**Agenda: March 10, 2011 - High School for Health Professions Meeting**

I. Presenters: Farzana Ahmed & Thamana Akter

II. Topic: My Ummah, My Voice

III. Discussion:

**What is an ummah?**

Ummah (Arabic: أمة) is an Arabic word meaning Community or Nation. It is commonly used to mean either the collective nation of states, or (in the context of pan-Arabism) the whole Arab world. **In the context of Islam**, the word ummah is used to mean the diaspora or "Community of the Believers" (ummat al-mu'minin), and **thus the whole Muslim world**.

The Prefix Umm means Mother. One can see Ummah as the mother of the people from the Islamic point of view. Ummah is esentially means community. Community of the believers.

A Few Qur’anic verses regarding Ummah & it’s significance (Brief Explanation/Tafesser of each verse or ayah)

**When the Ummah is Divided:**

Mu'adh ibn Jabal (Allah be pleased with him) reported that Allah's Messenger (Peace be upon him) said, : "The Devil is like a wolf among humans as a wolf is among sheep; it snatches the stray sheep. So beware of the paths which branch off and adhere to the Jama'ah, the masses and the Masjid."

- What does this mean? What do you guy’s think? You guy’s all heard the fable of the boy & the sheep right? The moral of that fable was not to stray far and always stay close with your “pack.” Similarly, This is a warning to all of us, the Shaytan will attempt to lead us astray if we are alone, and do not communicate with each other. If we are together, as a family, as an ummah the Shaytan cannot sway us from the right path. The path to jannat. Inshallah!

**Importance of being a part of an Ummah or an Organization:**

Hold firmly to the Rope of Allah, altogether, and be not divided. And remember Allah’s favor on you, when you were enemies but He joined your hearts together so by His Grace you became brethren, and you were on the brink of a pit of fire, then He saved you from it. Thus does Allah make His signs clear to you: that you may be Guided.” Surah Al Imran

- An Ummah brings about a connection within people; it transcends all nationalities and ethnicity's and is the concept that makes all muslims brothers and sisters whether they be a poor factory worker in south-east Asia or whether they be a rich business man in middle east. Ummah ties us all together and strengthens our relationship to our fellow brothers & sisters, Islam, to Allah subhanaha wa ta’ala. Whenever we need help or look for guidance our ummah is right behind us waiting to assist. As Muslims we should be united & this is exactly what an ummah does. It UNITES us! The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said: **"The Muslim Community (Ummah) is like a human body; if one part of the body aches, the entire body aches"** If one of our friends needs help, we will all come to his or her aid. If someone in the community is ill or grieving, the group assists. Subhanallah! When Muslims in [Iraq](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Feverything2.com%2Ftitle%2FIraq&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNHggX3MH5No-UjH7Y3Jz3yWjSZi_A), [Afghanistan](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Feverything2.com%2Ftitle%2FAfghanistan&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNE1CtvRhiSUZv491pujOvg0fuL0Xg), [Palestine](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Feverything2.com%2Ftitle%2FPalestine&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFKuB4xXK5ZHd_tfWAOgIeh5vCNrA), [Kashmir](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Feverything2.com%2Ftitle%2FKashmir&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGJWJziHgx_CwgeF-sg0lxZ2ZJEXw), [Chechnya](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Feverything2.com%2Ftitle%2FChechnya&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFLluzKrmFMPn0tpmgJ-h5lUZBkqA), Gaza and [Indonesia](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Feverything2.com%2Ftitle%2FIndonesia&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGmNPSXAlHG6zT-d9hPPbZDtCenPw) suffer, we feel their pain. Tell me not, how many of you guys feel sad or enraged when you see on the news many muslims being killed in Iraq or in Libya. I feel sad, & it makes me want to go over there and comfort their family. Alas, the least we can offer our fellow Muslims our Du’a in the times of distress. The bond of ummah keeps all Muslims united and strong in our imam.

**Importance of Dawah**

And who could be better in speech than one who calls others to Allah, while one (himself) does good-deed, and says: 'I am one of the Muslims!' - Surah 41, Ayah 33

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**Why do we need an ummah? (refer to the Prophethood of Muhammad & Abraham):** How did our prophet Muhammad (PBUH) unite the muslim ummah? As you all know, the prophet’s time was a time in which multiple of idols were worshipped and deemed as gods.

 Muhammad (PBUH) gathered his nation and united its decisions. Prophet Muhammad’s (PBUH) characteristics such as his strength, his sincere devotion to his message, as well as his detestation of the false idols that prevailed at that time; and, moreover, he implanted the hearts with a creed that was superior to the false and trivial pagan beliefs. It made many of the pagan people fall in love with the beauty of Islam and all it has to offer.

He lightened the hearts of people by believing in the Glorious Creator Who owns all that is in the heavens and on earth. He firmly fixed this faith, practically and continuously, by the acts of worship his Lord revealed to him, such as prayers, fasting, Zakat, Hajj, and other kinds of good deeds.

Our prophet was a individual mankind has never seen before, his adaab, aroma, charismatic persona appealed and melted the grudges that were at first held towards Islam. He purified the souls of his people of grudges and hatred; there was no room for aggression or injustice, no room for pride or insults, but rather brotherhood, love and equality because they were of one origin, and there was no privilege of an Arab over a non-Arab except through piousness. He also made them look forward to a marvelous Heaven and to live for an eternal life to come after this temporary life. To accomplish this, we must be one. Such a strong bond joined all parties with a bond of solidarity and agreement, for they could not have authority over their lands and defend their sovereignty to please their Lord unless each and every one of them was a help and support to his brother, for one Muslim to another Muslim is like a solid wall (of bricks) supporting each other.

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) succeeded in uniting his Ummah and people because he turned them into a pious and faithful nation that works for its lifetime as if it will live forever and works for the Hereafter as if death will end it tomorrow. Therefore, this religion will only prosper by what caused its prosperity at the very beginning; as for those who are lagging behind, if they want to come forward, they have the way right in front of them. **The Qur’an and Hadiths.** [http://www.gawaher.com/index.php?showtopic=7245](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gawaher.com%2Findex.php%3Fshowtopic%3D7245&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGLbGhf7qGUS3Rvgr8bpnA-8GDjXA)

**Who and what characteristics determines the roles of leadership within an ummah?**

**Credentials of ummah leaders and members**

**Why should the MSA be perceived as an ‘ummah’?** The MSA, what does it stand for; Muslim Student Association. These three words say it all, it brings together students of all ages, different ethnicities, coming from the same or different faiths, together for a greater good. The MSA is like an ummah because of it’s tendency to bring out topics that are ambiguous to many and misconceptions that others might have about Islam.. For ex. hijab and modesty of woman, gender relations to many other aspects of islam that many are not aware of. An MSA and an Ummah are essentially both for the same thing. To appeal people to Islam and unite individuals.

**Why do we attend MSA Meetings? (reward, name, popularity, unification, to seek Allah’s pleasure?)** The Club mission statement illustrates the Muslim Student Association was designed to unite the Muslims and Non-Muslims within the school. Regardless of the reasons or intentions you might have in terms of why you joined MSA, our purpose is to ultimately seek Allah’s pleasure by strengthening the Muslim Ummah within Health Professions.

**Club Mission Statement:** The Muslim Student Association of Health Professions High School Muslim Student Association (HPHS MSA) is an association that is designed to educate Muslims and Non-Muslims alike about the religion of Islam and generate a better environment for students at HPHS. A general Muslim Student Association is an organization of students dedicated to strengthen and support the Muslim community within the institution through service and activism. We aim to establish a strong and diverse association of students who are aware of our Islamic individuality, compliant, and dedicate d to serve Islam.

**Gender Roles: (Are only males suitable to hold presidential power?)**

**Engaging and Interactive Session:**

- power distribution, responsibility/amount of effort, credentials, modesty and humbleness, desire to understand Qur’an and follow the Sunnah, Relationship between the Members and the Board Members, leadership skills and experience as well as Maturity.

- Skit: Electing Leaders

 Anika and Mou will be running for president, Fahima, Asif, and Thamana will be voting. In opposition to Fahima and Asif who will vote for Anika based on

Anything true/beneficial we have said has come from Allah Subhana Wa Ta’ala & anything misleading or wrong we have said has come from us and we apologize for it. Jazakhallahkhair, A’A