

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Is it not He who created the heavens and the earth able to create the like thereof?

Yea, indeed. For He is the creator supreme of skill and knowledge infinite.

Verily, when He intends a thing, His command is, "Be", and it is.

So glory to Him in whose hands is the dominion of all things: and to Him will ye be all brought back.

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Mohram Reports from Around the UK

London Branch

Our Mohram Majlis started from the 2nd Raat. The waiz was recited in Urdu and English and were conducted by Mawlana Najam, Mr Ahmedali Luqmani and Mr Abdul Rampuri. Mawlana Najam is from Pakistan and trained in Islamic Studies in Iran. He is employed by the Sakina Trust in Walthamstow and runs the Madressa.

At the week-end we had good attendance, especially from our younger members. But, sad to say that during the week, the attendance was poor. On Ashura we had approximately 170 members.

Both Mr Luqmani and Mawlana Najam commented on the poor attendance. Mr Luqmani, in spite of his ill-health, presented his recitation in English especially for the children. Mawlana Najam said that he realised that children get tired, but it is important for them to learn at this young age, about our history. Imam Husein sacrificed His life for the sake of Islam, surely we can make a small sacrifice of our time by attending the Majlises.

The Niyaz was catered by Mrs Farida Vora. The 'wasilo' was recited by Mrs. Gulbanoo Luqmani and Mr Saifudin Painter.

Inshallah, next Moharram 1426, we hope to have someone who will recite in Gujarati. We shall also have waiz in English as well. We have to cater for all our members and there are a handful of adults who do not understand Urdu or Gujarati. They really appreciated this year's waiz. We would also like participation

from children and youths and hope to involve them as well.

Kulsom Jivanjee, London

Birmingham Branch

Birmingham tried something different this year. It extended its Mohram sermons to include wider topics. Different children researched and spoke about the prophets in Islam and adults took it in turn to talk about different aspects of Islam. For example Fatema Patwa spoke about the world economy, interest and Islam, Moiz Rajabali talked about Spirituality, Haki Kapasi spoke on death and dying, Mohamed Mohamed spoke about the events in Kerbala. Regular contributions were also made by Murtaza Rajabali and Huma Vanat. We also had the usual murashias and Mohram sermons.

Organising the Mohram mujlises this way meant that we had much more active involvement by everyone during Mohram and brought us much closer together. This should definitely be tried by all the jamaats.

Haki Kapasi, Birmingham

Leicester Branch

The month of Moharram, the magnanimous events of Karbala, the heart-wrenching day of Ashura. Every Land is Karbala, every day is Ashura. But what does this one seemingly fanatical sentence mean? Every day we should mourn? Or everyday find a jihad of the sword? And for that matter, what is the significance of an event over a millennium ago? Does it have any relevance and applications in today's society and time?

The foresight of the elders of our community, in appreciating the needs of the youth enabled and encouraged me to deliver 9 short lectures in English (By the grace of Allah swa and punjataan pak), and I stress for the sake of a sweet victory on behalf of the youth - ENGLISH!

My lectures were eclectic in nature - briefly and superficially delving into numerous topics under the umbrella headings: Why believe in Allah (swa)? Why believe in Islam as a way of life? Why are we commanded to do certain actions like pray? Shia-"Sunni" Dialogue, and lastly a brief look into the events leading up to Karbala - the ensuing battles and power struggles from the time of Mohammad (saw) up to Imam Hussayn (as), and an even briefer look at one aspect of the events after Ashura, the role of the lady, bibi Zaynab (ra).

Asalaamo Alaikum Warahmatullahi Waberakatur

Yasin Tayebjee, Leicester

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Mohram in Dubai

Thousands of mainstream Bohras gathered in Dubai for Mohram this year to listen to viaz from Sayedna. The operation must have cost hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Turn to page 2 for some feedback from Mr. Saifudin Insaf in Mumbai, and a report from the Bohra Chronicle about the event.



Mohram in Dubai

28 Bohra men and women caught on camera stealing valuables from the shops
Hotel owners claimed 10 lakh Dinars for items stolen from their hotels.

Abridged report from the Bohra Chronicle.

Udaipuris were promised a visit from Sayedna Saheb for Mohram, but they were disappointed when he changed his plans at the last minute and went instead to Dubai. Thousands of rupees spent on converting western style WCs to Indian style ones were for nothing.

Because the Dubai government wouldn't approve of such a religious gathering, Sayedna Mohammed Burhanuddin Saheb promised the Dubai government that he would bring 50,000 Bohras for shopping and help the government financially.

To keep up this pretence, 500 buses were kept ready for the second day of Mohram outside the community halls to take people to the shopping malls. Many went shopping after the sermon on the 7th day of Mohram.

Given the last minute nature of the preparations, only 24,000 Bohras were able to attend instead of the promised 50,000.



The price for this trip was announced at Rs 12,000 which rapidly increased to Rs 21,000. The visas were free and there was an offer of one free place for every ten. An extra Rs 8,000 was charged for the trip from Dubai to Karbala. However this trip never took place because of the bomb explosion in Karbala.

Volunteers picked up Bohras arriving in Dubai and took them to their various hotels. Many Bohras ended up in tents and some in hotels with dubious reputations. The Dubai jamaat spent a fortune on these arrangements. Mr. Fakruddin Ramakadwala paid 13 million Dirhams to Sayedna for supposedly renovating a mosque. These wealthy Bohras eager to spend on the Kothar's already overflowing coffers forget about the thousands of victims of the earthquake and riot affected Bohras in Gujerat.



A report from Saifuddin Insaf

Last night I met a couple at Santacruz, Bombay which had just returned from Dubai Tamasha. This couple had gone to Dubai through Faize-Husaini and had paid Rs. 8000 extra for going to Karbala from Dubai. Due to the bomb explosion at Karbala, the trip was postponed but they refused to return the Rs. 8000. Again this couple were left at Karachi airport from Dubai and had to wait there for 9 hours before they got a connecting plane for Bombay. The information they gave about what happened in Dubai was shocking:

28 Bohra women were caught on camera on charge of stealing and were jailed on 7th of Mohram and were got released by Jamaat members on 11th Mohram.

30 Hotel owners claimed 10 lakhs dinars from Sayedna Saheb for the mattresses, bed-sheets and electric gadgets stolen by Bohras during their stay in their hotels. Ultimately Sayedna Saheb had to shell out Rs. 8.5 lakhs dinars to settle the dispute.

Like this couples many returning Bohras were dropped at places far away from their destination.

Saifudin Insaf, India



NEWS

Wide Spread Poverty amongst Bohras in Surat

This article appeared in Gujerati in the Bohra Chronicle. Translated and abridged here for AZAD.

Mrs. Zubeda Gafoorbhai hasn't got anywhere to live. She, her divorced daughter, Batul, and grandson live, eat, sleep and beg on the streets of Surat. Mrs. Gafoorbhai's husband used to be the caretaker of a Bohra cemetery and with his job came a house. But after his death, the mother, daughter and grandchild were kicked out on the streets. Now they are in rags and surviving on the streets.

Mrs. Gafoorbhai's second daughter, Fatema, used to work in Sayedna Saheb's household in Mumbai, but Mrs. Gafoorbhai has no idea where she is and even whether she is alive or dead.



We are led to believe by Sayedna Saheb's publicity machine that all Bohras are living comfortable, well off lives, but this is not the case. There are many Bohras living in the gutters of India, neglected by those who are supposed to serve and look after the welfare of all community members.

Zerabhen Cyclewalla
Surat, India

Conference Update April 2004

Welcome to the latest update on the world conference taking place in the UK on 30 and 31 July and 1 August 2004. The conference organising group have met a number of times now and things are slowly falling into place.

The committee organising the social events has made sure you have plenty of opportunities to make friends, the food committee is dreaming up some lovely dishes and the committee responsible for the conference programme is working to create a stimulating and informative conference.

A number of overseas reformists have confirmed their attendance. We are expecting delegates from the USA, Canada, India, Kenya, Kuwait and hopefully from Mauritius. This will be one of the most international gatherings of Reformists since the historic conference also held in the UK in 1986.

We are now asking DBWS members to register for the conference by filling in the form below. If you do not register, you will not get a place at the conference. Registration forms should be sent in by Friday 29 May 2004.

Conference Programme

The committee responsible for the conference programme has explored some ideas for the conference topics but these are by no means final. Do you have a bright idea for topics? Is there something you want to discuss at the conference? Send in your ideas to Fazleabbas Kinkhabwalla using the contact details below, or the form overleaf.

The theme of the conference is practical action, not just talking. **What can we DO for the Reform Movement?**

The suggested topics for the three days so far are as below.

Roving Mullasaheb

As Reformists we need to provide for our own religious rituals and ceremonies. Not only have we shown we can do it, we want to spread the learning. The idea of the roving mullasaheb is to have a religious teacher to travel between UK, Canada, America, Kenya, Mauritius and other centres to provide guidance and instruction to members who want to learn about performing our various rituals and ceremonies.

Haj, Umra and Ziarat

Wouldn't it be good if Reformists from around the world could meet and together perform Haj, Umra or Ziarat? On this topic, we will discuss how we can arrange common facilities in Mecca and Karballa where Reformists from all centres can stay and where our own mullasaheb can lead the groups, arrange accommodation, transport etc.

Youth aspiration and perception

This will be the platform for young people in our communities to express their perception of the future of the Reform movement and to discuss ways to achieve their aspirations.

A common identity

We are an international movement and this is a chance to work out how we can create a common identity by establishing a common name for all Reformist jamaats worldwide and generate a world wide database.

Standardise religious practices

In line with creating a common identity, we will establish how any variances between rituals and ceremonies can be standardised.

Religious publications

Books are knowledge, and knowledge is power. In this topic we will identify how we can identify, translate, publish and publicise important religious writings and to recognise recent contributions in the field.

Fund raising

To make anything happen, we will need to raise funds. During the conference we will work out how to raise money to make all these things happen.

Fringe meetings

Do you have some burning issue you want to discuss? Well you will have an opportunity to run a workshop with smaller groups on a topic of your choice.

Reports from Reformists Centres world wide

A chance for you to hear what is happening in Reformist Centres from around the world.

If you have any further ideas, or want to run a fringe meeting or workshop, then please let Fazleabbas Khinkabwalla know.

Fazle can be contacted on 0121 772 3953 or email Fazle786@aol.com

Reformist Bohras World Conference 2004

Important information: Booking Hotel Rooms

For practical reasons, you will have to book your own hotel accomodation. We have arranged for the hotels to take bookings from individuals. Please give the reference number so that we can keep track of who has booked where.

Booking at IBIS hotel

Telephone +44 (0) 1788 824 331
Email reservation H3588@accor-hotels.com
Cost £34.95 per ROOM per night (max 2 people per room, unless with a child under 12) for Friday/Sat/Sun
Other cost Cost on other days is £44.95 per room per night Monday to Thursday
Website http://www.accorhotels.com/accorhotels/fichehotel/gb/ibi/3588/fiche_hotel.shtml
To book, you need to provide

- Full name
- Telephone number
- Number of people
- Smoking/Non-smoking
- Credit Card Number (for guarantee)
- Booking Dates
- Reference REF: DBWS

Booking at Hanover International hotel

Telephone +44 (0) 1327 307 000
Email reservation rso@hanover-international.com
Cost £35.00 per PERSON per night
Website <http://www.hanover-international.com/daventry/index.php?option=1>
To book, you need to provide

- Full name
- Telephone number
- Double / Twin
- Smoking / Non-Smoking
- Credit Card Number (for guarantee)
- Booking Date
- Code: DA3007 / Ref: Dawoodi

Special Requests Cots / extra person

Registration Form

To secure a place at the conference, complete and return this form by Friday 29 May 2004

Name	<input type="text"/>	Names of people attending the conference. To help us plan the programme and activities for children and young people, please state ages of children and young people below the age of 35 years.
Address	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	Age
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Phone (inc international and area codes)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Fax (inc international and area codes)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you would like to hold a fringe workshop or have any ideas for the conference programme, please give details here

Please return form to Haki Kapasi, INSPIRE, 25 Abbey Road, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 5RA, United Kinkdom

The Youth Event March 2004

On Saturday 13 March 2004, young people from all over the country got together in Birmingham to get to know each other and make friends.

Some will be old enough to remember events like these used to happen on a regular basis, but we haven't seen anything like it for a long time. But thanks to **Nasreen Rajabali** who worked hard behind the scenes to make the event a success, we had an informal gathering once again.

About 80 young people attended the evening of games, chat and pizzas. Plans are already a foot to organise another event, perhaps something different, later on in the year. If you want to be kept informed about any youth events, contact Nasreen Rajabali on 0121 605 0290 or email her at nasreen@mehndidesign.co.uk

Here are some of comments from the evening:

I had lots of fun on Saturday. The mood was

relaxed and the socialising games (especially the bottle one) helped to break the ice.

Thank you for organising a fantastic evening, I am just sorry I wasn't there earlier - Waheed thought the community was lovely and enjoyed himself too. I hope we manage to have many more informal get-togethers in the near future.

I thought that the day was a good opportunity for the young people in the community to get together and find out who else is out there.

I think that you organised it very well and many thanks to you for doing this, I think something like this has been overdue for a long time.

I enjoyed the evening and thought it was well planned. The organisation into the games and meal must have taken much time and I am grateful for your efforts as I am sure the others are too.

The Youth Gathering by Zainab Sadikot

The evening started around 3 o'clock for those who were travelling to Birmingham. Typically reaching the venue for 5 was not what you call Bohra time but after a few wrong turnings and a couple of U-turns we reached the venue at 6, luckily in time for the snacks and the samosas. Not knowing what to expect of the event, (was it just another youth event or more of a "getting to know you" event), we all greeted; many familiar faces and a few new and a couple who looked lost in the crowd.

Once all had arrived we were given a puzzle like picture, where we had to match it up with those of similar shapes to form a larger picture and to form small groups. After a bit of madness everyone settled down and got talking in their groups. This activity introduced us to new and old friends. There after we had more snacks and people just chatted away about who was at what uni, what degrees they did and what jobs and where they now lived etc. There was also games scattered

around the room i.e. karum which people enjoyed.

The rest of the evening involved a number of games, which involved interaction with one another. Then dinner was served, but not the usual sweets, savouries and biryani but pizza and salad followed by ice cream. The evening ended with a speed dating like game where information about yourself was given to the person sitting opposite you and visa versa and every couple of minutes you would change partners and repeat the process.

I think this event has opened the doors for the youth to organise similar events on a regular basis. Overall there was an excellent turn out of youth from all over, Leicester London, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham etc. The event was an enjoyable one and brought together some old friends as well as introducing new. It was well organised and many thanks to all the organisers.

Zainab Sadikot

Obituaries

Abdulhusein Ahmedbhai Dungarwalla

Papa was born in the 1920's in Dungar, India. He was one of six brothers and three sisters. He passed away peacefully on the 21st January 2004.

In his teens Papa moved from India to Kampala, Uganda, where he spent 35 years of his life. It was here that he married Ma in 1948, and had two children, **Ibrahim** and **Hamida**.

Papa moved to the UK in 1973, initially living in Winsford, then since the early 80's making Birmingham his home. During these years he saw both his children get married and have children of their own. He was also blessed with a great many friends, both old and new.

Papa was an honest, kind and generous gentleman, who today and always will be greatly missed and remembered by all those that he has left behind; both family and friends.

We will always love you.

Imtiaz Dungarwalla and Masuma Kapasi

Mr Firoz bhai Nuruddin Noorani

I regret to advise you about the sad demise of dear **Firoz bhai Nuruddin Noorani**. Perhaps you would all remember him as he has been a regular attendant at the Eid functions and Ashura majlises in London for as long as I can remember.

For those who did not know him, Firoz was the son of late Batul aunty **Noorani** and **Nuruddin**. Uncle Noorani (whose record for serving the community in the late fifties, sixties and the seventies in London is second to none prior to the formation of London Jamat).

Firoz was a brother of **Mrs Kulsum Jivanjee** and **Suraiya Noorani, Naseem Jivanjee** of Toronto.

Murtaza Jivanjee, London

Mr Fazel Abbas Sulemanji

It is with sadness that I inform you of the death of **Mr. Fazel Abbas Sulemanji** in Houston, Texas (previously of Entebbe, Uganda).

He passed away Tuesday 27th January at approx 4.30 local time.

May Allah grant his soul peace and Jannat.

Imdad Kirefu, London

Second Peak District Walk

DBWS members and **Salim Vanak** are organising their second stroll in the lovely English country side. This is a wonderful chance to get fit, chat in a relaxed atmosphere, see the beautiful countryside and raise money for the Iran earthquake.

The walk will take place on Sunday 30th May 2004 at 10.30 and return by 1800. The walk is 7 miles and will take approximately 5-6 hours including breaks and lunch.

We will be starting (and finishing) from the car park in front of the Monsal Head Hotel on the B6465. Grid Ref. SK185715.

For further information, please contact Yasin Tayebjee on yasin19@hotmail.com or Fatema Patwa on fpatwa@patwasolicitors.co.uk. Salim Vanak will be leading the way. He will have his mobile with him on the day in case you can't find the car park. His number is 07968 951804.

Get details from Fatema or Yasin about the do's and don'ts of the walk and about the sponsorship forms.

Sportsday

Sunday 6th June 2004, 12-8pm
Loughborough 3M Sports ground

Everyone welcome!

Take part in lots of games or just come and mingle

Rounders, egg and spoon, 3 legged race, tug of war, 5 aside football, obstacle relay and the DBWS twist

Please bring your own lunch.
Dinner will be provided

Prices: adults £5, children under 12 £3

Contact details:

Imtiaz Sulemanji
Telephone 07801 377 869
email imtiaz_s@hotmail.com

Huma Vanat
Telephone 07970 896 708
email huma_vanat@hotmail.com

Please send payment along with your name, contact details and number of people attending by Friday 14th May 2004 to

**144 Brandwood Road, Kings Heath
Birmingham B14 6BX**

Make cheques payable to Huma Vanat

If you need directions contact either Imtiaz or Huma.



The Visitor

This poem was read by **Naseema Rajabali** at home when we had the sehra ceremony for the boys, **Irfan, Kais** and **Mohammed Hussein Rajabali**. Sent to AZAD by their father, **Murtaza Rajabali**.

My friend is coming, My friend is coming
He is the prophet Mohammed
Now I wonder what you would do,
If he was to visit you?
Would you have to change your clothes
Before you let him in?
Or hide some magazines
And put the Quran where they had been?
Would you go right on saying
The things you always say?
Would life for you continue
As it does from day to day?
Would your family conversation
Keep up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal
To say a table grace?
Would you keep up each and every prayer
Without putting on a frown?
And would you always jump up early
For prayers at dawn?

Would you sing the songs you always sing
And read the books you read?
And let the prophet know the things on which
your mind and spirit feed?
Would you be glad to have the prophet meet
your very closest friends?
Or, would you hope they'd stay away
Until his visit ends?

Would you be glad to have the prophet stay
Forever on and on?

OR ...

Would you sigh with great relief,
When he at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know
the things that you would do
If the Prophet Mohammed, in person,
came to spend some time with you.

DBWS AGM

This years AGM will be held at 11am on the 13th June 2004 at Hornsey Vale Community Centre, Mayfield Road, London N8

New Home

Amir and Rukshana Kapasi and family have moved house. Their new address is

1 Buxton Close, St. Albans AL4 9UH
Telephone Home 01727 759303
Rukshana Office 01727 753890
Amir work 0207 5455077

Congratulations on your new house. Hope you are all very happy there.

Congratulations

Congrats to **Rozet** for passing her driving test!

Love **Dad, Mum, Saleem, Tarifa** and **Uzaima Bagasrawalla** - Birmingham.



Watch out for the speed cameras Rozet!

Visit the Dawoodi Bohra Reformist website for news and views on Reformist activities:
<http://www.dawoodi-bohras.com>

AZAD

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