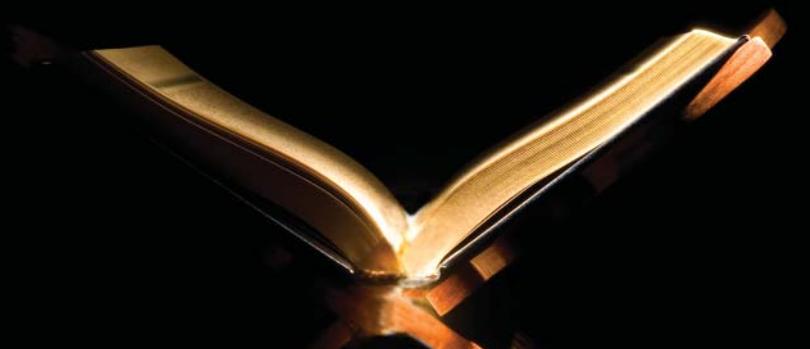


The
Eternal Guidance



A. S. Alam M.D.

The Eternal Guidance

2009 Edition

A. S. Alam, M.D.

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PREFACE

All praise belongs to God, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful. There can be no good without His blessings and guidance. I sincerely seek His guidance and blessings. I seek His Mercy and Forgiveness for all my shortcomings.

I dedicate this book to the memory of my beloved parents. “Our Lord, bestow on them Thy Grace as they have cherished us in childhood.”

I express my deep gratitude to all my friends who went through the manuscript repeatedly and helped me with advice and corrections. Abdul Baqui and Azadul Haq need special mention. The layout and design of the book was done by Azadul Haq. May God reward them amply.

There are not many small books that give the essentials of Islam along with rational reasoning for its fundamental beliefs. Most of the books that provide good information on Islam are not small. People in the western world are busy in acquiring possessions and pleasures. They do not have much time to spare for spiritual development. Attempt has been made to provide essential information on Islam with some rational reasoning in a small book form. If there is anything good in this booklet may God be praised. If there is any error, the fault is mine and I ask forgiveness from God. May God, the Merciful, erase them from your memory.

A. S. Alam, M.D.

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Introduction

Man has been seeking for his Creator from the beginning of known human history. He has called his Creator by many different names, at different times and in different places.

According to religion, the earliest created man and woman were aware of their Creator and prayed to Him. As time passed, their descendants did not transmit the knowledge of the Creator to their offspring properly. At some point in time, they lost this knowledge almost completely. However, the created man has an innate nature to seek for his Creator. While seeking for his Creator, anything that was very powerful, enormous, or unusual, drew his attention and he worshipped them. He even worshipped fellow human being who was gifted with special abilities by his Creator.

Man has devised many different religions through his intellect to serve his spiritual needs. Knowledge of man is very limited and imperfect. He has no knowledge of the future and the afterlife. How can he then guide humanity for the afterlife? All religions developed through human intellect have limitations and are, therefore, unsuitable for the guidance of humanity for the future and afterlife.

Only God has perfect knowledge. His guidance can only be perfect. The very kind and loving God has provided us with that guidance through special people we call Prophets.

Religions can be divided into two broad groups, philosophical religions and revealed religions. The philosophical religions were developed through human intellect. The founders of the philosophical religions were highly respectable and intelligent people of the society. They never claimed to be Prophets of God or to have received revelations from Him. They have used their intelligence for this purpose. Therefore, the philosophical religions cannot be perfect and are unsuitable for the salvation of humanity.

The revealed religions are religions revealed by God through His Prophets. For the common people to get this guidance, the Prophets must have recorded the revelations at the time of revelation and, thereafter, no one had altered them. These would then be the perfect

guidance for humanity.

Religions, in general, are named after their founders. For example, Christianity is named after Jesus Christ (P*), Buddhism after Gautama Buddha, and Judaism was named after the tribe of Judah and the country of Judea. However, Islam was not named after any person, any tribe, or any country. It was named after the principle for which it stands.

The word ‘Islam’ means peace. It also means willful submission to the will and law of God. **Islam, as a religion, means ‘Peace through willful submission to the will and law of God’.** One who willfully submits to God is a Muslim. Therefore, a Muslim is one who willingly submits to the commandments of his Creator and lives in peace. Often times the news media of the western world reports “Islamic terrorists”. These two words are mutually contradictory. One who is peaceful cannot be terrorist, and one who is terrorist cannot be peaceful. It is like telling a person to be ‘a truthful liar.’ The same news media, when reporting on terrorism in Northern Ireland, do not say “Christian terrorists”.

Every creation in the universe submits to the law of God. From the tiny atom to the vast universe, everything constantly follows the laws laid down by God for them. The physical and chemical laws laid down by God created every cell of our body and regulate them. Therefore, by definition, all were born as Muslims. After attaining maturity, when we use our God-given intelligence to deny His existence or refuse to submit to His commandments, we become non-Muslims. Even at that time, the physical body of a non-Muslim and its functions has to follow the laws laid down by God and remains as Muslim, although his tongue defiantly proclaims to be a non-Muslim. Everything in the universe has to follow, willingly or unwillingly, the physical laws laid down by God, our Creator.

Every Prophet willingly submitted to the will and commandments of God. The Bible reports that Jesus (P*) fervently begged God to spare his life, saying: “*Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt.*” (B* Mark 14:35-36).

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The Creator

All things around us have been created by someone. The buildings, the roads, cars, the towers, the boats etc did not come into existence by themselves. We may not know the individuals. We know for sure that human hands are behind their creation.

If the aborigines of the deep Amazon forest, in the days when they did not come in contact with any one of the known civilized world, would see an airplane for the first time flying in the sky, they would probably be very amazed. However, if they see the same plane passing by, say once every week, they would probably think it to be a natural phenomenon, just the way we think of the celestial bodies or the Haley's comet.

If "beings of outer space" ever see our space machines, they probably will marvel at the precise function of their intricate mechanical and electronic parts. If they observe the exact orbital path that these spacecrafts follow, will they think that these came into existence by themselves, having no human hand behind their creation and function?

Many atheists demand a scientific proof for the existence of God. In general, logical arguments backed by science will convince the majority. According to the 'Theory of probability' if a coin is tossed, your chance of guessing it correctly is 50% (1 out of 2). If tossed for the second time the chance of guessing it correctly both the times is 50% of 50%, that means 25%. The chance of guessing it correctly for the third time also reduced to 12½%.

If a dice with six sides is tossed, your chance of guessing it correctly is 1 in 6. If tossed for the second time the chance of guessing it correctly both the times is one in (6X6) 36. The chance of guessing it correctly for the third time also reduced to 1 in 216, that means less than 0.5%.

At the time when the Holy Quran was revealed, people thought the world was flat. It could have been thought to be triangular, quadrangular, pentagonal, hexagonal, heptagonal, octagonal, spherical, oblong, pyramidal, etc. Let us assume that there could

be any of the 30 different shapes. Therefore, the chance of guessing it correctly is 1 in 30.

The chance for a person to guess the coin, the dice and the earthly shape correctly once, is one in $(2 \times 6 \times 30 =)$ 360, and two times in a row will be one in $(4 \times 36 \times 900 =)$ 129,000.

One hundred balls, each one numbered, are put in a box and mixed together and you are asked to bring out ball # 1 with your eyes closed. If you bring out the balls one after another, the chance of bringing out ball # 1 is 1 in 100. However, if you are asked to bring out the balls in perfect series, from one to hundred, then what is the chance of you bringing them out of the box in perfect order even once? What about bringing them out every time? Mathematicians say that the chance is zero.

We did not know how life started or what it is composed of. Was it oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon, gold, silver, aluminum, copper etc or any of the hundreds of thousands of combination of them? Who could have said it correctly, in the days when Quran was revealed, except by the creator of life Himself?

Each human cell performs thousands of complex chemical reactions every day for its proper function and exact reproduction. The chemical formula and the reactions of the components are so precise that even the slight alteration of the formula will result into a different product. All the tissues and organs in the body obey the biological laws set forth for them. The brain does not perform the function of heart and the heart does not perform the function of kidney, although they all started with two cells in the womb. How do these two cells differentiate, in specific stages of development, into these organs, which are very different from each other? The complex and intimate relationships between the organs are precise and governed by fundamental laws. We may utilize these laws, already set forth for them, to our advantage, but in no way can we alter these fundamental laws. There are millions of species in this planet earth. Each one performs the function they are programmed to perform. Did all these come into existence and perform their functions by chance?

There are hundreds of scientific information in Quran, which were not known to man in those days. They were outside the bounds

of human knowledge and beyond human ability to produce them. Each of them is correct. According to the theory of probability, it was impossible for anyone to guess all of them correctly.

When we buy a TV, radio, VCR or a printer, the manufacturer provides us with a booklet giving information about the machine, how it functions and how to operate it. If a new machine, which no one in the world has ever seen or heard of before, is shown to people and then a question is asked, “Who is the first person to be able to provide detail information about this machine”? The obvious answer will be the creator, or the inventor, or the manufacturer of the machine.

Our scientists say that initially the universe was composed of condensed gas, mainly Hydrogen and Helium. Later the gas was transformed into a solid mass by heat. There was intense concentration of pure energy in the center of the mass, which later exploded and created countless celestial bodies of the universe. This is today’s accepted ‘Big Bang theory of Creation of Universe’. **Arnos Penzias** and **Robert Wilson** confirmed the ‘Big Bang Theory’ in 1964 and won the **Nobel Prize** in 1978.

In 1929, **Edwin P. Hubble**, an astronomer at Caltech, proved that the universe is expanding. He died unexpectedly in 1953 and never won the Nobel Prize.

Quran says:

“Then turned He (God) to the heaven when it was smoke:” (Q* 41:11).

“Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of creation), before we clove them asunder?” (Q* 21: 30).

“We have built the heaven with might, and it is We who make the vast (universe) extent (thereof).” (Q* 51:47).

In ancient times, we believed that earth was the center of the universe and all celestial bodies move around the earth, which was thought to be flat. In the 16th century **Copernicus** found out that the earth was neither flat nor was it the center of the universe, rather it was spherical and moved in an orbit around the sun. Galileo confirmed Copernicus’ view but the Church forced him to recant it

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in 1633 AD (Ref. 4 -p158). One thousand years earlier, The Holy Quran revealed: *“It is He who created the night and the day, and the sun, and the moon: all (the celestial bodies) swim along, each in its rounded course.”* (Q* 21:33).

Professor Keith L. Moore was the professor of anatomy and Embryology at the University of Toronto, Canada. He is the author of the book of embryology titled “The Developing Human” which received the ‘Best Book of the Year’ award by a single author. He was also the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He was surprised to learn the details of the embryonic human development described in the Quran. In 1981, while giving a lecture at an international conference, he agreed that such detail description on human development within the mother’s womb, during the period of Mohammad, could only come from God. He then embraced Islam.

Professor Frank Press is the co-author of the book ‘The Earth’, which is a reference book on geology. He was the President of National Academy of Sciences of USA and the Science advisor to President of U.S.A., **Jimmy Carter**. He says in the book that mountain has deep underlying root, which is 5 to 10 times deeper than its height. **Cailleux** also confirms this in the book ‘Anatomy of the Earth’. God says in the Quran:

“Have We not made the earth as wide expanse, and the mountains as pegs?” (Q* 78:6-7). Pegs have small tops and very long shafts. It is a beautiful description for the common people to understand how the mountains stand on earth.

Modern theory of Plate Tectonics holds that mountains work as stabilizers of the earth. It is like a small piece of metal that we put in a car wheel to ‘balance’ it so that the wheel would not wobble. God says in the Quran:

“And He has set up on the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with you; and rivers and roads; that ye may guide yourselves.” (Q* 16:15).

Modern science has discovered that when the Mediterranean Sea water (warmer and more saline) enters into Atlantic sea over the Gibraltar sill, it remains separate from the colder and less saline Atlantic Sea water for a long distance. God says in the Quran:

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The Eternal Guidance
The Creator

“He has set free the two seas (bodies of flowing water), meeting together: between them is a barrier which they do not transgress.” (Q* 55:19-20).

The same thing occurs when the sweet water of the river enters into the salt water of the sea. God says in the Quran:

“It is He Who has let free the two bodies of flowing water: one palatable and sweet, and the other salty and bitter; yet has He made a barrier between them, a partition that is forbidden to be passed.” (Q* 25:53).

How was it possible for an unlettered person to reveal the scientific mysteries thousand years ahead when no man on earth had any knowledge of them, unless God revealed them to him? **Dr. Maurice Bucaille**, a Christian physician and a scholar of the Bible from France, wrote: *“The above observation makes the hypothesis advanced by those who see Muhammad as the author of Quran untenable. How could a man, from being illiterate, become the most important author, in terms of literary merits, in the whole of Arabic literature? How could he then pronounce truths of a scientific nature that no other human being could possibly have developed at that time, and all this without making the slightest error in his pronouncement on the subject?”* (Ref. 4 - P125).

God has perfect knowledge of everything. Therefore, His revealed guidance must not have contradictions or discrepancies. God says in Quran: *“Do they not consider the Quran (with care)? Had it been from other than God, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy...”* (Q* 4: 82).

Dr. Maurice Bucaille, the Christian physician and a scholar of the Bible from France, writes: *“Whereas monumental errors are to be found in the Bible, I could not find a single error in the Quran.”* (Ref. 4 - P120).

We see the apparent lifeless seeds grow into plants with life. Again, we see plants and animals, full with life, made into lifeless materials. We also observe the vast universe, its grand design, the superb organization, and its precise and flawless functions. According to the theory of probability, it was not possible for any human to tell all the scientific facts mentioned in the Quran without a single mistake in the days when Quran was revealed, unless the (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

Creator revealed them. The One who brought into existence each and everything around us and beyond and governs them by laws, that are perfect, is The God, our Creator and the Creator of the universe.

God says in the Quran: *“Soon We will show them our signs in the (farthest) regions (of the earth), and in their own souls, until it becomes manifest to them that this is the Truth. Is it not enough that thy Lord doth witness all things?”* (Q* 41:53).

Francis Bacon, the famous philosopher, has rightly said that a little knowledge of science makes man an atheist, but an in-depth study of science makes him a believer in God.

When we want to perceive anything in our environment, we use our organs of perception, e.g. eye, ear, nose, tongue and skin. We do not see the air but we can feel it and see its effect in the environment. Things that cannot be perceived by these organs, we try to understand them by using our intellect. We discuss their characteristics. In the case of God, we understand Him by understanding His attributes.

Attributes of God:

All the attributes of God are unique and only belong to Him. If reversed, they point only towards Him. For example, ‘God is The Creator of the universe’, and if reversed, ‘The Creator of the universe is God’, no one else. No one other than God can have these unique attributes. His attributes are absolute, perfect, complete, unconditional, unlimited, independent, ultimate, and everlasting. There cannot be two authorities with absolute attributes. The correct attributes of God cannot be combined with wrong attributes. One cannot say: (1) God is the Creator of the universe and was born in a human family. (2) God can heal all illness but when He went to Jerusalem, He could not heal the people because of their disbelief in Him. (3) God has perfect knowledge and ability but when He faces difficult problem in heaven he has to consult a human Rabbi. God’s abilities do not depend on our belief or disbelief. Rabbi Menachen writes in his comments for the Fifth Book of Jewish Holy Book Talmud: *“Jehovah himself asks the opinions of earthly rabbis when there are difficult affairs in heaven.”*

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God's attributes cannot be separated and given to different authorities, like one is the creator and another is the preserver or sustainer. In that case there will be multiple divine authorities and will create confusion in the universe. Either one of them will, have no authority over the others, or if he has power over the others then the others will have no independent authority. God is the ultimate authority of every affair. Multiple divine authorities will make incomplete, inadequate, and deficient gods. They will fight and kill each other to gain power over the others, as we find with the gods of some religion.

God is One and Only:

Every attribute of God maintains the unity of His Lordship. Most of the holy books proclaim unity of God. The Holy Quran says: "*Say, He is God, The One and Only.*" (Q* 112:1).

In the Jewish Holy Book God said: "*I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God.*" (B* Isaiah 44:6). "*You shall have no other gods besides me.*" (B* Exodus 20:3). "*I am God, and there is none like me.*" (B* Isaiah 46:9).

In the Christian Holy Gospel Jesus (P*) said: "*The first of all commandments is, 'Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord;'*" (B* Mark 12:29).

Hindu Holy Book Veda says: "*There is only one God, worship Him.*" (Rig Veda, Vol. 6, Hymn 45, verse 16).

Every Prophet mentioned in the revealed Holy Books, proclaimed unity of God. **No Prophet ever proclaimed more than one God and no Prophet ever claimed to be God.** No Prophet ever associated any one with God in Divinity. There is no association with Him. There cannot be more than one ultimate authority.

God is the Creator of the universe:

Many Holy Books confirm this. Creator is different from the created. The Creator is eternal and the created are temporal. He is independent of everything but everything is dependent on Him. "Ability to create from nothing" is the most important attribute of God. It, therefore, follows that any one, who cannot create, cannot be God. Jesus (P*) said: "*I can do nothing on my own authority.*" (B* John 5:30).

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God is eternal and absolute:

Being eternal, nothing caused Him to come to existence and nothing outside Him causes Him to exist. Therefore, He is self-sustained. He is the Sustainer of the universe. He has no beginning and no end. Everything else has a beginning and an end. They are temporal, relative and conditional.

All attributes of God are absolute and everlasting. There cannot be two creators with absolute attributes. It also follows that anything that has a beginning or an end cannot be God.

Sons of God:

God did not have any father or mother, and He does not have a wife or a son or a daughter. *“He does not beget nor is He begotten.”* (Q* 112:3). The Holy Quran also says: *“It is not befitting to (the Majesty of) God that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him. When He determines a matter, He only says to it, ‘Be’, and it is.”* (Q* 19: 35). Sons and daughters of God, as mentioned in some Holy Books, are only metaphorical. It implies closeness to God. In the Bible God said: ***“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should repent.”*** (B* Numbers 23:19).

God is the only Savior:

Quran says that God is the Savior (Q* 19:72, 6:64, and 39:61).

In The Bible God says: ***“I am the Lord; and besides me there is no savior.”*** (B* Isaiah 43:11, and Hosea 13:4).

He is Invisible, but Omnipresent:

The Holy Quran says: *“No vision can grasp Him.”* (Q* 6:103).

The Holy Bible says: *“No man hath seen God at any time;”* (B* John 1: 18).

Jesus (P*) said: *“Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape;”* (B* John 5:37).

God said to Moses: *“Thou canst see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.”* (B* Exodus 33:20).

Therefore, the Holy Bible and the Holy Quran agree that no one who is, or was, visible to the human eye, can be God. However Holy Book can some time cause confusion to a common person. One finds in the Holy Bible that Abraham (P*) sees God face to (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

face and feeds Him (B* Genesis 18:1-8). Jacob (P*) also saw God and nothing happened to him. He said: “*For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.*” (B* Genesis 32:30).

God is All-powerful:

He has power over every thing. The Holy Quran says: “*For God hath power over all things.*” (Q* 2:184). No human can wrestle with Him and prevail (cf. B* Genesis 32:24-28). He does not get tired and does not need rest or sleep (Q* 2:255, cf. with B* Exodus 31:17).

God is the All-knowing:

The Holy Quran says: “*He knows what is in the havens and on earth; and He knows what you conceal and what you reveal: yes, God knows well the (secrets) of (all) hearts.*” (Q* 64:4).

He is not ignorant of past, present and future (cf. B* Genesis 18:21, 11:5) and does not regret creating man or any other creation (cf. B* Genesis 6:6 - 7).

God is Most Just:

The Holy Quran says: “*God is never unjust in the least degree:*” (Q*. 4:40). He does not punish innocents to redeem the guilty. He does not advise or order to kill innocent children, elderly people or animals (cf. B* Deuteronomy 7:2, 13:15, 20:16 & Ezekiel 9:5-6).

God is the Most Gracious, Most Merciful:

He is Most Forgiving and Most Loving. 113 chapters of the Holy Quran (out of 114) begin with, “In the name of God, the most gracious and most merciful.”

The Holy Quran also reads: “*And He is oft-forgiving, full of loving kindness.*” (Q* 85:14). “*On those who believe and work deeds of righteousness, will (God) Most Gracious bestow Love.*” (Q* 19:96). He does not make parents to eat the flesh of their sons and daughters (cf. B* Jeremiah 19:4, 9 & Leviticus 26:29).

God is unique:

There is nothing in the heavens and earth that resembles Him. If one imagines of anything, even to compare with God, then that is not God. He shares His absolute attributes with no one in the

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universe. The only unforgivable sin is to associate any one with God's absolute attributes.

Name of The Creator:

We all are human beings but each one of us has a personal name. In Hebrew, the name of God is ELOH, ELAH or ALAH (different pronunciation of the same word). In Aramaic, the mother tongue of Jesus (P*), it is ALAHA (Encyclopedia Britannica 1980, 'On church doctrines', & New and improved edition of the Bible, edited by Rev. C. I. Scofield). In Arabic, it is ALLAH. According to the Bible, when Jesus (P*) was being crucified, he cried out: "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabach thani? which means, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?'*" (B* Mark 15: 34). **None of Moses, Jesus or Mohammad (P*) called the Creator by 'God'. Instead, they called Him by Eloh, Elah, Alah, Alaha or Allah. Should not we all call our creator by the name that our prophets called Him?**



*“Read in the name of thy Lord
who created man.”*

(Quran, 96:1)



*“Seek, and you shall find;
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”*

(Jesus, Matthew 7:7)



Mohammad, The Messenger of God

God has created the heavens and the earth, and everything in them. Man has a special place in the animal kingdom. God has given man a special combination of qualities, which He has not given to other animals. For example:

- 1. Ability to think,**
- 2. Ability to reason and judge,**
- 3. Ability to choose, and**
- 4. Sense of shame.**

However, man also has acquired some **undesirable qualities like greed and lust**. Our desire for possessions and pleasures deviate us from the right path, and we need guidance. The all loving and kind God has provided us with this guidance through special people, His Prophets.

Prophets were special people chosen by God. God chose the best among us to represent Him on the earth. They got guidance from God and were endowed with special qualities and abilities. Their hearts and souls remained in tune with God. They could see, analyze, and understand problems and then provide solutions in a way, which no one else can. He protected them from everything evil because they represented Him on earth and were role models for the people. They were truthful, righteous, and without sin. None committed any adultery or incest. They were the people of highest morality. The guidance from a Prophet assures guarantee of its truth.

All Prophets taught the same religion: to recognize God the Creator, to submit to His will and obey Him. They also informed us of the life after death. The Prophets differed only in their method of teaching and the extent of God-given worldly laws. This depended on the social development and the need of the people at that time. In the Quran, the believers say: "*We make no distinction between any of His messengers.*" (Q* 2:285).

In the beginning the human society was simple and needed simple guidance. As the society developed, more complex social, economic, political and spiritual problems also developed. More elaborate guidance was then needed.

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When we send our children to the school for the first time, the teacher teaches them A, B, C, 1, 2, and 3. When they have learned them and developed ability to receive higher learning, they are given further instructions. Similarly, the earlier human society was immature and did not have the ability to receive the elaborate and complex guidance from God. Therefore, the guidance was simple but incomplete. Further, the earlier guidance were not recorded properly and later mixed up with human guidance or lost altogether. Because of all these, new prophets had to be sent to guide the humanity.

Messengers of God are often called Prophets. Many people in the past had claimed to be Prophets. When we look into the Holy Scriptures, we notice certain basic characteristics of the true Prophets of God.

Characteristics of Prophet-hood:

1. Morally and intellectually Prophets were the best of the people created by God. After receiving Prophet-hood and God's message, they were infallible.

2. Prophets received revelations from God or His angels in visions and dreams. (B* Numbers 12:6, Q* 53: 3-4).

3. They clearly declared, without any ambiguity, that the **messages they were delivering, were from God and not from them** (B* Exodus 4:28-30; John 14:24 and Ref. 6 –p56).

4. They made prophecies that came to pass (Q* 30:3).

The Holy Bible says: *“When a Prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word which the LORD has not spoken; the Prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you need not be afraid of him.”* (B* Deuteronomy 18:22).

5. Prophets confirmed the past revelations and informed what may come in future. (The last sermon of Prophet Mohammad, B* Mark 10:19 and John 16:12-14).

6. God gave them special powers to perform miracles in the fields in which the society excelled at that time. Only their powers were superior. (Ref. 2- #3637, #3576).

7. Prophets were warners to humanity about the consequences

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of disobeying God's commandments. They also gave glad tidings of God's kindness, mercy and forgiveness.

8. Prophets had absolute trust in God even during the most trying periods of their life, and God sustained them.

9. Works of true Prophets endured.

Mohammad (P*) meets all the above criteria. He also performed many miracles. Muslims do not pay special emphasis on the performance of miracles. Ability to perform miracles is not an absolute criterion for Prophet-hood. Two examples of his miracles are given below:

On one occasion, some pagan Arabs asked Mohammad (P*) to show them a miracle as a sign. He made the moon split into two (Ref. 2- #3637).

In another occasion, Mohammad (P*) was traveling with 1500 companions. They ran out of water, with only a pitcher left. Mohammad (P*) put his hand in the pitcher and water gushed through his fingers. Everyone had enough water to drink and perform ablution. (Ref. 2- #3576).

Today many non-Muslim scholars of the Holy Books acknowledge him as a true Prophet of God.

The life of Mohammad (P*) is an open history. The life of no Prophet was so scrupulously examined and recorded as was done with Mohammad (P*). His followers had meticulously recorded every detail of his public utterances, personal life, and his practices through chains of narrators whose life, honesty, integrity and piety are on record. They have been preserved to this day. The collection of his sayings and practices are called Hadith and Sunna. One can find reliable information on Islam from the Quran, the Hadith, and the Sunna.

Mohammad (P*) was born in 570 AD in the city of Mecca in Arabia at a time when there was not a single school or library in the whole nation. His father died before he was born. According to the Arab custom of those days, he was given to a Bedouin wet mother for nursing. He was returned to his mother at age five. Soon after, his mother died and he was left under the care of his grandfather. Within three years the grandfather also died. He then lived with

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his uncle, looking after his sheep, goats and camels. When he grew older, he worked in his uncle's shop. He remained unlettered and never knew how to read and write.

From the early childhood, people noticed a very remarkable trait in his character. He would not tell lies. This earned him the title "Al Amin" (*The Truthful and Trustworthy*). Even in his later life, none of his worst enemies accused him of telling a lie. He was so truthful and trustworthy that even his enemies used to keep their precious possessions under his care for safekeeping.

At age forty, while meditating in a cave called Hira, angel Gabriel appeared before him and gave the first divine revelation. When he came out of that cave after receiving the revelation, he was an entirely transformed human being. Up to this time, he was simply known as an honest, truthful and trustworthy trader. After receiving the revelation, he became a leader with towering personality, an eloquent orator, a great philosopher, an unmatched reformer, a great sociologist, a judge of highest eminence, a general who never retreated, a theologian, a unique teacher, and a role model of virtue and morality. He was totally obedient to God's commands.

He was extremely kind and forgiving. He never took retaliation against any one for personal reasons. Zaynab, a Jewish woman, put poison in his food. When she was brought before the Prophet and she admitted her guilt, he forgave her (Ref. 4-p372). The people of Mecca made him, his family and followers to starve. Later they sought to kill him. A few years later when Mohammad (P*) conquered Mecca, he forgave them all. He was most humble and modest. Even when he was virtually the king of Arabia in his later life, he lived in a mud house and slept on a palm-leaf mattress. He wore very coarse clothes and ate very simple food. He never sought for personal wealth and left no property to his heirs.

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What the non-Muslims say about Mohammad (P*)

It is expected that your friends will speak good of you and your enemies will speak ill of you, even though it may not be true. However, if your enemies speak extremely high of you, then it is an extraordinary credit to you. The amount of praise and honor that were bestowed on any Prophet by his non-followers cannot match even a fraction of what was showered upon Mohammad (P*) by prominent non-Muslims thinkers. The followings are a few examples.

Michael H. Hart, a non-Muslim, has worked for NASA and is currently a **professor of astronomy and physics** at a college in Maryland, USA. **He has ranked Mohammad (P*) at the top of the list of most influential persons ever born on earth in his book “‘The 100’: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History”**. He wrote: *“My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world’s most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels.”* (P33).

Historian and writer Dr. Stanley Lane-Poole wrote about Mohammad (P*) in the book ‘The Speeches and Table Talk of the Prophet Mohammed’: *“He who, standing alone, braved for years the hatred of his people, is the same who was never the first to withdraw his hand from another clasp; the beloved of children, who never passed a group of little ones without a smile from his wonderful eyes and a kind word for them, sounding all the kinder in that sweet-toned voice ... He was the messenger of the one God; and never to his life’s end did he forget who he was, of the message which was the marrow of his being. He brought his tiding to his people with a grand dignity sprung from the consciousness of his high office together with a most sweet humility whose root lay in the knowledge of his own weakness.”* (Ref. 14 -p21).

Rev. Bosworth Smith wrote: *“Head of the state as well as the Church, he was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without Pope’s pretensions, Caesar without the legions of Caesar: without* (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a palace, without a fixed revenue; if ever any man had the right to say that he ruled by the right divine, it was Mohammed, for he had all the powers without its instruments and without its supports.” (Mohammad and Mohammadanism, p92, Ref. 27 p32).

Thomas Carlyle, famous western author and thinker, was amazed as to *“how one man single handedly, could weld warring tribes and wandering bedouins into a most powerful and civilized nation in less than two decades.”* He further commented, *“The lies, which well-meaning zeal has heaped round this man (Mohammad), are disgraceful to ourselves only.”* - (Heroes and Hero-worship, Thomas Carlyle- Ref. 7-p19).

Nobel laureate George Bernard Shaw said: *“I have studied him, the wonderful man and in my opinion far from being anti-Christ, he must be called the Savior of Humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to assume dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it much needed peace and happiness.”* (The Genuine Islam, Singapore. Vol. 1, No. 81936, Ref. 7-p16).

English writer Major A. G. Leonard wrote in his book “Islam, Her Moral and Spiritual Value”: *“A man not only great but one of the greatest - i.e. truest - men that humanity has ever produced. Great, i.e., not simply as a prophet but as a patriot and a statesman: a material as well as a spiritual builder who constructed a great nation, a great empire, and more even than all these, a still greater Faith.”* (Ref. 14 -p22).

Mahatma Gandhi wrote: *“I wanted to know the best of one who holds today undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind. ... I became more than convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the schedule of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self effacement of the prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle.”* (Ref. 7 -p18).

English author W. Montgomery Watt wrote: *“His readiness to undergo persecutions for his beliefs, the high moral character of*

the men who believed in him and looked up to him as leader, and the greatness of his ultimate achievement- all argue his fundamental integrity. To suppose Muhammad an impostor raises more problems than it solves. Moreover, none of the great figures of history is so poorly appreciated in the west as Muhammad.” (Mohammad at Mecca, p52, Ref. 27 p32).

James A. Michener wrote in Reader’s Digest “*At Muhammad’s own death an attempt was made to deify him, but the man who was to become his administrative successor killed the hysteria with one of the noblest speeches in religious history: “If there are any among you who worshipped Muhammad, he is dead. But if it is God you worshipped, He lives for ever.”* (Reader’s Digest, American Edition, May 1955).

French poet historian and biographer Alphonse de LaMartaine wrote in the book, ‘*Historie de la Turquie*’: “*Never has a man undertaken a work so far beyond human power with so feeble means, for he had in the conception as well as in the execution of such a great design no other instrument than himself, and no other aid, except a handful of men living in a corner of the desert. ... If greatness of purpose, smallness of means, and astounding results are the criteria of human genius, who could dare to compare any great men in modern history to Mohammad? ... On the basis of a book, every letter of which has become law, he created a spiritual nationality, which has blended together peoples of every tongue and of every race. ... Philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, warrior, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational dogmas, of a cult without images; the founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire, that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask: is there any man greater than he?*” (Ref. 14 -p22).

Mohammad (P*) never claimed credit for the superb guidance he gave for the salvation of humanity. He said, “*I am a human being like yourselves. I have not brought anything to you of my own accord. It has been revealed to me by God. ... All the wonderful achievements, which stand in my credit in your eyes, all the laws I have given, all the principles I have spoken of, none of them is from me. I find myself totally incompetent for producing such*

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things. I look to divine guidance in all matters. Whatever He wills, I do, whatever He directs I proclaim.” (Ref. 6 -p56). What a remarkable example of honesty, integrity, and humility! Through this extraordinary human being, God chose to reveal His final revelation for humanity, the Quran.



“Mohammad must be called the Savior of Humanity”.

Nobel laureate George Bernard Shaw



“As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask: is there any man greater than he?”

Alphonse de LaMartaine
(French poet historian)



“The lies, which well-meaning zeal has heaped round this man (Mohammad), are disgraceful to ourselves only”
(Heroes and Hero-worship, Thomas Carlyle)



Quran, The Revelation

There is a limitation of knowledge and ability of every human being. No one has full knowledge in any one subject. We do not have any knowledge of the future and the hereafter. Therefore, human guidance for the future and the hereafter cannot be perfect. Only God has perfect knowledge and His guidance can only be perfect. The Most Merciful, kind and loving God has provided us with that guidance through His Prophets. Prophets were the only people who knew what messages they had received from God. For us to receive that guidance correctly, that guidance must have been recorded accurately by the Prophets at the time of revelations and then transmitted to us unaltered.

Suppose a teacher is giving a course on a particular subject and we divide the students into three groups. The first group meticulously writes down every dictation given by the teacher and the teacher checks their accuracy after every dictation. The second group listens to the dictation very carefully but do not write them down. They start to write them down, 30 to 50 years after taking the course. The third group also listens very carefully and, instead of writing them down during their lifetime, tell their children about the course they had taken years ago and the children, in turn, tell their children. After many generations some descendant starts to write down, word for word, what the teacher had taught their great-great-grandfather. Which of the accounts would be most accurate and authentic? One can say without hesitation that it will be the account of the first group.

The Holy Books of the revealed religions are the collections of the divine guidance to humanity. The earlier Holy Books were addressed only to a specific group of people of a specific period. Jesus (P*) said very clearly that he was sent only to the tribes of Israel (B* Matthew 15:24). He also advised his disciples to preach only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (B* Matthew 10:5-6).

Many Holy Books that we have today are not in the language of the Prophets. They are translations. The original spoken words of the Prophets are very important. Translated words may not carry the same meaning.

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There is no authentic recording by the earlier Prophets. They were often transmitted by word of mouth, sometimes for hundreds of years, before being recorded (Ref. 17-p4). In later years, people seeking privilege for social, political, economic and personal reasons mixed them up with false stories, legends, rituals, and man-made laws. Some Holy Books were lost and then rewritten from stories circulating in the community. Consequently, many Holy Scriptures have monumental errors (Ref. 17-p120). A scripture must meet certain criteria before it can be accepted as a Holy Scripture revealed by God.

Criteria of revealed Holy Scriptures:

Holy books must be authentic. It means they must be reliable and valid.

(1). God reveals His guidance to humanity through His messengers, called Prophets. Therefore, those who present the guidance to humanity must meet the criteria of true Prophet.

(2). The Prophets must record the messages themselves and verify their accuracy. The recordings of other people not verified by the Prophet will have errors and will not be authentic.

(3). The message must be recorded in the language of the prophet and his people. Some Holy Books, claimed to be revealed by God, were originally written in a foreign language. That means they are really translations and not the original scripture.

(4). No one must alter the revelations after they had been recorded and verified by the Prophets.

(5). Authentic old manuscripts in the language of the Prophet, in which they were revealed, must be available for future verification. The above five criteria will make the scripture reliable.

(6). God has perfect knowledge of everything. Therefore, His revealed guidance must not have contradictions or discrepancies.

(7). A revealed book from God must contain materials that can only come from Him and is outside the bounds of human knowledge and ability to produce them. The last two criteria will make the scripture valid that God has revealed it.

The criteria of prophet-hood have been discussed in the earlier chapter. Mohammad meets all the criteria of prophet-hood.

Authenticity of Quran:

The Holy Quran meets all the seven criteria mentioned above.

(1). God has revealed the Holy Quran to Prophet Mohammad (P*). He confirms this in the Quran: “(This is) the revelation of the book in which there is no doubt, - from the Lord of the world” (Q* 32:2). God also addresses Mohammad as prophet and many non-Muslims nowadays accept Mohammad (P*) as a prophet of God.

(2). Prophet Mohammad (P*) was unlettered but he dictated all the revelations he received from God. Mohammad (P*) is the only Prophet who dictated each and every revelation he had received and then checked their accuracy. God says: “It is for us to collect it and to promulgate it.” (Q* 75:17).

(3). The Holy Quran was recorded in Arabic, the language of the prophet and the people. Some Holy books were recorded in a language other than that of the Prophet. They are actually translations.

(4). Memorization: Muslims are required to recite some of the verses from the Quran during the prayer. Therefore, every Muslim memorizes a good number of verses from the Quran, Thousands of Muslims memorized the entire Quran during the life of Prophet Mohammad (P*) and there are millions who still memorize it today. Quran is the only Holy Scripture, which is memorized in its entirety by millions of people. The earliest Muslims also recorded the number of each alphabet in each verse. Further, Quran always remained in the hands of the people, not in the hands of handful of priests. Therefore, it is not possible to alter the verses of Quran. God said in the Quran: “It is for us to collect it and to promulgate it.” (Q* 75:17).

“We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and we will assuredly guard it (from corruption).” (Q* 15:9). God surely has guarded the Quran. No one has altered even one word in this Holy Book.

Sir William Muir, a very harsh critic of Islam, wrote, “There is probably in the world no other book which has remained twelve centuries (now fourteen centuries) with so pure a text.” (Ref. 14 - p10).

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(5). On the second year of Prophet's death, Caliph Abu Bakr ordered one of Prophet's principal scribe Zaid bin Thabit to write down the entire Quran in the book form. Zaid meticulously collected all the written pieces left by Mohammad (P*) as well as those in possession of his companions who used to write down the verses for their personal use. Then with the help of all those who memorized the entire Quran from the Prophet, he verified each and every verse, in public, and wrote them down in the exact order in which they were recited by the Prophet. The completed copy was called "The Mashaf". Othman, the third Caliph, made many copies from this original. He then sent the authenticated copies to the different regions of the countries under Muslim administration. (Ref. 2, V 6-p477-479). Some of those original copies still exist, one in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and one in Topkapi museum, Istanbul, Turkey. (Ref. 5 -p35). Today's Quran, word for word, is exact copy of the original (Ref. 17 -p130-131). No one has altered one word in that book. Today Quran is the only authentic revealed Holy Book in the world that remains unaltered. No other holy scripture can claim this. Islam is the religion of this authentic unaltered Holy Book.

(6). God has perfect knowledge of everything. Therefore, His revealed guidance must not have contradictions or discrepancies. God says in the Quran: "*Do they not consider the Quran (with care)? Had it been from other than God, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy...*" (Q* 4: 82).

Dr. Maurice Bucaille, a Christian physician and a scholar of religion from France, writes in his book "The Bible, The Quran And Science": "Whereas monumental errors are to be found in the Bible, I could not find a single error in the Quran." (Ref. 17 - P120).

In the preface of the 'Holy Bible' (1980), it reads, "*Yet the King James Version has grave defects. ... that these defects are so many and so serious as to call for revision of the English translation.*" This means that the Holy Book was either not revealed by God or altered later on by man. There is no error or discrepancy in the Quran.

(7). Quran contains materials that can only come from God. Those are outside the bounds of human knowledge and their ability to produce them.

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God challenges humanity to reproduce a book similar to Quran or even a part of it.

“This Quran is not such as can be produced by anyone other than God.” (Q* 10:37).

“Say, If the whole of mankind ... were to get together to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce the like thereof...” (Q* 17:88). No Holy Scripture like The Quran has ever been produced.

God also says: *“And if you are in doubt as to what We revealed from time to time to our servant, then produce a “sura” (chapter) like there unto; ... But if you cannot - and of a surety you cannot - then fear the fire ... which is prepared for those who reject Faith.”* (Q* 2:23 - 24).

The Quran has 114 Suras. The smallest sura has only three verses containing only ten words. No “sura”, not even the smallest one, has ever been matched.

The Quran is not a book of science but there are many verses in the Quran referring to different branches of science. The scientific information was not known to any human being in those days. Each one of the verses of Quran, referring to science, is correct. A few examples are given below.

“Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were joined together (as one unit of creation), before we clove them asunder?” (Q* 21: 30).

This is today’s accepted **‘Big Bang theory of Creation of Universe’**. **Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson** confirmed the Big Bang Theory in 1964 and won the **Nobel Prize** in 1978.

In 1929, **Edwin P. Hubble**, an astronomer at Caltech, discovered that the universe is expanding. He never won the Nobel Prize because he died unexpectedly, in 1953.

The Holy Quran says: *“We have built the heaven with might, and it is We who make the vast (universe) extent (thereof).”* (Q* 51:47).

In ancient times, we believed that earth was the center of the universe and it was flat. In the 16th century **Copernicus** found out that the earth was neither flat nor was it the center of the universe, rather it was round and moved in an orbit. **Galileo** confirmed Copernicus’ view but the Church forced him to recant it in 1633

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AD. One thousand years earlier, the Holy Quran revealed: “(God is) the One who created the night, the day, the sun, and the moon. Each one is traveling in an orbit with its motion.” (Q* 21:33 & Ref. 17 -p158).

Professor Keith L. Moore is the professor of anatomy and Embryology at the University of Toronto, Canada. He is also the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He is the author of the book of embryology titled “The Developing Human” which received the ‘Best Book of the Year’ award by a single author. He was surprised to learn the details of the embryonic human development described in the Quran. Doctors started to learn about human embryonic development during the last 150 years. In 1981, while giving a lecture at an international conference, he agreed that such detail description on human development within the mother’s womb, during the period of Mohammad, could only come from God. He then embraced Islam.

The Quran says: “*Man We did create from quintessence (of clay); then We placed him as (a drop of) sperm in a place of rest, firmly fixed; Then We made the sperm into a clot of congealed blood (alaqat); then of that clot We made a (foetus) lump; then We made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then We developed out of it another creature. So blessed be God, the best to create.*” (Q* 23:12-14):

Professor Frank Press is the co-author of the book ‘The Earth’, which is a reference book on geology. He was the President of National Academy of Sciences of U.S.A. and the Science advisor to President of U.S.A., Jimmy Carter. He says in the book ‘The Earth’ that mountain has deep underlying roots, which is 5 to 10 times deeper than its height. Cailleux also confirms this in the book ‘Anatomy of the Earth’. God says in the Quran:

“*Have We not made the earth as wide expanse, and the mountains as pegs?*” (Q* 78:6-7). Pegs have small tops and very long shafts. It is a beautiful description for the common people to understand.

Modern theory of Plate Tectonics holds that mountains work as stabilizers of the earth. It is like a small piece of metal that we put in a car wheel to ‘balance’ it so that the wheel would not wobble.

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God says in the Quran:

“And He has set up on the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with you; and rivers and roads; that ye may guide yourselves.” (Q 16:15).*

Modern science has discovered that when the Mediterranean Sea water (warmer and more saline) enters into Atlantic Sea (colder and less saline) over Gibraltar sill they remain separate for a long distance. God says in the Quran:

“He has set free the two seas (bodies of flowing water), meeting together: between them is a barrier which they do not transgress.” (Q 55:19-20).*

The same thing occurs when the sweet water of the river enters into the salt water of the sea. God says in the Quran:

“It is He Who has let free the two bodies of flowing water: one palatable and sweet, and the other salty and bitter; yet has He made a barrier between them, a partition that is forbidden to be passed.” (Q 25:53).*

How on earth, was it possible for an unlettered person to reveal the scientific mysteries thousand years ahead when no man on earth had any knowledge of them, unless God revealed them to him?

Dr. Maurice Bucaille, a Christian physician and a scholar of religion from France, wrote: *“The above observation makes the hypothesis advanced by those who see Muhammad as the author of Quran untenable. How could a man, from being illiterate, become the most important author, in terms of literary merits, in the whole of Arabic literature? How could he then pronounce truths of a scientific nature that no other human being could possibly have developed at that time, and all this without making the slightest error in his pronouncement on the subject?” (Ref. 17 - P125).*

There are hundreds of such verses in the Quran, which are scientific in nature. Each one of them is correct. When all the verses mentioned above are taken together, there can be no doubt in a rational mind about the authenticity and the divine source of the Quranic revelations.

The Quran is not like any other book in the world. Pre-planned human-authored books have a classical preface, an introduction, a

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beginning and an end. Subject matters are arranged, grouped and discussed in a humanly logical and sequential order. None of these is found in the Holy Quran.

The Quran is a unique book; it is a Divine guidance for all humanity. In it God addresses the humanity either directly or through Mohammad (P*). Quran makes it absolutely clear, without any shadow of doubt or ambiguity, that God Almighty is the Creator, the Master and the Sovereign, the human beings are the created, the servants. They must worship none but Him and conduct themselves according to His guidance. God has sent man on this earth as His Vicegerent for a fixed period. This life is a period of test. At the end of this life, all will be resurrected and there will be a 'Day of Judgment' by God. Man will either be rewarded by granting heaven or condemned to hell depending on how man has lived his life on this earth.

The Quran gives man clear criteria between right and wrong, good and bad, and holy and evil. It gives guidance to humanity in every sphere of life so that they may be successful in this life as well as in the hereafter. It also spells out clearly what will condemn them to hell.

The Divine revelations continued for twenty-three years. In the initial revelations, God commanded Mohammad (P*) to proclaim unity of God, life in the hereafter, individual accountability for their deeds in this life, a Day of Judgment followed by reward or punishment. The immediate addressee of the revelations were the local Arabs (the pagans, the atheists, the unlettered nomads, the Jews and the Christians) and through them the rest of the humanity. The verses were short and direct, in a language that is simple but touched the heart of the people. There are revelations, which were mostly explanations and answers to the numerous questions raised by the pagans, the Jews and the Christians. The parables given are from their day-to-day life and local history. Different people repeatedly asked similar questions at different times and they were answered. So, the same subject is found discussed in several places with slightly different perspective.

As the number of Muslims increased, social, political, and economic problems appeared. The verses of that period reflect God's (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

guidance for the solutions of those problems. The Quran invites humanity to learn lessons from the environment, the nature, and from the events of history. It gives codes of conduct at the time of affluence or poverty, war or peace, and in victory or defeat. **Quran does not lower God to the level of human being nor does it raise man to the level of God. The way the Quran presents the fundamental and eternal moral principals; there is no parallel in the human history.** It lays down laws, gives glad tidings of God's love, mercy and forgiveness. It also admonishes the unbelievers and warns them of the consequences of disobedience.

The order, in which the verses and chapters are arranged in the Quran, is according to the instruction of angel Gabriel. After every revelation, angel Gabriel would give instruction as to where to place those verses. The verses were then read and memorized in that order.

To fully understand the verses, and appreciate the depth of knowledge and lessons that these verses provide, one need to know the background and the circumstances under which they were revealed. When one does this research, he or she, very soon, becomes convinced of the divine source of Quranic revelations.



*“Whereas monumental errors are to be found in the Bible,
I could not find a single error in the Quran”*

Dr. Maurice Bucaille (Ref. 17 – P120).



What the non-Muslims say about Quran

English Christian historian **Edward Gibbon** wrote: *“There is no book in the world in which God has been made such a theme of discourse as in the Holy Quran. It is impossible to conceive aught holier, nobler, purer, more sublime, more perfect, more supreme and more worthy of the Godhead than the God whom Mohammad worshipped. The ideal cannot be improved upon: one attribute taken from it would mar its perfection, and not one could be added to it that would not be superfluous. Such is the lofty conception of Mohammad’s God as presented in the Quran. He has boldly and indelibly impressed the notion of the strictest monotheism upon the pages of history and towards this notion rational man cannot but drift surely if slowly.”* (Ref. 26 -p76).

Dr. Steingass, prominent western thinker, wrote: *“If it (The Quran) spoke so powerfully and convincingly to the hearts of the hearers as to weld hitherto centrifugal and antagonistic elements into one compact and well organized body, animated by ideas far beyond those which had until now ruled the Arabian mind, then its eloquence was perfect, simply because it created a civilized nation out of savage tribes, and shot a fresh woof into the old warp of history.”* (Ref. 7 –p25).

Goethe wrote: *“However often we turn to it (The Quran) at first disgusting us each time afresh, it soon attracts, astounds, and at the end enforces our reverence ... Thus this book will go on exercising through all ages a most potent influence.”* (Ref. 7 -p24).

Writer and thinker Arthur J. Arberry wrote in ‘The Koran Interpreted’: *“I have been at pain to study the intricate and richly varied rhythms which - apart from the message itself - constitute the Koran’s undeniable claim to rank amongst the greatest literary masterpieces of mankind ... This very characteristic feature ‘that inimitable symphony’ as the believing Pickthall described his Holy Book, ‘the very sound of which move men to tears and ecstasy’ has been almost totally ignored by previous translators; it is therefore not surprising that what they have wrought sounds dull and flat indeed in comparison with the splendidly decorated original.”*

(Ref. 7 -p26).

The total number of verses in the Quran is 6,236. The following few verses from the Quran will help you understand why hundreds of thousands of people are embracing Islam freely every year.

Selected verses from Quran:

● *“Say, God is witness between me and you; this Quran hath been revealed to me by inspiration, that I may warn you and all whom it reaches.”* (Q* 6:19).

● *“Praise be to God, who hath sent to His servant the Book, and hath allowed therein no crookedness.”* (Q* 18:1).

● *“Had We sent down this Quran on a mountain, verily, thou woudst have seen it humble itself and cleave asunder for fear of God.”* (Q* 59:21).

● *“Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from Error,”* (Q* 2:256).

● *“Say ye: ‘we believe in God, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and given to (all) Prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them and we bow to God (in Islam).”* (Q* 2:136).

● *“Establish regular prayer, enjoin what is just, and forbid what is wrong:”* (Q* 31:17).

● *“God is never unjust in the least degree:”* (Q* 4:40).

● *“And when you judge between man and man, that you judge with justice:”* (Q* 4:58).

● *“O you who believe! Stand out firmly for God, as witness to fair dealing, and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is next to piety:”* (Q* 5:9).

● *“O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor:”* (Q* 4:135).

● *“Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you.”* (Q* 49:13).

● *“O ye who believe! The law of equality is prescribed to you...”*

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What the non Muslim say about Quran

(Q* 2:178).

● *“You are forbidden to inherit women against their will.”* (Q* 4:19).

● *“The recompense for an injury is an injury equal thereto (in degree): but if a person forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is due from God:”* (Q* 42:40).

● *“... Whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind.”* (Q* 5:32).

● *“And cover not truth with falsehood, nor conceal the truth when you know (what it is).”* (Q* 2:42).

● *“Do ye enjoin right conduct on the people, and forget (to practice it) yourselves, and yet ye study the Scripture? Will ye not understand?”* (Q* 2:44).

● *Satan will say: “I had no authority over you except to call you, but ye listened to me, then reproach not me, but reproach your own souls.”* (Q* 14:22).

● *“Obey God, obey the Apostle, and those charged with authority among you.”* (Q* 4:59).

● *“Thy Lord hath decreed that ye worship none but Him, and that ye be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in thy life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor: And out of kindness lower to them the wing of humility, and say ‘ My Lord! bestow on them thy mercy even as they cherished me in childhood.”* (Q* 17:23-24).

● *“When a (courteous) greeting is offered you, meet it with a greeting still more courteous, or (at least) of equal courtesy.”* (Q* 4:86).

● *“No bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another.”* (Q* 6:164).

● *“Verily, if any of you did evil in ignorance, and thereafter repented, and amended (his conduct), lo! He is Oft forgiving and Most Merciful.”* (Q* 6:54).

● *“Despair not of the Mercy of God: for God forgives all sins:*

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for He is Oft-forgiving and Most Merciful. Turn ye to your Lord (in repentance) and bow to His (will), before the penalty comes on you: after that ye shall not be helped.” (Q 39:53-54).*

- *“If any one disputes ... say ‘come! Let us gather together, our sons and your sons, our women and your women, ourselves and yourselves: then let us earnestly pray, and invoke the curse of God on those who lie!” (Q* 3: 61).*

Alleged copying from the Bible:

There are many stories, which are common in the Torah, the Bible and the Quran. Because of this, many Christians and Jews allege that Mohammad (P*) had copied them from their Holy Books. The Muslims, the Christians and the Jews have common ancestors, and therefore the stories of their ancestors must be the similar.

Mohammad (P*) did not know how to read and write. The Torah and the Bible were not even translated into Arabic by that time. Jews and Christians were his declared enemies. Christian publications as well as the Bible admit that there are innumerable mistakes in the Bible (KJV Bible- preface p1, and Jeremiah 8:8). How can one think that the Jews and Christians helped him to copy their Holy Books for a period of 23 years to write down a Holy Book without any mistake? If they could do so why did they not correct the thousands of mistakes in their own Holy Books? Why did not Mohammad (P*) copy any of those mistakes?

There are many stories of incest and adultery committed by the Prophets in the Bible. It is incredible to find that Prophets of God, who were role models for the followers, committing incest and adultery. No such story is found in the Quran. A copy should reflect some of those incredible stories. If one wants to find what copying means compare 2 King chapter 19 with Isaiah chapter 37 of the Holy Bible. It is copied word for word, coma for coma and period for period.

The highest honor of women is given to mother of Jesus (P*) in the Quran. There is also a chapter in the Quran named after Mary to honor her (chapter 19). If Mohammad (P*) would be the author of Quran, he would have given that honor to his own mother. He had no hand in the creation of Quran. He had to dictate what was (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

revealed to him.

Quran accepts all the Prophets mentioned in the earlier Holy Books of Torah and Gospels. Quran is the only revealed Holy Book that accepts the miraculous birth of Jesus (P*). No other Holy Book accepts this. In the Jewish Holy Book of Talmud, Jesus (P*) is described as “A Bastard of an adulteress.” (Yeb. IV 3; 49a). May God forgive me for quoting this blasphemy from the Jewish Holy Book. **It should be abundantly clear now to a rational mind that the Quran is a divine revelation and not copied from the Bible as has been alleged by some non-Muslims.**



*“Let there be no compulsion in religion,
Truth stands clear from error.”*

(Quran, 2:256).



*“Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is
(he who is) the most righteous of you”*

(Quran 49:13).



Islam, The Eternal Guidance

The word ‘Islam’ means willful submission to the will and law of God. One who willingly submits to the commandments of God is a Muslim. The other meaning of the word ‘Islam’ is peace. Therefore, Islam as a religion means ‘Peace through willful submission to God’. The news media of the western world often reports ‘Islamic terrorists’. These two words are mutually contradictory. One who is peaceful cannot be terrorist, and one who is terrorist cannot be peaceful. It is like telling “a truthful liar”. The same western news media, when reporting on Northern Ireland, do not say ‘Christian terrorists’.

Every creation in the universe submits to the law of God. Every cell of our body was created according to the physical and chemical laws laid down by God. As such, by definition, every person is born as Muslim. When we use our God-given intelligence to deny our creator or refuse to submit to His commandments, we become non-Muslims. All Prophets willingly submitted to the will of God. The Holy Bible says that before Jesus (P*) was captured by the Roman soldiers, he fervently begged God to spare his life saying: “Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt.” (B* Mark 14:35-36).

Islam is the universal religion for all humanity. It is traditionally described under the headings of five pillars of Islam. This is over simplification. Pillars alone do not complete a house. There are many obligatory essentials in Islam. They are:

1. **Faith or Iman**
2. **Prayers or Salat**
3. **Fasting or sawm**
4. **Poor due or Zakat**
5. **Pilgrimage or Hajj**
6. **Excellence in moral conduct and achievements**
7. **Enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong**
8. **Establishment of Justly Balanced Model Community**

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9. Establishment of Justice, equity, and eradication of injustice and oppression

10. Fulfilling one's duty

11. Refraining from falsehood and backbiting

12. Invite all to the way of God.

1. Faith or Iman:

Iman or faith is the foundation of Islam. This pillar consists of a set of beliefs and the remaining pillars are actions and practices reflecting the beliefs.

Iman is the unshakable belief, without a shadow of doubt, arising out of knowledge and firm conviction.

- 1). Faith in 'The existence of one and only true God with all His attributes',
- 2). Faith in 'All the true Prophets of the past, Mohammad (P*) being the last Prophet',
- 3). Faith in 'All the revealed unaltered Holy Books of God',
- 4). Faith in 'The angels of God',
- 5). Faith in 'Life after death & the Day of judgment', &
- 6). Faith in 'Destiny'

Mohammad (P*) said: *"Faith is that which resides firmly in the heart and which is proven by deeds."*

- 1) Faith in the existence of one and only true God with all His absolute attributes:

A Muslim must believe in God with all His attributes as described in the chapter titled 'God the Creator' and obey His commandments. **Believing in God without any doubt and obeying His commandments without any hesitation, guides a person to follow the path that leads to eternal life and salvation.**

- 2) Faith in all the true Prophets of the past, Mohammad (P*) being the last Prophet:

All the true Prophets of God are Prophets of Islam. Prophets

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were special people chosen by God. They were protected by God and were sinless, truthful, and righteous. The guidance from a Prophet assures guarantee of its truth. **All Prophets taught the same religion: to recognize God, our creator, to submit to His will and obey Him.** A Muslim must believe and accept all of the Prophets. He must not make distinction between any of God's messengers (Q* 2:136 & 285). He must show respect to every Prophet of God, even when the followers of other Prophets do not show any respect to the Prophet of Islam. You will not find a Muslim on the earth who will say one disrespectful word against Moses, Jesus (P*) or any other Prophet of God. Besides Christianity, Islam is the only religion on earth, which accepts the miraculous birth of Jesus (P*) in its Holy Book Quran. A Muslim must add, "Peace and Blessings of God be upon him" after pronouncing the name of every Prophet. Muslims show reverence to Moses (P*) and Jesus (P*). Unfortunately, many of their followers have not been able to show respect to the Prophet of Islam.

Mohammad (P*) is the last of the prophets and there will be no more Prophet until the Day of Judgment.

3) Faith in all the revealed Holy Books of God:

Holy Books of revealed religions are guidance from God to humanity. A Muslim must believe in all the revelations of God to the earlier prophets.

Unfortunately, the earlier Prophets did not record the earlier revelations properly. In later years, they were mixed up with legends, false stories, pagan rituals, and man-made laws. The earlier Holy Books did not have complete guidance for humanity. They were addressed only to a specific group of people of a specific period in time. In addition, they were lost and then re-written from stories circulating in the communities. What we have today are not in the language of the Prophets. They all are translations.

A Muslim is obliged to believe in the existence of Holy Books from God in the past. All commandments and stories that agree with the accurately recorded and unaltered Holy Book of Quran, is acceptable to him. As the previous Holy Books were not preserved properly, the accurately recorded and preserved Holy Book of Quran should be the standard for determining the accuracy and authenticity

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of the contents of other revealed Holy Books.

4) Faith in the angels of God and Jinn:

Angels are invisible creation of God, created from spirit. They do not have any freedom of choice and are incapable of disobedience. In contrast to the angels, there is another invisible creation of God called Jinn. They are created from smokeless fire and have freedom of choice like the human. Satan belongs to the class of Jinn.

5) Faith in “Life after death” & “Day of Judgment”:

A very firm and unshakable belief in life after death and Day of Judgment is the single most important factor that determines the behavior of a person in this life.

There is always some extra effort and hardship on every person who wants to lead a righteous and just life on this earth. If a person is told that, on the “Day of Judgment”, he will not be accountable for all his deed on this earth, will he care to undergo the hardship of a righteous and just life? If he is further told that someone else has already paid in advance for all his past and future sins, will there be any limit to his unjust and immoral behavior on this earth? If one looks at the life of people around him, who do not believe in the accountability on the “Day of Judgment”, he will notice how immoral life these people lead and how unjust their deeds are.

Many of the evils of the society stem from the belief that someone else has already paid in advance for all their sins that they already have committed and will ever commit in the future!

Every person who has firm faith in (1) life after death, (2) Day of Judgment, and (3) accountability for his deed in this life, has to try to live a righteous and just life. He will always try his best to avoid evils and be fair to others. Every pious and righteous person wants to please God. Anything that pleases God is good.

One day this world will end. There will be resurrection of the dead, followed by the Day of Judgment. People will be rewarded, forgiven or punished according to their deed in this worldly life and will end up in heaven or hell in the after life. The precise time and date of the end of the world is known only to God.

6) Faith in Destiny:.

Muslims believe that everything in the universe that has happened or will happen, are within the knowledge of God and with His permission. We have a freedom of choice. Many things will depend on our choice. Whatever we shall choose and the results, good or bad, will depend on our choice. We may ask for worldly things or forgiveness. God may grant them or may not. All are already within the knowledge of God and He permits them to happen. All God's decrees are predestined, inescapable and inevitable.

2. Prayer or Salat:

Worship of God was ordained for all the Prophets and the peoples in the past. Islamic concept of worship is very wide. Any act with the intention of pleasing God is a form of worship. All things that please God are good. If you lead a truthful and righteous life according to the laws of God, help the poor, and feed the hungry, you are worshipping God.

Besides these acts of worship, there are daily prayers performed five times a day during specific hours, according to the instructions given by Mohammad (P*). The various positions and postures during the prayers are external expressions of one's submission to God. Sincere prayers five times a day, keep one away from evil deeds. How many times can a person sincerely ask forgiveness from God for his evil thoughts and deed, then after the prayer go and repeat them again only to ask forgiveness at the next prayer? Very soon, he will start feeling ashamed of his actions and will quit doing evil things. In Islam the one and only true God is worshipped in the pure form. God belongs to no particular nation or tribe. Many religions claim worshipping one God, but in practice, in one form or the other, they worship God's creation.

3. Fasting or Sawm:

Fasting has been prescribed by God. In the Holy Quran God said: *“O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn self-restraint.”* (Q* 2:183). In the Holy Torah God said: *“Yet even now, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;”* (B* Joel 2:12). In the Holy Gospel Jesus (P*) advised people to fast not to be seen by other people but to please God (B* Matthew 6:18). Jesus (P*) himself fasted for forty days (B* Matthew 4:2).

Fasting is obligatory for the Muslims during the month of Ramadan, the 9th month of the Islamic lunar calendar. This is a holy month. The divine revelations of Quran to Mohammad (P*) started in this month.

During fasting, Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and union with spouses from dawn to dusk. They refrain from these daily necessities solely to obey God. It is a test of one’s sincerity to God. This one-month of moral training brings people closer to God and develops God consciousness in them. It teaches them self control, discipline and patience.

For every good deed, God reserves a reward for the person. In the month of fasting, this reward is multiplied manifold (Ref. 2, vol. 3, #118). So everyone is encouraged to do as much good deed as possible in this month. After practicing good works for a month, it gets into one’s habit. It is therefore a training exercise for the people.

While fasting, one feels the hunger pain. One then appreciates the sufferings that our less fortunate brothers and sisters go through, when they have to live without the daily necessities. It also makes one realize that it is the duty of those who have, to share their fortune with those who do not have enough.

Fasting develops a keen sense of brotherhood among the people who fast. It also cleanses our soul.

4. Poor due or Zakat:

Every Muslim is obliged to pay annually 2.5 % of his savings to his less fortunate fellow human beings. This is a 'purification-of-wealth tax'. This money is to be spent for the financial benefits of the needy, especially those who hesitate to ask for help. Your poor close relatives get the first consideration. Thereafter the poor in your neighborhood, then those in the society, the unemployed, the stranded traveler, the new converts abandoned by their relatives, and those who ask for help. This is to be done very honorably and without expectation of any worldly gain from them. Such willful spending of one's personal wealth to obey God for the benefit of the needy, broadens one's heart and gets rid of miserly selfish attitudes. One day when the call for greater sacrifice in the path of God comes, they come forward without hesitation.

5. Pilgrimage or Hajj:

Hajj is pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia for the worship of one true God at Kaba and nearby Arafat. Kaba is the first 'House of God', built by Abraham (P*), for the worship of one true God. Hajj is an obligation for a Muslim, once in a lifetime, provided the person is financially and physically able to do so. It is a great spiritual journey. It demands absolute sincerity, intense devotion, control of passion, refraining from bloodshed and everything evil, and leading a very pious and righteous life. **Every male, king or peasant, rich or poor, black or white, wears two pieces of white un-stitched clothes to cover their body. They all stand, side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder, and perform all the rituals.** People from all walks of life and from all regions of the world; take this spiritual journey to Mecca in the true spirit of Islamic brotherhood. Nowhere on earth do so many people gather together for the worship of one true God. This leaves a very deep and lasting spiritual impression on the heart and soul of every person who performs the Hajj.

6. Excellence in Moral conduct and achievements:

God said in the Holy Quran that among the animal creation He created man in the best of the moulds (Q* 95:4). Then addressing the Muslims He said: “*You are the best of the peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in God.*” (Q* 3:110). God also said: “*Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you.*” (Q* 49:13). Therefore, every Muslim must exert his utmost to achieve the maximum of his potential and conduct himself in such a way that he is a role model for others. There is no place for mediocrity in Islam.

7. Enjoining what is good and forbidding what is wrong:

It is the duty of every Muslim to enjoin what is good and forbid what is wrong. God ordains it in the Quran: “*Establish regular prayer, enjoin what is just, and forbid what is wrong:*” (Q* 31:17).

8. Establishment of Justly Balanced Model Community:

Extremes of behavior or actions on either side are detrimental to the well being of the community and the society. Islam prefers middle of the ground course. “*Thus have We made of you a community justly balanced, that you might be witnesses over the nations and the Apostle a witness over yourselves;*” (Q* 2:143).

9. Establishment of Justice, equity, and eradication of injustice and oppression:

God says in the Quran:

“*God is never unjust in the least degree.*” (Q* 4:40) and He commands Muslims to do justice.

“*And when you judge between man and man, that you judge with justice:*” (Q* 4:58).

He further says: “*O you who believe! stand out firmly for God, as witness to fair dealing, and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is next to piety.*” (Q* 5:9).

“*O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor:*” (Q* 4:135).

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(10) Fulfilling one's duty:

The primary duty of every human being is to obey his Creator, God, and then His messengers (Q* 4:59). Man must obey them willingly and without any hesitation. Mohammad (P*) is the last messenger of God. His next duty is to his parents (Q* 17:23). This is followed by duty to others. People have right on us. It is our duty to give people their rights.

11. Refraining from falsehood and backbiting:

God said in the Holy Quran, "*Cover not the truth with falsehood, nor conceal the truth when you know (what it is).*" (Q* 2:42). God also says in the Holy Quran "*Woe to every (kind of) scandal-monger and backbiter...*" (Q* 104:1). "*O ye who believe, avoid suspicion as much (as possible): for suspicion in some cases is a sin; and spy not on each other, nor speak ill of each other behind their backs.*" (Q* 49:12). Here scandal mongering and backbiting are condemned in the strongest terms. Abdullah Yusuf Ali writes in his Quran commentary 'Scandal-mongering, talking or suggesting evil of men or women by word or innuendo, or behavior, or mimicry, or sarcasm, or insult; detracting from their character behind their backs, even if the things suggested are true, where motive is evil.'

12. Invite all to the way of God:

God orders Muslims to invite the humanity to the way of God without any force and coercion.

"Let there arise out of you a band of people, inviting to all that is good, and enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: They are the ones to attain felicity." (Q* 3:104).

"Invite (all) to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: For thy Lord knows best, who has strayed from his path, and who receive guidance." (Q* 16:125).

"Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from Error;" (Q* 2:256).

Festivals

There are two major festivals in Islam, namely Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha. Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated after the completion of fasting in the month of Ramadan, the 9th month of Islamic lunar calendar. Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated two months and ten days later. This marks the occasion when Prophet Abraham (P*) was willing to sacrifice his only son to please God. Prophet Abraham (P*) is very highly respected by the followers of the three monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Jihad

Because of frequent misinterpretation of the word ‘Jihad’ in the western media, a little clarification of the word is necessary. **Jihad means an extra effort in the path of God.** When one wants to lead a righteous and virtuous life, there is constant struggle against the evil desires within oneself. When one wants to raise a family in a less-than-desirable environment, he or she has to exert extra efforts constantly against the evil influence of the society. One often exerts extra efforts to please or obey God. All these are acts of Jihad.

If war is waged against a people, God permits them to fight. God says in the Holy Quran *“To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight), because they are wronged; and verily, God is Most Powerful for their aid.”* (Q* 22:39). So if an Islamic state is attacked from outside, it is the duty of all Muslims to exert their utmost to repulse the attack.

If people are oppressed or persecuted and they ask for help, it is the duty of Muslims to help them and rescue them from tyranny and oppression. One must not oppress others nor allow oppression by others. God says in Quran:

“And why should ye not fight in the cause of God and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)? Men, women, and children, whose cry is ‘Our Lord! Rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from Thee one who will protect; and raise for us from Thee one who will help.’” (Q* (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

4:75). These are also acts of Jihad.

Often times it is said that Islam spread by the power of sword. This is not true and is a statement of the ignorant. God says in the Quran: **“Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from error”** (Q* 2:256). Quran bases its authority on truth. Human beings have a natural tendency to accept the truth, unless he or she makes worldly profits from falsehood.

In the early years of Islam, Muslims conquered many territories in response to their defense, to relieve oppression, to remove tyrants from power and to establish rule of justice. However, people were not forced to accept Islam. It is against the principle of Islam. People accepted Islam in great numbers because of the truth it holds and the complete code of life it presents for the salvation of humanity. No Muslim army ever went to Indonesia. Only a few traders visited that land. Within a short period, the whole nation embraced Islam.

There is no Muslim army occupying any country in the western world today. Not a single TV or Radio station, or a national newspaper is owned or controlled by the Muslims in U.S.A. Billions-of-dollars-of-worth media constantly air negative programs and publish write-ups against Islam and Muslims. There are no organized Islamic missionary institutions in U.S.A. Still Islam is the most acceptable religion of the righteous people, not only in U.S.A. and Europe, but also in the whole world. Every soul yearns for truth. It is the truth and authenticity of the Quranic revelations that convinces hundreds of thousands of non-Muslims all over the world to embrace Islam every year. The new Muslims include priests, pastors, Bishops, doctors, engineers, professors, professionals and common people. It is the light of truth that guides these people to the path of salvation.

Historian and writer De Lacy O’Leary wrote: *“History make it clear however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated.”* (Islam at the Crossroads- p8, and Ref. 7 -p43).

There is a brochure titled ‘Jihad Explained’ published by

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Dr. Amir Ali Ph.D. of The Institute of Islamic Information and Education. It is very informative. He quotes from a study on the spread of Islam by a Christian missionary named T. W. Arnold. It reads:

“... of any organized attempt to force the acceptance of Islam on the non-Muslim population, or of any systematic persecution intended to stamp out the Christian religion, we hear nothing. Had the caliphs chose to adopt either course of action, they might have swept away Christianity as easily as Ferdinand and Isabella drove Islam out of Spain, or Louis XIV made Protestantism penal in France, or the Jews kept out of England for 350 years. The Eastern Churches in Asia were entirely cut off from communion with the rest of Christendom throughout which no one would have been found to lift a finger on their behalf, as heretical communions. So that the very survival of these Churches to the present day is a strong proof of the generally tolerant attitude of the Mohammedan (sic) governments towards them.” (Ref. 8 - p80).

Islam forbids killing of any human being without due process of law or in self-defense. It forbids killing of women, children, and elderly people even in battlefields. The first Caliph of Islam gave the injunctions: “Be just, die rather than yield; be merciful, slay neither old men, nor children, nor women; Destroy neither fruit trees, nor grain, nor cattle. Keep your words even to your enemies.” (Ref. 27-p53). There is no room for killing innocent people for not being able to remedy the injustice that is being done to them. There is also no room for killing innocent people by bombing cities by warplanes and then saying ‘oh, it is collateral damage’. All these are murders. People responsible for these must be made accountable for their actions and brought to justice. In Islam, one is not even allowed to commit suicide and kill oneself. Suicide bombers may have irrefutable reasons that compelled them to take the extreme measures to blow themselves up and kill others, but Islam does not condone it. The Quran says: “... *Whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind.*” (Q* 5:32).

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The western governments champion themselves as ‘the defenders of the oppressed; promoters and defenders of democracy and human rights’. In practice, they are the ones who support, protect and promote the undemocratic, autocratic, oppressive and tyrannical governments and systems in Asia and Africa. They even did not accept the democratically elected government in Algeria and Palestine. These are the governments that established, promote and perpetuate the establishment of the undemocratic institution of the Security Council where permanent seat and veto power of a few is the norm. In reality, these governments are the true perpetual oppressors of humanity, the axis of evil.

There is deliberate misinterpretation of the word Jihad in the western media. Those who misinterpret the word ‘Jihad’ are not ignorant people. They are hypocrites and tell lies. **It should be very clear to every one that an unjust effort or war cannot be called Jihad.**



*“Let there be no compulsion in religion,
Truth stands clear from error.”*
(Holy Quran 2:256)



*“Seek, and you shall find;
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”*
(Jesus, Matthew 7:7)



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Status of Woman in Islam

To understand the status of woman in Islam one has to know the position woman held in the society in pre-Islamic days. Before the arrival of Islam woman had, practically, little or no rights. In Arabia, men used to marry as many women as they liked. They also left them whenever they wished. Women were looked down upon so much that people were ashamed of having infant girls. Some of the tribes used to bury their infant girls alive!

In Roman law woman could not be a teacher, a surety, or a witness. She could not make any will or contracts. Anything a woman owned became the property of the husband after her marriage, including herself. In India, the principle of 'Manu' was in practice. Manu said to hold the woman in a state of dependence by her protector, day and night (Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th ed., vol. 28, p782). The position of women in Greece and Britain was no better.

The Bible says that the woman cannot be a teacher, or have authority over man. She is to keep silent (B* Timothy 2:12). If a woman does not cover her head, let her head be shaved (B* I Corinthians 11:6). Woman is blamed for giving the fruit from the forbidden tree to Adam, whereby the human race lost the paradise. Her punishment for this is to deliver children in pain and the husband to rule over her (B* Genesis 3:16).

In the Mosaic Law, the wife was betrothed: *“To betroth a wife to oneself meant simply to acquire possession of her by payment of the purchase money; the betrothed is a girl for whom the purchase money has been paid”* (Encyclopedia Biblica 1902, VOL. 3 - p 2942).

The consent of the girl was not necessary for the validation of the marriage. *“The woman being man’s property, his right to divorce her follows as a matter of course.”* In the Mosaic Law, divorce was a privilege of the husband only (Encyclopedia Biblica 11th Edition, P 782). According To English Common Law, *“all real property which a wife held at the time of marriage became a possession of the husband.”* (Encyclopedia America Intl. Edition V29, P108).

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Islam is the religion that gave woman the proper respect of a human being. It gave her the fundamental rights as well as accountability equal to that of man, although her roles and responsibilities are different.

Women's right:

God says in Quran: *“And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable; but men have a degree (of advantage) over them”*. (Q* 2:228). *“Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because God has given the one more (strength) than the other..”* (Q* 4:34). This ‘a degree above’ is maintenance and protection of women by men, because of their physical and psychological makeup. From legal standpoint, it implies no superiority or advantage. Financial responsibility for the maintenance of his wife, children and needy relatives, especially women, rests on the man (Ref. 9 -p23). Woman bears no obligation to spend from her property on her family. She bears no financial responsibility to maintain her children if the husband is alive.

The Islamic law recognizes women's right to her money, real estate, or other properties. She has full rights to buy, sell, mortgage or lease any or all her properties. (Ref. 9 -p 21).

Inheritance:

The Quran says *“From what is left by parents and those nearest related, there is a share for men and a share for women, whether the property be small or large, - a determined share.”* (Q* 4:7). In general, her share is 1/2 that of man, but she is relieved of all financial responsibility. This way she is much better off. If a woman gets \$ 50, it is all hers to keep. When a man gets \$ 100 he is to maintain his wife, children, parents, and all dependent relatives particularly widows. In reality, he is worse off.

Equal rewards:

God said: *“Never will I suffer to be lost the work of any of you, be he male or female;”* (Q* 3:195).

In Islam, the blame for eating from the forbidden tree is put on both Adam and Eve. God later forgave both of them (Q* 2:37).

Marriage:

Woman cannot be forced to marry. The Quran says: *“You are* (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

forbidden to inherit women against their will.” (Q 4:19).*

Quran orders husbands: *“Live with them (wives) on a footing of kindness and equity.” (Q* 4:19).*

Marriage gift:

Woman has the full right to her ‘Mahr’, a marriage gift, and its ownership does not transfer to her husband or father. Her marriage gift is hers to keep, even if there is a divorce.

Employment:

There is no law in Islam, which forbids women to seek employment.

Protection of women’s honor:

The Holy Quran says: *“And those who launch a charge against chaste women, and not produce four witnesses, flog them with eighty stripes and reject their evidence ever after:” (Q* 24:4).* **The witness of a woman to defend her honor and chastity is greater than the witness of her accuser spouse, if he cannot present any witness (Q* 24:6-9).**

Divorce:

Both men and women have equal right to seek an end to an unsuccessful marriage. To protect from hasty decision out of temporary emotional outburst or stress, certain steps and waiting periods are observed (Ref. 9 -p19). If divorced, she may also get alimony from her ex-husband.

Status of Mother:

The Holy Bible says: “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.” (B* Colossians 3:20). Holy Bible also says that Jesus (P*) addressed his mother as ‘woman’: *“And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus (P*) saith unto him, ‘They have no wine’. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.” (B* John 2:3-4).*

In Islam, kindness to parents is considered next to worship of God: “your lord has decreed that you worship none save Him, and that you be kind to your parents.” (Q* 17:23).

Prophet Mohammad (P*) said:

- **“Paradise lies at the feet of your mother.” (Al Nisai Ref. 9-**

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p21).

- ***“Best of you are those who are best with your wives.”***
(Ref. 9 -p18).
- ***“(It) is the generous (in character) who is good to women, and it is the wicked who insults them.”*** (Ref. 9-p21).



***“For if a woman will not veil herself,
then she should cut off her hair; ...
Let her wear a veil”***
(Holy Bible: 1 Corinthians 11:6)



**Mother Mary dressed modestly and
wore headscarf (Hijab).**



“Paradise lies at the feet of your mother.”
(Mohammad, Ref. 9 Al Nisai)



Polygamy

Polygamy means a system of marriage whereby one person has more than one spouse. Polygamy can be of two types. One is polygyny where a man marries more than one woman, and the other is polyandry, where a woman marries more than one man.

In Islam, limited polygyny is permitted, whereas polyandry is completely prohibited.

Polygamy is allowed in every revealed religion of God. Many of the prophets of the Bible were polygamous. Prophet David had many wives (B* 1 Chronicles 3:1-9) and Prophet Solomon had 700 wives, princesses and 300 concubines (B* 1 Kings 11: 3). Later, regulations in Talmud (Jewish Holy Book) limited the number of wives to 18 for kings and four for an ordinary man (Dictionary of the Bible, James Hasting, p624).

The practice of polygyny among Jewish people continued until Rabbi Gershom Ben Yehudah (960 C.E to 1030 C.E) issued an edict against it. However, the Jewish Sephardic communities, living in Muslim countries, continued the practice polygamy until 1950, when an Act of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel extended the ban to all Jews.

In the past, Christians had more than one wife. Martin Luther himself approved and allowed it. In 1531 the Anabaptists of Munster preached that he who wants to be true Christian must have several wives (History of Human Marriage, Edward Westermareck vol. III, p50-51). Christians continued to practice polygamy as late as 17th century. Even today, Church of Jesus Christ of the Later Day Saints allows and practice polygamy.

Polygamy is allowed in Islam but under special circumstances and with strict conditions. You have to treat them equally. It is almost impossible to treat two wives equally. Quran also says: “*You are never able to be fair and just as between women, even if it is your ardent desire.*” (Q* 4:129). Although Islam allows man to marry up to four wives Quran advises Muslims to marry only one. God says in The Quran: “*But if you fear that you shall not be able to*

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deal justly (with them) then (marry) only one.” (Q* 4:3). That is why almost all the Muslims one meets are monogamous.

In general, the ratio of male and female child at birth is about equal. Because of the nature of life the males lead in the society, they are more prone to injury, accidents and death. During the war, many men are killed leaving a large number of orphans, widows and surplus women. Besides being fed and clothed, the physical and mental needs of those women require to be fulfilled. Islam has a solution for this undesirable situation. Present day Christianity offers no solution to this problem. Because of the absence of this safety-valve mechanism in present day Christianity, most of the surplus women in post World War II Germany, indulged in adultery, fornication, and prostitution producing countless illegitimate children. The Bible says: “*No bastard shall enter into the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord.*” (B* Deuteronomy 23:2). So, if one can trace a bastard in his/her preceding ten generations he/she is destined for hell.

If a woman after living a married life for a while finds herself unable to carry on her marital obligations because of, say, some physical incapacitation like paralysis or insanity or unable to bear children, should her husband kick her out into the street and marry another woman? Is it not more humane to keep the woman he loves, and take care of her along with another wife who will be able to fulfill the family obligations and physical needs?

World female population is more than male population. In USA, women outnumber men by 7.8 millions. New York alone has one million more females than males. U.S.A has more than twenty-five million gays. Great Britain has four million more females as compared to males. Germany has five million more females and Russia has nine million more females.

If every man in the city of New York marries one woman, statistics shows that there will be a million of surplus women without any husband. Further, many of the unmarried males are homosexuals. One of the options for the surplus woman is that she may observe celibacy rest of her life. For most women this is not an acceptable option. Alternatively, she may remain as a girl
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friend of any number of men, having no rights and honor of a wife, producing illegitimate children with no responsible father to take care of them. When a woman lives with many men, which of the males will be responsible for a particular child? In these situations, the woman is already sharing the man with other women but she has no rights. In the western world, the women are kept as concubines under the title of “girl friends”. It is becoming the norm of the day. Another option for the surplus woman is that she could choose to be a legitimate wife of a man (with equal rights) sharing the husband with another woman. Now which of the options will prevent social immorality?

The mighty prophets of God had practiced polygamy. God did not condemn them for practicing polygamy. He did not stop polygamy. It is man who, by trying to stop legal polygamy, has increased illegal polygamy and immorality in the society. God is wiser than man.

It is interesting to note that although polygamy is allowed in Islam; Muslims are, in general, monogamous. Although the churches do not allow polygamy now, most of the Christians are polygamous. The Christians preach monogamy in words, but in practice, openly indulge in polygamy.



Prophets of the Bible were polygamous.

Prophet Abraham had three wives,

Prophet David had many wives,

Prophet Solomon had 700 wives.

(Bible: 1 Kings 11:3)



Dress codes in Islam

Modesty is the key element in the determination of dress code in Islam. Adam and Eve became aware of their physical features and developed the sense of shame after eating from the forbidden tree in heaven. Immediately they started to sew the leaves of trees to cover their bodies (Q* 20:121 & B* Genesis 3:7). It was the sense of shame that dictated the earliest human beings to cover themselves. It is the same sense of shame that prevents us from participating in many evil, immoral and shameful activities of society.

When a man with desire in heart meets a woman who is scantily dressed, or in a tight dress, that shows her physical shape and features, revealing her adornments, his eyes and mind start relishing them. To him this is just a sample of something more delicious waiting to be explored. To him this woman is giving a signal that she will be available if the time, place, and the price are right.

Society abounds with evil people. They are busy to exploit the weakness of other human beings. Physical desire is a major human weakness. In the name of modern civilization, social progress, women's rights, and women's liberation, these evil people make subtle and gradual changes in the norm of moral standard of the society. When society gets used to these changes, they make further changes. Ultimately, one day, one finds that hardly any moral code is left. The evil elements of the society want to bring the women out of the protection of their families and well-wishers so that the ever-hungry wolves of the society can start to devour them at the earliest opportunity and continue to do so till their usefulness last.

God created women as pure, dignified, and respectable. They are precious and they should be protected from everything that is evil. Unfortunately, women have allowed the evil society to exploit them. They have made themselves cheap and easily available.

In the modern society, women are mostly used for physical pleasure and promotion of business. There is no modesty in the dress code of modern society. People are constantly busy in exposing their physical features to physically attract others. The result is a decadent immoral society, affecting people of all walks of life, from

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the president to the average person.

The consequence of exposing physical features can be very serious and far-reaching. A look at the western society will reveal some of the consequences. There is rampant adultery, uncountable rapes, millions of illegitimate pregnancies, millions of abortions, and millions of illegitimate children without responsible fathers to care for them. Many of them will end up as ‘street children’, joining the gangs.

Jesus (P*) said: “*You will know them by their fruits. ... the bad tree bears evil fruit.*” (Matthew 7: 15 - 17). As mentioned earlier, The Bible also says: “*No bastard shall enter into the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord.*” (B* Deuteronomy 23:2).

From the above discussion, it becomes obvious that both men and women need to cover themselves properly. The main purpose of covering the body is to cover the shame and other physical features so that they remain out of sight of others, will not draw undue attraction, and will not excite evil desires in others. Both men and women, therefore, must dress modestly.

Extent of cover:

In medical science, there is a saying that “an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure”. God has made women more beautiful, and has blessed them with more physical adornments. Almost every part of the female body is attractive to a male. Keeping this in mind, the nuns have taken the preventive measure of wearing a veil and covering their whole body, except the face and hands.

God says in The Holy Quran: “*O ye children of Adam, We have bestowed raiment upon you to cover your shame as well as to be an adornment to you but the raiment of righteousness that is the best.*” (Q* 7:26).

“*Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: that will make for greater purity for them: ... And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their*

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beauty...” (Q* 24:30-31).

Mohammad (P*) said: *“If the woman reaches the age of puberty, No (part of her body) should be seen but this- and he pointed to the face and hands.”* (Ref. 11 -p6).

The Holy Bible says: ***“Women should adorn themselves modestly and sensibly in seemly apparel, not with braided hair or gold or pearl or costly attire...”*** (B* 1 Timothy 2:9). It should not be glamorous to cause undue attraction of opposite sex.

The Holy Bible also says: ***“but any woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled dishonors her head ... For if a woman will not veil herself, then she should cut off her hair; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her wear a veil.”*** (B* 1 Corinthians 11:6). Islam advises the women to cover their head and body except the face and the hands.

The thickness of dress materials:

The thickness of the dress material should be such that no part of the covered body is visible through it. It must be thick enough not to reveal what it is supposed to conceal.

The fitting:

If the cloth, covering the body, sits on it in such a way that it describes the shape of the body or the adornments, it will excite evil desires in the mind of others. Therefore, it must be loose enough not to reveal the detail of shape of the body.

It is noteworthy that when a nun wears long dress and covers her head, this dress represents purity, modesty, dignity, and commands respect to the western society. However, when a Muslim woman wears the same long dress and covers her head with a veil, to the same society, it represents Muslim oppression of their women!

Some people display their wealth, pride and vanity through their dresses. There should not be anything in a person to be proud of. Very often, God disgraces the proud people right before our eyes. When people want recognition through their dress, they themselves probably are not worth much. Mohammad (P*) said: *“Whoever drags his clothes (on the ground) out of pride and arrogance, Allah will not look at him on the Day of Resurrection.”* (Ref. 2, Vol. 7, # 683).

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Men should not imitate women and women should not imitate men. Ibn Abbas narrated, “*Mohammad (P*) cursed the men who act like women and the women who act like men.*” (Ref. 2, Vol. 7, # 773).

The Bible also says: “*A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God.*” (B* Deuteronomy 22:5).

Union between people of same sex is forbidden both in the Quran and in the Bible. With His infinite wisdom, God created Adam and Eve of opposite sex. If He would like physical union between people of the same sex, He would have created Adam and Steve, instead of Adam and Eve.

People with the responsibility of developing and leading the society, whether they are politicians, civic leaders, Popes, bishops, priests, pastors, reverends, movie makers, or media program developers, are actually developing and promoting an evil society. Which of these people will be willing to accept responsibility for sending billions of people to hell as indicated in the Holy Bible?

In summary:

- Every civilized person must dress properly. Because of difference in physical features and adornments between men and women, dress codes must be different.
- God has laid down the injunctions in the Holy Quran to prevent social and moral degradation. Mohammad (P*) explained them in the Hadith.
- If one fails to obey these injunctions, he or she will be participating in promoting evil activities in this world and will be accountable in the hereafter.

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False Muslims

Today many non-Muslim scholars accept the Holy Quran as the unaltered Holy book of Islam. Many groups of people want to share the honor, which Islam enjoys among the scholars, learned and righteous people. However, they differ considerably with the fundamental beliefs of Islam. Some of the fundamental beliefs of Islam, which no Muslim can transgress, are:

- God is one and only. He shares His absolute attributes with no one. He has no associates and He does not incarnate. He has neither any parent nor any son or daughter.

- Mohammad (P*) is the last of the prophets of God. There will be no prophet after him.

- Quran is the only complete and unaltered Holy Book of God. God took upon Himself the responsibility to collect the revealed messages of Quran, and to preserve them.

“It is for us to collect it and to promulgate it.” (Q 75:17)*

“We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly guard it (from corruption).” (Q 15:9).*

Any one, who deviates with the above fundamental beliefs of Islam, goes out of its bounds. Many groups and sects transgress these fundamental beliefs but still call themselves as Muslims! Some examples are given below:

Ahmadia faith:

- Mirza Ghulam Ahmed established Ahmadia faith, also known as Qadiani faith, in 1882

- He claimed to be a prophet, the Mahdi, and the incarnation of Jesus (P*) and Mohammad (P*).

- He said: *“I am much superior to Jesus in all his glory.”* (Haqeeqat-ul-Wahi-p148).

- *“It is only the offspring of prostitutes and debauches who refuse to believe in me.”* (Aina-Kamalat-p547).

- *“Verily our enemies are swine of the wilderness and their women are worse than bitches.”* (Najmul Huda-p10).

- *“I have repeatedly declared that, according to my creed, Islam*

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consists of two parts: (1) obedience to God, and (2) obedience to British Government.” (Shahadat-ul-Quran).

●His successor Mr. Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad wrote: *“It is obligatory on us to consider non-Ahmadis as non-Muslims.”*

For more detailed information read Interfaith Dialogue publication titled ‘The Ahmadia Faith’.

Islamic Nubian Hebrews:

Their leader is Imam Isa. He claims to be the Mahdi, the one who is reborn to save the humanity. He published the photos of all prophets mentioned in the Quran with Negroid faces. In 1995, he disavowed Islam and has become a Jew.

Rashad Khalifa followers:

In June 1988, Rashad Khalifa of Tucson, Arizona declared himself a prophet in the magazine ‘Muslim Perspective’ under the title ‘New Messenger from God’. He wrote his own translation of Quran. In the book “Quran Hadith and Islam”, he wrote that Sunna is like Talmud of Jews. Anybody who follows Sunna is a ‘Kafir’ (a disbeliever).

Moorish Science Temple followers:

Their leader, Nobel Drew Ali, claims to be a prophet. He also has written his own Quran.

Nations of Islam:

W. Fard Muhammad (formerly Wallace D. Ford) established Nations of Islam. He was succeeded by Elijah Muhammad (formerly Elijah Poole). Louis Farrakhan succeeded Elijah Muhammad. They claim that Wallace Fard Muhammad was God incarnate, Elijah Muhammad was a prophet and Louis Farrakhan is God’s Messenger. The following are some of the main points that the followers of Nations of Islam believe. These were collected from their magazine ‘The Final Call’, ‘Six Lessons by W. Fard Muhammad, Speeches of Louis Farrakhan, and from books sold under Nations of Islam sponsorship.

●God took birth as a child in Makkah on Feb. 26, 1877.

●“*We believe that Allah (God) appeared in the person of Master W. Fard Muhammad, July 1930; the long-awaited ‘Messiah’ of the Christians and the ‘Mahdi’ of the Muslims.”* (What the Muslims

believe- point # 12).

● *“God is real, He is a real live human being, differing from you and me only in that He is Supreme in knowledge, wisdom, understanding and power.”*

● In February 1997, Louis Farrakhan was introduced as “God’s Messenger” and “Messenger of Allah” (Rosul Allah). He confirmed that he received message from Allah.

● *“We the original nation of the earth ... are the writers of the Bible and Quran. We make such history once every 25000 years. ... it is done by 24 of our scientists. One act as Judge or God over the others.”*

● *Believers should eat one meal in 24 hours, nothing in between - this would extend life to 140 years.*

● *If you eat once in 72 hours you will never get sick, will extend life to 1000 years.*

There is one group who believe:

- Their religious leaders are divinely chosen.
- They are infallible and are divinely protected from committing any sin (Minhaj Al Kiramah p32-33).
- They share the knowledge of the unknown with God (Usool Al Kafi - p185).
- The religious leaders chose the time and place of their death (Usool Al Kafi - p185).
- After talking to a person the religious leaders can say whether the person will go to heaven or hell (Usool Al Kafi p185).
- It is claimed that their first religious leader had said *“I am the one in whose command God has put the clouds, lightening, thunder, darkness, rivers, mountains, stars, moon and the sun.”* (Hayat Al Qoloob, - p436).
- They say that the present Quran is incomplete. The original complete Quran was collected by their first religious leader and is three times as large as the present Quran. This means that God (P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

is unable to keep His promise when He said that He would collect and preserve the Quran: *“It is for us to collect it and to promulgate it.”* (Q* 75:17). *“We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly guard it (from corruption).”* (Q* 15:9). The alleged large Quran was never presented to the world.

- It is an integral part of their faith that a man can have temporary marriage with a woman contracted for a fixed period in return for recompense. There is no need for witnesses or declaration. No divorce or inheritance is involved. The man is not responsible for the child born out of this temporary marriage (Usool Al Kafi, V 2 - p191).
- The followers are encouraged to conceal their true faith. Outwardly they can tell or do things that are opposite to their true belief. (Usool Al Kafi, - p488).
- When a religious leader dies his eldest son automatically becomes the divinely chosen religious leader. They say that the leadership of the Muslim community is not to be determined by the people but must go to the eldest son of the existing religious leader by heredity.

There is another group who keeps the pictures of their Imam in front them and pray. Although they call themselves as Muslims, they do not allow other Muslims to enter into their prayer hall and pray with them.



Knowledge is power. It helps to make rational decisions.



“Read in the name of thy Lord who created man.” (Quran, 96:1)



What The Non-Muslims Say About Islam

There are innumerable comments about Islam made by non Muslims holding very high and respectable positions in the society. A few of the comments made in the recent past are given below.

A. J. Toynbee, Oxford University lecturer and economist, wrote, *“The extinction of race consciousness as between Muslims is one of the outstanding achievements of Islam and in the contemporary world there is, as it happens, a crying need for the propagation of this Islamic virtue.”* (Civilization on trial, 1948- p205, & Ref. 7 -p44).

H. A. R. Gibb wrote: *“It (Islam) possesses a magnificent tradition of inter-racial understanding and cooperation. No other society has such a record of success in uniting in an equality of status, of opportunity, and of endeavors so many and so various races of mankind. ... Islam has still the power to reconcile apparently irreconcilable elements of race and tradition. If ever the opposition of the great societies of East and West is to be replaced by cooperation, the mediation of Islam is an indispensable condition. In its hands lies very largely the solution of the problem with which Europe is faced in its relation with east.”* (Whither Islam -1932- p379, & Ref. 7 -p43).

Sir Thomas W. Arnold wrote: *“We have never heard about any attempt to compel non-Muslim parties to adopt Islam or about any organized persecution aiming at exterminating Christianity. If the Caliphs had chosen one of these plans, they would have wiped out Christianity as easily as what happened to Islam during the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain; by the same method which Louis XIV followed to make Protestantism a creed whose followers were to be sentenced to death; or with the same ease of keeping the Jews away from Britain for a period of 350 years.”* (Call to Islam).

Indian poet Sorojini Naidu wrote: *“It was the first religion that preached and practiced democracy. ... I have been struck over and over again by this indivisible unity of Islam that makes man*

instinctively a brother. ... “(The Ideals of Islam- P167-169, & Ref. 7 -p19).

“Sense of justice is one of the most wonderful ideals of Islam, because as I read in the Quran I find those dynamic principles of life, not mystic but practical ethics for the daily conduct of life suited to the whole world.” (The Ideals of Islam-1918- P167, & Ref. 7 -p43).

Nobel laureate George Bernard Shaw wrote: *“It (Islam) is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him (Mohammad) – the wonderful man and in my opinion far from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Savior of Humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness. I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today.”* (The Genuine Islam Vol. 1, No. 8. 1936, & Ref. 7-p44).

He further said: *“Europe shall declare the Islamic creed innocent of what men of Europe of the middle Ages accused it of in evil tales. The religion of Muhammad shall be the system on which the basis of the world peace and happiness shall be established. The solution of the world problems will depend on its philosophy. Many of my compatriots and other Europeans follow the principles of Islam. Therefore I can prophesy that the European Islamic era is undoubtedly very near.”*

A. M. L. Stoddard wrote: *“The rise of Islam is perhaps the most amazing event in human history. Springing from a land and a people like previously negligible, Islam spread within a century over half the earth, shattering great empires, overthrowing long established religions, remoulding the souls of races, and building up a whole new world, world of Islam. ... The other great religions won their way slowly, by painful struggle and finally triumphed with the aid of powerful monarchs converted to the new faith. Christianity had its Constantine, Buddhism its Asoka, and Zoroastrianism its Cyrus, each lending to his chosen cult the mighty*

force of secular authority. Not so in Islam. Arising in a desert land sparsely inhabited by nomad race previously undistinguished in human annals, Islam sallied forth on its great adventure with the slenderest human backing and against the heaviest material odds. Yet Islam triumphed with seemingly miraculous ease, and a couple of generations saw the Fiery Crescent borne victorious from the Pyrenees to the Himalayas and from the desert of Central Asia to the deserts of Central Africa.” (Islam of All Prophets, p56, Ref. 7 p44).

Professor Hurgronje wrote: *“The league of nations founded by the prophet of Islam put the principle of international unity and human brotherhood on such universal foundations as to show the candle to the other nations. ... no nation of the world can show a parallel to what Islam has done towards the realization of the idea of the League of Nations.” (Ref. 7 -p20).*

W. Montgomery Watt wrote: *“I am not a Muslim in the usual sense, though I hope I am a ‘Muslim’ as ‘one surrendered to God’, but I believe that embedded in the Quran and other expressions of the Islamic vision are vast stores of divine truth from which I and other occidentals have still much to learn; and Islam is certainly a strong contender for the supplying of the basic framework of the one religion of the future.” (Islam and Christianity today- ix, & Ref. 7 -p46).*

H.G. Wells Wrote: *“The Islamic teachings have left great traditions for equitable and gentle dealings and behavior, and inspire people with nobility and tolerance. These are human teachings of the highest order and at the same time practicable. These teachings brought into existence a society in which hard-heartedness and collective oppression and injustice were the least as compared with all other societies preceding it. Islam is replete with gentleness, courtesy, and fraternity.”*

Huston Smith, Watson Professor of Religion and Professor of Philosophy wrote: *“Muslims point to the long centuries during which in India, Spain, and the Near East, Christians, Jews, and Hindus lived quietly and in freedom under Muslim rule. Even under the worst caliphs, **Christians and Jews held positions of influence and in general retained their religious freedom. The Christians,***

not Muslims, we are reminded, expelled the Jews in the fifteenth century from Spain where they had lived in freedom while the Muslims were in power. To press this example: Spain and Anatolia changed hands at about the same time — Christians expelled the Moors from Spain while Muslims conquered what is now Turkey. Every Muslim was driven from Spain, put to the sword, or forced to convert, whereas the seat of the Eastern Orthodox Church remains in Istanbul to this day.”

Dr William Baker wrote: “Although the Jews joined with the enemies of early Islam, neither they nor Judaism were targeted by Muhammad or Islam. It is a fact of history that when the Jews were being persecuted in Europe during the Middle Ages they found peace, harmony, and acceptance among the Muslim people of Spain. In fact, this was the era of Jewish history that they themselves refer to as ‘the Golden Age’.”

Washington W. Irving observed, “As conquerors [Muslims], their heroism was equaled only by their moderation, and in both, for a time, they excelled the nations with whom they contended. Severed from their native homes, they loved the land given them as they supposed by Allah and strove to embellish it with everything that could administer to the happiness of man. Laying the foundations of their power in a system of wise and equitable laws, diligently cultivating the arts and sciences, and promoting agriculture, manufactures and commerce, they gradually formed an empire unrivaled for its prosperity by any of the empires of Christendom... The cities of Arabian Spain became the resort of Christian artisans, to instruct themselves in the useful art. The Universities of Toledo, Cordova, Seville, Granada, were sought by the pale student from lands to acquaint himself with the sciences of the Arabs and the treasure lore of antiquity.”

Edward Montet: “Islam is a religion that is essentially rationalistic in the widest sense of this term considered etymologically and historically. The definition of rationalism as a system that bases religious beliefs on principles furnished by the reason applies to it exactly. ... the Quran has invariably kept its place as the fundamental starting point, and the dogma of unity of God has always been proclaimed therein with a grandeur, a majesty,

and invariable purity and with a note of sure conviction, which it is hard to find surpassed outside the pale of Islam.” (La Propagande Chretienne et ses Adversaries Musulmans, Paris 1890).

Ahmed Holt wrote: *“The sword of Islam is not the sword of steel. I know this by experience, because the sword of Islam struck deep into my own heart. It did not bring death, but it brought new life; it brought an awareness and it brought an awakening as to who am I, and what am I and for what I am here.” (Ref. 7 -p48).*

Historian De Lacy O’Leary, wrote: *“History make it clear however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated.” (Islam at the Crossroads- p8), (Ref. 7 -p43).*

Sir John Bagot Glubb wrote: *“Khalif (Caliph) Al-Mamun’s period of rule (813 - 833 C.E.) may be considered the ‘golden age’ of science and learning. He had always been devoted to books and to learned pursuits. His brilliant mind was interested in every form of intellectual activity. Not only poetry but also philosophy, theology, astronomy, medicine and law all occupied his time.”*

“By Mamun’s time medical schools were extremely active in Baghdad. The first free public hospital was opened in Baghdad during the Caliphate of Haroon-ar-Rashid. As the system developed, physicians and surgeons were appointed who gave lectures to medical students and issued diplomas to those who were considered qualified to practice. The first hospital in Egypt was opened in 872 AD and thereafter public hospitals sprang up all over the empire from Spain and the Maghrib to Persia.”



“It (Islam) possesses a magnificent tradition of inter-racial understanding and cooperation.” (H. A. R. Gibb)



“It was the first religion that preached and practiced democracy.”

(Poet Sorojini Naidu)

Time to Reflect

Islam is a complete and practical code of life. In Islam, all men are created equal. No person is superior to any other person by virtue of race, color, gender, higher social caste, economic status or claim of chosen people. God says in the Quran *“Verily the most honored of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you.”* (Q* 49:13).

Islam is the only religion in the world, which can claim to be purely monotheistic and has the unaltered guidance from God. Many other religions also claim to worship one God. However, in reality and practice, instead of worshipping the one true God, they worship God’s creation. Their places of worship are decorated with images and statues of God’s creation or imaginary figures to which they offer their prayers.

Every person is influenced by his or her family, the relatives, friends and the society in which he or she is raised or lives. We are brain-washed by our family members and by the society since our childhood. It is difficult to leave the religion of the family for the sake of God and truth.

Abraham (P*) realized very early in his life that there could only be one supreme authority in the universe and not two or three or more. He is God the Creator. No one has seen God at any time nor can he see. God has no image and nothing has been created in His image. Therefore to worship His images, created by man, is wrong. He realized the truth early in life, left the religion of his family, and worshipped one true God. That is why he is so highly regarded in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. He is honored with the title of “Patriarch of Monotheism”.

We are born in families that we do not choose. We are raised in the family of our birth and given the belief that the religion of the family is the best. We believe it, follow it and die with it, not knowing much about other religions. There is nothing to be proud of or ashamed of one’s religion by virtue of birth. With so many religions around, we are more likely to be born with a religion, which we would not like to follow. If we do not choose our religion rationally by using the God-given ability of reasoning, we will

be in great trouble when we will face our creator on the “Day of Judgment”.

If a person is given a glass of pure milk, he will not hesitate to drink it. However, if he is told that the glass contains 99% pure milk with only 1% cyanide, will he drink it? Certainly not. By drinking this contaminated milk, one will lose some years of his life in this world, but by following a contaminated Holy Book, one will lose the eternal life in paradise, and go to hell. Which is preferable?

A person with freedom of choice is given the opportunity to choose between the following two Holy Books.

(1).Holy Book # 1

- Dictated by the Prophet himself who received the revelations and then verified its accuracy
- Contains information that can only come from God,
- Has no discrepancy and
- Remains unaltered,

(2).Holy Book # 2

- Authored by unknown writers,
- Written long after the Prophets had left this earth, then
- Repeatedly altered by man, and
- Contains innumerable contradictions and errors.

Which of the Books will he or she choose?

Scholars of Scriptures say that there are thousands of mistakes in some Holy Books. Most people do not know these or go to look for them. When some people become aware of the contamination in their Holy Books, they start seeking for the pure uncontaminated Holy Book and they find it only in the Quran. Many people can recognize the truth in Islam. They find that Quran is the only revealed Holy Book on earth that was recorded by the Prophet himself and remains unaltered. However, they are hesitant to accept Islam because of their family and friends.

One day the hearts and souls of some of them suddenly wake up and understand that the one who commits the crime serves the

(P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him/them, B* = The Holy Bible, Q* = The Holy Quran

The Eternal Guidance

Time to Reflect

time, not his family members or his friends. They start realizing the verse in the Bible: *“the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”* (B* Ezekiel 18:20); and that *“every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.”* (B* 1st Corinthians 3:8). They then realize that one day they will have to face their creator and pay very dearly if they continue to follow the altered Holy Book of their family and friends. They are the ones who quickly turn to Islam.

One day we all will return to God. On the Day of Judgment God will not ask you about my faith or ask me about your faith. He will ask everyone about his or her own faith.

On that day what will be the answer of the person who followed the wrong scripture when God will ask him / her “Why did you follow the scripture that was not recorded by the Prophets? It contained innumerable errors and contradictions and was repeatedly altered by man”.

If God further asks, “why did you not follow the scripture, which I said to be My revealed Book? It was accurately recorded by the Prophet, and was transmitted to you without any alteration, as promised by me. It contained no errors or contradictions. No one could produce a book or even a chapter similar to this revealed book when I challenged the humanity to do so. In that scripture, I revealed scientific mysteries thousands of years ahead, through an unlettered Prophet, to prove that it was from Me. Did I not give you common sense and the ability to think, to reason and judge, and then to choose?”

Should we not all prepare ourselves to answer these questions?

Please ponder over this very serious matter for a while. It might wake you up, if you have not awakened already. It may open your mind and heart to reasons and lead you to the truth.

If you are a non-Muslim, I would like to invite you to talk to a new Muslim. You will be pleasantly surprised to find why he or she has embraced Islam. You may even wonder why you did not meet a new Muslim earlier.



*In the beginning was the truth
At the end it will be the truth.*



*“Seek, and you shall find;
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”
(Jesus, Matthew 7:7)*



*Knowledge is power
It helps to make rational decisions.*



*So “Read in the name of thy Lord
who created man.” (Quran, 96:1)*



*God’s revealed book cannot have
“Grave errors.”*



*Accepting contaminated revealed book is like
Drinking pure milk contaminated with poison.*



*Remember
In the beginning was the truth
At the end it will be the truth.
So seek for truth, do not fail.
For, at the end, only truth will prevail.*



Please visit

www.interfaithdialogue.net

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(P*) = Peace and blessings of God be upon him / them

B*= The Holy Bible, Q*= The Holy Quran

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God has created whole universe and everything in it. Anything that is created has a beginning. Anything that has a beginning will one day have an end.

Human beings are the supreme of creation in the animal world. They are the most intelligent. Even so their knowledge is very limited and imperfect. They have no definite knowledge of the future and afterlife. Therefore human guidance for future and afterlife will be imperfect and unsuitable for the salvation of mankind. Only God has perfect knowledge. His guidance can only be perfect and acceptable.

There are thousands of religions. Many of them have a book of guidance. Many claim that their book of guidance is from God. How do we know? Attempt has been made to find out the true guidance of God, “The Eternal guidance”.

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