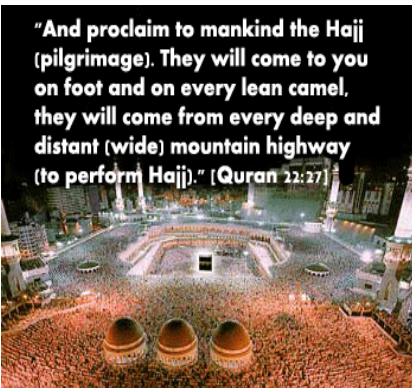


# Quarterly Newsletter

## Hajj: The Pilgrimage to find One's Humanity:

### A Reminder

**"And proclaim to mankind the Hajj (pilgrimage). They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel, they will come from every deep and distant (wide) mountain highway (to perform Hajj)." (Quran 22:27)**



"...And Hajj to the House is a duty mankind owes to Allah, those who can afford the expenses." [3:97]

Hajj is one of the 5 pillars of Islam and is enjoined upon Muslims who can afford it. The longing for it however, remains upmost and ever present in a Muslim's mind and heart. Hajj is the fulfillment of a Muslim's life-long ambition to be present at the places set apart for sacred duty by Allah and made glorious by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW), by preaching the Faith perfected by Allah for mankind.

Pose in this life. It reminds us that we belong to One family of humanity, and we have a duty to each member of this family to be compassionate, kind, just, and equitable in our dealings. We are reminded that we need to offer a helping hand to our family of faith, to be aware of their plight, to find every means of helping them; to be a source of support and comfort to all. Interacting with this vast concourse of humanity teaches us to be humble, and patient—to respect and embrace diversity, to give each member their dignity and integrity.

**يَوْمَ الْحَجِّ الْأَكْبَرِ**  
**The Greatest day of Hajj**  
**comes EVERY YEAR!**  
**It is the Day of Sacrifice,**  
**which is**  
**the Tenth Day of Dhu'l-Hijjah.**

The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) stood up on the day of Sacrifice during the Hajj that he performed and said:  
"What day is this?" They said, "the Day of Sacrifice."  
He said, "This is the greatest day of Hajj."  
(Sunan'Abi Dawood, 1345; classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh'Abi Dawood, 1700)



### The pilgrimage to Mecca

More than two million pilgrims are gathering in Mecca for the annual hajj, with main rites starting on Wednesday

#### The Grand Mosque

► Covers 368,000 sq m and can hold more than 1.5 million people

#### Pilgrims must:

► Circle the Kaaba counter-clockwise until they reach the centre and touch the sacred black stone

► Walk seven times between the hills of Safa and Marwah near the Grand Mosque and drink from the sacred spring Zem-Zem

► Stop at Mina to pray and read the Koran

► Prayer from noon to dusk in the Arafat valley, where the prophet Mohammed preached his last sermon

► Pilgrims throw rocks at three pillars representing the devil. Start of Eid-al-Adha festival (three days of ritual sacrifice)

► Pilgrims pick up the 49 rocks needed for the stoning the following day in Mina

► Final return to Mecca. Pilgrims circle the Kaaba seven more times

► The Kaaba

► The Grand Mosque: Pilgrims begin the hajj (pilgrimage) by circling the Kaaba seven times

► Mecca

► Tunnel

► Mina

► Muzdalifah

► Mount Arafat

► Saudi Arabia

► Riyadh

► Mecca

► Jeddah

► Medina

► Pilgrimage zone

► 500 km

► 50 km

► 500 km

► 50 km

► 500 km

► 50 km

The word Hajj means "visit to the revered place," The Baitullah, and is therefore, the most significant manifestation of Islamic faith and unity in the world. The Pilgrimage to Mecca 8is not merely a set of acts and rituals; its mysteries are concealed. As a fundamental principle, it's performance is to be grateful to Allah for the blessings bestowed upon believers. For those Muslims who are able to make the journey, the hajj is the peak of their religious life.

Hajj is the yearly gathering whereby Muslims affirm their unity and humility before their Lord. There is no gathering like this in the world— everyone regardless of color, race, education, economic status or gender, comes together with the same intention as equals.

It is our chance to wash our soul with the greatest cleaning agent and to bring ourselves closer to our true nature and pur-

Every Muslim as asked to sacrifice whatever he has for the love of Allah. The Feast of Sacrifice, Eid-ul-Adha, that concludes the Hajj; reminds us of Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his then only child, Ismail, for the love of Allah. Eid-ul-Adha is a yearly festivity to remind Muslims that they are to sacrifice continuously as long as they live. This may seem overwhelming, but in reality it is not.

It is not easy to sacrifice your time: but each time you do it to benefit another it brings out the compassion in you, and you remember how Compassionate Allah is to you. It is not easy to sacrifice your wealth, but in giving you learn the beauty of benevolence and as gratitude is shown to you, it increases your gratitude to Allah. Hajj rewires our brains to becoming selfless, in our actions,, more humble in our relations, more dutiful to Allah. No wonder we are transformed!



## World Peace Pilgrimage

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) declared:

‘Shall I tell you of something more excellent in degree than fasting and alms giving and prayer? It is to promote Peace:

saic of prayer, chants, words of wisdom and empowerment, music, singing and poetry. The event has three levels of presentation, thus accommodating all types of hikers to the event.

### Islamic Prayer of Peace

Oh Allah  
You are Peace,  
From You comes peace,  
To you returns peace,  
Revive us with the salutation  
of Peace,  
And lead us to your abode of  
Peace.

Ameen

Inspired by these words one of IIT's mission is to promote peace and goodwill. As such, every Year IIT participates and sponsors the Annual Interfaith World Peace Pilgrimage on Mt. Baldy, California.

Every year members of all faiths gather together at this mountain to pray for peace. The event has become a mo-

This year IIT students will be making the journey to Mt. Baldy to experience this display of interfaith and intercultural exchange and prayer.

Praying for Peace is a common practice at IIT. Every Thursday night we have a prayer vigil calling for Peace in our world collectively, and individual prayers of the members. Please join us.

## You Are Invited: Mark your Calendar for Saturday, 3rd October 2015

IIT will be hosting the **Community Relations Executive Seminar Training (CREST)**, on Saturday, 3rd October 2015, from 9am—2pm. CREST is an initiative by the FBI designed for the general public to learn the day to day operations of the FBI. This training is provided by FBI executives, senior special agents and program managers.

This will be held at IIT. The training will begin at 9am sharp, with registration beginning at 8am. All youth (age 13+), community leaders, students and adults are invited to attend. Some of the topics to be covered will be as follows:

- **Internet Safety and Scams**
- **Internships and Job Opportunities**
- **Race and Law Enforcement**

The training will conclude with a **Graduation Ceremony**. Please RSVP 2 weeks prior to the event to Athia Carrim. Light refreshments will be served. We urge all community members to grab this opportunity.

## IIT Updates

- Feed the Homeless Program: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday at LA Mission. Volunteers leave IIT at 7:30 am to prepare meal.
- IIT received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Al-Furqan Foundation for our support of its project in the month of Ramadan.
- A special thank you to all who contributed to the donations for Parents in Partnership during Ramadan. Thanks to Sister Mam Bye.
- On June 6th Athia attended Catalyst Training by CARE 18 LA at the Orthopedic Institute for Children.
- On 25th Aug: Torrance City Council Meeting Invocation by Athia Carrim
- IIT Annual Ladies Meelad to resume on Sun. 6th Sept. from 5-7pm. Please bring a dish to share as this is a Potluck event.
- On 9th & 10th Sept. IIT is invited to discuss core practices in Islam at Bishop Montgomery High School. This will be presented by Athia Carrim.
- On Sat. 12th Sept. IIT will again sponsor & participate at the Annual World Peace Pilgrimage on Mt. Baldy.
- On Thurs 24rd of Sept. IIT will celebrate Eidul-Adha with its Annual Community Potluck Breakfast. Please check the website for further information.



### Attention Amazon Shoppers!

When you begin to shop at Amazon, instead of going to [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com); then select IIT as your charitable organization so your computer will remember it. Amazon will donate 0.5% of purchase to IIT. Another

## Africa Appeal ... Qurbani 2015

This is a humble appeal in response to helping our poor Muslim Brothers and Sisters in Africa during the time of Eid. (This Eid is all about Sacrifice).

Remember, this is the **only time** that many of our brothers and sisters are able to enjoy the meat given to them. They do not have the financial means to eat meat for the rest of the year. Help them by donating your **Qurbani** to IIT. We will make sure that your Qurbani reaches those in desperate need.

You can also do **Qurbani** for your deceased family members and also on behalf of Rasoolullah (SAW).

The last day for your orders will be Wednesday 23rd September Insha-Allah. Call Imam Ashraf Carrim [\(310\) 323-3786](tel:3103233786) / E-mail him at [imamashraf786@gmail.com](mailto:imamashraf786@gmail.com) with your names and Telephone numbers.

Just send your names with your telephone number and a check made out to IIT. Memo details : Qurbani. Only a few days left !



## IIT Services

IIT offers a variety of programs, religious, educational, and social, to advance the well-being of our community. These programs include Jumah Salah/ Friday Khutbah, daily congregational prayers, Taraweeh, observance of all Big Nights, Nazira classes, **Saturday Islamic classes**, Adult Qur'an reading classes, Professional Counseling, and fortnightly Qadri Khatam and Zikr. , Funeral rites and arrangement, performance of Marriage, Darud Nariya every Thursday night after Isha prayer, Spiritual nights, and participation by invitation of the community to various events. **Professional Tajweed classes offered Mon/Tues/Wed.**

## Community Billboard

- Homemade Chicken Patties are now being sold every Fridays after Jumah Salah at IIT. Please indulge yourselves and support the Center.
- For all your Tax contact Mohamed Jalloh at E-Tax Resolutions at (310) 502-2174
- For all Real Estate needs please contact Ameena Haseeb at 310-972-0387.
- For Commercial & Domestic cleaning needs contact Nadeem Mughal at (310) 634-7670



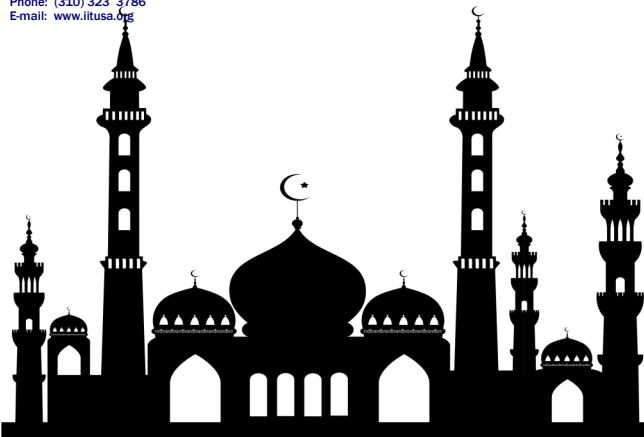
Please offer your CAR as **DONATION** to IIT. We have needy families that can use them, Here is an opportunity to ease the hardship of another Muslim. Grab it!





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## Message from the Imam

### Earn Your Palace in the Hereafter

Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) made it so simple for us to earn a palace in the Akhirah. He declared:

**“Whoever builds a Mosque for Allah– be it large or small– Allah will build for him a house in Paradise/Jannah.”**

This Hadith is so important because it removes the condition of wealth and places the condition on faith and love.

Do not be overwhelmed or disappointed because you do not have wealth or too much money to build a mosque; Allah’s promise and mercy extends to all. Let me demonstrate this to you with this heart rendering story.

#### The Brick

Once there was a very wealthy man who wanted to build a house for Allah all by himself. He wanted no one to contribute financially to this project– he wanted to be the sole recipient of all the rewards. So when the day approached for laying the foundation of the mosque he saw an old lady standing at the site with a single brick in her hand. This went on for several days until he finally asked her what she

*The International Institute of Tolerance was founded on the principle of Justice and Equity. Its services are religious and charitable, and grounded in the Islamic faith. One of the principle aims of the Institute is to integrate Muslim Americans into our pluralistic American society. The Institution is focused on working in harmony with other faith groups and civic organizations to enhance our collective futures. The Institute provides religious, educational, and social services to advance justice and promote compassion. Outside its religious services, the Institute’s charitable intent can be found in its outreach program. This is the essence of the Islamic value system which drives the Institute’s role and functions.*

*“The building of a mosque is a way for a person to continue to earn blessings after death. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: One of the things that continues to accrue for a believer of his good works after death is a mosque that he built.”*



*“Whoever builds a Mosque for Allah, Allah will build for him likewise in Paradise/Jannah”  
Prophet Muhammad (SAW)*

wanted. She said: “I have nothing but this brick. I want to put it in the building of this mosque.” Obviously he refused the old lady. Despite this she persisted and appeared every day with the brick in her hands. Finally the man decided to let her brick be placed in the foundation of the mosque. That night the man had a dream. He was taken to his palace in Jannah. He was allowed to enter every door except one door that was locked; it belonged to someone else. In the morning the man went in search of the old lady. When he found her he wanted to know what he could pay her for the brick. She replied: “You fool! I was already there before you!”

Subhanallah! A brick earned her a room in a palace in Jannah! Look at the promise of Allah. We cannot use poverty or lack of wealth anymore. This story illustrates that every contribution– no matter how small or how big– earns its own unique benefit in the hereafter.

This is our chance now to earn our place. IIT is looking to buy a property to establish Allah’s House. We have set up a Building Fund for this purpose and appeal to you for your generous contributions. Secure your Jannah!