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The cities shone like stars

12 Jul, 2011

Posted by 0 | *Untagged*

COMMUNICATION AMONG PARENTS AND CHILDREN

21 May, 2011

It is once again the month in which we remember the honorable daughter of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him and his family). Fatima Zahra (peace be upon her) is also the wife and the mother in her familial roles in the household of Imam Ali (peace be upon him). One of the striking features of this lady's life is that although due to her death at an early age her children had been deprived of her motherly care for them, she left a lasting impact on their lives as long as they lived. We frequently read in the history the way al-Hasan and al-Husayn, Zaynab and Umm Kulthum remembered their dear mother on several occasions in their confrontation with injustices and cruelties they suffered in the hands of those who neglected to understand their lofty status within the household of the Prophet. What was the secret of such a lasting impact in the lives of the future leaders of the umma left by Fatima Zahra, their mother?

We are living in an age when communication has become both easy and difficult. Modern technology has increased the means of communication and we are enjoying the fruits of such scientific innovation in establishing contacts with one another. Imagine how difficult it was to make a phone call while you were on road or to send a message if you were in an airplane 30,000 feet above the earth? Today all those hurdles are removed and there is no excuse left for not connecting with anyone we wish to communicate. However, the demands of modern living have also made it unexpectedly difficult to aintain normal human relationships that are essential part of our divinely ordained social nature. And although we are now electronically in connection with a wide circle of people, the more we think about the tyranny of e-mail service the more we realize that something essential is missing in our ability to communicate so easily. This is the human "touch." It is connectedness and the expectations that go with it in terms of human touch and human ability to communicate with one's entire existence that is missing. From eye to hand to different parts of our body we have been able to communicate, sometimes, without uttering a single word. That human sensitivity with our total being is something that modern technology of communication has not been able to replace electronically. It is important to emphasize here that the need to communicate is not limited between humans and humans; even our ability to communicate with our Creator, the Almighty

Compassionate God has been adversely impacted by the pace of life that we experience today. We find ourselves hurrying to finish our prayers (if at all we pray!) and attend to sometimes very trivial chores. We don't communicate with our beloved Creator the way we ought to, as reflected in the prayers of *Sahifa Sajjadiya*, in which Imam Zaynul Abidin communicates with God in all humility and love that he has for the Divine Being.

The Qur'an speaks about the ways in which God communicated with human beings throughout history to guide them to realize their full potential in life. The Prophets were sent to teach humanity how to become full members of human community by learning to communicate with each other about one's needs and expectations. Through their role model and divine guidance the Prophets introduced religious practices which communicate the importance of coming together, whether while praying individually or in congregation. It is instructive to remember that in the most critical institution of daily worship (*salat, namaz*) the emphasis is on spiritual communication with God, and moral communication with other humans from who we expect mutual responsiveness and responsibility. One of the most demanding and critical area of communication today is between us and our young ones-our children. As parents we have discovered that not only are we teaching language to our children as we take care of them, we are constantly communicating to them our spiritual and moral values which we adhere to and which are part of our Muslim identity.

Fatima Zahra (peace be upon her) is not only the mother of her children; she left an incredibly sustainable integrity and influence with all here descendants, in particular the Imams who always made sure that they reminded each other about their lineage going back to Sayyida Siddiqa (the Lady of Truthfulness). It is not without reason that even the Prophet regarded his daughter as "Her Father's Mother" (*umm abiha*). Fatima Zahra's ability to console her own father as he struggled to teach God's revealed religion, al-Islam, is self-evident in all historical sources. Whether teaching Islam in the mosque or while preaching to the Arab tribes of the Jahiliya, the Prophet was constantly faced with disappointments and suffered pain and abuse from the unbelievers. At the end of each mission he came back in Bayt al-Sharaf (the Honorable House) of Fatima and talked about the matter to her. Fatima was not only sympathetic listener, she also communicated to her father her own understanding of Islamic mission and lending her and her family's wholehearted support to it.

Little wonder then that Fatima Zahra (peace be upon her) left a strong spiritual and moral legacy to her children and their descendents. Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq used to fondly mention his "grandmother (*bint rasulillah*)" at different times as he sought examples of patience, truth and justice for his disciples when he related the sufferings of the Family of the Prophet to them. The way the Prophet's beloved daughter communicated with her children has been preserved in Imam Hasan's narrative about his mother. Imam Hasan (peace be upon him), who used to be around to watch his mother pray and then invoke God's mercy on all their neighbors,

one day asked his mother: "O mother, you pray for everyone in the neighborhood, but you don't ask for anything for yourself from God, the Exalted." Fatima in her own ways responded to her son: "When God grants good to everyone in the vicinity He surely grants the petitioner without specifically asking for anything!" This remained the lesson so beautifully communicated by Fatima Zahra that Imam Hasan throughout his life remained generous and forgiving to everyone, including those who were his diehard enemies. We see the same impact of their mother's communication on Fatima Zahra's other children, especially Imam Husayn, Zaynab, and Umm Kulthum (peace be upon all of them) in the tragedy of Karbala'. Allamah Iqbal has captured that role model of Fatima in these words in his *Mathnavi*
:

Maryam is dear [to us all] because she is related to Jesus.

Hazrate Zahra is dear [to us all] because of three relations.

She is the daughter of the Mercy for All Beings [Hazrat Muhammad];

She is the wife of the one who wore the crown of Hal Ata [Hazrat Ali];

She is the mother of the center of the compass of Love [Hazrat Hasan];

And the mother of the leader of that caravan of Love [Hazrat Husayn].

By

Abdulaziz Sachedina

University of Virginia

Posted by islamicherald | *Untagged*

Peacemaking & Justice: The significance of recent Christian-Muslim dialogues

17 Feb, 2011

Please join us to learn more from Susan K. Harrison at our program on 26-February, 2011 at 7:30 pm. For details please check our Event Calendar.

Posted by islamicherald | *Untagged*

Qur'an Tafseer Free Webinars

22 Dec, 2010

A reminder that Qur'an Tafseer Webinars with Dr. Mohammad Ali Shomali continue on a bi-weekly bases. Next webinar is on Tuesday, December 28, 2010 at 9:00 pm EST. Current tafseer is on Surah Luqman of which so far only the first 3 ayats have been done. You are most welcome to join the webinars.

The live webinar can be viewed at www.QuranStudy.com/Live

All webinars are recorded and available for viewing 48 hours after the live program. During the live program you can email your questions and Dr. Shomali would do his best to answer them - time permitting. Webinar duration is 1 hour including Q&A.

Recoded webinars are available at http://www.QuranStudy.com/recordings/Tafseer/

No registration is required for these free webinars, you can simply join in.

Posted by islamicherald | *Untagged*

Webinar on "Self Knowledge" - 8 Sessions

15 Apr, 2010

Webinars on "Self Knowledge" by Dr. Mohammad Ali Shomali start on April 18, 2010 at 9:00 pm EST and would continue weekly till June 6, 2010; a total of 8 sessions. Please check out calendar for more details. Registration is not required; you simply log-in at www.QuranStudy.com/live/index.html . During the session you can email your questions at oil.lectures@gmail.com and Dr. Shomali would answer them at the end of his lecture, time permitting. Recomended reading is a book by Dr. Shomali under the title "Self Knowledge" that you can order from adewjee@canadaworldwide.com

Recorded Lectures can be watched at: http://www.QuranStudy.com/recordings/Self_Knowledge

Posted by islamicherald | *Untagged*

2010-Jan-18 Arbaeen 1431 Program

20 Jan, 2010

Please check our Event Calendar for the program on 30th January, 2010.

Posted by islamicherald | *Untagged*

2010-Jan-06 Hayate Tayyiba - Pleasant Life and January Program

07 Jan, 2010

During the 10 days of Muharram, Dr. Shomali's lectures were focused on Hayate Tayyiba (Pleasant Life). Summary points of his lectures are given below:

- Have proper *Akeeda* (Belief) - read, learn, absorb and grow your understanding
- *Aama'le Saleh* (True Deeds) - perform all your *wajib* (obligatory) deeds first and then do the *mustahab* (voluntary) things
- Remember Allah (SWT) as much as possible
- Reduce the amount you talk/speak - this would also give you more focus in *Salat* (prayers)
- Reduce food intake (even Halal food) - do not overindulge
- Plan your sleep and adopt good sleeping habits - do not sleep when you should be awake and vice versa
- Take some private time for yourself so that you can spend time with Allah (SWT)
- Be a caring, loving person and offer this warmth to everyone, especially your fellow sisters and brothers in faith

On Saturday, January 16, 2010 we have an opportunity to meet with Dr. Liyakatali Takim who would be giving a lecture on EVOLUTION or REVOLUTION - The crisis of Islamic Consciousness. Check out our Calendar.

Posted by islamicherald | *Untagged*

18 Dec, 2009

Bio-Ethics

Issues In Islamic Medical Ethics

International Association Of Bioethics

The purpose of this webpage is to provide authentic and generally agreec

Guidelines :

- Health Care
- Ethics Of Human Cloning

Posted by islamicherald | *Untagged*

Welcome to our renewed website

12 Dec, 2009

12 December, 2009

Welcome to our renewed website. All our events starting December 12, 2009 would be posted on this website under "Event Calandar". We are gradually updating past Lectures as well as Artiles; you can find the Lecture audio under "Archives" and Articles under "Articles". With our renewed website we have built the feature where you can be notified of any additions automatically. We encourage you to please register under "Join Newsletters" on the Home Page. Discussion Forum has also been activated and we encourage you to share your opinons, comments and questions. Please register on the Main Page as only registered users can participate in the Forum.

Posted by islamicherald | *Untagged*