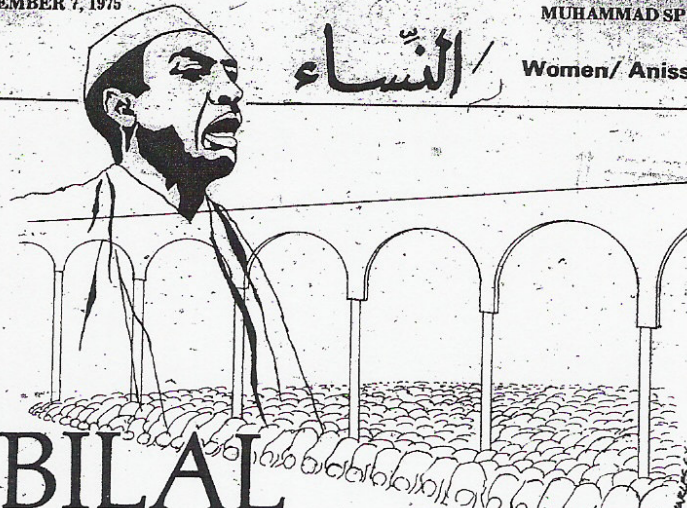


النساء  
Women/ Anissa

NEW FRONTIERS

By Laila Mannan (Formerly Sonia 5X Sanchez)

Did you know?



BILAL

Hadzrat Bilal Ibn Rahab - the first Muezzin (caller of the Azan: summons to prayer) and Treasurer of Islam was born around A.D. 600, the son of an Abyssinian slave girl. He was Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him) first convert.

As Prophet Muhammad's teachings among the slaves and poor spread, the masters began to persecute these first converts.

Sir William Muir wrote concerning these first converts:

*They were seized and imprisoned or they were exposed to the scorching gravel of the valley, to the intense glare of the midday sun. The torment was increased by intolerable thirst until the wretched sufferers hardly knew what was said.*

*If under the torture they reviled Mohamet and acknowledged the idols of Mecca, they were refreshed with draughts of water and taken to their homes. BILAL alone escaped the shame of recantation. He would not yield. In the depths of his anguish the persecutors could force from him but one cry: "AHAD!" "AHAD!" (ONE, only one, God).*

BILAL provided Prophet Muhammad's teachings with much of the inspiration. Prayer was its greatest force (strength). Whenever he prayed, people cried aloud. After listening to him, the soldiers of Muhammad literally flung themselves into battle to fight for the cause of Islam.

PRAYER CALL

Each morning at six, Bilal would call the faithful to worship with the following words:

ALLAHU AKBAR! (God Is Most Great!) ALLAHU AKBAR! (God Is Most Great!) ALLAHU AKBAR! (God Is Most Great) ALLAHU AKBAR! (God Is Most Great!). Ashhadu an la

illaha illa 'llah (I testify that there is no god but God!) Ashhadu an la illaha illa 'llah (I testify that there is no god but God!) Ashhadu Anna Muhammadan rasulu - llah! (I testify that Muhammad is the Apostle of God!) Ashhadu Anna Muhammadan rasulu - llah! (I testify that Muhammad is the Apostle of God!) Hayya 'ala s - salati! (Come to prayer!) Hayya 'ala s - salati! (Come to prayer!) Hayya 'ala 'l-falah! (Come to salvation!) Hayya 'ala 'l-falah! (Come to salvation!) As - salatu Khairun Mina n - naumi! (Prayer is better than sleep!) ALLAHU AKBAR! (God Is Most Great) ALLAHU AKBAR! (God Is Most Great!) La ilaha illa 'llah! (There is no god but God!)

After waking Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) with "to prayer, O Apostle of God!" Bilal would lead all the followers in prayer.

AS PROPHET MUHAMMAD neared death, he named Bilal as his successor, but Bilal waived this honor in favor of Abu Bekr. Bilal remained powerful under Bekr and his successor, Omar the Great.

One day as the people of Damascus welcomed the Caliph (Omar the Great) they begged him to ask Bilal to sing the call to prayer. Bilal was almost a century-old (100 years old) and they helped him to ascend the minaret. As his great voice pierced the silence, and he sang the Azan as only he could sing it, Omar the Great wept silently along with all who listened.

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Muezzin is the caller of the Azan or "summons to prayer." The first Muezzin was Bilal, the son of an Abyssinian slave - girl.

After Allah, and Muhammad (Peace Be upon Him), Bilal was considered the third part of Islam. He was a tall, Black Ethiopian.

Ethiopia was the first place of refuge for the persecuted Muslims in 615 A.D. seven years before Prophet Muhammad's flight to Medina in 621 A.D. Muhammad sent some of his followers here to escape the Quarise persecution.

Allah was worshipped by the Arab tribes including the ancestors of the Bedouins (one of the indigeneous Black tribes) as part of a Pantheon of God thousands of years before the birth of Prophet Muhammad. (Peace Be Upon Him) Arabians honored Allah as a general deity in the midst of 360 idols in the Kaaba one for each day of the year.

Out of 273 million people in Africa 170 million are Muslim, 62 per cent of the population.

Out of 37 African countries in the United Nations 23 are Muslim majority countries.

There are only 36 million Christians in Africa compared to 170 million Muslims (and 5 million of the Christians are Caucasian).

Muslims established the first university in Europe: The University of Paris.

Rich European rulers sent their children to study in the African Muslim Universities of Timbuktu and Jenne in Mali. Timbuktu was known as the "Queen of the Sudan" a Mecca of Sudan.

The Ghana Empire 700 A.D. - 1240 A.D., a great African civilization, was sometimes called the new Egypt and originally settled by ancient Egyptians. Ghana had flourishing cities, colleges and advanced architecture during the period of the Dark Ages in Europe where cannibalism, vandalism, terrorism, and hedonism plagued society.

The African Muslim Empire of Mali (1240 A.D. - 1520 A.D.) and Songhai (1520 and 1650 A.D.) gave birth to the men who developed the knowledge foundation for what we know as the modern civilization today. They gave us: analytical geometry, algebra, plane and spherical trigonometry, chemistry (al chem) calculus, the compass, (from the Indian Muslims came the decimal point and the zero) the University of Transoceanic Navigation.

Muslim conquests of Spain led Europe out of the Dark Ages and into the Renaissance. The intellectual awakening of the European mentality in the 15th and 16th century was due to the transfusion of Islamic culture and scholarship through the Moor's (Muslim) rule in Spain from 711 A.D. when Tarik, a Black general conquered it to 1492 A.D. when Caliph Abdullah abandoned Granada.

Leo Africanus, Arab Muslim scholar from Spain, was captured by pirates and sold into slavery. He was freed by the Medici Pope Leo X who made him his adviser and gave him his name. (This same Pope Leo X became controversial for saying "How profitable this myth of Jesus has been for me and my family.")