

## Upright Opinion

July 15, 2014

### **A blissful Iftar Dinner**

**Reported by Saeed Qureshi**

Dr Basheer Ahmed an acclaimed Human Right activist and the president of IQRA(Institute of Quranic knowledge and intrafaith Religious Acceptance) hosted an Iftar dinner at the Dera Grill restaurant to highlight and reinforce the sectarian unity and togetherness particularly between Sunni and Shia sects within the fold of Islam. Dr. Basheer and his illustrious wife are engaged in the service of the immigrant community from the subcontinent for three decades now.

An embodiment of selflessness, humility and courtesy, Dr. Basheer assembled a group of conscientious individuals representing their respective sects specifically the Shias and Sunnis. In fact the dinner was self explanatory by its portrayal as “Shia Sunni unity Iftar dinner”.

In his invitation letter sent to a select number of invitees, Dr. Basheer defined the underlying objective of the dinner. In the backdrop of the unrelenting sectarian violence in the Islamic countries he wrote:

*“it is incumbent upon us as Muslim leaders to do what we can locally while thinking globally to ensure that at least within our own circles we unite to counter this violence, making it a model for other communities and countries to follow suit.”*

In short the aim of this important evening was,” unity and harmonious relationship between Shia and Sunni sects and to achieve the goal of developing a harmonious relationship”

Various speakers in their short discourses emphasized the dire need of sectarian peace and fraternity here in the United State generally and in DFW particularly. Ever since its establishment last year, IQRA has taken a impressive lead towards fostering goodwill, amity and a sense of mutual respectability and tolerance among the divergent sects. Its stout and sterling evidence was the tone and tenor of the observations expressed diligently by the followers of Shia, Sunni and even Ahmadi faith.

The independents, the secular and the liberal persons from among the guests also articulated their point of view and converged on the dire imperative of religious and sectarian harmony. There were female and female speakers who proffered valuable and far- reaching propositions and excellent ideas towards inculcating an atmosphere free of religious aversion and bigotry.

The Shia- Sunni unity Iftar dinner has brought home and underscored the fundamental passion that the common Muslims on various sides of sectarian divide earnestly aspire for the unity among the Muslims. The hallmark of the animated debate and discussion was a consensus on the most pressing need of togetherness and coexistence between various sects irrespective of their ideological discords. That feeling and outcome in fact has adequately served and fulfilled the underlying purpose of this evening's Iftar dinner.

Dr. Basheer is doing a monumental service to the community in an altruistic and noble manner for which the immigrant communities from the subcontinent should be grateful to him. As such he needs the earnest support and unstinted cooperation of every sincere Muslim in this pioneering initiative for eventual attainment of the sublime and splendid target of sectarian peace, harmony and unity.

Three other important aspects of this wonderful and instructive evening were the organized manner in which it was conducted, the evening prayer and a sumptuous dinner with a variety of delicious dishes. The cook also deserves a pat on his back.

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Jinab Saeed Qureshi Sahib, thank you so much for penning down such a wonderful writing on behalf of the community to praising Dr. Basheer Sahib, who is a great activist, philanthropist, humanist for his noble services for the whole community of DFW area.

No Doubt it was very useful get together in the holy month of Ramadan where this great man Dr. Basheer Shib, organized an after & dinner for Shia and Sunni community. It was a nice meaningful try, which showed a large success on 15th July 2014 in a local restaurant. He is working hard to unite the different denomination of our society. Especially Shia & Sunni. We remember a few months ago, there was another meeting of 'like minded' community leaders from Ahmadis, and different sect of Muslims of our society.

I am glad to see that Dr. Basheer sahib, has a group of devoted and enthusiastic workers who spends a considerable time to arrange such a program. And it gives us a hope when I see our young generation participates in this kind of program like Sana, who is very active and we see her in every meeting. The daughter of Jinab Muazzam Bhai, I don't know her name who looks like a talented young girl who delivered a short, thoughtful speech, and one volunteer who was sitting at the entrance for registration. There must be some more young ladies who are working for IQRA. Unfortunately, I did not see any young boys in the meeting, hope in the next meeting IQRA members will try to bring young boys too.

One day Insha Allah, Dr. Basheer sahib's mission will be accomplished. If we don't find out in our lifetime, but our coming generation will enjoy the harmony, friendly relationship, brotherhood among the different sect of Muslims and non-Muslims. I remember my childhood time when I use to enjoy a good time to play with my Shia friends, eating and hanging with families without any fear. I pray that our generation should see that good time and live together with peace and harmony.

We all agree with IQRA's noble mission and we will work together Insha Allah.

As you mentioned in your article the Iftar & dinner were blissful. The food was yummy and the arrangement was excellent.

I cannot do a great deal for this noble movement, but I will be always there participating in whatever way possible for me. Insha Allah, you will find me in the front line of your struggle.

Shah A Siddiqui  
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