



SALAM PROJECT

Presenting Islam to the people of Sweden
Meeting the spiritual needs of new Muslims
Promoting Islamic art and culture in the West



سلام *salām* soundness, unimpaired-
 ness, intactness, well-being; peace, peace-
 fulness; safety, security; — (pl. -āṭ)
 greeting, salutation; salute; military
 salute; national anthem | السلام العام
 ('āmm) general welfare, commonweal;
 دار السلام Paradise; an epithet of Bagh-
 dad; Dar es Salaam (seaport and capital
 of Tanganyika); مدينة السلام (the City
 of Peace =) Baghdad; نهر السلام *nahr*
as-s. the Tigris; السلام عليكم (*salāmu*),
 peace be with you! (a Muslim
 salutation); عليه السلام upon him be
 peace (used parenthetically after the
 names of angels and of pre-Mohammedan
 prophets); يا سلام exclamation of dis-
 may, esp. after s.th. calamitous has
 happened: good Lord! good heavens!
 oh dear! يا سلام على exclamation of
 amazement or grief about s.th.: there
 goes (go) ...! what a pity for ...! how
 nice is (are) ...! بلغ سلامي اليه (*balliḡ*)
 give him my kind regards! remember me
 to him! والسلام (and) that's all, and let
 it be done with that; السلام ... على it's
 all over with ...

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

prof. Dr. Ali M. A.L. Quradaghi

د. علي محيي الدين القره داغي

الدوحة في 26 جمادى الأولى 1432 هـ
الموافق 30 April 2011

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على المبعوث رحمة للعالمين ، سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه ومن تبع هداة إلى يوم الدين

الموضوع / توصية وتزكية

إلى / من يهمله الأمر

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

فأدعو الله تعالى أن تكونوا جميعاً بخير ، وأن يتعهدكم بعنايته ويزيدكم توفيقاً وإصلاحاً ... وبعد

فإن " مركز السلام " التابع لجمعية سدره المنتهى ، للدعوة والتواصل مع المجتمع السعودي ، جهة رسمية ومرخصة ومسجلة لدى الجهات المعنية في السويد ، حسب الأوراق المقدمة إلينا .


إن من المبشرات الطيبة أن عدد المسلمين من أهل السويد بين 10000 - 30000 مسلم سويدي ، فهذا المركز يقوم بالعمل والتواصل فيما بينهم ، وبالتعريف بالإسلام لغير المسلمين ، وللسفراء ، والموظفين ، والجامعات ، فهو عمل طيب مبارك.

وقد تبين لي أن هذا المشروع جدير بالاهتمام والعناية ، لما فيه من خير عظيم ، وأهداف نبيلة ، ومقاصد مشروعة ، لذلك أدعو جهات الخير والدعوة والأوقاف والخيرين لمزيد المساعدة الفعالة والبذل من الصدقات والتبرعات لهذا المركز ليستمر في أداء واجبه .

والله تعالى أسأل أن يزيدكم نفعاً للإسلام والمسلمين ، ويعظم لكم الأجر والمثوبة .

ودمت في رعاية الله وعنايته وكنفه

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته


كتبه

د. علي محيي الدين القره داغي

أستاذ بجامعة قطر ورئيس مجلس أمناء جامعة التنمية البشرية
والحائز على جائزة الدولة ، والخبير بالمجامع الفقهية
وعضو المجلس الأوروبي للإفتاء والبحوث

What *is the Salam Project?*

The Salam Project is **a unique approach** to the presentation and promotion of Islam in Sweden, a country at the very forefront of the modern secularised Western world.

At the heart of the Salam Project lies the Quranic and Prophetic injunction of **guiding one's own community** first. All of the prophets of God were sent to their own peoples. Similarly, whenever a companion entered into the fold of Islam, the first thing the Prophet would do was to send them back to their own tribe, community or people to convey the message.

In the spirit of reviving this prophetic tradition, the Salam Project aims to **present Islam to the West** in a way that makes it understandable and approachable to the Western mind.

The Salam Project also aims to **meet the spiritual needs** of Swedish Muslims. It is our duty to take care of and strengthen those who come into Islam, in order to ensure that they remain in the faith, and develop and strengthen their practice, their faith and their relation with Allah.

The Salam Project strives to increase the understanding of Islam in Swedish society, by **promoting Islamic art and culture** in Sweden and giving people a positive experience of Islam to counter negative associations.

ما هو منخاج سلام؟



Why *is the Salam Project needed?*

When people in the West today hear the word "Islam" a whole range of **inaccurate information** and bad stereotypes immediately spring to mind. This presents a great obstacle for people wanting to find out more about Islam.

We feel that we **owe it to our community** to give them a chance to acquire a genuine understanding of Islam without being pushed away by the negative associations they have experienced through the media, or from interactions with the Muslim community.

Most Islamic organisations and institutes in the West today are primarily concerned with the benefit and affairs of the Muslim community. While this in itself is a worthy cause, it is not necessarily the same thing as **serving the cause of Islam** in the society where one lives. An entirely different approach is needed.

For many people, it is not easy to enter a mosque or approach an Islamic organisation as the first contact with Islam, hence there is a need for an interface or **meeting place** where people in a relaxed atmosphere can acquaint themselves with the reality of Islam.

Too often when people present Islam, the focus is on social, political and outward aspects. While these are all important parts of our faith, they do not convey the bigger picture. We believe there is an urgent need of **presenting Islam as a holistic religion**, a living faith, a complete way of life.

لماذا الحاجة إلى منتهاج سلام؟



How *does the Salam Project work?*

Presenting Islam to the people of Sweden

- Courses on Islam and Muslim culture for professionals
- Visits to talk about Islam at schools and colleges
- Representing Islam in local and national media
- Receiving individuals and groups at the mosque
- Public lectures, seminars and conferences
- Advising organizations and authorities on Islamic issues

Meeting the spiritual needs of new Muslims

- Taking care of and assisting new Muslims
- Teaching and training in the basics of Islam
- Mentoring and counselling programme
- Summer camps and weekend retreats
- Regular gatherings and study circles

Promoting Islamic art and culture

- Events, exhibitions and cultural workshops
- Encouraging Swedish Islamic literature and visual arts
- Intercultural exchange and dialogue
- Contributing to and serving the wider community

كيف يعمل منھاج سلام؟



Who *is behind the Salam Project?*

The unique approach and successful methods of the Salam Project have been developed by **native Swedish Muslims**, who combine good knowledge about their religion and who also genuinely understand the culture and spiritual condition of Sweden today. More than anyone else, such individuals can reach out to their society with the message of Islam, through a **genuine heartfelt concern** for the salvation of their fellow countrymen.



Mohammad Muslim Eneborg

is a Swedish Muslim scholar based in Stockholm. After converting to Islam in 1980, he spent several years travelling around the Muslim world before completing his Islamic studies in England in 1989. He currently works as imam at Masjid Aysha in Stockholm, and teaches at a Muslim adult education college. He is often called to intercultural dialogues and to represent Islam in the Swedish media.

Max Abdussalam Dahlstrand

became Muslim in 1994 at the age of 23. After finishing his Architecture degree in the US, he worked on several mosque projects in Sweden and was active in the Swedish Muslim Youth association. He later founded Sidratul Muntaha together with Mohammad Muslim, to which he now dedicates most of his free time, reaching out to people daily. He also manages a health care company for people with disabilities.



هن يقوم على منھاج سلام؟



Sweden – *a brief overview*

Despite traditionally being considered a Christian country, Sweden is often mentioned as the **most secularised nation** in the world. In a country where believers of any kind are seen as breaking the norm, roughly 5% of the total population are of Muslim background.

As a religion that largely made its way to the country by way of recent immigration, the **Muslim presence** is not very well established. There are not many functioning institutions or madrasas, and only a few purpose built mosques throughout the whole country.

There is a growing need to present Islam in a positive light to the Swedish public. Most people in Sweden receive their information about Islam entirely through the **mainstream media**, where Islam is stereotypically shown in a negative light. In spite of this, most people respond positively when presented with a balanced and genuine image of Islam.

During seminars and theme days at schools, as well school visits to mosques, we are constantly surprised by the **positive reactions** and enthusiasm of these young people who are prepared to see past stereotypes and misconceptions and really want to develop a more in-depth and accurate understanding of Islam.

There is an urgent need for **promoting Islam** through various channels of engagement.

السويد - نبذة من احوالها



Sidratul Muntaha

– *our achievements so far*

The Sidratul Muntaha organisation was founded by a group of Swedish Muslims in 2003 with the goal of promoting **a positive image** of Islam in Sweden.

Since then we have lectured to tens of thousands of students in **schools, colleges and universities**, and received hundreds of school classes at the mosque.

We have held well over a hundred **full day courses** educating thousands of non-Muslim professionals all around Sweden about Islam and Muslim culture.

We have also delivered a large amount of seminars and workshops, **inter-religious dialogues**, integration projects, camps for new Muslims, weekly gatherings, counselling sessions and many other activities.

Through our work, we have become established and recognised in Sweden as a **well respected organisation**, with many influential contacts, including both national and local authorities, the press, churches and other religious organisations, embassies etc.

Our activities have received **much positive coverage** in the media including national television, radio and newspapers.

سدرة المنتهى

انخبازاتنا حتى الآن



The next step

– *establishing the Salam Foundation*

Until now we have been able to keep our activities running through **voluntary work** in our free time.

However, in order to expand further and properly realise our vision, we are **in need of more resources**. In the present situation, we are no longer able to fully dedicate our time and effort into our activities as much as needed.

Therefore, we seek **your support and advice** on how to fund our activities in the future. Firstly to cover our current costs, primarily salaries to be able to carry on our work full time. We also need funds for literature, seminars, camps, exhibitions and other activities.

In the future we will also need to employ **more course leaders** to present Islam around the country, and administrators to organise events and activities.

For the next step, we are in need of further resources in order to purchase, furnish and maintain a suitable location for the centre. We firmly believe that this would **fill a large void** in the current landscape of Islam in Sweden, and Swedish society in general.

The idea is specifically not to build another mosque, but rather to launch an entirely **new concept for dawah** in Sweden.

الخطوة التالية

تأسيس وقف السلام



Salam Center

– *visions for the future*

In the future, we aim to establish a permanent centre to cater for our new Muslim brothers and sisters, establish a bureau and resource centre for information and support, and most importantly we hope to **create an open environment** – a drop-in centre where both Muslims and others can gain traditional Islamic knowledge, partake in Muslim cultural activities and receive accurate information about Islam.

For many people – including some Muslims – it is not always easy to approach a mosque when looking to find information and to experience the **practical and spiritual dimensions** of Islam.

That is why we want to create a place that has a lower threshold, a more **welcoming atmosphere**, where people can come as they are and in a comfortable environment have access to Islamic knowledge and meet knowledgeable people who can present Islam, answer their questions and show them, through practical experience, how people live Islam.

In the longer term, we envisage a book café, a library, exhibition spaces and dedicated areas for seminars, workshops and cultural activities. In brief, **a Muslim cultural center**, strategically situated in the heart of Sweden's capital city, Stockholm.

Our hope is that the new Salam Center will function as a hub for places of **Islamic propagation and support** all over Europe.

مرکز السلام

روئی واحد اف





SALAM PROJECT

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