

THE ROPE OF ALLAH

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MARKAZ AL IHSAAAN

Muharram 1438 / October 2016 Issue 12

EDITORIAL

By Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed

Dawah is the Sacred Responsibility entrusted to the believers in Allah and the followers of Holy Prophet Muhammad (pboh). It is the Mission for which Allah sent 124,000 Messengers from Adam to the final Prophet, Muhammad (pboh).

In spite of the favours and blessings that Allah gave to the people before Islam, many of the Messengers, out of frustration, due to the non-acceptance of the message they gave, prayed for the destruction of their respective communities. As, from their respective point of view, it was better that the rebellious communities did not exist, instead of living and benefiting from the Grace and Mercy of Allah.

When Prophet Muhammad (pboh) came, he too, met with strong resistance from the people; he too, was treated harshly, physically; and suffered all forms of humiliation. Knowing that the material life was just for a time, and creatures, that are finite beings, cannot be equal to the Creator, he sympathetically and persevered with the invitation to accept Allah as the Creator.

The Prophet (pboh) taught man to submit to Allah willingly. His Message attracted most of the tribes and nations in and around Arabia; and when he gave his Final Sermon, the crowd assembled to listen to him was unbelievable.

Allah informs the believers that the mission of Invitation to Islam must not stop. For example, He says: *Muhammad is no more than a Messenger. Many were the Messengers that passed away before him. If he died or were slain, will you then turn back on your heels?* (3:144)

Allah wants that the Message continues; and that Truth should prevail over falsehood. In addition to a person's personal belief, he/she should invite others, in the best possible way to accept Islam, as through submission one will finally dwell in the Home of Peace. Blessed are those entrusted with this Mission.

CALLIGRAPHY CENTRE



This calligraphy piece is a representation of the greeting said at the commencement of the New Islamic Year.

'Kul 'am wa antum bikhair' literally translates to 'May you have blessings and well-being every year'.

We pray to Allah that this new year brings with it Allah's continued Blessings, Guidance, Protection, Love and Sustenance; for each and every one of His servants.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. WAFFIE MOHAMMED

The Founder/Principal of Markaz Al Ihsaan, Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed was recently honoured by the Government of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago with the Humming Bird Gold Medal in the field of Community Service and Education.

Well-wishers from all over the world expressed their joy and happiness at this recognition awarded to a deserving Muslim. One local organisation commented: *Congratulations to you as a recipient of a National Award, Humming Bird Medal (Gold) from the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and on Independence Day, 31st August, 2016; in recognition in the field of Community Development, Education and Humanitarian Services, to the Citizens in the society. The Abdul Aziz Trust.*

MARKAZ AL IHSAAAN NEWS

Annual Fund Raising Dinner

Our annual fund raising dinner will be held on Saturday 19th November at 6.30 p.m. The venue for this years dinner is the Imani Hall Cipero Street, San Fernando.

Classes

Certificate in Islamic Studies:

- At the Markaz Centre - Every Saturday from 8.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. and every Monday from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
• At the Cumuto Masjid - Every Saturday from 5.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Islamic Spirituality (Zikr) sessions:

- Conducted every Thursday at the Hermitage Masjid commencing with the Maghrib salaah.

Weekly Radio Programme

Broadcasted on Radio 103 FM every Friday from 4.00 a.m.

Friday Sermons (Khutbah)

Dr. Waffie Mohammed delivers the weekly Jummah Sermons at the following Masjids:

- 1st Friday: Marabella Mosque
• 2nd Friday: Hermitage Mosque
• 3rd Friday: Claxton Bay Mosque
• 4th Friday: Reform Mosque
• 5th Friday: La Romaine Mosque.

Community Outreach Classes

The Markaz Al Ihsaan recently conducted a 10 week program entitled 'What makes Prophet Muhammad (pboh) special'. These classes were conducted at the Manahambre and Marabella Masjids respectively. The programs were well received by all who attended. Similar outreach classes will be held at other venues inshallah.

GAY, LESBIAN AND BI-SEXUALITY – THE ISLAMIC POSITION AND MUSLIM RESPONSE

We live in a society in which we come face-to-face with diverse values, beliefs and norms.

GLB issues are prevalent conversations being held both in contemporary society and in the Muslim community – discussions that range from partisan to misinformed to downright mischievous.

The paper by the Majlis ul Ulamaa (Majlistt) on the captioned topic recognizes the prevalence of the issue today, and adopts a distinction between same-sex sexual orientation (Gay, Lesbian and Bi-sexuality) and that of transgenders (who identify as the opposite sex or are born hermaphrodite). There is also the noted distinction between same-sex sexual orientation and effeminacy – males behaving like females, which does not refer to sexual activity or preference.

The issue is especially significant in terms of the attention being given by the UN Human Rights Council and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The international split in policies regarding the topic is a reflection of the variance of values. Almost 40% of nations voted against the legitimization of distinct GLB rights.

What is interesting is the Islamic recognition of the issues (some believe the resurgence and legitimization is a construct of 'The West' – yet its propensity was recognized both in the Quran and Ahadith).

It must be noted that the popular and online media representing or reporting on the Islamic position on the topic provide not only a lot of misinformation but confusion on the matter, including issues such as Feminism, female castration and other aspects of gender inequality.

Status aside, many questions arise regarding the status of GLB and GLB persons in Islam. Are they Muslim? Can a GLB person be an Imam? Should they be punished? In what way and by whom? How do we treat with GLB family members, co-workers and others in society?

“...many questions arise regarding the status of GLB and GLB persons in Islam.

- *Are they Muslim?*
- *Can a GLB person be an Imam?*
- *Should they be punished? In what way and by whom?*
- *How do we treat with GLB family members, co-workers and others in society?*
- *How do we deal with GLB and the Media?”*

How do we deal with GLB and the Media? What of those who say GLB behavior is natural? What dawah can we give to someone who is GLB?

The Majlistt paper delves into responses to these issues in some depth, drawing on references from the Quran, Hadith and contemporary publications to explore the various aspects in more depth.

In essence, what is clear is that it is prohibited in Islam, both for the (spiritual and physical) benefit of society and for individuals themselves.

It is also clear that there are limits to how these persons are to be treated within society and the community – a very different position from what is popularly purported to be Islam’s position in the mainstream media.

Access the entire paper at <http://majlistt.com> or through any contact information included.

The Scholars are:

- Dr. Musa Mohamed
- Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed
- Maulana Mushtaq Sulaimani
- Maulana Muhammed Shahid
- Maulana Kavir Mohammed
- Maulana Junaid Ahmad
- Maulana Siddiq Nasir
- Mufti Gulam Ahmed Chistie
- Mufti Mohammed Asrar ul Haque
- Mufti Zaidurraza Mohammed
- Sheikh Alaa Makshat
- Sheikh Mohamed Munaf
- Sheikh Umar Khan

OTHER PAPERS

Access Final Position Papers on the following topics:

- Sighting of the New Moon
- Insulting Islam
- Use of Stunning in Processing of Chickens
- Mechanical Slaughter of Chickens
- ISIS and the Paris Attacks
- Gay, Lesbian and Bi-Sexuality – Islamic Position and Muslim Response



The Majlis ul Ulamaa is a forum for the scholars of Islam resident and active in Trinidad and Tobago to work together to define the authentic Islamic position on issues relating to Islam or affecting the Muslims of Trinidad and Tobago.

We welcome your comments, queries and concerns. For more information or to get involved please contact the Secretariat at:

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