

Muslim Educational Trust

How Muslim inventors changed the world

By Paul Valley

Adopted from <http://www.dawn.com/weekly/science/archive/060325/science3.htm>

From coffee to cheques and the three-course meal, the Muslim world has given us many innovations that we in the West take for granted. Here are 20 of their most influential innovations:

(1) The story goes that an Arab named Khalid was tending his goats in the Kaffa region of southern Ethiopia, when he noticed his animals became livelier after eating a certain berry.

He boiled the berries to make the first coffee. Certainly the first record of the drink is of beans exported from Ethiopia to Yemen where Sufis drank it to stay awake all night to pray on special occasions. By the late 15th century it had arrived in Makkah and Turkey from where it made its way to Venice in 1645.

It was brought to England in 1650 by a Turk named Pasqua Rosee who opened the first coffee house in Lombard Street in the City of London. The Arabic "qahwa" became the Turkish "kahve" then the Italian "caff  " and then English "coffee".

(2) The ancient Greeks thought our eyes emitted rays, like a laser, which enabled us to see. The first person to realise that light enters the eye, rather than leaving it, was the 10th-century Muslim mathematician, astronomer and physicist Ibn al-Haitham.

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Al-Hewar

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The Concept of Islam Hadhari

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Introduction:

Islam Hadhari is an approach that emphasizes development, consistent with the tenets of Islam and focused on enhancing the quality of life. It aims to achieve this via the mastery of knowledge and the development of the individual

and the nation; the implementation of a dynamic economic, trading and financial system; an integrated and balanced development that creates a knowledgeable and pious people who hold to noble values and are honest, trustworthy, and prepared to take on global challenges.

Islam Hadhari is not a new religion. It is not a new teaching nor is it a new mazhab (denomination). Islam Hadhari is an effort to bring the Ummah back to basics, back to the Fundamentals, as prescribed in the Quran and the Hadith that form the foundation of Islamic civilization. If Islam Hadhari is interpreted sincerely and understood clearly, it will not cause Muslims to deviate from the true path.

As a government that is responsible for ensuring Muslims are able to meet current challenges without deviating from their faith, the doors of ijtihad must remain open, so that interpretations are suited to the developmental needs of the prevailing time and conditions. Policies must be balanced and broad-based development that encompasses the infrastructure and the economy; human resource development via a comprehensive education programme; the inculcation of noble values through spiritual development and assimilation of Islamic values.

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EDITORIAL

Assalamu alaykom dear brothers and sisters, It has been an annual tradition of the Islamic School of MET, and now the Oregon Islamic Academy, to participate in the Regional Spelling Bee, Geography Bee, and just recently, the NW Science Expo, as well as hold its own local Science fair for younger elementary grade children. Al-hamdo-lillah, this year, the students have performed well. It cannot be emphasized enough how essential it is for our children to excel across the board in all subjects, including Math, Science, and Language Arts. Knowledge is power and light, and learning how to acquire knowledge and retain it, and more importantly apply it is a great responsibility and trust that we bear as an Islamic school, and a Muslim community at large.

We dedicate this issue of Al-Hewar to knowledge and the power of knowledge. It is an integral part of our faith to seek knowledge, share it, and make the best use of it for our own betterment as well as the betterment of the society at large. This requirement of our great faith and way of life crosses the boundaries of gender, age, and social status; it is a universal requirement of all that needs to be fulfilled as part of our collective and individual role as God's representative on earth. In fact, God has made human beings (or children of Adam) superior to any other creation because of the very fact that this very special being has the unlimited capacity to think, learn, choose, and execute. This superiority is evident in the famous story of God ordering the angels (who obey God tirelessly and unconditionally) to bow to our forefather Adam peace be upon him. It is our destiny as God's most favored creation to step up to this huge responsibility and take this huge trust very seriously;

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) has further emphasized this concept with a few pearls of wisdom, relating that we should seek knowledge no matter how far and mentioning that a scholar's ink is more holy in the eyes of God than the blood of a martyr. So, why all this emphasis on knowledge in Islam? Why the emphasis on asking questions and seeking answers? The more we know, the better we know how great our One creator is, the closer we grow to him, and the more we appreciate our role in this life as doers and implementers who can make big things happen.

So how do we go about teaching our children how to acquire this knowledge? Reading is the key. It is most critical to instill a love of reading in our children from day one. They are our future leaders and scientists, and this future depends on it. After all, it was the word 'Read' that was the first commandment from God to all Muslims, and this is no accident. The first commandment was not to fast or pray, but to read, to gain knowledge, to know your God, to work hard for your family and your society; the message is to read so that you may live and prosper.

This is also one of the founding principles of the Muslim Educational Trust; educating children, inspiring them, empowering them with the knowledge they need to succeed in a fast-changing world, while raising them according to the basic principles of the Quran and the sunnah of our beloved prophet peace and blessings be upon him.

This is a venture that all of us, parents and educators, strive hard to achieve. May Allah swt make it easy for us and rightly guide our children, and make them happy, confident, and successful individuals who make a positive contribution to humanity; ameen!

Best wishes for a good rest of the school year, and a blessed summer ahead!

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How are we doing? Your Feedback

From Willamette View Retirement Home:

In response to a 5-lecture series presented by MET that addresses miscellaneous topics of interest about Islam and Muslims, this is what Bernard Della Santina had to say about one of our speakers:

I just wanted to tell you how wonderful Julie was. She answered very difficult questions with precision and sincerity. She held a class of 90 people enthralled.... she set the right tone for the classes that will follow.

From Ms. Lisa Haamid (Fashion show feedback):

I was delighted, absolutely delighted, at seeing MET student-models opening the show, wearing very chic but modest tunics over the omnipresent pair of jeans. Their headscarves were worn with such elegance and style, that it made every woman in the audience proud to be seen wearing hers.

The rest of the featured professional models wearing a wide variety of Islamically-styled clothes, with European, Eastern, and North African flair. Every model wore hijab, from an effervescent silk wrapped turban style, to a hip-length crimson gypsy, to the most practical chin-pinned style, the women showed the beauty of modesty....

I should mention, besides the fashion, that live tabla drummers were featured, and the wonderful fashion-show skill of the women in our community finally, finally had an outlet....

Lastly, but not least at all, were the skills of the sound technicians and the videography, which projected various angles of each model and design upon two screens which flanked over the runway, on either side. The music selections were high-energy and fun, but also deeply moving and in praise of Allah. Throughout the display, I felt the reverence and praise to Allah, by displaying ourselves as He has told us....

For the "shake-down cruise" of the MET Fashion Ship, I don't know how things could have been better. What a delightful evening for all who attended, (and shopped from vendors in the foyer, afterwards).

Really, there was nothing amateur about this fashion presentation, no it was first-class, professional, all the way. I'm getting my own designs back on the drawing board, in the hopes of submitting some of my own styles for viewing, for the next show, this time next year. Insha' Allah.

Great job, everyone. May Allah subhana wa ta'ala bless you and guide us all.

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If you are interested in publishing your article in *Al-Hewar*, please contact us at (503) 579 6621, and send us your article at MET, P. O. Box 283, Portland, OR 97207 or by email at metpdx93@yahoo.com

Food for the soul From the Quran and the Sunnah

From the Quran:

'O my Lord, advance me in knowledge' [Taha 20:114]

وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

'[O'Mohammad, urge people to think] do those who have knowledge equal to those who do not' [Az-Zumar 39:9]

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولَؤُلَا الْأَلْبَابِ

'Surely, Allah swt raises in status those who believe and those who acquire, teach, and apply knowledge' [Al-Mujadilah 58:11]

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ

إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الَّذِينَ عَلِمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ غَفُورٌ

'Indeed, the ones who fear and revere Allah the most are the most learned among His creation; Allah is truly the Greatest and the Most Forgiving' [Faater 35:28]



From the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad(pbuH):

'Whoever has sought a path to acquire knowledge, Allah swt will make easy for him/her a path to Paradise; the angels spread their wings to celebrate that person, and all of Allah's creatures in the heavens and the earth ask forgiveness for him/her, including the fish underneath the waters....indeed scientists and seekers of knowledge are heirs of the prophets, and the one thing that they pass on to those who survive them is their knowledge. Blessed is the person who acquires knowledge, teaches it, and applies it for the betterment of all.' [narrated by Abu Dawood and Tirmithi]

'Whoever leaves their home in pursuit of knowledge is striving in the cause of Allah swt until s/he returns.' [narrated by Tirmithi]

'When the child of Adam dies, he no longer has any deeds to record, except for three: an on-going charity, knowledge s/he shared that is useful to others, and a pious child who remembers him/her in their prayers' [narrated by Muslim]

Did you count your blessings today?
Did you share your knowledge, spend time
with your children and teach them
something new today?

(Continued from page 1: How Muslim inventors changed the world)

He invented the first pin-hole camera after noticing the way light came through a hole in window shutters. The smaller the hole, the better the picture, he worked out, and set up the first Camera Obscura (from the Arab word "qamara" for a dark or private room).

He is also credited with being the first man to shift physics from a philosophical activity to an experimental one.

(3) A form of chess was played in ancient India but the game was developed into the form we know it today in Persia. From there it spread westward to Europe — where it was introduced by the Moors in Spain in the 10th century — and eastward as far as Japan. The word "rook" comes from the Persian "rukḥ", which means chariot.

(4) A thousand years before the Wright brothers, a Muslim poet, astronomer, musician and engineer named Abbas ibn Firnas made several attempts to construct a flying machine. In 852 he jumped from the minaret of the Grand Mosque in Cordoba using a loose cloak stiffened with wooden struts.

He hoped to glide like a bird. He didn't. But the cloak slowed his fall, creating what is thought to be the first parachute, and leaving him with only minor injuries.

In 875, aged 70, having perfected a machine of silk and eagles' feathers he tried again, jumping from a mountain. He flew to a significant height and stayed aloft for ten minutes but crashed on landing — concluding, correctly, that it was because he had not given his device a tail so it would stall on landing. Baghdad international airport and a crater on the Moon are named after him.

(5) Washing and bathing are religious requirements for Muslims, which is perhaps why they perfected the recipe for soap which we still use today. The ancient Egyptians had soap of a kind, as did the Romans who used it more as a pomade.

But it was the Arabs who combined vegetable oils with sodium hydroxide and aromatics such as thyme oil. One of the Crusaders' most striking characteristics, to Arab nostrils, was that they did not wash.

Shampoo was introduced to England by a Muslim who opened Mahomed's Indian Vapour Baths on Brighton seafront in 1759 and was appointed Shampooing Surgeon to Kings George IV and William IV.

(6) Distillation, the means of separating liquids through differences in their boiling points, was invented around the year 800 by Islam's foremost scientist, Jabir ibn Hayyan, who transformed alchemy into chemistry, inventing many of the basic processes and apparatus still in use today — liquefaction, crystallisation, distillation, purification, oxidation, evaporation

and filtration.

As well as discovering sulphuric and nitric acid, he invented the alembic still, giving the world intense rosewater and other perfumes and alcoholic spirits (although drinking them forbidden, in Islam). Ibn Hayyan emphasised systematic experimentation and was the founder of modern chemistry.

(7) The crank-shaft is a device which translates rotary into linear motion and is central to much of the machinery in the modern world, not least the internal combustion engine. One of the most important mechanical inventions in the history of humankind, it was created by an ingenious Muslim engineer called al-Jazari to raise water for irrigation.

His Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices (1206) shows he also invented or refined the use of valves and pistons, devised some of the first mechanical clocks driven by water and weights, and was the father of robotics. Among his 50 other inventions was the combination lock.

(8) Quilting is a method of sewing or tying two layers of cloth with a layer of insulating material in between. It is not clear whether it was invented in the Muslim world or whether it was imported there from India or China.

A thousand years before the Wright brothers, a Muslim poet, astronomer, musician and engineer named Abbas ibn Firnas made several attempts to construct a flying machine. In 852 he jumped from the minaret of the Grand Mosque in Cordoba using a loose cloak stiffened with wooden struts.

However, it certainly came to the West via the Crusaders. They saw it used by Saracen warriors, who wore straw-filled quilted canvas shirts instead of armour. As well as a form of protection, it proved an effective guard against the chafing of the Crusaders' metal armour and was an effective form of insulation

— so much so that it became a cottage industry back home in colder climates such as Britain and Holland.

(9) The pointed arch so characteristic of Europe's Gothic cathedrals was an invention borrowed from Islamic architecture. It was much stronger than the rounded arch used by the Romans and Normans, thus allowing the building of bigger, higher, more complex and grander buildings.

Other borrowings from Muslim genius included ribbed vaulting, rose windows and dome-building techniques. Europe's castles were also adapted to copy the Islamic world's — with arrow slits, battlements, a barbican and parapets. Square towers and keeps gave way to more easily defended round ones. The architect of Henry V's castle was a Muslim.

(10) Many modern surgical instruments are of exactly the same design as those devised in the 10th century by a Muslim surgeon called al-Zahrawi. His scalpels, bone saws, forceps, fine scissors for eye surgery and many of the 200 instruments he devised are recognisable to a modern surgeon.

It was he who discovered that catgut used for internal stitches dissolves away naturally (a discovery he made when his monkey ate his lute strings) and that it can be also used to make medicine capsules.

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In the 13th century, another Muslim medic named Ibn Nafis described the circulation of the blood, 300 years before William Harvey discovered it. Muslim doctors also invented anaesthetics of opium and alcohol mixes and developed hollow needles to suck cataracts from eyes in a technique still used today.

(11) The windmill was invented in 634 for a Persian caliph and was used to grind corn and draw up water for irrigation. In the vast deserts of Arabia, when the seasonal streams ran dry, the only source of power was the wind which blew steadily from one direction for months. Mills had six or 12 sails covered in fabric or palm leaves. It was 500 years before the first windmill was seen in Europe.

(12) The technique of inoculation was not invented by Jenner and Pasteur but was devised in the Muslim world and brought to Europe from Turkey by the wife of the English ambassador to Istanbul in 1724. Children in Turkey were vaccinated with cowpox to fight the deadly smallpox at least 50 years before the West discovered it.

(13) The fountain pen was invented for the Sultan of Egypt in 953 after he demanded a pen which would not stain his hands or clothes. It held ink in a reservoir and, as with modern pens, fed ink to the nib by a combination of gravity and capillary action.

(14) The system of numbering in use all round the world is probably Indian in origin but the style of the numerals is Arabic and first appears in print in the work of the Muslim mathematicians al-Khwarizmi and al-Kindi around 825.

Algebra was named after al-Khwarizmi's book, *Al-Jabr wa-al-Muqabilah*, much of whose contents are still in use. The work of Muslim maths scholars was imported into Europe 300 years later by the Italian mathematician Fibonacci.

Algorithms and much of the theory of trigonometry came from the Muslim world. And Al-Kindi's discovery of frequency analysis rendered all the codes of the ancient world soluble and created the basis of modern cryptology.

(15) Ali ibn Nafi, known by his nickname of Ziryab (Blackbird) came from Iraq to Cordoba in the 9th century and brought with him the concept of the three-course meal — soup, followed by fish or meat, then fruit and nuts. He also introduced crystal glasses (which had been invented after experiments with rock crystal by Abbas ibn Firnas).

(16) Carpets were regarded as part of paradise by mediaeval Muslims, thanks to their advanced weaving techniques, new tinctures from Islamic chemistry and highly developed sense of pattern and arabesque which were the basis of Islam's non-representational art.

In contrast, Europe's floors were distinctly earthly, not to say earthy, until Arabian and Persian carpets were introduced. In England, as Erasmus recorded, floors were "covered in rushes, occasionally renewed, but so imperfectly that the bottom layer is left undisturbed, sometimes for 20 years, harbouring expectoration, vomiting, the leakage of dogs and men, ale

droppings, scraps of fish, and other abominations not fit to be mentioned". Carpets, unsurprisingly, caught on quickly.


(17) The modern cheque comes from the Arabic "saqq", a written vow to pay for goods when they were delivered, to avoid money having to be transported across dangerous terrain. In the 9th century, a Muslim businessman could cash a cheque in China drawn on his bank in Baghdad.

(18) By the 9th century, many Muslim scholars took it for granted that the Earth was a sphere. The proof, said astronomer Ibn Hazm, "is that the Sun is always vertical to a particular spot on Earth". It was 500 years before that realisation dawned on Galileo.

The calculations of Muslim astronomers were so accurate that in the 9th century they reckoned the Earth's circumference to be 40,253.4km — less than 200km out. Al-Idrisi took a globe depicting the world to the court of King Roger of Sicily in 1139.

(19) Though the Chinese invented saltpetre gunpowder, and used it in their fireworks, it was the Arabs who worked out that it could be purified using potassium nitrate for military use. Muslim incendiary devices terrified the Crusaders.

By the 15th century they had invented both a rocket, which they called a "self-moving and combusting egg", and a torpedo — a self-propelled pear-shaped bomb with a spear at the front which impaled itself in enemy ships and then blew up.

(20) Mediaeval Europe had kitchen and herb gardens, but it was the Arabs who developed the idea of the garden as a place of beauty and meditation. The first royal pleasure gardens in Europe were opened in 11th-century Muslim Spain. Flowers which originated in Muslim gardens include the carnation and the tulip. (Courtesy: The Independent) 



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Principles of Islam Hadhari

Islam Hadhari aims to achieve ten main principles:

- Faith and piety in Allah
- A just and trustworthy government
- A free and independent People
- Mastery of knowledge
- Balanced and comprehensive economic development
- A good quality of life
- Protection of the rights of minority groups and women
- Cultural and moral integrity
- Safeguarding the environment
- Strong defenses

These principles have been formulated to ensure that the implementation and approach does not cause anxiety among any group in our multiracial and multi-religious country. These principles have been devised to empower Muslims to face the global challenges of today.

Islam Hadhari is complete and comprehensive, with an emphasis on the development of the economy and civilization, capable of building the Ummah's competitiveness. The glorious heritage of Islamic civilization in all aspects must be used as reference and become the source of inspiration for society to prosper.

A change in mindset among the Ummah requires action that is encompassing, drastic and systematic, irregardless of sector or partisan loyalty. It requires society to change their tasawwur (worldview). Consistent with this, the concept of life as service to God and the concept of work as worship, humans as caliphs and the obligation to seek strength in every aspect of life must be accentuated, in particular, the objective of maqasid al Syariah which seeks to safeguard, dignify and empower religion, intellect, life, property and progeny.

A consistent effort to ensure lasting success must be prepared. Any thinking that confuses and is inconsistent with Islamic beliefs must be rejected in order to allow the Ummah resilience and thought to be built. A change in attitude and culture requires ijihad and jihad (struggle). The concept of jihad must be given a broader interpretation, covering all aspects of life, including the pursuit of knowledge, the mastery of science and technology and economic activity. This improvement in quality (itqan) must become part of our culture. Ijtihad that can build the Ummah in the modern day must be acknowledged.

Society must be given Islamic understanding that enables the appreciation and provides the ability to inherit a vision of a global civilization, in order to be more successful global players. As a strategy to improve competitiveness, the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood (ukhuwah Islamiyah) must be inculcated and expanded to create a strong social network. Society must appreciate self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on others. Negative traits and values must be changed to accommodate the values of the tasawwur.

The Ummah must be a society that embraces knowledge, skills and expertise in order to build capacity. Islam makes it compulsory for Muslims to embrace knowledge in all fields. The misconception that there exists a difference between so

called secular knowledge and religious knowledge must be corrected. Islam demands the mastery of science and technology and the enhancement of skills and expertise. Many verses in the Quran that touch on the need to master science and technology should be studied. All Muslim students should be aware of Islam's contribution to science and technology that brought about the birth of the Renaissance in Europe. Initiatives to produce more Muslim scientists who are capable of making new discoveries must be intensified.

Life on this Earth is a journey that requires us to discharge our responsibilities to society in an honest, transparent and trustworthy manner. Mankind will not fully benefit from this life if their attitude and worldview is not as it should be; because Allah created Man to be leaders on Earth. It is therefore imperative for mankind to arm itself with knowledge and with skills, to enable them to succeed.

It is important for the Ummah to be guided in understanding and practicing Islam as a comprehensive way of life as a means to building a civilization. A wholesome way of life will create the balance between our responsibilities in this world and the Hereafter. Islam is not merely a ritual, because ritualism is meant solely for the Hereafter. The Government has never practiced secularism that rejects the Hereafter and focuses solely on worldly matters. Islam must be lived as a system that integrates the worldly life and preparations for the Day of judgment.

(Al Qasas : 77)

"But seek, with that (wealth) which Allah has bestowed upon you, the home of the Hereafter; and forget not your portion of lawful enjoyment in this world; and do good as Allah has been good to you, and seek not mischief in the land. Verily, Allah likes not the Mufsidun (those who commit great crimes and sins, oppressors, tyrants, mischief makers, corrupters.)" ﴿٧٧﴾



Contributions to Science

by Huma Ahmad, condensed, taken from *Islamic Horizons* Jan/Feb 2003

Classical Muslim scholars and scientists preserved, built upon, and translated classical Greek treatises. They also analyzed, collated, corrected, supplemented, and transferred classical Greek science and philosophy to Europe, thereby enabling its Renaissance. During Islam's 200-year Golden Age, great Muslim scientists spread their knowledge through books.

The first hospital was built in Damascus (707 CE) by Caliph Walid ibn 'Abd al-Malik. Muslims made many advances, such as the idea of blood circulation and quarantine. Ibn Sina's (d. 1037 CE) 20-volume *The Book of Healing*, consisting of *The Canons of Medicine*, was Europe's chief medical science guide from the twelfth to the seventeenth century. Ibn Sina, the first to describe meningitis, surveyed all available medical knowledge, from ancient and Muslim sources, and made original contributions.

Hunayn ibn Ishaq (d. 873 CE) made advances in medicine,

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physics, mathematics, astronomy, veterinary science, and ophthalmology. This philosopher, physician, and head of Baghdad's famous school of translators, wrote the first systematic ophthalmology textbook. Al-Razi (d. 925 CE) wrote a 10-volume work on Greek medicine and a 20-volume encyclopedia of medicine, treated kidney and bladder stones, and researched smallpox and measles. He was the first to use alcohol for medical purposes and opium as an anesthetic. Surgeon Abu al-Qasim al-Zahrawi (d. 1013 CE) wrote *Al-Tasrif li Man Ajaz 'an al-Ta'lif*, Europe's standard university textbook on surgery for 500 years. He was the first to use silk thread for stitching wounds.

Al-Idrisi (d. 1166 CE) made major contributions in cataloging medicinal plants in such books as *Kitab al-Jami'li Sifat Ashtat al-Nabatat*. He also made original contributions to topography and wrote geographical encyclopedias, such as *Pleasure of Men and Delight of Souls*.

Botanist Ibn al-Baytar (d. 1248 CE), one of the Middle Ages' greatest botanists and pharmacists, compiled a textbook of over 1,400 medicinal plants. It was translated into Latin and published as late as 1758.

The founder of modern algebra, al-Khwarizmi's (d. 850 CE) *Calculating Integration and Equation* was used until the sixteenth century as the principal textbook in European universities. He also helped introduce Arabic numerals, the decimal point system, and the concept of zero. *Algebra* and *algorithm* are corruptions of his work and name. Under al-Ma'mun, he and his colleagues were the first to map the globe. In algebra, the Muslims continued with Thabit Ibn Qurra's more general equations solved by geometrical arguments. In 901 Abu Kamil, "the Egyptian calculator," established rules for manipulating algebraic expressions. Around 1000, al-Karaji's *The Marvelous* discussed higher order equations, combining geometry and arithmetic. Al-Samaw'al established the power law $x^m \times x^n = x^{(m+n)}$ in 1180. Abu Yunus proved the famous identity $\cos(a)\cos(b) = \{\cos(a+b) + \cos(a-b)\}/2$ and used spherical trigonometry to compute prayer times. Al-Biruni (d. 1050 CE) used spherical trigonometry to find any city's direction. Another outstanding late-fourteenth century mathematician, Ghiyath al-Din al-Kashani, worked on number theory and computation techniques. In 1424, he computed a value of 2π to 16 decimal points. In his *The Calculators' Key*, he described an algorithm for finding the fifth root of any number.

Omar Khayyam (d. 1131 CE), famous in the West as a poet, was an excellent mathematician who criticized Euclid's theorems, evolved a methodology to solve third degree equations, and researched binomials and their coefficients. Mathematician and astronomer al-Buzani's (d. 997 CE) main contribution lies in mathematics, especially geometry, and a sizable part of today's trigonometry can be traced to him. Al-Battani (d. 929 CE) was a famous astronomer, mathematician, and astrologer who is often considered one of Islam's greatest astronomers. He determined the solar year to be 365 days, 5 hours, 46 minutes, and 24 seconds - very close to modern estimates. He proved that, in contrast to Ptolemy, the sun's variation of the apparent angular diameter and the possibility of annular eclipses. In 1749, Dunthorne used al-Battani's observations of lunar and solar eclipses to determine the moon's secular acceleration of motion. His most famous as-

tronomical treatise, translated into Latin in the twelfth century, was extremely influential in Europe until the Renaissance. Physicist al-Khazini studied mechanics and hydrostatics and wrote books on physics and astronomy. Geographer, chronologist, mathematician, astronomer, and physicist Al-Biruni's *Elements of Astrology* remained a textbook for centuries. He also wrote on specific gravity and developed formulas to determine all objects' absolute and specific weights. Ibn al-Haytham (d. 1039 CE), an eminent physicist and the father of modern optics, wrote *Kitab al-Manazir* on light, worked with mirrors and lenses, reflection, refraction, and magnifying and burning glasses. He discounted Euclid and Ptolemy by discovering that rays originated in the object of vision and not the eye. He discovered the principle of inertia, studied sunrise and sunset, and explained rainbows through the principle of reflection. He was also known for the earliest use of the *camera obscura*.

Al-Kindi (d. 873 CE), considered the first Arab philosopher, contributed to physics, optics, specific weights, tides, and metallurgy.


Muslims discovered such new substances as potash, silver nitrate, corrosive sublimate, nitrate, and sulfuric acid, and improved methods for evaporation, filtration, sublimation, calcinations, melting, distillation, and crystallization.

Jabir (d. 815 CE), the father of Arab alchemy, contributed to pharmacology and toxicology. Al-Asma'i (d. 882 CE) contributed to zoology, botany, and animal husbandry. Suri al-Dimashqi researched local plants at different stages of growth. Ibn Majid invented the compass.

Muslims traversed the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific oceans and sailed around Africa. They traded with India, Iran, and Greece, and wrote such books as *Reports on India*, *Reports on China*, and *Curiosities of India*.

Al-Sufi helped build a famous observatory, prepare charts of the heavens with magnitudes, and was the first to mark the Andromeda nebula. Al-Zarqali invented the astrolabe, measured motion's rate, constructed astronomical instruments, and built a water clock. Jabir ibn Aflah, who criticized Ptolemy's heliocentric theory of planetary motion, designed the first portable celestial sphere to explain and measure celestial objects' movements and led the way for spherical trigonometry. Al-Bitruji developed a new theory of stellar movements. Names of many constellations, words like *zenith* and *nadir*, and even names of moon craters come from classical Islamic works.

Caliph Harun al-Rashid (d. 809 CE) built a library that contained originals and translations of almost all known Sanskrit, Persian, and Greek scientific works. His son, caliph al-Ma'mun established a library and academy in Baghdad: Bayt al-Hikmah (House of Wisdom). Yusuf I (who ruled Granada from 1333 to 1354) founded a university, which is incorporated in the modern-day Universidad de Granada (chartered and given official Papal ratification in 1531, some 40 years after Granada fell to the Christians).

These Muslims drew from pre-Islamic traditions and the civilizations that they encountered. They absorbed and rejected knowledge in accord with Islamic rules. Over the centuries, they developed and shared in the pursuit of knowledge. The Mongols' destruction of Baghdad (1258) did not stop this progress, despite the great destruction of their books and knowledge. 

The Oregon Islamic Academy (OIA) starts its 1st year...

On April 11th, 2007, the Muslim Educational Trust announced the opening of its co-educational college preparatory high school, the Oregon Islamic Academy (OIA), for the 2007/2008 academic year. OIA will be the first full-time Islamic college preparatory high school in the northwest (Oregon and Washington). The academy will commence its first year with a 9th grade class and add on additional grades as needed in the years to follow until the academy consists of grades 9 through 12.

The Oregon Islamic Academy's mission is to shape the minds and hearts of its students according to the teachings of the Holy Quran and the traditions of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). A cornerstone of the school's operating philosophy will be to foster in our students a love of learning, a spirit of inquiry, and critical thinking as well as a love and respect of people of other faiths. By incorporating Islamic principles into its rigorous core curricula, OIA will enable college-bound students to develop a God-centered outlook on life and learning. The Oregon Islamic Academy aims at producing moral, ethical, and caring young men and women who take pride in their Islamic beliefs, possess a God-centered outlook on life, have a strong commitment to education, civic engagement, and community service, and strive to excel in all of their endeavors.

The Oregon Islamic Academy originated from the efforts of the MET High School Committee consisting of Sister Mollie Reavis of St. Mary Academy, Dr. Jan AbuShakrah of Portland Community College, Julie Ahmed, Jawad Khan, and Wajdi Said of MET and the blessings of the dedicated board members of MET. ☪



10 years ago, back on September 8th, 1997, the Islamic School of MET—ISMET— was founded. A small community school opened for the very 1st time, and started to operate out of a small room in the Campus Ministry at PSU's Koinonia House (better known as the K House) with as few as 20 students ranging in grade level from Kindergarten to 4th grade. All the basic subjects were taught in addition to Arabic and Islamic studies that most Muslim families strive and work hard to teach their children at home. Student enrollment grew forcing ISMET to find a bigger home. Catering to the education needs of about 50 children at the time, ISMET had to relocate to a bigger facility in another PSU building at the corner of College and 5th Avenue in downtown Portland.

More people were hearing about the school's success story and wanting their children to be a part of it. In order to accommodate more grade levels as well as serve more children in the community, the need arose for more space. MET executives and volunteers searched and searched and finally would come across a good size property on SW Scholls Ferry Road in Tigard. After much thought and Istikharahs, the property was acquired. ISMET would operate for the very first time out of its new home in January 2000 with children ranging in age from Preschool all the way up to 5th grade. Over the years, community support for the Islamic school has grown al-hamdo-lellah. Today, ISMET serves the education needs of over 120 children from 29 different ethnic backgrounds. There are about 200 more on the waiting list who we hope that some day we will be able to accommodate once the master plan expansion is in place.

Having started with 20 children, ISMET now lays the foundation for the life-long learning journey of over 120 children, al-hamdo-lellah. This miracle did not happen by accident. It took hard work, faith, patience, a vision, and above all the grace and infinite bounty of Allah swt. The diversity of the student and staff population at ISMET and OIA is a true representation of the diversity of our Muslim Ummah. May Allah swt bless our Muslim Ummah and bless ISMET/OIA and its hard-working staff, and bless its children and make them grow up to become decent, compassionate, caring, active, and moral citizens and community leaders inshaa'Allah! ☪



Your donation dollars hard at work

What's new at MET?

Praise and eternal thanks be to Allah, our long-awaited expansion plans have taken off. 3 new trailers have been installed on the premises, and now house a general-purpose/salah area along with 6 classrooms and 2 rest-rooms. State-of-the-art science and computer labs are also in the works. Al-hamdo-lellah, our children now have more classroom space with internet access, and are now able to have more hands-on science and computer training. It has taken a lot of patience and loads of hard work and dedication on part of our executive officers and magnificent volunteers to make this expansion project a conceivable reality. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of all and ask

Allah swt to accept their contributions and reward them most generously for having the faith and the will to carry out this much-needed expansion.

Besides the trailers, a new playground is now in place. Al-hamdo-lellah, our children will now have tons of fun and challenging climbing experiences aboard the new structure.

May Allah swt continue to bless us all and bless our children and help us make a difference for the better in our beloved community, ameen!



MET hosts its 1st annual volunteer appreciation breakfast:

On Saturday April 7th, 2007, MET hosted its 1st annual breakfast in appreciation and gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers over the years who have made a choice to get involved and make a positive difference in our community. A scrumptious breakfast including delectable ethnic and traditional foods, coffee, and tea was served to our volunteers by MET's outreach committee. In the end, a well-deserved thank you in the form of a beautiful fresh flower was offered to each volunteer. Al-hamdo-lellah, a grand time was had by all.

MET offers Arabic Calligraphy class:

Sister Huda Totnoji, MFA, instructed an exquisite class of Arabic Calligraphy at MET that targets audiences ages 10 to adult. In a class of about 15 people, Ms. Totonji covered different techniques and methods of Arabic calligraphy. Each student concluded the class by designing their own personal project with their own choice of Arabic text and letters. Alhamdo-lellah, an intriguing time was shared by all.

MET-sponsored events:

Al-hamdo-lellah, the following events have been successfully sponsored by MET over the past few months:

- A 5-week Islam-in-focus lecture series at the First United Methodist church
- A 5-lecture series about Islamic civilization at the Willamette View retirement home in Milwaukie
- ISOS picnic and annual fundraiser

As well,

- MET hosted the annual Interfaith alliance potluck on May 20th, 2007; the theme this year was poverty and social justice
- MET participated in a week-long "World Market Place" event in Vancouver at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Aug 6th-10th, 2007
- MET continues to offer support to the Institute of Christian Muslim Understanding (ICMU) and the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland.

Join our team

Are you interested in making the best of your talents and shaping the future of our children and our community?

If so, then let's make a difference together!

Contact MET at (503) 579 6621

MET 's Annual Fundraiser and Awards Night: A night to fondly remember

September 8th, 2007

MET's annual fundraising and awards night was one to fondly remember. Every year, MET hosts a fundraising dinner and an awards ceremony to recognize people in the community, both Muslim and non-Muslim, who choose to make a positive difference in our community. People trickled into PSU's Smith Center Ballroom as dinner was being served. The evening started with a beautiful recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a speech by MET co-founder, Wajdi Said. The fundraiser was then kicked off with a talk by brother Ridwan Salah, President of the Islamic Society of Greater Houston. Throughout the evening, the audience enjoyed a tasteful dinner that featured a garden salad, a salmon fillet served over a bed of rice and steamed vegetables, and a delectable cheese cake dessert that was catered and served by the professional staff of Aramark. The awards ceremony started following the fundraiser. Honorees were recognized for their on-going contribution and dedication in the categories of community service, leadership, and youth role models. Friends of the Muslim community were also recognized for their on-going support and commitment. One of the awardees, our dear Jewish brother Ned Rosch, had this to say about the evening: "... it was a fabulous evening. You certainly know how to throw a party.....Thanks again for the honor. I'm deeply appreciative."

This year also MET celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Islamic School of MET (ISMET), and the opening of the Oregon Islamic Academy (OIA), the 1st Islamic high school in the Pacific Northwest. In recognition of these two milestones, the evening was concluded with a spectacular, gigantic cake that was shared by all.

The annual MET fundraiser is launched each year in order to raise money for a much-needed community center that would include an indoor swimming pool and gymnasium. This project will be the first of its kind in the greater Portland metro area. Alongside this project, MET has been making a difference and serving the community through education since it was established back in 1993.

MET's mission is three-fold; the purpose of its very existence is to serve God and His creation through three venues: Education, Outreach, and Recreation. In the area of Education, MET has been serving the education needs of the children in the community through its full-time Islamic schools (ISMET and now OIA) as well as the weekend school. MET also established a scholarship fund in memory of the late Dr. Riyaz Ahmed. This scholarship is open to full-time college students who meet the criteria set forth by MET's Scholarship committee.

In the area of Outreach, MET is engaged in so many interfaith activities, lectures, and events. MET also publishes Al-Hewar newsletter ("The Dialogue") three times a year as a tool for reaching out to Muslims and non-Muslims alike in the community at large.

In the area of Recreation, MET hosts different family activities and classes for adults and children throughout the year. The community center project, for which funds are needed, will also help MET reach its goal in this area.

To support MET and help achieve its mission, please contact the MET office at (503) 579-6621. 🌙

Audience listens to talk by brother Ridwan Salah, President of the Islamic Society of Greater Houston



MET personnel with Award recipients (Left to Right): Mr. Wesley Salahuddin, Mr. Wajdi Said, Mr. David Straight, Dr. Waleed Qaisi, Mr. Walid Yassin, Dr. Laila Cully, Mr. Athar Pasha, Ms. Hala Gores, Mr. Lawrence Deblock, Mr. Ned Rosch, Mr. Hassan Abdullah; Back (L-R): Mr. Jahed Sukhun, Mr. Kayse Jama; Children at the front (L-R) Baasil and Jacob



ISMET 10th anniversary cake-cutting ceremony



Mark your calendars for Upcoming MET Events Everyone is most welcome!

Saturday April 12th, 2008:

MET 1st Annual Book Fair
Monthly forum and potluck at PSU

Saturday May 10th, 2008:

ISMET/OIA Annual Cultural night

Saturday June 14th, 2008:

OIA 8th grade graduation and MET potluck/forum;
Keynote speaker: Mr. Ayoub Mahmoud Ayoub,
Retired Minister Plenipotentiary

Saturday September 6th, 2008:

Annual MET Fundraiser Iftar

Saturday September 13th, 20th, 27th, 2008:

Weekly MET Ramadan Iftar

Saturday October 11th, 2008:

MET Eid-ul-Fitr party

Saturday November 8th, 2008:

MET Monthly forum and potluck

Saturday December 13th, 2008:

MET Eid-ul-Adha party



MET's website has a NEW LOOK!

Check us out at

www.metpdx.org

and see for yourself!



More Snapshots from MET's Photo Album



Artist and co-chair of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center Ms. Valerie Otani speaks at MET's annual cultural night "Creating Memory in Public Places", May 12th, 2007



MET honors its dedicated volunteers: students, parents, and members of our beloved community



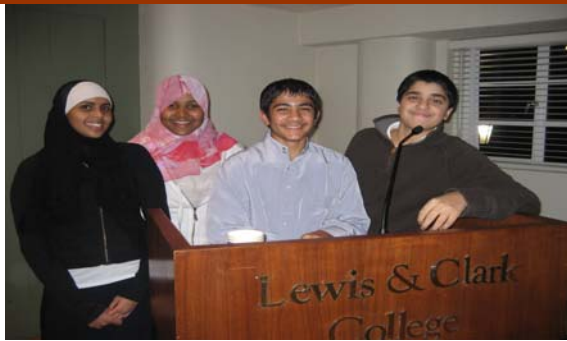
8th grade graduates 2006-07



ISMET Cross Country Team 06-07



OIA Service Club Toy Drive for Shriners Children Hospital



OIA 9th graders visit Lewis and Clark College



Ramadan Qiyam-ul-Layl at MET Center



Annual Quran Memorization/Athan Iqamah Contest Award Recipients (over 40 awardees in all)

Support the MET Foundation

www.metfoundation.org

Mission Statement:

The MET Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that has been established to increase community awareness of the Muslim Educational Trust and provide financial support to enhance the Muslim Educational Trust.

Goals and Objectives

The MET Foundation goals provide the overall framework for advancing the Muslim Educational Trust's mission.

Start your Sunday with...
"An Islamic Point Of View"

Every Sunday at **8:00 AM**
KBOO Radio 90.7 FM Portland/Salem
100.7 FM Corvallis/Eugene



Have you responded to God and read
His Holy book today?

Youth Corner

The Story of Prophet Musa (peace be upon him) and Al-Khidr:

Surah Al-Kahf /the cave (Chapter 18 in the Quran) depicts this beautiful story a little more than half-way through this surah. Prophet Musa was the most knowledgeable among his people, and when asked one day 'who is the most knowledgeable of all time', he did not hesitate to say 'I am'. Allah swt had to teach us along with our dear prophet Musa a timeless lesson in which we appreciate knowledge and are humbled by it, instead of becoming big-headed and proud about it.

Allah swt instructed prophet Musa to travel far to catch up with a person, He said was more knowledgeable than prophet Musa. He gave him a sign that would indicate if he reached the meeting place. The sign was that the fish he was about to have for dinner would become alive again and jump in the nearby sea. Once prophet Musa saw the sign, he was able to catch up with Al-Khidr, the person Allah referred him to so that he could learn from him and increase his knowledge.

The 1st thing prophet Musa asked Al-Khidr was to teach him of his vast knowledge that Allah swt has blessed him with. Al-Khidr replied that he would do that on one condition; prophet Musa needs to be patient and not ask any questions about anything he witnesses. Al-Khidr promised to teach him and give him all the information he needed at his discretion and when the time is right. Prophet Musa promised he would be patient and hold his peace, and so their journey began

There were 3 seemingly strange actions that Al-Khidr performed while on this journey; here's a brief account of each of these incidents:

1. They travel aboard a boat, and al-khidr makes a hole in the boat.
2. Al-Khidr kills a young boy
3. Al-Khidr and prophet Musa were so hungry; they went all over the village and no-one would help them; they find a wall that needs to be repaired and al-Khidr jumps to fix it.

Of course, it was so hard for prophet Musa to be quiet and not questions these actions of Al-Khidr; he broke his promise three times, once for each incident, and at this point, al-Khidr explained to him the reasons behind all these apparently strange actions.

First, he made the hole in the boat, not so that it would sink, but rather because a guy, who bullied poor sailors into giving him their boats, was going to take this boat from its poor sailor had it not been damaged with this hole.

Second, this boy would have grown up to be a very bad

and unkind person who would cause his parents too much pain and grief; this is why this boy was killed, and Allah swt promised to grant his parents better and more caring children.

Third, the reason al-Khidr proceeded to fix the wall without getting paid was because there was a buried treasure in this wall that Allah did not want anyone to find. This treasure belonged to a pious man who left behind two orphan boys; Allah swt wanted this treasure to stay hidden until these boys would grow up and dig up their treasure.

At the end, al-Khidr affirmed that each one of the actions he performed was a direct order from Allah swt. He did not act upon his own will; rather he was executing Allah's will.

The morale of the story is:

1. Sometimes things may happen in life that we do not understand and we cannot control; we have to never question God about it, but at the same time always trust Him and accept His divine will in order to be true Muslims.
2. Never rush things; everything that is worthwhile takes time; we have to exercise patience and take our time.
3. No matter how knowledgeable we become in life, we should never get proud or overconfident as there is always someone else who is more knowledgeable than we are.
4. We have to always remember that with God lies all knowledge, and a path to knowledge in fact brings us one step closer to Him
5. We should always pursue knowledge no matter how hard it gets; we should never give up, always keep trying, and ask for Allah's help.
6. We have to always remember Allah swt, praise Him, and thank Him for His infinite blessings.
7. Do not judge by appearance; there may be more to what you see than meets the eye. 🌙

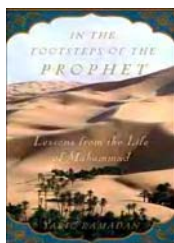


Remember God for truly in His
remembrance lies all salvation.

Did you know that?

- Prophet Musa's nickname is Kaleem-ullah which means the one who Allah swt talked to
- It is very blessed and extra-special to take the time to read the first 10 ayat of Surah Al-kahf every Friday? Some people even read the whole surah; when they do, Allah swt protects them and rightly guides them till the following Friday inshaa'Allah.

Book Reviews



In the Footsteps of the Prophet: Lessons from the Life of Muhammad

By Tariq Ramadan

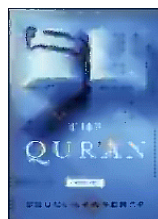
2006, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 0195308808

From the Publisher

Named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most important innovators of the century, Tariq Ramadan is a leading Muslim scholar, with a large following especially among young European and American Muslims. Now, in his first book written for a wide audience, he offers a marvelous biography of the Prophet Muhammad, one that highlights the spiritual and ethical teachings of one of the most influential figures in human history.

Here is a fresh and perceptive look at Muhammad, capturing a life that was often eventful, gripping, and highly charged. Ramadan provides both an intimate portrait of a man who was shy, kind, but determined, as well as a dramatic chronicle of a leader who launched a great religion and inspired a vast empire. More important, Ramadan presents the main events of the Prophet's life in a way that highlights his spiritual and ethical teachings. The book underscores the significance of the Prophet's example for some of today's most controversial issues, such as the treatment of the poor, the role of women, Islamic criminal punishments, war, racism, and relations with other religions. Selecting those facts and stories from which we can draw a profound and vivid spiritual picture, the author asks how can the Prophet's life remain--or become again--an example, a model, and an inspiration? And how can Muslims move from formalism--a fixation on ritual--toward a committed spiritual and social presence?

In this thoughtful and engaging biography, Ramadan offers Muslims a new understanding of Muhammad's life and he introduces non-Muslims not just to the story of the Prophet, but to the spiritual and ethical riches of Islam.



The Qur'an: A Biography

By Bruce Lawrence

2007, Grove/Atlantic, ISBN: 0871139510

From the Publisher:

Few books in history have been as poorly understood as the Qur'an. Sent down in a series of revelations to the Prophet Muhammad, the Qur'an is the unmediated word of Allah, a ritual, political, and legal authority, an ethical and spiritual guide, and a literary masterpiece. In this book, one of the launch titles in Atlantic Monthly Press' "Books That Changed the World" series, the distinguished historian of religion Bruce Lawrence shows precisely how the Qur'an is Islam. He describes the origins of the faith and assesses its tremendous influence on today's societies and politics. Above all, Lawrence emphasizes that the Qur'an is a sacred book of signs that has no single message. It is a book that demands interpretation and one that can be properly understood only through its history. Bruce Lawrence's work is a beautifully written and, in these increasingly troubled times, invaluable introduction to and exploration of the core sacred text of Islam.

**Don't forget to pick up your copy of the
2008 MET Calendar
at the MET office**

**It is a beautiful showcase of the artwork
of ISMET and OIA
students (PreK-9th grade)**

**May Allah swt bless you and your family and
make this year a happy, prosperous, and blessed
one for all of humanity worldwide, Ameen!**



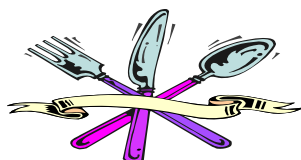
Visit MET's Resource Library

- Books in Arabic and English
- Video tapes for adults & children
- Audio tapes in Arabic and English
- Islamic magazines

All available for you to check out FREE.

Stop by or call us at (503) 579 6621

MET FAMILY POTLUCK AND FORUM
2nd Saturday of *each* month
at 6:00pm
PSU Smith Center,
Parkway North Cafeteria, 1st floor
(1825 SW Broadway)



BRING A FAVORITE DISH AND ENJOY!
Come and join us!
Everybody is most welcome!

Weekend Community Activities

FRIDAY

Salatul Jumaa

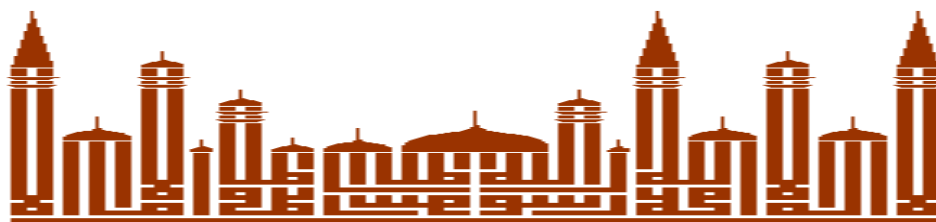
- 1:30 pm MET Center, 10330 SW Scholls Ferry Road, ph. (503) 579-6621
 12:30 pm Portland State University, Campus Ministry (633 SW Montgomery)
 1:30 pm Muslim Community Center 3801 NE MLK Blvd, ph. (503) 281-7691
 1:30 pm Masjid AsSaber 10323 SW 43rd Avenue, ph. (503) 293-6554
 1:30 pm Bilal Masjid Association 4115 SW 160th, Beaverton, ph. (503) 591-7233
 1:30 pm ISSWW 7311 NE 43rd, Vancouver, Washington, ph. (360) 694-7799

SATURDAY

2nd Saturday of each Month: Potluck/Forum @PSU Smith Center Cafeteria

SUNDAY

8:00-8:30 am Radio program: "Islamic Point of View" on KBOO FM 90.7
 8:00-9:00 am TV program: "Imam W. Dean Mohammed" on Portland Community Media, Channel 11 on Comcast cable



MET INFORMATION THE MUSLIM EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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<http://www.metpdx.org>

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May Allah swt reward you most generously!



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Thank you!