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## Islamic Knowledge in the Digital Age

We've heard it before so many times. "Well I looked it up online".

This is a phrase we have become accustomed to in day-to-day conversation. It is perfectly acceptable to look at the daily news, educate ourselves, do some research, check the weather, book travel, and do a whole host of other things online. But when it comes to Islamic education and learning, it is something that Islamic scholars take particular issue with, with some justification.

Traditionally, Islamic learning was passed down from teacher to student, person-to-person, until the teacher felt the student was qualified enough to teach that same subject to students of his own. This whole concept of teaching was based on the concept of *Isnad*, which meant an ongoing chain of knowledge without any break in the middle, and *Ijazah*, meaning the teacher authorizing the student to take that knowledge and disseminate it to others.

With the advent of online teaching, both concepts become blurred, sometimes beyond recognition. Firstly, if something is online, how do we know who put it there? Is it an authentic source of Islamic knowledge? A real scholar? A pseudo-scholar? Or a fake entity with an evil agenda? When these kinds of arguments are regarded as valid about online Islamic knowledge, the concept of *Isnad* becomes questionable.

Secondly, the people that are learning, for lack of a better word, this knowledge, how qualified are they to teach it to others? Here the concept of *Ijaza* becomes questionable. So when the very fundamental proofs of the authenticity and validity of Islamic knowledge are in question, what can we say about the knowledge itself?

There is no hiding from the fact that online technology is not going away any time soon. In fact, we are becoming more and more embedded in a culture of doing everything online. Is learning Islamic knowledge online really evil? Is it something that we should avoid? Ironically, we would not have computers today if it were not for the algorithms of Al-Khawarizmi, an orthodox Muslim scholar of mathematics,



algebra, astronomy and many other sciences. So how can we embrace this technology, rather than shun it for fear of it going against our purist, traditionalistic views of the subject?

That is where institutions like Mishkah University can play a major role. By ensuring that the two integral parts of Islamic knowledge, *Isnad and Ijaza*, are maintained, authentic knowledge can be disseminated to the masses, maintain an upward trajectory, and become easily accessible by all.

**Dr Zia Sheikh**  
Academic Coordinator, Islamic Studies



## EJAZAONLINE TURKISH IS HERE.



By Allah's grace, the **Turkish version** for our **EjazaOnline Program** has now been launched.

Ejazaonline is also available in English and Arabic.

The study and memorization of the Quran is one of the most important endeavors for us as Muslims. By providing this program in various languages, we hope to make Quranic Studies reachable to as many students as possible. Look out for the launch of our French site soon inshaAllah.

Visit our [EjazaOnline](#) sites to learn how you can enroll.

[English](#)

[العربية](#)

[Türkçe](#)

## AMJA CONFERENCE 2017




This weekend, imams, and students of knowledge from around the country will be gathering in Chicago for the 14th annual Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America (AMJA) Imam's conference.

This year, the focus is on fiqh matters affecting New Muslims. Dr **Salah Assawy**, who serves as the Secretary General of AMJA will be in attendance, along with many other prominent speakers and scholars.

If you are attending, please visit us at our booth inshaAllah and learn how Mishkah is contributing to contemporary Islamic scholarship. We look forward to sharing our programs with you. Learn more about AMJA and read beneficial educational materials from past conferences [here](#).

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**Application Open for Summer 2017 from April 1st to May 10th**  
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## DR SALAH'S SCHEDULE



Dr Salah Assawy gives lectures almost daily. Listed below is his schedule. If you are unable to attend in person, you can watch the lectures streamed live or watch the recordings on the [Mishkah Facebook Page](#).

### Schedule

*Every day after Fajr prayer:* 10 - 15 minutes khatirah, Mishkah Center.

*Monday :* Mishkah Center. Between Maghrib & Isha.

*Tuesday:* Clear Lake Islamic Center. Between Maghrib & Isha.

*Wednesday: Q&A Fatwa night.* Between Maghrib & Isha.

*Thursday:* Mishkah Center, Between Maghrib & Isha.

*Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays.* Lectures or Q&A Fatwa

nights in different Masjids.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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

Summer Registration Begins                      April 1st, 2017

Finals week    April 22

Semester Ends    May 3rd

[View Our Full Academic Calendar](#)

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

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