

StuyMSA 2010-2011  
Meeting No.3, 10/21/11

### **Importance of Iman**

Led by Menna Elaskandrany & Farzana Yeasmin

Tags: iman, faith, 7 articles of faith, tawhid, taqwa, levels of Iman,

Sources: Qur'an

### **Start**

*'Auzubillahi min ashaitan irajeem, Bismillah irrahman irraheem.*

*Alhamdullillahi rabil 'alameen. Wasalaatu was salaamu 'ala ashrafil anbiya i wal mursaleen, wa la 'alihi wa sahbihii ajmaeen. Amma' baad.*

### **Announcements**

- Thank you Breast Cancer Walk volunteers
- HS Fair - Always try to promote StuyMSA in everything that you do. In a way, you are all representatives of StuyMSA to the rest of the Stuy community. Leave a great impression of StuyMSA and that will always help YOU in the future.
- Farjana (Rish) will be sharing a story after school Tuesday.

**Icebreakers:** Pick out one "worry" from the bag of worries and talk about it.

### **I. What is Iman? What does it mean to have Iman in Allah?**

- Ask for some responses

- Explain what Iman is

- Iman is the Arabic word for Faith.
- Having Iman in Allah means that you put forth all your trust in Allah. You believe in Him and only Him. You believe in your heart that He has provided you with the best plan for life and that there is no way better than His. You do not associate any other people/things with Allah. Iman can be stated as acknowledging God with full sincerity of heart while accepting all His attributes.

### **II. 7 Articles of Faith:**

#### **1. Belief in Allah**

- Tawhid- the belief in one god, Allah, and no one else but him. Comes from the Arabic word "Wahid" which means one.
- In the first Surah of the Quran, Allah states: Bismillah Alrahman Alrahim "...Iyaka Na'boduh wa iyaka nasta'in..." [ask: does anyone want to translate?] which means we worship him alone and we seek for his help alone. [alone is implied]
- In Surat Al Ikhlas number 112, Allah states: "Qul huwa Allahu Ahad, Allah Usamad, Lam yalid, wa lam yulad, wa lam yakun lahu kufwan ahad" which means [ask:does anyone want to translate?] Say, It is Allah the One. Allah is Besought of all, needing none He neither begot anyone, nor was begotten. And equal to Him has never been any one.
- This means that you can't associate anyone/anything with Allah. He alone created us, and He alone deserves to be worshiped by us. Therefore, it is pretty obvious that Islam is a monotheistic religion!!! yayyy.
- Just because you can't see Allah doesn't mean that he doesn't exist [Astaghfirullah]. We can see the blessings Allah has bestowed upon us and come to believe that only a power as great as Him is responsible for them. After all, he is the one that gave us the complex brains that we have to speculate such matters.

#### **2. Belief in Prophet Muhammed (S.A.W.S.) as the Last Messenger**

- Allah sent many prophets to guide the people to the right path of Islam. In one way or the other,

the people strayed away from the words of Allah. They changed them to fit their own preferences. Allah sent prophet Muhammad (saw) as the Last Messenger to all of Mankind. With Prophet Muhammad (saw) came the Qur'an which is the last of Allah's many books. What makes the Qur'an unique however is the fact that it was never altered as in the case of the other books. (will get into that later on)

- Prophet Muhammad (saw) is an example of one of Allah's blessings mercy to mankind. He is the perfect guide to how Allah wants us to live in order to be the best slaves. And yes we are Allah's slaves. We have no other purpose in this world but to worship Allah in everything that we do and remember Him!
- It is stressed in the Qur'an as well as in prayers and Hadiths that one must believe in Prophet Muhammad (saw) as the final prophet in order to truly believe in Allah.
- What sets apart Muslims from Christians or Jews, is the fact that Christians and Jews don't believe in Muhammad (saw) as the final messenger of Allah.

### 3. Belief in All the Angels (Discuss 4 major ones and their roles)

### 4. Belief in All Holy Books [Qur'an (most complete and unaltered until Day Judgment) Torah, Injeel (Bible - explain the Old Testament vs. New Testament), Zaboor (Book of Psalms)]

### 5. Belief in Day of Judgement

### 6. Belief That Everything Comes from Allah, Good & Bad

### 7. Belief in Life after Death

*All of these are stated in Iman-e-Mufassal!*

## III. Taqwa

Taqwa is the awareness of Allah. Although most people define it as "God-fearing," a more true description is one who is "God-Conscious." Taqwa, when coupled with imaan, makes a well rounded believer. But what does it mean to be conscious of Allah?

- On Consciousness: To be constantly aware of what pleases and displeases Allah and to ensure that our efforts are to make him most happy and gain his maximum pleasure.
- On Action: To rush in acting upon the orders of Allah and to suppress any inclinations that would prevent us from completing the tasks in its best form.
- A Step Further: Allah is not physically present or visible to our eyes. He is haadhir (present), but gha ib (unseen). What makes taqwa so challenging and rewarding is the idea of expressing this level of alertness and attentiveness to Allah in his "absence" when he is not visible.

## IV. Characteristics of a Muttaqi

A person who has Taqwa is a **Muttaqi** (pl. muttaqin). A Muttaqi demonstrates this constant state of endearment throughout his/her actions in every facet of his/her life. (S)he reduces all the obstacles that prevent him/her from dedicating everything to Allah. (S)he minimizes the distractions and all the 'noise' in his/her life that drown out his/her awareness of Allah.

- "He (Allah) is with you wherever you are." (57:4) He is neither absent, nor is He missing. It is rather our consciousness and our awareness – our Taqwa towards Him – that is absent and missing. He is with us along every step of the way, but we are aloof of Him at every moment. Only if we tuned in to Him, became conscious of Him, and awakened our souls to Him can we experience His manifestations with our own souls." (41:53)

## V. Levels of Iman

- Islam: When one performs the five pillars of Islam they are exhibiting submission to Allah. A person who has Islam is a **Muslim**. The two words are related and come from the same Arabic root.

By performing the five pillars, a Muslim shows through their outward actions that they have submitted themselves to Allah. If a person does these things, they are Muslim regardless of the true feelings they have in their heart. So, unless they make a statement or perform actions of disbelief, we must accept them as Muslim.

- Iman: To be Muslim, one only needs to perform certain actions. But that may not necessarily

make them a believer, or one of the faithful. To have true faith, a Muslim must also accept the Six Articles of Faith.

A Muslim who accepts the Articles of Faith is called a **Mu'min**, or one who has Imaan. While it is fairly easy to spot a Muslim, it is nearly impossible to determine if someone is a Mu'min.

We can verify if a person is a Muslim simply by observing their actions and listening to their speech. But Iman, faith, is in the heart and only Allah knows what is in there.

*While it is possible for someone to be a Muslim yet not be a Mu'min, it is not possible for someone to be a Mu'min yet not be a Muslim.*

- **Ihsaan**: You should be grateful and thankful to Allah if you are a Muslim, and even more so if you are a Mu'min. And if we do get to that point, we must continue to strive for perfection for that is the highest level of faith.

Ihsaan means to worship and behave as if we can see Allah. For even though we cannot see Him, He surely sees us. This high level of perfection is called Ihsaan, and a person who reaches it is called a **Muhsin**. There are two types of Ihsaan. Both of them are commendable, but one is slightly better than the other.

The levels of Ihsaan are:

- Worshipping Allah as if we can see Him
- Being aware that Allah sees all of our deeds and acting accordingly.

The first level of Ihsaan is the best as the person who reaches this level will have the utmost sincerity during the times they are communicating with their Lord. So when a person is making their prayers, they will say each word and make each movement knowing that Allah sees not just their outward actions, but their inner thoughts as well.

Because they know that Allah sees them both inside and out, their minds will be focused on the prayers (or Hajj, or charity, or fast) and they will be in fear and awe of His Might and Majesty. They will recite Al-Fatihah (the first chapter of the Quran) with conviction, and feeling, and hope, and fear.

The Muhsin will purify his or her intentions. He or she will not give charity to be seen but to please Allah. The Muhsin knows that Allah knows their true intentions. A Muhsin is one who reaches the perfection of Islamic faith. And just like we cannot tell if someone is a Mu'min, we cannot tell if someone is a Muhsin either. *And just like it is impossible to be a Mu'min without first being a Muslim, likewise it is impossible to be a Muhsin without first being a Mu'min.*

InshaAllah, let us all strive and pray that Allah raises up through the different levels of faith, from Muslim, to Mu'min, to Muhsin.

## **End**

*Subhanakallahumma wa bihamdik. Ash hadu Allah ilaha illa annt. Astaghfiruka wa atubu ilaik  
Rabbana atina fid dunya hasanatan- wa fil akhirati hasantan- wa qina 'adhabannar. Rabbana zalamna  
anfusuna wa illan taghfirlana wa tarhamna lana kunanna minal khasireen. Rabbana la tuzigh kulubana wa  
idh hadaytana wa habblana milla dunka rahmatan innaka antal wahhab. Ameen*