

The Religion of

All
TIME

Ahmad A. Afshi



*In the Name of God,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*



**With the Compliments of
The International Commission of Scientific
Signs in the Qur'an and Sunnah
Women's Branch - Jeddah**

**www.eajaz.org
ladiesijaz@yahoo.com**

To communicate with the author:



@AhmadAfshi



/ahmad.afshi

Appreciation

I would like to thank Mr. Afshi for such a creative work. In my opinion this book is a work of art. It shows the beauty of Islam by the richness of its content and its artistic graphic design and creative Arabic calligraphy. When I first opened the book, I found it so interesting that I couldn't leave it until I finished reading it. What attracted me most was the author's simple style through which he clarified the complicated scientific subjects making them comprehensible by readers of different backgrounds.

This book also clearly portrays Islam as a holistic religion that deals with all aspects of human life; such as science, preventive medicine, physical health, ethics, social relationships, and many others. The Author also discusses the mercy and great manners of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) not only with people but also towards animals as Allah (God) Almighty stated in the Qur'an:

﴿قُلْ مَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ مَالٍ وَلَا مِثْقَلِ ذَرَّةٍ مِّنْ لَّدُنِّي ۖ إِنَّمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ لِتَتَّقُوا ۖ وَإِذَا تَوَلَّوْاْ فَاجْتَنِبُواْ الرِّجْسَ الَّذِي كَفَرْنَا بِهُ ۚ إِنَّمَا لَكُمْ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ الْحَرَامِ مَا نَمَسْتُمْ وَلِلرِّجَالِ مِثْلُ مَا لِلنِّسَاءِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يَكْتُبُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ ۗ﴾ **And We have not sent you {O Muhammad}, except as mercy to the worlds. ﴿٢١﴾ 21:107**

The book also shows how Islam encourages good deeds such as: honoring the parents, treating orphans with kindness, keeping good relations with relatives and neighbours, smiling, as well as helping the poor. On the other hand, it condemns bad deeds such as: spreading gossips, backbiting, racism, drinking alcohol, mistreating others, human or animals, and shows their negative consequences as Allah (God) is the Most Knowledgeable of what benefits his creatures.

I believe that this book is a fine piece of work that is worth distributing worldwide and I recommend it as a gift to every Muslim and non-Muslim.

I'tidal Al-Banawi

A Word of Thanks

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to a person who has always been a role model for me and a source of pride. It is my sister, **Dr. Huda Abbas Afshi**, Assistant Professor of English Literature. She is a blessing from Allah upon our whole family. She has brought me up and given me advice all her life.

I know full well that these few lines will not be enough to fulfill the rights of this noble woman. She has been behind me, supporting me all the way at every stage of my work on this book right until the very end.

May Allah rewards her with good and unite her with her parents, her husband and whomever she wishes in Paradise, the width of which is that of the heavens and the earth.

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Assistant Professor of English Literature.

Dr. I'tidal Al-Banawi

Vice President

International Commission of Scientific Signs in the Qur'an & Sunnah

Dr. Mona Salim

Assistant Professor of English Language

Dr. Zainab Turjoman

English Teacher

Dr. Tahani El-Zayat

Assistance Professor of Chemistry

Alexandria University

Dr. Ibtisam Abbas Afshi

Assistant Professor of Methods of Teaching Arabic Language

Dr. Mohammad Shareef

Consultant of Interior Diseases / AlNokbah Medical Centre

Mr. Esam M. Ateiah

Head of Research Centre / World Assembly of Muslim Youth

Illustrator: Fawzi Askar

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I also would like to express my gratitude to my beloved wife and dear children who were supporting me throughout with joy and satisfaction.

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ان هو لا اله الا الله العظيم

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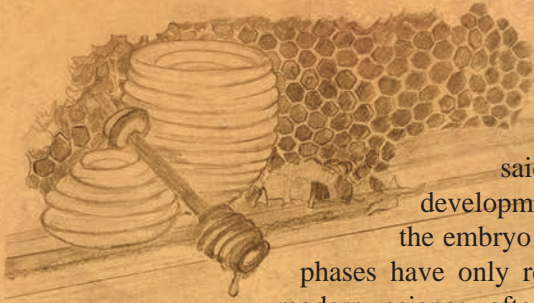
Going through this Book

All praise is to Allah (God) alone who taught by the pen – taught man what he did not know. Blessings and peace be upon Prophet Muhammad, Allah's messenger who was sent as a mercy to humanity with his noble manners, generous character and refined personality.

Highlighting the miracle of science has become crucial. Science is like a fast running train speeding via stations of wonderful discoveries and astonishing facts which we can hardly grasp. The intended objective of this book is to send a loud message that says: The teachings of Islam, as proven by scientific evidences, guides humanity to an ideal lifestyle in all aspects.

The original idea behind this book was in fact to highlight some aspects of Muslim appearance and behavior. When I started collecting the material, I found that most of these aspects agree with newly discovered medical and scientific evidences. They simply verify what the Glorious Qur'an says and what Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) called for. These two sources, the Qur'an and Prophetic guidance, are like a rich garden full of beautiful flowers. I was like a honeybee in that garden striving hard to diversify my feeding to produce the most delicious honey ever, but that was in vain because the garden was so vast. Even if I spend the rest of my life in it, I would not sip from the dew but little. How right was God when he said:

(﴿﴾ And you shall certainly know (the truth of) its information after a time ﴿﴾) Qur'an, 38:88.



The first chapter of this book, entitled, "Indeed, it is the Truth" reviews what the Glorious Qur'an said about the phases of human development inside the womb when the embryo is only 1-2 cm long. These phases have only recently been discovered by modern science after intensive research using precise technology. We will then discover the source of correct and incorrect human behavior which the Qur'an and Prophetic Tradition (Sunnah) mentioned on more than one occasion over 1400 years ago but modern science only recently came to know about. We will present what modern science has discovered regarding pig's flesh, circumcision, cupping, ritual ablution, teeth cleansing, and anger management, confirming what Islam came with.

In chapter two, which is entitled "Some Aspects of Islamic Character," we will briefly survey some of the ethics and social behavior that Islam commends for Muslims. These include parental duties, neighbors' rights, blood relations, the orphans' social position, Islamic human relations, etc...

We will conclude with chapter 3, "The Islam They Know." This chapter quotes what some famous characters have said about Islam, including princes, heroes, singers, philosophers, etc...

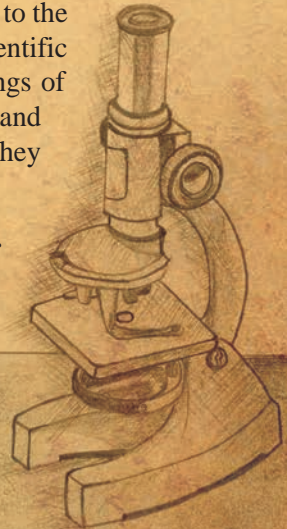
Islam is a comprehensive religion that covers all aspects of life. It is a constitution with neither distortions nor shortcomings. It is a manual that is easy to deal with, guiding those who seek happiness and success in this world and the Hereafter. It is a comfort for the heart, relief for the chest, peace for the mind, and

well-being of the body. Islam is a way to kindness, peace, and equality.

Some people propagate Islam as a fertile soil for the growth and development of terrorism. This comes either from those who have not read about the true nature of Islam or those who have a specific agenda far from public interests and peace. The latter group is backed by the media who trade on this artificial cheap commodity to achieve material gain. Many societies throughout history have suffered and will for sure suffer from minorities who have been lead off course and who use religion and human emotions, in acts against humanity.

The book will present information regarding ethics and behavior which are commended by Islam and which have lead famous scientists, medical doctors, and researchers from different religions and ethnic origins to admit that Islam is true, that Allah revealed the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and that his Prophetic sayings (Hadith) are a revelation from God as well. They testified to the truth of this after extensive reading, deep scientific studies, and comparison between the findings of modern science and scientific discoveries, and what Islam came with 14 centuries ago. They testified because science led them to do so.

The Author



Chapter 1

Indeed, it is the Truth.



فَخَلَفَ الْمَضِغَةَ
فَخَلَفْنَا الْبَطْفَةَ
فَخَلَفْنَا الْبَطْفَةَ

فَخَلَفَ الْمَضِغَةَ فَطَالَ

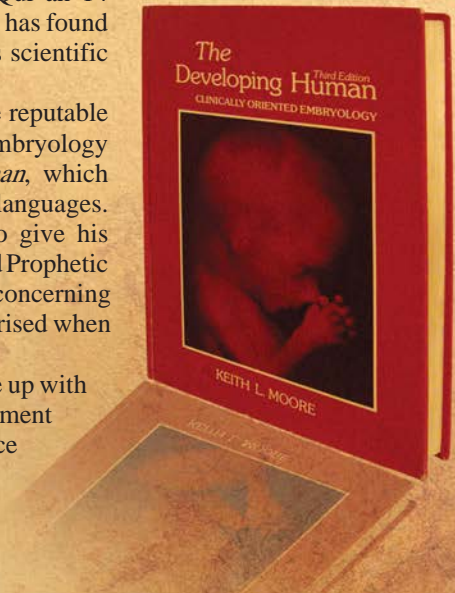
Phases of Human Development

﴿وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ مِنْ سُلَالَةٍ مِنْ طِينٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاهُ نُحْلَةً ثُمَّ نَضَّاهُ لُحْمًا وَأَجْعَلْنَاهُ رِجَالًا وَنُحُورًا ثُمَّ نَضَّاهُ عِظًا ثُمَّ غَشَّاهُ مِنْ لَدُنْهُ عِطْفًا ثُمَّ صَوَّبْنَاهُ لِحْمًا ثُمَّ صَعَبْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ رِجَالِهِ ثُمَّ أَنزَلْنَاهُ سُلَٰلَةً مِنْ سُحُبٍ لِيُنزَلَ فِي سَآخِرِ الْأَجَالِ مُنْقَلَبًا إِلَىٰ نَارِ الْهَلْوَاقِ﴾
﴿And certainly We created man from an extract of clay. Then We placed him as a sperm-drop in a firm lodging (i.e., the womb). Then We made the sperm-drop into a clinging clot, and We made the clot into a lump (of flesh), and We made (from) the lump, bones, and We covered the bones with flesh; then We developed him into another creation. So blessed is Allah, the best of creators.﴾ Qur'an, 23:12-14.

The creation of a human being through tiny developmental phases is a great sign from God and one of His main challenges for those who deny His presence. Later on in this chapter we are going to discuss Muslim ethics and behavior, but let us now acquaint ourselves with the amazing phases of human development in a comparative scenario between what came in the Qur'an 14 centuries ago and what modern science has found in the testimony of one of the world's scientific pioneers in this field.

Professor Keith Moore is a worldwide reputable scientist in the field of anatomy and embryology and author of *The Developing Human*, which has been translated to eight different languages. About 30 years ago he was asked to give his opinion about some Qur'anic verses and Prophetic Hadith from a scientific point of view concerning his line of specialty. He was quite surprised when he read those quotations and said:

"How could Prophet Muhammad come up with these phases of embryonic development fourteen hundred years ago when science only discovered them within the past century?" His surprise became



(A-1)



(A-2)

Picture (A-1) is from *The Developing Human*, p. 73 and shows a human embryo. Note its similarity in shape to that of a leech. (A-2)



admiration for this Qur'anic explanation. *Alaqah* is an Arabic word which means a clot of thick coagulated blood, and it appears similar in shape to a leech. (see A-2) He compared it to an embryo (see A-1) and admitted great similarity between the two. He also mentioned that the embryo clings to the mother's womb. *Alaqah* also means to "stick to". (1)

He mentioned that blood at this phase is entrapped in vessels before the circulation between the embryo and the placenta is complete. This is what makes the embryo look like coagulated blood. Thus the word *alaqah*, with its comprehensive Arabic meaning, typically describes a human embryo at the early stages of human development.

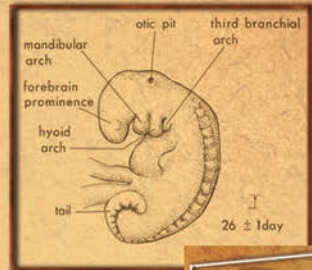
Professor Moore then proceeded to the *mudghah*, i.e., a lump of flesh that resembles a chewed morsel. He took a piece of clay, bit into it (see B-2) and compared its appearance to the picture of an embryo at this stage, pointing out the similarities (see B-1).

Professor Moore was convinced that the system of classification in modern scientific textbooks for the phases of embryonic development within the mother's womb was difficult to understand and not useful. It followed a numerical system of classification for the development

phases. On the other hand, what the Qur'an came with, adopts a descriptive pattern of clearly identifiable distinct shapes of the embryo, i.e., *nutfah*, *alaqah*, *mudghah*, bones, the clothing of bones with flesh, and the new creation, each with specific details. Professor Moore considered this Qur'anic classification as scientific, accurate, simple, understandable, and useful.

The developmental phases of a human embryo are complex and complicated because of the continuous changes that they undergo. This makes the adoption of a new system of classification based on terminology and concepts from the Qur'an and Sunnah possible. This new system is characterized by its simplicity, comprehensiveness, and compatibility with modern embryology. Extensive studies of the Qur'an and Sunnah over the past few decades have revealed a system for human embryo which is really amazing, especially since it was recorded in the 7th century CE.

The history of human embryology shows that nothing was known about the development and classification of a human embryo until the 20th century. Descriptions of a human embryo that were mentioned in the Glorious Qur'an could not have been based on prevailing scientific knowledge of the 7th century. The only rational explanation is that they were revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) from God, as he was illiterate and had no scientific training. Professor Moore was impartial and courageous when he included the following in his famous book, *The Developing Human* under the heading, "The Middle Ages" :



The embryo in one of its phases (B-1) looks similar to a chewed morsel. (B-2)



Picture taken from The Developing Human, p. 79



THE MIDDLE AGES

Growth of science was slow during the medieval period, and few high points of embryological investigation undertaken during this age are known to us.

It is cited in the *Koran*, The Holy Book of the Muslims, that human beings are produced from a mixture of secretions from the male and the female. Several references are made to the creation of a human being from a sperm drop, and it is also suggested that the resulting organism settles in the woman like a seed, six days after its beginning. (The human blastocyst begins to implant about six days after fertilization.) The *Koran* also states that the sperm drop develops "into a clot of congealed blood." (An implanted blastocyst or a spontaneously aborted conceptus would resemble a blood clot.) Reference is also made to the leech-like appearance of the embryo....

The embryo is also said to resemble "a chewed piece of substance" like gum or wood....

The developing embryo was considered to become human at 40 to 42 days and to no longer resemble an animal embryo at this stage....

The *Koran* also states that the embryo develops within "three veils of darkness." This probably refers to (1) the maternal anterior abdominal wall, (2) the uterine wall, and (3) the amniotic membrane. Space does not permit discussion of several other interesting references to human prenatal development that appear in the *Koran*.

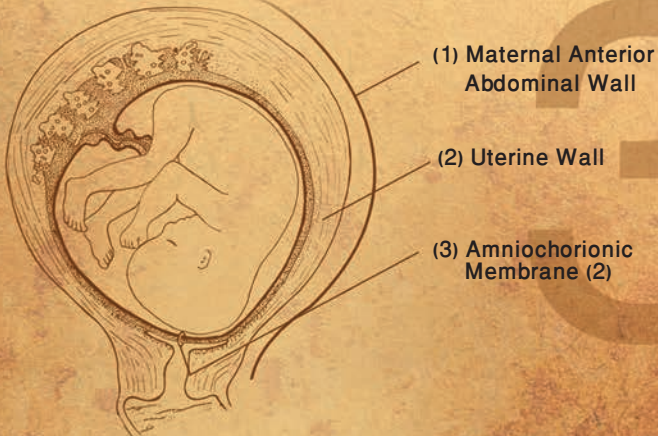
Scanned from *The Developing Human*, pp. 8-9

يَخْلُقْكُمْ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ خَلْقًا مِّنْ بَعْدِ خَلْقٍ

فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ ثَلَاثٍ

(He makes you, in the wombs of your mothers, in stages, one after another, in three veils of darkness) Qur'an, 39:-6.

The Koran also states that the embryo develops within "three veils of darkness." This probably refers to (1) the maternal anterior abdominal wall, (2) the uterine wall, and (3) the amniochorionic membrane. Space does not permit discussion of several other interesting references to human prenatal development that appear in the Koran. "The Developing Human" P9.



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُهُ
وَاللَّهُ يَخْتَارُ
مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ بَنِي
إِسْرَائِيلَ
وَمَا يَخْتَارُ
غَيْرَ الْكَافِرِينَ

نَاصِرٍ
كَانَتْ خَاطِبَتِي

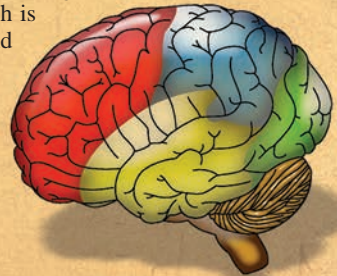
The forelock

Allah rebuked Abu Jahl, one of the staunchest idol worshippers of the Quraish tribe, by saying, (ﷻ **No, if he does not desist, We will surely drag him by the forelock – a lying, sinning forelock.** ﷻ) Qur'an, 96:15-16

The word "forelock" is the section of hair that grows or falls over the forehead (3) Allah will ensure that Abu Jahl and others like him who turned away from God will be humiliated by being slapped or dragged for their transgressions and lies by the forelock. It has been suggested that the addition of "a lying, sinning forelock" is connected to the noblest organ in the human body which lies behind the forehead: the human mind. Research shows that the front part of the brain is the center of emotions and thus responsible for controlling behavior. This includes whether one is truthful or lies. Thus, it is befitting punishment to drag one by the forelock behind which is located the part of the brain he used to deny God and disobey His commands.

The human brain consists of the following lobes:

- ◆ **The Frontal lobe**
- ◆ **The Occipital lobe**
- ◆ **The Temporal lobe**
- ◆ **The Parietal lobe**



Each of these lobes has specific roles and functions that distinguish it from the others.(4) The study of the anatomical composition of the upper forehead area shows that it is composed of a skull bone called the frontal bone which protects the frontal lobe, one of the brain lobes.(5) The frontal lobe which lies inside the forehead directs and guides human behavior by controlling speech and actions via centers that compose words and control voluntary movements, speech and sight in the body. The presence of the part of the brain that is called the cortex in this lobe enables people to access and analyze information. It registers past information in the process of the selection of speech and actions and direction of behavior with the help of the perception center which is found in this lobe. The frontal lobe cortex can thus be considered the part of the brain which is responsible for right and wrong, truthfulness and lying.(6)



An effective way to discover lies

In their attempt to define the part of the brain which is responsible for behavior, scientists carried out successful trials in 2003 that led to solid results about lying. Magnetic resonance imaging shows activity in the upper frontal part of the brain when a person lies.(7)

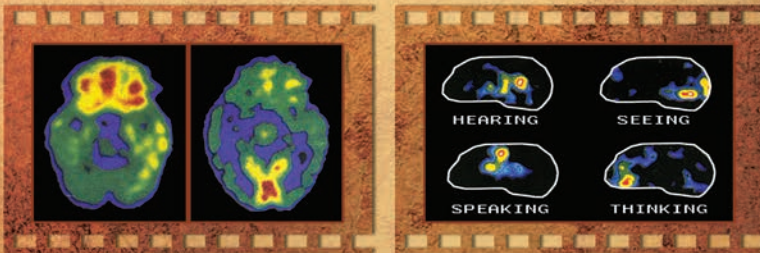
Dr. Scott Faro, the scientist who carried out the trials, said that the same area of the brain also becomes active when a person tells the truth. We can deduce from this that the area of the brain behind the forehead is responsible for both truthfulness and lying.(8)



Detachment or destruction of frontal lobe leads to behavioral disorders in speech and actions

Clinical evidences showed that detachment or destruction of the frontal brain lobe results in a patient's loss of control over his social behavior and speech selection ability. This is accompanied by great changes in personal characteristics. His ability to concentrate, tolerate, venture and to solve problems that need distinct mental input decreases.(9)

An X-ray «Suspense Test» for two persons: one is schizophrenic while the other is normal. Activity in the forehead of the schizophrenic is undetectable. The computerized scan shows brain activity in different brain centers while the person is listening, observing, talking, and thinking.



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Professor Keith Moore is also the author of well-known texts about brain anatomy. He delivered a speech about the findings of combined research concerning the brain at the Cairo Conference for Scientific Miracles in the Glorious Qur'an and Sunnah in 1985. He did not limit his speech to the human frontal lobe but tackled its functions in animal brains also. He presented frontal brain images for a number of animals, saying that studies of comparative anatomy for human and animal brains showed a functional similarity of the two as they are the control and guidance centers in both human and animal brains. This clearly confirms Allah's saying:

مَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ إِلَّا هُوَ يُصَوِّغُهَا

{ There is no creature but that He holds it by its forelock (i.e., controls it).
Indeed, my Lord is on a path (that is) straight.. } Qur'an, 11:56

It also verifies the supplication of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) when he said:

رَضِيَ بِي

{ O Allah, I am Your servant, son of Your male servant, son of Your female servant. My forelock is in Your hand. } (10)



Professor Moore said the following about this scientific miracle, "All information we know about brain function throughout history has not mentioned anything about "forelock," nor did any medical texts. If we bring all the medical books since the time of Jesus Christ and thereafter, we will not find any functions for the forelock. It was only mentioned in the Glorious Qur'an, which means that Allah is the All-Knowing. I hereby certify and testify that Prophet Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.(11)

After these non-debatable details from the great efforts in scientific and medical laboratories, as well as testimonies from researchers and medical specialists, we clearly see one of the Qur'anic miracles and have understood another sign that was revealed 1400 years ago from the magnificent Creator. It is to be added to the list of Prophetic proofs about the truth of his message as the last of the heavenly revelations.



خَمْسٌ مِّنَ الْفِطْرَةِ

لِلْحَرَامِ
وَالْحَرَامِ
وَالْحَرَامِ
وَالْحَرَامِ

Circumcision

Abu Hurairah reported from the Prophet (blessings and peace be upon him) that he said: **{There are five acts of fitrah (natural disposition): circumcision, removing pubic hair, cutting the nails, removing hair from the armpits, and trimming the moustache.}** (12).

WHO approves Circumcision as a Preventive Measure against AIDS!

Both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN AIDS Preventive Program have considered male circumcision a preventive strategy against the AIDS virus. International experts predict that millions of people could be saved, especially in Africa, if male circumcision is implemented on a wide scale. Medical studies showed that male circumcision could reduce the possibility of the AIDS virus transferring from females to males.



The WHO and UN AIDS Preventive Program stated that efficient implementation of circumcision is, beyond any doubt, a prominent landmark in the history of the prevention of the AIDS virus. They expect this measure to have a great impact as the rate of transference through sexual relations is high and the number of males who undergo circumcision is low. The director of the AIDS Virus Section in WHO, Mr. Kevin D. Cook, considered recommendations about circumcision a step forward in preventing the AIDS virus. However, a few years would be needed to see its positive impact on the disease. These recommendations came as a result of an international advisory process, which was organized in Switzerland.(13)



In 1987, an article appeared in the famous *British Medical Journal* about prostate cancer in which it stated that this disease is rarely found in Islamic countries because of the prevalence of male circumcision in early childhood. Among the causes of prostate cancer is infection of the glans. Circumcision removes the prepuce (or foreskin) from the root and hence reduces infection of the glans.(14)

Among the medical benefits of circumcision are:

- 1- Circumcision protects the penis from infections.(15)
 - 2- Circumcision protects children from urinary duct infections.
- The researcher Junzberg found that 95% of such infections occur in non-circumcised children. Making circumcision a routine practice



for newly born children in the USA will prevent 50% of the cases of urinary duct and kidney infections.(16)

3- Professor William Bakers, who worked for over 20 years in Arab countries and examined more than 30,000 women, assured the scarcity of sexual diseases. He attributes this to two main reasons: the low incidence of adultery and male circumcision.(17)

We conclude this subject with a quote from an article which was written by Professor Waiswil in 1990 where he said: "I used to be an opponent of circumcision in 1975. I participated in efforts aimed at stopping it. In the early eighties however, medical studies showed an increase in the cases of urinary tract infections among non-circumcised children. I thoroughly studied the research which was published and reached the opposite conclusion. I became a supporter for circumcision as a routine practice for newborn babies." (18)

This is the natural disposition which God likes and recommends for His slaves who obey and perform His commands. This leads to a healthy life in this world. One of the greatest blessings of Islam is that you can reap the harvest of your worship in this world before the Next Life in the form of sound physical health, sufficient wealth, and peace of mind and heart. Some types of worship consist of all of these benefits in one. Circumcision as a ritual has won over those who deny it because Allah is always the Most Knowledgeable, the Most Able.



إِسْمَاءُ



Cupping

Cupping is an old medical tradition which has been practiced in many societies from the West to the Far East.

It has been practiced in Egypt since 2200 BC; in Ashuri since 3300 BC, and in China. Cupping and acupuncture are the main components

of traditional Chinese medicine even today. Islam came and approved the practice of cupping when Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:



{ There is a cure in it }. (19)

Cupping used to be an essential part of traditional medical practice for many nations all over the world. With the appearance and spread of modern drug companies these traditional practices faded out and became rare. The situation remained like this until people in the West started to realize the potential of alternative or complementary medical practices. Then some of the old forgotten practices began to reappear in countries from East to West. Once again, it started to be taught, and many books were published about these practices as part of what came to be known as "alternative medicine".

Cupping can be defined as the extraction of a certain amount of blood from specific parts of the body, at a particular time, by making tiny incisions in the skin, then extracting the blood by creating a vacuum.(20)

Professor Ameer Salih is a member of the American Board of Natural Medicine, as well as a member of the American Association of Alternative Medicine and a visiting professor at Chicago University. When he was asked about cupping, he said, "It is a wonderful cure which has become common in many countries of the world." He said that he had studied cupping thoroughly and practiced it in the West before he knew that it was a Prophetic cure. It is highly regarded in a number of universities, better known as "cupping therapy," and categorized as alternative medicine. It is an effective treatment for a number of serious complaints in most countries of the world.(21)



Dr. Saeed Shukri, an ENT professor at the Institute of Speech and Hearing and member of the Medical College at Ohio University, said that we grew up with western medicine and now we are suffering from the severe consequences of chemical drugs. The West has started to realize this now and is carrying out research on alternative medicines which has come up with results beyond all expectations. He said he can clearly observe the noticeable improvement in his patients, which is evidence of the efficiency of cupping as a treatment. The improvement is in the absolute cure of patients and not only the disappearance of symptoms, something that he as a doctor can judge. He concluded by saying that the West now looks to alternative medicine with due respect, and cupping has become prevalent in America and some European countries – a fact that nobody can deny.(22)



The following are a few benefits of cupping:

- 1- It regulates the work of the involuntary nervous system.
- 2- It vitalizes blood circulation.
- 3- It activates nerve conductors.
- 4- It vitalizes motor centers in the body.
- 5- It leads to relaxation of the nerves.

Some of the diseases that can be treated by cupping include the following:

- Chronic headache,
- Rheumatic pains specially in the neck, back and legs,
- Pain in extremities of the limbs, especially for diabetics,
- High blood pressure,
- Back and joint pains,
- Kidney failure, liver, stomach and thyroid gland diseases, including hepatitis viruses and haemochromatosis – It has been proven in many recent studies that it increases the response rate of the hepatitis C virus to treatment with interferon therapy,
- Insomnia, anxiety and nervous tension.(23)

These sound scientific findings show the Prophetic miracle in the treatment of illnesses by cupping which Islam recommended as a preventive and curative measure for many health problems, including chronic and temporary diseases. That is why the West is following this preventative and curative practice approved by the Prophet (peace be upon him) for which many departments have been established in hospitals all over the world because of its great many tangible benefits. It is one aspect of the splendid knowledge of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) which scientists have only acknowledged after more than 10 centuries. May God be far removed from all they ascribe to Him, the Creator, the All-Knowing.



حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمْ

الْمَوْتُ الْمَكْتُمُ وَالْمَخْتَبِئَةُ

Eating Pig Flesh



**﴿تَرْت﴾ Prohibited to you are dead animals, blood,
 and the flesh of swine ﴿تَرْت﴾ Qur'an, 5:3.**

It is forbidden for Muslims to eat pork or any part of the pig, such as its fat, by a religious statutory prohibition that has been mentioned in many places in both the Qur'an and traditions of the Prophet. The Muslims responded immediately to this prohibition more than 1400 years ago without questioning the underlying causes behind it. This was due to their true faith and strong belief that whatever comes from God, their Creator, is beneficial for them and for humanity in general. It is only recently that details of possible reasons for its prohibition have become clear. Let us examine how eating the flesh of this animal can harm humans.



Scientific and medical studies have confirmed that out of all animals, the pig stores the largest number of harmful microbes. The following is a list of diseases which can result from eating pork:

1- Parasitic diseases:

- a) *Trichenella spiralis*: Cylindrical worms are among the most dangerous worms to human beings. They are found in pigs' flesh and settle in the muscles of people who eat pork.
- b) Tinea and cystisercosis: Tapeworms can reach 10 feet in length and cause anemia and digestion disorders.
- c) *Ascaris* worms which cause pneumonitis.
- d) Belharzial dysentery and *Ankylostoma* worms cause bleeding anemia.

2- Bacterial diseases like tuberculosis and cholera

3- Viral diseases like encephalitis and myocarditis influenza

4- Protozoal diseases like toxoplasma cause fever fatigue, hepato and spleen megaly myocarditis, and meningitis.(24)

A pig's flesh also produces a dangerous worm from the germs it contains called trichenilla which clings to the human intestine and body muscles. Science has failed to combat this dangerous worm. The French encyclopedia *Larousse* states that this noxious worm is transferred to people where it heads for the heart and settles in the throat muscles, eyes and



diaphragm. Its embryo can stay alive in the human body for years.(25)

Due to these findings, Islam does not accept the allegation of those who say that the domestic production of pigs today under scientific husbandry and technical supervision is adequate to control the trichenilla worm. Even if that is possible in specific environments in the civilized world, it cannot be generalized to other parts of the world. Islamic legislation (Shariah) is appropriate and valid for all people in all places and for all times.

We can now see the divine mercy of God to human beings in the reasons behind the prohibition of this animal which modern science has proved. The lesson behind this is to absolutely believe and feel confident that all divine orders and prohibitions are for our sake and for our benefit. God has made permissible for us good food and drink, something that we cannot thank Him enough for, even if we spend the whole of our lives trying to thank Him. Glory be to God who created everything according to His perfect judgment.



إنما يريد الشيطان أن يوقع
بينكم العداوة والبغضاء في

الخمر والميسر

ويصدكم عن ذكر الله وعن
الصلوة فهل أنتم منتهون

Intoxicants

(﴿﴾ Satan only wants to cause between you animosity and hatred through intoxicants and gambling and to avert you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. So will you not desist? ﴿﴾ Qur'an, 5:91.

Artificial Pleasure

The atmosphere of temporary ecstasy and pleasure that comes with the first glasses of liquor is but a delusion! The human brain is characterized by the presence of a center which consists of many sensitive tissues. These tissues act as a control over the outcome of primitive centers in the brain, mitigating it, refining it, and producing it in a sensible way that benefits human beings to be productive. When a person drinks liquor, these sensitive tissues become narcotized, ineffective, and lose control. This leaves primitive centers free, allowing a person to act without inhibition and control. That is why you can find those who are shy and quiet during the day become talkative after drinking, polite people shake their bodies provocatively on the dance floors, and even those with unpleasant voices start singing, etc...





Massive Numbers



The American senator, William Fulbright, was right when he commented that despite the progress America achieved in reaching the moon, the feet of the American people are still sticking in the mud because of liquor. It is a real problem in the USA as there are more than 11 million addicts, 44 million drinkers and over 200,000 who die annually because of drinking.

The Harms of Liquor in Milligrams

The effect of liquor depends upon its concentration in the blood according to the following table:

20mg% 90mg%	to	changes temper, muscles lose balance, senses become distorted
100mg% 299mg%	to	causes vomiting, blurred vision, severe lack of balance
300mg% 399mg%	to	lowers body temperature, distorts speech, causes loss of memory
400mg% 700mg%	to	causes deep "semicoma" sleep coupled with respiratory distress, may result in death (26)

Liquor is a Real Harm

Effects on the digestive system:

- When liquor passes through the mouth, it causes stomatitis or cracks in the tongue.
- It causes dryness in both the mouth and tongue, and a secretion of nasty salivary fluid.
- The veinal vessels of the mucous membrane of the esophagus become dilated and more susceptible to injuries, which cause severe bleeding, making addicts vomit blood.
- The veinal vessels of the stomach become congested and secrete hydrochloric acid and pepsin, which causes bleeding (a typical characteristic of alcohol addicts).(27)

The Liver is the Main Victim

The liver has an important function in the body, working as a supply reservoir for all nutrients. It counteracts poisons and produces bile. Alcohol is a highly toxic poison, which the liver works very hard to rid itself of. In doing so, it becomes subject to dangerous consequences.(28)

Statistics

22,000 people in France and 61,000 in Germany die each year because of liver cirrhosis. Alcohol burns in the liver and releases 7 calories for each gram of alcohol, curbing the addict's appetite without replenishment hence reducing their nutrients intake.(29)



A Prophetic saying indicates that even a small amount is prohibited:



ما سكر فيه
فقليل
منه

{ What intoxicates in large amounts is also forbidden in small amounts } .(30)

Some medical studies reported that moderate quantities of alcoholic drinks are useful to the heart and prevent coronary diseases. Other studies said those who don't drink are more susceptible to premature death from heart disease compared to drinkers of moderate quantities. The most prominent scientific and medical event of April 2006 was that researchers in a joint international research team from USA, Canada, and Australia proved otherwise.

They said that a thorough scientific review of all medical studies about this issue doesn't at all verify this allegation. Reviewing more than 54 scientific studies about this matter, they could not deduce that taking moderate quantities of alcohol can prevent heart disease or coronary problems.



Dr. Christi Palantine, Director of Cardiac Diseases Prevention Center in the Faculty of Medicine, Belare University, Houston, Texas, said that there is no adequate evidence to encourage doctors to advise their patients to consume small amounts of alcohol to reduce coronary diseases. There are, in fact, many risks in drinking. Up until this day the American Heart Association has never advised people to drink wine or any other kind of alcohol for expected benefits because, according to them, no alcohol can replace the benefits of keeping weight down, physical exercise, and treatment of hypertension and cholesterol.

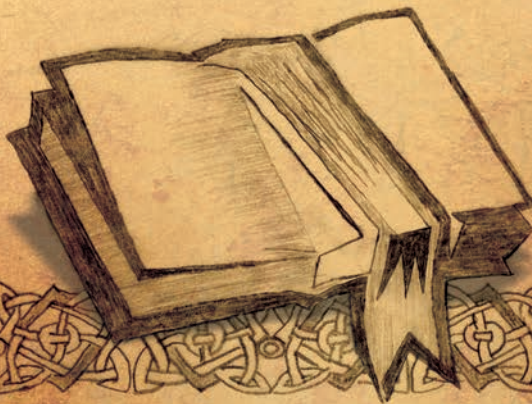
The statistics of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicate that one out of three casualties from road accidents and 90% of sexual assault incidents in student university campuses were committed under the influence of alcohol by underage drinkers.(31)



What Then?

God has honored human beings over animals by giving them a brain. If people lose their minds, they become unaccountable for what they say or do. Why should we then torture our bodies by throwing them in a dump of pain and diseases? Why do we waste this great blessing of the brain deliberately? Why don't we utilize it for the benefit of ourselves, our families, and our societies?

We have seen how both modern science and authorities on preventive medicine are strongly against the dark world of intoxicants. We have explained what the Glorious Qur'an ordained and pointed out 1400 years ago about the prohibition of alcohol and its evils.



يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا قُمْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ

فَاغْسِلُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ إِلَى الْمَرَافِقِ وَارْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ
فَاغْسِلُوا

وَأَمْسَحُوا بِرُءُوسِكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ

Ablution

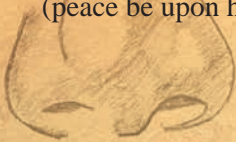
Allah the Almighty says: ﴿قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قُمْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ فَاغْسِلُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ إِلَى الْمَرَافِقِ وَامْسَحُوا بِرُءُوسِكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ﴾ Qur'an, 5:6.

Those who want to perform prayers to God have to wash their extremities in a systematic way in which order and continuity are kept. We will not present here all the virtues or positive aspects of this process which is repeated 5 times a day; we will confine ourselves to what medical doctors say about it. There is, however, a point to be stressed. If we want to supplicate to God, the Almighty, Creator of everything, Lord of lords, Causer of causes, Settler of all affairs to Whom we all return in prayers,



hoping for His mercy and forgiveness, we should come to Him pure and clean.

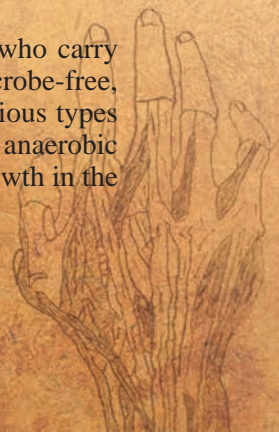
Washing of the face, forearms, and feet cleanses them from dust, impurities, and microbes. It cleans the complexion from oils that are secreted by sebaceous glands and sweat. Microbes only attack human skin if it is not clean. Blood circulation in the extreme parts of the upper and lower limbs is weak because these parts are remote from the heart. Washing and massaging these parts enhance blood circulation, muscular activity, and efficiency. Washing and massaging the feet, as the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) recommended when he said:

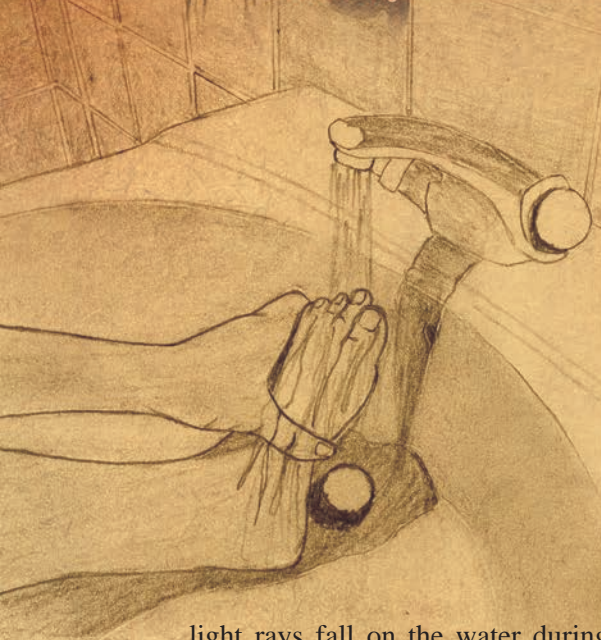


فَالْوُضُوءُ
بِالْأَيْدِي
وَالْأَرْجُلِ

{ **perform wudhu (ablution) perfectly** } (32) brings a feeling of relief, comfort and peace. This is because there are reflexes in the feet which connect over all the body's systems. That is why Muslims find relief and comfort after ablution in preparation for the performance of prayers.(33)

Microbial cultures from the nasal passages of those who carry out ritual ablution systematically were found to be microbe-free, while those who do not, contain huge amounts of various types of highly infective aerobic bacteria and fast infective anaerobic bacteria. Poisoning occurs as a result of microbial growth in the nose cavity that penetrates to the stomach.(34)





It was scientifically proven that 90% of those who lose their teeth did so because of poor oral hygiene. Repetitive rinsing of the mouth with water many times a day protects the mouth and pharynx from infections and pyorrhea. It also protects teeth from decay "censer" and develops facial muscles....(35)

Shawqi Ibrahim, a member of the Royal Medical Association in London and a Heart and Internal Medicine Consultant, said that when

light rays fall on the water during ablution, negative ions are released and positive ones are reduced. This relaxes the nerves and muscles, lowers high blood pressure, and relieves muscular pains, anxiety and insomnia. Water has an amazing effect when it runs over your hands and face. Ablution is the best way to relaxation and relief from tension.(36)

Islam provides the best protection strategy for the body from disease in the form of ablution. Our ancestors were wise when they said, "Prevention is better than cure".

السُّوَاكُ

مَطَهْرَةٌ لِلْفَمِ
رُضَاةٌ لِلرَّبِّ



Al-Siwak

Your mouth indicates your personality

There is no doubt that mouth odor gives a distinct impression about personal hygiene and dental care. It can either attract people or drive them away. It may also affect marital relations and lead to problems. That is why Islam is keen about oral hygiene and teeth care, as Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

{ Siwak (a toothbrush made from tree roots) is a purification for the mouth, and it is a way of seeking Allah's pleasure } .(37)

In 1961, the East German Journal *Al-Majalah*, issue no. 4, presented an article written by the scientist Rhodat, Director of the Bacteriology Institution at Rostock University. He mentioned in the article that he had read about the siwak which Arabs use as a toothbrush in a book written by a traveler who visited those places. He mocked the backwardness of those people who cleaned their teeth with sticks in the 20th century, but he also wondered whether there was a scientific secret behind those sticks. A chance came when a colleague, who worked in bacteriology in Sudan, brought him some siwak. He started to test them by crushing and wetting them and then placed the product in cultures of bacteria. The effect was similar to that of penicillin on bacteria. Arabs used the siwak 14 centuries ago, whilst other people only learned to use toothbrushes 200 years ago.(38)



In a research study presented by Dr. Muhammad Rajaie Al-Mustaihi and his colleagues at the 1st International Conference of Islamic Medicine in Kuwait, they showed that these wooden toothbrushes



(siwak) contain semi-alkaline materials which might possibly be sulphrorin, 3-methylamine, a high percentage of chloride, fluoride, systosterol, and a small amount of sabonin and flavinoids. They proved that the solvent in these cleansers have a prohibitive effect on the growth of bacteria because of the presence of sulphate and because the 3- methylamine reduces the pH level and the chance of microbial growth. Systosterol also works with vitamin C to strengthen blood vessels that feed the gum and protect it against infection.(39)

Recent laboratory research showed that cleansers obtained from the Araq tree (*Salvador Persica*) contain large quantities of gall which is an anti-rot cleaning material that stops gum bleeding. and strengthens the gum. It also contains sinnigrin, a mustard material with an acrid smell and burning taste that kills bacteria.(40)

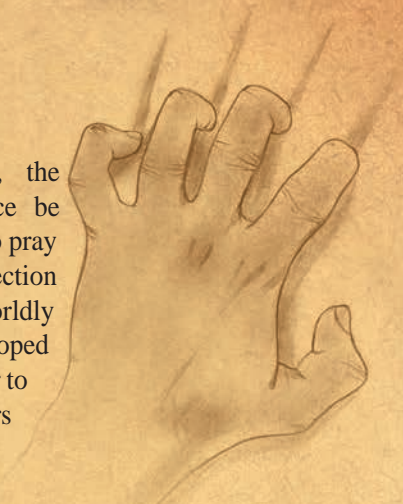
We can now see the benefits of siwak teeth cleansing as a healthy practice recommended by the last messenger, Prophet Muhammad, who lived in the 7th century CE.



بعضنا
لا

Anger

When they were accompanying him, the followers of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) were keen to take any chance to pray behind him or sit with him to seek direction and guidance for their religious and worldly affairs. One of those faithful followers hoped to get some advice from this model teacher to strengthen himself whenever he encounters difficulties and to enlighten his way in life. He said to the Prophet (peace be upon him): "Advise me, O Messenger of Allah." The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied with a few words, the content of which psychologists and medical doctors spent vast efforts for many years to reach and benefit from:



**{ "Do not become angry" and repeatedly he said:
 "Do not become angry" } (41)**

It is scientifically proven that anger increases the systolic rate of the heart beat and consequently the blood supply in the vessels. This causes heart strain from over-exertion. Those who quickly get angry are usually subject to high blood pressure and arterial atherosclerosis when the arterial walls lose their elasticity and block large quantities of blood from passing.(42) The adrenal gland which lies above the kidney, secretes an adrenalin hormone which increases blood glucose upon anger.(43)

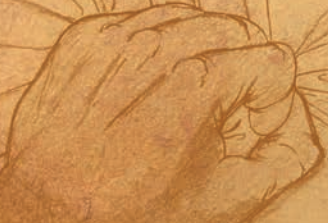
The Islamic cure for anger

إِذَا غَضِبَ فَلْيَجْلِسْ

عَلَى كُرْسِيِّكَ

Anger is a harmful non-healthy behavior which leads people in most cases to drastic decisions and behavior that may result in death. Islam enlightens its followers with advice and guidance that guarantee good manners, sound bodies, and correct behavior. That is why Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) advised his followers to get rid of anger, as it has a negative effect upon relationships, behavior and psychological health.

Dr. Shawqi pointed out two psychological ways to treat angry patients, the first of which is to reduce emotional sensitivity by training patients under the supervision of a doctor to relax in the face of difficult situations and not to



be angry or excited. The second way is psycho muscular relaxation where the doctor asks his patient to remember difficult situations and to sit down if he is standing or even to lie down to become quiet.(44) This practice is based on what medical doctors mentioned in the book, *Harrison Medicine*, about the slight increase in the level of adrenalin when a person stands for five minutes. It increases substantially when the person gets angry. What will happen then if the person gets angry while he is standing?!(45)

The question which comes to mind is who told Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that anger is harmful and has fatal consequences? How did he know the dangerous effects of these hormones increasing when the person is standing in order to tell his followers 1400 years ago:

{ If one of you becomes angry while standing, he should sit down. If the anger leaves him, well and good; otherwise, he should lie down } (46).

تَبَسُّمٌ فِي وَجْهِ أَخِيكَ

كَأَنَّكَ صَدَقْتَ



Smiling is a sign of good manners, a clear invitation for love and coexistence, as well as a message for peace and tranquility. All these features are embodied in a smile. This costless action has a valuable meaning and a great impact. Islam encourages smiling and promises those who practice it rewards in the Next Life, as Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

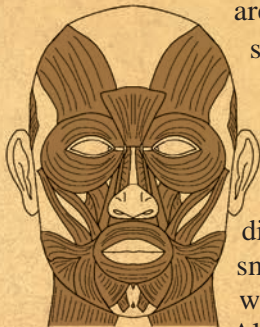
{ Smiling at your brother is a charity } (47)

Before we review the meaning and positive aspects of smiling, let us ponder the wonderful Prophetic approach to inspire his followers and to smile by comparing it to charity. Muslims know that they will get great reward from Allah for giving in charity and for helping the poor and needy. How eloquently it was expressed that smiling brings the same result!

Dr. William Fray, a professor at Stafford University in the Faculty of Medicine, USA, considers smiling a holistic human experience in which all body organs react including the heart, brain, nervous system, and digestive system. The brain secretes endorphins, a material that causes psychological relaxation and relieves pains (48).

A Cost-Effective Method for Success

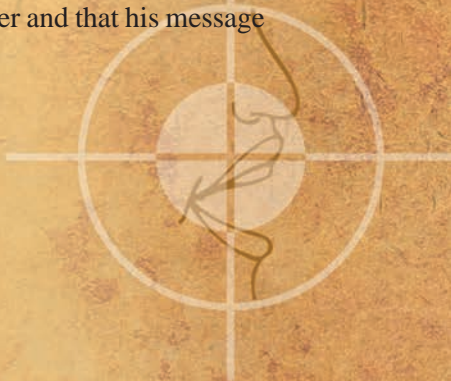
Psychologists have only recently discovered that smiling causes psychological stability and relief, and it reduces depression.(49) In the human face there are 80 muscles, most of which are affected by emotions and tension but very few participate in smiling. If you want to gain the confidence of others, make them feel tranquil, and break barriers with them, smile. Every person has specific chemical materials which are secreted in cases of fear and anxiety. These materials are at their lowest levels when a person meets somebody who approaches him while smiling.



Why only the face?

Dale Carnegie, author and director of Carnegie Institute of Human Relationship in the U.S.A., discovered that the most effective and successful smile is when you look at the face of the other person while smiling.

All these findings show how Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), who was illiterate, combined in a few simple words what today's modern science has proved and verified. By drawing all the linguistic, psychological, and medical meanings together in his Prophetic saying (Hadith) he proved that they are revelations from Allah to his last Messenger and that his message is true and perfect.(50)



قَلْبُهُ

مَرْضَعُهُ بِالصَّدَقَةِ

Cure by Charity



Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

{ Treat your sick people by (giving in) charity }.⁽⁵¹⁾

To help others and answer their needs is a highly valued human characteristic. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) urged his followers to spend on the needy in pursuit of social solidarity. The encouragement to do this noble act has surprised some in that it tells sick people and those who look after their physical health to give in charity. The question will therefore be: "Can charity really help in curing sickness?"

The advanced world is paying more attention in the medical field today to new methods of treatment that depend on speech and emotions, such as NLP. The basic idea behind this approach is that information carried by some expressions and behavior effects brain tissues which require this information to operate.

The whole human body is, in fact, an information network of a precise nature. Any defect in the operation of this network leads to the appearance of diseases.(52) Programming scientists today say that benevolence is very important and that by giving charity to the needy one feels strong and able to provide something useful. This, in turn, gives a sense of psychological relief and comfort which is necessary for the enhancement of the body's immune system. The immune system is greatly affected by the human psychological state. People who are psychologically stable have a stronger immune system than those who are psychologically disturbed.(53)

The researcher Abdal Daa'im Al-Kaheel (54) sees the mechanism of charity in the human body like a computer with continuous need for reformatting and development to improve its performance. Computers with weak potentials are easy to intrude and control but those which have advanced programs and are continuously being updated are very difficult to tamper with.



Chapter 2

Some Aspects of the Islamic Character

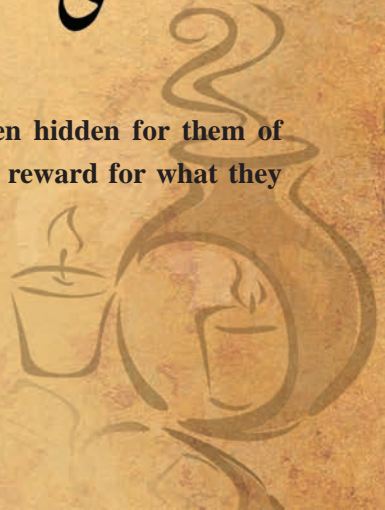


We will now review what I originally intended to tackle. As I mentioned in the introduction, the main theme of this book was to present the behavior and manners which Islam recommended for its believers. When I started doing so, I discovered that most of these issues entail scientific or medical miracles so I changed the direction of my work to share my findings with the readers.

Here the various aspects that show the tolerance of the Islamic character will be briefly reviewed. In general, these aspects are ethical, educational, and humanitarian which will enrich the reader with eminent ethics, principles and refined behavior for the benefit of those who think and ponder. They take the form of instructions written in the Glorious Qur'an and narrated in the Prophetic Sunnah to be a bright light for the hearts of those who ponder, to guide their lives, and make it easier for the righteous to achieve their objectives. This path will enable them in the Next World to enjoy the Paradise which God described:

مَا أَحْمَىٰ
فَلَا تَعْلَمُ نَفْسٌ
مِنْ رِزْقِهِ أَعْيُنٌ

(﴿ And no soul knows what has been hidden for them of comfort for eyes (i.e., satisfaction) as reward for what they used to do. ﴾) Qur'an, 32:17.



وَقُلْ
إِنَّمَا
أَنَا
رَسُولٌ
مِّمَّنْ
مَلَّكَ
اللَّهُ
الْبَشَرِ
مَلَكًا

كَمَا رَسَّيَا فِي صَغِيرًا

Good Treatment of Parents



Parents have every right to advance and occupy the first position in the divine classification. They are, by God's will, the cause of our presence, the most generous in giving, the most sincere to advise, and have the most tender hearts. They are the ones who devote their lives to their sons and daughters in a generous offer of love and mercy. That is why God says the following about the good treatment of parents:

(¹⁰⁴ And your Lord has decreed that you worship not except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age (while) with you, say not to them (so much as), "uff", and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word. And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy and say, " My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up (when I was small.) ¹⁰⁵) Qur'an, 17:23-24

We can see why God coupled dutifulness to parents with His due worship and avoidance of polytheism in honor of their high position and esteem for their value. A Muslim is ordered to be kind when treating them, as well as being courteous and obedient. He should select his words carefully when speaking to them and strive to satisfy their needs and desires, particularly when



they get old, when they need more attention and care. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said to one of his companions when he asked him permission to participate in Jihad (war): {Are your parents alive?" He replied in the affirmative. The Prophet said: "(you should) consider their service as Jihad }. (61).

فارجع والديك ، فأحسن صحبتها

In so doing, we show our gratitude for what parents have given us throughout their lives.

Let us now enjoy and think about this short story which an American woman Umm Abd Al-Malik narrates to us. "I used to see and listen to subjects about Islam on TV from time to time without paying attention. One day a married couple came to the hospital where I was working with an old woman. The wife, who looked anxious, sat waiting in a seat in front of the place where I worked. She was wiping tears from her eyes. Out of curiosity I asked her about what was distressing her. She told me that she came from a far away country with her husband and his mother, the old woman, in search of medical treatment for her. The old woman was suffering from a chronic disease. She was crying while she was talking to me and was asking God to help her mother-in-law. I was amazed that this wife came from a remote country to accompany her husband who wanted to treat his mother. I suddenly remembered my mother, and wondered where she was then. I gave her a bottle of perfume four months earlier on Mother's Day, and since then I never thought of visiting her. That was my mother! What if I had a mother-in-law!

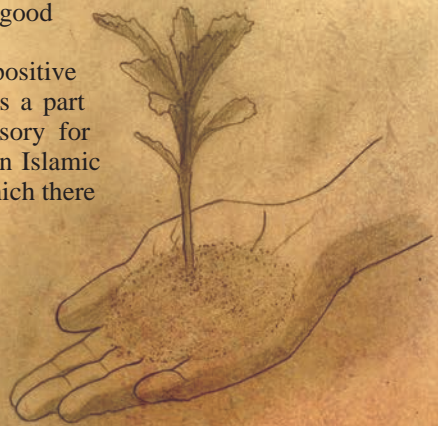
I was completely taken aback by this couple, knowing that the old woman's case was almost desperate. Look at this wife; why was

she so concerned about her mother-in-law? Why was this beautiful lady worried and concerned about her? This subject completely overtook me then. I imagined myself in the place of this mother and what happiness she should be in, a thing which I envied her for. That couple spent the whole time with the sick lady and received phone calls from abroad asking about her condition.

One day, I entered the waiting room and found the wife sitting there. I found it a good chance to talk to her. She told me a lot about the rights of parents in Islam and how we should treat our parents. I was really amazed about the status of parents in Islam. After a few days the old woman died and the couple cried like children.

Afterwards I kept thinking about this experience and about the rights of parents in Islam. I wrote to an Islamic center asking for a book about the subject. Reading the book, I dreamt of being a mother with sons and daughters who loved me and were concerned about me and remained dutiful to me till I died. This led me to Islam, although I did not know much about it. Later, I got married to a Muslim and had children for whom I pray to God to keep them righteous, true in their religion, good and dutiful.(56)

Now dear readers, can you think of any positive law or constitution which gives parents a part of the rights Islam has made compulsory for them! This is the comprehensiveness in Islamic legislation and divine justice beyond which there is no justice.



مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ
أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ

فَمِثْلُهَا قَتَلْنَا بِهَا
مِثْلَهَا قَتَلْنَا بِهَا

The Inviolability of Human Blood

Islam is a religion that calls for peace and conservation of human life and human blood. It is the religion of kindness, brotherhood, and equality. God says in His Divine Book:

وَأَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

(**And We have not sent you {O Muhammad}, except as mercy to the worlds**). Qur'an, 21:107.

In Islam, whoever takes an innocent life is looked upon as if he has killed all of mankind, as Allah (God) Almighty says:

(**Whoever slays a person without (being guilty of) manslaughter or corruption in the land, it would be as though he had slain all of mankind**). Qur'an, 5:32.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) had approved a treaty that was made before his mission which was called "Hilf Al-Fudool" i.e., a treaty in which the wise men of Arab tribes agreed to conserve human blood and set justice for any case of grievances. He said:



وَلَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ شَيْئًا
وَلَا فِي مَالِكُمْ شَيْئًا

{ If that treaty was provided as a plea after Islam, I would have accepted it }. (57)

This is how Islam ruled and how it spread among people – through justice, mercy, and security. It stands by and supports the oppressed and punishes the oppressor like the other heavenly messages that came before. Unfortunately, Islam has been the subject of various attacks and persistent attempts from those who don't want goodness for humanity. It withstood many obstacles and plots that strive to limit or even stop its progress, wipe it out altogether, or at least discredit the reputation of its followers. And this has been the case since the dawn of Islam till today.

Islam is sometimes accused of being a backward religion not suitable for today and at other times, is charged of being rigid and stringent. Finally, it has been stigmatized as a religion for terrorism.

Terrorism, however, doesn't have a religion or homeland, nor does it relate to any specific civilization or culture. Terrorism is a phenomenon and a social system that advocates repression, crime and anti-humanity.

Those who follow Islam and practice it, and those who study Islam or read about it, can all doubtlessly certify and testify that there is no place for violence, stiffness, repression, and intimidation of innocent people in Islam. Lives and properties of others, even those from different religions, are conserved and protected in Islam. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said in this respect:

من امن رجلاً على دمه فقتله

فانا بئس القاتل وان كان المقتول كافراً

{ Whosoever grants safety for a man then kills him – I am innocent of him, even if the victim is a disbeliever }. (58)

In fact, Islamic Law (Shari'ah) has preceded all nations as the first to guarantee care and mercy for humans as well as other creatures. It is amazing to know that in Islam, the world of animals is just like the world of human beings having its own nature, characteristics, and feelings. Allah (God) says in the Qur'an:

وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ
وَلَا طَيْرٍ يَطِيرُ بِجَنَاحَيْهِ
إِلَّا أُمَّةٌ لِكَبِيرٍ

(٥٨) And there is no creature on (or within) the earth or bird that flies with its wings except (that they are) communities like you (٥٨) Qur'an, 6:38.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

دخلت امرأة النار في
فمى القطاة

{ A woman is in Hell because of a cat that she had tied up. She did not feed it nor did she set it free to eat insects of the earth, until it eventually died bit by bit }. (59)

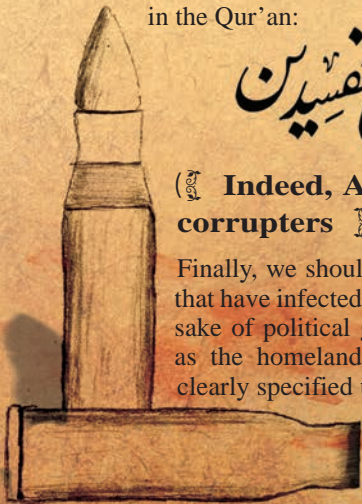
Could such a religion which tells its followers to care and be merciful to animals treat human beings badly, as some falsely claim and fabricate? This aggressive campaign which some people lead against Islam stems from negligence and ignorance about Islam and its principles. They simply do not understand what Islam is.

With respect to the destruction which some deviant groups have caused in some parts of the world, it is not part of the true lenient Islam in the least. In most cases those who are behind such acts are a few deceived and misled individuals. They made themselves tools in the hands of others and hence offended their religion and their societies. These groups have been discarded by their families and societies. Their behavior is odd and solitary. It doesn't have any legitimate base, and they do not believe in true objective dialogue. Violence is completely unacceptable in the true Islamic environment whatever form or color it takes, as it will never avail any religious benefits or secular advancement. True Muslims know that differences in religious beliefs were never and will never be an excuse for killing and destruction which is merely seeking power. It has been said that "If you are not with me, you are against me," which is false and fruitless. God says in the Qur'an:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَمَسُّ عَمَلُ الْمُفْسِدِينَ

(Indeed, Allah does not amend the work of corrupters). Qur'an, 10:81.

Finally, we should not forget that deviant ideologies are germs that have infected many communities over the centuries. For the sake of political greed, the West stigmatized Islamic countries as the homeland of "terrorism," but no definition has been clearly specified until now that it originates from Islamic lands.



أَلَا لَا فَضْلَ لِعَرَبِيٍّ عَلَيَّ عَجَبِيٍّ
وَلَا لِعَجَبِيٍّ عَلَيَّ عَرَبِيٍّ وَلَا لِحُمْرٍ
عَلَيَّ أَسْوَدٍ وَلَا لَأَسْوَدٍ عَلَيَّ أَحْمَرَ

إِلَّا بِاللَّيْلِ

Equality



One of the main characteristics of Islam is that it highly valued and praised is its ability to join people's hearts and gather them under the umbrella of equality. Many human communities have been and are still suffering from racial discrimination and segregation. Reasons for discrimination such as skin color, tribe, or material wealth were strong until the advent of Islam, which wiped out these destructive principles from their roots. It united people in brotherhood regardless of skin color, ethnic origin, and social status. Prophet Muhammad's followers included Arabs, Persians, whites, blacks, the poor and the rich. To leave a clear message for brotherhood and equality, he addressed them, saying:



{ O people, verily your Lord is One and your father is one. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, neither does a white person have superiority over a black person, nor a black person have superiority over a white person except in piety and good action...} (60).

The story of the Abyssinian, Bilal bin Rabah, exemplifies the Islamic stand regarding equality. Bilal was a slave, a saleable commodity to one of the chief opponents of Islam and of Prophet Muhammad's message, Ummayyah bin Khalaf, who was cruel and treated Bilal with humiliation and indignity. Bilal heard about Islam and immediately embraced the religion. When his master found out, he took him to the burning desert of Makkah at noon, dragging him on his back over the burning sands. He ordered that a huge rock be put on his chest and he told him: You will stay like this until you die or until you disbelieve in Muhammad." Bilal replied by saying, "One, one... one," i.e., "God is One," until "Allah" relieved him from this state when Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq, the best of Prophet Muhammad's followers, bought him from his master.





God rewarded Bilal for his true faith and patience by honoring him with the post of caller for the daily prayers. He used to perform the call to prayer five times every day with a loud and melodious voice:

"Allah is the Greatest; Allah is the Greatest. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah; I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah. I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah; I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. Come to the prayer; come to the prayer. Come to success; come to success. Allah is the Greatest; Allah is the Greatest. There is no god worthy of worship except Allah."

Look at how this Abyssinian, who was a slave before Islam, was raised and valued in the Muslim society where his name will be remembered until the Day of Judgment!.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِمَّا كَسَبَ
سَافِرًا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ
يُجْزَى لَهُ أَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ

Blood Relations

Allah says in the Glorious Qur'an:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ

وَأَنْ يَأْتِيَ الْوَالِدِينَ وَالْأَقْرَبَ
بِحَسَنٍ مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُ

{ **Indeed, God orders justice and good conduct and giving [help] to relatives** } Qur'an, 16:90.

Aisha (may God be pleased with her) narrated that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

بِوَالِدِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ
مَنْ وَصَلَنِي رَزَقَنِي مِنْ رِزْقِهِ

{ **The womb is connected to the Throne. It says, "Whoever keeps relations with me – God keeps relations with him; and whoever severs relations with me, God severs relations with him."** } (62).

Maintaining good relations with relatives is an Islamic obligation; it's a call for unification, spreading love and good feelings between family members.

While nearly every religion has emphasized good family relations, Islam has taken it to unprecedented heights.

Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

{ Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him maintain the bonds of kinship }

It is the duty of every Muslim to inquire about his relatives, share their joys and sadness, treat them with generosity and offer help when needed. Immediate relatives have rights over others and a Muslim is required to be kind even to his non-Muslim relatives. Similarly he is required to be kind to even those relatives who are harsh to him. Is there another society that can even come close to this standard in maintaining family ties?.



وَمَا

الْبَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ

Honoring the Orphans

The International Organization for Human Rights has not mentioned any specific rights for orphans. The international convention stipulates childcare only. Islam, however, provides special care for orphans and preserves their rights. Islam advises its followers to be kind and loving to orphans, which is a means for obtaining good rewards in the Hereafter.

Orphans are usually highly sensitive to the behavior of others because of the suffering due to their loss. That is why Islam focuses on their psychological state and directs its followers to be kind to them. The Glorious Qur'an says in this respect:

(﴿ So as for the orphan, do not oppress (him). ﴾).
Qur'an, 93:9.

There is a common misconception that taking custody of orphans is confined to material aspects only. But Islam always rises above the materialism and gives importance to their moral well-being. Many orphans are, in fact, well off and in no need of money. However, they lack integration and mutual coexistence in their societies. The impact of their suffering can be substantial and dangerous to their psychological state. The custodians of orphans need to be well aware of their situation from which they are suffering – the loss of the ones most dear to them. They need to integrate them into society, which is a measure of success as their custodians.

The Qur'anic expression is the most profound statement and clear evidence when talking about orphans' rights within its comprehensive societal and familial value system:

فَلْيَجْعَلْ كَمَوَالِكُمْ
وَأَنْتُمْ خَالِدُونَ فِيهَا

(﴿ And if you mix your affairs with theirs –they are your brothers ﴾). Qur'an, 2:220.



مَا زَالَ
جِبْرِيلُ
يُوصِيَنِي

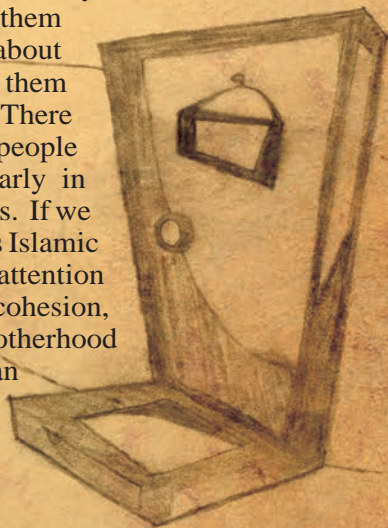
بِالْحَقِّ
الَّذِي
أُنزِلَ
فِي
الْقُرْآنِ
وَأَنَّهُ
سَيُؤْتِيَنِي
الْحِكْمَةَ
وَأَنَّهُ
سَيُؤْتِيَنِي
الْحِكْمَةَ

Neighbors' Rights

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

{ Gabriel continued to advise me regarding the neighbors (so much so) that I thought he would give him the (right) of inheritance } (63).

Islam pays great attention to neighbors and advises its followers to honor them, protect them, and treat them in a good way. Among the most important rights of neighbors that Islam commends people to observe is to keep their neighbors' property and honor safe in their absence. They should also not interfere in their private affairs and be tolerant with them. They should support them in times of hardship and difficulty and not spread their faults among the community, nor envy them for what God has blessed them with. People should also be keen about visiting their neighbors and giving them gifts to strengthen social relations. There are many circumstances where people are in need of neighbors, particularly in dangerous situations and emergencies. If we contemplate the objective behind this Islamic legislation, we can clearly see the attention and concern Islam gives to social cohesion, spreading love, cooperation and brotherhood amongst Muslims. Again we can see Islam as a comprehensive and integrated system of life.



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

مُحَمَّدٌ
رَسُولُهُ



Spreading Gossip and Backbiting

God (Allah), the Almighty, said in the Qur'an :

(... And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? you would detest it ...) 49:12

Backbiting is the act of mentioning somebody in his absence with what he dislikes, while spreading gossip is taking what somebody has said to another with the intention of causing trouble.

Islam is very concerned about the protection of people's honor and dignity. It also commends followers to be faithful and loyal, and not to degrade and dispraise people in their absence in front of others.

Backbiting is no doubt a destructive tool that reflects cowardice. It is a negative characteristic and symbolic of bad manners. Once it spreads among people, it leads to hatred, suspicion and conflicts.

More over, gossiping is similar in results to backbiting and is strongly prohibited as it causes trouble, spreading ill-feeling and disturbing normal relations. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

{ The person who spreads gossip will not enter Paradise } (64).

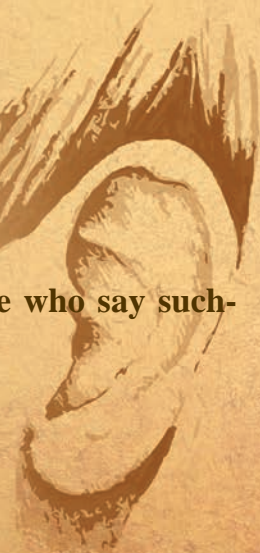
The consequences of backbiting and gossiping are against the supreme objectives of Islam, the religion which advocates mercy, love, equality, and the settlement of disputes. Islam advocates that no one has the right to intrude this sacred sanctuary by backbiting or spreading gossip in order to degrade people. Sometimes there may be an urgent need to mention something about people who are absent. Muslims are asked in such cases to use indirect generalized expressions instead of direct straightforward ones.

We have the perfect educational and moral model in Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). He would not mention the name of the person he was criticizing or blaming in front of the people. Instead, he would use general speech such as:

كَلِمَاتٍ
مَا يَأْتِي الْقَوْمَ
أَقَابُوا...

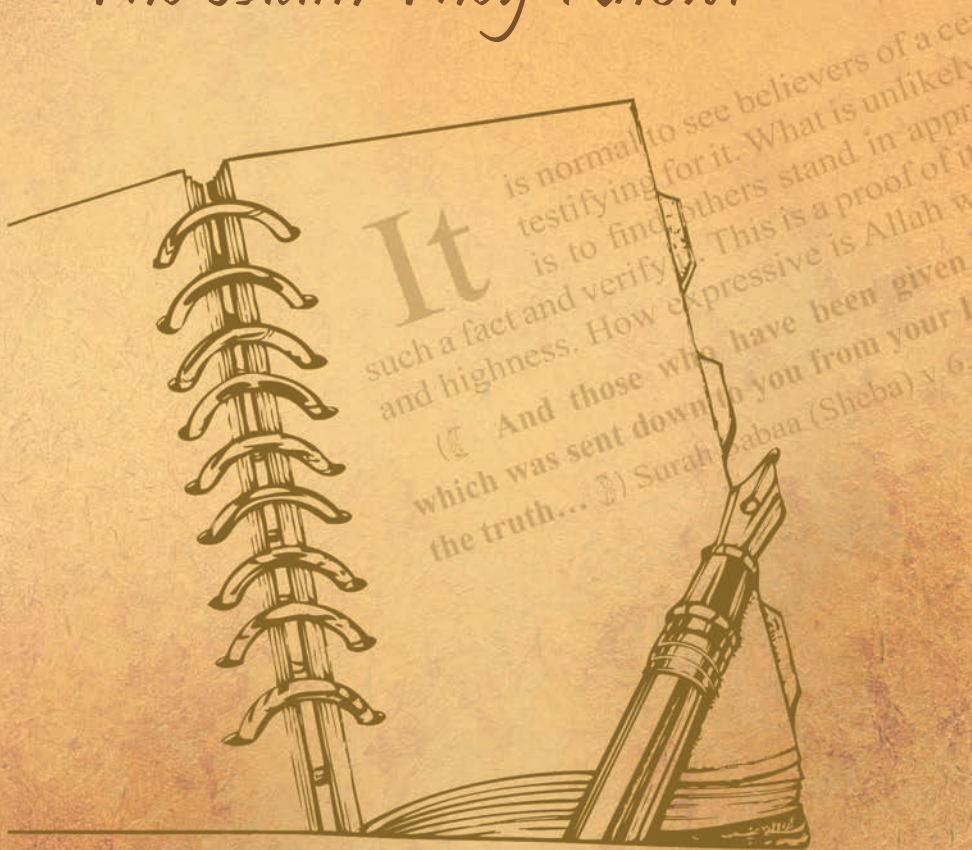
{ What is the matter with a people who say such-and-such } . (65)

كَلِمَاتٍ
مَا يَأْتِي الْقَوْمَ
أَقَابُوا...



Chapter 3

The Islam They Know!



رسالة
الذليل
عبد

It is normal for Muslims to have strong conviction about their faith in Islam. However, throughout history, we find people of other faiths attesting to the truthfulness of this religion. How Exalted is God when He says:

(﴿﴾ And those who have been given knowledge see that what is revealed to you from your Lord is the truth ... ﴿﴾) Qur'an, 34:6.





His Highness Prince Charles **Crown Prince of Great Britain**

A speech he delivered at Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford upon his visit to the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies on Wednesday, 27th October, 1993

" Ladies and gentlemen,
We must bear in mind the sharp debate taking place in the Islamic world about the extent of the universality or timelessness of Shariah law, and the degree to which the application of that law is continually changing and evolving. The rights of Muslim women to property and inheritance, to some protection if divorced, and to the conducting of business, were rights prescribed by the Qur'an 1400 years ago, even if they were not everywhere translated into practice. In Britain at least, some of these rights were novel even to my grandmother's generation!
Among the many religious, social and political causes of what we might more accurately call the Islamic revival is a powerful feeling of disenchantment, of the realization that Western technology and material things are insufficient, and that a deeper meaning to life lies elsewhere in the essence of Islamic belief.



At the same time, we must not be tempted to believe that extremism is in some way the hallmark and essence of the Muslim. Extremism is no more the monopoly of Islam than it is the monopoly of other religions, including Christianity. The vast majority of Muslims, though personally pious, are moderate in their politics. Theirs is the "religion of the middle way." The Prophet himself always disliked and feared extremism.

Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen, if there is much misunderstanding in the West about the nature of Islam, there is also much ignorance about the debt our own culture and civilization owe to the Islamic world. It is a failure which stems, I think, from the straitjacket of history which we have inherited. The medieval Islamic world, from Central Asia to the shores of the Atlantic, was a world where scholars and men of learning flourished. But because we have tended to see Islam as the enemy of the West, as an alien culture, society and system of belief, we have tended to ignore or erase its great relevance to our own history.

For example, we have underestimated the importance of 800 years of Islamic society and culture in Spain between the 8th and 15th centuries. The contribution of Muslim Spain to the preservation of classical learning during the Dark Ages, and to the first flowerings of the Renaissance, has long been recognized.

Cordoba in the 10th century was by far the most civilized city of Europe. We know of lending libraries in Spain at the time King Alfred was making terrible blunders with the culinary arts in this country. It is said that the 400,000 volumes in its ruler's library amounted to more books than all the libraries of the rest of Europe put together.

Islam is part of our past and our present, in all fields of human endeavor. It has helped to create modern Europe. It is part of our own inheritance, not a thing apart". (66)

Ibrahim Khalil Ahmad

He was a priest with postgraduate degrees in theology from Princeton University (USA) and the College of Theology (Egypt). He worked as general secretary for the Swiss / German Missionary; his main duty was to convert people to Christianity and work against Islam. His deeper studies of Islam led him to become a Muslim in 1959.

He stated: "Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) is linked to an everlasting miracle in accordance with what Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) told us "and tells you of things to come." The Glorious Qur'an is the everlasting miracle of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). This





Qur'an is ahead of all modern sciences in all aspects: medicine astronomy, geography, geology, law, sociology, history etc... I sincerely believe that if I was an existentialist who does not believe in any of the heavenly messages, and some people came and told me about the precedence of the Qur'an in all aspects of modern science, I would have believed in Allah - Lord and Creator of heaven and earth." (67)

K. L. Gauba

He was a Hindu intellectual and lawyer in the supreme courts. He was interested in comparative religions. He became a Muslim after he studied Islam.

He wrote: "Islam is capable of fulfilling all human needs in the present time. No religion is able to provide successful solutions to current problems like Islam. Hence, the world today is in vital need for brotherhood, equality, and justice. These virtues are only combined together in Islam that doesn't discriminate between people except by their deeds and efforts." (68)



Dr. Michael Hart

He is a famous researcher and space scientist accredited in Applied Physics, and holder of many other certificates, including a PhD in Astronomy from Princeton University (USA), 1972.

In his famous book, *The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History* he wrote: "It was a surprise to many readers that I chose Muhammad to be at the top of my list of individuals with the greatest international impact in the various fields. I, however, believe that Muhammad was the only man in history who prominently succeeded at both the religious and secular level. This outstanding combination makes Muhammad the greatest and the most influential and unique personality in human history". (69)

La Martine

The Famous French poet stated:



"The greatest event in my life was that I studied the life of Allah's Messenger, Prophet Muhammad, thoroughly and realized its magnificence and perpetuity". (70)



M. Poizar

He is a contemporary French thinker and lawyer concerned with international relations and human rights, who wrote many research papers presented at renowned conferences. He stated:

"The Qur'an was not only able to reform the manners of the Arabs of the pre-Islamic period, but also carries the perpetual comprehensive Shariah (Islamic law) relevant to human realities and social needs of all times". (71)

Dr. Sydney Fisher

He is a lecturer of history at Ohio University (USA) and has conducted many studies about matters related to Eastern countries. He said:

"The Qur'an is a book of education and culture and is not confined only to religious duties and obligations. The virtues that Islam calls Muslims to are among the best and highly valued regarding ethics and morals". (72)

R. Smith

He is a lecturer at Oxford University. He said in a lecture entitled, Muhammad and Muhammadism:" :

"There are no myths or illusions in what historians wrote about Muhammad and his message. Everything is quite clear as daylight. It is amazing over time that no scientific character has been written about as Muhammad was". (73)

Professor Yushadi Kruzai

Director of the Tokyo Astronomic Observatory

"I did not find any difficulty in accepting the Qur'an as Allah's words. The description of the human embryo in the Qur'an couldn't be based on 7th century scientific knowledge. The only rational deduction is that Allah revealed it to Muhammad (peace be upon him). The universe with all its contents is well explained in the Qur'an and quite understandable; hence I declare myself a Muslim". (74)

Dr. G. Lebon

He is a French medical doctor and historian of eastern civilizations. He is the author of the books "The Arab Civilization", "Paris 1884" and "The Egyptian Civilization". He wrote:

"Of all religions, Islam is the most coping with scientific discoveries and the greatest in refining people's souls and in calling for justice, benevolence, and forgiveness. Whatever the communities they belong to, Muslims are not foreigners to each other. In Islam, there is no difference between Chinese and Arab Muslims; they both enjoy the same rights. The Islamic rights are thus substantially different from European ones". (75)



J. S. Restler

He is a contemporary French researcher and lecturer at the Islamic Institute in Paris.

He wrote: "Islam endeavors to relieve misery, cruelty, superstitions, and help the weak and needy people. It commends benevolence and mercy. In its legislations, it sets rules for even the minor details regarding every day dealings; it also organizes contracts and inheritance. Concerning family affairs, it defines behavioral roles for everyone, for example, how to treat children, servants, slaves, animals, and issues of health and clothing". (76)

Thomas Carlyle

He is a well-known English writer who was fond of heroism and traced heroes in different fields. He wrote a book entitled «Heroes» with a whole section on Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). He warned people against the anti-Islamic allegations and lies and the false broadcasted material about Prophet Muhammad, saying:

"The message with which Prophet Muhammad came with, remained a bright light for millions of people over fourteen centuries. Could such a message upon which these millions live and die be a lie? Then he asked, «Did you see any liar who could create a religion and commit himself to spreading it the way in which Islam did?". (77)

Hanutu

The former French Minister of Foreign Affairs said:

"Islam has crossed and spread throughout all the boundaries of this earth. It is the only religion which people strongly tend to embrace unlike other religions". (78)



E. Dinet

He is the author of many books. He studied in France and traveled to Algeria where he became a Muslim and changed his name to Naser Al-Din.

The miracles of the prophets who preceded Muhammad were in fact temporary and hence quickly forgotten. The miracles of the Qur'anic verses, however, are perpetual with everlasting impacts. It is quite easy for Muslims at all times and places to see these miracles the moment they start reading the Qur'an. In this miracle one can find adequate verification and explanation for the widespread acceptance of Islam, the cause of which Europeans fail to understand. This is because they don't know about the Qur'an, or they only learn about it through inaccurate lifeless translations". (79)



Dr. Maurice Bucaille

He is a well-known French medical doctor and scientist.

He said: "I studied the Glorious Qur'an objectively and without any predetermined ideas in search of textual disagreement between it and modern scientific findings. I came to realize that the Glorious Qur'an doesn't contain any statement that can be criticized from the modern science point of view". (80)



D. Potter

She was born in 1954 in Traverse City, Michigan (USA) and graduated from the Department of Journalism, University of Michigan. She converted to Islam in 1980 after deep conviction that it is the only religion that satisfies human needs, both male and female.

She said: "When I completed reading the Glorious Qur'an, I was overwhelmed by a feeling that it was the truth which had adequate answers to questions about creation and other matters. It portrays events to us in a rational way, whereas other religious books are quite contradictory in telling events. The Qur'an tells us about events in a wonderfully coordinated manner, with a decisive approach that leaves no chance to doubt; indeed, the Qur'an is the Words of Allah.

How could the illiterate Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) who lived in an ignorant environment know all these universal

miracles described in the Qur'an and which modern science still strives until the present day to uncover; indeed this speech has to be from Allah". (81)

Cat Stevens (Yusuf Islam)

He was a famous singer with superstar status before his conversion to Islam. He was brought up in a luxurious environment, and his reputation extended from the British Isles to the entire world. He was commonly referred to as «the singer of the two continents.» His record sales were in the millions. In spite of this wealth and fame, he was unhappy and internally felt that his life was meaningless. But why?

He was asked: "We know that nowadays you are interested in propagating Islam in Europe and specifically in the educational fields. It has often been said that Islam is the fastest spreading religion worldwide including Europe. What do you think are the reasons behind the fact that Europeans and Americans or non-Muslims in general embrace Islam despite the fact that Europe enjoys a more advanced way of life compared to the rest of the world and the Islamic countries?"

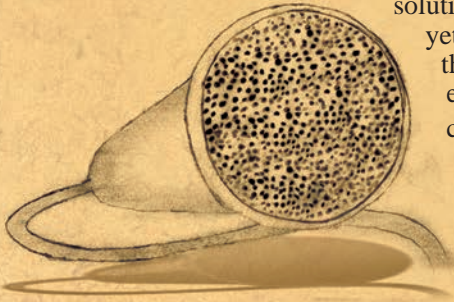
He answered: "The main thing has to do with the person himself regardless of whether he lives in the East or the West, in Europe or Africa. Man needs to have a balanced life; although the West is well advanced in technology, science, development, and communication systems, something is missing and often neglected, which is the spiritual side of life.

The media tries to create an image and vision for people who need something more spiritual than movies, stories and recreation. They



want something that gives them a more distinct position, and Islam, I think, is the answer to their needs as it was to me. I had all what I needed: money, fame, and youth; I had everything but still I was not happy. It is happiness that the West is seeking. They think that material things can make them happy and the more leisure time they have, the more they can enjoy themselves. That is not true. They find life even more boring. Thus, there is a huge gap in man's life unless it is spiritually balanced. Islam perfects this balance as it combines both sides of life.

The coming century may witness an increase in this interest as the West realizes that Islam adopts and provides solutions. This was just an expectation yet the West understood that Islam is the only way through which balance, economic justice, and well-being can be achieved ". (82)



La Coste

The French Minister of Colonies in 1962 said:

"What can I do if the Qur'an is stronger than France?" .(83)



وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى الْعَمَلِ
وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى الْعَمَلِ
وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى الْعَمَلِ
وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى الْعَمَلِ

وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى الْعَمَلِ
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David Moses Peticook

*The president of the British Islamic party
(the story of his conversion to Islam)*

In a TV interview the Muslim geological scientist, Professor Zaghoul Al-Naggar, was asked about the Qur'anic verse:

﴿The Hour has come near, and the moon has split (in two).﴾. Qur'an, 54:1.

"Is there a scientific Qur'anic miracle in it?" Dr. Zaghoul replied, " This verse has a long story. Not long ago I was lecturing at the University of Cardiff, Wales, to the west of Britain; the audience was a mix of Muslims and non-Muslims, and there was a viable dialogue about scientific miracles in the Glorious Qur'an. A Muslim youth stood and asked me about the scientific miracle in this particular verse.

I replied, 'No' because scientific miracles in the Qur'an explain science. Miracles, on the other hand, cannot be explained by science as they are abnormal extraordinary cases. The splitting of the moon is a miracle that happened during Prophet Muhammad's time to prove his message and prophecy. Such physical miracles were a true sign for those who saw them. We Muslims of today wouldn't have believed in it if it was not mentioned in the Glorious Qur'an or Prophetic tradition (Hadith) even though we know that Allah, the Almighty, is capable of everything".

Dr. Zaghoul then told the story of the splitting of the moon as it was reported in the Hadith. Five years before Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) migrated from Makkah to Madinah, some disbelievers from the Quraish tribe came to him and challenged him to show them a miracle that would prove his prophecy and message. When he asked them what they wanted specifically, they said, "Split the moon for us". He then stood



and called upon his Lord to help him, and God revealed to him to point his finger at the moon which then split into two parts that moved away from each other for hours then reunited again. The disbelievers said that Muhammad (peace be upon him) had put a magic spell on them. Some wise men among those who were present said that magic can affect those who were present but cannot affect all people. They waited for some caravans that were coming back from their journey towards Makkah to ask them about this incident. When the first caravan appeared, they asked them whether they noticed anything strange about the moon recently. They replied affirmatively, saying that on a particular night we saw the moon split into two halves that moved away and then joined back together after a while. Some of the disbelievers then believed in Islam, and the rest stayed as they were.

Dr. Zaghoul then added, "After I finished this story, a British Muslim stood up and introduced himself as David Moses Peticook, the president of the British Islamic Party, and asked for a chance to add something.

I told him to go ahead. He then said that while he was researching religions before he became a Muslim, a Muslim student gave him an interpretation of the Qur'an which he took home. When he opened it, the first thing he saw was this same verse about the splitting of the moon. Considering the impossibility of this event, he was discouraged to continue reading and set aside the book. He became involved with other worldly matters and forgot about it altogether. Allah, however, knows how sincere he was in his search for the truth, guided him to sit and watch a program on the television where the commentator and three space scientists were having a dialogue. The commentator was asking the scientists about the justification for the substantial expense of space trips when the earth is suffering from problems of hunger, disease, poverty and backwardness. He was debating that if these financial resources were spent on construction, it would be more beneficial. The scientists, in turn, tried to verify their point of view saying that space technology has many applications in life in the fields of medicine, industry and agriculture, so whatever resources were spent on it was not a waste. Space exploration had helped develop very advanced technologies. During the dialogue, the commentator mentioned that the



trip when man first landed on the surface of the moon was considered one of the most expensive trips, costing more than 100,000 million dollars. The commentator cried, "What nonsense! 100,000 million dollars to put the American flag on the moon's surface" "The scientists replied, 'The objective was not to place the American flag on the moon's surface but to study the internal composition of the moon. We discovered a fact that even if we had to spend more than that amount to convince people, no one would believe us.'" When the commentator asked them, "What fact?" they replied that, "The moon we see had one day been split and reunited again." When they were asked how they knew that, they answered that they found a belt of metamorphic rocks that cut the moon from surface to surface via the core center. Having asked both earth and geological scientists, they discovered this could not have happened unless the moon had split and been reunited again.

That British Muslim, president of the British Islamic Party, said, "I jumped from my chair and said, Oh! The miracle that happened to Prophet Muhammad more than 1400 years ago! Allah made the Americans spend over 100,000 million dollars to confirm this miracle for the Muslims. This religion has to be true." He then added, "I then went back to the Glorious Qur'an, read Surah al-Qamar, and then I believed in the religion of Islam". (84)





Dear reader:

I hereby call you to a life of illumination and guidance, tranquility, and happiness; to true happiness. I call you to live in this world in an ideal way and earn Paradise, which is as vast as the heavens and the earth.

I call you to bear witness that,

"There is no god worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is His slave and messenger."

I call you to testify that Allah is the Creator of everything, Lord of everything. He has no son, nor companion, and there is none equal to Him and testify that Muhammad is His slave the seal of His prophets.

God sent Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a mercy and a guide to all the worlds, to guide them from darkness to light, from the narrowness of the world to the abundance of the Hereafter, from the worship of human beings to the worship of the Lord of human beings.

The life history of this human prophet was ornamented with the highest values and most supreme titles. Even before his message, people called him honest and faithful. He was known amongst his people to tell the truth even as a child. He never betrayed, never mistreated a living soul, never uncovered any defect, never cut family relations, never insulted anyone, never let go of his dignity as a man, and never worshipped an idol. Many notable Arabs and non-Arabs embraced Islam because of him. And those who didn't, did not deny him; they only denied his message out of arrogance. Gold and material wealth were placed at his feet, but he was not persuaded by them.

Instead, he died while his shield was pledged as collateral for a debt.

إِنَّمَا أَنَا ابْنُ امْرَأَةٍ
تَأْكُلُ الْقَيْدِ

There was a time when a man came to him, and while speaking, the man began to shake with fear. Thereupon, Muhammad (peace be upon him) said to him:

{ Take it easy, for I am not a king. I am only a son of a woman who used to eat dried meat }. (85)

I call upon you dear reader to the true religion, the religion of guidance, security and peace. It is the religion for which the writings of wise men have testified and the experiments of scientists have confirmed; one whose principles were agreed upon by philosophers and whose objectives were testified by wise men. The facts of this religion have been proven by scientific laboratories and various fields of knowledge over thousands of years.

Finally, I call upon you to raise your hands to the heavens and ask Allah with a sincere heart that seeks the truth, hoping that He directs you to the right path. Ask Him to grant you success in being a follower of the truth. Hope for His pleasure and fear His anger. Hope that you may be with Him and be under His protection, just as we hope for a life of health and happiness.

Allah will never disappoint those that He sees are truthful and sincere in their intentions.

(ﷻ) and those who strive for Us, We surely guide them to Our ways. And indeed, Allah is with the doers of good. (ﷻ) Qur'an (29:69)

Conclusion

Islam came to set all our relationships right. This includes our relations with Allah as well as with other human beings.

It is indeed the religion of peace, love, brotherhood, equality and justice. It is based on solidarity and social cohesion. It looks after family and society at large. It protects widows, and supports orphans so that they can integrate into their communities with full confidence and tranquility.

While parents must be given their due rights of respect and obedience, parents must be kind to their children. Likewise, while men have to be faithful to their wives, women must respect their husbands, meet their needs, be loyal to them, and preserve their property in their absence. Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) said : "The believers who show the most perfect Faith are those who have the best behaviour, and the best of you are those who are the best to their wives."

Islam calls for education and knowledge where the status of the scholars is highly appreciated, and this is clearly mentioned in many verses in the Qur'an. In verse 39:9 Allah (God) Almighty says: ﴿قُلْ أَتَعْلَمُونَ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ﴾ Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only they will remember (who are) people of understanding. ﴿قُلْ﴾

I hope this book opens the door for you to read the words of God in the Qur'an which I hope will shed the light of truth into your heart.



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