

Review of publication *An Najm*

(Review by: Qasim Abbas, Toronto, Canada)

The Publication: *An Najm* – 5th edition

The Publishers: Editorial Board, Nasserpuria Memon Jamaat, Canada

Language: English

Pages: 84

Publication date: November 2011

Nasserpuria Memon Jamaat, Canada is a Memon organization formed by Memons belonging to Nasserpur, a village/town in Sind province of Pakistan, where they had settled and then migrated to various parts of the world. Now their base is in Mombasa, Kenya, where they have lived for more than 150 years and a majority continue to live there.

The publication *An Najm* by Nasserpuria Memon Jamaat, Canada is a magazine containing articles and news contributed solely by young and elder members of Jamaat. The first edition of *An Najm* was launched in year 2002. Subsequent editions were released in 2004, 2006, 2008 and now the 5th edition was launched at Eid-Al-Ad'ha get-together dinner held on 19 November 2011 in Toronto, Canada.

Editorial Board of *An Najm* consists of Mariam Salyani (Editor-in-Chief), Issak Warwani, Sameera Salyani, Naema Admani (Secretary), Junaid Warwani and NMJ Canada's President Moledina Varvani.

An Najm begins with a Foreword from the President Mr. Moledina Varvani followed by another one from the Editor-in-Chief Sr. Mariam Salyani. Then there are messages of greetings, goodwill and best wishes from Nasserpuria Memon Jamats across the world, which includes Mombasa (Kenya), Nairobi (Kenya), United Kingdom, and North America.

There is a message from The Trustee Board of the Jamaat and also messages of greetings and best wishes from community elders, businessmen locally and from overseas.

This is then followed by a section containing a report of Jamaat's activities over the last two years i.e. after the launching of 4th edition of *An Najm* in June 2008. This report/article, with a caption in Memoni language "**Kuro Halno Aawyo Ai**" (What has been happening), has been compiled by Sister Sameera Salyani and includes photos of Jamat's events. Some of the Memoni words used in this report/article are: **Bhantar Mantar** (Education spell), **Niche Yadaash Jo Rasto** (Down Memory Lane), **Khazana Khazana** (Treasure Hunt), **Toji Munji Soch** (Your thoughts, my thoughts), **Paanji Jamaat** (Our organization), **Magaj Jee Chher Chhaar** (Brain Twister), **Radhela Batata** (Baked potatoes) etc.

An Najm has not forgotten Jamaat's elders. Under the caption "Profile", it contains in three and half pages, a detailed life story of Jamaat's elder Mohataram Abdul Kader Yakub, who has been a pioneer of Jamaat. He and his family members continue to play an active role in Jamaat's various committees and activities. His detailed life story has been compiled jointly by Mariam Salyani, Naema Admani and Junaid Warwani.

Also contained in this publication are the views of Jamaat's past presidents from 2001 to date under the article "The views of our leaders". This 5 pages article contains various questions re: Jamaat, to each past president and their answers with their photos.

By a similar token, two pages are allotted to the Jamaat's youths in the write-up "The Views of Our Youths" in which various questions re: Jamaat, are put to each youth and their answers with their photos are given.

Also contribution of Irum Macci, Mohammad Zahir Salyani, Abubaker Goralwala, Sameera Salyani, and Maliha Varvani are acknowledged with gratitude towards very beautiful and eye catching cover/graphic design of *An Najm*.

About Jamaat's builders of future, a page with the caption "University Graduates" contain photos and profile of community's young members, who have graduated from Canada's universities during last two years. Special recognition has also been accorded to all those children who passed Senior KG, Grade 8 and Grade 12 during last two years.

A page with the caption "Youth Group" by Zahra Admani, Chairperson of Youth Committee gives details of activities of Jamaat's youth and their photos in action.

One page with the caption MASHA ALLAH and with Arabic graphic design/calligraphy of these words by Irum Macci, contains the details of Engagements, Weddings and Births in the Community during last two years.

Various colour pages on art papers contain very informative write-ups in superb graphic design. Here are some examples. "Decade Definer – 2011" compiled by couple Mariam Salyani and Mohammad Zahir Salyani. These two pages contains, in graphic design with beautiful presentation the dates of Jamaat's activities with small photographs of these activities against respective date during last decade. Then there is another four colourful pages with the caption "The Jamaat over the years", which contains colour photos of Jamaat's activities of last decade. One colour page with the caption "The Elected Members" contain the group photos of current Executive Committee members with their names and also group photo of Trustee Board members with their names. One colour page with the caption "The People behind the Scenes" contains colour group photos of various existing committees of Jamaat and the names of office bearers.

Other useful articles include:

Al Qadr (Destiny) by Azba Hathiyani

The Story of Jesus/Isa (A.S.) by Zulfa Kasam Varvani

Hazrat Dawood (A.S.) by *Madeeha Moledina Varvani*
Tips on how to finish the Quran in a month by *Zainab Yakub*
The Reward of Charity by *Ramla Yakub*
The Power of Patience by *Nargis Yakub*
The Etiquettes of seeking Knowledge – An Islamic Perspective by *Mohammad Shafi Yakub*
Maut ji Tayyari karo by *Mohammed Ebrahim Goralwalla*
Loyalty by *Tayba Hathiyani*
Education by *Mohammed Issak Warwani, Coordinator Education Committee*
Sporting Events Committee by *Ghulam Habib Yakub, Coordinator Sports Committee*
My First Experience in Canada by *Nashina Yakub*
Our Childhood in Kenya – So True by *Abdul Kader Yakub*
Customers, In Business or In Life by *Zainab Salyani-Haq and Mohmmad Shakil Salyani*
Speak a Good Word by *Sabir Yakub*
The New Age by *Aadil Nathani*
Volunteer by *Shoaib Yakub, Volunteer Coordinator*
The Rescue Friends by *Shaymaa Yakub*

Other contributions:

Eid - poem by *Madeeha Moledina Varvani*
Ramadaan – poem by *Madeeha Moledina Varvani*
Laylatul Qadr – poem by *Madeeha Moledina Varvani*
Islamic Crossword – puzzle by *Maliha and Madiha Varvani*
Food Grams – puzzle by *Sameera Salyani*
Perseverance – puzzle by *Tasneem Warwani*
Rebus puzzle – puzzle by *Sameera Salyani*
Wisdom of the Ages - puzzle by *Sameera Salyani*
Family Word Search – puzzle by *Zainab Salyani - Haq*
Oxymorons – knowledge by *Sameera Salyani*
Just 10 years ago – knowledge by *Sameera Salyani*
Humour & Laughter – laughter by *Abdul Kader Yakub*
Courtroom One Liners – laughter by *Abdul Kader Yakub*

All 84 pages of *An Najm* are full of information and photos regarding Jamaat’s activities organized during the last two years. Other good articles – religious and general information, photographs, poetry, puzzles, and jokes provide a great topping to this informative biennial publication.

An Najm – 5th Edition by NMJ Canada is therefore surely a unique publication that captures history, culture, traditions and identity of Nasserpuria Memons for which NMJ Canada and particularly the Editorial Board and contributors deserve lots of appreciation and praise for preserving Memon values, culture, history, tradition and identity in Western World.