



Muslim Planet

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[The Muslim Voice](#) Project offers a platform of technology services for the Muslim Community of North America. It provides the needed infrastructure to transform the community towards [unified positions](#) and integrated action plans. It seeks Muslim representation at local, state, and federal levels. So, please [help](#).

Welcome Message

We wish that you and the community are well, and seeking to be blessed during this Ramadan. We hope you will enjoy this issue of the News Journal, and you will share it with your family and friends. If you have your own eMail list please forward this News Journal to your list.

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Stay in PEACE



[The Muslim Voice](#)

Editorial

Please be blessed in this Ramadan.

We receive this month every year; we are advised to purify ourselves and be deserving of Jannah.

But do we?

Many of us spend the nights in Travih and some do not sleep till Sehr; and then sleep during the day. Do we pause to contemplate if that is what our Prophet did?

The Prophet did not pray Travih as part of his Isha peayer. He never slept through his day because he prayed extra-long during the night. He essentially continued with the same prayer routine that he had outside of Ramadan. He took the path of reasonableness and the path that was the middle path and straight.

In contrast, what Muslims follow today is too twisted, too extreme, too unreasonable, and too far deviated from what the Prophet taught us. We have transmuted his Sunnah into our whims, as previously the Jews have done.

We love our Prophet but this love is limited to singing Salawat and uttering mere words like 'Peace Be Upon Him'. We do not follow his teachings; rather, we invent our own teachings that suit our whims and therefore become Muzayyan to our minds and beliefs; as indeed Shaitan had made the actions of the Meccan people Muzayyan for them during the time of the Prophet.

We have invented a religion for ourselves that mimics Christianity because of our colonial history. Mohammad would not recognize it as the religion which he taught; and today's Muslims would not acknowledge Mohammad if he showed up in street somewhere, anywhere. Our Ulama have become like the Ulama of Bani Israel, and they would perhaps hasten towards Ijma to label him as an imposter.

Ever wondered why the Muslim Ummah is so down trodden in the World today? And that is in spite of our Saum, our Salat, our Zakat, and our Hajj! We do these things claiming that they are the foundation and pillars of Islam; yet we are the down trodden of the Earth today.

Ever wondered what is going on here?

That is not because we fail in the performance of traditions; rather, it is because we fail the traditions themselves by transmuting them away from the spirit in which the Prophet taught them. We have corrupted our Islam not a little but maximally. We have corrupted every pillar of Islam, and we have corrupted it maximally. This maximal corruption continues today at high speed; we keep topping on the maximal corruptions that we previously attained.

It is time to stop.

Let this Ramadan be truly Mubarak for you, for everyone, and for the entire Muslim Ummah so that we stop being the down trodden of the Earth!

News in Brief

1. Mecca to accept [only 'immunised' pilgrims](#) from Ramadan: Worshippers must be vaccinated against Covid or have recovered from the virus, say Saudis
2. Ramadan 2021: US, UK Muslims to attempt [Moon sighting](#) on April 12
3. Pakistan opens talks with [outlawed Islamists](#) behind violent anti-France protests
4. SZA says she was [scared to wear hijab](#) after 9/11: The New Jersey-raised singer faced Islamophobic judgments about her head covering and regrets fearing 'what people said about me'
5. ['If we don't give, people don't eat'](#): As Britain cuts aid to war-torn Yemen on brink of famine, Muslim charities focus donations towards feeding population
6. Campaigners call for global response to 'unprecedented' [oppression in Xinjiang](#): Human Rights Watch urges more coordination by governments to tackle China's treatment of Turkic Muslims
7. Muslims urged to embrace [environmental side of Islam](#)
8. Hope, joy as president Biden revokes [Muslim travel ban](#)
9. Pakistan PM says ['abusing' prophet Mohammed equivalent to Holocaust denial](#)
10. French man's best-selling [Ramadan 'advent' calendar](#)
11. Daughter of murdered Muslim man calls for official Islamophobia definition: Maz Saleem wants her father's killing in Birmingham in 2013 [to be recognised as act of terrorism](#)
12. France votes on [anti-radicalism bill](#) that worries Muslims
13. French academics blast minister's warning on ['Islamism'](#)
14. 70,000 Palestinians managed to make it to the first Friday services in Ramadan:
[Israel Restricts Entry to Al-Aqsa Mosque For Palestinians on First Friday of Ramadan](#) (Middle East Eye), despite checkpoints, restrictions, and Israeli police sabotage to AlAqsa mosque loudspeakers,
15. The Cyber Attack on Natanz Nuclear complex was a diversionary misinformation. Iran has identified 43 year old Reza Karimi as a suspect in the Natanz attack, stating that "he fled the country hours before the sabotage happened": [Iran Names Suspect in Natanz Attack](#) (AP News)

Articles for Muslim Community

Author's Interview: Dr. Ahmed S Khan

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The Bridge: Pursuit of American Dream

By Dr Ahmed S. Khan, Chicago, IL

Q: Are you satisfied by crossing “the bridge” and achieving the American Dream? What cultural similarities and differences did you experience while living in the East and the West?

A: Yes. Cultural similarities are very few, but differences are many. I recognize when I say East: it's mostly South Asian and Middle Eastern countries and most of the East Asian or Pacific Rim countries about which I know. When I say West it is North America, Europe, and Australia. My living in the Indian Subcontinent and in North America primarily allowed me to make the assessment. It is hard to generalize as there are exceptions, but I will try. Both the East and the West are unique in their own ways.

Regarding the differences: 1. The East is traditional, generally conservative, and closed society. West expresses thoughts and feelings more freely and is an open society. 2. In the East elders are highly respected by the young and make major decisions. Arranged or negotiated marriages are common in the East, love generally comes after marriage. In the West, elders are treated more as friends with some respect and most decisions are taken by the young. Marriages happen through dating. As a result, sexual promiscuity is rampant. Premarital sex is common in the West but not so in the East and is unacceptable there. 3. Nudity and semi-nudity are allowed in some settings in the West but not in the East. Nudity in locker rooms is a norm in the West, but not so in the East. As a graduate student I saw girls in bikinis sunbathing near where I lived or in the beaches and boys and girls mingling intimately in public in the West. In the East I didn't see this as much. Homosexuality and gay marriages are acceptable in the West but not in the East. 4. Alcoholism is part of the open culture in the West but not so in the East, particularly in Islamic countries. 5. People are individualistic in the West but collective and gregarious in the East. Ties with families and extended families are strong in the East, but not so strong in the West. 6. Children take care of old parents in their homes in the East but not much in the West. 7. People with disability and special needs are treated well in the West, but not so in the East. 8. More emphasis on rights is seen in the West whereas on duties in the East. 9. The West is scientific and rational; the East is spiritual and emotional. The list can go on. It is difficult to find cultural similarities.

These are basically human traits: 1. People in both East and West are dreamers. 2. In the East and West people are busy with their families and livelihood.

Q: How did your idea of the American Dream change before and after coming to America?

A: My idea of the American Dream was nebulous before entering America since I didn't experience it firsthand. I didn't know the full meaning of the expression although I had read about it. To me then America was a dreamland. As a young boy I thought of America as a generous country. After cyclones that devastated my coastal hometown and the region, America would send plenty of humanitarian aids that my mother as the Vice President of All Pakistan Women's Association and her associates (APWA) would distribute to the needy and affected. I fell in love with the technological triumphs of this country and admired the people who built such a great urban civilization. I was able to realize my own dream by working ceaselessly availing myself of the opportunities and resources that the country offered. But what is the American Dream today to the immigrants and the local minority population?

It is an uncertain time for them. Some political leaders no longer welcome immigrants and other minority groups like before. Thus, at this moment the meaning and appeal of the American Dream have dwindled. I am hopeful though that American history has witnessed times of turmoil and experienced harder times before and America survived. And the promise of the American Dream will be restored. I believe America is large, strong, and resilient enough to reinstate the hobbled American Dream.

Q: How has the academia changed during the past five decades in terms of teaching and learning practices? How has technology impacted education? What is the future of engineering education?

A: Technology has taken over education. Teaching is now through PowerPoint presentations and use of digital technology. Distance learning through online courses are becoming universal. Although it has some benefits, I don't like it as the social and human touch is getting lost.

Professors and students are losing human interaction and chemistry and may not even know each other. Also, the students will not know each other as well. It opens the room for cheating. Engineering education is too technical which makes engineers poor communicators. More diverse courses in arts, finance, etc. should be introduced to make them well-rounded and be equipped to be verbal and interact with the society. I believe in unity in diversity. If needed, a five-year bachelor degree program should be introduced to accommodate additional courses. This has, of course implications, but should be given due consideration. Regarding the future, engineering education needs reform and continuous updating as the world has changed technologically and so have the needs of the profession and the society.

Q: What suggestions do you have for students that will go into the professional world with the vital task of facing the challenges of today?

A: Work hard and focus on your studies. A few years of your student life now after high school is a relatively small time compared to your future working life when you will face professional challenges. Figuratively speaking, you are ships being built now and once built will sail in the sea of work life. Build yourself now strongly that will endure. Learn from the professors as much as you can and get the technical and practical knowledge, so you are well prepared when you move from academic to the professional world. And continue the learning process, thinking of finding better ways to design, and trying to develop expertise in whatever you are doing.

Book Based on 10 Years of Ramadan Traditions

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10 years ago, story teller Salma Hasan Ali started a blog marking the month of Ramadan called "30 Days, 30 Deeds." This year, she releases a book of stories and lessons from a decade of the blog.

STEVE INSKEEP, HOST:

Muslims marked the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan this week. For roughly the next three weeks, Muslims who are able are told to fast from dawn to dusk.

NOEL KING, HOST:

But Salma Hasan Ali wanted to teach her kids that Ramadan is about other things than just fasting.

SALMA HASAN ALI: It's about doing good, about being kind, about expressing gratitude.

INSKEEP: So she started the 30 Days, 30 Deeds blog. Every day for the whole month, she and her kids would do one good deed and write about it for family and friends.

KING: And now it's a tradition. Every year, they pick a different theme for the blog, like gratitude or inspiring personal stories.

ALI: While these themes are very much a part of Ramadan, I think they underline all our faith traditions and all of us who cherish community and kindness.

INSKEEP: Now, 10 years after starting this project, Ali is compiling some of those stories into a book called "30 Days: Stories Of Gratitude, Traditions And Wisdom."

ALI: During this challenging year, when we've been isolated from each other, this may be a good time to put some stories out there that can reconnect us.

KING: One of those stories is about her dad, who loved sweets, but he always saved his desserts for her. And to her, this was the lesson.

ALI: Be generous, overly generous. Be kind, overly kind. Spoil people with uncommon hospitality.

KING: Ramadan kareem to all.

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Standalone Photovoltaic (PV) Systems for Disaster Relief and Remote Areas

Author: Prof. Dr. Salahuddin Qazi

Reporter: Dr. Ahmed S. Khan, Chicago, IL

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“We cannot stop natural disasters, but we can arm ourselves with knowledge: so many lives wouldn't have to be lost if there was enough disaster preparedness.” -- Petra Nemcova

The Sun was the major source of energy before the Industrial Age. In today's Nano and Quantum industrial age, it still remains a vast reservoir of energy that can fulfill today's and tomorrow's energy demands. The average intensity of solar energy reaching the top of the atmosphere directly facing the Sun is about 1,368 watts per square meter. At Earth's surface the energy density is reduced to approximately 1,000 watts per meter square. For disaster response, time is the most critical factor. Standalone Photovoltaic (PV) systems offer the most viable option for disaster relief.

Standalone Photovoltaic (PV) Systems For Disaster Relief and Remote Areas by Dr. Salahuddin Qazi is a timely addition to literature on managing natural disasters in an efficient and effective manner. The book features the use of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to bring electricity for disaster relief and for general power supply in remote areas of the world. The author was inspired to write this book after realizing that the sunlight reaching earth's surface in just one hour delivers more energy than the energy consumed by the entire world in one year.

Professor Dr. Salahuddin Qazi has worked, conducted research, and taught for over forty years in the UK, Middle East, East, and USA. He is a professor emeritus, and past chair of the electrical engineering technology department at State University of New York Polytechnic Institute, Utica, New York.

The book's unique feature is its non-mathematical hands-on approach. The author has done an excellent job of providing examples and applications of PV systems viz a viz case studies, software tools, databases, and relevant websites. The book is a good reference, and an essential read for all technical and non-technical stakeholders of renewable energy and disaster management: PV system designers and installers, students and faculty, policy makers, non-government organizations, and all people working in disaster recovery programs.

Author's Interview:

Q: What are the key challenges for using PV systems to provide fast and temporary power to remote devastated areas caused by natural disasters?

A: The difficulty in transporting large solar systems, inconsistent availability of PV systems and unpredictability of natural disasters are some of the challenges to provide power to remote devastated areas. Work is being done to design Rapid Roll panels which roll up like a carpet allowing them to be easily transported to the remote areas.

Q: Why are global NGOs and charity organizations slow in adopting PV systems for natural disaster relief?

A: Since global NGO's and charity organizations do not store PV systems, they are not ready to transport the system to the affected areas when a natural disaster happens. In many cases, these NGO's rely on other private corporations to make donations and provide necessary resources. The lack of knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle of preparation, response and recovery takes away valuable time to help disaster survivors.

Q: Where did you receive your higher school and university education?

My education was completed at Panjab University, Pakistan, Wales University and University of Technology, Loughborough, United Kingdom.

Q: What is your take on the current state and status of higher education In Pakistan?

A: The status of higher education in Pakistan is changing. Many educational institutions of higher education, both government and private have lately sprung up to address the educational needs of the country's growing economy with nearly two-third of the population who are 24 years old or under. The shortage of qualified senior faculty and insufficient resources, however, are affecting the quality of educational systems which is ranked weak by the international ranking standards. Higher education commission (HEC) of Pakistan, the Government agency which facilitates the development of higher education, is trying hard to improve the quality of higher educational systems by establishing accreditation councils, offering scholarships to pursue Ph.Ds., and accrediting the higher education institutions among other obligations. *Q: What service was rendered to the education sector by your family?*

A: My ancestors were responsible for establishing Islamia Schools in the early 1900s during the British rule in the Indian subcontinent which ended in August 1947. Many of these schools have been converted to institutions of higher education in Pakistan.

Q: What are the key challenges and obstacles for the development of the solar energy sector in Pakistan?

A: The lack of financial resources and inability of the Government to accelerate the implementation of subsidies, Feed in Tariff (FIT) and net metering have been key challenges and obstacles for the development of solar energy in Pakistan. Shortages of qualified personnel, accredited solar testing labs, and lack of bank financing for solar energy are other challenges.

Q: What recommendation would you make for the promotion of PV systems in Pakistan and in developed and developing countries?

A: The Government of Pakistan should make its population fully aware of the benefits and availability of FIT, net metering and subsidies which have been introduced in the previous decade. The use of subsidies should enable solar energy to be affordable in major portions of the population to set up PV systems. The Governments in the developing countries should redirect resources from large-scale investments into new energy producing technologies. Developing countries should make full use of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) program that was introduced at the Kyoto Protocol which entered into force on 16 February 2005. This CDM program allows for industrialized nations to invest in projects that reduce emissions in developing countries.



The Great Muslim Nation

We are the only organization of its kind in North America

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