

Perspectives


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## Editorial

The biblical narration of the flood during the time of Noah (PBUH) has been the subject of many debates. Recently, it came in focus again at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco. Scientists presented compelling evidence that the creation of the black sea was the result of the most catastrophic flood ever witnessed (which some believe to have occurred 7500 years - during the time of Prophet Noah). Still, there are disagreements concerning the date of the flood and its duration. A close examination of the narration given in the Qur'an about the flood and Prophet Noah's Ark (contained in Surah 11, verses 25 to 49 and Surah 23, verses 23 to 30), shows that it is free from anything which might give rise to objective criticism. Specifically, the following should be noted about the Qur'anic narration:

- The flood was intended to punish the people of Noah
- The Qur'an does not date the flood in time, and gives no indication as to the duration of the cataclysm itself.
- The causes of the huge flood, which inundated the area at the time is given in Surah 54, verses 11 and 12 - torrents of rain from above, combined with the gush of
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## A New Version of the Program "The Holy Qur'an"

A new version of the multimedia program The Holy Qur'an 7.0 has been released by Global Islamic Software Company (GISCO) in Egypt. The program has menus and translations in six languages, Arabic, English, French, German, Turkish, and Malay. It has an elaborate search facility in all these languages by words (or their root), group of words, or subject. The program also has a facility for teaching the correct pronunciation of letters (using pictorial and vocal efforts). The program is on two CD-ROMs, works on windows 3.1 and 95 . One CD provides recitation by Sheikh Huzaifi and the other by Sheikh Al-Hossari. The Program can be obtained from Digitek International Inc. 7631 Leesburg Pike, Suite B, Falls Church, VA 22043, Tel. (800) 33-SAKHR. प


## Reflections

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## Meaning and Implications of Hijrah



To many Muslims the Hijrah has a narrow meaning: the historical event in which a small band of people (AlMuhajereen - the immigrants) left Mecca with the Prophet (PBUH), and a band of people (Al-Ansar - the supporters) welcomed them in Medina.

However, when the second Caliph and the companion of the Prophet (PBUH) Umar Ibn Al Khattab (may Allah bless his soul) asked his council to choose a beginning for the Islamic calendar, they selected the Hijrah of the Prophet (PBUH) from Mecca to Medina. They did not select the year the Prophet (PBUH) was born, the year the revelation of the Qur'an started, or the year the Muslims liberated Mecca. The Qur'an mentions the words Hijrah and Muhajereen 31 times. Therefore, there must be much deeper meaning to the Hijrah than what appears on the surface. In this article, an attempt is made to analyze the meaning and implications of Hijrah.

The Hijrah of the Prophet (PBUH) is one of three very important events which happened in his lifetime (see the figure on page 3). It took place in September 622 A.D. . The starting date for the Islamic calendar, Muharram 1, A.H. (after Hijrah), corresponds to July 16, 622 ADD.

## Meaning of the word Hijrah

The Arabic verb هـر (hajar) means to forsake, abandon, give up or renounce, and the verb هانر (ha'jara) means to move from one place (or one environment) to another. So Hijrah refers to abandoning or leaving out something (by body-physically, by tongue or by heart). In Islam Hijrah refers to abandoning the bad attitudes

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& \text { (سورة الأنغال - آية (Vع) }
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"Those who believe, and emigrate, and strive hard for their faith, in the cause of Allah, as well as those who give (them) asylum and aid, -these are (all) in very truth the believers: for them is the forgiveness of sins and a provision most generous.".
(Qur'an 8:74)
and sinful deeds (which corrupt the pure nature of the human being). Allah (SWT) commanded the Prophet (PBUH) to leave out the unbelievers when they indulge in sinful talk

"And have patience with what they say, and leave them with noble dignity".
(Qur'an 73:10)

"And all abomination shun".
(Qur'an 74:5)

## Other Hijrahs

The Hijrah of the Prophet (PBUH) from Mecca to Medina was neither the first one made by a Prophet, nor by Muslims in his lifetime. When Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) was threatened by his father to either worship idols or leave their home

(سورة مريم - آية 7 ع)
(The father) replied: "Are you
shrinking from my gods, $O$ Abraham? If you forbear not, I will indeed stone you: Now get away from me for a good long while!"
(Qur'an 19:46)
Prophet Ibrahim elected to leave and make Hijrah from the land of disbelief to the land of Iman.


He said : " I will go to my Lord! He will surely guide me!".
(Qur'an 37:99)


And he (Abraham) said:" I shall migrate towards my Lord: for He is exalted in might, and wise".
(Qur'an 29:26)
When the persecution of the Muslims in Mecca reached intolerable stage, the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) commanded them to go to Habasha (Abyssinia-Ethiopia), where they were well treated by the Christian King Negus (who later became a Muslim, but could not publicize his Islam).

Special Dna' made by the

## Prophet before Hijrah

When the time of Hijrah, from Mecca to Medina, of the Prophet (PBUH) approached, Allah instructed him to make the following $d u a^{\prime}$ :



 ( (سورة الإسراء - آية -

Say:"O my Lord! let my entry be by the gate of truth and honor, and likewise my exit by the gate of truth and honor; and grant me from Your presence an authority to aid (me)."
(Qur'an 17:80)
The meaning of this $d u a^{\prime}$ is: one should follow the truth wherever and in whatever condition he/she is. If one migrates from a place, he/she should migrate for the sake of the truth, and wherever one goes, he/she should go for the sake of truth.

## Trip from Mecca to Medina

The trip of the Prophet (PBUH) from Mecca to Medina is full of lessons to all of us. Quraysh has plotted to kill the Prophet (PBUH) rather than allow him to emigrate to Medina. When the Prophet (PBUH) left Mecca with $A b u$ -

Bakr, he left Ali Ibn Abl Talib in his bed. He further asked Ali to stay in Mecca until he had returned all things to their rightful owners! Although Medina is located north of Mecca, the Prophet (PBUH) started by going south to the cave of thaw. This shows, among other things, the careful planning of the Prophet (PBUH)! when the young men of Quraysh, who were chosen to kill Muhammad (PBUH), came to the entrance of the cave, $A b u$ Bakr was shaken with fear. The Prophet (PBUH) whispered:

"Do not grieve, Allah is with us".
(Qur'an 9:40)
Allah sent a spider to weave its cobwebs at the entrance and also sent a pair of wild pigeons on the threshold. The Quraysh men were convinced that the cave was empty and left. This shows very clearly the effective protection provided by Allah for those who have sincere belief and put their trust in Him!

When the Prophet (PBUH) reached Medina, he was greeted by its men, women, and children who welcomed him by saying;"O full moon, you are welcome. We are happy and glad. We are thankful to Almighty. When a caller comes to pray. O Messenger of truth, you command, we obey".

Major consequences of Hijrah Among the major consequences of the Hijrah, which make it such an important event in history are the following two:

- The establishment of the first-ever Islamic state, which signified the blending and integration of the Prophetic and statesmanship of the Prophet (PBUH). The living example of the Prophet (PBUH) has to be set, since he was the last of the prophets and there would be no one coming after him to set the record straight. No separation is allowed between religion and state in Islam


"If any do fail to judge by what Allah has revealed, they are unbelievers".
(Qur'an 5:44)

(سورة المائدة - من آية ع)
"And if any fail to judge by what Allah has revealed, they are wrong-doers".
(Qur'an 5:45)

"If any do fail to judge by what Allah has revealed they are those who rebel". (Qur'an 5:47)
- The breaking of two idols, or false gods, which have brought, and are still bringing disaster to humanity. These are the idols of nationalism and racism. The unique practical example of the Prophet (PBUH) and his companions demonstrates fully that they were freed from any attachment to racism, or to territory, or even to blood relationships when they were commanded by Allah and the Prophet (PBUH) to leave. The brotherhood established between Al-Muhajereen (the immigrants) and Al-Ansar (the supporters) is a unique example in history. Despite their ethnic and linguistic differences, the companions of the Prophet (PBUH) - Abu Bakr the Qureshite, Salman the Persian, Suhaib the Roman, and Bilal the Ethiopian, were members of this unique brotherhood in faith.


## Broad Meaning of Hijrah

 Although the Hijrah of the Prophet (PBUH) took place 1419 years ago, the concept of Hijrah, as explained in the following saying of the Prophet (PBUH) remains true today.
## الـــهـاجر من هـجـر مـا نـهى اله

عـنـه . (حديث شريف)

The Muhajer is the one who abandons what Allah has forbidden.
So Hijrah refers to the concept of identification with Allah's will, the submission of all personal wishes هوى to the guidance sis of Allah. Acceptance of the guidance and identification with Allah becomes a Hijrah. Each one of us, who in any given situation refuses to follow what displeases Allah, performs an act of Hijrah - Hijrah from Allah's displeasure to Allah's pleasure. Hijra is therefore, a mental concept where one abandons that which displeases Allah, accepts and adopts that which pleases Allah. This is the basic concept which emerges from the Hijrah - the historic event which inaugurates the Islamic era in history.

I pray to Almighty Allah to support us in performing a Hijra : from Allah's disobedience to His obedience
من العصيان إلى الطاعة

From disunity to unity under the banner of La ilaha illa Allah
من الفرقة إلى الججماعة

And from going astray to the guidance of Allah.

Continued from page 1
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waters from underground springs



"So We opened the gates of heaven, with water pouring forth. And We caused the earth to gush forth with springs. So the waters met (and rose) to the extent decreed".
(Qur'an 54:11,12)


Buried ship-like object, believed to be Noah's Ark, discovered at the Turkish - Iranian border. The object is 170 meters long, and 45 meters wide.
We pray to Almighty Allah to give us the guidance to benefit from His signs.

Ameen 모

## Important Dates

On the basis of reliable astronomical calculations, the important dates for the Islamic years 1419,1420 , and 1421 are listed subsequently.
However, Muslims are encouraged to contact the National Muslim Organizations listed on the back page for decisions concerning the beginning of Ramadan and the two Eide.

## 1419:

Muharram 1, ........April 28, 1998
Ramadan 1, ....December 20, 1998
Eid-ul Fir ..........January 19, 1999
Eid-ul Adha .........March 27, 1999
1420:
Muharram 1, .........April 18, 1999
Ramadan 1, ....December 10, 1999
Eid-ul Fitr ...........January 8, 2000
Eid-ul Adha .........March 16, 2000

## 1421:

Muharram 1, ..........April 6, 2000
Ramadan 1,... November 28, 2000
Eid-ul Fir ..... December 27, 2000
Eid-ul Adha $\qquad$ March 5, 2001

## Social Obligations in Islam

Islam puts a great deal of emphasis on respecting the rights of others．In this article a brief discussion of some of these rights is presented．

## Rights of the Parents

The most emphasized rights in Islam，after Allah＇s rights，are those of the parents．Allah associated kindness to parents with worshipping Him alone and submitting to Him．








＂And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him．And that you treat your parents，with great consideration．If either or both of them attain old age in your life，say not to them a word of disrespect，nor shout at them but address them in terms of honor．And lower unto them the wing of submission and humility through mercy，and say：My Lord！bestow on them Your mercy as they did bring me up when I was small．＂
（Qur＇an 17：23，24）
The Prophet（PBUH）identified the kindness to，and respect of，parents as one of the most liked things to Allah． Unkindness to parents is one of the major sins in Islam．
ألححب الأعهـال إلى الله الصـهـهاة

The most liked deeds to Allah are praying on time，the kindness to parents，then striving hard in the way of Allah．
 الكبــائر قــال الشرك بــاله وعقــوق
الوالدين وقتل النغس وقول الزور •

The Prophet（PBUH）identified some of the major sins as：associating partners with Allah，unkindness to parents， killing a person（unjustly），and false utterance．

While both parents are deserving respect，obedience，and kindness，the mother＇s rights are more emphasized．

جاء رجل إلى رسول الله صــلى الله
 بحسن صحابتى ؟ قال أمك ．قال ثـ من؟ قال ثم أمك • قال ثم م من؟ ثم أمك ．قال ثم من؟ قال ثم أبوك

A man asked the Prophet：＂Who has the most right to get good treatment from me？＂The Prophet replied＂Your mother＂，the man asked again＂Then who？＂The Prophet said＂Your mother＂，＂Then who？＂again he said ＂Your mother＂，the man asked：＂then who？The Prophet said：＂Your father＂．

## Rights of Kinship

Preserving the ties of kinship strengthens the social fabric and cooperation between the members of the Muslim community through the extended family．The following two verses from the Qur＇an and saying of the Prophet（PBUH）demonstrate the importance of preserving the ties of kinship．

＂Fulfill your obligation towards your relatives，the indigent and the wayfarer．＂
（Qur＇an 17：26）

## flay AMah 备huture want with the blessings of the year 1419


＂Would you then if you were given authority，do mischief in the land，and sever your ties of kinship？Such are they whom Allah has cursed，so that He has made them deaf and blinded their sight．＂
（Qur＇an 47：22，23）

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { الرمّ معلقة بالعرش تقول مـن وصلى } \\
& \text { وصله الهه ومن قطعنى قطعه الله . } \\
& \text { (حديث شريف) }
\end{aligned}
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The tie of kinship is suspended to the throne and says：he who unties me Allah will untie him，and he who severs me Allah will sever him．
（Prophetic Wisdom）

## Rights of the Elders and the Scholars

The Prophet（PBUH）emphasized the importance of respecting our elders， the scholars，and those endowed with knowledge．

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { ليس مـنا من لم يجل كبيرنا ، ويرحم } \\
& \text { صغيرنا ، ويعرف لعالمنا حقه . } \\
& \text { (حديث شريف) }
\end{aligned}
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＂He who does not revere our elders， and is not merciful toward our young， and does not acknowledge the rights of our scholars，is not one of my Ummah＂．
（Prophetic Wisdom）

## Rights of the Neighbors

The neighbors are those who live all around you，up to the fortieth household．The nearer the neighbor，the more deserving he／she of these rights． There are four rights that one should respect；not harming them，protecting them from those who want to harm them，treating them kindly，and reciprocating their aversion with forgiveness and mercy．The Prophet （PBUH）has greatly emphasized the importance of the neighbors rights．He
said:
مازال حـتى ظننتت أنه سـيورثه . (حديث شريف)

Jibreel impressed upon me (kind treatment) towards the neighbor (so much) that I thought he will make him one of my inheritors.



اللـهم لا سـهل إلا مـا جعلتــه سـها

$O$ Allah, there is no easy task except that which You have made easy, and You make the difficulty, if You wish, easy.

- When afflicted by a calamity:
!إنا الله وإنا إليه راجعون أجـرنى نى مصيـبتى واخلف لى . خيرا مـنها

To Allah we belong and unto Him is our return. $O$ Allah, recompense me for my affliction and replace it for me with something better.

- When in debt:

اللهم اكغنى بحلالك عن حرامك وأغنـنى بنضلك عــن سواك O Allah, make what is lawful enough for me, as opposed to what is unlawful, and spare me, by Your grace, of need of others.

The best of the neighbors in the sight of Allah is the one who is best to his/her neighbors.

## Selection of Friends

Muslims have the obligation to carefully select the persons that they befriend. The Prophet (PBUH) said:

الرجل على دين خليـله ، نلينظر
أحـدكم من يتخاللـ (حديث شريف)

The person follow the same religion as his/her friend, so be careful as whom you befriend. (Prophetic Wisdom) $\square^{2}$


