

AWSOM NEWS

Anjuman Wazifa Sadaat O Momineen of North America, Inc

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As of December 2016, the Anjuman has loaned out approximately US\$ 1.82 million to 300 students pursuing undergraduate, graduate and post graduate degrees in educational institutions in the United States. We are neither able to thank Allah enough for His mercy nor you for the continued patronage. Thanks.

FOREWARD

The newsletter for February, 2017 is in your hands. We hope that the readers read the newsletter with a critical eye and request you to provide feedback on the contents and format. This newsletter does purport to be a community bulletin board. That service is rendered by several other community organizations. However, we do publish news pertaining to our members.

OBITUARY

The Anjuman offers our heartfelt condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Qamar Ahsan of Chester, New York on the demise of their mother in law/mother, Mrs. Farhat Mirza who passed away on January 31 in California and was buried on February 1 in New Jersey. Mr. Qamar Ahsan is a long standing member and supporter of the Anjuman.

Condolences are also in order to Mr. Raza Jafri of Long Island, NY and also a member of the Executive Committee of the Anjuman on the demise of his uncles, Allama Jafar Raza Naqvi s/o Allama Misbahul Hasan Naqvi Sirsivi and Syed Habib Naqvi s/o Syed Yahzeeb Naqvi, both of whom died in late December in Karachi, Pakistan. Allama Jafar Raza Naqvi was died at the young age of 55; he was renowned zakir and a voice of the community against shia genocide in Pakistan.

We request the readers to offer a sura e fateha for

the above mentioned marhooomeen and pray to the Almighty to grant these marhooomeen the highest place in janat and the courage to bear the loss to the families.

YADGAR FUNDS

Mr. Hassan Zaidi of Maryland, added \$500 to the Yadgar Fund instituted by him in the memory of his parents. We thank Mr. Zaidi for his generosity and request the readers to offer a sura e fateha for marhoom Syed Saghirul Hassan Zaidi and marhooma Syeda Hajra Khatoon.

Yadgar funds is the best method of conveying swab e jaria for yur loved ones who have left this world and are now dependent on you for any earning any swab.

The Anjuman has, registered its presence on social media with the launch of our Facebook page. We request you to kindly visit the page. <https://www.facebook.com/anjumanwazifa/>

FELICITATIONS

The Anjuman conveys our heartiest felicitations to Dr. and Mrs. Pervez Hamdani of New Jersey on the birth of their grandson on January 22. Dr. Hamdani is a long standing member and supporter of the Anjuman.

REMINDER

Like always, we wish to remind the members to bring their annual dues (\$120) up to date. Tired of these reminders? Then **consider becoming a lifetime member with a one-time payment of \$2,500** and put a stop to these payment reminders!

The roots of education are bitter but the fruit is sweet.... Aristotle

REFLECTION

Nahjul Balagha - Sermon No. 191 - Part 3 - Caution Against Vanity and Boasting About Ignorance

In continuation of my 2016 focus for AWSOM, this short article centers on education and its value to our community. My ongoing effort to read and understand Imam Ali (AS) sermons and endeavoring to relate his counsel to the goals of AWSOM - education, leads me to the captioned sermon and its third part. It states: *"Beware! you strove hard in revolting and created mischief on the earth in open opposition to Allah and in challenging the believers over fighting. (You should fear) Allah! Allah! in feeling proud of our vanity and boasting over ignorance, because this is the root of enmity and the design of Satan wherewith he has been deceiving past people and bygone ages, with the result that they fell into the gloom of his ignorance and the hollows of his misguidance, submitting to his driving and accepting his leadership. In this matter the hearts of all the people were similar, and centuries passed by, one after the other, in just the same way, and there was vanity with which chests were tightened."* The sermon further states that *"Beware! beware of obeying your leaders and elders who felt proud of their achievements and boasted about their lineage. They hurled the (liability for) things on Allah and quarreled with Allah in what He did with them, contesting His decree and disputing His favors. Certainly, they are the main foundations of obstinacy, the chief pillars of mischief and the swords of pre-Islamic boasting over fore-fathers. Therefore, fear Allah, do not become antagonistic to His favors upon you, nor jealous of His bounty over you and do not obey claimants (of Islam) whose dirty water you drink along with your clean one, whose ailments you mix with your healthiness and whose wrongs you allow to enter into your rightful matters."* There is more to this sermon, however, I believe the first two paragraphs quoted above are more than sufficient for us to reflect upon. First and foremost, what, among other, are the predominant attributes of uneducated persons: Vanity and Ignorance. This is my view and my view only based on my limited knowledge base. Education equips us with many critical character building components, of which one major one is the ability to deter vanity and of course ignorance. As we, through the various steps of gathering knowledge, become more aware of things, especially those that relate to our choice of educational field, we travel away from ignorance. There will always remain a certain level of ignorance in us, as man, in general, is not able to accumulate all knowledge. We would require several lifetimes to gather even an iota

of true knowledge of all that there is. Since that is not possible, let's agree that education enables us to accrue, at least, a certain level of awareness that deters us from ignorance, while simultaneously provide us with the acumen of identifying vanity and the ability to dissuade it.

Without knowledge, no path in any field of life can ever be clear to us. We are fallible, but followers of the infallible. It is incumbent upon us to not be intentionally fallible. Our efforts are always to emulate the infallible Imams. That is all we can strive for and then have faith in the Almighty, who is most merciful and forgiving.

It is also of critical importance to not be proud of our achievements. Past generations who indulged in this practice have been dealt with in the most severe manner by the Almighty. Not only for the misdeeds, but also to teach a lesson to future generations. While AWSOM provide the means, albeit in a limited manner given its restricted resources, it does not wish to be the source of any pride for its beneficiaries. Education by all means is our right and we should strive for it, however, this achievement is but minuscule in the eyes of the All Knowing Almighty. Always remembering that our achievements are meant towards continuing raising our standards to at least be worthy of our forefathers, the infallibles.

We collectively have a very important mission, to educate our members to better serve the community and generally humanity. This is possible with proper education, which provide us with the platform to launch our efforts correctly and intelligently. AWSOM is here as a partner to achieve that goal. Such a goal, however, is not achievable without the involvement of all. We all need to do our part for ourselves and our future generations.

Contributed by Ali Kazmy

CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

In order to further facilitate the payment of the annual dues and other contributions to the Anjuman, we are attaching a credit card authorization form along with the membership form with this newsletter. We request the members and readers to fill out the form and fax or e-mail the signed form back to us on fax number 877-297-6662 or e-mail info@anjumanwazifa.org. We will charge the credit card upon your instructions and promptly send you the receipt. May we suggest an authorization for recurring payments as you will not be required to pay your dues every time once we set up a recurring payment from your credit card.

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Membership Form

(Tax Exempt under IRS 13-3588100)

Dear Sir,

I wish to become a member of the Anjuman Wazifa Sadaat o Momineen and enclose herewith my check/cash/online payment for US\$_____being the subscription for the year _____ or for Life time Membeship. I hereby undertake to abide by the Anjuman's Constitution, Rules and Regulations as approved by the Board of Directors.

Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Telephone No. _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Introduced By: _____

I am donating a sum of US\$ _____

to support educational programs of the Anjuman.

I am contributing US\$__ from my Khums money. *(Anjuman has obtained 'Ijaza' from Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Al- Seestani)*

I am donating a sum of US\$_____to establish an "Endowment Fund" in the memory of my late _____, the income from which will be utilized by the Anjuman for supporting its aims and objectives.

Name and contact information of person(s) who may be interested in Anjuman's membership:

Name _____

Address and Tel #: _____

Name _____

Address and Tel #: _____

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CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

CARDHOLDER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Country _____

E Mail Address : _____

Telephone Number: _____

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Credit Card Type MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____

Expiration Month: _____ Expiration Year: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Date: _____

DONATION INFORMATION

I authorize a one- time charge on my credit card in the amount of \$ _____

I authorize a recurring charge on my credit card in the amount of \$ _____
once every _____ (month/year) beginning on _____
and ending on _____ or indefinitely.

The Purpose of my contribution is:

Annual Membership Dues

Lifetime Membership Dues

Khums

Contribution to Yadgar Fund in the memory of _____

Donation

Repayment of my student loan from the Anjuman