



Biweekly news letter; concerned with Islamic religious knowledge and -culture. It is published by Al-Mustafah Islamic college, Kampala-Uganda.

"This is a clear statement for men, and guidance and an admonition to those who guard themselves (against evil)."
(Ale Imran: 138)

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Issue 005

IN THE FOCUS OF WISDOM

Whoever wants to be a leader should educate himself before educating others. Before preaching to others he should first practice himself. Whoever educates himself and improves his own morals is superior to the man who tries to teach and train others.

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By Shykh Adam Sebyala

The world is moving closely to the global religious days and international ones to mark their respective annual anniversaries. Muslims celebrated the al-Ghadiir event marking the culmination of Prophet Muhammad's mission, the ten-day observation of the passion of the Muhammadis that culminates into Ashura on which Imam Hussein (A.S) one of Islam's infallible grandsons of the infallible prophet of Islam (saww) was sinfully brutally murdered together with nearly his entire extended family and friends, at Karbala (Iraq). They are also looking to the celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birth and death anniversaries, and together with the rest of the world, are looking forward to the celebration of the first day on the Common Era (C.E) calendar. On the other hand, the world Christendom, save for the Orthodox Christians,

are marking the Christmas day on which it is agreed by the majority of them to be the date coinciding with the birth of Christ, probably 2013 years ago, or more according to different accounts. The spiritual leader of world Catholicism, his Holiness pope Francis appealed to the faithful to lower themselves and serve the poor, reminding Catholics that such an attitude would signify feeding Jesus himself. Pope Francis at the helm of the largest Christian global community is known for his humbleness and personal involvement in the service of the poor, and for being so social that he manages nine different twitter domains, from English to Arabic. In his speech during the third Vatican council, he shocked many of his listeners when he declared that ".... all religions are TRUE be-

cause they are true in the hearts of those who believe in them, what other kind of truth is there? In the past the church used to be harsh to those who it deemed wrong and sinful, but today... we all love and worship the same God". To a chorus of thunderous applause, Pope Francis warned that hatred to Muslims would mean hatred to God, and added that those who seek to deny a home to an African and Muslim migrant, risk their membership in the church. However, the pope's declarations were not received well at all by the Nigerian born and long serving Vatican official- cardinal Arinze. He criticized the pope's position on Muslims when part of his country (Nigeria) is torn apart by a group of "fanatical" Muslims who similarly are threatening the European lenience.

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Education in Islam.

What Type of Knowledge?

The backwardness of the Muslims in last few centuries, as far as education is concerned, is because of the following:

- The Muslims lost leadership in the field of physical science and technology because of arrogance which led to stag-nation.
- The invasion by the Mongols, who were barbarians and did not appreciate the value of knowledge: they burned down the most prestigious libraries in Baghdad.

• In the nineteenth century, when the Muslims attempted to revive the process of education and knowledge in their so-cieties, they naively adapted the western secular system which had completely separated the religious sciences from the secular sciences. (Example of the Turkish reformers of the last century and also Egyptian intellectuals of the early twen-tieth century, especial-

ly Dr. Taha Husayn in his *Mustaqbilu 'th-Thaqafah fi Misr*. We can also mention Sir Syed Ahmad Khan of India.) The Muslim world is still suf-fering from the dis-section between the religious and secular sciences.

By sheikh Muhamad Mukasa Serutegga

Cont: to next Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Dear our readers,
Assalam Aleikum!
We send our condolences to our dear readers for the demise of our holy prophet, the seal of prophets and messengers, Muhammad (s) "Truly to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return"

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DON'T FORGET THE TRAGEDY OF KARBARA

Imam Hasan Al-Askari (A) has said: The signs of a believer are five:

- Performing fifty-one rakats of salaah daily,
- Reciting Ziyarah of Arba'een,
- Wearing a ring in the right hand,
- Placing the forehead on dust [during sajda], and
- Saying "Bismillah al-rahman al-rahim" aloud in salaah." al-a'mal, p. 589, as stated [by Ibn Tawus]

Imam Hasan Al-Askari (A) includes the performance of Ziyarah of Arba'een as one of the five marks for a be-

liever, in addition to reciting 51 rakats of salaah, audible recitation of Bismillah, wearing a ring on one's right hand and doing sajda on dust.

Importance of Ziyarah of Arba'een

The 40th (Arba'een or Chehlum) marks an important turning point in the movement of Karbala. This day, which is no less important to the day of Aashura is important for many reasons – the prime being that the Ahlu'l Bayt reached the land of Kerbala on this day and performed the visitation to Sayyid ash-Shuhadah Imam Hussain (A) and the loyal

family and friends who gave their life for the cause of Islam.

Ziyarat, as we all know is a visitation, which in essence, is the act of speaking with and visiting our role models. Of course the physical manifestation of the ziyarat is actually being present in Karbala to perform the Ziyarah of Arba'een, but, in reality, that is not possible for every believer.

Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (A) states that the heavens wept over Imam Hussain (A) for forty mornings, rising red and settling red.

By **Sh.Muhamad Mukasa Sselutega**

ISLAMIC SOCIETY

Islam & Christianity *Cont. from last issue*

Christianity and Islam

CHRISTIANITY: If the husband dies without impregnating the wife, then the "brother" of the dead husband MUST marry his wife. The female CANNOT marry anyone else, but ONLY her dead husband's brother (DEUTERONOMY 25:5).

Islam gives the woman a choice to marry or not, and to whom she want to marry, if her husband dies. In Christianity (and Judaism), the woman has NO CHOICE, but to marry her dead husband's brother. It is clear which religion is oppressing women.

Other Interesting Similarities:

ISLAM: Cut off the hand if it steals - of course specific conditions apply).

CHRISTIANITY: "If your hand sins, it is better to cut it off instead of going to hell with both hands" (MARK 9:43)

If any Christian tells us we Muslims are CRUEL in punishing, then state this verse to them. In fact, the bible also tells one to "PLUCK YOUR EYE OUT" if it sins!

ISLAM: Stripes for the one who is drunk - conditions apply.

CHRISTIANITY: The judge may order the unjust man to be STRIPED 40 TIMES (DEUTERONOMY 25:1-3)

ISLAM: Muslims pray by prostrating and putting forehead on the ground.

CHRISTIANITY: "Jesus fell on his face and prayed...(MATTHEW 26:39) The churches have even changed the way Jesus prayed!

ISLAM: Allows a male to marry more than one wife, up to four -- conditions apply.

CHRISTIANITY: -Abraham had 3 wives in the bible: Sarah, Hagar, and Keturah.(In book of GENESIS)

-Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. (1 KINGS 11:3)

-David had many wives (2 SAMUELS 5:13). By L.I.Katungulu

Your Questions Answered

Qn1. How many prophets and messengers did Allah send to mankind?

Answer: 124,000 prophets and Messengers although the Quran mentioned only 25 of them.

Qn2. What was the purpose of sending the prophets?

Answer: To educate humanity and, we know that in education, the teacher's behavior is a more effective instrument than the speech and verbal instructions.

ISLAMIC LAWS

Why Is Sharia necessary?
Man's nature dictates that he can only function properly within a society, human beings are interdependent by nature. A society, however, depends for its existence on laws and Regulations, if there is no laws in the society, it is overtaken by law of the jungle; the struggle for existence and the survival of the fittest so the need for laws to regulate the lives of human beings is beyond any doubt.

Islam teaches that because of the imperative need of laws for a civilized

ciety, God has sent a series of messengers and prophets with divine laws for man's guidance from the very first day of his creation. The last messenger was prophet Muhammad (S) who brought the final and the perfect set of laws, Islam, as a guide for mankind till the end of time. This is a clearly stated;

“And We have revealed to you the reminder (Quran) that you may make clear to men what has been revealed to them, and that happily they may reflect” Surat Nahl 44

Some people think that there is no need for God to make laws, we can make laws by ourselves.

Islam believes that a human being is a very sophisticated creature; and since he has not made his own body, nor did he create the World in which he lives, he therefore, is not the best candidate for making laws about himself.

By **Sh. Muhammad Mukasa Serutegga**

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OUR LIBRARY/BOOK REVIEW
Treatise On Rights (Risaalat al huquuq): Imam Zain al Abidiin (Risaalat al huquuq).

The Right of the Father

The right of your father is that you know that he is your root. Without him, you would not be. Whenever you see anything in yourself which pleases you, know that your father is the root of its blessing upon you. So praise God and thank Him in that measure. And there is no strength save in God *to next issue*
Sh. Abdul Wahid Mayega

It is true that the pope's speech received approval and a certain level of criticism, but it is also the responsibility of Muslim scholars to congratulate him for the bold stand seeking to promote tolerance when some Europeans, though provoked by actions of terror, are intent on the promotion of ISLAMOPHOBIA on the continent. Muslim scholars would want to confirm that Allah had enjoined Muslims to embrace the seeker of help; thus (*Wa'amma Ssaa'ela Falaa tanhar*= And as of the seeker of help, don't scare him off). In Islam, we find that the poor, the needy, the captives and stranded traveler are among the types of people who are assigned shares in the Zakah (religious tax). The prophet of Islam also takes a center stage in his pardoning to those who wronged him, and was known to pursue the *Hikmah* or conventional wisdom in his propagation, though he preached in the intractable *Jahiliyyah* environment that, by far, would probably have challenged Jesus and Buddha themselves.

I congratulate the world Christendom and Catholicism for the wise leadership and simplicity of Pope Francis that, in modern times, can only come next to Imam Khomeini's simplicity and of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

In pursuance of the commonalities between Islam and Christianity, we wish the brothers peaceful celebrations and pray that Allah (swt) removes the fault-lines that could have happened in the recent past owing to irresponsible actions by a few deviated individuals whom Allah will judge appropriately, or forgive upon repentance.

OBSERVATION OF SAFAR

1st Safar - Entry of the Caravan of Zainub (as) in Damascus

4th Safar Death Masuma e Qom (some traditions)

7th Safar Martyrdom of Imam Hassan Bin Ali (as)

13th Safar Death of Sakina d/o of Imam Hussain (as)

17th or 29th Safar-Imam Reza (as) Death 203 AH

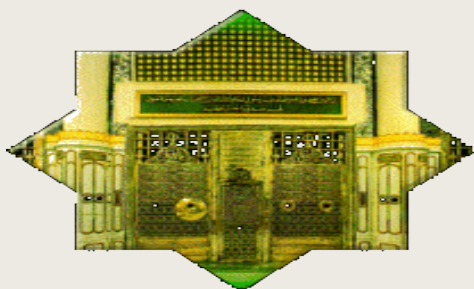
20th S a f a r A r b a e e n O f Imam Hussein (a.s)

28th Safar - Holy Prophet (pbuh) Death 11AH

QURANIC SCIENCE

Rational Approach

The collection of the Qur'an (*jam'u al Qur'an*): The companions of the prophet learned the Qur'an by heart. People in that simple society were largely illiterate had good memory because their minds were not crowded with other extraneous information as is found in more complex societies. Some companions who were literate wrote the Qur'an down. The prophet had official scribes who wrote down every verse as soon as it was revealed. They also noted its location by chapter and position in the chapter. Writing of hadith at the time of the prophet was discouraged for fear of confusion with the Qur'an. The prophet recited the Qur'an often so that the companions could learn and remember.
By Luyimbaazi Issah Katungulu



28TH SAFAR MARKS THE DEMISE OF THE HOLY PROPHET OF ISLAM (S)

Name: Muhammad

Titles: Al-Mustafa

By name: Abu Qasim

Birth date: He was born in Mecca on 17th Rabbiul Awwal in the year of Elephant

Buried: At Mosque in Medina

Mother: Aminah bint Wahab (a.s.)

Died: He died on the 28th of Safar in the year 11A.H. He was buried in Madina.

Prophet Muhammad (s) In World History Perspective

On the twenty-eight of Safar, 11 AH, Monday, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets, departed from this world. The Holy Prophet (s) was sixty-three years old when he departed. At the age of forty, he was commissioned, by Almighty Allah, to convey the Divine Mission; and Archangel Gabriel began conveying to him the commandments of Almighty Allah and the Divine Revelation. At Makkah, he invited people to follow the religion of monotheism for thirteen years. He then immigrated to al-Madinah at the age of fifty-three. He departed life in the tenth year after his immigration (Hegira). Hence, Imam `Ali Amir al-Mu'minin (a.s) did the funeral rituals and then offered the ritual Prayer of the Dead for his soul. The companions, in groups, then would come near him to offer prayers individ-

It has been narrated that Anas ibn Mjlik said, "As soon as we accomplished the ceremonies of burying the Holy Prophet (s), Lady Fatimah (a.s) came to me and said, 'How could you be bold enough to pile up soil on the face of the Messenger of Allah?' She then wept and shouted, 'Oh for my father whose prayers were responded by the Lord! Oh for my father; how high he is from his Lord!'...etc." According to a narration, Lady Fatimah al-Zahrah (a.s) took a handful of the soil of the Holy Prophet's tomb, put it between her eyes, and said, Tell him who is concealed under the layers of soil: If you can hear my scream and my call If the misfortunes that have been poured on me Were poured on days, they should turn to black nights! Under the shadow of Muhammad, I used to be sheltered I did not anticipate any grievance since he was my haven But today I am made subservient to the lowly, suffering grievances, And I have to ward off the wrongdoer with my dress If a turtledove weeps on a branch in eves Out of grief, I will weep in morns I shall betake grief, after you, as my entertainment And I shall betake shedding tears, for you, as my sash.

The Quran clearly stipulates love for his family (Ch 42: 23 Say: *I do not ask of you any reward for it but love for my near relatives* -Mawaddat al Qurba). Despite this, exactly the opposite happened. Within only 50 years of his death, 4 more members of his family (Daughter -Fatima (as) , Son in law/ cousin- Ali ibn Abu Talib(as), Grandsons- Hassan(as) & Hussain (as)) were martyred & their funeral was also attended by very few close family members .

Your supplication

Dua for Unity

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful
There is no creature or entity worthy of worship except for Allah, the (true) God, the One and we submit to Him (alone).
There is no creature or entity worthy of worship except for Allah, and we do not worship anyone or anything other than Him, being sincere in our faith (to Him) even though the polytheists detest this!
There is no creature or entity worthy of worship except for Allah, our Lord and the Lord of our fore-fathers.
There is no creature or entity worthy of worship except for Allah, the One who kept His promise and helped His servant and granted esteem to His army.
And who left the other parties alone and abandoned (them). So then to Him belongs the Kingdom and (to Him belongs) the Praise.
He gives life and causes to die, and He causes to die and He gives life.
And He is the Ever Living and shall never die and in His power is the goodness and He has power over all things.

By **Sh.Abdul Wahid Mayega**