

Bismallah Ar-Rahman Al-Rahim

# Muslim Students' Association of Northern Illinois University

Volume 2, Issue 1



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## Letter from the Presidents

By: Sister Rasmieyh Abdelnabi {junior, Political Science and History}  
and Brother Omar Mishal {senior, Electrical Engineering}

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu!

Welcome back students! InshAllah your summer was as eventful and successful as you would have hoped.

We begin this new year with a fresh start. In the past, the MSA has been almost non-existent and our one and only major event was Islam Awareness Week. We realize that because the MSA has not been as active as it should be; people feel that it is not an organization that they would like to be a part of. There is good news, brothers and sisters; this is the year of changes and improvements.

Our focus this academic year is to reintroduce the importance of the “ummah,” or community in Islam. It is important for Muslims in DeKalb—students and residents alike- to be more involved in each other’s lives.

We worked hard over the summer to plan activities for the next two semesters and pray that our members will join us.

The MSA is planning on having more events such as speakers throughout the year. We plan on hosting an ethnic night showing that Muslims come from all over the world, not just the Middle East. We would also like to start organizing Quran memorization, weekly religious lessons, Ramadan activities, and sporting events.

It is crucial for all the Muslims in DeKalb to realize that the Muslim Students’ Association is here for everyone-student and non-students alike- and we try very hard to cater to everyone’s needs. We have an open-door policy, if anyone has a question, suggestion, or complaint email or call one of the officers and we will be more than happy to help you.

Remember that it takes more than planning events and organizing activities, we need our members to support us and participate. So we hope to see everyone at the MSA’s first general body meeting September 15<sup>th</sup> 2004 in the Holmes Student Center Room 305 at 8:00 pm, where we will discuss and plan upcoming events.

May Allah bless each and every one of you, and help you to have a great and successful semester.

Walaikum Assalamu Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu!

## Importance of Community

By: Nusheen Ameenuddin {[www.jannah.org](http://www.jannah.org)}

### The Ummah is a stalled car

Picture yourself piling into a car with your fellow MSA members, about to embark on yet another road trip to an Islamic conference. Everyone is excited about hearing their favorite speakers, meeting old friends, making new connections. But what would happen if this buoyant busload came to a screeching halt?

Think of how your group would behave if suddenly you were stuck on the road, while dozens of cars raced by. Would you be disappointed, disillusioned, dormant, or determined to get your vehicle running again?

I am reminded of a wonderful parable, laden with meaning and smacking with a painful truth, that a wise Muslim once told me.

The Muslim Ummah is a stalled car.

Sadly, this is our current state. At the most, we are idling on the shoulder of the road, and even that is a generous description. It seems we have forgotten the glorious early days of Islam when the proverbial Muslim engine was running at maximum efficiency. Not a single dedicated Muslim remained idle. They used all available means to establish Islam and keep the momentum going.

But today, we remain in the stalled car that is our Ummah and wonder what can be done. After awhile, we notice four very distinct groups of people begin to emerge. The first group is inspecting the car and trying to fix whatever went wrong. The second is asleep inside the car. The third bunch is standing off to the side watching, but doing nothing more. Finally, we have the fourth group which is trying to ensure that the car remains broken. Clearly, these groups each need help if the car is ever to move again.

What can we do? The members of the first group have the right attitude, but they need better coordination. Progress will not be made if one person is trying to fix the engine while another is attempting to push the car along. Before they can begin to fix the car, they must first determine what is wrong. After discovering the problem, they must agree on a plan of action. Once an agreement is reached, their individual forces can combine positively instead of cancelling each other out.

The second group, the sleepers, are a burden and must be roused. Once awake, they must be informed of the problem and made to realize its gravity. Then they need to be told what they can do to ameliorate the situation.

The fourth group (hindering the effort) cannot be dealt with as easily as the first two. When a group such as this is actively trying to undo the hard work of others or shouting unconstructive criticism, a number of factors need to be taken into consideration. First of all, do not expect to change their minds quickly and easily, or even at all. Often times, it is like arguing with a donkey - you waste your breath and annoy the donkey! Gentle education is preferable and nasiha (advice) is a

duty of one Muslim to another, but if they persist in hindering your progress, do not allow them to distract you from your task. Your energies are required elsewhere. It is also necessary to be cautious with the fourth group. Watch out, they may try to push the car in the opposite direction, setting everyone even further back than initially. But even if they do that, remember to deal with them Islamically, for if they are dealt with harshly, it will only cause fitna and confusion among all the groups and you will go nowhere fast. The overall process is a jihad of sorts.

Ironically, it is the third group (standing and watching) which is the most complex and problematic. You must first determine why they are standing by. Are they lazy? Do they think the car cannot be fixed, or do they not trust those who are trying to fix the car? Maybe they think the car is not necessary to reach their destination. These are all very serious concerns. Unfortunately, it seems the bulk of the Ummah falls into this group. There is no quick remedy for the third group. But bear in mind that a small spark in the engine may be what these people need, either as a warning that if something is not done, their entire journey will go up in smoke (literally) or that there is hope that the vehicle can be fixed. Others among the group of idlers simply lack confidence in their ability to contribute. If this is the case, a gentle nudge (occasionally, an outright shove, done nicely) in the right direction may be the much needed catalyst. This step must be followed by education and training, which will, inshaa'Allah give them faith in themselves and others, as well as a solid foundation on which to operate. They must also learn that they should not waste time waiting around for a tow truck or a mechanic. Maybe all the car needs is a good push. If nothing else, they can hand tools to the workers. The fact is that a really good mechanic might not show up for a very long time and the people in the car must make do with each other.

We are at a stage where not a single Muslim can be wasted. Every hand must contribute, in its own way, to restarting the Ummah. This may involve small sacrifices of doing what is needed rather than what we want individually. We need to hone our skills, yet be diverse enough in our abilities to perform a variety of functions.

Every once in a while, we need a jump start, a rejuvenation of our iman which will enable us to feel the spirit of Islam coursing through us. We also need spiritual nourishment (filling ourselves with Qur'an, Sunnah, and other Islamic knowledge) on a regular basis, as well as the occasional tune-up to ensure that we are functioning the way a strong Ummah should. This ongoing metaphor makes me wonder which group each of us falls into. Are we eager to help but lack direction and coordination? Are we in a state of dormancy? Perhaps we are quiet observers who wait, in vain, for a tow truck to lift us into action. I sincerely hope none of us is trying to destroy the hard work of others. Regardless of which group we identify with, we are crippling the Ummah and will continue to be a liability until we get our act together. May Allah (swt) guide us all to aid in the mobilization of our Ummah.

### **Did you know.....?**

The Prophet (PBUH) once said, "Should I tell you something that will help you love one another? Spread the greeting of peace [ i.e. "Assalamu Alikum." ] among yourselves. (Muslim)

## Sisterly Advice

By: Sister Kimberly Weaver {sophomore, nursing}  
Women's Representative

### Get your priorities straight

Alhamdulillah, it is time for the relaxation of summer to end and the new school year to begin, insha Allah. Before your busy schedule has taken over most of your life, now is your chance to take the time and think about the important things in life and how you can make sure they stay at the top of your list throughout the school year. Think about the time you would like to devote to Islam and how you can build your schedule around this time instead of the other way around. Think about how you would like to spend Ramadan.

Are all of those night classes this semester really worth it to you? Think about the friends that you might be so eager to meet and what kind of impact they will have in your devotion to Allah (swt). Choose friends wisely because they may become your support system while away from family. Instead of spending most of your time with the girl down the hall because it is convenient, remember that there are a lot of other Muslims on campus that are also away from family and are looking to make a home away from home. Don't forget about your sisters in Islam and try to lend a helping hand to those new to DeKalb.

Make friends with each other to help and support one another and work to build a community. This is just a short list of things to think about to make sure you set your priorities straight. This could be the year you grow closer to Allah or this could be the year you may always regret.

You choose your path so choose wisely. May Allah guide us all on the right path and keep us on it, insha Allah!

## For the Good of All

By: Brother Owais Malick {Junior, Biology}

### Love for the Sake of Allah

Bismillah, All the praises be to Allah,

The Prophet (PBUH) has described the status of those that love for the sake of Allah, he has told us of the great position and honor that Allah has promised to bestow upon them on the Day when man will be resurrected.

A hadith describes the seven who will receive Allah's shade on the Day when there is no shade but His shade: "a just ruler, a youth who grows up in worshipping Allah, a man who has deep attachment to the masjid, two men who love one another for Allah's sake, a man who is called upon by a beautiful woman and he says, 'I fear Allah,' one who gives charity such that his left hand does not know what his right hand is doing, and a man who remembers Allah when he is alone and his eyes fill of tears." [Related by Bukhari and Muslim]

Therefore, a person who loves another person only for the sake of Allah will have the honor of receiving Allah's shade on the Day of Judgment. To love a person for

the sake of Allah means to meet that person for Allah's sake and to part with that person for Allah's sake. This is a distinguishing feature of a true Muslim. This love is not taken by worldly interests (i.e. loving another because of his or her wealth, or loving another because of his or her popularity among the people). An individual who has a pure heart and does not care of the worldly motives can only attain this love.

Allah loves those who love their Muslim brothers and sisters and establish ties amongst each other.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "A man went to visit a brother of his in another village. Allah sent an angel to wait for him on the road. When the man came along, the angel asked him, 'Where do you intend to go?' He said, 'I am going to visit a brother of mine who lives in this village.' The angel asked, 'Have you done him any favor (for which you are now seeking repayment)?' He said, 'No. I just love him for the sake of Allah.' The angel told him, I am a messenger to you from Allah, sent to tell you that He loves you as you love your brother for His sake" [Related by Muslim].

It is important to inform the brother one loves. Anas ibn Maalik (RA) relates that, "I was sitting with the Prophet (PBUH) when a man came passing by, and he said, 'O Prophet of Allah, indeed I love this man (in a brotherly way)'; the Prophet (PBUH) said, 'Have you informed him of this?'; the man said, 'No'; the Prophet (PBUH) said, 'Go on, get up and tell him.'; so he got up and went to him and said, 'O so-and-so, by Allah, indeed I love you for the sake of Allah.'; so he said, 'May the one for whom you have loved me, love you (in return). [Related by Imam Ahmad and Abu Dawud]

Let us uphold the sunnah and love our brothers and sisters for Allah alone. The Prophet (PBUH) has clearly described the increased status of those that do so. Go to your brother or sister and tell him, 'Ana ahabbuka fi Allah' (I love you for the sake of Allah). And let him respond, 'Ahabbak allah ullaahi ahbabtani feeh' (May the one for whom you have loved me, love you, in return).

## Upcoming Events

- Brother's Halaq will be held every Friday from Asr until Magrib
- The first Sister's Halaq will be on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 2004 at the masjid.
- First general body meeting September 15<sup>th</sup> 2004 at 8:00 pm in the Holmes Student Center, Room 305

\*\*\*\*\*For more info about these events or to add your email address to the list please contact the MSA\*\*\*\*\*

**Muslim Student Association**  
**Northern Illinois University**  
[msaofniu@yahoo.com](mailto:msaofniu@yahoo.com)  
<http://www.sa.niu.edu/msa/>

**Female Co-President: Rasmieyh Abdelnabi**  
**Women's Representative: Kimberly Weaver**  
**Secretary: Amani Farraj**  
**Treasurer: Muhammad Mustafa**

**Male Co-President: Omar Mishal**  
**Men's Representative: Muhammad Sharizi**  
**Public Relations Officer: Shahidah Parveen**  
**Advisor: Atique Ahmed**

**Islamic Society of Northern Illinois University**  
**Mosque**  
**721 Normal Road**  
**Dekalb, IL 60115**  
**815-756-9640**

**September Prayer Schedule**

Day	September	Hijri	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
Wed	1	16/7	5:01	6:20	12:56	4:37	7:30	8:50
Thu	2	17/7	5:04	6:22	12:55	4:35	7:27	8:46
Fri	3	18/7	5:05	6:23	12:55	4:34	7:25	8:45
Sat	4	19/7	5:06	6:24	12:54	4:33	7:23	8:43
Sun	5	20/7	5:06	6:24	12:54	4:33	7:23	8:43
Mon	6	21/7	5:09	6:26	12:54	4:31	7:20	8:39
Tue	7	22/7	5:10	6:27	12:53	4:30	7:18	8:37
Wed	8	23/7	5:10	6:27	12:53	4:30	7:18	8:37
Thu	9	24/7	5:11	6:28	12:53	4:29	7:16	8:35
Fri	10	25/7	5:13	6:30	12:52	4:26	7:13	8:31
Sat	11	26/7	5:15	6:31	12:52	4:25	7:11	8:29
Sun	12	27/7	5:15	6:31	12:52	4:25	7:11	8:29
Mon	13	28/7	5:17	6:33	12:51	4:23	7:08	8:25
Tue	14	29/7	5:18	6:34	12:51	4:22	7:06	8:24
Wed	15	1/8	5:19	6:35	12:51	4:21	7:04	8:22
Thu	16	2/8	5:19	6:35	12:51	4:21	7:04	8:22
Fri	17	3/8	5:22	6:37	12:50	4:18	7:01	8:18
Sat	18	4/8	5:23	6:38	12:49	4:17	6:59	8:16
Sun	19	5/8	5:23	6:38	12:49	4:17	6:59	8:16
Mon	20	6/8	5:24	6:39	12:49	4:16	6:57	8:14
Tue	21	7/8	5:26	6:41	12:48	4:14	6:54	8:10
Wed	22	8/8	5:27	6:42	12:48	4:12	6:52	8:09
Thu	23	9/8	5:27	6:42	12:48	4:12	6:52	8:09
Fri	24	10/8	5:30	6:44	12:47	4:10	6:48	8:05
Sat	25	11/8	5:31	6:46	12:47	4:09	6:47	8:03
Sun	26	12/8	5:32	6:47	12:47	4:08	6:45	8:01
Mon	27	13/8	5:32	6:47	12:47	4:08	6:45	8:01
Tue	28	14/8	5:34	6:49	12:46	4:05	6:42	7:58
Wed	29	15/8	5:35	6:50	12:46	4:04	6:40	7:56
Thu	30	16/8	5:35	6:50	12:46	4:04	6:40	7:56