



MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER
- CHARLOTTE -

Pearls

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Migrating Through Life's Stages: A Continuous Process of Growth

Migration holds profound significance in Islam tracing back to the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. When tempted in Paradise, they migrated from Jannah to prove their grateful obedience to Allah. This established that humanity must prove itself through migration.

One of the most renowned migrants in human history was Prophet Abraham (PBUH). At a young age, he willingly challenged the establishment to spread the oneness of God, even when his life was threatened. Allah saved him and Abraham declared “Truly I have migrated to my Lord” demonstrating that migration is detachment from all created beings to reliance and obedience to the Creator. This faith and reliance allowed Prophet Abraham to convey truth wherever he resided.

A seminal event in Islamic history was the migration of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and early Muslims from Makkah to Madinah in 622 CE. Subjected to over a decade of persecution, torture and economic boycott in Makkah, migration provided an opportunity to establish an Islamic community and state. While

ensuring their own safety, the primary objective was to strategically spread the message of Islam through an organized social structure.

Several years before the official Hijra (migration) to Medina, 50-60 persecuted Muslims migrated to the Christian kingdom of Ethiopia under the just ruler Negus. Their migration was not solely for refuge, but education. Through gently conveying the teachings, the King and many of his people embraced Islam, planting roots for its future spread in the Horn of Africa region.

On a personal level, our entire lives entail migration through stages of dependence, responsibility, aging and ultimately death - a soul's final migration. The Quran mentions those who “strove hard and fought” through migration will attain

refuge in Allah and abundant blessings in Paradise as reward. Life is thus a continuous journey of migrations in response to circumstances and as a testimony of our faith.

Yet modern industrialized societies propagate materialism as the sole measure of success, worth and fulfillment. We must migrate away from this bankrupt paradigm through knowledge of Islamic theology and moral foundations. As the circumstances change, a believer thoughtfully analyses situations, seeks guidance from revelation, and migrates from places of corruption or disobedience, to the extent possible, towards righteousness instead.

True migrants undergo lifelong refinement, avoiding evils, improving Islamic understanding and advising others on their character. They accept migration as an ongoing personal and societal obligation. Though responses may differ based on place and time, none would stand idle watching injustice, as occurred when righteous early Caliphs passed and tyranny arose.

Historically, the mosque served as the all-encompassing societal, political and economic center through attention to myriad community concerns alongside prayers and learning. However, outside influence today simplifies this model, weakening Islam's organic presence. Authentic migrants for God challenge such strategies by maximizing mosque institutions to collectively organize and strategize with Islamic morality, knowledge, governance and economy over time.

No oppression or genocide consistent with principles of human equality, justice and dignity established in Islam could ever be passively accepted. While methods vary, the duty is to analyze power imbalances that enable injustice, migrate away from complicity through organized movements spreading awareness and nonviolent participation, implementing ethical solutions at local and global grassroots. Migration done with serious intention, seeking the pleasure of Allah through establishing His guidance, is the only means for societies to progress in the modern world.



Entertain Your Kids without Screens this Summer Using This Acronym! **CLONE**

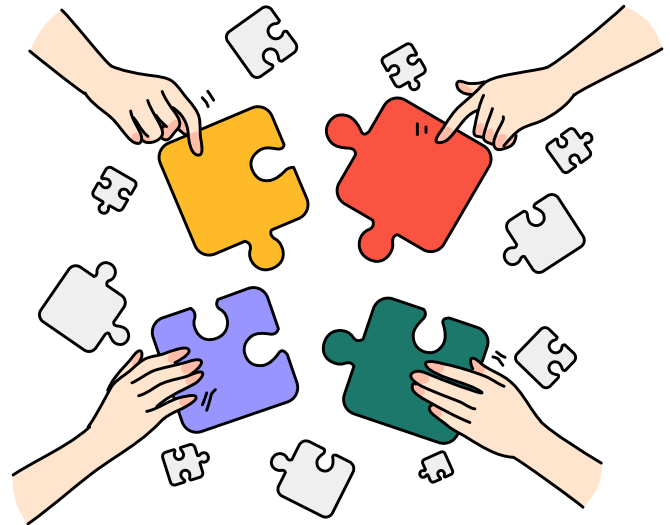
Bre | Muslim Moms Coach

C: contributions

Every child needs to have responsibilities around the home that contribute to the overall functioning of the household and family. Contributing with chores, cooking, planning, and more help the child feel accomplished and important. By age 5-7 or so, depending on the child's maturity and development as well as the training you've provided, the child can be expected to complete some of these tasks independently while you get your own work done.

L: learning

Your kids don't have to stop learning just because they're on summer break. In fact, summer is the perfect time to fuel their love for learning by allowing them to explore their interests. Check out books from the library on those topics, search for hands-on learning activities, or even just let them come up with their own learning plan for the summer! The spark comes back when kids have a say in what, when, and how to learn rather than always being assigned lessons.



O: open-ended play

If you ever notice your kids getting bored so easily and quickly from toys that have batteries and on/off switches, it's because those toys have limited play options: they're meant to be played with in only one way. If you really want your kids to stay busy for an extended period of time, switch to open-ended toys and play ideas. These are toys and activities that require creativity and imagination, like blocks and Legos, play dough and sand, dolls and animal figurines, cars and trains, and costumes and props. With these toys, your child must get engaged in the play and come up with their own ways to use the items.

N: nature

We all need time outside, but kids need it exponentially more so. They are learning about their world and the only true way to understand it is to have real-life experience with it. It's also so important for keeping a positive mood, healthy sleep cycle, and adequate energy levels. Set a time aside each day for outside play and try to stick with that time each day so your kids know when to expect it. Be careful with the timing during the brutally hot summer days: early mornings or late evenings are usually the best to beat the summer heat.



E: exploration

Summer is the perfect time for family activities that encourage exploration. Think of these like field trips and schedule at least one a week. Exploration can mean anything from walking on the community nature trail to roller skating at the kids-skate-free local roller rink to visiting a museum or even getting a special insider tour of a place your child is fascinated with like a train station or post office. Doing these things together as a family models for your child that learning is fun but also increases your connection with your child by doing fun things together. Planning these activities into your day ensures that your child can stay entertained even while you need to get other things done. Depending on the development of your child, many of these things can be done independently, while others are great ways to reconnect after you've been working independently.

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Getting out of Darkness & into Light

Part 5.

In previous discussions, we examined how the Companions distanced themselves from forbidden acts after embracing Islam and devoted themselves to acts of worship. This segment explores two additional qualities that define their noble character.

Unparalleled Generosity for the Sake of Allah

Even the poorest Companions demonstrated exceptional generosity. On one occasion, a man received a lamb but felt his needy brother deserved it more, so he gave it away. The recipient did likewise, returning it full circle back to the original companion!

Similarly, Ali (May Allah be pleased with him) fasted with just one piece of bread left. When a visitor requested food, he selflessly gave his only means of breaking fast, prioritizing another's need over his own.

Hearts Belonged Solely to Allah

The Prophet (PBUH) fought battles every 40 days, and there were companions who were present in all of them supporting him and the message of Islam. Though starting

families and businesses, they placed protection of their society and Islam above all worldly concerns. Their complete obedience to Allah inspired constant sacrifice.

These noble qualities illustrate the luminous heights the Companions of the prophet (PBUH) climbed, distancing themselves from fitnah through profound faith and virtue. As believers aspiring to emulate Islam's earliest role models, we must introspect on cultivating similar excellence in our level of obedience, generosity and placing God above all things. This alone can bring us closer to their magnificent example.

We'll continue the next month, God willing!

Dr. Mo

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