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THE RELIGION OF TRUTH.

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THE RELIGION OF TRUTH

By

Abdul Rahman Ben Hammad Al-Omar

(IN ENGLISH)

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

**In The Name of Allah
The All- Merciful, The All- Compassionate**

All praise be to Allah, the lord of the worlds. May the peace and blessings be upon Muhammad, the last of the messengers.

To proceed to my topic, I say:

The Supreme head- Office for Religious Researches, Ifta, Call, and Guidance Departments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gave its approval on the 23-rd of Safar 1395 H for the publication of this book, after it had been revised by the competent authorities according to the legal rules of Islamic Law. I pray to Allah that He may make this book of use to a large number of people.

In The Name of Allah The All-Merciful, The All-Compassionate

Introduction and dedication

All praise be to Allah, lord of the worlds, may the peace and blessings be upon all of His messengers.

This is a call for salvation which I would like to present to every wise person, hoping that Allah, The All omnipotent and The All-Sublime, would guide by it those who have gone astray, and that He may reward me bountifully and reward everyone

who participates in distributing it.

We should know that the only way for our salvation in this life and in the hereafter is to know, for sure, our lord who created us, believe in Him, and worship Him Alone . We should also know our Prophet whom Allah had sent to us and to mankind, believe in him and follow him. We should know the religion of truth which our lord has commanded us to believe in, and practice it.

This book, The Religion of Truth, treats these basic and great subjects. I have indicated in the foot-notes the meaning of some words and the explanation of some subjects, basing these explanations on The Holy Quran and the traditions of Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, because these two are the only sources of Islam, the religion of truth.

In this book, not only have I dropped blind imitation, which has already misled a large number of people before, but I have also discussed about quite number of deviated sects which still pretend to be on the right path, although they have gone far astray.

This is an attempt to guide those who are related to such sects uncautiously by showing them that these sects have deviated from the path of truth, and to warn others to take precautions for themselves.

May Allah guide me! He is the Most Exalted and on Him I depend.

Chapter One

How To Know Allah⁽¹⁾, The Great Creator

We should know that our lord who created us out of naught and sustained us with His bounties, is Allah the Lord of the worlds. The wise believers in Allah did not see Him, but they knew Him by clear evidences showing His Existence and proving that He is the Creator and Sustainer of all creatures.

Some of these evidences are:-

1. The universe, mankind and life are all created objects, with a limited scope of existence. Every incidental and dependant object is created and , thus, must have a creator. This Great Creator is Allah, Who informed us through the books which He revealed to His messengers that He is the Originator and the Sustainer of all creatures. The role of His messengers was to convey Allah's words to mankind and call peopel to believe in Allah and worship Him alone. Allah stated in the Quran:

﴿ إِنَّكَ رَبُّكُمْ أَفَلَا تَتَذَكَّرُ ۗ أَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالْإِصْنَانُ ۗ أَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ الْوَالِدُ وَالْوَالِدَاتُ ۗ أَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ الْمَرْءُ الْمَرْثُ يُغْنِيكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ الْغَنِيُّ ۗ أَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۗ ﴾ (آية ٧/٥٤ الأعراف).

<< Your Guardian - Sustainer is Allah, Who created the

(1) Allah is a proper name for the lord of the world, mankind and every thing. Allah, Glory be to Him, called Himself by this name which means "The True God".

heavens and the earth in six days and then He Settled Himself on the Throne. He draweth the night as a veil over the day in rapid succession the sun, the moon, and the stars are all made subservient by His command. Lo ! for Him is to create and govern, blessed is Allah the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds.>> (7:54)

Through this verse Allah informs mankind that He is their Lord, Who created them, the earth and heavens in six days⁽¹⁾ and that He is firmly established Himself upon His Throne. The Throne is elevated over the heavens. It is the most colossal and greatest thing that Allah had created. He, Glory be to Him, en-

(1) Allah is able to create the whole world in a moment less than a twinkling of an eye. He stated that when He wills to create a thing He says "Be and it is". The graduation in the creation of the world, in six days, is for a sagacious reason intended by Allah, Glory be to Him.

3 Istwa is an Arabic word which means "Sat upon, established Himself on". There are the linguistic meanings of the word but, in this verse <<is the description which Allah, Glory be to Him, has described this action.

According to the Salafi correct doctrine, no interpretation is permissible for the Attributes and actions of Allah, so, we should restrict ourselves to this word and say that the meaning of "Istawa" in this verse is as Glorious and Majestic to be proper to Allah, lord of all creation, "Naught is as His likeness, and He is the omniscient, the Omnipotent. In addition to the above-mentioned, a Muslim shouldn't ask about the way of how Allah sat upon His Throne, because the way that Allah sat upon His Throne differs totally from that of His creatures. To explain this "Istiwa" Imam Ahmed said:- (Istiwa" or sitting upon His Throne is known, but the condition is unknown; to believe there in is a duty or an obligation and to question How? is an innovation "Bida". This means that no body knows the condition or the state of how Allah sat upon His throne save He Himself Glory be to Him. Speaking about Allah's Attributes is a branch of speaking about His Identity which is beyond human realisation of Allah's existibility.

compasses all His creatures by His knowledge and Will. None

of their affairs is hidden from Him. Allah also stated that He makes the day to cover the night which follows it in haste, and He created the sun, the moon, and the stars and made them subservient and revolving in their orbits by His command. Allah informs us that to Him Alone belongs the creation and sovereignty and that He is the Supreme, Transcendent and All-perfect in Himself and His Attributes, greatly Bountiful, and that He is the

lord of the worlds, who created mankind out of naught, and sustains them with His bounties.

Allah states in the Quran:-

﴿ وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ لَا تَسْجُدُوا لِلشَّمْسِ وَلَا لِلْقَمَرِ
وَأَسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُنَّ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ ﴾ (٤١ : ٣٧)

<< Among His signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. Adore not the sun and the moon, but adore Allah, who created them, if it is Him you wish to serve.>> (41-37)

In this verse Allah informs us that the day, the night, the sun and the moon are some of His signs. Allah interdicts people from prostrating to the sun or to the moon as they are created objects like other creatures. Allah Alone should be worshipped. Since prostration is a kind of worship, thus, it should be for Allah Alone, because He is the Creator, the Sustainer and the Only True God Who deserves to be worshipped.

2. The creation of male and female.

3. The variety of tongues and hues in mankind. Two persons never identical in colour, voice,... etc. On the contrary, they are quite distinct from each other in one or more of their features or characteristics.

4. Differences of fortunes in life is an evidence of the existence of Allah, the Creator. Although all men are endowed with intellect, knowledge and incentives of competition among each other to gain wealth, acquire dignity or enjoy the favour of having a beautiful wife, they are clearly different in their fortunes. No one has a portion more than that which Allah has assigned to him. The underlying reason for such divergence in fortunes is that Allah tests people, and makes them help and serve each other for the benefit of the whole mankind. Whosoever is unfortunate in this life, but persists believing firmly in Allah, will be rewarded in the Hereafter, and his portion of bliss will be increased in the Gardens. Yet, poor people, even in this worldly-life, are endowed generally with a great number of psychological and health privileges of which quite a number of the rich are deprived.

5. Sleep.

6. The soul whose nature is unknown to anyone except Allah.

7. The creation of the human being, his senses, his nervous system, his intellect, and digestive system, etc.

8. The rain which Allah sends down to revive the dead earth and

brings forth plants of every kind and trees different in kind, colour and taste,etc. There are only a few of the hundreds of pieces of evidence which Allah The Almighty presented in the Quran. All these evidences prove that Allah is The living, The Creator and The Sustainer of all creatures.

9. People, by their natural and innate character, believe that they came to existence by the creation and sustenance of a Creator. Allah is the Creator and Sustainer of all creatures. Whoever denies this innate nature is going astray and throwing himself into distress. Thus, the communist, who denies the existence of his Creator and Sustainer, leads a miserable life, and in the Hereafter his end will be in Hell-fire. (1)

Allah, Glory be to Him, has many attributes. He is the First with no beginning for His Existence. He is Omniscient, Ever lasting, Alive; neither He dies, nore does His Existence expire.

He is The Absolute and All-Independant; He is The One with no partners. Allah stated in the Quran:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ * اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ * لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ
وَلَمْ يُولَدْ * وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ﴾ (١١٢ : ١ - ٤)

In the Name of Allah , the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate:

(1) Except for he who repents and returns to Allah, blieves in Him, His Messenger; His religion, and behaves sincerely according to this belief. Allah accepts the repentance of those who return to Him.

<< Say He is Allah, The One and Only, Allah the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, Nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him>> (112 :1-4)

When the unbelievers asked Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) about the Attributes of Allah, Allah revealed this sura (chapter) to His Prophet and commanded him to tell them that Allah is One with no partner, The Omniscient, Eternal, Alive and The Sustainer. To Him belongs the absolute mastery over the creation, mankind and everything. To Him Alone should people make for refuge and from Him Alone should they ask for help and need. He begetteth not nor is He begotten; He has no daughter, son, father or a mother, because progeny, birth, and descendant chains are characteristics of creatures and not an Attribute of the Great Creator. In this verse, and other verses of the Quran, Allah negated absolutely the false sayings of Christians who pretend that the Christ is the son of Allah, the false claim of the jews that Azzra is the son of Allah and the false belief of others who say that the Angels are the daughters of Allah. All these forms of falsehood had been refuted in the Quran; Allah affirmed that He created by His power Jesus Christ, peace be upon him, from a mother and without a father, exactly as He had created Adam, the father of mankind out of clay, Eve, the mother of mankind out of Adam's ribs and their offspring out of their seminal fluids.

Allah created everything; then He decreed a system for His creatures which no one except Him can ever change. Therefore, it is one of the miracles of Allah that He created Jesus;

peace be upon him, from a mother without a father; also the miracles of Allah is that He gave Jesus the ability to speak while he was still a baby in the cradle. Allah gave Moses, peace be upon him, the miracle of the staff. This staff turned into a serpent when Moses cast it, and when he struck the sea with this staff, the sea divided and became a path through which Moses and his followers were delivered. Allah also gave the seal of the prophets, Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, the miracle of the splitting of the moon, made the trees to greet him when he passed by them, and the animals to testify loudly that he is the Messenger of Allah.

Allah carried his Prophet on the Buraq from the Holy Mosque in Makkah to the Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, then he has been ascended to the heaven accompanied by the Angel Gabriel and have the honour of being in the presence of Allah, Glory be to Him, spoke to His Prophet and commanded him and his followers to perform the prayer; on his way back to Makkah the Prophet may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him saw the inhabitants of each heaven, all of these events took place before dawn. The miracle of the journey by night and ascension to the heavens is well known, it is mentioned in the Quran, prophetic traditions and history books.

Some of Allah's attributes: He is The Omniscient, The Omnipotent and Has the ability to do everything; nothing can veil His Seeing or Hearing. Allah knows what is hidden in the wombs, what is concealed in the hearts and knows whatsoever happened and whatsoever will happen. When He desires a thing, He com-

mands "Be and it is". Allah attributed to Himself speech. He speaks to whom He wishes and decrees whatever He wishes. Allah had spoken to Moses before, and to Muhammad the last of messengers, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. The Quran, in its letters and meanings, is the speech of Allah, revealed to His Messenger Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. Therefore, the Quran is one of the Attributes of Allah and not a creation as the erroneous Mu'ttazella believe. Among the Attributes of Allah by which His messengers described Him are: His Countenance, His Highness, His pleasure, His wrath etc. Allah bestows His pleasure on His believeng bondmen and inflicts His wrath on the unbelievers of his creatures, Allah's Attributes are as supreme and Majestic as to be proper to Him, Glory be to Allah.

The Quran and prophetce traditions confirm that the believers will see Allah in the Hereafter while their eternal abode in paradise. The Attributes of Allah, Glory be to Him, have been explained clearly in the Glorious Quran and prophetic traditions. Thus, he who wishes to know more about these divine Attributes can consult these sources.

The Raison D'etre for the creation of Mankind, Jinn and Others

If we know that Allah is our lord who created us, we should also know that He did not create us without purpose, but to worship Him. The evidence proving this fact is stated in the Quran:

﴿ وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ • مَا أُرِيدُ مِنْهُمْ مِنْ رِزْقٍ وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ يُطْعَمُونِ • إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الرَّزَّاقُ ذُو الْقُوَّةِ الْمَتِينُ ﴾ (٥٨ - ٥٦ : ٥١)

<< I have only created Jinns and men that they may serve Me. No sustenance do I require of them nor do I require that they should feed Me. For Allah is He Who gives (all) sustenance. Lord of power, steadfast (for ever.>> (51 : 56-58)

In these verses, Allah stated that He had created the Jinn and mankind to worship Him Alone, and that He is All-independant and not in need of any provision or food from His bondmen. Allah is All-powerful and He is the Donor of livelihood Who sustains mankind and all creatures with His bounties. Allah causes rain to pour down on the earth, and thereby produce all kinds of fruits and bounties with which He favours mankind.

As for other creatures which are not endowed with reason, Allah stated that He had created them for the benefit of man. Therefore, man's action and behavior towards these creatures should be regulated by the laws of Allah. Every creature, every state of motion or quiescence has been created for a special rea-

son. Allah has stated alot of these underlying reasons in the Quran; the scholars of Islamic law have a good knowledge about this subject, although they differ in rank according to their different levels of knowledge in this field.

Differences in life-time, means of livelihood, life-incidents and even misfortunes of life are caused by the will of Allah to test His reasonable bondmen. So, whosoever surrenders to Allah, is contented with what He has for him, and endeavours to gain His pleasure, will be rewarded bountifully; Allah will bestow upon him happiness in this life and in the Hereafter. But, whosoever refuses to submit to Allah, is discontented with what He has destined for him, and disobeys Him, will suffer the warth of Allah, and feel misery in this life and in the Hereafter.

May Allah bestow upon us His pleasure and protect us from His wrath.

Resurrection, Day of Judgemen, Retribution, Paradise and Hell

If we already know that Allah created us to worship Him, we should also know that Allah had stated in His scriptures that he will resurrect us after death in order to recompense us for our deeds in this life.

By death, the humanbeing passes from this temporary life to the life of retribution and eternity. When man's life-time terminates, Allah orders the angel of death to put an end to his life.

Thus man suffers pains of death when his soul is taken out of his body. Had the man believed in Allah and obeyed Him, his soul will enjoy the abode of bliss (Paradise), but if a man is a disbeliever in Allah, who denies resurrection and retribution after death, his soul will suffer torment till the end of this worldly life when everything in this world will perish; and none will exist save Allah.

Dooms- day will begin, and Allah will resurrect all the creation . Every body will be restored to it's soul in the same form as it had been before; even the animals will be raised up again. Then, every one will be retributed for his deeds, no difference between male and female, head or subordinate, rich or poor. NO one will be wronged; every one will have the just reward for his deeds. Whosoever commits injustice, even against animals, will be retributed. As for animals, they will not be questioned because they have no reason, and on that day all animals will be transferred to dust.

Human beings and Jinn will be recompensed for their deeds; each one will have his share of reward or punishment according to what he had forwarded during his worldly life. Believers who obeyed Allah and followed His messengers will be guided to the Gardens, even if they were the poorest men; the unbelievers who denied faith will be led to Hell-fire, even if they were the most noble and rich men in this worldly life. Allah stated in the Quran:-

﴿ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقْوَمُ ﴾ . (٤٩ : ١٣)

<<Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you>> (49 : 13)

The Garden:-

The Garden is the abode of bliss; it is beyond description. It has 100 levels; each one of its dwellers will stay in the level suitable to his grade in belief and his obedience to Allah. The lowest grade in the Garden is better by 70 folds than all the worldly blessings which a most luxurious king may ever enjoy.

Hell- fire:

May Allah protect us from it. Hell-fire is the abode of torment in the Hereafter. It contains terrible kinds of torment and torture. Had death been possible in the Hereafter, people would have died as soon as they see Hell-fire; but death occurs only one, when the human being passes from this worldly life to the other coming life, and there is no death in the Hereafter, even for the dwellers of Hell-fire.

As I have stated before, a full description of death, resurrection, retribution, Garden, and The Fire is mentioned in many verses of the Glorious Quran. There is much evidence proving resurrection after death, reckoning and retribution. Allah states in the Glorious Quran

﴿ مِنْهَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ وَفِيهَا نُعِيدُكُمْ وَمِنْهَا نُخْرِجُكُمْ تَارَةً أُخْرَى ﴾ (٥٥: ٢٠)

<<From "the earth" did We create you, and into it shall We return you, and from it shall We bring you out once again>>
(20- 55)

﴿ وَصَرَبَ لَنَا مِثْلًا مِثْلًا وَنَسِيَ خَلْقَهُ قَالَ مَنْ يُحْيِي الْعِظْمَ وَهِيَ رَمِيمٌ * قُلْ يُحْيِيهَا الَّذِي أَنشَأَهَا
أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ خَلْقٍ عَلِيمٌ ﴿ (٣٦ : ٧٨ - ٧٩) ﴾

<<And he makes comparisons for Us, and forgets his own (Origin and) Creation: He says: "Who can give life to (dry) bones and decomposed ones (at that)?" . Say "He will give them life who created them for the first time ! for He fully knows All creation. (36: 78 - 79)

﴿ زَعَمَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَن لَّنْ يُعْتَرَفُوا قُلْ لِي وَرَبِّي لَتُبْعَثُنَّ ثُمَّ لَتُنَبَّؤُنَّ بِمَا عَمِلْتُمْ وَذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ ﴿
(٧ : ٦٤) ﴾

Allah States:

"The unbelievers think that they will not be raised up, "for Judgement" say: "Yea, by my Lord ! Ye shall surely be raised up : then shall Ye be told :the truth"of all that you did, and that is easy for Allah". (64:7)

In these verses, Allah, Glory be to Him, informed mankind that He created them on earth as He had created their father Adam from dust before. He will raise them up from their graves, and bring them to account to retribute them for their deeds.

In the second verse, Allah refutes the false pretexts of the unbeliever who denies resurrection, and finds it strange that rotten bones could be revived again. The verse states to such an unbeliever that Allah, who had created these bones before out of naught is certainly able a prior to recreate them. In the third verse, Allah orders His Messenger to swear that Allah will raise the unbelievers up after their death, and that Allah will inform them of what they had done before, then retribute them for their deeds; this matter is so easy for Allah.

It is stated in another Quranic verse that it will be said to those, who denied resurrection, while they suffer torture and torment in hell, "Taste the torment of fire which you had belied before".

Controlling and Recording of Man's deeds and Sayings

Allah, Glory be to Him, stated that He knows whatsoever any man will do or say, whether it is good or evil, whether it is done openly or in secrecy. All that will happen has been dictated by Allah in the Preserved Tablet even before the heavens, mankind, earth, and other creatures were created.

According to Quranic verses, every human being is guarded by two angels, one on his right side registering his good deeds, the second on his left side recording whatever evils he commits,

and both angels never neglect or miss to register any word or deed. On the Day of Judgment, every- one will receive his own book, in which all his deeds and sayings had been recorded. He will read and confess of all that he had forwarded during his worldly life. If he denies, his own ears, eyes, hands, legs and skin will testify against him. The glorious Qura'n has explained all these subjects clearly and in detail:

﴿ مَا يَلْفِظُ مِنْ قَوْلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيْهِ رَقِيبٌ عِنْدٌ ﴾ (١٨ : ٥٠)

<<Not a word does he utter but there is a vigilant Guardian.>> (50 : 18)

﴿ وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ لَحَافِظِينَ * كِرَامًا كَثِيرِينَ * يَعْلَمُونَ مَا تَعْمَلُونَ ﴾ (١٢ - ١٠ : ٨٢)

<<But verily over you (are appointed angles) to protect you, kind and honourable, writing down (your deeds): They know all that you do>> (82 : 10 - 12).

The True Testimony

I testify that there is no god but Allah I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. I testify that Paradise and Hell-fire are true, that the Judgment-day is certain to come, that Allah will raise up people after their death to reckon and retribute them for their deeds. I testify that whatever has been mentioned by Allah in His book (The Quran) or through the traditions of His Prophet Muhammad is true.

May I call every one to believe in this testimony, declare it openly and behave according to its meaning, because this is the only way for salvation.

Chapter Two

Knowing The Messenger

If we already know that Allah is our Lord who created us, and that He will raise us up after death to recompense us for our deeds, we should also know that Allah had sent a Messenger to us and to mankind, and ordered us to obey and follow him. Allah informed us that the only method to know how to worship Him in a right way is to follow this messenger, and worship Allah according to the religion revealed to him.

This honourable Messenger that all mankind should believe in, and follow is Muhammad, the unlettered Prophet, the seal of messengers, and the messenger of Allah to mankind.

Both Moses and Jesus announced the glad tidings of Prophet Muhammad's coming. These tidings were clear in more than 40 verses of the Old Testament and Bible, but the Jews and Christians perverted and changed these books.⁽¹⁾

This honourable Prophet whom Allah had sent to mankind is Muhammad, the son of Abdullah, the son of Abdul Muttalib, the Hashimi and Qurashi. Muhammad was the most honourable and truthful man in the most honourable clan that ever lived on

(1) See the book of <<Al-Gawab Alsahih - liman baddala din ALMas-sieh>> (The correct answer to those who perverted the religion revealed to the Christ) by Ibn Tayymiah. See also the book of <<Hidayaat ALHayarah>> (Aguide to the perplexed) by Ibn ALqayy-iem, see also, Ibn Hisham's book <<The prophets-sira>>.Also "miracles of prophethood" in Ibn Katheer's History.

earth. Muhammad, the descendant of the prophet Ismaeal, son of prophet Ibrahim, was born in Makkah in the year 570 A.C. The moment of his birth witnessed many indicative events: people were amazed by brightness casting light over the world, the idols worshipped by Quraiysh at Makkah were reversed, the (Iywan) throne of Khosrau king of Persia was shaken that night

and a dozen of its battlements brode down. Even the big fire which the Persians used to worship went out, although it had never done so for 2000 years before.

These were all signs and glad tidings to people that the last of the prophets had been born on that night, that he would demolish idol-worshipping and that he would call Arabs, Persian and Greeks to worship Allah Alone and follow His true religion.

These signs were also a warning to these people that if they refused to follow the last of the prophets, Allah would give him and his followers victory over pagan Arabs, Persians and Greeks; and that the prophet would propagate his religion, which is an enlightenment from Allah to mankind.

Allah endowed Muhammad, may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him, by the following favours which characterised him over all other prophets:-

First:- Muhammad is the seal of prophets and there is no prophet will be sent after him, may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him.

Second:- His message is a universal and common message. Allah sent him to all nations and not to a special nation or clan.

As the message of Muhammad is oriented to all the peoples of the world with no distinction among them, therefore, whosoever follows Muhammad's religion and obeys him will have salvation and find his path to paradise, and whosoever disobeys him will dwell in Hell-fire. Even the Jews and the Christians are ordered to follow Muhammad; if they disobey him, they will disbelieve not only Muhammad, but also in Moses, Jesus and all other prophets. All prophets who preceded Muhammad, may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon them, announced the glad tidings of his coming, and ordered their nations to follow him. Muhammad's religion, Islam, is the same religion that had been revealed to previous prophets, except that Islam got its absolute perfection during the mission of Muhammad, the seal of prophets. Consequently, it is not for anyone to adopt any religion other than Islam, the perfect and true religion which substitutes all other religions. As for Judaism and Christianity, they have both been changed and perverted. On the other hand, every Muslim following Muhammad is, at the same time, a follower of Moses, Jesus, and other prophets. Every unbeliever of Islam is also an unbeliever of Moses, Jesus, and other prophets even if he pretends to be one of their followers. This explains why many Jewish rabbis and Christian monks hastened to embrace Islam and believe in Muhammad.

Historians who wrote prophet Muhammad's biography estimated that the miracles proving his prophethood number more than one thousand. Among these miracles was the seal of prophethood between his shoulders in the form of warts compos-

ing these words: <<Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah>>. one of his miracles was that clouds cast shadows upon him wherever he walked in the hot sun in summer, pebbles glorified Allah as he put his hand over them, trees greeted him when he passed by. Also he told of the unseen events to happen in the coming years, and these events turned out to be true, confirming gradually that what the Prophet had said before was certainly a miracle. The unssen events, about which the Prophet had informed us are recorded in books such as the book of Ibn Katheer <<AL-Nihayah>> the book entitled <<Kitab AL-Akhbar ALmu-sha'fi Ashrat As-sa'a>> and the chapters dealing with sings of Dooms day in books of Hadith (prophet's traditions).

All these miracles are similar to the miracles endowed to other prophets, but Muhammad, may the grace and peace of Allah be upon him, was privileged with an immortal miracle which no prophet before him had ever been endowed with, this immortal miracle is the <<Glorious Quran>>, the words of Allah.

Allah undertook to guard the Quran against all sorts of change or perversion. There are hundreds of millions of Quran copies allover the world. All these copies are identically similar. If any one tries to change a letter in a Quranic word, his action will be revealed. As for the Old Testament and Bible, they are diversified; each copy differs from the other, because the Jews and Christians changed these books and perverted them when Allah had entrusted them to guard it. But for the Quran, Allah promised to guard it by Himself. He said:-

﴿ إِنَّا نَعْتَنُّ نَزْلَنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَمُسْتَوْظُونَ ﴾ (١٥ : ٩)

<<We have, without doubt, sent down the Message, and we will assuredly guard it (from corruption)- (15 : 9).

Rational and Quranic Evidences That The Quran Is The speech of Allah To His Messenger Muhammad

One of the most demonstrative and logical evidences which prove that the Quran is the revelation of Allah to His Messenger Muhammad, may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon him, is the fact that Allah had challenged the unbelievers of Quraysh to produce a book like the Quran. Although the Quran was revealed in their own language, and they were masters of fluency, eloquence, poetry and literature, they failed even to produce one sura like it. Allah stated that if all of mankind, supported by Jinn, try to produce a book like this Quran, they will never be able to produce the like of it:

﴿ قُلْ لَّيْنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَتْ

بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا ﴾ (١٧ : ٨٨)

<<Say: "If the whole of mankind and Jinns were to gather to-

gether to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support>>. (17 : 88)

Had the Quran been the words of Muhammad, or the production of any other mortal, the unbelievers, with their eloquence and fluency, would have been able to face the challenge and produce a sura similar to the Quran. But they failed because, the Quran is the word of Allah. The superiority of the Quran over mortals speech is as the sublimity of Allah over all His creatures. As Allah, Glory be to Him, has no simile, His words also are not alike to any mortal words.

As the words of Allah are communicated to mankind through a messenger sent from Allah, consequently, Muhammad who communicated the Quran to mankind is a Messenger sent from Allah. This has been stated clearly in the Quran:-

﴿ مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلٰكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا ﴾ (٤٠ : ٣٣)

<<Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is)the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: and Allah has full knowledge of all things>>. (33 : 40)

Allah also said:

﴿ وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴾ (٢٨ : ٣٤)

<<We have not sent thee but as a "Messenger" to all mankind giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men know not>>. (34 : 28)

Allah said:

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْمَلَائِكِينَ﴾ (٢١ - ١٠٧)

<<We sent thee not, but As a mercy for all creatures>>. (21 :107)

In the first verse, Allah stated that Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is His Messenger to mankind, and that he is the last of His messengers. Therefore, no prophet will be sent after Muhammad. Allah stated also that He had chosen Muhammad for this noble mission, because he is the most appropriate and fit man to carry it out. In the second verse, Allah stated that He had sent Muhammad to the whole of mankind with no distinction between races. Muhammad is sent to the whites and blacks, to Arabs and non Arabs, ... etc, but most men do not understand the truth. They went astray and became unbelievers when they refused to follow Muhammad.

In the third verse, Allah addresses His prophet and informs him that he had been sent as a mercy to all beings. The Messenger is the mercy of Allah which He bestowed upon mankind. Therefore, whoever believes in the Prophet and follows him is accepting the mercy of Allah and will be rewarded by Paradise,

and whoever disbelieves in Muhammad and refuses to follow him is rejecting the mercy of Allah and deserves severe punishment in Hell-fire.

Chapter Three

How To Know The Religion of Truth

If man is aware that Allah is the Lord Who has created and nourished him, and that Allah is the Only True God with no partners associated to Him, thus, He is the Only True God that deserves to be worshipped, and if man knows also that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah to mankind, he must also know that his faith in Allah and his Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) will not be perfect unless he is acquainted with the religion of Islam, believes in it, and behaves according to its precepts. This is due to the fact that Islam is the true religion approved by Allah, Glory be to Him, for mankind. Allah had commanded all His messengers, before Muhammad, to follow Islam, and He sent Muhammad the last of His prophets, to propagate Islam, and enjoin people to behave according to its precepts.

What is Islam?

Muhammad, the last Messenger of Allah to mankind, defined Islam as follows: <<Islam is to testify that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is His Messenger, to perform prayers,

pay the poor tax (Zakat), fast the month of Ramadan and do pilgrimage to the Holy House in Makkah if you have the means for that>>.

Islam is the universal true religion for mankind. Allah stated in the Holy Quran that <<The Religion before Allah is Islam>>. (3:19)

﴿ إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ ﴾ (٣ : ١٩)

All messengers of Allah, even those who had been sent before Muhammad, adopted Islam, manifested it, and behaved according to it. The Quran states also

﴿ وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴾ (٣ : ٨٥)

<<If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah), never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter he will be in the ranks of those who have lost>>. (3 : 85)

According to these two Quranic verses, Islam is the only true religion from Allah and no other religion will be accepted in the Hereafter. Therefore, Muslims alone will gain happiness in the next world. Those who die adopting a religion other than Islam will be of the losers in the next world and will be tormented in Hell-fire.

This explains why all the prophets who had been sent before

Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) declared themselves to be Muslims and surrendered to Allah. They declared that they are free of everyone who rejects Islam. Thus, a Jew or a Christian, who strives for salvation and wants to gain happiness in the Hereafter, should embrace Islam and follow Muhammad the Prophet of Islam, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. By embracing Islam, the Jew or the Christian becomes, at the same time, a true follower of Jesus and Moses, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon them, because, as it has been mentioned before, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad and all messengers of Allah who had been sent before Muhammad, were Muslims and called people to Islam, the true religion of Allah. Whoever is born after the mission of the last prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, should not call himself a Muslim, unless he believes in Muhammad the Messenger of Allah, follows him and does what Allah commands and avoids what He prohibits. Allah says in the Quran:

﴿ قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴾
(٣١:٣)

<<Say: "If you do love Allah, follow me: Allah will love you and forgive you your sins, Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful">>. (3 : 31).

In this verse, Allah orders his Messenger Muhammad to tell

those who pretend that they love Allah: <<If you love Allah truly, follow me and Allah will love you, Allah will never love you nor will He forgive your sins, unless you believe in His Messenger Muhammad and follow him>>. Allah had sent Muhammad to propagate Islam, the comprehensive and tolerant religion to all mankind. Allah stated in the Quran that He gave perfection to Islam and approved it to be the religion of mankind.

﴿ الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا ﴾ (٥ : ٣)

<<This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion>>. (5 : 3)

This Quranic verse was revealed to the seal of prophets Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him during his last pilgrimage while he was standing on the mount of Arafat, giving his prayers to Allah and thanking Him for His help and that He had accomplished His favors on His Messenger by the completion of the Quran, and that Islam had begun to take its course by gaining an ever increasing number of followers.

This verse also indicates that Islam was revealed to Muhammad in order to call all mankind to it, because it is the perfect, comprehensive and suitable religion for mankind in all ages, all places, and for all nations.

This is due to the fact that Islam is characterised by knowledge, tolerance, Justice and good. It contains a clear, perfect and straight method that can guide man in all spheres of life. Islam is not only a faith, but it also has its own distinguished basis of governing, Justice, political system, social affairs, economy and whatever useful knowledge which mankind may need to achieve prosperity in this worldly life and happiness in the coming life (after death).

The Pillars Of Islam

Islam is based on the following (five principles). No one can claim to be a Muslim unless he believes in these five essential rules and practises them sincerely:

- 1) To testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and Muhammad is Allah's Messenger.
- 2) To offer the (compulsory congregational) prayers dutifully and perfectly.
- 3) To pay Zakat (I.E obligatory charity.)
- 4) To observe fast during the month of Ramadan.

5) To perform Hajj Whenever one is capable(1).

To testify that there is no god save Allah and that Muhammad is His Messenger has a specific meaning which the Muslim should not only know, but also practise sincerely. Whoever utters this testimony (shahadah) without knowing its meaning, or without binding himself by it in his behaviour will gain no use from it.

This testimony means that there is none on the earth nor in the heavens deserving to be worshipped save Allah alone. Allah is the One True God. All other deities, whatever they may be, are false. Therefore, whoever worships any deity besides is an unbeliever and an idolater even if what he worships is a prophet, a saint or a holy man, under the pretext that this deity will be his intercessor to Allah. The unbelievers, against whom Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, carried a continuous fight, had used this false pretext to justify worshipping their prophets and pious men. Seeking to gain the consent of Allah, or asking for His help can not be achieved by worshipping others than Allah, but it can only be attained by serving Allah alone, glorifying Him by His names and Attributes, and by performing the good deeds that He had commanded us to do, such as prayer, fasting, fighting for His cause, pilgrimage and kind treatment to the parents etc.

(1) The Messenger may the peace and blessing of Allah be upon him, said - 'The superstructure of Islam is raised on five pillars; to testify that there is no god save Allah Alone and that Muhammad is His Messenger, to perform the prayer, to pay the zakat, to fast the month of Ramadan and to do pilgrimage to the Holy House.

Worshipping takes different forms, and one of them is supplication which means, to ask for something that no one can ever grant except Allah. The fall of the rain, recovery of a patient, relief from misfortunes, asking for salvation from Hell-fire and dwelling in Paradise etc, in all these cases and other similar cases, one should ask Allah alone to grant such blessings .

Whoever asks a mortal being to grant him such things is indeed worshipping this being. Allah ordered His bondsmen to supplicate Him alone for whatever they may need:-

﴿ وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ ﴾ (٤٠ : ٦٠)

<<And your Lord says: "Call on Me; I will answer your (prayer), but those who are too arrogant to serve Me will surely enter Hell abased !">> (40 :60)

Allah instructed us that mortal beings, whom idolaters supplicate, are deprived of power; they can never cause harm or bring any benefit to any one:-

﴿ قُلْ ادْعُوا الَّذِينَ زَعَمْتُمْ دُونِي فَلَا يَمْلِكُونَ كَشْفَ الضَّرِّ عَنْكُمْ وَلَا جُؤَيْلًا ﴾ (٥٦ : ١٧)

<<Say: "call on those-besides Him-whom you fancy, they have neither the power to remove your troubles from you nor to

change them>>. (17: 56)

The Quran states also:

﴿وَأَنَّ الْمَسَاجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا﴾ (١٨ : ٧٢)

<<And the places of worship are for Allah (alone): so invoke not any one along with Allah.>> (72:18)

Offering sacrifices and votive offerings are services which should be consecrated for Allah alone. Whoever offers a sacrifice or makes a vow for a dead pious man, for the Jinn or for any one other than Allah, is an idolater cursed by Allah. The Quran states:-

﴿قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ * لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ﴾ (١٦٢ - ١٦٣)

<<Say: "Truly, my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and my death, are (all) for Allah, The Cherisher of the Worlds; no partner hath He: This am I commanded and I am the first of those who bow to His will.>> (6:162-163)

Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: <<May Allah curse whoever offers a sacrifice to anyone other than Him,>> If a person says: "I vow to offer a sacrifice to this in the examination, or if I am relieved from a

disease etc.>> This kind of vow is certainly a form of idolatry, because vows should be consecrated to Allah alone and absolutely not to any one else, other than Allah. The right vow in such cases is to say:- <<I vow to offer a sacrifice to Allah, or I vow to Allah that I will pay to the poor this sum of money, or will give the needy so and so, if I succeed in the examination, or be relieved from disease.>>

Calling for help, asking for refuge and invoking for support are also among the forms of divine services. One should not call for help, ask for refuge or seek for support from any one else, other than Allah. The Holy Quran has stated:

﴿إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ﴾ (٥ : ١)

<<Thee do we worship and Thine aid we seek>> (1 : 5).

The Holy Quran states also :-

﴿قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ * مِنْ شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ﴾ (٢-١: ١١٣)

<<say I seek refuge with the Lord of the Dawn, from the mischief of created things.>> (113 : 1 - 2).

Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:- <<Call me not for help, but call Allah your Lord.>> The Prophet said also :- <<If you ask for any thing ask

for it from Allah alone, if you seek for help, seek it from Allah alone.>> It is permissible for a person to ask for his fellow brother's help or support if the matter for which he asks for help is within the scope of human ability. But if such a matter is beyond the scope of human ability, man must not ask for help from any one save Allah. In all cases, it is strictly forbidden to ask for help or support from a dead man or an absent person, even if he were a prophet, a saint or an angel.

As for those who pretend to know that which is invisible, or foresee what is hidden in the future, they are unbelievers and flagrant liars. Even if what they foretell happens, it only happens by chance. Both Imam Ahmad and AL-Hakim related that the Prophet had said:- <<Whoever goes to a diviner or a fortune-teller and believes in what he says, disbelieves in what had been revealed to Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.>>

Trust, submissiveness <<Tawakul>>, and hope (Raja) are also among the forms of worshipping. Man should never trust, hope or submit to anyone save Allah. It is regrettable that many of those who belong to Islam still commit idolatry and invoke others than Allah <<ie:- notable men of authority, dead pious men etc.>> They circumambulate the graves of dead pious men invoking them for help or to attain their needs. There is no doubt that this is a form of idolatry and whoever performs such an action is not a Muslim, even if he utters the testimony of Islam and performs all the fundamental duties of Islam. Allah stated in the Quran:-

﴿ وَلَقَدْ أَوْحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكَ لَئِن أَشْرَكْتَ لَيَحْبَطَنَّ عَمَلُكَ وَلَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٣٩﴾ ﴾

<<But it has already been revealed to thee, as it was to those before thee, -"If thou wert to join (gods with Allah), truly fruitless will be thy work (in life), and thou wilt surely be among the losers">>. (39 : 65)

The Quran states
also:

﴿ إِنَّهُ مَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِن أَنصَارٍ ﴿٥﴾ ﴾

<<Whoever Joins other gods with Allah; Allah will forbid him the Garden, and the Fire will be his abode. There will for the wrong-doers be no one to help>>. (5 : 72)

Allah commanded His Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessing of Allah be upon him, to say to the peoples <<Say: I am but a man like yourselves, (but) The inspiration has come to me, that your God is One God: whoever expects to meet his lord, let him work righteousness, and in the worship of his lord, admit no one as partner>>. (18 : 110)

﴿ قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿١٨﴾ ﴾

Those foolish men are really deluded by wicked ignorant scientists who have acquaintance in some religious branches, but ignore absolutely the basic principal of faith, that is Tawhid <<Oneness of Allah>>.

Using deviated interpretations, false traditions imputed to the Prophet misled by lust, satanic dreams and all other forms of misguidance, those wicked pretenders call people to believe in the intercession of pious men and thus support idolatry by all means.

Those demons who follow blindly their ancestors and adopt the same behavior of ancient idolaters are unbelievers and evil-doers.

<<Allah ordered us to seek the means of approach unto Him>>.(5 : 35)

﴿وَابْتَغُوا إِلَيْهِ الْوَسِيلَةَ﴾ (٥ : ٣٥)

and the means of approach which we are commanded to seek are well-known. They consist of performing righteous deeds, believing in the Oneness of Allah, offering prayer, paying the zakat, fasting during the month of Ramadan, performing pilgrimage and striving with might and main for the cause of Allah. Invoking dead men in times of affliction and distress has nothing to do with the means of approach to Allah, it is rather against these means and contrary to the basic faith of Islam <<Tawhid>> or belief in the <<Oneness of Allah>>.

It is true that prophets, pious men and some other Muslims

will be endowed with the favor to intercede for others, but they will never have such favor save by the will of Allah. Intercession is an exclusive divine prerogative. No one can ever intercede for another except by the will of Allah. Therefore, a true monotheist never invokes the dead for intercession, because a dead man can never remove harm or bring benefit, but in all cases the true Muslim invokes Allah saying:- <<O Allah, I pray to you to bestow upon me the intercession of Your Prophet and pious men>>.

Allah said in the Holly Quran:

﴿ قُلْ لِلَّهِ الشَّفَعَةُ جَمِيعًا لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ ﴾ (٤٤ : ٣٩)

<<Say: To Allah belongs Exclusively (the right to grant) in tercession: To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: In the end, it is to Him that you shall be brought back>>. (39 : 44)

Taking graves as places of worship, kindling lights thereon, constructing buildings over them, plastering, decorating them with curtains, or performing prayers thereon, all these actions are flagrant forms of heresy and are strictly prohibited by the noble Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Ignorant people who circumambulat the graves of AL-Badawiy and Sayaidah Zenab in Egypt, AL-Jilaniy and the so-called notable descendants of the Prophet in Nagaf, Karbula and

other cities of Iraq, and round other graves elsewhere, commit flagrant idolatry because they believe that these buried bodies have the ability to bring benefits or cause harm to them, and that they could help them attain their need. Such men are not only lost idolaters, but they are disgraced even if they pretend to be Muslims and do what Muslims do.

To be a true monotheist, it is not enough to utter that there is <<no god save Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger.>> but, it is essential for a Muslim to be aware of the meaning of this testimony and behave accordingly.

For those who embrace Islam and desist from false creed, it is enough for them to utter first the testimony of Islam. By doing this they become Muslims as long as they do not behave in a way contrary to the principles and morals of Islam.

Prophets and pious men, are innocent of the idolatrous deeds of those who invoke them or ask them for help. They are aware of the fact that Allah had sent His messengers to call people to abandon worshipping any being save Allah, even if they were prophets or pious men. The way in which a true Muslim can show his love and affection to the prophets and pious men is to follow their good way, taking them as models in deeds and behaviour. It is a religious duty for every Muslim to love the prophets and pious men, but he must never worship them. Muslims believe that they not only should love Prophet Muhammad may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, but they should also prefer him to their own selves, kins, sons and all other people.

The Group That Will Be Deliverd

Although Muslims are great in number, yet only afew of them are true Muslims. There are 73 Muslim sects with hundreds millions of followers; however only one of these sects are true Muslims. Those are the ones who follow the way of Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and the way of his faithful companions, both in matters of faith, and good behaviour. Boukhariy and Muslim related that the Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:- <<The Jews had split into 71 sects, the Christians had dispersed into 72 sects and this nation (The Muslim nation) will disperse into 73 sects; all of them will dwell in Hell-fire, except one>> when the companions asked the Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, about the group that will be delivered, he said: <<It is the group that will follow my way and my companions' way>>.

The Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and his companions were quite aware of the meaning of <<No god save Allah.>> Therefore, they stuck to monothiesm both in faith and behaviour, they invoked none save Allah, offered sacriffices or made vows to none save Allah, supplicated in distress to none save Allah, asked for help only from Allah and believed that none could profit them or hurt them save Allah. The Prophet and his companions performed sincerely all Islamic duties for the sake of Allah. They believed in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, the day of resurrection and

Judgment, and in the divine decree, the good thereof and the evil thereof. True Muslims consult the glorious Quran and prophetic traditions in all affairs of life and accept with the fullest conviction the solutions based on Quranic commandments and prophetic traditions. Devout Muslims give their intimacy to those who are sincere to the cause of Allah, and they are foes to the enemies of Allah. They call to Allah, strive in His way, obey their Muslim ruler, enjoin right conduct and forbid indecency and wherever they are, they say nothing but the truth.

Devout Muslims not only show their love and affection for the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), but also to his wives, progeny and companions. They never discriminate among them, nor do they prefer one of them to the other; they respect them all, each one for his own merits. True Muslims do not busy themselves with the disputes that happened among those noble companions. They never believe that they committed the offences which some hypocrites attribute to them. They know that the aim of the hypocrites is to disperse the Muslim nation. But it is regrettable that some Muslim scholars and historians were deceived by these false accusations of the hypocrites and registered them in their books.

Those who claim to be the noble descendants of the Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) should first verify their ancestral line to be sure of what they claim to be. Allah has cursed whoever relates himself to someone other than his father. If what they claim to be is true, they should follow the right way of the Prophet and his noble progeny by being sin-

cere in adoring Allah desisting from sins, not allowing people to kiss their hands and feet, and finally, they should not distinguish themselves by wearing a special uniform. All these forms of behaviour are contrary to the Prophet's way, and he is innocent of those who adopt a way different from his manner. In fact, according to the Quran, the noblest Muslim in the sight of Allah is he who fears Him most. May Allah guide us to the right path, and may His blessings and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his progeny and his companions.

Sovereignty and Legislative Power Are Exclusive Rights of Allah

Sovereignty and legislative power are exclusive rights of Allah. This is an immediate conclusion of monotheism. No body has the right to enact a law contrary to the law of Allah. A muslim should never govern or judge by laws different from the laws of Allah, nor should he give his consent to any form of judgement or government based on laws contrary to the laws of Allah. According to the Islamic faith, no one has the right to forbid what Allah had made legal, nor can he legalize what Allah had forbidden. Whoever commits intentionally such a deed or approves it is a disbeliever. The Holy Quran states that:- <<If any do fail to Judge by what Allah had revealed, they are unbelievers.>> (5 : 44)

﴿ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ ﴾ (٤٤ : ٥)

The mission of Allah's prophets is to call people to believe in monotheism and behave according to its precepts. They try to deliver people from the bonds of man worship to the blessings of Allah's service, and to convince them to submit to the laws of Allah instead of submitting themselves to man-made laws.

Whoever recites the Glorious Quran attentively and keeps away from following, blindly, people opinions will know that Allah had assigned for man his duties towards Him and his relation with Allah's other creatures.

The servant believing in Allah is aware that all kinds of service should be dedicated to Allah alone and no partner with Him. He knows also that his duty towards prophets and pious men is to follow in their foot steps and express his love to them. As for the enemies of Allah, although it is the duty of the believer to detest them because they are detested by Allah, yet the believer is authorized to call them to Islam and explain its noble meaning to them; they may be guided by such a call and embrace Islam. But if they reject it and refuse to submit to the laws of Allah, a Muslim is permitted to fight them until idolatry is uprooted and the religion of Allah gains victory over polytheism.

The Notion of Acknowledgement That Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah

To testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah means to know and believe sincerely that Muhammad is the Prophet and Messenger whom Allah had sent to all peoples of the world.

It means also that Muhammad is a servant of Allah, thus he must not be worshipped, because worshipping is due to Allah alone. As Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, he must be followed and obeyed, not denied. Whoever obeys Muhammad will abide in the Garden and whoever disobeys him will abide in Hell-fire. Allah said in the Holy Quran:- <<So take what the Messenger gives you and refrain from what he Prohibits you. And fear Allah for Allah is strict in Punishment.>> (59 : 7)

﴿ وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا ﴾ (٧ : ٥٩) ﴿ فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ
حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِي مَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ
وَأَسْلِمُوا سَلِيمًا ﴾ (٦٥ : ٤)

<<But no, by thy Lord, they can have no (real) Faith, until they make thee judge In all disputes between them, And find in their souls no resistance against thy decisions, but accept them with the fullest conviction.>> (4:65).

This means that, according to the Islamic faith all acts of devotion, all rules of legislation and government, and all rules that explain what is lawful and what is forbidden, should be nothing else than that which had been conveyed to people by the noble

Messenger of Allah, Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. The Muslim should not believe in any legislation different from what is transmitted by Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah.

These last two Quranic verses mean that Muslims should obey Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah in what he commanded them to do, and desist from all that he prohibited them to do, because the Messenger neither commanded nor prohibited according to his own desires, but he used to do this in conformity with the revelations of Allah. It is also related by Muslim that the Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be on him, said:- <<Whoever performs a deed that is not in conformity with our principles, his deed will be rejected.>> Thus, any wise man who wishes to attain happiness in this present life and in the Hereafter and gain salvation after death, should testify that <<There is no god save Allah, and that Muhammad is His Messenger>>. He should also behave according to the notion of this testimony and practise the other fundamental principles of Islam which constitute the proper way to worship Allah.

Prayer :- The Second Pillar of Islam.

The second pillar of Islam is performing prayer. The Muslim is enjoined to perform five obligatory prayers every day to keep himself in relation with His lord, to invoke and implore Him, and to refrain himself from committing lewdness or indecency. These prayers not only ensure psychological rest to the Muslim in this present life, but they also pave the way to him to gain

eternal happiness in the Hereafter.

To perform prayer, one should be pure, wearing pure clothes and pray in a clean place.

Before prayer, the Muslim should cleanse himself by pure water, removing all traces of stool, urine, or any other dirt. In this way he purifies himself physically and morally.

Prayer is the pillar of religion. It follows in importance the two testimonies. Therefore, it is not only a duty on a Muslim to perform prayers from his maturity up to his death, but he should also order his household to perform it. He should also order his children to start practising it from the time when they are 7 years old so that they may be accustomed to perform it promptly. Evidence from the Quran:-

﴿ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَوْقُوتًا ﴾ (٤ : ١٠٣)

<<For such prayers are enjoined on believers at stated times.>> (4 :103). Further evidence from the Quran:-

﴿ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقِيَامَةِ ﴾ (٥ : ٩٨)

<<And they have been commanded no more than this: To worship Allah offering Him sincere devotion. Being true (in

faith); to establish regular Zakat and that is the Religion Right and straight.>> (98 : 5).

In the first of these two verses, Allah told people that prayer is a prescribed duty on all believers and that they should fulfil this duty at its fixed time. In the second verse, Allah made it well-known to mankind that He had created them in order to worship Him Alone, be sincere in their devotion to Him, perform prayer and pay the Zakat (I.E, obligatory charity) to those who deserve it. The Prophet, may the grace of Allah be upon him, said:- <<The obligation which distinguishes between us and the unbelievers is prayer, therefore, whoever desists from prayer, becomes an unbeliever.>> Thus, prayer is a duty on the Muslim in all circumstances. Even if he is sick or frightened he should perform his daily prayers, sitting, standing or lying. If he is unable to perform them in any of these ways, he is permitted to perform it by his eye-gestures, or even by his heart.

The five obligatory daily prayers are the morning prayer (Fajr), the noon prayer (Zuhr), the afternoon prayer (Asr), the evening prayer (Maghrib) and the night prayer (Ishaa).

The time due for morning prayer begins at true dawn and extends until the sun rises. It should not be delayed beyond this span of time. The time for noon prayer starts from the zawal (a little after the sun has passed the meridian) and extends till one's shadow becomes equal to his own length plus the length of its noon-time shadow. The time enjoined for afternoon prayer starts after the end of noon-prayer time and extends until the sun

turns yellow. One must hasten to perform it while the sun is still bright. The evening-prayer time begins soon after sun-set and lasts till the disappearance of the twilight. Its performance should not be delayed. The night-prayer time begins after the disappearance of the twilight and lasts till midnight. If a Muslim delays one of these five prayers, he commits a grievous sin. He should turn to Allah for repentance and refrain himself from recommitting it. The Quran warns those who delay their prayer from its fixed times:-

﴿فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ * الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ﴾ (١٠٧ : ٤-٥)

<<So woe to the worshippers, who are neglectful of their Prayers>>. (5-4:107).

Rules of Prayer

1- Purification:-

Before a Muslim starts his prayer, he should purify himself by cleaning his excretion organs if he had urinated or evacuated his bowels. Then he performs ablution.

The first step in performing ablution is to intend it. There is no need to express the intention in a loud voice, but it is enough to intend it by heart, because Allah knows the intention of His bondsmen. The Prophet, may the peace and grace of Allah be upon him, used not to utter words expressing his intention for

ablution. Thus, every Muslim should follow his way.

The worshipper continues his ablution by rinsing his mouth with water thrice, sniffing water up his nostrils and blowing it out thrice, washes his face three times making sure that the water reaches all the parts of his face. After washing the face, the worshipper washes his hands, arms and elbows, the right hand before the left, then, wipes his head with his hands starting from front to back and vice versa, rubs his ears and finally washes his feet up to his ankle three times, the right leg before the left leg. A Muslim should keep up his ablution. If he urinates after ablution, evacuates his bowels, passes wind or loses his consciousness for any reason, he should reperform ablution to clean himself again before practising prayer.

If a Muslim is in a state of major impurity, (discharge of semen in erotic dreams or sexual intercourse ... etc), he should clean his body by taking a bath. Women also should carry out this cleansing bath to purify themselves after menstruation or child-birth. Allah has disburdened women and exempted them from performing prayer during menstruation and child-birth periods. As for other periods, they are required to perform prayer promptly.

If a Muslim is in a deserted area or on a journey and finds no water, or if he fears that using water will harm him (because of sickness), he is permitted to purify himself by using good clean earth or sand instead of water. This is called "Tayammum" or purification with earth. It is done in the following way: You intend by heart to **perform** it. Then you strike the dust (or sand)

with your hands and wipe your right hand over your face, over the back of your right hand by your left hand and over the back of your left hand by your right hand. Purification with earth is also permissible to women after the period of menstruation or confinement if water is not available, or if its use could harm them.

2- How to Perform Prayer:-

The morning prayer consists of two rakaat (two bowings). A Muslim, whether a man or a woman, stands facing the Qiblah, (turning his face and whole body towards The Holy House of Allah in Makkah), then he intends by heart without uttering his intention that he will perform the morning prayer and starts it by saying:

<<Allahu Akbar>> which means <<Allah is Great>>

«الله أكبر»

The worshipper recites after that this opening prayer:-

«سبحانك اللهم وبحمدك وتبارك اسمك ، وتعالى جدك ولا إله غيرك»

Which means:-

<<Praise and Glory be to Allah. Blessed be Your name. Exalted be Your Majesty and Glory. There is no god save You>>.

After reciting the opening invocation, the worshipper says:-

«أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم»

Which means:- <<I seek the protection of Allah from the accursed satan>>. Then, he recites fatiha, or opening sura of the Quran:-

﴿ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ * الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ * الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ *
 مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ * إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ * اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ *
 صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ﴾ (سورة الفاتحة)

The meaning of this glorious suracan be translated as follows:-

<<In the name of Allah, Most compassionate, Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah The Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds; Most compassionate, Most Merciful; Master of the Day of Judgment. Thee do we worship. Show us the straight way, The way of those on whom Thou has bestowed Thy Grace those whose (portion) is not Wrath. And who go not astray>>. (1: 1 -7) These verses of Quran, and all other verses, should be recited in Arabic language(1).

After reciting the fatiha, the worshipper recites also a passage containing at least three verses of the Quran, or a sura like surat

(1) If in praying one recites the Quran in a language other than Arabic, what he recites will not be of the Quran but it will be a translation of the meaning of the Quran. One of the main characteristics of the Quran is that it is in Arabic, and any translation of its words from Arabic into any other language takes away its glamorous eloquent literature and wondrous nature. Thus, reciting Quran, especially in prayers, can never be in any language other than Arabic.

ALikhlās. Then he bows saying:-

«الله أكبر» <<Allahu Akbar>>

Which means:- <<Allah is Great.>> Bending his head and back and putting his hands on the knees. While bowing one should say thrice:-

«سبحان ربي العظيم»

Which means:- <<Our lord, praise is for Thee Alone.>> then, he says <<Allahu Akbar>> and prostrates in a <<sajdah>> placing his hands opened his kness, forehead, nose and his tip-toes on the ground. He recites thrice while in prostration:-

«سبحان ربي الأعلى»

which means:- Glorified is my Exalted lord.>>

Then, the worshipper assumes the erect sitting position saying <<Allahu Akbar>> and says while sitting:-

«رب اغفر لي»

Which means:- <<O my lord, forgive me.>>

He prostrates again saying:-

«الله أكبر» <<Allahu Akbar>>

and repeats what he said during the first prostration,

«سبحان ربي الأعلى»

Which means : <<Glorified is my Exalted Lord>>. The worshipper stands upright again saying Allah Akbar .

«الله أكبر»

recites the Fatiha and some other verses of the Quran, bowing prostrating and repeating what he did and said during the first rakaah (the unit of prayer).

However after the second prostration, instead of standing up, he should sit upright to recite the Tashahhud as follows:-

(التحيات لله والصلوات والطيبات . السلام عليك أيها النبي ورحمة الله وبركاته . السلام علينا وعلى عباد الله الصالحين . أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وأشهد أن محمداً عبده ورسوله . اللهم صل على محمد وعلى آل محمد كما صليت على إبراهيم وعلى آل إبراهيم . إنك حميد مجيد . وبارك على محمد وعلى آل محمد كما باركت على إبراهيم وعلى آل إبراهيم إنك حميد مجيد .)

(All service, all worship and all sanctity are for Allah. Peace be upon you, O Prophet, and Allah's mercy and blessings. Peace be upon us and upon those who practice righteousness. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. O, Allah, have mercy on Muhammad and those related to Muhammad, just as Thou hadst mercy on Ibrahim and on those related to Ibrahim;

surely Thou art The Praiseworthy, The Great. O, Allah, bestow your blessings on Muhammad and on those related to Muhammad as Thou hadst bestowed it on Ibrahim and those related to Ibrahim. Surely, Thou art The Praiseworthy, The Great.)

Then the worshipper turns his face to the right saying:-

«السلام عليكم ورحمة الله»

which means:- <<Peace be upon you and Allah's mercy too>> and turns his face to the left saying the same words. This brings the two rakaat of the morning prayer (Fajr) to completion.

As for noon (Zuhr), after-noon (Asr) and the night (Isha'a) prayers, each one of them consists of four rakaat (four units of prayer bows.) The first two rakaat of these prayers are performed in the same manner as the morning prayer. But after reciting the Tashhahud, the worshipper should not turn his head to the right and left to say <<Assalamu Allaikum.>> Instead, he stands up and continues to pray the third and fourth rakah, then, sitting after the fourth rakah, he recites the Tashhahud again, asks Allah to have mercy on Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, then, he terminates his prayer by turning his face first to the right, then to the left saying in each time <<Assalamu Allaikum wa rahmatu Allah.>> Which means <<Peace be upon you and Allah's mercy too.>>

As for the Maghrib prayer << evening prayer>> it consists of three rakaat (Three units of prayer), the first two rakah are

performed in the same manner as that mentioned before for the noon prayer, then the worshipper stands up and performs a third rakah. After that, he sits up right, recites the Tashahud and terminates his prayer by the tasleem, (assalamu Allaikum.) It is advisable to the worshipper to repeat, in bowing and prostrating, the words by which he glorifies Allah.

Muslims males should perform the five daily prayers in congregation in a mosque. An Imam leads Muslims in congregational prayers. Muslims select their Imam on the basis that he should be the most pious among them, the best in reciting and understanding the meaning of Quranic verses and the best among them in performing the prayers perfectly. The Imam recites the fatiha and other Quranic verses in a loud voice in the two rakah of the morning prayer, the first two rakah of the evening and Isha prayer.

A female Muslim performs prayer alone or in congregation. She should veil her whole body including the hands and feet in order to protect her pudency and not to allure men. It is permissible for her to unveil her face only when she prays alone and she must cover her face if she is in the presence of a man. When she prays in a mosque, she must be veiled, not perfumed and act her prayers behind men.

The Muslim performs his prayers in complete humility and submissiveness to Allah. He should go to his prayers peacefully and be tranquil in bowing and prostration. He should avoid haste, amusement and raising his eyes up to the sky and must

not utter anything during his prayers other than the Quranic verses and the rites of his prayer.

On Fridays, Muslims perform in congregation the <<Guma prayer>> (Friday prayer). It consists of two rakah in which the Imam recites the fatiha and Quranic verses loudly. This prayer is preceded by two sermons in which the Imam preaches to the Muslims, instructs them and reminds them to behave according to the precepts of their religion. Friday-congregational prayer is obligatory on men, they must attend it on Fridays at noon.

The Zakat (i.e. obligatory charity)

The third pillar of Islam: paying the poor due:-

Allah ordained every Muslim who possesses a certain amount of property to pay annually the zakat (poor due), of his possessions to the poor or to the other categories mentioned in the Quran.

The minimum amount of gold liable to payment of Zakah is 20 miskals of gold (i.e a miskal is a weight equal to 4.68 grams) and the minimum amount of silver is 200 dirhams (a dirham is a weight that equals 3.12 grams) or an equivalent sum of current money to this amount.

There is also a minimum amount for goods of commerce liable to payment of Zakah. As for cereals and grains, its mini-

imum amount is 300 saa (a Saa' is a cubic measure used by Arabs.) The minimum amount for real estates prepared for sale should be estimated in accordance with its value, but if the real estate is prepared for lease, the estimation should be in accordance with its vent.

The annual amount of zakah fixed on gold, silver and goods of commerce is 2,5%. As for cereals, grains and fruits, the fixed amount of Zakah is 10% of the crop, if the crop is the yield of an easily irrigated land (ie : a land irrigated by rivers spring or rain), but if the land is irrigated with difficulty by man-made means such as pumps or other lifting apparatus, the amount of Zakah becoms only 5%. Zakah of grains, fruits and crops is due at the harvest time. In case of a land that yields two or three harvests annually, one should pay the Zakah for each harvest independently.

The amount of Zakah due on camels, cows and sheep is explained in books dealing with this subject.

Zakah is enjoined by the Quran:

﴿ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقِيَمَةِ ﴾ (٥ : ٩٨)

<<And they have been commanded no more than this: To worship Allah offering Him sincere devotion. Being True (in faith); to establish **regular** Prayer; and to give Zakah; and that is

the Religion Right and straight.>> (98 : 5).

In fact the Zakah has a wonderful social role. It soothes the poor's feelings, satisfies their needs, and strengthens the bonds of mutual love among the poor and the rich.

Zakah is not the only means that Islam has used to maintain social solidarity and co-operation among Muslims, but Islam imposes also on the rich to support the poor at times of famines. Islam prohibits the Muslim from being sated with food while his neighbour is hungry. Islam enjoined also Zakat-AL-Fitr (Fitr-Fast-Due) on all Muslims and has made it a duty on every one of them to distribute a saa (a cubic measure) of elementary substances for himself and a similar saa for each one of those whom he supports, including his servants. The whole amount should be distributed among the poor, before the prayer of feast day. Islam imposed also expiatory gifts on the Muslim who commits perjury (that is to feed ten poor people or clothe them or to fast three days, if he is unable to feed or clothe the poor). The Muslim is commanded to perform his vows, and practise voluntary charity. Allah promised to give the best rewards for those who expend their money for His sake. Their rewards will not only be multiplied to tenfold, but to 700 folds, or even to a boundless number.

Fasting The Month Of Ramadan

The fourth pillar of Islam is to fast during the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Hijri calendar.

Before the dawn of the first day of Ramadan, a Muslim intends to fast this month, and abstains every day from drinking, eating, or practising sex till sunset. He performs fast till the end of the month of Ramadan, fulfilling by that the commandment of Allah, and seeking His pleasure.

Fasting has innumerable benefits. When a man refrains himself from lust, abstains from eating and drinking for the sake of Allah, he does this only for one purpose; that is to obey Allah, worship Him and imbue his heart with God's fear.

Fasting has also innumerable hygienic, economic and social benefits which are perceived only by those who perform it with strong belief and sincere faith. The Qura'n states:-

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴾ إلى قوله تعالى :- ﴿ شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَيْتُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴾
(الآيات ١٨٣ - ١٨٥ سورة البقرة)

<<O you who believe ! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was

prescribed to those before you, that you may (learn) self-restraint.>> (2 : 183)

<<Rāmadan is the (month) In which was sent down the Qura'n, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Sings) for guidance and Judgment (between right and wrong). So every one of you who is present (at his home) during that month should spend it in fasting, but if any one is ill, or on a journey, the prescribed period (should be made up) by days later. Allah intends every facility for you; he does not want to put you to difficulties. (He wants you) to complete the prescribed period, and to glorify Him, in that He has guided you; and perchance ye shall be grateful.>> (2: 185)

According to the rules of Quran and prophetic traditions, it is permissible for a sick man, a man travelling on a journey, a menstruating woman, or a confined woman not to fast, but to make up for what they missed.

Foster-mothers and pregnant women are also permitted not to fast if fasting will harm them or their babies, but they should compensate this fully by fasting for equal number of days. If a man drinks or eats absent-mindedly while fasting, he should spit out whatever still in his mouth as soon as he remembers that he is fasting. In this case his fast is not broken. This is a privilege with which the Muslim nation has been endowed:- <<Allah forgives sins committed by mistake, forgetfulness, or by compulsion.>>

Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage (HAJJ) is the fifth pillar of Islam. It is a duty of a Muslim to perform pilgrimage to the House of Allah once in a life-time, but it is permissible for him to go on pilgrimage voluntarily more than once.

Pilgrimage has innumerable benefits :-

1. In fulfilling this service, man expresses his devotion to Allah, not only by performing rites which need physical effort, but he expresses also his deep spiritual devotion to Allah and spends of his money for His sake.
2. Pilgrimage is an annual Muslim-congress, attended by Muslims from all over the world.

They meet in one place, Makka, all being dressed in one uniform, worshipping Allah The One God and performing the same rites during the fixed period of Hajj. There is no discrimination between them; all are Allah's bondsmen; no white man has preference over a black man, neither the rich over the poor. In this way, Muslims are acquainted with one another, co-operate one with the other, and they remember the day when they will be resurrected and gathered before Allah who will account them for their deeds. Thus, they prepare themselves for the Hereafter and do their best to obey Allah, their Lord.

The Ka'aba is the Qibla of all Muslims, they direct their faces towards it when they perform their prayers. But, it should be

well-known that all the rites of pilgrimage such as circumambulating round the ka'aba, attending Arafat, Muzdalifa, and staying for several days in Mina all these rites have one objective that is to worship Allah according to the method He commanded and during the time He fixed. Worshipping is neither dedicated to the Kaaba nor to any of these other places which are no more than objects created by Allah that can never bring benefit or cause harm to any one. Worshipping is dedicated to Allah alone, The Lord of everything, who alone has the absolute sovereignty and all power.

According to the Muslim's faith, all forms of worshipping are enjoined by Allah and should never be based on individual judgement or taste. Therefore, had Allah not commanded people to perform pilgrimage to the Sacred House at Makka, Muslims would have never performed it. Evidence for pilgrimage from the Qura'n :-

﴿ وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حُجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴾
(آل عمران من آية ٩٧)

<<Pilgrimage thereto is a duty Men owe to Allah; those who can afford the journey: but if any deny faith, Allah stands not in need of any of His creatures>>. (3 : 97)

Performing "Umra" or lesser pilgrimage once in a life-time is also a duty that a Muslim should fulfil either during Hajj time or at any other time.

It is not an indispensable duty for every Muslim to visit the mosque of the prophet in AL-Madina during Hajj-time or at any other time, but this is an advisable deed and whoever performs it will be recompensed by Allah. The tradition which states :-
Whoever performs pilgrimage and does not visit me is turning away from me.>> is untrue and is imputed falsely to the prophet.

A Muslim leaving for Madina intends to visit the mosque of the Prophet. When he arrives there, he prays in the mosque and then visits the tomb of the Prophet peace be upon him. The visitor salutes the prophet politely and leaves the place adopting by that the same manner that the companions of the Prophet used to do. He should not ask the Prophet or supplicate for anything from him. In fact those who supplicate the Prophet for help, ask him for what they need, or invoke him to be their intercessor to Allah, are committing idolatry and the Prophet is innocent of their ill-deed. Therefore, every Muslim should be aware to avoid such idolatrous deeds.

After visiting the prophet's mosque the visitor visits also the tombs of Baqei'h. He should behave during his visit in conformity with Islamic ethics and invoke Allah to bless the deads and martyrs buried in these tombs.

The manner of performing Hajj And Umra:

A Muslim who intends to perform pilgrimage or Umra should expend in this journey of his pure and lawful property and avoid using illicit gains lest it should ruin his noble pilgrimage. The Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be on him, said:- <<Whatever flesh that comes to grow out of illicit gains is rather doomed to Hell-fire>>.

It is also advisable for a pilgrim to select a man of good faith to accompany him on pilgrimage.

A pilgrim, whether travelling by car or train, puts on "Ihram" as soon as he arrives at the miqat (the station for Ihram), and a pilgrim, travelling by plane, puts on Ihram when he approaches the miqat. According to prophetic traditions, there are five mawaqit (five stations for Ihram):-

1. Zul Hulaifa (Abyar Ali) : for pilgrims from Madinah.
2. AL-Juhfa, a place near Rabigh, for people coming from the directions of Syria, Egypt and Maghrib.
3. Qarn AL-Manazil, for people coming from Najd, AL-Taif and other regions of that direction.
4. Zat Irq, for people coming from Iraq.
5. Yalamlam, for people coming from Yemen. These mawaqit are not only for people coming from the above-mentioned regions, but also for those who chance to travel by these routes.

As for the inhabitants of Makka and those who live within the

area bounded by these mawaqit, they assume their Ihrams from their homes.

Manner Of Ihram

It is advisable for a pilgrim to take a bath, to clean and perfume himself before assuming Ihram at the miqat. The Ihram dress for males consists of two simple white seamless sheets, one to be wrapped round the loins and the other to cover the upper part of the body. The head should not be covered. Women have no special dress for Ihram, but they should be dressed in wide veiling and unalluring clothes. After assuming the Ihram, a woman should neither veil her face with a seamed veil, nor use any seamed gloves to cover her hands. It is permissible for her to cover her face with a part of her head-veil if she finds herself surrounded by men, the same manner adopted before by the wives of the prophet (peace be upon him) and the wives of his companions.

The pilgrim, after assuming Ihram, intends by heart to perform Umra and says:

«اللهم ليك عمرة»

which means : O' Allah, here I am at Thy service intending to perform Umra. In this way the pilgrim performs Hajj-Tamattu' which is really excellent because the prophet (may the peace and blessing of Allah be on him) recommended his companions to perform this kind of Hajj. He even obliged them to abandon

their Ihram and make their visit to Kaabā an Umra, giving exception only to those who brought with them their "Hady" "sacrifices" , and carried on their Hajj by Qiran, the same manner which the Prophet himself adopted. The Qarin (who performs Hajj by Qiran) intends when he starts his pilgrimage rites by saying:-

«اللهم ليك عمرة وحجا»

<<Here am I, O' Allah, I intend to perform Umra and Hajj>>.

Therefore he should not abandon his Ihram and all Ihram restrictions till he offers his sacrifice on the feast-day (Day of Immolation, 10th of Zulhijja) called Id'ul Adhha.

After assuming the Ihram:-

1. It is forbidden for a Muslim to cohabit with his wife, kiss, or touch her lustfully. During the Ihram period a pilgrim is also not allowed to marry or propose to a lady.
2. It is also forbidden for a Muslim to remove or trim his hair from any part of the body.
3. Similarly, paring the nails of hands and toes is also forbidden.
4. A man in Ihram should not cover his head, but it is permissible for him to be shaded by an umbrella or sit in the shadow of a tent.

5. During the Ihram one is not allowed to apply perfume to his body or garments or even to smell it.
6. It is forbidden during the Ihram to kill animals of game or to help others to do so.
7. A male pilgrim is not allowed to wear tailored clothes during the period of Ihram; instead of shoes he can use sandals. Women should not wear seamed veils on their faces.

As soon as the pilgrim arrives at the Kaaba, The Holy House Of Allah, he circumambulates it seven times for the <<Tawaf-ALQodoum>>, circumambulation of arrival. He starts the Tawaf from near the black stone. That is his Umra Tawaf; the pilgrim can invoke Allah by whatever prayers he likes. After terminating the seven rounds of Tawaf he moves to the station of Ibrahim, where or somewhere in the vicinity, he performs a two rakaat prayer of the Tawaf.

A pilgrim proceeds after that for "S'ae". He starts by mounting the eminence AL-Safa and faces the Qibla saying <<Allahu Akbar, la ilah'a ila Allah,>> and invokes Allah by whatever prayers he likes. Then, he walks to the eminence of AL-Marwa, mounts it, faces the Qibla, saying Allahu Akbar, invokes Allah, then returns to the eminence of AL-Safa, then repeats this walking from Safa to Marwa and vice versa, till he completes seven rounds at AL-Marwa.

A pilgrim who performs pilgrimage by Tamattu, gets his hair shaven or trimmed after completing his "S'ae". For women, it is enough to trim a small part of their hair as long as a finger-tip.

In this way the pilgrim completes his Umra, discards his Ihram and is free to lead a normal life in all respects

If a woman menstruates or gives birth before or after her Ihram, she becomes Qarinah and performs Hajj by Qiran. Therefore, she should intend to perform Hajj and Umra combined in one Ihram. Menstruation and confinement do not forbid a woman from doing any of the acts of Hajj except the circumambulation of the Holy House which she should postpone until she becomes clean.

If she gets clean before people assume their Ihram, she takes a cleansing bath, joins them when they assume their Ihram, and performs with them the rituals of Hajj. But if her cleansing from menses occurs at a later time, following her assuming Ihram, she combines Hajj and Umra in one Ihram, performs all the rituals of Hajj, including staying in Mina, standing in Arafat, going to Muzdalifa, pelting, offering the sacrifice and trimming her hair on feast-day, but she can not circumambulate the Holy House till she is clean. When she gets clean, she takes a cleansing bath and performs circumambulation round the Kaaba and "S'ae", hence, fulfilling both Hajj and Umra. This was the method adopted by the mother of believers, Aisha according to the directions of the Prophet (peace be upon him). The Prophet affirmed by his deeds any sayings that the Qarin combines Hajj and Umra and fulfils them both by performing one circumambulation and one "S'ae". The Prophet himself performed Hajj in accordance with this manner and said that <<Umra is included in Hajj till Doomsday>>.

On the 8th day of Zul-Hija, the pilgrims assume Ihram from their settlements in Makka in the same manner they had done before at the miqat. A pilgrim, whether a man or a woman, intends to perform Hajj by saying <<Here I am My Lord, I intend to perform Hajj.>>

«اللهم ليك حجا»

A pilgrim refrains himself from practising any of the actions forbidden during the Ihram period in the same way as explained before. Then he proceeds with other pilgrims to Mina to pass the night there. A pilgrim should perform his prayers there in time. He is permitted to shorten his prayers but not to combine one of them with the other. On the morning of Arafat (the 9th of Zul-Hija), the pilgrims go to Namira mosque to perform in congregation the Zuhr (noon) and Asr (afternoon) Prayers combined together. By noon, they proceed to Arafat to stay there till sunset praying, supplicating Allah and asking Him for forgiveness. The pilgrim can stand at any place in the valley of Arafat because the whole of Arafat is reserved for wuquf (standing). He should turn his face while praying and supplicating towards the Qibla and not towards the mount of Arafat. The pilgrim should be aware that climbing the mount is not a ritual service, and that wiping oneself with its stones is a heretical deed.

After sunset, the pilgrims proceed to Muzdalifa where they perform Maghrib (evening) and Isha (night) prayers combined

together, and shortening only Isha prayer. They spend the night there, and next day they perform the Fajr (morning) prayer at dawn and leave to Mina before sunrise. When they arrive there, they pelt <<Jamrat AL-Akabba>> by seven pebbles, each one of which should not be larger than a chickpea. One should observe strictly the guidance and orders of the Prophet to overcome the allurements of the Satan and avoid such devious actions as pelting the <<Jamra>> by shoes and any other action which is not in accordance with the commandments of Allah or the traditions of the Prophet.

After pelting Jamrat AL-Aqaba, the pilgrim offers his sacrifice, then shaves or shortens his hair (but it is better to have it shaven rather than having it shortened). Women slightly trim off parts of their hair.

After that, the pilgrim can discard Ihram and perform all the acts which were forbidden during the Ihram period except sexual intercourse. Then the pilgrim heads for Makka, performs Tawaf AL-Ifadah, and the S'ae, hence, discarding Ihram completely and he is then allowed to perform all the acts that were forbidden during the Ihram period with no exception.

The pilgrim returns to Mina, to stay there for three successive days (the Feast Day and the following two days). He spends the nights of these days at Mina and at every noon or mid-day he pelts the three Jamarat (on the 11th and 12th of Zul-Hija). He starts by pelting AL-Jamarat-al-Sugrah (The small Jamara), then AL-Jamarat al-Wusta (The medium Jamara) and finally Jamarat AL-Akaba, which he had pelted before on the morning of the

Feast Day. Each one of these Jamarat is pelted by seven pebbles. The pilgrim has the choice after that, either to leave Mina on the 12th of Zul-Hija or stay there till next day. It is better to stay till next day and perform a pelting at noon. The final thing that a pilgrim should do before leaving Makka, is to perform Tawaf AL-Wadaa' (Tawaf of Departure). However, a woman in a state of menstruation or childbed is allowed to leave Makka without performing Tawaf AL-Wadaa.

Offering the sacrifice can be done also on 11th, 12th or 13th of Zul-Hija, and Tawaf-al-ifada can also be postponed till the pilgrim leaves Mina, but it is better to perform the rituals in accordance with the order and times which are mentioned above.

Faith

The Muslim is ordained to believe not only in Allah, His messengers and fundamentals of Islam, but he should also believe in His angels ⁽¹⁾, and the books which He had revealed to His messengers.

The Quran is the last divine Book. It abrogates, substitutes, and stands to preserve the truth of the old scriptures from corrup-

(1) Angels are creatures whom Allah had created from light. They are many in number and no one can count them save Allah. A portion of them are in the heavens, some others are entrusted with mankind.

tion. A Muslim should not only believe in Muhammad but he should also believe in all former prophets whose names have been given in the Quran. The Muslim's faith is that Muhammad is the last of the messengers of Allah and that he is sent to all nations including Jews, Christians and other sects. Thus, all people should believe in Muhammad and follow him, who does not believe in him and in Islam, is disbelieving not only in Muhammad, but also in all other messengers of Allah, even though he may claim to be a follower of one of them. Moses, Jesus, and other messengers of Allah exculpate themselves from those who do not believe in Islam and in Muhammad. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, <<By Him who has my soul in His hands, anyone of this community that comes to know about me and dies without believing in my message will dwell in Hell-Fire, even if he is a Jew or a Christian.>>

A muslim believes also in Resurrection, Reckoning, Requital, Paradise, Hell-Fire and Divine Decree.

What does it mean to believe in Divine Decree? It means that Allah knows everything that ever existed in the past, that is existing now, and all that will exist in the future, before He created the heavens and earth. This divine knowledge is registered in a guarded Tablet. Therefore, the Muslim believes strongly that nothing can ever exist except by the will of Allah.

Allah has created people to worship Him and obey Him. He made His commandments and prohibitions very clear and endowed people with the ability and will to carry out what He enjoined them to do, in order that they may obtain His reward, but

those who disobey Him will suffer His punishment.

The volition of man is dependent on the will of Allah. However, there are certain forms of fate in which man's will has absolutely no role, i.e misfortunes of life, poverty, sickness etc. These forms of fate are imposed on people by the will of Allah alone, and man will neither be rewarded nor punished for them, because they are beyond his understanding and will, but if man endures and keeps contented with what Allah had foreordained for him, Allah will reward him bountifully.

The pious Muslims achieve the highest rank of faith, dwell in the best positions of the paradise and are the nearest to the consent of Allah, because they worship Allah, glorify Him, and are always submissive to Him as if they are seeing Him. They never disobey Allah secretly or openly. They believe strongly that Allah watches them wherever they may be, and that any of their deeds, sayings or intentions can never be concealed from Allah. If one of them commits a sin, he repents sincerely to Allah, asks Him forgiveness and never recommitting it. The Quran states:-

<<For Allah is with those who restrain themselves, and those who do good.>>16:128

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ مُحْسِنُونَ ﴾ (١٦ : ١٢٨)

Islam, The Perfect Religion

Allah states in the glorious Quran :

﴿ الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا ﴾ (٥ : ٣)

<<This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.>> (5:3)

Allah also states in the Quran:

﴿ إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّذِي هُوَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا ﴾ (١٧ : ٩)

<<Verily this Quran doth guide to that which is most right (or stable), and giveth the glad tidings to the Believers who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a magnificent reward.>> (17:9)

Allah said also:-

﴿ وَرَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تِبْيَانًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴾ (١٦ : ٨٩)

<<And We have sent down to thee the Book explaining all things, a Guide, a Mercy, and Glad Tidings to Muslims.>> (16:89)

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said:

(I have guided you to the right path which is as bright as daylight is thus, whoever deviates from this path is doomed to perdition.)

He also said:

(I have left to you the Book of Allah and my traditions, if you hold fast to them, you will never be misled.)

In the first of the above-mentioned Quranic verses, Allah stated that He had perfected the religion of Islam to be suitable and corresponding to the needs of mankind in every place, time and nation. Islam is not only free from all defects, but, it also corresponds to the needs of mankind and does not impose any unnecessary burden on people. Allah stated also that He had completed His blessings for the Muslim nation by bestowing upon them this perfect, magnanimous and great religion which forms the message of Muhammad, the last Prophet of Allah. Allah promised to give help and victory to Islam over all enemies, and stated that He had chosen it to be the religion of mankind, and that any other religion, whatever it may be, will not gain His acceptance.

The second verse indicates that the Holy Quran is an illuminative perfect method of life which guides people to true solutions for both mundane and religious problems. Whatever a deed may be, the Qura'n has explained to us whether it may be good or evil. The Qura'n not only guides us to solutions for all kinds of problems in all times, but the Quranic solutions for these prob-

lems are also characterised by being just and right, whereas, all other solutions contrary to it are short and defective as they are based on human feebleness, ignorance and injustice. The Quran is a comprehensive Divine Book which contains the basis of knowledge, faith, politics, system of governing, justice, psychology, sociology, economics, penal law and all sciences that mankind may need. Basics of these fields of knowledge are explained clearly in the Quran and prophetic traditions. The next chapter will be consecrated to discuss briefly the perfectness of Islam and its comprehensive method.

Chapter 4 The Method Of Islam

1- Islam and Science:

According to Islamic faith, the first commandment of Allah to man is that he must learn and acquire knowledge. Allah stated in the Holy Qura'n:-

﴿ فَأَعْلَمَ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاسْتَغْفِرَ لِذُنُوبِهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مُتَقَلِّبِكُمْ
وَمُتَوَلِّكُمْ ﴾ (١٩ : ٤٧)

<<know, therefore, that there is no god but Allah and ask forgiveness for thy fault, and for the men and women who believe :

For Allah knows how ye move about and how ye dwell in your homes>>. (47:19)

The Qura'n states also:

﴿ وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا ﴾ (١١٤ : ٢٠)

<<O my Lord ! advance me In knowledge>>. (20:114)

Allah also stated:

﴿ فَسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴾ (٧ : ٢١)

<<If ye know this not, ask of those who possess the Message>>. (21:7)

Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him said:

(The search for knowledge is a duty laid on every Muslim).

He also said:

(The Superiority of a scholar over an ignorant man is as obvious as the brightness of the full-moon in dark nights).

Islam classifies knowledge into two categories:-

a) Obligatory knowledge:

This is a duty on every muslim, whether male or female, The

Muslim must know Allah, His messenger Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and acquire knowledge concerning the fundamentals of Islam using available evidence.

b) Optional Knowledge :

This is a collective duty, meaning that it is not a duty on every individual, but if a group of individuals in the community undertake to acquire this kind of knowledge, all other individuals will be exempted from this duty, and the whole community will be free from responsibility of negligence to acquire this kind of knowledge. Examples of such knowledge are:- to study Islamic Law, to study other basic sciences, industries, and professions which are of vital necessity for the welfare of the community. Muslim rulers should always do their best to procure scholars, professionals and qualified men in all fields of optional knowledge to satisfy the needs of the muslim community.

2- Islam and Faith :

Allah commanded His messenger Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be on him, to proclaim to all people that they are the bondsmen of Allah alone, and that they should worship none but Allah. He ordered them to relate themselves with Allah directly without any intercessor between Him and them, that they should put their trust in Him alone, fear none

except Him, and ask for everything from none except Him.

Man must glorify Allah his Lord by His Holy Attributes and Holy Names. This was the manner of Muhammad, peace be upon him. All these meanings have already been exposed and explained in the chapter dealing with the explanation of the meaning of (No god save Allah.)

3- Islam and Fostering Bonds Of Friendship among people:

Allah commanded Muslims to be good and to strive for the deliverance of humanity from the darkness of blasphemy to the light of Islam. Belief in Allah is the cornerstone on which the muslim bases his relations with others. He loves the righteous people who obey Allah and His messenger even if they are not connected with Him by any bond of relation. Allah abominates the unbelievers and those who disobey Him and His messenger even though they may be his closest relatives. This connection, being based on belief in Allah, not only gathers dispersed groups and unites different communities, but it also survives more than all other human-made bonds such as nationalism, material interests and even blood relationships which are feeble and liable to break down. Allah states in the Quran :

﴿لَا يَجِدُ قَوْمًا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ يُوَادُّونَ مَنْ حَادَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَوْ كَانُوا آبَاءَهُمْ أَوْ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ أَوْ إِخْوَانَهُمْ أَوْ عَشِيرَتَهُمْ﴾ (٥٨ : ٢٢)

<<Thou wilt not find any people who believe In Allah and the

Last Day loving those who oppose Allah and His Messenger, Even though they were their fathers or their sons, or their brothers, or their kindred.>> (58:22)

Allah also states:

﴿إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰكُمْ﴾ (٤٩ : ١٣)

<<Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah Is (he who is) the most Righteous of you.>> (49:13)

Allah commanded Muslims to do justice to both enemies and friends and forbade all his bondsmen to do injustice to others.

Allah commanded His bondsmen to be honest, truthful, kind to parents, the poor and the benevolent and to desist from all kinds of deception. Allah commanded them to be good in their behaviour towards everything, even towards animals and birds, which they are ordered not to torture in any way. The Muslim is ordered to kill harmful animals and insects like scorpions, serpents, rats, mordacious dogs ... etc, to protect himself and his community, but he is not allowed to torture them.

4- Self conscientiousness and heart heedfulness of the believer :

The verses of the glorious Quran informed people that Allah sees His bondsmen wherever they may be, knows all their deeds

and intentions and that His angels are accompanying them to register whatever they do openly or secretly. People will have to account for Allah for all that they do or say. Allah warns them that they will be punished severely if they disobey His commandments. This divine warning refrains the believers and prevents them from disobeying Allah or committing sins and crimes.

As for those who are heedless of Allah's punishment, and are not ashamed of committing sins whenever they can, Islam imposes on them certain deterring restrictions:

1. The whole muslim community is accountable to Allah for preaching good deeds and forbidding indecency. In this way, the Muslim, who does not interfere positively to prevent a man from committing a crime or a sin will be responsible for his negative attitude to Allah.
2. Muslim rulers are commanded to execute the punishments laid down in the Qura'n against the criminals who commit grievous crimes mentioned therein. The prophet, peace be upon him explained these crimes and carried out such punishments against the sinners during his life-time.

5- Islam and Social interdependence :

Allah enjoined muslims to co-operate with one another in material and moral fields. Some forms of this co-operation have already been explained in the chapter concerning Zakat.

A Muslim is not only forbidden to cause harm to others, but he is also commanded to be positive and remove what acts others do that may cause harm to any one. Removing a stone from a road, or a thorn to the shadow of a tree, although it may appear a trifle deed, yet it is a good action for which a man will be rewarded.

It is the duty of a Muslim to wish for his fellow-brother what he wishes for himself, and to dislike for him what he dislikes for himself. The Quran states :-

﴿ وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ ﴾ (٥ : ٢)

<<Help ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and rancour.>> (5:2)

The Quran states also:-

﴿ إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ ﴾ (٤٩ : ١٠)

<<The believers are but a single brotherhood so make peace and reconciliation between your two (contending) brothers>>. 49:10

﴿ لَا خَيْرَ فِي كَثِيرٍ مِنْ نَجْوَاهُمْ إِلَّا مَنْ أَمَرَ بِصَدَقَةٍ أَوْ مَعْرُوفٍ أَوْ إِصْلَاحٍ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ ابْتِغَاءَ مَرْضَاتِ اللَّهِ فَسَوْفَ نُؤْتِيهِ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا ﴾ (٤ : ١١٤)

<<In most of their secret talks there is no good : but if one exhorts to a deed of charity or goodness or conciliation between people, (secrecy is permissible): To him who does this, seeking the good pleasure of Allah we shall soon give a reward of the highest (value).>> (4:114)

Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be on him, said: {None of you will be a believer till he wishes for his fellow-brother what he wishes for himself.} In his magnificent farewell speech, which he made at Arafat before his death, Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him said:-

{O people, your God is one, and your father is one, an Arab has no preference over a non-Arab, nor is a black-man privileged over a whiteman, or a red man over a black man except by God-fearing. Have I informed you? The people answered "Yes you did."}

{Your lives, your properties and your honour are as sacred as this day (day of Hajj) of this holy month in this inviolable city (Makka)is}.

6- Islam and Domestic Affairs :

Allah commanded the muslims to appoint from among themselves an Imam to be their ruler. Muslims should acknowledge the right of authority of their ruler. They should also unite in one nation and never disperse. They are not allowed to disobey their rulers or leaders except in one case, when the ruler orders

them to commit a sin or an action contrary to the commandments of Allah.

Allah has commanded the Muslim to emigrate to an Islamic country if he cannot act on Islam in his own country, or declare openly there that he is a Muslim. Islamic countries are the countries ruled by a Muslim ruler and in which all affairs of the community are regulated by the Islamic Law.

Islam does not acknowledge territorial boundaries, national or popular relations, and nationalities, as these lead to separation and differentiation among people. There is no nationality for the Muslim except Islam. According to Islam, all mankind are Allah's bondsmen, and the whole earth belongs to Allah (not to any nation or a certain country), thus, the Muslim is authorized to migrate wherever he likes as long as he has committed himself to the Laws of Allah. However, if he abrogates these laws, the penalties stated therein should be inflicted on him. By executing the laws of Allah, and carrying into force the penalties which He commanded against those who commit certain crimes, the human community can establish security, rightness, and protection of lives, properties and honour. The worst evils befall a community when it abandons these Divine laws.

Allah prohibited spiritual, alcoholic drinks, and drugs of all

kinds to preserve for man the faculty of sense with which He endowed him. Whoever drinks wine any spiritual or alcoholic drink, or takes any drug is punished according to the laws of Allah by being flogged from 40 to 80 lashes. This preventive pun-

ishment guarantees a wide range of protection for people against all evils and crimes that arise out of alcoholic beverages.

Allah has prescribed retaliation to protect Muslim's lives. He commanded that reprisal and paying back injury for injury should be executed on the intentional murderers and aggressors who kill or wound others intentionally. The muslim is authorized to practise legitimate self-defence against any aggression on his life, honour, or possessions. Allah stated in the Quran:

﴿ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقِصَاصِ حَيَوةٌ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴾ (٢ : ١٧٩)

<<In the Law of Equality there is (saving of) Life to you, O ye men of understanding; That ye may restrain yourselves.>>
(2:179)

Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him, said:

{Whoever is killed while defending against an attack on his life, his honour, or his possessions is a martyr}.

Allah protected the Muslim's honour by prohibiting calumny and prescribing a punishment against slander and false accusations of fornication or pederasty.

Allah protected man's honour and prevented lineage-confusion by preventing a dultery and fornication, considering them to be one of the most grievous crimes and prescribing a severe punishment for adulterers and adulteresses.

Allah protected possessions by prohibiting stealing, deception, gambling, bribery and all means of illicit gains. He prescribed severe punishment for thieves and highway robbers, commanding that their hands should be maimed.

All these punishments are enacted by Allah, The All-Wise, The All-Knower. He knows better what suits His bondsmen and puts their society in order. He is The Most-Merciful. These punishments not only expiate the sins of criminals but also protect the whole society against all kinds of evil. Islam's enemies criticise Islam for inflicting severe punishments against murderers, robbers and adulterers, but their criticisms are null and void because, by inflicting these punishments, Islam cuts off from the society a vicious spoilt member who, if not punished severely, will spread corruption and viciousness to other members and damage the whole community. Those who criticize Islam forget that they do not refrain themselves from killing innocents, and encourage all kinds of brutalities in order to achieve their malicious goals.

7- Islam and Foreign Policy:

Muslims and Muslim rulers are ordained to call people to Islam to deliver them from the darkness of atheism to the light of faith in Allah, and to rescue them from being immersed in the illusions of the materialistic life wherein they suffer deprivation of spiritual happiness.

One of the grave defects of man-made doctrines is that they

preach man to be a good citizen and a useful member only of his own society, whereas, Islam ordains man to be good and useful to all mankind. This difference proves that Islam is perfect, magnanimous and superior to all man-made doctrines.

Islam has its own regulations of war. It demands from Muslims to prepare whatever force they can to protect themselves and their faith and to dismay the enemies of Allah and their enemies.

However, Allah authorized muslims to conclude treaties with non-muslim nations, on condition that these treaties should be in conformity with Islamic law.

Muslims are strictly prohibited to break the treaties which they conclude with their enemies, but they are authorized to abrogate them if the enemy violates these treaties or commits an act contrary to the conditions laid therein.

Muslims are ordained to call their enemies to Islam before fighting against them. If they refuse, Muslims should call them again to pay the tribute and submit to the laws of Allah. If the enemy refuses again, Muslims should fight them so that there may be no persecution and religion should be for Allah alone.

Muslims are strictly commanded not to kill women, children, old men, and monks who do not participate in war against Muslims. They are commanded to treat prisoners of war kindly.

All these commandments prove that the desire for exploitation and domination is not the goal of holy war (Jihad) in Islam,

but its sole aim is to deliver people from man-made-object-service to the service of Allah, the Creator. Holy war (Jihad) is only a means to propagate truth and mercy among people.

8- Islam and Freedom:

A. Freedom of Faith

In a country ruled by Muslim authorities, a non-Muslim is guaranteed his freedom of faith. He has the full choice, either to embrace Islam to deliver himself from disbelief and attain prosperity, or to stick to his religion, and hence, choose disbelief, distress, and torment in Hell-Fire-Such a choice provides a clear-cut evidence against the disbeliever on the day of Judgment. Muslims are forbidden from obliging a non-Muslim to embrace Islam, but he should pay the tribute to Muslims readily and submissively, surrender to Islamic laws, and should not practise his polytheistic rituals openly.

Apostasy from Islam is grievous crime punishable by death. One who commits apostasy from Islam rejects truth after he had known it, thus, he does not deserve life and loses the (Raison-d'etre) of his existence. But if his apostasy is due to a violation of one of the principles of Islam, he should repent and ask Allah for forgiveness, and behave in accordance with Islamic rules.

Violations leading to apostasy are of many forms:

1. Idolatry:- That is to worship others beside Allah, even if he

considers those whom he associates with Allah to be intercessors and not gods (as a symbol of a pious man, or any other creature whom he thinks to be his intercessor to Allah.). Islam considers one committing such acts to be an idolater or an apostate.

The likeness of those who commit idolatry under the name of intercession is as the likeness of a man who drinks wine after calling it by another name. Allah stated in the Quran:-

﴿ فَأَعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ * أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ مَا نَعْبُدُهُمْ إِلَّا لِيُقَرِّبُونَا إِلَى اللَّهِ زُلْفَىٰ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَحْكُمُ بَيْنَهُمْ فِي مَا هُمْ فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي مَنْ هُوَ كَاذِبٌ كَفَّارٌ ﴾ (39: 2 - 3)

<<So serve Allah, offering Him sincere devotion. is it not to Allah, that sincere devotion is due? But those who take for protectors others than Allah (say): "We only serve them in order that they may bring us nearer to Allah," Truly Allah will judge between them. In that wherein they differ. But Allah guides not such as are false and ungrateful.>> (39: 2 - 3)

Allah also states:-

﴿ ذَٰلِكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ مَا يَمْلِكُونَ مِنْ قِطْمِيرٍ * إِنْ تَدْعُوهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُوا دَعَاءَكُمْ وَلَا يُسْمِعُوا مَا أَسْتَجَابُوا لَكُمْ وَيَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَكْفُرُونَ بِشِرْكِكُمْ وَلَا يُنَبِّئُكَ مِثْلُ خَبِيرٍ ﴾ . (13: 14 - 16)

<<Such is Allah your Lord: To Him belongs all Dominion.

And those whom ye invoke Besides Him own not A straw. If ye invoke them, they will not listen to your call, and if they were to listen, they cannot answer. Your (prayer). On the Day of Judgment they will reject your "partnership" And none (O men !) can inform you like Him who is All-Aware>>. (35:13 - 14)

2. The Muslim must charge idolaters, Jews, Christians, atheists and magians with unbelief. He should charge also with unbelief those who worship false deities and take for law regulations different from those which Allah had revealed. A muslim commits the grievous sin of unbelief if he does not accuse such men with unbelief.

3. Sorcery is a form of unbelief, especially when it includes grave idolatrous deviation. Therefore, whoever practises sorcery, or gives his consent to such action after knowing that it is atheism is an unbeliever.

4. Whoever believes that there is a law better than the law of Islam, or that there is a system better than that revealed to Muhammad is an unbeliever.

5. Whoever dislikes prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be on him, or abominates any of the rules of Islamic law is an unbeliever.

6. Whoever ridicules any of the precepts of Islam knowingly is an unbeliever.

7. Whoever longs for the defeat of Islam and abhors its victories is an unbeliever.

8. Whoever takes unbelievers as friends and gives them support knowingly with abrogation to Islamic rules is an unbeliever.

9. To believe that there are certain men authorized to violate Islamic laws and perform what is contrary to them is unbelief.

10. Whoever shuns Islamic faith or law after being reminded of it is an unbeliever.

11. To deny or reject any of the fundamentals of Islam is unbelief.

All these examples of deviation which lead to apostasy are supported by evidences from the Quran and prophetic traditions. We should beware of committing any of these deeds.

B. Islam confers freedom of opinion on Muslim on condition that it should not be used to violate Islamic precepts. Allah commanded the Muslim to stick to truth and say it wherever he may be heeding no censure of others. This is considered to be one of the highest ranks of fighting for the cause of Allah. The Muslim should also give good advice to Muslim rulers and admonish them to refrain themselves from all kinds of transgression. Allah ordered the Muslims to refute false opinions and restrain those who call people to it from committing this grievous sin.

Such a system based on respecting the opinions of others so long as their opinions are not violating the law of Allah is most magnanimous system. Opinions contrary to the laws of Allah

result in nothing but corruption and falsehood, therefore these should not be communicated.

C. Individual liberty is guaranteed in Islam within the broad limits of Islamic laws. Both man and woman have the right to practise all kinds of transaction: i.e contracts of sale, donation, wakf, etc. As for marriage, both male and female have full liberty to select their spouse, but in exceptional cases, when a female agrees to marry a man who is not equal to her in religious rank (i.e a man of bad reputation, or negligent of his religious duties such as prayer, fast etc), the female's father or the most close relative to her has the right to interfere and oppose the marriage with a view to protect her faith, honour and her family's interests. A female should not run about herself to complete marriage formalities, but her legal sponsor should do so on her behalf.

A contract for marriage is dependent on the consent of both the parties (the male and the female). Two witnesses, at least, should be present at the time of concluding the contract and should sign it as witnesses.

According to Islam, man and whatever he own belong to Allah. Therefore, all human behaviour should be within the limits explained by the commandments of Allah. Islam permits no transgression or extravagance; the laws of Allah are not only a guidance to His bondsmen, but they are also a source of mercy on them. To protect the Muslim society from all kinds of abuses and deviations, Islam has strictly forbidden adultery, fornication, sodomy, suicide and all forms of lewdness.

Allah ordained Muslims to shave off their moustaches, trim their nails, pluck out their armpits and pubic hair and to circumcise males.

Muslims are enjoined not to imitate the behavior of Allah's enemies, or commit their indecencies. Behaviour-imitation will effect the muslim's attitudes, and may create in him a sensation of sympathy towards his enemy's indecent mode of life. Allah wants the Muslim to be purged from all vices, and thus be a proper source for original Islamic thought, independent of all forms of man-made opinions, ideas, or modes of behaviour. The muslim should be a model for others in both faith and behaviour, he should not be an imitator and dependent on others.

In the field of industries and technical knowledge useful to mankind, Islam commands the Muslim to strive and acquire this knowledge and experience even from non Muslims. Knowledge belongs to Allah, and He is the Instructor who provides man

with all forms of knowledge. The Holy Quran states:-

﴿عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ﴾ (96 : 5)

<<Taught man that which he knew not.>> (96:5)

This promptness to acquire useful knowledge and science is the highest rank of reform and admonition for mankind in order to enable man to make use of his liberty, preserve his honour and dignity and protect himself against evil.

D. Islam protects man's privacy. It not only prohibits the Muslim from entering into other people's houses without permission, it also interdicts strictly glancing furtively at others inside their dwellings as well as prohibiting all deeds which encroach upon someone's security and right of privacy.

E. Allah has conferred on man the freedom of work. Man has the right to earn and expend within the limits explained by the laws of Allah. Work is a duty on man. He should work to support himself and his family. But, at the same time, Allah forbids strictly illicit gains which are the outcome of illegal deeds such as usury, gambling, corruption, theft, sorcery, fornication, and sodomy. Money gained by selling wine, pork, or practising forbidden kinds of entertainment such as singing and dancing is also illicit and prohibited. The Muslim should avoid earning money from illicit sources and should also avoid spending it for ill deeds.

By this method which regulates means of earning and ways of spending, Islam offers to man the most useful guidance to a prosperous and a very happy life.

9- Islam and Family status:

Allah organized family status by the Islamic law. This perfect divine organisation ensures happiness for those who adopt it. The Quran and prophetic traditions call upon and encourage people to marry for many noble reasons:

- Marriage is the best means to chastity and protection against indecency. It creates feelings of love and mercy between the couples and ensures security and tranquility for them. Marriage secures also for the society the way to proper growth through chastity and honest legitimate means.

According to Islam, each couple helps his mate by fulfilling the duties which suit his own nature. The man performs out door work to earn money and support his wife and children. The wife undertakes indoor- work such as bringing up children well, household-management, and doing her best for the happiness of her husband and children.

It is permissible for the wife to work out-side-home if her husband allows her to co-operate with him to increase their earnings and support their family. But, there is an important reservation on womens' work out side her home. A female should abstain from performing any work in company with men. Women can perform profitable and productive work in homes, their own farms, or their husbands or parents, farms. Neither the husband nor the wife's relatives have the right to oblige her to work in company with men in factories, offices, or commercial stores because such co-work will expose her to corruption. A woman secured in her house is protected against all kinds of temptation, but if she leaves her safe shelter to associate with men in works, markets, and other fields of life, she may harm herself and expose her honour and dignity to danger.

Islam And Polygamy **Polygamy is permissible in Islam.**

Allah authorized man to marry up to four wives, provided that he should treat them all as equals and should not discriminate among them. Islam considers man responsible for observing equality among his wives in all kinds of material treatment such as equality among them in habitation, clothing and all means of adequate support. But strict equality in emotions and feeling is beyond the control of a man, therefore he is not obliged to treat his wives on the same footing in emotional matters.

Allah states in the Quran:

﴿وَلَنْ تَسْتَطِيعُوا أَنْ تَعْدِلُوا بَيْنَ النِّسَاءِ﴾ (٤ : ١٢٩)

<<Ye are never able to do justice between wives.>> (4:129)

The commentators of the Quran are in agreement that this verse refers to equality between wives in emotions and feelings of love. Such equality which is beyond man's ability should not be a reason to justify abolition of polygamy.

Allah authorized His messengers in all ages to marry more than a wife, because He knows better what is more favourable for His bondsmen. It is a fact that a healthy man can satisfy the sexual desires of four women. Should he restrict himself to only

one wife; as christians and others do, as pretenders of Islam assert, this will result in many different kinds of corruption:-

1. If the husband is a good believer and obedient to His Lord's commandments, restricting himself to only one wife will not satisfy his desires, especially in the periods of his wife's menses, childbirth, sickness and during the last months of pregnancy. Certainly he will feel deprivation during these periods.
2. If the husband is a disobedient sinner and does not act according to the commandment of Allah, monogamy may incite him to commit adultery and abandon his wife. The majority of those who oppose polygamy are sinful adulterers who commit fornication and indecency shamelessly with unlimited number of women. A man committing lewdness and fornication while declaring himself to be an open antagonist to polygamy is condemned to be an unbeliever.
3. Monogamy deprives a great number of women of their legitimate right of marriage and having children. In times of wars and disasters, the death rate among men is proportionally high. In these cases, polygamy is the best means to extend the circle of marriage to combine a great number of widows and unmarried women and give them shelter and an honourable life. It is a clear fact that Islam, by regulating polygamy, has treated women with justice and mercy. Islam preferred the interests of women as a whole to the individual feeling of jealousy or grief which a wife suffers in case of polygamy. Those who oppose polygamy are the real enemies of women, virtue, and prophets of Allah. Who practised polygamy according to the laws of

Allah. Individual feelings of jealousy or grief should never be taken as a basis to impede laws and systems regulated by divine laws.

However, Islam authorises the wife to stipulate a condition in her marriage contract that she will have the right to be divorced by her own will, if her husband marries a second wife. According to Islamic law, the husband has no right in this case to reclaim from his divorced wife the possessions, cash or gifts that he had given her.

Divorce is permissible in Islam to enable couples to terminate their disputes and unhappy life, so that each one of them may start a new, happier life with a new mate. Divorce in Islam puts an end to unhappy matrimonial life and removes all dead-lock that can prevent people from a happy, honourable life.

10- Islam and hygienic Problems:

Many verses of the Quran and prophetic traditions contain spiritual and material methods for treating many psychological and physical diseases. Allah stated in the Qura'n:-

﴿وَنَزَّلْنَا مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ مَاهُ شِفَاءً وَرَحْمَةً لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ﴾ (١٧ : ٨٢)

<<We send down (stage by stage) of the Qura'n that which is a healing and a mercy to those who believe>>. (17:82)

The Prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be on him said:-

<<Whatever the disease, Allah has created a medication for it, regardless of the fact that some men may come to know what this medication is and others may not.>> The Prophet permitted Muslims to use all kinds of medicines except which contain unlawful elements such as wine, swine-flesh or any other forbidden matter. Ibn AL Qayim treated this subject throughly in his book <<Zad - AL-Maa'd>> so, the reader can refer to this book if he wishes to acquire more knowledge about this subject.

11. In addition to hygienic problems, Islam organises also commerce, the economy, industry and agriculture in details. The Islamic methods in these fields satisfy properly the needs of people in nutrition and housing, organise public utilities, secure public health in urban and rural societies and maintain the public amenities apparatuses on a proper basis to guarantee the settlement of all social troubles.

12. Muslim's Invisible Enemies And The Way To Overcome Them:-

Allah explained to Muslims that they have hidden enemies, who do their best to mislead Muslims to perdition in this worldly life and in the Hereafter. Allah also guided Muslims to the method of delivery from the evils of these unseen enemies. The first of these enemies is the accursed satan, who stirs up and leads all other enemies of man. Satan was not only a foe to our forefather Adam and our grand mother Eve, but he is an open

enemy of Adam's progeny till the end of this wordly life. Satan strives hard to persuade people either to unbelief or to commit sins in order that they may accompany him in dwelling forever in Hell-Fire. Satan is an incorporeal spirit, able to instill evil in man and allure mischief to him as if he were a second nature to him.

Allah explained to us how to overcome Satan and his followers. When a Muslim is about to commit a sin, or when he is maddened with anger, he should say <<I ask Allah for His refuge against the accursed Satan.>> Then he should refrain himself from committing the sin and calm his anger. The Muslim should know that malicious incentives are always motivated by the Satan. Allah said:-

﴿إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لِرُكُودِهِ فَاَتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا إِنَّمَا يَدْعُو حَزْبَهُ لِيَكُونُوا مِنْ أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ﴾
(٦:٣٥)

<<Verily Satan is an enemy to you : So treat him as an enemy. He only invites his adherents, that they may become companions of the Blazing Fire>>. (35:6)

The second foe of man is his lusts:-

Man can be persuaded to deny the truth and disobey the commandments of Allah if these are contrary to his lusts. A sinful man always gives priority to emotions and passions over truth and justice. The way to overcome lust is to ask Allah for refuge

against one's own lusts, stick to truth, and to refrain from following desires contrary to Allah's commandments.

The third enemy of man is his baser self which incites him to evil. This baser self incites sins and forbidden desires in a man such as drinking wine, committing adultery and breaking fast in Ramadan without a legal excuse. The way to overcome this enemy is to ask Allah for refuge against the baser self and against the devil. Then, one should abstain from committing a sin and strive to gain the refuge of Allah. One should always remind oneself that sinful lusts are evanescent and leave nothing but sorrow and remorse.

Satanic-people are the fourth enemy of man. They are called satanic-people because they behave like devils, oppose the commandments of Allah, commit lewdness and tempt people to evil. The best way to overcome this enemy is to beware and not to associate with them.

13. Islam, the noble aim of this life and the way to happiness :

This worldly life with its evanescent allurements is not the object of Muslim. Allah explained to Muslims that they should direct their efforts in this life to gain eternity and bliss in the true coming-life, the life after death. This worldly life is not an end in itself; a true Muslim considers it only a means to the life Hereafter. Allah stated:-

﴿ وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ﴾ (٥٦ : ٥١)

<<I have only created Jinns and men, that they may serve Me>>. (51:56)

Allah stated also:-

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَتَسْتَظِرُّ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ * وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَأَنْسَاهُمْ أَنْفُسَهُمْ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ * لَا يَسْتَوِي أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ وَأَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ ﴾ (٥٩ : ١٨ - ٢٠)

<<O Ye who believe ! Fear Allah, and let every soul look to what (provision) he has sent forth for the morrow yea, fear Allah, for Allah is well-acquainted with (all) that ye do. And be ye not like those who forgot Allah; And He made them forget themselves ! such are the rebellious transgressors ! Not equal are the companions of the fire and the companions of the Garden: It is the companions of the Garden that will achieve Felicity.>> (59:18-20)

Allah said also:

﴿ فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ * وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ ﴾ (٩٩ : ٧ - ٨)

<<Then shall anyone who has done an atom's weight of good, see it ! And anyone who has done an atom's weight of

evil, shall see it>>. (99 : 7-8)

When the Muslim remembers these verses and other similar verses of glorious Quran, he understands his aim in this worldly life and acquires knowledge about the true life Hereafter which is certain to come. Therefore, he serves Allah devoutly and strives to gain His consent and kindness in this life and in the Hereafter. This will stimulate him to fulfil his religious duties sincerely, search for happiness in supplicating Allah and gain tranquility by continuous remembrance of Allah. Such a man is always good in deed and saying. He gains praise and appreciation of other good men, and pays no heed to ungrateful envious men who deny religion and mock at pious men's efforts. He follows the way of the messengers of Allah, and in whatever he does or says, he seeks nothing but the favour of Allah. Wherever he may work, he strives hard to increase production in order to serve Islam and Muslims, knowing that Allah will reward him for his sincerity and good intention, and that his earnings by which he supports himself and his family will be blessed by Allah.

This manner of life secures honour and complete contentment for man. He can enjoy all legal pleasures without extravagance He can have a wife and children who will serve Allah, add to the number of good Muslims and continue to carry out their father's mission after his death. A Muslim always thanks Allah for His favours and becomes more sincere to Him by devout obedience.

When a Muslim is afflicted with any disaster (fear, hunger,

illness, ... etc), he knows well that Allah tests him, therefore he should endure, he contented and thank Allah in all cases. In this way, Allah rewards him for his patience.

A Muslim leading his life with this high spirit and striving for the happy eternal life will gain happiness not even in this worldly life but also in the Hereafter.

Allah said:

﴿ تِلْكَ الدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ نَجْعَلُهَا لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُرِيدُونَ عُلُوًّا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فَسَادًا وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴾
(٨٣ : ٢٨)

<<That Home of the Hereafter we shall give to those who intend not high-handedness Or mischief on earth: And the end is (best) for the righteous>>. 28:83

﴿ مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّن ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيٰوةً طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴾ (٩٧ : ١٦)

<<Whoever works righteousness man or woman, and has faith, verily, to him will we give a life. That is good and pure, and we will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions>>. 16:97

The prophet, may the peace and blessings of Allah be on him said <<How astonishing is the believer, all his affairs are re-

warding, if he is blessed with a favour, he thanks Allah and gains the reward of the thankful men, and if he is afflicted with a misfortune, he endures and gains the reward of patient men>>.

All these evidence prove that Islam is the only source of true conceptions, and the right criteria to distinguish truth from falsehood. All prevailing conceptions in the fields of sociology, economics, politics, education and other fields of knowledge should be revised and corrected according to the true principles of Islam. It is impossible for any contrary conception to gain success, but it would rather impede progress and continue to be a source of misery and unhappiness to those who adopt it.

Chapter Five

Shedding Light On Some Erroneous Conceptions Imputed To Islam

The offenders against Islam can be divided generally into two categories:- The first category: Contains those who claim to be Muslims, but they disobey Islam, and commit deeds contrary to its principles. Among this category are:-

1. Those who pervert from the right faith and circumambulate tombs asking the dead for help, believing that dead pious men have the power to bring them benefits or prevent harm from them.
2. The slacker, broken up and loose person who rejects the com-

mandments of Allah and commits grave sins, or keeps intimacy with the enemies of Allah and follows their indecent mode of life.

3. Those who are weak in faith, neglect certain religious duties, and commit abominated vices like telling lies, breaking a promise and cheating. Although the sins committed by these people are not as grievous as idolatry, yet they offend Islam by their abominable behavior.

The Second Category, of those who offend against Islam are the orientalist, christian missionaries, Jews and other rancorous offenders of Islam who follow them.

The wide-spread acceptability of Islam, its magnanimous and characteristic traits upset these men. Islam, being the religion of truth, is consistent with the innate nature of man. This characteristic trait of Islam paves the way for a happy life for the Muslim, whereas every non-Muslim feels it inconsistent with his own creed, because it contradicts in a way or another the innate character of man.

Rancorous orientalists and missionaries invented lies against Islam and Prophet Muhammad, tried to impute false accusations against the Prophet and tried to disgrace the laws of Allah in order to alienate people from Islam, but Allah always ruins their mechanism and they will never gain victory over Islam, because they are struggling against the truth; the truth always overcomes and prevails over falsehood. Allah stated in the Qura'n:-

﴿ يُرِيدُونَ لِطُغْيَانِ نُورِ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ مُتِمُّ نُورِهِ، وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ * هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَى
 وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ، وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ ﴾ (٩ - ٨ : ٦١)

<<Their intention is to extinguish Allah's light (By blowing) with their mouths: But Allah will complete (The revelation of) His light, Even though the Unbelievers may detest (it) it is He who has sent His Messenger with Guidance and the Religion of Truth, that He may make it prevail, over all religion, even though the Pagans may detest it>>. (61: 8-9)

The Sources of Islam

Any wise man who wishes to acquire correct knowledge about Islam should refer first to the glorious Quran and prophetic traditions . Reliable books which contain authentic prophetic traditions are Sahih AL Bukhariy, Sahih Muslim, Mowatta'a' Malik, Mosnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, Sunan Abi Dawoud, Sunan AL-Nisaiy, Sunan AL-Termizy, Sunan Ibn Magah and Sunan AL-Darimy. The book of << AL-Siyrah AL Nabawiyah >> written by Ibn Hisham contains the biogragpy of Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be on him. Among the recommendable books for one who wants to read about Islam are the book of << Zad AL Maa'd >> by Ibn AL Qayim, the works of Imam Ibn Taymiyah and the books of the

reformer Muhammad Ibn Abdel Wahhab. Allah supported Islam and monotheism in the 12th century of Hijra through the reformer Muhammad Ibn Abdel Whahhab and prince Muhammad Ibn Saud who uprooted idolatry and re-established the Monotheistic faith in the Arab Penninsula.

One who searches for the right knowledge about Islam, should avoid reading books of orientalist, missionaries and other enemies of Islam as they contain nothing but invented lies against Islam, insults and abuses against Prophet Muhammad, his companions and eminent Imams of Islam.

The Islamic Schools of Doctrine

The basic ideology of all Muslims is Islam, and in matters concerning their religion they refer to nothing save the Quran and prophetic traditions. The Islamic schools of doctrine (Hanbaliy, Maliky, Shafiy, and Hanafiy) are all basicly based on Quran and prophetic traditions, but they may differ in some subsidiary questions of jurisprudence. Each one of these four Imams taught his disciples his own methods and rules which he deduced from his studies of the Quran and prophetic traditions, but the four doctrines are all in agreement with the basis of Islamic faith and law. However it is not obligatory for a Muslim to follow the conceptions of one of these schools, but he is commanded to follow the precepts of the Quran and prophetic traditions.

Sects That Deviated From The Straight Path of Islam

There are certain sects which assume unduly that they belong to Islam, while they are flagrant unbelievers.

1. The first of these sects is the <<Batiniyah sect>> which believe in incarnation and transmigration of souls and claim that the verses of the Quran have a secret meaning which no one can know or divine except them. This disbelieving sect prefers the so-called hidden meaning of the Quran, which they invent in accordance with their own desires to distort the obvious meaning elucidated by Prophet Muhammad himself.

This sect was primarily formed by a group of Jews, Magians and heretic Persians who joined hands to resist the widespread of Islam. They invented this misleading tenet to disperse Muslims and confuse their understanding of the Quran. They affiliated themselves falsely with the Prophet and claimed unduly to be of his descendants. By these malicious and cunning methods, they succeeded in misleading a big number of ignorant common people.

2. The second disbelieving sect is <<Quadyanism>>. The imposter Ghulam Ahmad, who arrogated himself to prophet-hood, invented this misleading doctrine in India, and called the mobs there to believe in him. Ghulam Ahmad gave a false legal opinion that the religious duty of fighting against enemies of Islam had been abrogated and called people to surrender and co-operate with the imperialist British authori-

ties in India. By this method he gained the influential and financial support of the British authorities. Ghulam Ahamad strived hard to falsify and destroy Islam. He printed his books <<Tasdiq Brahiyn Ahmadiyah>>, <<Triyak AL Qulowb>>..etc and succeeded in misleading many groups in India. He died in 1908 and his deputy Nour AL-Diyn Al-Hakiym succeeded him. Even at present his descendants claim themselves <<Califs>> of the founder of this sect.

3. The third disbelieving sect is the <<Baha'iyah>> which was formed in the 19th century by a Persian called Muhammad ALy Shirazi. This unbeliever first arrogated himself to be The Mahdi, then pretended that God incarnated in him. He denied belief in resurrection, reckoning, paradise and Hell-Fire. Finally he denied that Muhammad is the last prophet and rejected belief in the principle of Islam.

After his death, his minister Baha replaced him and this disbelieving sect took its name form this minister's name.

Among the sects that deviated from the straight path of Islam, although they claim to be muslims is one big sect derived from shiah. The followers of this sect pretend to be muslims i.e. they pray, fast and perform Hajj. They claim that Jibril (peace be upon him) had committed dishonesty by conveying the Message "Revelation" to Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) while it was originally meant for Ali (May Allah be pleased with him).

One of their big slanders is their claim that the Quran had

been tampered with, that there have been both additions to it and omissions from it.

They curse the best muslims after Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) i.e. Abu Bakr and Umar (May Allah be pleased with them). They also curse Aisha Ommulmomineen (The Mother of the Believers) "May Allah be pleased with her".

The members of this sect seek help from Ali (May Allah be pleased with him) and from his sons and call them for assistance.

They call themselves "Shiah" i.e. Shiat AL-Albait (The adherents of the descendants of the House of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him)).

It should be known that Ali (May Allah be pleased with him) and his sons were innocent from what the Shiah claim, because they considered them as partners to Allah. They lie therein and perverted the speech of Allah The ALmighty.

The Muslims throughout the world should know that these sects and all other enemies of Islam co-operate and strive hard to destroy Islam. The best guide for the Muslim is the Qura'n and prophetic traditions. A true Muslim pondering on the Quran and prophetic traditions will never be misled and will attain eternal bliss and happiness in the Hereafter.

A Call For Salvation.

This is a call to every wise person who wants to deliver himself from the torment of Hell-Fire in the Hereafter, as well as the torment of the grave after death.

Dear Reader,

Hurry up to rescue yourself and gain salvation. Believe that Allah is your God and that there is no god save Allah and Believe that Muhammad is His messenger. Embrace Islam, perform prayer, pay the Zakat, perform pilgrimage to the House of Allah if you have the means to do so. Declare openly that you are a Muslim to Allah.

I swear By Allah that there is no way for deliverance and salvation save Islam, I swear By Allah who is the only God that the religion of Islam is the religion of truth, and that Allah will accept no other religion from anybody.

I call Allah, His angels, and all His creation as witnesses to my testimony that there is no god save Allah and that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah, and that Islam is the true religion.

I invoke Allah to bless me and make me die while being a true Muslim so that I may dwell in paradise in companionship with our honest Prophet Muhammad and all prophets of Allah.

May Allah make this book useful for all those who read it.

May the blessings and peace of Allah be upon our Prophet Muhammad and his companions.

All praise be to Allah, the Lord of all worlds.

دِينُ الْحَقِّ

تَأَلَّفَ

عَبْدُ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ حَمَّادِ الْعُمَرِ

بِاللُّغَةِ الْإِنْجَلِيزِيَّةِ

طُبِعَ وَنَشَرَ

وِزَارَةُ الشُّؤُونِ الْإِسْلَامِيَّةِ وَالْأَوْقَافِ وَالِدَّعْوَةِ وَالْإِرْشَادِ

وَكَالَةِ شُؤُونِ الْمَطْبُوعَاتِ وَالنَّشْرِ

• الرِّيَاضُ - الْمَمْلَكَةُ الْعَرَبِيَّةُ السُّعُودِيَّةُ

وَقَفَ اللهُ تَعَالَى

١٤١٦ هـ