

THE HOLY PEN

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“THE WORK OF THE
SWORD WE HAVE
PERFORMED WITH
OUR PEN.”
HADHRAT MIRZA
GHULAM AHMAD OF
QADIAN^{AS}

FIRST READ: A CONSPIRACY?

ANEES AHMAD - ROCHESTER, NY

During college I became very good friends with my roommate. The thing is his last name is Kashi, he keeps kosher, and he is a staunch supporter of the IDF. Yep, he's a Jew. Here's the catch - I'm a Muslim. Throughout the years we have had discussions, even debates, about politics and religion. Still, I never heard him or his (and consequently my) friends disparage Islam or Prophet Muhammad.

Maybe it is because we could disagree without being disagreeable. Maybe it is

because the Qur'an declares a party of the Jews will certainly be granted salvation (2:63, 5:70). Maybe it is because Muhammad adored the Isaac lineage of prophets.

Whatever the reason, when I read that textbooks of a Wahhabi-affiliated academy in Virginia write, "Jews conspired against Islam," I wonder if instead it is the Muslims who are conspiring against Islam.

Read more about the academy in Virginia and this controversy [here](#).

THE BEST CHARITY

FEBRUARY 11, 2009

PRINTED IN **MURMURS**

TAHIR KHAN - CHICAGO, IL

A companion asked Prophet Muhammad what the best charity was and he replied "to give in charity when you are healthy, hoping to be wealthy, and afraid of becoming poor."

The Holy Quran tells us that when you give in the way of God to the less fortunate God will give that money back to you many fold. As the world faces economic crises and people everywhere tighten their

purse strings, the amount of donations to charitable groups continues to fall. In times like these the need for giving is greater than ever before, therefore we must remember to

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donate something, though it could be as little as a dollar a day or even a dollar a month. From the rebuilding of Gaza to helping alleviate the famine in Africa, there are many

reasons to donate and there are many ways to do so. Organizations like Humanity First, Save the Children, Doctors Without Borders, UNICEF are all in desperate need of our help.

As the holiday season comes to an end the spirit of giving must continue...and remember when you do good goodness will follow you. Download published article [here](#).



HUMANITY FIRST



THE HOLY PEN

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THE HOLY PEN IS A FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER OF MSQ USA. IT AIMS TO GENERATE AWARENESS OF THE LATEST MEDIA COVERAGE OF ISLAM IN THE AMERICAN PRESS.

INTERESTING READS

[Women lose out, regardless of religion](#)

Whether its Islam or Catholicism, the writer argues that women are the victims of oppression

[Islamic finance may be cure for crisis, Vatican suggests](#)

In this worldwide economic crisis, the official Vatican newspaper published an article with a favorable view of Islamic finance

[Somali Cabinet votes for Islamic law](#)

Another country attempts to implement Sharia law, though their is controversy within the country as to who are Muslims and who are apostates

[A word to Muslims, Christians](#)

Are Muslims and Christians talking to each other? This article focuses on the chairwoman of the Institute for Christian-Muslim Understanding

SENSELESS MURDER OF 2 AHMADI DOCTORS IN PAKISTAN

It is with great pain that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at confirms that two of its members were brutally murdered in Multan on March 14, 2009. The deceased, Dr Shiraz Ahmad Bajwa and Dr Noreen Bajwa, were husband and wife and both trained as doctors. They were expecting their first child. Dr Shiraz was an eye-specialist who had served at various hospitals, including the Fazl-e-Umer Hospital in Rabwah. At the time of his death he was working at a hospital in Wapda. Dr. Noreen was working at a local children's hospital.

MSQ will send further updates and directives pertaining to this tragedy. For now, please write general letters of protest and send to msq@mkausa.org.

SECOND ANNUAL PUBLISHERS AND PREACHERS CONFERENCE HELD IN BALTIMORE

HARRIS ZAFAR

The weekend of March 7-8, 2009 capped the second annual Publishers & Preachers Conference in Baltimore, MD. Our spiritually uplifting weekend began on Saturday at the Baitur Rahman mosque in Silver Spring, where we spent a few hours with Tom Schaller, a renowned journalist and professor of Political Science. He gave invaluable advice on the art of writing op-eds and getting them published in newspapers.. The ten Publishers then confined themselves to our laptops in

one room to write, review, critique and approve our assigned op-ed pieces. This grueling experience was as intense as it was rewarding. No matter how much sleep was sacrificed, we learned how to elevate the quality of our writing and foster greater levels of brotherhood for one another. Make sure to checkout www.mkausa.org/msq for the latest information about our efforts.



Participants gather with Professor Tom Schaller at Baitur Rahman

WRITING TIPS: THE ART OF PITCHING AN OP-ED

Instead of writing an entire piece, send pitches for ideas to newspaper editors. This saves you time and helps gauge the interest of the editor.

Make your pitch a short three paragraph email starting with the "hook." This opener should pique the interest of the editor and may take the form of a question. For example: "Why are the Muslims of Saudi Arabia so cruel in punishing a 70-year-old woman with 40 lashes? Is this what Islam really teaches?"

Once you've gained the editor's interest, explain why you are the appropriate person to write about the subject matter. Inform the editor of any writing or research you've done or your past experiences pertinent to the subject.

Finally, ask if the editor is interested in your argument. For example, "Would you be interested in a piece about ...?" Remember, editors generally prefer the informality of a first name instead of being addressed formally by Mr.