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6-02-1438 | 27-10-17

ISSUE 1

# New Beginnings

EBRARIM COLLEGE STUDENT SOCIETY

# بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

## بداية مبكرة

الحمد لوليه والصلاة على نبيه وبعد

وَقَدْ أَغْتَدِي وَالطَّيْرُ فِي وَكُنَاتِهَا - بِمَنْجَرِدٍ قَيْدِ الْأَوَابِدِ هَيْكَلِ

البيت أعلاه للشاعر العربي اسمه امرؤ القيس الذي كان يُسمى ((بالمملك الضليل)) عاش في الجاهلية ومات قبل بزوغ فجر الإسلام بخمسين سنة ، لكن سجل لنا الشاعر كعادة شعراء المعلقات نبذة تاريخية عن حياته بصفة خاصة وعن حياة البدو المستقرين في جزيرة العرب بصفة عامة . وسكان البادية عرفوا بالشدة والغلظة والمثابرة والعمل الجاد فقد كانوا ينتقلون من مكان لآخر ويقطعون الفيافي والقفار طلبا للماء والكلأ في ظروف قاسية وحالات بئسة .

فهاهو امرؤ القيس ، يقول إن من عادته أن يستيقظ في الصباح مبكرا بكل همة ونشاط ويُجافي جنبه عن فراشه إذا استثقلت بالكسالى المضاجع ، ومن المعلوم جليا أن الطير تخرج من أكنانها مبكرة جدا فتغدو خماسا وتروح بطانا ولكن شاعرنا العزيز يفاجئنا حينما قال بأنه يغتدي والطيور ما زالت في أعشاشها ويسبقها في التبكير ، كأن لسان حاله يقول فهل من مشمر ومدكر؟

هكذا كان الناس قديما ، فعالين شغالين ، يبدؤون يومهم مبكرين ، لا يعرفون الكلال ولا يسيطر عليهم الملل ، فلما جاء الإسلام فتح أبواب الخير على مصراعها وفرض على الأمة أن تقيم الصلاة في أول نهارها ، يركع الإنسان لربه في حين بقي الكثير في مضجعه ، ويعظم الرب عزوجل بلسانه وجوارحه ويا ويل للكسلان المستغرق في نومه فقد بال الشيطان في أذنه . فمن نهض في الصبح دائما عاش سالما وغانما ومن كان إلى الضحى نؤوما قضى نهاره مهموما مغموما .

وهل تعلم أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قد دعا لكل من يتصبح؟ فقد أخرج الإمام الترمذي وحسنه أن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال : "اللهم باركْ لأمتي في بكورها".

فكم من عالمٍ حفظ القرآن الكريم من أوله وآخره لأنه اهتم به في باكورة عمره ، وكأين من مُحدِّثٍ حفظ لنا السنة لأنه عني بها في ريعان سنِّه ومصنِّفٍ ألفَ المصنِّفاتِ في أوراق ومجلدات لأنه ضحى بنفسه وتفقه في عنفوان شبابه . والإمام الشعبي ذلك التابعي الجليل المتفنن عندما سئل ، من أين لك هذا العلم كله؟ قال : بنفي الاعتماد والسير في البلاد وصبر كصبر الحمار وبكور كبكور الغراب

ولو كان الإمام الشافعي حيا لقال :

ما في الفراش لذي عقلٍ وذو أدبٍ - من راحةٍ فدع الفرشاتِ وانتهضِ  
باكرٌ تجد عوضاً عما تفارقه - وانهض فإن لذيدَ العيش في النهضِ

وكتبه ابن عسكر البريطاني



## A New Chance, A New Purpose

How often we wish for another chance, a chance to breathe anew,  
A chance to move forwards from our mistakes; rectification where it's  
due,  
A time to make changes, when will we respond to our cue?

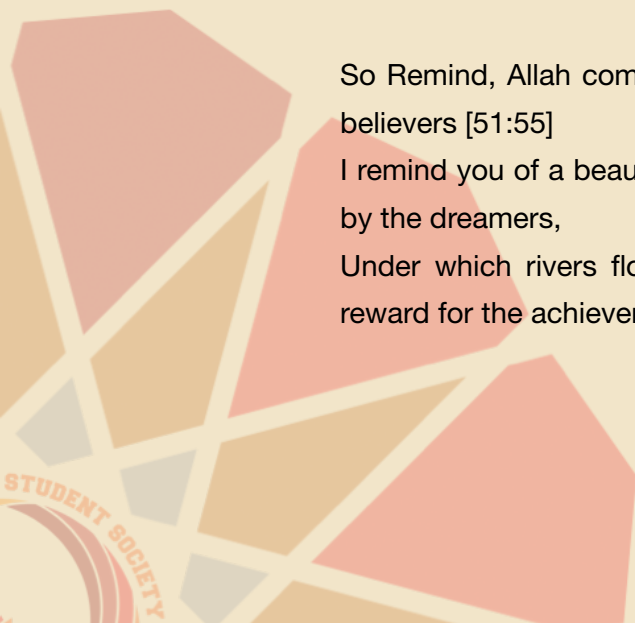
So He ﷻ blessed us with yet another year, ahead of us lies a brand  
new road,  
A chance to start afresh, let us not embark it with yesterday's load,  
Eyes on our destination, Jannah, our final abode...

Because if not for Paradise then what are we doing it for?  
Day in and day out, nine in the morning to half past four,  
A constant inner conflict, each our own daily war.

Our days grow repetitive, we begin to lose sight of our purpose,  
What we knew as sacred knowledge, became exams, assignments  
and papers,  
As trials persist to chase us, our lives they encompass.

Obstacles upon obstacles, we can no longer see light at the end of  
the tunnel...  
But what is light but the light of faith in our hearts, beginning our  
mornings with prayer, then throughout our day it will channel.

So Remind, Allah commanded, for indeed the reminder benefits the  
believers [51:55]  
I remind you of a beautiful Garden, never seen, heard nor envisioned  
by the dreamers,  
Under which rivers flow, an eternal bliss, what is a more befitting  
reward for the achievers?



An ultimate quenching of our thirst, a relief to all of our pains,  
A breath of exhalation, an end to all of our heartaches,  
Where stress has no place, and all of our worries can eternally fade  
away..

For the likes of this, then let the strivers continue to strive. [37:61]

Thus, we repent for the shortcomings of the previous year, gone,  
We seek the forgiveness of our teachers and peers, to those we have  
wronged,

We pray for the acceptance of a new beginning, till our final breath  
do we strive, Paradise and beyond.

*Anisa Najam, Alimiyyah Three*



## آغاز نو

نام ایزد پاک بود بهترین سرآغاز  
به آشنائی وی شود هر بنده سرفراز

هر قدر بجوئی به کامیابی خود  
نیست هیچ ذات بجز وی سبب ساز

درتلاش مهر و دوستی با وفا بودم  
ندانستم که با خودم در جفا بودم

مهر خدا علاج قلب با ایمان است  
ندانستم آن وقت چقدر تنها بودم

خدایا شروع هر کار ما تو هستی  
ساتر عیبهای بیشمار ما تو هستی

اگر خواهی این بنده خواهد رسید  
یار ومددگار نا توانان تو هستی

قلب را پاک کن برو بسوی آغاز نو  
چشم بپوش ز دنیا رو کن بیرواز نو

در یاری خدا آسودگی و راحت است  
ای نیلوفر بشنو ز دل به این آواز نو

نلوفر آحمدي ، العالمية الخامسة

## A Glimmer of Hope

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ

*'Allah is the Guardian of those who believe, He takes them out of the darkness and into the light'*

Yes, at times you may find yourself sinking to the depths of the ocean, with the darkness opening its' mouth wide open, ready to swallow us whole.

But, keep your eyes open for that glimmer of hope.

وَالضُّحَىٰ

*'By the morning light'*

A glimmer, a light in the distance - that's all you needed to get yourself determined to make it back to the surface again. Now, you know what you need to do: abandon the negative thoughts that are weighing you down.

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا سَجَىٰ

*'And by the night when it is still'*

For there is no doubt that the more the darkness surrounds us, the greater the threat of it engulfing us, and consequently, the more stronger we will emerge if we persevere. We just need to push ourselves and create our own opportunities.

وَالضُّحَىٰ وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا سَجَىٰ

*'By the morning light and by the night when it is still'*

Someone has thrown in an anchor.

مَا وَدَّعَكَ رَبُّكَ وَمَا قَلَىٰ

*'Your Lord has not abandoned you, nor is He displeased'*

It's far away, but we can see it. If we can see it, then we can reach it.

Push yourself to have big intentions to make the most of your new beginning, regardless of whether it defies the flow of the current or not.

Set your goals; however much of a distance there is between you and the end result is positively proportionate to the greater the individual you become.

وَلِلْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لَّكَ مِنَ الْأُولَى

*'The reward in the next life will certainly be better than the first life'*

And once you have pushed through, stop. Take a deep breath. Look back at where you once were and where you are standing now. New beginnings are possible for those who actively seek it. And just like that, all the colour floods back into your line of sight. All praises be to Allah, the One who brought us out from the depths of darkness into the light.

*Khadijah Begum, Alimiyyah T*



## عش كالأسد

ما في الجمام لذي علم و ذي رغب من

~ راحة فِدَعِ الأوهام واجتهدِ

ثابر تجد بدلاً عمّن يشاغلكَ

~ واتعب فإنّ حسين العيش في الكبدِ

إني رأيتُ قعود المرء يُبطلُهُ

~ إن سارَ زاد وإن لم يجر لم يزدِ

والفرس لو لا وداع الأهل ما انتصرتُ

~ والصقر لو لا فراق الوكر لم يصدِ

والبنت لو عبثت في البيتِ دائمةً

~ لذمها الناس من قرب ومن بعدِ

والمرء كالنجم باقٍ في مصادره

~ والجهد من نفسه خير من الحسدِ

فإن تجنّب هذا شدّ همته

~ وإن تصبّر ذاك عزّ كالأسدِ

أسماء محمود ، العالمية الثالثة

## A New Beginning

A new year has started but why are we so reluctant.  
So many new beautiful things to learn,  
Surrounded by knowledge in abundance.  
Sadly our insatiable spirits still remain silent and dormant.

Strapping, zipping, sliding on our shoes, we walk out the door.  
Forcing ourselves to attend classes putting aside our heart's internal war.  
Clenching our chest we look up to the sky crying,  
"Is this life? Is this it? Is there not more?"

We cannot fathom the hole that haunts us in our hearts.  
But we deeply desire the answer to our question, "What do I do? Where do I start?"  
Our souls gasping for air as we lay trapped in the dark abyss.  
Everyday is a constant internal struggle, like a never ending apocalypse.

Hours worth of pain, down our cheek rolls a single tear.  
And yet we wonder, why?! Will hardships continue to engulf our entire year?  
We try so hard, sacrifice so much yet we still feel like we can never atone.  
After all our efforts we sit there and can't help but feel emotionally alone.

We look into so many new avenues,  
Taking on new courses, challenges, searching for a cure.  
How lucky we are that Allah shines His Nūr upon us,  
His loving warmth, encompassing us, ever so pure.

Learning the dīn is our salvation, our guiding light, don't let this opportunity fade.  
Stand in paradise, proud of our sacrifice and the decisions we have made.  
Sometimes we believe we don't deserve good, we give up and our hearts harden.  
Have trust in Allah, have hope, our souls will stand up again enlightened.

A new year has started, let's not become a hostage to all our troubles.  
We are not alone, we have Allah to help us and fight all our struggles.  
When life decides to throw things at us, we should look past it, keep our eyes  
on the ultimate goal.  
The Prophet's embrace, paradise and eternal bliss for our deserving souls.

It's when things are tough we should keep our head up high.  
We won't find hope lying on the ground, it resides in the sky.

2018 is here, leave behind the years of the past with all its insanity.  
No more shall we sit alone, sad and deep in sorrow.  
Seize the day, look forward; today and many a morrow.  
This is a new year, make it a new beginning and become a new me.

*A Scribe. Alimiyyah Two*



“When your heart speaks, take good notes.” - Judith Campbell

There is nothing quite like moving away and being on your own to study the Islamic sciences, or study anything for that matter. For me, four years ago was the beginning of a rather unique journey - it was a new opportunity to begin the Alimiyyah again in a whole new setting, a completely different environment, around completely new people. It was a challenge I was looking for. Something I'd never done before. Yes, it was overwhelming at first - a decision I never thought I'd come to, but Ebrahim College has become a very crucial part of my life. To come to the realisation year after year that the Quran, Hadith, Fiqh, Seerah and all the other subjects are the only things occupying my time was something I'd never fathomed I'd even get close to. It goes without saying that it requires a lot of patience, perseverance, commitment and discipline as is the case with anything that demands something as rigorous as the Alimiyyah, but even more so when you know it's the first time you'll be moving away from your comfort zone into an environment you've never been in before for long, let alone lived in.

Each time I go back home to Preston, I am reminded of the blessing I've been given of being able to move away solely to seek sacred knowledge - a chance perhaps only a handful of people with my background would get. To come in having knowledge that would be next to nothing and then to develop into students who can read through texts, cover to cover, without a second glance is definitely a part of any Alimiyyah student's dream. I can't help but be mesmerised at the amount we've taken from the wealth and treasury of our own teachers' knowledge, and knowing there's more to take from the vast ocean we've merely dipped into.

What motivates me to do this? The answer is simple: when I enter into the world at Ebrahim College, I am constantly reminded of what I didn't have whilst I was studying at home. I was looking for something more. I see the eyes of eager students with visions to do great things in the future. I read about the sacrifices of those before me who, again travelled in pursuit of knowledge, tirelessly striving to become the people they were and I now see their contributions and legacies in the form of books that we are able to benefit from. And, repeatedly, relentlessly, I am reminded of the gaps I still have to fill.

Not only this, but to see the sincere passion emanating from all the teachers in what they teach inspires me to immerse myself in a similar manner to get even a little taste of what they may be experiencing.

To get any of this however, a lot of sacrifices had to be made. Moving away from home came with its tolls. I expected to miss home. I expected to face problems. I expected to face times when I didn't want to continue. I expected not to get used to the awful train/underground journeys. Each year always ended with a struggle to find a place to live for the upcoming year. The past four years have been a challenge in every sense of the word, but I also expected a lot of good days. Good days which probably won't present themselves again in the same way with the same people. The key was that I had to try.

As the journey slowly comes to an end, I can truly say moving away to study has been, thus far, a worthwhile and enriching endeavour that has allowed me to appreciate and grow love for this sacred knowledge, meet some amazing people and has opened the doors to an entirely new world for me. This boils down to the commitment of our teachers; I hope to water the seeds that have been planted by them by becoming someone that is able to give just as fruitful benefit to others as I've been given. And the continued support of peers who had built a body of support and encouragement - I couldn't have done without.

I've moved around from place to place, living with various kinds of people - Tunisians, Parisians, Turks, reverts and others all whom have made this journey all the more successful and beautiful. Sisters who enabled me to realise that what I have is truly a gift from Allah and should be valued, appreciated and given what it's due because not everyone is chosen for this path. But all the steps of this beautiful path could be filled with acknowledgements to the many incredible souls who were a vital part of the creation of my journey. I regret - and will feel deep remorse - that I cannot acknowledge each and every one in this limited space. Du'as, help and support of these people have got me this far.

May Allah reward you all and know that a tribute to each of you lives on in the knowledge that Allah facilitates me to pass on, Insha Allah.

*Halima Patel, Alimiyyah Four*

