What an appalling sight it was at the Islamic Relief fundraiser: food ordered for 300 people, and not even 100 show up. An even more distressing thought was that the tickets for the fundraiser were only $15 (the price of a meal at Douglass pizza) and still people would have preferred not to come. Our values as “Muslims” are so lopsided. When ISRU holds an Iftar, they order food from a Muslim restaurant and people come running in from far and wide. Muslims that I have never seen before, as well as people who I didn’t even know were Muslims, pack the Paul Robeson Cultural Center and basically lick the food off the trays. People come for seconds, thirds, and I even saw people with big appetites coming for fourths!!!

But when these same “Muslims” are asked to come to an Islamic Relief fundraiser, you couldn’t find any of them caught dead there. They will use excuses like, “Oh, I don’t have the time,” or “Oh, it was today?” and my favorite, “I don’t know brother, $15 is kind of a lot of money.” I know that some genuinely didn’t know, and some genuinely didn’t have the time, but the vast majority of the people did not come because of two main reasons: 1) the money aspect (the thought that you would have to pay money for food is so absurd!) or 2) the fact that it was a “fundraiser” (people were too
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To Have a Thankless Child...

by Nadia Khan
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Her eyes writhed in excruciating pain as she turned her face away from him. She, the hapless mother, whose only fault was her genteel motherhood. He, the marble-hearted child, overtaken by the demon of ingratitude. How could he walk away from her, surrounded by men dressed in blue? And that too, for a crime from which she had deterred him through? How could the little hands that she had held to help them cross the road, were held in handcuffs now when she needed them the most? How could her son persist in evil so strong? When she had clearly showed him right from wrong. Tears welled up in her eyes and she cried aloud: “O God, such is the nature of thy affairs? Such is thy countenance; such is thy air? To make wombs so fruitful yet so sterile.”

As tears ran down to kiss her cheeks, that is when God decided to speak: “O mother! Thou consider thyself destitute? Lo and Behold what this world constitutes. All these mortals basking in the sunlight of their lives. All these heedless dancing to the tunes of their drives. All these clueless, for mirages do they strive! All these Earthlings, if only were they wise. All these are none but creations of my voice! Oh, how so I wish, did they follow my choice. Ye know how it feels to have one thankless child. But do ye know how it feels to have countless such plights? I may feign that I do not care... But it hurts me deeply to watch them in this snare. I, too, forewarned them against blazing in the hell. But little do they know, ’T is time for the bell. But little do they know, ’T is time for the bell.”

On hearing this account from her Creator, the grief of the mother was of no measure. She pushed her tears away from her eyes and knew exactly what she had to do before she dies!

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May Allah(swt) grant us all Hidayah. Ameen.

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Morning, afternoon, and night

We should thank Allah for the gift of sight.

We complain how he has made us weak
But hasn’t he given us the ability to speak?

Car accident: Oh no, Allah has brought my car harm
But will you look at that poor boy with only one arm

Not enough clothes? We wouldn’t shout and swear
If we saw that girl in Afghanistan who has nothing to wear

Busy counting money and making a stack?
Not those children scraping for a crumb in Iraq

Waste money on an expensive cuisine?
Rather give aid to those suffering in Jenin

Screaming about an ankle’s always sore?
Compare it to the Kashmiris’ experience of constant Gore

Gonna hang out with friends and go to the shore?
Not your Palestinian brothers who are in constant war

Brothers and sisters, thank Allah for every little thing you have.
Don’t sweat the small stuff. There are millions of brothers and sisters out there who would be willing to change positions with us. Muslims living in America have nothing to complain about and have every reason to be thankful to Allah Almighty. Say Alhamdulilah in times of ease and difficulty.

One year, when it came time to collect the Zakat, Umar bin Al-Khattab (RA) decided that, this year he will be better than Abu Bakr (RA) in giving Zakat. So he gave half his money for Zakat. When he presented his wealth to the Prophet (SAAWS), the Prophet (SAAWS) asked him, “What have you left for you family?” He responded, “I have left half of my wealth.” Then Abu Bakr (RA) came with all his wealth. The Prophet (SAAWS) asked him, “What have you left for your family?” He said, “Allah and His Messenger.”

From then on, Umar (RA) knew that he would not be better than Abu Bakr (RA), but that still didn’t deter him from trying to compete for the sake of Allah.

Many Muslims think that sadaqah is only for the head of the household, the man. But in actuality, it is for the man and the woman.

As the ayah clearly states, “...for those who give charity, men and women...” (57:18). I recall at the Islamic Relief fundraiser a woman was the one who initiated the donations. Masha’Allah, as soon as the call for donations was made, she was the first one to raise her hand. She, a woman, was the one who sparked the fire of akhira in the believers’ hearts and minds, which helped the Muslims to raise more than $32,000 for Islamic Relief. By Allah! It is the women of this Ummah that will either make or break it, for they are the ones who will raise the future generations of Muslim doctors, lawyers, engineers, and political leaders. It is concerning the shoudering of this burden - to not only propagate, but educate the latest and greatest servants of Allah - that a scholar once said, “If they are straight, the Ummah is so, and if they are crooked, the Ummah is so.”

So please, sisters in Islam, help the Ummah prosper, help the Ummah to reach the heights that we dream about. Lead our Ummah to a position in which on the Day of Judgment, when people will be running frantically looking for good deeds, the Muslims will be sitting there “chillin’” because they gave that extra dollar that they had in their pockets for Islamic Relief and they thought to themselves as the man in Surah Yasin did when he was killed for calling to the way of Allah and when having been admitted to Paradise said “If only my people knew, for my Lord forgave me and made me among the honored ones” (36:26-27). Oh Allah, help all the Muslims be in that position on the Day of Judgment. Oh Allah, help our Muslim sisters to be the raisers of the next more pious generations of Muslims. Oh Allah, help open the Muslims’ hearts, minds, and pockets towards the way of Your Deen. Oh Allah grant us Jannah. I say this and may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon His last and final messenger, and upon his family, companions, and whoever has followed them with piety until The Last Day.
not begin with the birth in the mother's womb. In fact, the journey of the ruh began a long time ago, a time when every ruh ever created was made to testify that Allah is their Lord as Allah says "And your Lord brought forth from the Children of Adam, from their loins, their children, and made them testify about themselves, 'Am I not your Lord?' They said, 'Yes! We testify.'" (7:172). This life is indeed a very small part in the life of the ruh - but what's important is that man's action in this short period will determine the final destination of the ruh. If we let the ruh grow, it will only be a matter of time when the internal rot will take over and the corrosion within will spread and destroy everything.

To help the ruh win this battle with the body, Allah has given us the unique gift of fasting, wherein we curb the desires of the body during the day and then nourish the soul with Qur'an at night. Fasting, brothers and sisters, is so important that Allah has made it obligatory on us for a whole month. Without fasting our spiritual death is inevitable. The greatest blessing of fasting is that it frees the angelic soul from the pressure of the carnal desires. It throws a net over the most unruly and headstrong tendencies of man. An important thing to note is that the aim of fasting is not to obliterate the desires of man but to tame them. If one needs to put an end to wild horse, only a single bullet will suffice, but if it is needed for riding it suffice, but if it is needed for riding it. If the ruh craves the bestial desires and passions, then the ruh will succumb, submit, and give up and it will only be a matter of time when the internal rot will take over and the corrosion within will spread and destroy everything.

Fasting is indeed very difficult but once we start to fast according to the expectation of Allah and His Rasul, it will change us beyond recognition. But if we are missing suhur and fajr, delaying the rest of the prayers, wasting just two hours in this best of months to scratch an itch we have for watching Matrix Revolutions, singing an “Alhamduillah” that Return of the King comes out after Ramadan, watching Friends, listening to music and gossip, intermingling, stuffing ourselves at iftar time and not even going to Taraweeh prayers because its just sunnah, then we will get nothing out of our fast except thirst and hunger. However if we fast with every single cell of our body and are wary of what we hear, see, think, talk about etc then the fast will transform us and make us worthy of the sujud of the angels. It will help us overcome our bestial desires. We will no longer desire well decorated mansions but we’ll be happy with a simple roof over our head to provide us shelter, we will no longer desire luxurious cars but we’ll be content with a simple vehicle to take us around, we will no longer desire a variety of delicious dishes but we’ll be satisfied with just enough to fill our belly and stay healthy and we will no longer crave for beauty and embellishment, rather we will be pleased with ordinary clothes to cover our nakedness and protect our body from inclemency of the weather. We will be in a constant state of dhikr using each and every second of this short life to invest in our soul and our akhira.

The blind and deaf followers of the materialistic Darwinian theory of evolution are totally unaware of this inner light of man. And when we continue to suppress this light and instead display bestial characteristics, people actually start to wonder that perhaps Darwin was a little monkey back then. Instead we should let our celestial nature come out by purifying our souls and there cannot be a better time to do that than the month of Ramadan through this beautiful act of fasting. I’ve repeated the word, ruh over 100 times and I hope that Inshallah this Ramadan you all keep this idea of the ruh in your mind while you fast and help it realize its true potential so that after the soul is finished with this short journey Allah greets it by saying "O soul, in complete rest and satisfaction!, "Come back to your Lord, Well-pleased with Him and well-pleasing Him! So Enter among My honored slaves, "And enter into my Paradise" (89:27-30).