



# Rocket Science



Rabial Thani /  
Jumadal A 1434

March 2013

*In the name of  
Allah, most  
Gracious, most  
Merciful*

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## Changes in VOI programming

Alhamdu lillah! Voice of Islam are celebrating ten years of public television broadcasting. As always, they rely on donations and volunteers to continue their dawah work. Please go to [www.voitv.org](http://www.voitv.org) to donate your time or financial contributions.



Since 1 February 2013, Triangle TV has been called Face TV. As a result of corporate changes, the broadcasting days and times for VOI programmes have changed (see the changes in **red** below). Also, from 18 March CTV in Christchurch will be broadcasting in digital.

- Face TV in Auckland (**11.30am Sat; 12.30 pm Wed**)
- SKYTV CH 89 in New Zealand (**11.30am Sat; 12.30 pm Wed**)
- CTV in Christchurch: **digital from 18 March** (see TV guide for times)
- Channel 9 in Dunedin (see TV guide for times)
- MAITV in Fiji (see TV guide for times)
- METRO TV in Ghana, West Africa (see TV guide for times)

### VOI's beginnings

Once upon a time in the heart of Auckland, lived a man named Malik. Malik was an ambitious man with a dream to establish his own television programme on Islam. So ambitious was he that for fulfilling his dream Malik was known to have lived in a truck, have no phone connection, and use the little money around to sustain his dream.

Voice of Islam Trust is a charitable non-profit organisation, formed in April 2004; it took over the responsibility of the broadcasting programme.



Malik Mahmood Iqbal ( Voice of Islam TV founder )

*good actions*

*Paradise*

*from cradle to  
grave*

*to China*

*only one ayat*

*passing on  
knowledge*

## The importance of knowledge

Allah (swt) asked all of us to ask Him to increase our knowledge. In the Quran, He says, "and say ... My Lord! Increase me in knowledge" (Surah Ta-Ha 20:114]. Hence, every Muslim must endeavour to acquire knowledge. This is because knowledge is the basis of all good; it generates actions that are based on the commandments of Allah (swt) and the instructions of the Prophet (saw).

The Prophet (saw) made seeking knowledge an obligation upon every Muslim. Once, Mu'awiyah Ibn Abi Sufyan (ra) reported, "I heard Allah's Messenger (saw) saying, 'If Allah (swt) wants to do good to a person, he makes him very knowledgeable in the deen.'" Abu Darda (ra) narrated that Muhammad (saw) said, "If anyone travels on a road in search of knowledge, Allah (swt) will cause him to travel on one of the roads of Paradise."

The Angels will lower their wings in their great pleasure with one who seeks knowledge, and the inhabitants of the heavens and the earth and the fish in the deep water will ask forgiveness for the learned man.

Ibn Abbas (ra) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (swt) said: "A single scholar of religion is more formidable against Shaitan than a thousand devout persons."

Our Holy Prophet (saw) laid great emphasis on the quest for knowledge and he urged Muslims to seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave. He asked them to go in search of knowledge even unto China. Why China? Because at that time China was the most civilized nation; it was an enlightened land with countless sages with wisdom and foresight.

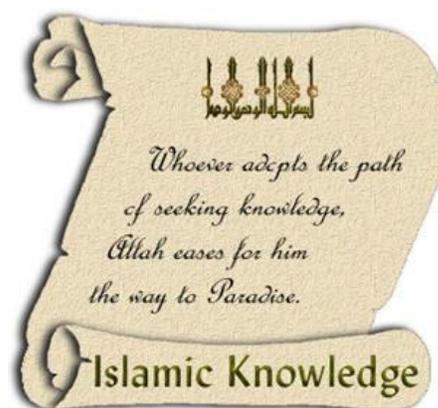
Nevertheless, the best of all faculties of knowledge is the knowledge of the Quran. It is through the Quran that the believer recognises his real Creator, understands the pillars of Islam and iman. Knowledge brings great rewards.

One who points the way to something good is like the one who does it. When a knowledgeable person dies, his rewards from Allah (swt) do not cease with his death. They continue to increase so long as people continue to benefit from his knowledge. The Prophet (saw) said, "When man dies, all his deeds come to an end except for three: an ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge, or a righteous son who will pray for him" (Sahih Muslim).

He ordered all his companions, and thus every Muslim who possesses some knowledge – even as little as one ayat – to disseminate what they know to others. He said, "Convey (what you learn from me) even if only one verse ..." (Sahih Bukhari).

The first and most crucial obligation on us is to acquire knowledge, and secondly to practise and preach this knowledge. It is impossible for us to be a Muslim and to live in a state of ignorance. The best thing that we can give to our children is knowledge of Islam. The Prophet (saw) said, "A father gives his child nothing better than a good education."

Today if you speak to your children or grand-children and ask them what the Big Bang theory is, they will rattle away jaw-breaking terms, all learned from cartoons and other websites which give a twisted version of the real creation. They are getting brainwashed with atheistic ideas.



*University of Life*

*life-long learning*

*ibadah*

*weapon*

If indeed everything began with a Big Bang, then we Muslims know that this bang occurred precisely between the Arabic letters kaaf and nuun: "Kun!" "Be!" "fayakuun!" "and it is!" Allah (swt) tells us in the Holy Quran, in the last three verses of Sura Yasin: "Is not He Who created the heavens and the earth, able to create the like thereof? Yes, indeed! For He is the Creator Supreme, of infinite skill and knowledge! Truly, when He intends a thing, His Command is: "Be" and it is! So Glory to Him in Whose hands is the dominion of all things, and to Him will you all be brought back."

Here in these beautiful and eloquent verses from the heart of the Holy Quran, we discover the simple truth about the beginning and the end of everything.

The other kind of university is the University of Life. This is where we all acquire our informal, or non-formal education, which can be as important as any formal degree or doctorate. We all have to pass through this one – we have no choice in the matter – and the main section is the Faculty of Hard Knocks, which you can also call the Department of Distress and Endurance. All of the most distinguished human beings – the Prophets, the sages, the friends of Allah, and the great leaders of history – have graduated from this department.



How well we do depends on our preparation. Are we equipped, physically, emotionally and spiritually, for the University of Life? Studying Islam through the Holy Quran and prophetic sunnah, reading widely and listening to khutbahs is part of our course material. The University of Life offers a long course – it is literally life-long learning.

These two kinds of university are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they complement and reinforce each other. Your formal university should be an extension of your University of Life, and vice versa. When our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw) urged his followers to seek knowledge, he was not just talking of formal education, as we know it today. In Islam, there is no artificial barrier between formal and informal learning, just as there is no artificial barrier between secular and sacred learning. All useful knowledge is from Allah. If you pursue knowledge that leads to a better understanding of God's wonderful creation, and you use that knowledge for the benefit of humankind, you are given a very high status. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) had this to say about those who seek knowledge: Mu'ath bin Jabal narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (saw) said:

"Acquire knowledge, for surely it leads to awareness of Allah. Seeking it is an act of worship; studying it is praising Allah; seeking it is jihad; teaching it to whoever doesn't know it is an act of charity and giving it to its people draws one closer to them. Knowledge points to what is permissible and the forbidden; and it is a shining light pointing the way to Paradise. It comforts the lonely, it befriends the stranger, and it talks to you in seclusion. It is a guide through prosperity and adversity; it is a weapon against enemies; and it is the best of friends. With knowledge,



*angels*

*halal, haram*

*World Hijab Day*

*social media*

*worldwide*

*why not?*

Allah raises people to high stations, making them leaders in goodness, whose steps are followed. Their example is emulated, their opinion valued. The angels like to sit with the people of knowledge, surrounding them with their wings; and everything dry or wet - fish of the sea and animals on land - will ask Allah to forgive them. Knowledge gives life to the heart in the midst of ignorance, and illuminates vision in the darkness. With knowledge, God's servants become the elite and reach the highest degrees in this life and in the life to come. Contemplation with knowledge is equivalent to fasting; spending time to study it is equivalent to standing at night in prayer; duties to relatives are fulfilled by it; and through it permissible and forbidden things are known. Knowledge precedes action and action always follows it. The fortunate ones attain it and the miserable ones are deprived of it."

These beautiful words concerning knowledge came from the unlettered Prophet Muhammad (saw).

## The power of hijab

Did you know that 1 February was World Hijab Day?<sup>1</sup> It is the brainchild of Nazma Khan, who moved to New York from Bangladesh aged 11. "Growing up in the Bronx, in NYC, I experienced a great deal of discrimination due to my hijab. In middle school I was 'Batman' or 'ninja'. When I moved on to college, it was just after 9/11, so they would call me Osama Bin Laden or terrorist. It was awful. I figured the only way to end discrimination is if we ask our fellow sisters to experience hijab themselves."

The event was organised almost exclusively over social networking sites. It attracted interest from Muslims and non-Muslims in more than 50 countries across the world. Khan was contacted by people in dozens of countries, including the UK, Australia, India, Pakistan, France and Germany. The group's promotional literature has been translated into 22 languages. The celebration was designed to dispel the myth that the hijab is a symbol of oppression and divisiveness, and to allow people to experience firsthand the discrimination that it attracts in the West.

One person who celebrated the day is Jess Rhodes, 21, a student from Norwich UK. She had always wanted to try a headscarf so, when given the opportunity by a friend to try wearing the scarf, she took it. "She assured me that I didn't need to be Muslim, that it was just about modesty, although obviously linked to Islam, so I thought, 'why not?'"



Jess Rhodes, without and with hijab

Another non-Muslim trying out the headscarf for the day is Esther Dale, 28, from California. The mother-of-three was told about the event by a friend of hers who is a "hijabi". As a practising Mormon, Dale understands the importance of faith in daily life, and the judgement that can come with the associated clothing. She says she knows the stigma that surrounds the

headscarf and hopes this is an opportunity to help combat that. "I knew that it's about modesty of behaviour, not just clothing, and that it's a faulty assumption that women only wear it if they're forced to - especially in the US. That's not at all the truth. It's a good chance to educate people that you can't make an accurate judgement about someone based solely on what they're wearing."

Another British Muslim who has experienced the power of the hijab is 15-year-old Amina Qureshi from Bradford<sup>2</sup>. TV cameras picked her out in the crowd as she watched January's Capital One Cup semi-final match between Bradford City and Aston Villa. "At first I couldn't understand why out of 22,000 people the camera was focused on me. But later, as I left the stadium, I realised I was the only girl in a hijab. I made a fist and yelled 'come on Bradford'." A picture of her from the match did the rounds on social media, even trending on Twitter that night. "I support Bradford City because this is my town - it's where I was born and brought up."

Community support is important for Bradford, whose home ground Valley Parade is located at the centre of the city's Asian population.

(Footnote: Sorry, Amina. Bradford lost the final to Swansea City 5 - 0.)



Amina shouts for Bradford City

1 Catrin Nye "Hijab for a day: Non-Muslim women who try the headscarf" BBC News, 31 January 2013. [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

2 Shabnam Mahmood "British Asian footballers bid for breakthrough" BBC News 22 February 2013. [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

*sports  
social*

*sport is part of  
Islam*

*food*

*crafts*

*water balloon  
fight*

## YMWA corner: Aqua Sports Day

A healthy mind, body and soul was the slogan for the YMWA's Aqua Sports Day held on a sunny and bright Saturday 16 February at Zayed College for Girls. The hosts, YMWA's diligent youth ambassadors from ZCG, along with seven youth ambassadors from three schools, the YMWA team and ZCG staff, worked extremely hard to organize the exceptional activities, which turned out to be a successful event filled with sports activities and a flourishing environment to spend rewarding time with other Muslim sisters. As a first joint YMWA youth ambassador project, this event set a high mark for the numerous projects to come this year.

Toffee pops with an upcoming events plan were handed out to all registered participants to welcome them in for a fun-filled day. A safety briefing marked the start of the day's events, followed by Ustatha Radiyah's inspiring talk about sports which set the theme for the day. Sport, as the participants were told by Ustatha Radiyah, "is part of Islam". Islam acknowledges that as humans, we have spiritual, mental and physical needs, and thus we are required to take care of our bodily needs in order to be able to worship Allah (swt) better. The Prophet (saw) also encouraged Muslims to participate in sports with three sports in particular being known as the sunnah of the Prophet: swimming, archery and horse-riding. Knowing this, swimming played a huge part in Aqua Sports Day.

Following this informative talk and with a renewed intention to make this day for Allah (swt), the participants played a fun ice-breaker to enliven the atmosphere. The athletic action began when the girls were split into two groups. One group jumped into the inviting ZCG indoor pool and the other group played a variety of sports: badminton, soccer, volleyball and table tennis.

A sausage sizzle soon filled the air with mouth-watering aromas and participants gathered for a revitalizing lunch. There was also a bake sale, drinks and ice-cream for dessert. The YMWA's handmade hijabs were also on a stall for sale as well as other eye-catching items such as bracelets, ear rings, chains and necklaces of all shapes and forms, all given in kind by generous donors.



The purpose of the stalls on the day was to fundraise for future subsidised activities and events for the young Muslim community of girls and women.

The second half of the day was filled with more sporting activities and the teams had their rotations of activities. The feedback from the Aqua Sports Day was very positive with many new relationships formed amongst the youth and parents.

The day concluded with an epic water balloon fight, all organised by the YMWA youth ambassadors. The YMWA youth ambassadors thank the YMWA team and ZCG for all their support and look forward to the ongoing leadership training provided through the YMWA youth ambassador programme.

*knowing yourself*

*knowing Allah*

*ten weekly  
lessons*

*Three Kings Plaza*

## **Auckland's SeekersCircle has new venue**

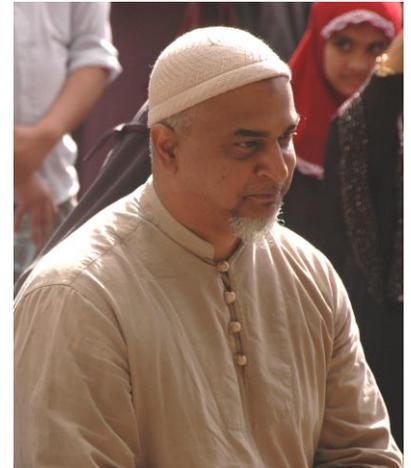
A new 10-week SeekersCircle (again with Imam Afroz Ali lecturing) begins, insha Allah, on Friday 1 March, entitled "On Knowing Yourself to Know God".

Of the many of Imam Ghazzali's masterpieces, one of them, "Alchemy of Happiness", is amongst the most crucial of his works. In his introductory chapter, he states, "Know that the key to the knowledge of God, may He be Exalted and Glorified, is knowledge of oneself, for it has been said, 'He who knows himself knows his Lord.' And it is for this reason The Creator Most High revealed, 'We shall show them by the signs on the horizons and within themselves, so that it will become evidently clear to them the Truth.'"

We are closest to ourselves, and how are we to know anything else if we do not know ourselves: what faculties exist in ourselves and how they function from which manifests our outward behaviour? We are more than a body of flesh with physical eyes, ears and limbs. We have an origin and we have a journey beyond here. The knowledge about these matters is crucial to be able to firstly live a full life, and secondly with a clear and true purpose which does not deceive you.

This weekly study circle covers the chapter "On Knowing Oneself and God" of the classic work "Alchemy of Happiness", and will be divided into ten lessons.

The day the Circle is held remains Friday and the time slot stays the same, from 7pm to 9pm. However, the venue switches for this series from Unitec to the Auckland Regional Migrant Services Centre, Three Kings Plaza, 532 Mount Albert Road. Please direct enquiries to Aarif Rasheed on 021 2955 549.



Afroz Ali

# 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). The show neither delivers nor promotes any political, national, ethnic, social or class perspective – its focus is purely on dawah and deen-al-Islam (the Islamic faith/way of life).

VOI television is broadcast on:

- Face TV in Auckland (11.30am Sat; 12.30 pm Wed)
- SKYTV CH 89 in New Zealand (11.30am Sat; 12.30 pm Wed)
- CTV in Christchurch (see TV guide for times)
- Channel 9 in Dunedin (see TV guide for times)
- MAITV in Fiji (see TV guide for times)
- METRO TV in Ghana, West Africa (see TV guide for times)

## 2 & 6 March

Quran 4: 131-134

LECTURE: Deen – a way of life for the Muslim by Sheikh Yusuf Estes

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 1 part 1

## 9 & 13 March

Quran 4: 131-134

LECTURE: Remember me and I will remember you by Tawfique Chowdhury

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 1 part 2.

## 16 & 20 March

Quran 17: 88-89

No Stone Unturned: Life and Death by Sheikh Bilal Dannoun

MY PATH TO ISLAM: by Ben Gresham

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 1 part 3

## 23 & 27 March

Quran 2: 21-23

LECTURE: Blueprint for Transformation by Yahya Ibrahim

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 2 part 1

No Stone Unturned: The Prophets by Sheikh Bilal Dannoun



Yahya Ibrahim

## 30 March & 3 April

Quran 102: 1-8

LECTURE: Quran and the modern world by Abdurraheem Green

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 2 part 2

TID BITS: Zakat by Sheikh Yusuf Estes

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



## Auckland prayer timetable for March 2013

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

**Muhammad (saw) said, "When Satan hears the call to prayer, he runs away to a distance like that of Rauha." Sulaimin said, "I asked him about Rauha. He replied, 'It is at a distance of 36 miles from Madina.'"**

Date	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr 1	Asr 2	Maghrib	Isha
1	5:37	7:05	1:34	5:12	6:09	8:01	9:25
2	5:37	7:05	1:34	5:12	6:09	8:01	9:25
3	5:38	7:06	1:34	5:11	6:08	7:59	9:23
4	5:41	7:08	1:33	5:09	6:06	7:56	9:20
5	5:42	7:09	1:33	5:09	6:05	7:55	9:19
6	5:43	7:10	1:33	5:08	6:04	7:54	9:17
7	5:44	7:11	1:32	5:07	6:03	7:52	9:15
8	5:45	7:12	1:32	5:06	6:02	7:51	9:14
9	5:46	7:13	1:32	5:06	6:01	7:49	9:12
10	5:48	7:14	1:32	5:05	6:00	7:48	9:11
11	5:49	7:15	1:31	5:04	5:59	7:46	9:09
12	5:50	7:16	1:31	5:03	5:57	7:45	9:07
13	5:51	7:17	1:31	5:02	5:56	7:44	9:06
14	5:52	7:18	1:31	5:01	5:55	7:42	9:04
15	5:53	7:19	1:30	5:00	5:54	7:41	9:03
16	5:54	7:19	1:30	4:59	5:53	7:39	9:01
17	5:54	7:19	1:30	4:59	5:53	7:39	9:01
18	5:56	7:21	1:30	4:58	5:50	7:36	8:58
19	5:57	7:22	1:29	4:57	5:49	7:35	8:56
20	5:58	7:23	1:29	4:56	5:48	7:33	8:55
21	5:59	7:24	1:29	4:55	5:47	7:33	8:53
22	6:00	7:25	1:29	4:54	5:46	7:32	8:52
23	6:01	7:26	1:28	4:53	5:44	7:30	8:50
24	6:02	7:27	1:28	4:52	5:43	7:29	8:49
25	6:03	7:27	1:28	4:51	5:42	7:27	8:47
26	6:04	7:28	1:27	4:50	5:41	7:26	8:46
27	6:05	7:29	1:27	4:49	5:39	7:24	8:44
28	6:06	7:30	1:27	4:48	5:38	7:23	8:43
29	6:07	7:31	1:27	4:47	5:37	7:21	8:41
30	6:08	7:32	1:26	4:46	5:35	7:20	8:40
31	6:08	7:32	1:26	4:46	5:35	7:20	8:40

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

Asr 2: Hanafi school (double shadow length)

## Credits

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

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## Why attend Rocket Park jumuah?

- ✓ Central location
- ✓ Plenty of free parking
- ✓ Facilities for ladies
- ✓ Bayaan (religious talk) before jumuah prayers
- ✓ All bayaan and khutbah in English

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

In December 2010, the **Senior Citizens' Association building, Rocket Park, New North Road, Mount Albert**, was closed for renovation by the Auckland City Council. Following these renovations, we believe we are the only jumuah in New Zealand with air-conditioning and heating.

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