**Get Your Game On: A Memoir by Arif Kabir**

*How can neglect and even ignore fellow Muslim families?*

Ever since I was young, my parents never allowed me to get a game console. Never. Whether it be Super Nintendo, Nintendo 64, GameCube, Sega Genesis, PS1, PS2, PS3, XBox, Xbox 360, or anything else, I was never allowed to play these at home. This made it really hard while in elementary and middle school because practically everybody at school had one type of game console or another, and most conversations pivoted on the newest games that would come out.

I tried convincing my parents numerous times to let me get one, but it was all to no avail. I slowly resigned myself to the fact that I’d never be as cool as others…I’d never fully understand my classmates’ conversations…

My life was over.

“Want to come and help distribute the Zakat-ul-Fitr?,” my father asked me.

It was a clear and bright sunny day, and I decided to accompany my father and an uncle as they drove from address to address, delivering food for the truly needy. I quite enjoyed myself as I raced up and down the stairs while carrying packets of meat and grains in both hands.

As we got in our car, having finished dropping off some food at a house, we saw that house’s door suddenly burst open. A Muslim woman came running out, looking slightly distraught as she quickly made her way to talk to us before we left.

“Brothers, please help me; my husband left us and the landlord is trying to kick us out of this house. My young children are all still in school, and I can’t work here. Please help me…”, she implored in faltering English with a pleading look in her eyes. We quickly got her information and promised to send it to a local Masjid that had allocated funds for such cases.

We drove off very quietly.

As we drove off with Ramadan slowly came to a winding close, it finally hit me. How in the world can I ask for hundreds of dollars in consoles, games, and other luxuries while *our* sisters in Islam are suffering? How can we neglect and even ignore fellow Muslim families while we sit back and just relax?

Let’s concentrate on what is important and step up our activism to help our Muslim brothers and sisters for the sake of Allah (subhanahu wa ta’ala). Many are suffering either physically or spiritually, so it is up to us to reach out to them and to get them to smile once more as they get back on their feet. Let’s not spend our money and time on buying and playing useless games, but spend it for the cause of Allah.

I leave you with a challenge: Get your game on.

“*Therefore, treat not the orphan with oppression, repulse not the beggar; and proclaim the Grace of your Lord*” – Allah (subhanahu wa ta’ala) in Surah Duha, Ayahs 9-11.

Cardozo MSA 2011-2012

Meeting # 1/20/11

**Back to the Basics Part III: Zakat – Charity**

Led by Mehreen Kagzi, Abdul Quorishy and Nitasha Siddiqui

Sources: The Oxford History of Islam- John L. Esposito <http://www.harunyahya.com/hadith_corner.php>

<http://www.islamic-life.com/islamic-practices-five-pillars/article-zakah-compulsory-charity>

http://www.isgh.org/zakatcalculation.pdf

http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/practices/zakat.shtml

Start with Du’a (2-3 minutes):

***Auzubillahi min ashaitan irajeem, Bismillah irrahman iraheem.***

***Alhamdullillahi rabil 'alameen. Wasalaatu was salaamu 'ala ashrafil anbiya i wal mursaleen, wa***

***la 'alihi wa sahbihi ajmaeen. Amma' baad.***

Announcements (5 minutes):

* New Horizons 3 tickets and flyers available with Ridoy, Shabab, and Nitasha. Tickets are $20 (if you buy 4 you get 1 free) and please help promote the event! If you want a flyer to put up in your local masjid or madarsa, please ask and we will iA provide you with one.
* DozoTech: Need 100% confirmed people, must come up and give us their contact info and inform us if they can make it after 8th period. Mention $2 for food.
* First MIST Prep meeting today (shorter lesson). Whoever is interested in joining the official team must give us their email, phone number, full name. No maybes, tell us when you are 100% sure and have asked your parents too.

Icebreaker (10 minutes):

 Who has attempted to work on their salah since last Friday? How so?

Take answers and discuss for a little while, do mini recap of last lesson to refresh memory.

Segway: So far, we’ve gotten through 2 pillars, Shahadah and Salah. Now we get on to the third one, which is Zakat.

1. Zakat: In General (10 minutes)
* What is zakat? (Take answers) – What we Muslims give to charity which is 2.5% of wealth such as money, gold and silver.
* Amount of Zakat given out of other things (animals, mining products, etc.) varies.
* There is also sadaqah – form of voluntary charity given specifically to the poor. 🡪 zakat is used on things other than the poor, such as supporting those in debt.
* Al-zakah means “the purification” 🡪 it refers to the cleaning out one’s heart of greed. Giving away amounts of wealth annually saves us from hoarding materialistic things.
* Also meant as a form of worship, most of you may have never thought of it that way but it’s true. 🡪 We have to keep in mind that we are not true owners of anything in this world; Allah is the sole owner of all things.
	+ Striving to acquire wealth only to have it or to look better in society means nothing in the eyes of Allah SWT and it will not save you in the Hereafter
	+ Narrated Anas: *Allah’s Messenger said: “Three (things) follow a dead person: Members of his family, his possessions and his deeds. Two of them return; and one remains with him. The people and his wealth return; his deeds remain with him.”* (Al-Bukhari and Muslim) 🡪 Islam wants you to strive to live a good life and seek wealth only to support your needs and those of others, thus the purpose of zakat.
	+ Giving zakat makes you even better in the eyes of Allah SWT 🡪 Narrated Abu Hurairah: *Allah’s Messenger said, “Wealth is not diminished by giving (in charity). Allah augments the honour of one who forgives; and one who displays humility towards another seeking the Pleasure of Allah, Allah exalts him in ranks.”* (Muslim)
	+ By giving charity, you are showing that your love for this dunya is nothing in comparison to that which you feel for Allah SWT and that, if told to, you will give up your wealth for Him.
* Remember: Care for others and Allah SWT will care for you.
1. Zakat: For You(10 minutes)
* You might believe that zakat only benefits the one receiving it; what does it do for the one giving it?
	+ Read “Get Your Game On” by Arif Kabr 🡪 What the author is telling us is that there’s more to zakat than just giving. As a Muslim, it is your duty to help your brothers and sisters in Islam and you are benefitting yourself in the process.
	+ Like mentioned before, you avoid greed and an extreme attachment to the things of this dunya.
		- **Analogy:** Don’t we all imagine what we’d do with a million dollars? The things we’d buy, the things we’d do, the places we’d go! It all sounds marvelous but what we fail to realize is that all those things aren’t going to make your iman stronger or your relationship with Allah SWT. Sure, enjoying things isn’t a crime but getting caught up in them and losing sight of the real goal is a problem.
	+ Instills better qualities in you like selflessness, kindness, patience, and a greater appreciation of what you have rather than longing for what you don’t.
		- **Analogy:** When you see those poor, desolate villages in third world countries and the way the people live you feel grateful don’t you? That you aren’t in their position, that you’re able to sit there and think “Oh I can’t imagine living like that!”. And immediately following that, you get that self-righteous feeling that something must be done to help and so you donate to a foundation for them. What have you gained? Gratefulness. What have those people gained? The thought that someone cares. Win-win situation, huh? And on top of that, good deeds for you! How can you pass such a thing up?
* What if you don’t have any money to give? How do you give charity then?
	+ Through what we use to receive “charity”: du’a. Make du’a for those people in need and hope that they be protected by Allah SWT.
		- What do you get from that? Well think of it this way: If I tried to help a friend of yours out, would you try and help me out also? Similarly, if we look to Allah SWT for guidance and help for others, surely He will give the same to us in return.

Zakah is a compulsory act for Muslims, as we give up portions of our wealth to benefit others. And in turn for our efforts, we are rewarded with purer hearts and the favor of Allah SWT as we fulfill that which has been asked of us. We are saved from greed and attachment to the dunya and are reminded of the things that matter most in the short time that we are here in this world; being a Muslim.

Closing Q&A Session: Any comments, questions, and thoughts are welcome.