

Special

4th Conference

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Edition

IECRC Newsletter

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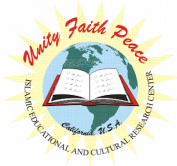
Issue # 11

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In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Prayers and Peace upon His Noble Messenger ﷺ



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*Welcome to IECRC's
4th Annual Milad
Shareef Conference*

CELEBRATING THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD: THE ETERNAL LIGHT OF TRUTH AND GUIDANCE

(PEACE BE UPON HIM, HIS PURE FAMILY AND NOBLE COMPANIONS)

Truth is life's essential. It is truth that keeps us alive and creates within us a desire to recognize who we are as individuals and as societies. And it is through this Truth that we realize the Existence of God Almighty with love. All religions and creeds in this world are at some level related to truth. Hence there exists the usage of the term "universal truth". To understand this concept of universal truth and to apply it is the purpose and theme of this year's Conference.

Every individual is in search of themselves. Humanity is lost in this day and age to the extreme that neither do we recognize other humans nor humanity itself. We say that truth is lost, and we need to find it. No matter which religion we belong to, which creed we believe in, or which school of thought we subscribe to, we cannot deny that we are all oriented to the truth.

It is a common belief however, that truth leads to many difficulties and always being truthful can lead to problems. This is not the case. There is no doubt that the path of truth is difficult, and is laden with temporary anxieties. However the direction in which the truth gears us is a path of success, and happiness. We cannot deny that the Prophets and the Saints (may Allah be pleased with them) practiced Truth and taught

the message of Truth. And they were indeed successful. If we analyze Plato's philosophy or the teachings of Aristotle, even though these are not religiously based, the philosophy of truth can be found there as well. The "Truth of Socrates" is very famous. How did Socrates gain such victory through this value of Truth? This is because he made this universal message a part of his being. He said that his life and his death are for Truth. When his students came to him and advised him to flee from the government's punishment, he replied, "All my life I have lived for truth; should I leave it now for fear of death? This cannot be." Socrates was ready to give up his life but stayed steadfast on the Truth. This is the reason why today the name of Socrates is associated with the concept of Truth.

Which power of the world is not familiar with the Blessed Personality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (b. 570 CE, Peace Be Upon Him, written in Arabic as ﷺ) and which religion is not familiar with His ﷺ teachings. Every language of the world has received the teachings of the religion of Islam. This message is now widespread. The question arises as to how this message became widespread. This is a very important point. The Arab

society of the 7th century CE worshipped itself. The people of those days of ignorance fought through generations upon the theft, murder or injury of a single camel. The ethnocentric Arabs of those days went to such extremes in their self made actions of idol worship that they forgot about their own true existence. But they held on to one identity: Being Arab. The Holy Messenger of Allah Almighty ﷺ transformed that ignorant and negative attitude and behavior reminding them that it was not being Arab which defined their existence, but being the noble creation of Allah Almighty which was the heart and soul of their being. He ﷺ further warned them that they had forgotten Allah Almighty, the Truth, and the teachings which they were given; and instead had begun to consider themselves as the source of beneficial knowledge, considering that as their way of life, religion, creed, and truth. He ﷺ reminded them that they needed to return towards Allah Almighty. When the Holy Prophet ﷺ asked the disbelievers what they believed in relation to the Message that He ﷺ had brought, and about Him ﷺ, the disbelievers and those who opposed Him ﷺ said that

they considered Him ﷺ "Sadiq" (truthful) and "Amin" (trustworthy). They did not doubt the Holy Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ truthfulness, trustworthiness, veracity and nobility. But they were shackled to their old ways which in their minds obstructed them from accepting the Divine Message, i.e. the religion of Islam. The point to be noted here is that despite their opposition to the message, the disbelievers did not doubt the Blessed Character of the Holy Messenger ﷺ. So what we observe is that the Truth gets itself uttered from the tongues of the enemies. Countless Peace and Blessings be upon the Messenger of Truth!

Truth is the name of character, behavior, attitude, and ethics. Truth begins with Prophethood and ends at martyrdom which is when it

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becomes victorious as is the case with the beloved grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Hazrat Imam Husayn (b. 626 CE, may Allah be well pleased with him) who is a symbol of truth. Similarly, Hazrat Abubakr Siddeeq (b. 573 CE, may Allah be well pleased with him), the closest Companion and first of the Rightly Guided Caliphs is a symbol of truth. All of the Noble Companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ are symbols of truth.

In Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and all the heavenly religions, truth is the real essence of life. It purifies the heart. It reveals reality. The entire systematic approach of Islam deals with truth. Our social, political, ethical, and professional institutions are based on truth. Islamic society is formed on the genuine principle of truth. We cannot deny that all the governmental laws must be made on the foundation of truth. If falsehood creeps into law, then it is called diplomatic law. In this type of law, truth is not revered as an inherent quality. If falsehood comes into law then its goodness is destroyed. This is why it is said that if we want to progress our societies, we must progress towards truth. If one observes all the religions of the world, they all have a common thread. They all advise to speak the truth in order to find success. They warn against lying as it leads to harm. This is why the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said:

"Truth liberates and falsehood destroys" [Tahawi]

This concise statement embodies universal principles. This is the wisdom of the Holy Prophet ﷺ that in concise statements He ﷺ used to convey universal teachings and deep philosophies with great clarity and beauty. He ﷺ always relayed the Divine Intention and Will as testified by Allah Almighty in the Holy Quran [53:3-4]. The above Prophetic statement includes specific individual and social analysis. The person who lies is always ashamed and anxious. In order to cover up his lies he tries to avoid people and may in some instances even become suicidal. Therefore, lying is such a negative behavior that it eventually destroys us. What then is the source of relief and freedom? The greatest Truth is the Divine Message and the Greatest Personality who practiced the final Divine Message is the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and His Blessed Family, the *Ahle Bayt*.

They are the symbols of truth, followed by the Noble Companions. When we find the reflection of these blessed personalities in our society then we say that it is a successful society. This is why in the Holy Quran, Allah, the Most Exalted clearly established the topic of truth. Over and over again attention is drawn towards truth. If there is no truth, there is no society, no individualism, no humanity, no ethics, nothing in the world. Everything is in truth. And its reflection is in the human. As a famous poet has said:

*"Don't consider me merely of clay,
I reflect Divine Beauty."*

We are a body with a soul. What is the purpose of our creation? Is it simply to satisfy the flesh in this life and then enter the door of death? No. The truth lies in that primordial covenant we took with Allah Almighty which is called the First Covenant or First Social Contract – the one that all the souls took with Allah Almighty where He

"Truth liberates and falsehood destroys"

[Hadeeth]

Almighty asked us: *"Am I not your Lord (Rab)?"* To this, all the souls replied in the positive. Why did Allah ask this question? *Rab* means Kingship. When does one accept a King – when there is truth in ones mind, heart, and feelings. And where there is truth, there is purity, and success. What is God consciousness – it is truth. What is religion – it is truth. Unity of God is truth, Prophethood is truth, God's Essence is truth and the Essence of the Chosen One ﷺ is truth. We cannot escape truth. As the poet has written:

*"Jhulas jaen akhlaq ki khetian,
na barse agar Unka abre karam"*

The above couplet refers to the generous waters of truth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ without which any field of moral behavior would wilt. The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is a complete role model for those who are in search of the truth, and for those who are really anxious to have the complete picture of truth so that they could follow and obey. Who is He ﷺ? According to the Holy Quran the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is a "Complete Role Model" for all of humanity. [Al-Quran, 33:21] He ﷺ is the legitimate

authority, lawyer, socio-political leader, Messenger, Complete Interpreter of Islamic Law. He ﷺ is a true and last Messenger of Allah Almighty. As the Holy Quran says:

"...Be with the honest people"

[Al-Quran, 9:119]

The honest people are the followers of truth. What is the reason for this order? Indeed, because the Holy Quran supports logic, philosophy and reasoning. The reason is so that we can be amongst the successful. The successful are the ones who are believers in the Oneness of God and the finality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. These are the two realities that belong to truth. The Holy Quran which is a complete code of ethics, code of life, and comprehensive cosmic law, teaches all about truth. The real meaning of truth from other religions like Judaism, and Christianity, offer the same principle. There is no clash between Islam and Christianity or Judaism regarding truth because the essence of the message of truth is the same in all these religions. We must not differentiate ourselves on the basis of religion – Muslim, Christian, Jew, or another school of thought. The basic school of thought is truth. Truth is a religion and religion comes through a proper channel. And this is the channel of Prophecy. Whether it is Prophet Moses, Prophet Jesus or Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon them all), they are all bearers of truth. They are the authorities and the real sources of spreading truth in society because of their delegation of power. Because Judaism, Christianity and Islam are the real channels of truth for those who seek the real meaning of life through truth, therefore truth is the authority, the power, the strength and a way to find God. There is nothing wrong with the ideology of truth in any religion. There are similar definitions of truth in all these religions because these were revealed through Prophets to human beings for guidance and patronage. And these are character makers.

Truth is the soul of religion, society, an individual, and of the entire system. Whether someone follows Socialism, Communism, Marxism, Liberalism, Modern Democracy, and Individualism – these schools of thought cannot exist in society without truth. Every school of thought, every individual or political party calls for

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truth. As human beings we believe that truth is an authority and a power. The meaning of life is to keep oneself with genuine people who are the successful ones. We pray that this Conference will help all of us in the search of truth, for the real knowledge, and for the real authority so that we

could be satisfied in our lives not only in this world but also after our death. Ameen.

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri
Founding Director, IECRC

The above is a translated and edited transcription of Vol. 1 of "The Truth," a 5 Volume VCD set where Dr. Qadri, Professor of Political Sci-

ence at Karachi University and recipient of the National Education and Research Award in 2005, expounds in both Urdu and English on some very pertinent Islamic topics related to the Soul, Tolerance, Sufism, Patience, Code of Ethics, Relation with Other Faiths, Gratitude, and the Rights of Women in Islam. □

GUEST SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Prof. Arthur Kane Scott *Dominican College, San Rafael, CA*

Prof. Arthur Kane Scott is Assistant Professor at the Humanities Department of Dominican College in San Rafael, CA. He specializes in Sociology and Cultural Anthropology; Middle East Colloquium; Sacred Geography; Honor Program in Film and Society; World History and Geography; Asian Survey/India and Southeast Asia/Revolutionary China. He also teaches a range of courses in five other universities and colleges including University of California, Berkeley and University of San Francisco. He is qualified to teach courses in History, Sociology, Religion, and Organizational Development. Prof. Scott is a Ph.D. Candidate at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Russian and Far Eastern History). He received his Masters in Russian History and European History from Marquette University, Wisconsin and Bachelors in Philosophy/History from La Salle College, Pennsylvania. He is the author of many publications and articles including "Prophet Muhammad [Peace Be Upon Him]: A Spiritual Archetype," *Sufism: An Inquiry*, 1996. He is frequently invited to speak on a broad range of topics including Sufism. He is the recipient of many prestigious awards including the Governor's Award for Human Relations Activities, Harrisburg, PA. He lives in Richmond, California.

Dr. Mohammad Azadpur *San Francisco State University,* *San Francisco, CA*

Dr. Mohammad Azadpur is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA. Prior to this Dr. Azadpur was Instructor, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Mellon Scholar at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Azadpur received his Ph.D. and Masters in Philosophy from University of Virginia. His undergraduate work was in English Literature from Bucknell University. Dr. Azadpur

specializes in Islamic Philosophy, Ethics, Aesthetics and the Sublime. He is fluent in Persian and English and possesses reading knowledge of ancient Greek, Arabic, and German. He has published many articles on Islam and Philosophy. Dr. Azadpur is frequently invited to make presentations on these topics. He is the recipient of many honors and awards including the President's Fellowship from the University of Virginia. He lives with his family in California.

Mayor Bob Wasserman *City of Fremont, CA*

Mayor Bob Wasserman has served on the Fremont City Council since 1992. Prior to his election, he spent almost 40 years in law enforcement and served as Fremont's Chief of Police from 1976 to 1991. Mayor Wasserman received his Bachelor of Science degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Cal State Los Angeles and his Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He enjoys the opportunity to serve the community that the office of Mayor provides. His goal as Mayor is to keep Fremont a safe city where people can live, work, play and shop. When he isn't attending meetings, Mayor Wasserman enjoys sports, reading and travel. He is married and has two children.

Police Chief Craig Steckler *City of Fremont, CA*

Chief Craig T. Steckler received a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University Los Angeles in 1975 and did graduate work in Public Administration at Cal State Fullerton. He has continued his education with attendance and graduation from the F.B.I. Academy, Class 128, and the California Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission Command College, Class 2. He started his

career as a Patrol Officer in 1968. He joined the Fremont Police Department as Deputy Chief in 1986, and was appointed Police Chief in 1992. Prior to that he served as Chief of Police in the City of Piedmont, and from 1968 to 1980 in various capacities with the Police Department in San Clemente. He is co-author of two college textbooks: *Fundamentals of Police Administration* and *Written and Interpersonal Communications in Law Enforcement*. Chief Steckler is a Past President in the Niles Rotary, and serves on the Board of Directors of SAVE (Shelter Against Violent Environments), a local domestic violence shelter. Chief Steckler also is the Past President [2000] of the California Police Chiefs Association and a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He lives in Fremont, California.

Pastor Dotun Kukoyi *The Redeemed Christian Church of God,* *Jesus House, San Francisco, CA*

Oludotun Kukoyi is the senior pastor of Jesus House SF, a parish of The Redeemed Christian Church of God ('RCCG') located in the San Francisco Bay area, California. A ministry member of The RCCG since 1991, Pastor 'Dotun Kukoyi has served in various pastoral and administrative capacities in the church in Nigeria, in the United Kingdom and in the United States, including as the zonal coordinator overseeing RCCG parishes/churches in California, Arizona and Hawaii. Pastor 'Dotun, alongside his wife, Floretta Angela Kukoyi, also an ordained pastor in her own right, has the passion to teach the Word of God. 'Dotun and Floretta are married 21 years. Pastor 'Dotun Kukoyi holds educational and professional degrees in law. He successfully practiced as an attorney for nearly 20 years before fully yielding to Christian ministry. The Pastor lives with his wife in Hayward, California. □

IECRC WISHES ALL ITS CONFERENCE ATTENDEES THE BLESSINGS OF THE BLESSED BIRTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD. (PEACE BE UPON HIM, HIS PURE FAMILY AND NOBLE COMPANIONS)

HAZRAT MAULANA RUM رحمة الله عليه (1207 - 1273 CE)

Hazrat Maulana Jalaluddin Muhammed Rumi (1207 - 1273 CE, may Allah Almighty be pleased with and have mercy on him) is one of the greatest Saints in Islamic history and the most famous in the West because of his spiritual and mystical poetry emphasizing love of Allah Almighty and His Beloved Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

Maulana Rum (may Allah have mercy on him) was born on the 6th of Rabbi al-Awwal in the Islamic Hijri year 604 in Balkh, present-day Afghanistan. His father, Hazrat Bahauddin Walad (may Allah have mercy on him), was a great Muslim scholar and also a Sufi saint who came from the family of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him), First Caliph of Islam. Maulana Rum (r.a.) grew up in this learned household and was a fully accomplished scholar himself. His family migrated from Central Asia towards Eastern Turkey and completed the Hajj pilgrimage, after which Hazrat Bahauddin Walad became the head of a seminary school (*madrassa*) in Konya, Turkey. When he passed away, Maulana Rum (r.a.) took his place at the head of the school. During this time, Maulana Rum (r.a.) was a spiritual disciple of first his father, and then Syed Burhanuddin Mahaqqiq (may Allah have mercy on him) until the latter passed away.

One version of the famous meeting that

Maulana Rum (may Allah have mercy on him) had with Hazrat Shams Tabrez (may Allah have mercy on him), was that once Maulana Rum (r.a.) was teaching a group of his students and referring to his handwritten books and notes while Hazrat Shams Tabrez (r.a.) happened to come along and asked him about those notes. Maulana Rum (r.a.) replied that the books and notes were beyond the understanding of Hazrat Shams Tabrez (r.a.). Then Maulana Rum (r.a.) continued his class, meanwhile Hazrat Shams Tabrez (r.a.) threw all the books into a nearby pond of water. The students noticed this and started beating him. This caught the attention of Maulana Rum (r.a.) who complained about losing his knowledge. Hazrat Shams Tabrez (r.a.) replied that he could return the books, so he recited *Bismillah* and retrieved the books from the water and they were intact. Now Maulana Rum (r.a.) was surprised and asked how this was possible - to which Hazrat Shams Tabrez (r.a.) replied that such knowledge was beyond that of an external scholar.

Thus began the relationship between Maulana Rum (may Allah have mercy on him) and Hazrat Shams Tabrez (may Allah have mercy on him). Maulana Rum (r.a.) is reported to have mostly retired from his public life and spent a lot of time with Hazrat Shams Tabrez (r.a.). Once Hazrat Shams Tabrez (r.a.) was driven from Konya but returned. The second time that Hazrat

Shams Tabrez (r.a.) disappeared, it was permanent. There is a famous Persian couplet:

*Maulvi hargis na shud Maula e Rum
Ta ghulame Shams Tabrizi na shud*

Maulana (religious teacher) Rumi could
never have become Maula Rumi
Without submitting to
Spiritual Guide Shams Tabrez

Maulana Rum (may Allah have mercy on him) then formed companionship with Hazrat Saladin Zarkub (may Allah have mercy on him) and then later Hazrat Husam Chelebi (may Allah have mercy on him). The latter encouraged the Maulana to write the famous *Masnawi-ye Manawi* or *Mathnawi Shareef*, which is a very long poem containing as many verses as the Iliad and the Odyssey put together. Among Maulana Rum's other famous works are the *Diwan Shams-e-Tabrez*, and *Fih ma Fih* (What is in it, is in it).

In his commentary on the *Mathnawi Shareef*, Maulana Abdur Rahman Jami (may Allah have mercy on him), the famous 15th century CE Persian Sufi Saint and poet, writes:

"The word '*ney*' (reed) in the first couplet of the *Mathnawi* ("Listen to the reed, how it tells a tale, complaining of separations...") means a perfect and exalted human being brought up in Islam. Such people have forgotten themselves and everything else. Their minds are always

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Allah, The Most Exalted says
in His Noble Quran:

“... whoever kills a human being
except in lieu of killing or causing
turmoil in the earth, so it shall be
as if he had killed all mankind; and
whoever saves the life of one per-
son, is as if he had saved the life of
all mankind...”

[Al-Quran 5:32]

The following is a report by Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) about the conversation between Ibn Sufyan and Heraclius, the Byzantine Emperor at the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him):

“... Heraclius said, ‘What does he [i.e. The Holy Prophet ﷺ] order you to do?’ I said, ‘He tells us to worship Allah and Allah alone and not to worship anything along with Him, and to renounce all that our ancestors had said. He orders us to pray, to speak the truth, to be chaste and to keep good relations with our Kith and kin.’...”

[Sahih Al-Bukhari, Volume 1, Book 1, Number 6]

HAZRAT MAULANA RUM رحمته عليه (continued from previous page)

busy seeking the *rida* [approval] of Allah, The Most Exalted.”

Maulana Jami (r.a.) says that ‘Ney’ also means non-existent, because these men are emptied of themselves. Finally he says ‘Ney’ refers to the reed-pen. A pen’s writings are fully controlled by its writer, which also points to men emptied of existence and perfectly submitting to the will of Allah, The Most Exalted.

This brings up the point that Maulana Rum (may Allah have mercy on him) was a true Muslim scholar and Sufi. Unfortunately, there have been many mis-translations or misrepresentations of Maulana Rum (r.a.). He himself writes in his *Diwan*:

*man banda-yé Qur’ân-am, agar jân dêr-am
man khâk-é rah-é Muhammad-e mukhtâr-am
gar naql kon-ad joz in, kas az goftâr-am
bêzâr-am az-ô, w-az-in sokhan bêzâr-am*

I am the servant of the Qur'an
as long as I have life.
I am the dust on the path of
Muhammad ﷺ, the Chosen one.
If anyone quotes anything
except this from my sayings,
I am quit of him and
outraged by these words.

Maulana Rum (may Allah have mercy on him) was a poet, jurist, theologian and scholar of the highest accord. He empha-

sized however that true knowledge is not found in books, but at the feet of the Noble Friends of Allah Almighty. For any given individual that person is his or her Shaykh or Spiritual Guide (*Murshid / Pir*). Maulana Rum (r.a.) mentions the importance of the Shaykh when he writes:

*Sad kitaboh, sad waraq, dar nar kun
Aur jaan-o-dil rah, janibeh, dil daar kun*

Throw all (100) your books into the fire
And turn with heart and soul to the *Awliya*
[For without them one cannot reach perfection.]

In the *Mathnawi Shareef*, Maulana Rum (r.a.) writes the following:

"Seeing a man who was tilling the earth, a fool, unable to control himself, cried out, "Why are you ruining this soil?" "Fool," said the man, "leave me alone: try to recognize the difference between tending the soil and wasting it. How will this soil become a rose garden until it is disturbed and overturned?"

This verse brings to mind the importance of the Shaykh who is the tiller, where he may test the spiritual disciple (*Mureed*) in order for the *Mureed*'s full inner potential to be realized.

Maulana Rum's (may Allah have mercy on him) importance continues throughout the centuries and across cultures. Hazrat Allama Iqbal (may Allah have mercy on him), the great 19th century CE poet-

philosopher of the Indian Subcontinent, separated by six centuries of time, famously attributed Maulana Rum as his *Pir* when he wrote "*Pir-e-Rumi, Mureed-e-Hindi*" and also about himself:

*Tu bhi hai us qaafla-e-shawq mein Iqbal
Jis qaafla-e-shawq ka salaar hai Rumi*

You too are a member of that
caravan of longing Oh Iqbal
That caravan of longing
whose guide is Rumi

Maulana Rum (may Allah have mercy on him) passed away into the realm of Divine Beatitude on 5th *Jamadi-u-'l-Akhar* 672 Hijri in Konya, Turkey and his tomb is near to that of his Shaykh Hazrat Shams Tabrez (r.a.). This shining star of the East however lives on through his legacy of love, devotion, and piety, which continues through the centuries to fragrance, nourish and heal the broken hearts that it encounters. May Allah Almighty give us the ability to learn from him and follow in his footsteps. Ameen.

Naveed Agboatwala

Mr. Agboatwala has been with the IECRC since its inception and is one of its most dedicated and hard working contributors. He is a Software Engineer by profession and a research scholar by nature. Brother Naveed leads the IECRC Friday (Juma) prayers. He handles all of IECRC's audio releases and is an invaluable technical support resource to the rest of the IECRC team. □

The distinguished Sainly name that shines in the lands of the Subcontinent in general and Punjab in particular is none other than that of the Crown of the Gnostics, *Sultan-ul Arifeen* Hazrat Sultan Bahu (1628 – 1691 CE, may Allah Almighty have mercy on him). On the occasion of his *Urs Mubarak* (Blessed Memorial) on the 1st of *Jamaduth Thani* (*Jamadal Akhir*), below are a few couplets from his famous Punjabi poetry:

*Alif Allah Chambe de booti
Murshid mun vich laee Hu
Nafi Asbaat da pani millia
si har rage har jae Hu
Andar booti mushk machaya
jaan phulan te aee Hu
Jeevay Murshid mera kamil Bahu
Jain aee booti laee Hu*

*Alif. My Spiritual Guide planted
the Love of Allah و تعالين in my
heart just like a jasmine plant. Hu
With every vein [of mine] being
watered by nothing but [the truth
of] negation and affirmation [i.e.
La ilaaha illa Allah]. Hu
This plant has caused much tur-
moil of fragrance within me upon
reaching its full bloom. Hu
Bahu! Long live my perfect Spirit-
ual Guide who sowed [within
me] this plant of Love of Allah
Almighty. Hu*

*Be Bismillah Ism Allah da
aevee gehnaa bhara Hu
Naal Shafa'at sarware Alam ﷺ
chut si-e alam sara Hu
Haddun be hadd Durood Nabi ﷺ noo
jin da ed pasara Hu
Mein qurban una tu Bahu
jina milya Nabi ﷺ sahara Hu*

*Be. Bismillah is the Name of Allah
و تعالين and is indeed a very heavy
ornament. Hu
The entire world will be saved by
the intercession of the Leader of
the World [i.e. The Holy Prophet
Muhammad ﷺ]. Hu
Countless Blessings on the One
for whom the entire creation has
been spread out [i.e. The Holy*

*Prophet Muhammad ﷺ]. Hu
I am sacrificed on those [pious
Saints] who received the aid of the
Holy Messenger ﷺ. Hu*

*Sunn Fariyad Piran de-a Pira ﷺ
meri arz suni kan dhar ke Hu
Mera beda adya vich khapran
jithe mach na bende dar ke Hu
Shahe Jilani Mehboobe Subhani
meri khabar liyo jhat kar ke Hu
Pir Jinhan da Miran Bahu
soyo kadhi lag de tar ke Hu*

*Listen earnestly to my plea O
Spiritual Guide of the Spiritual
Guides with an attentive ear! Hu
My ship is trapped in waters
where even crocodiles don't dare
to tread. Hu
O King of Jilan, Beloved of the
Exalted One, quickly take stock of
my affairs. Hu
Bahu! The one whose Spiritual
Guide is Shaykh Abdul Qadir
Jilani ﷺ always swims to the
shore. Hu*

The word *Hu* at the end of every verse above is a beautiful literary and spiritual blend of meanings as this word in Punjabi means "is" and in Arabic it stands for The Being of Allah Almighty. The blessed name of Hazrat Sultan Bahu (may Allah have mercy on him) also contains this word of *Hu* and the great Saint often mentioned this fact that his name meant "With Allah" and indeed such was the station and state of this great Friend (*Wali*) of Allah Almighty that spiritually he was always with his Creator. This is the sign of the Friends of God that they are in the world but not of it. Their inner being is with their Creator and their external body is constantly involved in the unconditional service of humanity. Hazrat Sultan Bahu (may Allah have mercy on him) was also grateful to his pious mother Bibi Rasti (may Allah have mercy on her) for naming him such because by the doubling of the existing dot, the Arabic letter *ba* changes into a *ya* making the call to Allah *Ya Hu*. She had named him such on a directive from the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

According to some, Hazrat Sultan Bahu (may Allah have mercy on him) was born in Shorkot, Distric Jang in Punjab, Pakistan in the year the Islamic Hijir year 1039 during the reign of the Mughal emporer Shah Jahan. His father's name was Hazrat Sultan Bazaid Muhammad (may Allah have mercy on him) who was a Hafiz, jurist and pious personality. His mother's name was Bibi Rasti (may Allah have mercy on her) who was a truly devout and virtuous lady by nature. Hazrat Sultan Bahu (may Allah have mercy on him) praises his blessed mother in a verse as follows:

*Rehmat Haq ba rawan Rasti
Rasti Barasti Arasti*
May Allah's Mercy keep showering on Rasti
The beautiful Rasti is on the Right Path

Hazrat Sultan Bahu (may Allah have mercy on him) was a Hashmite descending from Hazrat Ali (may Allah ennoble his countenance). He had taken *Bai'ah* (Spiritual Contract) with Hazrat Habeebullah Qadri (may Allah have mercy on them) a pious person of his time. He also gained spiritual benefit from Hazrat Abdul Qadir and Hazrat Sufi Abdurrahman Dehlawi (may Allah have mercy on them.)

It is said that the kind of guidance that the famous book *Kashful Majhoob* of the great 11th century CE Sufi Saint and Scholar Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh (may Allah have mercy on him) provides to the seekers of the Sufi Path, similarly the poetry of Hazrat Sultan Bahu (may Allah have mercy on him) provides inroads to Divine Secrets specifically to the famous Hadeeth which means "*Die before death*". His poetry also extensively explains the importance and need for love of the Divine. It also addresses many other relevant topics and presents them in a clear manner. Additionally, his poetry explains the importance and need of the relationship between the Spiritual Guide and his disciple. Similar to the nature of the *Kashful Mahjoob*, the poetry of Hazrat Sultan Bahu (may Allah have mercy on him) helps the seekers who don't have a Spiritual Guide to find one.

There are many miracles associated with this great personality. One of them is that he would not drink his mother's milk dur-

(continued on page 8)

IECRC COMMEMORATES ITS ANNUAL *GYAARHWEEN SHAREEF* IN THE BAY AREA

The Islamic Educational and Cultural Research Center of Northern California observed its annual *Urs Shareef* (Blessed Memorial) of the most distinguished scholar and Crown of the Saints, Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani, lovingly known as *Huzoor Ghause Pak* (1077/8 – 1166 CE, may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him) on Sunday, May 21, 2006 at its weekly *Dhikr* gathering in Fremont, California. The spiritual and educational gathering was attended by scholars and lay people alike from around the Bay Area.

The evening was interspersed with poetic presentations in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him), the former referred to as *Naat* and the latter as *Manqabat*. The Farsi couplet of Hazrat Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki (may Allah have mercy on him), the spiritual successor (*Khalifa*) to the 12th century CE *Sultan-ul-Hind*, Hazrat Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti Ajmeri (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him) were quoted on this special evening as:

*Murdah dil gushtamo
Naame Tu Muhiyuddin ast
Murdah ra zindah numa
Hazrat Ghausus Saqalayn*

My heart has died and your name is
"Reviver of the Deen"
Bring my heart back to life, O Greatest
Helper in the two worlds!

It is the intention of IECRC's observances of the memorial days (*Urs*) of the great spiritual fountainheads of the Islamic tradition to bring back into focus spirituality in contrast to the modern emphasis on materialism. IECRC conducts its spiritual gatherings following in the footsteps of these great scholars. Authentic narrations such as those reported by Maulana Abu Muhammad Siyal Naqshbandi in his famous *Tazkirah Ghause Azam* (Lahore) state that Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him) himself used to observe the 11th of each Islamic month to



honor the great scholars and Saints who preceded his time and this practice has been followed since then under the auspicious title of "*Gyaarhween Shareef*." *Gyaarah* in Urdu means eleven. But most importantly, as intended by Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him), these *Gyaarhween Shareef* observances inevitably lead to the *Baarhween Shareef*, (*Baarah* in Urdu means twelve) commemorating the 12th of Rabiul Awwal – the remembrance of the Best of Creation, the Leader of the Prophets, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him and His Noble Family and Companions.) And it was Allah Almighty's loving gift to the Crown of the Saints that He Almighty called him into the Divine Realm on the 11th of Rabiuth Thani, a day now associated with his great *Urs Shareef*.

These gatherings in remembrance of the great Friends of Allah Almighty (*Awliya Kiram*) act as a vehicle for the purification of the heart removing its encrustation that occurs due to involvement in life's daily routine akin to dust settling on the physical self in its interaction with the physical world. The Prophetic tradition teaches that every rust has a cure and the cure for the rust on the heart is the remembrance of Allah Almighty (*Dhikr*). [Hadeeth Shareef] Allah Almighty's *Dhikr* is not complete if the mention of His blessings is not made. Allah Almighty's Noble Friends (*Awliya Kiram*) are His greatest blessings because it is through them that we know Him, Most Glorified and Exalted is He. These *Awliya Kiram* are the true scholars who inherit from the Prophets as per the Blessed Hadeeth "*Al Ulama warithatul Ambiya*." Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him) holds the highest station amongst the

Awliya Kiram in the same manner that the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) holds the highest station amongst all the Prophets of Allah Almighty (may Allah Almighty's peace be upon them all), who are the highest in the spiritual hierarchy of creation. "The *Awliya Kiram* are those who remind you of Allah Almighty when you see them," explained Maulana Ramzan in his unique and penetrating Punjabi / Urdu style presentation. Maulana Ramzan is the Imam at the Bayview Mosque of San Francisco who graced this special IECRC event as he has done on numerous occasions in the past. The event was compered professionally in his distinctive extemporaneous style by Mr. Akhtar Shah who shared his own deep affection for the Crown of the Saints (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him). Also presenting in his marvelous voice drowned in the love of the Beloved of Allah Almighty (Peace Be Upon Him), was Mr. Arif of the South Bay who brought the audience to tears with his touching *Naat* presentations.

Mr. Shakeel Rehman Qadri of IECRC quoted excerpts from the 500 year old biography of Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him) written by the Syrian scholar Hazrat Shaykh Muhammad Yahya al-Tadifi (may Allah have mercy on him) entitled "*Qalaidul Jawahir*" rendered into English as "*Necklaces of Gems*" by Sidi Muhtar Holland (Al-Baz Publications). In addition to stating extensive narrations of the life and miracles of the great Shaykh Abdul Qadir (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him), this priceless book documents the textual praises of the Shaykh by some 43 eminent Islamic scholars including Hazrat Imam Nawawi (may Allah have mercy on him).

Discussed at the gathering was the concept of how the *Awliya Kiram* and especially the *Sultan ul-Awliya* Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him) is not to be considered dead in the mundane sense of the word. Allah Almighty exhorts in the Holy Quran that those who have given their lives in His Way are not to be considered dead [Al-Quran 3:169]. Scholars have interpreted this to include those pious individuals, i.e. the

(continued on next page)

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ing the holy month of Ramadan and would fast even during infancy. He was the author of about 140 works in Arabic, Farsi and Punjabi, some of which include the *Risalat Roohi*, *Abyate Bahu* (Punjabi), *Asrar Qadri*, *Diwan Bahu* (Farsi), etc. He advised people to fulfill the rights of Allah's creation with generosity. He also said that a Sufi who strays from the *Shari'ah* brought by Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ even a bit has committed an act of the devil, and that such a Sufi is a devil and it

is very important to avoid him.

Hazrat Sultan Bahu (may Allah have mercy on him) united with his Beloved, Allah Almighty at the age of 63 on the 1st of Jamaduth Thani and was laid to rest in Garh Maharaja, about 35 miles from Shorkot in Punjab, Pakistan. May Allah, The Most Exalted give us the ability and strength to learn from him and his works. Ameen.

Reference: Much of the above information has been taken from the commentary on the *Abyate Bahu* by Abul Kashif Qadri Sahab.

Zahid Chaudhry Qadri

Mr. Chaudhry has been with the IECRC since its inception. He is an encyclopedia of the poetic verses of the Saints of the Islamic tradition and possesses a unique love and connection to the Spiritual Path which is evident from his heartfelt recitations. □

HAZRAT QADI 'IYAD IBN MUSA AL-YAHSUBI رحمته اللہ علیہ (1103 – 1149 CE)

IECRC WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ITS READERS OF THE *URS MUBARAK* (BLESSED MEMORIAL) OF HAZRAT QADI 'IYAD (MAY ALLAH HAVE MERCY ON HIM) ON THE 9TH OF JAMADUTH THANI. AN IMPORTANT ARTICLE ON THIS GREAT ISLAMIC LUMINARY AND AUTHOR OF THE FAMOUS *AS-SHIFA* WILL INSHA ALLAH BE COMING FORTH IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE IECRC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER.

IECRC COMMEMORATES ITS ANNUAL *GYAARHWEEN SHAREEF* IN THE BAY AREA

(continued from previous page)

Awliya Kiram who spend every moment of their lives in Allah Almighty's Way albeit not on the battlefield of the sword but that of the more arduous and strenuous battlefield of the lower self, which they conquer in every instance. These are the martyrs of the *Jihadul Akbar* - the greater struggle - that against the lower self. It is the belief of the *Ahle Sunna wal Jama'ah* that the pious souls of these *Awliya Kiram* visit the gatherings in which they are mentioned with reverence and love, bless it and make supplications for its attendees in much the same way they did when they were gracing the earth in their physical bodies. It is this company (*sohba*) that is the cause for the purification of the heart in these spiritual gatherings as per the Prophet tradition that the company of a pious person supersedes many years of individual worship. [Hadeeth Shareef]

It is also the belief of the *Ahle Sunnah wal Jama'ah* that we seek assistance from the *Awliya Kiram* - the widely misunderstood concept of *Istighaatha* (seeking assistance) in this day and age. According to the authentic scholars of the *Ahle Sunnah wal*

Jama'ah, calling upon *Huzoor Ghause Pak* (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him) by the words of "*Madad Ya Ghause Pak*" is not just permissible, but highly recommended, as it is an honor and station conferred upon the Crown of the Saints by Allah Almighty Himself, as documented in the "*Risala Ghausia*" written by Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him) himself. Seeking assistance from the *Awliya Kiram* in general and *Huzoor Ghause Pak* (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him) in particular in spiritual affairs is analogous to seeking assistance from a medical doctor for physical ailments. In both cases it is understood that the True Help and Cure is from Allah Almighty, but it is His System (*Nizam*) that He in His Wisdom has put help and cure in the hands of His chosen servants, whether that be in the physical or the spiritual realm.

In IECRC's tradition, included in the program were presentations by women and children who expressed their deep love for the Best of Creation (Peace Be Upon Him) and the Crown of the Saints (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with him). A

most informational talk was given by Mr. Ayyaz Yousaf Qadri, spiritual successor to Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri, Founding Director of IECRC. Mr. Qadri quoted the 20th century CE Reviver (*Mujaddid*) Ala Hazrat (may Allah Almighty have mercy on him):

*Vah kya martaba ay Ghaus hai bala tera
Unche unchon ke saron se qadam ala tera*

What a high station you have O *Ghaus!*
Your blessed feet are above
the heads of all the great [Saints]

The evening culminated in the weekly *Dhikr* recitation followed by the standing Salutation with the *Salam-e-Raza* of Ala Hazrat (may Allah Almighty have mercy on him), communal prayers and dinner. IECRC's weekly *Dhikr* gatherings and *Urs* programs are free of charge and open to the public.

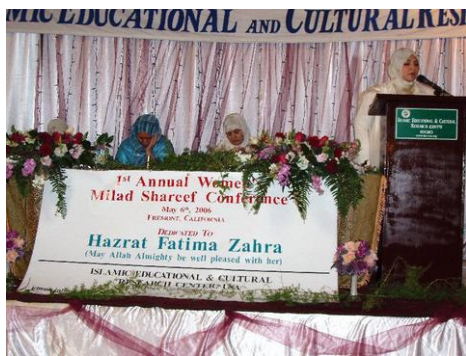
IECRC also conducts monthly *Gyaarhween Shareef* observances. For more information please visit www.iecrcna.org or call us at 510-732-6786. All comments and feedback are welcome. □

IECRC CONDUCTS 1ST ANNUAL WOMEN'S MILAD SHAREEF CONFERENCE

The Islamic Educational and Cultural Research Center of Northern California conducted its 1st Annual Women's Milad Shareef Conference on Saturday, May 6, 2006 in the city of Fremont. The event was a wonderful gathering of women of all cultures and ages from cities far and near whose hearts shared one thing in common: an overwhelming love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him and His Noble Family and Companions) coupled with the great desire to learn more about His Prophetic Way.



This year's conference was dedicated to the Holy Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him) most Beloved Daughter, Hazrat Fatima Zahra (may Allah Almighty be pleased with her). The conference had a full agenda with inspiring speakers and moving *Naatkhwans* (poets) reciting poetry in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The topics covered included the Miracles of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), His Blessed Birth, His Beautiful *Shamail* (Physical Attributes), women's rights, message for social betterment, unity based on love for the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), and the role of the Hazrat Fatima Zahra (may Allah be pleased with her) as a wife and role model for all women to follow. "Hazrat Fatima Zahra's (may Allah Almighty be well pleased with her) concern for the *Ummah* (community) of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) was akin to that of her Blessed Father as was her stellar character," explained Sister Syeda Zille Humma Qadri, Chair of IECRC's Women's Committee.



Dr. Syeda Saiqa Zubeda, Executive Director of the Canadian Women Counselling Centre of British Columbia, Chief Guest at this important conference, commented that the Muslim *Ummah* is suffering from divisions and defeat. She advised that the only consummate unifying and uplifting force is to rekindle unconditional love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) in the hearts of people, especially those of our children. She further explained that "just like one needs light to read a book, one needs the Light of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) to understand the last and final Divine Book of Allah Almighty: the Noble Quran." Dr. Syeda was accompanied by Sister Adiba Iqbal of Canada who impressed the audience with her beautiful recitation of the Holy Quran and *Naats*.

Amongst the other speakers were Mrs. Sohab Hamdani (El Cerrito), Sister Benazir Bath (Yuba City), Sister Shaheen Rasheed (Hayward), Sister Amira Mian (Fremont), Sister Aqila Aswat (San Ramon), Sister Nikhat Malik (Antioch), Sister Frozan Khojizada (Hayward), Sister Fatima Sharaaz Qadri (Sacramento), and Sister Shagufta Ahmad Qadri (San Jose). The presentations were interspersed with *Naat* recitations by



both the old and young. Lively children warmed the hearts of the audience with their touching performances reciting poetry praising the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) written by poets both traditional and modern. Included was the famous poem for children by the great 19th century poet, philosopher and Sufi, Hazrat Allama Iqbal (may Allah Almighty have mercy on him): "*Lab pe aati hai dua.*" Also recited were numerous poems of the 19th century *Mujaddid* (Reviver) Hazrat Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Bareilvi (may Allah Almighty have mercy on him). The presentations were made in Urdu, English, Arabic, Farsi, and Punjabi. There was also a slide show presentation by the young and enthusiastic Sister Zahara Chaudhry who shared her experiences at IECRC's part time Islamic school.

IECRC also put up a stall with its literature and media productions featuring talks and articles by its Founding Director, Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri, who had words of inspiration and encouragement in a booklet that IECRC published specifically for this occasion. This booklet also contains an excellent article about the historical context of celebrating the *Milad Shareef* by Sister Syeda Zille Humma Qadri and can be viewed online at <http://tinyurl.com/epntne>. About 150 women and children participated in this one of its kind event in the Greater Bay Area. Free childcare was available with the program being broadcast live for the convenience of the mothers and the volunteers. Complimentary dinner was served and admission to this important event was free.

IECRC intends to conduct its Women's Conference each year, dedicating it to the many great women of the Islamic intellectual and spiritual tradition who lived their lives in the Blessed Footsteps of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), "Mercy to the worlds," in general and to women, in particular.

IECRC welcomes all comments and can be reached at info@iecrcna.org or 510-732-6786. □

COMMUNITY NEWS

Condolences: "To Allah we belong and unto Him is our return."

Please do *Isaal-e-Sawab* for the following people: Sister Nida Gardezi, Sister Shameem Akhtar (cousin and aunt of Sister Syeda Zille Humma Qadri, respectively), Dr. Mehboob u Rahman Qazi (uncle of Sister Fatima Sharaaz Qadri), Br. Yusuf, Sister Ramzan Bibi (grand aunt of Sister Benazir of Yuba City), Shahid Bhai's Father in Law, Shaikh Abdul Razaq. May Allah have mercy on their souls. Ameen.

Prayers: Sister Seema Daud, Abdul Kareem Khan, Moeen u din Khan (Father and Brother of Qudsia Behn respectively), Liaqat Khan, Jamshed Khala, Abdullah Sai, Shafeeqa Behn, Iftikhar Rasool, Ejaz Ra-

sool, Farhat Qaisar, Nadia Shah, Saliq Shah, Nazeeran Bibi, Seema Kanwal, Ejaz Bhai suffering from Cancer, Zaveeda Shareef and Zohra Khan, Saqib Khan and Elum Taj Khan, Brother Abdul Lateef and daughter Zakiya (Yuba City). May Allah, The Most Exalted, by the Waseela Mubarak (Blessed Rank) of His Beloved Prophet ﷺ grant them all speedy recovery. Ameen!

Births: Congratulations to Sister Shazneen and Brother Sharif of Fremont on the birth of their first son Sahil Ibrahim Khan! Also to Sister Nosheen and Brother Kashif on the birth of their daughter Nimra.

Engagements: Mehwish Rydhan with Sohel Afsan Jalal, Farnaz Bi with Nazud Din,

Javed with Maryam. Congratulations all!

Acknowledgements: Brother Mustafa and Sister Mary of Landmark Signs (San Jose, see ad below), Copyworld (Berkeley, see ad below), Shahid Bhai (Yuba City), Ahmed Shareef Bhai (Tracy), Layla Behen and Ahmed Ali Bhai, Mumtaz Behen, Ashiyana Behen, Walli Bhai and Hamidah Behen, Aysha Behen (San Jose), Nikhat Behen and Malik Bhai, Amira Behen, Shaheen Behen, Naeem Bhai and Zohra Behen, Yusuf Chaudhry Bhai, Najia Behen, Humaira Behen, Frozan Behen, her mother Layla Behen, and Sister Trina. Thank You all! May Allah, The Most Exalted, grant you all multifold rewards for all your contributions both in this world and the Next. Ameen!

IECRC PRESENTS AT KAISER HOSPITAL

IECRC is actively developing a set of courses and seminars geared to foster understanding and good will between the Muslim Community in the United States and the general American community. The goal of this project is to enable Hospitals, Hospice Care Facilities, Convalescent Homes, Nursing Homes, Psychiatric Hospitals, and the General Medical Community in the United States to better interact with and understand the needs of Muslim patients. IECRC recently presented two courses to Kaiser:

- * *Hospice Care for the Muslim Patient: Social Concerns, Beliefs, Traditions*
- * *Caring for the Muslim Patient: Spiritual Considerations & Cultural Sensitivity*

For further information, please visit our website at:

<http://www.iecrcna.org/courses.html>

PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Spearheaded by Brother Sharaaz Khan Qadri of Sacramento, IECRC has been performing grassroots relief efforts for the victims of the devastating earthquake that shook Pakistan last Fall. Alhamdulillah, 130 tents, along with blankets, sleeping bags, warm clothing have reached the destination. For further information and to see how you can help please visit:

<http://www.iecrcna.org/earthquake.html>



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Thank you for your support.

IECRC COMMUNITY SERVICES

Counseling Centers

IECRC conducts Spiritual Counseling sessions every Sunday after the *Dhikr* Gathering at 37270 Niles Blvd, Fremont CA 94536. (Please call 510-732-6786 for exact details before coming.)

The Spiritual Counseling and Healing Center is unique in that services are provided free of charge to all people, irrespective of their color, creed, race, and religion. The center serves people who come from all over the USA and abroad. Services are provided for all types of ailments that range from benign aches and pains to severe conditions such as cancer and psychological ailments. Alhamdulillah, by the Mercy and Power of Allah Almighty, patients with depression, migraine, hyperactivity and other serious illnesses have received benefit from our center. Alhamdulillah, another branch providing extensive services in this area operates in Sacramento, California:

Sacramento Branch: Please call 916-669-8809 for details.

This Sunnah (practices of the Holy Prophet ﷺ) of Spiritual Healing in Islam is conducted through the recitation of the Holy Quran and *du'as* (prayers). There are many cases that IECRC has seen related to this dying Sunnah of "*Ruqya*", which can be found on the IECRC Web site (www.iecrcna.org). They are listed anonymously for the confidentiality of the patients.

Unfortunately, these days there are many people who misuse this practice; we advise our readers to be cautious.

Part-Time Islamic School

Alhamdulillah, IECRC runs a part-time school that operates on Sunday mornings from 10:45 AM–2:00 PM in the Bay Area and on four consecutive weekdays in Sacramento, California. Instruction is provided in Reading the Holy Quran, Memorization of Islamic prayers, History of Islam, and Islamic Ethics.

Ages: Children must be 5 years or older.

Fee: \$50 / child / month. No one is turned away for lack of funds. Discounts available for multiple children of the same family.

Sessions: Quarter basis with 3 month sessions:

Jan–Mar, Apr–Jun and Oct–Dec. Off during the summer.

For further information: Please contact the IECRC office at 510-732-6786 or 916-669-8809. Thank You.

THE BAY AREA SCHOOL IS CURRENTLY CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER.

Weekly *Dhikr* Gatherings

IECRC conducts weekly *Dhikr* sessions every Sunday at 5:30 PM at 37270 Niles Blvd, Fremont CA 94536.

The evening comprises of Quran Recitation, *Naat-e-Rasool* (poetry in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ), Educational Talk on different Islamic topics, *Dhikr* (collective recitation of Allah's Beautiful Names), *Salaam* (salutation) on the Holy Prophet ﷺ, *Fatiha* (recitation of the Holy Quran over food), Dinner (the continuing tradition of *Langar-e-Qadria*). Similar *Dhikr* sessions are conducted in the greater Bay Area in:

Sacramento: Every other Saturday at the Sierra 2 Community Center. Please call 916-669-8809 or visit www.iecrcna.org/zikr.html for timings and directions.

As Allah Almighty says in His Glorious Quran:

"Only in the remembrance of Allah is the solace of hearts." [13:28]

This spiritual gathering is a comprehensive solution to modern man's many ailments of stress, depression and anxiety.

Monthly *Gyaarhween Shareef*

Conducted on the 11th of every month of the Islamic Hijri calendar, this auspicious, spiritual gathering commemorates Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be well pleased with him): his life, contributions and spiritual benefits. For further information please call: 510-475-7867, 916-669-8809, or 510-732-6786. In the Bay Area, this is currently an all women and children service only.

Reference Library

Alhamdulillah, IECRC maintains a Reference Library with traditional books in Arabic, Urdu, and English. The unique collection hosts authentic and traditional *Tafaseer* (Exegesis of the Holy Quran), Commentaries on the *Ahaadeeth* (sayings and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad – peace and blessings be upon him), *Miracles*, birth and life of the Holy Prophet – peace and blessings be upon him, books on *Fiqh* (Islamic Jurisprudence), the lives of the *Sahaba Kiram* (Noble Companions – may Allah be pleased with them), the *Tabi'een* (Followers of the Companions – may Allah have mercy on them), *Tasawwuf* (Sufism), poetry and more. All are welcome to take advantage of this rare collection. Unfortunately the books are not available for check out due to the risk of loss. Please call our office at 510-732-6786 for an appointment. Thank You.

IECRC PUBLICATIONS

The following are IECRC publications by Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri and his research staff:

1. **Blessings on the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:** The Meaning, Relevance & Importance of Sending Blessings and Greetings on the Best of Creation ﷺ
2. **Reviving Love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:** The Solution to the Contemporary Muslim Condition
3. **Living in the Abode of Peace and Purification** (co-authored by Dr. Syeda Saiqa Zubeda)
4. **Islamic Treatment of Jinn, Magic & The Evil Eye** (co-authored by Dr. Syeda Saiqa Zubeda)
5. **Quranic Therapy: Heal Yourself Part 1**
6. **Quranic Therapy: Heal Yourself Part 2**
7. **Ramadan: The Month of Patience, Empathy & Self-Purification**
8. **Peace & Tolerance in Islam**
9. **The Muslim World: Hope in the New Millennium**
10. **The Science of Dreams**
11. **The Spirit of Islam: A Glance into the External and Spiritual Dimensions of Islamic Practice** (Sharaaz Khan Qadri)

IECRC VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

The following are IECRC video productions featuring Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri:

1. **The Truth (5 VCDs) - NEW!**
2. **Learn Islamic History Through Quiz Show (4 VCDs)**
3. **Khuwab**

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www.iecrcna.org/donate.html

*Checks also accepted.
Thank you for your support!*

IECRC AUDIO PRODUCTIONS

The following speeches by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri are available through IECRC on audio cassette:

English

- 1 Love of the Holy Prophet ﷺ
- 2 The Islamic Culture
- 3 The Concept of Spiritual Healing
- 4 Quranic Therapy - Heal Yourself (also available in print & CD)
- 5 Heal Yourself in the Light of Quran & Sunnah (also available in print & CD)
- 6 The Philosophy of Love with Allah in Tasawwuf/The Necessity of a Spiritual Guide
- 7 What is Tasawwuf: An Answer by Hadrat Ali bin Uthman al-Hujwari (may Allah be pleased with him) known as Hazrat Data Ganj Buksh
- 8 The Concept of Jinn in the Light of Quran and Sunnah
- 9 Islam and Soul Orientation (Dr. Manzooruddin Ahmed)

Urdu

- 1 *Ishq-e-Mustafa ﷺ aur Munafiqat*
- 2 *Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi ka Jawaz / Madina-e-Munawarra ke Naam*
- 3 *Durood-o-Salam Maulana Qasim Nanotvi Dar-ul-Uloom Deoband aur Maulana Mohammad Zakarya Tableeghi Jamaat ki Nazar Mein*
- 4 *Durood-o-Salam Ki Fazeelat*
- 5 *Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ Tareekh key Ainey Mein*
- 6 *Allama Iqbal (rahmatullah alayh) ka Hadrat Bilal (radiallaahu anhu) ko Salam*
- 7 *Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ Sawal/Jawab*
- 8 *Allama Iqbal ka Shikwa aur Jawab-e-Shikwa (side A) / Allama Iqbal aur Ishq-e-Mustafa ﷺ (side B)*
- 9 *Karamat-e-Awliya*
- 10 *Ey Iman Walo - CDs 1 & 2 (Dr. Mohammad Abdullah Qadri)*

The following *Naats* are available through IECRC on audio cassette:

- 1 *Allah-hi-Allah - Sufiana Kalam recited by Zahid Chaudry Qadri (Punjabi)*
- 2 *Yaadey Madinah - Naat recited by Syed Mansoor Shah (Urdu)*
- 3 *Zikr-e-Rasool ﷺ - Naat recited by Naveed Iqbal Rahmani (Urdu)*
- 4 *Guldasta-e-Naat - recited by various Naat reciters (Urdu)*

IECRC's CD Releases:

- 1 *Allah Kay Naamon Se Apna Ilaj Kijiye - Dr. M.A. Qadri (Urdu)*
- 2 *Arabic Qasa'id - Shaykh Hisham Kabbani and His Ensemble*
- 3 *Hamd-o-Naat - Mehdi Hassan*
- 4 *Aqeedat Kay Phool - A collection of Hamd and Naat from Various Reciters (Urdu)*
- 5 *Hamd and Naat - Imani Rasheed (English)*

To obtain any of the above cassettes, CDs or books, please contact IECRC through telephone, email or written correspondence.

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Visit

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