

GREEN DEEN (JUMUAH) LECTURE

The Green Deen Lecture has been written as a guideline for Imaams - please change the material to suit your Masjid.

We encourage the lecture to be given on Friday the 11th October during the national Green Week. However, being the week before Eid-ul-Adha, it may be difficult. Feel free to have it on Friday the 4th October or on another day during the 7-13th October 2013. Additional daily lectures can be given according to the daily themes with the Green Deen Campaign's main booklet (available online) being used as a source of information.

In the name of Allah the most Gracious the most Merciful

"Praise be to Allah, to whom belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth, and praise be to Him in the life to come. He is the All Wise, the All Aware. He knows all that goes into the earth and all that comes out of it; He knows all that comes down from the heavens and all that goes up to them. He is the Merciful, the Forgiving. [Quran 34:1-2]"

I bear witness there is none worthy of worship besides Allah (SWT) and I bear witness that Muhammad (SAW) is His servant and messenger.

Dear brothers and sisters, today's lecture is part of the Green Deen Campaign - a campaign initiated by the national Muslim Students Union aimed at creating awareness in our South African Muslim community about environmental issues and Islam.

Allah (SWT) has created everything - from the smallest microbes to the gigantic galaxies in space. Islam teaches us that Allah (SWT) has created all things in perfect balance and measurement. There is a purpose behind all living and non-living things. Every single creation of Allah glorifies Him and they are all signs of His Power and deep wisdom.

The emphasis that Allah (SWT) places on the importance of his creation is reflected in the Qur'an. He calls us to witness His creation - the skies, the stars, the birds, and the vegetation. He describes his creation in many places:

"the alternation of night and day," (Qur'an 2:164);

" the water which God sends comes down from the sky to give life to the earth when it has been barren" (Qur'an 2:164);

"the changing of the winds," (Qur'an 2:164);

" the mountains over you " (Qur'an 2:63);

"the birds with wings outspread," (Qur'an 24:41);

"the gardens, springs"(Qur'an 26:147)

Surahs are named after natural elements - Al-Nahl (the bee), Ad-Dukhan (the drought), Al-Qamar (the moon). Allah (SWT) begins surahs by taking oaths by these natural phenomena - by the sun (wsh-shams), by the fig (wit-teen), by the breaking dawn (wil-fajr).

✉ greendeen@msa.org.za 📘 Green Deen Campaign South Africa 🌐 greendeen.msa.org.za 📞 0762585251



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is where Nabi (SAW) emphasised not wasting resources where he instructed his companion Sa'ad (R'A) not to waste water even if it be in a flowing stream. How many stories do we know of the simplicity in the eating and clothing of the Sahabah? If we tried to follow the Sunnah on a more daily basis, perhaps the current environmental and socio-economic problems would not exist at such a large scale.

Simple lifestyle changes can go a long way:

- Conserve water. Do not let the tap run continuously when brushing your teeth or making wudhu. Have a shorter shower with the tap opened less forcefully. Close taps properly and repair all leaking plumbing. Try to use grey water from your kitchen sinks and washing machines to water your garden. Do not just throw waste down the drain.
- Reduce your electricity usage. Switch off lights and appliances when not needed. Work together in one room at night. Use energy efficient appliances or invest in ceiling insulation and solar geyser systems.
- Reduce your fuel usage. Try to walk to the masaaqid instead of driving. Form carpools. Plan your errands so you do everything in fewer trips.
- Consume less. The less you use, the less resources are taken from the natural environment. Reuse and repair items instead of buying new items
- Reduce your waste. Buy items with less packaging and that have less waste after use. Use reusable shopping bags. Sort and recycle your waste.
- Care for the natural world. There is sin in littering and polluting. Take the time to visit nature reserves, to volunteer for caring for abandoned animals at your local SPCA and to give sadqah in addition to your usual charity to animal welfare organisations and tree planting initiatives.

Muslims need to be actively involved in environmental efforts. Not only must we care for our natural environment but we should be leading efforts and research to understand our natural environment. We should be leaders in minimizing our everyday environmental impacts in businesses and development. It is easy to forget the consequences of our actions if we do not see the problems in our vicinity. Muslim individuals, communities and countries have the responsibly to take up the green flag and remember that our actions have global consequences.

I would like to conclude with a hadith where the sacred nature of our world is emphasised. Nabi Muhammad (SAW) has said:

"The (whole) earth has been made good for me, a means of purification and a mosque (or place of prayer); so wherever a man may be when the time for prayer comes, let him pray wherever he is." (Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim)

May Allah guide us and give us the strength and patience to do good and be better stewards of the Earth. No good deed will go unrewarded Insha'Allah

O Allah, forgive us, have Mercy on us, guide us, support us, protect us, provide for us and elevate us. Our Lord, accept our repentance, cleanse us of our misdeeds, answer our prayers, substantiate our pleas, guide our hearts, straighten our tongues and banish all ill-will from our breasts. And we send peace and blessings on our beloved Prophet Muhammad, peace be on him

--- Prepared by the Green Deen Team of South Africa---

--- An initiative of the Muslim Students Associations Union.---

--- The Green Deen Campaign is endorsed by the United Ulama Council of South Africa and its 7 members (Council of Ulama Eastern Cape, Eastern Cape Islamic Congress, Jamiatul Ulama South Africa, Jamiatul Ulama KZN, Muslim Judicial Council, Sunni Jamiatul Ulama Natal and Sunni Ulama Council Gauteng), and by the Association of Muslim Schools and the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute. ---

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