



Rocket Science



Jumadal A /
Jumadal T 1434

April 2013

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

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Janaza Waqf fund established

Working Together Group (WTG) has established New Zealand's first national Janaza Waqf fund to help families with the cost of burying their loved ones. The cost of burying a family member when they pass away runs into thousands of dollars in this country. It is an expense many families struggle to meet. For many people, it adds to their difficulties during a time of grieving. Muslims are naturally reluctant to take out funeral insurance and other such plans but until now there was little alternative for families without savings.

For about three years, Auckland-based WTG has been assisting with burials through its free janaza service. This has provided for ghusl, transportation of the mayt, arranging janaza solat and everything else apart from the cost of the plot itself. The service has been called upon to help at an average of about one funeral per month.

The Janaza Waqf fund is a natural extension of the janaza service. Scores of families have already signed up for it.

WTG has strong links with groups in other cities to arrange burials outside Auckland, so the service is truly national.

The contributions are \$30 a month per family, or \$330 a year. Note that paying annually saves \$30. WTG recommends paying by direct debit but alternative methods of payment can be arranged for families without a bank account.

Application forms and direct debit forms can be emailed to you. If you'd like to know more, please email Ashraf Khan (khannz@clear.net.nz), Mazin Al-Salim (mazin.alsalim@gmail.com), David Blocksidge (davidblocksidge@yahoo.com) or Ismail Waja (iwaja@xtra.co.nz).



FIANZ

drought

two rakaats

prayer answered

Praying for rain

There has been a drought in New Zealand with little rain for over a month. On 7 March, Dr Anwar Ghani, president of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) issued a letter asking Muslims in Aotearoa to pray for rain. "The drought is causing great concern to farmers in the country. If the situation persists, there will be adverse effects on agriculture and farming." Agriculture is very important to the New Zealand economy, contributing 64% of all export earnings. New Zealand is the world's largest dairy and sheep meat exporter.

North Island has been declared a drought zone. The farmers in the north are finding it difficult to till their lands, sustain their flocks and find much needed food for them. Every effort is being made to transport food from the South Island urgently to keep the livestock alive.

Rain prayer is known as salat al-istisqa, a congregational prayer in the tradition of the Prophet (saw). During his time, some companions (ra) complained to him about lack of rain in their area. The Prophet (saw) said, "You have complained of drought in your area and delay in receiving rain at the beginning of its season, but you have been ordered by Allah (swt) to supplicate to Him and He has promised He would answer your prayers." He then raised his hands heavenwards and prayed to Allah (swt) to send down the rain. Immediately, rain clouds appeared in the sky and there was abundant rain to soak the dry earth.

Salat al-istisqa is a two-rakaat prayer. In the first rakaat, the imam recites Surat Al-A'la after Surat Al-Fatihah, and in the second rak'ah, he reads Surat Al-Ghashiyah after Surat Al-Fatihah. It is sunnah for the imam to deliver a khutbah before or after the salat.

The prayer is followed by dua. The Prophet (saw) is reported to have said, "O Allah, give us a saving rain, productive, plentiful, general, continuous. O Allah, give us rain and do not make us among the despondent. O Allah, (Your) slaves, land, animals, and (Your) creation all are suffering and seek protection. And we do not complain except to You. O Allah, let our crops grow, and let the udders be refilled. Give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth. O Allah, remove from us the hardship, starvation, and barrenness and remove the affliction from us as no one removes afflictions save Thee. O Allah, we seek Your forgiveness as You are the Forgiving, and send upon us plenteous rains."

In another hadith, he (saw) recited, "O Allah, let us be covered with thick clouds that have abundant and beneficial rain, frequently making a light rain upon us and sprinkling upon us with lightning. O Allah, You are full of majesty, bounty and honour."

And in another, "O Allah, provide water for Your slaves and Your cattle, display Your mercy and give life to Your dead lands."

Salat al-istisqa was offered at Rocket Park after Friday prayers on 15 March. It rained the next day. Alhamdu lillah!



oldest light

*cosmic
microwave
background*

absolute zero

age of universe

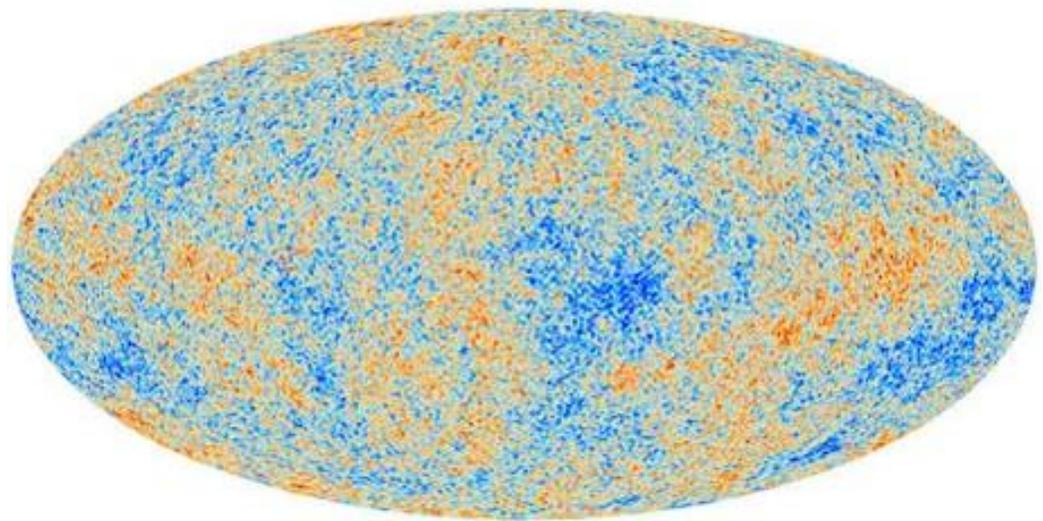
*problem for
religion?*

Allah's big bang

A detailed map tracing the oldest light in the sky has been produced by the Planck Surveyor satellite of the European Space Agency. Its pattern confirms the Big Bang theory for the origin of the universe but subtle, unexpected details will require scientists to adjust some of their ideas.

The map reveals tiny variations in the cosmic microwave background, the faint glow of radiation that is left over from the earliest light to illuminate the cosmos. These primordial photons are all around us, and account for 1% of the "snow" that could be seen on untuned television sets.

The map shows tiny deviations from the average background temperature of -270 Celsius, where blue is slightly cooler and red is slightly warmer. The cold spots are where matter was more concentrated and later collapsed under gravity to form stars and galaxies. Scientists say its mottled pattern is an exquisite confirmation of the Big Bang model for the origin and evolution of the universe.



The latest data also suggests the universe is expanding at a slower rate than thought, making it roughly 80 million years older at 13.82 billion years.

The scientific details are very technical; interested readers should consult the references below^{1, 2}.

What is interesting is some of the comments on the *Guardian* website about this. One example (with questionable punctuation) is 'Exciting, our children and grandchildren look forward to ever more wonderful discoveries. The religious fundamentalists wont like it though, they will go into deep denial mode.' This illustrates the blinkered outlook of many westerners who equate religion with Christianity. Perhaps these findings are a problem for fundamental Christianity, but they are in harmony with Islam and the Quran.

If the Quran (or the Bible) was written by God (Allah, swt), and if God created the universe and was therefore present when the world began, this would be proved by including in the Quran (or the Bible) evidence in the form of a description of how the world began. In the Quran, we have precisely this:

Have the disbelievers not seen that the heavens and the earth were one piece

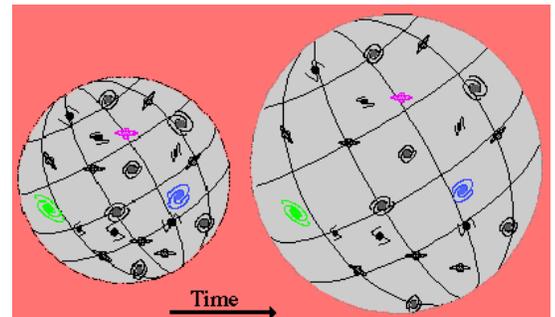
and we parted them? And we made every living thing from water. Will they then not believe? (21:30)

This of course is the Big Bang. At one time, the universe was one piece, which burst. The Big Bang theory was proposed in 1927 by Belgian priest Georges Lemaître. Similarly, the microscope was invented by Leeuwenhoek in the 17th century; this allowed scientists to discover that living cells are composed of about 80% water. Moreover, the Big Bang theory, and the water composition of life was not discovered by Muslims, but by non-Muslims, ie 'disbelievers'.

Furthermore, it was discovered, by American astronomer Edwin Hubble (another non-Muslim 'disbeliever') in 1929, that the universe is expanding, by measuring the redshift in colour of near and far galaxies. This is also mentioned in the Quran:

"We have built the heavens firmly, and we are expanding it." (51:47)

It is fascinating to imagine what the early Muslims thought when verses like this were revealed. One can picture desert Arabs looking up at the sky and wondering how it is 'expanding'. However, we should be grateful that their iman meant that they were obliged not to change a word of it.



1 Jonathan Amos 'Planck satellite: Maps detail Universe's ancient light' BBC News, 21 March 2013. <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

2 Ian Sample 'Planck telescope maps light of the big bang scattered across the universe' The guardian, 21 March 2013. www.guardian.co.uk

Vein thoughts

We are probably all familiar with the often quoted ayat of the Quran, "It was We who created man and We know what dark suggestions his soul makes to him: for We are nearer to him than (his) jugular vein" (50:16). This does not mean that Allah (swt) is physically closer to you than your jugular vein. Instead, it refers to His knowledge of you and His power over you.

Some commentators say that it could refer to the angels Raqib and Atid appointed to you, who sit on your right and left shoulders, noting everything you say and do. The angel on your right shoulder records all your good deeds, while the one on your left records bad deeds. A hadith states, "The (scribe) on the left hand raises his pen (ie delays writing) for six hours before he records the sinful deed of a Muslim. If [the Muslim] regrets it and seeks God's forgiveness, the deed is not recorded; otherwise it is recorded as one deed." This shows the importance and power of repentance (taubah) in Islam.

So we are all familiar with the ayat. But how familiar are we with the jugular vein?¹ The jugular vein, like most veins in the circulatory system, carries deoxygenated blood from body tissues back to the heart. The jugular is a vein that carries a relatively large volume of blood from the tissues of the head and brain back towards the heart.

There are actually four jugular veins, two on each side of the neck. The internal jugular veins are much larger than the external ones, and therefore more well-

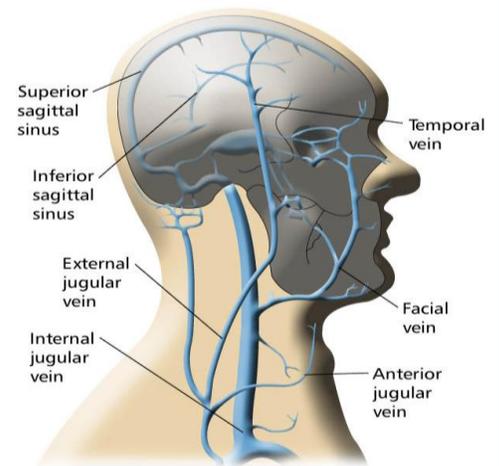
blood from the face and brain

go for the jugular

Franz Ferdinand

known. The external jugular veins collect most of the deoxygenated blood from the outside of the skull and the deeper parts of the face, while the internal jugular veins collect blood from the brain.

The word *jugular* is related to two Latin words: *jugulum*, meaning 'collarbone' or 'throat', and *jugum*, meaning 'yoke'. If an internal jugular vein is opened or punctured, death can result very quickly from loss of blood, because of the quantity of blood carried by these veins. Hence the English expression "go for the jugular," meaning to attack a very vulnerable or vital part. In a more metaphorical sense, it means to attack fiercely in order to have no doubt about winning, or to criticize someone very cruelly by talking about what you know will hurt them most. The Collins Dictionary² gives the illustrative sentence "Dale coach Graeme Francey, however, knows his players must go for the jugular, for a score draw would put Cork through on the away goal.", ie they must be ruthless and attack the weakest link in their opponents' team.



The jugular vein is sometimes erroneously portrayed as being the entire front of the throat or neck. In reality, while the jugular is a vulnerable spot, it still takes some degree of precision to injure it. Accidental injury is still possible, of course, as was the case with Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. He was killed in 1914 in a famous assassination leading to the start of World War I. An assailant's bullet hit the Archduke in the jugular vein, causing his rapid death from blood loss.

In some cases, the position of the jugular veins can be visible from the outside. If a jugular vein is particularly prominent when a person is in a sitting position, it can be a sign of congestive heart failure. The height or prominence of these veins can be a good indicator, in this case, of how well the heart is keeping up with the demands placed upon it, or if it is failing to do so.

The Quranic verse contains a wonderful metaphor. So, how is Allah's knowledge of, power over, and care for you similar to your jugular vein?

Both are vital to your existence. Like other veins, the jugular has periodically spaced valves that only allow the blood to flow in one direction. Without these valves, the circulatory system could become inefficient or even be damaged due to the backflow of blood in the system.

An abnormal jugular is symptomatic of a malfunctioning heart. In order to avoid the darker nature of our baser instincts (nafs), we need a properly functioning relationship with our Creator.

Just as Allah (swt) knows the thoughts that come from your brain, so the internal jugular vein conveys the blood that comes from your brain. Whether we hide our emotions by disguising the expressions on our face or not, the external jugular veins transport blood that has flowed through the muscles required for such non-verbal communication. Similarly, Allah (swt) knows our emotions, whether we show them or not.

May we all be constantly aware of our relationship with our Creator.

1 www.wisegeek.com/what-is-the-jugular-vein.htm

2 www.collinsdictionary.com

Let's keep these kids in school

In New Zealand we take it for granted that our children can go to school but this is not the case with some of our near neighbours in the South Pacific.

At the start of 2013, some Muslim children in Tonga faced the sad prospect of not being able to attend school because their families were unable to afford the fees for Term 1. Members of Rasheed Memorial Dawah Trust (RMDT) heard about this and raised enough for this term. Now they need funds to keep the children in school for the rest of the year while a more permanent, sustainable solution is sought.



RMDT has a long history of supporting Muslims in the islands. The Trust is seeking donations for its work – especially in Tonga – in community financial support, Tongan-language dawah booklet printing, and children's education as outlined above.

If you are able to help in any way or would like to know more, please email Aeron Rasheed: aeron@rmdt.org.nz.

YMWA fund-raiser

The YMWA are raising funds for their various activities by selling the Entertainment Book 2013 – 2014.

Available from early-April, the new Book is only \$65, and you'll receive \$15,000 worth of valuable offers which are valid until 1 June 2014. If you pre-order the Book, you'll receive over \$175 in additional offers. Best of all, 20% of your Book purchase goes to the YMWA.

The Entertainment Book contains vouchers for discounts off dining (from fine dining to informal and takeaways, some of them halal); arts, sports and attractions; retail and local series; and travel, leisure and accommodation. See www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/about/tell-me-more/auckland for more detailed information.

Contact the YMWA: ymwa.nz@gmail.com



Tonga

RMDT

*Entertainment
Book*

pre-order

Conversions in France

Yearly conversions to Islam have doubled in France over the past 25 years, a report¹ says. Bernard Godard, an official in charge of religious issues at the French Interior Ministry, said around 100,000 out of an estimated six million Muslims in France are thought to be converts, compared with some 50,000 in 1986. Muslim associations say the number is as high as 200,000. France, which has a population of about 65 million, defines itself as secular and has no official statistics broken down by race or creed.

The report was published by the *New York Times*². "The conversion phenomenon is significant and impressive, particularly since 2000," said Godard, adding that the "nature" of conversions has changed. Conversions to marry have long been common enough in France, but a growing number of young people are now seen as converting to be better socially integrated in neighborhoods where Islam is dominant.

The spacious and elegant modern Sahaba mosque in Créteil, built in 2008 in the heart of a middle-class suburb of southeast Paris, is known as "the mosque of the converts." Every year about 150 Muslim conversion ceremonies are performed. Among those who come for Friday prayer are numerous young former Roman Catholics.



The Sahaba mosque in Créteil

In Marseille, on the southern coast, "conversions have increased at an incredible pace in the last three years," said Abderrahmane Ghoul, the imam of the major mosque of Marseille and the president of the local branch of the French Council of the Muslim Faith. Mr. Ghoul signed about 130 conversion certificates in 2012.

In some predominantly Muslim areas, even non-Muslims observe Ramadan, the Muslim holy month that requires fasting during the day, because they like "the group effect, the festive side of it," said Samir Amghar, a sociologist and an expert on radical Islam in Europe. For Mr. Amghar, Islam provides more structure and discipline than other religions. It is a way to "refuse modernism," get back to a society with more family values and a clearer distinction between men and women. "Islam has a peaceful effect on the converts," Mr. Amghar said. "The world looks clearer after they've converted."

Hassen Chalghoumi, the moderate imam of Drancy, another suburb near Paris, says he thinks conversions have also been propelled by France's official secularism, which he says breeds spiritual emptiness. "Secularism has become antireligious," Mr. Chalghoumi said. "Therefore, it has created an opposite phenomenon. It has allowed people to discover Islam."

Many experts note the influence of



Nicolas Anelka

impressive conversions

mosque of the converts

non-Muslims observe Ramadan

men and women

world looks clearer

celebrity converts, particularly soccer players. Nicolas Anelka, who played on the French national team and whose parents came from Martinique, changed his name to Abdul-Salam Bilal Anelka when he converted to Islam in 2004. Franck Ribéry, a popular player from northern France, converted to Islam in 2006 to marry a Muslim woman, Wahiba, and took the name Bilal Yusuf Mohammed.

According to the report, many Muslims in France, however, say they regularly face prejudice by the government. They also consider a 2010 law banning the full-face veil (burqa) from public spaces and the growing concern with conversions as reflections of French intolerance. Paris has declared that any woman – French or foreigner – who wears a niqab or burqa in public will be fined 150 euros (NZ\$230) and those who force women to wear such covers will face a much larger fine and a prison sentence of up to two years.



Franck Ribéry



The banner reads, "Is the law against the veil, or against Islam?"

1 Yearly conversions to Islam double in France over 25 years: Report. Press TV, 4 February 2013. www.presstv.ir

2 More in France are turning to Islam, challenging a nation's idea of itself. New York Times, 3 February 2013. www.nytimes.com

YMWA corner: Remaining steadfast

The word *steadfast* means “fixed or unchanging; steady” or “firmly loyal or constant; unswerving”¹. Steadfastness in Islam is a basic requirement for every sincere Muslim who wants to follow the straight path with determination and understanding.

The struggle with steadfastness is common, not only in matters of religion but also in other worldly matters as well. Many of us start “new” things and find ourselves quickly falling short of our plans, and fail to be steadfast in our work, studies or personal goals. We are constantly affected by the gravities around us, whether it is other people’s perceptions, lack of support from friends, peers or parents, etc. Our surroundings can easily distract or deter us at any given point in time.

The question is “how do we remain steadfast?” Often the only time we consider this is prior to the start of the month of Ramadan. But when the exhaustion of the first couple of weeks starts to kick in, our heads drop and we start slowing down. Prayer on time, daily recitation of the Quran, or striving to be consistently serving an Islamic cause, may all start to take a back seat at a rapid pace.

The above has become the societal norm for Muslims even in steadfastness to Allah (swt). This is the unfortunate truth behind the types of temptations to which we are painfully exposed.

Therefore staying firm is no tranquil task. The Quran testifies to this and serves as a reminder, reflecting its importance in the life of a Muslim: “So stand firm and straight (on the religion of Islam) as you are commanded” (Surah Hud 11:112).

Remaining steadfast is not a contemporary struggle, it’s not something that TV, video games, Facebook and friends make more difficult. It is an internal struggle that Muslims have faced since the early rise of Islam.

Ultimately the stronger the Muslims, the tougher their tests will be. The Prophets (as) went through the toughest of trials and yet they remained steadfast. So how do we strengthen our iman so that we too have absolute faith? It is easy to have our faith swayed and we need to be conscious of the level of our faith.

In order to remain steadfast and improve ourselves, we need to realise the states we are in which cause us to lose steadfastness, and when we identify these we may then remain patient in whatever state we are going through.

Let us question ourselves and see if we may be in any of the following scenarios that bring into light certain situations that shake our beliefs.

Being put off by others or the environment

A person loves getting closer to Allah and views Islam as something very beautiful. Every day he is full of motivation and enthusiasm. Life is rosy and full of happiness. Then, something happens and shakes his beliefs. While he is in these initial stages, a Muslim person comes and offends or insults him and he says “This put him off”.

Surat Al-Haj (22:11) captures this scenario perfectly: “And among mankind is he who worships Allah as it were, upon the edge (i.e. in doubt): if good befalls him, he is content therewith; but if a trial befalls him, he turns back on his face (i.e. reverts back to disbelief). He loses both this world and the Hereafter.”

This ayah shows the character of a person who if good befalls him he is

*remaining
steadfast*

internal struggle

misfortune

pleased and heads in the way of Islam, but once an affliction or hardship befalls him, he wavers becoming skeptical and going in the way of disbelief (kufr). We must never stop our spirituality because of changes in our lives, whether good or bad.

Closeness only when you need or want something

An individual starts becoming more religious because he wants something from Allah (swt). Allah gives this thing (marriage, an exam result, a job, etc) that he wants, and then he begins to lose sight of his religion.

Another beautiful example from the Quran is revealed in Surat Al-Tawbah (9:75-77): "And of them are some who made a pledge with Allah (saying): 'If He bestowed on us of His bounty, we will verily give sadaqah and will be certainly among those who are righteous.' Then when He gave them of His bounty, they became measly (refused to pay the sadaqah) and turned away, averse. So He punished them by putting hypocrisy into their hearts till the Day whereon they shall meet Him, because they broke that (promise with Allah) and because they used to tell lies."

The ayahs above show how the hypocrites broke their covenants with Allah which enjoined them to spend money in charity, and never held their promise, rather being miserable with no ethical codes to observe. Never promise Allah, and then turn down your promise or your commitment towards Him.

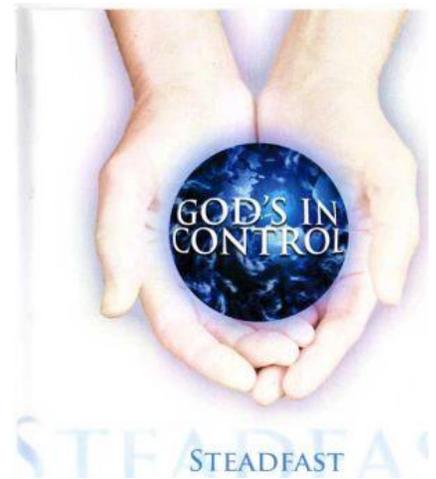
Performing acts without the flavour

A pious person who has been a practising Muslim for many years may unfortunately no longer taste or savour the flavour of Iman. This is an example of losing steadfastness.

The reason is that one may start praying out of habit and keep longing for the old days. He states, speaking to other people, "In the past, when I went through this and that, I used to pray with so much piety and feeling. I used to cry and weep while praying." Where are the tears and piety now? The spirit and the feeling that one associates with Islam is now gone.

Allah reminds us of this in Surat Al-Hadid: "Has not the time come for the hearts of those who believe (in the Oneness of Allah – Islamic Monotheism) to be affected by Allah's Reminder (this Quran), and that which has been revealed of the truth, lest they become as those who received the Scripture (the Taurat (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel)) before (ie Jews and Christians), and the term was prolonged for them and so their hearts were hardened? And many of them were Fasiqun (the rebellious, the disobedient to Allah)" (Quran 57:16).

The ayah is speaking to those of the believers who verbally professed the faith and joined the followers of the Prophet (saw) though their hearts were devoid of any concern for Islam. They were made targets of persecution everywhere in Arabia and were fleeing to Madinah empty-handed for refuge, yet still, their hearts were not being moved at all. At this crucial time, Allah is asking the believers whether it is not yet time for your hearts to melt at the mention of Allah and be filled with the spirit of sacrifice for the sake of His religion. It also reminds us that the Jews and Christians seem to have lost their spirituality hundreds of years after the passing away of their prophets. At the time of the revelation, the Prophet (saw) was present and the book was still being



revealed, yet have the Muslims already reached the state that those before took centuries to reach?

The dunya

There are people that approached Allah very strongly, and with a lot of sincerity but then the daily grind of this world (the Dunya) takes them and, when he hears about the good cause, he says 'In the golden days I used to follow the cause. I was very passionate about it talking to everyone who would listen.' He then starts working, gets married, starts having children, and working more hours. Other matters of the dDunya start taking precedence.

Allah (swt) says in Surat Al-Tawbah: "O you who believe! What is the matter with you, that when you are asked to march forth in the cause of Allah (ie jihad) you cling heavily to the earth? Are you pleased with the life of this world rather than the Hereafter?" (Quran 9:38).

It is important to remember the types of steadfastness. They come in different colours, shapes and sizes. They are all combined in one ayah, an ayah that talks to a person who was an owner of a cause that he deserted. Allah says in Surat Al Nahl, "And be not like her who undoes the thread which she has spun after it has become strong" (16:92).

What does 'undoing her thread' mean? Imagine a woman that has been threading or stitching a jersey, on and on and on, and then finally there is one more knot left to tie and finish it off. Instead she pulls the thread unravelling all that she strove to achieve. Can you now see the meaning of lacking steadfastness?

How to remain steadfast

There are many practical ways to remain steadfast such as doing good deeds, finding things to inspire you, and making dhikr. These can be achieved by planning ahead, ie setting SMART goals (goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely), having pure intentions, thinking about the Akhirah and understanding your purpose in this Dunya. Below are further examples mentioned in the Quran.

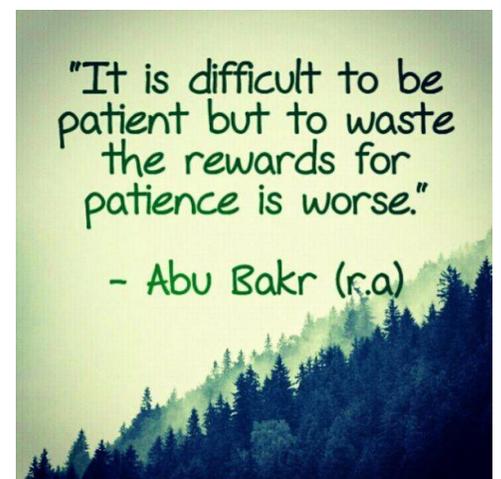
Learning stories of the prophets

Start by sharing and reading stories of the way the Prophets (as) held on to their religion (deen). Research their history and read biographies of those before you. By doing so, you may find a solution to the best way to hold onto your own deen. They help put things into perspective, inspire and motivate us to imitate the best of role models. Surat Hud reveals to us, "And all that We relate to you (O Muhammad) of the news of the Messengers is in order that We may make strong and firm your heart thereby" (Quran 11:120).

Seeking Allah through patience

It was also said, that if you wish to hold firm to your deen, then you need to hold on to your patience. There is no steadfastness until you are patient. As revealed in Surat Al-Baqarah, "O you who believe! Seek help in patience and prayer. Truly! Allah is with the patient." (Quran 2:153).

Remaining steadfast is only through Allah's assistance. As shown in Surat Al-Isra, "And



had We not made you stand firm, you would nearly have inclined to them a little" (Quran 17:74).

Befriending righteous people

Surround yourselves with people who encourage and remind you about your deen. As mentioned in Surah Al-Kahf: "And keep yourself (O Muhammad) patiently with those who call on their Lord (ie your companions) morning and afternoon, seeking His Face; and let not your eyes overlook them"(Quran 18:28).

If we do not befriend the right people, you will fall for the glamour of the Dunya.

Working for the sake of Islam

Allah supports those who follow to strive in the cause of Islam as the following ayah from Surat Mohamed eloquently states: "O you who believe! If you help (in the cause of) Allah, He will help you, and make your foothold firm" (Quran 47:7).

We can use our particular skills for the sake of Islam. "You are the best of people raised from mankind" (Quran 3:110); because of what you do and how you affect others. Getting involved also makes you feel like you belong. Try volunteering at a Muslim organisation, clean a prayer space, circulate Islamic YouTube links, etc.

Read the Quran and understand it

The Quran is the key, as it is the only miracle left for us. Try and learn Arabic or read with tafseer so that you understand the context of the ayah. Build connections and start applying the Quran in your own life. If we do this we will understand what Allah (swt) wants. For example in Surah Yusuf we see that negative things happened, yet Yusuf (as) was patient. Further where there are stories we like, we should try to memorise these sections of the Quran. If we can relate to what we are reciting, we feel closer to Allah and we develop a stronger connection.

Stand firm and straight as commanded by holding on firmly in steadfastness to Allah's commandments.

1 www.thefreedictionary.com

Talks by Yasmin Mogahed

International speaker Yasmin Mogahed is, insha Allah, coming to Auckland and giving three public talks (see the posters below). Note that tickets are on sale for two of the talks. Any enquiries should be directed to shilan.co.nz or Ali Tahir (021 675 929).

Yasmin Mogahed received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and her Masters in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After completing her graduate work, she taught Islamic Studies and worked as a writing instructor for Cardinal Stritch University, and a staff columnist for the Islam section of InFocus News. Currently she's an international speaker and a writer for the Huffington Post, as well as an instructor for New Dawn Institute. She also hosts Serenity, her show on One Legacy Radio and maintains her website, yasminmogahed.com.

A poster for a lecture titled "GRATITUDE TO THE MERCIFUL" by Sister Yasmin Mogahed. The background is a landscape with mountains and a bright sun setting or rising. The text is white and black. There are icons for a location pin, a crescent moon, and a ticket.

**GRATITUDE
TO THE
MERCIFUL**

LECTURE BY
INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SPEAKER
SISTER YASMIN MOGAHED

AT THE CROWNE PLAZA

WEDNESDAY 24 April 2013
6pm

Tickets available from
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The
diseases
of the
HEART
and their
cures



LECTURE
BY SISTER
**YASMIN
MOGAHED**



University of Auckland



22 APRIL at 6.30pm



Tickets available from
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FOR MORE DETAILS
CONTACT ALI TAHIR, 021675929

JOURNEY TO ALLAH

LECTURE

BY INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SPEAKER
SISTER YASMIN MOGAHED



**AT MAHTMA GHANDI CENTRE
145 NEW NORTH ROAD, MT EDEN**



**TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2013
AT 6.30PM**



FREE

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT ALI TAHIR ON 021675929

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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)

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

6 & 10 April

Quran 112: 1-5

LECTURE: Explanation of Surah Al Falaq (the daybreak) by Abu Hamzah

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 2 part 3 by Harun Yahya

TID BITS: Dawah by Sheikh Yusuf Estes

MY PATH TO ISLAM: Sister Leila Ahmad

13 & 17 April

Quran 29: 19-20, 46: 3, 7: 54

LECTURE: Scientific proofs for the scientists by Sheikh Yusuf Estes

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 2 part 4 by Harun Yahya

No Stone Unturned: Qadr (predestination) by Sheikh Bilal Dannoun

20 & 24 April

Quran 4: 131-134

LECTURE: Passing the torch by Imam Said Rageah

TID BITS: Shirk by Sheikh Yusuf Estes

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 3 part 1 by Harun Yahya

27 April & 1 May

Quran 4: 135-136

LECTURE: Race to forgiveness by Abdul Hakim Quick

MY PATH TO ISLAM: by Muhammad Grant

DOCUMENTARY: Miracles of the Quran 3 part 2

Watch VOI online, or order a free copy of the Quran: www.voitv.org



Auckland prayer timetable for April 2013

(from www.islamicFinder.org. For other cities in New Zealand, see www.fianz.co.nz).

*“The metaphor of the five prayers is that of a sizeable flowing river at the door of one of you in which he washes five times every day.”
(hadith)*

Date	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr1	Asr2	Maghrib	Isha
1	6:09	7:33	1:26	4:45	5:34	7:18	8:38
2	6:10	7:34	1:25	4:43	5:32	7:16	8:35
3	6:11	7:35	1:25	4:42	5:30	7:14	8:34
4	6:12	7:36	1:25	4:41	5:29	7:13	8:32
5	6:13	7:37	1:24	4:40	5:28	7:11	8:31
6	6:14	7:38	1:24	4:39	5:27	7:10	8:29
NB: Put clocks back one hour for the end of daylight savings (winter time)							
7	5:14	6:39	12:24	3:37	4:25	6:07	7:28
8	5:15	6:40	12:23	3:36	4:24	6:05	7:26
9	5:16	6:40	12:23	3:35	4:22	6:04	7:25
10	5:17	6:41	12:23	3:34	4:21	6:03	7:24
11	5:18	6:42	12:22	3:33	4:20	6:01	7:22
12	5:18	6:42	12:22	3:33	4:20	6:01	7:22
13	5:19	6:44	12:22	3:31	4:17	5:59	7:20
14	5:20	6:45	12:22	3:30	4:16	5:57	7:18
15	5:21	6:46	12:21	3:29	4:15	5:56	7:17
16	5:22	6:47	12:21	3:28	4:14	5:54	7:16
17	5:23	6:47	12:21	3:27	4:12	5:53	7:14
18	5:23	6:48	12:21	3:26	4:11	5:52	7:13
19	5:24	6:49	12:21	3:25	4:10	5:51	7:12
20	5:25	6:50	12:20	3:24	4:09	5:49	7:11
21	5:26	6:51	12:20	3:23	4:08	5:48	7:10
22	5:26	6:52	12:20	3:22	4:06	5:47	7:08
23	5:27	6:53	12:20	3:21	4:05	5:45	7:07
24	5:28	6:53	12:20	3:20	4:04	5:44	7:06
25	5:29	6:54	12:19	3:19	4:03	5:43	7:05
26	5:29	6:55	12:19	3:18	4:02	5:42	7:04
27	5:29	6:55	12:19	3:18	4:02	5:42	7:04
28	5:31	6:57	12:19	3:16	4:00	5:39	7:02
29	5:32	6:58	12:19	3:15	3:58	5:38	7:01
30	5:32	6:59	12:19	3:14	3:57	5:37	7:00

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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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)