

AN NASIHA

Quarterly

IN THIS EDITION



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ABOUT US

"Remind, for indeed reminding profits the believers." It is in fulfilling this purpose that for the last three years, members of the local community have united to serve the people through the organisation of events and lectures for the guidance and leisure of everyone- specifically the youth, who are faced with many challenges in our times. An Nasiha, which translates as 'Sincere Guidance', is the name of this voluntary group and it has served thousands of members of the youth across the South Yorkshire region by way of classes, retreats, lectures and numerous other projects. An Nasiha has worked with many distinguished leaders and artists both international and local - a few of them being: Imam Asim Hussain, Owais Raza Qadri, Ahmad Hussain among many. An Nasiha has also been supported and accredited by many organisations across the country such as TV99, Islamic theology society and Al-Mustafa trust international.

This superb organisation is dedicated to the betterment of the youth and their guidance - all from the voluntary efforts of members of the local community who dedicate their valuable time. We hope that you will continue to support the organisation, both in person and financially.



LOVE LUST & MARRIAGE

As I looked up I saw her standing in a room full of people, the beads on her beautiful dress glistening against the warm glow of the light, I feel light headed, an electric chill runs through my body, I can barely stand, my heart goes from a soft beat to a loud thumping, my palms are sweaty... what is this that I am experiencing... could this be it, is this love at first sight?

In a nutshell, no! Because real love in itself is actually a feeling that does not and cannot rely on appearances, for it is a feeling which will go beyond the physical existence. A person has to be able to love his Lord, who he cannot see, touch, hear or feel.

What we can determine to a degree of certainty is that 'love', is born of and bred from familiarity. This is applicable at both a physical and a metaphysical level. Perhaps the purest form of love amongst humans is that feeling which a mother or a father experiences for their child. Not every mother or father will fall in love immediately with their new-born, but rather this is something that they develop and learn as they assume the responsibilities of caring for, cleaning up after and securing it from potential harms. Understandably the mother will be expected to reach that love sooner than the father on account of having already built a very intimate relationship, having carried the child in the womb for nine months.

Over the years the usage of the word 'love' has evolved. The word 'love' has been used to express passion, interest and, very frequently, lustful desires. This passion, this salivating, this excitement of organs, hormones and chemical reactions, this feeling of uncontrollable sweat, and weakness of the knees upon seeing someone which is somewhat reminiscent of behaviour found in animals, has been described as 'love' or 'love at first sight'.

It is, in practice, nothing more than the arousal of the animal instincts, when a person has encountered someone attractive and appealing for the act of mating and fulfilment of self-satisfaction. This is something experienced by all animals, some animals would fight and kill for that mating opportunity, man in that respect is sometimes no different!

In animal kingdoms once the deed has been done, the objective fulfilled, and the desire satisfied, then the latter part of the 'fight or flight' hormone starts to kick in, leaving the female to carry the burdens of their act, and to raise the results. To separate us from animals, as intelligent considerate beings, we have a sacred institution that binds a couple together in a holy matrimony, encouraging the male to take responsibility having played his role in the creation of new life.

It is the sacred institution of marriage which keeps a couple together long enough for the familiarity, and therefore the love, between couples to be realised, long after the animal lust has been satisfied. It is the secrets held between the couple that draw them closer, the intimacy that they will share and experience with no other.

More importantly, it is this love and respect shown to one another which they will pass down to the coming generation. But the importance of all of this cannot be understood by the person who cannot understand the need to plant trees whose fruits he knows he will never taste.

Shaykh Gul Muhammad

RAISING OUR CHILDREN

PART ONE: GETTING IT RIGHT FROM THE START

*"The parent is like a mirror, the reflection it gives, the child adopts.
If the reflection is good, the child is good.
If the reflection is bad, the child is bad."*

There is no doubt that we all want to raise our children in the best possible way but, how do we do this? We have the will but, what is the way?

According to established Islamic teachings, we must always start with improving ourselves before we look to improve others. Allah Almighty states in the Glorious Quran;

"O you who believe, save yourselves and your family from a Fire whose fuel is men and stones" Surah Tahreem

The instruction in this blessed verse is to first save ourselves, and then our families. We also learn that we are responsible for our families, which includes our children. The way in which we 'save' ourselves is by learning and implementing beneficial knowledge by which we can live a life in line with the teachings of Islam and the way we 'save' our families is by teaching them this knowledge. This is a religious obligation upon us, and we will be questioned about it. What could be said about that individual who spends his whole life openly disobeying Allah Almighty and then complains that his children are disobeying him?

With regards to raising children, the vast majority of us do not spend time learning how this should be done. Instead we reflect back on how our parents raised us, adopt what was good in our view, correct what was wrong in our view, and make up the rest as we go along. This is why so many of us get it wrong and end up with disobedient and disrespectful children.

The first step in raising children is for us to become all of the things we want our children to grow up to be. As Muslims, amongst many other things, we want our children to be pious, well-mannered and responsible. A child will only adopt what is reflected upon him or her, so we must be pious, well-mannered and responsible in the first place.

The second step is to choose a pious and devout spouse. It may come as a surprise to many but, we must search for and select a suitable husband/wife with the upbringing of our children firmly in focus. We must base our marriage choice primarily on a person's religiousness, with other aspects of compatibility in mind. As we need to ensure the reflection they give is something we would want our children to adopt.

The third step is to create a positive home environment. This is our opportunity to ensure we control what things are picked up by the senses, and will ultimately influence our children. From their very early days children observe and copy what they see and hear. Once they have absorbed this information, their brain retains it like a sponge. This information builds overtime, like data on a memory card. A child will then speak and behave in a way that reflects the environment they have been brought up in.

The next focus should be on teaching our children religious knowledge and training them in Islamic practices. This will form the foundation to their character and prepare them for adulthood. At this stage we should enrol them in to a well established madrassa. Here they will learn how to recite the Holy Quran and learn about the 5 pillars of Islam. By the age of 10, children should be able to perform the ritual wash, and perform their prayers.

All of the above points can only be done by prioritising them above all else. We must not allow our comfortable standard of living, our desire for worldly gain and pleasures divert our attention from the duties Allah Almighty has prescribed for us.

Parents must do their best according to the Islamic teachings in order to give their children the best chance of being obedient. The ultimate outcome however, is variable and there is no blame on the parents for what a mature adult chooses to do, be it right or wrong, for he or she will be accountable for his or her actions before Allah Almighty.

Ustadh Muhammad Ali

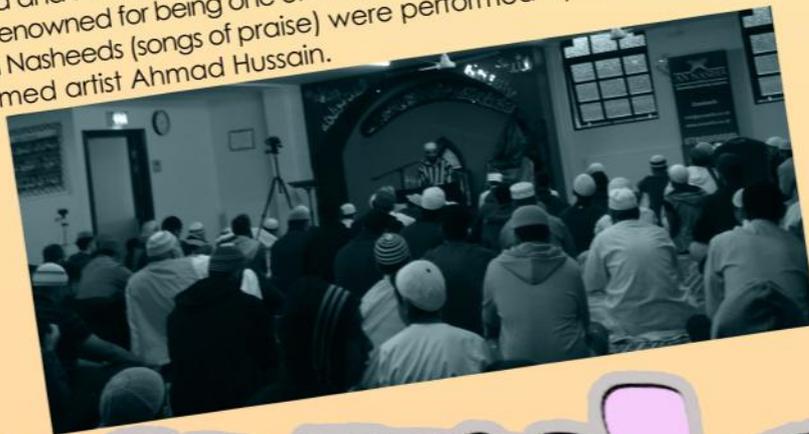
COMING SOON
HEROES
OF ISLAM

Fir Vale Mosque holds youth conference

17/08/14

South Yorkshire based voluntary youth group An Nasiha organised another successful youth conference entitled You vs Dunya (The world), the conference was successfully organised by Zia Khan, Hafiz Issarar Hussain, Adeeb Chaudry and a group of committed volunteers who form Fir Vale based voluntary group An Nasiha (sincere guidance), the aim of the event was to engage the local youth and give them advice that will help and support through life's many challenges. Such as drugs, violence and many other domestic problems which may occur in the life's.

The event was brilliantly hosted by Hafiz Issarar who is currently studying the Islamic sciences in Nottinghamshire. Very motivational and informative talks were delivered by Shaykh Waseem Ahmed and Shaykh Sadaqat Hussain (both are local scholars) and a very detailed and thought provoking speech was delivered by Imam Asim Hussain, who is also renowned for being one of the youngest Imams in the United Kingdom. Inspirational Nasheeds (songs of praise) were performed by local and internationally acclaimed artist Ahmad Hussain.



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