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## MISHKAH & THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF KNOWLEDGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Learning Islam, like all types of learning, is an enlightenment. It is a cure for the illness of ignorance which affects our ability to function as human beings.

The significance of learning Islam, however, relies on the fact that it is a guidance for success. The Qu'ran beautifully states that acquiring knowledge and being knowledgeable is an elevation. It also emphasizes the stipulation of both piety and sincerity as prerequisites necessary to absorb the knowledge, and to realize the benefits that it provides.

Allah Almighty said in Surat Az-Zumar (Chapter 39 verse 9)

أَمْ مَنْ هُوَ قَانِتٌ آنَاءَ اللَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُو رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ □ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ □ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ  
(الزمر: 39,9)

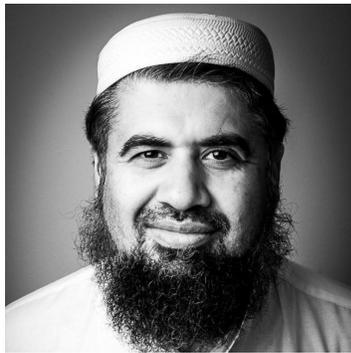


*"Is one who is devoutly obedient during periods of the night, prostrating and standing [in prayer], fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord, [like one who does not]? Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding)"*

When observed closely by thoughtful minds, it can easily be realized that the level of piety signified by long night prayers in fear and anticipation of the hereafter, and by the hope for the mercy of Allah, are essential requirements for knowledge. The verse further praises knowledge, by conducting a comparison between those who know and those who do not. The conclusion implied in the question is that there is no comparison between the two. Hence, the value of knowledge in Islam is not only derived from the subject of that knowledge, but also from the intention in the attainment, the sincerity in the submission, and the quality in the implementation. The verse implies that piety is a qualifying quality that is necessary to compete in knowledge.

Mishkah University is striving to achieve that in its mission and its programs. Mishkah, with the grace of Allah, is taking huge steps towards becoming the beacon of knowledge in the West. With the new technology, the intuitive online learning experience, the knowledgeable instructors, the hard working staff, and the dedicated students; Mishkah is on its way to triumph. However, while we stay the course in our journey for excellence, we should never forget the essence of what we are trying to accomplish, which is to please Allah and to prevail in this life and in the hereafter. We should keep reminding each other that success requires piety, sincerity, dedication and hard work. Let's take this beautiful journey together.

## DR ZIA SHEIKH TAKES ON NEW ROLE



We are delighted to announce that **Dr. Zia Sheikh** is now Mishkah's Academic Coordinator and Acting Dean of the English Islamic Studies Department.

A founding member of the University, Dr Zia has been teaching Arabic and Analytical Tafsir at Mishkah for many years. He holds a doctorate degree from the Graduate Theological Foundation and a Masters in Arabic and Islamic Theology. Dedicated to advancing the Arabic language, Imam Zia's extensive experience includes the production of numerous podcasts on learning Arabic and intensive tafsir of the Quran. Based in Irving, Texas, where he is the Imam of one of the largest masajid in the area, his interests also extend to dawah and he has been at the forefront of outreach

and interfaith work in his community. He has been interviewed several times by local and national news outlets, sharing important perspectives on Islam and serving as a voice for the American Muslim community. He is a regular speaker at Islamic conventions and seminars. In addition Dr Zia has also published the following books: *Islam" Silencing the Critics*, and *Addressing the Taboos: Love, Marriage and Sex in Islam*.

As we continue to introduce many new advancements to our programs, inshaAllah, we hope Dr Zia's leadership will be pivotal in helping us to prepare for accreditation and to reach higher levels of academic excellence. We ask Allah to accept his efforts.

## OUR NEW EJAZAONLINE SITE IS NOW LIVE.

Alhamdulillah we recently launched the new website for our **EjazaOnline Program**. From fundamental classes on how to read the Quran, to more intensive classes for those seeking ejazas in one or multiple qiraat, the website will cater to students at various levels of their Quranic studies. The site is now available in **English and Arabic**, with plans already underway to launch the **French and Turkish** sites soon. We will also launch two new phone lines to cater for French and Turkish speaking ejaza students inshaAllah. Visit [EjazaOnline](http://EjazaOnline) to learn how you can enroll.



In other technology news, we continue to receive great feedback on our new Learning Management System (LMS), **EduonGo**, which we implemented at the beginning of this semester. Both students and faculty are especially pleased with its intuitive design and ease of use. In addition, through **Office 365**, students now have a University email account and single sign-on to the LMS and Live Class Portal. This feature has made it easier for everyone to access all the University resources they need in one place.

## BENEFIT FROM DR SALAH ASSAWY'S LECTURES ONLINE.

Did you know **Dr Salah Assawy** delivers lectures almost daily, which are streamed live online? You can access the lectures on our [Facebook page](#).

In addition, Dr Salah has a Youtube Channel where all the recordings of his recent lectures are archived.

You will find recordings for jumuah khutbas, weekly classes, as well **Q and A fatwa nights** which are conducted twice a month in English and Arabic, in collaboration with **Sh Mamdouh Mahmood**.



[VISIT DR SALAH'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

## MISHKAH AT ISNA HOUSTON



We would like to thank everyone who stopped by our booth at the ISNA Houston Convention on Feb 25th 2017



As an online University, we value the opportunity to meet face to face with students and supporters.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

**Below are some important dates to keep in mind for this semester.**

Spring Break	March 11 to March 17th
Finals Week Begins	April 22
Graduation	May 13th
Summer Registration Begins	April 1st, 2017

[View Our Full Academic Calendar](#)

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

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