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رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِنْ
نَسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا رَبَّنَا
وَلَا تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَا
إِصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُ
عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِنَا
رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْنَا مَا لَا
طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ وَاعْفُ
عَنَّا وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا
وَارْحَمْنَا أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا
فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ
الْكَافِرِينَ

Halal Meat and Stunning.

Muslim and Jewish groups are preparing to challenge animal-rights campaigners over a European Union measure that would require Halal and Kosher meat products to carry a label stating that the animals were not stunned before slaughter.

Earlier this year, members of the European Parliament, by a vote of 559 to 54, passed Amendment 205 to the food-information regulation, which would require all meat from ritually slaughtered animals to be labeled: "Derived from animals that have not been stunned prior to slaughter." A committee of the EU Council of Ministers subsequently vetoed the measure but members of the European Parliament are now determined to resurrect it in the coming months.

While Kosher and Halal meat is well labeled in specialist butchers and food outlets, the new regulations would alert general consumers to supplies entering the mainstream food system. EU member states

will have to approve the legislation and it is likely to return to the European Parliament for a second reading. Once adopted, food business will have up to five years to adapt to the rules.

The Muslim method of slaughtering animals for food requires that the animals are alive and healthy at the time of slaughter. The purpose of stunning is to make the animal unconscious rather than to kill it, but stunning has been opposed by some Muslim scholars because of concerns that the stun may kill the animal. Some methods of stunning may induce cardiac arrest (e.g. electrical stunning methods where the electrodes span the heart as well as the brain). However, head-only electrical stunning (where the electrodes span the brain only) induces unconsciousness without stopping the heart from beating so that the animal is still alive during slaughter.

Several Muslim organizations including the Joint Committee

of the League of the Muslim World, the Halal Food Authority in the UK, the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Jeddah-based International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) have approved the use of stunning provided that the stun does not cause death.

Shechita, the Jewish method of slaughtering is very similar to the Islamic method and requires that the animals are healthy at the time of slaughter and that they must not have suffered any physical injury. A critical difference is that pre-slaughter stunning is considered to cause physical injury prior to slaughter which renders the meat prohibited under Jewish law.

A number of countries, including Sweden, Norway and New Zealand, have already prohibited religious slaughter (without stunning) in that they require all animals to be

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Dua of the Month

"Our Lord! Punish us not if we forget or fall into error, our Lord! Lay not on us a burden like that which You did lay on those before us; our Lord! Put not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear. Pardon us and grant us Forgiveness. Have mercy on us. You are our Maula (Patron, Supporter and Protector, etc.) and give us victory over the disbelieving peo-

ple." (2/286)

Rabbana La Tu'uakhidhna 'In Nasina 'Aw 'Akhta'na Rabbana Wa La Tahmil `Alayna 'Ishraan Kama Hamaltahu `Ala Al-Ladhina MinQablina Rabbana Wa La Tuhammilna Ma La Taqata Lana Bihi Wa A'fu `Anna Wa Aghfir Lana Wa Arhamna 'Anta Mawlana Fanşurna `Ala Al-Qawmi Al-Kafirin

This is an important dua from the last verse of surat Al-Baqara.

In a hadith narrated by Abu Mas'ud Al-Badri (raa): Allah's messenger pbuh said "whoever recited the last two verses of surat Al-Baqarah at night, that will be sufficient for him" (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Vol. 5, Hadith No.345)



Upcoming Events

MARRIAGE INTRODUCTION EVENT 3rd Dec 6pm - 9pm

Blessed Thomas Catholic College, Urban Rd, Altrincham, WA15 8HT

Providing the opportunity for single Muslims to meet prospective life partners.

These events are proving to be very successful in giving people the opportunity to meet in an organised manner. For full details please visit www.ama-online.org.uk for all those not registered please complete a form and send a copy to shahnaz.awan@tiscali.co.uk Please bring a copy with you on the night also.

Community News:

OLD SPECTACLE COLLECTION - ALTRINCHAM INTERFAITH GROUP

The A.I.G have decided to mark the start of national interfaith week by announcing a new project. The new project is to arrange collection of old spectacles for Vision Aid Overseas. V.A.O. regrinds spectacles for the 3rd world. Local children have been busy decorating shoe boxes for the spectacle collection. The collection will take place until the 12th of December. The centre will have a box and ask that all our community help. For further details please see the Altrincham Interfaith Group website <http://www.altrincham-interfaith.org.uk/>

ANNUAL AMA EID DINNER (SAT 19TH NOV)

A fantastic family event, which was enjoyed by a few hundred of our community. We were given the opportunity to hear of the progress of our centre and also some mention of the hard work being done by so many to keep our centre successful. The new venue proved to be a hit, and provided us all with great food and good facilities.

We had a few speeches on the evening, however the key speaker was the right honourable Yasmin Qureshi MP. Yasmin has been the Member of Parliament for Bolton South East since the 2010 General Election. Yasmin gave us some stories and insight in being an M.P. She also gave us some interesting facts and figures on how Muslims are involved at parliamentary level, which became apparent as being very low.

The overall message was the fact that as Muslims we need to do more to ensure we are represented within the government/council seats and currently we are not. We should try to become involved if not ourselves by offering others support in doing so, we should also get more involved within local set up's by becoming involved on the boards at schools, and clubs etc. For more information visit www.yasminqureshi.org.uk

GLOBAL CAFÉ (SUN 13TH NOV)

Thank you to everyone involved for making this such a successful and fun event. The AMA girls club organised a tea and cake afternoon at the Centre with the theme of Global Cafe. The girls raised nearly £500 for a local charity, Pictor House School for children with special needs. The girls worked hard on baking and making cakes. Alhamdulillah the cakes tasted fantastic and everyone who came enjoyed tea and cakes. Jazak'Allah khair to all but especially to the girls. Well done.

Halal Meat and Stunning: continued from p1

stunned before slaughter even if the animals are being slaughtered for the food of Muslims and Jews. New Zealand is a large exporter of Halal-slaughtered sheep meat and a significant exporter of Halal-slaughtered beef. All of these exports are derived from animals who have been stunned before slaughter and this is accepted by the importing countries.

Several scientific studies have been conducted in recent years on the effects of ritual slaughter methods looking at neurophysiological, neurochemical, consciousness and pain receptors. It is not surprising that the conclusions are often contradictory and do not provide a definitive answer to if or how much animals suffer during a ritual slaughter without stunning. It is nonetheless clear that the

influence of the animal-welfare lobby seems to be gaining momentum and the recent EU legislation is evidence that the traditional slaughter methods of Muslims and Jews are likely to be further challenged in the near future.

This is the first article addressing this issue, and Insha'Allah, there will be further articles in the future.



Don't forget the 'Old Spectacle Collection'. Cases are not needed, but wrap the glasses so they don't get scratched and place them in the box at the centre.



AMA : Eid Ul ADha Dinner. Chief Guest: Yasmin Qureshi

Islamic Months : Muharram (Sat 26th Nov - Sun 25th Dec *tbc)

Muharram means "Forbidden." Even before Islam, this month was always known as a scared month in which all unlawful acts prominently the shedding of blood were forbidden. It is one of the four sanctified months about which Allah(swt) says: "The number of months in the sight of Allah are twelve, so ordained by Allah, the day He created the heavens and the earth; Of them four are sacred. That is the correct religion, so wrong not yourselves therein." (Surah Tawbah – verse 36)

THE DAY OF AASHURAH (10TH OF MUHARRAM)

Hadhrat Ibn Abbaas(ra) narrates that when the Prophet (pbuh) came to Madinah and found the Jews fasting on the day of Aashura he inquired, "What is the significance of this day on which you fast?" They replied, "This is the day Allah(swt) saved Moosa(as) and his followers and drowned Fir'oun and his army. Moosa(as) fasted on this day as a token of thanks – giving, thus we too fast on this day." The prophet (pbuh) said: "We are more worthy of Moosa(as) than you and we are more closer to him than you are." Thereafter he fasted on this day and ordered the Sahaabah to do the same". (Muslim, Vol 1)

According to another hadith, it is more advisable that the

fast of 'Ashurah should either be prefixed or suffixed by another fast. It means that one should fast two days: the 9th and 10th of Muharram or the 10th and 11th of it. The reason of this additional fast as mentioned by the Prophet (pbuh) is that the Jews used to fast on the day of Aashurah alone, and the Prophet (pbuh) wanted to distinguish the Islamic-way of fasting from that of Jews. Therefore, he advised the Muslims to add another fast to that of Aashurah.

Hadhrat Ibn Abbaas(ra) says: "I did not see Rasulullah (pbuh) anxiously await the fast of any day, which he gave preference to (over other days), except this day of Aashura and the month of Ramadhaan." (Bukhari, Vol. 1)

VIRTUE OF THE FAST OF AASHURAH

The Prophet (pbuh) has said: "The best fasts after the fasts of Ramadhan are those of the month of Muharram." Although not obligatory, the one who fasts in these days out of his own will and choice is entitled to a great reward by Allah Almighty. The Hadith cited above signifies that the fasts of the month of Muharram are most rewardable ones among the Nafl fasts i.e. the fasts one observes out of his own choice without being obligatory on him.

The hadith does not mean that the award promised for

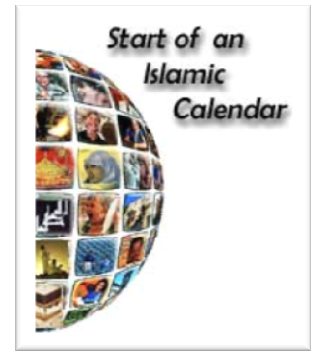
fasts of Muharram can be achieved only by fasting for the whole month. On the contrary, each fast during this month has merit. Therefore, one should avail of this opportunity as much as he can.

The prophet (pbuh) was asked with regard to the blessings of this fast, he replied: "It is a compensation for the sins of the past year." i.e. Allah will forgive the sins of the past year." (Muslim, Vol 1). Abu Qataada(ra) has related that the Prophet (pbuh) has reported to have said, "It is my thought that by fasting on the 10th of Muharram Allah Ta'ala will pardon the sins of the past year." (Tirmizi). Note: For the forgiveness of major sins Taubah and Istighfaar is a pre-requisite.

GENEROSITY TO ONE'S FAMILY

Some traditions signify another feature of the day of "Ashurah. According to these traditions one should be more generous to his family by providing more food to them on this day as compared to other days. These traditions are not very authentic according to the science of hadith. Yet, some Scholars like Baihaqi and Ibn Hibban have accepted them as reliable.

It is mentioned in a Hadith: "He who will be generous to his family on the day of Aashura, Allah will be generous to him for the entire year."



EVENTS OF MUHARRAM:

Sayyidina Hussain (R.A.), the grandson of Rasulullah(sallahu alaihi wassallam) was martyred in this month in Karbala.

Shaykhain Tirmizi and Haakim has narrated from Anas(ra) that the following verse: "Allah may forgive thee of thy sins that which is past and that which is to come." (Al-Fath) was revealed on the 10th of Muharram.

Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) went to defeat Bani Muhaarir and Bani Tha'laba (Tribes of Bani Gatfan) in the month of Muharram in the year 4 A.H. (Asahhus-siyar)

Pearls of Wisdom:

- Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
- Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamonds! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!
- When Allah(swt) solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when Allah(swt) doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in Your Abilities.

- A blind person asked a wise person "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
- WORRYING does not take away tomorrows' TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE



In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Altrincham Muslim Association

Registered Charity Number 1101378

Prayer Schedule December 2011

Day	Date	Fajr	Fajr Jama'at	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Dhuhr Jama'at	Asr	Asr Jama'at	Maghrib	Isha	Isha Jama'at
Thu	1	5:55	6:30	8:02	11:59	1:15	1:37	1:50	3:56	05:21	9:00
Fri	2	5:57	6:30	8:03	11:59	1:30	1:37	1:50	3:56	05:21	9:00
Sat	3	5:58	6:30	8:05	12:00	1:15	1:36	1:50	3:55	05:20	9:00
Sun	4	5:59	6:30	8:06	12:00	1:15	1:36	1:50	3:54	05:19	9:00
Mon	5	6:00	6:30	8:07	12:01	1:15	1:35	1:50	3:54	05:19	9:00
Tue	6	6:01	6:30	8:09	12:01	1:15	1:35	1:50	3:53	05:18	9:00
Wed	7	6:02	6:30	8:10	12:02	1:15	1:35	1:50	3:53	05:18	9:00
Thu	8	6:02	6:30	8:10	12:02	1:15	1:35	1:50	3:53	05:18	9:00
Fri	9	6:04	6:30	8:12	12:02	1:30	1:35	1:50	3:52	05:17	9:00
Sat	10	6:05	6:30	8:13	12:03	1:15	1:36	1:50	3:52	05:17	9:00
Sun	11	6:06	6:30	8:15	12:03	1:15	1:36	1:50	3:52	05:17	9:00
Mon	12	6:07	6:30	8:16	12:04	1:15	1:36	1:50	3:52	05:17	9:00
Tue	13	6:07	6:30	8:17	12:04	1:15	1:36	1:50	3:52	05:17	9:00
Wed	14	6:08	6:30	8:18	12:04	1:15	1:36	1:50	3:53	05:18	9:00
Thu	15	6:09	6:30	8:18	12:05	1:15	1:37	1:50	3:53	05:18	9:00
Fri	16	6:10	6:30	8:19	12:05	1:30	1:37	1:50	3:53	05:18	9:00
Sat	17	6:11	6:30	8:20	12:06	1:15	1:37	1:50	3:54	05:19	9:00
Sun	18	6:11	6:30	8:21	12:06	1:15	1:38	1:50	3:54	05:19	9:00
Mon	19	6:12	6:30	8:21	12:07	1:15	1:38	1:50	3:55	05:20	9:00
Tue	20	6:12	6:30	8:22	12:07	1:15	1:39	1:50	3:55	05:20	9:00
Wed	21	6:13	6:30	8:22	12:08	1:15	1:39	1:50	3:55	05:20	9:00
Thu	22	6:13	6:30	8:23	12:08	1:15	1:39	1:50	3:56	05:21	9:00
Fri	23	6:14	6:30	8:23	12:09	1:30	1:40	1:50	3:56	05:21	9:00
Sat	24	6:14	6:30	8:24	12:10	1:15	1:40	1:50	3:56	05:21	9:00
Sun	25	6:14	6:30	8:24	12:10	1:15	1:41	1:50	3:57	05:22	9:00
Mon	26	6:15	6:30	8:24	12:11	1:15	1:42	1:50	3:57	05:22	9:00
Tue	27	6:15	6:30	8:24	12:11	1:15	1:42	1:50	3:58	05:23	9:00
Wed	28	6:15	6:30	8:25	12:12	1:15	1:43	1:50	3:58	05:23	9:00
Thu	29	6:15	6:30	8:25	12:12	1:15	1:43	1:50	3:59	05:24	9:00
Fri	30	6:15	6:30	8:25	12:12	1:30	1:44	1:50	4:00	05:25	9:00
Sat	31	6:15	6:30	8:25	12:13	1:15	1:45	1:50	4:02	05:27	9:00
		Jumma Khutba will start at 1:10pm									