

**“UNDERSTANDING ISLAM”** with Imam Shamshad on KCAA -- **SHOW #1** (09-08-09)  
**(To air as part of the “Dennis Baxter in the Morning” show)**

SHOW #: 1 TITLE: “GREETINGS OF PEACE”

AIR TIME: 9:30am to 9:40am DATE: Tue. Sept. 8, 2009

*(The following text is meant to be informational; use any portion of the text or adlib as you like.)*

INTRO:

**DENNIS:** WE’RE BACK. . . I WANT OUR LISTENERS TO GET READY FOR SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL ON THE “BAXTER IN THE MORNING” SHOW. . . WE’RE STARTING A NEW SEGMENT TODAY, WHICH WILL RUN EVERY TUESDAY AT 9:30-AM, CALLED “UNDERSTANDING ISLAM WITH IMAM SHAMSHAD”. . .

IMAM SHAMSHAD IS THE IMAM – THE MINISTER OR RELIGIOUS LEADER -- AT THE NEWLY-RE-OPENED BAIT-UL HAMEED (bet-ul hah-meed) MOSQUE IN CHINO. IMAM SHAMSHAD WILL BE ON THE SHOW EVERY TUESDAY AT THIS TIME TO GIVE US INSIGHT INTO WHAT IS ARGUABLY THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD RELIGION IN THE WORLD. THE RELIGION OF ISLAM. EVEN TODAY, IN THIS AGE OF INSTANT ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON EVERY CONCEIVABLE SUBJECT, MANY PEOPLE -- MYSELF INCLUDED -- KNOW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT ISLAM. AND I CAN THINK OF NO ONE BETTER EQUIPPED THAN IMAM SHAMSHAD TO LEAD US ON THIS JOURNEY TOWARDS. . . ”UNDERSTANDING. . . ISLAM”. . . WELCOME TO THE PROGRAM, IMAM SHAMSHAD, AND IN THE ISLAMIC TRADITION, I GREET YOU WITH THE GREETING OF PEACE, AS-SALAAM ALAIKUM (ahs-salaam ah-lay-kum). . .

**IMAM:** (responds to Dennis’ salaam.) AND THANK YOU DENNIS. BECAUSE THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING, SO TO SPEAK, I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND THE NEED TO START OFF ANY FIRST-TIME MEETING IN THE BEST MANNER. THIS IS WHY AS MUSLIMS WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE WORDS “SALAAM ALAIKUM” – PEACE BE UPON YOU, BECAUSE THERE IS NO BETTER GREETING THAN A PRAYER TO GOD THAT PEACE AND BLESSINGS OF GOD BE UPON YOU.

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**BULLET POINT 1:** IN ISLAM, GOD REQUIRES US TO ADOPT HIS ATTRIBUTES, TO BECOME GODLY “IN HIS IMAGE.” ONE OF HIS ATTRIBUTES IS SALAAM – PEACE. GOD ENJOINS US TO BE.

**BULLEY POINT 2:** THE GREETING “AS-SALAAM ALAIKUM” REQUIRES MUSLIMS TO ESTABLISH PEACE BY THEIR DEEDS, NOT JUST WORDS..

**BULLET POINT 3:** RECITE & EXPLAIN THE HOLY PROPHET’S PRAYER ABOUT PEACE WHICH IS RECITED AFTER THE DAILY PRAYERS.

**BULLET POINT 4:** MUSLIMS ARE ENJOINED TO NOT ONLY GREET EACH OTHER WITH “PEACE BE UPON YOU” BUT TO BE THE FIRST TO GREET SOMEONE THIS WAY. ALSO, WHEN RETURNING THE GREETING, MUSLIMS SHOULD RESPOND WITH AN EQUAL OR BETTER GREETING IN RETURN.

**BULLET POINT 5:** THE MUSLIM GREETING “AS-SALAAM ALAIKUM” IS IDENTICAL IN MEANING TO THE GREETING JESUS (pbuh) GAVE TO HIS DISCIPLES: “SHALOM ALAIKUM”. . .

**TALKING POINTS:** “AS-SALAAM ALAIKUM” IS ALSO A PROMISE OF PEACE – THAT WHEN MUSLIMS SAY “SALAAM ALAIKUM” THEY ARE ASSURING YOU THAT FROM THEIR HANDS AND THEIR TONGUES PEOPLE ARE SAFE FROM HARM.

**TALKING POINTS:** COMMON GREETINGS TODAY SUCH AS “HELLO” AND “GOODBYE” OR “GOOD MORNING” ARE PERFECTLY FINE, BUT THEY LACK ANY ELEMENT OF GODLINESS OR SPIRITUALITY -- EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE. THE EXPRESSION “GOODBYE” IS A CONTRACTION FROM THE ENGLISH EXPRESSION FROM THE 1500s WHICH ORIGINALLY MEANT “GOD BE WITH YE.”

**TALKING POINTS:** IF EVERYONE EMBODIED THE MEANING OF “SALAAM ALAIKUM” – PEACE BE UPON YOU – THERE WOULD

BE PEACE IN THIS WORLD. LET US ALL STRIVE TO NOT JUST SAY "PEACE BE UPON YOU" BUT ACT UPON IT. MAKING IT HAPPEN BEGINS WITH US. GOD BLESS.

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**DENNIS:** THANKS SO MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US. IS THERE ANY NEWS OR EVENTS YOU WANT TO MENTION BEFORE WE CLOSE THIS SEGMENT OF "UNDERSTANDING ISLAM"?

**IMAM:** YES, DENNIS. I'D LIKE TO LET OUR LISTENERS KNOW THAT OUR MOSQUE HAS AN ISLAMIC INFORMATION AND BOOK STALL AT THE L.A. COUNTY FAIR IN POMONA. OUR BOOTH IS IN BUILDING 9. AND IF ANYONE WANTS MORE INFORMATION ON ISLAM THEY CAN GO TO THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM WEBSITE at [WWW.ALISLAM.ORG](http://WWW.ALISLAM.ORG) OR THEY CAN CALL ME TOLL-FREE DIRECTLY AT 1-800-WHY-ISLAM.

**DENNIS:** THANKS IMAM SHAMSHAD. . . I INVITE OUR LISTENERS TO JOIN US NEXT TUESDAY AT 9:30am FOR MORE "UNDERSTANING ISLAM."