



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

FIVE SUNDAYS

AT THE ISLAMIC STUDY CENTER, 108 10th ST. NW, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA,

BEGINNING November 8, and continuing through Dec, Jan, Feb and March, (dates tba): a monthly program on the elements of Tasawwuf, spiritual Islamic practice.

The program topics will be as follows, 'inshaa'Allaah:

1.) **The necessity and function of the Shaykh** : Does one need a teacher? – How does one find a teacher? – discussion of the nature of the Shaykh as representative of the Prophet ﷺ – the wisdom of the statement: “who does not have a Shaykh has Shaytan for a Shaykh” – some things you can't do for yourself – “breaking your knees”. The guest speaker will be Dr. Sulayman Nyang, distinguished professor from Howard University..

2.) **Sohbet or the oral tradition** : discourses on the value of spending time with a living teacher – sharing life, food, companionship with the Shaykh and other students – learning directly from the tongue of the Shaykh rather than from books or CDs – discourse and storytelling as media of teaching. The guest speaker will be Dr. Mustafa Drame, professor of French Language and African Oral Traditions at the University of Virginia.

3.) **Ikhlas or sincerity** : there must be utter sincerity on the part of the seeker – to become a mureed one makes a conscious decision to make “tawba” and give up one's old habits – how insincerity shatters the relationship – how sincerity cuts through material wants and allows access to the heart

4.) **Tarbiyya or the training of the mureed** : work as a means of knowing oneself – jobs and assignments to develop character and inculcate wholesome habits – adab or politeness –the spiritual value of service

5.) **Dhaahir & baatin – balancing the inner and the outer** : how to balance the elements of life – earning right livelihood while on the spiritual path – “This is a way of the middle, and the middle is a path as sharp as a sword” (al-Ghazali)

There will be three speakers: Shaykh Ahmed Abdur-Rasheed, mainly of the Naqshabandi tradition; Shaykh Nooruddeen Durkee, mainly of the Shadhhdhuli tradition; each session will include an invited guest speaker, plus a na'at singer or group and a Qur'an reader. Each speaker will have at least an hour to delve into his subject, with time for questions afterwards. Lunch and dinner will be served; dhuhr, 'asr and maghrib will be prayed in jam'at. There will be Qur'an reading and dhikr after dinner for those who wish to stay.

There is no charge for the program. Free will offerings are always welcome to cover the costs of the food and travel of out-of-town guests. Directions:

Search Google Maps for 108 10th St, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Parking can be found in the public lot on Main St near the corner of 10th St for further information write: ISC786@AOL.com

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10:30 AM UNTIL MAGHRIB: LUNCH & DINNER SERVED FOLLOWED BY QUR'AN & DHIKR
 NEVER A CHARGE FOR FOOD OR TEACHING; FREE WILL OFFERINGS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

SUNDAYS ON TASAWWUF NOV/DEC/JAN FEB & MAR AT: THE ISLAMIC STUDY CENTER 108 10TH ST NW CHARLOTTESVILLE BEGINNING: NOVEMBER