

Newsletter

A Newsletter of the Mobile Islamic Community



READ THE HOLY QURAN DAILY

Beyond Bilal

Excerpts from “Beyond Bilal” by Mustafa Briggs:

When we think of Black History in Islam, the figures that usually come to mind are people like Bilal, Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, or Mansa Musa. However, Black History in Islam does not start with these individuals, but starts where Islam begins - in the Quran itself.

We should question ourselves as to why whenever Luqman and Bilal - the most prominently known Black figures in the tradition - are mentioned, their slave status is always highlighted and emphasized. However, when others, such as Yusuf or Harun, or companions such as Salman al-Farsi or wives of the Prophet ﷺ such as Saffiyah or Rehana, despite all being formerly enslaved, their former status is hardly ever highlighted in the same way.

While the Prophet is described as neither very white nor very black; having hair neither very curly nor very straight; when we explore the descriptions of his family and descendants, we gain a greater understanding of how “Arab” complexion differs from common representations now versus back then. One such story helps us illustrate.

About 141 years after the Prophet ﷺ migrated to Medina, Muhammad ibn Abdallah al-Kamil led a revolt against the Abbasid caliphate. During this time, he had the nicknames “the pure soul” and “Charcoal” to describe his impeccable character and his physical appearance for

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Read, Listen, and Study Tafsirs and Lectures of Imam W.D. Mohammed

Imam W. Deen Mohammed (1933-2008)

In the early 1980’s Imam W. Deen Mohammed introduced the concept of New Africa and said “There are two things I will never give up, Al-Islam and my African American identity”. He envisioned model communities that reflect the best of African, Muslim, and African American identities and continued to stress economic development, do-for-self ownership, and collective economics to provide economic stability. Imam Mohammed believed that with The Qur’an, skin color – Black – was no longer an organizing principle for African Americans, that the Nation of Islam’s focus on Blackness had sufficiently served its purpose. He said that Muslim African Americans were a new people born out of Revelation (The Qur’an) and he introduced the community to the Muslim African Ancestor, Bilal ibn Rabah, who provides dignity and direction. Bilal who was a slave to the Arabs, was liberated by Al-Islam and became the first Treasurer and Muezzin to the first Muslim community. Bilal called Believers to prayer five times a day. Imam W. Deen Mohammed coined the term Bilalian in his honor to replace Black which did not have the depth of dignity required for a new people.

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SHABAN is the Eighth Month of the Islamic (Hijri) Calendar

I’ve watched alcohol-related cancers kill my family. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, is right. Edith Langford Opinion Contributor USA Today

Alcohol is America's favorite drug. I've seen clients overtaken by it. I've seen family members die because of it. The link to cancer is well-established, and there should be warnings.

You may know Dr. Langford, as Sister



Edith Langford is a veteran psychotherapist and doctoral recipient specializing in addictions. Provided By Blue Room Photography

Edith. In this timely and excellent article, she addresses this important topic. Providing analyses through both scientific research and personal reflections, Dr. Langford emphasizes that “No amount of alcohol is safe. Dr. Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General, is right to sound the alarm.”

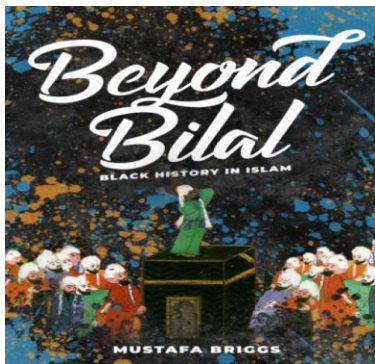
Follow (copy and paste) the link for the complete article:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/voices/2025/01/17/alcohol-warning-label-surgeon-general-murthy/77545358007/>

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being “tall, jet-black skinned and huge.”

In a letter to the Abbasid caliph, Al-Kamil makes his case as to how he is more entitled to rule the Muslim world than the sitting caliph. He explains how he descends from the Prophet’s grandmother from his father, Fatima bint Amr, and from the Prophet’s daughter, Fatima.



Fatima bint Amr gave birth to the Prophet’s father Abdullah, and uncle, Abu Talib, who became the father of Ali (ra). Ali married the Prophet’s daughter, Fatima, and became the parents of the only descendants of the Prophet, including Hassan and Hussein. Hassan’s son married Hussein’s daughter, who would give birth to Abdallah Al-Kamil. Muhammad ibn Abdallah Al-Kamil’s mother also descends from Abu Ubaydah ibn Al-Jarrah (ra), a Qurayshi and one of the ten companions guaranteed paradise.

Additionally, Muhammad Al-Kamil’s brothers include Yahya, a teacher of Imam Shafi’i, and Idris, who migrated to, and became the first king of, Morocco, to whom the present Moroccan royal family traces their lineage. Their cousin, Jafar as-Sidiq, is considered the sixth imam in Shia tradition, and his son, Musa al-Kadhim - from a Nubian mother - is considered the seventh imam.

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Imam W. Deen Mohammed**

Bilalian was used only for a short period because some in the Muslim world and in America suggested he was developing a “cult”. To avoid that designation, he stopped using the term. Imam W. Deen Mohammed said, just as Bilal stood on top of the Ka’ba and called the faithful to prayer, “It is the prophetic destiny [of Muslim African Americans] to call all of humanity back from the seeds of destruction to the straight path of the true worship of G-d.”

Source: <https://thenationsmosque.org/the-late-imam-wd-mohammed/>

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Unfortunately, whether through white-washed depictions from the movie “The Message” or the most popular Shia iconographies depicting their imams as Persians, or the Arabization of generally light-skinned non-Arab peoples, the people we visualize today when we say “Arab” look very different from those during the time of the Prophet.

“Beyond Bilal” pg. 34-35, 59-62
Submitted by Yusuf Hasan, Esq.

**Dishes from around the world for
Ramadan and Eid**

Morocco - Harira

A Ramadan staple from Morocco, Harira is a light soup that is usually made from lentils, flour/potatoes, tomatoes, chick peas, onions, rice, meat and olive oil.



**Send Articles, Points of View,
Announcements,
Questions/Comments To
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**DISHES FROM AROUND THE WORLD
FOR RAMADAN AND EID**

USA – Navy Bean Soup

Developed and refined during the early years of Islam’s introduction to descendants of former slaves in America, this economical and easy to prepare dish became a staple of each meal. Whether paired with salads, halal meats, and refreshing deserts like bean pies and bean ice cream, or eaten alone, Navy Bean Soup became a favorite and remains so today.

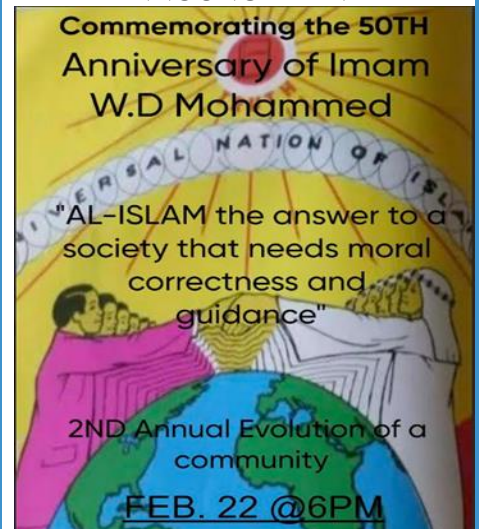


Chicken or Lamb Kabsa - Saudi Arabia

The usual ingredients of a kabsa are rice, meat, vegetables, and a mixture of spices including black pepper, cloves, cardamom, saffron, cinnamon, black lime, bay leaves and nutmeg. Kabsa can be considered a national dish in Saudi Arabia. It is no wonder the kabsa is an iftar table essential.



ANNOUNCEMENT



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