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In the Name of Allah The Most Gracious The Most Merciful

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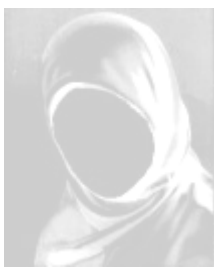
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A welcome from the BRISOC

Assalamu'alaikum wr. wb.,
Alhamdulillah the year so far has been one of measured success. For the first time the Brisoc organised daily Iftars at the Bristol Grammar School. The kinship that was felt during those days was one that would serve to endure for the rest of the year Insha'Allah. The Islamic Society will continue this success by the will of Allah.

Unfortunately, these have also been testing times for Muslims. There has been the vilification of the veil and the hijab and proposals by the education authority encouraging the monitoring of Muslims. Brisoc encourages all Muslims to speak out against these policies. Brisoc has been working with the university and the union to ensure that these policies are not implemented in our University. Brisoc encourages all Muslims to contact us if they face any problems of any nature. Jazakum Allahu Khairan

ONLY A PIECE OF CLOTH!



Imagine tomorrow the headline news would be that someone is trying to ban blue jeans and blue jeans wearers are out on mass protesting against this breach of civil rights. "Ridiculous" you say "That would never happen!"

You are probably right. This would never happen. As normal as it is for most of you to be wearing your blue jeans, so is the simple versatile clothing I don every day as I rush out the door just about remembering to take the rubbish out.

Around 10 years ago I decided to wear the Islamic hijab after countless days and months of reading, researching and soul-searching. That first day, was one of the happiest of my life, almost on par with my

"I wear the hijab with love, joy and pride"

wedding day and the births of my 2 sons! I was free and content and realised how easy it was and chided myself for making such a big deal. "It's only a piece of cloth!"

Yet it seems every other day the old arguments arise and the ignorant ideas that Muslim women are oppressed and subjugated under this cloth are voiced. Headline after headline consistently express their misconceived views on my hijab. So I would say to all who read this, do

what I did. Do your research and discover the truth, and you will realise that the hijab allows us to be judged for who we are rather than how we look.

We don this cloth to obey our Creator and to be free from the shackles of a society obsessed with beauty. We do not bow down to the fashion houses or men; we bow down only to Allah, the One who designed us and the One who protects us from all harm.

Allah tells us in the Qur'an; *"O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks over their bodies (when outdoors). That is most convenient that they should be known and not molested"* (Qur'an 33:59)

My hijab is my identity. It is my badge as a free-thinking woman and I wear it with love, joy and pride. Nevertheless, I am bemused when people still think we are forced to wear it by the men around us. I then remember the words of my Lord;

"...But Allah has endeared the Faith to you, and has made it beautiful in your hearts, and He has made hateful to you Unbelief, wickedness, and rebellion: such indeed are those who walk in righteousness;-" (Qur'an 49:07)

May Allah lift the cover of ignorance from all our hearts and cover it with the covering of righteousness. Ameen

Zahrah Ali

Science In The Light Of Islam: An Introduction

This article will be looking at the Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (may peace and bless of Allah be upon him) in relation to science.

Until today, there is nothing in the Qur'an which can be denied. Many breakthroughs in science have gained their inspiration from the Quran or have linked their findings to it. It is worth mentioning prominent names, who through their research have found Islam. Among them are Professor Abdullah Alison @ Arthur J Alison (former head of Department Electronic & Electrical Engineering UCL), Mr. Jacques Yves Cousteau (famous French oceanographer) and Professor Tajaten Tajasen (Dean of Medicine College, University of Chang-Mai, Thailand).



There are at least two reasons that explain the close relationship between Quran and Science. Firstly, there are no inconsistencies between the Quran and observable natural phenomena. The Quran attests for its own infallibility.

ذَٰلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٢١﴾

"This is the Scripture whereof there is no doubt..." (2:1)

The second reason for the remarkable harmony between the Qur'an and science is the presence in the Qur'an itself of very clear and positive encouragement to contemplate and investigate the world around us.

"It is He Who sendeth down rain from the skies: with it We produce vegetation of all kinds: from some We produce green (crops), out of which We produce grain, heaped up (at harvest); out of the date-palm and its sheaths (or spathes) (come) clusters of dates hanging low and near: and (then there are) gardens of grapes, and olives, and pomegranates, each similar (in kind) yet different (in variety): when they begin to bear fruit, feast your eyes with the fruit and the ripeness thereof. Behold! in these things there are signs for people who believe." (6:99)

The first Qur'anic verse that was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is:

اَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾

"Read in the name of Your Lord who created" (96:1)

The above Qur'anic verse can be understood by reflecting upon the story describing how revelations started with Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Whilst Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was in the cave of Hira' the archangel [Gabriel/ Jibrael (PBUH)] came to him and said: "Read". The Prophet replied, "I can not read." Then Jibrael squeezed the Messenger tightly until he almost suffocated, then released him and commanded, "Read". Jibrael (PBUH) repeated this sequence of actions two more times, before saying:

*"Read in The Name of Your Lord who has created * Created man from an object that clings * Read and your Lord is most Generous * Who taught by the pen * taught man what he knows not*" (96:1-5).*

Allah teaches the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and humanity our knowledge. When Jibril (Gabriel) said to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) read, his answer was "I cannot read". We notice from the response of Jibril, that this is not the answer that He wanted from Muhammad (PBUH). The answer Allah wanted from Muhammad (PBUH) is,

"Read in the name of your Lord who has created" (96:1).

Allah wants us to seek knowledge from the book which starts with the phrase **"In the name of Allah."** This is the Noble Qur'an.

The Quran should be our manual to understanding the world.

Subsequent issues shall continue with particular aspects of science.

Amir Syafiq

DECEMBER 2006						
Date	Fajr	Shurooq	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Eshaa
1	5:52	7:53	11:59	1:47	4:05	6:06
2	5:53	7:55	12:00	1:46	4:05	6:06
3	5:54	7:56	12:00	1:46	4:04	6:06
4	5:55	7:57	12:00	1:46	4:03	6:05
5	5:56	7:58	12:01	1:46	4:03	6:05
6	5:57	8:00	12:01	1:45	4:03	6:05
7	5:58	8:01	12:02	1:45	4:02	6:05
8	5:59	8:02	12:02	1:45	4:02	6:05
9	6:00	8:03	12:03	1:45	4:02	6:05
10	6:01	8:04	12:03	1:45	4:02	6:05
11	6:02	8:05	12:03	1:45	4:01	6:05
12	6:03	8:06	12:04	1:45	4:01	6:05
13	6:04	8:07	12:04	1:45	4:01	6:05
14	6:04	8:08	12:05	1:45	4:01	6:05
15	6:05	8:09	12:05	1:45	4:02	6:05
16	6:06	8:10	12:06	1:46	4:02	6:06
17	6:07	8:11	12:06	1:46	4:02	6:06
18	6:07	8:11	12:07	1:46	4:02	6:06
19	6:08	8:12	12:07	1:47	4:03	6:07
20	6:08	8:13	12:08	1:47	4:03	6:07
21	6:09	8:13	12:08	1:48	4:03	6:08
22	6:10	8:14	12:09	1:48	4:04	6:08
23	6:10	8:14	12:09	1:49	4:04	6:09
24	6:10	8:15	12:10	1:49	4:05	6:09
25	6:11	8:15	12:10	1:50	4:06	6:10
26	6:11	8:15	12:11	1:51	4:06	6:11
27	6:11	8:15	12:11	1:51	4:07	6:11
28	6:12	8:16	12:12	1:52	4:08	6:12
29	6:12	8:16	12:12	1:53	4:09	6:13
30	6:12	8:16	12:13	1:54	4:10	6:14
31	6:12	8:16	12:13	1:54	4:11	6:14

Bristol, United Kingdom,
University of Islamic
Sciences

Qibla = 116
16° E (From
True North)

How To Ask Allah To Help You Study

Why are we here at university? To gain knowledge? To earn a good livelihood? To qualify for marriage perhaps? These are all good intentions (apart from the last rather unfortunate one), but why not purify them? Remember Allah whilst we study, seek knowledge about Allah and strive to earn a good livelihood in order to give charity as Allah has ordered and as set by the example of the Prophet (PBUH). By aiming to please Allah, one will never be disappointed with the reward.

As we approach the holidays, many of you may start to prepare for exams. To make things easier, it would be good to make an early start.

The following *Du'as* will prove useful while studying (you should probably keep this page somewhere safe... don't file it away with the lecture notes that will soon be lost!). They will InshaAllah bring the blessing of Allah on what you learn, keep you focussed on your aims and in essence make it easier for you to study.

"Let's get down to some revision" - Du'a Before Studying

"ALLAHUMMA INFA'NII BIMAA 'ALLAMTANII WA'ALLIMNII MAA YANFA'UUNII. ALLAHUMMA INII AS'ALUKA FAHMAL-NABIYYEN WA HIFZAL MURSALEEN AL-MUQARRABEEN. ALLAHUMMA IJAL LEESANEE 'AIMAN BI DHIKRIKA WA QALBI BI KHASHYATIKA. INNAKA 'ALA MA-TASHA'U QADEER WA ANTA

HASBUN-ALLAHU WA NA'MAL WAKEEL."

"Oh Allah! Make useful for me what you have taught me and teach me knowledge that will be useful to me. Oh Allah! I ask you for the understanding of the prophets and the memory of the messengers, and those nearest to you. Oh Allah! Make my tongue full of your remembrance and my heart with consciousness of you. Oh Allah! You do whatever you wish, and you are my availer and protector and best of aid."

"Ok, I better remember that." - Du'a After Studying

"ALLAHUMMA INNI ASTAWDI'UKA MA QARA'TU WAMA HAFAZ-TU. FARUDDUHU 'ALLAYA INDA HAJATI ELAHI. INNAKA 'ALA MA-TASHA'U QADEER WA ANTA HASBEEYA WA NA'MAL WAKEEL"

"Oh Allah! I entrust you with what I have read and I have studied. Oh Allah! Bring it back to me when I am in need of it. Oh Allah! You do whatever you wish, you are my availer and protector and the best of aid."

"Arghhhh, this is so difficult, I am never gonna get this!" - Du'a While Studying Something Difficult

"ALLAHUMMA LA SAHLA ILLAMA JA-'ALTAHU SAHLA ANTA TAJ 'ALU AL HAZANA EZA MA SHI'TA SAHAL."

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

"Hmm... I wonder what's for dinner..." - Du'a For Concentration

"SALLALLAAHU ALAA MUHAMMAD WA 'AALI MUHAMMAD. ALLAHUMMA INNI AS'ALUKA YAA MUDHAKKIRA-L KHAYR WA FAA'ILAHU WA-L-AAMIMIRA BIHI DHAKIR-NI MAA ANSAANI-HI-SHAYTAN."

"Blessings of Allah be upon Muhammad and his progeny. O Allah, I ask you, the one who mentions goodness and actualizes it and commands it, remind me of that which the *shaytan* makes me forget."

Tausif Hussaini

Have always had a desire to express your thoughts and opinions? If you would like to join our editorial team, please contact:

Fatma Ali:
FA6501@bristol.ac.uk
Abdul Azeem:
AA4166@bristol.ac.uk

If you have any comments, opinions or suggestions please also contact the above people.

If you have any general questions or concerns regarding the Brisoc or other Islamic issues please contact:

Mohammed Faris:
MF4007@bristol.ac.uk



GAZA June to August 2006

- **186 Palestinians Killed, 42 Children Killed, 15 Houses Destroyed and 9850 Prisoners in Israeli Jails**
- **2 Israelis Killed (1 of which by friendly fire) and 1 Israeli soldier captured**
- **8 Homemade rockets a day fired by Palestinians**
- **250 Shells fired by Israeli tanks every day, 190 A-S Missiles launched and 246 Air Strikes**

Gazans get as little as **3hrs of electricity a day.**

The IDF has allowed Sewage plants to decay – Gaza now faces a health crisis

150 Hectares of fields damaged – Gazans now face food shortages

Israel has cut off vital food supplies

70% of Gazans are going hungry

Who are the aggressors and who are the victims? Do Palestinians have a right to defend their homes, children and farms? How many Palestinian lives equal to the life of an Israeli? Technical Miscalculation or Planned Aggression?

What if YOU were born in Palestine?

http://www.palestinemonitor.org/nueva_web/gaza_crises/Facts_Figures_until_07_August.htm

Abdul Azeem

Website Review

<http://www.edars.com>

Have no idea about Islamic Circles within your area? Cannot find the opportunity to attend such beneficial discussions about Islam? Want to listen to great Islamic lectures from your cubical? These lectures nourish and nurture your heart with pious knowledge by great scholars such as Sheikh Mohammed Sindhi, Mufti Muhammad Taqi Uthmani, Mufti Muhammad Ibn Adam, Sheikh Mohammad Patel and many more. The lectures are available in 3 languages: English, French and Urdu. Happy listening!

Current ISOC Events

For Sisters

Arabic & Islamic Studies
Every Wednesday – 2pm

For Brothers

Quranic Recitation & Tajweed
Every Tuesday – 6pm

For Brothers

Islamic Studies
Every Wednesday – 6pm

All circles of Knowledge are held in the Wills Memorial Prayer Room

Jumu'a prayers are held in the 5th Floor of the Students' Union. Moreover, the Union Shop sells Halal meat and groceries.

Editorial Team:

Advisors:

Muthanna Samara, Abderrahmane Al-Kaidi & Mohammed Faris.

Editor:

Fatma Ali

Sub-Editor:

Hana Khodabocus

Editorial Coordinator:

Abdul Azeem s/o Abdul Samad

Writers:

Tauseef Hussaini

Amir Syafiq

Zahrah Ali

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