

THE MUSLIM WOMAN

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Membership of The Muslim Women's Association is open to all Muslim Women.

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THE EXECUTIVE

FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1993 TO NOVEMBER 1995

- | | |
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NEXT MEETING

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE
HELD INSHA' ALLAH
AT 16.30 ON
SATURDAY 9TH JULY
AT THE
ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE
146 PARK ROAD
LONDON NW8 7RG

Articles, letters and other matter appearing in this publication do not necessarily express the official views of the Executive Committee of the Muslim Women's Association.

Meetings of the MWA take place on the second Saturday of each month

EDITORIAL

Dr. Zubeda Osman

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

The Muslim Womens' Association is the oldest established organisation in the United Kingdom where Muslim ladies of all nationalities have a chance to meet once a month, and discuss problems, listen to guest speakers, and air their views. However, this chance is not always taken advantage of and this is a great pity because there are now so many issues that Muslim women are facing. We need to face the realities of life as they exist in this country. We need to meet and exchange our experiences and views so that the less fortunate amongst us may benefit from the experience, knowledge and faith of those who are better off.

A large number of us have been in this country for over thirty years, and there is an ever increasing population of younger Muslims, some born into Islam, and some who have accepted Islam due to guidance from Allah. We need desperately to come together. This isolation from each other, this lack of communication is destroying our self confidence, and sense of belonging. Some of us have genuine reasons for being unable to attend the monthly meetings of the Muslim Womens' Association, but for these ladies it is surely possible to write a few lines for our magazine "The Muslim Woman" expressing their views.

Our Association has pioneered the project of Madina House, a house for children who are unable, for various reasons, to stay with their families. This place has now been established for ten years, and a large number of children have been cared for. We now need to buy better and larger premises. We are in the process of doing so, but we need your help. It is not only with money that you can help, you can help by writing to us your suggestions for fund raising, your experience with bringing up homeless children, and last but not least, you can pray for the success of this project.

This last act is, of course, the most important. Please try your very best to attend the meetings which, by the way, will now be held on the second SATURDAY of every month from July 1994.

Another way of communicating with each other is through the magazine. If you are not receiving your copy please write to the membership secretary, who ensures your name goes on the list of subscribers, and please make sure your subscription has been renewed.

Please remember that some of our members are doing very important aid work in various countries including Bosnia, and in this issue of the magazine there is a letter from Sister Sayeeda Sharif who has written of her experiences there.

We all need each other's support and encouragement. We need to know that our Muslims do care for what we are doing, we need you, and we need your prayers and good wishes.

May Allah bless you all.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA EARLY HISTORY

The area of Bosnia and Herzegovina is 19,702 sq m; Bosnia alone being 16,173 sq m and Herzegovina 3529 sq m. According to the census taken by the Turkish authorities in 1875, when these lands were still under their rule, the population was approximately 1,051,000 souls. According to the census of 1910 the total population of B. H. was 1,898,044 of whom

825,338	were	Servian Orthodox
612,000		Muslims
434,190		Roman Catholics
8,136		Greek Catholics
5,849		Augsburg Confession
488		Swiss Confession
8,202		Sephardic (Spanish) Jews
3,658		other Jews
96		various other creeds

The north-western corner of the Balkan Peninsula may be compared to the entrance to a bridge over which various peoples have passed from the earliest times on their migration from the South-East to the West and from North to South. Before Roman times, B. and H. were occupied by various Illyrian tribes. The Illyrians were divided into numerous smaller tribes. The bravest Illyrian tribes lived in the modern B. and H. It was only after much fighting that the Romans succeeded in subduing them (6 BC - 9 AD). For four centuries B. and H. were Roman provinces. At first they formed a part of the province of Illyricum but were later united with the territory along the Adriatic coast to form the province of Dalmatia. The second and third centuries AD furnish numerous examples of Pannonian and Illyrian soldiers who rose to be Emperors. The greatest Illyrian Emperor was Diocletian who did a great deal for his favourite province and native land of Salmatia. In his division of the Empire, B. and H. remained with Italy and the West. It was from there that the Christian religion first spread among the towns of the coast and thence into the highlands of Bosnia. After the division of the Empire in 395, the influence of the new Imperial city of Constantinople began to make itself felt in this area.

The Turano-Slav migration of Avars and Slavs in the viith c destroyed the remains of Roman civilisation and brought about the modern ethnographic conditions in the region along the Bosnia and the coast of Herzegovina, which was then called Hum (Chlm). The Slav tribes, among whom the bond of union was a loose one, were led by chiefs, called Voivods and until the defeat of the Avars at the attack of Constantinople (626) were under their rule. Between 626 and 640 some of the larger tribes, known collectively as Croats and Serbs threw off the Avar yoke and penetrated into the north-western part of the Balkan Peninsula where they conquered Dalmatia, B. and H., Montenegro, North Albania and the territory of Novi-Bazar. The Slav tribes, who occupied the modern Dalmatia as far as Cetina and part of Modern Bosnia approximately up to the river Urbas, were known as Croats. The original stock of the Serbs settled in Montenegro and the surrounding country, in Zeta and the land of Ruska called after the river of the same name. The Croats later adopted

Roman Catholicism, while the Serbs from the beginning were adherents of the Orthodox Greek Church. In the midst of these Croats and Serb tribes, thus divided into two nations, arose Bosnia, inhabited by tribes speaking the same language. Bosnia adopted the heresy of Bogomilism which brought about the peculiarly isolated position of this state, and facilitated the conversion of its inhabitants to Islam in later days. But Serbia took over with orthodoxy the important part of combining all those Slave tribes in the west of the Balkans, who had come under the influence of Byzantine civilisation into a single state.

From the viith to the xiith c the people of B. and H. shared the lot of the Croats and Servs. They recognised the Byzantine Emperor as suzerain, although not directly, till Hungarian power incorporated in its Empire or at least its sphere of influence, first Croatia, then advancing southward in the beginning of the xiith c. Under the Hungarian King Koloman (1096-1116) whose rule extended not only over the interior of the ancient Croat kingdom but also down to the Dalmatian coast, the partial occupation of Bosnia took place. In the year 1137, Bosnia submitted to King Bela II. The Hungarian supremacy did not, however, destroy the power of the native chieftains. The ancient laws and customs remained intact and the country continued to develop on its own lines. In Bosnia, neither the Roman Catholic nor the Orthodox faith was able to become supreme.

The history of Bosnia from 1137 to 1878 may be divided into six periods:

- 1) Bosnia under Bans who ruled the whole land (1137-1251)
- 2) Bosnia under Bans who ruled various parts contemporaneously (1251-1314)
- 3) The period of the two Kotromans (1314-1377)
- 4) The Bosnian kingdom and the Duchy of St. Save (1337-1463)
- 5) The division of the land between Hungary and the Ottoman Empire (1463-1528)
- 6) Bosnia as a province of the Turkish Empire (1528-1878)

The break up of the Serbian kingdom and the lack of unity among its various rulers facilitated the conquest by the Turks. Foreseeing the great danger, King Vukasin and his brother Ugljesa set out against Adrianople with a large army originally assembled for the subjection of their Serbian rivals. In the battle of Crnomen (Cirmen) on the Maritza however, they were defeated and both slain (Sept. 26, 1371). The Ottomans thereupon occupied all the land south of the Sardagh and forced upon the Serbs a fight for their very existence. The Serbian princes in Macedonia, including Vikasin's son Kraljevic Marki, celebrated in legend and ballad, had soon to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Turkish sovereign and to give him military service and pay tribute.

The much lamented battle on the field of Kosovo on St Vitus's day (Vidovdan), June 15, 1389 in which the Turks defeated the great combined army of king Tvrtko (Bosnia), prince Lazar and his son-in-law Vuk Brankovic (Serbia), ended in the complete rout of the Christians in spite of the initial confusion in the Ranks of the Turks when Sultan Murad was murdered by the Serbian noble Obilic (Kobilic), when his son Bayazid assumed the leadership. The Turkish victory was a death-blow to the Serbian state and the doom of its independence although it was able to survive for another 70 years.

1396 - victory of the Turks at Nikopolis. It was only after the break-up of the Hungarian kingdom in 1526 that the lands which still retained their independence,

succumbed, and the continuous exertion of the great conqueror Sulaiman I finally made all Bosnia a Turkish province.

In spring 1875, a rising of Christians took place in H., which proved fateful to Turkey and spread into Bosnia also among the Servian Orthodox Christians and really only came to an end on the occupation of the two provinces by Austria-Hungary as a result of the Berlin Congress of 1878. The last Wali of Bosnia was Ahmad Mazhar Pasha (1878).

On the 5th October 1908, the annexation of B. and H. was proposed and the European powers and finally Turkey also agreed. On this day the Emperor Franz Josef I published through his Foreign Minister, Count von Aehrenthal, an autograph letter in which he extended the rights of his suzerainty to B. and H and decreed that the order of succession in the ruling house was to apply to these lands also.

In 1909, the Muslims received the right which had already been granted to the Servian Orthodox Church in 1905, of managing their religious affairs themselves.

Extracts from FEI, II 754 ff, IX 198 ff.



Continued from page 7

At Haranica, Asad Khan had three letters and a packet to deliver. We did not know the way and it was dark, but Allah helped us at every step. The packet was to be delivered to someone called Hasib. Finally we arrived at Hasib's house and were welcomed by his wife's parents at 2330 hours. They offered us food and afterwards we slept in their drawing room. Their farm house was partly destroyed by a bomb. Most houses had no running water though there is electricity. Hasib's legs were shattered by a grenade. He and his wife Alma have a one year old son, called Alim. They are lucky to be alive! We made dua before retiring that night.

We returned to Jablanica. We drove back the same route via Mount Igma and then down into the valley. We saw many trees which had been cut down by the Chetniks in order to expose Muslim soldiers who may be hiding.

We arrived in Jablanica accompanied by another young handsome Imam who was posted now in this city. The Imam's name was Hamid Pinto. He seemed too young to be an Imam, but when I heard him recite Qur'an and deliver a khutbah I was impressed.

We have been given accommodation in a beautiful pine Hotel Chalet. There isn't a kitchen here, neither is there any food here. We have been allocated a big warehouse by the people of Jablanica and in return we will provide them with food, medical doctors, and teach at the school,

The people are very gentle and hospitable. The religion is coming slowly back. I wish Muslims from all over the world could come here and help re-building Bosnia.

LETTER FROM BOSNIA

... from Jablanica: April 1994 - Sayeeda Shareef

We arrived at Split airport and were met by Asad Khan (member of the Convoy of Mercy). Other members of the Convoy of Mercy had also arrived from London. We spent the night in Solin and left for Duce the following day.

We started from Duce on Sunday 24 April at 1300 hours. We headed towards Mostar in vehicles. The beautiful country is ravaged all along. Luckily at check-points we were only briefly stopped. I wept when I saw the beautiful city of Mostar! Every house is shelled. The bridges are broken. We drove all along the river Neretva. On the way many villages were completely burnt out and inhabitants' cars were wrecks. Many villages looked like ghost towns - not a soul stirred - only graveyards! This beautiful country has pockets of Croats even now who have complete hold. The U.N. is helping the Croats even now, whereas no one is helping the Bosnian Muslims.

To reach Mostar we had to cross the river Neretva in a ferry/tug because the beautiful Mostar bridge was broken in half. The 45 km journey from Mostar to Jablanica took us 3 hours. We arrived in Jablanica at 16.00 hours.

Jablanica is like a jewel surrounded by high hills and a river. The young Imam of Jablanica is Senad Velic. He is married and has two children. He received us in his house which was very modern and clean and we had tea. He said he was very busy as there was going to be a conference for Imams from all over Bosnia in Jablanica. The Imam was going to arrange our accommodation the next day. Our members from the Convoy decided to head towards another town, Haranica in a van to deliver parcels and letters while their accommodation was being sorted out.

As we drove from Jablanica we approached Mount Igma. Again enroute we saw cities after cities destroyed. Houses are without roofs and windows, shelled or burnt by Croats. The roads are narrow and in most parts not surfaced.. We arrived in a little village and a big U.N. tank coming from the opposite side halted on top of the hill and a big convoy food carrier of some organisation or other was stuck facing the U.N. tank. Our huge Combi VW was too big and not suitable at all for climbing heights. So now we were stuck as the two vehicles had blocked the roads. After great difficulty, not less than a miracle, the road got cleared. A doctor and one other man begged us for a lift for Haranica. They were very helpful to us later.

When we arrived in Lukove we witnessed the same scenario of destruction. From here the climb to Mount Igma starts on way to Sarajevo. The highest snow-capped peak of Yugoslavia dominates Sarajevo and Alhamdu-lillah this route is open to Muslims! We drove in the dark as the Serb snipers are hidden in the hills. Snow was melting and causing large ditches in the roads. No support or protection - if you fall you can go down to 500 metres easily. The van got stuck many times and that is when the two men proved themselves to be helpful. Our nerves were almost shattered by the time we finally got down the hill at 2300 hours. We were so happy to be greeted by Muslim soldiers as we descended. It is at Haranica that the boundary between Serbs and Muslims begins. We were 35 km from Sarajevo.

Continued on page 6

Juniors's Corner**SPOT THE HADITHS**

1. The tree of knowledge is watered with tears.
2. To ask well is to know much.
3. Think wrongly, if you please; but in all cases think for yourself.
4. I pray every day that God makes me like a child, that is to say that he will let me see nature and interpret it as a child does, without prejudice.
5. Seek knowledge and not wealth, because you have to look after wealth while knowledge looks after you.
6. When you are labouring for others, let it be with the same zeal as if it were for yourself.
7. Opinions cannot survive if one has no chance to fight for them.
8. If mankind had wished for what is right, they might have had it long ago.
9. Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood.
10. Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.
11. The essence of knowledge is, having it, to apply it.
12. Words are like the bees, they have honey and a sting.
13. No one has eaten better food than what he earns from the toil of his own hands.
14. He who has no compassion for our little ones and does not acknowledge the honour due to our elders is not one of us.
15. He who brings goods for sale is blessed with good fortune but he who keeps them till the price rises is accursed.
16. Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.
17. A wise man changes his mind, a fool never.

Answers

1. Swiss-German proverb; 2. Arabic proverb; 3. G. Lessing, German dramatist-critic (1729-1781); 4. Jean Baptiste Camille Corot (1796-1875); 5. anonymous; 6. Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 BC-479 BC); 7. Thomas Mann, German writer (1875-1955); 8. William Hazlitt, English essayist (1778-1830); 9. Marie Curie, Polish-born French physicist (1867-1934); 10. Mother Teresa, Yugoslave-born Roman Catholic nun (1910-); 11. Confucius (551-479 BC); 12. Swiss-German proverb; 13-15. Hadiths, Uman Publications, 1981; 16. Thomas A. Edison, U.S. inventor (1847-1931); 17. Spanish proverb.

POETRY:**CHILDREN LEARN
WHAT THEY LIVE**

If a child lives with criticism,
he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility,
he learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule,
he learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame,
he learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance,
he learns to be patient,
If a child lives with encouragement,
he learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise,
he learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness,
he learns justice.
If a child lives with security,
he learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval,
he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
he learns to find love in the world.

Courtesy Dr. Z. Osman - Published by Tim Tiley Ltd., Bristol.



KITCHEN TALK

SUMMER DRINKS

Tropical Cooler

1 oz pineapple juice
1 oz white grape juice
diced oranges
1/4 oz carrots
1 coffee spoon of honey
1 dash lemon juice
crushed ice

Garnish:
Pineapple wedge and orange slice

Use the blender with crushed ice (4 dessertspoons approximately), add to it pineapple juice, white grape juice, diced oranges, carrots, honey and dash of lemon juice, mix well for 2 minutes, approximately and serve in a cool glass.

Tahiti Breeze

2 cups crushed ice
1 fresh banana
4 oz fresh orange juice
4 oz pineapple juice
1 tablespoon sugar syrup
1 tablespoon Grenadine

Garnish:
1 slice of orange
1 red cherry

Mix and blend. Cool before serving.



Strawberry Buttermilk

3/4 cup fresh strawberries
1 1/2 cups buttermilk (laban)

Mash the strawberries in a blender, add the buttermilk and mix it thoroughly.

Serve it cool in a high glass.

Grapefruit Highball

3 ice cubes crushed
3 fl oz grapefruit juice
1 fl oz Grenadine syrup
sparkling mineral water

Garnish:
grapefruit segments
cucumber slices

Shake or stir together juice and syrup with crushed ice. Add mineral water as liked. Serve with grapefruit segments skewered with cucumber slices across glass.

Datenut Delight

3 oz milk
4 pcs dates
1/4 oz almond slivers
crushed ice

Garnish:
1 whole date, stoned

Use the blender with crushed ice (3 dessertspoons approximately), add to it milk, pieces of dates and almond slivers. Mix well for 2 minutes and serve in a cool glass.

MWA BUSINESS - JULY 1994

The June meeting was opened ... A committee meeting was held on .

* * *

BAZAAR

Please note that our yearly Bazaar will be held on Sunday the *24th of July* at the Islamic Cultural Centre, 146 Park Road, London NW8 7RG, from 3 pm to 6 pm (helpers and stallholders must arrive not later than 2 pm). Refreshments on Sale.

Donations in cash or kind will be greatly appreciated. Either contact our President, Mrs Khanam Hassan or directly the stallholders:

African Stall
Arab Stall
Asian Food
Books and Toys
Bric a brac
Cakes
Clothes
Fruit and Flowers
Handicraft
MWA information
Soft Drinks
Tea

Ghaniyat Hoodless
Soraya Yusuf
Firdous Arif
Shirin Hassan and Khadijah Knight

Samina Hasan and Diba
Farida Raja
Yasmin Sherif and Shafqat Ghaffar
Ilse Ahmed
Khadijah Knight
Zubeda Osman
Rama Eddehira and Fatima

Stallholders please note that you are responsible in toto for your stall: goods for sale, cloth/paper to cover table, display of goods, cash float, packaging material (for example carrier bags), and in the case of food/drinks stalls disposable plates and cups, cutlery, paper napkins ice or cool bags, etc. At close of business, please tidy up.

Those who bring items for sale on the day and who are not stallholders, should arrive in good time before the official opening of the bazaar at 3 pm sharp to enable the stallholders to prepare their tables.

**WILL ALL MEMBERS PLEASE PUBLICISE THE BAZAAR:
TELL YOUR FAMILY
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOURS
INFORM YOUR LOCAL MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS/MOSQUE
GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL ASIAN SHOPS
DISPLAY POSTERS**

Your help, in whatever capacity, is needed and appreciated. Thank you.

Front Cover Picture

This design, though featuring flowers like roses and hyacinths painted in their natural colours, has a very pronounced formal and symmetrical composition.

Iznik, Turkey, 16th century.