

FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLEDGE 2017

The Living Islamic Tradition - From Authenticity to Relevance
A sacred knowledge retreat

April 14 – 17, 2017

All praises are for Allah ﷻ and May His Peace and Blessings be upon the Chosen One ﷺ and upon his family, his companions and all those who follow his way until the Day of Judgment. Amin.

Course Information and Registration Form



HOST ORGANIZATION AND VENUE

The *Ablus Sunnah Wal Jama'ah Institute* (ASWJI) was founded in 2004 by Maulana Siddiq Ahmad Nasir and a number of his senior students. It is located on 70 Mucurapo St. San Fernando in the twin-island Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago. The Institute is in close proximity to the San Fernando Jama Masjid which was established over a 100 years ago by indentured labourers from India to what was then the British colony of Trinidad. For more information on ASWJI please visit our Facebook page [facebook.com/ASWJI/](https://www.facebook.com/ASWJI/) The retreat lectures will be held in the comfortable annex of the Jama Masjid which is an air-conditioned hall that accommodates a limited but sizable number of men and women.

COSTS

We encourage all participants to attend the retreat in full. However, we realize that some attendees will have family and business commitments and may not have the luxury of time to take advantage of this unique opportunity, but nevertheless they would like to benefit from some if not most of the retreat.

Trinidad participants: \$800TT (or) a daily rate of \$250TT

Non-Caribbean participants: \$200US for the course (including course materials) meals, airport pickup and shuttle rides from the hotel to the venue.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

The above fee includes lunch and dinner for all participants. We expect local participants may not require hotel accommodations but will make their own arrangements to either billet with local relatives/families or commute to the venue from their private residences. For non-Caribbean participants we have negotiated a packaged deal at the Royal Hotel, 46-54 Royal Rd. San Fernando. <http://www.royalhoteltt.com> (1-868-652-3924). The hotel is conveniently located just over 1km from the lecture hall. It is a 5 minute shuttle ride or a 15 minute walk. If you wish to call/email the hotel directly please use "Hannah Mohammed" in the special request box.

Cost \$350US for 5 nights (\$70US per night)- Check in - Thursday April 13/Check out Tuesday April 18
Breakfast included. Double-occupancy.

OPTIONAL RECREATIONAL PACKAGE

Trinidad and Tobago are islands that are warm and welcoming. The Muslim population is small but their presence is visible. Masajid dot the landscape whether it is a remote village in the South or the capital in the North. ASWJI is offering a halal fun trip to the idyllic island of Tobago – the setting of Daniel Dafoe's timeless novel Robinson Crusoe. We advise you to look up Tobago online for videos/pictures and further information. Participants will depart Port of Spain by Ferry on Tuesday morning April 18 and return Friday April 21 after Salatul Jum'u'ah at the main Masjid on the island. Events will include swimming at Store Bay,

relaxing at Pigeon Point, snorkeling or just enjoying the stunning Buccoo Reef from a glass bottom boat, soaking in the Caribbean Sea at Nylon Pool. You can also take a walk/hike in the rain forest reserve or swim/visit the pristine Argyle Waterfall and many others sites not forgetting shopping for locally made products. The food is fresh and will be prepared according to Islamic dietary laws. In order to secure the most reasonable accommodation we require people who are interested to inform us as soon as possible. The cost will be \$500US. We advise you plan your flight departure from Port of Spain either late on Friday April 21 or Saturday April 22. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please send us an email listed below.

FLIGHTS

Flights are not included in the cost of the program. There are several excellent options from Toronto Canada, JFK airport in New York and from Miami direct to Piarco Airport in Port of Spain. If you are traveling from the UK check with your travel agent for the best options. We will advise you if there are students coming from your city/country so that you travel together to make it more convenient. We ask participants to arrive on Thursday April 13 and arrange to depart the evening of Monday April 17 or anytime on the Tuesday April 18 for those not taking the recreational package. Please don't forget to send us your flight itinerary so that we can properly arrange for your pick up.

PAYMENT OPTIONS and ENQUIRIES

In Trinidad/Caribbean: Contact Hannah Mohammed (868)-682-0791 or Khalid Mohammed (868)739-9281
Email: hannahmohammed@yahoo.com

All other participants: Nazim Baksh - (416) 276-9515 or Faisal Baksh – (416) 648-4555;

Email: aswji2017@gmail.com

After applying you will receive a registration confirmation and payment details. Only after we've received your fee will your attendance be confirmed and hotel accommodations will be booked. Please act early to avoid disappointments.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the retreat is based upon taking a complete approach to Islam as derived from the Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunnah as it has been transmitted by qualified men and women of knowledge in unbroken chains of transmission from the time of the Messenger of Allah down to our age. We believe this is the tent of *Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'ah* and it is a very large tent that does not seek to exclude or excommunicate anyone who attests to the Oneness of Allah and the finality of His Messenger ﷺ.

THE TEACHERS

Shaykh Ahmad Saad Al-Azhari, founder and director of Al-Ihsan Institute <http://www.ihsaninstitute.co.uk>

Shaykh Yahya Rhodus <https://www.almaqasid.org/teachers>

Shaykh Walead Mosaad <http://seekershut.org/home/teachers/walead-mosaad>

Shaykh Hamdi Ben Aissa <http://sanadcollective.org>

Maulana Siddiq Ahmad Nasir, spiritual Head of ASWJL.

Joining us as well is singer/songwriter and all round virtuoso Sidi Nader Khan (Canada)

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstSpringRecords>

CURRICULUM

At last year's retreat in Guyana (March 2016) under the auspices of the Central Islamic Organization of Guyana (CIOG) the topics covered were based on the theme – '*Divine Words: Understanding Allah's Revelation.*' At this year's retreat we will focus on a number of important topics pertaining to the Sira of Allah's Messenger ﷺ. Shaykh Ahmad Saad Al-Azhari intends to teach from Shaykh Abdul Hayy Al-Kittani's "*Taratibul Al-Adariyya Nizaam Al-Hukum al-Nabawiyya.*" It is a unique text that looks in detail at the way in which the Messenger of Allah ﷺ shaped a civil society in his city of Madinah. Shaykh Walead Mosaad may teach Shaykh Abdur-Rahman Al-Sulami's text "*The Shortcomings of the Soul and its Remedies.*" Shaykh Yahya Rhodus is likely to teach from the 20th Book of Imam Al-Ghazali's "*Ihya Ulum-*

ud-Din.” The full details of the curriculum are still under development and discussion with the teachers and a complete program will be provided when it becomes available.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

The Fountain of Knowledge Retreat offers participants a unique opportunity to study some important classical texts/subjects from the repertoire of the Islamic religious sciences with eminent Islamic scholars and teachers. The program will introduce and expand students’ understanding of the rich tradition of classical Islamic knowledge and give students’ an appreciation of how important the *ulum al-din* are to the preservation and revival of Islam in the contemporary age. Furthermore, the retreat is a means to inspire believers to be active seekers of knowledge and be devoted to the service of the community - as Imam Al-Ghazali said, “*Knowledge without work is insanity and work without knowledge is vanity and cannot be.*”

COURSE MATERIALS

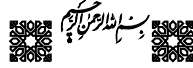
Participants will be given pertinent course materials and other relevant information at the beginning of the retreat. We will also send registered participants links to audio and video files online to be reviewed prior to the commencement of the program.

REGISTRATION

Please complete the attached application form below. Registrants should be mature and able meet the expectations of the program. The program is open to all interested students, both male and female. *To be eligible to participate, applicants should submit a completed form by March 30, 2017. This is a Sacred Knowledge program and participants are expected to maintain a high level of commitment to the program; observing adab (the etiquettes of learning) is the first sign of true wisdom. Students will be expected to participate in all aspects of the program to the best of their ability.*

The program is co-ordinated by an organizing committee made up of a diverse and active group of men and women from the local community in Trinidad and the Caribbean in conjunction with a team in Toronto, Canada. All decisions regarding the program are made in committee according to the principles of *shura* (mutual consultation).

We ask Allah to give us success in this life and in the life to come and bless the efforts of all the believers and unite their hearts in love of Him. Amin. Wa ma tawfiqi illa billah! And there is no success except from Allah!



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1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name (first, last): _____

Address: _____ Country: _____

Tel #: _____ Email: _____

Gender: M / F Date of Birth (yyyy/mm/dd): (/ /)

Emergency Contact Info (name, phone #'s, address, relationship): _____

Marital Status: M / S If married, is your spouse attending? Yes / No

If yes, spouse's name (first, last): _____

Do you intend to participate in the Recreational Option to the island of Tobago? Yes / No

Education: _____

Level of Training: _____

Have you attended a live-in course / program before? If yes, please list them: _____

2. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Do you have any special needs with respect to diet, medication, health conditions, or allergies that may be relevant in making proper arrangements for you? If yes, on a separate page please explain the condition and the preparations or considerations that should be made to accommodate you.

3. REFERENCES

Kindly provide at least 2 references below from among the following: Imam of your community, a teacher/Ustadh/Shaykh, a local or regional organization representative or any person such as a parent or a elder in your community.

We, the undersigned hereby recommend this applicant to participate in the Sacred Knowledge Retreat 2017

1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
Print	Signature	Position	Yrs.known

By signing, I hereby endeavor to demonstrate a mature level of adab (courtesy) towards other participants, organizers and teachers and display a level of seriousness by aspiring to rise to the expectations of the program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____