

Dawah Monthly

• August 2013

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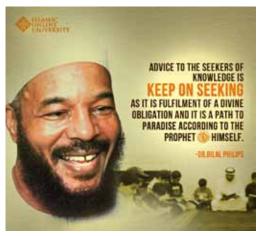
# THE MUSLIM JESUS

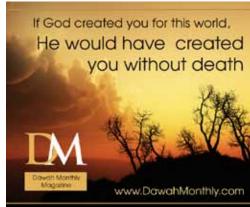


Also Inside:

## **Islam in America:**

**During the Slavery Years. During the Civil Rights Era And Today** 





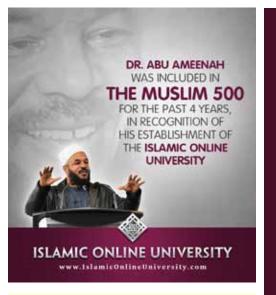
Also Inside:

# ne Sahabiy The Female Companions

**Great Women of Islam** 

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Muslims, too, await the second coming of Jesus. They consider him one of the greatest of God's prophets to mankind.

## "Where is God?"

Some religions teach that "God is everywhere." This is actually called "pantheism" and it is the opposite of our belief system in Islam. God tells us clearly that there is nothing, anywhere in the universe that resembles Him, nor is He ever in His creation. He tells us in the Quran that He created the universe in six days (the length of these days is unknown) and then He rose up, above His Throne. He is there (above His Throne) and will remain there until the End Times.

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#### WHO IS...?

#### DR. ABU AMEENAH BILAL PHILIPS

-- was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and grew up in Toronto, where he converted to Islam in 1972. His whole life has been exemplified by his goal of seeking and conveying Islamic knowledge in order to "Change Nation through Education."

In 1994 he founded the first Islamic Information Center in Dubai. He has served as the head of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Preston University-Ajman, UAE; lecturer and director of the Da'wah and Education at Oatar Guest Center, Doha, Oatar: founder and head of the English medium Islamic studies department of Knowledge International University, Riyadh; founder and head of the College of Da'wah and Islamic Culture (English Section) at Omdurman Islamic University, Sudan; founder and head of Preston International University College in Chennai. India: and founder and Dean of the Islamic Studies Academy in Doha, Oatar.

But perhaps his greatest achievement, and the one for which he was listed in the Jordanian publication, "The 500 Most Influential Muslims," is the historic founding of the Islamic Online University which in only 5 years has over 80,000 students registered from every country on the face of this earth! Unlike the other educational programs he has founded and overseen over the years, IOU makes it possible for any person from any location in the world to receive an Islamic education absolutely free.

IOU was launched in 2007 with a free diploma program in Islamic Studies and introduced its fully accredited tuition-free Bachelor's program (BAIS) in 2010. Plans are currently being made for a Master's program (MAIS) for 2013. Dr. Bilal has served as IOU's chancellor from the beginning.

## **Islam in America During the Slavery Years**

Muslims have been part of American history since pre-Columbus times. Indeed, early explorers used maps that were derived from the work of Muslims, with their advanced

geographical and navigational information of the time.

Some scholars estimate that 10-20 percent of the slaves brought over from Africa were Muslims. The film "Amistad" alluded to this fact, portraying Muslims aboard this slave vessel trying to perform their prayers, while chained together on deck as they crossed the Atlantic. Personal narratives and histories are harder to find, but some stories have been passed on from reliable sources:



Omar Ibn Said

-- Omar Ibn Said (ca. 1770-1864) was born in the Muslim state of Futa Toro in Western Africa, in present-day Senegal. He was a Muslim scholar and trader who was captured and enslaved. He arrived in South Carolina in 1807, and was sold to James Owen of North Carolina.

### "If God created everything -Then who created God?"

According to the Quran, God tells us that He is the only creator and sustainer of all that exists and that nothing and no one exists alongside Him, nor does He have any partners. He tells us that He is not created, nor is He like His creation in anyway. He calls Himself by a number of names and three of them are:

A) The First - (Al-Awal)
B) The Last - (Al Akhir)
C) The Eternal, who is sought after
by His creation, while He has no need
from them at all. (As-Samad)

He always has existed and He never was created, as He is not like His creation, nor similar to it, in any way.

--Sali-Bul Ali was a slave on a plantation. His owner James Cooper wrote: "He is a strict Mahometan (sic); abstains from spirituous liquors, and keeps various fasts, particularly

that of the Ramadan..."

- -- Lamen Kebe was a slave who used to be a school teacher in Africa. He shared information about the texts and teaching methods used in the Islamic schools of his country.
- -- Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Sori spent 40 years in slavery before he returned to Africa to die. He wrote two autobiographies, and signed a charcoal sketch of himself by Henry Inman, which was featured on

the cover of "Freedman's Journal" and is on display in the Library of Congress.

Many of the Muslim slaves were encouraged or forced to convert to Christianity. Many of the first-generation slaves retained much of their Muslim identity, but under the harsh slavery conditions this identity was largely lost to later generations. (cont'd pg.4)

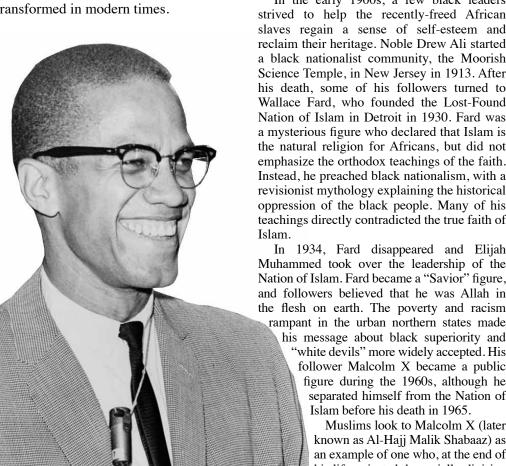


NOTE: The English word "god" did not exist until 1066 AD after the Norman invasion of the Saxxons. Therefore, the most appropriate word for "Almighty, The Most High God" should be "Allah."

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## **Islam in America During the Civil Rights Era**

Most people, when they think of African-American Muslims, think of the "Nation of Islam." Certainly, there is an historical importance to how Islam took hold among African-Americans, but we will see how this initial introduction transformed in modern times.



Among the reasons why African-Americans have been and continue to be drawn to Islam are 1) the Islamic heritage of West Africa from where many of their ancestors had come; and 2) the absence of racism in Islam in contrast to the brutal and racist enslavement they had endured.

In the early 1900s, a few black leaders strived to help the recently-freed African slaves regain a sense of self-esteem and reclaim their heritage. Noble Drew Ali started a black nationalist community, the Moorish Science Temple, in New Jersey in 1913. After his death, some of his followers turned to Wallace Fard, who founded the Lost-Found Nation of Islam in Detroit in 1930. Fard was a mysterious figure who declared that Islam is the natural religion for Africans, but did not emphasize the orthodox teachings of the faith. Instead, he preached black nationalism, with a revisionist mythology explaining the historical oppression of the black people. Many of his teachings directly contradicted the true faith of

In 1934, Fard disappeared and Elijah Muhammed took over the leadership of the Nation of Islam. Fard became a "Savior" figure, and followers believed that he was Allah in the flesh on earth. The poverty and racism rampant in the urban northern states made

> "white devils" more widely accepted. His follower Malcolm X became a public figure during the 1960s, although he separated himself from the Nation of Islam before his death in 1965.

Muslims look to Malcolm X (later known as Al-Hajj Malik Shabaaz) as an example of one who, at the end of his life, rejected the racially-divisive teachings of the Nation of Islam and embraced the true brotherhood of Islam. His letter from Mecca, written during his pilgrimage, shows the transformation that had taken place. As we shall see shortly, most African-Americans have made this transition as well, leaving behind the "black nationalist" Islamic organizations to enter the worldwide brotherhood of Islam. (cont'd pg. 9)

In the Qur'an, God commands the believers to accept, as part of their **L**faith, the divine word revealed to Prophet Moses, known as the Torah: to Prophet David in the original Psalms; and to Jesus in the original Gospel. All Muslims are obliged to believe in all of the revealed scriptures. However, as stated in the Qur'an, all scriptures revealed before the Our'an have not remained as they were revealed. People changed parts of them to suit their own desires.

"Woe to those who write the scripture with their own hands and then say; "This is from Allah," to purchase with it (worldly gain) at a cheap price. Woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earned by doing it." Quran 2:79

Furthermore, in the Old Testament, God is quoted in Jeremiah 8:8 as saying, "How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law is with us;? But, behold, the false pen of the scribes has made it into a lie."

### **Crucifixion of Jesus Christ**

The Biblical stories reproduced in Our'an (e.g., Job, Moses, Joseph etc.) and the episodes relating to the history of the beginning of Muhammad's Prophethood demonstrate that it is "God's practice" to make faith triumph over the forces of evil and adversity.

#### "So truly with hardship comes ease."

For Jesus to die on the cross would have meant the triumph of his executioners; but the Quran asserts that they undoubtedly failed: "Assuredly God will defend those who believe"; He confounds the plots of the enemies of Christ.

"Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah ." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain. Rather, Allah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise."

-- Qur'aan 4:157-158

## "If there is only one God, then why are there so many religions?

God does not force anyone to submit to Him. He has laid out a clear path and then made it known to them the two ways (Heaven or Hell). The person is always free to make his or her own choice. There is no compulsion in the way of "Islam." Whoever chooses to worship God without partners and is devoted to Him and is obeying His commands as much as possible, has grasped the firm hand hold that will never break. Whoever denies God and chooses some other way to worship or not to believe at all, for them there is an eternal punishment that is most horrible (Hell).

All religions originated with God and then people began to add or take away from the teachings so as to take control over each other. Man made religions are an abomination before the Lord and will never be accepted. He will only accept true submission, obedience and in purity and peace to His commandments.

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Islam as taught by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is a continuation and completion of the religion of all the prophets of God including Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, and Jesus (peace be upon them all).

Jesus lived about 2,000 years ago in ancient Palestine when the Roman Empire was at it's zenith. He wasn't conceived in the usual way, but was implanted in the womb of a young woman named Mary. God simply commanded, "BE" and he was. In this sense, he was "a word" of God and a special sign for humanity. In fact, he was the last in a long line of religious guides sent to the Jews.

Mary was a righteous woman. Her mother dedicated her to God's service even before she was born. As a child, she lived a life marked by health and righteousness, which others pointed to in admiration. She was raised by the wise Zechariah, who instilled in her, a beautiful sense of faith in God.

When she became a young woman, Mary sought to purify herself further before her Lord. Knowing that the hustle of life in the towns was distracting, she withdrew from her people to a sanctuary in the East. There she could meditate in seclusion and peace.

Suddenly, on a day that seemed no different from the rest, an angel of God visited her, disguised in the likeness of a human. Afraid of the strange sight, Mary prayed for protection, but the strange being assured her and declared that he was a messenger from the Lord to announce the glad-tidings of a faultless son.

Mary, astounded, asked how this was possible seeing that no man had ever touched her. But the angel replied, "Your Lord says, 'it is easy for Me..." But when she felt the child within her, she fled her sanctuary out of fear of what her family would do or say when they heard the news.

Mary, however, was not to face hardship. When in her despair she cried out to God for oblivion, a voice soothed her and she found shade and a cool spring. Under a date-palm in the warmth of late summer, she made her dwelling and there she bore the child unlike any other in human history.

Shortly thereafter, Mary returned to her community carrying the child who as to be called Messiah, Jesus, and son of Mary. When her people saw her with the baby in her arms they couldn't believe their eyes, let alone accept her word. They refused to believe when she told of an angel who came and told her she was chosen above all other women to carry this burden.

They accused her of infidelity and

implied that she had ruined the family name. Mary, being overwhelmed, simply motioned toward the child meekly. Now the child was the product of a miracle, and consequently, miraculous things began to happen. In defense of his mother and of the truth, the infant Jesus spoke saying,

"I am a servant of God. He has given me scripture and has made me a Prophet. He has blessed me wherever I may be and has made prayer and charity my duty as long as I live."

This put the detractors to rest.

Throughout his youth, Jesus remained dutiful to his mother and developed quickly in intelligence, wisdom and piety. He dumfounded the learned and was greatly admired by those around him who appreciated his talents. He claimed to be a sign of God and a Messenger to the Israelites

His people had strayed from the spirit of truth and placed their trust in legalism, thereby burying their sense of mercy beneath dusty scrolls and rituals. Finally, when he came of age, Jesus began to travel and preach throughout the land of Palestine about a return to the truth of old revelations and a rejection of all that man had added. In his task he was

supported by the spirit of truth, the angel Gabriel.

He taught that love and mercy overcome hate and anger and that only a true and sincere faith in the Creator and obedience to His will can bring a person salvation in this life as well as in the next.

To reinforce his message, which was called "Injeel" - Gospel (good news), God granted him the performance of miracles. He healed the sick, uplifted the distressed and revived the dead. All these things he did with the permission of God, never taking credit for them himself.

He led a simple and pious life. Soon he attracted an inner-circle of devoted followers who listened to his teachings with fervor and humility. These disciples, among them Peter, Barnabas, and John helped him carry the message of Divine Love to the People. They helped him on his mission.

But no righteous man of God is without trial and tribulation. As the message of Jesus began to gain wider acceptance, a small clique of hypocrites and evil men began to plot against him. They were the priests and leaders of the Jews whose position and wealth depended upon their place as the sole interpreters of

religion to the masses.

They pursued him and his followers and eventually captured him, he never renounced his faith in the one God. So in their anger they plotted to crucify him on a Roman cross.

But Jesus slipped from their grip at the last moment, and all the while they thought they had succeeded. They were sure they had killed him but God answered Jesus' prayer and saved him from their schemes. Confusion overtook the mob and they might have killed the man who betrayed Jesus instead.

In any case, Jesus escaped from their grasp. Then God removed Jesus from this world into another, to a place with Him, not to return until a later time;

With their teacher gone, the devoted followers of Jesus tried to maintain the purity and simplicity of his teachings. But they were soon besieged and overtaken by a flood of Roman and Greek influences, which eventually so buried and distorted the message of Jesus that only a little of it's truth now remains.

Strange doctrines of Jesus being mangod, of God dying, of saint worshipping, and of God being made up of different parts came into vogue and were accepted by many of those who took the name "Christian" centuries after Jesus.

The only records that have come down to us concerning Jesus are some sketchy biographical material, poorly researched and compiled, which can in no way be representative of the full and accurate Message of Jesus, the Son of Mary.

The time of the final and incorruptible Message wasn't yet at hand. It would be left to the last prophet of God, Muhammad, to clarify the truth from man's additions and deletions.

Jesus taught the same eternal message that was taught by all the Messengers of God, from Adam, on through Noah, Abraham, Moses and ending with the mission of God's last Guidepost to humanity, Muhammad, whose coming was foretold by Jesus himself.

Each of the many Messengers spoke a different language and followed varied customs. Yet the core faith taught by each was the same: surrender your imperfect and fickle will to the perfect will of the Power that is greater than you. You will then find the peace and freedom that only the Creator of all things can provide. Then you must do what is right and good to your fellow creatures. This way of life is called Islam (surrender to God and find peace).

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## The Wisdom of Luqman

## ....and The Honor of Being Wise

Luqman was not a Prophet yet he is honored in the Qur'an as a wise man. Wisdom is declared to be an extremely good thing and is said to be a gift from Allah. Allah grants wisdom to whomever He wills. And he to whom wisdom is granted is granted good in abundance.

Qur'an Surah Baqarah 2:269.

"He gives wisdom to whom He wills, and whoever has been given wisdom has certainly been given much good. And none will remember except those of understanding."

According to many commentators, and scholars of Qur'an, Luqman was an Ethiopian slave and worked as a carpenter. Luqman was not a handsome man, he does not fit into the description of good looks of modern times. Rather he short and black, with a flat nose, says Ibn Kathir. Ibn Jareer reported that Luqman was an Ethiopian slave.

Once his master said to him:

"Slaughter this sheep for us and bring the best two pieces from it."

So he brought the tongue and heart.

Time passed and few weeks later the master repeated his order with a little difference. Bring two worst pieces of meat. Even this time Luqman brought the same; the tongue and the heart. His master was surprised. So Luqman

clarified. There is nothing better if these two are good and there is nothing worse if these two are bad.

This is the wisdom.

If we want to go to the root of all wisdom we read in Qur'an, Surah Luqman from verse no. 12 to 19

"And We had certainly given Lugman wisdom [and said], "Be grateful to Allah." And whoever is grateful is grateful for [the benefit of] himself. And whoever denies [His favor] then indeed, Allah is Free of need and Praiseworthy. And [mention, O Muhammad], when Luqman said to his son while he was instructing him, "O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah. Indeed, association [with him] is great injustice." And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him, [increasing her] in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the [final] destination. But if they endeavor to make you associate with Me that of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them but accompany them in [this] world with appropriate kindness and follow the way of those who turn



## **Islam in America Today**

The number of Muslims in the United States today is estimated to be between 6-8 million. According to several surveys commissioned between 2006-2008, African-Americans make up about 25% of the Muslim population of the U.S.

The vast majority of African-American Muslims have embraced orthodox Islam and have rejected the racially-divisive

teachings of the Nation of Islam. Warith Deen Mohammed, a son of Elijah Mohammed, helped lead the community through a transition away from his father's black nationalist teachings, to join the mainstream Islamic faith.

The number of Muslim immigrants to the United States has increased in recent years, as

has the number of native-born converts to the faith. Among immigrants, Muslims come largely from Arab and South Asian countries. A major study conducted by Pew Research Center in 2007 found that American Muslims are mostly middle-class, well-educated, and "decidedly American in their outlook, values and attitudes."

Today, Muslims in America represent a colorful mosaic that is unique in the world.

African-Americans,

Asians.

Southeast

North Africans, Arabs, and Europeans come together daily for prayer and support, united in faith, with the understanding that they are all equal before God.

-- Islam in America - Three-Part Series by Huda, About.com

back to Me [in repentance]. Then to Me will be your return, and I will inform you about what you used to do. [And Luqman said], "O my son, indeed if wrong should be the weight of a mustard seed and should be within a rock or [anywhere] in the heavens or in the earth, Allah will bring it forth. Indeed, Allah is Subtle and Acquainted. O my son, establish prayer, enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and be patient over what befalls you. Indeed, [all] that is of the matters [requiring] determination. And do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people and do not walk through the earth exultantly. Indeed, Allah does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful. And be moderate in your pace and lower your voice; indeed, the most disagreeable of sounds is the voice of donkeys."

We see the wise advice he begins from. "Yaa bunayya!!" Bunayya is an affectionate

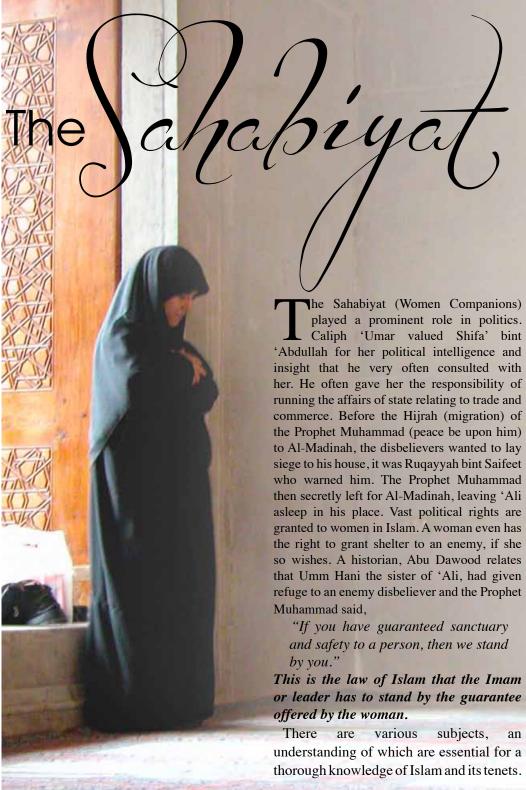
way of addressing your son - do not commit shirk, surely shirk is the biggest atrocity. But before that he takes an advice from Allah and heeds to it. Show gratitude to Allah. The next session of wisdom is to show gratitude towards our parents. Another gem of wisdom which remains wise even today, ever fresh. The rest of the few verses go on to tell us about personality development.

The moral of the story of Luqman is simple but motivating wisdom. It is not a monopoly of educated, graduates, rich or good looking people. If a carpenter of Ethiopia can be wise so can a tailor from India, or a cashier from the US. Wisdom has nothing to do with good looks. If a flat nosed slave can be wise, so can a dark south Indian, or a broke, disheveled man on a street corner in NYC. Wisdom comes from Allah and it begins by being grateful to Allah and clinging to Tawheed, the monotheism of Islam.

#### May Allah make us Wise. Ameen

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## Women Companions

of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Qira'at interpretation and commentary, Shari'ah, Figh, study of Hadith, all are important aspects of Islamic studies. Many of the women Companions were experts in these fields. 'Aishah memorized the Qur'an as did Hafsah, Umm Salmah, Umm Waraqah. Hind bint Aseed, Umm Hisham bin Harithah, Zaidah bint Hayyan; Umm Sa'ad bint Sa'ad all knew portions of the Qur'an by heart. The latter used to regularly lecture on the Qur'an. In the sensitive interpretation of Hadith, all were expert, but 'Aishah and Umm Salmah were exceptional masters of interpretation and commentary. With the former, 2,210 Ahadith are associated and 378 with the latter.

'Aishah was an expert on interpretation and commentary due to her close association with the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Much of the Book of Tafsir in Sahih Muslim contains narrations from her. Asma 'bint AbuBakr (sister of 'Aishah), Umm'Atiyah, Umm Hani and Fatimah bint Qais also had extensive knowledge of Ahadith. In Islamic juris prudence or Fiqh 'Aishah's verdicts could fill several volumes. The same could be said of Umm Salman's recorded verdicts.

The invaluable verdicts of Safiyyah, Hafsah, Umm Habibah, Juwairiah, Fatimah (the Prophet's daughter), Umm Shareek, Umm 'Atiyah, Asma' bint Abu Bakr, Laila bint Qai'f, Khawlah bint Tuyait, UmmDarda, 'Athikah bint Zaid, Sahlah bint Sohail, Fatimah bint Qais, Zainab bint Jahash, Umm Salmah, Umm Aiman, Umm Yusuf could fill several volumes.

'Aishah was also well versed in the law of inheritance and many renowned and respected Companions consulted her on the finer points of the law.

Besides being masters of Islamic law and of the finer points of Figh, the women Companions had skill and ability in other branches of knowledge. Asma' bint Yazid bin Sakan was an expert in making speech; Asma' bint 'Umais was famous for her interpretation of dreams. Several Female Companions were noted for their skill in medicine and surgery. Aslamiah Umm Matta'a, Umm Kabshah, Hamnah bint Jahash, Mu'aathah, Ammaimah, Umm Ziad, Rabi'a bint Mu'awath, Umm 'Atiyah, Umm Salim were some of them, well known for their skills. Rufaida Aslamiah's tent, set up as a surgery with all the necessary instruments, was situated close to the Prophet's Mosque at Madinah. The arts were not neglected by any means. Some of the most noted poetesses were, Sa'adi, Safiyah, 'Atikah, Bint Zaid, Hind bint Athathah, Umm Aiman, Kabashah bint Rafi'a, Ummamah Maridiah, Hind bint Harith, Zainab bint 'Awam Azdi, Maimoonah and Ruqayyah. A book of verses by Khansa', the best known among them, has been published.

- Excerpt from

Who Were Given The Good News of Paradise
Darussalam Publishers,
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

## The Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) Last Sermon

This sermon was delivered on the Ninth Day of Dhul Hijjah 10 A.H. in the 'Uranah valley of Mount Arafat' (in Mecca).

After praising, and thanking Allah he said:

"O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and TAKE THESE WORDS TO THOSE WHO COULD NOT BE PRESENT HERE TODAY.

O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your LORD, and that HE will indeed reckon your deeds. ALLAH has forbidden you to take usury (interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. Allah has Judged that there shall be no interest and that all the interest due to Abbas ibn 'Abd'al Muttalib (Prophet's uncle) shall henceforth be waived...

Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your

women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste.

O People, listen to me in earnest, worship ALLAH, say your five daily prayers (Salah), fast during the month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in Zakat (charity). Perform Hajj if you can afford to.

All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white; except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves.

Remember, one day you will appear before ALLAH and answer your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O People, and understand words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the QURAN and my example, the SUNNAH and if you follow these you will never go astray.

All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness, O ALLAH, that I have conveyed your message to your people".

For Questions about Islam, Comments, Suggestions or other inquiries about this publication please contact: **Editor@DawahMonthly.com** 

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