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Once again, we invite teachers to send articles and lesson plans (preferably by email or printed and accompanied by a disc) to the following address:

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Irit Dosh-Weinberg
Editor

The chapter “Teaching Arabic and Islam” presents new ideas and pedagogical tools for teaching Arabic in Hebrew schools.

In the realm of classical Arabic, the source and translation by Eliyahu Mantzur are brought side by side for two known speeches from classical Arabic literature, by al-Hajjaj ibn-Yusuf (al)Thakafi before the residents of Kufa, and by Tariq ibn-Ziyad prior to the conquest of Gibraltar.

Ofra Hacothen and Ofer Efrati present, in an introduction to an anthology of classical texts, the known book by Ibn Abd Rabihi, al-Aqd al-Farid. Orit Lacher offers a study tour of the Museum for Islamic Art in Jerusalem, while emphasizing the personality of the Prophet Muhammad and teaching concepts related to the precepts of Islam.

Nitza Winston, on behalf of the Northern District staff, presents a way to quickly teach the Arabic alphabet within a few months, which was successfully tried in the Northern District. Avital Holdengraber presents a new educational-linguistic experiment in teaching communicative Arabic in schools in the Haifa District.

At the end of the chapter, in the section on innovations in the Arabic language, new concepts and phrases are presented from the media and the press.

In the chapter “Web Sites,” Yossi Sadeh reviews the varied possibilities for use of the Internet in teaching the Arabic language and the world of the Arabs and Islam. In his review, the writer emphasizes the latest innovations in the field. The “Book Reviews” chapter examines books that deal with Islam, the life of Umm Kulthum, studying the Palestinian dialect of spoken Arabic, Arab soccer in the State of Israel and the story of the owner of a bookstore in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan.



Preface

Issue No. 34 of the journal presents the readers with the fruit of the work of researchers, academic figures and teachers.

It starts out with an article by the late Prof. Hava-Lazarus Yafeh, which discusses fundamentalism in the three monotheistic religions in today's modern world. The article by Dr. Naama Ben-Ami brings the story of the Naqshbandi Sufi order in Uzbekistan, along with the writer's personal impressions and photos following her visit to the country.

Dr. Sagi Polka collects and discusses the Islamic and Arab concepts used by Usama bin Laden in the campaign of propaganda and terrorism that he is waging against the West and against Arab leaders.

Yuval Tzameret asks in his article whether the education system has been successful in developing linguistic-didactic tools for inculcating the Arabic language among Hebrew speakers. Shlomo Alon, Chief Inspector of Arabic and of the World of the Arabs and Islam, recalls his meetings with Naguib Mahfouz and lists the most of important of the late writer's works, which are studied in Arabic in Hebrew schools. Other essays by Shlomo Alon review a number of topics appearing in the Koran: The place of Adam, colors and their role, and how murder and blood feuds appear in the Koran. Along with these essays, a response is presented in ornate handwriting by Mussa As'ad Oda to an essay by Shlomo Alon on the Ka'aba (see Issue No. 33).

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**Journal
of the
Teachers
of Arabic
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**The Ministry of Education
The Pedagogical Secretariat**

**The Supervision of Teaching
Arabic and Islam**

Jerusalem, 2007