



THE ECHO OF THE GREEN DOME

GREEN ACADEMY PUBLICATION



Swiss Ban on Minarets: Reflection of Political Extremism

Fifty-seven percent of the 2.67 million Swiss who participated in a referendum voted against the right of Muslims to construct minarets with their mosques. The move was spearheaded by the racist Swiss People's Party (SVP) whose slogan read: "minarets are symbols of rising Muslim political power that could one day transform Switzerland into an Islamic nation." The SVP campaign posters showed minarets rising like missiles from the Swiss flag next to a fully veiled woman.

The Swiss government to its credit was against the proposal but could not prevail against the provocative and intolerant rhetoric of the extremist Swiss People's Party (SVP). The vote revealed the extent to which far-right racist groups were winning the battle of ideas on the future of Europe. The results of this referendum have been welcomed by leaders of other radical right-wing groups in Europe, such as Heinz-Christian Strache, leader of the radical-right Austrian Freedom Party, and Marine Le Pen, vice-president of France's National Front, which points to the possibility of religious and political extremism spreading further in Europe. Muslims comprise 6 percent of Switzerland's 7.5 million population.


Many of them are the refugees of the 1990s Serb-Croat ethnic-cleansing of Muslims in Bosnia and former Yugoslavia. There are about 150 mosques in Switzerland, only four have minarets which won't be affected by the ban. Unlike mosques in Muslim countries, these minarets are not used to call Muslims to prayer.


Compare this action of the so-called 'civilized and democratic world' with the religious tolerance which exists in most parts of the Muslim world. There is no restriction on building new churches in the Muslim world with Christian or Jewish minorities – Indonesia, the most populated Muslim country (13 million Christians out total population of 212 million), Pakistan, Egypt, Islamic Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Sudan, Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, UAE, Kuwait, etc. The church bells ring every Sunday and Christmas is an official holiday. Most Muslim countries have Sunday as weekly holiday. Christians have held several top positions in both military and government in Indonesia, Pakistan, Iraq (Saddam Hussein had six Christian cabinet ministers including Vice President Tariq Aziz), Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Tanzania, and Nigeria.

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باسمہ سبحانہ و تعالیٰ

Message from the Editor

ASSALAM-U-ALAIKUM!

The minaret unlike the Cross has no 'divine value.' People are certainly not attracted to Islam because of tall minarets. They reverted to Islam for its simple teachings and human-brotherhood. Minarets are architectural structures associated with mosques which do not have any political significance.

Farhad Afshar, leader of the Swiss Coordination of Islamic Organisations said: "The most painful thing for us is not the ban on minarets, but the symbol sent by this vote. The idea of putting issues related to religious freedom and human rights to vote is quite unacceptable and unjustifiable. Furthermore, the situation where the majority votes on issues related to the rights of the minority is fundamentally at odds with the spirit of democracy, which cannot be allowed to be used as an open door to incitement, and an excuse to pit citizens against their fellow partners in society."

Mosques and minarets in European cities are manifestations of the proudly indigenous nature of Islam in Europe. It is tragic that the far right is stripping away at the illustrious heritage of coexistence between different faiths and cultures in Europe and replacing it with their warped and xenophobic political agendas.

By: United Ulama Council of South Africa
Posted: 17 Dhul Hijjah 1430, 4 December 2009



Dear readers! It has truly been over a year since our last Issue came out. First of all let me apologise for the delay of Issue 10. As majority of the community should have known by now, due to the launch of the new "Green Academy" in Radford area, responsibilities and commitments surrounded us, and most of the time was spent in the establishment of the Academy.

Anyway, your journal *The Echo of the Green Dome* will continue to serve the community by conveying the message of Quran & Hadith.

The idea behind this and all the other journals is only to fulfil the Sunnah of our Beloved Master Rasul Ullah ﷺ in carrying out the task of Da'awah through pen which is one of the most effective ways. Hence "a pen is mightier than the sword". This is also one of the doorways towards knowledge and where ever there is knowledge, this faith of ours will remain in its original purity *Insha Allah*.

As always we do request a feedback from our readers, as this will assist us in our future editions in improving the quality of this journal. Jazakallah!

If anyone is willing to help by distributing this journal in their locality then please contact us immediately. *Jazakallah!*

Wassalaam

Abdullah Khan

LAMENT OF THE QUR'AN

*As an ornament do they adorn me,
Yet they keep me and sometimes kiss me.
In their celebrations they recite me.
In disputes they swear by me.
On shelves do they securely keep me
Till another celebration or dispute, when they
need
me.
Yes, they read and memorize me,
Yet only an ornament am I.
My message lies neglected, my treasure
untouched,
The field lies bare, where blossomed once true
glory.
Wrong is the treatment that I receive
So much to give have I,
but none is there to perceive.*

Natural Household Hints

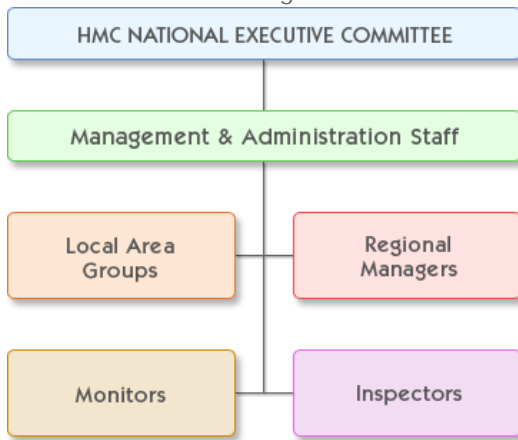
- 1) Flies or bees bothering you? Spray them with hairspray and they will take a quick dive.
- 2) Sealed envelope - Put in the freezer for a few hours, then slide a knife under the flap. The envelope can then be resealed.)
- 3) Use Empty toilet paper roll to store appliance cords. It keeps them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.
- 4) For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dishwashing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't refreeze.
- 5) Crayon marks on walls? This worked wonderfully! A damp rag, dipped in baking soda. Comes off with little effort
- 6) Opening brand new jars can be a feat in itself. Well, I have found a way to make it the easiest thing to do. Instead of banging a jar of jam, pickles, etc., with a knife until it loosens up, I simply reach into the drawer and pull out the handy nutcracker. It adjusts to the size of the jar and I simply give it a good twist and off pops the lid!
- 7) Blood stains on clothes? Not to worry! Just pour a little peroxide on a cloth and proceed to wipe off every drop of blood. Works every time!
- 8) Use vertical strokes when washing windows outside and horizontal for inside windows. This way you can tell which side has the streaks. Straight vinegar will get outside windows really clean. Don't wash windows on a sunny day. They will dry too quickly and will probably streak.
- 9) Spray a bit of perfume on the light bulb in any room to create a lovely light scent in each room when the light is turned on. Place fabric softener sheets in dresser drawers and your clothes will smell freshly washed for weeks to come. You can also do this with towels and linens.
- 10) Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.
- 11) To clean artificial flowers, pour some salt into a paper bag and add the flowers. Shake vigorously as the salt will absorb all the dust and dirt and leave your artificial flowers looking like new! Works like a charm!
- 12) To easily remove burnt on food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover bottom of pan, and bring to a boil on stovetop.
- 13) Spray your Tupperware with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato based sauces and there won't be any stains.
- 14) When a cake recipe calls for flouring the baking pan, use a bit of the dry cake mix instead and there won't be any white mess on the outside of the cake.
- 15) Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.
- 16) When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out the corn's natural sweetness.
- 17) Cure for headaches: Take a lime, cut it in half and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go away.
- 18) To get rid of itch from mosquito bites, try applying soap on the area and you will experience instant relief.
- 19) Ants, ants, ants everywhere ... Well, they are said to never cross a chalk line. So get your chalk out and draw a line on the floor or wherever ants tend to march. See for yourself.
- 20) Use air-freshener to clean mirrors. It does a good job and better still, leaves a lovely smell to the shine.
- 21) When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily.



- ◆ *Man's way leads to a hopeless end -- Allah's way leads to an endless hope.*
- ◆ *He who kneels before Allah can stand before anyone.*
- ◆ *When you voice an opinion, be just, even if it is against a relative*

HMC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Since all Muslims, regardless of the denomination or school of thought are united in the need for the assurance of Halal, HMC was established to serve the Muslim community at large and has since gone on to enjoying the support and cooperation of the leaders of different segments of the Muslim Community. The diagram below shows the HMC Organisational Structure which comprises of Muslims from diverse communities.



CRITERIA OF HALAL SLAUGHTER ADOPTED BY HMC

HMC has adopted such a criterion for Halal slaughter that is accepted by all, irrespective of sects and schools of thought. In other words, the most stringent guidelines have been adopted to ensure for universal acceptability and so that the consumable is Halal according to everyone and not just one group.

Therefore the ideal solution is that such a path be adopted that caters for all, not just the majority or any particular group or school of thought. While this may seem difficult it is neither impractical nor unattainable. Both theoretically and practically a "middle-way" must be adopted by the Monitoring group.

In theory the method to adopt that would be all inclusive would be to

accommodate only those decisions that are permissible for all, not just those that create lee-ways for a specific group. This is easier than it sounds. The reason is that there are no situations where a certain item would be necessary on one and forbidden on another, but rather an item may be permissible for one group and impermissible for another. In which case the solution is to accommodate the view of impermissibility, as because neither the former are committing any wrong by being made to follow this more precautionary ruling, nor are the latter (for whom the item was impermissible) being subject to rules that do not accommodate them. Hence, the most important factors of the criteria are:

- **NON STUNNING**
- **MANUAL SLAUGHTER BY A MUSLIM - NON MECHANICAL**
- **VERBAL RECITATION OF ALLAH'S NAME – NO BLESSED BLADES OR PRE RECORDED BISMILLAH**
- **ENSURING THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF VESSELS ARE SEVERED**

Another reason for HMC adopting the most stringent guidelines is that the Jurists have derived a principal from the shari'ah that الأصل في الأشياء الإباحة وفي اللحوم الحرامه everything is permissible and Halal except those items which are clearly proven to be prohibited and Haram. On the contrary, all meat of animals is HARAM unless clearly proven to be Halal. We find from this that we need to be extra cautious in certifying as well as purchasing anything from anywhere.

CONTROVERSIAL	ACCEPTED BY ALL
Mechanical Slaughter ✗	Manual Slaughter by Muslim ✓
Stunning ✗	No Stunning ✓
Recorded or Engraved Bismillah ✗	Verbal Bismillah on Each Animal ✓
Required Vessels Not Cut ✗	Required Vessels Cut ✓



At present in Nottingham we have five certified shops:



Medina Foodstore	Pak Foods	Ahmed's Barbeque Delights	Ali meat Centre	Ahmed's Restaurant
79 - 83 Radford Road Nottingham, NG7 5DR Tel: 0115 978 0000	152 Sneinton Dale Nottingham, NG2 4HJ Tel: 0115 924 3224	135 - 137 Sneinton Dale Nottingham, NG2 4LW Tel: 0115 924 2332	91a Sneinton Dale Nottingham, NG2 4LQ Tel: 0115 941 9768	77 Radford Road Nottingham, NG7 5DR Tel: 0115 978 1122

For further enquiries on matters relating HMC, please contact your Local Inspector on: **07878536868**

Oh Sa'd! Purify your food, your supplication will be accepted, By the one in whose hands lies the life of Muhammad, verily if a servant places a morsel of Haram in his stomach, worship of forty days will not be accepted from him. (Tabrani)

TAQDEER (FATE)

Belief in Taqdeer is a principle article of the Islamic faith. This is often a misunderstood concept giving rise to many unanswered questions such as:

- a) If destiny has already decreed the final abode of a person then to what avail are his deeds or his supplications to Allah?
- b) Many narrations refer to certain actions as a cause of increase in ones wealth, lifespan and also a means of averting calamities. For example Thawban  reports that the Messenger of Allah  said, "Verily a man is deprived of a provision (that was written for him) because of a sin that he commits; only supplication changes destiny; and only righteousness can increase the life span." (Nasai, Ibn Majah) How may this be when everything has been preordained through destiny? I shall attempt to explain the concept of Taqdeer in a simple and categorical manner.

Firstly, the purpose of mankind's creation is that we worship Allah the Almighty and we show obedience to Him. Allah states in the Holy Qur'an,

"I created the Jinn and humankind only that they might worship me." (51:56)

Secondly, this world serves as a test of our obedience towards our creator and so that He may reward us in the next world accordingly. Allah states in the Holy Qur'an, "Verily we created man from a drop of mingled sperm, in order to try him: so we gave him (the gifts), of hearing and sight. We showed him the way: whether he be grateful or ungrateful (rests on his will)." (76:2-3)

Thirdly, the notion that this world is a test warrants that the subjects being tested possess free-will or else there would be no meaning to such a test.

With the above in mind the concept of destiny may further be explained by understanding destiny to be Allah's knowledge of how the individual is going to use his free-will rather than a pre-decided factor being enforced upon him without giving him a fair chance. Consider the following example: An appointment is arranged between two individuals. The first arrives before time and waits for the second; he then comments that the second will arrive late as always. He bases his prediction on previous experience and the lax nature of the second individual. This statement does not restrict or bound the latter's ability to attend on time in any way, it is merely an assertion. Similarly,

when Allah the Almighty informs us, through his infinite knowledge, of his knowledge of our precise actions and our consequent abode it should not be perceived to be a compelling decision against our free will, but rather only his knowledge of our decisions.

To summarise, every individual has been given free-will and should use it to work towards attaining the pleasure of Allah and that Allah has full knowledge of the individual's actions; past, present and future.

With regards to the second misconception, the possibility of increase in ones wealth, lifespan and aversion of calamities despite destiny being pre-ordained, Allah says, "Allah blots out what he wills and conforms (what he wills): and with Him is the mother of the book (i.e. book of conclusive records)." (13:39)

Commenting on the above verse Mujahid said, "During Laylatul-Qadr (night of the Decrees), Allah decided what provisions and disasters will occur in the next year. He then brings forward or back (or blots out) whatever He wills." (Ibn Katheer). Scholars derive from the above that destiny is of two types:

a) Muallaq (revocable):

This destiny is written on 'The Preserved Tablet' (al Lawh al Mahfoodh), and is subject to change and alteration through the omission or commission of certain deeds. For example: the lifespan of a person is originally 50 years, but may increase to 60 years if he performs the ritual of Hajj, or a certain calamity is to befall him unless he averts it by spending in charity. This is the destiny referred to in the aforementioned narration.

b) Mubram (irrevocable):

This destiny denotes the eternal knowledge of Allah. It encompasses the final result of the Muallaq destiny i.e. our choice of actions, their consequences and every precise detail of our lives. This definite knowledge of Allah is not subject to change or alter even slightly and is exclusive to Allah only.

In the light of the above the following may be derived:

- Our supplications do change destiny and are of much avail.
- Good deeds are a source of increase in ones sustenance, and avert calamities.
- Sins result in a decrease in ones sustenance, and invite calamities.

SOME METHODS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

1. The many customs as regards engagement are contrary to the Sunnah. In fact, many are against the Shariah and are regarded sins. A verbal proposal and answer is sufficient.
2. To unnecessarily delay Nikah of both the boy and the girl after having reached the age of marriage is incorrect.
3. There is nothing wrong in inviting one's close associates for the occasion of Nikah. However, no special pains should be taken in gathering the people from far off places.
4. It is appropriate that the bridegroom be a few years older than the bride.
5. If the father of the girl is an Aalim or pious and capable of performing Nikah, then he should himself solemnise the marriage.
6. It is better to give the Mahr Faatimi and one should endeavour to do so. But if one does not have the means then there is nothing wrong in giving less.
7. It is totally un-Islamic for those, who do not possess the means, to incur debts in order to have grandiose weddings.
8. It is [a] fallacy to think that one's respect will be lost if one does not hold an extravagant wedding and invite many people. What is our respect compared to that of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam)?
9. The present day practice of the intermingling of sexes is an act of sin and totally against Shariah.
10. There is nothing such as engagement parties and Mendhi parties in Islam.
11. Great care must be taken as regards to Salat on occasions of marriage by all - the bride, the bridegroom and all the participants.
12. It is un-Islamic to display the bride on stage.
13. The unnecessary expenses incurred, by the bride's family in holding a feast has no basis in Shariah.
14. For the engaged couple to meet at a public gathering where the boy holds the girl's hand and slips a ring on her finger is a violation of the Qur'anic law of Hijab.

15. It is un-Islamic for the engaged couple to meet each other and also go out together.
16. Three things should be borne in mind when giving one's daughter gifts and presents at the time of Nikah:
 - Presents should be given within one's means (it is not permissible to take loans, on interest for such presents);
 - To give necessary items;
 - A show should not be made of whatever is given.
17. It is Sunnah for the bridegroom's family to make Walimah.

Note: In Walimah, whatever is easily available should be fed to the people and care should be taken that there is no extravagance, show and that no debts are incurred in the process.

18. To delay Nikah after the engagement is un-Islamic.

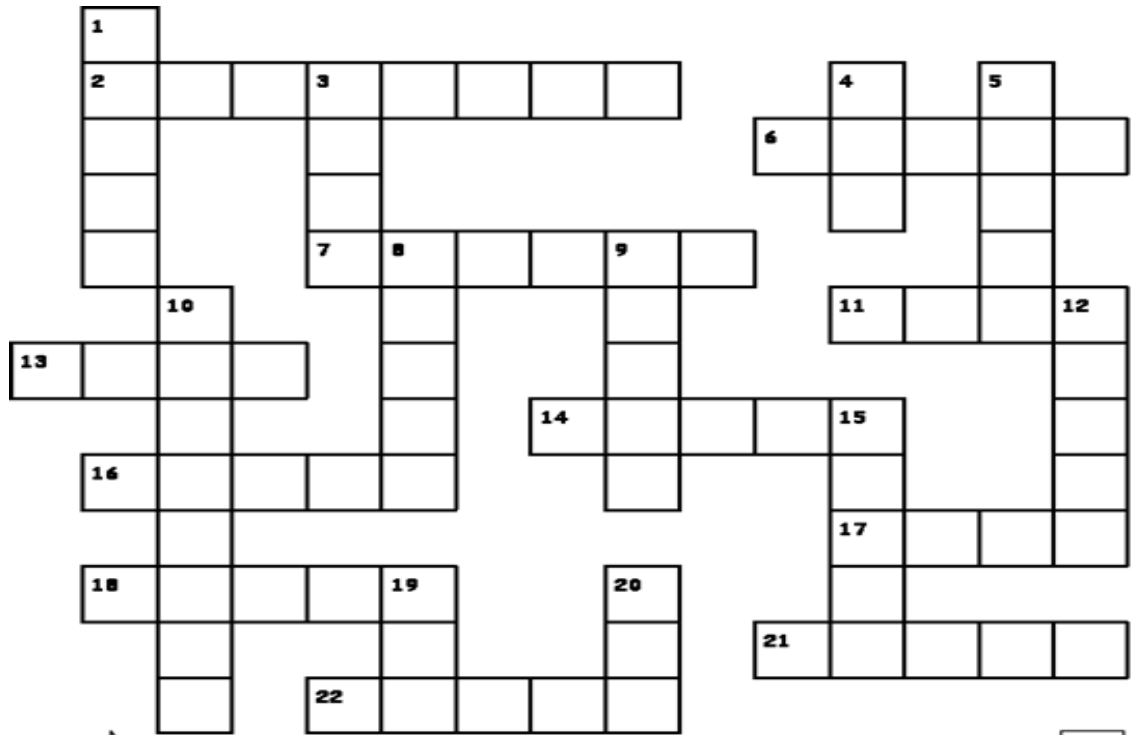
SOME CUSTOMS

In aping Western methods sheepishly, Muslims have adopted many customs which are un-Islamic and frowned upon.

Some examples are:

- Displaying the bride on stage;
- Inviting guests for the wedding from far off places;
- Receiving guests in the hall;
- The bride's people incurring unnecessary expenses by holding a feast which has no basis in Shariah. We should remember that Walimah is the feast arranged by the bridegroom after the marriage is consummated.
- It is contrary to Sunnah (and the practice of some non-Muslim tribes in India) to wish, hope for or demand presents and gifts for the bridegroom, from the bride's people. We should always remember that our Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) did not give Ali (Radi'Allahu Anhu) anything except Dua.





CROSSWORD CLUES

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>2. The first pillar of Islam.</p> <p>6. Prophet _____ was thrown in the well.</p> <p>7. The Friday prayer.</p> <p>11. The Lion is the _____ of the jungle.</p> <p>13. The _____ leads the prayer.</p> <p>14. The third pillar of Islam.</p> <p>16. The pillar performed five times daily.</p> <p>17. Allah gave us this _____ as a test.</p> <p>18. Cloth worn during Hajj.</p> <p>21. The creator of the stars.</p> <p>22. Musa's staff turned into a _____.</p> | <p>1. The religion of the Muslims.</p> <p>3. The duty to be performed once in a lifetime.</p> <p>4. This creation of Allah gives us heat and light.</p> <p>5. A guide to mankind.</p> <p>8. A small version of Hajj and can be performed at anytime.</p> <p>9. A call made five times a day before Salah.</p> <p>10. We fast during this month.</p> <p>12. The Qur'an is a _____ from Allah for all of mankind.</p> <p>15. We must always eat _____ food.</p> <p>19. Adam was the first _____.</p> <p>20. Adam _____ from the tree.</p> |
|--|---|

Dua of the month

WHEN IN BODILY PAIN

Place your hand on the affected area and say:

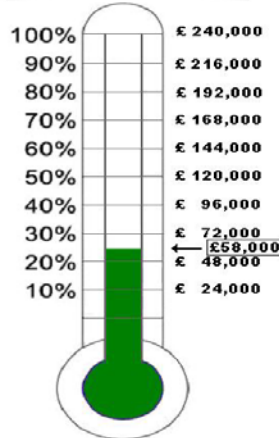


أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ وَقُدْرَتِهِ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا أَجِدُ وَأُحَاذِرُ

(Seven times)

I seek protection in Allah ﷻ and His might against the evil of what I feel and fear.

(Muslim, Vol. 2, Pg. 224)



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