



Al-Fitrah Newsletter



'Every child is born pure upon the Fitrah'

Special Edition: Global Peace and Unity Event 2006

The

Prophet (saw) said that
"Every child is born upon the fitrah..." But what is the fitrah?

The fitrah is an innate goodness inside every human being, a desire to worship one God and to distinguish between right and wrong. It is the social environment that causes the human being to deviate from its natural state, its fitrah.

Our aim at Al-Fitrah is to help people to become in tune with their own fitrah and to nourish their soul with what it yearns for – the worship of its Creator, the one and Only God, Allah.

Society has evolved considerably over the last century with significant developments in areas such as Technology, Transport, Communications, Medicine and the exploration of Space. As we continue to test new boundaries, we also continue to sink to new depths with wars, escalating drug problems, sexual diseases, trade embargoes, pollution, illiteracy and uneven distribution of wealth.

No single generation can address this multitude of challenges. We need to equip future generations with the knowledge and tools to address whatever the future has in store for them. One way of doing this is to spend time developing young people and acting as positive role models.

Al-Fitrah is an unregistered charity based in London with the aim of establishing itself as an academy for personal development in order to facilitate the development of peaceful, harmonious and mutually supportive communities through the understanding and practice of Islam, as defined by the *Qur'an* and *Sunnah* of the Prophet (peace be upon him).

Over the past six years we have organised lots of different activities and events for the community from football and picnics in the park to conferences with scholars from the UK and abroad. We have also provided the community with various short and long term courses such as basic Islamic studies courses,

Book of Eman, Invocation of God, Tazkiyyah, Ettiquettes of the Student of Knowledge and our popular Befriending Ramadan Tour.

Ibn Abbas reported that the Messenger of Allah (SAAW) said "When you pass by the gardens of Paradise indulge freely in it! They said: O Messenger of Allaah! What are the gardens of Paradise? He said: The circles of 'ilm." (At-Tabarani, Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabir)

We have organised various charity fundraisers such as fundraising dinners, and charity bazaars. Al-Fitrah tries to accommodate for all of the community and we have had some women only events that were very successful, e.g. dinners and bazaars as well as events for the kiddies such as Eid parties which many families enjoyed, alhamdulillah.

Want to get involved?

Why not bring some good to your community and help yourself at the same time. Al-Fitrah are always looking for new volunteers to help with projects. If you are interested then please visit our website at www.alfitrah.com and join our forum, where you can offer your services. You can also check our website for upcoming courses, events and activities. We hope to see you at our next event inshaAllah!



AL FITRAH

Da'wah - Whats the big deal?

Da'wah – An obligation

Da'wah is an obligation on every muslim who declares 'La illaha ill Allah' and it is extremely important that we all realise this.

Allah (swt) says in the Qur'aan:

"Invite to the Way of your Lord (i.e. Islam) with wisdom and fair preaching, and argue with them in a way that is better. Truly, your Lord knows best who has gone astray from His Path, and He is the Best Aware of those who are guided." (Quran 16:125)

"Let there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining al-ma`roof [i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam orders one to do] and forbidding al-Munkar [polytheism and disbelief and all that Islam has forbidden]. And it is they who are successful." (Quran, 3:104)

There are a number of hadith that also stress the importance of dawah and hisbah (enjoining good and forbidding evil). The Prophet (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) has said: "Convey from me, even one verse." (Bukhari)

Conveying the message therefore does not require a high level of scholarship, it is in fact a responsibility of each and every Muslim, according to his or her ability.

The obligation is further emphasized by the following verse which explains that not conveying the message - hiding

knowledge - is disobedience to Allah that causes Allah's curse to descend upon such people, which shows that such a sin leads to the Hellfire.

"Verily, those who conceal the clear proofs, evidences and the guidance, which We have sent down, after We have made it clear for the people in the book, they are the ones cursed by Allah and cursed by the cursers." [al-Qur'aan, al-Baqara(2):159]

In the same connection, the Prophet (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) has stated, "When the people see a wrongdoer and do not prevent him, Allah will soon punish them all." [Ahmad]

Calling people to Allah also means completing our own worship, the reason for which we are created. It is one of the noblest acts that entails a high reward.

"And who is better in speech than he who invites to Allah and does righteous deeds, and says: 'I am one of the Muslims.'" (Quran 41:33)

With regards to the reward, the Prophet (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) has said: "Whoever guides [another] to a good deed will get a reward similar to the one who performs it." (Muslim)

The Aim of Da'wah

The aim of dawah is to bring the people out of the darkness and into the light, and to guide

them to the truth until they hold on to it and are saved from the Fire and the Anger of Allah. To take the disbeliever out of the darkness of disbelief into the light and guidance, to take the ignorant out of the darkness of ignorance into the light of knowledge and to take the disobedient out of the darkness of disobedience into the light of obedience.

This is the aim of dawah as Allah says in the Qur'an, **"Allah is a Walee (protector/guardian) of those who believe and brings them out of the darkness into light" (2:257).**

The Messengers were sent in order to bring the people out of the darkness into the light. Likewise the callers to the truth establish dawah and are active in it, in order to bring the people out of the darkness into the light, rescue them from the Fire, obedience to the shaytaan and to save them from obeying their desires to obeying Allah and His Messenger (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam).

Our Prophet (s.a.w) passed away after he had conveyed the Message, fulfilled the trust and counselled the Ummah. Our duty is to safeguard the trust handed down to us through generations of the Muslim Ummah.

"May Allah bless a man who hears my sayings and commits them to memory, then faithfully communicates them (to others)" (Bukhari)



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Did you know...

● **Mixing freely among men and women is Haraam?**

The meeting together, mixing, and intermingling of men and women in one place, the crowding of them together, and the revealing and exposure of women to men are prohibited by the Law of Islam (Shari'ah). These acts are prohibited because they are among the causes for fitnah (temptation or trial which implies evil consequences), the arousing of desires, and the committing of indecency and wrongdoing.

There is much evidence regarding the prohibition of the meeting and mixing of men and women in the Qur'aan and Sunnah. For example:

The Prophet (May peace and blessings be upon him) enforced separation of men and women even at Allaah's most revered and preferred place, the mosque. This was accomplished via the separation of the women's rows from the men's; men were asked to stay in the mosque after completion of the obligatory prayer so that women will have enough time to leave the mosque; and, a special door was assigned to women. If this was enforced in the most sacred of places, the masjid, then how about all other places where evil and fitnah are present?

● **Music is Haraam?**

It is forbidden and is not permissible to play musical instruments or listen to songs and tunes. The majority of scholars say that it is haraam, including the four imams of fiqh: Abu Haneefah, Maalik, al-Shaafa'i and Ahmad (may Allaah have mercy on them all).

Evidence of prohibition in the Qur'aan and Sunnah:

Allaah says in Surah Luqmaan (interpretation of the meaning): *"And of mankind is he who purchases idle talks (i.e. music, singing) to mislead (men) from the path of Allaah..." (Quran 31:6)*

Al-Hasan al-Basri (may Allaah have mercy on him) said: this aayah was revealed concerning singing and musical instruments (lit. woodwind instruments). (*Tafseer Ibn Katheer*, 3/451).

Allaah says in the Quran (interpretation of the meaning): *[Allaah said to Iblees:] "And befool them gradually those whom you can among them with your voice (i.e. songs, music, and any other call for Allaah's disobedience)..." (Surah al-Israa' 17:64)*

The scholars therefore say that everyone who speaks in any way that is not obedient to Allaah, everyone who blows into a flute or other woodwind instrument, or who plays any haraam kind of drum, this is the voice of the Shaytaan.

● **Hijaab is fard (an obligation) for women?**

Hijab is obligatory for all Muslim women who have reached the age of puberty.

Allah (swt) says in Surah Al-Ahzaab 33:59: *"O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veils) all over their bodies (i.e. screen themselves). That will be better, that they should be known (as free respectable women) so as not to be annoyed. And Allaah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."*

These are all clear commandments from Allah swt and if these are willingly disobeyed then one is asking for Allah's punishment. May Allah swt guide us to obey Him and follow his religion in its entirety and make this easy for us ameen.



Jamattimes is a new web portal experience unique in its field and versatile in its features. JT brings masjids to their communities and communities to their masjids.

Masjids are the centre-point of a community where the Muslims unite on all occasions, greatest of which are the 5 daily prayers in congregation. Unfortunately, in today's 'fast-paced' lifestyle many brothers become forgetful, passive and sometimes even lazy to perform this obligation, which is incumbent on all Muslim men. This could be simply because they do not know what time their local masjid is praying or even where their local masjid is located. JT informs the user where their local Masjid is and what time they pray in Jamaat.

However JT doesn't offer just this, it brings brothers and sisters inside the masjid by offering information on upcoming events, committee members, madrasas, classes/circles and special prayer agendas; for example the 2 Eid prayers, and in some cases funeral prayers. With JT you don't have to feel like a stranger to your masjid anymore.

Furthermore, JT enhances the experience for those 'on the go' by making this information within reach to the traveller, city or nation-wide, with just a click of the mouse. But the experience isn't over yet because Islam is not a religion of the masjid only, it is complete in every angle, touching all aspects of life. So JT goes further to bring the masjids and the Muslims within it's surrounding area into a community by connecting them to the necessities local to every masjid, i.e. the halal business, grocery stores, halal meat and fast food restaurants, local council/authorities, commercial/legal services and much more.

How you can help your community and your local masjid get involved:

The jamattimes.com website is almost ready for a full launch. We have a lot of work to do in order to make it the success it has to be. Our Ummah needs such sites to be huge successes in order to bring the call of the prayer, and more importantly, the call of Islam to the forefront of people's minds, especially Muslims.

We know that if we teach someone how to pray then we get the rewards of them praying as well as anyone else they teach and raise as a believer. If we write a book then its rewards carry on as long as people are reading that book. Well at JamaatTimes just think of how many blessings we can earn when it comes to even one person praying in jamaat due to this site. For some it will be made easier because of the availability of the correct and accurate prayer times of the masjid.

Also, for many it is made easier where to find needed services in areas that they may be new to. There are many projects underway in hopes of serving the Muslim community and every single thing made easier for any Muslim is a huge deed with countless rewards. Remember whoever removes a burden from his fellow believer, Allah will remove from him burdens on the Day of Judgement.

You can get involved and support this project by speaking to your local masjid and collect the needed information for the site which is as follows

- The Name of the masjid**
- Contact details of the masjid**
- Names of imam and committee members as well as contact details**
- A picture of the masjid and of members if possible**
- JamaatTimes of that masjid for the whole year. If it is not documented yet then offer to do it for them as the seasonal calendar is the same every year so they should have a set time for jamaat every day of every year. Updating later can become a huge hassle so we prefer to have it for the whole year up front insha'Allah which will suffice for the upcoming years also. (These are the actual jamaat prayer times and not the general prayer times)**

May Allah swt reward you all for joining us in trying to unite the muslims and striving to establish the congregational prayer in our communities ameen.

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