

Quarterly Newsletter

A Salute to the One who truly Submitted :

Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

The greatest man to ever walk on the face of the earth, who gave respect and rights to all. A beautiful personality, who raised high the status and rights of women, children and even animals. A man who showed Mercy to all, such mercy, which knew no bounds.
A most humble person who forgave those who wronged Him, taught people how to live a life of simplicity and love. A man whom God Himself called "A Mercy for the creation"

He took people out of ignorance and showed them the beauty of the light He bought with Him. Gentle in composure, merciful in character, beautiful in manners, elegant in speech, and most compassionate and forgiving.

He was affectionate towards children and the weak, tolerant to those who oppressed him, Generous and beneficent to the poor and needy. He was The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him)

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him) said: "Show Mercy to those who are on earth and the Lord of the heavens will have Mercy upon you"

*"Love is our mother,
and the way of our Prophet"
-Rumi*



**No Facebook
No Instagram
No Twitter And
Still 1.8 Billion Followers.
He is my Prophet (s.a.w) ♥**



LAMAR TINE,

The most famous men created arms, laws and empires only. They founded, if anything at all, no more than material powers which often crumbled away before their eyes.

This man moved not only armies, legislation, empires, peoples and dynasties, but millions of men in one-third of the then inhabited world; and more than that, he moved the altars, the gods, the religions, the ideas, the beliefs and souls....

"O Prophet! We have sent you to be an exemplar unto others and bearer of glad tidings and a warner. One who summons people to Allah by His Command and is a radiating light. Therefore, O Prophet! Announce to the believers that high favors await them from Allah." [33: 45-47].

We are visited by Rabi-ul-Awwal, the month in which we celebrate the birth of the Beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Unfortunately, this is now clouded by recent events that misconstrue the spirit of Islam. Muslims today are continuously confronted by negative and demeaning images of Islam.

Switch on the TV and all you see is violence, hatred, terror and suffering directly linked to Islam and Muslims. It seems like the miseries of the world are because of Muslims and we are facing a psychological, intellectual, and cultural crusade against Islam. The grave danger of this is that some among us are beginning to believe this propaganda and distorted image of Islam- *in reality the world has finally found a scapegoat for its disastrous and failing policies in the world- Islam.*

In reality, the Prophet (SAW) is a perfect example of an individual who has submitted to the will of Allah. To submit to Allah's divine orders means to educate, cultivate, and imbibe a high moral character in your dealings with everyone- family, friends, community and society. It means exercising patience, dealing justly with others, upholding the teachings of Islam by practicing them, being charitable and generous, championing the rights of the downtrodden, the orphan, the widow, and the homeless, embracing diversity and embracing the dignity of all humans. This characteristic of compassion and equity is a sign of a humble soul who has submitted to the will of Allah.

Justice and Peace are the most hotly debated issues regarding Islam today. Peace in society

depends on peace within ourselves. According to Rasoolullah (SAW): We must foster the sense of justice within ourselves by creating harmony between our emotions of anger and greed ; and our reason and intellect; between the physical and the spiritual dimension. He practiced this, by taking the middle path, being neither extreme nor negligent in his actions and decisions. He lived by this command of the Qur'an:

O you who believe, be maintainers of justice (and bearer of) witness for (the sake of) Allah. Let not hatred of a people incite you to act unjustly; be just—this is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah surely Allah is aware of what you do." (S. Maida, 5:8) On a personal level he was persecuted by his family & community for 13 years- yet there is no evidence of retaliation or revenge from him. He bore this humiliation in patience and preached Islam daily. When the Islamic state was formed in Madina, he created the "Muwakka", brotherhood based on faith & united Ansars & Muhajirun. The Prophet was ahead of his time as a leader and peacemaker. This is evident from the Constitution of Madina that incorporated all citizens as equal & free members. At the conquest of Mecca he declared: "There is no punishment for you today. You are all free." After 23 years of persecution and boycott, 13 years of war, he forgave every Meccan, not a sword was unsheathed, nor a house destroyed, nor a human hurt. This is the greatest testimony to Peace humankind has ever known. Throughout his life he preached about the importance of peace.

Historical evidence provides a salute to our Prophet who demonstrated the quality of one who has truly submitted. Muslims must be proud to follow his legacy of Peace and commit themselves to emulating him more.



Celebrating New Year at IIT.



The New Year Hijra 1437

**“Intentions or niyyah are the roots of all our actions. They can strengthen or weaken our relationship with Allah”.
Rasulallah (SAW)**

In this world we are like trees. From a seed we sprout , roots burst out & we flourish into an image of branches & leaves. Intentions/niyyah are the roots of all our actions and it is only that which Allah sees. Our deeds are leaves enveloping and defining the kind of Muslims that we are.

Every action should be done solely for Allah’s pleasure and sincerity. That is why intention is a large criterion when it comes to having our deeds recorded. Rasulallah (SAW) qualifies this verse:

“Verily, I am commanded to worship Allah alone by obeying Him & doing religious deeds sincerely for His sake only”. (39:11)

‘Verily, all actions are but driven by intention and for everyone is what he intended.’

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is reminding us that actions are defined through intentions and this is what Allah will judge us by.

This New Year let’s take this opportunity to strengthen our roots so our lives become more meaningful. Roots are invisible but the support of a tree; similarly your intentions are secret yet they are the power behind your actions– make a firm commitment to for Allah’s pleasure.

Syrian Migrant Crisis: This Century’s Disgrace



As the civil war rages in Syria, no power estimated the destruction of the homes, lives, and hopes of this nation. Driven out of their homes by bombs, oppressed and tortured, the infrastructure of cities devastated, basic necessities depleted– the Syrians have no option but to forsake this life of loss and suffering and move to a place of security and safety. Little did they realize that their hopes will be met with bigotry and hatred, confusion and suffering. The images of these migrants fenced out, pushed into camps, and left to fend for themselves on the streets is this century's disgrace and failure. Social media responses of possible places to resettle them, the rising acts of violence against them is a clear indication that in the 21st century we are neither more civilized or more educated; and we still fail in justice and harmony. The Syrian migrant crisis has exceeded the Second World War and instead of compassion, they are met with discrimination! IIT chose to do its share in helping the Syrian refugees with a clothing drive. Alhamdulillah, we were able to collect a good amount for a relatively short period. A special thanks to all members who rose to the challenge to help our brothers and sisters in need. Please see how you can continue to help them in any other way.

IIT Updates

- Feed the Homeless Program: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday at LA Mission. Volunteers leave IIT at 7:30 am to prepare meal.
- Ladies Moulood 1st Sunday of every month at 2:30pm. Potluck event bring a dish & join us
- Oct. 3rd. Imam Ashraf opened the Star Family event in Anaheim.
- Oct. 13th Athia attended DAWN Interfaith series at St. John Fischer Church
- Oct. 15-19: Athia represented IIT at the Parliament of World Religions in Utah.
- Oct. 23rd. Friday: IIT celebrated Lailatul Ashura in Remembrance of the sacrifices of Ahlul Bait and Imam Hussein (RA). It was a spiritually uplifting night.
- Oct 26th: IIT kicked off Syrian Refugee Drive
- Oct 28th: DCFS restarted the LA Faith Council in which IIT is represented.
- Nov. 1st: Final collection for Syrian Refugees. Special thanks to all who contributed & those who bought new clothes.
- Nov. 1st: Ladies Moulood
- Nov. 3rd: Athia invited on planning committee for MLK Observance in South Bay
- Nov. 24th: SB interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Special thanks Imam Ashraf for opening event with Azaan, & Zoya Jalloh for her poem.



IIT's Upcoming Events: Mark your Calender

- Dec. 12th to Dec. 23rd : Yaseen Khatam every night after Esha 7pm. For Rasulallah (SAW). Please join us.
- Dec. 19th : Masjid Clean-up from 11am—1:00 pm. Put on your working gloves and come to the Center. The reward for cleaning Allah's House is immense.
- **Dec. 23rd : Moulood-un-Nabi Celebration and Viewing of Baal Mubarak : Program begins after Esha at 7 : 30 pm.**
- Depending on Moonsighting: Jan. 11th—Jan. 21st: Yaseen Khatam every night after Esha 7pm.
- **Depending on Moonsighting: Jan. 21st : Celebrating the Life of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (Egyarwee Sharief) : Program begins after Esha Salah 7:30 pm.** Please check website iitusa.org for events.

Attention Amazon Shoppers!

When you begin to shop at Amazon, instead of going to amazon.com go to smile.amazon.com; then select IIT as your charitable

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 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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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.



“...Today have I perfected your Religion for you, and have bestowed upon you the full measure of My Blessings; and willed that Self-Surrender unto ME (Islam) shall be your religion...” [5:3]
“Behold, the only (true) religion in the Sight of God is man’s self-surrender (Islam) unto Him (Allah). [3:19]



Message from the Imam

Understand Who You Are

Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) made it so simple for us to understand ourselves in our lives:

“Man models himself after his companion; so let each one of you see who he chooses for companion.”

Today we are constantly confronted with negative, false, & demeaning images of Islam on TV, radio, & social media. This propaganda strategy of repeated images has the effect of changing the mindset. We have to take stock of this situation & remind ourselves of our Muslim identity. Daily Muslims are harassed and attacked because of their appearance, dress, name or mannerism. Let not the actions of a few negligent and ignorant ones question your religion & identity. Be true to yourselves & look to the character & actions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) to understand who you are.

Instances abound in the Risalah of the way in which our Prophet (SAW) exhibited **mercy and compassion** towards those who **hated** him and treated him **unjustly**. **Bigotry**

“Being truthful is obligatory, for verily truthfulness leads to righteousness, & righteousness leads to paradise”. Prophet (SAW)

and discrimination was practiced by both his family and community against him in Arabia. Despite this he dealt with all persons justly. It was the great character of Rasu-lallah (SAW) that instantaneously drew people towards Allah’s message, because he led by example. Among his other qualities of compassion, honesty, trustworthiness and patience, he touched and impacted the lives of people around him, and this should serve as a model for our character today.

With all odds against him, the Prophet (SAW) never once lowered himself to the conduct and actions of his opponents. He always remained honest and patient, even when insults & accusations were hurled against him & Islam. He conducted his affairs with both friends & foe with humility & justice, & persevered in his message of peace. Are we not faced with the same situation today? Let’s be informed about our true conduct, and remember you are following a religion that was chosen for you by Allah himself. Be proud of being Muslim and let your character & actions speak for themselves.