

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ISF NEWSLETTER

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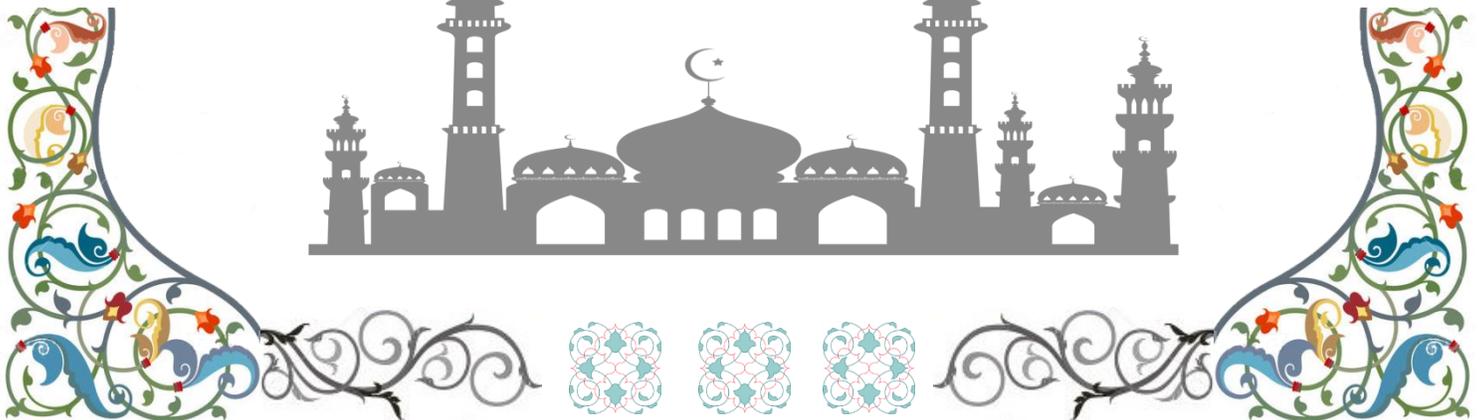
ISF newsletter is a monthly magazine containing Islamic articles and stories, general knowledge information and fun stuff for youth and families.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please call us at 916-358-6283 or send an email to isfnewsgroup@yahoo.com or send a note to ISF, 1835 Prairie city Rd, Folsom, CA 95630.

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From Quran:

Surah al-Hujurat

The goal of this Surah is to elucidate upon a series of life-giving commandments of Akhlaq (Ethics and Morality) and social interaction which (if put into practice), would lead an ideal civilization. These in turn could create and cultivate a pure society that is far removed from all sorts of blameworthy moral traits.

According to the unanimous verdict of all the commentators of the Qur'an, the number of verses of this Surah are eighteen. This Surah was revealed in Madinah. It is the surah no:49.

If the conditions and ethical injunctions mentioned in this Surah were acted upon within all societies, then we would definitely be able to bring about a calm and peaceful environment.

Surah al-Hujurat - Verse 11

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا يَسْخَرُ قَوْمٌ مِّن قَوْمٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونُوا خَيْرًا مِّنْهُمْ وَلَا نِسَاءٌ مِّن نِّسَاءٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُنَّ خَيْرًا مِّنْهُنَّ وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَلَا تَنَابَرُوا بِالْألقَابِ بِئْسَ الْإِسْمُ الْفُسُوقُ بَعْدَ الْإِيمَانِ وَمَن لَّمْ يَتُبْ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ

11. O you who believe! Let not a group derides another. It may be that the latter are better than the former. Nor let women deride other women. It may be that the latter are better than the former. Neither defame one another, nor insult one another by nicknames [since] doing wrong after

having faith is an evil practice [unbefitting you]. And whosoever does not repent

Surah al-Hujurat - Verse 12

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَب بَّعْضُكُم بَعْضًا أَيُحِبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ

12. O you who believe! Avoid much suspicion. Indeed some suspicions are sins. And spy not [on others], neither backbite one another. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? By no means, [since] you would hate it. And fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is the One Who forgives and accepts repentance, Most Merciful.

From Hadith: Evil's of Backbiting.....

Like many repugnant qualities, backbiting in time turns into mental disorder such that backbiters derive pleasure from their blameworthy acts and find satisfaction Since backbiting entails trampling human right (haqq al-nas), it is incumbent upon him to offer him his apologies even in terse expressions, like, owing to ignorance, he slandered him behind his back and demands forgiveness.

It is also worthy of note that besides committing the sin of backbiting, listening to the same or attending sessions in which

people are being slandered behind their back are also unlawful. According to a number of traditions, it is incumbent upon Muslims to reject backbiting, i.e. they are supposed to defend the honor of their Muslim brother.

It would be so pleasant to live in a society in which such moral precepts are precisely acted upon. In this respect, a number of traditions will be cited hereunder.

The Noble Messenger of Allah (S) said:

*“Three persons will not be admitted to Paradise: reminder of past favors done to others, slanderer talking behind other people’s back, drinker of alcoholic beverages.”*³⁷

*“Abstaining from backbiting is dearer to God Almighty than establishing ten thousand units of recommendable prayers.”*³⁸

*“The expiation for the victim of backbiting is to ask God Almighty to forgive him.”*³⁹

*“Whoever believes in God Almighty and the Day of Judgment is not supposed to attend a session in which a certain Imam or leader is slandered or a Muslim is the victim of backbiting.”*⁴⁰

*“One who listens to backbiting is a culprit of the backbiter.”*⁴¹

*“Backbiting, slandering, and telling lies lead to torment of the grave.”*⁴²

*“Paradise is ordained to one who abstains from backbiting, anger, and envy.”*⁴³

*“Abstain from envy, anger, and backbiting and maintain brotherhood O God’s servants.”*⁴⁴

*“It is unlawful for Muslims to backbite. Verily, in the like manner that fire consumes firewood, backbiting consumes good deeds and qualities.”*⁴⁵

*“Leave the deceased alone and abstain from reiterating their vices. Talk about the good qualities of the deceased.”*⁴⁶

Imam Ridha (as) narrates from Imam Sajjad that whoever refrains from disgracing Muslims, God Almighty will ignore his faults.⁴⁷

According to traditions, one who pries into his brethren’s faults [and talks about the same with others] God Almighty will expose his vices.⁴⁸

According to a tradition, sitting at a mosque waiting for congregation prayer so long as it does not involve backbiting is regarded as worship of God Almighty.⁴⁹

In his last sermon in Medina, the Noble Prophet of Islam (S) said:

“Backbiting invalidates fasting.”

In other words, one who backbites is deprived of the spiritual and religious merits of the fasting.

Youth Corner:

A Mother's Dua: Beautiful Story...

A Poor Couple lived in a Small Village in India.

They had only 1 Son.

They gave him the Best Education.

Son Graduated as an Engineer in the nearby City

Eventually He got Married to a Rich Girl.

Initially, They Lived with His Parents in the Village.

Soon the Wife got Tired of Village Life & Persuaded Her Husband to Move to the City Leaving His Old Parents in the Village.

As Time went, the Husband saw an Ad in the Newspaper about a Job Vacancy in Jeddah.

He was Successful & Lived in Jeddah for 20 Years with His Wife.

Regularly, He used to Send Money to His Parents

Eventually with Time, He Stopped & Forgot about His Parents whether They ever Existed.

Every Year He would Perform Hajj & Immediately after each Hajj, He used to see Someone telling Him

in a Dream that his Hajj is not Accepted.

One Day, He Related this Story to a 'Pious Aalim' who Advised Him to go Back to India to Visit His Parents.

The Man Flew to India & Reached the Boundary of His Village.

Everything was Changed over there.

He could not Find His House.

So He asked to the Head of the Village about the Whereabouts of His Parents.

The Head of the Village directed Him to a House & said: "In this House, Lives an Old Blind Lady who Lost Her Husband a Few Months Ago. She has a Son who Migrated to Saudi Arabia 20 Years back & Never came Back again. What an Unfortunate Man."

Son enters that Home & Finds His Mother on the Bed.

He Tip-Toed as He did not want to Wake Her up.

He hears His Mother Whispering or Mumbling Something.

He gets Closer to Hear His Mothers Voice.

This is what His Mother was Saying: "Ya Allah !

I am now Very Old & Blind.

My Husband just Died.

There is no Mahram to Lower Me in My

Grave when I Die. So please Send My Son to Fullfill My Last Wish".

This is the Ending of a Story where the DUA of a Mother is Accepted.

A Human Body can Bear only 45 Del (units) of Pain.

But at the Time of Giving Birth, A Mother feels upto 57 Del (units) of Pain.

This is similar to 20 Bones getting Fractured, all at the Same Time.

This is just to tell U the extent, to which a Mother Loves Her Child.

So, Love Ur Mom till the End of Ur Life.

The Lady with whom U Fight almost Everyday, Suffered so much Pain just to give U a Beautiful Life.

GEMS:

Life is similar to Boxing game, defeat is not declared when you fall down, it is declared when you refuse to get up.

Some people always throw stones in your path. It depends on what you make with them; a Wall or a Bridge? - Remember you are the architect of your life.

"Success is not measured by what you accomplish but by the opposition you have

encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds."

~Orison Swett Marden

Often when we lose all hope & think this is the end, remember Allah and pray, it's just a bend, not the end.' –

Have faith and have a successful life. One of the basic differences between Allah and humans is, Allah gives, gives and forgives. But the human gets, gets, gets and forgets. Be thankful in life...

Small Sins.....

Buffalos kill 7 people every year.
Lions kill 500 people every year
Hippos kill 800 people every year.
Spiders kill 5000 in people every year.
Scorpions kill 7000 people every year.
Snakes kill 10000 people every year.

Guess what?

Mosquitoes kill 2.7 million people every year.
The smallest are the deadliest.

Small 'sins',
hardly noticed by many,
are the most deadly to your spiritual life.

Avoid excuses for not praying and allotting few moments of your day to your creator the Lord Almighty.
Sins of omission are just as deadly as sins of commission.

White lies,
gossiping,
small lies,
are committed more frequently and are
deadly.

TITBITS:

I was sitting in a masjid after Juma prayer.

When it was time for offering, the chanda box was passed around. Despite the Imam's call for good offering, I still hurriedly and secretly pulled out an old worn out note of Rs 5 from my pocket and dropped it. Just then, the person behind me tapped me on the shoulder and handed me a Rs1000 note. I smiled, so generous. Then majestically, I looked around and put the Rs1000 in the box and passed it on. Then I turned and thanked the man seriously for being so generous. He replied "don't mention" be more careful next time, it fell from your pocket"

COOKS CORNER:

Baba Ghanouj Recipe:

Author: Esperance Sammour

Nutrition Information

- Serves: 4
- Serving size: 4 tbsp

Recipe type: Appetizer

Cuisine: Middle Eastern

Prep time: 10 mins

Cook time: 30 mins

Total time: 40 mins



Baba Ghanouj is a delicious Mediterranean appetizer made with fire roasted eggplants and Tahini sauce.

Ingredients

- 3-5 medium eggplants (3 lbs)
- 5 table spoons Tahini paste
- Juice from 1 freshly squeezed lemon
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 table spoon white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt (or to taste)

Instructions

1. Roast the eggplants in the oven on medium heat, or on a BBQ grill for about 30 minutes.
2. While eggplants are still hot (not too hot so you don't burn your hands), peel them and discard as much as possible of their seeds.
3. Strain the water from the eggplants by placing them on a colander for about 10 minutes. This step is important so you don't get a liquid Baba Ghannouj.
4. Add eggplants and all ingredients in a food processor and let run for 2-3 minutes until you get a paste.
5. Place Baba Ghanouj paste into a serving plate, garnish with any/all of the following: olive oil, chopped parsley, sumac spice or chili powder, salted pickles...etc

6. Serve cold as an appetizer, with a side of Pita bread.

ISF

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April / May 2016 Salat Iqama Times:

	Fajr	Zuhr	Asr	Maghreb	Esha
Apr 09 – Apr 15	5:45 am	1:30 pm	6:00 pm	Sunset	9:15 pm
Apr 16 – Apr 22	5:30 am	1:30 pm	6:00 pm	Sunset	9:15 pm
Apr 23 – Apr 29	5:30 am	1:30 pm	6:15 pm	Sunset	9:30 pm
Apr 30 – May 06	5:15 am	1:30 pm	6:15 pm	Sunset	9:45 pm

JUMA: Talk: 1:20pm Khutba and Salat: 1:40pm