

Al-Rasool (S.A.W.)

PREMIERE EDITION

Grand Opening and Milad-un-Nabi

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Assalam-o-alaikum:



On April 15th, 16th and 22nd, various events were held in celebration of the grand opening of Masjid Al-Rasool Al-Akram and the Wiladat of RasoolAl-lah(SAW).

On the evening of April 15th, the program began after Salat-Al-Maghrabain with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Syed Jawwad. Syed Asad Shah performed the introduction and Syed Jafar Yahya was the MC.



The salutations from various Maraja-e-Din were presented in Arabic by Br. Abu Hussain, in English by Haji Mazin and in Urdu by Maulana Syed Mehboob Abidi.



This was followed by Maulana Syed Abidi's address to the gathering and then the closing by the Imam of the Masjid, Hujjat-UI-Islam Maulana Syed Zaki Alswij.

Qaseedas were read by Br. Adeel Zaidi and Br. Khaliq Chagla in Urdu, Br. Haji Nasser in Farsi, and Br. Abu Hussain in Arabic.

Dinner was served after the program. Special thanks to all the volunteers that helped make this function a success.



Salutations from Maraja-e-Din

Masjid Al-Rasool Al-Akram is honored to have the support and guidance of Grand Ayatullah Al-Uzma Syed Ali Sistani. The masjid received letters of felicitation addressed to the community of

Houston from many maraja-e-din. The following are excerpts from some of these letters.



Grand Ayatullah Mirza Jawwad Tabrizi for the birth of the Holy Prophet(s)

and regarding the masjid:

What a great prosperity! And what a good deed building and constructing a House of Allah. May Allah reward those who contributed in this good deed which is one of the greatest deeds with which people can get closer to Allah (SWT). Also, may Allah generously reward them as they supported the religion and the path of AhlulBait (AS) and that's going to be their treasure on a day which neither money nor children can help.



Grand Ayatullah Syed Mohammad Saeed Al-Tabatabaei AlHakeem :

We hope for our Masjid, like the Masajid of early Islam, to be a place of worship (Ibada), a gathering place for

the Muslims, a source of original thought and education, and a management center of the true propagation (Da'wa) and its bearers.



Grand Ayatullah Hussain Al-Najafi:

Oh, brothers in Iman. I'm glad to send you this

letter from the most honorable and oldest Hawza in the world, the Hawza of Al-Najaf Al-Ashraf. That's to congratulate you for the completion of building the Masjid which our Wakeel (representative), Al-Allama Syed Zaki, worked to establish; may Allah increase his prosperity.

Message from Maulana Syed Zaki Al-Swij

The message is the road to Guidance and whoever believes in God, his angels, his books, his messengers and the Day of Judgment carries this message and he must deliver it whenever the opportunity, time, occasion and knowledge allows him to do so.

The society has its needs and the Masjid has its message. From Masjid Al-Rasool Al-Akram we stress the following:

The individual goes through phases in his/her lifetime. They start with preparing for/getting married, pregnancy, delivery, breastfeeding, childhood, differentiation, discipline, education,

puberty, teenage, adulthood, maturity, old age, elderly and advanced age.

These are 15 phases that need attention and care. Each one of these phases has its own rules and duties, making it the guardian's responsibility to attend to them. These phases affect the individual's personality, growth of talents and capabilities through the circumstances that one faces with himself, his family, the community, his/her duties towards God, his/her belief and influence his commitment (adherence).

We will go through it briefly,

1. Getting ready for Marriage: the phase of choosing a wife or a husband.
2. Marriage: the engagement, marriage contract, consummation and living together.
3. Pregnancy: the 9 months of carrying the baby and the responsibility of each spouse toward the new comer/getting ready for the new addition.
4. Delivery: The time of going into labor, having the baby, the period after having the baby and its rules and duties.
5. Breastfeeding: between 21 months and 2 years.
6. Childhood: Raising and caring for the baby between the ages of 2-5 years.
7. Differentiation: The period where the child can realize/distinguish the good from the bad, between the ages of 5-7 years.

8. Education and discipline: from 7 to 10 years for girls and 15 years for boys.

9. Puberty: it starts at 9 years for girls and 15 years for boys. It is until the end of life, but it happens gradually.

10. Teenage: it can happen along with puberty or it can be delayed by 3 years until the age of 19.

11. Ru'shd or Adulthood: it can start with puberty or at the end of normal teenage phase. At the age of 18 years to 21 years.

12. Maturity: the phase starting at 18 years and onward to 40 years.

13. Old age: 50-60 years.

14. Elderly: 60-70.

15. Advanced age: 70 and above.

This is just an outline for the phases that we will discuss in the coming issues and we will familiarize ourselves with each one and its duties and responsibilities.

And from God we get help and tawfeeq to follow the path of RasoolAllah(SAW) and the Ahlul-Bait(AS).



Juma Khutba *Excerpts from June 2006*

Allah sets forth a parable: (consider) a slave, the property of another, (who) has no power over anything, and one whom We have granted from Ourselves a goodly

sustenance so he spends from it secretly and openly; are the two alike? (All) praise is due to Allah! Nay, most of them do not know. An-Nahl (Ayat75)

Maulana Syed Zaki explained the concept of "slavery" in Islam. A person who gives himself to be a slave of Allah is indeed in the highest of positions as Allah elevates his status and takes him to heights where he never imagined being.

Whatever a Momin receives from Allah (rizq-e-hasana) he gives away those blessings in the way of Allah and also encourages other Momineen to do the same. Verily, all forms of sustenance are showered upon us by Allah only and we should be thankful to Him alone.

Religion and Politics should not be separated from each other. Allah has sent his Guides in the forms of Prophets and Imams and after them we have the Ulama, the Mujtahedeen who are the best guides for us.

Currently, great injustice is seen in the world by the so called powerful presidents who abuse the authority and oppress the people and turn them into modern day "slaves"

The reappearance of Imam-al-Hujjat (ATF) from Ghaibat will bring about changes in this corrupt system. The tyrants shall be annihilated and man will only be a slave to Allah's will and commands.

Sayings of the Prophets:

Prophet Musa (AS) told his followers to choose friends carefully and in doing so they shall have command over the entire Tawrat sent to them by Allah (SWT).

Prophet Daood (AS) advised the followers of the Psalms (Zuboor) not to get entrapped by the desires of Duniyah and instead to seek the pleasure of Allah (SWT) by following his guidelines and that way they can comprehend the Holy Book.

Prophet Essa (AS) taught his followers that in order to understand New Testament/Gospel (Injeel), they should seek patience and have faith in Allah who indeed is the best planner.



Our Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) told the people you should have control over your tongues. If the enemy abuses you, make sure you remain silent and purify your heart from bad thoughts and ill feelings. Also, be specific and honest when you talk to someone. These alone are the keys to understanding the teachings of the entire Quran.

"And say: My Lord! Make me to enter a goodly entering, and cause me to go forth a goodly going forth,

and grant me from near Thee power to assist (me)."
(Sura Isra', Ayah 80)

This eloquent verse taken from the 17th Surah of the Quran is a powerful prayer that we have been told to memorize by the Imams (AS). Maulana emphasized on how easy it is to fall prey to the temptations constantly provided by Shaitaan to misguide us. This is a humble prayer to Allah to purify our hearts and give us a good niya'h (intention) each time we decide to perform a task and help us in accomplishing it. We seek Allah's help and supervision in all our undertakings from daily chores to those which we perform simply to seek the Divine's pleasure. Hence, our entry into all affairs (thoughts, feelings, movements) and exit should be marked by Truthfulness which can only be granted if Allah guides us.

Community News

Masjid Al-Rasool Al-Akram is proud to announce that since it has been in operation, various programs have taken place:

- Iftar and special duas in Ramadan every night.
- Majalis-e-Aza in Moharram/Safar: This year we invited guest speakers from LA (Maulana Maher Rizvi), Toronto (Hujjat-ul-Islam Maulana Syed Zaki Baqri) and Karachi (Sr. Shamim Rizvi) for Urdu speeches.

Mulla Basim Matar (Detroit) and Br. Maitham Kazem were the Arabic speakers and Br. Abu Hussain was the English speaker.



Sisters' Grand Milad for the Birthday of the Holy Prophet(s) in Rabi-ul-Awwal conducted by Sr. Shamim Rizvi.

Maulana Syed Zaki's activities:

Syed Zaki was invited to speak at the 2006 UMAA (United Muslim Association of America) convention in Washington D.C.

He also recently traveled to speak to the communities of Chicago, St.Louis and Dallas.

Regular Masjid Programs:

- Everyday Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib and Isha prayers in jamaat, with a short speech given by the Pesh Imam between Maghrib and Isha.
- Tuesday: Recitation of Quran & Dua-e-Tawwasul after Salat-e-Isha.
- Thursday: Recitation of Quran, Hadith-e-Kisa and Dua-e-Kumail.
- Friday:
 - * Salat-e-Fajr followed by recitation of Dua-e-Nudba
 - * Salat-al-Juma
 - * Dua-e-Samaat (15 minutes before sunset)

"O you who believe! When the call is made for prayer on Friday, then hasten to the remembrance of Allah and leave off trading; that is better for you, if you know" The Holy Quran Surah 62 Ayat 9.



Obituaries/Fatihahs:

Please recite a Sura-al-Fatiha for Br. Khalid Chokair's mother Al-Hajja Alma Fatima, Br. Mohsin Kanani (UK) and Br. Syed Ahmad Abbas Zaidi (LA). May Allah bless them and grant them a special place in Janna'.

BLESSED 500:

Reserve a spot for your deceased loved ones on an exclusive **plaque** at the Masjid Al-Rasool Al-Akram. These names will be included in duas, especially on Qadr nights.

QURAN CLASSES:

A wonderful opportunity to understand the Holy Quran. We are inshallah planning Quran lessons every Saturday after Duhra starting July 1st until the end of the summer. For further inquiries, please contact: *Hayder Abdul-Razzak*
hayder1959@yahoo.com



Upcoming Events

During the month of July, the following days will be commemorated at the masjid:

- *Wiladat of Bibi Fatima (AS) July 16th (20th Jamaada-Al-Thani)*
- *Wiladat of Imam Muhammad Baqir(AS) July 26th (1st Rajab)*
- *Shahadat of Imam Ali Un-Naqi(AS) July 28th (3rd Rajab)*

Contact Information

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"The publications are as important as the bloods shed in the fronts. It is said that "The ink of the scholars is superior to the blood of the martyrs". Although the blood of the martyrs is invaluable and constructive, yet the scholars' pens can be more constructive. Basically it is the pen which makes a martyr, and it is the pen which brings up martyrs"

Imam Khomeini (R.A)