



The Holy Prophet Muhammad

Countless Prayers & Peace Be Upon Him & His Noble Family & Companions

The Greatest Champion of Women's Welfare

1st Annual Women's Milad Shareef Conference

An Event for Women by Women

Dedicated to

The Most Beloved Daughter of the Best of Creation ﷺ :

Hazrat Fatima Zahra

May Allah Almighty be well pleased with her

May 6th, 2006

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❧ MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER ❧

In the Name of Allah (God) Almighty, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful. Countless Choicest Blessings & Salutations on His Chosen & Beloved Messenger & Prophet Muhammad ﷺ & upon The Noble Family & Companions & Pure Wives & Daughters of The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

The Islamic tradition teaches that all of humanity came from a single soul [The Holy Quran, 4:1] and that at the spiritual level, men and women are equal and committed partners to one another in the Path to God. This revolutionary message was brought to the world in a 7th century CE Arabia which was steeped in the depths of oppression and shackles of abuse, especially of women. It was a time when baby girls were buried alive, and women were considered chattels with no rights of inheritance or divorce. The European world was immersed in the Dark Ages debating whether women even had a soul. It was at this time that the Last and Final Prophet and Messenger of Allah Almighty was sent to conclude the continuous chain of Messengers who had been sent by Allah Almighty to uphold the truth and fight evil both at the spiritual and social levels. The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born, affirming the messages of the previous Prophets including the great Prophets Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses & Jesus (peace be upon them all.) This Light of Guidance was sent as “Mercy to the worlds” to uplift the state of humanity in general and women in particular.

Unfortunately in this modern day and age there are many misconceptions regarding the position of women in Islam not just by those outside the faith, but within the Muslim

community itself. Our goal with IECRC's Annual Women's Conferences is to bring to light the shining female luminaries of the Islamic intellectual and spiritual tradition whose contributions are immense and warrant attention in the modern age as a source of inspiration, guidance, and healing to women both within and outside the fold of the Islamic faith and practice.

IECRC's 1st Annual Women's Conference 2006 is dedicated to the eminent daughter of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him): Hazrat Fatima Zahra (may God be well pleased with her), whose life reflects that of her Beloved and Blessed Father (Peace Be Upon Him). Hazrat Fatima Zahra (may God be pleased with her) exemplified her Father's Prophetic nature and qualities creating a stellar role model for women to follow.

We hope and pray that you will benefit from this noble effort. Ameen.

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri
May 1, 2006



❧ THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE MILAD SHAREEF ❧

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ
مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

"Indeed there has come to you a Noble Messenger from among you - your falling into hardship aggrieves Him, most concerned for your well being, for the believers most compassionate, most merciful."

[Al-Quran 9:128]

The Crown of Prophets & Messengers, The Beloved of the Lord of the worlds, The Mercy to the worlds, The Seal of Prophethood, The Pride of Creation, The Life of creation, The Praised & Chosen One, Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Countless Prayers & Blessings Upon Him & His Noble Family & Companions) is Allah Almighty's Highest and Best Creation. The power to express the Holy Prophet ﷺ's Blessed Greatness lies only with our Lord & Creator Allah Almighty. In the Holy Quran, Allah The Most Exalted has described the Holy Prophet's ﷺ blessed physical appearance & character, beautiful external and internal attributes. Allah Almighty refers to the Holy Prophet ﷺ as *Taha* and *Yaseen* in some places and has addressed the Holy Prophet ﷺ as *Sirajum Munira* in other places. So when the Creator Himself praises His Beloved Messenger ﷺ, how can we humans have the power to express adequate praise for the Holy Prophet ﷺ? As the great 19th century CE *Mujaddid* (Reviver), Sufi Saint and Master Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him) says:

*Khud Sahibe Quran hai maddahe Huzoor ﷺ
Hum se kab mumkin hai midhat Rasool Allah ﷺ ki*

Furthermore, the great 12th century CE Sufi poet of Iran, Shaykh Sadi (may Allah have mercy on him) says:

*Hazar bar bashoyam za mushko gulab
Hunoos naam tu guftan kamale be adabi ast*

Even if you wash your mouth
with perfume of rose 1000 times,
Even then taking the Holy Prophet's ﷺ Blessed Name
would be considered disrespectful.

It is imperative in this day and age to explain the *Milad Shareef* and its historical context. Where did the word *Milad* come from and why is this day celebrated? After the passage of 1400 years why is the *Milad* still being celebrated? *Milad* is an Arabic word which is derived from '*walad*' and holds the meaning of 'being born'. The scholars say that in the Urdu language *Milad* is the mentioning of the Blessed Birth of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. It is also famous as '*Maulud*' or '*Mawlid*'. In the research of this word one finds it first being used in the Holy Quran in reference to Hazrat Isa (peace be upon him) where he sends blessings upon himself on the day that he was born [Al-Quran 19:33]. It is a matter of reflection that if blessings descend on Hazrat Isa ﷺ on the day that he was born, would they not descend on the Holy Prophet ﷺ, who is the Leader of all the Prophets (peace be upon them all), on His ﷺ *Milad Shareef*?

The mention of the arrival of the Holy Prophet ﷺ is present in all the heavenly books including the Vedas, the Torah, the Bible and of course the Holy Quran. It is no wonder that the educated priests and rabbis of Arabia were awaiting the Blessed Arrival. We are familiar with the famous narration of

how the Holy Prophet ﷺ was taken to Hazrat Waraqah bin Nawfil (may Allah be pleased with him) by Hazrat Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her). However, perhaps we are not so familiar with the 13 lines of Arabic poetry that Hazrat Waraqah ؓ wrote in honor of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Two couplets are translated and reproduced here for the reader's benefit:

The entire world will be illuminated by Your ﷺ Light
 The Light of Your ﷺ Guidance will spread in every direction
 Creation will receive peace through Your ﷺ Waseela
 No one will be able to cut off Your ﷺ Proof

In specific reference to the Blessed Birth of the Holy Prophet ﷺ one finds the word *Milad* first used in the Hadeeth Book of *Jami Tirmizi* which is from the six authenticated texts of Hadeeth (*Sahaih Sitta*). There is an entire chapter in this Hadeeth text called *Ma Jaa fi Miladun Nabi* ﷺ which means 'what has come in regards to the Blessed Birth of the Holy Prophet ﷺ' related by Hazrat Qays bin Makhzama (may Allah be well pleased with him).

After the Blessed Birth of Huzoor-e-Pak ﷺ, who celebrated the first *Milad*? In *Seerat ibn Hisham*, one of the foundational texts on the life of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, it says that after His ﷺ Blessed Birth, Syed Abdul Muttalib ؓ took the Holy Prophet ﷺ inside the Kaba Shareef. He then wrote lines of poetry on this occasion and thanked Allah Almighty for this great gift. These lines of poetry are still available. This is called the first *Milad* on earth. The Holy Prophet ﷺ Himself told of the day of His Blessed Birth. The great 16th century CE *Mujaddid* & Scholar, Imam Abubakr Qastallani (may Allah have mercy on him) says in his famous *Mawahibul Ladunniya* that the Holy Prophet ﷺ spoke of His ﷺ birth on the

pulpit. Hazrat Arbaz bin Sariyah رضي الله عنه relates that Rasool Allah ﷺ explained His ﷺ coming into this world. He ﷺ said something similar to:

"I am the answer to the prayer of Hazrat Ibrahim عليه السلام. I am the good news of Hazrat Isa عليه السلام. I am the dream of my mother that she saw with her open eyes. And remember that the mothers of Prophets see these."

[Ibn Hisham, Mishkat Shareef, Ibn Asakir]

The great scholar Imam Ibn Hajr Makki رحمته الله عليه writes in his famous *Ni'matul Kubra 'alal 'alam fi Maulud Syed walad Adam* what the four Rightly Guided Khalifas have said in regards to the *Milad Shareef*. They are listed as follows:

Hazrat Abubakr رضي الله عنه said that whosoever spends even 1 dirham in the reading of the *Milad Shareef* will be in heaven with him.

Hazrat Umar رضي الله عنه said that whosoever respects and reveres the *Milad Shareef* has made the religion alive.

Hazrat Uthman رضي الله عنه said that whosoever spends even 1 dirham towards the *Milad Shareef* has participated in the battles of *Badr* and *Hunayn*.

Hazrat Ali (may Allah ennoble his countenance) said that whosoever respects and reveres the *Milad Shareef* shall leave the earth with faith.

Imam Bukhari رحمته الله عليه relates in his famous *Sahih* that Abu Lahab freed his slave Sobia with his index finger out of joy upon hearing of the birth of his nephew Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ. Because of this expression of happiness upon this blessed event, Abu Lahab receives respite in hell every Mon-

day through this finger. The great 16th century CE scholar and founder of the Science of Hadeeth in the subcontinent, Shaykh Abdul Haq Muhaddith Dehlavi رحمته اللعنه has mentioned in his famous *Madarijun Nubuwwat* that is it not enough proof that when someone as cursed as Abu Lahab can have his punishment reduced by expressing happiness on the arrival of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, then what can one say about a lover of the Holy Prophet ﷺ who spends from his wealth expressing happiness for this blessed day? Who has the most right and responsibility to praise the Holy Prophet ﷺ? If we as His ﷺ *Ummat* (community) don't do this will we not be considered the most miserly?

Imam Umar bin Hasan Muhaddith Andalusi رحمته اللعنه writes in his famous *Al Tanwir fil Maulood Al-Basheer wan-Nazeer* that Hazrat Abdullah ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both) was sitting with his people at his house mentioning the birth of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and sending *Darood* (Blessings) & *Salaam* (Salutations). The Holy Prophet ﷺ entered upon them and upon hearing this said, ***“My intercession is guaranteed for you.”*** (*aw kama qal*)

In this same book it is mentioned that Hazrat Abu Darda رضي الله عنه said that he was passing the home of Hazrat Amir Ansari رضي الله عنه in the company of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. We saw that he was mentioning the Blessed Birth events and saying, “This was that day! This was that day that He ﷺ came to this earth.” The Holy Prophet ﷺ upon seeing this said, ***“Allah has opened the doors of mercy and all the angels pray for your forgiveness and deliverance. Whoever does this will receive success.”*** (*aw kama qal*)

It is related in the Sahih Muslim (Book 006, Number 2606) on the authority of Hazrat Abu Qatada Ansari رضي الله عنه that Allah's

Messenger ﷺ was asked about fasting on Monday, whereupon He ﷺ said: ***“It is (the day) when I was born and revelation was sent down to me.”***

Imam Qastallani رحمته اللہ علیہ further writes in his *Mawahibul Ladunniya* that there is no greater blessing for the world than that which was received on the day of the Holy Prophet’s ﷺ Blessed Birth. To express gratitude for this is obligatory. This can be done in the form of spiritual gatherings, feeding people, giving charity, reading the events of the Blessed Birth and teaching it to others. The year in which the *Milad Shareef* is read becomes a source of success and peace, and freedom from tribulations. Allah وتعالى bestows His special blessings upon those who celebrate this day as Eid.

Hazrat Shah Waliullah Muhaddith Dehlawi, the great scholar from India writes in his famous *Fuyuzul Haramayn* that the angels of mercy descend where the *Milad* is conducted. He narrates his personal experience of when he visited the Blessed Birthplace of the Holy Prophet ﷺ on the day of the *Milad Shareef* and found the people there reciting *Darood Shareef* and mentioning the miracles that had occurred prior to the declaration of Prophethood.

It is also a well known narration that Hazrat Ahmed ibn Hanbal رحمته اللہ علیہ used to distribute dates on the 9th and 12th of Rabiul Awwal in the happiness of the Blessed Birth. Similarly, Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Muhammad Baqir, and Imam Jafar Sadiq used to distribute dates and *sattu*. May Allah Almighty have mercy on them all.

Imam Abubakr Qastallani رحمته اللہ علیہ writes that Imam Hasan Basri رحمته اللہ علیہ said, “If I had gold equal to the mountain of *Uhud* I would give it away in the way of the *Milad*. He also mentions

the reference of Hazrat Junaid Baghdadi رحمة الله عليه that “whosoever attends the gathering of *Milad* of the Holy Prophet ﷺ with reverence and love, he is surely successful in his faith.”

Hazrat Maruf Karkhi رحمة الله عليه, the great scholar & Sufi Saint said that whosoever gathers people for the purpose of the *Milad*, feeds people, illuminates their homes, wears new clothes and wears perfume, on the Day of Judgment Allah وتعالى will reward them with the friendship of the Prophets and their station will be of the highest heaven (*‘Illiyyeen*).

Seerat ibn Ishaq, another one of the most authentic and foundational books on the life of the Holy Prophet ﷺ reports that Hazrat Imam Jafar Sadiq رحمة الله عليه used to go to the birthplace of the Holy Prophet ﷺ on the day of the Blessed *Milad* in Makka Mukarramah where he would be blessed by the Vision of the Holy Prophet ﷺ who attended these gatherings.

Furthermore, Hazrat Imam Muhammad Baqir رحمة الله عليه said that wherever the blessed *Milad* is conducted with love, diseases and hardships are removed.

Sahib Tibri & Imam Muhammad bin Ismail Bukhari (may Allah have mercy on them both) were students of Imam Muhammad Baqir رحمة الله عليه. Sahib Tibri رحمة الله عليه reports that both students used to visit the Blessed Birthplace of the Holy Prophet ﷺ with their teacher in the month of Rabiul Awwal. They used to deliver lectures with much zeal and sometimes be blessed with the Vision of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Imam Bukhari رحمة الله عليه has mentioned this in his famous book *Asmaur Rijal* on page 452.

Shaykh Abdul Haq Muhaddith Dehlawi رحمة الله عليه further says

that the Holy Prophet ﷺ comes to the gatherings of *Milad*. The great Shaykh advises to remember the Holy Prophet ﷺ and send *Darood Shareef* and stay in such a state of remembrance that the Holy Prophet ﷺ is physically with us, watching us, and hears our speech. The Holy Prophet ﷺ is endowed with qualities by Allah ﷻ one of which is to be near to the one who makes mention of Him ﷺ.

Maulana Shibli رحمته اللعنه says in his *Afzalus Salat* that one who reads *Darood Shareef* in abundance receives the Blessed Vision of the Holy Prophet ﷺ in a wakeful state.

As the *Ummat* of the Holy Prophet ﷺ it is our obligation to be grateful for this greatest blessing and favor of Allah Almighty and celebrate the day that the Holy Prophet ﷺ was born with happiness and reverence. We must teach our children about the great personality who was born on this day. By the virtue of being an *Ummati* and for the great honor bestowed upon us, we must join together and show gratitude. As Allah Almighty says in His Noble Quran:

قُلْ بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَبِرَحْمَتِهِ فَبِذَلِكَ فَلْيَفْرَحُوا

“Say, ‘Upon Allah’s munificence and upon His mercy - upon these should the people rejoice ...’”

[Al-Quran 10:58]

Allama Jalaaluddin Suyuti رحمته اللعنه, the great *Mujaddid* of the 15th century CE reports in his famous *Khasaise Kubra* on the authority of Hazrat Anas رضي الله عنه that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, *“Allah Ta’ala sent revelation to Hazrat Musa عليه السلام that whoever rejects the Holy Prophet ﷺ will be put in the hell-*

*fire.” (aw kama qaal) Hazrat Musa ﷺ asked, “Who is Muhammad ﷺ?” Allah ﷻ said that He ﷻ is the Best of creation whose Name He Almighty had written on the *Arsh* before the creation of the heavens and the earth, and no one can enter heaven until Muhammad ﷺ and His entire *Ummat* have entered it. Hazrat Musa ﷺ salaam enquired about the *Ummat* of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Allah ﷻ replied that they will be those who praise Allah abundantly; they will make ablutions (*wudu*), fast during the day and worship at night, and that Allah Almighty will accept even their least of actions. Allah ﷻ will enter them into paradise on the witnessing of “*La ilaaha illallah*” Hazrat Musa ﷺ pleaded Allah Almighty to make him from that *Ummat*. Allah *Ta’ala* said no and that that *Ummat* would come later, but nevertheless Hazrat Musa ﷺ would be in heaven with them.*

This is the greatness of the *Ummat* of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. The Mercy to the worlds, (*Rahmatul lil alameen*) Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ constantly worried about His *Ummat*, prayed for us every moment from the day He ﷺ came to this earth, stayed up nights praying for our forgiveness from the blessed birth until passing away into the Divine Realm and continues to pray for us. One day Hazrat Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) saw swelling on His Blessed Feet after intense worship. She رضيها said “You are already rewarded. Why do you worship so much and why do you cry so much?” He ﷺ said, “*O Aisha, should I not be a grateful servant? I cry in the grief of my Ummat.*” (*aw kama qal*)

Allama Suyuti رحمته relates in his *Khasaise Kubra* from Hazrat Abu Huraira رضيها that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, “*On the Day*

of Judgment I will be the leader of the children of Adam. The earth will split first for me. I am the first Intercessor and the first whose intercession will be accepted.” (aw kama qal)

The purpose of the *Milad Shareef* is to mention the pure states of the Holy Prophet ﷺ so that we can be inclined towards Him ﷺ because love with the Holy Prophet ﷺ is the sign of complete faith [Sahih Bukhari]. The gathering of the *Milad Shareef* revives the mention of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. In Islam the remembrance of events is very much liked, as in the running between *Safa* and *Marwa*, and the sacrificing of animals. Similarly the *Miladun Nabi* ﷺ celebration in reality is to remember that great day when this world received this Supreme Blessing.

Especially in the blessed month of Rabiul Awwal we must all gather and thank Allah Almighty for the blessed birth of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. We must pray that we are gifted with the love and friendship of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and are blessed with His special favors (*Nazre karam*) and receive the intercession on the Day of Judgment of the Beloved of Allah, our Master Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ. Ameen.

Wa ma alayna illal balaaghul mubeen.

References were taken from Muhammad Muzaffar Javed Siddiquee’s *Miladun Nabi* ﷺ *Tahqeeq Tareekh*.

Syeda Zille Humma Qadri



❧ SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES ❧

Sister Shaheen Rasheed

Sister Shaheen was born in India, raised in Kuwait & migrated to the US with her family. She received her B.A. from San Jose State University in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Elementary Education and a certification in teaching ESL (English as a Second language) from California State University, Hayward. She has worked as an Elementary school teacher for 5 years and taught 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. She is the mother of three young children whom she home-schools. She has studied Maliki *Fiqh* with Shaykh Abdallah Ahmedna and Shaykh Hamza Yusuf and follows the Maliki *Madhhab*. Sister Shaheen is an ardent participant of the gatherings of *Milad Shareef* and *Gyaarhween Shareef* at the IECRC where she also volunteers her time & efforts.

Sister Amira Mian

Sister Amira graduated from Punjab University with a degree in Islamic studies and Political Science. Islamic studies included *Fiqh*, *Hadith*, *Tafseer-ul-Quran*, Islamic history etc. She has studied traditional texts such as the *Ihya Uloom ud Din* of Imam Ghazali (may Allah have mercy on him) and *Shamail Tirmidi* with the permission of her Shaykh. Sister Amira served as the President of the Women's League of the Minhajul Quran for almost 10 years. She also worked in the hospital computer department for 18 years in New Jersey. Sister Amira has raised 2 pious sons, *masha Allah*. She recently moved to California from New Jersey and has been an asset to our community in general and to IECRC in particular where she offers her unconditional services with dedication and love.

Sister Aqila Aswat

Sister Aqila Aswat received her Bachelors in Economics and Psychology from Pakistan. She is currently a Financial Services Consultant. She is the co-founder along with her husband of a well known masjid in Ventura County, Southern California. She used to lead the youth group in that masjid in many engaging activities giving motivational talks and also inviting other interesting speakers. She belongs to the *Chishtiya* Spiritual Order and has had the great honor and fortune of visiting Ajmer Shareef, the resting place of the great 12th CE century *Mujaddid* & Sufi Saint, Hazrat Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti (may Allah have mercy on him).

Sister Nikhat Malik

Sister Nikhat Malik received her Bachelors in Chemistry & Physiology from Pakistan. In addition, she has done other medical courses in the US. Her interest in healing sought new heights when it was integrated with Islamic spirituality (*Tasawwuf*) through Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri, the Founder of IECRC. Sister Nikhat has since then become an active and dedicated IECRC volunteer counseling and encouraging her community members to attend IECRC's Weekly *Dhikr* gatherings. Sister Nikhat has been a long term resident of the US raising two lovely daughters *masha Allah*. She is a great lover of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and Huzoor Ghaus-e-Pak (may Allah be pleased with him).

Sister Frozan Khojazada

Sister Frozan hails from Afghanistan. She came to the US when she was very young and is currently working on her Bachelors with the goal of obtaining a Degree in Psychology.

She has taken classes in the proper recitation of the Holy Quran (*Tajweed*). She speaks English, Farsi, Urdu and is therefore a valuable asset for translation purposes. She is a dedicated volunteer at IECRC.

Sister Benazir Bath

Sister Benazir was born and raised in Yuba City, California. She graduated with an M.A. from California State University, Sacramento. She currently teaches at Yuba College in Marysville, California. Sister Benazir started a Sunday School at the Islamic Center of Yuba City. She is the proud mother of a beautiful 18 month old daughter, masha Allah. She also organizes Women's *Milad Shareef* gatherings in Yuba City.

Sister Fatima Sharaaz Qadri

Sister Fatima Sharaaz has been with the IECRC since its inception and remains a core member of the organization. She is in charge of the women's activities in the IECRC Sacramento Chapter where she organizes bi-monthly spiritual gatherings, leads the monthly women-only commemoration of Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be well pleased with him), and performs counseling for female patients during the bi-monthly healing and counseling sessions.

Her college education is in Islamic Studies and she has learned Maliki Jurisprudence and Arabic language along with other subjects at Zaytuna Institute. She is currently an astute student of Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Qadri under whom she has studied Hanafi Jurisprudence, Aqeedah, and Tasawwuf. She has spent a year in Damascus, Syria where she learnt the Arabic language and Hanafi Jurisprudence.

Sister Fatima has initiated the Sacramento IECRC Islamic

School where she teaches Quran, Islamic Studies, Ethics, and the Biography of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) for children of all ages, four times a week. She has also taught Hanafi Jurisprudence at the IECRC for women. She lives with her husband and four children on a farm in Wilton, California.

Syeda Zille Humma Qadri

Syeda Zille Humma Qadri was born in Lahore, and received her primary and secondary education from Karachi, Pakistan. She received her Bachelors in Chemistry from PECHS Women's College. She continued her Islamic education at the Islamic Missionary University in Karachi where she studied Hanafi Fiqh, Science of Hadeeth, Tasawwuf, History, and other Islamic topics.

Syeda Qadri delivered her first lecture at the age of 9 years on the topic of Allama Iqbal (may Allah be pleased with him), which began her career as a public speaker. She is the recipient of many awards and trophies in literary endeavors throughout her school and college life. She has participated in and conducted literary debates and trained numerous youth in the area of public speaking. Her articles have also been published in Dawn & Jang, two of the largest newspapers in Pakistan.

Currently, Syeda Qadri is a research scholar for IECRC. She conducts monthly spiritual and educational gatherings for women and children and is a guest speaker at various religious events.

She is an active mother of 3 young children and lives with her husband and children in Hayward, California.

Dr. Syeda Saiqa Zubeda

Dr. Syeda is currently working as Career Counselor and Job club facilitator for the government funded employment program at the Progressive intercultural services society in British Columbia, Canada. Prior to this, Dr. Syeda worked as the Principal of the Canadian Institute of Islamic Sciences, Toronto for three years. Dr. Syeda obtained her Ph.D. in Political Sociology, in which she studied comparative analysis of Western and Islamic Political Sociology. She was awarded two gold medals from the University of Karachi, Pakistan. Dr. Syeda is the author of five books and contributes her services and writings to the Canadian Women Counseling Centre (CWCC) in British Columbia and the Islamic Educational & Cultural Research Center (IECRC) in California on a regular basis. You can reach her at cwcc04@yahoo.ca.

About CWCC

The Canadian Women Counseling Centre is a non-profit organization dedicated to provide counseling and support to women and families. CWCC has a broader vision but is providing the following main services at this time:

- Counseling and support services
- Career counseling and settlement services
- Food distribution services
- Educating women and families through Workshops and Seminars



❧ NAAT PRESENTATIONS ❧

Tala'al Badru 'Alayna

This historic Arabic *Naat* was recited by the girls of the Banu Najjar tribe welcoming our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ into the city of Madinah Munawwarah at the historic migration (*Hijrah*). The original references reliably report the participation of girls between the ages of 5 & 13 years. Furthermore, it has also been reported by the historians that there were some women who joined in this recitation to welcome the Holy Prophet ﷺ. This is adequate proof for the permissibility of female reciters.

Below is an excerpt from the *Naat*:

*Tala'al badru 'alayna
Min thaniyatil wadaa'
Wajaba shukru 'alayna
Ma da'a lillahi daa'*

**Oh the White Moon rose over us
From the valley of wadaa'
and we owe it to show gratefulness
where the call is to Allah**

❧ Recited by Sister Aysha Ali ❧

Hamatan Karam Banaya

This unique poetic masterpiece is at once a *Hamd* (praise of Allah Almighty) and a *Naat* (praise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ) in the Urdu language by Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him). Below is an excerpt:

***Wohi Rab hai jisne Tujhko hamatan karam banaya
Humein bheek maangne ko, Tera astaan bataya
Tujhe Hamd hai Khudaya***

For He Who made Thee ﷺ His Mercy one and all
For He Who made your *Aastaana* (sanctuary) by which we beg and plead
For Thee (O Lord) are only praises, for Thee is only awe

***Tumhi Hakime baraya, Tumhi Qasime ataaya
Tumhi dafa-e-balaya, Tumhi shafa-e-khataya
Koi Tumsa koun aaya***

Who made you (O Beloved ﷺ) the highest over all
Who made you (O Blessed ﷺ) the giver far and wide
Who made you (O Muhammad ﷺ) the hand that breaks their fall
Who made you the Greatest Shafi' ﷺ for deeds they cannot hide
Was the likes of Thee (O Muhammad ﷺ) ever created, seen or sent?

***Yahi bole sidra waale, Chaman-e-jahaan ke thaale
Sabhi meine chaan daale, Tere paaye ka na paaya
Tujhe Yak ne Yak banaaya***

So said he (Angel Jibrail ﷺ) at Sidrah, the one who'd seen it all
High and low I've been, yet none compares to Thee ﷺ
For You ﷺ were made Unique by He Who is Unique

English translation courtesy of Brother Sharaaz Khan Qadri
(<http://www.iecrna.org/poetry.html#madethee>)

🌀 Recited by Sister Farnaaz Ayyub 🌀

Paygham Saba Laaee Hai Gulzare Nabi ﷺ Se

The following couplets are excerpts from a *Naat* expressing the beautiful longing for the City of the Beloved ﷺ authored in Urdu by the great Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Bareilvi (may Allah have mercy on him).

*Paygham saba layee hai Gulzare Nabi ﷺ se
Aya hai bulawa mujhe Darbaare Nabi ﷺ se*

The winds have brought a message from
The Garden of the Holy Prophet ﷺ
A summon has arrived for me from the Court of the Holy Prophet ﷺ

*Shukr hai Khuda ke aaj ghari us safar ki hai
Jis par nisar jaan falaho zafar ki hai*

Thank you Allah that today is the moment of that journey
Upon which is sacrificed my life, my benefits, my happiness

*Garmi hai, tap hai, dard hai, ulfat safar ki hai
Nashukre ye tho dekh azeemat kidhar ki hai*

The heat is intense and so is the pain, but the longing is for that journey
O ungrateful one, can't you see what a great destination this journey has
(i.e. Madinah Munawwarah)

Naat transliteration courtesy of Sister Shemeem Khan

Recited by Sisters Benazir, Shazia, Jasmine, Samina,
Shameem, Tasleem, Khadija, and Amina

Ya Ilahi

This famous *dua* is yet another beautiful pearl in the collection of *Naats* written by Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him).

***Yaa Ilaahi har jagah Teri ataa kaa saath ho
Jab pade mushkil Shahe Mushkil Kusha kaa saath ho***

O my Lord! Bless me with Your favors at every place
When I am faced with hardships, bless me
with the Company of the Greatest Alleviator of hardship ﷺ

***Yaa Ilaahi jab chaloon tareek rah-e-pul siraat
Aftaab-e-Hashmi Noorul Huda ka saath ho***

O my Lord! When I walk the dark path of the *Pul Sirat*, Bless me
with the Company of the *Hashmite* Sun of Illuminated Guidance ﷺ

***Yaa Ilaahi jab duaen nek mein tujh se karoon
Qudsion ke lab se Ameen Rabbana kaa sath ho***

O my Lord! When I entreat you with pious supplications
Bless me with "O our Lord Ameen!" from the lips of the pure angels

***Yaa Ilaahi jab Raza khwaab-e-giraan se sar uthaae
Daulat-e bedar Ishq-e-Mustafa ka saath ho***

O my Lord! When Raza ^{الرحيم} raises his head from his dream
Bless him with the good fortune of
love of the Chosen One ﷺ in an awakened state

Recited by Sister Mumtaz Begum

Chamak Tujhse Paate hain sab Paane Vaale

The following are the poignant words of the great poet and *Mujaddid*, Ala Hazrat (may Allah have mercy on him), elucidating the importance of purification of the heart.

Chamak Tujhse ﷺ paate hain sab pane vaale

Mera dil bhi chamka de Chamkane Vaale ﷺ

All bright ones get their brightness from You ﷺ
Brighten my heart too O The One Who Brightens ﷺ !

Tu ﷺ zinda hai w-Allah Tu zinda hai w-Allah

Mere chashme aalam se chup jaane Vaale ﷺ

You ﷺ are alive by Allah! You ﷺ are alive by Allah!
O The One hidden ﷺ from my world of view

Raza nafs dushman hai dam mein na aana
Kahan tum ne dekhein hain chand raane vaale

Raza رحمته اللعنه, the self is the enemy, don't be influenced by it
Have you seen ...

Recited by Sister Oraiba Malik

The Arrival of the Bounty

*Yeh kehtee thee ghar ghar main ja kar Haleema ﷺ
Maray ghar main Khairul Wara ﷺ aa gaey hain
Baray awj par hai mera abb muqaddar
Maray ghar Habeeb e Khuda ﷺ aa gaye hain*

Haleema ﷺ announced from home to home
The Best of Creation ﷺ has arrived into my home!
My destiny has reached new heights
The Beloved of Allah ﷺ has arrived into my home!

*Yeh zulmat say keh do kay dayray utha lay
Kay hain har taraf abb ujalay ujalay
Kaha jin ko Haq nay Sirajum Muneera ﷺ
Maray ghar woh Noore Khuda ﷺ aa gaye hain*

Tell oppression that it must make way
For the Light ﷺ that has come and spread all around
For the One whom Allah ﷻ has referred to as
“The Light Giving Lamp” ﷺ
That Light of Allah ﷺ has arrived into my home!

Naat transliteration courtesy of Sister Fatima Sharaaz Qadri

Recited by Sisters Saima & Nazia

As-Subhu Bada

“Surely there is much wisdom in poetry” - Hadeeth Shareef

It is no wonder that at the time of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, one of the more prominent Companions was a genius & extemporaneous poet by the name of Hazrat Hassan ibn Thabit رضي الله عنه. He wrote hundreds of *Naats* in praise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ defending His ﷺ Blessed Honor against the enemies of Truth. This is needed more now than ever when the personality of our Beloved Holy Prophet ﷺ is under attack both by those within and outside the Muslim community. Below is an excerpt of one of Hazrat Hassan's رضي الله عنه more famous poems. This Arabic *Naat* is 1400 years old.

*As-subhu bada min tala'atihi
Wal laylu daja miN wafratihi*

*Hai Noore sahar chehre se Tere ﷺ
Aur shab ki raunaq zulfon se*

The light of the dawn is from Your ﷺ Blessed Face
And the sparkle of the night is from Your ﷺ Blessed Hair

*Sa'tish shajaru nataqal hajaru
Shaqqa qamaru bi ishaaratihi*

*Ungli ke ishare ped chale, ayjaaz se pathar bol uthe
Aur chand hua hai do tukde angusht ke ek ishare se*

The tree walks on the command of Your ﷺ Blessed Finger
The stones miraculously speak in Your ﷺ Blessed Hands

The moon is split in two
Upon one motion of Your ﷺ Blessed Finger

*Fa Muhammaduna hua Sayyiduna
Fal 'izzu lana li ijaabatih*

*So Muhammad ﷺ hain apne Aaqa
Is Naam se apni izzu-baqa*

Therefore Muhammad ﷺ is our Leader
This Name ﷺ is the cause of our dignity and preservation



﴿ SALAAM ﴾

Burdah Shareef

The following lines of Arabic poetry are excerpts from the famous *Burdah Shareef* (The Noble Cloak) which is the world renowned masterpiece of the great Egyptian scholar and Sufi Saint of the 13th century CE, Imam Sharafuddin Muhammad Al-Busiri (1212 - 1296 CE, may Allah have mercy on him). The Cloak refers to the Cloak of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ which He ﷺ placed on the paralyzed body of Imam Busiri رحمه الله in a dream as a result of which he was cured. This poem in praise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ is therefore almost 800 years old.

Maulaya salli wa sallim daa`iman abadan

'Ala Habeebika Khayril Khalqi kullihimi

My Master, send blessings and peace forever and eternally

Upon Your Beloved ﷺ, The Best of all creation

#34: *Muhammadun ﷺ Sayyidul kawnaayni wath thaqalayn*

Wal fareeqayni min 'urbyuN wa min 'ajami

Muhammad ﷺ is the Master of the two worlds
(Present & Hereafter) & the two beings (humans & Jinn)
And of the two groups: Arabs and non-Arabs

#36: *Huwal Habeeb ﷺ ulladhi turja shafaa'atuhuhu*
Li kulli hawlim minal ahwaali muqtahimi

He ﷺ is the Beloved whose intercession one hopes for
From every form of distress that one falls into

#153: *Ya Akramal khalqi maa liman aloodhu bihi*
Siwaka 'inda hulooolil haadithil 'amami

O Most Noble creation, no refuge for me except You ﷺ at trials
On the Day of Judgment refuge will be found with You ﷺ alone

Ya Rabbi bil Mustafa ﷺ balligh maqaasidana
Waghfir lana ma madha Ya Waasi'al Karami

O my Lord! By the rank of the Chosen One ﷺ help us reach our goals
And please forgive us that which has past, O Exceedingly Generous One!

Salam-e-Raza

The following lines of Urdu poetry are from the famous *Salam-e-Raza* of the great *Mujaddid* of the 19th century CE: Hazrat Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Bareilvi (1856 - 1921 CE, may Allah have mercy on him) of India. It holds the distinction of being the longest tribute of *Salam* (salutation) to the Holy Prophet ﷺ in any language. It is recited with much love and devotion around the world.

Mustafa ﷺ Jaane rehmat pe lakhon salam
Sham'e bazme hidayat pe lakhon salam

Millions of salutations on the Chosen One ﷺ, the Essence of Mercy
Millions of salutations on the Guiding Light ﷺ

Door-o-Nazdeek ke sunne vaale Vo Kaan
Kaane la'le karaamat pe lakhon salam

Those Ears which can hear both from near and afar
Millions of salutations on the beauty of those miraculous Ears!

***Noor ke chashme lehraein darya bahein
Unglion ki karamat pe lakhon salam***

Fountains of Spiritual Light, like seas overflowing
Millions of salutations on the miracle of His ﷺ Blessed Fingers

***Kul jahan milk aur jau ki roti ghiza
Us shikam ki qana'at pe lakhon salam***

Bestowed ownership of the world, yet He ﷺ fed on barley bread
Millions of salutations on that most content self-restraint

***Syeda Tayyeba Abida Zahida
Yaani Khatoone Jannat pe lakhon salam***

Leader, Pure, Devoted, Most Content
Millions of Salutations on the Most Honorable Lady of Paradise,
i.e. Hazrat Fatima Zahra (may Allah be well pleased with her!)

***Ghause Azam Imamut Tuqa wan Nuqa
Jalvae Shaane Qudrat pe lakhon salam***

The Greatest Helper, i.e. Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be well
pleased with him), Leader of the God-fearing and select
Millions of salutations on that splendid display of Allah Almighty's Power

***Mujhse khidmat ke qudsi kahein haan Raza
Mustafa Jaane Rehmat pe lakhon salaam***

[When] the angels say to me, "Yes, Raza [recite]," [I will say]:
Millions of salutations on the Chosen One ﷺ, the Essence of Mercy



About IECRC

IECRC is a non-profit, non-political organization, devoted to providing academic and spiritual resources to diverse religious and cultural groups. IECRC was established in 2002 and is based in Northern California. As a community service organization, it is based on the model of the centuries old Islamic tradition of bringing peace and harmony to society by addressing the essential needs of people regardless of their cast, creed, color or religion.

IECRC's long-term vision is to insha Allah (God willing) establish a world-class, vibrant and dynamic university that provides a forum for those seeking to quench the thirst of the heart and mind in the merger of ancient and modern knowledge and sciences in order to provide solutions to issues of our contemporary times with the goal of promoting peace, brotherhood and the betterment of humanity at large.

In order to achieve this vision, IECRC has several short term plans which are divided into the areas of education (both children and adult), culture, research and counseling.

EDUCATION: IECRC would like to insha Allah establish a low-cost, affordable full-time school for children ages 5 - 15 years where the young minds will be taught both traditional Islamic as well as modern knowledges. They will also be oriented in Islamic *adab* (etiquette). *This requires a school building or a piece of land where one can be built.*

CULTURE: IECRC would like to promote Islamic culture within the Muslim community and to bring Islamic cultural awareness to other faith communities. *This goal requires a community center with an auditorium.*

RESEARCH: IECRC intends to insha Allah establish a comprehensive library with a collection of Islamic books including rare ones in original sources, publish a quarterly Islamic Social Sciences Research Journal, and invite scholars of high caliber from around the world on a tenure basis. *These goals require a physical facility for the library, a printing press for efficient publishing of journals and books and a guest house to lodge visiting scholars.*

COUNSELING: IECRC would like to expand its already existing services of spiritual healing and counseling. Topics covered would be in the areas of Family Affairs (Marriage - *Nikah*, Divorce - *Talaq*, etc.), Individual Counseling (Depression, Anxiety, etc.), Legal Aid & Medical Camps. *The above goals require a physical facility for the counseling center that can lodge patients seeking help from far away places.*

We invite your feedback, help and support!

Checks may be made payable to IECRC and mailed to:

P.O. Box 1646, Union City, CA 94587

Thank You!

Email: info@iecrna.org

Website: www.iecrna.org

Phone: (510) 732-6786

About Our Founder

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Qadri is the Founding Director of IECRC, Northern California. Dr. Qadri is a renowned scholar from Pakistan who taught at colleges there as well as the University of Karachi, Pakistan for over 20 years. He has expertise both in modern education as well as traditional Islamic sciences having completed the Dars-e-Nizami: An 18 year traditional Islamic course from Pakistan and has studied with scholars from Al-Azhar University, Cairo.

Dr. Qadri's goal at the IECRC is to foster and promote the light and love of our beloved Master, Prophet Muhammad (prayers and peace of Allah Almighty be upon Him) and service to humanity. IECRC also fosters love for the previous Messengers of the Abrahamic faiths – Prophet Jesus and Prophet Moses (peace be upon them both)



ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER OF NORTH AMERICA

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