

**ALI 201: Introduction to Sahifa Sajjadiyya**

The first introductory course on the *Sahifa* will *Inshaa' All...* take place on Monday evenings from 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. in the gents *imambargha* at Jaffari Community Center, 9000 Bathurst Street, Thornhill, ON. It will run for six weeks from September 19, 2011 to October 24, 2011, both dates inclusive. The course is open to all Muslim men & women ages 15 and over. Every participant is expected to attend all six sessions on time and bring an Arabic text of the Holy Qur'an that contains English translation (by Ali Quli Qarai or M H Shakir) and *The Psalms of Islam* translated by William Chittick. At the end of every session students will be assigned some reading and the study of relevant passages from the *Sahifa*. The students are strongly encouraged to use other resources in print and Internet to improve their understanding of the course material.

The course will cover a comprehensive discussion on the significance, role and authenticity of *Sahifa Sajjadiyya*. This will be done using a number of articles by renowned scholars. The contents of the *Sahifa* will be studied using two approaches: a comprehensive discussion on select supplications and a quick discussion on a few passages from other supplications contained in the *Sahifa*. The detailed discussion will invoke Qur'anic verses and Hadith from the Fourteen Ma'sumin (a).

**Course Outline and Online resources****Date Classroom Discussion**

- Sep 19 Qur'anic verse & Hadith on the importance of seeking knowledge; Why should we study *Sahifa Sajjadiyya*? Discussion on sections from translator W.Chittick Into to the *Sahifa*. Discussion on Imam's "Supplication in seeking refuge from Hateful things, bad moral qualities & blameworthy acts" (Du'aa No. 8 in the *Sahifa*).
- Sep 26 Qur'anic verse and Hadith on the significance of Du'aa. Reading Du'aa for increase & preservation of knowledge. Discussion on the article on the *Sahifa* b Ahmed H. Sheriff found on ALI web site. Reflection on Imam's supplication for Removal of worries (No. 54 in the *Sahifa*).
- Oct 3 Qur'anic verses & Hadith on sickness and reflections on Du'aa 15. Suggestions on how we can introduce this supplication amongst our relatives & friends.
- Oct 10 Qur'anic verses on thanksgiving. Discussion on the article on the *Sahifa* by Ayt M Baqir al-Sadr. Meaning of words *hamd*, *thanaa* & *shukr*. Reading passages from Du'aas No 1 & 74 in *Sahifa*.
- Oct 17 Discussion on the article by S S Akhtar Rizvi, "The Illustrious Period of the Imamate of Imam Zayn al-Abidin" Reflections on Du'aa for Monday (No. 63 in the *Sahifa*). The role of these supplications in our daily life
- Oct 24 Qur'anic verses & Hadith on *Qard Hasanah*. Discussion on the authenticity of the *Sahifa*. Reflections on Du'aa 30: Effects of having a debt; How to avoid getting into debts; Tolerating lack of wealth and using one's wealth appropriately.

**Resources in Print and on Internet**

1. Holy Qur'an, <http://quran.al-islam.org/> Arabic text of the Qur'an with English translations by M H Shakir, Abdullah Yusufali & M Pickthall and brief commentary by Agha Pooya & S V Mir Ahmed Ali.
2. Imam Zayn Al-'Abidin *The Psalms of Islam*, tr. William Chittick, Muhammadi Turst, London, 1988. URL <http://www.al-islam.org/sahifa/>
3. *Al-Sahifa Al-Kamilah Al-Sajjadiya*, Arabic text, English translation and audio recitation side by side; <http://www.duas.org/sajjadiya/sajjadiya.htm> and at another site for text and translation: <http://www.najaf.org/english/book/24/>
4. A H Sheriff, "Saheefa Al-Kamilah: The Perfect Epistle" from *The Light* magazine published by Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania), for online copy visit our site <http://www.academyofislam.com/courses/ali201/intro-sheriff.pdf>
5. "Introduction by the martyred Imam Ayatullah Sayyid Muahmmad Baqir Al-Sadr," *Al-Sahifah Al-Sajjadiyyah*, tr. Sayyid Ahmad Muhani, Islamic Propagation Organization, Tehran, 1984; see <http://www.academyofislam.com/courses/ali201/intro-BaqirSadr.pdf>
6. Seyyid Saeed Akhatar Rizvi, "The Illustrious Imamah-period of Imam Zaynal 'Abidin," *Alserat, Selected Articles (1975 – 1983)*, Muhammadi Turst, London, 1983. URL: <http://www.al-islam.org/al-serat/Illustrious.htm>

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