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Assalam Alaikum warahmatuLlahi Wabarakatuh. There is an urgent appeal to revive an Islamic founded magazine that was launched end of 2009 and has been shelved since 2012 after the 8th issue.

MyDeen magazine was established to promote awareness about Islam since its the complete way of life and to encourage Muslims to practice their Deen. It will be a vessel to inform the public about Islamic principles in everyday life and to actively interact with one another so as to empower the communities we live in economically, socially and spiritually.

We need to generate income to sustain the magazine and leave a beneficial legacy for any strategic alliances we partner with.

Our content delivery will focus on akhlaq (good mannerisms) and steer clear of controversial issues plus focus on diversity and inclusion.

We are excited to partner with MyDeen kids from Canada that has been successfuly engaging kids for the last 7 years and still going strong.

We shall localize their content and ride on their success. This will ensure continuity and relevance in distributing the magazine in schools & to parents. Bi idhni Rahman.

The founding members who still have the good will



include Zuhra Mulumba, Imaam Kasozi, Jamil Sewanyana, Umar Kakonge, Musa Senyonga, Zahra Muhammed, Zaitun Saad and Hafiz Ndaula(R. I. P.) Allahu Ghafuru Rahim

Our value proposition is Functionality/Relevance; Monetary/Profitability;

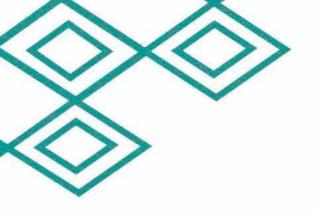
Social responsibility;

Psychological/Sadakatul jaria; etc.

These will have to be expounded on in an open discussion to get a buy in from our partners as time goes by.

Ure cordially invited to be part of MyDeen Magazine.

May Allah Facilitate





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Today's Beautiful Hadith

SHABAN

Usamah bin Zaid (RA) said: "I said: 'O Messenger of Allah (SAW), I do not see you fasting any month as much as Shaban.' He said: 'That is a month to which people do not pay much attention, between Rajab and Ramadan. It is a month in which the deeds are taken up to the Lord of the worlds, and I like that my deeds be taken up when I am fasting."

(Sunan an-Nasa'i 2357, Book 22, Hadith 268)

Shaban is here and it is the gateway to the month of Ramadan. In this month, our deeds are taken up to Allah (SWT). This is a real opportunity to repent and make tawbah for our sins and ask Allah to accept our good deeds, while doing as much as we can, including making good intentions. May Allah forgive us and accept our good deeds, and may we have our own HOTD team in Jannah too. Ameen.

We have now entered the Islamic month of Shaban.

Here are 10 action items for this amazing month which will gain you immense reward Insha'Allah.

ONE: Keep an Eye on the Month's Crescent أَحْصُوا هِلَالَ شَعْبَالَ

Muḥammad (peace and blessings be upon him) instructed, "Keep track of Shaʾbānʾs crescent!" – (Tirmidhī)

TWO: Pay Particular Attention to Shaʿbān كَانَ رَسُولُ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وِسَلَّمَ يَتَحَفَّظُ مِن شَعِبانَ ما لا يَتَحفَّظُ مِن غيرِهِ "The Messenger of God (peace and blessing be upon him) was particular of the Shaʿbān month in a manner he was not for any other month." – (Abū Dāwūd) THREE: Seek Shaʿbān's Blessings Through Supplications

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ، وَشَعْبَانَ، وَبَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ

The Prophet of God (peace and blessing be upon him) would supplicate as follows, "O God bless us in Rajab and Shaʿbān. Allow us to reach Ramaḍān." – (Ṭabrānī and Bayhaqī)

FOUR: Render Optional Fasting لَمْ يَكُنِ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَصنُومُ شَهْرًا أَكْثَرَ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يَصنُومُ شَعْبَانَ كُلَّهُ

"The Prophet (peace and blessing be upon him) never fasted in any month more than in the month of Shaʿbān. He would practically fast the entire month." – (Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī)

مَا رَأَيْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم فِي شَهْرٍ أَكْثَرَ صِيَامًا مِنْهُ فِي شَعْبَانَ

"I never saw the Messenger of God (peace and blessings be upon him) fast more in any month, than in Shaʿbān." - (Nasaʾī)

أَسَامَةُ بْنُ زَيْدٍ، قَالَ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللّهِ لَمْ أَرَكَ تَصُومُ شَهْرًا مِنَ الشُّهُورِ مَا تَصُومُ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ قَالَ ذَلِكَ شَهْرٌ يَغْفُلُ النَّاسُ عَنْهُ بَيْنَ رَجَبٍ وَرَمَضَانَ وَهُوَ شَهْرٌ تُرْفَعُ فِيهِ الأَعْمَالُ إِلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ فَأَحِبُ أَنْ يُرُفَعَ عَمَلِي وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ

"Osāmah bin Zayd (may God be pleased with him) reports, "I stated, "O Messenger of God (peace and blessing be upon him), I do not see you fasting any month as much as in Shaʿbān." He replied, "That is a month to which people do not pay much attention, between Rajab and Ramaḍān. It is a month in which

deeds are taken up to the Lord of the worlds, and I prefer that my deeds be taken up when I am fasting."

– (Nasaʾī)

FIVE: Be Mindful شَعْبَانَ شَهْرٌ يَغْفُلُ النَّاسُ عَنْهُ

"Shaʿbān is a month to which people are neglectful about." – (Nasaʾī)

SIX: Increase Good Deeds

هُوَ شَهُرٌ ثُرْفَعُ فِيهِ الأَعْمَالُ إِلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ فَأُحِبُّ أَنْ يُرْفَعَ عَمَلِي وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ

Muḥammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "Shaʿbān is a month in which deeds are taken up to the Lord of the worlds, and I prefer that my deeds be taken up while I am fasting." – (Nasaʾī)

SEVEN: Engage in Additional Individual Worship on the Eve of the 15th

إِذَا كَانَتْ لَيْلَةُ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ فَقُومُوا لَيْلَهَا وَصُومُوا نَهَارَهَا

"When it is the night of the middle of Shaʿbān, spend its night in prayer and observe a fast on that day." – (Ibn Mājah)

إِنَّ الدُّعَاءَ يُسْتَجَابُ فِي لَيْلَةِ النِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ

"Supplications are accepted on night of the middle of Shaʿbān." – (Kitāb Al-Omm Li-Al-Shāfiʿe)

وَقَالَ الْمَنَاوِيْ فِيْ فَيْضِ الْقَدِيْرِ قَالَ ابْنُ تَيْمِيَّة لَيْلَةُ نِصْفِ شَعْبَانَ رُوِيَ فِيْ فَصْلِهَا مِنَ السَّلَفِ مَنْ خَصَّهَا فَضْلِهَا مِنَ السَّلَفِ مَنْ خَصَّهَا بِقُصْلِهَا مِنَ السَّلَفِ مَنْ خَصَّهَا بِالصَّلاةِ فِيْهَا وَصَوْمُ شَعْبَانَ جَاءَتْ فِيْهِ أَخْبَارٌ صَحِيْحَةُ

"According to the principle of the professors of ḥadīth (muḥaddithūn), the excellence of the night of Barā'ah (15th eve of Sha'bān) is proven from a conjunction of many narrations. This is the general consensus of the professors of ḥadīth and Islamic jurists, and this is correct. Even Imām Ibn Taymīyyah, a scholar notorious for refuting such matters, also accepts the virtue of the night of Barā'ah. He says, 'So many narrations and reports exist, regarding the excellence of the fifteenth night of Sha'bān that one is compelled to accept that this night does possess some virtue.' Some of the pious predecessors used to specially devote this night for ritual prayer." —

(Fayd Al-Qadīr)

EIGHT: Prepare for Ramaḍān

أَخْرَجَهُ التِّرْمِذِيْ مِنْ حَدِيْثِ أَنْسٍ سُئِلَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَيَّ الصِّيَامِ أَخْرَجَهُ التَّرْمِذِيْ مِنْ عَبَانَ تَعْظِيْمًا لِرَمَضَانَ أَفْضَانَ عَلَمْ الرَّمَضَانَ

Anas (may God be pleased with him) reports, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was asked, "Which fasts are most superior after Ramaḍān?" He replied, "[The fasting of] Shaʿbān in preparation of Ramaḍān." – (Tirmidhī, Laṭāif Al-Maʾārif)

NINE: Refrain from Fasting a Day or Two Prior to Ramadān

لاَ يَتَقَدَّمَنَّ أَحَدُكُمْ رَمَضَانَ بِصَوْمِ يَوْمِ أَوْ يَوْمَيْنِ إِلاَّ أَنْ يَكُونَ رَجُلٌ كَانَ يَصُومُ لاَ يَتَقَدَّمَنَّ أَحُدُكُمْ رَمَضَانَ بِصَوْمِ أَوْ يَوْمَيْنِ إِلاَّ أَنْ يَكُونَ رَجُلٌ كَانَ يَصُومُ

"None of you should fast a day or two before the month of Ramaḍān unless they have the habit of fasting [optional fasts, and their fasting coincides with that day] then they can fast that day." – (Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī)

TEN: Abstain from Misguided and Baseless Activities

"In Shaʿbān, some people indulge in several activities which they regard as necessary for celebration such as cooking some special type of meal, illuminating houses or mosques, and improvised structures. All such activities are not only baseless and innovated in the later days by ignorant people, but in some cases they are pure imitation of some rituals performed by disbelieving communities. Muslims should strictly abstain from all such activities." – (Muftī Taqī Usmānī)







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Random Acts of Kindness Week 2024

#RAKWeek is February 11-17, 2024!

Random Acts of Kindness Week is the perfect time to #MakeKindnessTheNorm by sharing your stories of kindness along with making a big impact through small acts. See what a difference a small act can make - Meet Norm.

Tag your stories on social media with #RAKWeek and visit randomactsofkindness.org for FREE inspiration, ideas, and resources.

Make Kindness the Norm

Day 1: Sunday - Kindness Starts with You

Story: Reflect on a time when an act of kindness

made a difference in your life.

Challenge: Perform a random act of kindness for yourself, such as practicing self-care or expressing gratitude for your own accomplishments.

Day 2: Monday - Spreading Joy in the Community Story: Share stories of kindness you've witnessed

or experienced within your community.

Challenge: Challenge yourself to perform a random act of kindness within your community, such as helping a neighbor in need, picking up litter in a public space, or thanking essential workers in your area.

Day 3: Tuesday - Kindness in the Workplace Story: Share a story about someone who demonstrates kindness and compassion in the workplace.

Challenge: Show your appreciation to your coworkers or employees by writing thank-you notes or buying their favorite treat or beverage.

Day 4: Wednesday

Story: Share heartwarming stories of love and kindness and the impact it has had on you.

Challenge: Download The Kind Heart Project and perform an act of kindness for a stranger, someone you know or even yourself.

Day 5: Thursday - Kindness in School

Story: Think of someone who impacted you when you were at school. It could be a teacher, a coach, a friend, your parents.

Challenge: Reach out to the person you're thinking about and share your story with them. We'd love to hear it too!

Day 6: Friday - Cultivating Kindness in Relationships

Story: Reflect on the relationships in your life and how kindness strengthens them.

Challenge: Reach out to a friend or family member you haven't spoken to in a while and express your

appreciation for them. Consider sending a handwritten note.

Day 7: Saturday - Random Acts of Kindness Day #RAKDay

Story: Reflect on the week's activities and the impact of spreading kindness.

Challenge: Continue incorporating acts of kindness into your daily life beyond this week. Join our global community of RAKtivists and help Make Kindness the Norm.

We can create change that extends beyond Random Acts of Kindness Week. Let's continue to inspire and uplift one another, one story and one act of kindness at a time.

Together, let's make kindness the norm!

#RAKWeek #RAKDay #MakeKindnesstheNorm #RAKtivists





QUR'AN REFLECT

Hammad Fahim4 Hrs

56

The Disease of Conviction Before Comprehension "Do not follow what you have no sure knowledge of. Indeed, all will be called to account for their hearing, sight, and intellect." (Quran 17:36)

Having fervor and zeal for the truth is a good thing. However, when misguided passion takes over, we end up barking up the wrong tree. The Quran advises against claiming knowledge about something we are ignorant of.

As I was reading through the book of one of the greatest hadith scholars of our time, Sheikh Muhammad 'Awwāmah, titled "The Impact of Hadith on the Differences Among the Scholars of Jurisprudence" (اثر الحديث في اختلاف الائمة الفقهاء), the Sheikh mentions an incident which caught my attention. A student, whose main occupation was fixing cars as a mechanic, approached the Sheikh after Isha prayer and confidently claimed that Imam Abu Hanifa and Imam Shafi'i should have followed a hadith in Sahih Muslim. Without going into detail, he mentioned the names of two other scholars, Kamal ibn al-Humam and Imam Al-Lucknawi (Rahimahumullah). However, the passionate brother completely mispronounced their names, referring to them as Ibn al-Hammam and Al-Lakanaawi respectively. This incident serves to show that he wasn't even familiar with the correct spelling of their names, let alone their works! The Sheikh patiently tried to explain the methodology of hadith and why the Imams had different approaches in their treatment of hadith, but to no avail. The man remained unconvinced. It was evident that the brother lacked specialisation in the subject and was not an objective student.

I had a similar experience when I once invited the great teacher and Imam Dr. Jamal al-Badawi (may Allah preserve him) to give a talk. After the talk, a brother approached him and discussed a controversial subject, referring to Ibn Taymiyyah as Ibn

Thyme-miah! It was evident, to say the least, that he couldn't even pronounce the name of the person who was supposedly the source of his evidence. Not only that, he had little knowledge of Arabic and was unfamiliar with the thoughts and works of the Imam.

The point here is clear. Do not forcefully assert your opinions in a subject that you have not fully grasped. And if you do, then remain humble and inquisitive instead of being boisterous and overconfident. Secondly, do not have misguided conviction without appreciating all perspectives.

In commenting on the verse (17:36), Qatadah said: "Do not say, 'I have seen,' when you have not seen, and 'I have heard,' when you have not heard, and 'I have known,' when you have not known." Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both) also said the same. (Qurtubi)

May Allah grant us humility and passion based on insight and knowledge. Amen.

سورة 17 : الإسراء الآية: 36 وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ ٱلسَّمْعَ وَٱلْبَصَرَ وَٱلْفُوَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ ٱلسَّمْعَ وَٱلْبَصَرَ وَٱلْفُوَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا (36) عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا (36)

Chapter 17: The Night Journey, Verse: 36
Do not follow what you have no 'sure' knowledge of. Indeed, all will be called to account for 'their' hearing, sight, and intellect. (36)



How do you improve the quality of your Salah

Assalamualaykum,

We hope you are doing well in both eeman and health.

All Muslims, regardless of their level of eeman, want to get closer to Allah. We strive for a deeper connection with Him through the way that we worship daily, and we aim to improve the quality of our Salah by offering more meaningful prayers.

But what do you do if you are one of those people who find themselves slipping with their Salah? How do you improve the quality of your Salah such that it brings you closer to Allah (swt)?

But what do you do if you are one of those people who find themselves slipping with their Salah? How do you improve the quality of your Salah such that it brings you closer to Allah (swt)? We share some helpful tips below:

1. Seek the Help of Allah

It will be foolhardy of us to think that we can improve our lives without the help of Allah (swt), and considering that a lot of Muslims sometimes find Salah challenging, we need to ask the one who accepts our Salah to make it easier for us.

اللَّهُمُّ لاَ سَهُلاً إِلَّا مَا جَعَلْتَهُ سَهُلاً وَأَنْتَ تَجَعَلَ الْحَرَنَ إِذَا شِئِتَ سَهُلاً

Allâhumma lâ sahla illâ mâ ja'altahu sahlâ wa anta taj'alu al-hazana idhâ shi'ta sahlâ

"Oh Allah! Nothing is easy except what You have made easy. If You wish, You can make the difficult easy."

This is a good dua for anyone who wants to find it easy to improve the quality of their Salah, and for anyone who struggles to even establish the daily prayer at all. So before we start on the road to performing more meaningful prayers, we should seek the help of Allah (swt).

2. Plan your Day around Salah

A lot of us already have a ritual for our day. But how many times do we make sure that our daily rituals and activities revolve around Salah and not the other way round?

When you wake up at the crack of dawn, you know how many minutes you have to get ready for work or school. You plan your commute so that you are not late, and you schedule social activities around your work hours.

What if your day was broken into five parts, with each Salah as the pillar? And then you structure your day such that whatever you are doing does not clash with the time of Salah.

One of the things that affect the quality of our Salah is that we have filled up our days with so many activities, such that when it is time for Salah, we just want to quickly pray and get back to our other activities.

Meaningful prayer requires proper planning. We need to carve out the times of prayer and treat them as sacred the way we would treat our resumption time at the workplace.

3. Have a salah mindset

How often do you look forward to Salah? Does your heart yearn for the next Salah, or are you reminded by the athan app on your phone?

Our hearts should be in a state of constantly thinking about Salah if we want to improve the quality of our Salah. Because we all know that the thing at the topmost on your mind is arguably the thing that you give the most attention to.

Think about the rewards of performing Salah on time, think about the light that will appear on your face on the day of judgement, think about the things that you want to ask Allah (swt) for at your next Salah. All these things will keep Salah on your mind and make you look forward to your next prayer, in sha'a Allah.

4. Memorize the Quran

Conversations are beautiful and more engaging when we know what to say. It is the same for Salah. The more chapters of the Holy Quran you know, the less monotonic your prayers become.

That is the beginning of improving the quality of your Salah. We should continue to memorize as many portions of the Quran as we can, so that with every prayer, we have a lot of options to recite from, and not just repeating the last three chapters of the Quran.

5. Understand the Words in a Salah

Every time you put your forehead on the ground in prostration to Allah (swt), do you know what you are saying? When you sit for the tashaahud, before completing your prayers, do you understand what you are reciting? Do you know how the tashaahud came to be?

The more we know about our Salah, the more connected we become, and that will ultimately improve the quality of our Salah.

6. Detox your Mind

These days, our minds hardly go quiet. There is information everywhere. There is something to read or watch. And because we are in the decade where people have the fear of missing out on trending topics, we find ourselves consuming more information than necessary.

The effect of this information overload trickles down to our Salah. While you are praying, shaytaan is whispering to you about that tweet you just read before you started your prayer. Or that Facebook status that caused quite a stir. And you start to think of your response to the Facebook post while on Salah.

One of the things that spoil our Salah is the lack of concentration caused by thinking about too many things. This is why it is important to detox your mind. Get rid of thoughts that are not important to you, so that they will not be on your mind when you are on Salah.

7. Choose your Environment Carefully

Imagine being a soccer fan and performing Salah in a room where everyone else is watching a live match? There is a high chance that your concentration will be affected.

Our environment plays a huge part in the quality of our Salah. Choose somewhere quiet with no distractions and you will find yourself being able to focus more on your conversation with Allah (swt).

8. Observe Salah Slowly

People who rush through their Salah miss out on having a meaningful prayer. It is a bit like seeing your friend on the sidewalk and you just wave "hello, bye!" to them without stopping to have a conversation.

Salah is a time to connect with Allah (swt). It is a time to slow down from all the speed surrounding

us and reflect upon our purpose in life.

If you want to improve the quality of your Salah such that your prayers are meaningful and you earn more rewards, you need to slow down when performing Salah.

Recite the Quran at a normal speed, focus on your tajweed so that you are pronouncing the words the right way, and give yourself time to let the words of Allah (swt) have an effect on your heart.

9. Pray more Often

People say that to get better at something, you need to consistently practice it. The quality of our Salah cannot increase if we only pray whenever we remember, or whenever is convenient.

If we want to improve the quality of our Salah and attain that connection that we crave with Allah (swt), we should pray more often, and as much as we can.

That includes observing all five obligatory prayers, the voluntary prayers, and the midnight voluntary prayers.

10. Seek for Knowledge

Seeking knowledge is a duty upon every Muslim. And this is a duty that leads us to more understanding about our faith. The more you know about Islam, the more you love it, and your heart yearns to fulfill all that Allah (swt) has commanded of us.

The more we know about the history of Islam, the better we understand the importance of Salah and the reason why we should strive to improve the quality of our Salah.

It is possible for us to attain that level of consciousness where we offer Salah more, and with better understanding. And as Muslims, we know

that this is one of the goals that we should strive for the most in this life so that we can see the rewards in the hereafter.







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BOYS TO MEN

A Call for Mentorship

in a Changing World
In the patterns of human existence, the transition

In the patterns of human existence, the transition from boyhood to manhood is a delicate thread woven with the guidance and mentorship of those who have walked the path before. Yet, in today's world, this vital thread often being weakened and breaks, leaving many young boys drowning in a sea of darkness, with the absence of the guiding light of mentorship.

As I, Kasozi Abdul Wahab, reflect on my own journey from boyhood, I cannot help but lament the lack of mentorship that plagues countless young boys today. In a society that often overlooks the needs of young boys, favoring instead the nurturing of girls and women, we are left to navigate the tumultuous waters of adolescence alone, with no compass to guide us.

The system, it seems, is stacked against us from the very beginning. In the innocence of youth, our voices are drowned out, our struggles ignored. We are told to be men before we even know what that truly means, forced to swallow our pain and suppress our emotions lest we be deemed weak. But what of the boys who never had the opportunity to learn what it means to be a man? Who never had a mentor to show them the way?

I speak not only from my own experience but from the collective experience of countless young boys who have been left in the shadows, their voices unheard and their potential untapped. As a firstborn son, I was fortunate to receive love and guidance from my parents, but I know that this is not the reality for many boys around the world. Without the guiding hand of a mentor, we are left vulnerable to the whims of a world that often seems stacked against us.

But it is not only the boys who suffer in this absence of mentorship; it is society as a whole. For how can we expect the current generation of girls and women, who have been nurtured and mentored, to coexist harmoniously with a generation of men who have been left to fend for themselves? The imbalance created by this lack of mentorship threatens to tear at the very fabric of our society, leaving us divided and disconnected.

We must recognize the importance of mentorship in shaping the men of tomorrow. We must create spaces where young boys can find guidance and support, where they can learn to navigate the complexities of manhood with strength and compassion. We must redefine what it means to be a man, tearing down the walls of toxic masculinity that have long confined us to narrow definitions of strength and emotionlessness.

It is time for a change. It is time to invest in the mentorship of young boys, to give them the tools they need to navigate the journey from boyhood to manhood with confidence and resilience. Only then can we hope to build a future where men and women can coexist as equals, bound together by mutual respect and understanding.

I ABDUL WAHAB THAT'S HOW I THINK





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My Deen Magazine has an objective of propagating Islamic education (Dawa), e.g Islamic Banking while explicity being current on matters concerning our daily lives with elaborate social, environmntal and economical content, as guided by the Quran and hadith and targets to reach over 50% of the Islamic population across East Africa. This mission fits with our tagline 'the complete way of life'.

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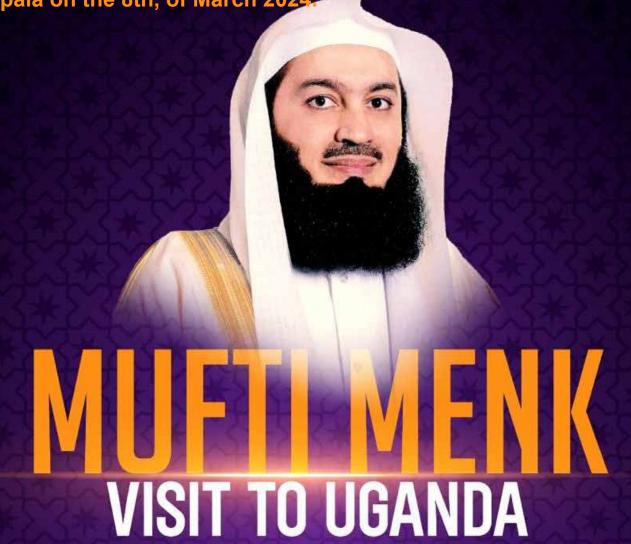




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The Real Reasons Why People Choose Islam:

After much research, binging on YouTube videos filmed by converts and sifting through many emails sent from new Muslims kind enough to help me write this piece objectively, here are the top most common answers to this intriguing question: Despite the war against Islam, how did converts find peace?

1- "It just feels right"

One God, one book, one message, and a final prophet whose teachings, dated back to the 600s, are currently being proven to be miraculous. Becoming Muslim feels like the final step to reaching true peace. It makes sense to worship the Creator alone, and not His creations.

2- "There's serenity in this direct relationship with the Almighty Lord."

No need for 'private confessions' to priests and no need for 'salvation'. Islam is a religion of open and honest communication with God. There's no middleman here. For Allah, the All-Knowing, knows your thoughts and secrets. He listens to your prayers and is the only One capable of opening your mind and softening your heart. This soothing concept washes our exasperating feelings of loneness away.

3-"The 'staged violence' has reached a point where it's become ludicrous."

This reason might seem weird but go with me. The attacks on us because of a few extremists that we ourselves condemn have proved suspicious. The 'intolerance' attacks hail on all Muslims like thunderbolts, blaming Islam for the carnage and never giving a chance to explain. The biased hate is palpable. If it were true that almost two billion Muslims are actually taught killing non-Muslims was their gateway to eternal heaven, they would have united and erased the rest of the population in no time at all! It's become glaring how many political entities are using the media to try and corrupt the image of Islam because they're threatened by its strength. Average citizens are ultimately seeing through these schemes and making their own decisions.

4- "Many Christians have finally cracked the code, and if you read the Bible carefully, you'll crack it too."

It is a shocking revelation for many to realize that nowhere in their Holy books does Jesus say that he is God. In fact, the first of the Ten Commandments in the Bible clearly states 'Do not have any other god before God'.

5- The Holy Qur'an has never been changed and will never be changed till the end of time. This fact is extremely comforting and appealing, especially for those desperately seeking the truth. Millions of people over the past centuries and from around the globe have learnt the whole book by heart. 6236 verses; word-by-word and letter-by-letter. If this isn't a miracle, I don't know what is.

6- Some people take the plunge into studying the Holy Qur'an for the sole purpose of proving it wrong, yet are surprisingly transformed into firmly persuaded converts. The rules of Islam are all based on logic, morals, justice and matters of the heart. And unlike popular belief, the basic pillars and practices are clearly documented; there is hardly any room for confusion.

Honestly, no matter what the reasons are, I believe there's a higher divine wisdom that we can never fully conceive. A part of us will always wonder why some hearts are opened to the final message and why others are repelled by it. Why, Omar Ibn Al Kattab, a former enemy of Islam; is now buried next to our beloved prophet, while Abu Taleb, Prophet Muhammad's own supportive uncle, died a disbeliever. We will never completely understand why some will reject this faith even if they personally experience a million specific proofs and wonders, and why others will embrace it with only one random sign.

Time to quote the familiar Qur'an verse echoing in your mind right now?

Yes, I think so too...

"In the name of Allah, The Most Merciful and The Most Compassionate.

'Indeed (O Muhammad), you do not guide whom you like, but Allah guides whom He wills. And He is most knowing of the (rightly) guided' (Holy Quran, 28:56)

To all of those who never inherited this beautiful religion but actually sought it out like a rare gem...

I don't know what kind of spiritual power it takes to conquer such challenges, and I don't know if born

Muslims would have been able to do the same had they been put in your situation.

All I know is we value the thing we earn, and appreciate the beauty in it more. As converts, you must see the world through a different lens. You probably see lights and colors we don't even know can exist in this life....

All I know is being Muslim isn't a label we hold onto or run away from.

Some non-Muslims convert for all the wrong reasons, and some Muslims apostatize after being on the right track.

Some non-Muslims practice our faith without even knowing it, while some Muslims need to convert to Islam and start learning about their religion.

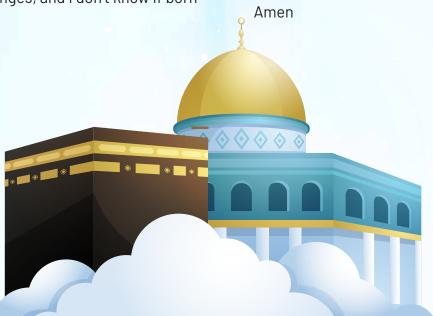
The truth is, there's more to life than this life...

And it's only when you truly submit to the Magnificent Lord that you'll feel the glory of it all...

To my ever growing family of Muslims

May you find your new homes inside our hearts, through our prayers and within our love and support.

And may peace always and forever be upon you...





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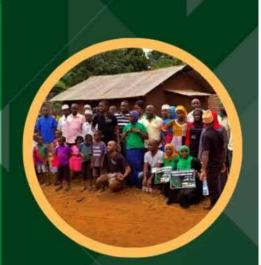
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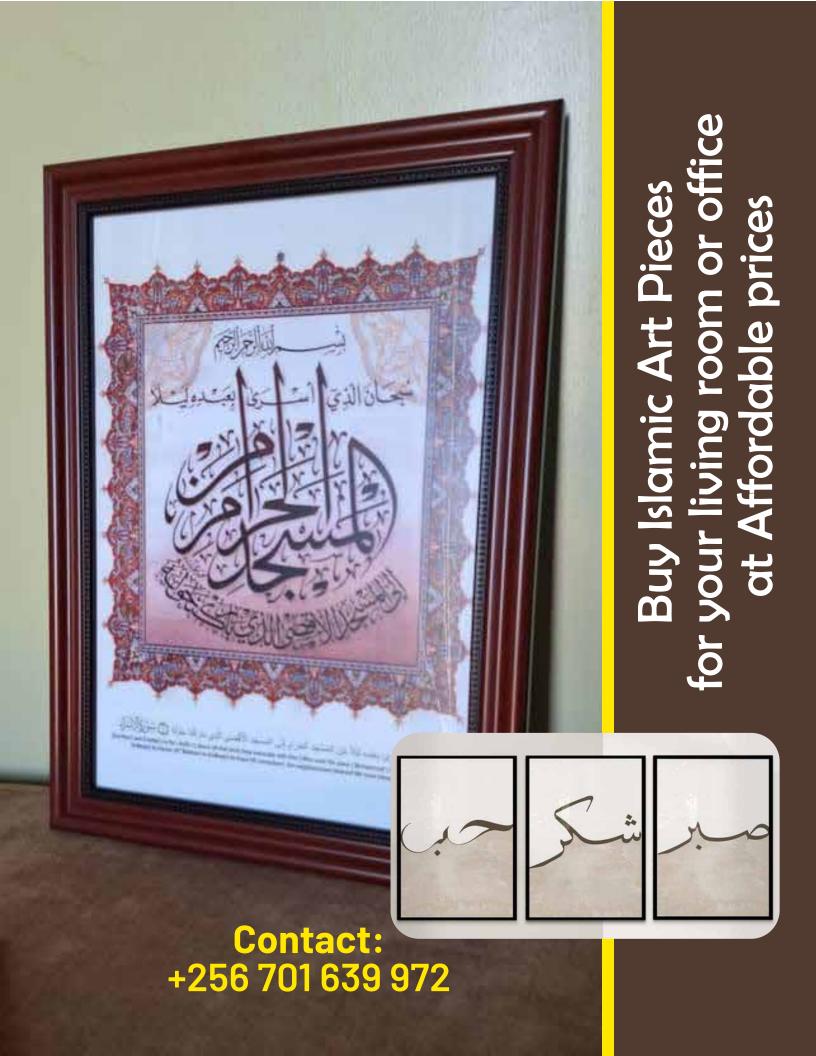


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