



companions of the mosque

newsletter
www.companionsofthemosque.com

Mary, the Mother of Jesus

It may surprise many people to learn that Mary is one of the most esteemed and respected women in Islam and that the Quran gives her great importance. Maryam is the name of chapter 19 of the Quran, and Chapter 3 is *Aali Imran*, named after her family. Islam holds the entire family of Imran in very high regard. The Quran tells us that:

“God chose Adam and Noah, the family of Abraham and the family of Imran over all others of world’s of mankind and jinn.” (Quran 3:33)

God chose Adam and Noah individually, but He chose the family of Abraham and the family of Imran.

“Offspring of one another.” (Quran 3:34)

The family of Imran are from the descendents of Abraham, the family of Abraham are from the descendents of Noah, and Noah is from the descendents of Adam. The family of Imran also includes many people known and respected in the Christian traditions – Prophets Zachary and John (known as the Baptist), Prophet and Messenger Jesus and his mother, Mary.

God chose Mary above all the women of the world. He said: **“And when the angels said: ‘O Mary! Verily, God has chosen you, purified you, and chosen you above the women of the worlds of mankind and jinn.’” (Quran 3:42)**

Ali ibn Abu Talib said:

“I heard the Prophet of God saying Mary, the daughter of Imran was the best among women.” (Saheeh Al-Bukhari)

In Arabic the name Maryam means the maidservant of God, and as we shall see, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was dedicated to God even before she was born.

The Birth of Mary

The Bible is unable to give us any details of Mary’s birth; however,



the Quran informs us that the wife of Imran dedicated her unborn child to the service of God.

Mary’s mother, the wife of Imran, was Hannah [From the Tafseer of Ibn Katheer]. She was the sister of Prophet Zachary’s wife.

Hannah and her husband Imran had believed they would never have children, but one day Hannah made a sincere and heartfelt supplication to God begging for a child, and vowing that her offspring would serve in God’s House in Jerusalem. God heard Hannah’s supplication and she fell pregnant. When Hannah realised the glorious news she turned to God and said:

“O my Lord! I have vowed to You what is in my womb to be dedicated for Your services, so accept this, from me. Verily, You are the All-Hearer, the All-Knowing.” (Quran 3:35)

There are lessons to be learned from Hannah’s vow to God, one of which is caring for the religious education of our children. Hannah was not thinking in terms of this world at all, she was trying to ensure that her child was close to God and in His service. These chosen friends of God, such as the family of Imran, are the parents whom we should take as our role models. God says many times in the Quran that He is the One who supplies provision for us, and He warns us to save ourselves and our families from the fires of Hell.

In her supplication, Hannah asked that her child be free from all worldly work. By promising that her child would be the

servant of God, Hannah was securing her child’s freedom. Freedom is a quality of life that every human being strives to attain, but Hannah understood that true freedom comes from complete submission to God. This is what she aspired to for her yet unborn child. Hannah wanted her child to be a free person, a slave to no man and no desire, but a slave only to God. In due time, Hannah gave birth to a girl, again she turned to God in prayer and said:

“ ‘O my Lord, I have delivered a female child,’ and the male is not like the female, and I have named her Mary, and I seek refuge with You for her and her offspring from Satan, the outcast.” (Quran 3:36)

Hannah named her child Mary. With reference to her vow to God, Hannah now found herself facing a dilemma. Serving in the House of Prayer was not acceptable for women. Mary’s father, Imran had died before she was born, so Hannah turned to her brother in law, Zachary. He comforted Hannah and helped her to understand that God knew that she had delivered a girl. This girl child, Mary, was from the best of creation.

Prophet Mohammad mentioned that whenever a child is born Satan pricks him or her and therefore the child cries loudly [Saheeh Al-Bukhari]. This is a sign of the great enmity between mankind and Satan; however there were two exceptions to this rule. Satan pricked neither Mary nor her son Jesus [Saheeh

Muslim], due to the supplication of Mary’s mother.

When the time came for Mary to go into the House of Prayer, everybody wanted to take care of this pious daughter of Imran. As was the custom of the time, the men drew lots for the privilege, and God ensured that her guardian was Prophet Zachary.

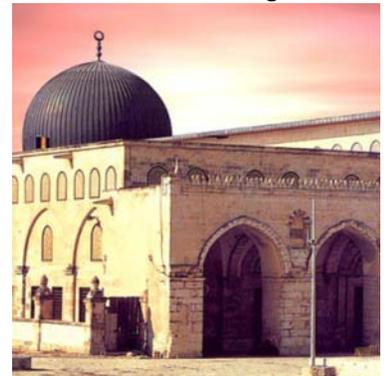
“So her Lord accepted her with goodly acceptance, and made her grow in a good manner, and put her under the care of Zachary.” (Quran 3:37)

Prophet Zachary served in the House of God and was a wise and knowledgeable man devoted to teaching. He had a private room built for Mary so that she was able to worship God and go about her daily duties in private. As her guardian, Prophet Zachary visited Mary daily, and one day he was surprised to see fresh fruit in her room. It is said that in winter she would have the fresh fruits of summer and in the summer she would have the fresh fruits of winter [Based on the work of Al Imam ibn Katheer. *The Stories of the Prophets*]. Prophet Zachary inquired about how the fruit got there, to which Mary replied, it was indeed God Who provided her sustenance. She said:

“It is from God. Verily, God provides sustenance to whom He wills without limit.” (Quran 3:37)

Mary’s devotion to God was at that time unparalleled, but her faith was about to be tested.

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The Birth of Jesus

Esteemed and loved by all Muslims and known as a pious and devout woman, Mary, the mother of Jesus was chosen above all other women. Islam rejects the Christian notion that Jesus is part of a trinity that is God, and denies emphatically that either Jesus or his mother, Mary, are worthy of worship. The Quran categorically states that there is no god but God.

“Such is God, your Lord! None has the right to be worshipped but He, the Creator of all things. So worship Him ...” (Quran 6:102)

Muslims are required, however, to believe in and love all of the Prophets, including Prophet Jesus, who holds a special place in the Islamic creed. His mother, Mary, holds a place of honour. As a young woman, Mary went into the House of Prayer in Jerusalem, her entire life dedicated to the worship and service of God.

Mary Hears the News of Jesus

While she was in seclusion from everybody, a man appeared before Mary. God said:

“She screened herself from them; We sent to her Our Spirit, and he appeared before her in the form of a man in all respects.” (Quran 19:17)

Mary was afraid and tried to flee. She appealed to God saying:

“Verily! I seek refuge with the Most Gracious (God) from you, if you do fear God.” The angel said: “I am only a Messenger from your Lord to you, announcing the gift of a righteous son.” (Quran 19:18-19)

Mary was amazed and puzzled by these words. She was not married, rather a virgin who kept chaste. She asked incredulously:

“O my Lord! How will I have a son when no man has touched me?” He said, “So (it will be): for God creates what He wills; when He has decreed something, He says to it only ‘Be’ – and it is.” (Quran 3:47)

God created Adam from the dust of the earth, without either mother or father. He created Eve from Adam's rib; and Jesus, He created without a father, but with a mother, the pious Virgin Mary. God, who has only to say ‘Be’ to a thing in order to bring it into existence, blew the spirit of Jesus into Mary via the Angel Gabriel.



“And We breathed in something of our Spirit, and she testified to the truth of the Words of her Lord ...” (Quran 66:12)

Although the stories of Mary in the Quran and in the Bible have many aspects in common, the view that Mary was betrothed or married is totally rejected by Islam. Time passed, and Mary became afraid of what the people around her would say. She wondered how they could possibly believe that no man had touched her. The majority of scholars in Islam agree that the duration of Mary's pregnancy was normal. Then, as the time came for her to give birth, Mary decided to leave Jerusalem, and travelled towards the city of Bethlehem. Even though Mary must have recalled the words of God, for her faith was strong and unwavering, this young woman was anxious and uneasy. But the angel Gabriel reassured her:

“O Mary, Verily God gives you glad tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary – held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and who will be one of those who are near to God.” (Quran 3:45)

Jesus is Born

The pains of childbirth drove her to clutch at the trunk of a date-palm tree and she cried out in anguish:

“Would that I had died before this, and had been forgotten and out of sight!” (Quran 19:23)

Mary delivered her child right there, at the foot of the date tree. She was exhausted after the birth, and filled with distress and fear, but nevertheless she heard a voice calling out to her.

“Grieve not! Your Lord has provided you a stream of clear water under you; and shake the trunk of the palm tree towards you; it will let fall fresh ripe dates upon you. So eat, drink and be consoled...” (Quran 19:24)

God provided Mary with water, as a stream suddenly appeared beneath the place she was sitting. He also provided her with food; all she had to do was shake the trunk of the date tree. Mary was scared and frightened; she felt so weak, having just given birth, so how could she possibly shake the immense trunk of a date tree? But God continued to provide Mary with sustenance.

The next event was indeed another miracle, and as human beings we learn a great lesson from this. Mary didn't need to shake the date tree, which would have been impossible; she only had to make an effort. As she attempted to follow God's command, fresh ripe dates fell from the tree and God said to Mary:

“...eat, drink and be consoled.” (Quran 19:26)

Mary now had to take her new born child and go back to face her family. Of course she was afraid, and God knew this well. Thus He directed her not to speak. It would not have been possible for Mary to explain how she had suddenly become the mother of a new born child.

Since she was unmarried, her people would not believe her explanations. God said:

“And if you see any human being, say: ‘Verily! I have vowed a fast unto the Most Gracious (God) so I shall not speak to any human being this day.’” (Quran 19:26)

Mary came to her people carrying the child, and they immediately began accusing her; they exclaimed “What have you done? You are from a good family, and your parents were pious.”

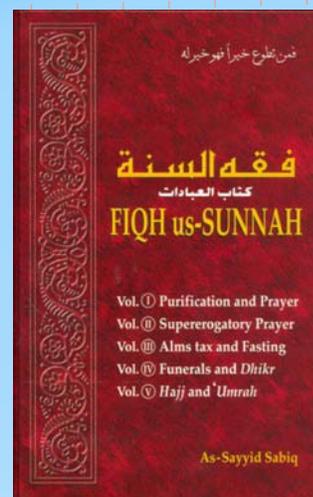
As God had directed her, Mary did not speak, she merely pointed to the baby in her arms. Then Jesus, son of Mary, spoke. As a newborn baby, Jesus, the Prophet of God performed his first miracle. By the permission of God he said:

“Verily! I am a slave of God. He has given me the Scripture and made me a Prophet; and He has made me blessed wheresoever I be, and has enjoined on me prayer, and alms, as long as I live, and to be dutiful to my mother, and made me not arrogant, unblest. And peace be upon me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I shall be raised alive!” (Quran 19:30-34)

Mary is referred to in the Quran (5:75) as a *siddiqah* (truthful one) but the Arabic word *siddiqah* implies more than just speaking the truth. It means that one has achieved a very high level of righteousness. It means that one is truthful, not only with themselves and those around them, but also with God.

Mary was a woman who fulfilled her covenant with God, Whom she worshiped with full submission. She was pious, chaste, and devout; the woman chosen above all other women to be the mother of Jesus was Mary, the daughter of Imran.

Fiqh Study Circle



Based on –our study book

Fiqh-Us-Sunnah

By

Sheikh Sayyid Saabiq

It will be cross referenced mainly with “Tamaam Al-Minnah fi Atta'leeq alaa Fiqhus Sunnah” by the Shaikh Nasser AlDeen Al-Albani (May Allah's mercy be upon him) and “The Encyclopaedia of Fiqh Made Easy” by Shaikh Husain ibn Audah al Awaayshah.

Every Friday

8:00pm to 9:30pm

By

Br. Abdullatif Osman

Sutton Civic Offices

All are Welcome

A Muslim is a brother to a Muslim



Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:

"A Muslim is a brother to a Muslim. He should neither deceive him nor lie to him, nor leave him without assistance. Everything belonging to a Muslim is inviolable (sacred) for a Muslim; his honour, his blood and property. Piety is here (and he pointed out to his chest thrice). It is enough for a Muslim to commit evil by despising his Muslim brother." [At-Tirmidhi].

This Hadith deals with the subject discussed in the preceding one. In fact, it elucidates the points raised there. Now, the heart is one thing which no one can check out; Allah Alone knows about it. The case of those who openly lead a sinful and impious life is of course quite different. To show hatred and disgust against such people is warranted by Faith.

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:

"Do not envy one another; do not inflate prices by overbidding against one another; do not hate one another; do not harbour malice against one another; and do not enter into commercial transaction when others have entered into that (transaction); but be you, O slaves of Allah, as brothers. A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim; he neither oppresses him nor does he look down upon him, nor does he humiliate him. Piety is here, (and he pointed to his chest three times). It is enough evil for a Muslim to hold his brother Muslim in contempt. All things of a Muslim are inviolable for his brother-in-faith: his blood, his property and his honour". [Muslim].

This Hadith elaborates the importance of mutual brotherhood and goodwill among the Muslims. They are warned against jealousy which is a very malicious moral disease. One who suffers from it does not like to see others in happy circumstances and wants that they are deprived of whatever good they have.

This Hadith prohibits Muslims from mutual hatred, enmity and indifference to others because all such things go against the concept of Islamic fraternity. The Hadith also warns Muslims against *Najash* (false bidding to raise the price in an auction) as it is clear deception and fraud which runs counter to goodwill for others, which is what Muslims are required to express for each other.

Anas (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Prophet (PBUH) said:

"No one of you shall become a true believer until he desires for his brother what he desires for himself". [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

This Hadith deals more comprehensively with the subject discussed above. When a Muslim likes the same thing for another Muslim which he does for himself, then he will be obviously expressing goodwill to his fellow Muslims. When Muslims adopt this attitude at the community level, no Muslim will be an enemy of the other. In fact, each Muslim would then be a well-wisher and helper of other Muslims. May Allah enable us to adopt this attitude.

Ibn `Umar (May Allah be pleased with them) reported: Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:

"A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim. So he should not oppress him nor should he hand him over to (his satan or to his self which is inclined to evil). Whoever fulfils the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfil his needs; whoever removes the troubles of his brother, Allah will remove one of his troubles on the Day of Resurrection; and whoever covers up the fault of a Muslim, Allah will cover up his fault on the Day of Resurrection". [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

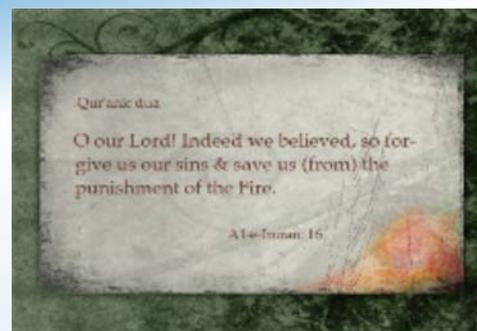
This Hadith is extremely important for the reason that it advises Muslims to live like family members. It says that one does not like to subject one's own son, brother, etc, to suppression, nor leaves him helpless in trouble, but helps him when he is in need of it, endeavours to relieve him of hardship and admonishes him when he does anything wrong. Almighty Allah is pleased with such behaviour and gives him best reward for it in this world and the next.

Abu Musa (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:

"The relationship of the believer with another believer is like (the bricks of) a building, each strengthens the other." He (PBUH) illustrated this by interlacing the fingers of both his hands. [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

This Hadith enjoins unity in the Muslim community, each member of which is like a brick, which, when they are all combined, lend strength to each other. Similarly, Muslims are like hands and arms, which physically joined together, are bound to co-operate with one another

From: Br. Muhammad Hafis



The Carpenter

A highly skilled carpenter who had grown old was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his family. He would miss the pay cheque, but he needed to retire.

The employer was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter agreed to this proposal but made sure that this will be his last project. Being in a mood to retire, the carpenter was not paying much attention to building this house. His heart was not in his work. He resorted to poor workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the job was done, the carpenter called his employer and showed him the house. The employer handed over some papers and the front door key to the carpenter and said "This is your house, my gift to you."

The carpenter was in a shock! What a shame! If he had only known that he was building his own house, he would have made it better than any other house that he ever built!

Our situation can be compared to this carpenter. Allah Ta'la has sent us to this world to build our homes in paradise by obeying His commands. Now, we have to decide how well we wish to build the homes where we hope we will live forever.

From: Br. Abdulla Surooprajally





Dear reader,
Alhamdulillah, this is currently the 5th issue of the COM newsletter and we hope you will find it useful.

If any of you wish to contribute towards future newsletters, please send your article to the following email:

newsletter@companionsofthemosque.com

If the article is deemed appropriate, it may be published.

Your feedback and suggestions are valuable to us.

Sincere thanks to all the brothers and sisters who have made this newsletter a success. May Allah reward them all.

Insha'allah, we look forward to updating you on what is happening regularly.

Jazakallukhairan,

Sister Nisreen

&

Brother Abdulhameed

Activities 2011

Time	Event Description	Day
10:00am-12:00pm	Ladies Tajweed Classes	Every Monday The Thomas Wall Centre
7:30pm - 9:30pm	Tajweed class for Brothers	Every Monday, Civic Office
7:30pm – 9:30pm	Self Defence & Keep Fit (for brothers only)	Every Tuesday & Thursday The Thomas Wall Centre
10:00am-12:00pm	Ladies Coffee Morning (Ladies Aerobics)	Every Wednesday, The Thomas Wall Centre
7:30pm - 9:30pm	Quran Tafseer class for Everyone	Every Wednesday, Civic Office
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Children's classes – Classes are according to the age.	Every Friday, Civic offices
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Women's Tajweed class	Every Friday, Civic offices
8:00pm – 9:30pm	Fiqh classes	Every Friday, Civic offices
10:00am – 1:00pm	Children's Tajweed Class	Every Saturday, The Thomas Wall Centre
10:45am - 2:30pm	Monthly Sisters Gathering All ages	1st Sunday of every month, The Quad
3:00pm – 7:00pm	Monthly Community Gathering Talks delivered by Guest speakers	1st Sunday of every month, The Quad

The above are for guidance only. To confirm any program please phone organisers and/ or ask to be added to the mailing lists, which will flag up any deviation from the standard schedule.

Who is the bankrupt?

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "Do you know who is the bankrupt?" They said: "The bankrupt among us is one who has neither money with him nor any property". He said, "The real bankrupt of my Ummah would be he who would come on the Day of Resurrection with Salat, Saum and Sadaqah (charity), (but he will find himself bankrupt on that day as he will have exhausted the good deeds) because he reviled others, brought calumny (false, malicious smear) against others, unlawfully devoured the wealth of others, shed the blood of others and beat others; so his good deeds would be credited to the account of those (who suffered at his hand). If his good deeds fall short to clear the account, their sins would be entered in his account and he would be thrown in the (Hell) Fire". [Muslim].

This Hadith tells us that a Muslim has to take strict care in the performance of obligations like prescribed Salat (prayers), Zakat, etc, but he has to take similar care in his dealings, manners and morals. Salvation lies in the proper fulfilment of all these requirements. Fulfilment of one at the cost of the other will not be sufficient for salvation.

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The Civic Offices
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The Quad Youth Centre
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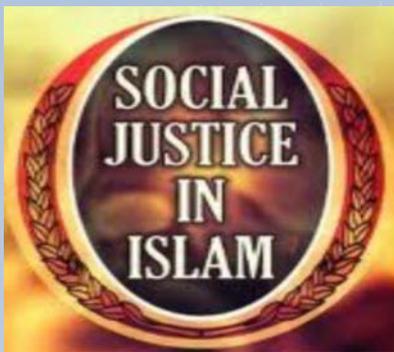
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For more information please visit www.companionsofthemosque.com

Monthly Talk

Sunday, 5th June 2011



Br. Uthman Lateef
of Slough

Time: 4.30pm - 6.30pm

The Quad (Youth Centre)
Green Wrythe Lane
Carshalton, Sutton SM51JW

If you have any questions, please send them in advance to our

sundaytalkquestions@companionsofthemosque.com