

the

# revival

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voice of the muslim youth

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**Remember** me, so many homies in the cemetery...

I know my destiny is **hell**, where did I fail?

My life is in denial. And when i **die**, baptised in Eternal Fire... [Tu Pac]

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# KASHMIR EARTHQUAKE: A LIVING HELL



**Haroon Rashid from Bolton travelled to Kashmir to help distribute the money and aid that was collected from the UK. Here, he gives his personal account.**

We returned exhausted from our mission of transporting aid to the earthquake stricken region of Kashmir on behalf of the people of Bolton. Mentally and physically drained from the reality of our experience, nothing could have prepared us for what we witnessed. Absolute devastation, very few buildings left standing, people bewildered, lost and confused. Orphaned children seeking their families, sick and injured walking miles to get to makeshift hospitals. Decaying bodies lying under what were once large buildings.

The three of us, Tariq Mahmood, Hassan Jiva and myself left Manchester not knowing what to expect, but fearing the worst. On arriving in Lahore we made our way to Islamabad where we collected 9 trucks loaded with emergency aid containing tents, medication, warm clothing and food. A friend working with Muslim Hands had already prepared these.

Together with Muslim Hands, accompanied by a team of 16 doctors and under army escort we headed for Bagh, south east of Muzaffarabad, an area which was very badly affected. The journey took a gruelling 14 hours along the winding Kashmiri roads. Upon arriving in Bagh we quickly discovered that aid was now reaching Bagh City and that the survivors were safe. A full day was lost to heavy rain.

The next morning we discovered that bulldozers had opened a road heading out of Bagh, blocked by landslides after the earthquake. We selected a few trucks of food and

clothing from our 9, aware of problems with looting and headed for the mountains beyond Bagh. Two to three hours later we came to an area called Lasdana. No one had reached these people. They were sat at the road side for a week hoping someone would come. They were overcome by emotion as were we. Three military officers with us organised the distribution which was received in an orderly fashion. After emptying the trucks we returned to base.

**\*Ask yourself what have you done and what are you doing now for the people of Kashmir?\***

The next morning we ventured further up the mountain to the top. There came a time when we were at about 10,000ft above sea level, driving on the mountain top with cliffs on both sides. We eventually reached a village of people in desperate need. We distributed all our aid and even emptied our personal belongings and money. These were the most needy people we had come across. Many had buried several family members, had lost their homes and were living outside, too scared to even contemplate returning indoors because of after shocks. What was heartbreaking was the fact that it was cold during the day and temperatures fell below freezing at night. We were told many children had died of hypothermia.

After distributing personal money, from friends and family, in hospitals in Muzaffarabad, we returned home knowing that winter was beginning to set in but that thousands of men, women and children were sat outside in freezing conditions.

We thank the efforts of the people of Bolton for their generosity in managing to raise £140,000 in a few days but emphasise that this is not a time to be content with our efforts. A lot of work is needed immediately and in the medium and long term to ensure that the survivors of this catastrophic natural disaster are able to rebuild their lives and those of their children. Housing, schools and hospitals are the main priorities but are only possible if you remember those who are suffering everyday and donate generously.

We, living in the safe, secure West find it very difficult to empathise with our fellow brothers and sisters who are suffering as a result of the Earthquake. Sadly, we think that if we have given a tenner we can pat ourselves on the back and feel we have done our bit. However, the victims in Pakistan who have had their lives turned upside down and have lost loved ones are still suffering. The Muslim Ummah is described as being like a body. When one part of the body hurts, the rest of the body feels the pain. If we don't feel any pain, mercy or compassion towards those who are suffering then this highlights how black and hard our hearts have become.

This Earthquake is a test for the victims in Pakistan, but is an even bigger test for us sitting here in luxury, as to what we are doing to help our brothers and sisters to rebuild their lives from scratch. If we don't show mercy to those in need, Allah (swt) will not show mercy to us. Our dua's, thoughts and generous charity should continuously be with them. May Allah (swt) give us the ability to do so. Ask yourself what you have done and what you are doing now for the people of Kashmir?

## editorial:

# A YEAR TO REMEMBER?

**What a year it has been! Blimey... I think it's one for the Muslims to forget. Or is it?**

Well, let's find out shall we.

First of all we had the terrible and unforgettable bombings in London which were carried out by four Muslims. Not exactly what we needed, was it? As a result every Muslim was seen as a potential terrorist and suicide bomber! The media had a field day, doing its best to demonise Islam and the Muslims. Directly following this we had the 'shoot to kill' policy of any suspected terrorist making life for every Muslim a living hell. What followed was the infamous shooting of the Brazilian Jean Charles de Mendez where Sir Ian Blair tried to cover up the truth...as a result **The Revival appointed him as the Turkey of the Month!**

Not so great so far was it...but worse was to come. Next, Islamic scholars were savaged by the media. First Yusuf al Qaradawi was denied permission to attend the UK because he was labelled as a supporter of suicide attacks in Israel. Next it was Tariq Ramadan, seen as a modernist by the Muslims, he was again accused of supporting terrorism, this time by The Sun. Worst of all, Yusuf Islam, was refused access to the United States, again he was suspected of having links with terrorism. Now that was a joke! It seemed as if no Muslim scholar or activist was safe any more!

So far it seems like a terrible year but wait...the media had still a lot more 'Muslim-bashing' to dish out. We had the Panorama documentary which went out of its way to attack the MCB, Islamic scholars, mosques and Islamic leaders. Then we had front page headlines about a Muslim family who carried out so-called 'honour killings'. If the family was Sikh, Hindu or atheist would it have got the same media coverage? I don't think so!

Towards the end of the year we had the Pakistani gang from London that kicked a white man to his death, the Somalians who shot two police officers in Bradford and also more British men kidnapped and held as hostages in Iraq. Last but not least we had the Anti-Terror bill which will make life so much harder for the everyday practising Muslim.

Now with all this happening is there any wonder why Islam and Muslims are seen as a threat, violent, intolerant and extreme? Stop right there, the above is just the minority among the Muslim Ummah but all the media attention unsurprisingly is upon them. Why is that?

In 2005 Muslims have done so many positive things but of course there is no mention or emphasis on this. We have Amir Khan a young British Muslim who has rapidly become the biggest sports personality in this country, and alongside Danny Williams, a devout Muslim, are doing Britain proud in Boxing. We also saw London win the Olympic Bid for 2010 and British Muslims represented by the MCB played their part. Also on the sporting side we had Yousuf Youhana, the Pakistani batsman, revert to Islam from Christianity. He is now becoming an inspirational figure for all young Muslims.

Muslims have also had a dramatic influence in the media due to the documentary 'Operation Muslim Vote' which focused on MPAC, a Muslim Political Lobby group, highlighting the positive impact of Muslims being involved in the political process. We had the highest ever Muslim Radio Stations in Ramadan across the UK catering for the community.

On the political front, in 2005, the Muslims had two new MPs increasing the total to four Muslim MPs in the UK, which should be positive (hint hint...should be) as it gives Muslims a greater voice and representation in political issues. It should be remembered that the Muslims responded courageously to the London bombings where we saw almost every mosque, scholar and organisation condemn the attacks and have done great work to build the bridges between the communities.

Also the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB) should be commended for their efforts in trying to release the British hostage in Iraq, Norman Kember.

How can we forget that the Muslim community held two massive conferences, especially the Global Unity Convention which was the biggest Islamic event in Europe where over 20,000 people gathered in London to listen to guest speakers and artists. And we had more than a couple of successful youth camps this year including the massive Living Islam Camp and the more spiritual Al Hidayah Camp.

So, was it a year to forget....naah, it was a year which brought out the best and the worst of the Muslim community. The lesson is simple: be active, be law abiding, be tolerant, be disciplined, be practising and as a result you get success, you become a role model to all around you and you represent Islam in a positive way.

Now ask yourself, what did you achieve in 2005 and what plans do you have in 2006 so you can make a difference, be looked up to, be able to represent your faith and be a successful person?

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*Ok, admit it. You may be fifteen, or you may even be twenty-five, but there's no way in hell you can get away with doing anything behind your parents' backs. You get the third degree if you come home from school or work five minutes late. Your mates can stay out late clubbing, partying, and smoking sheesha whilst you have a silly four-thirty curfew...that is to say, 4:30 pm.*

You feel resentful coz your parents are adamant in trying to control every aspect of your life: from what you wear, where you go, who you hang around with, where you study and even what you choose to study. Your mobile rings non-stop when you're running late from somewhere forcing you to switch it off (so that you can later claim that your battery went "dead!") Then on top of all this, your parents can't stop nagging you about Islam. If they're not banging on about how tight your clothes are, they're doing your head in to grow a beard. And what's more annoying is that even if you DO try to live your life according to their rules, they're STILL never happy!!

Yep, parents can be a headache. However, no one said that being a Muslim in this day and age, living in a country that contradicts many teachings of Islam was going to be easy. Allah (swt) has ordered us to "obey our parents." We must recognize their God-given right to make rules for us and tell us what do to. We need to understand that their 'rules' are only for our own good and that they only stop us from doing what we want to do because they love us and want to protect us from all harm. Think about it, if they couldn't care less about us, why on Earth would they care about where we went, or who we hung out with and how we were getting home?

**So, should we obey our parents even if they're clearly in the wrong?**

No, parents are only human and prone to making mistakes just like you and I. The Prophet (s) said: "There is no obedience to any created being if it involves disobedience towards the Creator." (Bukhari, 4340) However, even if we disagree with our parents, we must still respect them and learn how to respectfully disagree. Respect of parents means listening to what they have to say, even if they're clearly in the wrong...without screaming, shouting, ranting, raving and banging doors in their faces. Even when they drive us up the wall with infuriating comments we should always stay calm. Kicking up a fuss and giving them sarcy, lippy answers achieves nothing. We should NEVER under any circumstances physically or verbally abuse our parents. Bear in mind that on the Day

of Judgment we will be accountable for all that we said or did to our parents and excuses such as "Mum started it" will not be valid in the Court of Allah (swt). Yes, parents can be annoying, they can drive us up the wall, embarrass us in front of our mates and often come out with the most infuriating statements; however, we're never allowed to give them lip back.

Islam teaches us that "Paradise lies under the feet of your mother." Being good to our mother is the shortcut to paradise even if we're weak in worship... (It's like those secret short-cuts in Super Mario Brothers or them cheats in play station) Allah (swt) never refuses the prayer of three types of people, one of which is the prayer a loving mother makes for her child. However, Allah (swt) also does not refuse the curse an angry mother makes against her child. In other words, our happiness and peace of mind in this world and the hereafter depends on whether or not our mother is pleased with us...so it makes sense to keep mummy happy, don't it?

**The Holy Prophet (s) has also said "He who has pleased his father has pleased Allah (swt)." So, if our dad isn't happy with us, then we should know that Allah (swt) isn't happy with us either. Our parent's opinions about us matters a lot, so we should make sure we go out of our way to keep them happy with us.**

**Talk to your parents**

Also, don't become sneaky and try to get away with doing dodgy things behind your parents back. This betrayal will break their heart and you will feel like a fool when you get clocked and trust me, you WILL get clocked. No one can get away with secretly breaking the limits of Allah (swt): such people are eventually named and shamed by Allah (swt) Himself.

You wouldn't have to resort to sneaky, undercover behaviour if you improve your relationship with your parents. Just talk to them. Tell them about your day and ask them about their day. Tell them about the kind of people you hang around with and make sure they're aware of your interests and the stuff you're involved in. Don't leave them in the dark. If you can establish a friendship with your parents, you'll understand one another a lot better, and there'll be fewer conflicts and you'll no longer feel the need to do stuff behind your parents back. If you get into the habit of confiding in your parents over minor things, then when major things happen you won't find it hard to tell them what's on your mind.

Don't tell yourself "What's the point, they



By Alveena Salim

won't understand." The chances are that your parents most likely have already been through whatever it is that's bothering you. And who can understand and know you better than the ones who brought you up? Just give it a shot!

**Lead by example**

And parents, you need to be great role models so that your children can follow in your footsteps - Lead by example. It is a must that you educate your children with Islamic knowledge because as parents you are accountable for your children's success and failure.

You are mistaken if you think that your children are going to pick up Islamic values and morals from outside the home. You need to teach your children what is haraam and halaal from day one, that way it won't be a shock for them to abide by the teachings of Islam when they hit their teens. However, if Islam isn't a priority for you, chances are that it won't be a priority for your children either. You cannot afford to be hypocritical in your actions, because

# PARENTS: A BLESSING OR A PAIN?



if you choose to ignore the teachings of Islam, it is most likely your children will choose to ignore your advice. You should befriend your kids, know what they're up to, be approachable and try to understand the time and society they're living in.

## Respect at all times

And guys, our parents should be our friends, not our foes. They should be the ones we turn to when we're in trouble and above all, they should be the ones we look up to and aspire to be like. We need to remember that even if our parents are not the greatest people in the world; respecting them is Fard (obligatory) on us. Allah (swt) says in the Holy Qu'ran "If one of them or both attain old age in your life, then do not say to them uff (a word of disrespect), nor shout at them; rather address them in terms of honour. And lower for them the wing of submission and humility through mercy. [ 17:23-24]

So should you respect your parents even if they're not worthy of any respect? Yes, coz even though our parents may be far from perfect, we are all indebted to the

sacrifices that they have made for us. You know, there were many young Sahaba who were persecuted by their pagan parents for accepting Islam; but Allah and His Messenger forbade these young Sahaba from disrespecting their parents.

There is a story of a man who took his elderly mother to Hajj and because she could not walk, he carried her on his shoulders. After he completed his Hajj, he asked the Holy Prophet (s) if he had repaid his mother for all that she had done for him. The Holy Prophet (s) told him that he had not repaid her for even one night that his mother spent awake because of him.

## Sacrifice

Mothers have sacrificed their comforts and sleep to provide comfort for us. It is through her love, patience and mercy that we learned how to crawl, walk, speak, and how to relate to others in the community. She sacrificed her health and her wealth to rear us into maturity. Did she ever complain when she had to feed, clean, clothe and stay awake at night because of us? Do our fathers ever complain about

working day and night to give us what we need? Even common courtesy tells us that if someone gives a person something, he should be thanked. In Islam, we are under no obligation to repay our parents because we can never do that. However, respect and appreciation is very important. We must always respect our parents and show mercy to them the way they showed mercy to us when we were younger.

Some parents have sacrificed their careers, ambitions, and desires for their children; some have changed their lifestyles completely just to keep their little darlings (us) happy. For what? Only for them to be treated like crap by their kids later on in life?

Above all remember, we too will be parents one day and the way we behave with our parents is how our kids will behave with us. What goes around comes around. So, could we really hack our kids behaving with us the way we behave with our parents? Think about it...

Jamal spots Ali in the street...

**Jamal:** Assallamu Allaikum Ali, How are you bro? Last time I saw you it was before Eid. Eid Mubarak Ali

**Ali:** Eid Mubarak to you as well Jam. Eid was phat. Me got me new clothes, had a sick ride....it was buzzin'. But I remembered what you said and spent time at home as well. All 10 minutes of it....hahaha

**Jamal:** My Eid wasn't the same because of the Earthquake in Kashmir. That was terrible and sad news...

**Ali:** Yeah, bad buzz.

**Jamal:** I hope you sent some money for the Earthquake Appeal to help out.

**Ali:** Yeah...I gave a tenner. Big sacrifice Jam...that's one less tenner bag to smoke.

**Jamal:** Bro, that's good that you gave money but don't think that's job over. We need to do more...

**Ali:** Why? I gave ma dollar. I done my bit. Anyway what's in it for me?

**Jamal:** Come on Ali, they are your fellow Muslims. Its our duty to help them in any way we can. The Prophet (pbuh) said: 'The Ummah is like a body. When one part of the body hurts, the rest of the body feels the pain.'

**Ali:** What's Ummah? Who's she? And what's this about her body you sly dog. I didn't think you were like that?

**Jamal:** Ummah means "community" or nation. It is the Muslims and therefore the whole Islamic world. All Muslims are our brothers and sisters...and together we are the Ummah of the Prophet (pbuh).

**Ali:** Woah.... how is a white guy or a black guy my brother... we're Pakis innit!

**Jamal:** Do I smell racism there ali...tut tut!!!! The Prophet (pbuh) said in his last sermon: 'a white has no superiority over a black, nor a black has any superiority over a white- except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims make up one brotherhood.'

**Ali:** What ya mean he's better if he's pious (religious). I thought the more money you had, the better you are; like Scarface says: 'first you get the money, then you get the power and then you get the respect.' Bare respect for Scarface, he's the Don.

**Jamal:** You don't get respect just by having plenty of money. It depends on how you got it, how you earned it and how you live your life.

**Ali:** Jam, you chatting bare crap now...listen, if me had bare dollars, me would chill with da boyz, plenty of Bentleys, wearing my Bling Bling...and they would give me 'nuff respect'.

**Jamal:** Do you know who has 'nuff respect' in the sight of God and his prophet? Do you wanna know who is biggest, baddest, most phat, sick and buzzin' person in the sight of God and his prophet? If you want respect in this world and in the hereafter then listen carefully to the words of the Prophet (pbuh): 'The best among you is the one who is best in character, taqwa and piety'. No mention of dosh, bling bling, phat cribs i'm afraid.

**Ali:** So why is da dosh that me and da boyz get from dealing and scams different to everyone elses? It's got da queens head on it and it ain't no fakeees..me makes sure of that, innit.

**Jamal:** errmm...let me think now...its because it's haram blondie... how many times do i have to say this to you. If you smoked less of that junk..then maybe some of this will be sinking in by now. The prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: "The son of Adam will

# ALI WANNABE

By Irfan Khan and  
Sajid Iqbal



not pass away from Allah until he is asked about five things: how he lived his life, and how he utilized his youth, with what means did he earn his wealth, how did he spend his wealth, and what did he do with his knowledge." (Tirmidhi)

**Ali:** Right, Right.....whats utilized? And what do you mean by means? I thought my English was bad, that don't make sense.....

**Jamal:** Just think of it like this Ali. If your mum died you wouldn't even be able to pay for her funeral because of your haram money....you wouldn't even be able to attend the funeral cos you would be so stoned...where's the respect now?

**Ali:** What? You serious?

**Jamal:** You bet I am....All the money, pimped out rides, bling bling will stay here..and you're gonna go 6 feet under in a box and you ain't gonna take none of that with you are you?

**Ali:** Maybe me can make me a pyramid like that Tootookaman geeza and pickle me bits for later.

**Jamal:** Bro...try to be serious for once. Don't be fooled by this world...it's very fake , short and materialistic. Don't chase the world Ali, chase the deen.

**Ali:** But..the world is goood. Money, weed, gals, da bling, da boyz, da cars....like the McD ad...I'm lovin' it!

**Jamal:** I think i'm talking to a brick wall! Look the only thing that will help you in the hereafter (after death) is your deeds and your actions bro. Not your weed, money, power or cars. Nothing. Tupac and Biggy had all that...where are they now? In a box!

**Ali:** What da ya mean deeds...is that like house deeds?

**Jamal:** It's your good actions. Being a practising Muslim. Following the laws of Islam. Doing your prayers. Doing halal and staying away from Haram.

**Ali:** Jam you need to chill a bit...me is only a young lad yet...i'll do some 'good' deeds before I die man...me and the boys will go to Hajj and dat.

**Jamal:** You need to start thinking about death bro. Do you know when or where you will die Jam? We're all going...maybe today, maybe tomorrow...don't waste your youth bro...cos once you're gone.. its gonna be nasty if you have been a bad boy!

**Ali:** Jam, how does you know what happens after death? Is you like Dracula or some Mystic Smeg? Can u talk to the other side Wooooooo...

**Jamal:** You see bro the Quran is the word of God, and the Prophet (pbuh) is the true and final messenger of God. The Quran and the Prophet (pbuh) have clearly and openly stated what will happen when you die, what happens in the grave and so on.

# JAMAL



**Ali:** Raas! So wagwaan afta you dies? Can I meet Biggy and Tu Pac...and ..and...

**Jamal:** I'll tell you who you can meet. Well when you die two angels come to your grave, sit you up and ask you 3 questions: Who is your Lord? What is your Deen(religion/faith)? What did you used to say about the Prophet Muhammad(pbuh)?

**Ali:** Yo, dats safe..me don't even have to phone a friend....I already know da answers. Raas, dis is well easy..

**Jamal:** Naah Ali...You will only know the answers if you have lived your life according to Islam

**Ali:** So me gotta grow a beard and look like Bin Ladin to go to heaven?

**Jamal:** NO....you have to live your entire life according to the Quran and Sunnah. If you had strong faith in Islam, did what was compulsory(fardh), lived your life as a practising Muslim and stayed away from sins then you have a chance....

**Ali:** So what if me gets the question right...what's the star prize...me heard you get loads of fit gals in Paradise man!...and what happens if I'm wrong?

**Jamal:** A good Muslim will easily answer the questions...then his grave will be spread wide open and basically he will chill and have a nice long sleep. But if you get the questions wrong..the punishment of the grave will start. The grave will squeeze you so much that your ribs will inter-lock. Just think of the worst possible punishment bro....in the grave it will be worse!

**Ali:** What! No Weed? Easy Jam...you're just tellin' me about a Scary Movie you seen innit...that ain't gonna happen...is it?

**Jamal:** Bro the only thing you gonna be burnin' in the grave is YOU, and that's nowt bro....this will continue to happen till the Day of Judgement.

**Ali:** But I'm dead innit...what more can you do to me? Come on!

**Jamal:** You see bro, in the grave you are brought back to life...and you feel all the pain. Once the punishment of the grave is over, you will be raised from your graves on the Day of Judgement. All your sins will be presented in front of Almighty Allah. Now if your bad deeds are more than your good deeds, then you will be sent to hell...but if your good deeds out weigh your bad ones..then you have succeeded..Paradise is yours forever.

**Ali:** So Biggy was right about life after death? Told you it was a good idea to pickle your bits. I wonder if heaven got a ghetto like Tu Pac says, maybe I can take mine?

**Jamal:** No bro. No pickling and no taking your ghetto, only your deeds. You need to have a strong belief in the hereafter...may be it will change the way you live your life forever. You shouldn't live just for this world...but also work for the hereafter as well. The Prophet (pbuh) said: "Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a traveller. If you survive until the evening, do not expect to be alive in the morning, and if you survive until the morning, do not expect to be alive in the evening. Take from your health for your sickness, and take from your life for your death." (Bukhari)

**Ali:** Raas! You sounding like Mr. Miyagi. It's too hard Jam.... death and all dat scares the crap out of me man....but I wanna chill too!

**Jamal:** You can chill bro....as long as you stay away from haram. Enjoy life but do your prayers, do halal, get a halal job, live your life according to Islam bro. It's not that hard at all....you can do it I have faith in you.

**Ali:** ...Jus make dua for me innit bro, I need your help.

**Jamal:** Bro I'm there for you, but you have to help yourself as well.

**Ali:** I think that's the problem bro I've been helping ma self to too much.

**Jamal:** Good to hear you thinking that way bro but keep on trying.

**Ali:** Yeah..safe.

# WHAT



By Sajid Iqbal

**Are you fed up with your Mosque? Are you tired of the constant in- fighting? Are the women being sidelined? Is there even a place for women in your Mosque? Do you understand the Friday Khutbahs? Does your Imam cater for the needs of the community? Do you wish that your Mosque did more? Is your Mosque the centre point of your life?**

THE REVIVAL has come up with some ideas of how to improve our mosques and passionately argues what every mosque should do:

## 1. Dawah/ Non Muslims

- A regular course on dealing with and answering misconceptions against Islam.
- Regular open days to be held where non-Muslims are invited to the mosque for a meal and are given the chance to ask questions and learn about Islam and the Muslim community.
- Inviting schools as part of their Religious Education classes; giving them an opportunity for a field trip to the mosque.
- Inter-faith dialogue.
- Produce literature which can be distributed to non-Muslims about Islam.
- Facilities provided for new Muslims regarding all aspects of Islamic life.

## 2. Education system

- Every mosque should have an established curriculum where our children are taught the fundamental aspects of Islam.
- Report cards for the kids that study and a meeting with the parents of the students at least once a year. There should be an annual Award Ceremony where students are rewarded for their achievements.
- Study circle or classes for adults teaching Arabic, Quran, Hadith, Fiqh...etc.
- Weekly sessions in an informal environment where people can come in and ask the Imam about things they are unsure of.
- Aalim/Aalima course - to produce the scholars of tomorrow.
- GCSE and AS/A Level, BA Honours Islamic Studies.
- Islamic history should be taught so we can inform the Muslim Youth about the great achievements of our Heroes



## 3. Entertainment

- HAVE A POOL TABLE, table tennis or anything to attract kids to the mosque to make it central to their lives. This should be available in the basement of the mosque or any room which is not used for prayers.
- Sports group: a boys' Football team representing the mosque and a girls' Rounders or Football team.
- The mosque should provide gym facilities with set timings for brothers as well as sisters.
- Mosque outings and trips (segregated)... a day out to Alton towers, Lake District, Go-Karting, another mosque, camping etc.
- Fun Days for the mosque--a chance for the mosque to raise money and for people to enjoy themselves, this can include organising a Sports Tournament, Bring-a-Dish meal, nasheed concert, Muslim comedy etc.
- Free Internet access! This will allow youngsters to come to the mosque to do their homework, research, visit Islamic websites or come to chill and play decent computer games under supervision.



## 4. Women

- More facilities for women need to be provided in the mosques and more women need to be encouraged to go to the mosques.
- EVERY mosque should have a women's prayer hall.
- Women must have equal decision-making roles and an equal platform to serve the mosque and the wider community.
- Women in the mosque committee
- Every facility in the mosque should be available for sisters as well.

## 5. Mosque Committee

- All Mosque leaders must have a manifesto and run for committee elections on that basis. Elections should take place every year. The committee is accountable to the public.
- Committee members must be educated, practising Muslims who understand the issues that face the Muslims today. More professionals are required.



# EVERY MOSQUE SHOULD DO



- Youth and women should be in the committee.
- Take responsibility to ensure that Mosque doors are open throughout the day instead of just at prayer times
- The mosque committee have to ensure that no Imam or teachers hits or beats any students at the mosque.

## 6. Imam

- The Imams and teachers must be the best men from the community. They should be role models. Religious scholars with excellent knowledge not only of Islam but also of British society and the English language.
- Half of the Jummah Khutba should be in English.
- The Imam is the head of the Muslim community. He should be involved in every major activity, event, class, course that is run by the mosque. He should be there to deal with the issues that concern the Muslims today.
- He should be on a good wage so he can be dedicated and committed to the job.
- He is accountable to the public.



## 7. Deal with social issues

- Every mosque should have a counsellor to discuss personal problems.
- Every mosque should have a Marriage Bureau and a place where people can talk and discuss marriage with the Imam, mufti and other qualified people.
- Regular seminars on drugs, anti-social behaviour, marriage, parenting, alcohol abuse, job hunting, First Aid, etc. Invite the police to do presentations and speak to the youngsters.



## 8. Deal with current affairs

- Media training in the mosque to show Muslims how to deal with the media.
- Every mosque should have a 'Media Monitor' – someone who keeps an eye on broadsheet newspapers and writes in complaints if anything is biased against Muslims
- Short courses on tackling racism, Islamophobia, current situation in the Muslim world, British laws which directly affect Muslims etc.
- Training on political lobbying- how Muslims should react against international issues...

## 9. Modern facilities

- Our Mosques need well-resourced Libraries providing information in all formats i.e. books as well as audio cassettes, videos, CDs, DVDs, etc. It is vital for the youth that these resources are mostly available in English.

- IT centre- computers... Internet access.
- Radio transmitters set up so talks, sermons and courses can be heard from home.
- An Administration office is required for the mosque to run properly. Most mosques don't even have a phone, fax, computer or a printer.
- Each mosque should have its own website to keep the community informed about local events, prayer timetables, facilities and so on.

## 10. A department in charge of organising regular events

- A lot of the points mentioned above can be run by this department which should consist of mainly young brothers and sisters.

## Does your mosque do any of the above? If not, why not?

Most of the above would be achievable if the Muslim community was awake and in touch with reality. A mosque is not just for prayers, speeches and teaching kids how to read the Quran.

A mosque is the head of the community and should cater for each and every need of the Muslim community.

So people, if you want to see changes in your mosque, go to them regularly and get involved. Speak to the elders, committee members and the Imams. The responsibility now lies with the Muslim youth to take the mosques forward. The elders have done what

they can...the Muslim youth are the future so it is up to us to work with the elders and make our mosques a place where everyone can turn to and be proud of.

*The mosque at the time of the prophet (pbuh) was used for the following purposes:*

1. Centre of learning
2. Political Platform
3. Charity distribution centre
4. Shelter for the homeless
5. Nursing home
6. A place of entertainment and special occasions.

The NEED today, my brother and sisters, is for Islam to be the centre point of our lives as it was for the Companions at the time of the Holy Prophet (SAW). If the mosque was made the centre point of people's lives, by the virtuous fact that it's a mosque, this will make people think about Islam, practise Islam and carry out the much needed work for Islam.

# ARE YOU A GANGSTER WANNABE?

Gangsterism means the way of life of a gangster.

The word isn't used much though, especially not by gangsters. Some don't wish to call their way of life anything whilst others make a song and dance about it by using catchy words like Thug Life and M.O.B or call themselves playas, pimps, hustlas, souljahs and the list goes on.

Whether it's the crimes like drugs, robberies, credit card fraud, scams, murders, rapes, violence or it's the non criminal acts like the lingo, raving, zina, alcohol and swearing etc. Everybody reading this has been affected by Gangsterism. I mean it's everywhere you go, whether you are a gangster, know of a gangster, seen a gangster, met a gangster or want to be a gangster. You're all familiar with the phenomenon of Gangsterism.

Today's gangsters start from the common everyday thug with his/her Gangster garms (that thick massive silver chain which probably cost a tenner from market), weed/snouts, hip hop/garage/bhangra, with a pimped up ride or a crappy stolen car or in the passenger side of one.

Robbing phones, swiping cards or doing scams etc. Moving up to the O G's of the 'Hood' calling the shots and destroying youngsters' lives and using them for their own set ups. Then you have the national mafia's with their imports and exports, organized crime and involvement in legitimate businesses.

## WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO BECOME A GANGSTER?

- You want to be in with the rest of the crowd. The crowd is into 50 Cent, Tu Pac tunes + Al Pacino gangster movies (no disrespect to the talented actor) and imitating their characters- so you'll do the same.
- It helps make you popular and get friends if you're a respected gangster. Respect is earned quicker by being a gangster.
- It'll really bring you the high life - money, cars and lots of girls.

- People won't pick on/bully you if you're in control and they're scared of you.
- You could finally get that girl you've always fancied if she sees that you're a gangster.
- Life is bad. You've got no money. Parents are always fighting/separated or too strict on you so T.V. and Music become you're best friends and they tell you to rebel. SO you're gonna become a gangster.
- You need to join a gang otherwise you can't do anything to deter racist attacks.
- You really believe that society has failed/is failing with its general set up so you're gonna live by gangster rules to rebel against the system and live according to a code and system of rules that suits you.
- The area you live in is run by gangsters on the street so you wanna represent yourself, family or people on the streets.
- You wanna be a gangster to protect yourself from other gangsters.
- You need to make the easy money cos you're naturally too dumb/lazy to qualify as anything professional and education is too hard for you.

## GANGSTER TODAY PRISON TOMORROW

The result of trying to be a gangster = you get sent down! Muslims already form 8% of the prison population. 73,000 recorded prisoners in 2003 means there are now at least 5840 Muslims in prison and it's rising. Over 65% of these prisoners are young men between the ages of eighteen and thirty. This huge figure does not include youngsters under the age of 18 who are in custodial care. Over 1000 of the 5840 Muslim inmates have committed crimes relating to drug use or drug pushing. So one in five of British Muslim Prisoners have been convicted for drug related offences.<sup>(1)</sup> And these are figures of only those that have been caught!

**WAKE UP PEOPLE:** The world isn't run by gangsters. The world doesn't need gangsters. The world doesn't need 'ghettos'. So if the area you live in is one of these 'ghettos' that rappers rap about then do something positive about it to change the bad things about it.

## GANGSTA RAPPERS

SO take a step back for a minute and think - who's your favourite rapper or most influential gangster? E.g. 50 Cent - who's his idol - it's Tu Pac - who's his role models - Marvin Gaye, Huey Newton and Malcolm X. Marvin weren't a gangster. Huey was a great and courageous hero for Blacks in America and all oppressed people in the world. Malcolm was too and he was also a practising Muslim and a hero of Islam and Muslims worldwide. He encouraged positive work and intellectual development by leading the example himself. Malcolm used to be a gangster and ended up in prison for it. It was in prison where he decided to be different from the rest of the convicts and gangsters by devoting himself to learning about Islam and the meaning of his own life. Who was Malcolm X's hero/role model - the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself, who leads you straight into the love, mercy and reward of Almighty Allah(swt).

# IS THERE HEAVEN FOR A G?

By Imran Younis and Sajid Iqbal

## IS IT WORTH LIVING THE G LIFESTYLE?

So why give your heart, mind and soul the torture of the long route that'll only lead you to prison, drug addiction, financial problems and self destruction? Not forgetting that you will be making your parents life a living hell! That's just the outcomes in this world. When you die you'll join your homies and gangster brethren and be escorted by frightfully ugly creatures straight to hell itself. So is it all worth it?

Today a lot of the youngsters look up to and wanna be like 'Gangsters' including 50Cent, Tu Pac, Biggy, Snoop Dogg, Diddy (or whatever he's called now) and even gangsters of the past like the Kray brothers and Al Capone. Why choose a role model at the bottom of the influence ladder when you can have the influence of the best of mankind and that's the example led by the Prophet(pbuh).

However if you ain't on that level yet to reach to him directly then take the example of the closest one from the positive chain of influence to you. It could be anyone from the companions of the prophet (pbuh), legends like Salauddin, Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali or Muslim youngsters in your own community like that brother you try to avoid every time you're at mosque during Jummah. Talk to that brother and ask him to help you change your lifestyle.

## DON'T GIVE IT UP AND GO BACK TO GANGSTERISM

You know you can change. As for the bad friends, well if they're your true friends then they'll appreciate you doing something good with your life, and you may have a chance in helping them change too. If they don't understand or appreciate your new lifestyle and you don't think it's appropriate any more chilling with them, as their lifestyle doesn't help you or makes you wanna throw up, then don't be afraid to leave them. They're not gonna be with you in the grave.

Most importantly for all gangsters reading this – take a moment of silence and really think about the world and your life in it. Think about everything you've witnessed and experienced and then ask yourself – where is this leading me?

## GANGSTERISM IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF ISLAM

And its head is Mr. Shaytaan a.k.a DJ Iblees who cannot help man but only destroy him by lust, greed, jealousy, envy and hatred. Islam's God is Almighty Allah and He(swt) will never let you down no matter how many times you slip and fall. He(swt) will always lift you back up. You just gotta call on Him(swt).

Islam is about making you a better person for society and paradise as a reward for you. Gangsterism is about how to make you more dominant in society, preferably be feared and therefore a 'badder' person in society; its possible reward is a fake paradise on earth. In Islam there is forgiveness and mercy but in Gangsterism it's revenge and ruthlessness.

Many Gangsters from Muslim families claim Islam is their religion because they have a Muslim name and family and know how to read Arabic and how to perform the prayers. Some would also pray the weekly Jummah Salah. If that's what you do then do it all the way without being a gangster or at least try to without giving up. Don't say "Its hard Bruv I don't know if I have it in me". If you're strong enough to beat someone up, run from police and take all the risks you take as a gangster then are you not strong enough to ask for forgiveness, change your ways, and adapt discipline in your life?

WHAT DOES ISLAM HAVE THAT THE G LIFESTYLE DOESN'T?

- Islam gives you a proper purpose in life where you can live a meaningful and very happy life.
- Islam helps you become a good person: no lies, cheating, fraud etc.
- Islam gives you discipline.
- By being a good Muslim you help others and others help you.
- Peace of mind, happiness and no fear.
- No fear of being clocked and banged up in prison for life.
- People like you for YOU not cos you have the money and not cos they're scared of you!
- You get genuine mates not mates who just use you.
- You still get "nuff respect" but the decent Islamic kind. A practising Muslim is respected in the sight of Allah (swt).
- You get the DECENT girls not the dodgy girls
- You can treat and serve your parents well, not use and abuse them as a gangster!
- You know you could be dead tomorrow, Islam helps you prepare for the life hereafter.

## YOU GANGSTER OR MUSLIM?

You cannot call yourself a Muslim because you pray Jummah in the daytime if at night you're gonna go clubbing, selling the weed, doing the scams or have a blazing session cos it's Friday and you wanna get high. Then at best you're just a hypocrite and at worst you're still a gangster. Its not about "Only God can Judge me". Your Ummah is there for you to help you.

Think of Gangsterism as a way of life and Islam a way of life and then choose one. I mean you wouldn't choose certain principles and practices from Hinduism and Islam and still call yourself a Muslim, now would you? So why do so with Gangsterism and Islam? Choose between the two. Gangsterism or Islam? You Gangster or Muslim?

I will leave you with the words of Tu Pac: 'Is there heaven for a 'G'? Remember me, so many homies in the cemetery..... I know my destiny is hell, where did I fail? My life is in denial. And when I die, baptised in Eternal Fire...

Reference:

1. Home Office - [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)



# The Revival Tells Tony How It Is!

*Manchester University student Hayder Khan, member of The Revival editorial team, was invited to a consultation with Prime Minister Tony Blair. Here, he gives his personal account of what went on:*

'You have an opportunity to communicate directly with the Prime Minister' said the letter from 10 Downing Street. 'A consultation with young Muslims in the UK' it said. Wohooo!

A few moments after jumping with joy and dancing like a madman, I stopped and thought, 'would there be any use in attending? Is this just a publicity stunt by the PM? Is Mr. Blair trying to patch things up with Muslims, in particular the 'youth', the very same youth who could turn to extremism because of his policies?'

I discussed this with my friends and family. Many of them thought it was pointless. Some told me to give him a good ol' hiding, or to try converting Blair to Islam! But it's all good sitting at home talking about things, we as an Ummah need to stand up, speak, and be heard. At least when I am asked by Allah (swt), I can say I actually did something rather than discuss the issues facing us Muslims on the sofa in front of the telly!

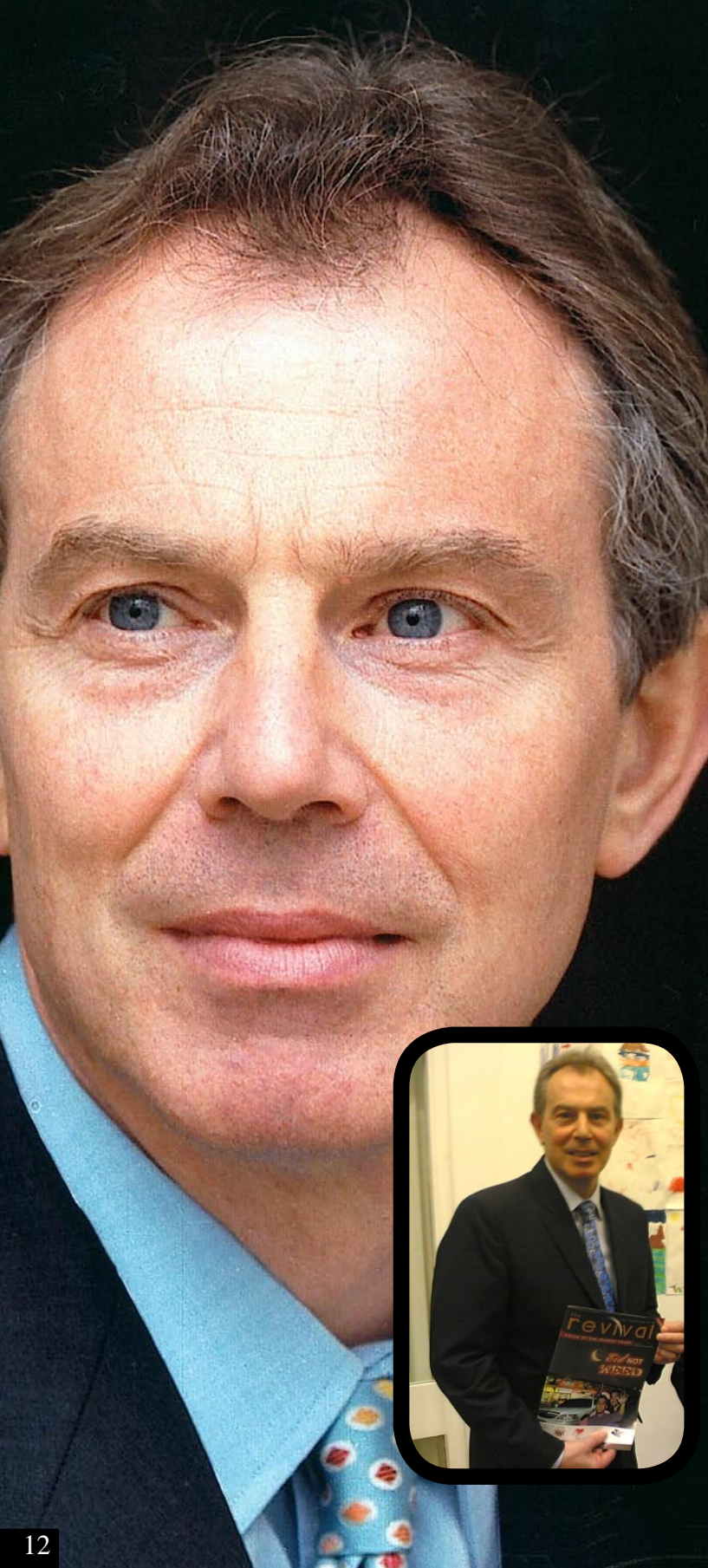
On the day of the 'consultation' I was put into a group tackling the issue of 'extremism'. Our discussion was 'facilitated' by Farzana Hakim from the Racial Equality Commission. 'Lets be realistic, our community has issues', we were told – indeed I agree, but are we the only community? What about ETA or IRA?

A guy from the Home Office told us to ask the Prime Minister three questions about how he can 'make our lives better'. But what we could say was limited due to time, and one Muslim bloke was 'gagged' when he attempted to ask the Prime Minister a question! Farzana Hakim, Shahid Malik MP and Tony Blair kept mentioning one point again and again that showed where they thought the blame lay: parents and the 'language barrier'. To be quite frank, this is disappearing and hardly a problem anymore.

**Is terrorism being pushed under the carpet by our communities?** We were told that we aren't really doing a great deal to tackle the problem, nor have we got any real voices representing us. A view many of us agreed with. Suggested solutions included: working with the police and our MP's, open discussions, getting the Mosques to make their stance clear, and boost the voices that can and should be representing us.

But let's get this straight – it isn't our fault entirely. Indeed some radical folks need to be sorted out, and we need to offer some support for the confused, but the government has to take their fair share of the blame too. Why could they not stop groups who glorify terrorism earlier? It's hardly like they don't have any information on them, and with their massive powers, they probably know more about our local terrorist than we do. As the day progressed, the more my urge grew to speak to the PM about what the real burning issues were. I got my chance, and boy I didn't waste it!

**I made it clear to the PM that Muslims have lost faith in him and have no confidence left in the government.** Although he probably doesn't see it, foreign policy does affect Muslims here in the UK. At the end of the day, if this man can't



justify any of the wars to the general public, how does he expect us Muslims to take the news of our many innocent brothers and sisters dying?

I had to remind him that many years ago, Muslim communities were voting Labour, especially some of our elders who were new to the country – it was the party that represented them very well. However, since then he has moved ahead without our consultation, and left us behind completely – and that’s the public in general, not just the Muslims! So who represents us now? Precisely... nobody. A lack of guidance can lead to confused people being misled by radicals very easily. Quite bluntly, I told him if he expected us to co-operate, he needs to row back a little, work for us again as he once kinda did, and take us forward with him. That’s of course, only if he wants. The only way to combat issues within our communities is by working with whichever government we have – which clearly isn’t happening at the moment.

Some other topics that were discussed included TV programmes about Islam, Islam in the National Curriculum and the need for Muslim role models.

‘Britishness’ was up for discussion too. Being a Muslim should always come first and we should be proud of that. However, Islam does command us to obey the law of the land we live in, providing it does not go against the teachings of Islam, and in the UK it mainly doesn’t. Some of my peers agreed with Mrs. Hakim when she said ‘There are two extremes...either you’re religious, or completely off the road’. But can we not live in the West without hating it? Of course we can!

In a speech to all the gathered youth Tony Blair made the point that fear is based on ignorance and that there is a need for understanding across faiths. Going on to highlight the similarities between Christians, Jews and Muslims, he also emphasised the need to realise the difference between Islamic teachings and ‘extremist’ teachings, as there is a barrier between true Islam and perversion from the terrorists. We were told to go back and stand up to the terrorists. Don’t know any myself, so how am I to do that then?!

In addressing my point on foreign policy, he said ‘it doesn’t matter if [foreign policies] are agreed upon, but it’s important not to imprison them with religion’. I think he missed the point. Firstly, his primary duty is to stand with public opinion. Secondly, I am not too bothered about foreign dictators - I was referring to the innocent: Yes, the many innocent thousands if not millions who had to suffer at the hands of aggression in the name of liberation.

Blair concluded by urging the Muslim community to come forward, as he can only show the doors which we have to walk through. The PM recognised that consultations such as these should be held more regularly as our thoughts were more informative than those of government ministers and their reports. He may have awed or convinced some of the 40-odd people who attended – but as we all know, its just talk as of yet. We want to see more positive ACTION!

I also got the opportunity to give Blair a copy of The Revival magazine! I briefly explained to him what its all about and what we’re trying to do. He nervously took a copy and then gave his usual ‘I’m on TV’ smile for the cameras.

That’s Hazel Blears grilled, Tony Blair addressed...here we come George Bush!

## MUSLIM PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR 2005

So who has been a great role model for Muslims this year? Who has carried out great work? Who is the individual who has done us proud?

Well first of all we had Amir Khan for his boxing achievements, then we had sisters Yvonne Ridley and Ruqayyah Waris Maqsood for their tireless efforts in dawah, media and education. We had a list of scholars including the likes of Shaykh Hamza Yusuf who have portrayed a very positive image of Islam in the West. But the Muslim personality can only be one individual....an individual who is a living legend in the eyes of Muslims. So, The Revival has chosen Yusuf Islam, aka former pop star Cat Stevens, as The Muslim Personality of the Year 2005.

Cat Stevens was one of the biggest solo artists of the 1960s and 1970s. He embraced Islam in 1977 and changed his name to Yusuf Islam. Today, Yusuf is arguably one of the world’s most famous converts to Islam. And yes...he’s done loads in 2005, just like he does every year. From the dignity he showed when not being allowed into America, to the way he handled all the allegations about links to terrorism. He even got The Sun to formally apologise for one of its articles and he received libel cost from both The Sun and The Sunday Times.

On top of that he released a song with Ronan Keating which was quite successful and brought him to the attention of a new generation. He has also done loads of charity work, under his UN registered charity Small Kindness, with the Tsunami, Niger, Sudan, Mali and currently with the Earthquake appeal in Kashmir. He has staged many concerts all over the world in places like Jakarta and Abu Dhabi to help raise money for these disasters.

His pioneering work in the field of education resulted in securing a landmark decision by the British government to certify and support Islamic education throughout Great Britain. The three schools he founded in London’s Brent district – Islamia Primary, Islamia Girls’ Secondary and the Brondesbury College for Boys – consistently top the borough’s examination league tables.

He has done work for IBERR, which helps to educate the Muslim Ummah, last year it was mostly based in Nigeria.

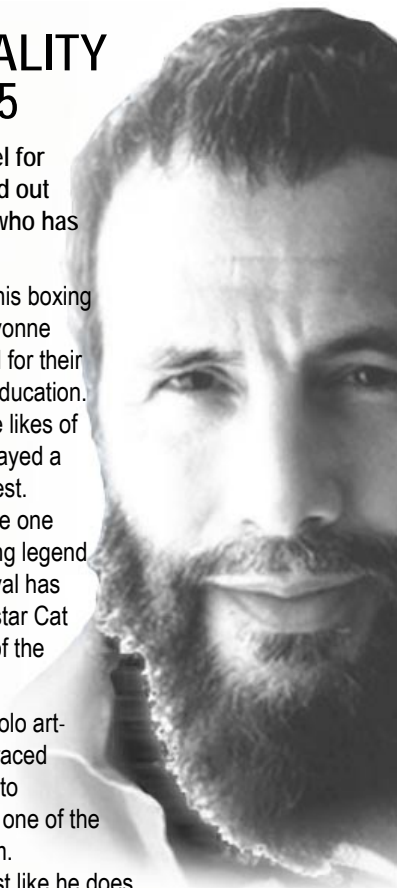
Yusuf Islam has again turned his attention to the recording studio, releasing ten albums to date under his Mountain of Light label. He is currently working on a new album of spiritually inspiring songs as well as a stage musical based on his spiritual journey.

He has done a great deal in the UK and worldwide and is publicising Islam in a good manner by making headlines for the right reasons. He is an excellent role model for all Muslims and even non Muslims today.

Yusuf Islam deserves plenty of credit, appreciation, praise and our support.

This is why The Revival has chosen Yusuf Islam as the Muslim Personality of 2005.

For further information on Yusuf Islam and his efforts see: <http://www.yusufislam.org.uk/>



# Is Islam tolerant of other peoples faith? Does Islam allow Muslims to hate non-Muslims?

WITH SHAYKH  
SALIM GHISA

Islam is a religion of peace and harmony. It is not a religion of hate and destruction. Whilst Islam like any other religion or nation has a right to defend itself and it's followers from enemy attack, there are clear guidelines for this.

When it comes to dealing with non-Muslims there are two categories of a non-believer, 1) themselves 2) what they believe. It is not permissible to hate a person or human being but rather one can dislike and disagree with what they believe.

## HOW DID PROPHET MUHAMMAD(PBUH) TREAT NON MUSLIMS?

The Prophet of Allah (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) was not only a mercy to Muslims but a mercy to all mankind. (As stated in the Quran 21:107). He acted with mercy and compassion even to those who came to attack him. Here are some examples:

1. It is related that when the Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) had his tooth broken and his face cut on the day of the Battle of Uhud, it was practically unbearable for his companions. They said "if only you would invoke a curse against them." He replied "I was not sent to curse, but I was sent as a mercy. Oh Allah, guide my people for they do not know." (As Shifa, Qadi Ayad)

2. Once the Holy Prophet (saw) was seated in Madinah, along with his Companions. During this time a funeral procession passed by. On seeing this, the Holy Prophet (saw) stood up. One of his Companion remarked that the funeral was that of a Jew. The Holy Prophet (saw) replied, "Was he not a human being?" This is a stark contrast to the behaviour many Muslims have today...there are some who perceive Jews as "the enemy" and in more extreme circumstances you get some who have the nerve to rejoice at the death of innocent non Muslims.

3. One a Jewish lady gave the Holy Prophet (saw) some poisoned lamb. The Prophet's (saw) companion was killed instantly. The woman was brought to the Holy Prophet (saw) who asked her about the poisoned food. The woman told him that she intended to kill him. The companions naturally wanted to take their revenge. However, the Holy Prophet (saw) forbade them from seeking revenge and forgave her.

4. Once a group of Christian priests were in Medina. They needed a place to stay so they went to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). He said you can stay at my house. He cooked them dinner and made them welcome. Soon it was the time for the Christians to pray, the Prophet (pbuh) took them to the Mosque of the Prophet and said you can do your worship here.

Do we see that happening today? WHY NOT?

There are many other examples of the Prophet(pbuh) not only for-giving the non-Muslims but those who came to cause him harm. This way many people became Muslims.

## OUR DUTY TOWARDS NON MUSLIMS

Our duty as Muslims in non Muslim lands is like that of the Mus-lims who emigrated to Africa during the time of the Prophet. They went there in peace and relayed their message of peace and love; and the belief in the one and only true Lord 'Allah' and to obey the Messenger.

Muslims are commanded to love their neighbour and this is what the companions did even if their neighbour was a Jew: Abdullah ibn Amr had a sheep slaughtered and asked his servant, "Did you give some meat to our Jewish neighbour? For I heard the Prophet (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) say "Jibril kept on enjoining the good treatment of neighbours to the extent that I thought that he would include neighbours as heirs." (Bukhari and Muslim)

Ibn Mubarak (student of Imam Abu Hanifah) would not feed or clothe his own children until he had fed and clothed his neigh-bour's children who were Jews.

These are the examples we should be following today.

## NON MUSLIMS LIVING IN AN ISLAMIC STATE

A Dhimmi is a non-Muslim living in Muslim lands and pays his taxes. The Muslim Shariah law states that he would enjoin the protection of the Islamic state in the same way as a Muslim would and would be allowed to be left in peace and except for the Hara-main areas (the two holy cities); he or she would be allowed to practice their religion freely. This is why we see many old church-es in the Islamic world. If hatred for non-Muslims was allowed then would the Ottoman Empire leave those churches standing. In the same way when the great Sultan Salahuddin Ayyubi (May Allah shower His mercy on him) conquered Jerusalem he allowed the Christians and Jews to continue to practice their faith in their churches and synagogues.

Also, Muslim men are allowed under the Shariah to marry a Christian or Jewish woman in Islamic lands and allow their wives to remain in their faith. Would they then have to hate their wife? Of course not!

## YOU ARE AN AMBASSADOR FOR YOUR FAITH

All of the above comes to the conclusion that Islam is a very tolerant and respectful religion. However, we find that Muslims sometimes go as far as adopting the ways of non-Muslims and start feeling ashamed of their religion of Islam; this is wrong and unacceptable.

A Muslim should understand that they are an ambassador for their faith and their actions will either attract or distract the non-Mus-lims to their faith. Please remember there will be no other Prophet after the Prophet Muhammad (May Allah bless him and grant him peace) and hence the duty of spreading Islam to the non-Muslims is the task of the Ummati (follower) of the Prophet of Allah.

Of course Allah knows best

# Turkey(s) of the Year 2005

By Naheem Zaffar

**Yep, Ladies and Gentlemen. It's that time of the year again. Time to name and shame. Who are the people who have done the most damage to Islam and Muslims over the past year?**

The underlying theme this year for our turkeys has always been terror and terrorism. We've had the Right Honourable Charles Clarke, for his heavy-handed anti-terrorism laws, and Sir Ian Blair for his attempted cover-up following the shooting of Brazilian Jean Charles De Menezes. And who can forget the 'turkifying' of fanatics who fan and support heinous acts of terrorism and butchery.

More recently the Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmedinejad spoke in favour of completely wiping Israel off the map - and gave fuel to a stuttering lobby attempting to justify military action against Iran. There was the murder of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and the possible involvement of Syrian officials. Then there was the betrayal of Iraq as some Muslims in the UK voted in the election for the murderous Tony Blair and his cronies.

The Turkey of the Year links a lot of the causes of the above together. It ties together terrorism, government, and Muslims betraying other Muslims.

**So who is the turkey?** Well let's get our rotten eggs and tomatoes ready for the FOUR stooges. A nice boo for Khalid Mahmood, Shahid Malik, Muhammad Sarwar and Sadiq Khan. All four voted in favour of the proposed anti terror legislation, stabbing the whole Muslim community in the back.

From the four, the dynamic duo of Shahid Malik, and Khalid Mahmood managed to vote with

the government in ALL ELEVEN VOTES. Stabbing the community once was not enough for these stooges.

## THE ANTI-TERROR LAW & WHY IT MATTERS

The government wanted to hold suspects WITHOUT CHARGE for a maximum of 90 days, extended from the previous 14 days. Apparently they needed that time to carry out their investigation and gain evidence. A flawed argument as it has been over 100 days since the July 7 bombings, and not a single individual has yet been charged!

This proposal was defeated, no thanks to the Muslim MPs. Three of them voted in favour, but an amendment extending the period without charge from 14 to 28 days was successfully passed, and voted for by Sadiq Khan.

Many organisations have campaigned against this legislation. One was the Association of University Teachers (AoUT), which was worried the bill would accidentally criminalise a large number of people, particularly with the clause concerning 'intent to further the causes of terrorism', which does not need proof of intentional encouragement or support. "Without the need to prove that someone 'intends' to further the cause of terrorism, we run a huge risk that entirely legitimate forms of academic enquiry will be criminalised," the AoUT document read. (1)

All four MPs voted in favour of this clause. What this really does is criminalise supporting the Kashmiri, Palestinian and Chechen struggles amongst any others... The sense of being part of a global Ummah is slowly being de-

This clause was passed in parliament by 3 votes! If our representatives had the courage to stand up for what's right, the government would have been defeated. Instead, MP Sarwar, who had not been present in recent votes in the House of Commons specially made his way down just to vote in favour of this clause!

## THESE TURKEYS' HAVE STABBED THE MUSLIMS IN THE BACK!

These MPs have betrayed their voters and stabbed the



Khalid Mahmood



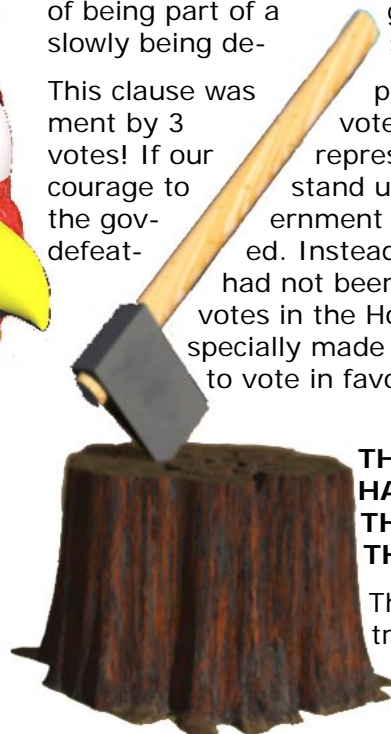
Muhammad Sarwar



Shahid Malik



Sadiq Khan



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## turkey(s) of the year continued

.....from page 15

Muslim community in the back. They have voted against removing the clause which criminalises '... Statements that are likely to be understood by members of the public as indirectly encouraging... acts of terrorism...' (2) The proposal that the words have to be in context was also struck down!

If whatever you say is taken out of context to directly or indirectly, purposefully or accidentally, encourage any act that may be deemed to be supporting or glorifying terrorism, you are now a criminal. Go straight to jail. Do not pass go. For up to 5 years. You did not commit a crime, or even intend to support an offence? Well the long arm of the law does not care.

You are guilty. Glorifying or supporting your actions is now a punishable crime.

We are always asked to be tolerant, but the government is encroaching on our freedoms. This legislation is not tolerating our sense of community, and limiting our freedom to practice Islam. It is destroying our sense as part of the worldwide Muslim community. It is asking us not to support our brethren in just causes. Just think: an Imam has second thoughts before doing dua for Muslims around the world! Just think: You have second thoughts before even listening to a talk! Just think: people have second thoughts before discussing Islam in detail. Just think: become a criminal by just visiting some harmless websites! Just think about Islam being controlled in Whitehall. There will be no Global Ummah.

### ARE YOU STILL GOING TO DO NOTHING!

In May we asked you carefully choose who you will vote for. In July we told you how to take action. In September we gave the Islamic angle. Now we ask you to grill your MPs over their actions. Phone them. Fax them. Email them. Go to their offices. Hold them accountable for their actions. Don't know how? We'll teach you. (3)

If we do not speak up as an Ummah now, we will forever have to hold our silence. It is time to show these MPs how they have betrayed us all.

And the pay-off for this treachery? Well MP Khalid Mahmood has managed to gain a position in the Home Office... No doubt Shahid Malik amongst others will be expecting something for his troubles too.

We must show the Turkeys their rewards pale in comparison to the wrath they incur. We must make them think twice the next time they decide to betray us.

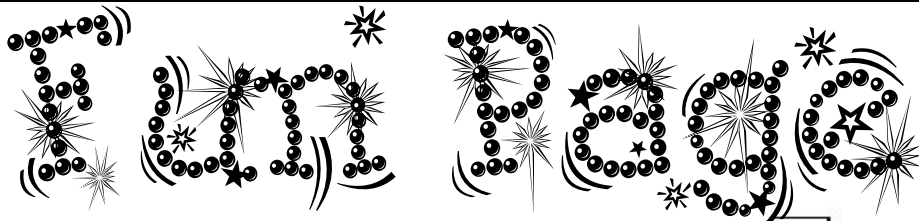
References:

1. <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/terrorism/story/0,15935,1600926,00.html>

2. <http://www.publicwhip.org.uk/division.php?date=2005-11-09&number=87>

3. The Revival Magazine Issue 2 ([http://www.therevival.co.uk/magazine/august2005/what\\_loada\\_politics.php](http://www.therevival.co.uk/magazine/august2005/what_loada_politics.php))

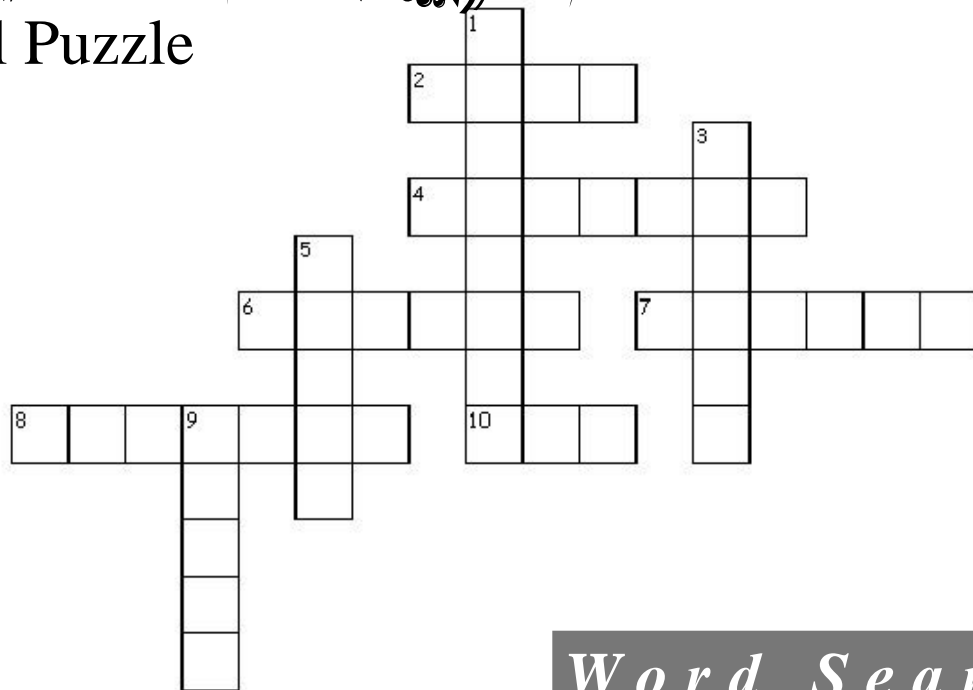




# The Revival Puzzle

Across

- 2. Pilgrimage (4)
- 4. Month of Fasting (7)
- 6. Believer (6)
- 7. Giving to Charity (6)
- 8. Magazine-Title (7)
- 10. Celebration (3)



Down

- 1. The reward (8)
- 3. Holy City (6)
- 5. Sacred Book (5)
- 9. A way of Life (5)

## Word Search

I	E	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	R	N	B	G	G	A
E	G	A	M	I	R	G	L	I	P	E	N	N	R	M
K	A	H	H	S	M	L	J	A	L	I	C	J	S	C
U	S	N	O	S	B	N	Z	I	T	S	B	R	H	T
T	S	J	O	L	J	M	E	S	L	W	Z	H	E	J
O	E	C	V	I	Y	V	A	W	Q	V	T	H	U	Q
U	M	G	M	K	E	F	K	B	E	Z	P	X	V	F
C	W	F	N	R	B	Z	I	X	X	O	M	X	F	E
L	B	C	N	L	E	Q	S	T	R	Y	R	Y	G	W
T	K	C	W	E	X	J	E	P	L	A	W	K	O	G

BELIEVER    FASTING    HOLY    MESSAGE    PILGRIMAGE    PROPHET

## Islamic Quiz

1. Name all the daughters of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
2. What is Fardh, Wajib and Sunnah?
3. In what year did Salahuddin Ayyubi conquer Jerusalem?
4. What is the name of the first mosque of Islam built by the Prophet (pbuh)?
5. Indonesia is home to the largest Muslim population in the world. Approximately, how many Muslims live there?

Send your answers to The Revival, 370-372 Manchester Road. OL9 7PG or email them to the editor@therevival.co.uk

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# test of faith:

## secular, part time or practising muslim

### 1-It's time for Magrib prayer and Eastenders is on at the same time. what do you do?

- A-Watch Eastender's of course! It's a one hour special today.  
 B-Watch Eastender's and then rush to read Magrib, with the episodes events still in your mind.  
 C-Read Magrib, you don't watch Eastenders.

### 2-How many prayers (Salaah) do you read a day?

- A-I don't pray-Ever!  
 B-I read my Jummah, read the Eid prayer twice a year and read a prayer here and there.  
 C-I try to read all five prayers a day.

### 3- How did you fast in Ramadan?

- A-Didn't fast, its too hard....  
 B-You locked off from your girlfriend/boyfriend for a month, and if you're a girl you adopted the scarf for a month and if you're a boy you wore an Islamic hat or have a stubble for a month.  
 C-It was your favourite time of the year, you tried your best to fulfill the rights of Ramadan and tried to continue your good practices even after Ramadan.

### 4-So how did you celebrate Eid?

- A-With your mates of course, you hired out a limo, got decked up and spent the day on Wimpy Road chillin' and getting high.  
 B-Read Eid prayer in the morning and spent the rest of the day out and about with friends.  
 C- Read Eid prayer and spend the day with close family, Eid is all about family after all.

### 5-Someone hands you a leaflet telling you about an upcoming Islamic programme. what do you do?

- A-You use the leaflet to throw your chewing gum away.  
 B-You give the leaflet to someone who you think would definitely attend.  
 C-You decide to attend the programme and offer to help out too.

### 6-You've just returned home with heavy bags of shopping for your mum. you've also got caught in the rain. your mum tells you that she forgot to ask you to get the milk Do you...

- A-Scream, shout, rant and rave, your convinced that your mum don't care for you and accuse her of being stupid and inconsiderate.  
 B-You mutter and curse under your breath but leave to get the milk, loudly slamming the door on your way out.  
 C-You calmly pick up your keys and ask you mum if there's anything else she wants you pick up whilst your out there.

### 7-How would you describe your marital status?

- A-Playa, one just aint enough!  
 B-In a long term relationship, hoping to get married soon.  
 C-Single/Married.

### 8-How would you describe your social life?

- A-Its Heavy!! Time is spent cruising with mates, hanging around street corners, clubbin, booze, drugs and fast cars.  
 B-Usual stuff, chilling out with mates...shopping/cinema's, don't go clubbing or touch alcohol, that's totally wrong!  
 C-Very hectic! Always busy involved in the Islamic programmes my local Mosque is holding.

### 9-What's your future plans?

- A-Got a heavy new scam coming through, worth a couple of G's at least...  
 B-Get married to my girlfriend/boyfriend go and do Hajj and sort myself out.  
 C-Looking to study the Deen further, and live the rest of my life a decent practising Muslim.

### MOSTLY A's YOU'RE A SECULAR MUSLIM

Just because you were born in a Muslim family don't mean that you have a free ticket to paradise. You're living your life like a non Muslim, carry on like that and you'll be unhappy in this world and in the hereafter. Ask for forgiveness and sort yourself out!

### MOSTLY B's YOU'RE A PART TIME MUSLIM

You try to be a good Muslim, but you're weak. God knows your weaknesses so ask Him to make it easy for you to become a better Muslim. Don't put off practising Islam, you never know when death will come knocking on your door.

### MOSTLY C's YOU'RE A PRACTISING MUSLIM

Wahaay!! Looks like you're sorted, you've managed to incorporate the teachings of Islam into your lifestyle, and living in the West this aint easy at all. Keep up the good work and ignore them people around you who try to bring you down to their level.

## Will You Be My Valentine?



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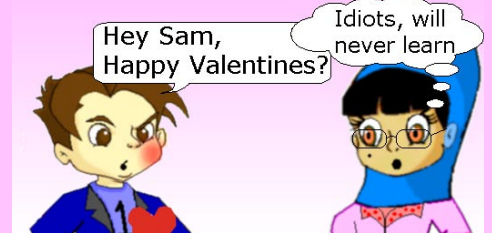
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