

NOBLE CHARACTER

Muslims in America are able to practice their faith and tradition with no oppression. We should not isolate ourselves, rather embrace the ideals of American culture especially freedom and justice, and actively engage with others to improve life for everyone. The relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims is guided by kindness, justice, understanding and appreciating our diversity and the right of everyone to his faith, and working together. We should be good and kind to our parents, especially when they get old and need our help. Helping our neighbors is an Islamic concept, those who live close to us and those who work with us. We enjoy numerous blessings from God, and need to express our thanks and gratitude in words, as well as by sharing God's blessings with those who are poor, needy and those who need and deserve our help. Good righteous deeds are the only currency accepted on the Day of Judgment, such deeds motivated by the sincere desire to get close to God and help those who need our help. Muslims fast the month of Ramadan each year and conduct themselves during the fast in proper manners, in order to learn patience, discipline and piety, offer additional prayers, recite the Qur'an and give in charity. Hajj (Pilgrimage) is a journey of purification and a new beginning and a pledge to God to live our life as He ordered us to do. Muslims obey Prophet Muhammad orders as a messenger of God, and follow his example of noble character and proper behavior. Islam is a religion of logic and advocate critical thinking, since conviction based on knowledge and proper understanding is sound, compared to blind faith that can be dangerous.

Baher S Foad, MD is a Rheumatologist in private practice in Cincinnati, Ohio. Besides his medical education, training and practice he is involved in Islamic education, being a founding member of the Islamic center of greater Cincinnati, and serving as an interim Imam for several years. He is actively engaged in interfaith activity, having served on the board of trustees of the National conference of Christians and Jews, Xavier University, and lectured extensively on Islam in universities, churches and synagogues. He has published many books, including "Islamic concepts", "God's prophets", "Accountability", "Explanation of the Qur'an" three volumes, "Understanding Islam", "Understanding the Seerah of Prophet Muhammad", "Understanding the Sunnah in the context of the Qur'an", "Understanding the New Testament in the context of the Qur'an", "Understanding the Hebrew Bible in the context of the Qur'an", "Noble Character" three volumes, "Muslims in America, the challenge and vision", "What Christians and Jews should know about the Qur'an & Muhammad". His goal is to present Islamic thinking in a logical way that is applicable to our lives today.



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