

IN THIS ISSUE

IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY

HADITH OF THE WEEK

DR SALAH AL-SAWY: TAFSIR AND FATAWA

GIVING OUR YOUTH A HEADSTART

IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY

Black History Month is observed every February and reflects on the history of African Americans in the United States, celebrating their contributions and achievements in shaping our society.

As a people, African Americans have built a legacy of endurance - persisting through the horrible scourge of slavery, the isolation of segregation and the Jim Crow Era, and perpetual inequalities cemented by institutionalized racism and prejudice. However, their story is about so much more than just overcoming, it is about contribution. In all arenas, from science to politics, to arts and culture, they have defined and left their mark.

Black activists were at the forefront of the civil rights movement that paved the ways for change for so many minority communities - this work continues to this day as they stand shoulder to shoulder with Muslims in combating hate and Islamophobia. When we hear the names of those who have found their place in history books - Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Malcom X, Martin Luther King Jr, Muhammad Ali, Katherine Johnson, and others - we must remember there are many more unnamed whose drive and sacrifice made a difference in communities across America.

Black history is not just for black people - As Muslims living in the West, we all have a responsibility to learn about the people around us regardless of race, ethnicity or national background. When we look at the society of our beloved Prophet (saw), not all his companions were Arab. In fact, black people in pre-Islamic times faced similar challenges of prejudice to those faced now. The Prophet, however, made no distinction based on race, and several of those near and dear to him like his close companion Bilal ibn Rabah (ra) or his adoptive mother Umm Ayman (ra), were black. Islam brought about a spirit of equality where no preference was given to skin color. In our own time and practice of our deen, we need to ensure that we follow in the same footsteps of our Noble Prophet when it comes to our treatment of those who may be different.

From an Islamic perspective, there are several distinct areas of Black History where we can seek enlightenment. First is through the life of the black companions who lived in the time of Prophet (saw) such as Bilal, Umm Ayman and Usama, may Allah be pleased with them all. Then, as Islam spread out beyond Arabia into North and Western Africa, comes the



illustrious history of the black Muslims of Africa who built up empires and key centers of Islamic learning like Timbuktu. In this era, black Muslim kings like Mansa Musa shone their light with both their power and their piety. Then comes a more tragic time, when during the slave trade, Islam was carried in the hearts of the slaves across the Atlantic - some of them resisted by all means from losing their deen, continuing to practice it covertly in the Americas despite the slave masters' attempts to obliterate all aspects of their past identity. There is the remarkable account of Ayubba Suleiman Diallo, for example, a noble from Senegal who was enslaved and who wrote down the whole Quran by hand three times from memory. And now, of course is the story of the contemporary black Muslims who work to shape both the black and Islamic narrative. We continue to find among them sources of inspiration such as Imam Siraj Wahhaj and Sh Abdullah Hakim Quick.



Ayubba Suleiman Diallo

In recognition and celebration of black history and presence as a valuable part of our Ummah and larger community, let us educate ourselves. When we know more, we become more capable of embracing those around us, and standing up against the prejudice that exists within and outside our Muslim communities.

HADITH OF THE WEEK

“O people, your Lord is one and your father Adam is one. There is no favor of an Arab over a foreigner, nor a foreigner over an Arab, and neither white skin over black skin, nor black skin over white skin, except by righteousness. Have I not delivered the message?”

(Reported by Ahmad)

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DR SALAH AL-SAWY: TAFSIR OF SURAH AN NISAA AND FATAWA

Each week we will be featuring two of our dear **Dr Salah Al-Sawy's** ongoing series. Below are the lectures from this week: his **weekly fatawa session** where he addresses various questions from the community, and his ongoing tafsir series which is now on **Surah An-Nisaa ayat 100**, where Allah (swt) says, *"And whoever emigrates for the cause of Allah will find on the earth many [alternative] locations and abundance. And whoever leaves his home as an emigrant to Allah and His Messenger and then death overtakes him - his reward has already become incumbent upon Allah . And Allah is ever Forgiving and Merciful."*

Be sure to also listen to his other lectures which are shared on our Facebook [page](#).



فتاوى على الهواء الدكتور صلاح الصاوي
Weekly Fatawa - Feb 11, 2020



محاضرات التفسير للدكتور صلاح الصاوي - سورة النساء 100
Surah An-Nisaa 100

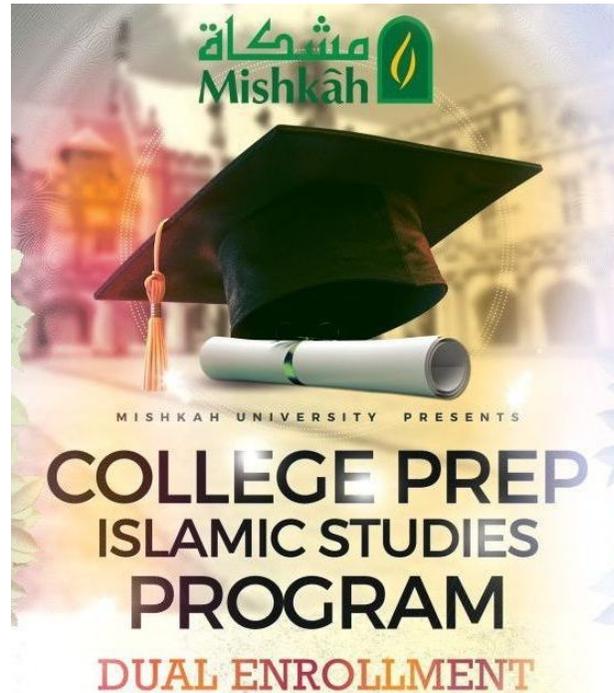
GIVING OUR YOUTH A HEADSTART : DUAL ENROLLMENT

The Prophet (saw) had many youth among his close companions. He taught them, nurtured their intellect and even entrusted them in positions of leadership. We should do the same for our youth.

Our Dual Enrollment High School program gives high school students access to authentic knowledge while they are still in school. Students take Mishkah courses and work towards their Associates Degrees.

We want to ensure our Muslim youth have the Islamic tools available to be successful adults and community members.

With partnerships across the country, our goal is to continue impacting the lives of youth around the region. If you'd like to learn more about how your Islamic High school students can also benefit from our Dual Enrollment College Prep Program, please email us at support@mishkahu.com.



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The cost for exemplary online Islamic education is high, so we invite you to increase your support to Mishkah by spreading the word about us and by donating generously.

Remember you can also double your impact by checking if your employer matches donations.

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2020

Spring Break	March 7
Spring Classes Resume	March 14

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