

Panjtan Society of Victoria

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COMMUNITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSTITUTION

The draft amended constitution has been completed by the Secretary and it's now with the Constitution Sub-Committee for their review and feed back. Once this is done and proposals implemented in the constitution, the third stage would be for the Managing Committee to have their chance to review and give their feedback. General Paid Members will then get a copy of the draft amended constitution for their input before calling a Special General Meeting for deliberation and passing the new amended constitution.

PSV MEDIATORS

Panjtan Society Managing Committee has appointed the following brothers to form "PSV Mediators". These mediators would be involved at times of conflict within Panjtan Society. Managing Committee on behalf of the community at large would like to thank these brothers for accepting to serve in this very important area. Their input and mediation services would help to keep peace and harmony within the community.

Please extend your full cooperation and assistance to the following brothers:

Br. Shabir Alidina
Dr Hasan Masood
Br Ilyas Malihi
Br Qasim Husain
Br.Asif Zafar
Br Malazim Husain
Br Musa R Naqvi

RAMADHAN IFTAR APPEAL

This year Panjtan Society collected \$1826.00 for Ramadhan Iftar Appeal. The collected funds have been remitted to World Federation for disposal to the needy Muslim families in the Sub-continent and Africa.

PSV would like to thank each and every one who donated towards this noble cause.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR PSV GROUP

PSV is currently in the process of creating a new email address for the PSV group and re-organising its email recipients list. In order to complete this task, the management would request all momineen and mominaat who are members to forward maximum of two emails per member (Home and Work) to secretary@panjtan.org.au that you want added to the Panjtan group email list.

Please ensure you send your 2 e-mail addresses to the Secretary by 31 Aug 2009.

PSV WEBSITE – www.panjtan.org.au

As you all know a lot of work has been put in to maintain and update the Panjtan website by our IT team, PSV management committee would like to invite all to send in serious suggestions on how to improve the website. It has been decided by the committee to use the website as the primary source of communication for the community at large. Emails will only be used in extreme emergency issues. Please do not hesitate to provide your feedback to feedback@panjtan.org.au. All recommendations will be considered and carefully decided for feasibility and relevance.

Br ALI KHALFAN VISITING FROM SYDNEY

Br Ali Khalfan, who is a qualified and practicing Architect will be visiting Panjtan Centre from 12 Sep (22 Ramadhan) to 21 Sep (1 Shawwal). Br Khalfan who was born In Zanzibar and raised in Kenya, East Africa and has been residing in USA since 1982 and has recently settled in Sydney.

Br Khalfan is excellent in giving lectures on Tafsir-e-Quran in English and his presence will benefit all community members and especially the youths, Madressa Admin team and Madressa Teachers. Various sessions will be organised between Br Khalfan and Youths, Madressa Admin/Teachers.

Br Khalfan is presently running and managing the tafseer almizan website and two other sites all on the Qur'an. He will be giving lectures on Tafsir-e-Quran at the Centre every night from 12 Sep 09 to 20 Sep 2009. Full program will be released as the time gets closer.

Note: Br Khalfan is NOT a Maulana and he will not lead Namaaz, Recite Majlises or Conduct Aamal.

WORLD FEDERATION ELECTIONS

Saturday 5 Sep 2009

As per clause 7.1 of the SOP for Electing the President of The World Federation of KSIMC, the World federation has set the following dates for the Election of the post of The President of The World Federation for the next term of three years 2009-2012.

- Thursday, 3 September 2009
- Friday, 4 September 2009
- Saturday, 5 September 2009 (Panjtan Society will hold their election on this day)
- Sunday, 6 September 2009 and
- Monday, 7 September 2009.

These dates will correspond to 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 Mahe Mubarak Ramadhan 1430 depending on the sighting of the moon.

1. The election must take place in all member Federations and Jamaats on one of these five days without exception.
2. Members and constituent Jamaats must choose one of the above dates [Gregorian calendar] and inform me of it by 14 July 2009.
3. The dates chosen and as advised to me cannot be changed without my prior permission.
4. The Commission will send each member and its constituent Jamaats the list of eligible voter's from the Electoral Register along with the requisite number of ballot papers which must be the vehicle to cast the vote.
5. The Returning Officer selected by each constituent member's Managing Committee will oversee the presidential elections and will be responsible for the counting of ballots and announcing the results locally.
6. The original ballot papers used to cast the vote and the eligible voters list along with result notification signed by the Returning Officers of the member Jamaat or Federation, must be sent by approved courier to the Electoral Commissioner at the Secretariat's address. As a recommended practice the election results from each member Federation or Jamaat should be submitted within 48 hours of the election taking place.
7. Proxy, Postal and all types of electronic voting will not be permitted.
8. The Officers to witness the counting of the votes from The World Federation appointed by the Councillors at their Eighth Meeting held in Paris on 3 May 2009 are Councillors Murtaza Bharwani and Councillor Sabira Lakha.
9. The Electoral Commission comprises of Amir Sonji [Electoral Commissioner], Shabir Mamdani [Member] and Saqlain Meghjee [Member].
10. The Electoral Commissioner will count the votes from all member Federations and Jamaats. The candidate receiving the largest aggregate of votes shall be declared the President-Elect.

ELECTION OFFICERS

Panjtan Society has nominated Br Tabish Zaidi as elections officer. He will be assisted by Br Irfan Naqvi and Br Abbas Abedi. More details on elections will be circulated when the date draws closer.

For further information regarding the candidates and their agenda, please visit the World Federation website via the following link:

http://www.world-federation.org/Election+2009/WF_Presidential_Election_term_2009_2012.htm

RELIGIOUS SECTION

Quick preparation for RAMADHAN

1. Start reading Quran daily after Salat al-Fajr.
2. Spend some time listening to recitations from the Quran.
3. Train yourself to go bed early so that you can wake up for Salat al-Fajr.
4. Keep yourself in a state of Wudhu (Ablution) most of the time.
5. Evaluate yourself daily before going bed.
6. Thank Allah for good deeds, and repent to Him for your mistakes and sins.
7. Start giving Sadaqah daily, no matter how little. Make it a habit like eating and drinking.
8. Find time to pray extras, such as Tahajjud prayers.
9. Spend more time reading Islamic books, especially the Quran, Hadith, and Fiqh.
10. Find time to help others with your wisdom, knowledge and other talents.
11. Train yourself to do good, render free service to others to seek the pleasure of Allah.

AVOID

Avoid watching TV

Avoid looking at undesirable pictures.

TRY TO

Be closer to your family and community.

Try to conclude the fast with your family and spend some quality time together.

Give gifts on Eid.

Donate generously.

Share month of Ramadan and its teachings of peace and patience with your neighbours.

Sleep little, eat little!

Weep in private for the forgiveness of your sins. It's never too late in Ramadhan!

Learn to control your tongue. Lying, backbiting, violate the Ramadan fast!

ON UNITY OF GOD

1- In Al-Mahasin it is narrated that Soleiman ibn Khalid narrated that Imam Sadiq (a.s) stated: "God said: "That to thy Lord is the final Goal" [The Holy Quran: Najm 53:42] Therefore you better stop any further inquiry whenever a speech ends with talk of God's essence."

2- In Al-Tawhid it is narrated that Ahmad ibn Abdullah al-Joybary narrated that during the trip to Marv, Imam Reza (a.s) reported on the authority of his father (a.s) on the authority of their fathers (a.s) on the authority of Imam Ali (a.s) that the Prophet of God (a.s) stated: "The reward for the one upon whom God has bestowed the blessing of Unity as a recompense is nothing other than Heaven."

3- Imam Sadiq (a.s) narrated on the authority of his father (a.s), on the authority of their fathers (a.s), on the authority of Imam Ali (a.s) on the authority of God's Prophet (a.s): "Whoever leaves this world and has not associated any partners with God will enter Heaven whether he has done some good deeds or some evil ones."

4- Ray'yan ibn al-Solt narrated that Imam Reza (a.s) quoted on the authority of his father (a.s), on the authority of their fathers (a.s) on the authority of Imam Ali (a.s) as having narrated that the Prophet of God (a.s) stated that God the Almighty said: "Whoever interprets My Words according to his own viewpoint has no faith in Me. And whoever considers Me to be similar to My creatures does not recognize Me. And whoever makes comparisons in my religion does not believe in My religion."

5- Davood ibn al-Qasim narrated that he heard Imam Reza (a.s) say: "Whoever compares God to His creatures is a polytheist. And whoever supposes that God is in a given place is an unbeliever. Whoever associates with God what He has admonished against is a liar." Then Imam Reza (a.s) recited this verse: "It is those who believe not in the Signs of God that forge falsehood: It is they who lie." [The Holy Quran: the Bee 16:105]

6- Abi Hashim al-Ja'fari said that he asked Imam Javad (a.s): "What does unity of God mean?" He replied: "Unity refers to what people with all different languages agree on."

7- A man asked a question from Imam Sadiq (a.s). In his reply the Imam (a.s) said: "In fact unity and justice are the foundations of religion. The amount of religious knowledge is extensive, and every sane person must acquire it. Therefore remember what will make it easier for you to attain this knowledge, and prepares you to retain it." Then the Imam (a.s) added: "Unity implies that you do not deem permissible with God what you deem permissible with yourself. And justice implies that you do not associate with God what He has reproached you for."

8- Abdul Aziz ibn al-Muhtadi said that when he asked Imam Reza (a.s) about Unity he replied: "Whoever recites: "Say: He is God, the One, and Only" [The Holy Quran: Ikhlas 112:2] and believes in it has recognized the concept of the Unity of God." He then asked the Imam (a.s): "How should one recite this verse." The Imam (a.s) said: "Recite it as other people do", and added: "plus saying "This is Allah, my Lord" three times."

9- Ibn-i-Abbas narrated that an Arab asked God's Prophet (a.s): "O' Prophet of God! Please teach me the fine points of science." The Prophet (a.s) asked: "What do you know of the main parts of science which allows you to ask me about its fine points?" The Arab asked: "O' Prophet of God! What is the main part of science?" The Prophet (a.s) replied: "It is recognition of God as He deserves to be recognized." The Arab asked: "How can one really recognize God?" The Prophet (a.s) replied:

"By recognizing that He is unique, and there is nothing else like Him. That He is the Only God. He exists inwardly and outwardly. He is the First and the Last. There is no match for Him, and nothing is similar to Him. This is how one may really get to know Him."

10- In Al-Mahasin it is narrated that Fazl ibn-i-Yahya said that he asked Imam Kazim (a.s) about Unity. He said: "Do not transgress beyond what is stated in the Quran, where God the Almighty said:

"If there were in the heavens and the earth, other gods besides God, there would have been confusion in both!" [The Holy Quran: Anbiyaa 21:22]

11- In Al-Irshad it is narrated that Imam Sadiq (a.s) said: "God the Almighty is not similar to anything, and nothing is similar to Him. He is different from whatever we can imagine."

GENERAL

THREE LESSONS

The Frogs:

A farmer came into town and asked the owner of a restaurant if he could use a million frog legs. The restaurant owner was shocked and asked the man where he could get so many frog legs! The farmer replied, "There is a pond near my house that is full of frogs - millions of them. They all croak all night long and they are about to make me crazy!" So the restaurant owner and the farmer made an agreement that the farmer would deliver frogs to the restaurant, five hundred at a time for the next several weeks. The first week, the farmer returned to the restaurant looking rather sheepish, with two scrawny little frogs. The restaurant owner said, "Well... where are all the frogs?" The farmer said, "I was mistaken. There were only these two frogs in the pond. But they sure were making a lot of noise!

"[Next time you hear somebody criticizing or making fun of you, remember, it's probably just a couple of noisy frogs. Also remember that problems always seem bigger in the dark. Have you ever laid in your bed at night worrying about things which seem almost overwhelming like a million frogs croaking? Chances are pretty good that when the morning comes, and you take a closer look, you'll wonder what all the fuss was about.]

The Turtles:

A turtle family decided to go on a picnic. Turtles, being naturally slow about things, took seven years to prepare for their outing. Finally the turtle family left home looking for a suitable place. During the second year of their journey they found a place ideal for them at last! For about six months they cleaned the area, unpacked the picnic basket, and completed the arrangements. Then they discovered they had forgotten the salt. A picnic without salt would be a disaster, they all agreed. After a lengthy discussion, the youngest turtle was chosen to retrieve the salt from home. Although he was the fastest of the slow moving turtles, the little turtle whined, cried, and wobbled in his shell. He agreed to go on one condition: that no one would eat until he returned. The family consented and the little turtle left. Three years passed and the little turtle had not returned. Five years... six years...then on the seventh year of his absence, the oldest turtle could no longer contain his hunger. He announced that he was going to eat and begun to unwrap a sandwich. At that point the little turtle suddenly popped out from behind a tree shouting, "See! I knew you wouldn't wait. Now I am not going to go get the salt.

"[Some of us waste our time waiting for people to live up to our expectations. We are so concerned about what others are doing that we don't do anything ourselves.]"

The Pretty Lady:

Once upon a time a big monk and a little monk were traveling together. They came to the bank of a river and found the bridge was damaged. They had to wade across the river. There was a pretty lady who was stuck at the damaged bridge and couldn't cross the river. The big monk offered to carry the pretty lady across the river on his back. The lady accepted. The little monk was shocked by the move of the big monk. "How can big brother carry a lady when we are supposed to avoid all intimacy with females?" thought the little monk. But he kept quiet. The big monk carried the lady across the river and the small monk followed unhappily. When they crossed the river, the big monk let the pretty lady down and they parted ways with her. All along the way for several miles, the little monk was very unhappy with the act of the big monk. He was making up all kinds of accusations about the big monk in his head. This got him madder and madder. But he still kept quiet. And the big monk had no inclination to explain his situation. Finally, at a rest point many hours later, the little monk could not stand it any further, he burst out angrily at the big monk. "How can you claim yourself a devout monk, when you seize the first opportunity to touch a female, especially when she is very pretty? All your teachings to me make you a big hypocrite." The big monk looked surprised and said, "I had put down the pretty lady at the river bank many hours ago, how come you are still carrying her along?"

[This very old Chinese Zen story reflects the thinking of many people today. We encounter many unpleasant things in our life, they irritate us and they make us angry. Sometimes, they cause us a lot of hurt, sometimes they cause us to be bitter or jealous. But like the little monk, we are not willing to let them go away. We keep on carrying the baggage of the "pretty lady" with us. We let them keep on coming back to hurt us, make us angry, make us bitter and cause us a lot of agony. Why? Simply because we are not willing to put down or let go of the baggage of the "pretty lady". We should let go of the pretty lady immediately after crossing the river, that is after the unpleasant event is over. This will immediately remove all our agonies. There is no need to be further hurt by the unpleasant event after it is over.]