

## APOLOGIES

12

We apologise to all our life members and those who have standing orders for the error in sending your renewal of membership forms in the last issue of the Muslim Woman.

We like to thank all those members who have responded so promptly in renewing their membership.

### January Meeting

The monthly meeting of the M.W.A. was held on Sunday, 13th January 1991 at the Islamic Cultural Centre, London.

The meeting was opened at 4.55 p.m., with the recitation of verses 284, 285, 286 of sura Baqarah by our Religious Advisor, Mrs. Saeeda Sharif.

Apologies were received from Mrs. Badawi, Mrs. R. Peckham, Mrs. Q. Bashir.

Part of our meeting was devoted to Quranic reading in remembrance of Mr. Yusuf Omar, husband of one of our long standing Committee members, Mrs. M. Omar.

Mrs. Khanam Hassan, our President, said a few words about Mr. Omar, who was a devoted supporter of the M.W.A. May Allah accept our supplication and May Allah grant his soul peace - May Allah give strength to Mrs. Omar and her sons to accept this loss.

It was agreed that Dr. Fatima will speak on Sufism and its teachings at the February meeting.

Mrs. Karima Mustafa will speak on the "Implication of the Education Act" at our March meeting.

We wish to thank all those members who provided us with such delicious refreshments.

CIBEDO

Grüdelstr. 35, 6000 Frankfurt I

23112110121

9.5.110

# *The* MUSLIM WOMAN

VOLUME 21/1,2, JAN/FEB 1991 RAJAB/SHABAN 1411



Mosque Lamp, 14th Century



A MONTHLY JOURNAL PUBLISHED BY  
THE MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (REGD. CHARITY)

Contents:	Page
1. Reflections on the Moslem Domination in Spain	by W. Irving 3
2. Religious Information: Human Kindness	by Iqbal A. Azmi 7
3. Children's Page: The Prophet Hud	by Sayyed A. Nadwi 9
4. MWA Business	by Nisa Ali 11

NEXT MEETING OF THE MWA

Sunday 10 February 1991 at 4.30 pm  
at the Islamic Cultural Centre, 146 Park Rd. NW8

Lecture on "Sufism" by Dr. Fatima

MWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Mrs. Khanam Hassan
SECRETARY	Mrs. Nisa Ali
ASST. SECRETARIES	Mrs. Karima Mustafa Mrs. Samina Hasan
TREASURER	Mrs. Mavis Badawi
RELIGIOUS ADVISER	Mrs. Saeedaa Shariff
EDITOR	Dr. Zubeda Osman
CO-EDITOR	Mrs. Samina Hasan as above
ARTWORK/PRINTING	

MEETINGS OF THE MWA TAKE PLACE ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

REFLECTIONS ON THE MOSLEM DOMINATION IN SPAIN

by Washington Irving

One of my favourite resorts is the balcony of the central window of the Hall of Ambassadors in the lofty tower of Comares. I have just been seated there, enjoying the close of a long brilliant day. The sun, as he sank behind the purple mountains of Alhama, sent a stream of effulgence up the valley of the Darro, that spread a melancholy pomp over the ruddy towers of the Alhambra, while the Vega covered with a slight sultry vapour that caught the setting ray spread out in the distance like a golden sea. Not a breath of air disturbed the stillness of the hour; and though the faint sound of music and merriment now and then arose from the monumental silence of the pile which overshadowed me. It was one of those hours and scenes in which memory asserts an almost magical power and, like the evening sun beaming on these mouldering towers, sends back her retrospective rays to light up the glories of the past.

As I sat watching the effect of the declining daylight upon this Moorish pile I was led into a consideration of the light, elegant and voluptuous character prevalent throughout its internal architecture and to contrast it with the grand but gloomy solemnity of the Gothic edifices, reared by the Spanish conquerors. The very architecture thus bespeaks the opposite and irreconcilable natures of the two warlike people who so long battled here for the mastery of the Peninsula. By degrees I fell into a course of musing upon the singular fortunes of the arabian or Morisco Spaniards, whose whole existence is as a tale that is told and certainly forms one of the most anomalous yet splendid episodes in history. Potent and durable as was their dominion, we scarcely know how to call them. They are a nation, as it were, without a legitimate country or a name. A remote wave

of the great Arabian inundation, cast upon the shores of Europe, they seemed to have all the impetus of the first rush of the torrent. Their career of conquest from the rock of Gibraltar to the cliffs of the Pyrenees was as rapid and brilliant as the Moslem victories of Syria and Egypt. Nay, had they not been checked on the plains of Tours, all France, all Europe, might have been overrun with the same facility as the empires of the East, and the crescent might at this day have glittered on the fanes of Paris and of London.

Repelled within the limits of the Pyrenees, the mixed hordes of Asia and Africa, that formed this great irruption, gave up the Moslem principle of conquest and sought to establish in Spain a peaceful and permanent dominion. As conquerors, their heroism was only equalled by their moderation, and in both, for a time, they excelled the nations with whom they contended. Severed from their native homes, they loved the land given them as they supposed by Allah and strove to embellish it with everything that could administer to the happiness of man. Laying the foundations of their power in a system of wise and equitable laws, diligently cultivating the arts and sciences, and promoting agriculture, manufactures and commerce, they gradually formed an empire unrivalled for its prosperity by any of the empires of Christendom, and diligently drawing round them the graces and refinements that marked the Arabian empire in the East at the time of its greatest civilisation, they diffused the light of Oriental knowledge throum the western regions of benighted Europe.

The cities of Arabian Spain became the resort of Christian artisans, to instruct themselves in the useful art. The Universities of Toledo, Cordova, Seville and Granada, were sought by the pale student from other lands to acquaint himself with the sciences of the Arabs and the treasure lore of antiquity; the lovers of the gay sciences resorted to Cordova and

Granada to imbibe the poetry and music of the East, and the steel-clad warriors of the North hastened thither to accomplish themselves in the graceful exercises and courteous usages of chivalry.

If the Moslem monuments in Spain, if the mosque of Cordova, the alcazar of Seville and the Alhambra of Granada, still bear inscriptions fondly boasting of the power and permanence of their dominion, can the boast be derided as arrogant and vain? Generation after generation, century after century, had passed away and still they maintained possession of the land. A period had elapsed longer than which has passed since England was subjugated by the Norman Conqueror and the descendants of Musa and Taric might as little anticipate being driven into exile, across the same straits traversed by their triumphant ancestors, as the descendants of Rollo and William their veteran peers may dream of being driven back to the shores of Normandy.

With all this, however, the Moslem empire in Spain was but a brilliant exotic that took no permanent root in the soil it embellished. Severed from all their neighbours in the west by impassable barriers of faith and manners, and separated by seas and deserts from their kindred of the East, they were an isolated people. Their whole existence was a prolonged, though gallant and chivalric, struggle for a foothold in a usurped land.

They were the outposts and frontiers of Islamism. The Peninsula was the great battle-ground where the Gothic conquerors of the North and the Moslem conquerors of the East meand strove for mastery, and the fiery courage of the Arab was at length subdued by the obstinate and persevering valour of the Goth.

Never was the annihilation of a people more complete than that of the Morisco-Spaniard, where

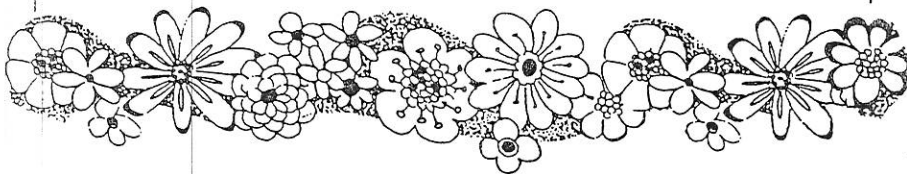
are they? Ask the shores of Barbary and its desert places. The exiled remnant of their once powerful empire disappeared among the barbarians of Africa and ceased to be a nation. They have not even left a distinct name behind them, though for nearly eight centuries they were a distinct people. The home of their adoption and of their occupation for ages refuses to acknowledge them, except as invaders and usurpers. A few broken monuments witness to their power and dominion, as solitary rocks, left far in the interior, bear testimony to the extent of some vast inundation. Such is the Alhambra - a Moslem pile in the midst of a Christian land, an Oriental palace amidst the Gothic edifices of the West, an elegant memento of a brave, intelligent, and graceful people who conquered, ruled and passed away.

## Islamic Marriage Introduction Service



A free service to the Muslim community in UK.  
Introduction arranged between families on Islamic principle.

All communication treated in strict confidence.  
Please ring (081) 398 6020 after 6 pm or write to  
Islamic Marriage Introduction Service  
62 Heathside, Hinchleywood, Esher, Surrey KT10 9TF



### HUMAN KINDNESS

When a flower blooms, its colour and scent first touch the garden near it, and then spread. In the same way, a Muslim's acts of human kindness should first touch those nearest to him, his family and his neighbours.

### PARENTS

In the family, parents deserve our love first. We should obey and respect them and treat them well. Even if they should do something wrong, we should look after them and try to lighten their cares and worries. Whatever we own, we should think of it as a gift from them or a result of their prayers for us. We should try to earn their blessings for our happiness in this life and the life to come. The prayers of parents are a great blessing for their children. The Blessed Prophet said that when an obedient child looks with love at his parents, he gets a reward equal to that of going on a pilgrimage. Once, a Companion came to the Blessed Prophet to ask his permission to take part in war for the sake of God (Jihad). However, when the Blessed Prophet found out that the Companion's mother was still alive, he advised him to look after her and said that this amounted to taking part in war for the sake of God.

The Blessed Prophet also said: "No-one is more unfortunate than the person who has parents but cannot gain entry to heaven through serving them". He said that people often prefer their children to their parents, but it should be the other way round. The parents' rights have been made more important in Islam, so a Muslim should prefer his parents to his children. The Blessed Prophet also said that a man is the wealth of his parents and whatever he has in the world is really



owed to them and, therefore, he should always admit this openly. He urged us never to misbehave towards parents and to talk softly when replying to them. God has forbidden using harsh words to parents or putting on an "I don't care about them" attitude. The Blessed Prophet urged us, after our parents' death, to pray to God for their forgiveness. And to do so after reciting the Qur'an and other good deeds, so as to convey reward to them. He also asked us to pay our parents' debts and to think it our duty to respect and be of service to their friends.

Once, 'Abd Allah, son of 'Umar Faruq, was on the pilgrimage when he met a villager whom he recognized. He got down from his horse and mounted the villager in his place and he put his own headscarf on the villager's head. His companions were very surprised at this; one of them pointed out that it was a hot day, that the way was rocky, that hot winds were blowing and that he was not used to walking. By contrast, the man went on, the villagers were used to making long trips on foot, and that he should not, therefore, either have dismounted from his horse or given his headscarf to the villager. 'Abd Allah ibn 'Umar replied: "The father of this villager was a friend of my father's and it was, therefore, necessary for me to show courtesy to him. The Blessed Prophet has said: "The best deed is to treat friends of your father well" and, therefore, I did not think it right to watch him walking while I was riding or that he should be bare-headed in the hot sun".

'Abd Allah ibn 'Umar showed such courtesy to a friend of his father's because the Qur'an and the advice of the Blessed Prophet were first in his heart and mind, and not his own need or the customs and practices of others. So important is love of one's parents that the Qur'an links it with believing in the oneness of God.

(to be continued)

# THE PROPHET HUD

## AFTER NUH

Allah blessed the descendants of Nuh and they spread over the earth. One community from them was called 'Ad.

They were strong men with bodies like iron. They conquered everyone, and no-one was able to conquer them. They did not fear anyone but were feared by everyone.

Allah blessed the 'Ad in everything. Their camels and sheep filled the hills and valleys. Their horses filled the streets and footpaths of their cities. Their children filled the houses.

When the sheep and camels of the 'Ad went out to pasture, they made a very beautiful sight. When the children went out in the morning to play, they also made a very beautiful sight.

The land of the 'Ad was a fertile green land full of gardens and springs.

## THE 'AD'S REJECTION

But the 'Ad were not grateful to Allah for all these blessings. They forgot the story of the flood which they had heard from their fathers and whose traces they saw in the land. They forgot why Allah had sent the flood against the community of Nuh.

They began to worship idols as the community of Nuh had done. They carved them out of stone with their own hands and then prostrated themselves before them and worshipped them. They asked them

for what they needed, prayed to them and sacrificed to them. They were following in the footsteps of Nuh's community.

Their intelligence did not keep them from worshipping idols. Their cleverness in the things of this world did not guide them in religion.

#### THE TYRANNY OF THE 'AD

The strength of the 'Ad became a curse for them and for the people because they did not believe in Allah and did not believe in the Next World.

What was to stop them from acting unjustly, from being tyrants and wronging people? They did not think anyone was above them. They did not fear any reckoning or punishment.

They were no better than wild animals. The high and great among them would wrong the low, the strong among them would live off the weak.

When they were angry, they were like mad elephants who kill whatever they meet in their way. When they made war, they destroyed every living thing. When they entered a village, they laid waste to it and made its mighty people lowly.

The weak were terrified of their evil and fled from their injustice. Their strength was a curse for them and for others. That is what happens with any people who do not fear Allah and do not believe in the Next World.

#### December Meeting

The December meeting of the Muslim Women's Association was held on Sunday, 9th December, at the Islamic Cultural Centre, London. The meeting was opened at 5.00 p.m. with the recitation of al fatiha by Dr. Osman.

Apologies were received from Mrs. Azra Rekhi, Mrs. Soraya Yousef, Mrs. Asia Yousef.

Mrs. Karima Mustafa, one of the assistant secretaries, will also be the membership secretary. All subscriptions should be sent to her at 49 Kilmartin Avenue, London, S.W.16.

Mrs. Samina Hasan, the other assistant secretary, will also be the Social Secretary.

From the new year, life members will be issued with a life membership card.

Dr. Zubeda Osman gave us a brief but interesting and informative talk on the "Cycle of the female hormone" from puberty to menopause and beyond.

It was pointed out that animals which are given steroids, affect the milk and meat. If children are given products from such animals, their growth can be affected.

#### GET WELL WISHES

We send Get Well wishes to all our members who are ill or just getting over some illness. We pray to Allah for your speedy recovery.

Best Wishes to Dr. Aleem on her new study venture. May Allah guide and protect you.