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# Rocket Science

January 2016

Rabi al-Awal / Rabi al-Thani 1437



In the name of Allah,  
most Gracious, most Merciful

## We are five years old!

Al hamdu lillah! Since we started *Rocket Science* in January 2011, we have produced 60 issues. That's five years of monthly issues.

Mount Albert Islamic Trust would like to thank everyone who has contributed articles to the newsletter, or helped in other ways in its production.

Of course, the people we thank the most are you, the subscribers and readers. If nobody read *Rocket Science*, there would be little point in producing it.

We hope that you still find it interesting after five years. We are always amazed at how easy it is to find something to write about Islam. It is such an all-embracing



religion. For instance, did you realise that we have used 60 different quotations about prayer from the Quran and hadith, in our monthly prayer timetables?

Feedback on how we are doing is always welcome  
(mtalbertmasjid@gmail.com).

## Attaining tranquility in marriage

The first and foremost intention of marriage should be pleasing Allah (swt) and obtaining His blessings through the bond of marriage. Allah (swt) has blessed us with an amazing blessing, and made it halal for us to interact in an intimate way with the opposite gender through marriage. What would be haram in any other instance was made halal in marriage, with extra rewards for

keeping it harmonious. How should we achieve this tranquillity that Allah (swt) has blessed us with?

### **Strive to have tranquillity in marriage**

There are many objectives of marriage in Islam. In summary, the marital bond fulfils our physical, spiritual, emotional and social needs with the most intimate



relationship that is made halal in Islam with the opposite gender – our spouse. Allah (swt) mentions in the Quran that our spouses are there for us to find tranquillity in them, as He has placed affection and mercy as His sign. Our spouses are a gift and sign from Allah (swt).

Allah (swt) also says in the Quran (30:21), "And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought."

We are reminded to do good deeds for our souls and fear Allah in everything that we do. Hence our spouses have been gifted to us to keep us in check and be like clothing for each other, always protecting each other. "Your women are a tilth for you, so go to your tilth as you will, and send (good deeds) before you for your souls, and fear Allah, and know that you will (one day) meet him. Give glad tidings to believers, (O Muhammad)" (Quran: 2:223).

### **Love for Allah's sake**

Having Allah as our goal in marriage will enable us to love each other with affection and mercy for the sake of Allah (swt). When we put Allah at the foremost, then the rest of our life is blessed with his guidance and blessings.

In the hadith below, the messenger of Allah (swt) states that there will be seats of light for those who love each other for the sake of Allah (swt), and this includes loving your spouses for Allah's sake, as instructed by Allah, to find affection and mercy, so that we may find tranquillity in each other. Muadh (bin Jabal) (ra) reported that the Messenger of Allah (saw)

said, "Allah, the Exalted, has said, 'For those who love one another for the sake of My glory, there will be seats of light (on the Day of Resurrection), and they will be envied by the Prophets and martyrs'" (Tirmidhi).

### **Make quality time for each other**

In order to attain tranquillity and find the affection and mercy Allah (swt) has placed between you, time should be allocated every day to work on this precious relationship and to strengthen the marriage bond.

Allah's messenger (saw) is the best of role models for us. He used to spend quality time with his wives. In a narration, Aisha (ra) mentions how the Prophet (saw) and her used to race each other and have fun together. "The Prophet (saw) said, 'Come! I will race you.' So I raced with him and I won. After I became heavier, he raced me and he won. So he laughed and said, "This one is for that one" (Abu Dawood).

In another hadith, Aisha (ra) speaks of how they ate and drank together. "When I drink water from the pot while in my menstruation period, and give the pot to the Prophet (saw), he drinks from the same place which touched my mouth. Moreover, during menstruation, I was eating from a piece of meat and gave it to the Prophet (saw) and the Prophet put his mouth in the same place as I did" (Muslim).

Strengthening a marital relationship should be focused on dedicated time spent together for each other. This should be quality time that is focused without interruption of day-to-day tasks or the constant distraction of our digital worlds.



### **Give gifts to one another**

The bond of love between you increases when you share gifts with one another. Who wouldn't like a surprise gift? The Prophet (saw) said, "Exchange gifts, as that will lead to increasing your love for one another" (Bukhari).

A gift doesn't always have to be material. The Prophet (saw) said, "If you expend anything seeking the pleasure of Allah the Almighty, even if you put a bite-sized piece in the mouth of your wife, He will promote you to a higher degree in paradise"(Al-Bukhari).

### **Help each other with tasks**

Often household tasks are divided up to make getting through the chores easier. However, this doesn't mean that spouses can't help each other with any chore. Our beloved Prophet (saw) used to help out around the house when he came home. Al-Aswad narrated, "I asked Aisha what the Prophet used to do at home. She replied, 'He used to keep himself busy serving his family and, when it was time for the prayer, he would get up for prayer'" (Bukhari).

### **Praise each other sincerely**

Praise each other for the good that they do. Sincere praise goes a long way and who better to praise than your beloved spouse whom you will spend the rest of your life with? Holding back praise and keeping it to ourselves isn't going to earn anyone joy. Sincere praise will strengthen the marital bond, and your spouse will appreciate you more.

The Prophet (saw) used to praise Aisha (ra) by saying, "The rank of Aisha to the other women is like the rank of porridge to the other foods" (Muslim). In other words, porridge was considered better

than other foods, and Aisha (ra) was praised as being better than all other women.

### **Show your gratitude for each other often**

Having gratitude for each other, and showing gratitude for all the good you see in your spouse, will bring about harmony between you. Remember that Allah (swt) promises to increase His favours to His servants who are grateful: "And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed, 'If you are grateful, I will surely increase you (in favour); but if you deny, indeed, My punishment is severe.'" (Quran, 14:7).

Allah (swt) also reminds us "... And very few of My slaves are grateful" (Quran 34:13).

Make a list of all the good you see in your spouse, the things he or she does for you. Did you remember to thank them for sincere advice? Did you thank them for reminding you to do something? Did they make you smile today? Make an effort to thank them at least once daily to show how grateful you are for them, even for the smallest of things. This will not only make you appreciate them, they will feel loved and in return Allah (swt) will be pleased with you and grant you more of His rewards.



## Morality and the pillars of Islam

Some Muslims believe that worship and morality are two different things. For example, they pray and lie; they give zakat but cheat in other affairs; they fast and fall into haram; and they perform hajj but their hearts are wicked and evil. These are examples where Islam is practised for appearance, or as a form of showing off to others, and the substance and spirit of this beautiful religion is often missed.

The Prophet (saw) said, "I have only been sent to perfect good moral character" (Ahmed). Thus the purpose of this message was to support the development of good character and instil morality into mankind, so that the world would be a better place for everyone to live and to receive the blessings of Allah (swt). We may achieve this goal with knowledge and consciousness.

The five pillars of Islam are not mere acts without a purpose. Each has a meaning and an application in our lives. These acts lead to contentment in our hearts and bring us closer to our creator, Allah (swt). They are far from being rituals and exercises that have no real meaning or application.

Let's illustrate this with examples from the Quran and sunnah.

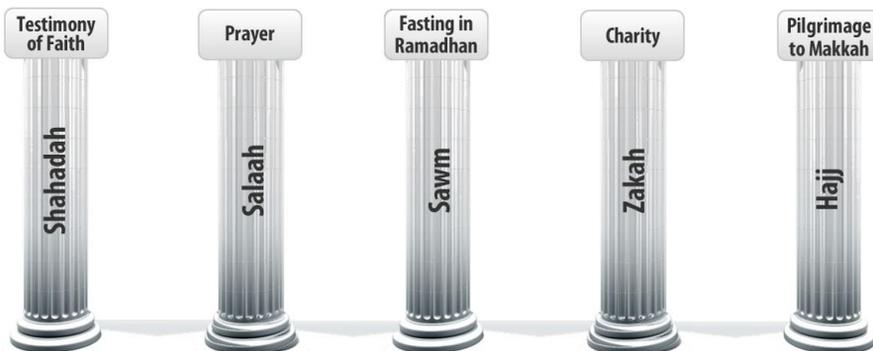
### Salah

Regarding salah, Allah (swt) says, "Recite (O Muhammad) what has been revealed to you of the Book and establish prayer. Indeed, prayer prohibits immorality and wrongdoing, and the remembrance of Allah is greater. And Allah knows that which you do" (Quran 29:45). In other words, salah keeps us on the straight path. It gives us sanity, and keeps us away from doing wicked deeds and doing wrong, not just to oneself but also to other creations of our Almighty Lord.

The Prophet (saw) said that Allah (swt) has said, "I shall accept the prayers of one who: exhibits humility before My greatness; restrains himself from his base and carnal desires for My sake; passes his day in My remembrance; does not seek to show his greatness over My creation; feeds the hungry ones; clothes the bare ones; acts with kindness and mercy to those in misery and trouble; provides shelter to those who are strangers (in his city) and away from their homes" (hadith qudsi).

### Zakat

Zakat is not only for the rich and wealthy. It has a noble purpose, and aims to promote sympathy, kindness and benevolence. It also narrows the gap between the rich and the poor, and aims to bring about friendship and relationships of love for the needy, and the wayfarer.



Allah (swt) says in the Quran, "Take (O, Muhammad) from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them increase, and invoke (Allah's blessings) upon them" (9:103). Thus Islam commands us to pay zakat. It is a way of purification, reduces inequalities between the rich and the poor, and raises the standards in the society.

Abu Dharr narrated that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said, concerning all kinds of charity, "Your smiling in the face of your brother is charity; commanding good and forbidding evil is charity; your giving directions to a man lost in the land is charity for you; your seeing for a man with bad sight is a charity for you; your removal of a rock, a thorn or a bone from the road is charity for you; your pouring what remains from your bucket into the bucket of your brother is charity for you" (Tirmidhi).

### **Fasting**

Similarly, fasting (siyam) is also made compulsory. It is not just about refraining from eating and drinking from dawn to dusk, but it is also about practising self-restraint and keeping away from all haram things. It is also a form of worship. Fasting is encouraged for unmarried persons as it helps reduce desires. It also cleans one's self, not only physically but also spiritually.

Abu Hurairah (ra) reported that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said, "When anyone of you is observing fast, he should neither indulge in obscene language nor should he raise his voice; and if anyone reviles him or tries to quarrel with him, he should say: 'I am fasting'" (Bukhari and Muslim).

The Holy Quran states the purpose of fasting as follows: "O you who

have believed, decreed upon you is fasting, as it was decreed upon those before you, that you may become righteous (have taqwa)" (2:283).

### **Hajj**

Often, people find it hard to relate hajj to its purpose. We think that hajj is merely a journey to the land and performing a set of actions. This is clearly incorrect. As Allah (swt) says in the Quran, "Hajj is (during) well-known months, so whoever has made hajj obligatory upon himself therein (by entering the state of ihram), there is (to be for him) no sexual relations and no disobedience and no disputing during hajj. And whatever good you do, Allah knows it. And take provisions, but indeed, the best provision is fear of Allah. And fear Me, O you of understanding" (2:197).

The above is just an outline of the relationship between the purpose and morality of four of the five pillars. They may differ in substance and form but, as stated at the beginning of the article, they all abide by the saying of the Prophet (saw) "I have only been sent to perfect good moral character" (Ahmed).

Surely man is at a loss if he is unable to purify himself and perfect his moral character. Allah (swt) says in the Quran, "Indeed, whoever comes to his Lord as a criminal – indeed, for him is Hell; he will neither die therein nor live. But whoever comes to Him as a believer having done righteous deeds – for those will be the highest degrees (in position): gardens of perpetual residence beneath which rivers flow, wherein they abide eternally. And that is the reward of one who purifies himself" (20:74-76).



## School introduces new method of teaching Quran

Al-Madinah School in Auckland is introducing a different method of learning the Quran to its students after a recent prototype intensive course involving some of the teachers was deemed successful.

A couple of years ago, Al-Madinah School's principal, Asin Ali, learned of the method while visiting Pakistan. He realised its potential for his school and was eventually able to arrange for a teacher to come to the school and run the prototype course. The problem in the school, as Asin sees it, is that many students learn Quran for as long as eight years but nevertheless end school with little understanding of our holy book. It is true that existing Quran teaching worldwide focuses largely around Quran memorisation, which is important but omits a vital element: understanding.

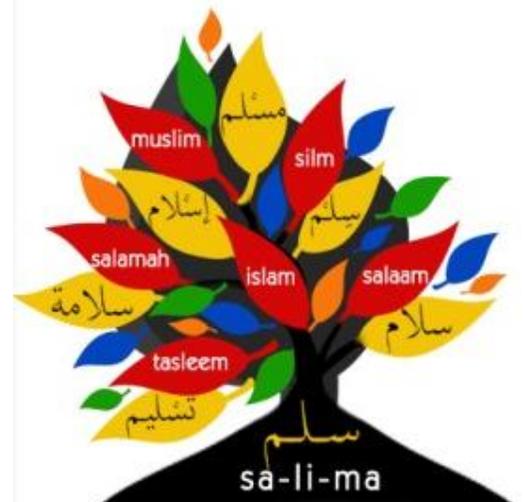
The method was developed a few years ago by a professor and engineer, Dr Abdulazeez Abdurraheem. In the preface to his text book, he says, "It [the Quran] is the most widely read book in the world yet it is the one that is the least understood!" He established the Alfalah Manzil Trust in Pakistan to launch his method, which has been taught by him in India, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, England and South Africa; taught by others in many other countries; and translated into 13 languages.

The method leverages on a key advantage of the Arabic language: word construction from a root (tasreef). This makes it possible to recognise patterns and therefore establish meanings relatively easily. The other fact that the course utilises is that many words in the Quran occur with high frequency. Once we start to

recognise them, we see the patterns and start to understand complete sentences, or enough to have a basic understanding of the meaning.

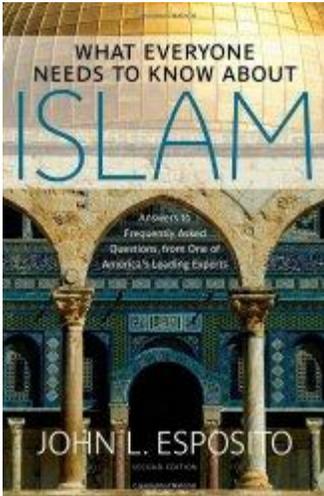


The prototype course at Al-Madinah School was taught by Arshad Iqbal Malik, chairman of Alfalah Manzil Trust. It ran for about 20 hours spread over six days and was thus very intensive. Some male and female teachers took part – including the principal himself as well as his brother Sheikh Amjad Ali – together with members of the public, who had been invited to participate. In a school setting with young students, the course would be spread out over a far longer period and would therefore be better absorbed and remembered.





## Islamophobia in Australia



Australia has an Islamophobia Register recording attacks on Muslims. The Australasian Muslim Times<sup>1</sup> reports the results for the preceding 12 months that were presented to the Second Australasian Conference on Islam, entitled "Radicalisation & Islamophobia, Roots, Relationships and Implications in Religiously Diverse Societies" in Parramatta, Western Sydney 30 November – 1 December.

A report entitled "The resilience and ordinariness of Australian Muslims" contained a survey of almost 600 Muslims in Sydney by Western Sydney University and the Islamic Sciences and Research Academy (ISRA). It found that Muslims in Sydney experience discrimination at three times the rate of other Australians, and there had been a threefold increase in the reported incidents of Islamophobia in Australia since the Paris attacks of November.

Mariam Veiszadeh, lawyer and president of the Islamophobia Register Australia told the conference, "Based on our preliminary observations, the victims appear to be predominately women wearing religious headwear and an alarming number appear to be taking place in the presence of young children."

Of the Muslim respondents of the survey:

- 57% had experienced racism.
- 62% had experienced racism in the workplace or when seeking employment.
- 1 in 10 Sydney Muslims had "very high" rates of exposure to racism.

Nevertheless, 86% believed relations between Australian Muslims and non-Muslims were friendly.

Keynote speaker Professor John Esposito, from Georgetown University, said, "One of the things that does wind up alienating some youth is the extent to which anti-Muslim and anti-Islamic diatribe, hate crimes, attacks on mosques make people feel alienated and marginalised from their societies." He advised Western governments to review their foreign policies with respect to support for authoritarian regimes in the Middle East as well as to check Islamophobia in general.

Ms Randa Abdel-Fattah, a third-year PhD student at Macquarie University, said the language from certain politicians and media commentators had contributed to an increased sense of fear towards Muslims and Muslim-related issues, such as halal food.

1 The Australasian Muslim Times. *Dramatic increase in Islamophobia after Paris attacks.* [www.amust.com.au](http://www.amust.com.au)



Hanan Dover addresses the conference

## First Muslim-majority council in USA

A city in Michigan has elected the first Muslim-majority council in the USA. Hamtramck has always been famous as a largely Polish Catholic city. However, that demographic has changed, and it is now 24% Arab (of which 19% are Yemeni), 15% Bangladeshi and 6% former Yugoslavs, mostly Bosnians. Only 12% are nowadays Polish. It has a 41% immigrant population, the highest in the Detroit area.

In the recent election for three vacant seats, the top three vote-winners were all Muslim. Of the six-member council, four are now Muslim: three of Bangladeshi descent and the fourth of Yemeni heritage. Community leader Bill Meyer said. "The election was far from close, with the three Muslim winners each gaining over 1,000

votes, while the other three candidates garnered less than 700 votes each." He also emphasised that Muslims have contributed to the city by bringing "stability, security and sobriety, while lessening the amount of drugs and crime."

The Muslim councillors are quick to point out that they represent everyone in Hamtramck, not just the Muslim population. Councilman Musa, who came second, said, "I represent every single citizen in Hamtramck." Likewise, Saad Almasmari, who came first, stressed, "We all want to live peacefully and respectfully. Our special thing is ... the diversity in this town. We as Muslims respect our neighbours and we don't like to bother anybody."





Nouman Ali Khan

## Voice of Islam

VOI delivers the message of Islam based on the teachings of the Noble Quran and the Sunnah (practices) of the Prophet Muhammad (saw).  
VOI television is broadcast on:

- APNA TV (Freeview channel 36)(10.30 am Sun)
- SKYTV channel 83 (Face TV) in New Zealand (11.30 am Sat & 9.00 am Sun)
- CTV in Christchurch (see TV guide for times)
- Channel 9 in Dunedin (see TV guide for times)
- Mai TV in Fiji (10.00 am Sun)
- METRO TV in Ghana, West Africa (see TV guide for times)

### 2 January

Quran 57: 1-4 Allah is the creator of everything.  
LECTURE: How to obtain contentment by Abdul Hakim Quick.  
DOCUMENTARY: The health that comes from Allah part 1.

### 9 January

Quran 57: 1-4 Allah is the creator of everything.  
LECTURE: You have an appointment by Abu Hamza.  
Tid Bits: Tawheed by Yusuf Estes.  
DOCUMENTARY: The health that comes from Allah part 2.

### 16 January

Quran 57: 1-4 Allah is the creator of everything.  
LECTURE: Why does Allah allow pain & suffering by Yusuf Estes.  
DOCUMENTARY: The health that comes from Allah part 3.  
Quran Weekly: Finding Inner Peace by Nouman Ali Khan.  
Tid Bits: Taqwah by Yusuf Estes.

### 23 January

Quran 57: 1-4 Allah is the creator of everything.  
LECTURE: The miracle of creation by Khaled Abbas.  
DOCUMENTARY: Architects in nature part 1.

### 30 January

Quran 57: 1-4 Allah is the creator of everything.  
LECTURE: Meeting with Allah by Said Rageah.  
DOCUMENTARY: The miracle in plant leaves part 1.  
Quran Weekly: How to spend for Allah by Nouman Ali Khan.  
Tid Bits: Jihad by Yusuf Estes.

Watch VOI online, or order a free copy of the Quran: [www.voitv.org](http://www.voitv.org)

## Auckland prayer timetable for January 2016

(from [www.islamicFinder.org](http://www.islamicFinder.org). For other cities in New Zealand, see [www.fianz.co.nz](http://www.fianz.co.nz)).

Date	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
1	4:14	6:04	1:25	5:16	6:31	8:44	10:28
2	4:15	6:05	1:25	5:17	6:31	8:44	10:28
3	4:16	6:06	1:26	5:17	6:31	8:44	10:28
4	4:17	6:07	1:26	5:18	6:32	8:44	10:27
5	4:18	6:07	1:27	5:18	6:32	8:45	10:27
6	4:20	6:08	1:27	5:18	6:32	8:45	10:27
7	4:21	6:09	1:27	5:19	6:32	8:45	10:27
8	4:22	6:10	1:28	5:19	6:33	8:44	10:26
9	4:23	6:11	1:28	5:20	6:33	8:44	10:26
10	4:25	6:12	1:29	5:20	6:33	8:44	10:26
11	4:25	6:12	1:29	5:20	6:33	8:44	10:26
12	4:26	6:13	1:29	5:20	6:33	8:44	10:25
13	4:29	6:15	1:30	5:21	6:33	8:44	10:24
14	4:30	6:16	1:30	5:21	6:33	8:43	10:24
15	4:31	6:17	1:31	5:22	6:33	8:43	10:23
16	4:33	6:18	1:31	5:22	6:33	8:43	10:22
17	4:34	6:19	1:31	5:22	6:33	8:43	10:22
18	4:36	6:20	1:32	5:22	6:33	8:42	10:21
19	4:37	6:21	1:32	5:22	6:33	8:42	10:20
20	4:39	6:22	1:32	5:23	6:33	8:41	10:19
21	4:40	6:23	1:33	5:23	6:33	8:41	10:18
22	4:42	6:24	1:33	5:23	6:33	8:40	10:17
23	4:43	6:25	1:33	5:23	6:33	8:40	10:17
24	4:45	6:26	1:33	5:23	6:33	8:39	10:16
25	4:45	6:26	1:33	5:23	6:33	8:39	10:16
26	4:46	6:27	1:34	5:23	6:32	8:38	10:15
27	4:49	6:30	1:34	5:23	6:32	8:37	10:12
28	4:51	6:31	1:34	5:23	6:32	8:36	10:11
29	4:52	6:32	1:35	5:23	6:31	8:36	10:10
30	4:54	6:33	1:35	5:23	6:31	8:35	10:09
31	4:55	6:34	1:35	5:23	6:31	8:34	10:08

Asr 1: Maliki, Shafii and Hanbali schools (single shadow length)

Asr 2: Hanafi school (double shadow length)

"A person who misses the afternoon prayer is like a person whose family and property have been destroyed." (hadith)

## Credits

*Rocket Science* is a monthly newsletter produced by the Mount Albert Islamic Trust.

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## Why attend Rocket Park jumuah?

Prayers are held at the **Senior Citizens' Association building, Rocket Park, New North Road, Mount Albert.**

- ✓ Central location
- ✓ Plenty of free parking
- ✓ Facilities for ladies
- ✓ Heating and air-conditioning
- ✓ Bayan (religious talk) before jumuah prayers
- ✓ All bayans and khutbahs in English

NB We are only open for Friday prayers – not for the five daily prayers.

## Subscribing / unsubscribing

If you have received this newsletter and want to unsubscribe (ie do not want to receive future issues), please send an email to masjidnews@gmail.com with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. Vice versa, if you have received this newsletter indirectly, and would like to have future issues sent to your email address each month, please send an email to masjidnews@gmail.com with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

## Back issues of *Rocket Science*

Missed an issue of *Rocket Science*? All our monthly issues are available online at the Mount Albert Islamic Trust website: www.mtalbertislamiccentre.org

## ***Swt, saw, as, ra***

swt: subhanahu wa ta'ala "Glory to Him, the Exalted" (when mentioning Allah)

saw: salallahu alaihi wassalam "May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him" (when mentioning Muhammad)

as: alaihis salam "Peace be on him" (when mentioning other prophets)

ra: radi allahu anhu/ha/hum "May Allah be pleased with him/her/them" (when mentioning members of Muhammad's family, companions, etc)