

لماذا أحب محمداً ﷺ؟

بكل لغات العالم الحية
- النسخة الإنكليزية -

Why I love Mohammed ﷺ?



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Why Do I Love Muhammad ﷺ?

by Ahmad Al-Hajj Jood Al-Khayr

Dedication

To every seeker of truth who approaches it with fairness, objectivity, and transparency, far from partisanship, bigotry, and bias; and to the righteous servants of Allah, and to all who hold dear the Chosen One, the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers — we dedicate this book of ours, asking the Almighty to accept it from us, to place it in the scale of our good deeds, and to seal our life's work with righteousness.

Compiled by: Ahmad Al-Hajj Jood Al-Khayr

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Foreword

“Indeed, if they come to know of you, they will stone you or return you to their religion. And never would you succeed, then - ever”

— *Qur'an, Al-Kahf 18:20 (Saheeh International)*

All praise is due to Allah, and peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allah, upon his family, his Companions, and all who follow him faithfully. To proceed:

Orientalism has played a major role in shaping a distorted, stereotyped image of Islam and Muslims, an image firmly implanted especially in Western minds and passed down from one generation to the next without critique or scrutiny. Hollywood, the largest media institution in history, seized upon this ugly stereotype as a tool to tarnish the image of Arabs and Muslims across the globe, serving a range of different purposes and agendas.

The Orientalist movement, which emerged in the thirteenth century of the common era, passed through many phases that differed in outlook, mission, method, aim, and approach. Some were driven by colonial motives, others by missionary, economic, cultural, or intelligence-gathering motives. Some Orientalists devoted themselves to studying the Noble Qur'an in order to shake Muslims' firm faith in the Book of their Lord — after finding it an impregnable fortress that protects their creed, steadies their feet, illuminates their insight, orders their lives, and strengthens their faith.

Others among the Orientalists devoted themselves to studying the character of the Prophet ﷺ and his fragrant biography for purposes of slander and doubt-sowing; others specialized in Arabic language and Arab and Islamic history; still others turned to studying Islamic theology and philosophy; and others concerned themselves with the juristic, scientific, intellectual, and literary heritage — approaching it at times as scholarly research, at times from a materialistic angle, and at times from an ideological one, and so on.

Against these stood Orientalists who wrote about Islam fairly and objectively, largely free of preconceptions, through study, investigation, and analysis — yet from a purely worldly and materialistic point of view. That is, they discussed prophethood and the Message as a form of genius, a picture of uniquely gifted human intelligence, a pioneering method of reform, flashes of knightly nobility and courage, sparks of the charisma of the wise and the bearing and influence of reformers and rational men. Yet even though prophethood and the Message do carry all these noble, remarkable qualities and comprehend them together, they are not defined or limited by them; rather, prophethood is revelation from the Magnificent Creator of the universe to those He selects from the best of His creation, to convey His Message to whomever He wills, whenever He wills, among the sons of Adam.

In contrast to all the above, some Orientalists studied Islam in order to understand and truly grasp it, and among them were those who came to believe in it and adopted it as their creed and religion. And yet, ever since the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten published offensive cartoons of Islam in 2005, a relentless campaign has continued — receding at times, only to flare up again suddenly and without warning — a campaign that has wounded the feelings of hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world. It was preceded by the publication of a satirical picture book for children depicting the noble Messenger ﷺ in defective, mocking forms, followed by a cartoon series titled South Park, which portrayed the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in a manner too indecent to describe. This coincided with the release of the American book The Islamic Book, authored by the Reverend Anis Shorrosh.

The feverish media campaigns continued, aiming their arrows at mosques, at the call to prayer, at halal food, at religiously mandated dress, at burial according to Islamic rites, at lawful marriage, at the fast of Ramadan, at Hajj and 'Umrah — giving rise to a great many distortions, difficulties, and misconceptions that crystallized into a misunderstanding entrenched in the collective mind of millions of non-Muslims regarding the true nature of this upright religion. This was followed by the actions of the leader of the so-called "Stram Kurs" ("Hard Line") party, the Danish far-right figure Rasmus Paludan, who repeatedly, openly, and in broad daylight burned copies of the Noble Qur'an in various locations — an act subsequently imitated and repeated in Sweden and Norway by right-wing extremists. This coincided with the French magazine Charlie Hebdo unexpectedly republishing its offensive cartoons once again, while the organization "Stop Islamization of

Europe" pledged to hold a competition for new offensive cartoons — all part of a chain of successive provocations falling under what is known as "Islamophobia," and its theoretical counterpart, or rather hypothesis, the so-called "Great Replacement."

Professor Olivier Le Cour Grandmaison, professor of political science at the French University of Évry Val d'Essonne, summed up the whole of these causes in a press interview he gave to the Turkish Anadolu Agency in 2021, affirming that "the targeting of Islam and Muslims in France, the attempts to demonize them, and what is written about them today represent a continuation of what has been written since the end of the nineteenth century." He went on, continuing this same point, to add: "There are attempts today to promote anti-Islamic theories that are derivatives of similar theories and claims from the colonial era, accompanied by a revival of claims that Islam in France constitutes a threat to the principles of the Republic, secularism, and equality between the sexes!"

In this book, *Why Do I Love Muhammad ﷺ?*, published in the forty most widely spoken living languages of the world, we have taken the utmost care to present a wealth of prominent figures and celebrities whose embrace of Islam left a profound mark on the soul — most of whom came to believe in Allah as Lord, in Islam as religion, in Muhammad ﷺ as Prophet and Messenger, in the Noble Qur'an as an illuminating Book and clear guide, in the Ka'bah as their direction of prayer, and in the pious predecessors and Companions of that first, best generation as beloved friends and companions. They worked diligently in service of this true religion and set about establishing cultural, educational, missionary, and charitable centers devoted to all of this, so as to answer, in their own persons, the false claims of those who bear ill will — after the manner of the saying, "and a witness from her own family bore witness," or "I convict you from your own mouth." These are the ones who rolled up their sleeves in earnest to explain, with insight, wisdom, and gracious admonition, the principles of this upright faith to non-Muslims — guided by the Prophet's ﷺ own words: "By Allah, if Allah were to guide one man through you, it would be better for you than red camels" — meaning that guiding a single soul through the influence of your pen, the eloquence of your tongue, the strength of your argument, the soundness of your reasoning, the nobility of your character, your perseverance and the sincerity of your efforts, is better for you than being given the most precious and finest of worldly things.

In response, millions of Muslims rose to defend their Prophet, their Qur'an, and their religion, each according to his own position, specialty, and capacity — for Allah does not burden a soul beyond what He has given it. And just as that systematic, offensive campaign grieved us deeply, it likewise stirred within us a great surge of faith and spiritual fervor, which drove us — we who are writers, men of letters, journalists, storytellers, and novelists — to mount our pens and cut through the dust of words, carrying our pens high, consoled by the fact that Allah, the Exalted, swore by the pen,

and did not swear by the sword. Not only that, but He joined His oath to the defense of the Prophet of truth, the beloved of all creation ﷺ, in His saying:

“Nun. By the pen and what they inscribe.”

— Qur'an, Al-Qalam 68:1 (Saheeh International — partial; the verse continues)

And so here I place before you this edition, made freely available to all — for quotation, printing, publishing, outreach, admonition, and translation — bearing the comprehensive, definitive title *Why Do I Love Muhammad ﷺ?*, in every living language of the world. It represents, on the whole, an extension and completion of a series of articles by the same author bearing this very title, previously published in numerous print and electronic newspapers and magazines years ago. I ask the Almighty to accept it and to bless it.

And I would let every dear reader know that this book contains several sections and topics written in an accessible yet artful style — an engaging journalistic manner far from complexity or convoluted structuring. If we have been correct in what we have written, presented, set down, and put forth, then it is from Allah, the Exalted, alone, to whom belongs all grace, right guidance, and favor; and if we have erred, then it is from ourselves and from Satan. We ask Allah, the Exalted, for a good ending, sincerity, success, and forgiveness. And we apologize to every nation and people of this planet if we have come to you late in conveying to you the truth of this religion in your own tongues and languages — without excess or neglect, without tedious length or deficient brevity, for the best speech is that which is brief yet clear. As the saying goes: to come late — is still better than never coming at all. And if our excuse before the digital, technological, and information revolution was the difficulty of reaching you, then what can we possibly say now that the whole world has become a small village, where the moment a single letter is written in Baghdad, it soars across the airwaves, piercing cyberspace, to reach Beijing in the blink of an eye, at the touch of a single button?!

From the Banks of the Elbe, It Began

“And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds”

— *Qur'an, Al-Anbiya 21:107 (Saheeh International)*

[Translator's note: the restriction “except as” (illa) here is a rhetorical emphasis on mercy as the defining character of the Prophet's ﷺ mission, not a literal exclusion of its other purposes — such as conveying revelation, establishing the Oneness of Allah, and worship and law.]

There, on the banks of the river Elbe, where the commercial city of Hamburg lies — the second largest and most densely populated of Germany's cities — the story began. It was from there that love soared to a wider horizon: a love of obedience and of following, not a love of transgression and innovation, for indeed the one who truly loves is obedient to the one he loves. We were sitting one late night around a round dinner table, exchanging conversation in one of the city's fine restaurants, when a German civilian airline captain joined our table — or so he introduced himself to us at the time; we do not know whether he was being truthful in that claim or not. No sooner had he discovered that we were Muslims than he confronted us with a sudden question that, to any listener, might have seemed like innocent curiosity, but was in truth critical, mocking, and disdainful, laced with an unmistakable malice between the lines — a question at which our very limbs trembled, our teeth clenched at its impact, our hearts sank within us, and a shiver ran through our bodies at its shocking form, when he said to us, word for word: "You worship Muhammad... why?!"

In vain did my companion, who spoke fluent English, try to convince him of how mistaken his belief was, in its entirety — for how could such unjust words come from a European who was presumably an educated man, someone who ought not to fall into such grave errors? If they indicated anything, it was nothing but sheer ignorance, and that he had never in his entire life read a single thing about Islam. And if this was the state of educated men like this civilian pilot, then what hope was there with the half-educated, or the wholly uneducated?

What made matters worse was that, at the time, we ourselves retained almost nothing of the Prophet's fragrant biography, nor did we know by heart anything of the Noble Qur'an beyond Surat Al-Fatihah and Surat Al-Ikhlās. In those days we knew next to nothing — save the barest scraps — about the Prophet's ﷺ blessed character, biography, conduct, and Sunnah, to the point that I chose to fall silent, searching within myself for the reasons behind this utter ignorance we suffered regarding our own Prophet, despite being Muslims ourselves...!

Had the German captain, at that moment, turned the conversation instead to ask us about the biographies of male and female singers, actors and actresses, sportsmen and sportswomen — Arab

or foreign, living or dead — he would have found in us a wealth of knowledge that would have astonished even those very celebrities, and we would have had so very much to say about them...!!

We left that fine restaurant dragging behind us the trailing hems of disappointment and failure, having faltered in defending our own Prophet ﷺ — we who had never once missed an annual celebration of his blessed birth held in our countries, here and there. The reason was that some of these celebrations had failed to teach us what ought to have been taught: proper acquaintance with the Prophet's ﷺ biography, his noble character, and his sayings, actions, and tacit approvals — together with a complete detachment from anything that intersects with his teachings, contradicts his commandments, or departs from the method of the one sent as a mercy to all the worlds. Some such celebrations had become nothing more than an annual custom, a purely human gathering entirely emptied of its vision, purposes, message, and substance — consisting of little more than fireworks accompanied by devotional songs, the distribution of sweets, eating and drinking, hanging decorations, and raising flags, and nothing more. Perhaps this, too, is another noble message that ought to be deeply absorbed and well understood in the days to come — so that some of these inherited annual traditions and customs might be reformed and reassessed, in order to bear their ripe missionary fruit and achieve their proper intellectual, moral, and social aims. How well the poet Ahmad Shawqi put it, when he said:

Your brother Jesus called upon the dead, and they arose for him... yet you have brought entire generations of decayed bones back to life

We returned, retreating with heavy, weighted steps, to the Intercontinental Hotel, where we were staying beside Lake Alster in the heart of Hamburg. Some thirty-six hours later, a third friend of ours, older than us, told us that a feature film about the life of the Prophet and his eternal message — its English version dubbed into German — was to be shown for the first time in Germany, in a cinema, under heavy security for fear of an attack by neo-Nazis on the venue. The screening began; tears fell; silence reigned; emotions surged; memories stirred; questions swirled. And every time the symphony of the French composer Maurice Jarre rang out, we were swept further into passionate longing, soaring in the presence of the Chosen One ﷺ — until the film ended... and we began!!

The beginning was with the recitation of the Noble Qur'an, and learning the rules of its proper articulation (tajweed) and recitation; continuing to listen to it attentively; sparing no effort to learn it and to teach it; reading the exegesis of its surahs and the occasions of its verses' revelation; coming to know its meanings, including whatever words or expressions had proven difficult to grasp or obscure; studying its commands and prohibitions; examining its parables, its sciences, and its rulings; understanding its lessons and exhortations; reading its stories and the biographies of Allah's messengers and prophets; and appreciating its linguistic miracle, its eloquence, and its clarity — before moving on to study the pure Prophetic Sunnah from its authentic, recognized

sources, and likewise the Prophet's fragrant biography from its trustworthy sources, and reading approved books to learn the rulings of creed, worship, Sunnah practices, ethics, and dealings, and to distinguish what is lawful and obligatory to follow from what is forbidden and obligatory to avoid.

It is true that we never again met that strange dinner companion afterward, yet that fleeting encounter of ours was enough to turn our entire lives upside down — for sometimes what appears harmful turns out to be a blessing. As Imam Al-Shafi'i said in his admonishing poem, in the meter of Al-Kamil:

How often does a man find himself hemmed in by some calamity, his patience straining, while with Allah lies the way out

It tightened, and when its coils had drawn taut, it was released — and I had thought it never would be

And among the beautiful things the wise have said, in encouragement toward reciting, learning, and teaching the Noble Qur'an, is this saying: "Just as we eat three meals a day and night in order to live and endure, so let us read and learn three pages of the Book of Allah, the Exalted, every day, that we might rise and be ennobled in our character." For if the first is a source of health for bodies and strength for frames, the second is, without doubt, nourishment for minds, hearts, and souls.

I advise everyone wishing to learn the Noble Qur'an electronically — to learn the occasions of its verses' revelation, to explore its rulings, its stories, its lessons and exhortations and parables, the exegesis of its surahs, verses, and individual words, to draw upon translations of its meanings into other languages, and to listen to its reciters and their various recitations — to download the most magnificent Qur'anic encyclopedia (the website Surah Quran), which presents the Noble Qur'an in several recitation styles, along with numerous exegeses and translations of its meanings, with the ability to listen to and download recitations by the most renowned reciters of the Islamic world; and likewise the most excellent Qur'anic encyclopedia, the Electronic Mus-haf Project at King Saud University. Here are the links to these two immensely valuable websites for the general benefit:

<https://quran.ksu.edu.sa/>

<https://surahquran.com/>

Indeed, We Are Sufficient for You Against the Mockers

“So, proclaim what you have been commanded and turn away from the polytheists. Indeed, we are sufficient for you against the mockers”

A miraculous Qur'anic verse, paired with the call to Allah, in which the Almighty took it upon Himself to defend the Prophet ﷺ, saying: "Indeed, We are sufficient for you against the mockers." He took it upon Himself to hold back their harm from the noble Prophet ﷺ himself and from his eternal message. The end that befell the most vicious mockers of his ﷺ time is well known — each of them met a horrifying end, cursed by generation after generation. The most notorious of them was Abu Lahab, whom Allah afflicted with Al-'adasah, a plague-like pustule that erupts on the body, as the biography books relate. He died, and his two sons left him unburied for two or three days for fear of catching the disease, until his body began to rot, whereupon a man of Quraysh said to them, "Aren't you ashamed that your father has rotted in his own house?" So they threw water on him from a distance, then carried him and flung him against a wall in the upper part of Mecca, and pelted him with stones! In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

As for Al-Walid ibn Al-Mughirah, one of the fiercest opponents and enemies of Islam, he died from a wound he had suffered years earlier just below his heel, which reopened and killed him. The same happened to 'Amr ibn Hisham — Abu Jahl — who used to curse the Prophet ﷺ; he was killed at the great Battle of Badr, finished off by two of the youngest participants in the battle, the Ansari brothers Mu'awwidh and Mu'adh.

And so this divine sufficiency continues as night follows day — sometimes through the destruction of the mockers and their evil ends, sometimes through the rebuttals of specialists who expose their folly and refute their fabrications, often at the hands of their own peers and co-religionists rather than their opponents and adversaries; and at other times through the defense of the Prophet ﷺ and his noble religion by people who share their faith, nationality, sect, or school of thought — in confirmation of his ﷺ saying: "Indeed, Allah supports this religion even through a wicked man," meaning that even when some people's intentions are not to support the religion of Allah, their actions nevertheless end up serving the defense of the Prophet ﷺ in the end — as seen, for example, in the rebuttals exchanged between the Russian school of Orientalism and the French school of Orientalism, or vice versa, within their long-standing rivalry, each exposing and refuting the other's fabrications, discrediting their claims and their scholars, and undermining their research methodology with decisive proofs and conclusive evidence — all of it aligning with "Indeed, We are sufficient for you against the mockers." At other times it comes through the mockers' own regret, retraction, and apology; and sometimes through their personal conversion to Islam and their transformation into defenders of it instead of detractors — and one may multiply such examples endlessly throughout history, without limit.

In July 2021, the Danish cartoonist Kurt Westergaard died in his sleep after a long struggle with illness — the man behind the twelve offensive cartoons he drew in 2005 and published in the

Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten under the title "The Face of Muhammad," before numerous European newspapers republished them, sparking a massive wave of global outrage accompanied by a near-total boycott of Danish goods.

Westergaard's death came years after he was forced into retirement, and after he spent long years in seclusion inside his home under heavy security, having embarrassed his country, Denmark, and plunged it into the most severe economic, political, and diplomatic crisis it had known since the Second World War, according to the Danish Foreign Ministry. In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

Even more remarkable, the second cartoonist behind the offensive drawings, the Swede Lars Vilks, was killed in a fire in October 2021 — just two months after the death of his Danish counterpart Westergaard — in a horrific traffic accident alongside the two officers guarding him, when the car they were riding in collided with a truck on highway E4 outside the Swedish town of Markaryd, resulting in the vehicle and everyone inside it being completely burned. Vilks, exactly like his counterpart, spent his final years isolated and in hiding after publishing offensive cartoons in the Swedish newspaper Nerikes Allehanda in 2007. In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

The Australian cartoonist Bill Leak died of a sudden heart attack that gave him no warning and no reprieve, in March 2017, having lived a turbulent, bohemian life after publishing an offensive cartoon in the pages of The Weekend Australian. In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

For his part, the Turkish cartoonist Doğan Bahadır, who published an offensive cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad and the Prophet Moses — peace and blessings of Allah be upon them both — in the Turkish magazine Leman, ended up, along with the magazine's editor-in-chief, in prison after a wave of public outrage and widespread protests, during which some protesters threw stones at the magazine's building in objection to what they described as "a base religious provocation disguised as humor," while the magazine offered its apology and regret to the public, pledging not to repeat such grave errors that wound the feelings of millions and violate their rights. In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

As for the Dutch director of the offensive film Fitna, Arnoud van Doorn, who was a prominent leader in the far-right Party for Freedom, his story of "sufficiency" is entirely different from those before him. After reading the Prophet's fragrant biography and the noble Prophetic Sunnah, in addition to reading a translation of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an, van Doorn expressed his profound admiration for this upright religion, its eternal teachings, and its most noble Prophet, offering his deep apology and regret for his misunderstanding of this religion, and acknowledging

that certain people had lured him with money and position to commit his despicable act — before going on to embrace Islam in 2013 and performing 'Umrah and Hajj several times, while announcing his intention to produce and direct a film showing the true face of Islam this time, the face that biased media tries to obscure, distort, and falsify. Among what he said after performing the rites of Hajj and 'Umrah: "My shame multiplied before the Prophet's grave, as I reflected on the sheer scale of the grave error I had fallen into before Allah opened my heart to Islam. The process of research led me to discover the true magnitude of the crime I had committed." His adopted son joined him in 2014, likewise announcing his conversion to Islam and changing his name to Ali. In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

The Swedish newspaper Expressen, on 1 January 2026, revealed that the gravestone of the Iraqi extremist atheist Salwan Momika — accused of numerous criminal cases in his home country, notorious for his poor conduct, reputation, and behavior, and known for burning copies of the Noble Qur'an in various places without warning, in front of dozens of angry Muslims there, insisting on provoking the feelings of more than two billion Muslims worldwide, all in an attempt to court the European far right he had aligned himself with in hopes of gaining Swedish citizenship, which he was never granted — had disappeared. The Swedish Migration Court rejected the appeal Momika submitted, upholding the Migration Agency's decision to deport him from Sweden after revoking his residence permit and refugee status due to his activities, according to the Swedish network Kompass. Norway, meanwhile, detained Salwan Momika after he sought asylum there following the revocation of his Swedish residence permit, and decided to return him to Sweden under the Dublin Regulation on refugees, according to Agence France-Presse. In the wake of these developments, the Danish Parliament passed, by a majority at the end of 2023, a law banning the "inappropriate treatment" of religious texts, prohibiting the public burning, tearing, or desecration of religious texts or the filming of such acts intended for wide distribution, with a penalty of two full years' imprisonment and a substantial fine as the worldly punishment for offenders — leaving the punishment of the Hereafter awaiting the perpetrators, unless they repent and turn back.

Expressen further confirms that the gravestone of the hypocrite Salwan Momika was removed by the Swedish cemetery authority just one year after his assassination under mysterious circumstances inside his apartment in the Hovsjö district, with no final findings announced regarding the circumstances of the incident as of this writing, according to RT. In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

The renowned French painter and Orientalist Étienne Dinet, whose works are recorded in the Larousse encyclopedia, had announced his conversion to Islam and changed his name to Nasr Al-Din Dinet; he died a Muslim and was buried, in accordance with his will, in the Algerian village of Bou Saâda. He had painted numerous works on Islam with his brush, most notably The Standing at Arafat, Mount Al-Nur, and Prayer Around the Kaaba, and authored several books championing

and defending Islam with great energy and love, foremost among them *The Springtime of Hearts*, *The Orient as the West Sees It*, and *The Pilgrimage to the Sacred House of Allah*, following his journey to Mecca, as well as the co-authored book *Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah*. His books caused a great stir around the world, particularly within Orientalist circles.

In his last book, he says: "The Orientalists were never free of their emotions, their environment, and their varied inclinations, and so their distortion of the biography of the Prophet and his Companions reached such a degree that it obscures their true image beneath the sheer weight of that distortion... The Orientalists present us with imaginary pictures that are as far as can be from the truth." In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

The French Orientalist Gaston Wiet, who served as director of the Department of Arab Antiquities in the first half of the twentieth century, himself rebutted one of the most hostile and biased Orientalists toward the Prophet ﷺ, his pure household, and his righteous Companions — namely the Belgian Henri Lammens. Wiet attacked his contemporary and counterpart Lammens, saying of one of his most prominent books: "It is difficult to accept Lammens's book with confidence and without reservation, because bias and an aggressive tendency dominate it to a great degree." In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

For his part, the well-known Orientalist and historian, founder of the historical school of Russian Orientalism, Vasily Vladimirovich Barthold, refuted the claims of European Orientalists and critiqued them scientifically through his three books *Islam*, *The Islamic World*, and *Islamic Civilization*, noting in one of them that "the Western methodology in approaching Arab history and civilization is deeply flawed and does not adhere to the scientific method based on a correct reading of primary sources, but instead rests on rigid patterns and conclusions established by the early fathers of Orientalism." In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

When certain leaders of European right-wing forces attempted to court "soft power" figures — writers, literary figures, media personalities, singers, actors, and athletes — to support their repeated campaigns of offense against the noble Prophet ﷺ, and in favor of republishing the offensive cartoons while refusing to apologize for them, the French icon of soft power, the French director and actor Gérard Depardieu, known for his controversial roles and winner of numerous awards including the César and the Golden Globe, did something unexpected. Rather than lending his voice to those calls of incitement this time — and Allah alone knows his true intention, and whether his sudden stance was in fact orbiting the fierce struggle between right and left, coming as part of their mutual electoral and political smear campaigns, or not — he responded with a tweet posted on his page on the platform X (formerly Twitter), saying: "What have Muslims done that we should curse them? What if we respected their religion and did not interfere with their beliefs?"

I apologize for the insult and contempt — let us live together in peace." In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

The author of the book *Decadence*, which predicted the fall of Western civilization, the French postmodernist philosopher Michel Onfray, dropped a heavyweight bombshell during the famous French program *Face à l'Info*, saying in response to a guest on the opposing side of the debate: "Muslims have morals and values; they believe that having sex with anyone, whenever you want, however you want, is not necessarily a very honorable thing toward women — these people have a code of honor, and Muslims are teaching us a lesson in resisting materialism." In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

And despite the enormous body of Orientalist writings over three centuries, which collectively attempted to brainwash Europeans and shape a hostile collective consciousness among them by distorting the image of Islam and Muslims, Michael Hart went on to write his book *The 100*, explaining the reason that led him to place the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ first among them: "My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the most influential persons in history may surprise some readers, but he was the only man in all of history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular level. There have been messengers, prophets, and sages who began great missions but died before completing them." In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

As for the Italian Orientalist and researcher Laura Veccia Vaglieri, who was a professor of Arabic at the University of Naples, she authored two books to correct many of the misconceptions circulating about Islam in the West — the first titled *The Virtues of Islam*, and the second *In Defense of Islam*. In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

Biased detractors tried to court the Christians of the Middle East and North Africa, hoping to align them in their repeated, prejudiced campaigns against Islam — but in vain. Social media platforms filled with images closely tied to the rejection of the offensive cartoons, among them a photograph of Metropolitan Atallah Hanna, Archbishop of Sebastia for the Greek Orthodox, standing in solidarity with Muslims against the offensive cartoons, holding up a placard reading: "May my father and mother be ransomed for you, O Messenger of Allah." In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers. And the eloquent silence of that photograph, and its subject's honorable stance, echoes what the Christian poet Jacques Chammas once said:

*I am a Christian, yet I revere Muhammad... and I revere the very letter Dad, whose cradle is Islam
And I revere the Companions of the Messenger and his household... for among the Companions
are the elect and the exalted*

*I have entrusted my soul to a passionate love of Muhammad... before whom Arabs and non-Arabs
alike have submitted*

And beyond his words, that same eloquent stance echoes what the expatriate Christian poet George Silsbee said of the Prophet ﷺ, in a poem of his titled "The Whispered Prayer of the Greatest Messenger":

O my master, O Messenger of Allah, forgive me... if my expression and description have fallen short in describing you

What justice and honor could I ever render you... when you rise far above my estimation and my regard

Let us then turn to the book of the German Orientalist and researcher Sigrid Hunke, *The Sun of Islam Shines Over the West*, which has been translated into seventeen world languages, in addition to her second book, *God Is Not as They Claim* — she who said: "Islam is, without doubt, the most tolerant and just religion on the face of the earth." In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

And despite the misleading, unrelenting campaigns to defame Islam, the Noble Qur'an, and the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers, Muhammad ﷺ, night and day, what the American Pew Research Center revealed in June 2025 shocked and profoundly disheartened most of the biased detractors, when it disclosed that "the number of Muslims around the world has increased by 347 million people in the period between 2010 and 2020," noting that "its statistics were based on an analysis of data drawn from more than 2,700 sources, including national censuses, official records, and surveys, in addition to the responses of participants from 201 countries to questions concerning their religious affiliation, over a period spanning more than ten years." In other words: We are sufficient for you against the mockers.

Islamophobia: Between Right-Wing Hypotheses, Conspiracy Theories, and Reality

Four years ago, the "Istanbul Declaration" of the Conference of Information Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation called for the necessity of combating the phenomenon of Islamophobia in all its forms, and of resisting media disinformation. So what does the term Islamophobia mean, and what are its most prominent causes, consequences, and manifestations?

The term "Islamophobia" first appeared in 1923, in the Oxford English Dictionary, before coming into practical use in 1997, following a report by the research center Runnymede Trust, published by the former British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. The term was defined as a worldview involving hatred and unfounded fears of Muslims, leading to discriminatory practices against them. Among the manifestations of Islamophobia are exclusion, discrimination, and marginalization; restrictions on wearing the hijab; limits placed on immigration; curbs on the construction of mosques; restrictions on so-called halal slaughter and food; bans on raising the call

to prayer and building minarets; and restrictions on burial according to Islamic rites — especially after Muslims came to constitute more than 6% of Europe's population, according to the Pew Research Center in 2011.

The term "Islamophobia" is usually linked, across Europe in general and France in particular, to the "Great Replacement" theory coined by the French writer Renaud Camus in 2012, drawing inspiration from the novel *The Camp of the Saints* by the novelist Jean Raspail, published in 1973, in addition to the "Eurabia" theory, which warns of the Islamization — or "Arabization" — of Europe, put forward by the British writer and historian Gisèle Littman (Bat Ye'or) in 2005. These are all theories and hypotheses adopted by the European right to warn of the collapse of Western culture, the weakening of its dominance, and the erasure of its identity as a result of what they describe as an overwhelming human tide and wave of migration coming from the Third World. Some 219 members of the U.S. House of Representatives voted on a bill introduced by the Muslim Democratic congresswoman Ilhan Omar to combat the phenomenon of Islamophobia in late 2021.

The pace of Islamophobia rose after the 2008 financial crisis, especially with the increasing numbers of immigrants and waves of refugees arriving from the Middle East and North Africa in 2016, as the idea was promoted that such migrations cost European states enormous expenses, cause financial crises, and threaten them with excessive multiculturalism — while many historians have linked it to the events of September 11, which some right-wing writers exploited to portray Islam as a new adversary that must be resisted and warned against, being the fastest-growing religion in Europe, according to the Pew Research Center on Religion and Public Life in Washington. Will the recommendations and proposals of the Istanbul Declaration succeed in raising awareness and curbing the growth of the phenomenon of Islamophobia across Europe and internationally? That remains to be revealed in the days to come.

Celebrities and Notables Who Embraced Islam, Grew in Piety, and Did Good

I will not conceal from you that as I began to read and reflect closely on the biographies and journeys of the celebrities and notable figures who embraced Islam one after another, my love for the Messenger of Allah ﷺ grew as I read what they wrote, what they said, what they accomplished — to the point that one of them, through effort, perseverance, and dedication, surpassed millions of his peers in his eagerness to serve his cause, make his voice heard, and champion his Prophet. The saying of the poets truly applies to each of them: "What matters is not who came first, but who was sincere," and "whoever tastes, comes to know; whoever knows, acknowledges; and whoever acknowledges, draws deeply." I confess that I was truly astonished on that journey of longing, especially as they discussed the Prophet's noble character bestowed on him by Allah, his humane

teachings, his social precepts, his moral principles, and the school of upbringing he received as revelation from the Lord of Might, a mercy to the worlds — approaching it with deep understanding and penetrating insight that transcends the surface of the text to dive into its depths, searching for its pearls and gems, and mining its treasures that captivate the mind, both in its depths and along its shores!

Building on the above, I find that insisting, during sessions of religious exhortation, on presenting the tangible miracles witnessed by those who witnessed them and believed in them in their own time and place, does not carry the same mental impact, wonder, and persuasive power as presenting the methodological miracles valid for every time and place that the Muhammadan message brought as a whole. Rather than presenting the story of the tree that walked, let us instead shed light on where, when, how, and why hundreds of millions of human beings — white and black, red and yellow, rich and poor, learned and illiterate — walked toward this radiant law, in groups and as individuals, to embrace it of their own entirely free will, without pressure or coercion, out of complete conviction, in every corner of the earth, bearing witness before Allah to His Oneness and to His noble Prophet's Message — and how, had they upheld its moral guidelines, its social systems, its family principles, and its humane values, acting upon them even to the minimum degree, their lives would have been set in order, down to every particular and every whole, on account of the abundant, all-encompassing good it contains, which has astonished both the measured and the impassioned minds alike. On this, the Canadian Dr. Gary Miller — who announced his conversion to Islam after being overwhelmed by the eternal teachings of the Noble Qur'an — said in one of his valuable lectures before hundreds of attendees: "The messengers had their miracles; Moses, for instance, entered into a contest between himself and the sorcerers and Pharaoh, and Christ healed the sick and raised the dead by Allah's leave, and the last of the messengers ﷺ was no exception to this. If prophethood and the Message were to come to an end, then the last of the prophets and messengers had to bring an enduring miracle — and that is the Qur'an, which remains a sign and a miracle for us today."

And how well the poet put it:

"Your brother Jesus called upon the dead, and they arose for him... yet you have brought entire generations of decayed bones back to life"

I would draw your attention to the fact that, when I resolved to begin gathering everything that came into my hands concerning newly converted Muslims who spoke well of the noble Prophet ﷺ, in order to include it in this series, I set before myself the aim of focusing specifically on the celebrities and notables among them, and not the ordinary among them first; and second, that the person in question must have concluded by openly declaring his conversion to Islam — meaning that the person referred to must not rely solely on praise and commendation that may be selectively

drawn by admirers, nor be a matter of flattery, favoritism, or sycophancy on the part of those quoting him, nor an exaggeration embellished by the pens of transmitters and copyists, nor dissimulation on the part of some who are evasive or deceptive. So as not to fall into a pitfall that some before me have already fallen into, I resolved not to select my subjects from among celebrities except those who left a clear mark, like a ray of sunshine at high noon that cannot be screened out, in support of the religion of Allah, the Exalted, and the Sunnah of His noble Prophet — while keeping entirely and permanently away from those lukewarm figures of whom the poet once said:

“Hanun added not a mustard seed's worth to Islam... nor do the Christians have any real stake in Hanun”

Reverend Benjamin Keldani

We begin with the Reverend Professor David Benjamin Keldani, who embraced Islam and changed his name to Abd Al-Ahad Dawud. In his book Muhammad in the Bible, he wrote: "Muhammad alone is the one who made clear the whole truth about God, His Oneness, and His religion, and corrected the fabrications and lies that had been followed and believed against His Own Self, glory be to Him, and against many of His righteous servants."

A Nobel Prize in Literature Nominee

We follow this with the words of the most famous Indian poet and writer to be nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature and to make its shortlist, Kamala Das, after her conversion to Islam: "I chose the religion of Islam because it protects women, and I resolved to embrace Islam after I took on the care of two blind Muslim children, from whom I learned a great deal about Islam. I took a new name for myself — Kamala Surayya — and I will not be concerned by any of the threats of the Bharatiya Janata Party."

Tolstoy

Third, we bring the words of the great Russian man of letters Leo Tolstoy, author of War and Peace and Anna Karenina, who authored an important book in 1909 titled The Sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, in which he gathered a number of noble Prophetic hadiths totaling fifty-six. Among what he said: "It has become clear to me that Muhammad rose above all others at all times; he never equated himself with Allah, nor did he ever consider man to be a god," adding that "Muhammad's law will come to prevail throughout the world, owing to its harmony with reason and wisdom... I am one of those dazzled by the person of the Prophet Muhammad, whom the One God chose to be the bearer of the final Message, and to be, likewise, the last of the prophets."

The Diplomat Wilfried Hofmann

The ship of candor and disclosure could not but come to anchor at the harbor of the German diplomat Wilfried Hofmann, holder of a doctorate in law from Harvard University, who had once been a ballet dancer and instructor, a jazz musician, Germany's ambassador to several countries, and an expert in nuclear defense. He embraced Islam in 1980 and changed his name to Murad, going on to write his famous book *Diary of a German Muslim*, along with *Islam in the Third Millennium: A Faith on the Rise*, *Journey to Mecca*, and *Islam as Seen by a German Muslim* — all in German. Among what he said of Islam: "Islam integrates all aspects of life with one another, and for this reason psychological problems in Islamic countries are far fewer than in European countries," adding that "Allah will help us if we change what is within ourselves — not by reforming Islam, but by reforming our own attitude and conduct toward Islam. Islam is the alternative way of life, an eternal project that neither wears out nor expires. Islam is bound by neither time nor place."

Goethe

We pass over what the great German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe wrote about Islam, for he greatly admired this religion and its Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, to the point that some men of letters and critics believe that Goethe had, in fact, actually embraced Islam, even if he never openly declared it. He is the one who wrote in his *West-Eastern Divan*: "Whenever I read the Qur'an, I feel my soul trembling within my body. The Qur'an is the Book of Books. I believe this just as every Muslim believes it, and if Islam means submission to Allah, then we all live and die in a state of Islam."

The Orientalist Anne Marie Schimmel

Following the same path walked the fair-minded German researcher, professor of Arabic language and Islamic studies at the University of Bonn, and lecturer at both Harvard and Iowa universities in the United States — the Orientalist Anne Marie Schimmel, given the title "the Lover of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ," recipient of Germany's Friedrich Rückert Prize and the International Peace Prize. She held two doctorates: the first in Oriental studies from the University of Berlin in 1941, and the second in the history of religions in 1951. She wrote and authored 100 studies and books, perhaps the most famous being *And Muhammad Is His Messenger*. Shortly before her death in 2003, she requested that verses of the Noble Qur'an be recited over her as she lay dying, and that the well-known Islamic phrase be engraved on her gravestone: "People are asleep, and when they die, they awaken." In her famous book, she writes: "Indeed, the greatest miracle achieved by the Prophet ﷺ was the building of a spiritually united nation, and the emulation of the Prophet in his noble deeds and thoughts as the excellent model has furnished Muslims from Morocco to

Indonesia with a unity of mind and action — everyone knows what to say and what to do in a given human or religious matter, emulating or following the Prophet's example... So do not blame me for my love of the Messenger of Islam, for my love and passion for Islam and its Messenger are without limit." Some researchers affirm that Professor Anne Marie Schimmel had, in fact, embraced Islam, even though she never openly declared it.

The Italian Rosario Pasquini

Following in their footsteps is the biography of the Italian preacher Rosario Pasquini, who was Catholic before embracing Islam in 1973 and changing his name to Abd Al-Rahman Pasquini, going on to found the first Islamic center in Italy, along with the Rahman Mosque and the Islamic Endowment, and Dar Al-Qalam Publishing. He also issued the magazine The Islamic Message and co-published a translation of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an into Italian. Among his most notable books is Islam Was Europe's Path to Civilization.

The American Robert Crane

Here is the American Dr. Robert Crane, who held a doctorate in international law from Harvard University and served as an advisor to former American President Richard Nixon, before embracing Islam in the 1980s and changing his name to Farooq Abdul Haqq. Among his most important works is The Rights of Muslims in America, and among his most famous sayings: "Islam is the only solution, for it carries justice within the objectives of Islamic law (maqasid Al-shari'ah), and I found in Islam all the laws I had studied — indeed, during my studies at Harvard University, I never once found the word 'justice' in their laws, while I found it abundantly in Islam."

The Japanese Ryoichi Mita

The Japanese Ryoichi Mita, descended from a Buddhist family of samurai warriors from western Japan, graduated from a college of commerce before officially declaring his conversion to Islam in 1941. Among his most famous works are Understanding Islam and An Introduction to Islam, along with a translation of the book The Life of the Companions, before beginning a translation of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an into Japanese at the age of 69, completing his work only after reaching the age of 80. His translation became the most famous in the Japanese language, spoken by 130 million people.

The Hungarian Gyula Germanus

Likewise, the Orientalist and language expert Gyula Germanus, who embraced Islam in India after being appointed to teach at its universities, coming to be known as Abd Al-Karim Germanus. He served as head of the Department of Oriental Studies at the University of Budapest for forty years.

Among his most notable works are *Guided by the Light of the Crescent* and *Allahu Akbar*, written after his pilgrimage to Mecca.

Among his most famous sayings: "There is nothing in the teachings of Islam that cannot be practically achieved; it is the religion of the enlightened mind, and it will become the creed of free people," adding, "I wished to live 100 years, so that I might accomplish all I hoped for in service of the language of the Noble Qur'an. I loved Islam because it is the religion of purity and cleanliness — cleanliness of the body and of social conduct, and of human feeling."

The Mathematician Jeffrey Lang

We read of the biography of the American mathematician Jeffrey Lang, who was a professor at the University of San Francisco and later at the University of Kansas. He declared his conversion to Islam after reading a translated copy of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an, going on to write his important book *Struggling to Surrender*, followed by *Losing My Religion: A Call for Help*, and *Even Angels Ask: A Journey to Islam in America*, and *Even the Prophet Ibrahim Wants Reassurance*.

Among his sayings:

"The Qur'an examined you and became a mirror through which you see your flaws, your weaknesses, your pains, your losses, your potential, and your failures."

Anti-Racism Campaigner Malcolm X

Likewise, the American anti-racism campaigner and one of the world's foremost defenders of social justice and human rights, Malcolm X, whose father was a Baptist preacher assassinated by the racist Ku Klux Klan group. "X" embraced Islam in 1948 and changed his name to Malik Shabazz. He was profoundly affected by his pilgrimage to Mecca in 1964, marveling at what he witnessed there of the complete absence of racial discrimination among all the different races, colors, nationalities, and peoples. He wrote to his wife Betty, saying: "Dear Betty, I am now in Mecca, praying beside a white man, behind a man of African descent, and eating from the same plate as a man with blue eyes," adding in his subsequent lectures: "I am convinced that America is in desperate need of Islam, and that the worship of the One God alone is what will bring humanity closer to the peace that everyone talks about and no one does anything to achieve."

The Canadian Gary Miller

We learned of the biography of Dr. Gary Miller, a Canadian mathematician and theologian and former professor at the University of Toronto, who embraced Islam in 1977 and changed his name to Abd Al-Ahad Omar. He presented numerous television and radio programs and dozens of

lectures on Islam, and hundreds of Europeans and Americans embraced Islam under the influence of his lectures and writings. He authored several books, the most famous being *The Difference Between the Qur'an and the Bible*, *The Amazing Qur'an*, and *An Islamic Perspective on Missionary Methods*.

Among his remarkable sayings: "One of the well-known scientific principles is the principle of searching out errors in theories until their validity is established, and remarkably, the Qur'an invites Muslims and non-Muslims alike to find errors within it — and they will not find any... There is an entire surah in the Qur'an named after Mary, while there is not a single surah named after a wife or daughter of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Likewise, Jesus, peace be upon him, is mentioned by name twenty-five times in the Qur'an, while the Prophet Muhammad is mentioned by name only five times."

The Korean Choi

The case was no different with the South Korean scholar Dr. Choi Young-kil, who declared his conversion to Islam in 1980 and changed his name to Hamed, going on to publish his first book, *Islamic Da'wah in Korea*. He has held several academic positions at Myongji University, including chairmanship of its Department of Arabic Studies and its Graduate School of Arabic Studies, and chairman of the Federation of Muslims of Korea (FMK).

He has authored and translated one hundred books on Islam, most notably *The Life of Muhammad ﷺ*, a summarized *Sahih Al-Bukhari*, in addition to *A Path to Learning Arabic*, *Al-Arba'in Al-Nawawiyyah*, *Riyad Al-Salihin*, an indexed dictionary of the vocabulary of the Noble Qur'an, and *The Prophetic Hadith: Traditions and Customs of 1.8 Billion Muslims*, among many others.

Hamed Choi Young-kil is regarded as the first translator of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an into Korean, relying on the English translation by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. Dr. Choi's translation is considered the primary and sole reference for some 200,000 Muslims in South Korea. He also created the first digital device for studying the Qur'an, and the first electronic book introducing Islam in the Korean language.

The Austrian Leopold Weiss

We then turned our attention to the biography of the Austrian thinker and journalist Leopold Weiss, who embraced Islam in 1926 and changed his name to Muhammad Asad. He contributed to the founding of the state of Pakistan and headed the Institute of Islamic Studies in Lahore. Among his most important works are *The Road to Mecca*, *Islam at the Crossroads*, and his translation of the meanings of the Qur'an into English.

Among his famous sayings about Islam: "It is not the Muslims who made Islam great; it is Islam that made the Muslims great... If we reject the guidance of the Prophet Muhammad, whom Allah sent as a mercy to the worlds, this means that we are rejecting the mercy of Allah... Despite every obstacle, Islam remains the greatest force for the uplifting of human resolve that mankind has ever known."

The French Singer Diam's

The same is true of the former French rap singer Mélanie Georgiades, known professionally as Diam's, who had recorded songs and sold more than four million records between 1999 and 2009, before announcing her conversion to Islam, adopting the hijab, and performing pilgrimage to Mecca, going on to devote herself to helping hungry, sick, and special-needs children across the African continent through her humanitarian organization, the Big Up Project.

Among her statements after her conversion: "Now, having embraced Islam, whenever something happens in my life — whether joyful or sad — I know that Allah is listening to my prayer, and the more I read the Qur'an, the stronger my certainty grows."

The Russian Singer Masha

Here are some glimpses into the conversion to Islam of the Russian singer Masha Ellie Kina, a former film star and member of the famous Russian pop group Fabrika, and a university lecturer, before she embraced Islam in 2018 and performed the pilgrimage. Speaking of the reasons behind this great transformation in her life, she said: "I found that the values and rulings of Islam respond realistically to every aspect of life, and I found in Islam the path to happiness, so I embraced it," adding, "I am fluent in five European languages, and when I embraced Islam, I wanted to learn Arabic because it is the language of the Qur'an. It was a kindness from Allah, the Exalted, that I turned toward Him and took the path of Islam — this was His will and decree."

In an interview with the website Islam Riyo, Masha Ellie Kina added that "what I can tell others about Islam is that whoever wants to move toward Islam need only turn inward, reflect on his own affairs and understanding, and rely on his innate nature (fitrah) to recognize the truth."

Christiane Backer

We looked closely at the biography of the famous German television star Christiane Backer, who, in her well-known book *From MTV to Mecca: How Islam Changed My Life*, recounted the motives behind her conversion to Islam and her change of name to Makkah, saying: "In the 1990s, I got to know the Pakistani cricket star Imran Khan, and my life began gradually turning toward Islam, as Imran Khan cared deeply about the hungry and the deprived — and these poor people

cared nothing for the pleasures and adornments of this world, only for obedience to Allah, the Exalted. Today I pray, and I find myself happy in my faith and my prayer." Christiane has another book, no less significant than the first, titled *Islam as a Path of the Heart: Why I Am a Muslim*.

The German Kondenver

As for the German writer Professor Ahmad Kondenver, former deputy director of the Islamic Center in Munich and editor-in-chief of a German-language cultural magazine, who embraced Islam and authored several books in this field, he described the ethics of Islamic callers (du'aat) in a press interview, saying: "A caller to Islam must embody the character of the Messenger in the eyes of the people of his country, so that people find in him a living example they can be influenced by. He must also master the language of the local people so that he can properly explain Islam to them as it truly is, and he must understand the culture of the country in which he is calling."

The Spaniard Amanda

The Spanish journalist Amanda Figueras, who announced her conversion to Islam while working at the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo*, authored a book titled *Why Islam?* in which she recounts her entire story — how and why she embraced Islam — in order to respond to the many doubts and false beliefs about Islam prevalent in European countries, including her own country, Spain. Among what appears in her book: "I did not know the real Islam, and I chose to change, and I succeeded in that... Now, through my book, I try to recount the life of a European Muslim woman, because there are many books that have failed to present a correct human and social understanding of the Islamic religion."

The Russian Porokhova

As for the Russian woman of letters, a graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy and the Institute of Foreign Languages in Moscow and a member of the Union of Russian Writers, Valeria Porokhova, she announced her conversion to Islam and changed her name to Iman, and translated the complete meanings of the Noble Qur'an into Russian, to the point that her translation came to be regarded as the finest and most comprehensive in the Russian language. Among her famous sayings: "I have a feeling that I was a Muslim my whole life, and I only came to know Islam when I read the Qur'an, which answered many of my questions about life."

The English Singer Cat Stevens

The British rock and roll singer Cat Stevens, winner of eight international gold records, embraced Islam after reading a translated copy of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an while briefly hospitalized. He went on to found an Islamic school for children in England in 1983 and

established Islamic Relief, an organization to help victims of famine and war around the world. Speaking of his conversion to Islam, he says: "Muslims, in particular, need to educate themselves according to the principles of Islam, understanding that children need to be given a moral framework to emulate as part of their upbringing."

And there are many others besides, far too many to mention even a tenth of here — bearing in mind that the number of Muslims around the world, according to 2023 statistics, exceeds 2 billion, equivalent to 25% of the world's population, with Islam being the fastest-growing religion on earth according to the Pew Research Center. The name "Muhammad," derived from abundant praise and meaning "the praised one, of praiseworthy character," is the most widespread name in the world, according to a report by the website NameBerry, which specializes in tallying the names of children and newborns; the name of the Prophet Muhammad topped the list of the most widespread names in the world, at approximately 134 million people, according to the latest statistics from the magazine Forebears, which specializes in the study of names.

Muhammad ﷺ, Seal of the Prophets and Messengers

"Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing"

— *Qur'an, Al-Ahzab 33:40 (Saheeh International)*

Today, every time I follow the international and Arab news bulletins, and every time I edit some of them in television, print, and radio newsrooms, I realize clearly that "all of humanity is in dire, inescapable need of the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ." I do not say this driven by emotion, nor by mere affiliation — though that affiliation is an honor beyond all honors — but rather it is the plain truth whose fragrance I sense, whose breeze I breathe, and whose impact I feel with every piece of news that comes into my hands, or passes before my eyes on screens, by virtue of my work in this field of journalism, in which I have been caught between hammer and anvil for thirty years!

For with every event that wrings my heart with grief, caught between the two extremes, not to mention every program and documentary report, I sense the depth of the noble verse, "And We have not sent you except as a mercy to the worlds," and I feel the extent to which "sound transmitted text agrees with clear reason, resolving any apparent conflict between them," as stated in the books of the pious predecessors. Whoever follows the news bulletins with the eye of an analyst, observer, or press editor realizes that the entire world, from one end to the other, is drowning in vices, immoralities, and sins of every kind and form, and there is no way to extinguish their scorching fires, nor to curb their destructive excess, except through: "And whatever the Messenger has given you, take; and whatever he has forbidden you, refrain from."

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was merciful, generous, and humble — throughout his entire life he never struck a servant or a woman with his hand. He never once found fault with any food: if he desired it, he ate it, and if not, he left it alone. He was among the most generous of people in giving, and he was at his most generous during the month of Ramadan. He lived an ascetic life; a whole month would pass over him in which he and his family had nothing to eat but dates and water. He left his family nothing after his death but his weapon, his mule, and a piece of land he had made into charity. He was radiant and beautiful, and the scent of perfume was always upon him.

When he was happy, his face would light up as though it were a piece of the moon. He was humble in his own home — he would mend his own garment, repair his own sandal, and do the kind of work that men do in their households. He would prolong his worship at night while all his Companions and relatives slept, and when asked the reason — he to whom Allah had already forgiven his sins and guaranteed Paradise — he would say: "Should I not then be a grateful servant?"

He loved to hear the Noble Qur'an recited by some of his Companions blessed with beautiful voices, and he would weep upon hearing the Qur'an that had been revealed to him. No one ever saw a man more merciful toward dependents and children than him. One of those who devoted himself to serving him said: "I served the Messenger of Allah for ten years, and he never once said 'uff' to me, nor did he ever say of anything I did, 'Why did you do that?'"

The Prophet ﷺ would joke with his household and his Companions, but even in his jesting he said nothing but the truth, never wounding or belittling anyone, and he never laughed except with a smile. Among examples of his truthful humor: he once saw an old woman and said to her, jesting, "No old woman will enter Paradise," and the woman grew sad, so he explained to her, in essence, "No old woman will enter Paradise as an old woman, for Allah, the Exalted, will restore her there to youth, in the prime of her life and at the peak of beauty and loveliness."

The polytheists offered to crown him king over them and to shower him with abundant wealth and gifts, in exchange for his abandoning his call to the worship of the One God, without partner. This only strengthened his resolve to press forward with his mission, and he said to them: "By Allah, if they placed the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left on condition that I abandon this cause, until Allah makes it manifest or I perish in the attempt, I would not abandon it."

He was the most handsome of people in appearance, fair-skinned with a reddish tinge, with wide eyes of intense blackness in the pupil, neither tall nor short, and he spoke only when there was a need to. He was intensely modest, would begin his speech with the name of Allah, the Exalted, and would honor even the smallest blessing without ever finding fault with it. In battle, he was the bravest of men, advancing at the front of the ranks so that his Companions might shelter behind

him as behind an impregnable shield. When something angered him he would turn away and avert his gaze, and when he was pleased he would lower his eyes. Whoever saw him at first sight was struck with awe of him, yet whoever came to know him closely came to love him — none like him was seen before or after. He loved to wear perfume and to sit in the company of Muslims. When he sneezed, he would place his garment over his mouth, lower his voice, and praise his Lord; and when he yawned, he would place his hand over his noble mouth and seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Satan.

Among what is recorded in *Ash-Shama'il Al-Muhammadiyah* by Imam Al-Tirmidhi: "The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was continuously in a state of reflection, perpetually in thought, never fully at rest, given to long silences, speaking only when necessary. He would open and close his speech with the name of Allah, the Exalted, and he spoke in comprehensive, concise phrases — his speech was decisive, neither excessive nor deficient. He was neither harsh nor demeaning; he honored even the smallest blessing and never found fault with anything, though he neither praised nor criticized food out of mere taste. Worldly matters, and whatever pertained to them, never angered him; but if a right was transgressed, nothing could stand in the way of his anger until he had vindicated it — yet he never grew angry, nor sought vindication, for his own sake."

Among his ﷺ names and attributes — some belonging to him alone, distinct from his brother messengers and prophets who came before him, peace be upon them all, and others shared with them though reaching their utmost perfection in him, all of them sparks of his dazzling character and radiant stars drawn from his magnificent nature and conduct — are these: Muhammad, Ahmad, Al-Mahi (the Effacer, by whom disbelief is effaced), Al-Hashir (he after whom people are gathered), Al-'Aqib (the Last, after whom no other prophet comes), Al-Muqaffi (he who follows in succession after the prophets), the Prophet of Mercy, the Prophet of Repentance, Al-Mukhtar (the Chosen), Al-Hadi (the Guide), Al-Shahid (the Witness), Al-Bashir (the Bearer of Glad Tidings), Al-Nadhir (the Warner), Al-Mutawakkil (he who relies wholly upon Allah), Al-Fatih (the Opener), Al-Amin (the Trustworthy), Al-Sadiq (the Truthful), Al-Masduq (he who is believed and confirmed), Al-Shafi' (the Intercessor), Al-Khatim (the Seal), Al-Siraj Al-Munir (the Illuminating Lamp), Al-Mustafa (the Chosen One), Al-Rasul (the Messenger), Al-Nabi (the Prophet) — and many more besides.

It is no wonder that the Prophet's ﷺ eternal miracle is the Noble Qur'an, revealed to him and whose verses were expounded from One who is Wise and All-Aware — the Book whose preservation from distortion and corruption Allah, the Exalted, took upon Himself, preparing for it those who would undertake to preserve it, record it, interpret it, teach it, recite it, and listen to it, until the Day of Judgment. It is the magnificent, miraculous Book whose wonders never cease, and which is never worn out however often it is repeated.

Among the Prophet's ﷺ tangible miracles are the Night Journey (al-Isra), the splitting of the moon, water gushing forth from his fingers, the restoration of the eye of Qatadah, the multiplication of the lamps, the prayer for rain, the yearning of the tree trunk, the trembling of Mount Uhud, the water of the waterskin, his foretelling of the death of the Negus, the incident of Suraqah ibn Malik, the letter of Hatib ibn Abi Balta'ah, the martyrdom of the heroes of Mu'tah, the blessing multiplying food, the martyr of the sea, and among the Prophet's ﷺ miracles is his foretelling of future unseen events, and much more besides — to the point that our great scholars have said that the Prophet's ﷺ tangible miracles exceed one thousand.

The seal of prophethood lay between the shoulders of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, a reddish gland the size of a pigeon's egg, and this seal was on the left side, closer to the location of his noble heart.

How true is what the French physician Maurice Bucaille said in his famous book, translated into numerous world languages, *The Bible, the Qur'an and Science*: "The reader of the Qur'an discovers within it statements of a scientific nature that make it impossible to imagine that a person in Muhammad's era could have composed them. Islam has always considered religion and science to be inseparable twins."

He was preceded by the builder of the first mosque in England, the lawyer William Henry Quilliam, in the city of Liverpool, after he embraced Islam in 1887 and changed his name to Abdullah Quilliam, in addition to building an orphanage and publishing a monthly magazine called *Crescent*, to the point that he was given the title Sheikh of the British Isles!

As for the reasons behind his conversion to Islam, they trace back to his profound admiration for the tolerance of Muslims and their moral and religious commitment — especially their steadfastness in maintaining congregational prayer in tightly arranged rows even while aboard a ship swaying amid a raging sea under a violent storm. Quilliam was on board that very ship, on his way from France to Morocco, and he closely observed the strength of faith he found lacking in himself reflected on the faces of these toiling Muslim worshippers at the time. Among his written works are *The Religion of Islam* and *The Best of Answers*. Among his most notable sayings: "I read the translation of the meanings of the Qur'an, and the Book of Heroes, and many other books, and by the time I left Tangier, I had embraced Islam and acknowledged it to be the true religion."

The Prophet ﷺ: A Model and an Example

"There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often"

— *Qur'an, Al-Ahzab 33:21 (Saheeh International)*

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ is, without question, a model and an example for all of creation across the face of this blue planet. His father, Abdullah, died while he was still in his mother's womb, before his birth in the month of Rabi' Al-Awwal in the Year of the Elephant, corresponding to 571 CE — and so the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was fatherless from birth. His mother, Aminah, then died six years later, and with this grave calamity he became, at that tender age, an orphan bereft of both parents. His grandfather, Abd Al-Muttalib, took over his care thereafter, but he too died when the Prophet was eight years old, whereupon his uncle, Abu Talib, took on the responsibility of raising him.

So that the Prophet ﷺ might become a good example and model for all of humanity to emulate after him, he was tried with immense trials, which he bore with immense patience — patience beyond what any creature on the face of the earth could possibly bear. He suffered orphanhood, poverty, starvation, siege, forced expulsion from his hometown of Mecca, persecution, denial, and the pains of illness when it grew severe upon him — in addition to the loss of uncles and children, for the Prophet's ﷺ three sons died one after another during his lifetime while still young: Al-Qasim, Abdullah, and Ibrahim. Three of his daughters also died during his lifetime, all while still young women: Zainab, Ruqayyah, and Umm Kulthum.

Meanwhile, his first wife, Khadijah, whom he deeply respected and loved throughout his life, died only three days after the death of his uncle and guardian who had raised him, Abu Talib. Both of these devastating tragedies occurred after an unjust siege the polytheists had imposed upon his family, relatives, and companions in an area called the Valley of Banu Hashim, lasting three consecutive years, during which the polytheists forbade all buying, selling, marriage, and dealing with everyone who had believed in the Prophet's ﷺ call and his eternal heavenly message.

The polytheists cut off all food, drink, and medicine from the new Muslims and from the Prophet's ﷺ relatives, family, and Companions, until they were reduced to eating the grasses of the earth and the leaves of trees. The polytheists wrote down this boycott and recorded it in a document that was hung on the curtains of the Kaaba, as pressure on the Prophet ﷺ to force him to abandon his message and his call to renounce the worship of idols and false gods. They pressured him to stop calling them to worship the One and Only God, who has no partner in dominion, no consort, and no child; and they pressured him to stop warning them against the customs of the earlier Age of Ignorance — the constant tribal wars and infighting, the burying alive of infant daughters, the denial of women's inheritance, the enslavement of human beings, belief in magic, superstition, and astrology, gambling, drinking wine, eating pork, and highway robbery — until the day came when termites ate away at that boycott document, leaving nothing but the phrase "In Your name, O Allah." At this point the polytheists realized that the economic and social boycott was no longer of any use, and that the heavenly message was continuing on its course and that no one could possibly stop or contain it...

Here the polytheists began unleashing their misleading propaganda machine to belittle the Prophet ﷺ, mock him, and deny him — calling him a sorcerer, a soothsayer, a poet, a liar, and a madman — yet they failed in all of this, because he had been known among them for many long years, even before he announced his call, as "the Truthful, the Trustworthy." So they pursued a policy of torture, persecution, exclusion, and marginalization against his weakest Companions — the poor, the destitute, the toiling, and the enslaved — in order to crush this call and smother it in its cradle before it could spread and become widespread across the Arabian Peninsula. Yet the numbers of Muslims only increased instead of decreasing, and so the polytheists, astonished and at a loss, resorted to waging military war against the Muslims, during which the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ lost his dearest Companions, followers, and supporters, and the relatives most beloved to his heart, among them his uncle Hamzah. Yet even in this they did not succeed, until Islam spread throughout every part of the Arabian Peninsula, and people entered it in multitudes during the Prophet's ﷺ own lifetime.

On this, the Scottish writer Thomas Carlyle says in his book *On Heroes*: "It is a disgrace to any civilized individual of this age to listen to the notion that the religion of Islam is a lie and that Muhammad was a deceiver and a forger. It is time for us to fight against the spread of such shameful claims, for the message that Messenger delivered has remained a shining lamp for twelve centuries."

The famous Irish writer George Bernard Shaw said of him: "As far as I know, there is no social system among the religions as sound as the system built upon Islamic teachings, and I have predicted that Muhammad's religion will be acceptable to Europe tomorrow, and it has already begun to be acceptable to it today."

The French historian Gustave Le Bon said of him, in his book *The Civilization of the Arabs*: "Islam is the religion most compatible with the discoveries of modern science, and it is among the greatest religions in refining and reforming souls, and in promoting justice, tolerance, kindness, harmony, and coexistence. In the abode of Islam, there is no difference between a Chinese Muslim and an Arab Muslim in the enjoyment of all rights."

And so the Seal of the Messengers and Prophets, Muhammad ﷺ, stands as the good model and example for all humanity who came after him: whoever has lost one or both parents and lived as an orphan finds his example in the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ; whoever has lost his wife and life companion recalls and finds his example in the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ; whoever has lost a son or daughter in his lifetime remembers the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ; whoever has lost his grandfather and uncle in his lifetime remembers the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ; whoever has suffered displacement and persecution in his lifetime remembers the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ; whoever has suffered siege, forced starvation, and pursuit remembers the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ; whoever has

suffered denial, mockery, and bullying from his own tribe, clan, and adversaries remembers the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ; and whoever falls ill or is wounded remembers the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and bears it patiently, seeking Allah's reward — so that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ thereby becomes a good example for all humanity, in every difficult social situation, and in every material, psychological, and human circumstance and harsh natural disaster they face throughout the course of their lives.

The Indian Woman of Letters Who Came to Believe in Islam Through the Blind and the Orphaned

She is the great Indian poet and woman of letters Kamala Das, winner of the Asian Poetry Prize in 1964 and the Kent Award in 1965, holder of an honorary doctorate from Cambridge University, and a former shortlisted nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature, who said, after her conversion to Islam — which came about through her raising, caring for, and educating two orphaned Muslim children, an experience which opened her eyes to Islam and its eternal humane teachings, leading her to openly embrace Islam, having been a Hindu, and to change her name to Kamala Surayya, despite the repeated threats she received from the extremist Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party — "I want to kiss the soil of Medina." She composed numerous poems in love of Allah, the Exalted, and of His noble Messenger Muhammad ﷺ, among them:

*You came suddenly, like the pouring rain, though the rain had ceased since those distant ages
Yet a memory of gold remains of it, in every single grain of sand*

Raising the Remembrance

"And raised high for you your repute. For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease. Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease"

— *Qur'an, Ash-Sharh 94:4-6 (Saheeh International)*

There are many reasons that led me, by stages, to follow the memoirs and diaries and to read the autobiographies of the most famous leaders, rulers, philosophers, and thinkers in history, only to arrive at the conclusion that each of them addressed only one aspect, or a few aspects, and neglected the rest — one focused on economics, or sociology, or philosophy, or politics, or law, and so on, to the exclusion of every other field; or he addressed himself to one particular segment of humanity while remaining oblivious to all the rest; and some of them, in their theorizing, hypotheses, and writings, never went beyond the environment in which they lived, nor the geographic patch of earth in which they died. Yet there was one single man alone whom Allah, the Exalted, singled out for prophethood and entrusted with a universal message for all of humankind, who left not a single avenue nor aspect of human life untouched — from creed to

worship, to conduct, to the nuclear family, to the extended family, to society, to ethics, to upbringing, to commerce, to the etiquette of the road, to dealings, to inheritance, to purity and cleanliness, to war and peace, to teaching and learning, to politics, to the judiciary, to ruler and ruled, to the relationship between parents and children, the relationship between husbands and wives, the relationship of a person to his relatives, clan, friends, and neighbors, the relationship of a Muslim to his brother in faith and to his fellow human being, the relationship of man to animal, the relationship of man to his environment and surroundings — to the astonishment of everyone, far and near, so that no good or virtue is ever mentioned without the Chosen Prophet ﷺ, who does not speak from mere whim, for it is nothing but revelation revealed, being mentioned alongside it. In this regard, the French Orientalist Étienne Dinet said: "From its very first hour, Islam affirmed that it is a religion valid for every time and place, for it is the religion of natural human disposition (fitrah), and fitrah does not differ from one person to another."

It is no wonder that this continuous elevation and honoring, renewed across the centuries in an astonishing manner that would occur to no human being however vast his understanding or wide the scope of his knowledge, persists despite thousands of biased Orientalist campaigns and misleading media attacks — for with every call to prayer, every prayer itself, every testimony of faith, and every recitation, the name of Muhammad ﷺ is raised in remembrance across the globe. Undoubtedly, one of the marvels of this raised remembrance was the decision made by the city council of Louisville, Kentucky, in early 2019, to honor the world boxing legend Muhammad Ali Clay, when it named its famous international airport after him. Why? The city's mayor, Greg Fischer, answered this, saying that it was because "Muhammad Ali left a legacy of human and athletic values that inspired hundreds of millions of people, and it is fitting that we immortalize his name through the city's airport." And through this act, the name of Muhammad ﷺ, and the name of his cousin, Ali ibn Abi Talib, were both raised in remembrance from a place the Orientalists least expected, one that would never have occurred to them, in the very heart of their own countries, in their own backyard!

On this, Clay — who devoted himself to Islam after building a mosque and setting aside 200 million dollars in its support ﷺ — said: "International wars are waged to change maps, but the wars against poverty are waged to draw the map of change. I am a Muslim, and there is nothing in Islam that has anything to do with killing innocent people anywhere in the world. I found in Islam a religion that achieves happiness for all humanity, making no distinction between color, sex, or race — all are equal before Allah, a divine truth that could never have come from any human being," as recorded in the book *Great Men and Thinkers Who Embraced Islam* by Muhammad Tammashi.

His counterpart Malcolm X said something similar, after performing the rites of Hajj in 1964: "I saw, in two weeks there, what I had not seen in 39 years. I saw people of every race, white and

black alike, their hearts brought together in true unity and brotherhood, so that they lived as though they were a single soul under the care of the One God."

The Spanish newspaper ABC, in an earlier report, revealed that "the name of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the most common name in the world, and the most popular for newborns in some French administrative districts," while the British newspaper The Independent, citing Britain's Office for National Statistics, revealed that "the name Muhammad is the most widespread among male newborns in both England and Wales, having been given to 7,361 newborns in its various known forms — Muhammad, Mahmoud, Ahmad, and Mamadou." Was there anyone, anywhere across Europe, Canada, Britain, Australia, or the Americas, who could have imagined such a thing happening one day, even by mere coincidence?!

This dazzling elevation of remembrance was renewed at the 21st FIFA World Cup, held in Russia in July 2018, where the name Muhammad was the most frequently used name among commentators and across the stadium stands, borne by ten players representing several of the national teams participating in the tournament — and the same thing happened at the World Cup held in Qatar in 2022, and at the 2026 tournament co-hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico!

This was preceded by what the BBC highlighted as among the most eye-catching sights at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics in Brazil: cupping therapy (hijamah), of which the Truthful, the Believed ﷺ said: "Healing is in three things: a drink of honey, a cut from a cupping instrument, or a branding with fire — and I forbid my nation from branding with fire." Dozens of photographs were taken of famous swimmers and gymnasts showing the marks of cupping on their bodies, prompting the public to ask about the secret behind those blue circular marks covering their bodies, and whether they were some kind of tattoo, or some symbolism whose meaning they did not understand — until they finally learned that it was a blessed Prophetic Sunnah practice. Perhaps the most famous athlete to appear with cupping marks was the American swimmer Michael Phelps, who won five gold medals and one silver at that same Brazil Olympics, as well as the American gymnastics champion Alex Naddour, who said, according to USA Today, that "cupping is better than any of the other methods I've spent money on — it's the secret to maintaining my health and protecting me from a great many aches." Cupping thus prevailed — being a Prophetic Sunnah practice that Muslims maintain — over energy drinks, saunas, jacuzzis, yoga, baduanjin, kinesio taping, Chinese acupuncture, and likewise Indian chakras and mantras, for increasing physical capacity, and over the use of substances banned in both Olympic and medical contexts!

The World Health Organization and the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS called, in 2007, and repeated the call, for male circumcision to be included among the strategies for preventing HIV/AIDS, noting that "millions of people could be saved, by a rate reaching 60% compared to

the uncircumcised, particularly in Africa, were circumcision to be made universal" — a noble Prophetic practice, bringing us, and with us the whole world, back to the practices of the Beloved Physician ﷺ, whom Allah, the Exalted, sent as a mercy to the worlds. How well the poet put it:

Where shall I begin in praising Muhammad?... Neither poetry nor pens can do him justice

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the Call to Noble Character

"And indeed, you are of a great moral character"

— *Qur'an, Al-Qalam 68:4 (Saheeh International)*

The Most Noble Prophet Muhammad ﷺ counseled us — he who said, "I was sent for no purpose more central than to perfect good character" [a rhetorical restriction (hasr) emphasizing the primacy of good character among his mission's aims, not a literal exclusion of its other purposes — such as establishing the Oneness of Allah, worship, and law], and in another narration, "noble character" — to embody good character and virtuous deeds whose benefit extends to others, so that people might live as brothers, loving one another, helping one another, never wronging one another, never deceiving one another, and never betraying one another — while at the same time warning against materialism, individualism, greed, miserliness, hoarding, selfishness, racism, arrogance, conceit, and haughtiness. Among his teachings on this:

"Feed the hungry, visit the sick, and free the captive."

(the Prophet's ﷺ counsel on the importance of caring for the hungry, the sick, and prisoners)

"Do not curse my Companions. By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, if one of you were to spend the equivalent of Mount Uhud in gold, it would not equal a Mudd spent by one of them, nor even half of it."

(The Prophet's ﷺ counsel on loving, respecting, and honoring his household, Companions, wives, and descendants)

"And my household — I remind you of Allah regarding my household. I remind you of Allah regarding my household. I remind you of Allah regarding my household."

The Prophet's ﷺ description of seven types of people whom Allah, the Exalted, will shelter in His shade on the Day of Resurrection, saving them from its horrors:

"Seven will be shaded by Allah under His shade on the day when there is no shade but His: a just ruler; a young man who grew up in the worship of his Lord; a man whose heart is attached to the mosques; two men who love each other for Allah's sake, meeting upon that and parting upon that; a man who is invited by a woman of beauty and position [to commit adultery] and says, 'I fear

Allah"; a man who gives charity so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given; and a man who remembers Allah in solitude and his eyes fill with tears."

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel on the importance of caring for the vulnerable in all their forms — the unemployed, the poor, orphaned children, the homeless, those displaced and fleeing natural disasters and the hell of wars, children with Down syndrome, children of unknown parentage, children and victims of Asperger's syndrome, children with thalassemia and leukemia, victims of spinal muscular atrophy, patients with epilepsy and multiple sclerosis, and likewise the elderly, people with special needs, the severely disabled, and those who are blind, deaf, or mute — saying:

"Seek me out among the weak, for you are given provision and victory only through your weak ones."

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel on the importance of brotherhood, harmony, and spreading peace:

"You will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will not believe until you love one another. Shall I not guide you to something which, if you do it, you will love one another? Spread peace among yourselves."

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel to judges on the necessity of applying justice with knowledge and understanding, and applying it equally among people, free from personal whims, partisanship, and racial bias:

"Judges are of three types: two in the Fire, and one in Paradise. A judge who judged by his own whim is in the Fire; a judge who judged without knowledge is in the Fire; and a judge who judged with truth is in Paradise."

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel to Muslims in general:

"The right of a Muslim over a Muslim is five: returning the greeting, visiting the sick, following funeral processions, accepting invitations, and saying 'Yarhamuk Allah' (may Allah have mercy on you) to one who sneezes [and praises Allah]."

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel on cooperation and mutual support:

"A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim; he does not wrong him nor abandon him. Whoever fulfills his brother's need, Allah will fulfill his need; whoever relieves a Muslim of a hardship, Allah will relieve him of one of the hardships of the Day of Resurrection; and whoever conceals [the faults of] a Muslim, Allah will conceal his faults on the Day of Resurrection."

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel on caring for and sponsoring orphans:

“I and the sponsor of an orphan will be in Paradise like this” — and he gestured with his index and middle fingers, holding them apart.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel on the importance of embodying good character and caring for and attending to the family:

“The most complete of the believers in faith are those with the best character, and the best of you are the best of you to their families.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel on mercy toward all creatures — human, animal, and plant:

“The merciful are shown mercy by the Most Merciful, blessed and exalted is He. Have mercy on those on the earth, and He who is in the heaven will have mercy on you.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel on the importance of giving charity, humility, and forgiving people:

“Charity does not decrease wealth; Allah increases a servant in honor for his forgiveness; and no one humbles himself for Allah's sake except that Allah, the Exalted, raises him in status.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ call to honor guests, maintain ties with relatives, and speak good words:

“Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should honor his guest; whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should maintain ties of kinship; and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or remain silent.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ call to work and seek lawful sustenance:

“No one has ever eaten food better than what he eats from the work of his own hands, and indeed the Prophet of Allah, David, used to eat from the work of his own hands.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ warning against racism, and against mocking different colors, races, and nationalities:

“O people, indeed your Lord is one. There is no superiority of an Arab over a non-Arab, nor of a non-Arab over an Arab, nor of a red person over a black one, nor of a black person over a red one, except by righteousness (taqwa). Indeed, the most honorable of you before Allah is the most righteous of you.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel to treat women and orphans well and to avoid wronging them:

“O Allah, I declare severe warning (against wronging them) regarding the rights of the two vulnerable ones: the orphan and the woman.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ call for Muslims to seek beneficial knowledge that serves humanity — encompassing religious knowledge and all beneficial fields of knowledge that contribute to humanity's flourishing and prosperity, far from its ruin, misery, and extinction:

“Whoever takes a path in search of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ warning against begging and against forced, voluntary, or disguised idleness:

“By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, for one of you to take his rope, gather firewood on his back, bring it and sell it, eating from it and giving charity from it, is better for him than coming to a man whom Allah has given from His bounty and asking him, whether he gives or refuses.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ warning against fraud and deceit in every matter — in buying and selling, in studies, jobs, and work — just as he warned against intimidating, extorting, and robbing people at the point of a weapon:

“Whoever takes up arms against us is not one of us, and whoever cheats us is not one of us.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel to care for women and treat them with kindness and respect — a counsel encompassing mothers, wives, sisters, daughters, granddaughters, and women in general:

“Take my advice with regard to women, to be good to them.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel to show tenderness to the young and respect to the elderly:

“He is not one of us who does not show mercy to our young and does not acknowledge the honor due to our elders.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel on honoring, loving, obeying, revering, caring for, and serving one's parents as much as possible, without contradicting the firm principles of this upright religion:

“Whoever would like his lifespan to be extended and his provision increased, let him honor his parents and maintain ties of kinship.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel to respect one's neighbors, help them, and never disturb or trouble them, and...

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel to respect one's neighbors, help them, and never disturb, trouble, or spy on them:

“Gabriel kept urging me regarding the neighbor, until I thought he would make him an heir.”

Among his counsels regarding neighbors, he ﷺ also said:

“He does not truly believe in me who goes to sleep full while his neighbor beside him goes hungry, and he knows of it.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ encouragement to plant trees and cultivate the land:

“There is no Muslim who plants a plant or sows a crop, and a bird, a person, or an animal eats from it, but that it counts for him as charity.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel on the importance of caring for animals, warning against harming, torturing, starving, dehydrating, mutilating, or maiming them, using them for hunting sport, killing them without necessity, or subjecting them to what are known as animal fighting rings for the sake of betting on them — insisting instead that they be given water, food, and proper care. When his Companions once asked him about all this, saying, "O Messenger of Allah, is there truly a reward for us in [caring for] animals?" he replied: "In every living creature with a moist liver there is a reward." He told them of the terrible fate of a woman who confined her cat without feeding it or letting it out to feed itself, until it died; and he told them of the good fate of a woman who gave water to a stray dog dying of thirst, saving it from death.

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel to help debtors settle and pay off their debts, or to pay on their behalf, in addition to lending people kindly, without usurious interest, to help them meet their needs, and giving them time until they are able to repay:

“Whoever gives respite to a debtor in difficulty, or waives the debt for him, Allah will shade him on the Day of Resurrection under the shade of His Throne, on the day when there is no shade but His.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ counsel on the obligation to care for and show kindness toward servants: one day, one of the Prophet's ﷺ Companions was seen walking with his servant, both wearing the same fine clothing, and a passerby, astonished, asked him the reason behind this. The Prophet's Companion said: "I once mocked my servant and his mother, so the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ rebuked me and said, 'You are a man who still has a trace of the Age of Ignorance in him. Your servants are your brothers whom Allah has placed under your authority, so, whoever has his brother under his authority should feed him from what he eats and clothe him from what he wears, and do not burden them with what overwhelms them — and if you do burden them, then help

them." From that day on, that Companion of the Prophet never walked with his servant except dressed exactly as he was, helping him in his work, and feeding him from his own food.

The Prophet's ﷺ counsel on the importance of spreading peace and distributing food among people:

"O people, spread peace, feed the hungry, maintain ties of kinship, and pray at night while people are asleep — you will enter Paradise in peace."

The Prophet's ﷺ counsel on the importance of a Muslim refraining from harming others, whether by hand or by tongue, and abandoning all the sins he once committed:

"The Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand other Muslims are safe, and the emigrant (muhajir) is the one who abandons what Allah has forbidden."

The Prophet's ﷺ warning against obscene speech, indecent talk, slandering people's lineage and ancestry, and cursing people:

"The believer is not one who slanders excessively, nor one who curses excessively, nor is he indecent or obscene."

The Prophet's ﷺ counsel on the importance of doing good and giving charity every single day the sun rises. When his Companions asked him how they could give charity every day when they were not able to do so [materially], the Prophet ﷺ told them:

"The gates of good are indeed many: glorifying Allah, praising Him, magnifying Him, and declaring His oneness; enjoining good and forbidding evil; removing something harmful from the road; making the deaf hear and guiding the blind; directing someone in need to what he is seeking; striving with the strength of your legs to help someone in distress calling for aid; and carrying with the strength of your arms on behalf of the weak — all of this is charity that you give on behalf of your own soul."

This means that charity is not only monetary, but every charitable deed that benefits and brings happiness to others — every act of kindness is charity, even smiling at another person's face is charity, and a good word is charity.

The Prophet's ﷺ counsel on the importance of maintaining charities of continuous reward and ongoing benefit — such as spreading knowledge, building schools, homes for the elderly, for orphans, or for the homeless, and digging surface or artesian wells in areas where water is scarce, and the like:

"Among the things that continue to reach the believer after his death, from his deeds and good works, are: knowledge he taught and spread, a righteous child he left behind, a copy of the Qur'an

he bequeathed, a mosque he built, a house he built for the wayfarer, a river he caused to flow, or charity he gave from his wealth during his health and lifetime — all of this reaches him after his death.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ warning against undutifulness to parents, associating partners with Allah, and forgery and falsification in all its forms and shapes — false speech, false testimony, currency counterfeiting, forging certificates, forging confessions, falsifying lineage and ancestry, and forging documents and facts. The Prophet ﷺ said one day to his Companions: "Shall I not inform you of the greatest of the major sins?" They said, "Yes, O Messenger of Allah." He said: "Associating partners with Allah, and undutifulness to parents." He had been reclining, but then he sat up and said: "And beware, false speech and false testimony! Beware, false speech and false testimony!"

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ warning against the seven destructive sins:

“Avoid the seven destructive sins: associating partners with Allah, magic, killing a soul which Allah has forbidden except by right, consuming usury, consuming the property of an orphan, fleeing from the battlefield, and slandering chaste, unwary, believing women.”

The Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ eternal counsel to all Muslims across the world and throughout history:

“Do not envy one another, do not bid against one another [falsely] to raise prices, do not hate one another, do not turn away from one another, and let none of you undercut the sale of another; and be, O servants of Allah, brothers. The Muslim is the brother of the Muslim: he does not wrong him, nor abandon him, nor belittle him. Piety is here” — and he pointed to his chest three times — “It is evil enough for a man to belittle his fellow Muslim. The whole of a Muslim is inviolable to another Muslim: his blood, his wealth, and his honor.”

Islam Prohibits Atheism, Irreligion, and Agnosticism

“And to Allah belong the best names, so invoke Him by them. And leave [the company of] those who practice deviation concerning His names. They will be recompensed for what they have been doing”

— *Qur'an, Al-A'raf 7:180 (Saheeh International)*

Linguistically, *ilhad* (atheism/deviation) means turning away from the path of truth and straying from the course of what is correct. Technically, it means disbelief in Allah, the Exalted, and denial of the existence of the Creator, glorified and exalted is He.

“The most hateful of people to Allah are three: one who commits deviation (ilhad) in the Sanctuary, one who seeks in Islam the practice of the pre-Islamic Age of Ignorance, and one who seeks the blood of a person without right, to shed his blood.”

Faith in Islam, which refutes doubt and atheism, is "that you believe in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, the Last Day, and in divine decree, both its good and its evil." Faith is what settles in the heart and is confirmed by action; faith is affirmation by the heart, declaration by the tongue, and action by the limbs - it increases through obedience and decreases through sin.

If you reflect deeply on the astonishing figures reached by astronomers and advanced observatories regarding the size of this universe — and what remains hidden from them even now, far greater still — you would be stunned by what you read and hear. Our earthly globe, upon whose surface humanity spreads corruption and mischief, save whom your Lord has shown mercy, is but one among 3 trillion — three thousand billion — planets similar to it, whether smaller or larger, within the Milky Way galaxy alone. Our sun, in our solar system, is but one among 200 billion similar suns within our galaxy alone; and our galaxy, in turn, is but one among 2 trillion similar galaxies — pulsars, neutron stars, supernovae, cosmic dust, gravitational forces, light-years, gamma rays, white dwarfs, and black holes, all dying and being born according to a precise balance, some identified and many still invisible, undetected to this day. These are truly awe-inspiring astronomical phenomena and figures that necessitate the existence of a Magnificent Creator of this coherent, harmonious, vast, boundless universe — a Creator who fashions and originates, whose existence is necessary, the One, the Only, the Self-Sufficient Master upon whom all depend, having no partner in His dominion, worshipped at every moment and sought after. And yet, the world has witnessed for some time now the rise of the phenomenon of atheism — the denial of the existence of Allah, the Exalted — alongside the rise of the phenomenon of irreligion, which consists of not recognizing religions, messengers, prophets, and holy scriptures while acknowledging the existence of a Magnificent Creator of the universe who, according to them, does not intervene in the affairs of His creation nor act upon the universe — in addition to the rise of the phenomenon of agnosticism, whose adherents claim that they simply do not know whether Allah, glory be to Him, truly exists or not; whether there is another life after death or not; and whether the holy scriptures, messengers, and prophets are real or merely fantasies and illusions, as they describe it.

Amid all this, the most notorious of atheists, the British philosopher Antony Garrard Newton Flew, known as "Antony Flew" - among the most formidable of atheists, who spent more than 50 consecutive years spreading atheism, theorizing about it, and writing about it - wrote, in 2004, quite unexpectedly late in his life, a ten-chapter book with an appendix that demolished the entire idea of atheism, in which he announced his belief in the existence of a Creator of the universe — a matter that left atheists around the world utterly stunned, a shock from which they have not

recovered to this day. This was in his book titled *There Is a God*, in which he wrote: "The most impressive arguments for the existence of God are those supported by modern scientific discoveries."

The case was no different with the American thinker Ian Markham, who in 2021 authored the book *Against Atheism*, in which he refuted the arguments of atheists, critiquing them scientifically, logically, and objectively.

If we look closely at the biography of the great French philosopher Roger Garaudy, who was an atheist for more than 40 years of his life, but who, after a long journey of irreligion, doubt, and intellectual struggle, embraced Islam and authored numerous books translated into various world languages, the most prominent being *Why I Embraced Islam?*, *Islam Is Our Future*, and *Islam and the Crisis of the West*.

Of his conversion to Islam, he said: "Creation, innovation, construction, the spreading of peace, love, mercy, goodness, and knowledge in Islam are inseparable from wisdom, from faith, and from a good purpose — just as religion is not separated from politics, nor religion from economics, but all form an active unity working toward establishing the law of Allah on earth."

Likewise the English writer and journalist Peter Hitchens, who was a well-known atheist in British cultural circles before he abandoned atheism and authored his book *The Rage Against God: How Atheism Led Me to Faith* in 2010, saying of the secret behind this transformation: "The existence of God is not a mistake in this world, and the presence of religion in a person's life does not poison everything around it" — this in response to the falsehoods, myths, and flimsy philosophies promoted by atheists, particularly what his own brother, Christopher Hitchens, propounded.

Theodore Beale, known as Vox Day, went on to write his book *The Irrational Atheist*, critiquing atheism and responding to atheists in a logical, rational, and scientific manner marked by objectivity, affirming that "those killed as a result of 22 atheist regimes around the world number more than 154 million people," and that it is therefore not logical to place the responsibility for wars and bloodshed on the surface of this planet upon the heavenly religions, because what was committed by those who deviated from them, who falsely disguised themselves in their garb, who hid dishonestly behind their slogans, and who falsely claimed affiliation with them, matches what Jesus Christ, peace be upon him, said when asked about those who wear the garb of righteousness and piety before people to deceive them, while in truth being wicked, corrupt people: "By their fruits you will know them. Do men gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?" The same has been done, throughout history, and worse still, by pagans, totemists, the irreligious, agnostics, atheists, and skeptics — driven by purely human greed and utterly base worldly purposes.

I advise conscious, educated young people to read important and beneficial books on this subject, foremost among them, in my view: A Response to the Most Famous Doubts of Atheists by Dr. Haitham Talaat, The Myth of Atheism by Amr Sharif, Proofs of the Existence of God in the Self, the Mind, and Science by Sami Aamiri, in addition to his other book Atheism Confronting Itself, and The Strongest Proofs by John Lennox, the British mathematician and philosopher of science, as well as A Dialogue with My Atheist Friend by Dr. Mustafa Mahmoud, in addition to his other book My Journey from Doubt to Faith, and likewise the book Atheism by a group of academics and researchers, and the book God Manifests in the Age of Science by a constellation of American scientists on the occasion of the International Year of Planet Earth, under the supervision of Dr. John Clover Monsma — in addition to the methodical, research-based series by Dr. Khalid Faiq Al-Ubaidi: The Weakness of the Seeker and the Sought, He Heals, and Or Do They Not Glorify Him with Praise, and many more that fill the shelves of libraries and crowd the exhibitions of book fairs.

Islam Prohibits Associating Partners with Allah, the Exalted (Shirk)

“And [mention, O Muhammad], when Luqman said to his son while he was instructing him, “O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah. Indeed, association [with Him] is great injustice” — Qur’an, Luqman 31:13 (Saheeh International)

“O young man, I shall teach you some words: Be mindful of Allah, and He will protect you. Be mindful of Allah, and you will find Him before you. If you ask, ask Allah; and if you seek help, seek help from Allah. And know that if the whole nation were to gather together to benefit you with anything, they would not benefit you except with something Allah had already decreed for you; and if they were to gather together to harm you with anything, they would not harm you except with something Allah had already decreed against you. The pens have been lifted, and the pages have dried.”

Upright Islam has commanded us to devote worship, veneration, and sanctification to Allah, the Exalted, alone, to the exclusion of all His creation, and to hold the firm conviction that Allah, the Exalted, is the Creator of the universe and everything in it, and the One who governs its affairs; to believe that Allah has no partner, no equal, no rival, no like, and no similitude, and to declare Him free of every deficiency, injustice, and flaw; that Allah, glory be to Him, is Al-Awwal, before whom there is nothing; Al-Akhir, after whom there is nothing; Al-Batin, beneath whom there is nothing; and az-Zahir, above whom there is nothing; and whatever occurs to your mind, Allah, the Exalted, is beyond that — He is the One, the Only, the Self-Sufficient Master who has taken neither a consort nor a child; He is Ar-Rahman, Ar-Rahim, the Self-Sufficient who enriches others, the Generous, the Provider, the Giver of Life, the Bringer of Death, the One who harms and the One

who benefits, the One who withholds and the One who gives abundantly, the One who raises and the One who lowers, the One who honors and the One who humbles — nothing is like Him, and everything in this universe moves by His knowledge and by His leave; He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.

Islam categorically prohibits the belief in the transmigration of souls (reincarnation), pantheism (the unity of existence), the incarnation of the divine into the human or the union of the human with the divine, or what is known as nirvana. It prohibits the worship and veneration of idols and false gods, planets, stars, and natural phenomena, and the worship of jinn, human beings, cattle, trees, stones, and all other living things and inanimate objects in the air, on land, or at sea — so that worship, obedience, submission, and sanctity are devoted to Allah, the Exalted, alone, without partner, and there is no god rightfully worshipped besides Him.

Thousands upon thousands of new believers have come to grasp the reality of monotheism (tawhid) and to taste its sweetness, after lives filled with the false beliefs of duality, trinitarianism, associationism, and anthropomorphism — and there is nothing after true realization except a returning to the truth. Here is the Swedish-Norwegian priest Leif Sjötn, who served as a priest in the Church of Sweden for more than 30 years, embracing Islam in 2020 and changing his name to Ahmad. The Swedish channel STV featured his story in a documentary titled *The Confession*, according to Euronews, in which he added that "his reading about Islam, and his being moved by the Muslim prayer, the reading of the Qur'an, and fasting, were among the most important reasons that led him to embrace this religion and move to live in Morocco."

For his part, the American priest Hilarion Heagy announced his conversion to Islam in 2023, changing his name to Sa'id Abd Al-Latif, after numerous life transitions and experiences, and following extensive reading, particularly in comparative religious studies, some time after his move from the Antiochian Orthodox Church to the Byzantine Catholic Church.

Here too is the story of the former American priest Joseph Edward Estes, who holds a Master's degree in the Arts and a doctorate in theology, and who studied Hinduism, Judaism, and Buddhism before embracing Islam in 1991, changing his name to Yusuf Estes. He became a preacher lecturing at dozens of centers, institutes, and universities around the world, founded the website *Islam Today*, and tens of thousands have embraced Islam through his efforts. Among his sayings: "Before I embraced Islam, I had no interest in it, but what drew me to it was the behavior of the Muslim person I dealt with, and his elevated character."

The same is true of the South African church pastor of 15 years, Abraham Richmond, who embraced Islam and changed his name to Ibrahim in 2023, along with more than 100,000 followers of his church, before traveling to Mecca to perform the pilgrimage to the Sacred House of Allah.

He appeared deeply moved, weeping spontaneously and fervently as he ascended Mount Al-Nur, before the eyes of millions of viewers in a video clip widely circulated by most media outlets, wearing the white ihram garments he had repeatedly seen in his dreams before his conversion to Islam.

The case was no different with the Christian writer Duraid Matti Butros, who came to know Islam through a college classmate while studying in the Department of Life Sciences at the University of Mosul. He was impressed by this upright religion, particularly regarding what it teaches on embryology, and embraced Islam in 1992, changing his name to Duraid Ibrahim Al-Mosuli. He went on to write his widely acclaimed book *I Gained Muhammad and Did Not Lose Christ*, in addition to authoring several important books devoted to the study, teaching, and facilitation of memorizing the surahs of the Noble Qur'an.

This calls to mind the lectures, debates, and writings of the great Indian preacher Ahmed Deedat, who founded and led the Islamic Propagation Centre International in the city of Durban, South Africa. Among his most important works are *What Does the Bible Say About Muhammad ﷺ?*, *The Qur'an: The Miracle of Miracles*, *Is the Bible God's Word?*, *Why Muhammad ﷺ Is the Greatest*, *The Concept of Worship in Islam*, and *Al-Qur'an: The Ultimate Miracle*, among many others. His debates numbered a total of 235, the most famous being with Reverend Jimmy Swaggart, Reverend Anis Shorrosh, and Reverend Floyd Clark.

Islam Prohibits Disbelief in Allah, the Exalted (Kufr)

“It is He who has made you successors upon the earth. And whoever disbelieves - upon him will be [the consequence of] his disbelief. And the disbelief of the disbelievers does not increase them in the sight of their Lord except in hatred; and the disbelief of the disbelievers does not increase them except in loss”

— *Qur'an, Fatir 35:39 (Saheeh International)*

“There are three qualities for which anyone who is characterised by them will relish the sweetness of faith: he to whom Allah and His Messenger are dearer than all else; he who loves a man for Allah's sake alone; and he who has as great an abhorrence of returning to unbelief after Allah has rescued him from it as he has of being cast into Hell.”

Linguistically, kufr means concealment and covering. Technically, our great scholars have defined kufr as the opposite of faith (iman). Kufr may reside in the heart, on the tongue, or in the limbs, and it takes several forms: the kufr of denial and rejection, the kufr of turning away and arrogance, the kufr of doubt and uncertainty, and the kufr of hypocrisy.

Among the forms of kufr are: denying the resurrection and the afterlife; denying Paradise and Hell; rejecting the messengers and prophets; denying the holy revealed scriptures; rejecting everything known by necessity to be part of the religion; cursing Allah, the Exalted, or verbally impugning His sacred Being, or denying His power, or hating or rejecting Him, denying His divinity or lordship, or mocking His names and attributes. Among the forms of kufr, too, is the veneration of idols, false gods, inanimate objects, planets, stars, and other created things, seeking their blessing, pleading with them to bring benefit or remove harm, and offering sacrifices to them and the like for this purpose, instead of Allah, the Exalted, the Magnificent Creator and Originator of the universe.

The former American priest Kenneth Jenkins says, in his book *Embracing Islam*, explaining the reasons for his conversion to Islam and his change of name to Abdullah Farouk — having previously not recognized Islam as a heavenly religion, nor acknowledged the prophethood of Muhammad ﷺ, nor believed the Noble Qur'an to be a sacred heavenly book: "I read a translation of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an several times, and I found comprehensive answers to my questions, so my admiration for this religion grew until I embraced it, and I developed an overwhelming desire to share my experience with this religion, hoping that its light and blessing might reach those who do not yet know it. As for the decisive moment in my life, it came the day I followed the debates of the Indian-South African preacher Ahmed Deedat with several senior clergymen."

As for the missionary Sue Watson, after obtaining her Master's degree in theology, she began frequenting some Islamic centers for research and study purposes as part of the requirements of her research and general specialization, until she finally announced her conversion to Islam and changed her name to Khadijah. She says of this: "It was natural that my first question would center on the divinity of Allah, and around who Muhammad is — do Muslims pray to him as Christians pray to Jesus? I found satisfying answers to my provocative questions, and I recalled that for the first 300 years of Christianity's existence, bishops taught in accordance with what Muslims believe: that Christ was a prophet and a reformer. I thank Allah, the Exalted, for everything," from the book *How I Embraced Islam?*, pp. 66-68.

And when the member of the International Writers' Union and author of the books *Knowledge, People of the Universe, and God*, the Japanese writer Wali Aura, embraced Islam, she spoke of the reasons for her conversion, saying: "How could I not embrace Islam, having studied it extensively, and found it to be the religion of justice, peace, security, and stability, and become convinced that it is the religion of sound natural disposition, of sound reason, and of upright morals," adding, "How could I not embrace Islam when dozens of prominent Western figures announce their conversion to Islam every day? Islam today is spreading at a rate of 235% in the Western world,

while Christianity spreads at a rate of 47%, and Hinduism at a rate of 17%," quoting from the book *This Is Why I Embraced Islam*, pp. 41-42.

Islam Honors All Messengers and Prophets and Defends Them

"The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying], 'We make no distinction between any of His messengers.' And they say, 'We hear and we obey. [We seek] Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the [final] destination'"

— *Qur'an, Al-Baqarah 2:285 (Saheeh International)*

"The prophets are paternal brothers; their mothers are different, but their religion is one. And I am the closest of people to Jesus, son of Mary..."

This means that all the prophets share one single father, from the Prophet Adam to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and that they are all upon one single religion — Islam, meaning the correct, well-pleasing religion — while their mothers being different is a figure of speech referring to the variation in their detailed laws from one era to another, even as they agreed in their fundamentals.

According to the book *Bada'i Al-Fawa'id*, in explaining the meaning of this hadith, "the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ likened the religion the prophets agreed upon — the creed of the Oneness of Allah — to a single father, since they all shared in it, it being the religion Allah legislated for all His prophets."

The religion of all the prophets is thus Islam, which carries both a specific meaning and a general meaning. The general meaning of Islam signifies submission, surrender, and obedience to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, and worshipping Him alone, without partner; Islam is compliance and sincere devotion to Allah alone, outwardly and inwardly, in accordance with what He legislated through the tongues of His messengers — and in this general sense, all the messengers and prophets were upon Islam. The specific meaning of Islam, however, is the final religion brought by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ — there being no other religion after Islam whatsoever, and no prophet after the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ until the establishment of the Hour.

Among the noble Companions were those who, whenever they recited His saying, "Exalted is your Lord, the Lord of might, above what they describe. And peace upon the messengers. And praise to Allah, Lord of the worlds," would recall what is related in a mursal hadith: "When you send peace upon me, send peace upon the messengers, for I am but one messenger among the messengers."

It is obligatory to love and honor all the messengers and prophets, making no distinction between them, defending them, affirming their messages and their prophethoods, and believing that they are the finest of all creation — while also believing in their relative degrees of excellence among themselves, with the Messengers of Firm Resolve (Ulu Al-'Azm) foremost among them, those who were more patient than the rest and who strove diligently in their calls, being the possessors of resolve, strength, steadfastness, and patience in conveying the message. This is coupled with the belief that the messengers and prophets are infallible in everything they convey from Allah, the Exalted, of His laws — in word, deed, and tacit approval — and infallible from committing major sins, transgressions, and indecencies; their infallibility and being declared free of fault are a divine grace that the Almighty singled out for them specifically. A prophet (nabi) is so called because he holds an elevated, lofty, and praiseworthy station, and because he informs people of the unseen that Allah, the Exalted, has informed him of; a messenger (rasul) is so called because he is commanded to call creation and convey to them the message of his Lord. All of them are trustworthy in their mission, declared free of fault, granted success, confirmed as truthful, and rightly guided. Not every prophet is a messenger, but every messenger is a prophet — this is what our eminent, illustrious scholars have said and affirmed on this matter.

It is true that Muslims are the followers of the Chosen One ﷺ, yet out of their overwhelming love and reverence for the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers, Muhammad ﷺ, it is likewise obligatory upon them to love the Prophet Moses, peace be upon him, and the Prophet Jesus, peace be upon him, and likewise all the rest of the messengers and prophets, and to defend them even if their own followers fall silent or grow lax in doing so. Time and again, following any offensive cartoon, film, or series that mistreats the person of the Lord Jesus, peace be upon him, Muslims have taken an honorable stand to criticize it, playing a substantial part in condemning it, thereby recording an honorable position — first for the sake of Allah, the Exalted, and then, secondly, for the sake of history. I remind everyone of the controversy stirred by Netflix in 2019, when it decided to air the satirical Brazilian film *The First Temptation of Christ* for the Christmas holidays — a film produced by the Brazilian comedy channel Porta dos Fundos, according to Euronews — while more than two million people signed an online petition demanding that Netflix stop airing the offensive film, which sparked wide controversy around the world for its blatant, shameless insult to the Lord Jesus and his mother, the Virgin Mary, peace be upon them both — among other films, series, and stage plays; the prank and hidden-camera show *Gags* devoted numerous episodes to mocking the person and figure of the Lord Jesus, peace be upon him, and mocking nuns and monks.

All of this comes on the doorstep of a phenomenon unique of its kind, currently sweeping through Europe, America, and Britain, known as "neopaganism" — a movement calling for the revival of ancient pagan religions predating the emergence of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The researcher Kaarina Aitamurto pointed to this in her book *Paganism, Tradition and Nationalism*,

representing it through movements such as Rodnovery, Wicca, Raëlism, and Hare Krishna, the Church of Satan, and Gothic subculture, among other movements calling for the revival of what are known as "Indo-European religions" such as Buddhism, Shinto, Jainism, Hinduism, Taoism, totemism, and ancient Scandinavian religion, along with education about what was once known as the god Dionysus, the ancient Greek god of wine, revelry, and ecstasy; the so-called evil Canaanite god who delighted in child sacrifice, Moloch; Venus, or what was once called the goddess of beauty; Cupid, or what was once called the god of love; and likewise what was once called the god of light and the god of darkness, and so on — in addition to reviving the culture of what are called the Knights Templar and the long-vanished Assassins (Hashashin). It is well known that there is no filling before emptying — meaning that if you want to fill a cup with some liquid, you must first empty it of whatever liquid already fills it. By this same logic, and to bring the idea closer to mind, in order for any of these organizations, or others, to revive the long-vanished pagan religions that once prevailed and then perished, they must first diminish the standing of the books, symbols, and sanctities of the living, thriving heavenly religions — which explains the reasons behind the continuous, feverish, and sometimes incomprehensible campaigns to tarnish the reputation of the prophets, messengers, saints, and righteous people, and to attempt to belittle and diminish their standing, on any occasion and none, at every turn.

And since Islam is the only religion on the face of the earth that believes in and defends all the prophets and messengers, and champions their cause, we may conclude from all the above that Islam is the unique savior, the sole way out, and the happy, paved path to reviving virtue, combating vice, and rescuing humanity from the furnace of unconstructive misguidance and error, and from the sweeping, unconscious sexual, social, and collective moral chaos currently engulfing the world from one end to the other.

Islam and the Prohibition of Injustice

“Indeed, Allah does not wrong the people at all, but it is the people who are wronging themselves”
— *Qur'an, Yunus 10:44 (Saheeh International)*

“Beware of injustice, for injustice will be darkness on the Day of Resurrection. And beware of stinginess, for stinginess destroyed those who came before you — it drove them to shed each other's blood and treat as lawful what was forbidden to them.”

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ warned against the danger of injustice in all its types, forms, and shapes, and against violating the rights of others, just as he warned against the danger of miserliness and stinginess, and against withholding material and moral support from others.

The Qur'anic verses prohibiting injustice of every kind are numerous — whether it is a person's injustice in transgressing against his Creator, a person's injustice toward himself, or a person's injustice toward his fellow human being, social injustice, and domestic violence and abuse. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ likewise warned against injustice and its many forms in noble hadiths abundant throughout the pure Prophetic Sunnah, among them his ﷺ saying:

“Beware of the supplication of the wronged, for it rises above the clouds, and Allah says: 'By My might and majesty, I will surely aid you, even if after a while.'”

And his ﷺ saying: "The supplication of the wronged person is answered, even if he is wicked, for his wickedness is upon himself." And the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“Indeed, Allah gives respite to the wrongdoer, until, when He seizes him, He does not let him escape”

— then he ﷺ recited: "And thus is the seizure of your Lord when He seizes the cities while they are committing wrong. Indeed, His seizure is painful and severe."

And his ﷺ saying:

“Whoever has wronged his brother regarding his honor or anything else, let him seek his pardon today, before there comes a day when there will be no dinar and no dirham. If he has good deeds, they will be taken from him in proportion to his wrong; and if he has no good deeds, then the sins of the wronged party will be taken and loaded upon him.”

Among the finest words on this subject are those of the philosopher of freedom, as he is known, Sheikh Abd Al-Rahman Al-Kawakibi, in his widely renowned book *The Nature of Tyranny and the Struggle Against Enslavement*, in which he sums up the entire system of injustice and tyranny, saying: "If tyranny were a man wishing to trace his lineage and claim his descent, he would say: I am evil, my father is injustice, my mother is wrongdoing, my brother is betrayal, my sister is destitution, my uncle is harm, my other uncle is humiliation, my son is poverty, my daughter is unemployment, my clan is ignorance, my homeland is ruin — as for my religion and my honor, they are money, money, money."

Islam Prohibits Ethnic, Nationalist, and Tribal Conflicts

“Then is it the judgement of [the time of] ignorance they desire? But who is better than Allah in judgement for a people who are certain [in faith]”

— *Qur'an, Al-Ma'idah 5:50 (Saheeh International)*

Regarding the forbidden and detestable partisanship of the pre-Islamic Age of Ignorance, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“Whoever is killed under the banner of blind partisanship, championing tribalism or fighting for tribalism, his death is a death of pre-Islamic ignorance (jahiliyyah).”

And regarding tribal partisanship of the pre-Islamic Age of Ignorance, he ﷺ also said: "Leave it be, for it is rotten (foul-smelling)."

Dahis and Al-Ghabra and the War of Al-Basus — a whole series of prolonged tribal wars and conflicts that claimed the lives of thousands of innocents and terrorized their children and women in the days of pre-Islamic ignorance, before the emergence of Islam on the Arabian Peninsula — following the pattern of similar pre-Islamic tribal conflicts and partisanship in every corner of the world, from whose sparks no one was spared, and which are renewed from time to time on every continent, bequeathing buried grudges and deep wounds difficult to heal, especially once they turn into stories, tales, proverbs, and legends interwoven with heritage and folklore that elders take care to narrate and pass down to the young, until they become an exclusionary, vengeful, and aggressive culture, accumulating and taking root — each time its fire dies down for a while, only to flare up again in later periods, and each time the wise manage to extinguish its raging flames, the foolish, the rabble, and outside agitators return to stoke them anew. Many of these conflicts are ignited under the influence of trivial daily issues and problems that reasonable people could resolve in a reconciliation gathering over a meal and some symbolic, goodwill gifts exchanged, instead of resorting to light, medium, and sometimes heavy weapons to resolve them — bequeathing grudge after grudge and vendetta after vendetta for decades to come. Some of these conflicts erupt amid national, ethnic, and tribal struggles to extend influence over grazing and agricultural lands and water sources, or over border crossings, and revenues from oil, gas, gold, and diamonds, and major trade routes, as well as over the interests of foreign companies operating in shared or disputed territories; and some are fought to control the drug trade and smuggling routes, and so on!

There is no doubt that one of the reasons behind the dominance of outdated customs and traditions, and their supremacy over positive laws and heavenly statutes in many countries — particularly in Asia, Africa, Central and South America, and Southern and Eastern Europe — lies in the widespread availability of weapons, and the recourse of many influential figures and their parties to them, particularly during local and parliamentary election campaigns, and their reliance on them whenever troubles beset them and circumstances turn against them, to the point that these customs have become their safe refuge, second only to a second or third nationality, for escaping judicial pursuit and legal accountability. Despite much noise from many of them, and their constant calls to curb national, ethnic, and tribal conflicts and to restrict loose, ideologically-driven, and parallel weapons to the state alone — during press conferences and in front of cameras only — their

factional and practical reliance on nationalism, ethnicity, and tribalism has made them prisoners of its traditions, even where these contradict reason, logic, and religion — a matter that has widened the gap between reality and aspiration, deepened the chasm between statements and actual practice, and encouraged further sweeping chaos and the absence of the rule of law in many regions witnessing such bloody conflicts. What applies to some of these influential figures perhaps extends as well to certain tribal leaders and religious figures, for whom the customs they were nursed on since childhood hold more sway over them than the very religious teachings they themselves learned and now teach to others — such that they refrain from addressing these customs in their sermons and gatherings, out of fear or in pursuit of gain, out of desire or dread, according to whims, circumstances, and events unfolding on the ground!

Islam and the Warning Against the Customs and Festivals of Pre-Islamic Ignorance

“[Remember] when those who disbelieved had put into their hearts chauvinism - the chauvinism of the time of ignorance. But Allah sent down His tranquility upon His Messenger and upon the believers and imposed upon them the word of righteousness, and they were more deserving of it and worthy of it. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing”

— *Qur'an, Al-Fath 48:26 (Saheeh International)*

“There are four things from the affairs of pre-Islamic ignorance (jahiliyyah) that my nation will not abandon: boasting of noble lineage, disparaging others' lineage, seeking rain through the stars, and wailing over the dead.”

It is well known, far and wide, that all nations and peoples across the globe lived, before the emergence of the messengers and prophets among them, with a range of customs, festivals, norms, and traditions — some good, which the messengers and prophets affirmed and preserved, establishing and completing them as noble character traits, and others corrupt, known as the customs...

It is well known, far and wide, that all nations and peoples across the globe lived, before the emergence of the messengers and prophets among them, with a range of customs, festivals, norms, and traditions — some good, which the messengers and prophets affirmed and preserved, establishing and completing them as noble character traits, and others corrupt, known as pre-Islamic customs, against which the messengers and prophets gave the strongest of warnings. In the era of the earlier Age of Ignorance, before the emergence of Islam on the Arabian Peninsula, there were good customs such as generosity, chivalry, manliness, courage, horsemanship, self-respect, pride, and honesty — all of which Islam affirmed, preserved, and encouraged. Opposite these stood bad customs such as indulging in wine, gambling, eating carrion and pork, drinking spilled blood,

burying infant daughters alive, denying women their inheritance, killing young children during times of drought and famine, holding slaves in contempt, marriage by *istibda'* (a pre-Islamic practice for seeking noble offspring), tribal partisanship and clan warfare, taking revenge, worshipping idols and venerating false gods, believing in the influence of the stars, practicing magic, hanging amulets and charms, soothsaying, divining bad omens from birds, and seeking knowledge of the future through divination arrows — and the like of these detestable customs, all of which Islam categorically forbade, warning completely and finally against committing or practicing them.

Today, the entire world, save whom your Lord has shown mercy, lives in a distasteful state of relapse and regression into pre-Islamic ignorance, with the widespread prevalence everywhere of sorcerers, charlatans, fortune-tellers, astrologers, and conjurers. Perhaps what happened in the final of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations, held in Morocco, is the best evidence of this, when football fans and lovers of the green rectangle everywhere became preoccupied with the towel of Senegal's goalkeeper, claiming it carried a charm of African sorcery, in addition to the practice of voodoo, juju, and *atumokpo* rituals — claiming these were the main reason behind Morocco's defeat and Senegal's victory and their winning of the championship cup!!

This was preceded by controversy stirred over the supposedly bewitched towel of Nigeria's goalkeeper in the semi-final match of the same tournament between Morocco and Nigeria, as well as the accusation by Nigeria's national team technical director against the players of the Democratic Republic of Congo's national team of "practicing sorcery" during the match between the two teams in the final of the African qualifying playoff for the 2026 World Cup!!

Given how strongly the press, and the public of players, coaches, and fans alike, are affected by these false beliefs, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) has been forced to intervene since 2008 "to prevent the use of sorcery in football matches"!

The disaster is that everything happening in African football has its counterparts in Latin American football, and sometimes in European football as well. The Uruguayan novelist Eduardo Galeano elaborated at length on the wonders of these rituals, customs, and norms in his widely renowned book *Football in Sun and Shadow*, explaining how talismans and charms have come to be used to secure a team's victory or bring about its defeat, becoming, in effect, a custom within the empire of football!!

Amid superstitions, outdated customs, and legends sweeping the world through the effect of cyberspace and social media platforms, on the back of the cross-pollination — or globalization — of various "ignorances," we come across the custom known as "crackling wild rue," burning it after mixing it with salt just before sunset, claiming it wards off envy and the evil eye — a pagan

Greek custom. Wild rue actually contains chemical substances that, when burned, help increase the secretion of dopamine in the brain, producing a feeling of relaxation, which is why it is used in treating Parkinson's patients, relieving pain, and treating epilepsy and headaches, in addition to repelling harmful pests and insects — and this may be among the reasons behind its association with spirituality and the warding off of evil spirits, according to their limited understanding!

As for the horseshoe that charlatans recommend hanging above the doors of houses, this too is a pagan Greek and Roman custom, claimed to have the power to ward off demons. The first to transmit it into Christianity was a blacksmith who later became Archbishop of Canterbury in 959 CE, after claiming that a demon had come to him disguised as a human, whom he punished with the horseshoe. The horseshoe is also linked to the massacres committed by the Spanish against Muslims in the Iberian Peninsula, when they directed non-Muslims to hang a horseshoe — resembling a crescent — to distinguish non-Muslims from Muslims, with the aim of exterminating them or forcibly converting them to Christianity, until most people came to hold the firm belief that whoever hangs the horseshoe wards off certain death and looming evil from himself and his family, and vice versa!

The blue evil-eye bead, meant to ward off envy, is likewise a pagan Pharaonic custom, representing the eye of the so-called god Horus, meant to ward off evil spirits; it is also a pagan custom among the Phoenicians, representing what was known as the moon god. As for the reasons behind its blue color, this is attributed either to the color of the sky, or to the color of the eyes of the Romans who colonized and subjugated Eastern peoples, such that those peoples came to see the blue color of their conquerors' eyes as a symbol of evil; the color blue also carried, for the ancients, a symbolic power capable of restraining evil, according to their falsehoods!

The custom of jumping over infants to ward off evil, and smashing cups and ceramic plates to bring good fortune, is originally a Pharaonic custom, from a time when the priest would recite magical incantations over a patient laid before him, with a piece of pottery placed beside him, the purpose being to trap the evil spirit causing the illness inside it, should it leave the patient's body — whereupon the priest would immediately smash it to kill the evil trapped within it, as he claimed. For this reason, there is a common custom in the Middle East that, upon the sound of glass, pottery, or ceramic pieces shattering, someone will involuntarily exclaim the moment they hear the sound, "The evil has gone!" or "Away with the evil!" Other examples include pessimism associated with owls and black cats, viewing seagulls as omens of misfortune, throwing cinnamon on unmarried people to hasten their marriage, the "Pepper Birthday" for the same purpose, and superstition surrounding the number 13, or triskaidekaphobia, particularly when this number falls on a Friday — most restaurants, airports, and five-star hotels have no gates or rooms numbered 13 for this reason, a phenomenon known psychologically as paraskevidekatriaphobia, based on the claim that the one who betrayed and informed on the Lord Jesus was one among the 13 people

seated at the dinner table. On Friday, 27 Rajab 583 AH, corresponding to 2 October 1187 CE, Saladin Al-Ayyubi liberated Jerusalem after 90 years of Crusader control over it.

Halloween, on October 31, originally a pagan festival for the gathering of spirits and their return to earth. Likewise, Valentine's Day, on February 14, which was originally a pagan festival celebrating the so-called god of love, Cupid, son of the goddess of beauty, Venus, as they claimed — who carries an arrow that never strikes a heart without causing it to fall in love, as in ancient Roman mythology. This illusory holiday, promoted by merchants for decades to reap fantastical profits from selling teddy bears, hearts, red roses, various accessories, and sweets, and holding private and public parties and festivals for the occasion, generates as much as 18.2 billion dollars in the United States alone. This is a holiday during which every kind of vice and immorality proliferates, beginning with sexual harassment, drugs, and alcohol, and ending with rape — to the point that a group of American youths invented a holiday on the following day, February 15, calling it "Singles Awareness Day," in protest against the excess, extravagance, and elevated rates of depression and suicide that occur during Valentine's Day, particularly among those who find neither love nor a beloved on that day, along with divorce rates rising to astronomical figures in the days that follow!!

The Day of the Dead, or the festival of the dead and skeletons, is originally a pagan festival borrowed from Aztec civilization, when they used to celebrate what was known as the Lady of the Dead of the underworld, before the Catholic Church Christianized it — part of the Christianization of most or all of the ancient pagan festivals, so that pagans would not find the emergence of Christianity objectionable or burdensome during its early spread in ancient times, and so that they would not grieve over the loss of the customs, rituals, traditions, and festivals they had inherited from their fathers and forefathers, which might stir resentment against the new religion. To avoid controversy, the Church resorted to inventing a legend revolving around Christian saints associated with each pagan festival that was Christianized — so Halloween became "All Saints' Day," and the pagan Roman festival of Valentine became the feast of Saint Valentine, who is said to have sanctioned the marriage of soldiers in defiance of the Roman emperor Claudius II's decree banning soldiers from marrying during wartime, before the supposed Valentine was imprisoned and fell in love with the blind daughter of his jailer, whose sight he managed to restore, before being executed by beheading. Manuscript investigation experts Alban Butler and Francis revealed that February 14 of every year has been turned into an annual holiday since 496 CE, with the aim of Christianizing the pagan Roman dating festival known as "Lupercalia," which was held on that very date!!

Holi, the festival of colors, held every March, is originally a pagan festival borrowed from the Hindu religion, tracing back to the legend of the god Krishna, who is said to have complained about the darkness of his skin compared to his brother's lighter complexion, whereupon his mother,

the goddess, as the legend claims, suggested that he throw colors on his brother's face so that they would look alike in appearance!!

"Umm Sab' Uyun" (Mother of Seven Eyes), to ward off evils — another legend concerning a haggard old female jinn called "Umm Al-Sibyan," whom the Prophet of Allah Solomon, may he be far removed from any such association, is said to have imprisoned, extracting seven pledges from her, on behalf of the jinn, not to interfere with...

"Umm Sab' Uyun" (colloquially, "the Seven-Eyed One" — "Umm" in this dialectal construction means "possessor of," not literal motherhood), to ward off evils — another legend concerning a haggard old female jinn called "Umm Al-Sibyan," whom the Prophet of Allah Solomon, may he be far removed from any such association, is said to have imprisoned, extracting from her seven pledges, on behalf of the jinn, not to approach human beings, should the amulet be hung in their homes!

The lies of sorcerers do not stop at what we have already mentioned, but extend to two further falsehoods that are the most widespread among the credulous: the first is the "hoopoe bone," and the second is "al-sawahili limp," or what is locally known as "araj suwayhili." We have often heard even educated people, upon being struck by the courage of a general manager who fears neither his superiors nor his subordinates, or who is admired by women for the strength of his character, perhaps his good looks, and his possession of an alpha or gamma personality, claim that he carries the "Swahili bead" or "limp," or a "hoopoe bone" — surrounded by indescribable lies about these two charms that violate religious law and defy both reason and logic. Between one charlatan spreading nonsense on YouTube claiming that a hoopoe's tail is useful for undoing a woman's binding spell (against marriage), another claiming that a hoopoe's wing binds men's tongues, another fabricating that a hoopoe bone brings love, and yet another under the delusion that "al-Swahili" is extracted from the desert or sea hedgehog, when it is in fact extracted from "the hindquarters of the female armored hedgehog" that lives in the desert, after her first pregnancy, inside the burrow where she gives birth — the charlatans claim it has the power to draw back a beloved due to its supposed electromagnetic force capable of shattering glass, so that the price of a genuine one can reach a million dollars, while a fake one sells for a few hundred. The same holds true for what is known as "gazelle blood," manufactured from anemone flowers, which have a narcotic effect, and which some have ignorantly gone so far as to cultivate in public gardens and median strips for decorative purposes!!

As for the rest of the moral crimes, social corruption, and religious violations committed by sorcerers — writing Qur'anic verses with filth, using locks, animal remains, and the bones of the dead, using victims' undergarments and locks of their hair to write charms and bury them in graveyards, writing them upon filth, meaning practicing vice with those seeking sorcery, most of

whom are women, deceiving the gullible by selling them gemstones — most of them fake — while claiming supernatural powers for every stone and color, and claiming the ability to locate missing and absent persons, or to bring loved ones together or drive them apart — I will not go into this for fear of prolonging the discussion, except to cite the ruling of Islamic law on sorcerers, astrologers, and charlatans:

Allah, the Exalted, said regarding the prohibition and hideousness of sorcery:

“And the people learn what harms them and does not benefit them. But the Children of Israel certainly knew that whoever purchased the magic would not have in the Hereafter any share. And wretched is that for which they sold themselves, if they only knew”

— *Qur'an, Al-Baqarah 2:102 (Saheeh International)*

And his ﷺ saying:

“He is not one of us who seeks an omen or has an omen sought for him, or who practices divination or has divination practiced for him, or who practices magic or has magic practiced for him; and whoever goes to a fortune-teller and believes what he says has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad ﷺ.”

And his ﷺ saying:

“Whoever acquires any portion of astrology has acquired a portion of magic, and it increases the more he pursues it.”

As for the backward tribal and clan customs that violate the heavenly religions and positive laws alike, there is much to say — perhaps the most prominent being what is known as "tribal nahwa," which means preventing a woman from marrying anyone other than her paternal cousin, under the banner "a paternal uncle's daughter is for a paternal uncle's son" — otherwise, any man who proposes to her must be prepared to bring his own funeral shroud with him, and perhaps hers as well. Some men "forbid" their paternal cousin from marrying even while already married themselves, simply to exercise the prohibition for the sake of humiliating her and her family, and this prohibition often ends either in unequal marriages, or in murder or suicide — if only those who impose such prohibitions knew that endogamy, or marriage between close relatives, is the primary cause behind the prevalence of mental illness and the high numbers of the mentally disabled among them, including patients with Down syndrome, dwarfism, in addition to thalassemia (Mediterranean anemia), sickle-cell anemia, liver and kidney diseases, epilepsy, vitiligo, stunted growth, as well as what are known as metabolic disorders, and the phenomenon of effeminacy in men and masculinization in women. Whoever wishes may listen to the weighty revelation made by the Egyptian pioneer of genetics, Professor Samia Al-Tamtami, in an earlier press interview with the scientific magazine *Scientific American*, in which she revealed that

"marriage between close relatives is a significant cause of false male effeminacy, false female masculinization, and premature menopause!" I would say: if those who impose such prohibitions knew that all these social and health catastrophes are the result of marriages between relatives, they might well refrain from imposing them and abandon them completely and finally — and whoever feels safe from punishment misbehaves.

Among the detestable tribal and clan customs is also what is known as "kussa bi-kussa marriage," or legally, "exchange marriage," or religiously, "shighar marriage," which involves a man proposing to a woman whose dowry is his sister or daughter, given in exchange to the brother or father of the bride instead of a monetary dowry. If the first husband divorces his wife, his sister or daughter is immediately divorced as well, even if she is in complete harmony with her own husband. It has been related from the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, that he forbade shighar marriage, saying: "Shighar is when a man says: Marry me your daughter, and I will marry you my daughter, or marry me your sister, and I will marry you my sister." This invalid type of marriage contract has caused the destruction and fragmentation of hundreds of families.

Among the tribal and clan customs that violate both religious law and civil law is also what is known as "fasliyya women," or "blood-money marriage," or "blood marriage," in which a woman is given as compensation to the victim's family to appease them and settle a dispute between two clans — this marriage violates both religious law and civil law.

Among tribal and clan traditions is also what is known as "jalwa," practiced at moments of "blood heat," which involves forcing the perpetrator's relatives to leave the area along with all his kin until the victim's family is appeased and the dispute is settled tribally. Among the customs that have caused hundreds of casualties, dead and wounded, is what is known as "tribal 'aradah," a phenomenon in which large numbers of tribesmen gather, chanting war cries, raising banners, and firing guns randomly and intensively with various types of light, medium, and sometimes heavy weapons, at funerals and weddings.

There is another phenomenon even more dangerous among these customs — the phenomenon of exaggerated "fusul" (tribal mediation fees), which has become, for some who claim tribal leadership and sheikhdom — and there are so many of them — a steady source of income, to the point that some of them fabricate incidents and plan them in a scenario resembling Bollywood films, in order to reap unlawful money...

...to reap unlawful money and mediate disputes whose mediation fees and blood-money settlements sometimes reach into the billions.

Everyone must bear responsibility, defer to reason, religious law, and civil law, cast aside anything that conflicts with them, and confiscate every kind of loose, parallel, or ideologically-driven

weapon, restricting arms to the state alone. The executive, legislative, and judicial authorities must activate the laws that guarantee citizens' protection and their rights from anything that would tamper with them — otherwise the world is heading toward a deep abyss, as we hear daily in the news bulletins of random gunfire and horrifying massacres committed in schools, universities, markets, and public places, claiming the lives of thousands of innocents every year.

Islam Is the Religion of Chastity and Purity

“O you who have believed, when you rise to [perform] prayer, wash your faces and your forearms to the elbows and wipe over your heads and wash your feet to the ankles. And if you are in a state of janabah, then purify yourselves. But if you are ill or on a journey or one of you comes from the place of relieving himself or you have contacted women and do not find water, then seek clean earth and wipe over your faces and hands with it. Allah does not intend to make difficulty for you, but He intends to purify you and complete His favor upon you that you may be grateful”

— *Qur'an, Al-Ma'idah 5:6 (Saheeh International)*

And this is the Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ call to cleanliness and purity:

“Ten things are part of the fitrah (natural human disposition): trimming the mustache, letting the beard grow, using the tooth-stick (siwak), rinsing the nose with water, clipping the nails, washing the finger joints, plucking the armpit hair, shaving the pubic hair, and cleansing oneself with water after using the toilet.”

Islam is thus the religion of purity and cleanliness, encompassing the cleanliness of bodies, clothing, homes, mosques, places of prayer, and everything in a Muslim's life and surroundings, free of dirt and grime. Ablution (wudu) is required before every prayer; a full ritual bath (ghusl) is required after major ritual impurity, and on Fridays; the hands must be washed before and after eating, and after leaving the restroom; the tooth-stick (siwak) is used to clean the mouth, equivalent to a toothbrush; ritual bathing and purification are required following menstruation, postpartum bleeding, and irregular vaginal bleeding; cleansing with water after urination and defecation is required for cleanliness; and household waste must be removed and disposed of in designated places.

Islam and Sport

Islam has called for the preservation of the health of minds, hearts, and bodies, and for maintaining physical fitness and bodily strength. On this, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“The strong believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weak believer, though there is good in both.”

Among the sports that were common among Muslims are eight that correspond to their international and Olympic counterparts widely practiced today: running competitions, horsemanship and horseback riding, swimming, fencing, walking, archery, wrestling, and hunting.

How numerous are the world athletes and Olympic champions who have embraced Islam, one after another, across different sports! Among them, to give but a few examples and not an exhaustive list: the star of Spain's FC Barcelona, the French player Éric Abidal, who embraced Islam in 2007 and changed his name to Bilal; and his counterpart Paul Pogba, star of England's Manchester United and Italy's Juventus, who contributed to crowning his national team, France, with the 2018 World Cup held in the Russian Federation, and who had embraced Islam in 2010, saying of his conversion: "There were many questions running through my mind that I couldn't find answers to, but after embracing Islam I became calmer and more at peace psychologically."

Following in their footsteps, the Brazilian Muay Thai world champion Taj Rueda embraced Islam in 2022, saying: "Yes, I lost the championship title, but I gained Islam!"

Likewise, the German athlete Danny Blum, player for Nuremberg, who announced his conversion to Islam in 2014, saying of his conversion: "I felt that Islam gives me strength and grants me hope, and prayer calms my soul. I recently visited a mosque and felt my heart pounding, and I wanted to know more about this religion... I used to be a bad person, quick to anger, and without purpose, but now things are completely different, and I feel that my life has real meaning and value."

The foremost expert in Japanese karate, and the fourth-ranked master worldwide in the first decade of the third millennium, the Buddhist Hideko Okamoto, who was considered one of the most prominent karate instructors in the Middle East, embraced Islam and changed his name to Ahmad Kamal Okamoto. He said, in one of the many interviews conducted with him before his death in 2009: "I admire the spirit of community that prevails in all the conduct of Muslims, in their prayer, in their pilgrimage, and in their fasting," adding, "I found in Islam what I had been seeking — a call to mercy and tolerance, and a rejection of hatred, mutual animosity, and racism, all of which are Muslim traits instilled in them by their religion, whereas in the past I had found nothing before me in all of life's conduct but individualism."

We passed, during our journey, by a station brimming with faith — that of the professional German boxer Pierre Vogel, who fought 66 matches for the Sauerland Event boxing stable, and who announced his conversion to Islam in 2001, changing his name to Abu Hamza Salah Al-Din, before going on to study Islamic law. Thousands have embraced Islam through him in Germany, to the point that he became known as "Germany's Preacher," owing to his distinctive, engaging, modern style that appeals to young people of every background, particularly Generation Z and Generation Alpha.

The Russian-American jiu-jitsu and mixed martial arts fighter Jeff Monson announced his conversion to Islam in Moscow in 2024, while the Russian channel Match TV reported in 2025 that Baltika Kaliningrad midfielder Daniil Utkin had embraced Islam. That same year, media outlets widely reported that the Dutch player Quincy Promes had also embraced Islam, commenting on his conversion: "It is an attempt to change the course of my life after a series of legal problems!"

The French coach who led Senegal's national team to the quarterfinals of the 2002 World Cup, jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan, Bruno Metsu, announced his conversion to Islam in 2006 and changed his name to Karim Metsu. Metsu went on to coach Al Ain of the UAE, Al Gharafa of Qatar, and Ittihad Jeddah of Saudi Arabia, in addition to the national football teams of the UAE and South Korea.

Likewise, the star of the French national football team and Germany's Bayern Munich, Franck Henry Pierre Ribéry, who embraced Islam in 2006 and changed his name to Bilal Yusuf Muhammad, and who was known among football fans for reciting Surat Al-Fatihah before every match he played.

Following in their footsteps, the legend...

Following in their footsteps, the Dutch football legend Clarence Seedorf, winner of the Champions League title with Ajax Amsterdam in 1995, Real Madrid in 1998, and AC Milan in both 2003 and 2007, embraced Islam in 2022.

So too did basketball star Ferdinand Lewis Alcindor Jr., who played professionally in the NBA, particularly with the Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Lakers, and who embraced Islam in 1971, changing his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. He won numerous prestigious international awards and says of his conversion to Islam: "I learned about Islam when I was a student at UCLA, and I was deeply affected by the stories of Black suffering in America. I read Malcolm X's autobiography and how he struggled against Western society's role in excluding Black people and supporting racism."

The case was no different with French football star Frédéric Kanouté, star of Sevilla FC in Spain's La Liga, who embraced Islam and changed his name to Omar Kanouté in 1999, and who made major contributions to charitable and humanitarian causes in keeping with Islamic teachings that urge good works, charity, and giving.

There is no doubt that the list of champion athletes who have embraced Islam is very long, headed by three-time heavyweight boxing world champion Mike Tyson, who announced his conversion to Islam in 1992 and changed his name to Malik Abdul Aziz. During one of his two journeys to

the Holy Land — the first in 2010 and the second in 2022 — he stood before the grave of the noble Messenger ﷺ with tears streaming down his cheeks, saying of that blessed moment: "I will never forget, as long as I live, that moment when I felt a state of inner calm I had never felt before, and I still remember standing in the presence of the noble Prophet ﷺ and my prayer in the noble Rawdah."

He was preceded in this by the American world boxing champion Cassius Marcellus Clay, three-time winner of the heavyweight world championship, in 1964, 1974, and 1978, who had embraced Islam in 1964 and changed his name to Muhammad Ali Clay. He was named "Athlete of the Century" twice, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005.

Clay says of his conversion to Islam: "In 1964, I learned for the first time that the Prophet Muhammad is the Seal of the Prophets, that Jesus, peace be upon him, is one of Allah's prophets, and that the Qur'an is the complete revelation that has preserved itself intact, so I learned to pray and fast and began calling people to Islam, until more than two million Americans embraced Islam through me."

Among his sayings: "The eagle does not fold its wings so long as there remain peaks it has not yet reached... I float like a butterfly and sting like a bee... The strong are not always those who win — they are those who never give up when they lose."

Islam Prohibits and Warns Against the Danger of Alcohol and Drugs

"Satan only wants to cause between you animosity and hatred through intoxicants and gambling and to avert you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. So will you not desist"

— Qur'an, Al-Ma'idah 5:91 (Saheeh International)

"Every intoxicant is khamr (wine), and every intoxicant is forbidden. He who drinks wine in this world and dies while he is addicted to it, not having repented, will not be given a drink in the Hereafter."

And the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

"If a large amount of anything causes intoxication, a small amount of it is prohibited."

The World Health Organization, in its 2025 report, revealed that the number of drug and psychoactive substance users reached 316 million people in a single year alone, equivalent to 6% of the population aged 15 to 64, warning of the imminent danger drugs pose to security, safety, development, and the international environment, and the drain they place on the gross domestic product of many countries due to expenditures related to healthcare, crime, lost productivity, and the spread of mental illness, criminal offenses, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, and cardiovascular

disease caused by drug addiction and abuse — noting that 64 million people suffer from disorders resulting from the use of destructive synthetic or natural drugs.

As for the catastrophe of alcohol in its various forms, the World Health Organization revealed in 2024 that "alcohol is responsible for nearly one in every 20 deaths worldwide, equivalent to 2.6 million people dying annually because of alcohol," due to horrific traffic accidents caused by intoxication, as well as mental illness, psychological disorders, and chronic organic diseases caused by alcohol consumption, along with the heinous crimes of every kind committed under its influence.

The British scholar Devi Sridhar, a professor at the University of Oxford, previously called, in an article published in the renowned British journal *Nature*, for "the World Health Organization to take urgent action to curb alcohol misuse, which kills two million five hundred thousand people annually," noting that "the number of deaths from alcohol exceeds the combined number of victims of AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, and there must be a binding international agreement to curb alcohol misuse, as it has become the greatest threat to human life in middle-income countries, where about half of the world's population lives!!"

Islam Prohibits and Warns Against Gambling in All Its Forms

"O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters [to other than Allah], and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful"

— *Qur'an, Al-Ma'idah 5:90 (Saheeh International)*

"Whoever among you swears an oath and says in his oath, "By Al-Lat and Al-Uzza," should say, "None has the right to be worshipped but Allah"; and whoever says to his friend, "Come, let me gamble with you," should give something in charity."

Here the Prophet ﷺ paired the veneration of idols and swearing by them — among the gravest of major sins — with the playing of gambling games, on account of its immense danger and far-reaching effects, stressing that even one who merely says to his companion, "Come, let me gamble with you," has committed a sin requiring repentance. What then of one who actually gambles, squandering all his money, his salary, and whatever he borrows — sometimes at exorbitant interest?

Psychological studies have concluded that so-called gambling disorder, or compulsive gambling, leads — in addition to enormous financial losses, declining occupational performance and productivity, divorce, family breakdown, domestic violence, and the laundering of dirty money at green gambling tables, roulette wheels, and slot machines — to bankruptcy, permanent

indebtedness at usurious interest rates that cannot be repaid, and sometimes embezzlement and theft in order to keep gambling and offset severe financial losses and pay off accumulated debts, along with acute episodes of depression, drug abuse, heavy drinking, in addition to taking sedative medication, and sometimes an overwhelming desire for suicide, or its actual attempt, to escape the psychological pressures and burdens of debt...

...along with the heavy burden of accumulated debt.

A report published by the world-renowned medical journal The Lancet in 2024 revealed that "gambling is harmful to mental and physical health, particularly following the explosive spread of gambling games and their advertisements across the internet, electronic games, and mobile phones," affirming that "80 million people currently suffer from a mental disorder called gambling disorder, along with the domestic violence, suicide, crimes against persons and public property, job loss, and legal violations that this disorder brings in its wake."

A scientific study conducted by researchers at the University of Bristol in Britain in 2025, published in the journal Addiction, found that gamblers face a suicide risk three times greater than others just one year after beginning to gamble, with the risk quadrupling after four years.

Islam Prohibits Bribery

“And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly or send it [in bribery] to the rulers in order that [they might aid] you [to] consume a portion of the wealth of the people in sin, while you know [it is unlawful]”

— *Qur'an, Al-Baqarah 2:188 (Saheeh International)*

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ cursed "the one who offers a bribe and the one who accepts it."

Bribery is one of the most dangerous moral, social, and economic scourges, destructive to societies and nations. Bribery causes the absence of standards of integrity, the loss of trust between people, the betrayal of professional and occupational trust, the spread of forgery, fabrication, and embezzlement, the theft of others' efforts, and the loss of the rights of the diligent, the successful, and the hardworking.

Islam Prohibits Usury (Riba)

“O you who have believed, fear Allah and give up what remains [due to you] of interest, if you should be believers”

— *Qur'an, Al-Baqarah 2:278 (Saheeh International)*

The Prophet ﷺ cursed:

“The one who consumes usury, the one who pays it, the one who witnesses it, and the one who records it.”

Islam has prohibited usury in all its forms because of the way it exploits people's urgent needs, increases poverty rates, deepens unemployment, spreads social injustice, entrenches class division, stirs hatred and animosity among members of the same society, drives up prices, and erodes the spirit of cooperation and mutual compassion among people — in addition to burdening debtors for the benefit of creditors, and their inability, sometimes for many years, to repay even the principal debt because of the accumulation of annual interest, which leads to the imprisonment of many debtors, the loss of their jobs, the destruction of their families, the confiscation or seizure of the property and assets of others among them, or their exploitation in acts contrary to morals and decency in exchange for a debt they cannot repay because of usury. Perhaps Shakespeare's famous play *The Merchant of Venice* summed up an important dimension of the scourges and inhumanity of usury throughout history, embodied in its usurious merchant, Shylock.

For this reason, nations wishing to live in peace, preserving their peoples, sovereignty, security, and independence, generally avoid taking usurious loans as much as possible, while many of them resort to lowering interest rates, or setting them to zero, in order to stimulate domestic construction, industry, and investment plans.

The French economist Maurice Allais, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1988, had previously proposed, with the aim of restoring balance and easing the severity of global financial crises, "adjusting the interest rate to near zero, and revising the tax rate to close to 2%," adding that "many concepts have led to the widespread reputation of the capitalist system as one that permits monopoly, gambling, the enslavement of people, or a distortion in wealth distribution and its concentration in the hands of a small group of businessmen and feudal lords, leading to the impoverishment of peoples and, ultimately, the domination of creditors over debtors."

On this, many heads of state, including those of major industrial nations, have repeatedly called for lowering the interest rate to 1%, or setting it to zero, in order to stimulate the domestic market and avert a rapid economic collapse, for fear of a crisis similar to the Great Depression of 1929–1939, or the 2008 crisis caused by accumulated debts, against the backdrop of high usurious bank interest rates that led to bank bankruptcies when debtors were unable to repay them amid inflation and rising costs.

The global economic expert Peter Schiff, chief economist at Europac, warned of potential global banking crises resulting from banks being burdened with long-term, low-interest debt.

It is well known that raising usurious interest rates on loans while lowering bond prices usually leads to contraction, while lowering usurious interest on them leads to inflation, and interest must be set to zero in order to live in peace, far from the hammer of contraction and the anvil of inflation, adopting what is known as the policy of "gharm bil-ghunm" (liability commensurate with gain), or profit-and-loss sharing, embodied in mudarabah (speculative partnership), istisna' (commissioned manufacturing), murabahah (cost-plus financing), musharakah (partnership), and ijarah (leasing), in addition to adopting "qard hasan" (a benevolent, interest-free loan), and activating the collection and management of zakat funds, developing charitable endowment (waqf) investments and almsgiving, supporting the public sector — particularly in health, transportation, education, and services — in addition to encouraging the mixed sector.

The author of the famous book Rich Dad Poor Dad, economic expert Robert Kiyosaki, recently warned of the danger of global banks going bankrupt and depositors losing their paper-currency savings after the Federal Reserve raised interest rates, placing banks under severe strain while the global economy deteriorates daily amid the central banks' battle against inflation — advising everyone on the necessity of "staying away from collapsing banks, withdrawing money from them, and protecting their wealth by investing in real assets such as precious metals like gold and silver."

Islam Prohibits Looking at What Is Forbidden

"Tell the believing men to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts. That is purer for them. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what they do"

— *Qur'an, An-Nur 24:30 (Saheeh International)*

"Beware of sitting on the roads." They said, "There is no way out of it, as these are our sitting places where we talk." He said, "If you must sit there, then observe the rights of the way." They asked, "What are the rights of the way?" He said, "They are the lowering of your gazes, refraining from harming people, returning greetings, advocating good, and forbidding evil.""

Allow me here to present some of the latest scientific studies and social and psychological research I have gathered for you regarding the dangers of addiction to pornographic websites, which, through their effect of constant arousal, leads to the commission of tens of millions of sex crimes that make the body shudder and turn a child's hair white with horror, drawn from reliable sources. Today, mental health and private life suffer catastrophic effects as a result of the alarming engagement with pornographic films, according to the Russian agency Sputnik.

The American psychologist Professor William Struthers adds that "the body secretes dopamine while watching these degrading films — the very same substance that causes drug addiction," warning of the danger of immoral films because they cause, in addition to addiction, what is known

as "porn-induced impotence," which leads to arousal occurring only virtually while disappearing entirely, or growing cold, in reality.

The University of Antwerp in Belgium, as reported in the journal *Cyberpsychology*, which deals with the psychology of cyberspace, reveals a close association between exposure to immoral material on social media and deviant behavior in reality.

For its part, Germany's Max Planck Institute in Berlin revealed a negative link between watching such films and the right side of the brain, as well as the functions of the prefrontal cortex responsible for thinking, planning, carrying out tasks, speech, and emotional control.

The case was no different with Canada's Laval University, where a study by neuroscientist Rachel Anne Barr revealed that people addicted to "pornographic material" suffer damage to the cerebral cortex responsible for morality, willpower, and impulse control.

In his book *Wired for Intimacy*, Dr. William Struthers revealed that addiction to pornographic films, in short, leads to psychological and mental illnesses, in addition to feelings of depression, withdrawal, and anxiety, issuing a similar warning about the danger of watching these films and their role in weakening willpower and the cingulate cortex responsible for moral and behavioral decisions, and in producing chemical changes in the brain similar to the changes that occur in those addicted to alcohol and drugs!!

It suffices to mention here, according to a statistic I recently came across, that "pornographic websites have caused a 300% increase in marital infidelity around the world," and that the number of views on the content broadcast by a single pornographic website, in the single year 2016 alone, exceeded 4.5 billion hours of viewing — the danger of which lies in promoting pedophilia, necrophilia, zoophilia, sadism, masochism, feminism [as fetishized], Satanism, paraphilia, fetishism, and cynophilia — all of which are serious neurotic and psychotic disorders promoted through what is known as bedroom literature, red rooms, and dark alleys, for some time now. What is urgently needed today is to launch and nurture a literature of virtue to counter this literature of vice, one that works to instill values, ideals, lofty principles, and good character in the hearts of all people, provided this literature does not lack elements of dazzle, suspense, and a well-crafted plot, narrative, conflict, resolution, and substance, without excess or deficiency.

The rates of these dangerous conditions have risen with the emergence of the internet and the absence of oversight, as noted in the British documentary *The Effect of Pornography on the Mind*, which I recommend watching on YouTube. There is no doubt that the solution lies in continuous awareness campaigns, blocking, regulation, and institutional and centralized banning of offending websites. If intentions are sincere and efforts are combined, all of this, or most of it, could curb the viewing of 90% of dark web and deep web sites, at least according to software experts — provided

the measures are official and legal, and come as part of a single, coordinated framework alongside guidance campaigns, awareness lessons, sermons, pulpit speeches, educational curricula, and facilitating and encouraging marriage while lowering dowries — beginning first with the family, with the participation of visual, audio, and print media, in addition to the institutions of education, health, communications, and culture, but far removed from ideologization and politicization.

The Prohibition of Instinctual Chaos and Sexual Licentiousness

“And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way”

— *Qur'an, Al-Isra 17:32 (Saheeh International)*

The Prophet ﷺ warned of the dangers of unlawful sex in all its forms, outside the sacred bond of marriage:

“The adulterer does not commit adultery while he is a believer.”

And when he ﷺ was asked which sin is greatest before Allah, he said:

“That you set up a rival to Allah, when He created you; that you kill your child for fear that he will eat with you; and that you commit adultery with your neighbor's wife.”

And the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“There are three whom Allah would neither speak to on the Day of Resurrection, nor purify, nor even look at — a painful punishment awaits them: the aged adulterer, the lying ruler, and the arrogant poor man.”

Humanity today lives amid instinctual chaos and a sexual globalization that has overrun virtue and reason, with no restraint and no deterrent — a bestial contagion crossing continents and borders, in whose evils, mires, and stagnant swamps the entire world has drowned, resulting in hundreds of millions of cases of divorce, marital infidelity, incest crimes, rape, and sexual extortion, the spread of the phenomenon of children of unknown parentage, the emergence of organ-trafficking and human-trafficking gangs, along with the rampant spread of covert and overt prostitution — and the sexual empire of Jeffrey Epstein, which offered its services to the obscenely wealthy among us, is not so distant a memory — in addition to 73 million cases of deliberate abortion occurring annually, equivalent to 200 abortions a day, according to the World Health Organization, which dropped another heavyweight revelation when it disclosed that "one million cases of sexually transmitted infection occur daily around the world, led by syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomoniasis, and the deadly disease of AIDS."

Global health experts reveal that "AIDS, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted diseases continue to pose major public health challenges, causing the deaths of 2.5 million people annually."

The World Health Organization adds that "sexual promiscuity is a serious source of various neurological diseases, cardiovascular disease, infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and fetal death, in addition to increasing the risk of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS — to the point that syphilis alone leads to 200,000 stillbirths and newborn deaths per year worldwide."

Perhaps the greatest sexual catastrophe battering humanity, threatening its moral, social, health, economic, and security systems, lies in the fact that unlawful sex is no longer confined, as it traditionally was throughout history — save for deviant and anomalous cases occurring here and there — to relations between a man and a woman. Bestiality in all its repulsive forms and shapes has become widespread, driven by more than 22 million pornographic websites encompassing harassment, rape, homosexuality, and sa...

...driven by more than 22 million pornographic websites encompassing harassment, rape, homosexuality, sadism, masochism, necrophilia, pedophilia, zoophilia, voyeurism, fetishism, and various other paraphilic disorders, in addition to doll and animation-based sex, virtual sex, surrogate motherhood, sperm and egg banks, the spread of the phenomenon of unmarried teenage mothers, male effeminacy and female masculinization, and the spread of what has come to be known as a "third sex" and a "fourth sex" — conditions that psychologists had previously classified as rare, serious neurotic and psychotic disorders, before they swept across the entire world from one end to the other, confirming to everyone that "upright Islam, with its exalted teachings, refined morals, and eternal values, is the one and only solution for reviving virtue, in the face of the hurricane of vice sweeping the surface of this planet."

In conclusion, we say: the Most Noble Prophet ﷺ was sent with the eternal message of Islam for no purpose other than to devote sanctity and servitude to Allah, the Exalted, alone; to perfect noble character; as a mercy to the worlds; to bring benefit and ward off harm from all humanity; and to preserve the five essentials without which human life cannot possibly function: the preservation of religion, life, intellect, lineage, and wealth.

Allah, the Exalted, created the angels with reason and stripped them of instincts, while He created the rest of His creatures with instincts but without reason, so that the human being alone would be uniquely endowed with both reason and instinct together. Whoever, therefore, allows his reason to prevail over his instincts will rise to the rank of the angels, whereas whoever allows his instincts to prevail over his reason will descend and sink to the level of beasts and dumb animals. Desire must be rationalized and humanized, as upright Islam does, so that life may function properly and

lineage be preserved across the globe — rather than reason being subjected to desire, as most secular systems around the world do, for purposes and aims that sometimes intersect and sometimes align, threatening entire nationalities, ethnicities, and peoples with extinction after a severe drop in fertility rates among them, for both sexes, resulting in a decline in birth rates, a scarcity of marriage and childbearing, against a rise in divorce and separation — exactly as is currently happening in the Scandinavian countries, Japan, South Korea, Canada, the Russian Federation, Australia, and most European countries, both Western and Eastern.

Islam Urges People to Wear Modest Clothing

“O Prophet, tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to bring down over themselves [part] of their outer garments. That is more suitable that they will be known and not be abused. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful”

— *Qur'an, Al-Ahzab 33:59 (Saheeh International)*

The Prophet ﷺ forbade men from imitating women and from wearing women's clothing, just as he forbade women from imitating men and wearing men's clothing, while calling on both to maintain the purity and cleanliness of their clothing, since performing the prayer five times a day requires the purity of both undergarments and outer garments.

Men are forbidden to wear gold and silk, and their clothing must not be for the sake of pride, arrogance, or conceit, nor resemble the clothing of miscreants and deviants, nor the clothing distinctive to other religions, such as the garb of priests, monks, rabbis, clergy, bishops, cardinals, Shaolin masters, Sikhs, Hindus, and the like.

As for women's clothing, it must be loose and ample, neither tight nor revealing, and must cover the woman's entire body except for the face and hands, without displaying her charms or resembling men's clothing or the special folkloric, traditional, or religious clothing distinctive to women of other faiths and sects, such as the clothing of nuns, Mormon women, Amish women, Hindu women, Buddhist women, geisha girls, and others; nor should it be a garment of notoriety that makes a woman a target of people's mockery, bullying, and disapproval, nor should it be perfumed or scented with incense.

The Harms of Tight Clothing

Nutrition specialist Michelle Rauch reveals to the website Healthline that tight clothing — which has recently become widespread among both sexes — can aggravate digestive disorders such as acid reflux, irritable bowel syndrome, and Crohn's disease, and increases pressure on the stomach

and intestines, causing heartburn and discomfort, and leading over time to esophageal inflammation.

The American website Bright Side has revealed that "tight pants lead to skin irritation, while providing a warm, moist environment that helps bacteria grow."

The website Sehaty adds that tight clothing for men and women affects fertility levels, leads to inflammation of the uterine lining, changes in blood pressure, and sometimes infertility or reduced fertility and impaired egg production in women; as for its effect on men, it involves damage to sperm and the cells that produce them, pressure on the bladder, and contributing to the proliferation of dangerous bacteria.

I conclude with what the Swiss scholar of comparative religion, Dr. Nora Illi, daughter of the famous Swiss physician Elia Fischbacher, said — she who embraced Islam and adopted the hijab, and through whom dozens of Western women have embraced Islam, saying proudly of her hijab: "Before I wore the hijab, young men treated me as a commodity, and nothing attracted them to me but my body. After I wore it, they began treating me as a woman."

Islam and the Prohibition of Suicide

"O you who have believed, do not consume one another's wealth unjustly but only [in lawful] business by mutual consent. And do not kill yourselves [or one another]. Indeed, Allah is to you ever Merciful"

— *Qur'an, An-Nisa 4:29 (Saheeh International)*

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ warned of the grave consequences of suicide:

"Whoever kills himself with something in this world will be punished with it on the Day of Resurrection."

According to a 2024 United Nations report, more than 720,000 people around the world end their own lives by suicide every year, with each completed suicide matched by several attempts, some of which are thwarted in their final moments — the report affirming that suicide is the third leading cause of death for people aged 15 to 29.

As for the causes of suicide by various methods — the most recent, though certainly not the last, being the suicide of the famous American TikToker Tucker Genal, who had more than 2.5 million followers on TikTok, in his home in Los Angeles at the age of 31 — they are numerous. Some occur under the influence of alcohol or drugs; some take their own lives because of accumulated usurious debt they cannot repay; some because of devastating losses at gambling tables; some are influenced by deviant satanic movements that encourage suicide; some take their lives due to

unemployment, bullying, or engagement with suspicious electronic games that entice their players toward suicide; and some take their lives because of ideological afflictions, suffering from various neurotic or psychotic illnesses, or against the backdrop of failed love stories, or because of threats and...

...or against the backdrop of failed love stories, or because of threats, extortion, and certain psychological pressures. There are also deliberate murders that perpetrators succeed, for a period long or short, in disguising as voluntary suicides.

Islam Prohibits Sorcery, Soothsaying, Charlatanism, and Quackery

“And throw what is in your right hand; it will swallow up what they have crafted. What they have crafted is but the trick of a magician, and the magician will not succeed wherever he is”

— *Qur'an, Ta-Ha 20:69 (Saheeh International)*

“Whoever goes to a fortune-teller and believes what he says has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad.”

And his ﷺ saying:

“He is not one of us who seeks an omen or has an omen sought for him, or who practices divination or has divination practiced for him, or who practices magic or has magic practiced for him; and whoever goes to a fortune-teller and believes what he says has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad ﷺ.”

And his ﷺ saying:

“Whoever acquires any portion of astrology has acquired a portion of magic, and it increases the more he pursues it.”

Despite humanity's descent, save whom your Lord has shown mercy, into individualistic thinking and materialistic tendencies in this age of technology and artificial intelligence, acts of quackery, along with celestial sorcery (associated with planets and stars) and terrestrial sorcery (associated with herbs and gemstones, as well as human and animal remains, organs, secretions, blood, and poisons), remain widespread across various parts of the world, particularly in Asia, Africa, South America, and some countries of aging Europe. Tens of millions of the inhabitants of these continents still venerate the sorcerer, believe him, and turn to him as an intermediary to contact hidden powers, summon the spirits of ancestors, learn details of their lives and future prospects, or ward off envy, the evil eye, harm, illness, and poverty, and drive away evil spirits from themselves — in exchange for bringing health, good fortune, favorable omens, benefit, provision, and blessing to them, as they claim, and in exchange for inflicting harm upon their enemies and

rivals. All of this occurs through strange rituals accompanied by plant offerings, animal sacrifices, and sometimes human ones, alongside the spread of false beliefs such as the worship of Santa Muerte, mud sorcery, the blind witch, red moon rituals, Colombian sorcery, Haitian sorcery, Latin Amazonian sorcery, and likewise crocodile sorcery and African voodoo, as well as shaman sorcery in the countries of the Far East, in addition to Indian sorcery and others.

Two years ago, the Digital Media Center (DMC) expressed its strong displeasure at Facebook's approval of advertisements promoting pages that advertise sorcery and market quackery and irrational practices associated with it, noting that it had monitored dozens of advertisements on Facebook, and to a lesser extent on Instagram, some of which included "irrational" clips of people claiming to be a "spiritual guide" or "healer" performing acts that exceed the bounds of science, reason, logic, and religion, and that the platform must reconsider such advertisements before their content appears before millions of users!

We should note that there is a vast difference between astronomy and astrology, which sorcerers and soothsayers resort to. The well-known planetary scientist Dr. Essam Heggy, who worked as a researcher at the French Space Agency (CNES) and then as an assistant professor at the University of Paris, before moving to work at NASA, the American space research agency, says of belief in horoscopes and the reading of fortunes and destinies based on star positions, which are widely circulated at the beginning of each Gregorian year: "As a researcher specializing in space and planetary sciences for 25 years, there is no such thing as horoscopes, and planets, stars, and distant galaxies have no connection to your mundane daily life, your hesitant personal decisions, or your recurring emotional mistakes. Your fortune in the new year is the lessons you learned in the year that preceded it, and nothing else."

For his part, the head of the astronomy department at the Egyptian National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics, Dr. Ashraf Tadros, affirmed in an earlier statement that "astrology has no connection whatsoever to science; it is a matter left to chance, which may or may not occur in the first place, and this necessarily conflicts with science, which does not accept matters open to this kind of interpretation and speculation."

Many newspapers, radio stations, and satellite channels have long worked to increase their follower counts by publishing the quatrains of the French astrologer Nostradamus, which he included in his book *The Prophecies* 450 years ago, comprising 932 poetic quatrains, each made up of four lines — nothing but an illusion and deception sold to whoever believes and buys into it. The same holds true for citing the prophecies of the blind Bulgarian seer Baba Vanga, and likewise citing a clip from the animated series *The Simpsons*, claiming that one of its 500 episodes, aired across 27 seasons over the years since 1989 by American cartoonist Matt Groening, supposedly predicted some event many years before it occurred!

In 1985, the scientist Shawn Carlson of the University of California, Berkeley, in coordination with the leading association of astrologers in America, scientifically tested astrology and concluded that the astrologer arrives at his conclusions purely by chance, and that there is no astrological art whatsoever. Astrologers were unable to object to the research findings, despite their publication in the renowned scientific journal *Nature*.

The American National Enquirer then compiled a large collection of predictions to study and test their credibility, arriving at a definitive conclusion that astrology is pure fabrication that cannot withstand scientific facts, as only four predictions out of hundreds proved successful — a probability far too slim to establish as a scientific method.

The British Society for Psychical Research conducted a scientific test to verify the truth of future predictions, concluding that those claiming to predict the future were unable to know the future and did not succeed in determining fortune and destiny, even by mere guesswork.

In Italy, a parliamentary committee announced the existence of more than 100 Satanist lodges in the country, whose members practice astrology and divination — prompting the Vatican's university to organize courses since 2005 to prepare theology students psychologically and academically to curb the phenomenon of divination and astrology and the intellectually, psychologically, and morally deviant sects that follow from them.

We note that all fraudulent, disreputable sects, and all deviant esoteric movements around the world, have a close connection to acts of sorcery, astrology, soothsaying, amulets, and semiotics (the study of signs and symbols), as well as sexual promiscuity and addiction to alcohol and drugs, along with certain ancient relics, obscure books, and fictitious shrines — typically using these as a starting point to mislead, deceive, and entrap young people. Foremost among them is the "Peoples Temple" cult, founded by the American preacher afflicted with paranoia and persecution complex, Jim Jones, which ended in the largest mass suicide in history, of 913 members of the cult in a single hour, in.....the town of Jonestown, an agricultural settlement in the Republic of Guyana, in November 1978, among them dozens of children, adolescents, and young people, by drinking cyanide dissolved in juice!

Following in their footsteps came misguided groups and dubious, deceptive sects such as Raëlism, Heaven's Gate, Satanism, Scientology, Wicca, Gothic subculture, and the Order of Nine Angles, among many others — the common thread among all of them being the practice of hybrid rituals and acts of sorcery, divination, and quackery, and their claims of contact with inhabitants of other planets, or beings from a parallel world, mirroring stories, novels, and films about jinn, ghosts, and horror, and the Hobbit, Harry Potter, zombie, Dracula, and werewolf film franchises, along with the myths of Area 51, alleged to be a meeting point for extraterrestrial beings, flying saucers, and

unidentified aerial phenomena — each of these groups drawing inspiration for its blasphemous claims and nightmarish delusions from the other, in turn!

As for the legal complication, it lies in the fact that most civil laws treat acts of sorcery, astrology, and quackery generally as "falling under crimes of fraudulent practices for wrongfully stealing people's money," while other laws treat them as mere traps for the gullible, holding that the law does not protect the gullible — except in cases where they lead to murder, suicide, death, or permanent disability, in which case the law intervenes only in favor of the victims!!

Bearing in mind that all of the above has nothing to do with what are called sleight-of-hand tricks, loosely termed "magic tricks," which are not sorcery at all, but merely entertainment acts on theater stages and within circus performances, relying on dexterity, a spirit of playfulness and humor, quick wit, sleight of hand, and certain assisting costumes, tools, and equipment.

The Prohibition of Astrology and Reading Horoscopes and Fortunes

“Say, “None in the heavens and earth knows the unseen except Allah, and they do not perceive when they will be resurrected”

— *Qur'an, An-Naml 27:65 (Saheeh International)*

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ warned against believing fortune-tellers and astrologers:

“Whoever goes to a fortune-teller and asks him about something and believes him, his prayer will not be accepted for forty days.”

Even though astrology still rests on the ancient Ptolemaic principle that places the earth at the center of the universe, astrologers have continued to rely on these flawed foundations in understanding the world and reading fortunes — prompting scholars at Stanford University to propose publishing a warning in the horoscope section similar to the warning against the dangers of smoking!

Astrologers, along with fortune-tellers and tarot card readers, have continued to deceive people and wrongfully consume their money, relying on charts that do not correspond to people's actual birth dates, since they have kept the zodiac unchanged for 19 centuries, even though the actual positions of the constellations are constantly shifting. As a result, the zodiac signs astrologers rely upon are simply wrong. Astrology has no connection to science whatsoever; it is a matter left entirely to chance, which may or may not occur at all, and the planets, stars, and distant galaxies have no bearing on our daily lives or our personal decisions. As the famous Turkish astrologer Deniser Coner revealed in a shocking statement to all his followers on CNN Türk in late 2020 —

he who had specialized in preparing horoscope columns for some Turkish daily newspapers since 2015 — affirming that "daily horoscopes were a collection of lies!!"

We note that a distinction must be drawn between scientific astronomers and "astrologers," since the two disciplines diverged from one another long ago. Scientific astronomers have consistently warned against the danger of believing fortune-tellers and astrologers and trusting them, particularly at the start of each Gregorian year, when predictions about the events of the new year proliferate — most of them based on guesswork, conjecture, and economic, health, political, and military extrapolation to anticipate future events, rather than being predictions in the literal sense of the term. The first discipline is a lofty, rigorous science specializing in the study of cosmic physics, space dynamics, atmospheric observation and solar winds, stellar and astronomical geology, and the motion of planets, galaxies, black holes, and outer space, along with related sciences, while the second discipline is confined solely to acts of sorcery, quackery, and charlatanism, under the claim that planets influence people's fortunes on earth.

Islam Prohibits the Abuse and Worship of Animals

“And there is no creature on [or within] the earth or bird that flies with its wings except [that they are] communities like you. We have not neglected in the Register a thing. Then unto their Lord they will be gathered”

— *Qur'an, Al-An'am 6:38 (Saheeh International)*

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ forbade branding an animal's face, since it is the location of its beauty, and forbade overburdening it beyond its capacity, torturing it, starving it, depriving it of water, abusing it, or forcefully dragging it to slaughter, or slaughtering it with a dull knife, or slaughtering its fellow animals before it, in its sight and hearing, in a way that terrifies and frightens it. Animals must be treated with humanity, mercy, and nobility. He also forbade "inciting animals against one another," meaning provoking them against each other for the purpose of betting, gambling, entertainment, and amusement — what is known today as bloody animal fighting rings, the most famous being cockfighting, particularly in Southeast Asian countries, as well as bullfighting in Spain, Portugal, Mexico, the countries of Latin America, and southern France, and likewise ram fighting, and the pitting of different dog breeds against one another, in addition to dog-versus-bear and dog-versus-wolf fights, widespread around the world, accompanied by these brutal, bloody confrontations with financial betting, annual competitions broadcast live, illegal animal smuggling operations, suicide, violence, and organized crime gangs that manage these championships, collect their bets, and launder their money — while humanitarian organizations, along with animal rights associations, work hard to ban this hideous, inhumane type of fighting.

On the other hand, there are nations and peoples who have sanctified and worshipped animals, and some still do so to this day. If one looks closely into the reasons for the sanctification and worship of animals in Pharaonic, Babylonian, African, Indian, and Chinese civilizations, and among the Inca, Aztec, Moche, and Native American peoples, one would discover, over time, that some sanctified animals believing that the souls of ancestors dwell within them during their endless cycle, known as the transmigration of souls, according to the principle of karma, or requital, as Hindus believe — for if these souls belonged to righteous people, they would, after death, dwell within gentle animals...

If these souls belonged to righteous people, they would, after death, dwell within gentle animals and would later be resurrected in a human body that rises upward within the caste system; and if they belonged to wicked people, they would dwell within vicious animals, and one of these would later be resurrected in a human body that descends downward within the caste system (Hindus divide humans into four castes: Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras — the last caste is not even permitted to enter temples, marry into other castes, or find employment except under extremely complicated conditions). There is no way out of this eternal cycle except through nirvana, or annihilation into the deity itself, as they describe it — achieved through bodily mortification among Hindus, and the resistance of desires among Buddhists.

Some firmly believed that creatures are messages from the gods to humanity, either to help them or to punish them, and so they assigned each of their gods a corresponding animal according to their beliefs, to which they offered vows and sacrifices. Others believed that the gods partially or fully incarnated into animal bodies, and so sanctified them; still others believed they were descended from this or that animal, and so sanctified it and took it as their god. Each of these sanctified creatures had its own rituals, symbols, monuments, priests, and temples, to the point that the mythology, inscriptions, and relics of peoples are nearly saturated with the sanctification of animals — until the Beloved Physician ﷺ was sent as a mercy to the worlds, changing the equation and turning it upside down, bringing humanity out of the worship of idols and idol-worshippers into the worship of the Magnificent Creator, Lord of His servants. At the same time, he regulated the relationship between humans and animals through a lofty ethical and humane framework 1,447 years ago that has astonished minds ever since, preceding animal rights organizations by many long centuries — a relationship of mutual benefit, not one of worship and sanctification, nor one of insult and desecration. The Noble Qur'an gives us examples all revolving around animals, to the point that entire surahs were named after them: The Elephant, The Cow, The Spider, The Bee, The Ant. Perhaps the wisdom behind Allah's command that Ishmael be ransomed with a great ram was to abolish the custom of offering human sacrifices to idols and false gods, many of which were symbolized by an animal — for some peoples of the region sanctified the ram; the Pharaohs, for instance, sanctified it and made it a symbol of what was called the god Amun. Allah, the Exalted,

commanded the Children of Israel to slaughter a cow in order to abolish the phenomenon of cow sanctification, since the cow symbolized the goddesses known as Isis and Hathor, a practice that later passed to the Greeks and Romans; and some of them worshipped the calf, influenced by this sanctification, during the absence of our master Moses, peace be upon him, after the Samaritan had deceived them — while the worship and sanctification of cows, monkeys, elephants, snakes, and rats remains ongoing in India to this day, embraced by a billion Hindus, if we exclude the Muslims, Christians, and adherents of other religions and sects from its total population.

Returning to the noble verse with which we opened this discussion, it becomes clear to us that "these creatures are but communities like us — deserving neither veneration and sanctification on the one hand, nor insult and desecration on the other" — striking a balance in the relationship between the two sides, without excess or neglect. This is precisely what the Most Noble Prophet ﷺ embodied in numerous teachings, among them his ﷺ saying:

"While a man was walking, he became extremely thirsty, so he went down into a well and drank from it. When he came out, he saw a dog panting, eating the moist earth out of severe thirst. He said, 'This dog has reached the same state I was in.' So he filled his shoe with water, held it in his mouth, climbed out, and gave the dog to drink. Allah appreciated his deed and forgave him." They said, "O Messenger of Allah, is there truly a reward for us in [caring for] animals?" He said, "In every living creature there is a reward."

And his ﷺ saying:

"A woman entered the Fire because of a cat she had confined, neither feeding it nor letting it eat from the vermin of the earth."

He ﷺ said to his Companions, after they had taken two chicks of a bird resembling a sparrow from its nest, "Who has distressed this bird by taking her chicks? Return her chicks to her." And he ﷺ said to a man who was starving his camel, "Do you not fear Allah regarding this animal that Allah has placed in your possession? It has complained to me that you starve it and overwork it" — meaning exhausting it with labor without adequate food and water. And he ﷺ said, upon seeing people who had burned an anthill, "Who burned this? It is not fitting for anyone but the Lord of Fire to punish with fire."

And he ﷺ said:

"A prostitute woman saw a dog on a hot day circling a well, its tongue hanging out from thirst, so she drew water for it with her shoe, and she was forgiven for that."

And he ﷺ forbade confining animals as targets for killing by shooting or the like. And he ﷺ forbade taking any living creature as a target to be shot with arrows, stones, or anything else, saying, "Do

not take anything that has a soul as a target." And he ﷺ said, "There is no person who kills a sparrow or anything larger than it without right, except that Allah, the Exalted, will question him about it." It was said, "O Messenger of Allah, and what is its right?" He said, "That he slaughter it and eat it, and not cut off its head and throw it away." And he ﷺ commanded excellence in the slaughtering of animals: "When you slaughter, do it well; let each of you sharpen his blade and let him spare suffering to the animal he slaughters." And much more besides.

It is related in a mursal hadith that the Prophet ﷺ, while the army was marching, and his eyes fell upon a female dog nursing her puppies on the road, ordered one of his Companions to stand beside her to protect her, so that the horses' hooves would not trample her without their riders' knowledge.

How well Ahmad Shawqi put it in his ode of praise:

O Ahmad of goodness, I take pride in bearing your name... how could one not be exalted by sharing the Messenger's name?

Those who praise, and the devoted lovers, all follow... the bearer of the fragrant mantle, the man of noble standing

Islam and Halal Food

"Prohibited to you are dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and that which has been dedicated to other than Allah, and [those animals] killed by strangling or by a violent blow or by a head-long fall or by the goring of horns, and those from which a wild animal has eaten, except what you [are able to] slaughter [before its death], and those which are sacrificed on stone altars, and [prohibited is] that you seek decision through divining arrows. That is grave disobedience. This day those who disbelieve have despaired of [defeating] your religion; so fear them not, but fear Me. This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion. But whoever is forced by severe hunger with no inclination to sin - then indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful"

— *Qur'an, Al-Ma'idah 5:3 (Saheeh International)*

The Noble Qur'an forbade the drinking of blood, the consumption of the meat of animals that die naturally, and the meat of animals not slaughtered in the religiously prescribed manner (i.e. non-halal meat), as well as the meat of animals sacrificed to other than Allah, the Exalted, as offerings to idols and false gods and the like. It forbade the consumption of pork, and the meat of any animal that died by strangulation, by being beaten, by falling from a height, by being gored, or from a wound inflicted by the fang of a predatory animal.

The Prophet ﷺ forbade eating any fanged predator and any bird with talons — animals known as carnivores that even the living...

...living animals themselves — carnivorous animals — refrain from preying upon and eating their carcasses, given the countless worms, parasites, and lethal bacteria that invade their flesh and entrails and course through their blood, foremost among them trichinosis.

As for drinking blood, it results in fatal diseases, not least of which are viral hepatitis and heart disorders, and not least among them liver cancer, diabetes, arthritis, and glandular disorders.

Humanity had long practiced the drinking of spilled blood, believing it possessed healing properties, while some drank the blood of gladiators after their deaths in the fighting arenas for this purpose, others out of spite toward their enemies and to further humiliate them after battles, others in the belief that drinking their adversaries' blood would strip them of their strength and empower their enemies over them, and others to quench thirst in the desert and in areas where water is scarce — until magnificent Islam came and prohibited this permanently, only for scientific studies later to reveal that blood is highly toxic and contains an enormous number of pathogens, and that drinking it when spilled transmits countless deadly diseases.

As for pork, it contains numerous parasites and worms that are not eliminated by cooking. A study published in 2024 in the journal *The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*, drawing on data from 31 previous scientific studies, revealed that "eating a pork sandwich daily can increase the risk of type 2 diabetes by 15%."

This was preceded by another scientific study published in 2009 in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, which revealed a close association between eating pork and liver cirrhosis, due to its high content of polyunsaturated fats.

Meanwhile, a number of scientists in the United Kingdom have called for bacon and pork products to be required to carry warning labels similar to those on cigarette packs, indicating that "the chemicals used in these meats cause colon cancer."

The German newspaper *Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung*, published by the Federal Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition, revealed in 2018, in the words of its director Hans-Christoph Eiden, that "the average individual's consumption of pork had declined across Germany in 2017," with consumption of this type of meat dropping over ten years from 40.5 to 35.8 kilograms, against a rise in demand for beef and poultry.

On this, Dr. Gordon Amadio, a neurosurgeon at Del Sutton Medical Center, confirmed that "the worms known as pork tapeworm lay larval eggs in the bodies of pigs, and after being consumed by humans, they hatch in their intestines and continue their life cycle until laying their eggs in the human body, which then develop into larvae inside fluid-filled cysts that migrate throughout the body!!"

The World Health Organization had previously offered 22 golden pieces of advice for avoiding infection during pandemics that sweep the world from time to time, among the most prominent being the following advice: "sick or dead animals must not be eaten" — precisely what the Noble Qur'anic verse forbade eating.

It should be noted that the concept of “halal food” in Islam is broad and is not limited to the food itself being free from prohibited substances. It also encompasses the legitimacy of the source of the money used to obtain it. Thus, from this perspective, food cannot be considered halal if it is purchased with money obtained through usury, gambling, bribery, the sale of prohibited goods, theft, fraud, deception, embezzlement, extortion, or forgery, breach of trust, false oaths, shortchanging in weights and measures, and the proceeds of drugs, alcohol, smuggling, prostitution, human trafficking, and the like. Indeed, Islam has made "halal food" a primary condition for the acceptance of supplication, while forbidden food, by contrast, stands as a barrier preventing a person's supplication from being answered. On this, the Prophet ﷺ gave the example of "the man who, after a long journey, disheveled and covered in dust, raises his hands to the sky saying, 'O Lord, O Lord,' while his food is unlawful, his clothing is unlawful, and he was nourished on what is unlawful — so how could he be answered?"

Islam Warns Against Suspicion, Spying, Backbiting, and Slander

“O you who have believed, avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Accepting of repentance and Merciful”
— Qur'an, Al-Hujurat 49:12 (Saheeh International)

“Beware of suspicion, for suspicion is the most deceptive kind of talk.”

Islam forbade harboring ill assumptions about others in general, forbade spying and secretly observing others without their knowledge, and forbade speaking about people behind their backs in ways that would displease them. It likewise forbade slander — the carrying of talk between people in a way that stirs discord, hatred, and enmity among them.

Some jurists have summarized the circumstances in which backbiting is permissible: to lift an injustice, to warn against an impending harm, to identify something, to report on open sinners, and to give testimony in the halls of just courts:

*Blame is not backbiting in six cases... one who is wronged, one identifying, one warning
One exposing open sin, one seeking a ruling... and one seeking help in removing wrongdoing*

Islam Warns Against Mocking Others and Calling Them Offensive Nicknames

“O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers”

— *Qur'an, Al-Hujurat 49:11 (Saheeh International)*

“There is to be no harming of others, and no retaliating with harm.”

Islam forbade — 1,400 years before all the statements of international health organizations, academic studies, and international research and psychological centers — mocking others and ridiculing them, or belittling their appearance, their color, their build, their lineage and ancestry, their ethnicity and nationality, their names and nicknames, their occupations, their social standing, or their illnesses and disabilities. It also warned against attaching offensive labels and descriptions (tall–short, fat–thin, white–black, red–yellow, etc.), unless the description or reference is meant purely for identification and not for the purpose of mockery — what is known today as bullying.

According to the website Psychology in Arabic, the World Health Organization (WHO) has issued numerous reports revealing that nearly a third of adolescents worldwide have been exposed to some form of bullying, making it a public health crisis rather than merely an individual problem, adding that "bullying takes several forms — physical bullying, verbal bullying, social bullying, and cyberbullying — leading victims to suffer from withdrawal, anxiety, depression, sadness, and loss...

...suffering from withdrawal, anxiety, depression, sadness, loss of interest, lack of self-confidence, and feelings of inferiority, and sometimes resorting to sedatives or narcotic substances, or perhaps even suicide."

Islam Warns Against Murder, Theft, Betrayal, and Slander

“O Prophet, when the believing women come to you pledging to you that they will not associate anything with Allah, nor will they steal, nor will they commit unlawful sexual intercourse, nor will they kill their children, nor will they bring forth a slander they have invented between their arms and legs, nor will they disobey you in what is right - then accept their pledge and ask forgiveness for them of Allah. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful”

— *Qur'an, Al-Mumtahanah 60:12 (Saheeh International)*

“Pledge to me that you will not associate anything with Allah, will not steal, will not commit adultery, will not kill your children, will not utter slander invented from your own accord, and will not disobey me in what is right. Whoever among you fulfills this pledge, his reward will be with Allah. And whoever commits any of these sins and receives punishment for it in this world, that punishment will serve as expiation. And whoever commits any of these sins and Allah conceals it for him, his affair rests with Allah: if He wills, He will forgive him, and if He wills, He will punish him.”

Slander (buhtan), in brief, is every hideous, repugnant, and vile word, act, or deed — one that stuns and shocks all who hear or witness it — foremost among its forms being lying, falsely accusing others, false speech, false testimony, theft, and casting aspersions on the chastity of unwary, believing women, along with backbiting, slander-mongering, and unlawful sex.

Islam Warns Against Arrogance, Insolence, and Conceit

“And do not walk upon the earth exultantly. Indeed, you will never tear the earth [apart], and you will never reach the mountains in height”

— *Qur'an, Al-Isra 17:37 (Saheeh International)*

“No one with even an atom's weight of arrogance in his heart will enter Paradise. A man said, 'But what if a person simply likes his clothes and shoes to look nice?' He replied: Allah is beautiful and loves beauty. Arrogance means rejecting the truth out of pride, and looking down on other people.”

"Looking down on other people" means being arrogant toward them, belittling them, and regarding them with condescension and superiority.

How beautiful it is for a person to be humble, to lower his wing to others, and to yield to the voice of truth when it reaches his ears, rather than turning away from it or stopping his ears out of pride and evasion — even if he is wealthy or a famous person. Here is the former British world boxing champion Chris Eubank, who, as recorded in the book *This Is Why I Embraced Islam*, read a translated copy of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an into English and felt tremendous tranquility and peace, deciding to openly declare his conversion to Islam. He did so during the Isha prayer at a mosque in London during the month of Ramadan, and the worshippers, overjoyed, asked him to give the call to prayer in his honor. He did so and changed his name to Hamdan, adding: "After that, the worshippers grew accustomed to hearing my voice giving the call to prayer, and my life changed thanks to the Noble Qur'an."

Here too is the British engineer Arthur Allison, who served as president of the British Society for Psychical Research and head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the

University of London. He embraced Islam and changed his name to Abdullah Allison, after listening closely, with his whole being, to the voice of truth and submitting to it without arrogance or condescension. In a speech he delivered at the Cairo International Conference convened to discuss scientific and medical facts within the Noble Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunnah, as recorded in the series Stories of Famous Converts, episode 21, he said: "I declared before everyone that Islam is the religion of truth and the religion of natural human disposition, and in those moments I heard the takbir of the Muslims around me rising, and I saw the tears of some of them streaming down in joy and faith in the power of Allah... I became certain that the scientific facts within Islam are the best path for da'wah, particularly for those who appeal to science and reason."

Islam Encourages Marriage and Childbearing

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought"

— Qur'an, Ar-Rum 30:21 (Saheeh International)

Allah, the Exalted, commanded Muslims to marry in order to preserve human lineage, populate the earth, and form the righteous family, which is the nucleus of a virtuous society — in addition to the role of marriage in lowering the gaze and protecting one's chastity from falling into sin and forbidden acts.

On this, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

"Young men, whichever of you is able to marry should do so — it helps guard the eyes and protect one's chastity. And whoever cannot should fast, for fasting curbs desire."

When word reached the Prophet ﷺ one day that three men had resolved to adopt monasticism — and there is no monasticism in Islam — resolving to fast without ever breaking their fast, to pray without ever ceasing, and to abandon marrying women, he ﷺ said:

"By Allah, I am more mindful of Allah and more fearful of Him than any of you — yet I fast and I break my fast, I sleep and I marry women too. Whoever turns away from my way is not one of mine."

And the Prophet ﷺ said:

"When someone comes to you proposing marriage whose faith and character satisfy you, marry your daughter to him. If you fail to do this, there will be turmoil on earth and widespread corruption."

And the Prophet ﷺ said:

“Marry women who are loving and fertile, for I will boast of your great numbers before the other prophets on the Day of Resurrection.”

Islam and the Building and Maintenance of Mosques

“The mosques of Allah are only to be maintained by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day and establish prayer and give zakah and do not fear except Allah, for it is expected that those will be of the [rightly] guided”

— *Qur'an, At-Tawbah 9:18 (Saheeh International)*

“Whoever builds a mosque for the sake of Allah, seeking nothing but His pleasure, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise”

— and in another narration: "Allah will build for him a similar house in Paradise."

And the Prophet ﷺ said:

“No group of people ever gathers in one of Allah's houses, reciting His Book and studying it together, without tranquility descending on them, angels surrounding them, mercy enveloping them, and Allah mentioning them to those in His presence.”

And the Prophet ﷺ said:

“Whoever purifies himself at home and then sets out toward one of Allah's houses to fulfill an obligation Allah has placed on him — each step he takes wipes away a sin, and the next raises him a degree.”

The maintenance and upkeep of mosques is of two kinds: the first is spiritual maintenance, achieved through frequently walking to them, praying, supplicating, seeking forgiveness, reciting the Noble Qur'an, and holding the Friday prayer and congregational prayers within them; the second is material maintenance, embodied in their construction, furnishing, fitting out, restoration, meeting their needs, repairing their faulty equipment and devices, and renewing their outdated fixtures, and the like.

Perhaps one of the most important features and aesthetic hallmarks of mosque architecture around the world is the minaret, so named because the call to prayer is raised from its top. The first minaret in Islam was built at a mosque in the north of the Arabian Peninsula; as for the term "manarah" (lighthouse-minaret), it was so named because it was illuminated with...

As for the term "manarah" (lighthouse), it was so named because it was illuminated with lamps, and in ancient times with oil lanterns, to guide travelers and worshippers. A minaret may serve as a manarah when lit, though it need not always be so.

Next come the domes of mosques, which have become a prominent feature of Islamic architecture and a distinguishing mark of its aesthetics, built in various styles ranging from polygonal to conical to oval. Among the most beautiful domes is the Green Dome — once called the Fragrant Dome, the Blue Dome, and the White Dome — which adorns the Noble Prophet's Mosque, first built in 678 AH and repeatedly renovated since.

Until quite recently, before the invention of electricity, air conditioning units, and loudspeakers, domes served several functions: increasing the amount of light within the mosque's interior, distributing light evenly through the side windows in their base and supports, in addition to improving ventilation and amplifying sound, as well as lending a sense of loftiness and elevation that delights the soul and rests the eyes.

Since one thing calls to mind another, the phrase "a morsel in a hungry stomach is better than building a thousand mosques!!" has become widespread of late, used mockingly and facetiously rather than for genuine advice or reminder. What is truly troubling is that those who most frequently tweet or utter this phrase are people who have nothing to do with the hungry, the poor, or the deprived — one of them spends the bulk of his wealth on pleasures, travel, entertainment, luxuries, accessories, and sensory indulgences, unconcerned with any poor person, displaced person, hungry person, or their like. Indeed, many of these same people have nothing to do with zakat or charity, and are themselves a primary cause of "engineered hunger" and "programmed starvation" in their own countries through price gouging, greed, shortchanging in measure, cheating in weight, and monopolistic hoarding. On this basis, I now put forward a counter-slogan to put an end to this phrase that has been taken out of its proper context and placed where it does not belong, until a true word came to be used to justify a falsehood — and to silence everyone who mockingly invokes it out of spite toward mosques, I say, proposing to whoever it may concern: "Attach a charitable kitchen to a thousand mosques, and a mosque set aside to feed a million upon a million hungry people." Let this kitchen be an adjoining facility governed by the "engineering of spatial solidarity," so as to entrench the principle of "dignity management" and reduce the "stigma of need," so that this charitable kitchen attached to the mosque becomes a participatory social contract whose goal is to strengthen the sense of belonging to a united social fabric that cares for all its members. It should be noted that the practice of charitable kitchens attached to mosques is as old as history itself, the most famous free charitable kitchen being the one attached to the Mosque of Sheikh Abd Al-Qadir Al-Jilani in the Rusafa district of Baghdad, followed by the venerable charitable kitchen designated for students, once attached to the Mustansiriya School of Islamic Studies — considered the first university in human history, founded in 1233 CE — and,

following its example, the charitable kitchen attached to the Mosque of Sheikh Maarouf in the Karkh district of Baghdad, which continues to operate to this day, along with the charitable kitchen of the Muradiyah Mosque and hundreds of others. What is needed today is to generalize this pioneering humanitarian practice to encompass most large and medium-sized mosques around the world.

Islam and the Call to Seek Medical Treatment

“And We send down of the Qur'an that which is healing and mercy for the believers, but it does not increase the wrongdoers except in loss”

— *Qur'an, Al-Isra 17:82 (Saheeh International)*

Our noble Messenger ﷺ commanded us to seek medical treatment, called for it, and encouraged it, as recorded in the noble hadith:

“Seek treatment, servants of Allah, for Allah has not created a disease without creating alongside it a cure, except for old age.”

Medicines are but means that Allah, the Exalted, has made into a path toward healing, and Muslims must constantly research and diligently pursue the study and teaching of medicine and pharmacy, and press forward in discovering drugs and medications and treating various diseases, since the noble Prophetic teachings push in the direction of seeking treatment, cleanliness, bodily and spiritual purity, and the preservation of public health, while prohibiting harmful substances of every kind. The book Prophetic Medicine by Imam Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawziyyah is among the most famous works in this field, followed by Al-Manhaj Al-Sawi by Imam Jalal Al-Din Al-Suyuti, Prophetic Medicine by Hafiz Al-Sakhawi, The Forty Medical [Hadiths] from Sunan Ibn Majah by Muhammad Al-Barzali, in addition to Al-Tadhkirah fi Al-Tibb Al-Nabawi by Ibn Jama'ah, and many others.

The Prophet ﷺ singled out his nation with noble teachings designed to protect them from epidemics and pandemics and to safeguard them against contagious and infectious diseases, examples of which today include swine flu, bird flu, SARS, Zika, Ebola, and the novel coronavirus, among others.

When you read the noble Prophetic hadiths and reflect upon them, you are overcome with astonishment at the greatness of this upright religion, for the miracles of the Most Noble Prophet ﷺ preceded international health institutions by many long centuries — among them his ﷺ prohibition against entering cities where an epidemic has appeared, and his prevention of those within such cities from leaving until the crisis has passed, what is known today as "quarantine," when he ﷺ said:

“If you hear of an outbreak of plague in a land, do not enter it; but if the plague breaks out in a place while you are in it, do not leave that place.”

Today entire cities are placed under quarantine, and anyone suspected of having contracted some pandemic is isolated for 14 days or more — the incubation period of the virus in the body — to confirm the patient's health status. And his ﷺ saying: "A sick person should not be brought to a healthy one," for fear of transmitting infection. And most remarkable of all is that miraculous Prophetic hadith, every clause of which astonishes:

“Cover your vessels and tie the mouth of your waterskin, for there is a night each year on which a plague descends, and it does not pass by any uncovered vessel, or any untied waterskin, without some of that plague descending into it.”

— meaning a complete prohibition against negligence and carelessness in covering vessels of food and drink, for fear of contracting epidemics and communicable diseases. This is precisely what all health centers, ministries, and institutions around the world warn against, given the immense risks posed by uncovered food and drink, embodied in "the transmission of bacteria and viruses through insects and contaminated environments, exposure to influenza viruses, and infection with smallpox, measles, polio, gastrointestinal infections, food poisoning," and the like resulting from them.

In another noble Prophetic hadith, the Most Noble Prophet ﷺ says:

“Cover your vessels, tie the mouth of your waterskin, close the door, and extinguish the lamp, for Satan does not untie a waterskin, open a door, or uncover a vessel. If one of you finds nothing to place over his vessel but a stick, laid across it while mentioning the name of Allah, let him do so, for the little mouse sets a household's home ablaze upon its inhabitants. And turn over your vessel, or cover it.”

In this noble hadith, the Most Noble Prophet ﷺ forbids us, among other things, from sleeping in a lit room. On this, Dr. Ivy Cheung Mason of Northwestern University states in a scientific study published in 2018: "It has been shown, through the findings that...

"It has become clear, through the findings we arrived at, that a single night's exposure to light during sleep affects insulin resistance, causing type 2 diabetes, in addition to disrupting the metabolic process!"

The Japanese doctor Kenji Obayashi adds, in another Japanese study published in 2019: "We found a clear association between sleeping in light and arterial hardening, and that leaving a light on in the room during sleep increases the risk of death from heart disease and stroke, and exposure of the eyelids to light during sleep reduces the production of the hormone melatonin."

Today there are unprecedented measures and strict penalties reaching life imprisonment in China — the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak — represented by the pursuit of sellers and traders of wild animals, after numerous studies proved that snakes, bats, cats, and dogs, which the Chinese eat because of past famines that repeatedly afflicted them, and as a result of mistaken religious and popular beliefs, leave us standing in astonishment before the teachings and warnings of the Most Noble Prophet ﷺ against eating such animals 1,447 years ago, long before the entire world came to know of the dangers of consuming them!

More astonishing still, the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress issued a list including only nine animals out of all other wild creatures, and they erred in only one of them while getting eight right — they erred in permitting the eating of pork, since pigs live in filth and eat from garbage dumps, transmitting dozens of deadly diseases to humans, yet they got it right in "permitting the consumption of chicken, cattle, rabbits, fish, and marine creatures," justifying all of this by saying that "banning the consumption of wild animals is a customary measure in developed countries and a universal requirement of modern civilization!!" Here we can only invoke blessings upon the Beloved Physician ﷺ, who summed up for us the prohibition and danger of everything China has banned selling and eating, on the day the Messenger of Allah ﷺ forbade "eating every fanged predator and every clawed bird."

As for the custom of kissing and embracing, which health organizations warn against for fear of spreading epidemics, this is another miracle, for it is related in the Prophet's fragrant biography that a man said: "O Messenger of Allah, when one of us meets his brother, should he bow to him?" He said, "No." The man asked, "Should he embrace him and kiss him?" He said, "No." The man asked, "Should he take his hand and shake it?" He said, "Yes." Add to this that health institutions warn against not using tissues when sneezing and coughing, given their role in spreading epidemics, and it is related in the Prophet's fragrant biography that "the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, when he sneezed, would place his hand or garment over his mouth, and would lower or soften his voice with it." Likewise, the etiquette of yawning and the necessity of placing one's hand over the mouth during it — on this the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "When one of you yawns, let him cover his mouth with his hand, for the devil may slip in." Satan, in numerous Prophetic hadiths, refers to everything that shatana — meaning, deviated from the straight path and caused harm to those around it — and on this basis, the wicked among human beings are called "human devils," while everything harmful among hidden creatures — jann meaning concealed from sight — is called "jinn devils."

Among the recommendations of health organizations is washing one's hands before and after eating, and after leaving restroom facilities. On this, the Beloved Physician ﷺ said, "The blessing of food lies in performing ablution before it and after it," and his ﷺ saying, "Whoever goes to sleep

with the smell of grease still on his hand, and something befalls him, let him blame no one but himself."

The Secretary-General of the Union of Arab Physicians, Dr. Osama Rislan, in his opening remarks at the 2020 international scientific symposium on the coronavirus pandemic, held with the participation of hundreds of Egyptian and Arab physicians in person and online, said: "The Islamic religion established the pillars of preventive medicine against diseases of this kind through ablution, which causes a person to wash parts of his body five times a day — one of the best methods of disease prevention, including coronavirus, as ablution reduces the chances of contracting viral and epidemic diseases," concluding his remarks with the noble Prophetic hadith: "Consider, if there were a river at the door of one of you in which he bathed five times a day, would any trace of dirt remain on him?" They said, "No trace of dirt would remain on him." He said, "Such is the likeness of the five prayers: by them Allah erases sins."

It is well known that among the pillars and recommended acts of ablution are washing the hands three times, in addition to rinsing the mouth, sniffing water into the nose and expelling it, washing the face, wiping the head, and washing the feet up to the ankles. At the time, social media platforms and news channels buzzed with a large billboard placed on a highway in the American city of Chicago, reading in English: The Prophet "Muhammad" advised us as follows: Wash your hands constantly + Do not leave an area if disease has spread there + Do not enter an area where disease has spread.

Nor Does He Speak from His Own Inclination

"Nor does he speak from [his own] inclination. It is not but a revelation revealed"

— *Qur'an, An-Najm 53:3-4 (Saheeh International)*

I open this discussion with the saying of the Most Noble Prophet ﷺ: *"There are five things, if you are afflicted with them, and I seek refuge with Allah lest you live to witness them,"* and I will recount the first of them here, leaving the remaining four to be discussed in another section of this book:

"Whenever immorality becomes openly widespread among a people, they will be afflicted with plagues and diseases that were unknown to their ancestors..."

So beware of indecencies, major sins, and transgressions, whether apparent or concealed — for once they are legitimized and sanctioned among people, and become so widespread that they turn into custom, and once they become so ingrained in nature that no one finds them objectionable, denies them, or warns of their harms and dangers and consequences — and are, in fact, encouraged

by those with deep-seated psychological complexes, base motives, and evil intentions — then biological, physiological, and psychological ailments and afflictions, human, animal, and botanical alike, that no one could have imagined even in their worst nightmares, will spread suddenly after their unexpected emergence, ravaging millions. It suffices for me to give the following examples:

- The Spanish flu pandemic (H1N1), which appeared suddenly in 1918 shortly after the First World War, killing 50 million people around the world.

- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which first appeared in the summer of 1981, prompting American medical institutions to call it "gay cancer" after its alarming initial appearance among them, and then among prostitutes and sex workers and drug addicts, in addition to everyone who has sexual contact with such people, or is contaminated by their secretions, blood, and bodily fluids. This deadly disease has, since its ominous emergence, afflicted more than 88 million people around the world, of whom more than 42 million have died so far, with the toll continuing to rise, according to RT.

- Avian influenza H5N1, which first appeared, according to the World Health Organization, in Hong Kong in 1997, becoming responsible for outbreaks and deaths among humans in 16 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, caused by a highly...

...highly pathogenic influenza virus A(H5N1), affecting millions.

- Swine flu, scientifically known as H1N1, first appeared in 1918 among pig herds, before reemerging in the first confirmed human case in 2009, subsequently infecting millions.

- The cholera pandemic, whose victims number in the tens of millions across 30 countries, first appeared suddenly in what became known as the true Asiatic cholera in India between 1817 and 1824. As for the methods of prevention, Dr. Kate Alberti, head of the World Health Organization's mobile team for combating cholera, sums them up quite simply in one of the episodes of the WHO program Science in 5, saying: "There are five essential things for preventing cholera: first, drinking clean water and cooking with it; second, applying hygiene measures, most importantly washing hands thoroughly after using the toilet, and before preparing and eating food." All of these are confirmed noble Prophetic practices, since Islam does not permit the use of impure water, or contaminated water whose taste, smell, or color has changed, for drinking, cooking, washing, or ablution, in addition to the Prophetic teachings' emphasis on the necessity of washing hands after relieving oneself, and before and after eating.

- The devastating plague pandemic, which first appeared in what became known as the Plague of Justinian, between 541 and 750 CE, changing the face of all of Europe and devastating millions.

- Syphilis, which first appeared in 1494 in the Italian city of Naples, following a military campaign whose soldiers engaged in various vices with prostitutes and sex workers.
- The SARS pandemic, which first appeared in China in 2002.
- The Ebola pandemic, which first appeared in a village in Guinea near the Ebola River, after which it was named, before spreading globally.
- Foot-and-mouth disease, first documented in 1870.
- Mad cow disease, which first appeared in cattle in 1986.
- Gumboro disease, which devastates chickens under two weeks old, first appeared in 1962 in the city of Gumboro in the United States, after which it was named.
- Zika virus, which first appeared in 1947 in a macaque monkey in Uganda's Zika Forest, before spreading among humans in 1952, causing numerous outbreaks across four continents. The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes and causes brain malformations in newborns, according to the World Health Organization.
- The Newcastle disease pandemic, or "fowl plague," which suddenly appeared in 1926 in the city of Newcastle, after which it was named.
- The actual smallpox pandemic, in its deadliest final form — though the disease itself is ancient, with a similar strain having suddenly appeared in 1580 CE.
- The coronavirus pandemic, whose first confirmed human infection appeared in 2012, before the virus intensified and grew resistant to medications, reaching its peak with the variant (COVID-19) that emerged in China in late 2019, causing, according to the World Health Organization, the deaths of more than 7 million people and the infection of nearly 704 million.
- Nipah virus disease, which first appeared in 1999 in Malaysia — an extremely dangerous viral disease transmitted to humans from bats and pigs, which serve as the primary reservoirs of the virus, either through direct contact with sick animals or through eating food contaminated with their waste. This deadly viral disease, which kills between 40% and 75% of its victims, has no vaccine, serum, or treatment to this day.

All of this confirms His saying, the Exalted, in the decisive Revelation: "And He creates that which you do not know," and confirms what is related in the pure Prophetic Sunnah regarding the sudden emergence of unfamiliar diseases, pains, and afflictions coinciding with the spread of indecency and people's open, brazen declaration of it. Indecency (*fahisha*), as recorded in linguistic dictionaries, is: that which is ugly in speech and deed, its plural being *fawahish* — particularly those indecencies represented by tampering with the balances of natural human disposition, ethics,

family, society, and environment, in addition to chemical and biological weapons laboratories and toxic gases, and attempts to develop, in laboratories, types of viruses, bacteria, and deadly parasites resistant to vaccines and antibiotics as a form of warfare and weaponry, known as germ warfare — all of which bear significant and direct responsibility for the sudden emergence of many deadly diseases around the world... The indecent colonial campaigns of many nations against pristine countries transmitted diseases previously unknown to them, such as smallpox, which spread across the American continent through immigrants and gold-seekers in the newly discovered land, contributing to the extermination of Native Americans... The forced transport of tens of thousands of slaves from Africa carried diseases to Europe that Europeans could not resist, and the reverse was equally true, as Europeans transmitted diseases that African immunity could not withstand or adapt to. Likewise, the transport of various animals and plants from their original environments, and efforts to breed or cultivate them in other environments unsuited to them for various purposes — all of this caused countless epidemics and disrupted the natural balance and ecosystem, upsetting it considerably, resulting in the proliferation of certain animal and plant species at the expense of the extinction or decline of others... Deforestation and tampering with nature reserves... Feeding plant-based food to carnivorous animals, and feeding herbivorous animals types of food not naturally part of their historical diet... All of this has produced a system turned completely upside down, on every level.

Do Not Surrender to Your Anger

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ warned against surrendering to anger:

"A man said to the Prophet ﷺ, "Advise me." He said to him, "Do not become angry." The man repeated his request several times, and each time he said, "Do not become angry.""

A new scientific study by Columbia University Irving Medical Center in the United States, published in 2024 and led by Daichi Shimbo, concluded that "anger stimulates processes in the body that promote arterial hardening, the primary risk factor leading to stroke and heart attacks," noting that "the reason is that anger causes dysfunction in the inner lining of the walls of blood vessels," according to the newspaper Frankfurter Rundschau.

According to the website India TV, citing global health experts, "repeated fits of anger, or feelings of bitterness and resentment over long periods, lead to increased levels of adrenaline and cortisol hormones in the body, raising blood pressure and heart rate, which increases the risk of blood clots, heart disease, stroke, and vascular problems."

A scientific study published in the European Heart Journal, involving the National University of Ireland in 2021, after examining the records of 13,462 patients who suffered acute strokes from 32

countries and various ethnic backgrounds, added that "one in every 11 stroke survivors had experienced a fit of anger or distress within the hour preceding the stroke they suffered."

It also revealed that...

...in the hour preceding the stroke they suffered."

Dr. Andrew Smith, a clinical epidemiologist, further revealed that "feelings of anger raise stress hormones that lead to an increased heart rate and, consequently, blood pressure," noting that "certain hormones cause constriction in the blood vessels of the brain, which can lead to blood vessel rupture," according to the British newspaper The Telegraph.

Quarantine: An Eternal Prophetic Practice

Throughout the period of quarantine and the emphasis on personal hygiene in confronting the coronavirus pandemic, everyone began speaking of the greatness of Islam and the magnificence of its eternal teachings, which preceded immunologists, environmental and public health scientists, and the invention of electron microscopes and the discovery of viruses, parasites, and bacteria by many long centuries — the day magnificent Islam laid out for us a comprehensive preventive program balancing the material and the spiritual — the medicine of hearts and the medicine of bodies — in a remarkable way. Even more remarkable is its guidance toward seeking treatment, while prohibiting treatment through what has been made unlawful for this nation, as in the noble hadith of the Most Noble Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him:

"Indeed, Allah has sent down both the disease and the cure, and has appointed for every disease a cure, so seek treatment, but do not seek treatment through what is unlawful."

Some charlatans had tried at the time to promote a lie claiming that drinking alcohol would eliminate the coronavirus, only for Johns Hopkins University itself to respond, refuting them and confirming the words of the Beloved Physician... who does not speak from mere whim, when it issued a preventive summary in 2020 for avoiding infection with the coronavirus, affirming that it "is not a living organism, but rather a protein with a fatty coating that alters its own code after entering the human body in order to spread rapidly." Among what the report stated, in addition to stressing the importance of washing hands before and after eating and after relieving oneself — all eternal Prophetic practices — was confirmation that "alcoholic beverages are not useful for preventing coronavirus, contrary to what is being promoted." The World Health Organization and other international health institutions then provided us with advice for preventing the pandemic, all of it emphasizing the importance of quarantine, and placing one's hands over the mouth when sneezing, coughing, and yawning to prevent the spread of droplets and to guard against the

transmission of infection — all of it among the eternal Prophetic practices well known and celebrated among Muslims for 1,447 years!!

The Prevalence of Betrayal and Obesity

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“The best of you are my generation, then those who follow them, then those who follow them. Then a people will come who make vows and don't keep them, who betray trust and can't be relied on, who bear witness without being asked to, and who grow fat and self-satisfied.”

It is well known that failure to fulfill promises, covenants, and vows, the betrayal of trusts, and false testimony have become detestable customs and reprehensible traits in our present age. More astonishing still is that this is happening at the very same time that, according to the latest statistics, more than a billion people suffer from obesity and overeating — comprising 650 million adults, 340 million adolescents, and 39 million children, among whom 167 million people saw their health decline due to excess weight or obesity by the end of 2025. Heart disease is among the most dangerous consequences of obesity, in addition to high blood pressure and strokes — the spread of sudden death — cancer, and mental health problems, in addition to diabetes, which has become the disease of the 21st century, according to the World Health Organization.

More dangerous still is that people overlook the ideal, safe solution to obesity, embodied in healthy nutrition and consistent walking, cycling, swimming, and other forms of exercise, and instead resort to gastric bypass surgeries, liposuction, or dangerous and extremely costly weight-loss and slimming medications.

The Countless Benefits of Walking

“And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth easily, and when the ignorant address them [harshly], they say [words of] peace”

— *Qur'an, Al-Furqan 25:63 (Saheeh International)*

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“Whoever purifies himself at home and then sets out toward one of Allah's houses to fulfill an obligation Allah has placed on him — each step he takes wipes away a sin, and the next raises him a degree.”

And he ﷺ said:

“Give good news to those who walk through darkness to the mosques: on the Day of Resurrection, they will be met with a complete, radiant light.”

And he ﷺ said:

“Whoever washes on Friday, bathes fully, goes early, walks there rather than riding, sits close to the imam, listens attentively, and doesn't chatter idly — for every step he takes he earns the reward of a full year's fasting and night prayer.”

And if we connect and link walking to doing good and removing harm from the road, as in the noble Prophetic hadith:

“While a man was walking on a road, he found a thorny branch on the road and moved it aside, so Allah appreciated his deed and forgave him.”

And another hadith likewise linking walking to doing good:

“While a man was walking on a road, he became extremely thirsty, so he found a well and went down into it, drank, then came out, and there was a dog panting, eating the moist earth out of thirst. The man said, 'This dog has reached the same state of thirst I was in.' So he went down into the well, filled his shoe with water, held it in his mouth, and gave the dog to drink. Allah appreciated his deed and forgave him.' They said, 'O Messenger of Allah, is there truly a reward for us in [caring for] animals?' He said, 'In every living creature there is a reward.'”

And another hadith forbidding arrogance and conceit while walking:

“While a man was walking in a fine garment that pleased him, his hair combed, Allah caused the earth to swallow him, and he will continue sinking into it until the Day of Resurrection.”

And when we learn the manner of his ﷺ walk: "When he walked, he walked briskly, in a way recognized as neither the walk of a helpless nor a lazy man," and "despite the swiftness of his walk, he was at the height of ease and deliberation, without haste, walking at his own measured pace, covering with effortless ease what others could only cover with effort," as recorded in Sharh Al-Sunnah by Al-Baghawi (12/320), and Fayd Al-Qadir (5/248), we glimpse the nature of this righteous, blessed manner of walking that brings nothing but good-humility far removed from arrogance, conceit, affectation, and pride, extending greetings of peace to people, removing harm from the road, doing good deeds, and warning against the danger of forbidden and reprehensible acts.

As for health benefits, nearly every month a new scientific study emerges in the field of preventive and complementary medicine from prestigious medical research centers across the world, all confirming the countless health and psychological benefits of walking, most of them advising setting aside private and public transportation for a while, with the exception of bicycles, and practicing walking for at least 15 to 30 minutes daily, morning or evening, since walking improves mood, increases blood flow to the brain, reduces depression, lowers blood sugar, blood pressure,

and cholesterol levels, strengthens muscles and bones, protects the heart, activates blood circulation, and boosts immunity.

Another scientific study, published on a website affiliated with the American National Library of Medicine, titled "The Multiple Benefits of Walking for Healthy Aging: From Blue Zones to Molecular Mechanisms," concluded that "walking is not merely a simple physical activity, but a daily behavior capable of making a real difference in quality of life."

In a scientific study by Cambridge University medical researcher Paddy Dempsey, published in July 2025, drawing on an analysis of 57 prior scientific studies on the benefits of walking involving 160,000 people worldwide, it was concluded that "walking 7,000 steps daily, equivalent to a full hour of walking, reduces the risk of dementia by 38%, depression by 22%, and diabetes by 14%, and also reduces the risk of cancer," according to the journal *The Lancet Public Health*.

Killing Harmful Animals

"Five harmful creatures may be killed even within the sacred sanctuary: the kite, the crow, the scorpion, the mouse, and the vicious dog"

— and in another narration: "both within and outside the sanctuary."

I long remained puzzled over the reasons behind the call to kill the kite and the pied crow, for I found no difficulty or doubt in understanding what pertains to the snake, the scorpion, the mouse, and the vicious — that is, rabid — dog, since their great harm and danger is self-evidently known to humanity. Yet I remained puzzled for a long time regarding the kite and the pied crow, until a definitive answer came in the form of dozens of newspaper articles and international studies.

According to the *Daily Mail*, scientists have found that the kite is a major cause of fires in Australia, as this bird deliberately spreads fires by picking up a burning branch and flying with it before dropping it elsewhere in the wilderness, creating new fire centers in fresh locations — all so that it can better see its prey, which is otherwise hidden by tall grass, by burning it away to spot its victims fleeing the fire and smoke from atop the trees. This results annually in massive wildfires that the kite and drought together help ignite, killing and injuring dozens of people, in addition to enormous material losses. The toll of the 2020 fires alone, which the kite helped ignite and spread alongside the drought, is estimated at 6 million hectares burned, in addition to the destruction of more than 2,000 homes, and the deaths of nearly 500 million birds, mammals, and reptiles, among them 8,000 rare koalas, from burning or smoke inhalation — requiring 40 years to replant the burned forests, whose smoke crossed the Pacific Ocean, reaching as far as Chile!!

According to the British newspaper The Times, citing environmental experts at the University of Sydney in Australia, more than 480 million mammals, birds, and reptiles died directly or indirectly because of the devastating fires that broke out in Australia's forests within a single year alone!!

As for the crow, studies led by John Marzluff of the University of Washington in Seattle, published in detail in the journal Animal Behaviour and covered at some length by the BBC, revealed that "crows view death, at least in part, as a teachable moment from which they draw something tangible — it is a signal that danger exists, and danger is something to be avoided. Crows do not forget the face of anyone who poses a threat to them, and some species hold what resembles a 'funeral' when they see one of their own dead."

Farmers and herders in Germany kill and hang crows for picking seeds from fields and preying on newborn lambs, to the point that the term "crow plague" has become common among them, in addition to the fact that the crow transmits numerous bacterial, viral, parasitic, and fungal diseases to humans and animals, far too many to mention here. On this, agricultural engineer Mahmoud Abdel Qader, general director of agricultural pest control in Ismailia, justified the "a pound per crow" campaign against crows in the Suez region, saying that "the crow is a carrier of many diseases due to its scavenging nature, as it transfers microbes from garbage and deposits its waste and organic matter in drinking water and other water sources."

Engineer Zeinab Al-Sawi, director of the rodent management department, added that "the crow transmits bacterial and viral diseases to humans, causes damage to agricultural crops, and pollutes shorelines."

In Bahrain, the authorities launched a campaign to eliminate crows by shooting, as part of a national campaign carried out by the Bahraini Supreme Council for Environment to rid the country of the spreading phenomenon of crows, since they threaten other birds such as bulbuls by invading their nests, in addition to the crow's tendency to attack humans if it senses that one of them may threaten its life.

I have dwelt somewhat at length on all of the above to draw the attention of organizations concerned with animal rights — some of which pay no heed whatsoever to human rights — to the point that one American activist tweeted about such news on his social media account, saying: "I advise migrants crossing in rubber boats to Europe, many of which sink in the middle of the sea, to bring dogs along with them, because the drowning of dogs at sea will push animal rights organizations to defend the waves of migration — unlike if the boat were packed with humans alone, in which case no one would care!!!"

The Prevalence of Usury

It is related in the noble hadith narrated by the compilers of the Sunan: **“A time will come upon people when no one will remain who does not consume usury; and even if he does not consume it himself, some of its vapor will reach him.”** — also narrated as "its dust." Usury, technically, is "any loan that draws a benefit is usury," its most prominent forms being loan-based usury (deferred payment usury) and surplus usury pertaining to gold, silver, and the agricultural staples people cannot do without. Today usury, under all its names, forms, and shapes, spreads among people at a frightening rate around the world, pushing hundreds of millions of human beings to pay a large portion of their income and salaries monthly, and so on for many long years, merely to pay off the interest accruing on previous usurious debts — interest that compounds over time — even without the debtor ever being able to repay the principal debt owed in the first place!

Hunger, the Spread of Fear, and the Absence of Security

To examine "the extent to which hunger is linked to fear and the loss of security — a link that erases existence and crosses borders," this subject must be given priority under the principle of the jurisprudence of priorities, and utmost importance under the jurisprudence of contemporary developments and emerging issues.

Among what has been said regarding the link between hunger and fear is the noble verse from Surat Al-Baqarah, which applies precisely to the condition of the nations and peoples of the third millennium:

“And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient”

— *Qur'an, Al-Baqarah 2:155 (Saheeh International)*

Likewise this link between fear and hunger is found in Surat an-Nahl:

“So Allah made it taste the envelopment of hunger and fear for what they had been doing”

— *Qur'an, An-Nahl 16:112, partial verse (Saheeh International)*

This verse, however, unlike the one preceding it, speaks of...

This verse, however, unlike the one preceding it, speaks of nations that disbelieve in Allah's blessings — meaning that the first verse speaks of hunger paired with fear as a form of testing and trial, while the following one speaks of hunger paired with fear as punishment and affliction. One might ask how to distinguish between the two; this can be determined according to the circumstances, premises, and outcomes particular to each. Likewise the noble verse from Surat Quraysh: "who has fed them, [saving them] from hunger and made them secure from fear," and

likewise the supplication of the Most Noble Prophet ﷺ: "O Allah, I seek refuge in You from hunger, for it is a wretched bedfellow, and I seek refuge in You from treachery, for it is a wretched inner trait."

I propose to graduate students of Islamic studies and their esteemed professors, along with students of administration, economics, and political science, that they write theses and dissertations on "Hunger in the Noble Qur'an," "Types of Hunger, Starvation, and Famine and Ways to Combat Them," "Programming Famine to Impose Forms of Submission and Obedience," "Engineering Hunger to Ensure the Loyalty of the Follower to the Followed," "The Revolts of Empty Pots and Hungry Stomachs," "Political Kitchens and the Manufacture of Hunger," and the like.

In this age of "hunger engineering," the "manufacturing of famines and starvation," and the desertification of knowledge and the drought of cultural awareness, preachers, writers, and researchers are urgently called upon to produce rigorous studies, write research papers, articles, and newspaper columns, conduct interviews and dialogues, produce radio and television reports, and direct documentary films — all revolving around methods of "combating hunger," "ways to prevent famines," "paths to achieving self-sufficiency and securing food security," "the most famous starvation wars," and "the dangers of programmed hunger." This is because some hunger, in the era of food diplomacy (which includes marketing the food culture, cuisines, and dishes of certain countries to replace or compete with others as part of soft-power culture), table diplomacy (the signing of memoranda of understanding, contracts, and treaties, and the conclusion of major agreements, all at lavish dinner or lunch tables arranged for this purpose), and food diplomacy (the distribution of food assistance and relief aid not out of moral or humanitarian motives, but as a form of imposing will and cross-border soft dominance) — and in the age of mukbang and excessive obesity and overindulgence — is an elaborately woven, fully articulated global industry, in every sense and connotation the word carries. It should be noted that the manufacturing and engineering of hunger is typically orchestrated at lavish, opulent dining tables, where the ultra-wealthy gather, after parties of debauched sexual excess and deviance, to decide what shall be — unaware that Allah, the Exalted, the Subduer above His servants, knows what exists and all that will come to be, and knows what would have been had it come to be, His command, glory be to Him, resting between the letters kaf and nun — for if He wills a thing, He but says to it, 'Be,' and it is!!

How Did I Become a Muslim?

In her book *Embracing Islam in the West*, the writer Elizabeth Rochelle says that one of the most prominent converts to Islam featured and analyzed in her book was the British professor Gai Eaton,

who explained his conversion to Islam by saying: "Had I not found my way to Islam, I would today be a nihilist — you cannot imagine how tormented my soul was before my conversion to Islam."

As for how a non-Muslim becomes a Muslim, this is done first through ritual washing and purification, and then by pronouncing with the tongue: "I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah," and "I bear witness that Jesus is the servant of Allah and His messenger." One should then acquire an authenticated and reliable copy of a translation of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an into one's native language, in order to understand Islam, its teachings, and its rulings well, and to become acquainted with Allah's commands and prohibitions, and to closely study the stories of the messengers and prophets. One should then learn and consistently perform the prayer, fast the month of Ramadan, and pay zakat, for whoever is financially able, distributing it among the poor, the destitute, orphans, and those in need, in addition to performing the pilgrimage to the Sacred House of Allah for whoever is financially and physically able, while committing to good character and virtuous deeds such as helping the needy, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, clothing the naked, giving drink to the thirsty, sheltering the homeless, and staying far away from acts contrary to decency, and avoiding injustice, racism, and bad character.

Allow me here to recount the story of American Professor Gerald Dirks, who holds a Master's degree in theology from Harvard University, obtained in 1974, and a doctorate in psychology from the University of Denver, obtained in 1978.

He had previously embraced Islam in 1993, saying of it: "All the books and theories I studied in psychology amount to nothing compared to a Muslim who relies upon Allah and submits his affairs to Him." Dirks did not stop there, but authored several prominent books, the most important being *Abraham: The Friend of Allah*, *Understanding Islam*, and *Muslims in American History*.

How well the poet put it:

*I see a world in tears, a shattered West... and a grieving East, like a displaced orphan
Time's own mother has grown barren and borne no more... and the days will never again bring
forth one like Muhammad*

Important Advice for New Muslims

I begin this section with what Andreas Mohr, professor of Oriental Studies at Germany's Heidelberg University, who had previously embraced Islam and taken the name Muhammad Ismail, said: "My interest in religions began 20 years ago, until I obtained a translation of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an and read it carefully. I say plainly that Orientalism was tied to colonialism and missionary work — Goldziher, for instance, made illogical claims about the noble

Prophetic hadith that do not match the Islamic methodology at all, and the same was true of the English Orientalists, who fabricated a great deal against this religion."

I would add that it is recommended for a new convert to Islam to document his conversion at a mosque or an officially licensed and legally recognized Islamic center in whatever country he resides, so that he may enjoy his full rights as a Muslim in court testimony, inheritance, lineage, marriage contracts and in-law relations, marriage contracts, zakat and charity funds, funeral prayers, burial in Muslim cemeteries, and other due rights.

— It is not required that a new Muslim change his old name, if his original name is beautiful and gentle — for Allah is beautiful and loves beauty — and if the meaning of his name contains nothing shameful or embarrassing, and does not conflict with the fixed principles of Islam.

— I offer heartfelt advice to everyone who has recently embraced Islam, reminding them of what is related in the tradition: that this final religion, the seal of all religions, is firmly established, so enter into it gently, and let none of you attempt to apply most of its teachings all at once, in a single time and place, but rather proceed gradually, with breadth of understanding and comprehension over time. To bring the picture closer to mind, I ask: "Have you ever heard of a student who passed through every stage of schooling, read every curriculum, applied it, and was examined on it, all within the first week, month, or year of his elementary, secondary, or university studies?" The answer is certainly no, for he must proceed gradually, through several stages, over the course of years, before obtaining...

...his diploma at the end. The same holds for an employee or worker who starts a new job today — he needs years to master his profession and accumulate experience before advancing progressively through positions, in keeping with logic and reason. The same is true of the religion of Islam: its teachings must be absorbed gradually, so that they are properly understood and do not become difficult or burdensome.

— Do not try to draw yourself into disputes, sterile hair-splitting debates, or prolonged arguments with everyone, or some of those around you, who may find your conversion to Islam strange or oppose it. Instead, treat them kindly, be gentle with them, and be a good example for them. Do not argue about matters of Islam whose meaning you do not yet fully understand — read more about Islam, so that you may understand it better and love it more and more, and prove to everyone, in practice, that Islam is the religion of love, peace, and brotherhood.

— After declaring your Islam, try kissing the hand and head of your mother and father, your grandfather and grandmother, even if they oppose your conversion, if you did not use to do so before while on your previous religion or belief, so that they may feel that a great change has occurred in your life and your character, for the better. Quit smoking as much as possible, likewise

give up drinking and gambling, and stay away from bad company, to prove to them that you have truly changed for the better.

— Strive and be sincere in your work if you are a worker or an employee, and strive in your studies if you are a student, as Islam has commanded us, so as to leave a good impression of yourself and your new religion upon everyone around you. Be kind to your younger brothers and sisters, as Islam has taught us, so that everyone around you feels that you have truly become a different person. Help the poor and the destitute, check in on the sick and the elderly, be good to your neighbors, smile at everyone rather than scowl, help the blind, the deaf, the mute, and people with special needs, maintain your personal cleanliness and the purity of your clothing, room, and surroundings, and remove harm from people's path, as Islam has taught us, so as to leave a good impression that you are a true Muslim who wishes good for all people, even those who differ from him religiously, nationally, ethnically, continentally, and tribally.

— You must understand that some of the errors, sins, deviations, and extremism into which certain deceived Muslims here or there become entangled occur precisely because of their backwardness, ignorance, or distance from the sound Islamic methodology, and not, under any circumstance, because of their closeness to it. Therefore, do not generalize or judge Islam, or Muslims, based on what some of them do, and do not hold Islam and Muslims responsible for the crimes committed by some who are merely counted or attributed to it. In every heavenly religion there are the righteous and the corrupt, and the deviation of some of its followers, and their commission of horrific atrocities one after another in its name and contrary to its teachings, casts no doubt on its prophets, its messengers, its message, or its teachings — it casts doubt only on the validity and credibility of the affiliation claimed by these deviants and outliers from the religion's teachings, however much they may forever claim affiliation with it!

In the following lines, let us sail with some of the most famous converts to Islam, beginning with the Ethiopian priest Melkamu Fikadu, who declared his conversion to Islam after being moved by a recurring dream vision that repeatedly heralded Islam to him. He declared his conversion and changed his name to Muhammad Said, after which his wife also embraced Islam, and 280 people embraced Islam through him before he traveled to the Land of the Two Holy Mosques — Mecca and Medina — to spend the rest of his life there. Fikadu says of his conversion to Islam: "I discovered many facets of the Qur'an's miraculous nature. Islam means submission to Allah in His lordship, obedience and compliance with His commands, and avoidance of His prohibitions, and I ask Allah, the Exalted, to grant me success in whatever is good for the nation of Islam."

The former guitarist Jermaine Jackson, member of the pop music group the Jackson Five, and brother of the famous singer Michael Jackson, had followed the Jehovah's Witnesses sect before becoming acquainted with Islam in 1989 during an artistic tour with his band to several Middle

Eastern countries. He declared his conversion to Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Abdul Aziz. He says of the reasons for his conversion, in *Al Majalla* magazine (issue 966): "The unjust media campaign against Islam has not been limited to television and print media, but has extended to cinema as well, and people should not believe everything Hollywood produces," adding, "Islam offered a solution to my problems, as I gave up drinking alcohol and other forbidden things, and truly Muslims love their wives and children, and women among them are honored and respected. I was greatly impressed by the manner of upbringing in Islamic societies, and during my journey to Mecca to perform 'Umrah, I listened to a tape by the former British singer Cat Stevens, and I learned a great deal from it," from the book *Tears of a Repentant*, vol. 1, pp. 268–273.

Then there is the Swedish diplomat Knut Bernström, ambassador of his country to several nations including the United States, France, Spain, Brazil, and Morocco. After Allah, the Exalted, saved him from a plane crash that killed all its passengers, following his delay for the flight due to a tire blowout on the car taking him to the airport, he grew inclined to believe in fate, searching into the nature of life and death and comparing religions, until he came to know Islam closely and officially declared his conversion to Islam in Morocco, changing his name to Muhammad Bernström, in 2006. Not content with that, he set about learning Arabic as well — he who was already fluent in ten languages by virtue of the diplomatic posts he had held in numerous countries — and translated a portion of the meanings of the Noble Qur'an into Swedish, titling his book *The Message of the Qur'an*. Among what he said of Islam: "I tried to fast the month of Ramadan at first, and I was anxious, but I fasted and felt in good health, which gave me further proof of the truth of Islam. I knew nothing about Islam before — I had only heard of a religion called 'the Muhammadan religion,' and I did not read a single book about Islam until quite late in my life, to my great regret."

What Are the Next Steps After Pronouncing the Two Testimonies of Faith?

"Islam is based on (the following) five (principles): to testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is Allah's Messenger, to offer the (compulsory congregational) prayers, to pay zakat, to fast Ramadan, and to perform Hajj to the House for whoever is able to manage the journey."

After pronouncing the two testimonies of faith, the new Muslim begins learning how to perform ritual purification and ablution, and how to perform the daily prayer and maintain it. This is followed by paying zakat, if he possesses the minimum threshold (nisab) — equivalent to 85 grams of gold, or 595 grams of silver — provided a full lunar year has passed over it; otherwise, no zakat is due upon him, though he should give abundant voluntary charity as he is able, without placing hardship upon himself, his nuclear family, or his extended family. In addition, there is the fasting

of the blessed month of Ramadan each year, for whoever has no valid excuse for abandoning the fast, such as a chronic illness, or advanced age preventing him from fasting...

...or advanced age preventing him from fasting, or necessary travel, or pregnancy, breastfeeding, or menstruation.

In addition, there is the pilgrimage to the Sacred House of Allah in Mecca, required only once in a lifetime, for whoever can afford the financial costs of Hajj, is physically able to bear its burdens, and can obtain the required visas and official approvals, with assurance of a safe and secure journey.

Since Islam, the seal of all religions, is the heavenly religion of natural human disposition that safeguards the five human essentials — religion, life, wealth, honor, and intellect — it has forbidden everything that conflicts with these essentials and would damage, disable, or erase them, while permitting everything that serves to preserve them, so that human life may proceed rightly upon the surface of this blue planet, afflicted as it is by wars, climate change, global warming, and natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, wildfires, hurricanes, famines, drought, desertification, and epidemic pandemics, among others.

Islam has forbidden the worship of idols, false gods, planets, stars, animals, natural phenomena, human beings, and stones, because these conflict with the worship of Allah, the Exalted, the One and Only, and with declaring His Oneness, He being the Creator of this magnificent universe and the very foundation and noble, lofty purpose of the heavenly religion. Islam has likewise forbidden drinking alcohol and taking drugs, for example, because they impair the intellect, which is the basis of religious accountability and the jewel that distinguishes man from all other creatures around him. Islam has forbidden murder, because it extinguishes honored and protected human lives. It has forbidden theft, embezzlement, forgery, usury, and gambling, because they destroy and waste wealth. And it has forbidden deviant sexual relations such as rape, prostitution, and the like, outside the sacred bond of marriage, because they squander lineage, mix up bloodlines, tear families apart, and spread indecency, abortion, unmarried motherhood, deadly sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual harassment among people.

I close with what the well-known preacher Mahmoud Ghareeb, may Allah have mercy on him, related about the agricultural expert Lino Watori, on the day this expert summed up his admiration for Islam with the phrase, "Muhammad listens to the voice of heaven." When the interpreter asked him, "Do you mean that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah?", he answered without hesitation, "This is a truth I have known ever since I began preparing my doctoral dissertation." So deeply moved was his daughter Helen by what her father had said that she declared her conversion to Islam only a few weeks later.

The Second Pillar: Prayer as Worship and Remedy

Among the curious numerical subtleties of the Qur'an is that the total number of obligatory prayer units (rak'ahs) is 17, while the confirmed voluntary sunnah rak'ahs total 14; multiplying 17 by 14 gives 238 — the number of the verse in Surat Al-Baqarah commanding the maintenance of prayer.

Regarding the benefits of ablution, Dr. Hanan Al-Yousef, a complementary medicine specialist, revealed in a workshop at the College of Pharmacy, King Saud University, in 2023, that "ablution acts as a massage of numerous points on the surface of the body linked to the energy of the internal organs, restoring their balance and activity and stimulating the body's own self-healing capacity, while activating blood circulation and the lymphatic glands. Massaging the hands and feet relieves pain, while massaging the feet improves the energy of the stomach, pancreas, bladder, kidneys, liver, and bile duct," in her words.

The Japanese journalist Kaori, head of the Japan Muslim Association, says: "I believed in existentialist philosophy until I read a French translation of the meanings of the Qur'an, and my heart was set at ease, so I declared my conversion to Islam, and prayer became my refuge, and prostration to Allah, the Exalted, became my comfort and tranquility," according to the book *This Is Why I Embraced Islam*.

The American mathematician Professor Jeffrey Lang adds, in the book he wrote after his conversion to Islam, *Struggling to Surrender*: "The dawn prayer is among the most beautiful of rites — it makes you feel as though you are leaving this world and traveling with the angels."

A scientific study led by physical therapy specialist Dr. Adel Abdel Hamid concluded that "prayer strengthens the muscles of the body and plays a role in heart health, stable blood pressure, and a person's psychological and mental health."

Nutrition and microbiology consultant Dr. Medhat Al-Shami published research demonstrating that prayer is an important factor in the secretion of the "youth hormone" melatonin, which delays the signs of aging.

Dr. Bayu Suseno, professor of psychology at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in Indonesia, noted that those who perform the daily prayers enjoy better mental alertness and psychological health than those who do not pray.

Beyond being the pillar of the religion and the second of the pillars of Islam, prayer carries great physiological and psychological benefits. Dr. Mustafa Al-Haffar notes that among the benefits of bowing (ruku') and prostration (sujud) is the strengthening of the abdominal wall muscles and assisting the stomach and intestines in performing their functions.

A scientific study published in the journal *Psychology and Health* showed that elderly women who consistently perform the prayers have a 20% lower mortality risk compared to others. Experts at the Jordanian Society of Cardiologists add that the heart rate slows during sleep to reach 50 beats per minute, and a person needs to perform some form of physical exertion for at least 15 minutes upon waking — precisely what the daily dawn prayer provides, as stated in the book *Healing Through Prayer*, confirming that the cortisone hormone responsible for a person's activity begins to rise with the onset of the dawn prayer time.

In a scientific study titled "The Effect of Prayer on the Efficiency of Cerebral Blood Circulation" by general surgery specialist Dr. Abdullah Muhammad Nusrat, it was revealed that "carbon dioxide levels increase in the blood, and the repeated tilting of the head downward during bowing and prostration in prayer, followed by its rising during standing and sitting, helps maintain the automatic balance system of blood circulation in the brain."

In joint research with specialists from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Minnesota, Mohammad Al-Khasawneh, head of the Department of Industrial Engineering at Binghamton University, revealed that "there is a strong relationship between prayer and following a physically healthy lifestyle, and that prayer can eliminate physical stress and anxiety, and can be considered an effective treatment for the musculoskeletal system."

Dr. Muhammad Dīaa El-Dīn, professor of biological sciences, holds that "a person today is exposed to excessive doses of radiation, surrounded everywhere by electromagnetic fields, and in order to discharge these charges outside the body, prostration in prayer is the best means for this, since the discharge process occurs through the contact of the forehead with the ground, in addition to the hands, knees, and feet."

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "I was commanded to prostrate myself on seven bones, and not to fold back my hair or clothing." And he ﷺ said: "Devote yourself to frequent prostration before Allah, for you will not prostrate to Allah with a single prostration without Allah raising you a degree because of it, and removing a sin from you because of it."

A study published in the journal *Neuroscience Journal* reveals that prostration for an extended...

...a study revealed that 10 seconds of prostration increases blood flow to the anterior frontal cortex, indicating heightened activity in this region of the brain, which helps activate the parasympathetic nervous system associated with relaxation, and regulates the functioning of the frontal cortex responsible for controlling emotions and decision-making.

A study conducted by researchers at Bowling Green State University in the United States found that "prayer in general helped reduce migraine attacks," while a study conducted at the University

of Florida in the United States revealed that "elderly people who prayed or used other spiritual methods had more positive, self-reliant coping strategies."

Researcher Jeanine Owens adds, in her book *Contemporary Islamic Perspectives on Public Health*, published by Cambridge University Press, that "prayer is a comprehensive healthy practice due to its association with physical and psychological health, and the physical effect of the regular movements involved in prayer improves joint flexibility and engages a diverse set of muscles, while prayer improves mental focus, the ability to cope with stress, and psychological stability."

The Third Pillar: Your Zakat Is Your Salvation

Zakat, the third pillar of Islam, carries immense material, social, moral, and psychological benefits in supporting those in need, strengthening social solidarity, reducing the class gap between the rich and the poor, and spreading the spirit of love among human beings, with each constantly reminded of the other — the wealthy spending and giving zakat, and the poor thanking Allah, the Exalted, and thanking those who give to them. Zakat is given to the poor, the destitute, those who administer it, those in debt, those whose hearts are to be reconciled, for the cause of Allah, and the wayfarer.

The value of zakat is 2.5%, paid out after a full year has passed on wealth that has reached the threshold (nisab) mentioned earlier. Zakat is obligatory on money and on merchandise for trade, on stores of gold and silver, on crops and fruits for farmers, and on livestock and cattle for herders, subject to specific conditions not detailed here. There is also what is known as zakat Al-fitr, obligatory upon those who fast, to be given either as food or money in the final days of the month of Ramadan, to be given to the poor and destitute; and there is also what is known as the zakat of rikaz — treasures hidden within the earth, should one be found.

If you show mercy, then you are as a mother or a father... these two, in this world, are the merciful ones

And if you grow angry, it is but an anger... for the sake of what is right, free of malice and hatred

The Fourth Pillar: Fasting as Worship and Remedy

A saying passed down among Muslims goes, "Fast, and you will be healthy." A rigorous scientific study published in March 2025, with the participation of 82 researchers from 15 countries, whose details were published in the journal *Frontiers in Nutrition*, revealed that fasting plays a role in the notable improvement of triglycerides and total cholesterol, and in lowering blood sugar levels.

According to the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, and according to Dr. Mark Mattson, fasting is beneficial for the heart and blood vessels and reduces the risk of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.

German integrative medicine expert Gustav Dobos recommends "intermittent fasting" for 16 hours, equivalent to fasting a full day followed by two healthy meals, comparable to a pre-dawn meal (suhoor) and a fast-breaking meal (iftar), because fasting rests the stomach and gives the body an opportunity to burn fat, according to the German newspaper Bild.

The scientific journal PLOS ONE published a study indicating that fasting contributes to weight loss and lowering blood pressure, while adjusting blood fat and glucose levels, according to Germany's Deutsche Welle.

Among the benefits of fasting — in addition to being obligatory upon every Muslim, and beyond its immense reward and recompense — is the neutralization of harmful bacteria in the stomach in favor of an increase in beneficial bacteria, according to a study by Dr. Bruce Vallance, whose results were published in the journal PLOS Pathogens in 2021.

The New England Journal of Medicine adds that partially restricting food intake for a period ranging between 8 and 14 hours improves cognitive abilities, raises insulin sensitivity, prevents the development of diabetes and the risk of heart disease, and improves the immune system, according to Dr. Mark Mattson of Johns Hopkins University.

The British newspaper Daily Mail published a 2023 study by Dr. Andreas Michalsen revealing that 43% of people who adopted proper fasting were able to reduce their reliance on blood pressure medication compared to others, and according to the French magazine Femme Actuelle, fasting for consecutive days combined with a healthy diet helps patients with joint problems and high blood pressure.

The journal Medical Express further reveals that fasting strengthens the immune system and helps prevent the development of certain diseases, while the journal Nature Neuroscience published a 2021 study indicating that fasting affects the distribution of T-cells, contributing to fighting germs and protecting the body from disease.

China's National Clinical Research Center revealed that the intermittent fasting regimen alters the gut-brain microbiome axis in humans, while Professor Krista Varady of the University of Illinois in the United States revealed, in late 2023, that time-restricted eating can be a practical alternative for people with type 2 diabetes.

A scientific study conducted at the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology revealed that fasting may reduce the risks of aging, making people biologically younger while renewing metabolic and immune functions.

The Fifth Pillar: Hajj — Worship, Expiation for Sins, and a Gathering of Nations and Peoples

The fifth obligation of Islam is the obligation of Hajj, for whoever is able to make the journey, and it carries countless lofty and noble purposes, as all human races and ethnicities gather annually on a single ground — no difference between white and black, red and yellow, rich and poor, ruler and ruled — wearing pure white garments, performing beautiful rites and pillars that cannot be detailed here; whoever wishes to learn more should consult the specialized books on the teachings of Hajj and 'Umrah.

I also advise everyone who has recently embraced Islam to read the book *Pilgrimage to the Sacred House of Allah* by the French painter Étienne Dinet, the book *Allahu Akbar*, on the Hajj journey, by the Hungarian scholar Gyula Germanus, the book *Journey to Mecca* by German professor Wilfried Hofmann, and the book *The Road to Mecca* by the famous Austrian media figure and thinker Leopold Weiss, in addition to the book *An American's Journey to Mecca*, and the book *A Thousand Roads to Mecca*, as well as watching the documentary film *An American in Mecca*, all by the American director Michael Wolfe, who declared his conversion to Islam and, in addition to the above, directed a documentary film on the biography of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Among the interesting subtleties of Hajj and 'Umrah is that circumambulating (tawaf) around the Kaaba proceeds counterclockwise, exactly like the...

...exactly like the revolution of an electron around the nucleus of an atom, the earth around its own center, the moon around the earth, the planets together with the earth around the sun, and the solar system around its own galactic center — all performed in identical white garments that erase every form of social, class, and ethnic distinction among all human beings.

Dr. Magdy Ashour has a beautiful observation on the repetition of the number seven throughout the rites of Hajj: the circumambulation (tawaf) around the Kaaba is seven circuits, the striving (sa'i) between Safa and Marwah is seven circuits, and the stoning of the pillars (rami Al-jamarat) is performed seven times — as though each casting closes one of the seven gates of Hellfire. It is as though the rites of Hajj mirror what exists in the universe and its governing patterns: the days of the week are seven, the colors of the solar spectrum are seven, the heavens are seven, the earths are seven, the gravest destructive sins are seven, prostration in prayer rests upon seven bones, and the musical scale has seven basic notes.

Its conclusion is the seal upon it. I close this section with verses from the famous ode "Bai Zi Zan" ("Praise in a Hundred Characters"), composed by the Chinese Emperor Hongwu, founder of the Ming Dynasty in the fourteenth century CE, in praise of the noble Messenger, written in Chinese, after ten Muslim generals stood by his side in his war against the Mongols, which he won. Among its verses:

*Under divine care and support, he protects and shields his whole nation
With five daily prayers, peace is silently invoked
Allah is in your heart, O support of the poor
He lifts them from calamity and sees what cannot be seen
Guidance of souls, rescuing them from sin
A mercy to the worlds, upon the wisdom of the ancients
Subduer of evils, his religion is purity and truth
Muhammad, the most noble, the most wise*

The Forty Prophetic Hadiths on Morals and Humanity

- *"The best among you is the one who learns the Qur'an and then teaches it to others."*
- *"The five daily prayers, one Friday prayer to the next, one Ramadan to the next — each wipes away the sins committed in between, as long as the major sins are avoided."*
- *"One 'umrah to the next erases the sins committed between them, and an accepted Hajj has no reward less than Paradise itself."*
- *"Maintaining family ties adds years to one's life, and secret charity extinguishes the Lord's anger."*
- *"The truly strong person isn't the one who overpowers others in a wrestling match — the truly strong person is the one who controls himself when he's angry."*
- *"None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."*
- *"Allah dislikes three things from you: idle gossip, wasting money, and asking too many (unnecessary) questions."*
- *"A person with beautiful character can reach the same rank as one devoted to night prayer and fasting."*
- *"Whoever wants his provision expanded and his lifespan extended should maintain his family ties."*

- *"Allah is truly pleased with a servant who eats a meal and praises Him for it, or takes a drink and praises Him for it."*
- *"Shall I tell you who is forbidden to the Fire — or for whom the Fire is forbidden? It is every person who is approachable, gentle, and easygoing."*
- *"Allah's right upon His servants is that they worship Him alone and associate nothing with Him; and the servants' right upon Allah is that He will not punish anyone who does not associate anything with Him."*
- *"Gentleness never enters into anything without making it more beautiful, and it is never stripped away from anything without leaving it worse."*
- *"Make things easy, don't make them hard. Give people good news, don't drive them away."*
- *"No fatigue, no illness, no sickness, no grief — not even a passing worry — ever touches a believer without Allah wiping away some of his sins because of it."*
- *"Every joint in a person's body owes a charity, on every day the sun rises: settling a dispute fairly between two people is a charity; helping a man onto his mount or lifting his belongings onto it is a charity; a kind word is a charity; every step you take toward prayer is a charity; and removing something harmful from the road is a charity."*
- *"How remarkable is the believer's situation! Everything that happens to him turns out well for him — and that applies to no one but the believer. If something good comes his way, he's grateful, and that's good for him. If something hard comes his way, he's patient, and that's good for him too."*
- *"When a person dies, all his deeds come to a stop, except for three: an ongoing charity, knowledge that keeps benefiting people, or a righteous child who prays for him."*
- *"Do not curse the dead — they have already reached whatever they sent ahead of themselves."*

When asked which deed is most beloved to Allah, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "The most consistent one, even if small."

- *"Two blessings that many people fail to appreciate until they're gone: good health and free time."*
- *"A believer is to another believer like a building — its parts hold each other up."*
- *"You see believers in their mutual mercy, affection, and compassion like one single body: when one part of it hurts, the rest of the body stays up all night, feverish, in solidarity."*
- *"The finest form of devotion a person can show is to keep up ties with the people his father loved, even after his father is gone."*

- *"Three things follow the dead person — his family, his wealth, and his deeds. Two of them turn back: his family and his wealth. Only his deeds stay with him."*

- *The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, "Those who race ahead alone [in remembering Allah constantly] have won." They asked, "And who are the Mufarridun, O Messenger of Allah?" He said, "Those men and women who remember Allah much."*

Remembrance of Allah (dhikr) is performed with the tongue through glorification, praise, magnification, the declaration of His Oneness, and seeking forgiveness and making supplication; with the heart through fear of the Almighty, acting upon what has been revealed, contentment with little, and readiness for the day of departure; with the mind through constant reflection on the wondrous workmanship of Allah, the Exalted, and His way in His creation; and with the body through holding fast to everything Allah has made lawful and permissible, while keeping entirely away from everything He has forbidden and prohibited.

- *The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Your smile in the face of your brother is charity for you; your enjoining good and forbidding evil is charity; your guiding a man lost in the land of misguidance is charity for you; your seeing for a man of poor eyesight is charity for you; your removing a stone, a thorn, or a bone from the road is charity for you; and your pouring water from your bucket into the bucket of your brother is charity for you."*

- *"Be mindful of Allah wherever you are. Follow up any wrong you do with something good — it will wipe it out. And treat people with beautiful character."*

- *"Allah says: 'There are three whom I will personally oppose on the Day of Resurrection — and whoever I oppose, I have already defeated: a man who gave his word in My name and then broke it; a man who sold a free person into slavery and pocketed the price; and a man who hired a worker, got full use of his labor, and then never paid him.'"*

- *"Actions are only judged by the intentions behind them, and each person gets only what he intended. So whoever emigrated for Allah and His Messenger, his emigration counts as being for Allah and His Messenger. But whoever emigrated for some worldly gain or to marry a woman, his emigration counts as being for whatever he actually emigrated for."*

- *"Actions are only judged by the intentions behind them, and each person gets only what he intended. So whoever emigrated for Allah and His Messenger, his emigration counts as being for Allah and His Messenger. But whoever emigrated for some worldly gain or to marry a woman, his emigration counts as being for whatever he actually emigrated for."*

- *"A believer who reads the Qur'an is like a citron — its scent is pleasant and its taste is pleasant. A believer who doesn't read the Qur'an is like a date — no scent, but its taste is sweet. A hypocrite*

who reads the Qur'an is like sweet basil — pleasant scent, bitter taste. And a hypocrite who doesn't read the Qur'an is like a bitter gourd — no scent, and a bitter taste too."

- *"Never look down on any act of kindness, even something as small as greeting your brother with a warm, cheerful face."*
- *"Whoever carries these four traits is a complete hypocrite, and whoever carries even one of them carries a trace of hypocrisy until he drops it: lying whenever he speaks, breaking his word whenever he promises, acting shamelessly whenever he argues, and betraying whenever he makes a covenant."*
- *"Whoever can guarantee me what's between his jaws and what's between his legs — his tongue and his private parts — I guarantee him Paradise."*
- *"Righteousness is good character. And sin is whatever stirs uneasily in your chest and that you'd hate for people to find out about."*
- *"Every child of Adam makes mistakes, and the best of those who make mistakes are the ones who keep turning back to Allah in repentance."*
- *"Whoever points someone toward something good earns a reward equal to the one who actually does it."*
- *"Every religion has a defining character trait, and the defining trait of Islam is modesty."*
- *"Indecency never spreads openly among a people without plagues and diseases unknown to their ancestors spreading among them in turn. They never cheat in weights and measures without being struck by famine, hardship, and unjust rulers. They never withhold their zakat without rain being withheld from the sky — and if it weren't for the animals, they'd get no rain at all. They never break their covenant with Allah and His Messenger without Allah setting an outside enemy upon them, who seizes some of what's in their hands. And whenever their leaders fail to govern by Allah's Book, picking and choosing from what He revealed, Allah turns them against each other in strife."*

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "There is no envy except in two cases: a man to whom Allah has given wealth and who spends it rightfully in its destruction (i.e. in good causes), and a man to whom Allah has given wisdom, by which he judges and which he teaches."

Building on Islam's encouragement of learning in every time and place, and its call to seek knowledge and wisdom and to draw ever more deeply from them wherever they may be found — for they are the believer's lost property, and wherever he finds them he has the greatest right to them — Islamic history, across many long centuries, has been filled with countless thousands of scholars, sages, and geniuses across every branch of knowledge and field of learning, many of whom held pioneering primacy and preeminent mastery within their specialties. I will content

myself with mentioning only a small sample of scholars of the theoretical and applied sciences, for fear of excessive length; as for those relating to the luminaries of the humanities — literature, poetry, language, grammar, morphology, rhetoric, history, education, the sciences of hadith, jurisprudence and its principles, exegesis, logic, and the arts of calligraphy, ornamentation, and design, and the like — the list alone would require massive volumes:

The Founder of Sociology: Ibn Khaldun

The founder of sociology, Wali Al-Din Abd Al-Rahman ibn Khaldun Al-Khadrami, was born in Tunis in 732 AH.

His most famous work is Kitab Al-'Ibar (The Book of Lessons), widely known as "The History of Ibn Khaldun," whose renowned introduction — known as the Muqaddimah of Ibn Khaldun — achieved overwhelming fame as the first comprehensive global study in sociology, the conditions of human beings, and the causes behind the rise, urban development, and collapse of nations.

Ibn Khaldun is considered the founder of sociology, preceding Auguste Comte, Émile Durkheim, Herbert Spencer, and Arnold Toynbee.

He died in 808 AH.

Among his sayings:

— *"The vanquished is always inclined to imitate the victor in his slogans, his dress, his creed, and all his other customs and habits, the reason being that the soul always believes perfection lies with the one who has overcome it and to whom it has submitted, whether through genuine admiration for that perfection or otherwise."*

— *"History, on its surface, is nothing more than information, but beneath that surface lies reflection and verification."*

— *"When states collapse, astrologers, charlatans, pseudo-scholars, and opportunists proliferate, rumors spread, debates lengthen, insight shortens, and thought grows confused."*

— *"When the power of the tribe grows strong, the power of the state weakens, and when the power of the state grows strong, the power of the tribe weakens."*

The Discoverer of Pulmonary Circulation: Ibn Al-Nafis

The physician and philosopher Abu Al-Hasan Ala Al-Din Ali, known as Ibn Al-Nafis, was born in Damascus in 607 AH.

He is regarded as the physiologist of the medieval era, an expert in anatomy and the functions of the organs, and the first to discover pulmonary circulation, centuries before the British physician William Harvey.

Among his scientific works are Sharh Tashrih Al-Qanun (Commentary on the Anatomy of the Canon), Al-Shamil fi Al-Sina'ah Al-Tibbiyyah (The Comprehensive Book on the Art of Medicine), and Al-Risalah Al-Kamiliyyah fi Al-Sirah Al-Nabawiyyah (The Kamilian Treatise on the Prophetic Biography).

He died in 687 AH.

Among his sayings:

— *"The eye is an instrument of sight, not the seer itself — otherwise a single object would be seen as two by the two eyes — for the benefit of this instrument is completed only by a perceiving spirit that comes from the brain."*

— *"Let us always remember their saying: when minds and efforts are equal, the latecomer to any craft is better than its forerunner."*

The First Inventor of Raised Script: Zayn Al-Din Al-Amidi

The jurist and linguist Zayn Al-Din Abu Al-Hasan Ali Al-Amidi was born in Baghdad in the middle of the seventh Islamic century.

He was blind, and invented raised script designed to help the blind, six centuries before its discovery in 1850 CE by the Frenchman Louis Braille.

He worked as a stationer and devised a method that made it easier for him to acquire books by placing labels written in...

...raised script written on them, using the abjad numeral system to record prices.

Among his most notable works are Ta'aliq fi Al-Fiqh (Commentaries on Jurisprudence) and Jawahir Al-Tabsir (Jewels of Insight).

He died in Baghdad in 712 AH.

Al-Safadi said of him, in his book Nakt Al-Himyan fi Nukat Al-'Umyan (Witticisms of the Blind): "Zayn Al-Din Al-Amidi knew the prices of every book he had acquired; whenever he bought a book for a certain sum, he would take a light strip of paper and twist it into a fine wick, shaping it into one or more letters of the alphabet to represent the book's price using the abjad numeral system."

The Founder of Educational Theory: Imam Al-Ghazali

He was born in 1058 CE, and was given the title "al-Ghazali" because his father worked spinning wool.

Among his most famous books are *Al-Munqidh min Al-Dalal* (Deliverance from Error), *Ayyuha Al-Walad* (O Son), *Kimiya-yi Sa'adat* (The Alchemy of Happiness), *Al-Mustasfa min 'Ilm Al-Usul* (The Essentials of Islamic Legal Theory), *Shifa' Al-Ghalil fi Al-Qiyas wa Al-Ta'lil* (Quenching the Thirst on Analogical Reasoning and Causation), *Iljam Al-'Awamm 'an 'Ilm Al-Kalam* (Restraining the Common People from the Science of Theology), *Al-Tibr Al-Masbuk fi Nasihat Al-Muluk* (Molten Gold in Advice to Kings), and *Ihya' 'Ulum Al-Din* (The Revival of the Religious Sciences).

He dismantled ancient philosophy in his most famous book, *Tahafut Al-Falasifah* (The Incoherence of the Philosophers), explaining the reasons for writing it: "I began composing this book in response to the ancient philosophers, showing the incoherence of their creed and the contradiction in their positions regarding matters of divinity, exposing the pitfalls of their doctrine and its flaws, which are, upon careful examination, a source of ridicule for the intelligent and a lesson for the discerning — I mean specifically those doctrines and opinions in which they set themselves apart from the general masses."

Among his sayings:

— *"All the beauties of religion and the noble traits of character are the fruit of love; whatever is not born of love is the pursuit of mere whim, and among the vices of character."*

— *"Gentle speech softens hearts harder than rock, while harsh speech hardens hearts softer than silk."*

Dozens of Orientalists and researchers have devoted themselves to studying his books and writings since 1858, most prominently the German Orientalist Gosche, the American Macdonald, the Hungarian Goldziher, the Frenchman Massignon, the Briton William Montgomery Watt, and others, given Al-Ghazali's immense influence on the science of education and global ethical thought, and his refutation of philosophers and esoteric movements, their doubts, and their ideas.

The First Inventor of Robots: Badi' Al-Zaman Al-Jazari

The first "inventor of robots," Badi' Al-Zaman Abu Al-'Izz ibn Isma'il Al-Jazari, was born on the island of Ibn Umar in 1136 CE.

His most famous book is *The Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices*, in which he catalogued 50 mechanical and hydraulic devices, publishing their diagrams and methods of construction.

Al-Jazari described various types of water clocks and sandglasses, most notably the "elephant clock," and invented fountains, water pumps, and lifting machines. He was the first to invent the automated robot, through various figures that moved for entertainment, for telling time, and for signaling the arrival of prayer time along with pouring water for ablution.

He died in Baghdad in 1206 CE.

The English Orientalist Donald Hill said of him: "No document has reached us, even from the modern era, from any other civilization in the world, containing anything comparable to what is found in Al-Jazari's book in terms of the richness of its engineering designs and explanations for the methods of manufacturing and assembling machines."

Al-Jazari's book, *The Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices*, holds a prominent place in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Louvre Museum in France, and the Bodleian Library at Oxford University, and has been translated into dozens of living languages.

The Father of Medicine: Al-Razi

Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariya Al-Razi was born in Rey in 865 CE, and excelled in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, pharmacy, and philosophy.

He was the first to devise the "clinical examination," psychotherapy, single-drug treatment, and catgut surgical sutures, and the Italian historian Aldo Mieli counted him among "the greatest of the Arab physicians."

His most famous book is *Al-Hawi fi 'Ilm Al-Tadawi* (The Comprehensive Book on Medicine), which remained a medical reference for 400 years, along with *Man La Yahduruhu Al-Tabib* (For Those Without a Physician), *Al-Hasbah wa Al-Jadari* (On Smallpox and Measles), *Al-Mansuri fi Al-Tashrih* (The Mansurian Book on Anatomy), and *Inna li Al-'Abd Khaliqan* (Indeed the Servant Has a Creator).

He died in 923 CE.

Among his sayings:

— *"If the physician can treat with foods rather than medicines, he has achieved good fortune."*

— *"Whoever seeks treatment from many physicians is liable to fall into the error of each one of them."*

The Founder of Geography: Al-Idrisi

The founder of geography, Muhammad ibn Muhammad ibn Abdullah Al-Idrisi, was born in 1100 CE in the Moroccan city of Ceuta.

He advanced the drawing of maps and lines of latitude, re-verified the ancient lines of longitude, and excelled in mathematics, engineering, botany, philosophy, medicine, and astronomy.

NASA named a mountain range on the planet Pluto, captured by its New Horizons spacecraft, after Al-Idrisi.

His most famous works are *Nuzhat Al-Mushtaq fi Ikhtiraq Al-Afaq* (The Pleasure Excursion of One Who Is Eager to Traverse the Regions of the World), *Al-Mamalik wa Al-Masalik* (Kingdoms and Roads), and *Al-Jami' li-Sifat Ashtat Al-Nabat* (The Compendium of the Properties of Diverse Plants).

He died in 1166 CE.

Among his sayings — he was a man of letters, a lover of travel and journeying:

*Would that I knew where my grave shall be... my life has been lost in exile and distant places
I left nothing my eye still longed to see... on any land or any sea*

Al-Biruni: The Founder of Hydrodynamics

Abu Al-Rayhan Muhammad ibn Ahmad Al-Biruni was born in 973 CE, in one of the cities of Khwarazm.

He excelled in mathematics, physics, astronomy, and geography, invented the science of statics, and devised a method for measuring the earth's radius and calculating density, specific weight, and gravity, and founded the sciences of hydrodynamics and comparative religion.

Al-Biruni authored 146 works, the most famous being *Tahqiq ma li'l-Hind* (Verifying All That Pertains to India), *Al-Tafhim li-Awa'il Sina'at Al-Tanjim* (Instruction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology), and *Al-Athar Al-Baqiyah* (The Chronology of Ancient Nations).

NASA named a lunar crater after him in tribute to his contributions.

He died in 1048 CE.

Among his sayings:

— *"Studying the character of the wise and the learned revives good tradition and puts to death evil innovation."*

The Inventor of Zero and Algebra: Al-Khwarizmi

Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi was born in 780 CE in Khwarazm, headed the House of Wisdom in Baghdad, and excelled in mathematics, astronomy, and geography.

He was the first to establish the science of algebra, and "algorithms" — a term derived from his own name and later adapted into "logarithms" — paving the way for the later sciences of computing.

Al-Khwarizmi was the first to introduce the concept of "zero," devised trigonometric ratio tables, advanced the drawing of geographic maps, and developed the sundial.

His most famous books are Al-Mukhtasar fi Hisab Al-Jabr wa Al-Muqabalah (The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing) and Surat Al-Ard (The Image of the Earth).

He died in 850 CE.

Among his sayings:

— *"An apology given where it is not warranted is itself a fault; excessive formality where trust already exists is a flaw; and medicine taken without need is itself an ailment, just as it is a cure when genuinely needed."*

The Physician-Philosopher: Ibn Sina (Avicenna)

The philosopher Abu Ali Al-Husayn ibn Abdullah ibn Sina was born in 980 CE in the village of Afshana near Bukhara.

He preceded the English astronomer Jeremiah Horrocks in observing the transit of Venus, invented a device for tracking stellar coordinates, detailed the extraction of medicines, the occurrence of earthquakes, the discovery of pollution, women's diseases, and plant anatomy.

Google celebrates Ibn Sina's birthday annually — he who was given the title "the Aristotle of the Muslims" and who excelled in astronomy, philosophy, medicine, mathematics, and physics.

He authored more than 240 works, the most famous being Al-Qanun fi Al-Tibb (The Canon of Medicine), Al-Shifa' (The Book of Healing), and Ibtal Ahkam Al-Nujum (The Invalidity of Astrological Judgments).

He died in 1037 CE.

He died in 1037 CE.

The Belgian historian George Sarton said of him: "Ibn Sina was a towering intellectual phenomenon; we may find no equal to him in intelligence and intellectual output, which stands as a reference point in medieval philosophy."

Among his sayings:

— *"Philosophers, like all people, are sometimes right and sometimes mistaken."*

— *"Delusion is half the illness, reassurance is half the remedy, and patience is the first step toward healing."*

— *"Beware overeating, for most ailments arise from excess food."*

— *"Supporting the truth is honor; supporting falsehood is extravagance."*

The Prince of Travelers and Explorers: Ibn Battuta

The famous traveler Muhammad ibn Abdullah ibn Muhammad Al-Lawati was born in 1304 CE in Tangier, Morocco.

He began his exploratory journeys at an early age, journeys that lasted 30 years during which he covered 120,000 kilometers and visited 44 countries, earning him the title "Prince of Muslim Travelers."

He was a poet, a writer, and a judge, who came into contact with dozens of kings, rulers, and princes throughout his long travels.

His most famous work is *Tuhfat Al-Nuzzar fi Ghara'ib Al-Amsar wa 'Aja'ib Al-Asfar* (A Gift to Those Who Contemplate the Wonders of Cities and the Marvels of Travelling), known as "The Travels of Ibn Battuta," considered one of the most important historical and geographical sources in the world for describing cultures and societies. He died in 1369 CE.

Among his sayings:

— *"Hope is strong in Allah's mercy and forbearance, and in attaining the goal of entering Paradise."*

— *"Merit lies in intellect and refinement, not in lineage and pedigree."*

The Most Famous Botanist and Pharmacist: Ibn Al-Baytar

Diya' Al-Din Abu Muhammad Abdullah, known as Ibn Al-Baytar, was born in 1197 CE in Malaga.

He is considered a pioneer of light therapy and chemical treatment, and one of the most famous botanists and pharmacists in history.

His most famous work is *Al-Jami' li-Mufradat Al-Adwiya wa Al-Aghdhiya* (The Comprehensive Book on Simple Drugs and Foods), which included 1,400 remedies.

Among his other works are *Al-Mughni fi Al-Adwiya Al-Mufradah* (The Sufficient Book on Simple Drugs), *Risalah fi Tadawi Al-Sumum* (A Treatise on Treating Poisons), and *Mizan Al-Tabib* (The Physician's Scale). He influenced the German Orientalist von Sontheimer and the French physician Lucien Leclerc. He died in Damascus in 1248 CE.

Among his sayings:

— *"The works of the ancients are insufficient and obscure for presenting to students, and so they must be corrected and completed so that students may benefit from them as much as possible."*

The Pioneer of Dentistry and Maxillofacial Surgery: Al-Zahrawi

Abu Al-Qasim Khalaf ibn Abbas Al-Zahrawi was born near Córdoba in 936 CE.

He was an expert surgeon who invented many important surgical instruments, and had great expertise in dentistry and jaw surgery.

He is considered the first to discover the hereditary nature of hemophilia, the first to describe the catheterization procedure, and the first to stop bleeding by tying off arteries with silk thread.

His most famous work is *Al-Tasrif li-man 'Ajiza 'an Al-Ta'lif* (An Aid for Those Who Cannot Compile [Medical Texts for Themselves]), which remained a medical reference in Europe for five centuries. He died in 1013 CE.

Among his sayings:

— *"The craft of medicine is long, and its practitioner must first train himself in the science of anatomy, for whoever is not learned in the anatomy we have described will inevitably fall into an error that kills people."*

The First Inventor of the Camera: Ibn Al-Haytham

The founder of the science of optics, Abu Ali Al-Hasan ibn Al-Haytham, was born in 965 CE in Basra.

Ibn Al-Haytham, who excelled in anatomy, physics, and ophthalmology, was given the title "the Second Ptolemy" and "the Physicist" in Europe.

He dispelled misconceptions about optical illusions, including what is known as the "moon illusion," and researched the science of light, the use of mirrors, the angles of incidence and

refraction, lenses, and the pinhole-camera experiment, which paved the way for the later invention of the camera.

He authored more than 200 books, the most famous being Kitab Al-Manazir (The Book of Optics), which influenced the English philosopher Roger Bacon and the German astronomer Johannes Kepler. He died in 1040 CE.

Among his sayings:

— *"Truths are shrouded in obscurity, and the search for truth is in itself a difficult matter, and the path to it is rugged."*

Lagari Hasan Çelebi: The Story of the First Rocket and Parachute

A Muslim physicist named Hasan Çelebi, given the title "Lagari," carried out two astonishing feats in 1633 CE. The first was launching the first rocket to carry a human being; the second was testing the first parachute descent in history.

The rocket was a long cylinder filled with gunpowder paste, with which Lagari soared to a distance of 275 meters before landing successfully in the waters of the Bosphorus the moment the gunpowder was spent, using a parachute he had crafted for himself in the shape of an eagle's two wings.

This pioneering feat of his is considered the first recorded human attempt to ascend into space.

The Traveler and Explorer: Evliya Çelebi

Evliya Çelebi ibn Derviş Muhammad Agha was born in 1611 CE.

He was given the title "the Turkish Ibn Battuta" after spending 44 years traveling across three continents, recording everything he observed of social conditions, economic circumstances, heritage, folklore, and geographic nature.

UNESCO once celebrated the 400th anniversary of his birth; he was a man of letters and wisdom, skilled in the arts of calligraphy and master of the rules of Qur'anic recitation and tajweed.

His most famous book is Seyahatname (Book of Travels), in ten volumes, translated into German, French, English, and Russian. He died in 1684 CE.

The Nautical Cartographer: Piri Reis

He is the naval captain Ahmed Muhyiddin Piri, born in 1470 CE.

He is the creator of the most famous nautical map and atlas known in the world, bearing his name, which shows the New World before the explorers Columbus and Vasco da Gama.

His most notable work is Kitab-ı Bahriye (The Book of Navigation), comprising 31 maps, combining the art of travel writing with nautical geography, and serving as an important guide for ships plying the seas and their captains.

He provided a precise description of the types of coastlines, islands, straits, passages, and storms.

He explained methods of using the compass and how to employ star charts in maritime navigation, and is considered the first to draw the Amazon River and its tributaries. He died in 1555 CE.

The Pioneer of Free Gliding Flight: Hezarfen Çelebi

The Muslim scholar Hezarfen Ahmed Çelebi lived in the seventeenth century, and was given the title "Master of a Thousand Arts."

He is considered the first human being to successfully cover a distance estimated at 3,358 meters through the air.

He soared high across the Bosphorus Strait with wings he had crafted for himself in 1632 CE, traveling between the Galata Tower and the Üsküdar district, after several short but successful attempts preceding his final trial.

Following that successful flight experiment, Hezarfen officially became the first pioneer of free gliding flight throughout history.

The Encyclopedic Bibliographer: Hajji Khalifa

He is the scholar Mustafa ibn Abdullah, known as Hajji Khalifa and Katib Çelebi, born in 1609 CE.

His most famous book is Kashf Al-Zunun 'an Asami Al-Kutub wa Al-Funun (The Removal of Doubt from the Names of Books and Arts), covering 18,000 titles, which took him twenty years to compile.

Among his other books are Taqwim Al-Tawarikh (The Chronology of Histories), Tuhfat Al-Akhyar fi Al-Hikam wa Al-Amthal wa Al-Ash'ar (A Gift of the Righteous in Wisdom, Proverbs, and Poetry), and Tuhfat Al-Kibar fi Asfar Al-Bihar (A Gift to the Great Concerning Sea Voyages), which included historical, geographic, and navigational information and methods for building standard naval fleets, concluding with 40 golden pieces of advice presented to ship captains and sailors.

The German Orientalist Franz Babinger classified him as the greatest Muslim encyclopedist.

He died in 1657 CE.

Dr. Abdel Radi Muhammad achieved something remarkable in his book *What Does the West Want from the Qur'an?*, when he soared with his statement that "the Noble Qur'an is the most science-celebrating of all sacred scriptures, since the word 'ilm (knowledge/science) and its derivatives appear in it more than 823 times, because knowledge in the Qur'an is one of the means of understanding that Allah has granted to humankind to help them carry out the burdens of stewardship on earth." The number of Qur'anic verses relating to the sciences and their facts exceeds 750 verses, spanning most fields of knowledge such as astronomy, medicine, geology, agriculture, botany, zoology, economics, commerce, oceanography, and others.

In this regard, many researchers, as well as a number of religious scholars specializing in various scientific fields, affirm that the Noble Qur'an points to numerous scientific facts. Examples of this include the continuous expansion of the sky:

"And the heaven We constructed with strength, and indeed, We are [its] expander"

(Adh-Dhariyat 51:47, Saheeh International)

...the universe passing through a smoke-like stage:

"Then He directed Himself to the heaven while it was smoke and said to it and to the earth, "Come [into being], willingly or by compulsion." They said, "We have come willingly"

(Fussilat 41:11, Saheeh International)

...the separation of the heavens from the earth and the relationship of water to life:

"Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and We separated them and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe"

(Al-Anbiya 21:30, Saheeh International)

...and the collapse of the universe:

"The Day when We will fold the heaven like the folding of a [written] sheet for the records. As We began the first creation, We will repeat it. [That is] a promise binding upon Us. Indeed, We will do it"

(Al-Anbiya 21:104, Saheeh International)

...among others, all of which have astonished scientists around the world — bearing in mind one very important point, as the Islamic preacher Hamza Tzortzis has noted: Qur'anic verses should not be hastily tied to scientific information, theories, and hypotheses, because science is subject to change, while the Book of Allah is fixed.

The Final Leg of the Journey

At the beginning of the month of Ramadan in 2024, the American stem-cell specialist Professor Henry Klassen — a professor at Harvard University, one of the faculty members affiliated with the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute, holder of a doctorate in neuroscience from the University of Pittsburgh, and the developer of a stem-cell treatment for hereditary blindness — announced his conversion to Islam, saying of that turning-point moment in his life, particularly after performing 'Umrah in Mecca and fasting the blessed month: "I changed my name to Abdul Haqq, because truth and knowledge were my path to Allah, the Exalted," according to Hawiya Press agency.

He was preceded in this by the former European mixed martial arts champion, the Austrian-German Vilim Aut, who tweeted on his Instagram account about the reasons for his conversion to Islam in 2020: "I had been reading about Islam for many years, and I had ample time to think it over during the quarantine imposed because of the coronavirus, before making my decision out of full conviction."

Similarly, the British singer, actress, screenwriter, and director Aisha Rosalie, who had lived her life in a non-religious family before becoming acquainted with Islam in Turkey in 2019 and deciding to embrace it after serious study and extensive reading, particularly of the translated meanings of the Noble Qur'an into English, says of this: "I feel as though I was born anew after my conversion to Islam, and I will share, through my YouTube channel, the stories of many people who have embraced Islam, with the aim of helping them."

Since one thing calls another to mind, it is worth pausing on what the American sociologist Dr. Craig Considine, professor at Rice University and a Catholic Christian researcher specializing in comparative religion, wrote in Newsweek magazine in 2020: "The Prophet of Islam was the first person in human history to oppose racism and slavery, and I am deeply influenced by his character, his humanity, and his sayings, and I frequently cite Prophetic hadiths in my articles and refer to his teachings in confronting infectious diseases!"

Dr. Craig Considine noted — not only in this article but in his book *Humanity of Muhammad: A Christian View* — that the Prophet ﷺ permitted the Christian delegation from Najran, led by their bishop Abu Haritha ibn 'Alqama — a delegation of 60 or 80 Christian scholars — to pray inside his own mosque, while in 622 CE he granted the Jews religious freedom through the Constitution of Medina. The Prophet ﷺ granted women rights and privileges in the seventh century CE that women elsewhere in the world did not enjoy, representing a genuine social revolution. As for Islam's encouragement of the pursuit of knowledge, one of its fruits was Sicily — once part of Andalusia — which played the greatest role in transmitting knowledge to Europe!

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