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Mahdavia Insight

(A Publication of Mahdavia Islamic Center of Chicago)

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President's Message:

I am pleased to announce the launch of Mahdavia Insight, an E-Newsletter from MICC. I pray Allah (SWT) for its success and congratulate the entire editorial team for their hard work.

Rahmat Ali Khan

Editorial

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

First and foremost, let us thank Allah (SWT) for giving us the opportunity to come together through an avenue such as this. More and more, we are relying on technology to reach out to one another just as much as we rely on Google to answer our questions when Siri doesn't know. Information is so readily available that is *literally* only a swipe away.

Similarly, we hope this newsletter will be just a swipe or click away. For any publication to be effective, it has to reach a large number of people in the shortest amount of time. For us, as a Mahdavia community, we have the responsibility of doing exactly that. If we think back to April's MICC Conference in Chicago, we may not have even been aware of just how large our community is. And Insha'Allah, it will only keep growing. We should try to be on the same page despite the geographical distances. Therefore, we've set out to collect information from the past, sprinkle in the knowledge of our elders and turn it into an enlightening (and fun!) newsletter suitable for our community everywhere, and more importantly, for our younger generation. In fact, we are very excited to have a kids section in our newsletter.

Despite the readability of our content, the articles are authoritative with the voices of those qualified to speak on topics such as daily practices in Islam and the discussion of Hadith among much else. We hope our short and thoughtful pieces will reinforce and relate to the Holy Quran and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and Imamuna Mahdi Al-Ma-ud (pbuh).

Insha'Allah, the newsletter will be published every month with four pages of original writing from our young writers to more experienced ones. (The last page will be devoted to the prayer timings MICC currently sends.) We mentioned 'fun' earlier, and it is true, we have special recipe section in store.

Our team will contact community members who we think might be interested in contributing, but please reach out to us as well if you have a topic you'd like to share or see.. Our mission, not only in creating this, but in life, is to please Allah (SWT). Let's pray for its success..

We hope this newsletter will be a source of positive energy and a thought-provoking platform for months to come. Jazak'Allah for swiping or clicking.

Ramadan in Practice

Zubair Ali Khan

The time preceding iftaar is the final stretch of our fast. It is a time that needs to be observed with great sanctity. This period between Asr and Maghrib is referred to as Sultan Ul Lail and it is one of the two periods when zikr is mandatory upon us.

One needs to reflect on the fact that as the sun is fading away over the horizon, yet another day of Ramadan is slipping away from us. This is our last chance to make our fast count and in this regard we need to ask Allah's forgiveness for any shortcomings we may have had in our fast.

In a Hadith in Sunan Ibn Majah it was narrated from Abdullah bin Amr bin Aas that the Messenger of Allah (SAWS) said: " When the fasting person breaks his fast, his supplication is not turned back." Hence, instead of engaging in vain talk just before iftaar one must try to remain silent, observe zikr and make Dua to break your fast.

Hazrat Bandagi Miran Syed Mahmood Sani e Mahdi (RZ)

Seema Mehdi

“A noteworthy lesson from his teachings is how he held weekly meetings, known as ijma after Zuhr namaz and requested his followers to point out if there is any slight deviation in his teachings from those of Imam Mahdi (AHS). This principle is something we should bring into our own perspective of Diarahs.”

**Al-Qur’an,
Do remember this Verse and reflect on our deeds during this month:**

...And whatever the Messenger has given you - take; and what he has forbidden you - refrain from. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty. (59:7)

Hazrath Bandagi Miran Syed Mahmood (RZ), known as Sani-e-Mahdi (RZ) was born in the city of Jaunpur in 867 or 869 H. He is the eldest son of Imam Mahdi (AHS) and first Khalifa of Imam (AHS). Immediately after the demise of Imam Mahdi (AHS), during the funeral, he looked exactly like Mahdi (AHS). From that day he was called Sani-e-Mahdi because this title was given to him by Hazrath Bandagi Miyan Shah-e-Khundmeer (RZ) and many other companions.

At the birth of Hazrat Sani e Mahdi (RZ), Allah Most High Commanded Hazrat Imam Mahdi (AS), thus: “O Syed Muhammad! The name of Our Friend [Prophet Muhammad SLM] is Mahmood in the Highest Heaven. Hence, we have bestowed the same name to the newborn. Therefore, Hazrath Mahdi al-Ma’ud (AS) named his son as “Syed Mahmood”. During their stay at Danapur, Mahdi (AHS) wife Bibi Alhadadi (RZ) had a dream, telling her that her Husband was the Promised Mahdi (AS). When she narrated this to the Mahdi (AS) he said, “It is true. On hearing this Bibi (RZ) con-

firmed [performed the tasdiq] in his being the Mahdi Ma’ud (AS). The conversation was overheard by Syed Mahmood (RZ), his son and Miyan Shah e Dilawar (RZ). Hazrat Syed Mahmood (RZ) went into a spiritual trance, and fell down.

In 903 Hijri, present day Ahmedabad, Hazrath Syed Mahmood (RZ) took permission from Mahdi (AHS) to join a service (to do “Kasab”). Mahdi (AHS) gave him permission and asked him to be in the remembrance of Allah every time and everywhere. [Harja kay Bashed, Ba yaad e Khuda Bashed].

We have learned by studying the life of Hazrath Syed Mahmood (RZ) and by teachings of Imam Mahdi (AHS) how to do “Kasab.” “Kasab” in literal terms means “effort.” In today’s context it means job, duty or service that gives halal income. The conditions to do “Kasab” or earn halal income are: one should trust Allah and not the earning, he should pray his prayers in Jamat and should not continue to work after Azan, one should always be in remem-

brance of Allah (zikr) and sit and do zikr during Sultan-un-Nahar and Sultan-ul-hail, he should not be greedy and should be content with enough to cover body and little food, he should pay ushr (1/10 of the income as charity), he should remain in the company of seeker of Allah (Sohbath-e-Sadiqueen) and follow Qur’an.

Being the head of the Diarah, Sani e Mahdi (RZ) asked people to judge his actions. A noteworthy lesson from his teachings is how he held weekly meetings, known as ijma after Zuhr namaz and requested his followers to point out if there is any slight deviation in his teachings from those of Imam Mahdi (AHS). This principle is something we should bring into our own perspective of Diarahs.

Hazrath Syed Mahmood (RZ) passed away on 4th Ramzan, 918 H. His grave is located at Bhilot in Patan, Gujarat (India).

Recipe of the Month ~ MARAG

Marag is a Hyderabad specialty commonly found in weddings. Because of the use of cream and dry fruits, it’s known as one of the richest dishes of a Hyderabad Dastar Khwaan!

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds meat
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 2 tablespoons grinded cashew
- 2 tablespoons grinded almonds

- Salt - To Taste
- Black pepper - To Taste
- 2 Green chillies
- 2 large onions
- ½ half cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon ginger garlic paste
- 1 small bunch cilantro

Method:

1. Heat oil and shallow fry onions. Add meat and ginger-garlic paste and cook for 2 Minutes. Now add 2 cups

Kubra Syed

water, half of cashew and almond powder, pepper, salt and green chillies. Cook until the meat is tender.

2. After that add the remaining cashew and almond powder, heavy cream and chopped cilantro. Cook for 10 minutes on low flame.

Serve hot with Naan (or butter naan).

Urdu Section:

رمضان المبارک جناب سید رشید الحق

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ۔ حامداً و مصلياً ۔ انا بعداً
 ما رمضان عربی تقویم کا تو اس مہینہ ہے۔ اپنے بندوں پر اللہ تعالیٰ کی عطا کی ہوئی بے شمار رزقوں، برکتوں اور نعمتوں کی وجہ سے
 ماہ رمضان کو دین اسلام میں ایک مقام حاصل ہے۔ ماہ رمضان کے روزوں کی فرضیت اور احکام سے متعلق قرآن مجید میں تفصیلی بیان آیا
 ہے۔ (ترجمہ) اے ایمان والو! تم پر بھی روزہ (اسی طرح) فرض کیا گیا ہے جس طرح تم سے پہلے والوں پر فرض کیا گیا ہے۔ تاکہ تم
 پر نیز کاربن جاؤ۔ (البقرہ: ۱۸۳)
 اس آیت سے یہ معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ روزے اس لیے فرض کیے گئے ہیں تاکہ مومن سچی اور پرہیزگار ہو جائیں۔ عربی زبان میں روزہ کو
 صوم کہتے ہیں۔ اور صوم کا مطلب رک جانا ہے۔ اس عظیم عبادت کے نہ صرف جسمانی بلکہ بے حساب روحانی فائدے ہیں۔ اس
 کے نتیجے میں طلب مولیٰ کے نفس کی پاکیزگی ہوتی ہے۔ روحانی درجات میں اضافہ ہوتا ہے اور قرب الہی حاصل ہوتا ہے۔
 اس سلسلہ میں امام مہدی نے اپنی قوم کو حالت اختیار کرنے کی ہدایت فرمائی ہے۔ چنانچہ ایک مرتبہ سفر میں امامنا مہدی
 اور آپ کے ساتھ دوسرے اصحاب بھی روزہ رکھنے کے بارے میں چند صحابہ کی طبیعت خراب ہوئی اور روزہ رکھنا دشوار ہو گیا۔ اس پر
 امامنا نے فرمایا: ”تم پانی کے واسطے بے طاقت ہو گئے؟ کیا خدا کی طلب کے لیے ایک دن بھی ایسے ہو گئے؟ یہ فرمان سن کر صحابہ نے
 بہت رویا اور کھوکھلیاں بنائیں اور بے طاقتی میں بھی روزہ نہیں رکھا۔ (تفسیر) (حالیہ ۱۱۱) ہے۔ اگر تم سبھی پاؤ۔
 عموماً یہ دیکھا گیا ہے کہ رمضان کے تم ہوتے پر عید کے روز تم اتنی خوشیاں مناتے ہیں کہ فرض نماز میں بھی ہم سے چھوٹ جاتی
 ہیں۔ ایسا ہرگز نہیں ہوتا بلکہ ماہ رمضان میں روزوں اور عبادتوں کی برکت سے ہم میں بوجھلہری اور بالٹی خوشیاں پیدا ہوتی ہیں۔ ان
 کو عام دنوں میں بھی اپنی زندگی میں باقی رکھنے کی کوشش کرنی چاہیے۔ جس سے نہ صرف ہمارے خاندان کی بلکہ سارے معاشرہ کی
 اصلاح ہو سکتی ہے۔

Hadith:

Abu Huraira (RZ) re-
 ported that the
 Prophet (pbuh) said:
 Fasting is a shield; so
 when one of you is
 fasting he should nei-
 ther indulge in obscene
 language nor should he
 raise voice in anger. If
 someone attacks him
 or insults him, let him
 say: "I am fasting!"
 (Muslim)

Kids Section: Intro to Ramadan

Mahtab Ali Khan

Ramadan is the ninth month of Islamic calendar. Ramadan is a holy and blessed month for Muslims. During this month it is obligatory for all the Muslims to perform fasting. This is because fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims eat Suhoor before fajr (dawn) and do not eat anything until Iftar which is just before maghrib (sunset). During Ramadan Muslims also give zakaat in the name

of Almighty Allah. During the month of Ramadan whoever performs fasting, Almighty Allah rewards him generously. On the 27th night of Ramadan, we Mahdavis celebrate lailatul-qadr by praying on this holy night. The Mahdavia community members meet together at one place and pray 2 rakaat lailatul-qadr prayers. After completing 30 or 29 fasts, once the new moon is sighted, EID is cele-

brated the next day. All Muslims perform EID prayers, and then eat sheer Qorma along with their families to celebrate EID.

Naql:

Imam Mahdi (pbuh)

is narrated to
 have said,
 "Inform this servant
 (of Allah) at the time
 of prayers. If this
 servant comes, it is
 fine. Otherwise, you
 offer the prayers. Do
 not let the time of
 obligatory prayers
 pass without saying
 your prayers. This
 servant is subject to
 time. Time is not
 subject to this
 servant. The person
 who subordinates the
 religion of Allah to
 himself will be caught
 by Allah."

(Naqiyat e Mian Syed
 Alam: Naql # 202)

Bringing Change from Within

Shiraz M. Khan

Ramadan is an opportunity for us to bring upon change and focus on prioritizing our Deen. This change starts with evaluating yourself and how you live. The way you live your life – more than the way you "think" you should live your life – defines what Islam is to you. This becomes more obvious during this month of Ramadan when we are trying to be extra careful to be righteous. Consider your days from start to finish since the start of Ramadan. Your ac-

tions and thoughts reveal what Islam is to you. Look at how you spent the past week: that is your answer for what you "think" it means to be religious, what it means to be upright, what it means to be proper. But the days or weeks before Ramadan started are what all that means to you in practicality. Think about this change. Only when you realize this change within you, will this change remain with you after Ramadan. Once we start becoming honest with ourselves about what

we do and why we do those things, then we can start talking about improvement, Insha'Allah. But, what we do and why we do the things we do, meaning what we are consistent at (in positive or negative behavior), is what we in practice embody as acceptable, proper behavior. If we didn't regard it as acceptable or proper, we would try to change it. If we don't at least try to change it, we are saying it.

And Allah knows best.

Mahdavia Islamic Center of Chicago
Prayer Timings for Chicago area (60645)
July 2015

Chicago IL Lt=41:50N Lg= 87:45W TZ=GMT-6 Summer TZ=GMT-5
 Qibla True North = 48:35E Qibla from Magnetic North = N52:15E

2015	Ramadan/ Shawwal	Fajr	Sunrise	Zuhr	Asr(H)	Maghrib	Isha	
JUL 1(Wed)	14	3:30a	5:20a	1:00p	6:11p	8:33p	9:47p	Dars -e- Qur'an
JUL 2(Thu)	15	3:31a	5:20a	1:00p	6:11p	8:33p	9:47p	Every Sunday
JUL 3(Fri)	16	3:32a	5:21a	1:00p	6:11p	8:32p	9:46p	after Maghrib Prayer,
JUL 4(Sat)	17	3:33a	5:21a	1:00p	6:11p	8:32p	9:46p	(except during the month
JUL 5(Sun)	18	3:34a	5:22a	1:01p	6:11p	8:32p	9:45p	of Ramadan)
JUL 6(Mon)	19	3:35a	5:23a	1:01p	6:10p	8:32p	9:45p	
JUL 7(Tue)	20	3:35a	5:23a	1:01p	6:10p	8:31p	9:44p	
JUL 8(Wed)	21	3:36a	5:24a	1:01p	6:10p	8:31p	9:44p	Shab e Qadr
JUL 9(Thu)	22	3:37a	5:25a	1:01p	6:10p	8:31p	9:43p	Shab e Qadr
JUL 10(Fri)	23	3:38a	5:25a	1:01p	6:10p	8:30p	9:42p	(27 th Night of Ramadan)
JUL 11(Sat)	24	3:39a	5:26a	1:02p	6:10p	8:30p	9:42p	will occur on the
JUL 12(Sun)	25	3:40a	5:27a	1:02p	6:10p	8:29p	9:41p	Night between
JUL 13(Mon)	26	3:41a	5:27a	1:02p	6:09p	8:29p	9:40p	Monday, July 13 and
JUL 14(Tue)	27	3:42a	5:28a	1:02p	6:09p	8:28p	9:39p	Tuesday, July 14.
JUL 15(Wed)	28	3:43a	5:29a	1:02p	6:09p	8:27p	9:38p	
JUL 16(Thu)	29	3:44a	5:30a	1:02p	6:08p	8:27p	9:37p	Moonsighting Possibility
JUL 17(Fri)	1	3:45a	5:31a	1:02p	6:08p	8:26p	9:36p	Please try to sight the
JUL 18(Sat)	2	3:47a	5:32a	1:02p	6:08p	8:25p	9:35p	New Moon for Shawwal
JUL 19(Sun)	3	3:48a	5:32a	1:02p	6:07p	8:25p	9:34p	on Thursday, July 16.
JUL 20(Mon)	4	3:49a	5:33a	1:02p	6:07p	8:24p	9:33p	Islamic dates are subject
JUL 21(Tue)	5	3:50a	5:34a	1:02p	6:07p	8:23p	9:32p	to moonsighting.
JUL 22(Wed)	6	3:51a	5:35a	1:02p	6:06p	8:22p	9:31p	
JUL 23(Thu)	7	3:52a	5:36a	1:03p	6:06p	8:21p	9:30p	MICC web site
JUL 24(Fri)	8	3:53a	5:37a	1:03p	6:05p	8:21p	9:29p	Visit us at
JUL 25(Sat)	9	3:55a	5:38a	1:03p	6:05p	8:20p	9:28p	www.miccusa.org
JUL 26(Sun)	10	3:56a	5:39a	1:03p	6:04p	8:19p	9:27p	
JUL 27(Mon)	11	3:57a	5:40a	1:03p	6:04p	8:18p	9:25p	
JUL 28(Tue)	12	3:58a	5:41a	1:02p	6:03p	8:17p	9:24p	
JUL 29(Wed)	13	4:00a	5:42a	1:02p	6:02p	8:16p	9:23p	
JUL 30(Thu)	14	4:01a	5:43a	1:02p	6:02p	8:15p	9:22p	
JUL 31(Fri)	15	4:02a	5:44a	1:02p	6:01p	8:13p	9:20p	

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

مری منزل نہیں تھی دور لیکن راہ میں میری
 مری ہی ذات آڑے آرہی تھی، میں ہی حائل تھا

Saif

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