



In The Name Of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

المعهد الإسلامي في تورنتو

Islamic Institute of Toronto

Education for Virtuous Living

ISLAMIC HISTORY MONTH 2018

I.I.T.'S Islamic History Month, 2018, witnessed a number of highly successful programs that focused on four continents. The main goal was to bring out interesting, untold stories of Muslim culture in the world and make them relevant to our lives today. The target audience was both Muslim and people of other Faiths.

Week One looked at the History of Muslim culture right here in Canada. It was surprising for many to find that Monotheism existed and flourished among the Indigenous people of the Americas and that immigrant Muslims began coming to Canada from the inception of the country 150 years ago. Since that time the Muslim community has made great contributions to Canada and now faces the same challenges as Canadian society.

Week Two focused on Europe and the Bosnian Muslim experience. The amazing exhibition of Bosnian arts and crafts was strengthened by a special Calligraphy exhibition from Istanbul sponsored by the Consulate of the Republic of Turkey and Dr Amir Passic, one of the leading experts on Bosnian heritage who flew in from Sarajevo, Bosnia. Dr Irfan Mirza, a renowned expert on Bosnian history, came from Seattle, Washington, USA and a special choir of young Bosnian girls entertained the huge crowd with Bosnian Nasheeds. As expected, the program was crowned with a taste of Bosnian food.

Week Three witnessed a look at Islam in Asia by focusing on Kerala, India. Shaykh Ahmad Kutty, resident scholar of the I.I.T., presented an in depth history and analysis of the History and culture of Muslims in Kerala and the main hall was filled with posters of Kerala Muslim heritage. Again, the onlookers were captivated by a group of Kerala Muslim girls dressed in their national dress and singing a wedding song as well as a delicious meal of Kerala Muslim food.

Week Four moved to Africa and the Muslim experience in the Sudan. Shaykh Abdullah Hakim Quick presented an eye opening history of early Nubian history along the Nile River from 3500 BC and showed that even the Qur'an itself included a wise man from Nubia called Luqman. Br Mamoun Hassan rounded this off with an interesting



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presentation of the development of Sudan and Muslim Sudanese people from the coming of Islam to the present. Then, to crown the month at I.I.T., the huge crowd was given a treat of two young Sudanese girls dressed in national dress and challenging the understanding of the onlookers in a "What you know about Sudan" session and a delicious Sudanese meal. Many of the attendees had never tasted Sudanese food so it was a real eye opener!

In addition to this, I.I.T.'S exhibit on "Islam and Muslims in Canada" was taken around to the TDDBS schools and featured at the Scarborough Civic Center under the guidance of Salma Zahid MP for Scarborough Centre.

Dr. Abdullah Hakim Quick
Historian, Lecturer, Consultant