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Rocket Science

September 2018

Thul-hijjah 1439, Muharram 1440



In the name of Allah,
 most Gracious, most Merciful

Islamic New Year 1440

Islamic New Year 1440 will, insha Allah, fall in September. Muslims do not celebrate the beginning of a new year, in the sense that people celebrate a Western new year on 31 December / 1 January.

However, Islamic New Year can be taken as a time to acknowledge the passing of time, to take time to reflect on our own mortality, and to remember those who have passed away during the previous year.

Being a lunar calendar, the Islamic year consists of 12 months of 29 or 30 days. In the Quran, Allah (swt) states, "The number of months in

the sight of Allah is twelve (in a year) – so ordained by Him the day He created the heavens and the earth" (Quran 9:36) and "It is He Who made the sun to be a shining glory, and the moon to be a light of beauty, and measured out stages for it, that you might know the number of years and the count of time" (Quran 10:5).

The whole lunar (moon-based) year is thus about 11 days shorter than the common solar (sun-based) Gregorian year. The Islamic calendar is the official calendar in many Muslim countries, especially Saudi Arabia.



Are we really united?

This article looks at how we, as an ummah, must stay united to be strong and victorious against our enemies. There's a famous story (parable) that we will go through. You may have read it before, but there are some very important lessons we can learn from it. The story goes like this:

Parable of the cows

There were four cows. One of them was white and the other three were black. They used to live in a dangerous area surrounded by wolves. The way they protected themselves was that they were always together, they would stick together, watch out for each other, everyone was keeping an attentive eye, and they survived, even though the area was surrounded by wild beasts.

But the three black cows had a meeting one day. And they said, "This white cow is giving us away. When we try to hide at night, because we are black no-one can see us, but the enemy is able to see the white cow, so why don't we just let him go? The three of us will be together and let's just let the white cow go away because he is just too much trouble." So from that day on, the three black cows would be on one side and the poor white cow was alone. They boycotted the white cow.

The wolf is very intelligent. He was able to detect the disunity that was amongst these cows. So he made his move and he attacked the white cow, and while he was devouring his flesh, the three black

cows were doing nothing. They were watching it, while their brother was being torn to pieces.

But the following night, the wolf attacked the three black cows. Why? Because now there was one cow short, so they were not as strong as they were the day before. Because they let down their brother white cow, now the wolf attacked them and was able to snatch away one of the black cows. And now there were only two left.

So the following night, it was even easier for the wolf because only two were left, so he ate one of them. And then on the final night there was only one cow left and the cow was trying frantically to run away from the wolf, but now the cow had no supporter and no helper. So, the wolf pursued it with confidence and knew this cow would get tired and fall down, and there was nothing the cow could do.

With nobody to help him, the wolf was walking around very happily with confidence, and he pounced on the cow and grabbed it by the neck, and while he did that and the cow was pronouncing his last words, he made a very important statement, a statement that is a great lesson that we can learn from. This black cow said, while he was dying, "I was eaten, the day the white cow was eaten. I had signed on my execution form, the day I allowed the white cow to be eaten. That's when I died. I didn't die now, I didn't die today. I died when I allowed the wolf to eat the white cow."

Allah (swt) says in the Quran (3:103), "And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided."

There are three main lessons to learn from this story.

1 The ummah today

The above story is a very good reflection of our ummah today. Our fellow brothers in countries such as Syria, Yemen, Palestine, etc, are being attacked and killed and we are doing nothing, sitting back and watching the show. We have witnessed one nation fall after another from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, to Libya, and Yemen. We are watching our fellow brothers and sisters in Myanmar being chased out of their homes, with nowhere to go. They are being killed for no reason other than being Muslims. What is our reaction?

We are large in numbers (about a quarter of the world's population is Muslim), but we are weaker than ants. We need to unite and have a common voice. We need to look after our fellow brothers and sisters who are suffering while we are watching from the safety of our TV couches at home. At the very least, we need to feel in our hearts for what's going on out there. We are humans and we need to have an emotional connection with these people. They are, after all, our brothers and sisters in Islam. We should empathise with them from the bottom of our hearts!

2 United we stand, divided we fall

We continue to make the same mistakes year on year, decade on decade. We don't appear to learn from our lessons. Instead we turn a blind eye to these events around



us. The saying goes "United we stand, divided we fall". How much of this is true? Are we really united?

The Prophet (saw) said, 'The similitude of believers in regard to mutual love, affection, fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever' (Sahih Muslim). The Prophet (saw) is saying that, when the finger is injured, or the foot is injured, the whole body pains. When a virus or bacteria attacks our lungs, the whole body catches fever. The body, as a whole body, tries to eradicate it, so that the lungs can function normally again; or the foot recovers so that the body can walk again; or the finger operates as usual so that we can pick up food and feed the body. They all act together in an effort to solve a problem that appears to be isolated to one part of the body.

So as Muslims, when our brothers and sisters in the East, West, North or South are falling, we need to feel the same pain as we would feel if it were our own family. If we are only concerned about our immediate family and leave the rest of our ummah out, then there is something wrong. We then cannot call ourselves part of the whole body.



Health check

We need to have a health check of ourselves. The Prophet (saw) is saying that it doesn't matter whether we are split into different states, madhhabs, or groups, so long as we are Muslims. A Muslim is a person who believes in Allah (swt) as the only God, and is not a deviant. We then need to act as an ummah, one that feels the pain when one part of it is affected.

Sometimes we feel that "Only I and my group are Muslim". We may belong to Tawhid Jamaat, Tabligh Jamaat; we may be a Sunni, Shia, or a Sufi; we may be following a particular madhhab such as Hanafi or Shafi. However, we cannot restrict our definition of a Muslim just to those circles. When you cannot prove that a person is a kafir, he is by definition a Muslim. When you don't have evidence that he is an apostate (a person who has left Islam), he is a Muslim, whether he belongs to certain group, madhhab or sect. Regardless of his ideology, he is a Muslim. That is unity.

"Everyone will be with those whom he loves"

Abdullah narrated that the Prophet said, "Everyone will be with those whom he loves" (Sahih Bukhari). On the day of judgement, we will be resurrected with the one whom we love. When we love the kuffar in this world, whether it be the pop star, president, or influencer, you will be resurrected with those whom you loved. If you love the kuffar, you will be with them on the day of judgement. Likewise, if we love our fellow Muslim brothers, we will be with them. That's how Allah (swt) has designed it and how it works.

That's why the Prophet (saw) said that on the Day of Judgement, "Allah will tell the people, 'Follow the gods you used to worship.'" So, whoever used to worship the cross will follow the cross, and whoever used to worship an idol will follow that idol. What Allah (swt) is telling them is that if you didn't worship me, then don't expect me to give you the rewards or help you in the Hereafter. He will say, "Go and get help from those idols and false gods that you used to worship."

Allah (swt) will then put these false gods into the fire and the people who used to worship them will follow. As you did what you did for the sake of somebody else, you will need to ask the reward from the other god. And there is no God but Allah (swt).

3 Consequences of betrayal

Abdullah bin Umar narrated that Allah's Apostle said, "A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, so he should not oppress him, nor should he hand him over to an oppressor. Whoever fulfilled the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfil his needs; whoever brought his (Muslim) brother out of a discomfort, Allah will bring him out of the discomforts of the Day of Resurrection, and whoever screened a Muslim, Allah will screen him on the Day of Resurrection" (Sahih Bukhari).

The three black cows in the story handed over the white one to the enemy. To truly look after ourselves – and we are not talking about our fallen brothers – we need to stop that. As soon as we allow a fellow Muslim brother to be taken, Allah will not help us anymore.



"Whoever brought his (Muslim) brother out of a discomfort, Allah will bring him out of the discomforts of the Day of Resurrection". This is the path we need to be following so that we will succeed both in this world and the next.

We need the help of the Almighty to succeed; that is a given. But we need to ensure that we put in our efforts and leave the rest to Allah (swt). We don't want to be in a situation in the hereafter where Allah (swt) will hold us accountable. If we want the assistance of Allah (swt) on our side, jump to the help of a fellow Muslim brother. Don't let him down in the misguided belief that by handing him over we can be safe. The enemy will carry on just like the cows in the story.

Conclusion

To be successful in this world and in the Hereafter, and to be safe on the Day of Judgement, we need to be standing up together, united, as one family: Muslim with Muslim as one ummah, one nation irrespective of our country, colour, race or tribe. United we stand, divided we will fall.

What are the chances?

An article appeared in the November 2014 issue of *Rocket Science*¹ arguing that solar eclipses were a sign of a Creator, because they rely on several features whose occurrence together is beyond the realm of coincidence.

1. The Moon and Sun must be at the right distances relative to each other.
2. The Moon and Sun must be the right sizes relative to each other. As a result of #1 and 2, a ring of light (corona) is left around the circumference.
3. The Moon must be in a similar (but not quite equal) orbital plane to that of the Earth. Otherwise, there would be a solar eclipse every month.
4. The Moon's shadow must not be so large that it completely obliterates the Sun's light from the whole of the Earth's surface. Otherwise, it would be very disruptive to life on earth.

What are the chances that these factors all happened at the same time by coincidence?

Life on earth

A similar argument can be made

for the fact that the Earth contains a number of features, all of which have to be present at the same time for life as we know it to be possible². "Life as we know it" includes the many forms of plant life, as well as the many forms of animal life, including human beings like you and me. This balance between many factors is therefore essential for human beings to be able to exist on Earth.

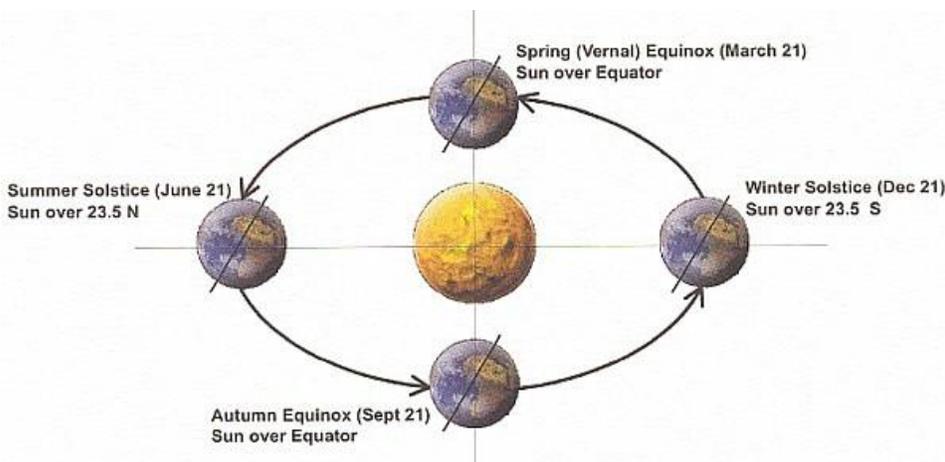
The position of the Earth

1 Distance of the Earth from the Sun

The Earth is about 150 million km from the Sun on average³. Because the orbit of the Earth is not perfectly circular, this distance varies between 147 and 152 million miles. This, however, is a relatively minor variation, and the average temperature of the Earth is not changed appreciably. If, on the other hand, the distance between the Earth and the Sun were much greater or smaller than this, then temperatures would be much warmer or cooler, and life on Earth would not exist.

2 The inclination of the Earth

The Earth revolves around the Sun. Also the Earth itself spins on its own axis, giving us day and night. However, the Earth's axis of rotation is not at right angles to its axis of rotation around the Sun. Instead, it is at an angle of 23 degrees. As a result parts of the Earth are slightly closer and therefore warmer at certain times of year, and conversely slightly further and cooler at others. In other words, the Earth has seasons.



Is the 23-degree angle critical? If the inclination were more or less than 23 degrees, the variation between the seasons would be more extreme, leading to unbearably hot summers and unbearably cold winters. So, 23 degrees is the right angle for the pleasant alternation of the seasons to occur.

If the axis of the Earth's rotation were at right angles to the axis of rotation around the Sun, then there would be no seasons. Every time of year would have the same temperature and weather patterns.

3 Speed of rotation

At what speed does the Earth rotate on its own axis? It makes one rotation per day (24 hours). If we take as our reference point the Equator, which is the furthest point from the axis, the surface of the Earth rotates at 460 metres per second, or 1,670 km/h⁴. Other planets in the solar system have day and night, but they rotate at different speeds. As a result, the difference between daytime and nighttime temperatures varies. For instance, Mercury's equatorial rotational speed is only 10 km/h. Temperatures vary from -173 °C at night to 427 °C during the day.

Gases in the atmosphere

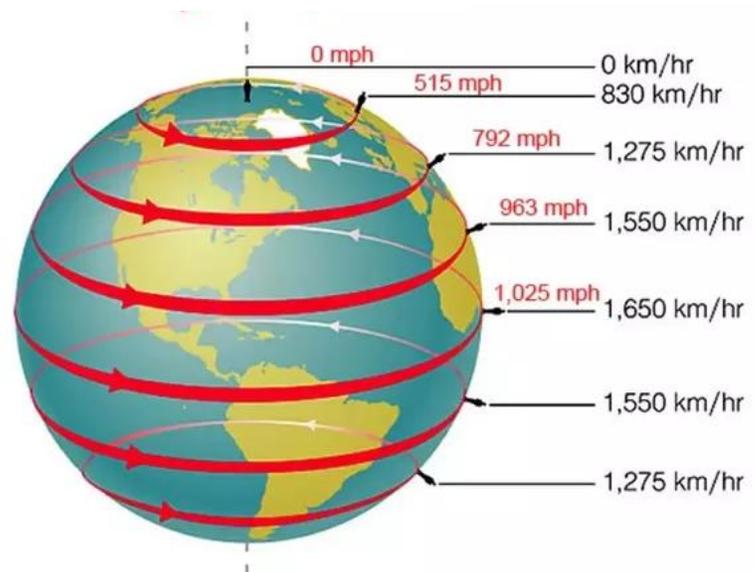
The gases in the atmosphere, and thus contained in the air we breathe, have to be in the right proportions for the Earth and life on Earth to be sustained. There are four main gases in the atmosphere: nitrogen (78%), oxygen (21%), argon (0.93%) and carbon dioxide (0.04%)⁵. Nitrogen

is known as a chemically unreactive or inert gas, that is, one that takes part in very few chemical reactions in specific conditions. Argon is one of six gases (helium, neon, argon, krypton, xenon and radon), known as the noble gases, that are similarly chemically unreactive. It is fortunate that they are unreactive because, for instance, if they could react (take part in chemical reactions) easily, the oceans would turn into nitric acid.

1 Oxygen

Oxygen (symbol O), however, is a reactive gas, that is, it takes part in chemical reactions easily. It is thus an important part of compounds such as water (H₂O) and carbon dioxide (CO₂), both vital for life on Earth.

Earth is the only planet known to have oxygen. And oxygen is an essential component of the air that humans and other animals breathe.



The percentage of oxygen in the atmosphere is 21%. If it were higher, oxidation would occur more quickly, rocks and metals would be eroded sooner, the Earth would erode, and life on Earth would be threatened. Vice versa, if the percentage were lower, breathing would become more difficult. Also, less ozone (O_3) would be produced. The ozone layer in the atmosphere is essential for shielding the surface of the Earth from ultraviolet rays, so a thinner ozone layer would also threaten mankind and other living beings.

2 Carbon dioxide

Carbon dioxide is present in the atmosphere in a small percentage (0.03%), but it plays a vital role in life on Earth. There is a continual recycling of oxygen and carbon dioxide by the two processes known as cellular respiration, and photosynthesis.

Cellular respiration is the technical term for breathing. Living

creatures, including mankind, breathe in air, including oxygen, and the oxygen is used to break down foods for energy. Carbon dioxide is produced as a waste product. Vice versa, plants synthesise carbohydrate molecules from carbon dioxide and water, thereby converting light energy into chemical energy. Oxygen is produced as a waste material.

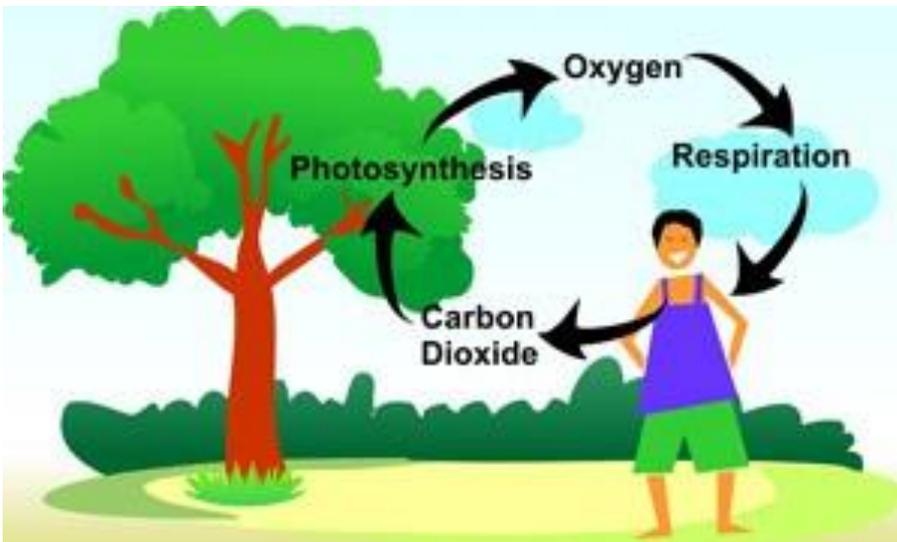
If the amount of carbon dioxide were less, the amount of plant life, both on land and in the sea, would be reduced. Plant life is necessary as a food source for animals including humans. The acidity of oceans would also rise, because of a decrease in the amount of bicarbonate. If the amount of carbon dioxide were greater, chemical erosion of the land would occur, leaving an alkali residue in the oceans. The greenhouse effect would increase, making the surface of the Earth hotter.

Conclusion

In short, the position and movement of the Earth, and the composition of its atmosphere are both as matter of fine balances. If any of the above positions, speeds and percentages were different, life on Earth would not be possible.

What is the probability of all the above positions, speeds and percentages being at exactly the right levels by chance?

In the Quran, Allah (swt) states, "Mankind! Worship your Lord, who created you and those before you, so that hopefully you will have taqwa. It is He who made the Earth a couch for you, and the sky a dome" (2:21-2).



Allah (swt) is the best dietician

In this newsletter, we have occasionally referred to the regular writings of Niki Bezzant, the *New Zealand Herald's* health and wellbeing correspondent. In a recent article¹, prompted by the NZ Cancer Society's fund-raising Daffodil Day on 31 August, she discussed what is known about cancer prevention.

Carcinogenic agents cause cancer, and they are classified into five groups²:

- 1 Carcinogenic to humans
- 2A Probably carcinogenic to humans
- 2B Possibly carcinogenic to humans
- 3 Not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans
- 4 Probably not carcinogenic to humans

While we may think of agricultural chemicals as being a major problem, they are in fact classified as 2A, not 1.

So what agents are classified as 1 "carcinogenic to humans", with "no doubt about it", as Bezzant writes? There are many substances that are no surprise, including arsenic, asbestos and plutonium, but also three food and drink items that non-Muslims may consume regularly.

Processed meats

While many meats may be processed, Bezzant mentions

common ones like "bacon, ham and cured sausages" and recommends that "to reduce our cancer risk we eat 'little, if any' processed meat, because of its links with colorectal cancer."

Thomas Lumley, Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Auckland, gives the alarming statistic that "eating an extra serving of bacon every day is estimated to increase your lifetime bowel cancer risk by a factor of 1.2."³

Smoking

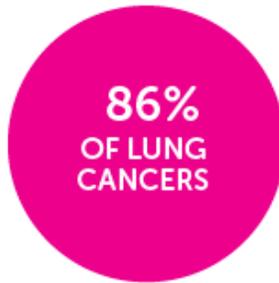
The argument has raged for centuries as to whether smoking is haram (forbidden) or merely makruh (discouraged) in Islam. Zakir Naik, the well-known scholar, has said that "tobacco, in any form like cigarettes, chewing gum, etc, is the second major cause of death, and several millions of people die every year due to smoking." The data for New Zealand, with a population of under five million, is that "around 5,000 people die each year in New Zealand because of smoking or second-hand smoke exposure. That's 13 people a day."⁴ Making appeal to the Quranic verse (2:195) instructing readers "Do not make your own hand cause your own destruction", Naik concludes that smoking is haram.

The graphic⁵ shows that smoking is more dangerous in terms of cancer than bacon and other processed and red meats.

TOBACCO vs MEAT WHAT'S THE RISK?

The **EVIDENCE** that processed meat causes cancer is as strong as the evidence for tobacco, but the **RISK** from tobacco is much higher...

CANCERS CAUSED BY TOBACCO

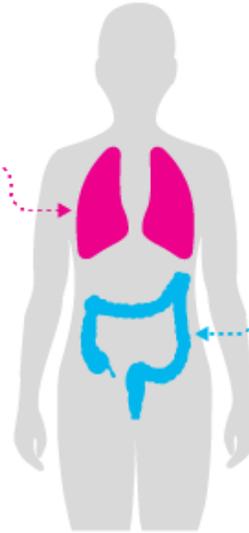


OF ALL CANCERS

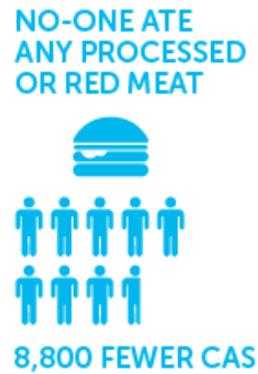
CANCERS CAUSED BY PROCESSED AND RED MEAT



OF ALL CANCERS



THE NUMBER OF CANCERS PER YEAR IN THE UK THAT COULD BE PREVENTED IF...



 = 1,000 PEOPLE

Source: cruk.org/cancerstats

Alcohol

Bezzant writes that "alcohol is linked with at least seven cancers, and the level of drinking that increases our cancer risk is lower than we'd probably like to hear." The Cancer Society says, "We are wise to limit alcohol or cut it altogether for lowest risk."

For alcohol, Professor Thomas Lumley says, "there isn't a 'safe level' from a cancer viewpoint."

This is supported by a very recent research project⁶ funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and published in *The Lancet*, one of the world's oldest, most prestigious, and best known general medical journals. The methodology of the research⁷ was that, "estimates of alcohol use and alcohol-attributable deaths and disability-adjusted life-years for 195 locations from 1990 to 2016" were produced. This is thus not a small-scale project: data from over a quarter a century, in 195 countries. It found that "out of 100,000 non-drinkers, 914 would develop an alcohol-related health problem such as cancer or suffer an injury. But an extra four people would be affected if they drank one alcoholic drink a day. For people who had two alcoholic drinks a day, 63 more developed a condition within a year and for those who consumed five drinks every day, there was an increase of 338 people, who developed a health problem. One of the study authors, Prof Sonia Saxena, a researcher at Imperial College London and a practising GP, said, 'One drink a day does represent a small increased risk, but adjust that to the UK population as a whole and it represents a far bigger number, and most people are not drinking just one drink a day ... Most of us in the UK drink

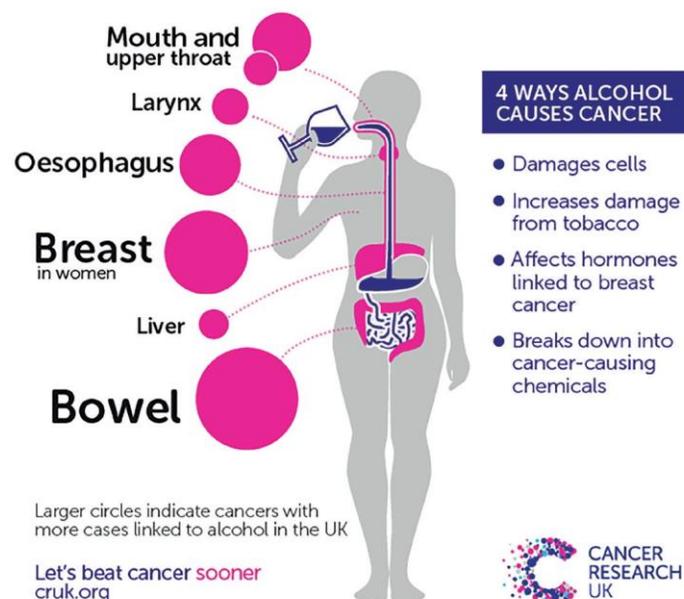
well in excess of safe limits, and as this study shows there is no safe limit.'

The lead author of the study, Dr Max Griswold, at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington, said, "Previous studies have found a protective effect of alcohol on some conditions, but ... the strong association between alcohol consumption and the risk of cancer, injuries, and infectious diseases offset the protective effects for heart disease in our study."⁶

The authors of the research conclude, "Alcohol use is a leading risk factor for global disease burden and causes substantial health loss. We found that the risk of all-cause mortality, and of cancers specifically, rises with increasing levels of consumption, and the level of consumption that minimises health loss is zero."⁷

ALCOHOL CAN CAUSE 7 TYPES OF CANCER

Drinking less alcohol could **prevent 12,800 cancer cases** per year in the UK.



Conclusion

It should not surprise Muslim readers that the above three items are singled out as food and drink that are normal for some people, but that are classified as cancer-causing carcinogens. Allah (swt) stated the dangers of these foods and drinks 14 centuries ago in the Quran.

“He has only forbidden you carrion, blood, pig’s meat, and animals over which any name other than God’s has been invoked” (2:173).

“O you who believe! Intoxicants (all kinds of alcoholic drinks), gambling, Al-Ansab, and Al-Azlam (arrows for seeking luck or decision) are an abomination of Shaitan's handiwork. So avoid (strictly all) that (abomination) in order that you may be successful” (5:90).

Avoiding alcohol, processed meats and smoking is one factor, among many, for a healthy lifestyle. The Cancer Society concludes, “We can still have a healthy life that includes steak and wine, although we are wise to limit alcohol or cut it altogether for lowest risk. We can also lower our cancer risk by eating a diet high in fruit and vegetables and low in saturated fat and sugar; being a healthy weight; being regularly physically active and being sun smart.”¹

And Allah (swt) knows best (Allahu alam).

1 Simple steps to cut your cancer risk. NZ Herald 19 August 2018. www.nzherald.co.nz/health-wellbeing/news/article.cfm?c_id=1501238&objectid=12107518

2 monographs.iarc.fr/agents-classified-by-the-iarc/

3 Thomas Lumley (May 25, 2018) Does bacon prevent cancer? www.statschat.org.nz/2018/05/25/does-bacon-prevent-cancer/

4 New Zealand Ministry of Health. Health effects of smoking. www.health.govt.nz/your-health/health-living/addictions/smoking/health-effects-smoking

5 Thomas Lumley (27 October, 2015). Bacon cancer roundup. www.statschat.org.nz/2015/10/27/bacon-cancer-roundup/

6 Laurel Ives (24 August 2018). No alcohol safe to drink, global study confirms. BBC News. www.bbc.com/news/health-45283401

7 Alcohol use and burden for 195 countries and territories, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016. *The Lancet*, 23 August 2018. [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)31310-2/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)31310-2/fulltext)



Successes of the BDS movement

2018 marks 70 years since the Nakba (“Catastrophe”) when indigenous Palestinians faced mass expulsion from their homes to establish a Jewish-majority settler-colonial state.

The Boycott, Divest, Sanction (BDS) movement¹ highlighted 70 successes worldwide in 2018 of recognition of Palestinian rights. Here is a sample of this worldwide support.

Politics

The following people, organisations, city councils or countries expressed support for BDS by various measures:

- influential US Senator Patrick Leahy
- US Congresswoman Betty McCollum
- UK Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn
- Socialist International, an association of 140 global political parties
- Durham, North Carolina
- Dublin, Derry, Donegal, Galway and Monaghan (Ireland)
- Glasgow (Scotland)
- Barcelona, Valencia, Naples, Turin, Florence and Bologna (Spain)
- The BDS movement was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by a Norwegian parliamentarian. Norway gave a “green light” to boycotts of Israel’s illegal settlements built on Palestinian land.

The following countries summoned or expelled the Israeli ambassador:

- Belgium
- Ireland
- Luxembourg
- South Africa
- Turkey

Culture and sport

The following supported BDS by cancelling cultural and sporting events planned to take place in Israel:

- Musicians John Maus, Tyga, Fat Joe (all USA), Brian Eno, Richard Dawson, Gwenno (all UK), Shakira (Colombia), Natalia Oreiro (Uruguay), Gilberto Gil (Brazil)
- The Dublin Lord Mayor and Irish Eurovision winner Charlie McGettigan called for a boycott of the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest, to be hosted by Israel. Over 25,000 Icelanders sign a petition to boycott it.
- Actress Natalie Portman, who holds joint US and Israeli citizenship
- The Argentinian national football team
- Honda cancelled its Israeli-government sponsored event in Israel with racing star Joe Roberts. Roberts made it clear that he wouldn't have agreed to participate in the first place if he'd known that the race was initially set to take place in an illegal Israeli settlement.



Academic

Staff and/or students of the following academic institutions have expressed support for BDS.

- George Washington University, Barnard College (Columbia University), California State University - East Bay (all USA)
- University of Cambridge, University of Manchester (both England)
- National University of Ireland Galway, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Queen's University Belfast and Trinity College Dublin (all Ireland)
- University of Chile
- South African Students Congress
- Kasetsart University (Thailand)

Trade

- Adidas stopped sponsoring the Israel Football Association, which includes teams based in illegal Israeli settlements.
- French car rental giant Europcar shut down rental facilities run by its Israeli franchisee in illegal Israeli settlements.
- French firm Systra promised it is pulling out of a project to expand Israel's "Jerusalem Light Rail" linking illegal Israeli settlements to Jerusalem.
- 42 civil society organizations from six countries in Asia (Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, India & Pakistan) called on the United Nations to publish its database of companies operating in illegal Israeli settlements.
- A high-profile Turkish firm, Desbuild Limak D&K JV LLC, refused to help build the US embassy in Jerusalem.
- A Jordanian construction company, Dwairi Contracting, refused to sell materials to build a gas pipeline linking Jordan with Israel.
- 150 trade unions, parties, NGOs & faith groups across 16 European countries called on the European Union to stop funding Israeli arms companies.

By supporting the BDS movement for Palestinian rights, we are adhering to the principle of being a united ummah.

1 Top 70 Moments of Solidarity & BDS for Palestine in 2018.
bdsmovement.net/news/top-70-moments-solidarity-bds-palestine-2018

Umma Trust refugee youth leaders

In 2017, the Office of Ethnic Communities¹ supported Umma Trust² to set up a programme to empower refugee Muslim youth to become mentors and role models for refugee children and youth in their local community. A group of 29 youth mentors was selected, who helped 82 refugee youth from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia, Tigre, Southern Africa, and the Middle East, in a range of programmes including youth sport, academic mentoring, young women leaders and music & poetry. Each programme had its successes:

- The Olympic Ballers, the only Muslim refugee youth basketball team in a mainstream league in Auckland had one player selected for the Auckland under-19 Team, one player selected for the Auckland under-25 Team, and the team's success moved them into the A League.
- The Umma Trust team won the Ethnic Soccer Tournament for the Auckland Region.
- Two of the Umma Trust young women leaders were the only

young African women in Auckland represented in an inter-secondary schools' competition: *Word - the front line*. They were also included in TV3's Both Worlds film on Wax Poetic Slam.

- Academic mentoring enabled one of the participants to complete a Degree in Youth Development (Wellington Institute of Technology) and another to complete a Master's Degree in Public Policy (AUT).
- The Boys Blessed Movement (digital music and poetry programme) created their own clothing line and produced digital music and poetry called "Blessed Movement", with the slogan "The only way is up".
- There was an unexpected achievement of Mohamud Mohamed, who was the Co-ordinator of the academic mentoring programme. He was awarded the New Zealander of the Year 2018: Local Hero Award. Mohamud is now a Diversity and Engagement Advisor at the Office of Ethnic Communities.

1 ethniccommunities.govt.nz/story/building-positive-ethnic-community-leaders
2 www.ummatrust.co.nz



Northland Islamic Centre, Whangarei

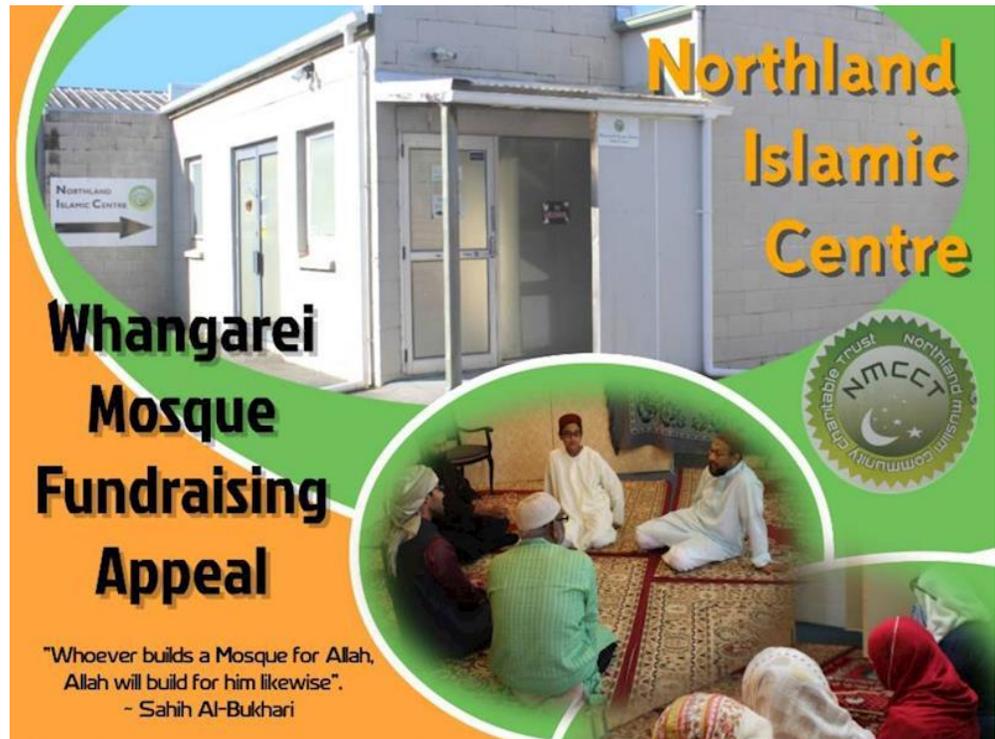
The Muslim community in Whangarei in Northland, New Zealand, need your help in raising funds to purchase a prayer space. The Northland Muslim Community Charitable Trust is a registered charitable trust in New Zealand under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957.

The fundraising is for a property that has been used as a prayer space and for other Islamic social activities for past nine years. This centre is the only prayer space from North Shore in Auckland up to the northern tip of New Zealand (Cape Reinga). The place has been serving the Muslim population in Northland and any travellers who travel north to visit Cape Reinga and surrounding regions. The current owner notified the centre that he intended to sell this

property and therefore an urgency arose to purchase the property. The property comes with two other rental units and it is envisaged that, in the short term, these rental units will provide income to support expenses and maintenance of the property, and in the long run will pave the way to expand the prayer space, insha Allah.

As at Eid ul-Adha this year, the centre had raised just over \$300,000. In other words, they need another \$50,000 before the purchase deadline of 20 December.

You can donate through a Give a Little page: givealittle.co.nz/cause/whangarei-mosque-fundraising. If you have any questions, please contact Br Imran Ali (+64 21516091) or Br Suhil Musa (+64 21 103 8722).



Australian Muslims pray for rain

Like New Zealand, Australia is an agricultural country heavily dependent on farming. However, many parts of eastern Australia are experiencing the worst drought in living memory. The state of New South Wales has been declared 100% in drought, and a drier-than-expected June and July has left many farmers with failing crops, a short supply of water and diminishing livestock feed.

According to the 2016 census, there are 604,000 Muslims in Australia. As they gathered for Eid prayer in August, they also offered a prayer for rain¹. The biggest gathering was at Lakemba Mosque in Sydney NSW, which was attended by some 30,000 Muslims. Sheikh Yahya Safi, Imam of Lakemba mosque, said, "May God send down rainfall. It is our duty to help Australians, especially the farmers."

The sentiment was appreciated by farmers. NSW Farmers spokesperson Kathleen Curry said, "I think it really touched the heart of our farmers during this period. Every little bit helps."

The grand Mufti of Australia, Ibrahim Abu Muhammad, said he encouraged the Australian Muslim community to work together in partnership with farmers.

"For they are our fellow human beings and our brothers. They are our partners in this country. What pains them pains us, and what harms them harms us."

Many mosques and Islamic centres across Australia have also used the holy festivities to raise funds for affected farmers and their families.

1 Muslims pray for rain for Australian farmers during religious holiday Eid al-Adha.
thenewdaily.com.au/news/national/2018/08/22/muslims-pray-rain-farmers-eid-al-adha



The overflow from Lakemba mosque offer Eid prayer and rain prayer in the adjacent streets

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)
- Face TV (SKYTV channel 83) in New Zealand (11.30 am Sat & 9.00 am Sun)
- Southern Television (Freeview Channel 39) in Dunedin and Southland (see TV guide for times)
- Mai TV (Fiji Broadcasting Corporation) in Fiji (9.00 am Sun)
- Metro TV in Ghana, West Africa (see TV guide for times)

2 September

Quran: 98: 1-5 Clear evidence of faith.

Animation 18: The final miracle.

Islamophobia series 2: 5. Why is disbelief in God the biggest sin in Islam?

Inspiration series 1: 05. Rules made to be broken.

Names of Allah 09: Al-Jamil.

Prophet Muhammad's character (PBUH).

9 September

Quran: 98: 1-5 Clear evidence of faith.

Animation 19: The devil pulls you slowly.

Islamophobia series 2: 6. Is it their fault they were born non-Muslim?

My hijab story.

Names of Allah 10: Al-Mu'min.

Documentary: Gates of heaven part 1.

16 September

Quran: 98: 1-5 Clear evidence of faith.

Animation 21: Are you arrogant? A test for the believer.

Islamophobia series 2: 7. If God is just why is life so unfair?

Inspiration series 1: 06. The women in our lives.

Documentary: Gates of heaven part 2.

23 September

Quran: 107: 1-7 Al-Ma'un.

Animation 22: Are you being abused?

Islamophobia series 2: 8. How can God hold us accountable if he is the one who guides or misguides?

Names of Allah 11: Al-Sittar.

Inspiration series 1: 07. Slippery surface.

Amazed by the Quran: 01. Allah is always near.

Tid Bits: Islam.

My hijab story.

30 September

Quran: 107: 1-7 Al-Ma'un.

Animation 23: Asking God for success in work, business & life.

Islamophobia series 2: 9. Why didn't God create everyone good?

Names of Allah 12: Al-Lateef.

Inspiration series 1: 08. Piety is here.

Amazed by the Quran: 02. Allah's boundless generosity.

The wrong motives of life.

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

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Auckland prayer timetable for September 2018

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

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

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

Asr 2: Hanafi school (double shadow length)

Allah has obligated five prayers. Whoever excellently performs their ablutions, prays them in their proper times, completes their bows, prostrations and khushu has a promise from Allah that He will forgive him. (Hadith Malik, Ahmad, Abu Dawud, al-Nasai)

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.

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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

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)