

Newsletter

A Newsletter of the Mobile Islamic Community

<p>Muharram</p> <p>1</p> 	<p>Safar</p> <p>2</p> 	<p>Rabi Al-Awwal</p> <p>3</p> 
<p>Rabi Al-Thani</p> <p>4</p> 	<p>Jamad Al-Awwal</p> <p>5</p> 	<p>Jamad Al-Thani</p> <p>6</p> 
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<p>Shawwal</p> <p>10</p> 	<p>Dhul Qadah</p> <p>11</p> 	<p>Dhul Hijjah</p> <p>12</p> 
<p>READ THE HOLY QURAN DAILY</p>	<p>Read, Listen, and Study Tafsirs and Lectures of Imam W.D. Mohammed</p>	<p>SAFAR is the Second Month of the Islamic (Hijri) Calendar</p>
<p>THE CHRISTIAN WEST?</p> <p>We hear of “western civilization” as being Christian, but how accurate is this statement?</p> <p>Using the Roman Empire as the basis of western civilization, it was primarily a pagan civilization from its founding in 753BCE to the 4th century CE. Through much of the 4th century CE, the Roman Empire would adopt and transition to Nicene Christianity, reflecting the Christian doctrines most prevalent today.</p> <p>By the 5th century, the Roman Empire stretched from modern-day Spain to England, through France and Italy, Greece, Turkey, the Levant, along the Egyptian Nile, and along the North African Mediterranean to Morocco. Also, by this time, the Roman Empire was split into the western Roman Empire and the Byzantine Empire. By the end of the 5th century, the western Roman Empire had collapsed due to invasions of pagan tribes in Europe.</p> <p>In the 7th century, the Quran was revealed and Islam spread from Arabia through the Levant and North Africa.</p> <p>Continued on page 2 column 1</p>	<p>And Follow the Best Thereof</p> <p>Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) says that he is the “Unlettered Prophet” mentioned in the Torah and The Gospel. That he will come breaking the bonds that weigh down or crush the people. He will break every unjust bond. It alludes to slavery, but we know it is not just the slavery of the people put on the plantation, to control our life, movements and everything.</p> <p>This enslavement refers to the enslavement of the faculties of the human mind and soul, denying you the opportunity to develop and enjoy the growth of your potential and the capacity of your potential—your created energies—to a small space that cuts you off from roaming the earth and the universe with your intelligence. (Excerpts from page 21)</p>  <p>Continued on page 2 column 2</p>	<p>Meaning of Safar</p> <p>The Arabic word صَفَر [safar] comes from the root letters ص ف ر which carry many different meanings depending on the context: to whistle, to hiss, a siren, yellow/to turn yellow, emptiness, hunger. It is believed that most of the Hijri months got their names from the weather conditions of the time. Safar might come from the fact that there was a lot of wind (i.e., whistling of the wind).</p> <p>Other views indicate Safar literally means empty, the month when the pre-Islamic Arabs left their homes empty to fight their enemies, travel and attend to business.</p> <p>Significance of Safar in Hadith</p> <p>During the time of Jaahiliyyah (ignorance, before Islam), there was a lot of superstition around the month of Safar, but there is no foundation to such claims as shown in this authentic hadith:</p> <p>Abu Huraira رضي الله عنه narrated: Allah’s Messenger ﷺ said, “(There is) no ‘Adwa (no contagious disease is conveyed without Allah’s permission); nor is there any bad omen (from birds), nor is there any</p> <p>Continued on page 2 column 3</p>

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THE CHRISTIAN WEST?**

By early 8th century, Islam was in Spain and Portugal and would stay until nearly the 16th century. Much of the Byzantine Empire had come under Islamic governance, though it would be until the 15th century before Constantinople would be taken by Muslims, marking the end of the Byzantine Empire (though, notably, the Ottoman sultans then claimed to be the inheritors of the Roman Empire). Furthermore, until acquiring Arab lands in the 16th century, the Ottomans existed primarily in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean from the 14th century, where Islam has maintained ever since. Generally speaking, the Ottoman Empire became the Byzantine Empire minus Italy.

Meanwhile, Scandinavia, Germany, and Central and Eastern Europe were still pagan at this time and would only begin Christianization at varying times between the 8th-12th century CE. At the same time during the Middle Ages when some European thinkers would fashion themselves as bulwarks of Christianity, Islam was nonetheless present and growing in the former Roman Empire. By the 17th century, religious reforms would see a split and decline in the state power of the church and the beginnings of secularism.

If we put all of this together, we can see that the vast majority of the land and people of the Roman/Byzantine Empire inherited the legal, cultural, and human rights values that came with Muslim governance for many centuries longer than it did Christianity. We also see that Christianity, as the religious identity of “western civilization”, is limited to a portion of Western Europe.

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And Follow the Best Thereof**

G-d [Allah] created all of us to travel the earth and the universe with our minds and our intelligence and with our hearts. Innocence in the spirit of humanity brings us to see a concept that has been presented in so many different languages and so many different cultural ideas or concepts

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Additionally, paganism was the religious identity of many European peoples for much longer.

The height of the Roman Catholic Church’s governance over Europeans was relatively short and quickly followed by reformation and secularization against the Church’s laws. For instance, Islamic history and governance over Spain extends nearly eight centuries and is associated with the golden ages of Islamic and Jewish academia and freedom. In contrast, Spain’s Catholic identity extends over the last five centuries, and includes its current secular period and previous periods of inquisition and colonization.

Today, a casual observer can witness firsthand the decline, absence, and animosity toward Christianity in “western civilization”. At the same time, we also see a rise in Islamic awareness and practice in these same societies.

In what other ways can a brief reflection on history cause us to question the narratives pushed onto us?

Yusuf Hasan, Esq.

**Your comments, articles, and
insights are appreciated.**

**Send to
newsletter1559@gmail.com**

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Hamah, nor is there any bad omen in the month of Safar, and one should run away from the leper as one runs away from a lion.” (Sahih al-Bukhari 5707). Sources: MuslimPro; Studioarabiya

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUR VOTE MATTERS! YOUR VOTE COUNTS!
The Tourminville Crichton Development Corporation
proudly announces the
**Tri-County Divine Nine
Collegiate Picnic!**
A A A A K A V N Y O A T O O B E Z O B I P I O O

Mission:
This non-partisan political rally aims to educate citizens about the importance of voting and encourage voter participation in preparation for the November 2024 election and beyond!

A scholarship will be awarded to the University/College with the most participants present at the picnic and an award will be presented to the Divine Nine organization with the most representation. Current elected officials will be recognized, and we will also take a moment to honor our past through the recognition of Divine Nine leaders in Mobile, Washington and Baldwin counties.

All are welcome to attend!

Alabama A & M University Alabama State University Bishop State Community College
Dillard University Jackson State University Miles College Oakwood University
Stillman College Spelman College Tuskegee University
Tennessee State University Talladega College Xavier University
Florida A&M University Southern University Alcorn State University
Clark Atlanta University Morehouse College

Saturday, August 10, 2024
USS Alabama Battleship Park
11:00am - 2:00pm
Food Trucks and Entertainment!

Muslim Culture Gen
YOUNG ADULT RETREAT
*Destined for Prosperity: Using Our Legacy to
Cultivate a Garden of Excellence*
October 25th - 27th 2024
Dallas, Texas

SPECIAL DISCOUNT Single ticket: \$180
Couples ticket: \$300
includes 2 night cabin lodging,
meals, and transportation

Register today at: <https://bit.ly/RetreatRegistrationMCC>

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Questions: Contact Nashid Rushdan, Sr.