

NEWSLETTER

LAJNA IMAILLAH SWITZERLAND

و هُزِّيْ اِلَيْكَ بِجَذْعِ النَّخْلَةِ تُسْقِطُ عَلَيْكَ رُطْبًا جَنِيًّا
(19:26)

اور کھجور کی ساق کو تو اپنی سمت جنبش دے وہ تجھ پر تازہ پکی ہوئی کھجوریں گراے گی۔

سورة مريم | آیت ۲۶

And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm-tree; it will cause fresh ripe dates to fall upon thee.

Surah Maryam | Verse 26

Schüttle nur den Stamm der Palme gegen dich, sie wird frische reife Datteln auf dich fallen lassen.

Sura Maryam | Vers 26

سانتا کلاز

کرسمس کا ایک اور دلچسپ کردار سانتا کلاز کا ہے۔ سب لوگ اس بات پر متفق ہیں کہ یہ کردار جدید دور میں کرسمس کا حصہ بنایا گیا۔ اس کی اصل کے بارے میں یونیورسٹی آف مینیٹو باکینیڈا کے ایک پروفیسر Gerry Bowler کی کتاب Santa Claus: A Biography ایک دلچسپ معلوماتی کتاب ہے۔ اس کتاب اور دیگر ذرائع کے مطابق سانتا کلاز کا اصل نام سینٹ نکولس تھا جو روم کے بادشاہ قسطنطین کے مسیحی ہونے سے کچھ عرصہ قبل موجود تھا اور رومی مظالم کے خلاف آواز بلند کرتے ہوئے مسیحی عقائد کی کھلم کھلا تبلیغ کرتا تھا۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ سینٹ نکولس غریب مسیحی لوگوں اور بچوں کی مدد کیا کرتا تھا۔ ابتداء میں چرچ نے اسے کوئی اہمیت نہیں دی لیکن عیسائیت کے امریکہ میں اثر و نفوذ کے بعد جہاں کرسمس کو ایک مذہبی تہوار کی بجائے قومی و معاشرتی میلے کے طور پر اپنایا گیا تو اس میں رنگ بھرنے کے لئے جہاں دیگر ہلا گلا شامل کیا گیا وہاں سانتا کلاز کو بھی اس کا ایک لازمی جزو بنادیا گیا۔ ابتداء میں سینٹ نکولس کا دن چھ دسمبر کو منایا جاتا تھا لیکن پھر اسے کرسمس کے قریب کر دیا گیا تاکہ اسے مزید پیسے ایٹھنے کا ذریعہ بنادیا جائے۔ بچوں کے ذہنوں کو متاثر کرنے کے لئے مغربی دنیا کی سب سے بڑی اور مؤثر پراپیگنڈہ مشینری ہالی وڈ اور ٹیلی ویژن پر سانتا کلاز اور کرسمس کے بارے میں فلمیں اور ٹی وی شوز بنائے جاتے ہیں جو کرسمس کے قریب نشر کئے جاتے ہیں۔

(<https://www.alfazonline.org/25/12/2019/8238/>)



ST. NICHOLAS DAY

On December 6, St. Nicholas of Myra is commemorated.

St. Nicholas was born around 280 A.D. in Myra, a city in modern Turkey. In which year he died is not exactly recorded. However, the date of his death is known. Nicholas died on 6 December. He was a man of the church. Nicholas was the bishop of Myra.

As the son of rich parents, Nicholas inherited a considerable fortune. However, he distributed his possessions among the poor and needy. According to tradition, Nicholas was a merciful and loving person. A multitude of legends and stories tell of selfless actions and pious deeds of the bishop. These stories made Nicholas the most famous and most popular saint of the Christian faith.

St. Nicholas Day is still celebrated today in memory of Bishop Nicholas and announces as a harbinger the Christmas celebration. Today, St. Nicholas Day is an integral part of the Advent season.

On his birthday he dressed himself in the bishop's mantle and took the shepherd's crook. He loaded his donkey with a heavy sack. It was filled with apples, nuts, mandarins and honey cake. He walked through the streets and distributed the gifts and made this day a great feast. He kept it that way until old age.

EPIPHANY

The "Feast of the Apparition of the Lord", also called Epiphany, is celebrated on January 6th at the end of the Christian Christmas festival. The Christmas circle lasts from the first Sunday in Advent to the Sunday after Epiphany, when the baptism of the Lord is celebrated. The feast of the baptism of Jesus thus forms the end of the Christmas season. The Bible tells us how Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River (Mt 3:13-17; Mk 1:9-11).

The Feast of Epiphany celebrates that the pagan sages from the Orient recognized the child Jesus as the Messiah. The evangelist Matthew describes in (Mt 2:1-12) how the wise men, following the star of Bethlehem, found the newborn Jesus, gave him gold, incense and myrrh and worshipped him. The wise astrologers described above are commonly referred to as the Three Wise Men, although the Gospel of Matthew does not speak of "kings"; nor does the Bible specify the number of wise men as "three".

In the Catholic Church, the "three kings" are venerated as saints. In some Orthodox churches, the feast is celebrated together with Christmas on December 25th.



WHY MUSLIMS DO NOT CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

The Holy Quran mentions the name of Jesus^{as} 25 times and that of Hazrat Maryam 34 times. In fact, a whole chapter in the Holy Quran has been dedicated to Hazrat Maryam (Surah Maryam, chapter 19) which gives a detailed account of the birth of Jesus^{as} and the related circumstances. As far as celebrating Christmas as the birthday of Jesus^{as} is concerned, we, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, do not celebrate it, just as we do not celebrate the birthdays of any other prophet. We believe that following and adopting a prophet's teachings as a way of life, amounts to a celebration of his birth. If the teachings are not followed, the Almighty's displeasure is invoked. To quote an example from the Gospel, Jesus^{as} preached non-violence to his followers. He said that if someone slaps you on one cheek, do not retaliate violently, but to turn the other cheek towards the attacker (Matthew 5:39). If this policy of non-violence, and humbleness was strictly adhered to by the followers of Jesus^{as}, surely peace would reign on earth. This is just one example, there are scores of others related to everyday life.

The other question that needs to be addressed regarding Christmas is whether 25 December is the actual date of birth of Jesus^{as}. According to the Bible, when Jesus was born, shepherds slept outside in the open to tend to their sheep and date palms were the seasonal fruit. When the baby (Jesus^{as}) was born, Hazrat Maryam shook a date palm tree and ate the dates that fell. She drank water from a nearby stream. It was the season of the ripening of dates, probably around August or September. Both the Quran and Bible (New Testament, Luke 2:7-8.) give evidence of the actual time of Jesus' birth as autumn rather than winter. Winters, and especially winter nights in Bethlehem are too cold to sleep in the open. Christians themselves are unsure of the actual date of the birth of Jesus^{as}. The consensus was to adopt the date of the ancient rituals related to the Winter Solstice, as the day of his birth (Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th edition). When the authenticity of the date of an event is doubtful, how can it form the basis of a celebration reflecting Christian faith and beliefs? And last but not least, the Christmas spirit has become a business and marketing venture leading to wasteful expenditure and activities that negate the spirit and teachings of Christianity.

Today, Christmas has been all about receiving and not giving. Children expect adults to give them expensive gifts, rather than being content with what they have.

In a nutshell, Ahmadi Muslims do not celebrate Christmas because:

1. People should follow the teachings of their prophets and take the time for reflection, rather than make their birthdays occasions for merriment and enjoyment
2. The Quran and Bible both give evidence that 25 December is not the date of birth of Jesus Christ (peace be upon him).



LOCAL MEENA BAZAR, HALQA NASIR 1 (KULTURFEST)

Am 7. November 2020, wurde im Begegnungsraum vom BAZ (Bundesamt für Asylsuchende) ein pakistanisches Kulturfest organisiert. Im Vorfeld haben ein paar Lajna Samosas, „Namakpare“ Kuchen, Kebab und Kichererbsensalat (Chat) vorbereitet. Drei Tische mit gebrauchten Kleidern und Schmuck, Henna-Stand und Esswaren wurden aufgestellt. Ca. 35 Personen (Migranten, vor allem Frauen und Kinder) haben dieses Kulturfest besucht. Frauen und Mädchen liessen ihre Hände mit Henna bemalen.

7 Lajna waren vor Ort. Es wurden Ballone verteilt. Es wurde gegessen, diskutiert und gelacht. Die Asylsuchenden waren aus Afghanistan, Afrika und Syrien. Allhamdolillah, es war ein erfolgreiches Programm.

BOOK-CLUB

Mit Gnade Allahs wurde am 21. November 2020 das erste Mal die "Online-Lesegruppe" der Lajna Imaillah abgehalten. Lajna Mitglieder sollten im Vorfeld das Buch "Das Tabligh Handbuch", Seite 77 bis 105 durchlesen und vorbereiten. Mit Hilfe verschiedener Fragen wurde über die Themen in Bezug auf den heiligen Propheten ^{saw} diskutiert, vorgelesen und das Wissen vertieft. Dies waren wie z. B.

- Die Wahrhaftigkeit des heiligen Propheten
- Das Argument der Göttlichen Unterstützung und der Sieg des Propheten trotz Mittellosigkeit und ungünstigen Umständen
- Das Argument der Standhaftigkeit
- Das gemeinsame Zeugnis seines eigenen Volkes usw...

Insgesamt haben 18 Lajna Mitglieder aus 6 Halqa Jaat teilgenommen und von diesem Programm profitiert. Allhamdolillah

Das Tabligh Handbuch

Ein Leitfaden für den Aufruf zum Islam

VERLAG DER ISLAM