

## Huffington Post - Ramadan Reflection Day # 24: Why Me, Allah?

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-third article, entitled "Ramadan Reflection Day 24: Why Me, Allah?" was published earlier today. To read the entire article in full, please [click here](#)

Please share with your friends and networks and leave a comment on the Huffington Post website

Imam Khalid Latif

Ramadan Reflection Day 24: Why Me, Allah?

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.

As practitioners of an organized faith, most of us want to know if we are on the right track or not. Our minds already assume pain to go hand-in-hand with punishment and happiness with reward. Denial of things that we want factors into our minds as indication that we are doing something wrong while the opposite indicates we are doing right. In trying to figure it out, we turn to the world around us for definitive answers and it seems like there is always someone ready to speak on behalf of God. They let us know why something happened, or did not happen, the way that it did, even though most actually don't have any idea, but for some reason still respond as if they do.

The first time I was asked the question of, "Why did God let this happen?" was about seven years ago when I was 22. A young woman that I had known for some time had walked into my office and asked if she could speak to me in confidence. I told her what I tell most everyone, that what we discuss will stay between us. She proceeded to narrate a life experience that she hadn't shared with anyone for more than a decade and a half. As a child, she had consistently been molested by a family friend for a period of three years or so starting at the age of five. As she spoke, she cried and trembled as years of emotion, anguish, confusion and anger was let out into a world that had hurt her. My mind flashed back to lecture after lecture and sermon after sermon in which I had heard the importance of being patient in the face of tests, and how faith would increase through our trust in God. So at 22, I said to this young woman what I thought I was "supposed" to say, what I had heard most say, and what was probably the dumbest thing to say -- "This is a test from God." Her response, "Why would God test a 5-year old?" I had no idea.

At 29 what I have come to realize is that there are a lot of things that we as people of faith don't know the answers to, and we shouldn't pretend as if we do. Whether we are in an authoritative position or not, we cause a lot of damage to each other's well being by making claims of certainty in arenas where we are not qualified to give such answers. This happens usually when we are asked the question of, "Why?"

As this young woman and I continued to talk, I shuddered at the reality that surrounded me. Here I had a person in front of me who trusted me enough to open up and share an experience that she had never shared with anyone before and my response to her would potentially impact whether or not she would ever speak about it again. I got lucky that I was given a second chance -- in many instances it wouldn't happen.....to continue reading please click here