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Assalaamu alaykum

Ramadan Kareem

Dear IMANA members,

We are now in the blessed month of Ramadan. I hope we all are gaining the multiplied rewards that Allah ﷻ has promised the believers for their sincere and faithful fast. In addition to fasting, prayers and *tarāwīḥ*, we should give generously for the needy both here and abroad. At the same time, we should not forget giving to our institutions in North America that promote Islam and serve the Muslim community, including our IMANA.

In this issue of IMANA we have an interesting article entitled “Medical Ethics in Religious Traditions: A Study of Judaism, Catholicism, and Islam.” While it is interesting to note the many similarities among these religions in the way decisions regarding ethics are made, it is not surprising to Muslims because we believe that all these “religions” come from the same source, the One and Only God, the Creator Allah ﷻ. This should help non-Muslim readers to appreciate this fact and not look at Islam as an outside, foreign or fringe religion. It should further interfaith dialogue.

Another interesting article in this issue is “The Qur’an and Human Embryology: A Further Study,” wherein are mentioned several verses that describe the creation of the human from the point of gametogenesis to full development. The descriptions fit very accurately the well-documented embryologic data that were only recently discovered. While the Quran is certainly not a science book, these verses add another aspect documenting its authenticity as the direct words of God ﷻ. A human being 1400 years ago would have no way of knowing and describing these stages so accurately and succinctly. The author further shows that these verses are meant to draw attention to the Creative Power of God ﷻ and His blessings on humans so that they

become thankful. The author cites many verses that begin with “Among His signs,” and there are many other verses in the Glorious Quran that speak of Allah’s signs and ask humans to ponder, reflect and study. The Quran is asking humans to believe in Allah ﷻ based on rational thinking by studying the creation. I really wonder how Pope Benedict XVI misunderstood all these references and claimed erroneously that Islam is not rational.

We continue to publish the medical student/resident column. Dr. Ghory describes her experience as a medical student during her internship in the United Kingdom in a mother baby unit dealing with mental health problems in the post-partum period. This is a topic that is neglected in the United States and the model described in that article should be emulated.

Dr. Al-Abbasi shows that sometimes an inexpensive, widely available medication, Betadine, can prove to be an effective treatment of the common disorder chronic suppurative otitis media. This is a reminder that we should not necessarily look for more expensive treatments and high-tech solutions to health problems.

In this issue, we have abstracts for the pre-ISNA IMANA conference. I invite all the presenters to submit full articles for publication in JIMA. I would like to thank the authors who submitted to JIMA and to the reviewers who reviewed their manuscripts.

I hope you enjoy reading JIMA. I invite members to send their comments about the articles and suggestions for improvement as letters to the editor.

I wish you Eid Mubarak. Wassalaam.

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