



Living Islam on Campus

An online conference for students everywhere

Session One: The Purpose of Life
10am-12noon EST (3-5pm GMT)
Saturday, February 2, 2008

SunniPath The Online Islamic Academy

Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction: Sister Randa Kuziez
- The Purpose of Life: Shaykh Hamza Karamali

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The Hadith of Intention

“Actions are only by intentions, and everyone only has what they intend. So whoever's emigration is for Allah and His Messenger, his emigration is for Allah and His Messenger, and whoever's emigration is to acquire a worldly gain or to marry a woman, his emigration is for that for which he emigrated.” (Bukhari and Muslim)

☞ Abu Dawud summarized 50,000 hadiths to 4,800, and then these 4,800 to 4, one of which was this hadith

Translation Woes

“Actions are only _____
by intentions ...”

- ☞ “Actions” is an inaccurate translation
- ☞ “by” is an inaccurate translation
- ☞ The translation is missing an implied word: what is it?

Human Actions are Special

- Human actions are special because of *responsibility* (taklif)
- A good intention makes a human action last forever
- Human actions are like bodies; good intentions are like souls
- “Three things follow a deceased to his grave. Two return and one remains ...” (Tirmidhi, Ahmad, ...)

Understanding Subtleties

“ ... and everyone only has what they intend.”

- What is the difference between this statement and the previous statement?
- What does it mean to “have” an action?
- A good intention can transform the mundane into something sacred
- A good intention can sometimes even take the place of an action

University Life is a Transition

- ☞ Your religious responsibility connects with **you**: you can't blame anyone else
- ☞ Your religious independence happened at puberty
- ☞ Your worldly independence is happening now
- ☞ You are now setting the stage for your own independent life
- ☞ Making a good intention has never been more important

The Emigration

“So whoever's emigration is for Allah and His Messenger ...”

- ☞ The emigration was a sacrifice; convenience is a blessing, but it is also a test
- ☞ The story of “the emigrant of Umm Qays”
- ☞ We need to bring a sense of urgency and sacrifice back into our “mundane” actions

Prophetic Eloquence

“ ... his emigration is for Allah and His Messenger.”

- ☪ This appears to be repetitive, but it really isn't
- ☪ Speaking eloquently requires using hints to get subtle messages across in a powerful way
- ☪ The Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) was given “comprehensive words”

The *Dunya*

“ ... and whoever's emigration is to acquire a worldly gain ... ”

- ☪ *Dunya* may be from *d.n.y.* or from *d.n.w.*
- ☪ The *dunya* only becomes *dunya* in the absence of an intention; otherwise it is *akhira*
- ☪ The point here is not the action, but the intention

Sexual Attraction

“ ... or to marry a woman
... ”

- ☞ Compare this to the many hadiths and verses that encourage marriage
- ☞ Attraction between the sexes is part of divine wisdom; Allah Most High merely wants us to channel it correctly, not to eliminate it
- ☞ It can result in one of the highest acts of worship, or it can cause the opposite

More Prophetic Eloquence

“ ... his emigration is for
that for which he
emigrated.”

- ☞ In the previous “conditional repetition”, the “repetition” was verbatim; here, it is by indication
- ☞ The former moves us to act; the latter moves us to desist

Don't Waste This Opportunity

- ✎ The hadith is commanding emigration with sincerity; it is not forbidding emigration
- ✎ The point of this lesson is to put sincerity into our university lives; not to quit university
- ✎ One of the marks of sincerity is that the action is undertaken with unprecedented excellence
- ✎ The university experience can be transformed into one of the greatest acts of worship that you will ever do
- ✎ Religious Muslim students who make their religion a reason for poor performance have deceived themselves

Questions?