

June 2014

RENAISSANCE MONTHLY

Your monthly update on The Renaissance Project



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Mohamed Al Qadi



Dear Friends,

Welcome to a very special edition of renaissance monthly. As you will notice, the entire newsletter

is **dedicated to Qadi Shurayh**; an exceptional figure that embodied the very essence of justice. His stories and career has become nothing short of legendary and is one of the most revered judges of all time, serving under 5 different Caliphas over the span of 60 years. We hope you enjoy this detailed edition of Muslim of the Month

In other news, I would like to announce that we have chosen the “water rocket challenge” as our first competition aimed at engaging and training our scholarship students. Students will be split into groups for 4 and will compete on design and performance of water rockets for the chance to earn 400 JD prize. More details to come soon.

Regards,

Mohamed Al Qadi

“Just” – Qadi Shurayh

Muslim of the Month By Mohamed Al Qadhi



Shurayh ibn Hareth Al Kendi, also known as Qadi Shurayh, is the one of the **most respected and revered judges of all time**. Known for his impeccable sense of justice, he is **a role model and an inventor**, creating and implementing new judicial procedures that are still used to this day.

Born in Yemen in 593AD before the adamant of Islam, Shurayh faced a **traumatizing childhood** that would shape his life; at the age of 9, he lost his father, and with him, his family’s protection and future. As was custom in Arabia before Islam, his Uncle wasted no time in securing Shurayh’s father’s inheritance. He would also lay claim to the ownership of his mother, who now became a property of his uncle. Watching his mother become the property of another man and his father’s inheritance slip away, **Shurayh was enraged by the injustice he had experienced**. Consequently, **he would champion justice as his defining character and would seek it at all costs**.

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Continued - "Just" – Qadi Shurayh

Muslim of the Month By Mohamed Al Qadhi

“A Day of Justice is better than 100 years of worship” - Qadi Shurayh



After the arrival of Islam in Arabia, Shurayh would meet Ali Bin Abi Taleb, who was sent to Yemen to preach the message of Islam.

Shurayh would soon become **captivated by Islam’s message of justice and equality. He was also impressed by the progressiveness of Islam in protecting women rights.** The perceived justice of this new religion would lead Shurayh to convert to Islam.

At the age 35, Shurayh became dedicated to promoting the message of justice. He studied the Quran vigorously, memorizing and understanding its verses and relating them to law, fairness and equality. His hard labor would soon pay off. At the age of 47, the reigning Calipha Omar Ibn Abi Khattab would quarrel with a trader over a deal involving a horse. Shurayh was chosen by the trader as a fair arbitrator between the two parties. He would soon impress Omar by his unrelenting drive for justice and his views on judicial hearings and procedures. Shurayh would rule against the Calipha in this dispute, but he earned Omar’s trust and respect who appointed him as the Grand Judge of the newly founded city of Kuffah.

Shurayh would reign for 60 years as Kuffah’s grand judge before dying at the age of 107. During these years, he gained the respect of the local population due to his fairness and wit. Among some of his most famous stories include ruling against Calipha Ali ibn Abi Taleb in another dispute with a commoner, and against his own son on several occasions.

But Shurayh was not only an admirable judge who would serve as a role model for centuries; Shurayh is also credited with reforming the judicial system in the Arab World. **Among his inventions include establishing a court as an independent entity, separating judicial from legislative and executive powers. He would also prohibit personal interactions between judges and litigating parties to ensure the integrity of the judicial system, and introduce regular witness credibility verifications into court proceedings. Finally, he would be among the first to recognize the importance of concepts such as emotional harm in a judicial court.**

A brilliant mind with an unwavering loyalty to justice, Qadi Shurayh is one of the most admirable characters of the Islamic world who’s stories and ideas continue to influence people to this very day.

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