Cook kebabs under grill for 10 mins. turning half-way through and brushing with any remaining marinade.

Gently heat sauce ingredients in a saucepan, stirring frequently until combined to give a spooning sauce. Serve sauce hot with the kebabs, green salad and wholemeal pitta bread.

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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MWA WILL TAKE PLACE ON
SUNDAY 10 JUNE 1990, AT 4.30 PM

AT THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE, 146 PARK RD., LONDON NW8

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