

## Huffington Post - Ramadan Reflection Day 21: The Need for 'Third Spaces'

This Ramadan, Imam

Khalid Latif, Executive Director and Chaplain of the Islamic Center,

will for a second year in a row be keeping a daily journal for the

Huffington Post. His twenty-first article, entitled "Ramadan Reflection Day 21: The Need for 'Third Spaces'" was published earlier today. To read the entire article in full, please [click here](#)

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Imam Khalid Latif

Ramadan Reflection Day 21: The Need for 'Third Spaces'

Imam Khalid Latif is blogging his reflections during the month of Ramadan, featured daily on HuffPost Religion. For a complete record of his previous posts, click over to the Islamic Center at New York University or visit his author page, and to follow along with the rest of his reflections, sign up for an author e-mail alert above, visit his Facebook page or follow him on Twitter.

It's always nice to see good friends; the kind of people with whom, even if you haven't spoken for a long time, it doesn't feel strange when you do see each other again. You just pick up right where you left off. One of the highlights of my trip to Abu Dhabi was being able to spend time in the company of such people, namely my friends Ali Hashmi, Angela Migally, and Sahal Kango. And of course my wife Priya :)

As we get older, it becomes difficult to deal with life at times. I would argue that this happens because we begin to interact more with people who don't understand us, less with those that do, and begin to forget who we actually are. Sahal, Priya and I just came from eating halal hamburgers at Fuddrucker's, and over dinner Sahal said a few profound things about how life changes substantially once you're in the workforce.

To understand why it's interesting that something profound came out of Sahal's mouth, please watch this Youtube clip taken by my friend Mohsin Memon of him from the first time he rode a roller coaster.

to view the video, please click here

In case you can't tell, Sahal is the one saying, "Oh my God" over and over. Please also note that the videos that Youtube suggests which are similar are of small children and their first time on a roller coaster.

Sahal began to speak about the tough transition that he had post-undergrad in not only finding people who understood him in general, but in specific understood him in the way that he practices his faith. Despite working and living in a predominantly Muslim country, Sahal, like many others, began to find it hard to practice Islam after graduating from college. He spoke about how much more he valued the time he had as undergraduate, as there was so much more opportunity to do things for others and how now it was hard to find people to relate to. I would argue that it's not there is an absence of such individuals, but more the absence of spaces in which one can meet such individuals....to continue reading please click here