



Islamic Educational & Cultural Research Center

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IECRC Newsletter Editorial Board

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*EID MUBARAK
to Muslims in the Bay Area
and around the world
from IECRC!*

EID-UL-FITR AS EXPLAINED BY

HAZRAT SHAYKH ABDUL QADIR JILANI (1077-1166) 

The Festival of Breaking Fast after Ramadan came to be called Eid for the simple reason that Allah Almighty restores joy and happiness to His servants on their day of festive celebration. The Arabic noun "Eid" or "Id" is derived from a three consonant root which conveys the basic notion of "returning".

Many other explanations have been suggested, including the following sayings:

"It came to be called Eid for the simple reason that it contains the benefits of goodness bestowed by Allah Almighty, and the favors of generous grace conferred by Him upon His servant."

"The explanation is that the servant returns at that time to humble entreaty and weeping, and the Lord (Almighty and Glorious is He) returns at that time to the giving of presents and the granting of gifts."

"When people celebrate the Eid, it means that they have returned to their previous condition from the state of purity experienced while keeping the fast."

"It signifies that they have returned from obeying Allah Almighty directly to obeying the Messenger ﷺ (this Arabic calligraphy means 'May Allah bless the

Holy Prophet ﷺ and grant Him peace'), from the religious practice that is strictly obligatory to that which is customary but not compulsory and from the Fast of Ramadan to the fast of six days in the month of Shawwal."

"It came to be called Eid for the simple reason that the believers are told at that time: 'Return to your dwelling places, knowing that you have been granted forgiveness!'"

"It came to be called Eid because it is an occasion for remembering the promise and the threat, the Day of requital and superabundance, the Day of emancipation for the bondmaids and the male slaves, the approach of the Lord of Truth to His creatures near and far, and the reality of contrition and repentance from the feeble servant to the One who is All-Forgiving and Ever-Loving."

It was Wahb ibn Munabbih (may Allah have mercy on him) who said:

"Allah created the Garden of Paradise on the Day of Breaking the Fast; He planted the Tree of Bliss (*Tooba*) on the Day of Breaking the Fast; He chose Angel Gabriel (peace be upon him) as the conveyer of inspiration on the Day of Breaking the Fast;

and the sorcerers found forgiveness on the Day of Breaking the Fast."

The Prophet ﷺ is reported as having said:

"When the Day of Breaking the Fast comes around, and the people emerge from their homes to pray in the open space near the burial ground, Allah Exalted in He, will take notice of them, and He will say: 'My servants, for My sake you have kept the fast, and for My sake you have performed the prayers. Now take your leave, knowing that you have been granted forgiveness!'"

The following Hadeeth of the Holy Prophet ﷺ is one of those reported on the authority of Hazrat Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him and his father):

"When the month of Ramadan is over, and the Night of Breaking the Fast has arrived, that night is called the Night of Prize. Then, in the early morning of the Day of Breaking the Fast, Allah Most Exalted is He, will send His angels forth to visit all the towns and cities on the earth below. Once they have made their descent, they will position themselves at the entrances to all the streets and alleys. There, in a voice that is

Inside this issue:

Lessons from the Exemplary Women of Islam	2
A Word of Inspiration from Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri	3
IECRC 2nd Annual Conference Report	4
<i>Divan-i-Kabir</i> by Maulana Rum	6
Community News	6
Petition Against Malicious Book	6
IECRC Services & Announcements	7
IECRC Publications & Audio Productions	8

audible to every being created by Allah Most Exalted is He, apart from the jinn and humankind, they will issue a proclamation, saying: 'O Community of Muhammad ﷺ, come forth into the presence of a Noble and Generous Lord, who will grant you gifts in abundance, and forgive your terrible sin!'

Then, when the believers have emerged and presented themselves at their place of prayer, Allah Most Exalted is He, will say to His angels: 'O My angels!' They will respond to His call by saying: 'We wait intent upon Your service, time and time again, and upon aiding Your cause, time and time again (labbaika wa sa'daik)! Then He will say to them: 'What is the recompense of the hired laborer, once he has done his job?' The angels will reply: 'Our God and our Master and

(continued on next page)

our Lord, You will pay him his wages in full!' So the All-Majestic One will say: 'I now call upon you to bear witness, O My angels, that I have conferred My acceptance and My forgiveness, as the reward for their fasting and the night vigil during the month of Ramadan.' Then He will say: 'O My human servants, put your requests to Me now, for this I swear, by My Might and My Majesty: You will not ask me this day, in this gathering of yours, for anything connected with your life hereafter, without My granting it to you; nor for anything connected with your life in this lower world, without my attending to your need. By My Might and My Majesty, I will surely condone the false steps you make, as

long as you are consciously alert in the effort to avoid incurring My displeasure. By My Might and My Majesty, I will not put you to shame, nor will I expose you to disgrace amongst those who are faithfully committed to observing the statutes (hudoos). Now you may depart, knowing that you have been forgiven. You have won My approval, and I am well pleased with you.'

The angels will then be very happy, as they welcome the good news of all that Allah Almighty and Glorious is He, will bestow upon this Community, when its members break the fast they have kept through the month of Ramadan."

The above excerpt was taken from *Al-Ghunya li-Taalibi Tareeq al-Haqq* by Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be pleased with him) translated from the Arabic by Haaji Muhtar Holland into *Sufficient Provision for Seekers of the Path of Truth*. (Al-Baz Publishing, Inc., Florida, 1997)

Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be pleased with him) is one of the greatest scholars and Saints of the Islamic tradition, and fountainhead of the Qadri Spiritual Order. He was born in the Iranian district of Gilan, south of the Caspian Sea, in 470 Hijri (1077 CE). Having lived a life of extreme piety, sacrifice, service, and devotion to Allah Almighty and His Messenger ﷺ, he passed onto the Realm of Divine Beatitude on the 11th of Rabi-uth-Thani, 561 Hijri (1166 CE). He rests in the city of Baghdad, Iraq. His blessed mausoleum is a place of pious visitation from devotees around the world.

LESSONS FROM THE EXEMPLARY WOMEN OF ISLAM (MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH THEM)

Islamic history is rife with great women and their exemplary lives that both women and men of today can learn profound lessons from. The Holy month of Ramadan that we just experienced, saw the Urs Mubarak of three foundational women of Islam—Hazrat Fatimat uz-Zahra, Hazrat Khudaijat ul-Kubra, and Hazrat Aisha Siddeeqa (may Allah Almighty be pleased with them all).

Hazrat Fatimat uz-Zahra (may Allah be pleased with her) was the youngest and most beloved daughter of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Her life is a model of patience & tolerance, virtues that are essential to survive in the pluralistic world of today. As a child, she witnessed the atrocities and hardships her dear father ﷺ experienced at the hands of the early disbelievers. However, instead of harboring and passing on any feelings of revenge, she raised exemplary, role-model children: Imam Hasan and Imam Husain (may Allah be pleased with them both), who sacrificed everything for the cause of good, including their lives. She lived under extremely harsh conditions, sometimes going days without food. Despite the fact that she is the daughter of the Best of Creation ﷺ and chief of the women of Paradise, she lived a most simple and hard-working life. She passed away into the Diving Realm at a young age, six months after her beloved father ﷺ.

Hazrat Khudaijat ul-Kubra (may Allah be pleased with her) set the example that age should not restrict women from continuing

to strive in the Path of Allah, Most Exalted is He. She was the Holy Prophet's ﷺ first wife and only companion for 25 years. At the time of marriage to Him ﷺ, she was already 40 years of age, however she continued to serve Him ﷺ and His ﷺ household. She ran their home in the best of ways. The Holy Prophet ﷺ conferred her with the titles of *Ummul Ayyal* - "Mother of the Family" and *Zeenatul bayt* - "Beauty of the Home". She was a woman of impeccable moral character. She was extremely kind to her children and a very competent home maker. It is well known that she was a very successful businesswoman. Her wealth was the Holy Prophet's ﷺ source of income while He ﷺ was employed by her, prior to their marriage. The exegetes of the Holy Quran have explained the verse "*Wa wajadaka 'aailan fa aghna*" [Al-Quran, 93:8] as revealed to the Holy Prophet ﷺ that Allah Almighty made the Prophet ﷺ wealthy through her wealth, i.e. *aybimaal Khadija*. She passed away when she was 65 years old. Allah Almighty had already given her the glad tidings of Paradise in her lifetime.

Hazrat Aisha Siddeeqa (may Allah be pleased with her) was an extremely generous lady. Hazrat Arwa ibn Zubair (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates that Hazrat Aysha once received 70,000 dirhams. She immediately gave it all away in charity. It is well known that she was a scholar of the highest distinction, and transmitter of a large portion of Hadeeth of

the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Many of the famous male scholars of that time such as Hazrat Abu Huraira, Hazrat Ibn Abbas and the like (may Allah be pleased with them all) were her students. She issued *fatawas* (legal rulings) and according to Imam Zuhri her knowledge was wider than that of all the males and females put together. She was well-versed in Hadeeth, Fiqh, Poetry, Laws of inheritance, History of the Arabs, Medicine and was considered to be knowledgeable and skilled in all fields and arts. She is a role model for Muslim women of today that there is no restriction in the type of knowledge and skill one can pursue provided it is in the service of humanity.

Being the Holy Prophet's ﷺ wife from a very young age, Hazrat Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her), not only observed Him ﷺ very closely, but also adopted His ways. She loved the Holy Prophet ﷺ dearly. She was ready to fight with people to defend the honor of the Prophet ﷺ. She was very intelligent. Her memory surpassed that of other male and female Companions. Despite her many distinguished qualities, she was very humble. In her last will and testament, she advised Hazrat Ibn Zubair to bury her near the other wives, and not in the spot that was available next to where the Holy Prophet ﷺ was buried. This because she didn't want to be given any special place in relation to the other wives. She passed away at the age of 63.

(continued on page 5)

Allah *subhaanahu wa ta'aala* says in His Noble Quran:

"Indeed We have sent down the Qur'an, and indeed We Ourselves surely are its Guardians."

[Al-Quran, Chapter Al-Hijr, 15:9]

The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

"The Merciful has mercy on the merciful. O people! Have mercy on the people on the earth and the Merciful of the skies will have mercy on you."

[Sahih Al-Bukhari]

***"Da'aa ilallaahi fal mustamsikoonabihi
Mustamsikoona bi hablin ghayri munfasimi"***

He ﷺ (only) invited to Allah, so be among those who cling to him ﷺ
Among those who cling to a rope that is unbreakable

— Imam Shareefuddin Al-Busiri
(may Allah be pleased with him)

A WORD OF INSPIRATION FROM DR. MOHAMMAD AHMED QADRI

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, I wish you and your families a very warm and heartfelt Eid Mubarak. Alhamdulillah, we are truly blessed to belong to the Ummah (Community) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Who is the cause of the rest of creation, as the great poet Imam Busairi (d. 1296 CE, may Allah be pleased with him) so beautifully mentions in his couplet in the famous Burdah Shareef:



*"Wa kaifa tad'oo ilad-dunyaa darooratu man
Lau laahu lam takhrujid dunyaa minal 'adami"*

"How could worldly needs ever distract him ﷺ
Were it not for him ﷺ, the world would not
have come out of non-existence."

It is because of the love that Allah Almighty has for His Beloved Prophet ﷺ that He has bestowed the Holy Prophet's Ummah with such immense blessings, such as the blessed Laylat-ul-Qadr (Night of Power) that we just experienced in the Holy month of Ramadan. In this great month, one night's vigil was

made equal to that of over eighty years. The great personalities of the Bani Israel had to perform immaculate obedience for over eighty years to achieve what the layperson of the Ummah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ has the opportunity to achieve in one night— provided he or she is not consuming unlawful earnings, usurping the rights of the orphan, or engaging in malicious gossip and slander or breaking family ties. Such are Allah Almighty's just and merciful rules (*hudoood*).

On this happy day, let us be grateful to Allah Almighty for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us in our lives, the greatest one being that of belonging to the Ummah of His Beloved Prophet ﷺ. In this modern age, where people seem to emphasize the message, but have forgotten or downplay the awesome stature and position of the Messenger ﷺ, let us try to be of those who are grateful for this blessing. We haven't truly thanked Allah Almighty for His blessings upon us until we have thanked the means through which those blessings have reached us—and that is none other than the Blessed Per-

sonality of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

I founded the IECRC with the help of Brother Ayyaz Yousaf Qadri & Brother Sharaaz Khan Qadri, and other committed helpers, to spread this message of love for the Holy Prophet ﷺ. I urge you to help further this flame that needs to be instilled in the heart of every child. Our religion is founded on love—love for Allah Almighty, which can only be achieved through the love for His Beloved Prophet ﷺ, which in turn can be found in the lives and personalities of the pious Saints of Islam (may Allah have mercy on them all).

I am currently fulfilling some family responsibilities in Pakistan, but will soon insha Allah return and join you in the important work that IECRC has set out to perform in the Bay Area and beyond. May Allah Almighty by the waseela of His Ha-beeb ﷺ grant you all great rewards for all the support that you have shown and continue to offer. May He grant you eternal happiness. Aamin.

Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri
Founding Director, IECRC

**ON THE JOYOUS OCCASION OF EID-UL-FITR, IECRC WISHES EVERYONE
IN THE BAY AREA AND AROUND THE WORLD THE BLESSINGS OF THIS
AUSPICIOUS DAY!**

IECRC 2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The Islamic Educational and Cultural Research Center (IECRC), held its annual Conference at Newark's elegant Chandni Restaurant, entitled: "*Celebrating the Life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him): Creating a Culture of Peace and Tolerance for Humanity*". The Conference drew several hundred people from all walks of life, religious and cultural backgrounds. The distinguished panel of presenters included Dr. Lawrence Ziring, Arnold E. Schneider Professor of Political Science at Western Michigan University; Dr. Barbara Okun, Professor & Doctoral Program Director, Department of Counseling & Applied Educational Psychology, Northeastern University, Boston; Dr. Beatrice Pressley, Professor of Psychology, Cal State Hayward; Prof. Dr. Manzooruddin Ahmed, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi; Mr. Noor Muhammad Jadmani, Consul General of Pakistan (Los Angeles); Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani, Chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of America; Imam Luqman Ahmad of Masjid Ibrahim Islamic Center, Sacramento; Mr. Riffat Mahmood, Community Social Worker; Mr. Ray Samuels, Police Chief of the City of Newark; and world renowned Quran reciter, Qari Syed Sadaqat Ali of Pakistan.

Dr. Manzooruddin Ahmed emphasized in his enlightening remarks that Islam is a religion of peace and does not permit aggression against any group. The philosophy of "jihad" as taught by the religion is a struggle against injustice and oppression and cannot take offensive form under any condition. He informed the attending distinguished guests from other faiths that Islam teaches "no compulsion in religion" and that its non-aggression policies are the underpinnings of UN's Charter on Peace.

Dr. Barbara Okun of Northeastern University, Boston, talked about the three R's - respect, responsibility, and reflection that are needed for multiple groups to co-exist. She emphasized the importance of learning to tolerate differences and to return to the method of discussion and problem solving through mediation. She congratulated the IECRC for initiating

such inter-cultural academic dialog, which is essential in the furthering of the mission of establishing peace in the world.

Dr. Lawrence Ziring of Western Michigan University presented his paper on the topic saying that we are living in awkward times straddling the past and future. He remarked that it is a world of unavoidable interaction of people who are one but different, where we realize our own inner needs by realizing the needs of others. He said that in a pluralistic world, variety must be heralded, not demeaned and that people must make efforts such as the IECRC to expose our values and not to impose them upon others. He also said that tolerance begins with the acknowledgment of other peoples' traditions and that in a tolerant society faith is simply not an issue.

Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani, Chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of America spoke in the same vein reiterating that Islam's basic message is that of tolerance. Unfortunately Muslims have forgotten and ignored this essential truth resulting in the myriad problems faced by the Muslim Ummah at large. If peace is to be attained in the world, much has to be learnt and implemented from the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). "We have lost the message of the love and we need to restore it," he advised the packed audience.

Consul General of Pakistan, Mr. Noor Muhammad Jadmani, who drove from Los Angeles to make his special appearance, delivered General Pervez Musharraf's two pronged approach on the concept of "Enlightened Moderation" that he had presented last year to the United Nations General Assembly. One prong, he said, must be delivered by the Muslim world by shunning militancy, extremism and adopting the path of socio-economic uplift; and the other prong is to be delivered by the West to resolve all political disputes with justice.

Former Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi, Dr. Manzooruddin Ahmed also said "Islam protects all cultures and does not go against it. At the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)

there was no fight to eliminate culture. In today's time, one culture tries to dominate another as a result of which problems arise. Islam has taught to have good conduct with others, but Muslims have forgotten this giving rise to ethical issues. In today's world a great culture will rise only when people will respect others. The modern requirement is to create an international culture based on peace and tolerance. Peace can be restored when there is a balance between rights and duties."

Imam Luqman of the Islamic Center in Sacramento reminded the audience that mosques and religious organizations could and should be a beacon of light in promoting tolerance as they bring people together in the performance of religious obligations and must be the first place where people of other faiths can turn to for exemplary Islamic behavior.

Also presenting was Police Chief Ray Samuels of the City of Newark who shared some of his ideas about cultural diversity and community trust. He stated that our society is far more diverse than it was 30, or even 20 years ago and that this rich diversity warrants a sensitive response, one that will build and maintain community trust, so that essential services may reach all people fairly and equitably.

Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri, Founding Director of IECRC, presented many quotes from the Islamic intellectual and spiritual tradition that exemplify the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him), teaching that the believers closest to Allah Almighty are those who honor and respect all of Allah's creation. He narrated that the great scholars of the Islamic tradition teach that a person who prays five times a day but does not respect others' feelings, Allah Almighty turns His Face away from him. Dr. Qadri emphasized that the Sufis or Saints of our tradition, following in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) opened their doors to all and served humanity without discrimination. Dr. Qadri further added that our communities must adopt the philosophy of forgiving & forgetting other people's wrong doings and not search for the weak points of others. He closed by saying that the city

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Hazrat Asma bint AbuBakr (may Allah be pleased with her) was the sister of Hazrat Aisha and daughter of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddeeq (may Allah be pleased with him), the dear friend & father-in-law of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and the first Khalifa of Islam. Hazrat Asma's husband was a good person but with some harsh tendencies in his character. However she never complained about him. She stood by him at every difficult time. They were very poor. She was very sensitive and intelligent. She worked hard with him until their financial situation changed for the better. After the *Hijrat* (Migration from Mecca to Medina) they only had one horse. She narrates that in those days she used to bring the feed for the horse, give it water to drink and take care of it. She used to carry the grains on her head walking a distance of 1 km away. She used to crush the grains and make flour out of it, but didn't know how to cook with it. The women of the *Ansar* (Helpers of Medina) used to cook the flour and give to her. They were truly good women. She narrates that one day as she was passing with the grains on her head, she met the Holy Prophet ﷺ and a group of the Companions (may Allah be pleased with them all). The Holy Prophet ﷺ called

upon her and stopped His camel so that she could sit on it. She was very embarrassed to travel with the Holy Prophet ﷺ and remembered the jealous nature of her husband because he was jealous beyond limits. The Holy Prophet ﷺ became aware of her concerns. At a later time, when she mentioned this event to her husband, he said, "By Allah! I am not as upset that you were with Him ﷺ, but that you were attempting to reach His level (by riding his camel)."

In time Hazrat Asma (may Allah be pleased with her) and her husband became rich. However, she did not allow this wealth to come in between her principles. Once her son, Al-Mandheer (may Allah be pleased with him), brought an expensive silk garment from Iraq. With age, Hazrat Asma had become blind. When she touched the garment she expressed her dislike for it and told her son to return it. Al-Mandheer became annoyed and assured his mother that the material was not sheer. She responded that it may not be sheer but it will be body hugging thereby revealing the body's shape. Al-Mandheer then brought another garment, which fitted her criteria of modesty, that she liked and accepted. Hazrat Asma's meeting with her son Hazrat Abdulla (may Allah be pleased with him) is also unforgettable. Not only did she give away money, she also willfully gave away her children in the Path of Allah. She pre-

pared him for battle with her own hands where he received martyrdom. (Please note that in Islam, bearing arms is allowed under very strict conditions with very strict rules, all of which were fulfilled in the battles that the Holy Prophet ﷺ and the early Muslims fought.) After 10 days of her son's death, she passed away. She was 100 years old at the time. However, age never came in the way of her principles.

The above exposition is a reminder to women (and men) that regardless of age, financial conditions, or personal hardships, one must continuously strive to obey Allah Almighty, and work for His Path. The common thread and underlying impetus for the character and behavior of the women mentioned in this article was their unrelenting love and devotion to the Holy Prophet ﷺ. This was the driving force in their reaching the great stations that they did. These great women received the good news of Paradise during their stay on this earth, and this again was due to their overwhelming love for the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Nothing of worth can be achieved without it. This was the message of the great women of that time and this is the message that we are trying to spread through IECRC.

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IECRC 2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT (continued)

of Medina, the resting place of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), symbolizes humanity, because this great and last Prophet affirmed the messages of all the previous Prophets including Prophets Jesus, Moses, and Abraham, (Peace be upon them all), and is a mercy to all of mankind.

Community service and academic excellence awards were presented to the following individuals: Maulana Muhammad Zubair Naqshbandi, Maulana Muhammad Amin Numan, Maulana Syed Aulad-e-Rasool, Qari Bashir Ahmed Siyalvi, Qazi Mohammad Ali Misbahi, Maulana Muhammad Ramzan, Maulana Abdul Hannan, Maulana Ghulam Jilani Yazdani, Qari Sabir Haqqani, Hafiz Tasawwur Iqbal Qadri, Haji Shamsuddin, Mr. Tariq Chaudhry, Mr. Abdul Hameed Bath, Mr. Muhammad Iqbal, Dr. Waheed

Siddiquee, Mr. Nayeem Shahabzada, Mr. Sabir Chishti, Mr. Waqar Ali Khan, Maulana Seraj Ahmed Misbahi, Mr. Rafique Ahmed, Dr. Shehrezad Czar, Police Chief Ray Samuels, Dr. Barbara Okun, Dr. Beatrice Pressley, Dr. Lawrence Ziring, Consul General Mr. Noor Muhammad Jadmani, and Dr. Manzooruddin Ahmed.

The event went on for several hours past its anticipated closing time of 10pm. The hall stayed packed till the end where people's patience was amply rewarded by the reverberating sound of world-renowned Quran reciter, Syed Sadaqat Ali, who captivated the eager audience with his melodious recitation of the Holy Quran and *Naats* (poetry in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him).

The Conference also showed a half hour documentary on the IECRC - its history,

services, and future plans, which was created by Mr. Tariq Hasan, son of famous artist Mehdi Hasan. Mr. Riffat Mahmood, Community Social Worker; Dr. Syeda Saiqa Zubeda, Executive Director of the Canadian Women's Counseling Center, British Columbia, Canada; Mr. Shaanawaz Khan; and Mr. Parwez Zia also spoke on the occasion. Ms. Syeda Zille Huma, Ms. Fatima Sharaaz, Mr. Wajahat Ali, Mr. Sharaaz Khan, Mr. Muhammad Hussain, Mr. Naveed Agboatwala, and Ms. Shagufta Ahmad emceed and coordinated the event. There were some heart-warming presentations by young children, who praised the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) through their charming *Naat* recitations. Closing remarks were made by Mr. Ayyaz Yousaf, Managing Director of IECRC, who thanked everyone for participating in the event to make it a success by the grace of Allah Almighty. (end of report)

DIVAN-I-KEBIR TRANSLATED BY NEVIT OGUZ ERGIN

Really we opened your door,
Don't separate your friends from yourself.
Don't send them away,
Don't worry about the one
Who separates Him from you.
Don't dirty your clothes. Stay clean.

Thanks to God, with the strength
Of the religion in which I believe

He did us a favor
And gave us the power to praise Him,
Don't close your door, then.

O friends, don't be sad.
I gave you wealth. I made you rich.
Don't deceive, don't cheat anyone.
I gave you strength and power.
Made your Heart brave.
Don't be afraid.

Don't love your name, your fame.

My God, open our Hearts.
Increase our dignity.
Show us our full Moon.
Don't worship self-made gods.

I don't have any God but Him.
Every creature has received His help,
His goodness.

His kindness kept His promise.
You don't deprive
The one who comes after you, either.

The words smell Heart,
And Heart appears from the words.
Say something which will be worth
accepting.

Don't let people around you down.

—Maulana Rum

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

IECRC requests the community to perform *Isaal-e-Sawab* (i.e., read verses of the Holy Quran and send its rewards to the deceased soul) for the following people who have recently passed away: Shaykh Alawi al-Makki al-Maaliki of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Athar Zubairi of Fremont, and Dr. Warsi's mother, who passed away in India. May Allah have mercy on their souls. Aameen.

Prayers: IECRC requests your special prayers for the following people: Bushra Nakodary of Sacramento, Sister Fawzia of

Colarado, Sister Nusrat of Sacramento, Abbass and Shahparah Ahsan & family of Colarado, Sakina Khan of Sacramento, Brother Altaf Chaudhry of Tracy, and 8-month old Aydin Papucu of San Jose.

Acknowledgements: IECRC sends its sincere thanks to all members of our community who are supporting our noble cause. We send special thanks to the scholars who participated in our 2nd Annual Conference this past June to make it a success by the mercy of Allah Almighty. IECRC would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Brother Waqar Ali Khan of Safer-e-

Pakistan, Brother Abdus Sattar Ghazali of Pakistan Link, Brother Asif Mehmood, Sister Nusrat Ahmed, Brother Malik, Brother Shahid Hussain, Brother Allah Sultani, Brother Abdul Quddoos, Sister Aisha Ali, Brother Haroon Khan, Sister Malka Hus-sain and their families. Also a special thanks to Brother Mohammad Zafarullah of City Pizza, San Jose (408-923-2489), Sister Zabeen of Indian Mart (408-238-4144), Brother Syed of Pakistan Market (408-729-4929), and last but not least, young Zahara Chaudhry. May Allah Almighty bless them all. Aameen.

IECRC PETITION AGAINST MALICIOUS BOOK

A businessman by the name of Craig Winn has written a book called "The Prophet of Doom." The book is extremely offensive to anyone who has any knowledge of Islam. The book is almost impossible to read because of the offensive conclusions the author draws about Allah Most High and His Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him and his family). While Muslim scholars admit that having spent their lives learning about Islam, they barely scratch the surface of this vast ocean of knowledge, Mr. Winn claims to know-it-all in the period of two years following 9/11. Anyone with the most rudimentary knowledge of Islam can confidently say that two years of "studying" the *Quran* and *Sahih* books of *Hadith* does not make one an authority in the religion. Rather, it makes one a fool who claims authority and goes about interpreting traditional texts without access to the keys of Islamic knowledge such as Arabic Grammar, Morphology, Rhetoric, Fiqh

(Islamic Jurisprudence), Juristic Methodology, Theology, historical context, traditional exegesis of Quran and Hadith, and a host of other traditional Islamic sciences as transmitted through traditional scholars of Islam.

In response to this malicious book a petition has been drafted by IECRC with the following goals:

- * To show that Muslims will not remain complacent in speaking out against slanderous and hateful materials
- * To affirm that not just anyone has the authority to start interpreting Islam
- * To urge bookstores to discontinue the sale of malicious and hateful materials

We at IECRC feel that if a bookstore is sensitive to the feelings of a vast group of humanity that they will responsibly opt to remove the book, since Mr. Winn has failed to express such responsibility in his writings. The

petition is free from outcries and slogans and is a very straightforward appeal to all conscientious bookstores to take some responsibility for what they sell by not hurting the sensibilities of millions of people. The petition is promoted to Muslim lists and is unlikely to promote sales of the book.

We urge you to sign the petition with your full and correct name and promote this petition so that we can reach critical mass in influencing bookstores to remove the book. The petition is hosted on PetitionOnline.com and is currently one of the most active petitions on the site. IECRC has created a Web site that links to the online petition and tracks its current status at www.iecrcna.org/iecrcnaftp/petition.

Sharaaz Khan Qadri
IECRC Sacramento
sharaaz@iecrcna.org

To sponsor future editions of our newsletter or advertise in it, please contact us at 408-849-0786.

Thank you for your support.

IECRC COMMUNITY SERVICES

IECRC Counseling Centers

IECRC conducts Spiritual Counseling sessions every other Sunday between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM at **Munoz Hall, 109 J Street, Fremont, CA 94536**. (Please call 510-732-6786 or 408-835-7786 for exact dates.)

The Spiritual Counseling & 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, two more branches of this center operate in the greater Bay Area:

Sacramento Branch: Please call 916-687-7868 for details.

San Jose Branch: Please call 408-629-6524 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). Unfortunately, these days there are many people who misuse this practice; we advise our readers to be cautious. There are many Hadeeth (sayings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) related to this dying Sunnah, which can be found on the IECRC Web site (www.iecrcna.org).

IECRC Weekly Dhikr Gatherings

IECRC conducts weekly Dhikr sessions every Sunday at 6:00 PM at: **Munoz Hall, 109 J Street, 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 on Saturdays at 5:00 PM. Please call 916-687-7868.
- * San Jose on Fridays at 7 PM. Please call 408-629-6524.
- * San Francisco on Fridays at 8 PM. Please call 408-835-7786.

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. To learn more about the importance of Dhikr, please visit our website.

IECRC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Library: Alhamdulillah, IECRC has laid the foundations for a traditional reference library that intends to preserve the works of our laborious and blessed scholars, insha Allah. The books are in English, Arabic, & Urdu. The current collection includes centuries old, traditional and authentic texts on Tafseer (Quranic Exegesis), Fiqh (Jurisprudence), Tasawwuf (Spirituality), Seerah (Life) of the Holy

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, lives of the other Prophets, Companions and the Righteous scholars of Islam (may Allah be pleased with them all). Under the aegis of Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri and Dr. Mohammad Abdullah Qadri, this library will continue to be enhanced with additions that are meant to serve our community, insha Allah. IECRC intends to insha Allah make the list of these books available

online through its website. IECRC also intends to translate many of these essential books into the English language for the benefit of the West, insha Allah.

IECRC dedicates this library to Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938, may Allah have mercy on him), the great poet-philosopher of Pakistan, in whose memory IECRC was established.

Items for Sale: Some generous members of our community have donated beautifully calligraphed verses of the Holy Quran, and Allah Almighty's Glorious Names to IECRC. The former are available in gold embroidery on black velvet cloth and the latter work of art is hand calligraphed on baked paper in easy to hang wooden frames. Please call 408-849-0786 if you are interested. All proceeds go towards IECRC.

Hanafi Fiqh (Rules of Prayer)

&

Arabic (Basic Reading, Grammar & Memorization)
Classes for Women

Starting Wednesday, November 17, 2004 in Hayward, California

Please call 510-475-7867 or 408-849-0786 to register!

IECRC PUBLICATIONS

The following are IECRC publications by Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri :

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*

IECRC is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, non-political community based organization that requests your support to continue and expand its services. Any donation towards this noble cause is greatly appreciated.

Your donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. You may mail us a check at the P.O. Box address provided at the bottom of this page, or

Donate online by visiting:

www.iecrcna.org/donation.html

For any financial concerns or questions related to IECRC, please contact Brother Shaanawaz Khan Qadri at shaanawaz@iecrcna.org.

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 Nanotwi 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 Iqba aur Ishq-e-Mustafa* ﷺ (side B)
- 9 *Karamat-e-Awliya*

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 Qasaid* - 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.

**Join IECRC's E-Mail List
to learn more about our services!**

Send a blank message to
iecrcna-subscribe@yahoo.com