

## UNIVERSITY EDUCATION: WHAT EVERY MUSLIM SHOULD DO

Narrated 'Umar bin Al-Khattab (RA): I heard Allah's Apostle (SA) saying, "The reward of deeds depends upon the intentions, and every person will get the reward according to what he has intended. So whoever emigrated for worldly benefits or for a woman to marry, his emigration was for what he emigrated for."

We should have the proper intention for pursuing university education, just as we should have the proper intention for pursuing any activity in life. We might be tempted to neglect our intentions when preparing for university. After all, there is more important and pressing work to be done, right? We have to study hard for our high school examinations, fill in all of the application forms, and so on. But in reality, having the proper intention is the most important step. This is one reason why the first hadith mentioned in Sahih Bukhari is about intentions.

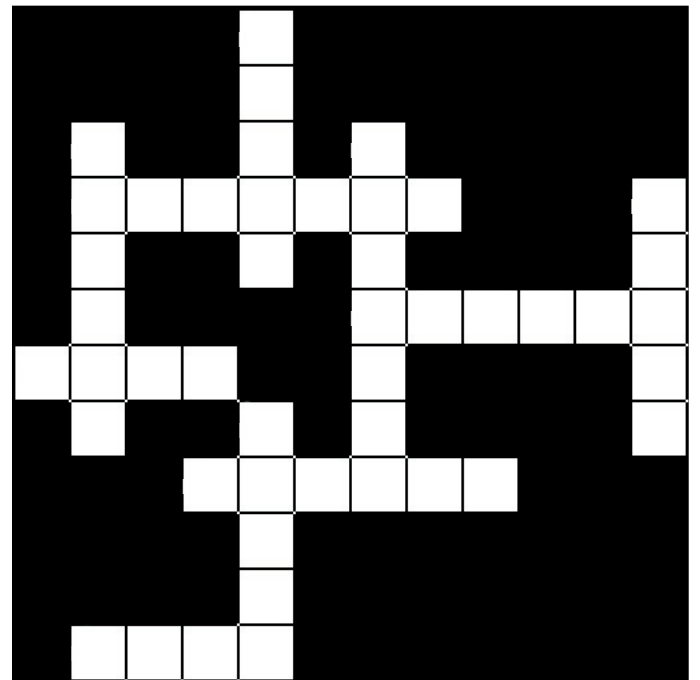
We must remember that both religious and secular knowledge are important, but that secular knowledge should only be pursued with the intention of benefiting humanity. Whatever program we are pursuing in university, we should be doing so with the intention of using the skills and the knowledge we acquire to help the Muslim ummah, and to help humanity. Our ultimate purpose for doing so should be to attain the pleasure of Allah (swt). Some fields of study relate directly to the service to humanity, such as Medicine and Law. Others that are not so directly related, such as Mathematics. But, we should remember that most fields of study will give us the ability to help humanity and the Muslim ummah in some way. (For example, it took some applied Mathematics to determine the direction of the Qiblah from Toronto!) Also, we should remember all of the great Muslim scholars who were not only well-versed in the Islamic Sciences, but who were also well-versed in other fields such as Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics, Geography, Sociology, History, Medicine and so on, and they were able to contribute a lot to humanity through their knowledge.

There is another aspect of helping humanity and the Muslim ummah that all of us can relate our program of study to, no matter what field we are pursuing--supporting just causes and to help our Muslim brothers and sisters around the world with whatever wealth Allah (swt) provides us with.

We should purify our intentions and check them throughout our academic careers (and throughout our life), no matter what field of study we choose. InshaAllah, there will spring up from amongst us Lawyers, Computer Scientists, Economists, Engineers, Mathematicians, Doctors, and so on. We should not aim to be all these things for the sake of fame, wealth, or some other worldly benefit; rather, we should aim to be all these things for the sake of pleasing Allah (swt). If this is our intention, then inshaAllah we will be rewarded for every minute we spend studying and pursuing our education and for every minute we spend burning the midnight oil to study for exams and to complete assignments.

## THINK YOU KNOW THE QUR'AN?

DARE TO DO OUR CROSSWORD!



### ACROSS

- 4. Surah that mentions graves being turned upside-down
- 6. Surah that does not start with "Bismillah"
- 7. Surah named after a pillar of Islam
- 9. Surah that rebukes the Prophet for shunning and making something unlawful (to please his wives)
- 10. Surah that gives the parable of Allah's Light: "light upon light"

### DOWN

- 1. Surah that discusses a specific, bright star
- 2. Surah cited in context of the Tsunami: "When the earth shakes (like never before)"
- 3. One of the shorest surahs, often taught first to children
- 5. Surah that mentions a disbeliever and his wife being in Hellfire
- 8. Surah discussing the splitting of the moon

## Modernizing Islam in a Modern World?



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