



Almuslim

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Narrated Al-Mastaurid bib Shaddad (RA) , Allah's Messenger Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم said " This world (i.e., its pleasure and duration) in comparison with the hereafter is (similar to the the amount of water) one gets when he puts his finger in the sea. Let him then see what it returns with (Muslim).

The Dangers of Narrow-mind ness

By Ahmad as-Sowayyan

Narrow-mindedness is defined as lacking tolerance or not having the mental faculty to see beyond the superficial and recognize the underlying truth. Currently, this tendency appears to be widespread in all segments of Muslim communities.

The primary reason for this deplorable condition is ignorance, the inability to recognize this deficiency and to take corrective action. This situation is further aggravated if the ignorant person considers himself to be the epitome of wisdom, and if, he is in a leadership or a highly visible position, he can cause unnecessary harm to a family, a community or a an entire nation.

Absence of insight can also result in narrow-mindedness by having a negative effect on one's thought processes. Insight is a rare virtue, and quite different from ignorance. A person who lacks insight may possess some knowledge, but derives no benefit from it due to a lack of analytical skills while someone with insight assesses his or her knowledge of a situation and then selects and uses its relevant parts. Through insight, they are able to see what others may not. Ibnul Qayyim, the famous Islamic scholar and author, said: "One person may read a text and learn one or two lessons from it, while another may learn one or two hundred."

A rigidly traditional individual's perceptivity, like that of a captive frog in a deep well, is able to function only within narrow parameters. He

does not realize that there are boundless vistas of knowledge beyond the scope of the well; therefore, his mental and intellectual evolution remains stunted. He is unable to take advantage of the knowledge available beyond his limited horizon. Blind imitation creates another obstacle to one's intellectual growth. The two world wars of the past century are the perfect examples of this disability that can allow ruthless political or religious leaders to manipulate the minds of people who are unable to form their own objective view.

Some individuals habitually look at things from one angle and accept them as actual facts without thinking that there may be a different side to the issue, or that reality may actually be quite different from appearance. In the following verse, Allah points out that the appearance of the hypocrites may not be a true indication of their reality: "And when you see them, you like their appearance, but when they speak and you listen to them, they seem worthless" ... and then He goes on to give this warning: "They are the enemy, so be warned of them. The curse of Allah be upon them, how they are perverted." [63:4]

Furthermore, some people are impressed by quantity at the expense of quality. Referring to the battle of Hunain, Allah says: "On the day of Hunain, your numbers impressed you but did not benefit you." But, "If there be amongst you twenty who show fortitude, they will defeat two hundred." This does not, of course, mean that appearances are to be completely disregarded or that quantity is totally irrelevant. These fundamentals should not be valued in isolation, but should be understood through insight and common sense.

A failure to prioritize or differentiate wrong from right often leads people to lose sight of the broader picture. Often people will focus on the immediate and disregard the potential disastrous effects of an action further down the road. Along

with ignorance, narrow-mindedness and, of course, a lack of insight, these gaps usually prove detrimental to that individual's future.

Sister's Corner

Anchovy (Thai Dish)

Fresh anchovies have white flesh and it is only after salting and leaving for at least a month that they develop the red color and special taste that one associates with fermented anchovies in jars or cans.

2 cupfuls anchovies, well cleaned with sea water
3 to 4 cups rock salt
2 tablespoonfuls best quality plain vinegar
3 tablespoonfuls brown sugar
1/2 cup kao koi (uncooked rice which has been toasted in a dry pan and then pounded to a powder while still hot)
2 tablespoonfuls galingale which has been grated and then dried out in the sun to make it fluffy

Marinate the fish in a mixture of the salt and vinegar for 1 to 2 hours, until they are soft and juicy, then mix well with the brown sugar and add the kao koi and galingale [galangal]. Let the preparation mature in a sterilized glass container for 3 to 4 months, or until the anchovies turn brown, with a clear liquid formed on top and a good aroma arising from the brew.

When you come to eat these preserved anchovies, season them with finely cut lemon grass, young ginger, spring onion, tamarind juice (made by squeezing fully ripe tamarind fruit with warm water until it turns into a brownish liquid), a little sugar and lime juice to taste.

Narrated Abu Masud "Uqbah bin Amr Al-Ansari Al-Badri (RA) ; Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said "Whoever guides someone to virtue will be rewarded equivalent to him who practices that good action" (Muslim).

Kid's Corner

True Kindness

By Haani Kamran, Age 10: (This story has won the Best Young Authors Award at the Lewis School Carbondale)

Long ago, in a small village, a poor boy named Adam, about the age of 10, was walking home. He loved watches. So anyway, he was walking home when he spotted a beautiful watch outside a store. It was a shiny silver watch. The price on it was \$50.

On Adam's 11th birthday, his parents asked him, "What would you like for your birthday?" Adam remembered the watch he had seen in the store window. He said, "All I want for a gift is money." "Okay," his parents said. They gave him \$20. He knew that it would not be enough for the watch.

Later Adam thought of something. He could mow lawns, rake leaves, and do other chores for people to earn money. So the next day he started asking neighbors if they needed any help as the days passed, it was soon Adam's 12th birthday. He had earned some money in the past year doing odd jobs, but he had spent it carelessly. He still did not have his watch. He did have \$40, though, so he decided to ask for money again for his 12th birthday. His parents gave him \$25 this year! He counted up all his money and he had more than enough to buy the watch!

Adam ran to his parents and told them the good news. After that, he rushed out the door and went to the shop where he had seen the watch. He went to the counter and bought it.

When Adam left the store, he heard the voice of a young boy crying. He went closer to where the voice was coming from to try and hear more. Adam heard a woman who was probably the young boy's mother. Adam heard her say to the boy's father, "Our son is very hungry. He hasn't eaten in two whole days! There isn't any milk, bread or eggs." Then the boy's father replied, "Yes I'm getting old and sick, so I can't go out and do my job to earn money."

When Adam went home, he kept thinking about the boy and his poor family. Then he decided to do something about it. He had a terrific idea! So he did it, he sold the watch and got his \$50 back. He put the money in the poor family's mailbox. The next morning, Adam's wealthy grandparents came to see Adam's new watch. Adam's mother told him that they were coming to see it. Adam hid his wrist so that she would not see that the watch was not there. His mother was a little surprised to see the nervous expression on his face. "What is the matter?" You usually love when your grandparents come to visit." It took Adam a while to tell them the whole story.

His grandparents were beaming, especially his grandfather. In fact, he was so happy that he went to the store and took Adam with him. Grandfather bought the same watch Adam had worked so hard for. Adam was so excited that he almost forgot to thank his grandfather. He was very proud of what he did. The poor family was grateful and surprised that someone would kindly leave them money. They spent many hours wondering who had been so generous.

Abu Hurairah (RAH) reported : I heard Messenger of Allah (pbuh) saying: It is better for anyone of you to carry a bundle of wood on his back and sell it than to beg of someone who may give him or refuse (Bukhari & Muslim).

MYNA Corner

Remembering Visits

By Abeer Khurram, Age: 16

The Muslim Youth of North America, Southern Illinois Division, took up a community service project for the year of 2004-2005. This project involved visiting the Carbondale Nursing and Rehab Center to spend time with the residents there. The first visit was on Sunday, September 19, 2004. MYNA members met at the Islamic Center at 1:15 p.m. and left for the nursing home at two o' clock. The day before, MYNA

members had gathered at Masjid Nur to bake muffins and prepare goody bags for the residents of the nursing home.

We entered the nursing home in single file. An unfamiliar stench greeted us: the stench of a hospital and chemical cleaning agents combined together. It took a while to get used to it, but no one complained. We were there for a purpose—to please Allah (swt), and we were responsible for representing the whole Muslim community in a favorable manner. In the lounging area, the tables were already set up for bingo and some residents were ready with their bingo cards. We started out by introducing ourselves. Then a MYNA member recited Surah Fatiha and another member read the meaning. Later, this became our routine for every visit. We were instructed to sit with the residents and help them play bingo or just talk to them so that is what we did, and everything went smoothly. Anyone who won a game of bingo received a goody bag, and in the end, the goody bags that were left were distributed to other residents. The first nursing home visit turned out to be successful and this encouraged everyone to continue the project. It was decided that we would visit once every month on a Sunday morning and have lunch at a fast food restaurant afterward. Members of MYNA were responsible for informing each other about upcoming nursing home visits, and they excitedly took up this responsibility. Even though the visits were on beautiful Sunday mornings which were great for sleeping in, MYNA members did not shirk from their obligation and met at the Islamic Center at 9:45 a.m., all wearing blue MYNA T-shirts. We always took goody bags with us which included a wide array of presents such as muffins, crackers, cookies, candy, granola bars, combs, lotion, and toothbrushes. One time, instead of playing bingo, we took beads with us and made bracelets, key chains, and necklaces with the residents. After a couple of visits, the residents of the nursing home became so fond of us that they began inquiring when we would come the next time. They were always glad to see us; they were happy to see that there was someone who cared.

The last nursing home visit in May was melancholy. There were few people at the bingo table, but after we started playing, more residents gathered around. The thing that really touched me was the unexpected gifts the residents had made for MYNA. In an envelope were stuffed beautiful yellow book marks adorned with stickers and ribbons. Seeing how sad the residents were to find out that it was our last visit made me realize that we, the Muslim youth, had made a difference. We were the true embodiment of Muslims, etching a positive image in the eyes of the community. The nursing home experience was truly enlightening for me because I was able to reach out to people and show them that all Muslims are not what they are portrayed to be by the media.

Abu Hurairah (RAH) reported: I heard Messenger of Allah (pbuh) saying: "Remember frequently the destroyer of pleasures – Death" (At-Tirmidhi).

MYNA UPDATES:

MYNA Summer Projects

Insha'Allah, MYNA plans on doing fun, educational, and community activities during the summer. Some activities of which include masjid beautification, Carbondale outreach for orphans or disadvantaged kids, nature hikes, sports, and educational competitions. MYNA programs are geared toward pre-teen and teen youth in the Southern Illinois Muslim community. If you have ideas and would like to become involved in MYNA or if you're an adult who would like to volunteer as a chaperone or give rides at future events please E-mail: southillinoisMYNA@yahoo.com or phone contact Umbreen Jabbar **(618) 998-8438**.

Islamic Summer School June 6-August 4.

Summer school has started as scheduled. Alhamdulillah this year we have about 40 children in five different levels. Parents are requested for some financial and physical support for arranging some extra curricular activities. We will welcome any new ideas and

suggestions for the improvement of learning atmosphere. We will keep posting any new development in the summer school so the community will be aware of the development. Please do not hesitate if you have any question, suggestions to contact school's management. Thanks.

Community news can be submitted electronically at ICC511@yahoo.com or by calling at **457-2770, 457-6522**, no later than 15th of each month. We also encourage brothers, sisters and young readers to write for Almuslim. The best young writers will be awarded prizes and certificates.

Classified

For sale: 1988 Lincoln Town Car (Cartier), fully loaded, power, low mileage, exterior needs little improvement, asking \$ 1200.00. Interested call 549-7506.

Keep Environment safe and clean. As our religion teaches us "Cleanliness is a part of our faith and equals to half iman". Please educate young Muslim children about the danger of polluting the environment by teaching and training them the right tools i.e., teaching of Islam about cleanliness.

Recycle helps in cleaning the environment. If you are looking for recycling your office, accounts, personal notes etc., we can help, contact:

