

Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim

Alhamdulillahi rabbil-'alamin was-Salatu was-Salam 'ala Sayyidil-Mursalin wa 'ala 'Alihi wa Sahibi Ajma'in

As Salamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh,

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Lamppost Education Initiative (Lamppost) is a non-profit educational effort that prides itself on contextualizing and grounding the teachings of Islam in America while maintaining the integrity of its historical message. It is my enormous pleasure to take the time to write to you today to report on what Lamppost has been able to achieve over the past year due to your generous support. If you recall, it was in early 2013 that we petitioned you for assistance in helping us maintain our humble website which has been growing more and more in popularity due to the increased amount of traffic to it which our earlier band capacity could not withstand. By the grace of God and with your generous response, we were able to increase our bandwidth and rescue the site from the threat of dismissal from the Internet. With those funds and others collected during 2013, we were able to expand our activities which included the following free events:

- We conducted a free two-day weekend program in Chicago at Masjid al-Faatir entitled, "[The Well-Lit Path](#)", co-taught by Shaykh Abdullah bin Hamid Ali and Shaykh Ubaydullah Evans
- We co-sponsored a groundbreaking discussion at Princeton University between Dr. Sherman Jackson and noted theologian, Dr. Eddie Claude, entitled, "[Black Churches, Black Mosques: On the Politics of Race and Religion in America Today.](#)"
- We broadcasted a session with Dr. Khalid Blankinship regarding the matter of [Ashura and Imam Hussein](#)—may Allah be pleased with him
- We worked with several organizations including the Nakhlah Institute and the Ewing, NJ Islamic Center in a presentation offered by Shaykh Abdullah regarding the study of Imam al-Ghazali's, *Minhaj al-'Abideen*
- We conducted a two day intensive and interactive program in cooperation with Masjid Taqwa of Brooklyn, NY with Imam Zaid Shakir, Imam Jihad Saafir, and Shaykh Abdullah entitled, "Islam, Muslims & Marriage: Making Half of the Deen Whole"
- We worked together with the Fawakih Institute, and will be releasing a free online presentation with Shaykh Muhammad Adeyinka Mendes, God-willing
- The Lamppost Education Initiative also played a prominent role at last year's Islamaphobia Conference in Atlanta GA where Shaykh Abdullah's views were showcased across a number of panels.
- We established an alternate website dedicated solely to providing a rich and suitable platform for hosting our regular online classes at the URL link: www.lampposteducation.org. Concomitant with its launch, we offered an original course entitled, "Islam & Race" taught by Shaykh Abdullah bin Hamid Ali.
- We have developed a network with and received endorsements from a number of the leading members of Muslims Alliance of North America (MANA) and others.
- We continue to provide numerous exclusive articles, videos, and recordings on a variety of Islamic topics unique to Muslim-American experiences in America and the western world. Our website: www.lamppostproductions.com is a valuable source of rich Islamic insights that are utilized by

graduate students, college professors, Muslim scholars, and common everyday Muslims. Some of the topics that we address are controversial, yet extremely necessary in today's modern society.

Looking Ahead:

- Currently, the Lamppost Education Initiative is working in conjunction with the Unified Muslim Community project in the Bay Area where Shaykh Abdullah has initiated weekly Qur'anic exegesis (tafsir) classes every Friday evening at 7:30 pm which are streamed live
- It is our hope during the remainder of this year to play an important role in a major youth summit being planned in Philadelphia, PA regarding social ills affecting Muslim youth.
- We would like to begin planning of an annual spiritual retreat with some of our teachers
- We aim to adjust the appearance of our website to make it more user friendly
- We plan to release at least one new book before the year closes
- We plan to have more free onsite and online programs

What you can do to help?

It is our goal over the next few months to raise \$25,000 to help us achieve these goals and to keep us afloat. As stated before, Lamppost Education Initiative is a non-profit 501c3 organization. In other words, this means that your donations are tax-deductible.

The Lamppost Education Initiative, as promised to you, has provided detailed classes, seminars, and recordings FREE of charge to many. We have also worked to assist other Islamic organizations in providing services to the Muslim community. In doing so, we have stayed true to our stated mission, which is "to facilitate access to the unique intellectual contributions of a select number of Muslim American scholars, inspire spiritual and social transformation, and empower through education.

We need your support in order to continue to provide the high level of Islamic instruction and assistance to Muslims across this country. Please share this appeal with your friends and family to let them know about our efforts at Lamppost and encourage them to donate generously to our efforts to educate and help Muslims.

I sincerely hope that you believe we are a worthy cause: a cause much entitled to your financial support. As the Prophet Muhammad has told us—blessings and peace upon him, "Charity extinguishes sin just as water extinguishes fire." He also told us that, "Charity is proof" of true and sincere faith in Islam. Who among us does not need to have his sins forgiven? Charity is one of three "doors to goodness" our beloved Prophet spoke of. The other two are prayer and fasting. Paradise has 8 gates, while has only 7. This means that there are more ways to get into Paradise than to land up in Hell. Remember the words of our beloved—God's blessing and peace upon him, "Whoever loves, hates, gives, and denies for the sake of God has perfected his faith." Our hope is that there is something about Lamppost that convinces you that your charity contributes to your pursuit of perfect faith. God bless you, and thank you for reading my message.

Sincerely,

Abdullah bin Hamid Ali

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