

"In the (Blessed) Name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful."

ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK: *Living His Legacy*

Mehreen Rahim
Editor

What turned out to be a successful week, to say the least, started and ended with what people love the most: food. The Taste of Faith and Culmination Dinner marked the beginning and end of Loyola's Islam Awareness Week (IAW) 2013. Aside from the great food, there was a wide array of events including lectures, art exhibits, public service, and entertainment. In honor of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the theme for this year was set to be 'Living His Legacy,' with hopes of highlighting the Prophet's noble character and educating students about Islam. Students of all faiths participated in this year's Islam Awareness Week, some of which have kindly shared their insights. This part of the issue of Al-Risalah is dedicated to highlight how IAW has reached out to all students of Loyola, Muslims and Non-Muslims.



IAW: Student Reflection

Aoun Khan
Staff Writer

Stemming from its roots in the early 1990s, Islamic Awareness Week (IAW) aims to enhance the understanding of Islam and clear common misconceptions across college campuses. Reflecting back to IAW at Loyola this year, a wide array of thoughts goes through my mind, all of which can be summarized by one word: Wow! This year's theme, 'Living the Legacy of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH),' chosen in the light of recent global events, was a chance for Muslims to communicate who the Prophet truly was by describing the flawless character that made him a role model to billions across the world, Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Having the opportunity to be part of an organization that effectively coordinated such a phenomenal week was an experience that I believe is irreplaceable. Starting from the first meeting of October, every single person involved sacrificed countless hours to make sure everything was ready to go by March 18th. Whether it was the eye-opening lectures by Muslim community leaders, a conglomerate of engaging conversations with curious visitors, or the bright, affectionate smiles of individuals I came in contact with, I can certainly say that there was a flow of positive energy and a spiritual high that could be felt throughout the week.

The week appeared to be a success right from the kickoff event on Monday, which was the well attended 'Taste of Faith.' A large turnout to any event is a sign of the fruition of all the hard work that has been put into organizing it. An Islamic art exhibit was on Tuesday, where everyone was thrilled to have their name calligraphed onto a 3x3 tile, while admiring the beauty of art submitted by students and local artists. The highlight of Wednesday, a day directed more towards Muslim women, was the event 'Walk A Mile In Her Hijab' which gave females on campus an insight on how it feels to wear a headscarf.

MAN, WILL WE CHANGE

Hiba Durrani
Guest Writer

My college career is coming to a close, and man did it fly by quickly. Here I was four years ago walking the loud and obnoxious halls of my high school clutching my AP prep books in a dreamy haze. I had just sent my letter of intent to Loyola. All I could think about was how life was going to be so different, my Spanish quiz next period, cute football players, and studying for my AP exams. The haze slowly engulfing my mind pushed away my juvenile thoughts and replaced them with a fresh collegiate mindset. The curse of the Rambler struck me. Or, I could attribute this to a classic case of senioritis. The latter seems more likely, but I'd say the memory is sweeter the other way. Man, have I changed.

Fast forward four years, as I scroll through my Facebook feed glancing at the array of life events spewed all over about my high school

friends, I think man have we all changed. The kids who would glide into first period, high as a kite, are now interning at globally established companies and writing amazing statuses about travelling to each corner of the world. The teacher's pets who sat in the front row, rocking head bands and Michael Kors—the suburban Blair Waldorfs— have dropped out of school with their babies being their new accessories. Their oversized bags have evolved into diaper bags now holding bottles instead of lip glosses. Man, have we changed.

I sit here, in Corboy Library at Water Tower Campus, staring at the cars wind down State Street contemplating what my life has become. I have evolved from a lanyard-wearing, nicely-dressed, majoring in Biology freshman, to a senior who has sweatpants, hair-tied, and chills with no makeup on, because that's when I feel the prettiest.

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IAW 2013: A Lesson of Mercy

Mariam Choudhry
Guest Writer

Islam Awareness Week (IAW) began in the 1990s by the Muslim Student Associations of the United States and Canada. Its goal was simple: to introduce Islam on a unified platform to all college and university campuses. At Loyola, IAW is the most anticipated event of the year. IAW seeks to promote a positive understanding of the world's second largest religion. The week consists of a series of lectures and activities organized by the MSA to increase awareness of our beliefs, values, and practices. Information on Islam is presented in forms of topic tailored tables, activities, and through dialogues each providing insight into the Islamic way of life and the Muslims who follow it.

In light of recent events and after much deliberation we decided this year's theme to be upon the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). A leader, diplomat, father, reformer, general, philosopher, and visionary. Who really was this man? That is the question this year's IAW sought to answer. We kicked off the week with our annual Taste of Faith where we shared a meal exploring the diversity of Muslims from around the world. We closed our first day with a lecture intro-

ducing the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to members of our greater Loyola community. We had a total of 13 events this week, but there are two events I wish to highlight.

The first is the Walk a Mile in Her Hijab program where we invited members of our LUC family to wear hijab in an effort to foster mutual understanding. SubhanAllah, it felt inspiring and immensely powerful walking around campus amongst a sea of pink headscarves. The second was Sharing a Meal with Our Neighbors where we made

(PBUH) said, "A man is not a believer who fills his stomach while his neighbor is hungry" (Bukhari). This concept of giving and helping the less fortunate is ingrained within our faith. Following the Prophet's (PBUH) example of serving the underserved with dignity and respect has an even more profound message, and this was the atmosphere for the event.

Overall, the week was a total success, Alhamdulillah. However, the success of the week would not have been possible without the contribution of every single one of the volunteers. Everything was beyond perfect ranging from the start with Taste of Faith all the way to the Culmination Dinner. JazakAllah khair to all the MSA members for your dedication and your countless hours of hard work. May Allah (SWT) reward us for all our efforts and may He grant us the tawfiq to implement the teachings of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

It also felt like our Ummah on campus became very close Alhamdulillah. So many individuals, who are unable to participate at events throughout the year, came out this week. It was beautiful to see the Mus-

lims on campus come and strive together in order for the greater Loyola community to develop a better understanding of Islam and our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

There was one thing in particular that I learned through IAW: Allah (SWT) had intended for this week to happen with or without us, but we were chosen to be the medium for the week. It could have been anyone planning and executing these events, but subhanAllah we were chosen as the organizers. Thus, all those involved should be grateful for being given this opportunity for immense reward. It was truly a mercy from Allah (SWT) to have been given this privilege, and may Allah (SWT) continue to shower His infinite mercy upon us all. Ameen. SubhanAllah, I find it absolutely beautiful that Allah (SWT) taught me this lesson of mercy during the week we explored the life and legacy of a man who we believe to be a mercy to all of mankind. Alhamdulillah.

Who is this man?
Companion. Philosopher.
Military General.
Arbiter. Role Model.
Reformer.
Legislator. Husband.
Diplomat. Visionary.
Merchant. Father.
Leader. Orator. Prophet.
THE FINAL MESSENGER.

bagged lunches for our homeless neighbors in the Edgewater community in an effort to uphold the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Prophet Muhammad



“Muhammad”, By Professor Omer Mozaffar

Shaziya Barkat
Newsletter Coordinator

Students of all different creeds came together to kick off Islam Awareness Week on Monday, March 18, with a talk from Loyola's very own professor, Omer Mozaffar. Mozaffar introduced Muhammad (PBUH) and presented how he is not merely an Islamic figure, but also a leader, father, diplomat, general, judge, and more, who had changed the course of history in 23 years. Further insight into what Muslims believe and how and why Muhammad (PBUH) is a model for Muslims even today was also provided.

Professor Mozaffar addressed what Muslims' core belief, *La ilaha illallah Muhammadur Rasulallah*, signifies. “Your *ila* is whatever you rely upon to take you out of danger and into safety, from confusion to clarity, and from despair to hope” stated Mozaffar. To get out of despair, Mozaffar explained, some turn to alcohol. In this way, that has become their *ila*.

“Who do you worship?” proposed Mozaffar. As Mozaffar enlightened, *ibadah* or worship is an extreme form of love. So what is love? “Love is when you value your beloved, value what your beloved values, when you invest yourself in your beloved, etc. You feel joy in thinking about your beloved, and feel a sense of loss when you are away from your beloved,” he clarified.

Deeper than love is adoration, and deeper than adoration, is worship: a volunteered loving surrender. In Islam, what you rely upon to take you out of danger, out of confusion, and out of despair is none other than God, the One who is worshipped. In this way, Muslims embody the statement *La ilaha illallah Muhammadur Rasulallah*, “There is no God but Allah.”

Mozaffar went on to present how God discloses himself, particularly speaking of individuals appointed as prophets. Many figures in the biblical tradition are prophets in the Islamic tradition, and aside from being appointed by God, they are perfect in moral character, intellectually brilliant, and the sharpest in their communities. Ultimately, they all serve to be a model of what it means to be a servant of God.

Muhammad (PBUH) is looked upon as the completion of the message that God sent to mankind. As a figure that is extensively written about, much of what he has said, done, and has been witnessed giving approval for, has been written into collections from which Muslims currently model their own ways of life. From the way he walked to the very features of his nose; these have all been recorded. The authenticity of these details have been determined by looking into the intellect, reputation, etc. of those who had given the information. Ultimately, Mozaffar presented that these informa-

tional chains of transmission have allowed people today to look further into the life of a man that is more precious to them than their own souls are to themselves: Muhammad (PBUH).

A brief timeline of the events that led up to the revelation was also highlighted, presenting Muhammad's (PBUH) struggles, including his perseverance as a child who lost his closest caretakers. As this child grew to be a man, he became known as “The Walking Truth” by his community for his genuine character. Not only did he grow to be a successful, honest, and warm businessman, but Prophet (PBUH) was a father to a daughter to whom he gave nothing but pure love and a caring husband who gave the best to his wives. He was a leader in society and a diplomat that issued constitutions to promote cooperation and peace between clans of different faiths. At his final sermon, he spoke: “All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab...Remember one day you will meet Allah and answer your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.” This is the man who embodied the most beautiful qualities of forgiveness, compassion, loyalty, and equality, and is a model for billions of people today: Muhammad (PBUH).

A TASTE OF FAITH

Shahid Barkat
Guest Writer

Islam Awareness Week, the largest MSA event of the year, is a week full of lectures, Islamic art, student reflections, entertaining performances, and most importantly, food. The start of the week is the annual “Taste of Faith” event in which food is catered from different countries where Muslims reside. There are all types of foods such as biryani, chicken noodles, hummus, falafel, enchiladas, and more. All of these foods represent the culture and delicacies of Muslims from that part of the world. The purpose of this event is to alleviate the misconception that Muslims only live in the Middle East. On the contrary, the highest density of Muslims in the world is in Indonesia and the fastest growing Muslim population is in Africa according to The Wilson

Quarterly. Thus, the “Taste of Faith” is a way to educate and enlighten Muslims and non-Muslims about Islam while having fun eating exotic delicacies.

The “Taste of Faith” coincides with the “In Search of Peace” panel where Muslim-born and Muslim reconvert students discussed their path to finding peace. Peace is an essential part of human life. We strive for it daily so that we can be calm, think, and reflect about life. The toughest search is that of inner peace, which is the feeling of satisfaction about one's life no matter the conditions around them. Only a few ever reach this plateau while the rest of us continue to search for it. The student panelists spoke about their search for peace and how each one of them has found peace sporadically; however, the true challenge lies in consistently maintaining that peace.



Sharing A Meal With Our Neighbors

Sarah Choudhry
Guest Writer



Homeless, hungry, and disrespected—imagine waking this way one day in life. SubhanAllah, we tend to forget how blessed we truly are. We have an unlimited supply of food at our fingertips and do not realize that the One who provides for us can easily take it all away. Allah (SWT) blesses us with everything, but how many of us actually take the time out to appreciate his blessings? If not appreciate, how many of us actually take the call of service and give back to the community?

This year, during Islam Awareness Week 2013 we decided to answer this call by making seventy-five lunches for the homeless! Our Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, “A man is not a believer who fills his stomach while his neighbor is hungry.” Our neighbors are living in impoverished conditions and our Sunnah teaches us to help them. It is clearly evident that serving the underserved, giving back to the needy, and feeding the hungry are basic principles of Islam which in essence is a principle of humanity.

The event was based off donations made by our fellow MSA members. On their own time, they went out and bought apples, bread, peanut butter, jelly, chips, drinks and more. We then set up an assembly line on the day of the event—a few people were spreading PB&J on bread, while others were making sure everything was properly placed in the bags. SubhanAllah, with a great team we were able to finish in an hour!

After making the bagged lunches, two students took the lunches over to Inspiration Corporation to distribute. Their mission statement is: In an atmosphere of dignity and respect, Inspiration Corporation helps people who are affected by homelessness and poverty to improve their lives and increase self-sufficiency. May Allah (SWT) accept our efforts and may He always keep us aware of our blessings, Ameen.

RETHINKING FEMINISM

Hiba Anwer
Staff Writer

This event was led by Tahera Ahmad, Associate University Chaplain at Northwestern University. What initially drew me into this event was the title, “Rethinking Feminism, How Does Islam Liberate the Muslim Woman?” Of course being a Muslim woman myself I am aware of the liberties and rights that we are blessed with as women. However, I never correlated it with feminism and was fascinated by this new outlook. Tahera started by asking the audience what misconceptions they felt were out there about Muslims. The audience was filled with pink hijabs. They threw out the words ignorant, isolated, dangerous, terrorist, brainwashed, and forced to cover. Being a college student and being surrounded by intelligent and informed individuals, I often forget that this is how some people view Muslims and was taken aback by those remarks. Tahera went on to define feminism as equal opportunity in education, wages, family and respect. This definition is framed really well with Islam, which not only ensures equality spiritually, but in worldly aspects as well like property, marriage, and education which she explained in detail.

brainwashed **TERRORIST**
ISOLATED **DANGEROUS** *ignorant*
Forced to Cover

What really sparked a discussion was a short clip that interviewed three Muslim women, a hijabi, a non-hijabi, and a niqaabi. In the video they all explained their choices about how they covered themselves. Most in the audience thought the remarks made by Sonia, the woman in the video who was not wearing a hijab, were a bit off-putting. Some members of the audience did not agree with her argument that Muslims needed to assimilate and that wearing hijab was alienating and made Islam seem less appealing. Many stated they did not feel as though hijab was strange, but rather felt that people should express themselves and feel free to go towards their own path of enlightenment. One of the audience members who was not Muslim, stated that she felt hijab was beautiful in its message of judging women based on their character rather than their physical appearance.

This led to a discussion on the purposes of hijab, which Tahera summarized as a means to first obey one’s Lord and to present one’s self in modesty in such a way that it prevent sin. It allows women to no longer be objectified, and to be judged on their actions and character rather than their appearance. It is an Islamic tradition that is found in the Quran where Mary is described wearing a screen to protect herself and her modesty.

The underlying message that Tahera was trying to get at was her concerning lack of Muslim women in leadership positions. After all the rights given to us and a history of female activism why has our gender reverted? During the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) there was a necessity for women activists, in a culture where female infanticide and giving women away without their consent was commonplace. We are blessed in America in that we have equal rights that were granted to women. However, in the time of need Aisha stood up for what she thought was right beyond just women’s issues, to the extent of waging a war for what she believed in. This signified both intense political involvement and competency on her part. Though it would be incorrect to generalize that all Muslim women lack political involvement, at a large scale the involvement is just not there. This can be due to lack of media attention, or maybe we, ourselves, are not involved and informed enough to recognize these women and their accomplishments.

Whatever the case may be, it seems that at times our cultural values dominate and compel us to a certain view: that it is hard to have a serious career and still be a good mother one day. It seems as though I, and many other Muslim women, need to find a balance just like the one the Prophet (PBUH) encouraged. Moderation in all aspects of our lives can help us reach our full potential and see how much of an influence we can make. We see many examples of women around us who have done this. Woman who campaign with their hearts for justice in Palestine and Syria, and all around the world. Maybe we just need to raise our voices and be heard. And maybe that will encourage others to do the same.

Walk A Mile In Her Hijab: Reflections



Jill Kreider
Guest Writer

I got an email the night before ‘Walk a Mile in her Hijab’ was going to happen. I was excited, but also in a rush. I spent the next twenty minutes proceeding to google the heck out of Hijab designs, and even got a link to some Youtube videos. So far so good I thought. The next day, I woke up early and proceeded to turn my bright pink scarf into my bright pink Hijab. Put on some makeup to feel special and voila: I was ready to go. All day long I received a few odd glances here and there, but nothing that made me feel uncomfortable with my decision to wear a headscarf. Quite the contrary: I felt amazingly confident, and my self-esteem shot up a

few notches. Wearing the Hijab made me feel, well, awesome! Plus it kept my ears warm, so that was nice. Later that night I watched the Hijabi monologues, and it opened my eyes to what it was really like for Muslim women who wear a headscarf. “Walk a Mile in her Hijab” was a great experience for me and continues to be a favored memory of mine.

Bridget Shuette
Guest Writer

I participated in the event Walk a Mile in her Hijab for Islamic Awareness Week and I enjoyed it immensely. Not only did I feel comfortable wearing the hijab, but it was also comforting to see other women wearing them and to know that this was something they experienced everyday. I thought it was fascinating that nobody asked me why I was wearing a hijab but I have come to realize that people are afraid of offending in religious, political, ethical and many other ways. I think that it is important to realize that it is okay to ask questions, but it may

not be so easy for those who do not have a friend or some sort of connection to other religions. I have the benefit of being able to sound ignorant without my character being judged because I have friends I can ask about their religions, and this is a great benefit to have. I would like to recognize how open the MSA has been to every type of person and point out their friendliness and the welcoming attitude each of their events has. I was delighted to walk into events and feel at ease in the space, therefore open to all sorts of ideas. The event I participated in made me feel empowered. Where some feel the hijab signifies oppression, for myself and many other women, the hijab felt like a symbol that enhanced my character. For many, the hijab is respectful to their religion, is worn for modesty, is part of a tradition, or simply a part of the women that wear them. I know that I felt completely fortunate to have the opportunity to have an insight into Islam in such a tangible, aesthetic way.

HIJABI MONOLOGUES, A BROTHER’S PERSPECTIVE

Zuren Shethwala
Staff Writer

On the Wednesday of Islamic Awareness Week at LUC I woke up, did whatever I had to do to start the day, and read the agenda for the day and the events that IAW would hold. “Walk a Mile in her Hijab?” I read. “I can’t do that. I’m not a girl.” What’s next? “Rethinking Feminism? Aww shucks! I’ve got class around that time, looks like I can’t make that one either.” Then I saw Hijabi Monologues and thought to myself, this should be interesting. I took the time out to attend this event and quickly learned this is not what I had in mind.

Walking into the room I had no idea what to expect. I saw that the stage was set up with four or five chairs lined up. There were mostly girls there, of course. They took up most of the right side and middle seating areas. The men, the ones that did show up, sat to the left. As I made my way to Galvin, I spoke with a few colleagues and indulged in some light refreshments that were served. They had told me that if I hadn’t seen this before, I was in for quite a show. My imagination led me to believe that this event would be about Loyola girls talk-

ing about how their day went while wearing the hijab. I marched my way inside and took a seat beside a few people that I knew as I patiently waited for the event to begin.

Just then a woman that I had never seen before approached the stage. She introduced what was going to happen. She said that the following stories that I was about to hear were from true stories of other women that are being reflected through the actresses. I wondered, “Actresses? What actresses? I thought this was about Loyola girls?” As the first female in her hijab walked out, I began to realize that this was an actual choreographed show. This wasn’t something that was simply put together by LUC MSA; this was something that had been practiced many times. Each woman went up and spoke of different stories. All of the stories that these females told were very meaningful. They were things that any person can see happening to a hijabi female in today’s society. I was touched by the way each story varied and how non-Muslims viewed the hijab in such a negative light.

The first monologue was a very good introductory talk. It was something that many hijabi females could relate to in that it spoke

about being tired of the way people act or judge them. The performer kept using the phrase ‘I’m tired’ to exemplify what she was referring to. She said things like ‘I’m tired of the way people judge me’ or ‘I’m tired of the way people expect me to be the representation of 1 billion people around the world’.

Each performance spoke about a new story, yet had the same central theme in mind: the hijab. Every monologue was very powerful as it is hard to pinpoint which monologue was the best. All the actresses did a wonderful job performing and I believe it spoke to many of the people in the audience. I know I was surprised by the end of the event. I did not expect this event to be so popular amongst college students. I believe these monologues put into perspective the trials and tribulations that a hijabi female has to go through in life. I thought it was a good representation of what a hijabi female feels like saying, but just can’t. I would definitely recommend anyone that hasn’t seen this to at least YouTube some performances and if you have the means, go and see it. It is something that will help you become a bit more aware of the struggles



Its Nature, Control, and Remedy

Mawlana Maseehullah Khan Sherwani
Prominent Islamic Scholar, now past

Allah the Exalted says:

“And those who swallow anger and those who forgive people, Allah loves the righteous.”

The Messenger of Allah (upon him blessings and peace)(upon him blessings and peace) said: “Do not become wrathful.”

“A powerful man is not one who defeats (another) in physical combat. Verily, a powerful man is he who controls his nafs at the time of anger.”

In another narration it appears that a strong man is he who controls anger. It is essential to keep anger under control. One should never act spontaneously in accordance with the dictates of anger. On the contrary, anger should be made subservient to the instruction of the Shari`ah. It is natural to be aroused in the state of anger. Such natural propensity is not rebukable. But, Allah Almighty has endowed man with volition and willpower. Therefore, anger has to be controlled since it is within the scope of man’s volition to do so. Failure to exercise this volitional power is contrary to humanity.

There are many reasons for the inclusion of anger in the natural attributes of man. Along with the quality of anger, Allah Almighty has endowed man with the ability to control anger to ensure that the latter is not misappropriated and unjustly employed. Anger in itself comes into motion involuntarily. It is automatically activated. However, acting in accordance with its demand is voluntary; hence refraining from it is likewise voluntary.

The remedy for a volitional act (the way of curbing it) is nothing other than the exercise of one’s will-power to bring about restraint and control. This is within one’s ability even if one experiences a degree of difficulty in the exercise of such volition. Repeated exercise of this such restraint weakens anger. In consequence, refraining from anger becomes a relatively simple task.

The following narration appears in Hadith:

“The Qadi (judge) should not decide between two parties while in anger.”

The judge or the ruler is not permitted to issue a verdict while in anger, but instead should postpone the trial or case for a later date. The term Qadi in the context of this Hadith applies to every person having authority over people. The instructor, teacher, and head of a family all fall within the purview of this Hadith. They should not be hasty in meting out punishment to their subordinates while in the state of anger.

Those in authority should remember that Allah Almighty is the defender of the rights of those who have no defender. Allah Almighty will demand from the aggressor the rights of the oppressed. According to the Hadith, Allah Almighty and the Messenger of Allah (upon him blessings and peace) will claim from the tyrannical ruler the rights which he usurped even from his non-Muslim subjects. It is therefore imperative to exercise caution when punishing.

In cases of injustice executed in the state of anger, it is essential that the aggressor, after his anger has subsided, publicly apologize and humble himself in the presence of the one whom he has wronged. The aggressor should personally

apologize in profusion and seek the pardon of the one whom he had wronged. This measure will restore the intelligence of the aggressor to equilibrium. He will thus be prevented from the perpetration of injustice at the behest of anger.

At all times refrain from haste. One has to strive greatly in opposing the dictates of anger. Whenever one succumbs, resort to *istighfar* and obtain the pardon of the one whose rights have been violated. Recite: *A’udhu billahi mina l-shaytan al-rajim*.

When overtaken by anger:

Sit down if you happen to be standing
 If you happen to be sitting, then lay down.
 Perform wudu with cold water
 Or drink cold water

Divert your attention by immediately engaging in some other activity, especially reading which is very efficacious in curbing anger.

If all these fail to eliminate the anger, withdraw from the presence of the one who is the target of your anger.

Remember that Allah Almighty has greater power and authority over you and that you are also disobedient to Him. Should He also exercise the attitude of wrath upon you, what will be your condition? Also, reflect that nothing can happen without the will of Allah Almighty.

Ponder then: Of what worth am I? I am an absolute non-entity. How can I then act in conflict with Allah Almighty?

[Extracted from Shari`ah and Tasawwwuf. Note: Minor grammatical corrections and rearrangements were made to this article originally published by The Majlis.ĵa

Article Courtesy of www.ilmgate.org

The Prophet (SAW) has told us about this great reward:

“Whoever suppresses his anger at the time when he could express it openly, Allah will fill his heart with contentment on the Day of Resurrection.” (al-Tabaraani).

On arrogance, humbleness, and inferiority complex

Khalid Baig
Islamic Scholar

It has been called ummul-amradh, or the root of all sicknesses of the heart. Prophet Muhammad, Sall-Allahu alayhi wa sallam, warned that a person having even an iota of it in his heart will never enter paradise. This deadliest of all sins is kibr, or arrogance.

No one likes arrogance — in others. We never like a person who is haughty, too proud, or condescending. We detest a person who belittles us and has a huge ego. Similarly we love people who are humble, polite, and easy to talk to. We love people who give us respect and honor. Thus if we follow the principle of treating others the way we like to be treated, most of these problems might be cured. In reality, the treatment of ummul-amradh requires a deeper look.

For that we need to appreciate the difference between adab or manners, on the one hand and akhlaq or morals on the other. While adab deal with one's external disposition, akhlaq as defined by Islam deal with our inner thoughts, feeling, and attitudes. In a healthy personality, the manners and morals are in harmony. But it is also possible to have the former without having the latter. The first concerns itself with how a person deals with others. The second is concerned with what a person thinks of himself. Two persons showing humbleness in their dealings with others, may have exactly opposite ideas in their minds. One may do it out of his or her "generosity"; the other may do it because he genuinely thinks that he is not better than the other person. The first person only has a shell of humbleness, which will crumble when tested. It is the second person who is really free of arrogance.

Real greatness belongs only to Allah, our Lord, Creator, and Master. Human beings are just a creation of Allah — and a very small creation in comparison to the unimaginably vast universe. Anyone who understands this will realize that our proper status is only that of servants of Allah. In fact for a Muslim the real human model is none other than Prophet Muhammad, Sall-Allahu alayhi wa sallam, who is the greatest of all human beings. His greatness lies in being the humblest of all servants of Allah! It is impossible for any person who has this consciousness to entertain any notions of his own greatness.

This leads us to the definition of kibr, given in a famous hadith: "Kibr is to knowingly reject

Truth and to belittle other people." This hadith exposes two strains of this deadly disease, both dealing with our exaggerated ideas of self-importance. The first suggests that I am more important than the Truth. The second suggests that I am more important than other people.

We know about the Quraish and Jews of Arabia who had come in contact with Prophet Muhammad, Sall-Allahu alayhi wa sallam, and who knew in the heart of their hearts that he indeed was the Messenger of Allah. Their arrogance, though, kept them from accepting it. History has recorded statements from some of them who said we know he is the Promised Prophet but we will keep on opposing him to maintain our leadership.

While that was the most blatant form of arrogance, we can witness the same attitude on a smaller scale in our discussions and arguments. A person realizes that he was wrong, but then his pride keeps him from admitting it. No matter how polite or "humble" that person may appear to be ordinarily, this test shows the presence of arrogance in his heart. It is arrogance that keeps a person from saying "I am sorry."

The second strain involves our feeling of superiority with respect to other people. Islam's teaching is that one should never consider oneself greater than other people, because that Judgment will come from Allah, and Allah alone, on the Day of Judgment. None of us knows what our end will be, whether we will end up being a winner or loser over there. The person who appears to be nobody here may end up with eternal bliss because of his goodness that only Allah knew. The person who is a big shot here may end up among the sinners who will be punished there, because of his evil that only Allah knew. How foolish, it is then to congratulate ourselves over our fleeting "superiority".

What if a person does have edge over an-

other person in measurable worldly terms? How then can he not consider himself superior than the other person in that respect? The point is sometimes made in half jest: it is difficult to be humble when you are so great. Islam does not ask us to reject reality and imagine we don't have what we really do. Rather it asks us to take a deeper look at the reality and not be misled by a superficial perception of it. And the simple reality that escapes many is that our health, wealth, talents, and power are not of our own creation. God gave those to us as a test and He can take them back whenever He wills. Those who are conscious of this reality, their blessings will produce gratitude in them; those who are blind to it will develop pride and arrogance.

Some forms of kibr are subtle. If a person is embarrassed to bow to Allah in the presence of non-believers, that is a case of "kibr in the face of Allah," says Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanvi.

While throughout history humanity had agreed on the evil of arrogance and the virtue of humbleness (despite its failures in practice), this century has seen new dogmas that aim at changing the definitions of good and evil. Humbleness is no longer desirable. Rather, one has to avoid "Inferiority Complex."

Alfred Adler (1870-1937) gave us that term. According to him, life is a continuous struggle to move from a position of inferiority to a position of significance. Those who fail to make the progress, develop inferiority complex, which can be treated by increasing self-esteem. Unfortunately today such pseudo-science is accepted as gospel truth.

The truth is that problems arise when we turn away from reality. A humble person is a happy, content, grateful person who thanks God for his blessings and has no notions of his own superiority. False notions of superiority or of one's entitlements in life, on the other hand, lead to frustrations and complexes.



Dear Mufti...

...with Mufti Abrar Mirza

DEAR MUFTI: Salaam al-aykum. I have heard that in Chicago we pray to the North-East because space is curved. Currently I am living in Jiaxing, China and Islamicfinder.org has directed me to pray due West. I understand that we pray toward Mecca and more specifically toward the Ka'ba. However, since the planet is round is it not possible to pray 'backwards' and still be praying toward the Ka'ba? What are the best methods for calculating where the Ka'ba is located in relation to where we are on Earth. How do we determine which direction to Mecca is the best?

-Peace, Stephen

It is an accepted fact that the earth is round and not flat. Hence, as we try to determine the qiblah, we should do so based off looking at a round globe and not a flat map. There are few very simple ways to understand the direction of the qiblah without using spherical trigonometry or the like. If a person draws a circle around the Ka'bah, it shows how the saff would form in al-Masjid al-Haram. Next, draw a circle outside of this circle, then another one around this circle, and so on until a circle crosses one's current location to see how the saff would form in his locality. If a person draws a line from his location through the circles to the center of the innermost circle, which represents the location of the Ka'bah, one will

determine how he would face if there were continuous saff (pl. of saff) forming from al-Masjid al-Haram to his current location. A person would not stand in the opposite direction in a saff arguing that he is facing the same direction, but going the other way around the world.

Furthermore, on May 28th and July 16th every year, the sun is directly above Makkah at local zenith time. One may imagine the sun as a minaret directly above the Ka'bah. If one faces the sun on these days at Makkah zenith time, he would be facing the exact direction of the Ka'bah. This is another simple method of determining the qiblah from one's location. And Allah knows best.



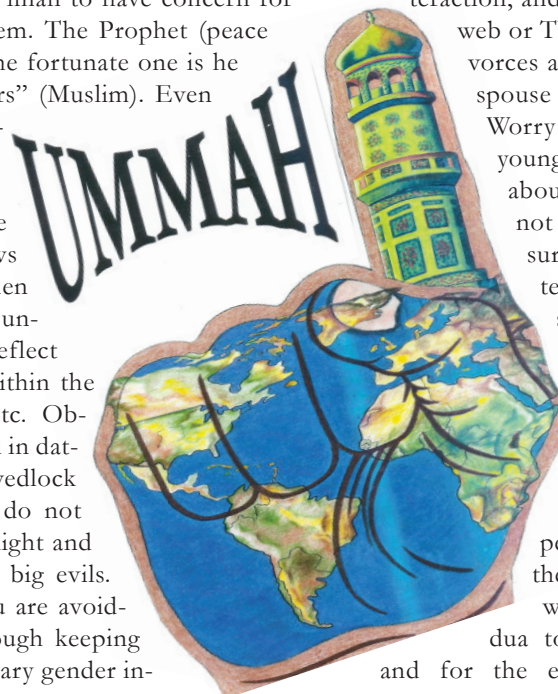
Dear Mufti...

...with Mufti Abrar Mirza

DEAR MUFTI: I am deeply concerned about the sad state of the Ummah and the world in general. What can I, a student, do to make a difference? Your advice will be greatly appreciated. Jazak Allahu Khayr

-Servant of Allah

Alhamdulillah, it is a sign of one's iman to have concern for the ummah and to make dua for them. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "The fortunate one is he who takes admonition through others" (Muslim). Even though you may not be in a position to make any macro, worldwide changes, there are several lessons you could learn from the ills you observe in the world. Anyone reading the news knows of the evils that follow when people are obsessed with power and unwilling to give up their position. Reflect on your attitude in your positions within the MSA, Masjid boards/committees, etc. Observe how many Muslims are involved in dating and the sad number of out of wedlock pregnancies. Recognize that people do not commit such major haram acts overnight and that small wrongs build up towards big evils. Analyze your actions to see how you are avoiding that slippery slope, such as through keeping your gaze lowered, avoiding unnecessary gender in-



teraction, and being mindful of what you look at on the web or TV. Ponder over the alarming increase in divorces amongst Muslims and study the rights of a spouse and about maintaining a healthy marriage. Worry about the shocking number of stories of young Muslims leaving Islam and think hard about how you are safeguarding your iman. If not already, connect yourself with scholars, surround yourself with pious individuals, attend Islamic lectures, and always be in pursuit of 'ilm. If a person takes lessons from the evils he sees in the world and safeguards himself through it, as well as help protect others from it, he is definitely making a difference. The change may not be overnight, and anyone who studies the sirah knows that it is not to be expected, but it is just a matter of time before the seeds will bear fruit, inshaAllah. As always, one should continue to make sincere dua to Allah Ta'ala for guidance for oneself and for the entire ummah. And Allah knows best.



1 Year

ARABIC AND ISLAMIC STUDIES IMMERSION

ACADEMIC YEAR

SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 -
JUNE 27, 2014

MON-FRI 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

ARABIC | TAJWID | SEERAH
| FIQH | AQIDAH |

Our program is designed to accommodate Muslims from all walks of life. This intensive is ideal for college or high school students who can dedicate a year of their studies to increase their knowledge of Islam. Leaders and active community members will find in our program a solid grounding of traditional Islamic knowledge to fuel their activism and community work. Those preparing to adopt the pursuit of knowledge as their life course will find this program to be a stepping stone for further study of the sacred sciences.

**Instructors: Mufti Minhajuddin Ahmed,
Mufti Azeemuddin Ahmed, Mufti Ehaz Ajmeri**

Would you like to have your questions answered by Mufti Hussain or Mufti Abrar, and featured in future issues inshaAllah? Brothers, please contact Ahmed Aleem (maleem920@gmail.com). Sisters, please contact Shaziya Barkat (shaziyabarkat@gmail.com.) We limit questions to 3-4 per issue, so space is limited! Any questions, please do not hold back and benefit from this blessed opportunity.

Continued: IRREPLACEABLE EXPERIENCE

This transitioned perfectly into my favorite event of the week: 'Hijabi Monologues'. Having no expectations whatsoever, I was blown away by the mix of comedic and heartwarming skits that were prepared. On Thursday, one of most anticipated events of IAW was Entertainment Night where our fellow classmates showcased a variety of talents and videos. Finally, the week ended with a lecture by a well-known Chicago land area scholar, Umar Faruq Abd-Allah, whose words shed light on the life and legacy of our beloved Prophet (PBUH).

What struck me most this year was how each event was effectively organized and executed. Besides the extensive planning by the e-board, the success can be attributed to each and every single Muslim on campus working towards a common purpose. Considering that most students at Loyola are "pre-med" and swamped with work, the initiative taken by everyone to make sure the week went by smoothly without anyone being overbur-

dened was awe-inspiring. This can be seen through the words of a sister on shura, Fatima Elahi: "What I'm loving right now is that this isn't one person's IAW, this isn't shura's IAW, this is every Muslim on campus' IAW." Finally, we must not lose sight of the fact that none of this would have been possible without the will of Allah (SWT), and be grateful that each of us was individually chosen to be a part of such a remarkable initiative. I do want to mention though that this year has left high expectations for next year's Islamic Awareness Week, and it is something I am already looking forward to.

Now that IAW is over, we are all faced with a decision to make: we can either return to our lives as if this week was just another set of lectures put together by the college MSA, or we can apply what we learned towards the active transformation of ourselves as better Muslims. Even though IAW aims to raise awareness amongst the non-Muslim community, there is always something we can

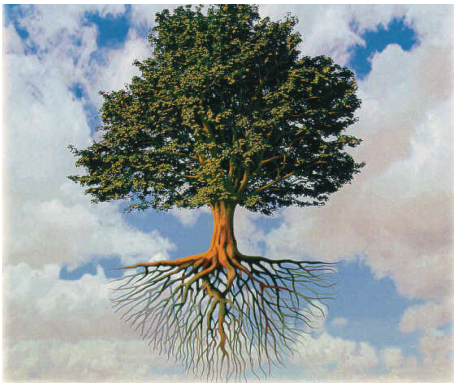
all learn from it. As I'm sure most of us are familiar with the exemplary words of Professor Omer Mozaffar: if we are not conscious-

"What I'm loving right now is that this isn't one person's IAW, this isn't shura's IAW, this is every Muslim on campus' IAW."

ly working on improving the state of our personality at a given time, we will be same person at age forty as we are at age twenty, and with an extension, the same person at age sixty as we are at age forty. May Allah (SWT) give us the ability to use what we have learned through the 2013 Islamic Awareness Week to better represent Islam, become role models for the younger generations, and effectively serve our communities. Ameen.

So, You Wanna Give Da'wah, Eh?

Muhammad Saifullah
Loyola [MSA] Alum



I recall a very special moment back in the good old days of CPSA, my Islamic high school. We were in English class with Brother Sa'ad Quadri. I guess Br. Sa'ad gave us some "chill time" so we were sitting around, talking. I happened to be speaking with Br. Sa'ad himself and I mentioned something about a desire to make a difference in the world. His response reverberates in my heart to this day, "You cannot make a difference in the world unless you first make a difference within yourself."

You see, Br. Sa'ad is very dear to me, a mentor if you will. I'm sure this is the case

with many of you. Over four years later, I found myself speaking to him again. I was troubled by the state of our world, so I decided to convey the life-changing lessons I had learned from spending years with great scholars through a narrative, a book. I just wanted to make some kind of a difference, send a message out to the world hoping that someone out there would take heed. I just couldn't sit back and watch this chaos anymore, but I was facing difficulty working on the project while engaging other tasks during my semester off. So I called Br. Sa'ad to ask for his advice. He advised me to postpone the project and instead focus on my spiritual development through my Islamic Studies and I'badaat. I'll summarize our conversation by sharing with you a statement Br. Sa'ad made, which mirrors his response to me at CPSA all those years ago.

"You can write volumes but you'll make much more of a difference with a sound heart. Sometimes you have to be a bit selfish with your time, so that you can give that much more later."

Where am I going with this? DA'WAAAHH!!! Huh? Yes. There are many ways through which one can "make a difference," but one which is most pertinent to Muslims is

Da'wah. I mean, what greater service can we do to mankind than to convey the Message of Salvation: Islam? It's our duty! Indeed. We see so much activity these days. Flyers, brochures, pamphlets, booths, stalls, workshops, seminars, conventions...SubhanAllah, great work. Unfortunately, the Ummah is not the way it used to be in the time of the Sahabah (RA). We have so much disunity, disparity, and even ignorance hindering progress. Yes, Da'wah may be strong, but what about the Da'wah we need to give to ourselves? We are so involved in distributing pamphlets and hosting programs, yet our prayers are void of concentration. We are so busy speaking here, speaking there, yet our interactions with our own family members and people of our community are inappropriate. We are so involved in trying to educate others, yet we remain uneducated ourselves. We need to realize that true Da'wah begins from home base.

Once we've worked on ourselves and established a connection with the Qur'an and Sunnah, then we should go out there. Da'wah needs a strong foundation, my brothers and sisters! MashaAllah, the MSA has been doing great work in terms of Da'wah. My humble request is that we keep the advice of our teachers in mind as we grab our goodie bags and head out to meet the campus community.

Assalamalaykum

السلام عليكم

Rwaida Izar
Guest Writer

That was usually what my dad told me when he came home from work and my herp derp little kid self would greet him with “Hi” instead of “Assalamualaikum.” I didn’t mean anything by it. It just came out before I had time to think. When you’re little, you don’t really think about the significance of every word you say. You’re just blunt. As a kid, my parents, grandparents, and most Muslim adults around me always told me to make sure that I say Salaam to every Muslim I come across. So, I did just that. However, as the years went on, it became something that I did without thinking. I saw a Muslim: BOOM. SALAAM. And then I moved on with the rest of my day.

As I grew up and learned more about my faith and the teachings of Islam, I learned why we say Salaam to other Muslims. I learned that the phrase “Assalamualaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa barakatuh” means “Peace, Mercy, and Blessings of Allah be upon you.” I learned that saying Salaam to those you know and those you do not has just as much value as giving food to those in need. However, it was not until just a couple of years ago that I really took

the time to sit, think, and reflect on why I say Salaam and why it is important to do so.

One of the most beautiful things about Islam is that we are told to say Salaam. I love the fact that when I leave my apartment in the morning to go to class and run into a Muslim on campus (even if I don’t know them), I can say Salaam and not worry about them thinking I’m a complete creep. I love that for just a single second that person’s attention is on me and that they are taking a couple seconds out of their day to tell me, “Peace be upon you.”

We’ve become numb to simple things like this. It’s become so expected and routine for us that we’ve forgotten how to appreciate the beauty of our deen. You could be in a room of complete strangers, but if someone recognizes you as a Muslim, they’ll always have something to say to you.

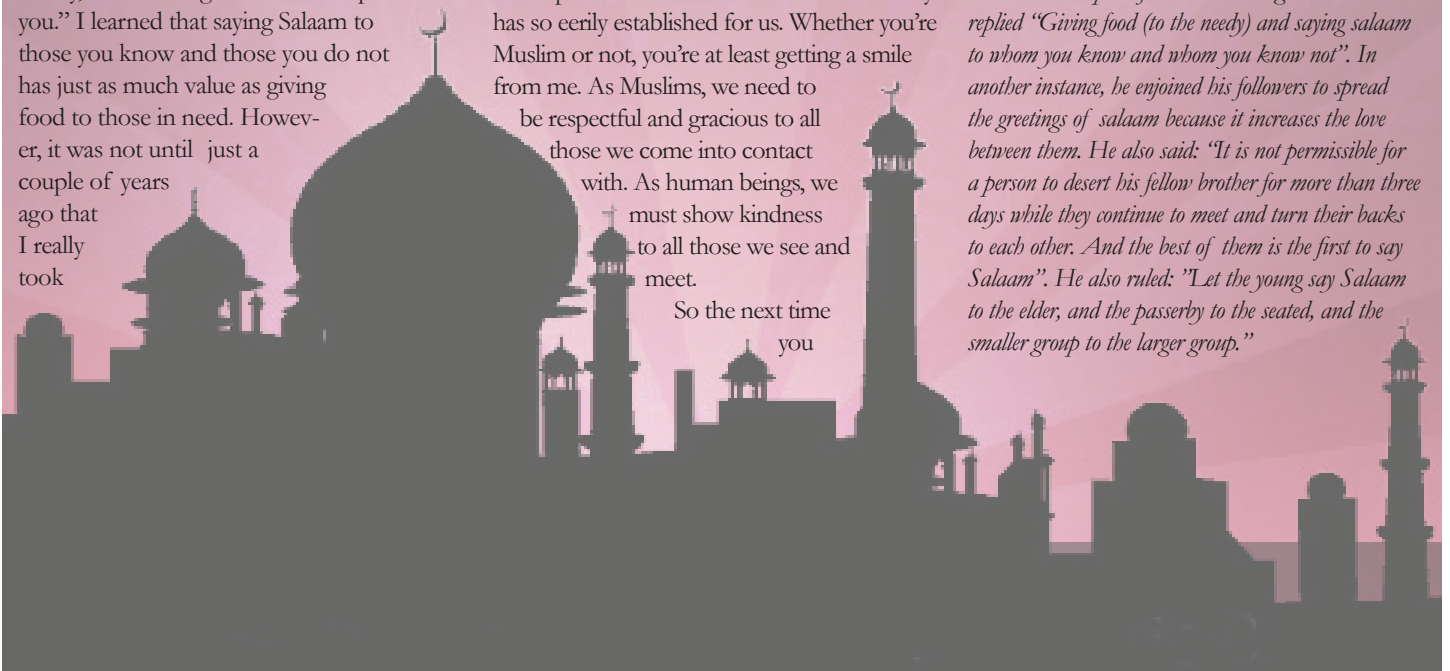
Saying Salaam breaks down that awkward stranger barrier, and not just between you and your Muslim brothers and sisters. Saying Salaam to people I do not know has helped me step outside of the boundaries that society has so eerily established for us. Whether you’re Muslim or not, you’re at least getting a smile from me. As Muslims, we need to

be respectful and gracious to all those we come into contact with. As human beings, we must show kindness to all those we see and meet.

So the next time you

say Salaam or hesitate to say Salaam, think about why you did that. Think about your intention. I know mine isn’t always in the right place. That’s for sure. Sometimes I forget to say Salaam. Sometimes I accidentally blurt out “Hey” even after someone has just said Salaam to me. But after all, we are human. And thanks to the simplicity of this greeting, we have that room to grow and become better Muslims and kinder human beings. So appreciate that and make sure you don’t take it for granted. I know I’m definitely still working on it.

‘Assalamu alaikum’ meaning ‘peace be upon you’ or more perfectly: ‘Assalamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa barakatuh’ meaning ‘Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah be upon you’. In this regard, Allah says in the Qur’an: “And when you are greeted with a greeting, greet (in return) with one which is better than it or (at least) return it (in like manner). Indeed, Allah is ever taking account of all things” The greeting Allah is referring to here is generally understood to be ‘Assalamu alaikum’. He also described salaam as “a greeting from Allah, blessed and good”. Likewise the Prophet of Islam (Peace be upon him) was once asked: ‘what aspect of Islam is among the best?’ He replied “Giving food (to the needy) and saying salaam to whom you know and whom you know not”. In another instance, he enjoined his followers to spread the greetings of salaam because it increases the love between them. He also said: “It is not permissible for a person to desert his fellow brother for more than three days while they continue to meet and turn their backs to each other. And the best of them is the first to say Salaam”. He also ruled: “Let the young say Salaam to the elder, and the passerby to the seated, and the smaller group to the larger group.”



Continued: Parting Advice From A Senior

Hiba Durrani
Guest Writer

You better not take it wrong. Thanks Drake. No, but now I am really an Accounting major stressed about perfecting cover letters and applying for jobs. The lanyard trotting Mertz girl is all but a hazy memory tucked away into another part of my mind. Man, have I changed.

And, you will too. At first, you will go from a freshman getting dressed up for Cheesecake or Lux every week and bumping to A\$ap Rocky and Lil Wayne (because you ain't got no worries) in your dorm or apartment every night. Before you know it, you will get dressed up for job interviews and listen to the tapper tapper of students fiercely tapping away at their keyboards on the IC third floor every night. You will go from being absolute best friends to every girl you meet your first semester to just someone you smile at in passing (or look down) whose Facebook status is not hilarious enough for a "like." Everyone has their pride, we understand. Man, you will change.

You will go from slowly being up for anything to leaving campus only when you want to dip to the suburbs on the weekends for mom's biryani or shawarma. We form our cliques, gossip about those we used to know and don't know, and talk about the old days. Sound familiar? It depicts the circle of life, and your progression from a student to an aunty. It is okay, school happens. Man, have I changed.

Yet, from my immensely rich experiences as a college student blessed enough to be living in the Chi, I hope that some of you will take my advice about your future years at Loyola, InshAllah.

1. You should transfer. The end.

XOXO, Hiba.

Just kidding, no not really. Actually, yes.

1. (For Real) Figure it out:

Don't think that just because all of your friends are Pre-Med, you should be too. Look at our MSA President: he's a Finance major and look at how he turned out! Well, okay wrong example. Just kidding. All jokes aside, explore your options. If you don't like Biology, it's okay. If you like Biology, that's okay too. Be your own person and own up to what you want to major in. But, research it. If medical school is your end goal, look up what classes you need to take now! This advice also

applies to any other professional schools. Take a variety of classes, take classes at Water Tower Campus, and don't ever be stuck in a rut!

2. Be Nice to Everyone:

A lot of my friends hail from small-knit conservative communities. Many of these communities are engulfed in bubbles that fiercely protect their kids from the monstrosities of the world. Many times, if we encounter a weird individual we will talk behind their backs, roll our eyes at everything they say, and avoid them at all costs. First of all, this is haram. How would you like the flesh off of your brother's back? Medium-rare or well-done? Secondly, sometimes we forget in our lives of relative bliss, Alhumdullilah, that there are people much less fortunate than us. Baby, it's a hard knock life. I know individuals with extreme financial problems, an abusive parent, one parent, and depression just to name a few things. And no, these are not Prozac-popping, non-Muslims, complaining on their Facebook statuses daily. These are some of the Muslims I know campus. So next time you vent to your roommate about how strange someone is, how they're rocking last year's shoes, how they didn't talk to you, or is texting on anything less than an iPhone 5, think about what they're going through. Thank God for what you have.

3. Get Involved:

I do not mean just in the MSA. There are so many other clubs. Choose one! I know that besides Facebook, SnapChat, and Ruzzle you all have hobbies. Explore them and cultivate them into something you can take with you after graduation. Be a leader of a club and force your minions to attend MSA events with you!

4. Be Honest:

Don't ever cheat in life. Will looking over your friend's shoulder in Genetics or Finance help you get a better score on that exam? Maybe. But will

you be a better doctor or financial analyst? No, you will just be the kid who never learned, riding on the glorious coattails of your friends who cared enough about their futures. Don't be that person. Don't put yourself in that position where you have to cheat because you feel that is the only way to succeed. That's just a sign that what you are doing in life isn't meant for you. It's okay. Always put Baraqah in your actions, and you can start by doing things the honest way InshAllah.

5. Be Unique:

Don't be predictable. Rock your own style. Be your own person. Listen to your own music. Take the classes you want to. Of course, we can all be Northface rocking, Ugg trotting, iPhone using, Drake listening, Red Mango munching Loyola students. Or, we could be our own people and find ourselves in college. We can be friends with people who will refuse to hold us back and who will relentlessly push us to be the best people that Allah (SWT) meant us to be all along, InshAllah.

Because at the end of the day, your college memories will not be entirely dictated by the amount of all-nighters you pulled; instead, most of them will be clouded with Thursday-night apartment hopping, random excursions, retreats, halaqahs, spontaneous downtown trips, and cruising around campus looking for a good time. Live your college life to the fullest. Go to

LUMA, eat a Maulana burger at Agees, and Instagram your first sunrise at the IC. (#SubhanAllah #sunrise #Loyola #beauty #getbetterhashtag-please) Because there will be a time when you thought nothing was more important than the MCAT or CPA exam, then comes marriage! Man, is your life going to change.



Hiba





Muhammad Saifullah
LUC MSA Fall '12

Bismillah Al-Rahmaan Al-Raheem
Dear Brothers and Respected Sisters.
Assalaamua'laykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu!

I have a bit of a reputation in the MSA to go on and on, so I'll try to keep this brief inshaAllah. As a farewell message, allow me to share with you a lesson I have come to cherish. We Muslim students are supposed to be "Tullab Al-Ilm" – Seekers of Knowledge. Our beloved Messenger (S) has taught us that this seeking of knowledge is our obligation as Muslims. It's Fardh, like our Fajr Salah or Ramadhaan fasts. While a normal student may seek knowledge to earn a paycheck later, a Muslim student goes far beyond that. He/she seeks knowledge to recognize his/her Creator. Everything the seeker learns reminds him/her about Allah (SWT). It's

a lifelong journey of fascination and realization.

So we need to take our education very, very seriously. We need to be thankful that Allah (SWT) has allowed us to partake of something many yearn for yet cannot have. Being thankful also implies respecting our various subjects of study and especially those who teach them. There is no ditching class for a Muslim student. Absolutely, absolutely, no ditching, am I understood? That is one of the most disrespectful things you can do as a student, in my opinion. And remember, if you disrespect, you will never truly learn. Adab is essential. Also, remember that learning is only half of a Seeker's duty. The other half is sharing what you've learned. Finally, try to take your Islamic learning along with your academics to the best of your ability. I cannot emphasize this enough. We give so much importance to our worldly academics that sometimes it seems that we forget the fleeting nature of this world. It is in fact much more important to be well educated regarding matters of the akhiraah, duh. It is very possible to be a college student while also being a student of Islamic Studies. Trust me; I personally know many students who have done that. How do once a week, Saturday morning classes sound? <http://darullikhmah.com/>.

Like I said, very doable, and very impor-

tant. We just have to manage our time wisely and keep our priorities straight. Something I will highly recommend, because, Alhamdulillah, I have had the honor of doing this, is either trying to graduate early or taking time off to immerse yourself in Islamic Studies. SubhanAllah, it is simply amazing, beyond words, especially mine. You've got to experience it for yourselves. Make sincere Du'a to Allah (SWT) and, InshaAllah, He will guide you to what is best for you in this regard and for everything. One last piece of advice: there has got to be some amount of Qur'an and dhikr for you every single day inshaAllah, whatever you can do, no excuses. Let's work on these things eh?

Wow, seven semesters... I've had a great time being a part of the LUC MSA, but we have to move on I guess. I ask each and every one of you to please forgive me for being so annoying and long winded all the time, and for anything I may have said or done, knowingly or unknowingly, that may have offended you in any way. Also, please, please keep me and my family in your precious Du'as. I'm off to med school inshaAllah, but I know my brothers and sisters will have my back :) Don't worry though, I have a feeling I'll still be around... Jazakum Allahu Khayr – thank you for everything!

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Hiba Durrani

There isn't one word that can describe Hiba D. Many have tried- no one has succeeded, and I've known this girl since high school. Awesome, blunt, funny, ridiculous- everything makes up your personality. Never change, because you're amazing as you are.
-Anonymous

Nida Nisar,

you are one of the funniest of girlfriends and I could not be more glad to have met you all those years ago in a 6th grade trailer in IFS :) You're a hard-worker, genuine-hearted, smart and so crazy and an irreplaceable friend to many. It's insane that you're graduating already, (aunt) but I know that we'll see great accomplishments from you in the future, Inshallah. Stay fly, g.
-Anonymous

The Faces of Loyola: Ibrahim & Anwar, If you know anything about me at all, it's that I absolutely cannot handle directions.

It doesn't matter how many times I've been there, how easy it is to get there, or if it's right next door; I somehow manage to have the hardest time finding my way around. So, you can just imagine my anxiety when I first started at Loyola. Luckily, it was easy enough. All I needed to know were a few standard buildings: Mundy, the IC, Mertz, etc. Sure enough, the buildings at Loyola became routine landmarks in my daily walk to class. However, these landmarks didn't simply end with the most recognizable buildings. Pretty soon, seeing the faces of Ibrahim Chaudhry and Anwar Abdallah became as routine as expecting MSA boys not to say salaam. They are some of the most popular people I know (in and outside Loyola). Alhamdulillah, both of you became an integral part of my freshmen experience, and there is no way I can thank you enough. Jazakullah Khairun.

Ibrahim Bhai, you crept me out when I first met you. You knew me (and my family history) before I knew your name. When we became "friends," I hated you tagging me in your Facebook statuses. You annoyed me. You made fun of me. I made fun of you. Soon enough, I realized that I gained a real and valuable friend. You taught me in your weird way how to give people the benefit of the doubt and avoid making hasty judgments. I admire your charisma, your positive attitude, and your ability to talk to anyone. You're the definition of a great guy. WAH WAH. (I had to). Anwar, I don't even know where to start. You are my role model, an inspiration, and above all such a great friend. Any day I see you instantly becomes a great day because of your fabulous smile! You are a brilliant leader and one of the reasons MSA became so important to me. You embody compassion. I love how you walk the walk. Your kind actions and shining personality speak for themselves. Even though you love reminding me of my freshmen status, I cannot appreciate each and every conversation I've had with you enough. You're a great listener, advice giver, and most of all a wonderful person. I'm not worried for either of your futures in the slightest bit because I know wherever you guys will go you will bring happiness and light. I am so grateful that I got to have some of your light shine on me, and inshallah I hope it won't be the last time! I will miss both of you very much! Take care guys! Your

Freshie, Safa

The first time I met you, you came across as such a confident woman with great leadership. Being in SJP has changed my life forever, and I can only blame you for this. You've single handedly organized multiple successful events to boost SJP's reputation plentifully. Being so devoted to the cause of freeing Palestine, you have inspired me to be the same. Without you, multiple freshmen like me would not have found such a niche like SJP at Loyola. I thank you for being so welcoming and courageous at the same time and devoting all your efforts to make sure the future of SJP stays successful. I hope and I know you will continue making valiant changes in the future of Palestine as well as others that will inspire us to continue working as hard as you've worked in these past years. I will miss you, but I will never forget you, Nashiha Alam.

Dear Hiba Durrani,

I know I haven't known you for a very long time, but the few months that I have known you have probably been the highlight of my otherwise somewhat dull freshman year. Yes, all that may sound dramatic, but it's kind of the truth. You are seriously one of the funniest people I have ever met. I, as well as the rest of the world, can always count on a GREAT time when in your company, and conversations with you are always a treat. I love that you're just straight-up with people, no beating around the bush. I must say, I was a bit surprised when you asked to come to my place after having met you only once, but I found that we instantly clicked. And after that first week, I couldn't imagine a day without seeing you haha you and I had bonded so much in our 2-hour-long study breaks that I knew you so well, but it had only been a week. Even now, I feel like I've known you for much longer than just a few months, and it sincerely depresses me that you're a senior. I often think I was born in the wrong year, and you honestly make me wish that I was; I wish we were closer in age so that I could have had the opportunity to spend more time with you. However, everything happens for a reason, and I'm grateful for the time that I have had with you. I will admit that I'm getting a little teary-eyed writing this, thank God no one can see. But anyway, you will surely be missed by everyone who knows you, but especially by your favorite freshman. May Allah (SWT) keep you happy and wonderful and successful, and bless you with everything magnificent in this life and the next, iA. Ameen. Wishing you all the best in your future.

Dear Maria Choudhry,

There are no words to describe your utter amazingness. You are loved by everyone, and I can pretty much guarantee that. You are definitely the type of person that manages to get everything done perfectly yet still has time to chill with everyone, but no one knows how she does it. You are truly one of a kind, and I'm so glad to have met you and gotten to know you. Your innocence is just so cute, and I have to say that you have the purest heart of anyone I have ever met. Additionally, you are able to incorporate Islam in everything you do, and I admire that. Your soft-spoken ways are an example of you following in the footsteps of the Prophet (S). Furthermore, I never see you get angry. Ever. It takes a lot of patience and strength to remain calm always, which is just another way that you can be compared to the Prophet (S). I certainly see you as an amazing role model, and as a great influence as well. I really think that many of us should strive to be more like you. You are extremely knowledgeable in Islam, among other things, and are able to successfully balance everything in your busy life, mA. I can't wait to see how successful I know you will be in the future iA. May Allah (SWT) keep you happy and wonderful and successful, and bless you with everything magnificent in this life and the next, iA. Ameen. Wishing you all the best in your future.

Zehra Quadri:

Love, Your Favorite Freshie

Zehra is purely inexplicable. I've known her since 8th grade and I still barely have words to describe her. She's kind and heartfelt, yet ridiculously witty. An endearing, hilarious person is difficult to find, Zehra exemplifies both qualities. One of the few people I know who always has a comeback for me, Zehra truly is amazing and unique. My duas for you: success in the future- though I know this will happen inshallah, an abundance of great friends, and passion for what you wish to do in life. Congratulations Zehra :)

-Anonymous

Jumana,

Dear

Jumana Al-Qawaami,

I know we're not best friends or anything, but you should know that I greatly admire you. I see you as such a great role model and influence. Not only are you beautiful and smart, but an absolutely wonderful leader as well, mA. Furthermore, the way you carry yourself in hijab is simply amazing, and you have actually been an inspiration in my decision to wear it as well. You have showed me and the rest of the world that a hijabi can be cool and collected, yet totally full of fabulousity. No joke dude, I want to be like you when I grow up, you're THAT awesome. Just by the way, this shout-out was basically a hug in word form, and you couldn't avoid it. May Allah (SWT) keep you happy and wonderful and successful, and bless you with everything magnificent in this life and the next, iA. Ameen. Wishing you all the best in your future.

Love, Anbreen

Shahbbhai,

You're like a truffle. You have a hard outer shell but once people look inside, they find that you're really filled with goeey warmth. You inspire people and push them to be better just by your presence. It was my first year of college and I would have been really lost without you. Thank you for being a big brother to all of MSA and to me. I pray that Allah (SWT) grant you success and happiness in your future, both in this life and the hereafter. We will miss you on campus, but I'll see you at home insha'Allah.

-Your Little Sis, Shazi

Ibrahim Chaudhry,

I've known Ibrahim for years, but only just got to know him well these past few years. Preconceived perceptions were abandoned. His personality, striking and booming, is unmatched. He is everyone's friend with an internal instinct to help those around him- no matter the cost. He's always armed with a ridiculous story, down to mess with random people, ready to grab a bite (this kid eats like a tribute in the Hunger Games), and prepared to simply talk. Great people are difficult to discover; basic kindness and sincerity in someone is a rarity. Chaudhry, if this year was any indication, I doubt I'll see much of you, but I do wish to relay some advice. Find excellent, real friends, yet keep in touch with the old (I'm including myself in this); be successful in a great career- helping people is your passion and I know you'll pursue it; be there for your family as I know you always strive to be; never become disillusioned, even though many things may cause you to be. Congrats on graduating from a real school, Ibrahim. Don't forget your personality or yourself when it comes to the world.

-Anonymous

Laura Bowers:

Living with Laura Bowers for half a year taught me so much about Islam. For one, how to be a good person. Don't ever change bowsies, you're perfect mA. I wish you the best in life: happiness and success. And great Desi food.

-RYLA Bud

Nida Nisar:

I've known you since 6th grade and in one word, you're stunning (so cheesy). The honesty, trust, and even wittiness you portray as a person are annoyingly hilarious (often) but usually entertaining. Keep making those flash cards, Nisar. You'll always be one of my good friends.

-Anonymous

Sadaf Khan:

"Everyone leaves footprints in your memory, but the ones that leave footprints in your heart are the ones you will truly remember." Thank you for the lovely moments you shared with me in our time spent together at Loyola. Letting go of you will be difficult, but fortunately, having you as my cousin means that no matter what happens, I will always find you in one of our crazy parties! Love you with all my heart. May Allah (SWT) always keep you smiling and send all the world's blessings on you.

Yours Truly, Sara Khan

HAMMY,
O.M.G. YOU
DONE BHAIYYA
YOUR LIL SIS,
SARAH

MARQA,
O.M.G YOU DONE SISIA.
YOUR lil sis,
SARAH

Dear **Anwar Adallah,**

Being in your company is like constantly having a toothache, but I mean that in the best way possible - you are so ridiculously sweet that you probably have half of the world's sweetness. I wish I was at least half as sweet as you. You are the most welcoming person on the planet and have the ability to make anyone feel comfortable. You also give the warmest hugs, even to people that you don't know, but you hug them like you've known them for years. You show them who you are right away - sweet, kind, intelligent, outgoing, a leader, and a great hugger. We've only known each other since the beginning of the school year, yet we have managed to become so close. I have been getting teary-eyed about graduation since about January because you have made such an impact on my life. You make me want to be a better person because mA you are so great at everything, yet you remain humble. I wish I knew as much about Islam as you, and I really admire that. mA, you are a wonderful person inside and out, and every MSA sister will miss you, regardless of how well you knew them. May Allah (SWT) keep you happy and wonderful and successful, and bless you with everything magnificent in this life and the next, iA. Ameen. Wishing you all the best in your future.

Love, Anbreen

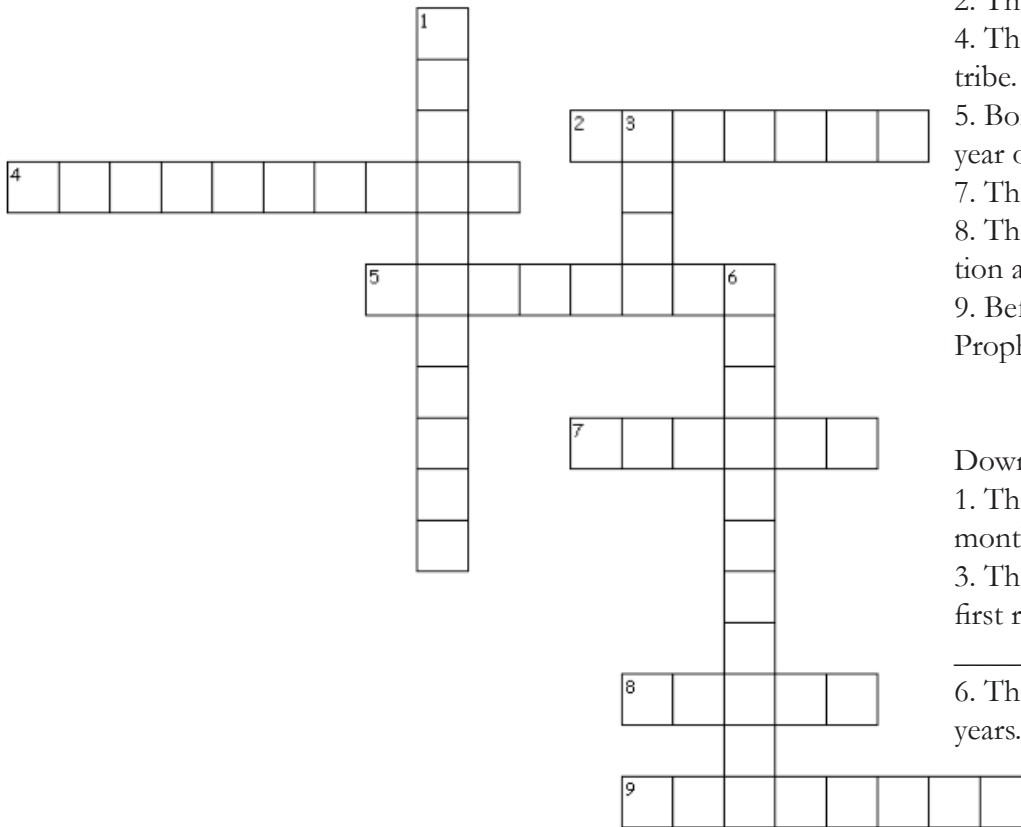
Dear All My **Lovely Seniors Sisters.**

You have taught me so much there is to know about our deen and I am honestly inspired by each and every one of you. My Loyola experience would be so boring, dry, and meaningless without you! I am so thankful to Allah (SWT) for blessing me with the opportunity of getting to know all you! Always remember that you will be missed dearly!!! May Allah (SWT) bless all of you with the brightest futures and with success in both this life and the next, Ameen.

Love Your Lil Sis,
Sarah Choudhry

P.S. Please keep us and our sisterhood in your duas!

Muhammad (peace be upon him)



Across

- 2. The Prophet (s)'s first wife.
- 4. The Prophet (s) was born into this tribe.
- 5. Born in 570 AD, also called the year of the _____.
- 7. The Prophet (s)'s first daughter.
- 8. The Prophet (s) had his first revelation around the age of _____.
- 9. Before becoming a merchant, the Prophet(s) worked as _____.

Down

- 1. The Prophet (s) was born in this month.
- 3. The Prophet (s) received his first revelation at the Mount of _____.
- 6. The Prophet (s) preached for _____ years.

Across: 1.RabialAwwal 3.Hira 6.Twentythree
 Down: 1.RabialAwwal 3.Hira 6.Twentythree

Answers:

Al Risalah

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