



Thanksgiving

A Muslim's Perspective



By Dr.Faruq Post





As the leaves change colors, the seasons change and the month of November arrives another “holiday” is being observed by many people throughout the world. A day that many believe to be just ‘a day of giving thanks’ to whoever they consider their Lord or Creator to be. In all actuality, many of those who participate and celebrate Thanksgiving do not truly understand the origin and history of this day. When November in preparation for Thanksgiving we start seeing TV commercials, Ads, billboards, posters and signs of peaceful Native American Indians sitting together at a table with some Pilgrims. A day that many have been brainwashed into





believing that it is a celebration of peace and happiness between the Native American Indians and the migrating Pilgrims. Sadly to say, we have been duped and misled into believing that this is what Thanksgiving is really about. Did you know that to the Native American Indians that Thanksgiving is actually a day of mourning?

To them, Thanksgiving is a day that a terrible genocide, extermination, rape and oppression of the Native American Indians was celebrated. To the indigenous and native people of the Americas, it was one of the worst days in the history of their nation ...





That eventually led to the extermination of an entire race. But to the “Explorers” (i.e. Tyrannical murderers and oppressors and their supporters) along with the ignorant and naïve; then Thanksgiving is a day of overeating, gluttony, greed while stuffing one’s stomach with turkey and mashed potatoes, getting drunk and watching a football game...

So where should those who love the truth stand in regards to celebrating Thanksgiving?

Should they stand with the oppressors and the murderers who slaughtered innocent men,





women and children; or should they stand with the oppressed who were unjustly murdered, raped, killed and had their homeland stolen from them???

As for the Muslim, then he praises his Lord and Creator (whose proper name is Allah) daily and is in no need of specifying only ONE DAY out of the year to do show or give thanks.

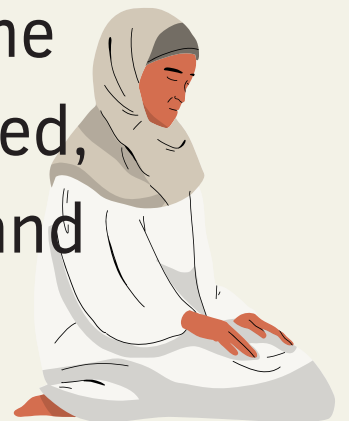
Furthermore, a Muslim should stand with the oppressed and never with the oppressor. While doing whatever he/she can in his/her power to stop or slow down the continuation of ignorance, oppression and mis-education.





Muslims send constant praise and thanks to their Lord on a daily basis by utilizing all of the faculties that Allah blessed them with in the way that Allah ordained them to be used. A Muslim uses his eyes to see, his ears to hear, his hands to touch, grab, feel, give and take; his legs to walk, run, sit and stand; his tongue to speak, his lungs to breathe, his intellect and heart to think, ponder and reflect about all of the blessings that Allah has bestowed upon him.

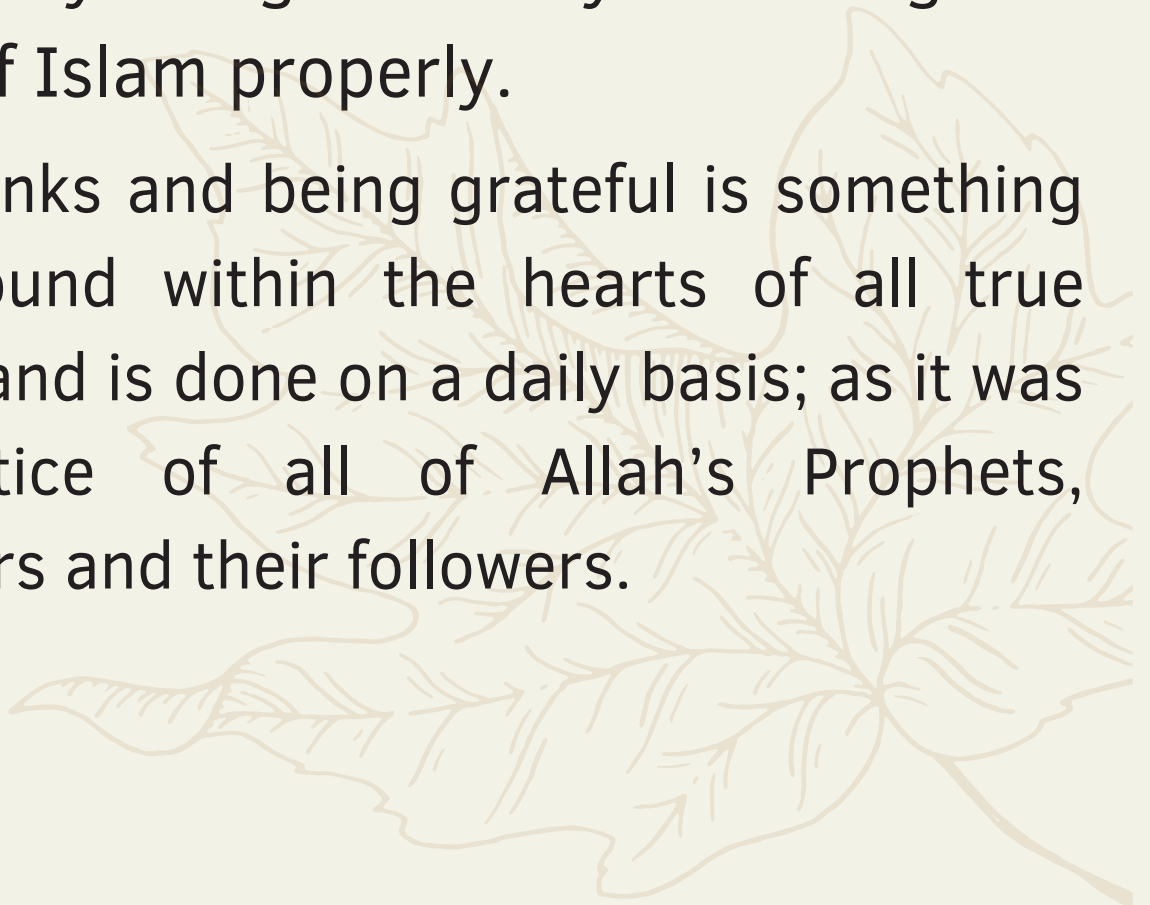
When these faculties are used in the way that Allah loves them to be used, then and only then is the servant and worshipper truly grateful.





The blessings that Allah has given us in our bodies are unaccountable and innumerable. No matter how much we try to show thanks for them, we will forever come up short. However, as those who submit themselves to Allah's commandments as Muslims, we keep striving and working to improve and continuously be grateful by following the religion of Islam properly.

Giving thanks and being grateful is something that is found within the hearts of all true believers and is done on a daily basis; as it was the practice of all of Allah's Prophets, Messengers and their followers.





It is not only done on ONE DAY out of the YEAR, rather it is done continuously throughout the lifetime of a Muslim; every day, every hour, every minute and every second of one's life.

As believers and those who submit themselves to their Creator (Allah) as Muslims, what is the significance of Thanksgiving? What is the History of Thanksgiving? Is the Thanksgiving that non-Muslims celebrate a true manifestation of their gratitude and gratefulness? And who are they thanking and showing this gratitude? How should a Muslim be grateful and show his/her gratitude?

Hopefully these few words contained in this pamphlet will answer some of these questions.



Are people who only show “thanks” to their creator or whoever they are thanking only ONE DAY out of the year, are they really thankful???!!!

So is Thanksgiving actually a day of giving thanks or a reminder of how much people lack in giving thanks?





History of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a holiday that has religious and cultural roots that is normally celebrated and observed on the fourth Thursday in the month of November.

Aside from being what is now more commonly known as a 'Christian Holiday'; Thanksgiving is commonly represented by images depicting the 'peace or truce' made between Native American Indians and the European Puritans or Pilgrims who arrived in early America. The bitter reality of true American history stands in stark contrast to the re-written politically correct version promoted everywhere today.

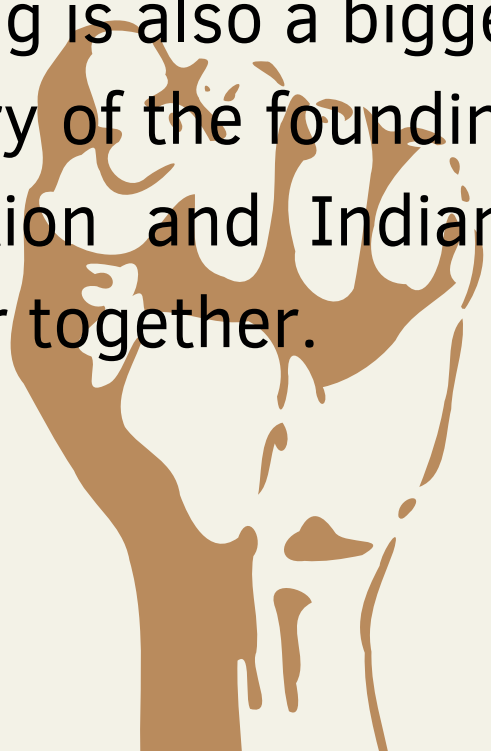
Before European settlers arrived, America had an entire civilization of people living on its land-The Native American Indians.



The sad reality is that the Europeans; namely the Puritans and Pilgrims short after their arrival ended up eventually invading, pillaging and occupying Native American Indian lands wrongfully and unjustly. These Pilgrims and Puritans fought fiercely against the original inhabitants of the Americas, eventually conquering them, murdering them, raping them all which eventually led to the mass-genocide of the Native American race. The people who established 'Thanksgiving' were those who were killing Native American Indians-men, women, elderly and children; spreading diseases and taking their lands while placing the Native Americans on Indian Reservations.



As Winston Churchill stated: “History is written by the victors.” In light of this statement, this is why we find that the oppressive colonizers re-wrote the reality of Thanksgiving as a cheerful peace agreement of the Indians and Pilgrims sitting at a dinner table sharing turkey and the crops of the summer harvest over a warm friendly conversation; to cover up their tyranny. Thanksgiving is also a bigger concept than just the story of the founding of the Plymouth Plantation and Indians and Pilgrims eating dinner together.





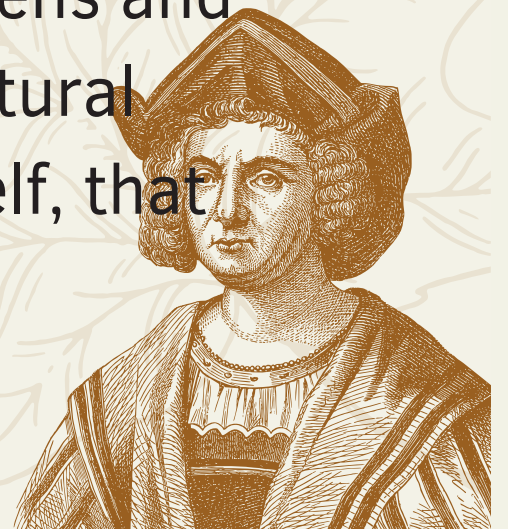
Christian Missionaries in the “New World”

The Puritans and Pilgrims that migrated from Europe were not just some simple conservatives persecuted by the King of England and the Church for their unorthodox beliefs. Rather they were political revolutionaries who not only intended to overthrow the government of England, but who actually did so in 1649. The Pilgrims were not just innocent refugees fleeing from religious persecution. Rather they actually considered themselves as the “Chosen Elect” mentioned in the Book of Revelation in the Bible. They strove to ‘purify’ themselves first and then everyone else around them of everything they did not accept according to their own interpretation of scripture.



These New England Puritans used any means necessary including deception, treachery, torture, war and genocide to achieve their end goal. They saw themselves as fighting a holy war against Satan and everyone who disagreed with them and their beliefs was their enemy. In this case, the Native American Indians were the first enemies they found to fight and they tried to eliminate them as soon as they reached America.

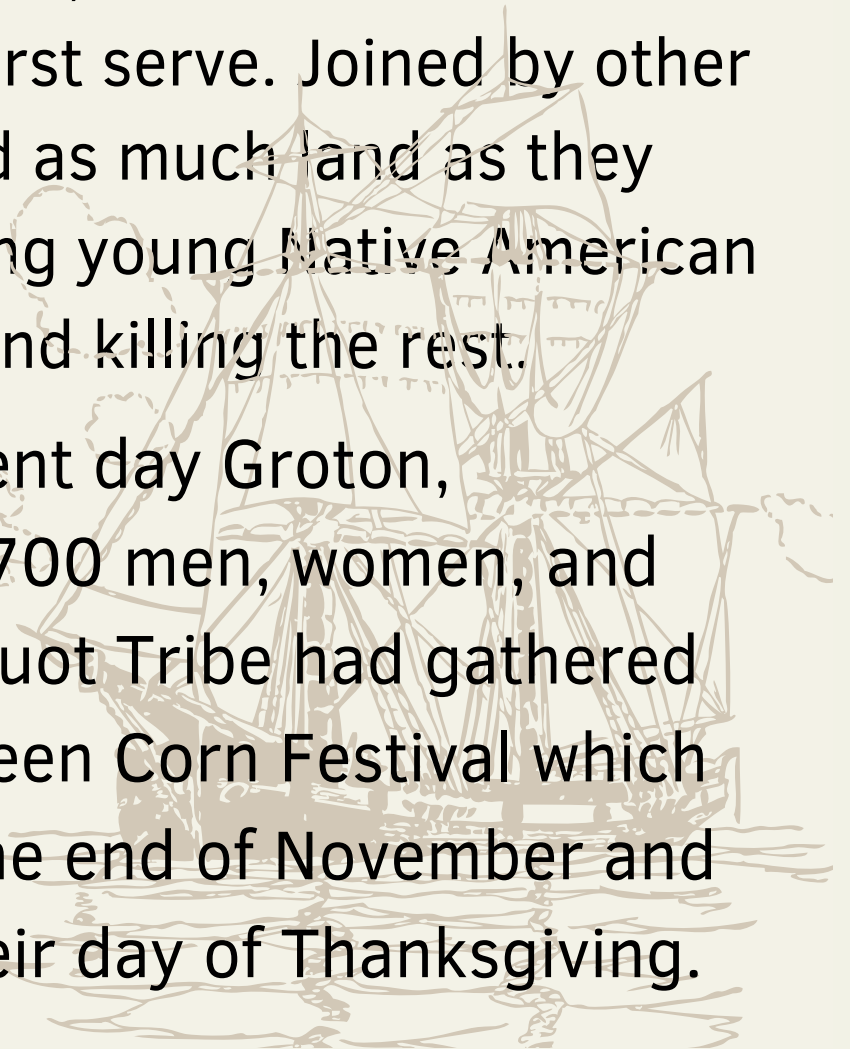
To the Puritans and Pilgrims the Native American Indians were 'heathens and savages' and therefore the natural instruments of the Devil himself, that needed to be exterminated.





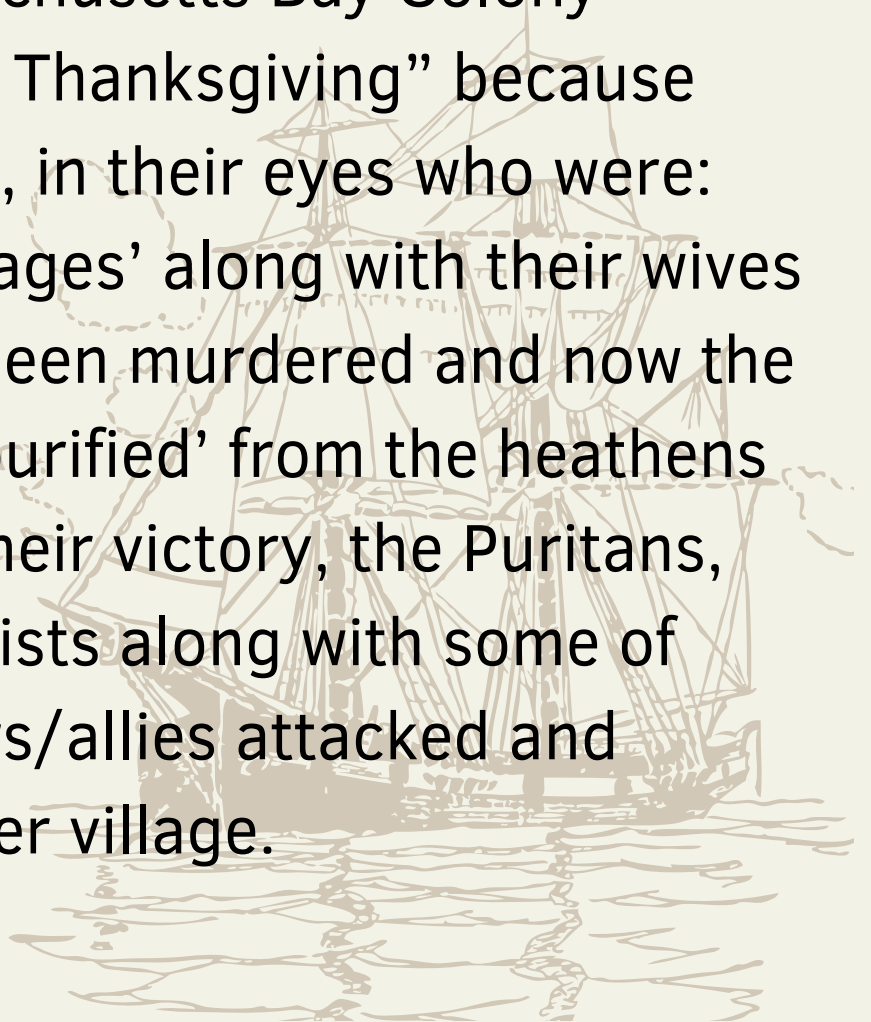
As word spread in England about the 'paradise' to be found in the 'New World (New England)' in North America, these Christians who called themselves 'Puritans' began arriving by the boat load to conquer the newly found land. Finding no fences or stone walls around the land, they considered it to be public domain, and land for the taking, first come-first serve. Joined by other settlers, they seized as much land as they could while capturing young Native American Indians for slaves and killing the rest.

In 1637 near present day Groton, Connecticut, over 700 men, women, and children of the Pequot Tribe had gathered for their annual Green Corn Festival which they observed in the end of November and was considered their day of Thanksgiving.



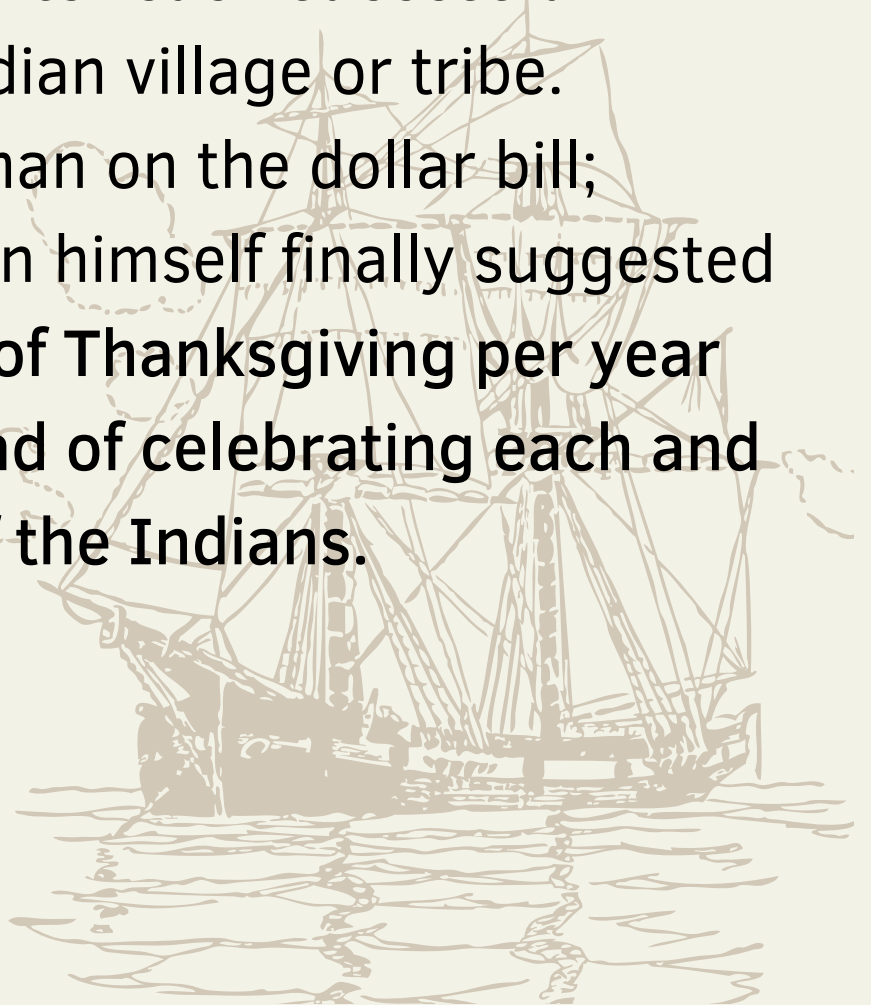


In the pre-dawn hours the English and Dutch mercenaries surrounded one of the Indian camps and ordered them all to come outside. Those who came outside were shot or clubbed to death while the terrified women and children who huddled inside their cabins and tents were burned alive. The next day the governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony declared a “Day of Thanksgiving” because 700 unarmed men, in their eyes who were: ‘heathens and savages’ along with their wives and children had been murdered and now the lands have been ‘purified’ from the heathens filth. Cheered by their victory, the Puritans, Pilgrims and colonists along with some of their Indian traitors/allies attacked and pillaged village after village.





Their chief was be-headed and his head was impaled on a pole in Plymouth, Massachusetts-where it remained for 24 years as a warning to other Indian tribes. After the raid of the Pequot Indians the killings and massacres became more and more frenzied, with days of Thanksgiving feasts being held after each successful massacre of an Indian village or tribe. Sadly to say, the man on the dollar bill; George Washington himself finally suggested that only one day of Thanksgiving per year be set aside instead of celebrating each and every massacre of the Indians.





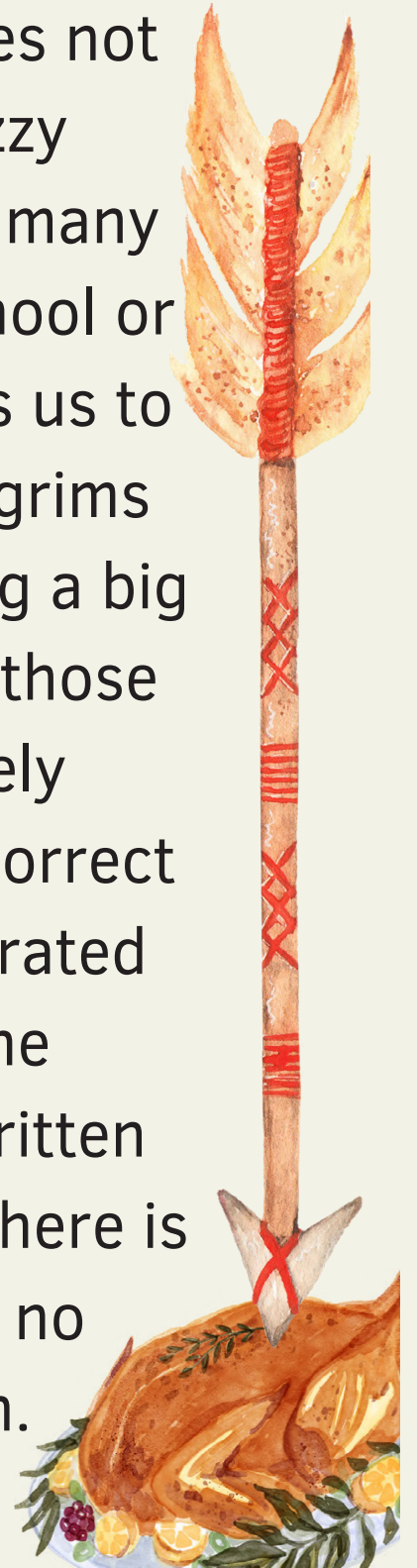
Later on, the man on the five dollar bill; Abraham Lincoln decreed Thanksgiving Day to be a legal national holiday during the Civil War, on the same day he ordered troops to march against the starving Sioux Indians in Minnesota and waged war against the Dakota Indians as well, wiping them off the face of the earth.

At the end of that conflict most of the New England Indians were either exterminated or refugees amongst the French in Canada, or they were sold into slavery in the Carolinas by the Puritans. This slave trade of Indians was so successful for the Puritans that several Puritan ship owners in Boston began the practice of raiding the Ivory Coast of Africa for African slaves to sell to the proprietary colonies of the South, thus founding the American-based slave trade.



Reflection and Contemplation

This narrative of Thanksgiving does not quite have the same warm and fuzzy feelings associated with the story many of us were taught to believe in school or that the main-stream media wants us to believe; where the Indians and Pilgrims were sitting down together sharing a big feast. This narrative doesn't have those same warm and fuzzy feelings solely because this is the un-politically correct narrative and was written and narrated by the Native American Indians, the oppressed, the victims; and not written by the tyrannical oppressors. So there is no sugar coating in this narrative, no trying to hide or disguise the truth.





Muslims have no need to blind follow the truly 'ungrateful' and 'stingy ones' who set aside only one day a year to send thanks and praises to their gods; joined with a conspiracy to re-write the treacherous criminal history of their oppressive and tyrannical forefathers. Imitating non-Muslims in any of their religious festivals is totally impermissible and intolerable in Islam.

Therefore, even if one does mistakenly think that Thanksgiving does not symbolize or represent any non-Muslim ideology, beliefs or practices; it is nevertheless a distinguishing mark of tyrannical oppressors, murders, rapists and the celebration of the killing of the indigenous Native American Indians and imitating people who are non-Muslims



(Indians or Puritans alike) and have lost the path of true guidance.

The second caliph of Islam, the great companion Umar ibn Al Khattab (who during his time the Islamic Empire expanded throughout the lands and many new people entered into Islam) understood the importance of a Muslim only celebrating his own holidays and avoiding the holidays of the non-Muslims when he was mentioned to say to the believers:

**"اجْتَنِبُوا أَعْدَاءَ اللَّهِ الْيَهُودَ وَالنَّصَارَى فِي عِيدِهِمْ
يَوْمَ جَمْعِهِمْ، فَإِنَّ السَّخَطَ يَنْزِلُ عَلَيْهِمْ، فَأَخْشَى أَنْ
يُصِيبَكُمْ وَلَا تَعْلَمُوا بِطَائَتِهِمْ فَتَخْلُقُوا بِخُلُقِهِمْ"**



“Stay away from the enemies of Allah-The Jews and the Christians during their holidays and religious celebrations, the days they gather together, during those times the Anger of Allah descends upon them, and I fear that it may fall upon you as well. You do not know who they are nor their intentions and you may be affected by their bad manners.”[1]

Umar said this because he knew the harms of mixing with non-Muslims during their religious holidays and for this reason he said not to accompany them so that Muslims can maintain their true ‘dignity and honor’ that Allah has blessed them with by being Muslims and be distinguished from the rest of the people.

[1] Musanaf Ibn Abee Shaybah (#26685) and Imam Al Bayhaqi in ‘Shu’ab Al Iman Vol.12/pg 18



One of the great scholars of Islam, Sheikhu Islam ibn Taymiyyah shed some more light on this topic of celebrating and participating in non-Muslim holidays saying: “Holidays are from the most unique and specialized features of the different religions and faiths, and from the most apparent signs and symbols of the different faiths. So approval, agreement, or endorsement of these holidays is agreeing with them in the most unique and specialized features of disbelief and their religious signs and symbols. No doubt that perhaps agreeing with them in their holidays could lead someone to disbelief...”
(Iqtidaa Siraatul Mustaqeem: pg. 205)





Being in a land where there are non-Muslims who celebrate their religious holidays is not specific to Muslims living in the USA. Even some of the Arabs prior to Islam used to have some holidays and days of celebration that they would observe. However, after the true love of Allah and His Messenger entered their hearts and mixed with their flesh and blood they immediately abandoned those holidays.

وَعَنْ أَنَسٍ قَالَ: قَدِمَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ
وَسَلَّمَ - الْمَدِينَةَ، وَلَهُمْ يَوْمَانِ يَلْعَبُونَ فِيهِمَا.
فَقَالَ: "قَدْ أَبْدَلَكُمُ اللَّهُ بِهِمَا خَيْرًا مِنْهُمَا: يَوْمَ
الْأَضْحَى، وَيَوْمَ الْفِطْرِ



The great companion, Anas ibn Malik narrated saying: “When the Messenger of Allah came to Al-Medinah, the people had two days on which they engaged in games. When He arrived he told them: “Allah has substituted for them something better than them, Eid al Adha and Eid Al Fitr.”[2]

Are not the two Eids good enough for us O believers?

Celebrating, congratulating and commemorating the holidays of non-Muslims normally involves one of the following:

[2] Sunan An Nisa'ee #1556, Sunan Abee Dawud #1134





a) Congratulating them on or for their holidays leads one to honoring and respecting their religious beliefs and practices that are rooted in disbelief.

Allah tells the believers in the Quran:

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا

“They are those who do not bear false witness, and when they come across falsehood, they pass it by with dignity.”

(Al Furqan:72)

The meaning of ‘Zoor’ in this verse means: the celebrations of non-Muslims, witnessing them, attending them or taking part in them in any way or fashion.



b) Participating in the non-Muslim's holidays many times is related to a person's urge to fulfill his/her physical desires and lustful cravings filled with mixing between men and women, alcohol, drugs, music and which many times lead to intimacy and fornication. Or to please the creation at the expense of displeasing the Creator.

c) Believing that non-Muslim's beliefs and creed is correct. Believing that 'we all worship the same god', or that 'all religions are the same'. The one who believes this has left the folds of Islam, and may Allah protect us all.



Advice to the Muslims

As Muslims living in America and those blessed with guidance, we need to learn the truth about the history of the land we live in, the culture, the holidays and the practices of the people. We need to read and research these incidents so that occurrences such as Thanksgiving never happen again!! It is essential that we educate ourselves about the non-Muslim holidays that are celebrated around us, their origins, their history and the beliefs behind them so that we can truly understand them, avoid them and educate others about their falsehood and dangers.



عَرَفْتُ الشَّرَّ لَا لِلشَّرِّ- لَكِنْ لِتَوَقُّيهِ
وَمَنْ لَمْ يَعْرِفِ الشَّرَّ- مِنْ الْخَيْرِ يَقَعُ فِيهِ

“I learned about evil, not for the sake of evil, but in order to avoid it-And whoever does not know evil from good, will fall into evil.”

Only through proper education and research can we understand these things. Learn the history of the Muslims and at the same time familiarize yourselves with the non-Muslim celebrations so that we don't condone and participate in celebrations or holidays that emerged from injustice, oppression, murder, killing, and raping of innocent people or praising and thanking someone other than Allah the Most-High.



A Muslim should avoid following the traditions and religious practices of those who are ungrateful, selfish, greedy and never show thanks except for a little.

One of the exemplary types of behaviors that a Muslim can adorn himself with is 'shukr'. Allah continuously praises those who are grateful and give Him thanks and show Him gratitude in the Quran.[3]

Those who are truly grateful towards their Creator and Lord (Allah) are those who truly understand one of the main purposes of life. All of Allah's Prophets and Messengers were extremely thankful and grateful to Him.[4]

[3] Al Baqarah: 152, 172, Ibrahim:7, An Nahl:78,

[4] Al Israa:3, An Nahl:121, An Naml:40, Al A'raaf:69, Luqman:14



While at the same time using Allah's blessings to prevent you from disobeying him...using your body to keep you away from fornication, stealing, consuming intoxicants, lying, cheating, and worshipping other than Him.

Allah is constantly bestowing upon us infinite blessings; the most valuable of these blessings that we need to be constantly grateful and show thanks for are three:

- 1) He has guided us to be Muslims. No other blessing can be truly realized except after the blessing of Islam.
- 2) Having good health.
- 3) Being satisfied and content with what Allah has given you.



Be thankful for what you have dear believers.
Thank Allah on a daily basis, not just ONE DAY
out of the year, as the ungrateful do. Learn about
what you want to do before you do it. Muslims
are people of knowledge and action upon correct
knowledge and that is what aids us to being
guided after the will and might of the Mighty
Allah.



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