



Anjuman Wazifa Sadaat O Momineen of North America, Inc

P.O. Box 844, Hicksville, NY 11802

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As of December 2020, the Anjuman has loaned out approximately US\$ 2.25 million to over 360 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.

EID MUBARAK

The Anjuman extends our heartiest felicitations to the community on the occasion of Eid ul Azha. May Allah accept our sacrifices and instill the true spirit of *eesar* in us and enable us to reach the level of *taqwa* where we put the needs of others ahead of our own. This can only be achieved when we have a sense of community and consider each other as part of our family. Eid Mubarak.

LOAN APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Loan applications for the Fall 2021 semester have been received. All COMPLETE applications received by the deadline of June 30 are being reviewed. The application review committee is busy scrutinizing the applications and will also be contacting the applicants for verification of the information provided. The committee will make its final deliberations by the end of July and the successful candidates will receive their check in early August.

It is the Anjuman's policy that each borrower needs to be guaranteed by a member in good standing. A member in good standing is that who has been a member of the Anjuman for at least one year, has paid the dues for the current year

and has abided by all the rules and regulations of the Anjuman.

OBITUARY

We extend our sincere condolences to the Maulana Nasir Hussain (NJ) and his family on the sad demise of his mother, Mohtarma Najma Begum who passed away recently in Massachusetts. She was the daughter of Maulana Syed Ibne Hasan Nonharvi, a renowned religious scholar and khateeb of his time. We pray to Allah to grant her maghfirat and the highest place in Janat with the intercession of the Masoomeen (A.S.). We request the readers to kindly offer a Sura e Fateha for the marhooma.

YADGAR FUND UPDATE

Yadgar Funds are initiated by members of the community in the memory of their loved ones as a source of *swab e jaria*. The yadgar funds remain invested as permanent capital for the Anjuman and the returns from these investments are ploughed back in the general funds for making interest free loans to the students in the community. Once created, the donors can keep adding additional amounts to the fund as they desire.

The latest yadgar fund has been created by Mrs. Muneeza Mirza of California in the amount of \$1,000. This fund is in the memory of her parents, late Mr. Hasan Mehmood Mirza, late Syeda Farhat Mirza and her brother, late Hasan Mansoor Mirza. We are thankful to Mrs. Mirza for her generous donation and request the readers to kindly offer a Sura e Fateha for these marhomeen.

SYMBOLISM BEHIND THE TAWAAF OF THE KA'BAH

Bashir A. Dattoo, Ph.D.

Hajj involves a number of different obligatory rites. However, as Dr. Ali Shariati points out in his seminal book on *Hajj*, these rites are “codes” so it is incumbent upon pilgrims to decipher them – they have to not only perform the acts but also appreciate their symbolism. The essence of symbolism is that there is a deeper philosophical meaning behind the rites. Beyond that, the rites may appear to be discrete, unrelated to each other but, on reflection, they reveal a connection, a thread that weaves them into a coherent message. The *tawaaf* or circumambulation begins at the corner where *Hajar-ul-Aswad* or the Black Stone is fixed to the Ka'bah. The pilgrims first raise their right hand toward *Hajar-ul-Aswad* and declare “*Allahu Akbar*.” They move around the Ka'bah in an anti-clockwise direction. During the circuit, they move along a path that keeps them within a stipulated distance of the Ka'bah (about 40 feet). The left shoulder faces the Ka'bah at all times as they move around it, but they are not supposed to touch the Ka'bah itself. The circuit ends at the same point where it began. The *tawaaf* consists of seven circuits without an apparent break. At the end of the last circuit, the pilgrims move away from the flow of people just as gracefully as they first joined it.

What is the possible interpretation of the rites associated with *tawaaf*? Prior to the start of the *tawaaf*, the pilgrims pledge an oath of allegiance to Allah (swt). They testify that He is the Greatest, that any similar pledge that they might have previously made to an individual or an entity is henceforth null and void. Their submission to the Creator is absolute. The circular movement signifies total dependency on His being; the anti-clockwise direction conforms to the cosmic law of revolution indicating the consistency between the obligations of worship in Islam and the natural laws that govern the universe. The object, the Ka'bah, symbolizes the constancy and eternity of Allah, whereas the subject has a transient life. The pilgrims choose the specific orbit around Him, within the bounds of the *deen*, the path that He has laid down. They cannot, however, touch the Ka'bah itself for, even as they strive to move closer to Him, they can never quite reach Him. The number seven perhaps designates the seven layers of heaven, the layer that an individual will attain depending

upon their level of piety and service to humanity. The pilgrims are not alone in their circumambulation; they are part of a larger group, the Muslim *ummah*, with whom they are in physical contact and spiritual communion.

The Anjuman seeks your assistance in increasing the pool of funds by simply becoming a member and paying your annual dues of \$120 regularly. Your \$120 membership dues will shape the future of the Shia Community in the US and ensure that our youth are equipped with the knowledge and skills required for survival and success.

If you shop on line, you can support the Anjuman by simply choosing the Anjuman as your charity of choice on AmazonSmiles.com. Every time you shop on Amazon, the AmazonSmiles Foundation will donate 0.5% of your total purchase value without any effort on your part.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In the Islamic context, leadership of the community is for the most pious, the most righteous, the most principled, the most wise and the most just people amongst us who can rise above personal interests, self-projection and personal glorification. These people do not claim leadership but leadership is offered to them by the community. However, we find that, in the society at large, and even in our own community these principles of leadership are largely ignored. At times, the leaders in our communities are crafty, self-proclaimed leaders with personal or specific agendas. These people are often times the least qualified for representing the community. Yet we end up letting these questionable characters take the helm and steer the community in the direction of their desire. In the current era of social media, information is vastly available and is incumbent on us to, in the very least, thoroughly investigate the backgrounds of people who claim the leadership of our communities before we get fooled into accepting their self-proclaimed leadership and governance of the affairs of our community. After all, it is a matter of survival of our generations to come in this country. We need to be mindful.

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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 Saiyed 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