



Almuslim

A monthly newsletter of Muslim community of Carbondale.
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One Hour a Day

"Time is our capital in this life. It has to be invested for the maximum possible return."

When the Prophet, (PBUH) received the order to 'Arise and warn', he started calling others to Islam and continued to do so, day and night, until he died. Time was very important for him and he used every minute of it in the best possible way. He would meet regularly with his companions to teach them Qur'an and to warn them from disobeying Allah. He was an example to them in speech and in deeds.

The result of this education was that the companions' faith became the most important thing for them. And when they had to choose between their home, tribe and good living on the one hand and the companionship of the Prophet, (PBUH) on the other hand, they chose the latter and emigrated for the sake of Allah and exemplified sacrifice for the sake of one's belief. After thirteen years of hard work and sacrifice in Makkah, the Prophet (PBUH) and his companions were granted victory in Madinah.

How do our efforts today compare with those of the Prophet (PBUH) and his companions? One year of our life has passed. How many good deeds have we prepared for the Day of Judgment? What did we, as individuals and communities, do for Islam? Were we distracted by our money and our children from the obedience of Allah and Jihad for His sake? Allah said: "O you who believe! Let not your money or your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah. If any act as such, then surely they are the losers." (Qur'an, 63:9) The Prophet, (PBUH) said: "No servant will be let go on the day of judgment until he is asked about the four matters: His lifetime: How did

Tirmidhee). Have we used our bodies for fasting, praying, enjoining good and forbidding evil or have we used them up by succumbing to our desires?

Muslims have to realize the importance of time: that it is their capital in this life and that it is to be invested for the maximum possible return. Suppose for a minute that every Muslim dedicates one hour a day to work for the sake of Allah. In financial terms, this would generate a minimum of 1 billion dollars a day, 360 billion dollars a year! If such amount were to be reserved for Islamic work, it would change the face of the earth. Suppose that every Muslim was to spend one hour calling others to the path of Allah: millions would enter Islam!

Muslims today need to build their Ummah and revive it. And this does not come through futile discussions but rather through work, sincere, continuous, careful and planned. We need to strengthen the body of this Ummah and protect it from the dangers surrounding it. We need to deepen the awareness of the Muslims about their identity; their history, their wealth and that they are one single nation. And to start with, we need to invest in the Muslim individual because he is the real instrument for change.

Famous personalities of Islam

Umar Ibn Khatab

Umar is one of the few leaders of Islamic Civilization that is unique other than the career of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with whom this whole cycle of events started. From his early days he had shown signs of greatness and the future to come.

It was Abdullah ibn Masood who said of him, "We are still noble since Omar's Submission to Islam. He also said "Omar's Submission to Islam was a conquest, His Migration was a victory, His period of ruling was a blessing, I have seen when we were unable to pray at "the house" [Kaba] until Umar submitted, when he submitted to Islam he fought them [the antagonistic idolaters] until they left us alone and we prayed.

Umar was born in Mecca 13 years after the incident of the Elephant, In 583 A.D. Of his early years there are not many recorded details about his childhood but one record mentioned he grazed camels for his father who was very harsh with him. In his reign he would recall his father's harshness to him when he passed the field which caused him pains early in his life. We later see him as wrestler who used to attend the famed Ukaz (the annual fair.) Also due to his family's position in the Meccan hierarchy he would receive an above average education and would travel throughout Arabia and Greater Syria.

Umar's personality was dynamic, self-assertive, frank and straightforward. He always spoke whatever was on his mind even if it displeased others. Umar belonged to the Adi clan from the Tribe of Quraish. His full name is: Umar ibn al-Khattab ibn Nufail Ibn Abdul-Uzza Ibn Riyah Ibn Qart Ibn Razah Ibn Adi Ibn Ka'b Ibn Lu'ayy ibn Fihr ibn Malik. Ameer al Muminin, abu Hafs, al-Qurashi, al-Adwai, al-Farooq. Umar's family was considered among the families that served as arbitrators that would settle the tribal disputes and disagreements. Also ambassadors were chosen from his family as well.

There are many narration's that the Messenger was hoping that Umar would accept Islam because of the bright future that the Messenger was hoping. It is as if he was recruiting the right people for the future of the Islamic State. In one of the traditions that are mentioned by as-Suyuti, we see the Messenger praying that Umar accept Islam.

There are other traditions that point to the excellent qualities of Umar in matters of advice. One such tradition is: "Ibn Umar related that the Prophet, might Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, 'Allah has put the truth upon Umar's tongue and in his heart.'" And another is "If there were to be a prophet after me it would be Umar ibn al-Khatib" narrated by: Uqbah bin Amir. As-Suyuti further states that Abu Abdullah ash-Shaybani in his book Fada'il al-Imamayn (the Merits of the two Imams [Abu Bakr and Umar]) had listed 20 different points in which Umar's Opinions matched the later revelations of the Qur'an.

For the above mentioned reasons that the Messenger always sought the advice of Umar. It was not that the Messenger always followed Umar's Consultation but he still utilized him on many occasions. When the Prophet (PBUH) died Umar was in denial and refused to believe that the Prophet (PBUH) had passed away. Umar promised to strike the head of any man who would say that he died. Abu Bakr kept his cool about him and reminded the people that the Messenger was a human. Then the medinaites namely the Awas and Khazraj tribe were in dispute as to who would take charge after the Messenger, it was then that Umar gave biyah (oath of Allegiance) to Abu Bakr. Umar had convinced them that Abu Bakr was the ideal choice to be the successor of the Messenger. He spoke about the excellent qualities of Abu Bakr and how the Messenger had left some clues as to whom to lead after his death. Abu Bakr had high regard for Umar who said: "There is not on the face of the earth a man more beloved to me than Umar." Umar was also highly regard among the companions of the Messenger. Aisha has said: "He was, by Allah, skillful in managing affairs, absolutely unique." And Muawiyah has said: "...Umar, the world wanted him and he did not want it..." .

The appointment of Umar to office of khalifah is a well recorded event. It is not as troublesome as any of the others. His was perhaps one of the smoothest transitions to power from one authority to another in the

Muslim lands. When Abu Bakr was on death bed he only appointed Umar as his successor and no other. Umar succeed Abu Bakr the day after his death. Abu Bakr was well aware of Umar's powers and of his ability to succeed him. When he was dying he consulted with Abdur-Rahman bin Awaf and Uthman bin Affan who regarded him quite highly.

As was mentioned Umar had the respect and sometimes fear of many of his contemporaries. He personally involved himself in many of the state affairs. He was the hand on type and if he saw anything that did not please him he made no secret of it. He would constantly write letters of advice and guidance to his generals. Umar had the welfare of the Muslims in his mind at all times. Umar's food was simple which consisted of bread and olive oil. Rarely would he eat anything else, at times it is recorded that he eats meat, vegetables milk and vinegar. His dress was also simple such as a shirt only, which was known to have a number of patches in it. Further Umar had excellent organizational skills and a very good knowledge of people. He would not only choose who is his Army generals but also would give them very detailed orders. He divided up the Empire into states and placed governors in each state that he would personally assign. He would keep in constant communication with all his generals and Governors. Umar would also make good use of agents to keep watch over the performance of the governors. He would also periodically ask the residents of different cities of the performance of the governors. In al-Kufa he would recall Saad bin Abi Waqas due to complaints about him. He would than look into the matter and explain to the people.

In the year 23/644 Umar was assassinated by Abu Lua'Lua the Magian, who had a personal grudge against Umar. The assassin stabbed Umar in the back and in his side below the belt with a poisoned dagger during the morning prayers. He also had stabbed thirteen others, seven of which died. Abd ar-Rahman bin Awaf finished the prayers quickly as soon as Umar

fell. They rushed to the fallen Umar and knew that he was dying and that there was no hope of recovery. Abdallah bin Abbas came to comfort him.

His Khalifah was for a total of 10 years, six months and four days. In the end Umar wanted nothing of this earth, it was as Muywiah said of him. His age was the age of Justice. Later on after he passed away his hut would still be called the house of Justice. Of wealth he left nothing behind. He willed that his hut be sold to pay off his debts. Muywaih would buy his house and payoff whatever remained of his debt. He was eulogized by many of his companions who remember him well. His was a time of stability and growth, peace and constant war. It was not such a time of contradiction perhaps a time of harmony.

In His lifetime he had seen the Muslims go from being the meekest of the earth to being one of the major powers to be contended with. He would remember well that in his youth how his father was beating him for taking a short break to rest to being the most powerful person in the Arabian Peninsula. He was also content that in the end he was not killed by his own people but at the hands of a Magian. Umar had warned against such people living among Muslims. Since his warning went unheeded it was the cause of his own death. He prided himself in serving not his own interest. It is said that he feared the burden of leadership and how that he might one-day be asked why he did not pave the road for astray sheep in Persia. ." He was a man of purpose and a Mission. He left a legacy that is not easy to follow.

Women's Corner

How to make Delicious Anokhey Kabob

INGREDIENTS

Minced beef	2 cups
Salt	To taste
Green chilies (sliced)	to taste
Red chili powder	to taste
Ground Peppers	to taste

Cooking oil	for frying
Cumin seeds	1 tsp.
Chopped potatoes	1 cup
Chickpea powder	1 tbsp.
Fresh Cilantro	2 tbsp.
Egg	1
Mint leaves	to taste
Dried whole Cilantro seeds	1 tbsp.

Take minced beef in a bowl. Add all other ingredients except oil. Make kabobs of reasonable thickness and size. Deep fry on medium heat. Serve with chutney.

Kids and Teens corner

We encourage kids, teens and young writers to write for Almuslim. Best articles will get cash prizes and awards.

We also encourage community members for their participation in Almuslim. It can be through suggestions, comments and writing articles. Articles can be submitted electronically at islamic_center511@yahoo.com or by surface mail to **Islamic Center, 511 S Poplar street, Carbondale, IL-62901**. Articles must be in text format using Microsoft word or Word perfect files. Hard copies can also be submitted.

Community News

Friday prayer has been shifted to Masjid An-Nour, 530 N Wall Street from May 3, 2002. There will be no Friday prayer at ICC.

Current activities

Taleem, Sundays, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM, at Masjid An-Nour.

Video/live lectures, Islamic quiz contests for adults and children, indoor sports, Fridays between Maghrib and Isha, at ICC or Masjid An-Nour.

Soccer and Volleyball, Fridays, Sundays and Tuesdays, after Asr. Venue: Evergreen Park and Parrish Fields.

Upcoming events/Seminars/Conferences

Islam in America Conferences, July 5-7, for registration and information visit online www.isna.net.

39th ISNA Annual Convention: ***Islam :A Call for peace and Justice***, August 30 - September 02, Washington D.C. For registration and information visit online www.isna.net.

Community news can be submitted on above email address or by calling at **457-2770, 457-6522**, no later than 15th of each month.

Classified

88 Lincoln Town Car (Cartier), Grey, well maintained, low mileage, fully loaded and power, \$2000 or best offer, interested call 549-7506.

93 Mazda Protégé, Grey, 4-door, 5 speed, 102 K, nice and clean, a/c needs to be recharged, \$ 2000 or best offer, call 549-7949, leave message.