

Sisters Class Lesson 1 – Post-Class Notes

Important announcements

- Note that due to some technical difficulties, the website will include these post-class notes, as well as the updated slides only. The following weeks will include all recordings.
- When slides are uploaded on the website www.islamnewcastle.co.uk, the fonts will be changed back to normal size, so that they can be easily printed.
- Brother Abu Tayeb will now chair the class and take responsibility for announcements.
- Jazaakunnallahu Khayran (may Allah reward you all) for your feedback. In response I have one particular issue to mention. Coming from Saudi Arabia, I have a tendency to put Arabic words in my presentation that might not be understood. I'm going to make an effort next week inshaa Allah to improve on that, but I need all of you to stop me if I mention a word that anyone in the class doesn't understand – even if it's only one person. I already mentioned that shyness should be kept in check when it leads to keeping quiet over something you don't understand.
- Inshaa Allah, I will do my best to get the slides uploaded on the web before the class, however, it may not always be possible, especially when I have a Jumu'ah khutbah.
- At the beginning of next week, I would like a list of the sisters who want to actively participate in the student of knowledge programme, as opposed to those who just want to come and listen. This will get passed on to my wife who will chase them up regarding memorisation and progress on a monthly basis.
- The slides for last lesson have been updated and improved, please read them. There are two things missing. Firstly, the additions that you all made to the list of benefits from the story of Musa going to Al-Khidr. Secondly, the text of the statement of Ibn Jamaa'ah, which will be provided once located.
- If you need to get in contact with someone about the class, or you need help getting the class material, notes etc, please contact 01912733099, or email info@idc-online.org

For next lesson

- Memorise part one of khutbat-ul-haajah. Document is online with audio. Those with no web access, use the contact information above.
- Read the translation of Surah Al-Kahf v.60 until the end of the story of Musa and Al-Khidr.
- Read the 'What you should have learned' section, make sure you understand everything. Write down any questions that come to mind and ask them at the beginning of the next lesson.

What you should have learned

- Seeking knowledge has great benefits and virtues that we find in the Qur'aan and the Sunnah.
- Seeking knowledge has a fixed way laid down for us by the great scholars of the past, starting with the prophets like Musa and Muhammad (peace be upon them both), as well as the companions, and the imams. This way has passed on to us by be scholars of today and has been documented in several books, both classical and more recent.
- Seeking knowledge has manners extracted from the Quran and Sunnah. The foremost of these manners are those that relate to Allah including sincerity and following the way of His Prophet and that these two things form the basis for any action to be accepted.
- Seeking knowledge requires the student to be patient, and hard working, as well as to keep away from arrogance, and shyness which prevents you from seeking knowledge.
- From the fundamentals of seeking knowledge Is acting upon it, calling to it, and being patient as a result of what happens to you when you do all of that.
- We learn the benefits and virtues of an action for a number of reasons, from the most important of them is that we become encouraged to do the action.
- There are several ayaat and ahaadeeth which encourage us to seek knowledge.
- The perfect intention with which to learn is "to correct yourself and others", and this is found in the hadith of the *wafd* (delegation) of Abdul-Qays.
- Some of the basic rights of the teacher and student.
- A lot of people fail in their quest to seek knowledge because they don't know how to do it.
- Seeking knowledge is built upon two pillars; memorisation, and understanding. One cannot exist without the other.
- Seeking knowledge requires the student to be continuous in their efforts. This is the most beloved type of action to Allah. In this way, even someone with a weak memory can memorise a lot.
- It is vital when you are seeking knowledge, that you set yourself a timetable which is based on structure and progression. This should be done with the help of a teacher.
- A student of knowledge must be extremely careful about what they read and listen to. This includes not listening to too many lectures which are not part of the student's programme, and under no circumstances reading books of the people of innovation, even if they contain some benefit.
- Islamic subjects can be split into two groups. The first group are subjects which we learn for themselves, like aqeedah (creed/belief), tafseer (understanding the Qur'aan), and fiqh (Islamic law). The second group are subjects which we learn as a tool to help us understand other subjects, like usuool-ul-fiqh (the principles of Islamic law), and the science of hadith.
- When seeking knowledge, it is vital to have a connection with a teacher. It is never enough to learn from a book. People who only learn from books generally have more mistakes than they are correct, and this meaning is narrated from the great scholars and imams.
- The best form of learning with a teacher, is to read to them directly, either one on one, or as a small group. The next best form is sitting in a class, followed by listening to a tape, followed by reading a book. The last two forms of learning require that the student is very careful to take notes and ask questions.

- The translator has a very important role for people who don't speak Arabic. This should also encourage every student to learn Arabic. Learning Arabic is part of the religion.
- When reading/browsing for a book, either at home, in a library, or when buying a book, try to read the original authors introduction, the contents/index, and a couple of pages from the main text. This will allow you to get a good overview of the book, and to find information quickly later on.
- Knowledge of books and prints is a specialist field. The student of knowledge should seek advice about what to buy and read from people who have experience.
- A brief introduction to some of the types of books that are available in English and some of the best prints. (See the book list document). **All of these books inshaa Allah can be bought/ordered from the IDC bookstore.**