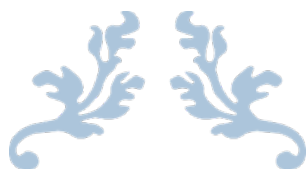


WHY ISLAM?

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2019



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2019*



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LA LUZ-THE LIGHT



LA LUZ (THE LIGHT)



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I. Preface

Due to my travel to various countries, I learned many languages, and I was able to interact with different cultures and religions. As a result, I found out how others are in fact very similar to us, and that we are all combined by humanity and by our similarities. We all have the same issues, aspirations, challenges and we all want the same things for ourselves and for our children. I found that we have the same Creator, the same source of existence and that all our religious differences are about the intermediaries between the human being and His Creator, so when we all pray direct to the Creator without intermediary, we will get united, then all the cultural, traditional and political barriers will be removed, then we would have peace. These experiences gave me the ambition to know more about the religion of Islam and other religions, as I had always a very important question in my mind, which is: Why Islam is the true religion? So I dedicated all my time and effort into learning the best way to present Islam for different people and different backgrounds.

This book intended to introduce people to the Religion of Islam. It is an attempt to demonstrate to all truth-seekers and open-minded people that what was sent by God to all nations through all messengers throughout history is one unique message (i.e. Pure Monotheism). All God's pious messengers endeavored to guide their people to the truth. But many people chose to follow their interpretations and thus went far from the prophetic teachings. This book is to showcase the uniqueness of Islam, its resilience and strength which defies all negative propaganda and withstands all attacks.

I pray to God (Allah)¹ that this book will be beneficial and a source of guidance and blessing, in this life and in the hereafter.

¹The Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the Middle East use the word "Allah" to refer to God, which refers to The Only True God.

The word Allah was mentioned in the earlier version of the Old Testament 89 times. (Refer to Genesis 1:1, Book of Daniel 6:20 Hebrew and Arabic Bible). The word 'Allah' appears in the original Sanskrit text. (Reg Veda - Book 2 hymn 1, Verse 11).

II. Introduction

Ever since Man appeared on earth - from the time of Adam²- the Creator³ appointed the most righteous person in a particular society as a prophet to guide mankind towards Truth with ultimate goal of reaching Him. Throughout history, He would send a prophet whenever people slipped into moral decline and aimless lives; after an earlier prophets' message became corrupted and adulterated.

All Prophets carried the same message to all nations. A simple straightforward message as the condition of salvation: Belief in One God (the Creator) and unifying Him in worship. Every Prophet was the way for his followers in his time to get the salvation, and that was by following his teachings; worshipping like the Prophet does, not worshipping the Prophet himself or any other intermediary (idol, saint, priest, etc.), as it is the right of the Creator to be worshipped alone and the right of the human being to have direct connection with His Creator. This is the message of Islam which started with Prophet Adam and was completed with Prophet Muhammad.

".., this day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion,.."(Qur'an 5:3)

The teachings of Islam include:

- Performing the ritualistic prayers to keep the connection with the Creator.
- Fasting the month of Ramadan to developing better self-control and appreciate God's blessings.
- Giving obligatory charity to the poor people to keep economic balance in society, purify the wealth, and revive the economy.
- Performing the pilgrimage to Mecca⁴ once in a lifetime to symbolize the unity of all believers regardless of their classes, backgrounds, cultures, or languages.

²(Adimanav, Aadim in Sanskrit) first man created by God.

³The Creator is Self-Sufficient, it does not befit His Majesty to take a son or wife, or to beget or to be begotten, and there is no similitude to Him. Who created space and time, is necessarily transcendent in relation to both and it is an error on our part to think that He is bound by either. It is The Creator who created the law of causation and we cannot consider Him as a subject to the law He created, therefore He does not change. He created the time, so He is not subjected to time. He does not go through the same stages of time that we go through, does not get tired, and does not need to put Himself in a human or animal form and descend to Earth. Therefore we cannot see Him in this life because we are trapped in time and space, while He transcends both. For example: a person sitting in a windowless room can only see the room's interior. To see outside, he must leave the room; that is to say, he must overcome the room as a hindrance to see the outside.

⁴ A city in Saudi Arabia where Muslims believe that it has the first House of God (Ka'aba) was appointed for humanity to worship God alone without intermediary.

Islam involves belief in all the messengers of God who were sent to different people in different eras without differentiating between any of them. Denial of one of God's prophets violates Islam. This establishes a very strong common bond with people of other faiths.

"The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in God (The Creator) 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'an2:285)

While many of the prophets and messengers that God has sent to different nations are mentioned by name in the Qur'an (i.e. Jesus, Moses, Abraham, Noah, David, Solomon, Ismail, Isaac, Joseph, etc.), others are not mentioned. Therefore, the possibility that other famous religious teachers such as the Hindu Lords Rama, Krishna, and Gautama Buddha were prophets of God cannot be out rightly negated.

"And We have already sent messengers before you [Muhammad]. Among them are those [whose stories] We have related to you, and among them are those [whose stories] We have not related to you. And it was not for any messenger to bring a sign [or verse] except by permission of God. So, when the command of God comes, it will be concluded in truth, and the falsifiers will thereupon lose [all]."(Qur'an 40:78)

Islam preserves human values, human dignity, and teaches us that people are equal in rights and duties. It calls to peace and justice through comprehensive security, social solidarity, good-neighborliness, preservation of money and property, and the fulfillment of covenants and other principles. This is another common denominator with the followers of other religions and shows that the origin of the divine religions is one.

Islam emphasizes that the approach to call others to God should be through a gentle respectful approach.

"Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided." (Qur'an 16: 125)

And it rejects rancor and violence in guidance and expression.

"O by mercy from God, [O Muhammad], you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude [in speech] and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you. So, pardon them and ask forgiveness for them and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon God. Indeed, God loves those who rely [upon Him]." (Qur'an 3:159)

Islam's ultimate goal is to spread mercy and lead all people to the righteous path.

"And We⁵ have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds." (Qur'an 21:107)

Islam enjoins people to respect covenants and to avoid prohibitions, treachery and betrayal.

"O you who have believed, fulfill [all] contracts. Lawful for you are the animals of grazing livestock except for that which is recited to you [in this Qur'an] - hunting not being permitted while you are in the state of ihram. Indeed, God ordains what He intends." (Qur'an 5:1)

"And fulfill the covenant of God when you have taken it, [O believers], and do not break oaths after their confirmation while you have made God, over you, a witness. Indeed, God knows what you do." (Qur'an 16:91)

Islam values life. Fighting non-combatants is not allowed. Their properties, children and women should be protected.

⁵ The reference of God to Himself as WE or US in many verses of the Qur'an denotes Grandeur and Power in Arabic. In the English language this is known as the royal WE, where a plural pronoun is used to refer to a single person holding a high office, such as a monarch. For the avoidance of doubt, the Qur'an has consistently reminded us of the SINGULAR pronoun in reference to God, when called upon by His servants.

"God does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, God loves those who act justly. God only forbids you from those who fight you because of religion and expel you from your homes and aid in your expulsion - [forbids] that you make allies of them. And whoever makes allies of them, then it is those who are the wrongdoers. "(Qur'an 60:8-9)

"..., whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely."(Qur'an 5:32)

Islam rules all aspects of human behavior, and builds strong nations and great civilizations. Throughout its history, Islam has established the foundation for science and provided thought leadership. Islam encouraged the participation of non-Muslims in its achievements and thus scored a record in tolerance and respect for humanity.⁶

The relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims is based on justice and peace.

"Fight in the way of God those who fight against you, but do not aggress. God does not love the aggressors." (Qur'an 2:190)

The real Muslim denounces the contemporary concept of terrorism, as represented in aggression against the rules of God and intimidation of civilians, the wounded, prisoners, and the use of immoral means to destroy the cities and civilizations.

"Say: 'Come, I will recite to you what your Lord forbids you; that you shall associate anything with Him; that you shall be good to your parents, that you shall not kill your children because of poverty, We provide for you and for them, that you shall not commit foul deeds whether openly or in secret, and that you shall not kill the soul that God has

⁶The Islamic civilization succeeded in illustrating the mind and thought. The religion of Islam was itself responsible not only for the creation of a world civilization in which people of many different ethnic backgrounds participated, but it played a central role in developing intellectual and cultural life on a scale not seen before. For around eight hundred years Arabic was the major intellectual and scientific language of the world.

forbidden except by right. With such God charges you, in order that you understand."
(Qur'an 6:151)

As you will see from what follows, Islam builds a strong system of morality, purifies the soul from self-seeking egotism, oppression, and indiscipline, and calls to gentleness, friendliness, generosity, mercy, compassion and peace, towards all creation in all situations. It creates God-conscious human beings, devoted to their ideals, possessed of piety, uncompromising with falsehood and evil; human beings who construct the Earth and benefit its peoples.

III. Why Islam Advances Despite Adverse Propaganda From The Mass Media

Ever since the revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad, he and his religion have been under constant attack and have been subject to major distortions. However, Islam has not only survived these attacks, but continues to expand rapidly even in places where it is under the fiercest assault. The appeal of Islam is due to several unique characteristics:

1. Islam Has Retained The Genuine Concept Of The Oneness Of God

No intermediaries between Man and the Creator in Islam. God is the One and the Only. Islam preserved the concept of Oneness of God devoid of any convoluted philosophy or complexity.

"He is Allah, the One, Allah, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is born. Nor is there to Him any equivalent."(Qur'an 112)

"God (the Creator): there is no true god but him. The ever-living, the eternal master of all. Neither drowsiness nor sleep overtakes him. His is all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. Who is there that can intercede with him, except by his permission? He knows all that lies open before them and all that lies hidden from them; whereas they cannot attain to anything of his knowledge save as he wills. His throne extends over the heavens and the earth, and the preservation of both does not tire him. He is the Most high, the Most great." (Qur'an 2:255)

2. Islam Has The Only True Preserved Scripture – The Unadulterated Word Of God

The full text of the Qur'an is available in the exact form as conveyed by Angel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad at the time of its revelation and in the original language in which it was revealed. It is unique in that it has been preserved by God. There is only one version of the Qur'an in the world.

"Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur'an and indeed, We will be its guardian." (Qur'an 15:9)

3. Islam Corroborates God's Previous Revelations And Honors His Messengers And Prophets

Muslims believe in all the earlier revelations of God (the scriptures of Abraham, the book of David, the Torah, The Gospel, etc.). Muslims believe that the original message in all the sacred books is Pure Monotheism (Unifying God in worship). Unlike the Divine scriptures that preceded, the Qur'an has not been kept in the hands of any particular group or clergymen of Muslims which could have led to its misinterpretation or alteration. On the contrary, the Qur'an has always been within the reach of all Muslims who recite it in their daily prayers, and refer to it for all their concerns.

"Say, [O believers], "We have believed in God (The Creator) and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Descendants and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him." (Qur'an 2:136)

"But they who believe in God and His messengers and do not discriminate between any of them - to those He is going to give their rewards. And ever is God Forgiving and Merciful."(Qur'an 4:152)

4. Islam Calls For Befriending People Of Other Religions

When we study the Qur'an, we should keep in mind that a particular issue may be discussed over several chapters or verses in the same chapter. We can get the complete understanding only by reviewing how the issue is presented over all the chapters and verses, not by looking at one part of the Qur'an and taking the verse out of context.

To understand the relationship with Jews, Christians or people of any other faiths, we have to study all the relevant verses from the Qur'an collectively.

"God does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, God loves those who act justly." (Qur'an 60:8)

"O you who believe! Take not for friends and protectors those who take your religion for a mockery or sport, - whether among those who received the Scripture before you, or among those who reject Faith; but remain conscious of God, if you are (truly) believers." (Qur'an 5:57)

Qur'an makes it clear again, who are not to be taken as friends and supporters.

"God only forbids you from those who fight you because of religion and expel you from your homes and aid in your expulsion - [forbids] that you make allies of them. And whoever makes allies of them, then it is those who are the wrongdoers." (Qur'an 60:9)

From the above verses, we can understand that we are only discouraged from taking as supporters those who fight Muslims because of religion or drive Muslims from their homes. God tells us throughout the Qur'an that there are righteous Jews and Christians. As such there is no prohibition for Muslims to be friends with Jews, Christians or people of any other faith who are of good character.

"Not all of them are alike: Of the People of the Book (Jews and Christians) are a portion that stand (For the right): They rehearse the Signs of God all night long, and they prostrate themselves in adoration. They believe in God and the Last Day; they enjoin what is right,

and forbid what is wrong; and they hasten (in emulation) in (all) good works: They are in the ranks of the righteous."(Qur'an 3:113-114)

"And there are, certainly, among the People of the Book (Jews and Christians), those who believe in God, in the revelation to you, and in the revelation to them, bowing in humility to God. They will not sell the Signs of God for a miserable gain! For them is a reward with their Lord, and God is swift in account." (Qur'an 3:199)

"Indeed, those who believed and those who were Jews or Christians or Sabeans [before Prophet Muhammad] - those [among them] who believed in God and the Last Day and did righteousness - will have their reward with their Lord, and no fear will there be concerning them, nor will they grieve." (Qur'an 2:62)

5. Islam Encourages The Application Of Logic And Reason

No blind faith in Islam. The Qur'an calls upon Muslims to observe the world around them and reflect, so that they might appreciate the majesty of God's creation.

"Verily, in the creation of the heavens and earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the ships which sail through the sea with benefits for people, and what God has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby "to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every creature, and in His directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and the earth are signs for a people who use reason." (Qur'an 2:164)

Islam calls on people to study space and earth and to meditate on creation in order to arrive at the existence of God.

"He has subjected for you the night and day and the sun and moon, and the stars are subjected by His command. Verily, in that are signs for people who reason."(Qur'an 16:12)

"The heaven, we have built it with power. Verily, we are expanding it."⁷ (Qur'an 51:47)

"And We have sent down rain from the sky in a measured amount and settled it in the earth. And indeed, We are Able to take it away. And We brought forth for you thereby gardens of palm trees and grapevines in which for you are abundant fruits and from which you eat." (Qur'an 23:18-19)

"Do you not see that God sends down rain from the sky and makes it flow as springs [and rivers] in the earth; then He produces thereby crops of varying colors; then they dry and you see them turned yellow; then He makes them [scattered] debris. Indeed in that is a reminder for those of understanding."⁸ (Qur'an 39:21)

"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?"⁹ (Qur'an 21:30)

"We have placed in the ground (mountains) standing firm, so that it does not shake with them."¹⁰ (Qur'an 21:31)

"And certainly did We create man from an extract of clay. Then We placed him as a sperm-drop in a firm lodging. Then We made the sperm-drop into a clinging clot, and We made the clot into a lump [of flesh], and We made [from] the lump, bones, and We covered the bones with flesh; then We developed him into another creation. So blessed is God, the best of creators." (Qur'an 23:12-14)¹¹

⁷ The gradual expansion of the universe is one of the most important discoveries of modern time.

⁸ The water cycle as we know it today was described 500 years ago. Before that, many people believed that water from the ocean was thrust into soil which formed springs and underground reservoirs. It was also thought that moisture in soil condensed to form water. The Qur'an gave the correct view in an authoritative way 1400 years ago.

⁹ Modern scientific data indicate that life is of aquatic origin and water is the major component of the living cell. Mankind did not know this in Muhammad's time. About the balance in the vegetable kingdom. (Zakir Naik. Qur'an and science)

¹⁰ According to modern theories, mountains played a key role in the formation and stability of landmass. They also contribute to the stability of the earth's crust, which is relatively very thin. Beneath the crust are molten rocks at very high temperatures. Qur'anic description and modern scientific discoveries are in agreement.

¹¹ Professor Emeritus Keith L. Moore is one of the world's most prominent scientists in the fields of anatomy and embryology and is the author of the book entitled *The Developing Human*, which has been translated into eight languages. This book is a scientific reference work and was chosen by a special committee in the United States as the best book authored by one person. In 1981, during the Seventh Medical Conference in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, Professor Moore said: "It has been a great pleasure for me to help clarify statements in the Quran about human development. It is clear to me that these statements must have come to Muhammad from God, because almost all of this knowledge was not discovered until many centuries later. This proves to me that Muhammad must have been a messenger of God. Consequently, Professor Moore was asked the following question: "Does this mean that you believe that the Qur'an is the word of God?" He replied: "I find no difficulty in accepting this."

"O People, if you should be in doubt about the Resurrection,¹² then [consider that] indeed, We created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then from a clinging clot, and then from a lump of flesh, formed and unformed - that We may show you. And We settle in the wombs whom We will for a specified term, then We bring you out as a child, and then [We develop you] that you may reach your [time of] maturity. And among you is he who is taken in [early] death, and among you is he who is returned to the most decrepit [old] age so that he knows, after [once having] knowledge, nothing. And you see the earth barren, but when We send down upon it rain, it quivers and swells and grows [something] of every beautiful kind."¹³ (Qur'an 22:5)

Islam places a high importance of education without any discrimination. The first word of the Qur'anic revelation is "Read."

"Read in the name of your Lord who created." (Qur'an 96:1)

"Are those who know equal to those who know not?" (Qur'an 39: 9)

".. ,God will exalt in degree those of you who believe and those who have been granted knowledge..." (Qur'an 58:11)

".., it is only those who have knowledge among His slaves that fear God." (Qur'an 35:28)

"When a man dies, his deeds come to an end except for three things: ceaseless charity; a knowledge which is beneficial, or a virtuous descendant who prays for him (for the deceased)."¹⁴

"God makes the way to Heavens (Paradise) easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge."¹⁵

¹² All what exist in the universe is under God's possession and domination. He has comprehensive knowledge, prevalent power and absolute control. Everything is subjected to His absolute Knowledge and Will. The Sun, planets and galaxies operate in precision, without fail since they were created. This same precision applied to the humans' creation. Perfect harmony and order between body and soul show that God never puts souls of human being into bodies of animals and never let him wander between plants and insects (reincarnation), in case which the person will never know what his past was in his last life. God made the human being civilized innately and gave him mind and knowledge and assigned him vicegerent for Earth and commander over other creatures. God will never humiliate human beings. Day of Judgment, Heavens [Paradise] and Hellfire represent the Justice of the Creator, when sins and good deeds of humans are weighed as The Holy Qur'an says: "whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it." (Qur'an 99:7-8)

¹³ This is the exact cycle for embryonic development as discovered by modern science.

¹⁴ Sahih Muslim.

¹⁵ Sahih Muslim.

6. Islam Relieves The Burden Of Original Sin

"The Prophet Muhammad said, "Every baby is born with a true faith of Islam (as a Monotheist, worshiping His Creator without intermediary 'priest, saint, idol, prophet'). It is his parents who make him a Jew or a Christian or a Polytheist." ¹⁶

Every child is born sinless. The lesson for humanity when God accepted Adam's repentance for eating the forbidden fruit is the first instance of forgiveness.

1. Every soul bears the burden of its own sin. This shows the justice of God. Humans cannot be blamed for sins they did not commit, nor can they get salvation if they are evildoers on Earth.
2. No-one is tortured for a sin he did not commit. You do not sacrifice one child to forgive another's sin. Life is a test and each soul is responsible for his own actions.

"And no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. And if a heavily laden soul calls [another] to [carry some of] its load, nothing of it will be carried, even if he should be a close relative. You can only warn those who fear their Lord unseen and have established prayer. And whoever purifies himself only purifies himself for [the benefit of] his soul. And to God is the [final] destination." (Qur'an 35:18)¹⁷

7. Islam Puts One In Harmony With The Universe

Islam which is having a direct connection with the Creator is the innate religion of all creatures. All creatures praise The Creator day and night.

"So is it other than the religion of God they desire, while to Him have submitted [all] those within the heavens and earth, willingly or by compulsion, and to Him they will be returned?" (Qur'an 3:83)

¹⁶Sahih Bukhari.

¹⁷"Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin." (Deuteronomy 24:16)

"To God prostrate all that are in the heavens and the earth, willingly or unwillingly, as do their shadows in the mornings and the evenings." (Qur'an 13:15)

8. Islam Invites To Modesty And Chastity

In a world of increasing moral decline and degeneration of family values, the verses of the Holy Book Qur'an come to solve the problems.

"O children of Adam, we have provided you with garments to cover your bodies, as well as for luxury. But the best garment is the garment of righteousness. These are some of God's signs, that they may take heed." (Qur'an 7:26)

"Tell the believing men that they shall subdue their eyes (and not stare at the women), and to maintain their chastity. This is purer for them. God is fully Cognizant of everything they do. And tell the believing women to subdue their eyes, and maintain their chastity. They shall not reveal any parts of their bodies, except that which is necessary. They shall cover their chests, and shall not relax this code in the presence of other than their husbands, their fathers, the fathers of their husbands, their sons, the sons of their husbands, their brothers, the sons of their brothers, the sons of their They shall not strike their feet when they walk in order to shake and reveal certain details of their bodies. All of you shall repent to God, O you believers that you may succeed." (Qur'an 24:30-31)

"O prophet, tell your wives, your daughters, and the wives of the believers that they shall lengthen their garments. Thus, they will be recognized (as righteous women) and avoid being insulted. God is Forgiver, Most Merciful." (Qur'an 33:59)

9. Islam Is Based On Balance, Moderation, Mediation And Tolerance

"And thus we have made you a median nation that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you....," (Qur'an 2:143)

"For you is your religion, and for me is my religion." (Qur'an 109: 6)

"..., indeed, they used to hasten to good deeds and supplicate Us in hope and fear, and they were to Us humbly submissive." (Qur'an, 21: 90)

"O children of Adam, you shall be clean and dress nicely when you go to the Mosque. And eat and drink moderately; Surely, He does not love the gluttons." (Qur'an 7:31)

"To every People have We appointed rites and ceremonies which they must follow, let them not then dispute with you on the matter, but do invite (them) to your Lord: for you are assuredly on the Right Way. If they do wrangle with you, say, 'God knows best what it is you are doing. "God will judge between you on the Day of Judgment concerning the matters in which you differ.'"(Qur'an 22:67-69)

"May God have mercy on a man who is tolerant when selling, buying, and seeking repayment."¹⁸

10. Islam Is A Religion Of Mercy And Forgiveness

"In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful." (Qur'an 1:1)

"Say, O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of God. Indeed, God forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful."(Qur'an 39:53)

"The reward of goodness is nothing but goodness."(Qur'an 55:60)

"And cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. And invoke Him in fear and aspiration. Indeed, the mercy of God is near to the doers of good."(Qur'an 7:56)

"No blame lies on the weak, nor on the sick, nor on those who find naught to spend, if they are sincere to God and His Messenger. There is no cause of reproach against those who do good deeds; and God is Most Forgiving, Merciful." (Qur'an 9:91)

¹⁸Sahih Bukhari.

"When those come to you who believe in Our verses, say: Peace be upon you. Your Lord has decreed mercy upon Himself." (Qur'an 6:54)

"When God decreed the creation, He wrote in His Book which is with Him on His Throne. My mercy prevails over My wrath."¹⁹

11. Islam Calls To Equality, Unity And Fights Racial Discrimination

Islam honors all human beings regardless of race, color sex or religion.

"And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference." (Qur'an 17:70)

God tests each individual on the basis of their piety and righteousness.

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you. Indeed, God is Knowing and Acquainted."(Qur'an 49:13)

"Prophet Muhammad said: "People, your Lord is one and your father Adam is one. There is no favor of an Arab over a foreigner, nor a foreigner over an Arab, and neither white skin over black skin, nor black skin over white skin, except by righteousness. Have I not delivered the message?"²⁰

Unity and Equality is emphasized in many of the Muslim rituals:

1. In prayer Muslims line up in a first come first serve basis. No special pews for dignitaries and royalty.
2. Freeing slaves is an expiation for many sins in Islam.
3. In the Pilgrimage, all Muslim men, regardless of rank or background, dress similarly in a simple white cloth and intermingle with no differentiation in the performance of the Pilgrimage rituals.

¹⁹Sahih. Sunan Ibn Majah.

²⁰Musnad Ahmad(Sahih).

Muslims believe that the Ka'aba²¹ was the first place of worship built by the first human and first prophet; Adam. It was later rebuilt on the same foundations by Abraham and his son Ishmael who started to circumambulate around the Ka'aba in a counterclockwise motion. This motion is in harmony with the movement of planets around the sun, the electrons around the nucleus, and the circulation of the blood in the human body. Muslims believe that the universe is praising the Creator as well. This shows the unity in the creation of the universe. When Muslims do the Pilgrimage, they circumambulate like Prophet Abraham around the Ka'aba.

Moreover, when Muslims from some part of the world pray to the Creator to the direction of Mecca they join their fellow Muslims praying elsewhere in the world in concentric human circles, they worship God towards the same spiritual center. This means that Muslims pray to their Creator all the time. In other words, when some Muslims finish their 5 minutes prayer somewhere, another Muslims start their 5 minutes elsewhere. The prayer timings depend on the sunrise and sunset and they concurrently occur with the movements of the pilgrims in Makah, which is also consistent with the movement of the universe.

12. Islam Is The Religion Of Freedom

- Freedom to choose religion

One of the fundamental rights in Islam is that everyone has the right to choose the religion he wants to embrace.

"There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong. So, whoever disbelieves in Taghut (Satan and every leader of misguidance) and believes in God has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it. And God is Hearing and Knowing."(Qur'an2:256)

- Fighting Slavery

²¹The Ka'aba is a building covered with black cloth, which is placed in the city of Mecca (in Saudi Arabia). It has a door but no windows. No one is buried in the Ka'aba, it is a prayer room not a tomb. A Muslim praying inside the Ka'aba can pray in any direction. The Ka'aba was rebuilt several times. Muslims believe that the most important person who rebuilt the Ka'aba was Prophet Abraham together with his son Ishmael. An original part of the outer walls of the Ka'aba is the black stone believed by Muslims to have come to the Earth with Adam. Muslims do not believe that this stone is divine or has any healing or other special powers.

In the pre-Islamic days Slaves were commercial goods, and slavery was an established system. It was a source of sustenance for thousands. To the aristocracy, the number of slaves in the household was a symbol of status. Islam could have used force which may be able to achieve submission but it without doubt will cause animosity. Islam's war against slavery aimed at changing the attitude and mentality of the whole society, so that after emancipation, slaves would become its full-fledged members, without any need of demonstrations, strikes, civil disobedience and racial revolts, to say that Islam waged a war against slavery in which neither sword was resorted to, nor blood was spilled. Islam aimed at striking at the roots of its foe and created allies by arousing the finer instincts of its followers.

Before Islam, slavery was without restrictions. Those who could not repay debts became slaves; war captives were either killed or made slaves. Runaway slaves were hunted like animals, killed or captured. Islam forbade its followers to enslave people on any case.

The source of Slaves before Islam were the following:

- The invader could do with the vanquished enemy whatever he liked. He could put the arrested soldiers to death, condemn them to slavery or otherwise keep them under his authority or clutch.
- A chief or ruler could enslave, depending on his unchallenged wish, anyone residing under his domain.
- A father or grandfather had absolute authority over his offspring. He could sell or gift them away; loan them to someone else, or exchange them with another's son or daughter.

Islam dried up the last two sources completely. No ruler was allowed to treat his subjects or offspring as his slaves. Every individual was bestowed with well-defined rights; the ruler and the ruled, the progenitor and the offspring had to live within the limits prescribed by religion; no one could transgress those limits.

And it restricted the first source, i.e., war, by allowing enslavement only in a war fought against unbelieving enemy. At the same time, Islam raised the status of a slave to that of a free man; and opened many ways for the emancipation of slaves.

Before slave trade was started on a large scale by the West (when colonization began), wars were the main source of slaves. Islam did not permit wars of aggression. All the battles fought during the life-time of Prophet Muhammad were defensive battles.

In the battles forced upon the Muslims, Prophet Muhammad ordered kind treatment of the prisoners. They could get their freedom if they paid a small ransom, and some with no ransom (some taught Muslim children to read and write as ransom). Strict conditions applied: no mother was to be separated from her child, nor a brother from neither a brother nor a husband from his wife.

After that Islam started an active campaign to liberate the slaves, making the liberation of slaves a way of expiation for many sins. If a man failed to fast without any excuse during the month of Ramadan for example, he had to free a slave for each day, in addition to making up the fast. In addition a slave had to be freed for every breach of vows, an accidental homicide, for unintentionally killing a Muslim and for many other trespasses.

Islam's objective was to create a society free from this abhorrent system. Thus, any slave woman who bore a child by her master could not be sold and after her master's death, she automatically becomes a free woman. In contrast to all previous customs, Islam ordained that the child born to a slave woman by her master should follow the status of the father. Slaves were given a right to ransom themselves either on payment of an agreed sum or on completion of service for an agreed period.

"..., and those who seek a contract [for eventual emancipation] from among whom your right hands possess - then make a contract with them if you know there is within them goodness and give them from the wealth of God which He has given you..." (Qur'an 24:33)

When a slave wants to get a mutual written contract, the master should accept it. God has made it incumbent upon Muslims to help the slaves achieve liberty.

Islam also ordains that slaves seeking freedom should be helped from the public treasury. Prophet Muhammad and his companions provided ransom for the slaves out of state coffers. The Qur'an recognizes the liberation of slaves as one of the permissible expenditures of alms and charity. When a slave wants freedom, the master has to agree and is directed to help the slave from his own wealth. Slaves should live a respectable life after earning their freedom. Thus, despite a culture based on slavery, Islam laid down the path and legislated the most effective way to end this abhorrent practice.

13. Islam Is The Religion Of Justice

Islam declared the principle of justice in the treatment of others and maintenance of their rights. Injustice was pronounced as corruption on Earth.

"..., so, fulfill the measure and weight and do not deprive people of their due and cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. That is better for you, if you should be believers." (Qur'an 7:85)

" O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for God, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear God; indeed, God is acquainted with what you do." (Qur'an 5:8)

"Indeed, God commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice. Excellent is that which God instructs you. Indeed, God is ever Hearing and Seeing." (Qur'an 4:58)

"Indeed, God orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded." (Qur'an 16:90)

14. Islam Protects Rights

- Social Rights Of Others

Islam teaches that social duties should be based on kindness and consideration of others. Qur'an emphasis specific acts of kindness and defines the duties and rights in various relationships.

"The Prophet Muhammad said, "None of you will have faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."²²

²² Sahih (Bukhari & Muslim).

"O you who have believed, when you are told, "Space yourselves" in assemblies, then make space; God will make space for you. And when you are told, "Arise, "then arise; God will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. And God is Acquainted with what you do." (Qur'an 58:11)

"...,and live with them in kindness. For if you dislike them - perhaps you dislike a thing and God makes therein much good." (Qur'an 4:19)

"Worship God and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, God does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful." (Qur'an 4:36)

"O you who have believed, do not enter houses other than your own houses until you ascertain welcome and greet their inhabitants. That is best for you; perhaps you will be reminded." (Qur'an 24:27)

"And if you do not find anyone therein, do not enter them until permission has been given you. And if it is said to you, "Go back," then go back; it is purer for you. And God is Knowing of what you do." (Qur'an 24:28)

"O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful." (Qur'an 49:6)

"And if two factions among the believers should fight, then make settlement between the two. But if one of them oppresses the other, then fight against the one that oppresses until it returns to the ordinance of God. And if it returns, then make settlement between them in justice and act justly. Indeed, God loves those who act justly."(Qur'an49:9)

"The believers are but brothers, so make settlement between your brothers. And fear God that you may receive mercy." (Qur'an 49:10)

"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 49:11)

"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 God; indeed, God is Accepting of repentance and Merciful." (Qur'an 49:12)

- Honoring Parents

"Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in your lifetime, do not say to them a word of contempt nor repel them, but address them in terms of honor. And, out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility and say: My Lord! Bestow on them Your mercy, even as they cherished me in childhood." (Qur'an17:23-24)

"And We have enjoined upon man, to his parents, good treatment. His mother carried him with hardship and gave birth to him with hardship, and his gestation and weaning [period] is thirty months. [He grows] until, when he reaches maturity and reaches [the age of] forty years, he says, "My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favor which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to work righteousness of which You will approve and make righteous for me my offspring. Indeed, I have repented to You, and indeed, I am of the Muslims." (Qur'an46:15)

- Relatives Rights

"And give the relative his right, and [also] the poor and the traveler, and do not spend wastefully." (Qur'an 17:26)

- Neighbors Rights

"He does not believe whose neighbors are not safe from his injurious conduct."²³

"The neighbor has more right to property that is near."²⁴

"When you make broth, add more water and give some to your neighbor."²⁵

"Whoever has land and wants to sell it, let him offer it to his neighbor."²⁶

- Orphans Rights

"So as for the orphan, do not oppress [him]." (Qur'an 93:9)

"... ,and they ask you about orphans. Say, "Improvement for them is best. And if you mix your affairs with theirs - they are your brothers. And God knows the corrupter from the amender. And if God had willed, He could have put you in difficulty. Indeed, God is Exalted in Might and Wise." (Qur'an 2:220)

"And when [other] relatives and orphans and the needy are present at the [time of] division, then provide for them [something] out of the estate and speak to them words of appropriate kindness." (Qur'an 4:8)

- Rights of Animals

²³ Sahih Bukhari.

²⁴ Sunan Ibn Majah.

²⁵ Sunan Ibn Majah .

²⁶ Sunan Ibn Majah.

"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 6:38)

"A woman was once punished after death because of a cat which she had kept confined until it died, and because of this she entered the Fire. She had neither given it food or drink while confining it, nor had she let it free to eat the creatures of the earth."²⁷

"A man had once been forgiven. He passed by a dog panting near a well. Thirst had nearly killed him, so he took off his shoe, and drew up some water. God forgave his sins for that."²⁸

"God has ordained kindness (and excellence) in everything. If the killing (of animals to eat)²⁹ is to be done, do it in the best manner, and when you slaughter, do it in the best manner by first sharpening the knife, and putting the animal at ease."³⁰

15. Islam Addresses Contemporary Environmental Issues

"And cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. And invoke Him in fear and aspiration. Indeed, the mercy of God is near to the doers of good." (Qur'an 7:56)

"Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned so He may let them taste part of [the consequence of] what they have done that perhaps they will return [to righteousness]." (Qur'an 30:41)

16. Islam Predates The Geneva Convention On Wartime Conduct

²⁷ Sahih Bukhari.

²⁸ Sahih Bukhari & Muslim.

²⁹ Meat is a source of a complete protein. Humans have flat teeth and pointed teeth. Therefore, they have teeth suited for both herbivorous as well as carnivorous food. The Creator provided the digestive system to humans for both meats and vegetables. Unlike herbivorous animals can digest only vegetables. And unlike carnivorous animals their digestive system can digest only meat.

³⁰ Sunan Ibn Majah.

Prophet Muhammad commanded his companions to be kind to their prisoners, and to put them before themselves when it came to food.³¹ God tells us to give food, in spite of our need for it (for the love of Him), to the poor, the orphan, and the captive.

"And they give food in spite of love for it to the needy, the orphan, and the captive, (saying), We feed you seeking God's Countenance only. We wish for no reward, nor thanks from you." (Qur'an 76:8-9)

Islam commands Muslims to show mercy to those combatants who surrender.

"And if any one of the polytheists seeks your protection, then grant him protection so that he may hear the words of God. Then deliver him to his place of safety. That is because they are a people who do not know." (Qur'an 9: 6)

Prophet Muhammad forbade the killing of women and children.³²

The blind, the infirm and the monks are not to be killed according to Islamic legal scholars as they are not from among the combatants, similar to the old person.³³

17. Islamic Finance Stabilizes The Economy

In Islam, money is intended for exchange of services and building economies. When we loan money to make money from money, we subvert the purpose of money as a means of exchange and development, and make money an end unto itself.

Charging interest gives banks and the rich an incentive to lend money without fear of loss. Consecutive years of banks lending, money with interest has led to a monopoly of wealth and has widened the gap between the rich and the poor. In the last few decades countries, governments and associations have also gotten involved in interest on a huge scale. We saw several examples of global economy collapses

³¹[Tafsir ibn Kathir: Al-Insan]

³²Sahih Muslim.

³³ Imam Malik's Muwatta.

as an aftermath of dealing with Interest on a global scale. Usury has the potential to corrupt a society in a way that other crimes can never do.³⁴

"O you who have believed, do not consume usury, doubled and multiplied, but fear God that you may be successful." (Qur'an 3:130)

"And whatever you give for interest to increase within the wealth of people will not increase with God. But what you give in alms, desiring the countenance of God - those are the multipliers." (Qur'an 30:39)

18. Islam Preserves Health And Wealth

By the mercy of God and His kindness towards us, God has permitted us to eat all good things, and He has not forbidden anything but those that are impure.

"Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them. So, they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him - it is those who will be the successful." (Qur'an 7:157)³⁵

"They ask you about wine and gambling. Say, "In them is great sin and [yet, some] benefit for people. But their sin is greater than their benefit." And they ask you what they should spend. Say, "The excess [beyond needs]." Thus, God makes clear to you the verses [of revelation] that you might give thought." (Qur'an 2:219)

³⁴The most hated sort, and with the greatest reason, is usury, which makes a gain out of money itself and not from the natural object of it. For money was intended to be used in exchange but not to increase at interest. And this term interest, which means the birth of money from money is applied to the breeding of money because the offspring resembles the parent. Wherefore of all modes of getting wealth, this is the most unnatural." (Aristotle)

"To take usury for money lent is unjust in itself, because this is to sell what does not exist, and this evidently leads to inequality which is contrary to justice" (Thomas Aquinas)

³⁵ The pig is a dirty animal, the meat of the pork is harmful to human being, it lives on dirt, it is off-putting to those of a sound nature who refuse to touch it, because eating it is a cause or a sign of a person's oddness. Modern science has proved many points, that is the pork is considered as one of the meats which contain the most cholesterol, and the fatty acids in pork are of an unusual formation, comparing with the fatty acids in other types of food. Pork's meat contributes to the spread of cancers of the colon, rectum, prostate, and blood and contribute to obesity and related diseases that are difficult to treat.

"O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters [to other than God], and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful." (Qur'an5:90)³⁶

19. Islam Surpasses The United Nations in Women Rights

What many don't know that if a Muslim woman wants to adopt women rights as declared by the United Nations, and forgo her rights in Islam, it will be her loss, as she has more rights in Islam.

Before the advent of Islam, women were treated as property, and had a lower status than livestock. They were offered in trade or taken in marriage without their consent or any consideration for their feelings.

These days, people are so busy proving that women can do what men can do, that women are losing their uniqueness. Women in fact were created to do everything a man cannot do: give birth, breastfeed, nurture, etc. In Islam, men and women are moral equals in God's sight and are expected to fulfill the same duties of worship, prayer, faith, almsgiving, fasting, and pilgrimage to Mecca.

Islam generally improved the status of women compared to earlier Arab cultures, prohibiting female infanticide and recognizing women's full personhood. Islamic law emphasizes the contractual nature of marriage, requiring that a dowry be paid to the woman rather than to her family, and guaranteeing women's rights of inheritance and to own and manage property. It gave women the right to inherit similar to or more than their male counterparts in more than 30 cases (males inherit more than females in 4 cases only depend on the degree of kinship, the generation position, and the financial obligations).³⁷ Women were also granted the right to live in the matrimonial home and receive financial maintenance during marriage and during the waiting period following death and divorce.

³⁶ A man loses his senses under the influence of alcohol which makes his behavior in a most indiscreet manner. His bad behavior create enemies to him and may cause murder his own family members and friends.

The gambling is concerned as an enmity between the participants. The dominating influence on the gamblers is that of hatred and enmity. Incidents of suicide are common in the woods surrounding Monte Carlo. Most often, those who arrive in this city to gamble lose all their money. Sometimes, they cannot even pay for their return journey.

³⁷when a deceased leaves a son and daughter, the man inherits twice the woman's share. But the man heir is obligated to support a woman (i.e. his wife) and their kids. On the other hand, the female heir is provided for along with her kids by another man (her husband). Now, the share inherited by the female is purely her own property. It is free of financial support obligations and she can save it for any needs or emergencies in the future.

The Qur'an states that Eve is not blamed for Adam's sin. Each of them accepted their own mistake and repented to God, and asked God to forgive them and God did forgive them. So this burden of seduction and the original sin is lifted from women.

Islam elevated kind treatment of women to the best of good deeds.

"The most complete of the believers in faith, is the one with the best character. And the best of you are those who are best to their women." ³⁸

"Indeed, the Muslim men and Muslim women, the believing men and believing women, the obedient men and obedient women, the truthful men and truthful women, the patient men and patient women, the humble men and humble women, the charitable men and charitable women, the fasting men and fasting women, the men who guard their private parts and the women who do so, and the men who remember God often and the women who do so - for them God has prepared forgiveness and a great reward."(Qur'an 33:35)

"O you who have believed, it is not lawful for you to inherit women by compulsion. And do not make difficulties for them in order to take [back] part of what you gave them unless they commit a clear immorality. And live with them in kindness. For if you dislike them - perhaps you dislike a thing and God makes therein much good."(Qur'an 4:19)

"O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear God, through whom you ask one another, and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Indeed God is ever, over you, an Observer."(Qur'an 4:1)

"Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do."(Qur'an 16:97)

"...,they (your wives) are your garment and you are a garment for them,..."(Qur'an 2:187)

³⁸At-Tirmidhi and authenticated by Al-Albani.

"And among His signs is this that He has created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them; and He has put love and mercy between you. Verily in that are signs for those who reflect."(Qur'an 30:21)

"And they seek of thee the decision of the Law with regard to women. Say, God gives you His decision regarding them. And so, does that which is recited to you in the Book concerning the orphan girls whom you give not what is prescribed for them and whom you desire to marry, and concerning the weak among children. And He enjoins you to observe equity towards the orphans. And whatever good you do, surely God knows it well. And if a woman fears from her husband contempt or evasion, there is no sin upon them if they make terms of settlement between them - and settlement is best. And present in [human] souls is stinginess. But if you do good and fear God - then indeed God is ever, with what you do, Acquainted." (Qur'an 4:127-128)

God has commanded men to provide for women and allow them to keep all of their wealth, inheritance and income without any obligations to support their families. It has protected women's rights by keeping their identity separate as they are not the property of men. As such, they are no longer forced to change their last names to be that of their husbands. This is still the practice of Muslim women today just as it was fourteen hundred years ago.

Divorce is allowed but hated; and marriage is sanctified. If the couple cannot live in harmony there are three necessary steps prior to divorce: advice, mediation, and waiting out a period while tempers cool off.

Mary (The mother of Jesus Christ) is the only woman mentioned in the Qur'an by name. While the Qur'an does not directly name any woman except for Mary, women play a role in many of the rich and varied stories that the Qur'an tells.

For example, the Qur'an describes the encounter of the Queen of Sheba with Prophet Solomon and her subsequent embrace of his faith (to believe in the Creator and unify Him in worship).

"A woman ruling over them, and she has been given abundance and she has a mighty throne." (Qur'an 27:23)

History shows us that Prophet Muhammad consulted women and weighed their opinions seriously. Women prayed in mosques with men, gave sanctuary to men, fought in wars, nursed men in combat, engaged in commercial transactions, were encouraged to seek knowledge, and were both instructors and pupils in the early Islamic period.

Islam also gave the women full status as citizens over 1,400 years ago giving them the right to speak and vote. Up until the last century, women of the West had to take their cause to the streets with the "Women's Suffrage Movement" to demand the right to vote.

Although Qur'an permits limited polygamy, it is not a rule but an exception. Many people are under the misconception that it is compulsory for a Muslim man to marry more than one wife.

"..., marry woman of your choice in twos' threes' or fours' but if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly, (with them), then only one." (Qur'an 4:3)

Qur'an is the only religious scripture in the world that says 'marry only one'. Before the Qur'an was revealed there was no upper limit for polygamy and many men had scores of wives, some even hundreds. Islam put an upper limit of four wives. Islam gives a man permission to marry two, three or four women, only on the condition that he deals with them justly, which is extremely difficult.

"And you will never be able to be just and fair between wives [in feeling], even if you should strive [to do so],..." (Qur'an 4:129)

By nature, males and females are born in approximately the same ratio. During childhood itself a female child has more immunity than a male child and has better chances for survival. Also during wars, more men are killed compared to women. The average life span of females is more than that of males, and at any given time one finds more widows in the world than widowers. World female population is more than male population. Restricting each and every man to have only one wife may not be practical.

In some societies where polygamy is prohibited it is common for a man to have mistresses and/or multiple extra-marital affairs, in which case, the mistress can

lead, a shameful, unprotected life, without rights for herself or her children. It is strange that we have no problem accepting relations without marriage; same sex marriages; relations without responsibility; children without fathers, etc; but have no tolerance for a legal marriage between a man and more than one woman. Currently, the only two options for a woman who cannot find a husband are to marry a married man or to become a mistress. Islam prefers the more honorable status of a wife.

In any case a woman has the right to be the only wife for her husband by stating this condition in the marriage contract. The basic principle with regard to the conditions stipulated by both partners in the marriage contract is that it is a valid condition that must be fulfilled, and it is not permissible to break it.

One very important point that is often overlooked by modern society is the right that Islam gave to women that it does not give to men. A man is limited to marry only unmarried women. Obviously, this provides rights for the children and protects their inheritance from their father. But Islam permits women to marry a man who is already married, as long as he has fewer than 4 wives. Therefore a woman has a larger selection of men to choose from. She has the opportunity to see how the other wife is being treated and enters into marriage knowing exactly what to expect from her husband.

20. Islam Is The Religion Of Love And Cooperation

"And hold firmly to the rope of God all together and do not become divided. And remember the favor of God upon you - when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers." (Qur'an 3:103)

"Those who believe and do good deeds — the Gracious God will create love in their hearts." (Qur'an 19:96)

21. Islam Is The Only Way To Achieve Happiness In This Life And The Hereafter

"Indeed, the religion in the sight of God is Islam. And those who were given the Scripture did not differ except after knowledge had come to them - out of jealous animosity between

themselves. And whoever disbelieves in the verses of God, then indeed, God is swift in [taking] account." (Qur'an 3:19)

"And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers." (Qur'an 3:85)

22. Intrigue About Prophet Muhammad

People are intrigued with the accolades (some listed below) heaped on the Prophet of Islam Muhammad- peace be upon him-from non-Muslim leaders throughout history. This intrigue leads to interest in his message.

- Napoleon Bonaparte

"I hope the time is not far off when I shall be able to unite all the wise and educated men of all the countries and establish a uniform regime based on the principles of Qur'an which alone are true and which alone can lead men to happiness." (Quoted In Christian Cherfils Bonaparte Et Islam, Paris 1914)

- M.K. Gandhi

"I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and his own mission. These and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every trouble."(Young India, 1924)

- Lamartine

"If greatness of purpose, smallness of means, and astounding results are the three criteria of human genius, who could dare to compare any great man in modern history with Muhammad? The most famous men created arms, laws and empires only. They founded, if anything at all, no more than material powers which often

crumbled away before their eyes. This man moved not only armies, legislations, empires, peoples and dynasties, but millions of men in one-third of the then inhabited world; and more than that, he moved the altars, the gods, the religions, the ideas, the beliefs, souls and the forbearance in victory, his ambition, which was entirely devoted to one idea and in no manner striving for an empire; his endless prayers, his mystic conversations with God, his death and his triumph after death; all these attest not to an imposture but to a firm conviction which gave him the power to restore a dogma. This dogma was twofold, the unit of God and the immateriality of God; the former telling what God is, the latter telling what God is not; the one overthrowing false gods with the sword, the other starting an idea with words.

"Philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, warrior, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational dogmas, of a cult without images. The founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?" (Histoire De La Turquie, Paris 1854, Vol II, Pp. 276-77)

- **Edward Gibbon and Simon Ockley**

"It is not the propagation but the permanency of his religion that deserves our wonder, the same pure and perfect impression which he engraved at Mecca and Medina is preserved, after the revolutions of twelve centuries by the Indian, the African and the Turkish proselytes of the Qur'an. The Mahometans have uniformly withstood the temptation of reducing the object of their faith and devotion to a level with the senses and imagination of man. 'I believe in One God and Muhammad the Apostle of God', is the simple and invariable profession of Islam. The intellectual image of the Deity has never been degraded by any visible idol; the honors of the prophet have never transgressed the measure of human virtue, and his living precepts have restrained the gratitude of his disciples within the bounds of reason and religion."(History of the Saracen Empire, London, 1870, p. 54)

- **Rev. Bosworth Smith**

"He was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without Pope's pretensions, Caesar without the legions of Caesar: without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a palace, without a fixed revenue; if ever any man had the right to say that he ruled by the right divine, it was Muhammad, for he had all the power

without its instruments and without its supports."(Mohammed and Mohammadanism, London 1874, p. 92)

- **Annie Besant**

"It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia, who knows how he taught and how he lived, to feel anything but reverence for that mighty Prophet, one of the great messengers of the Supreme. And although in what I put to you I shall say many things which may be familiar to many, yet I myself feel whenever I re-read them, a new way of admiration, a new sense of reverence for that mighty Arabian teacher."(The Life and Teachings of Muhammad, Madras 1932, p. 4)

- **Montgomery Watt**

"His readiness to undergo persecutions for his beliefs, the high moral character of the men who believed in him and looked up to him as leader, and the greatness of his ultimate achievement – all argue his fundamental integrity. To suppose Muhammad an impostor raises more problems than it solves. Moreover, none of the great figures of history is so poorly appreciated in the West as Muhammad." (Muhammad At Mecca, Oxford 1953, P. 52)

- **James A. Michener**

"Muhammad, the inspired man who founded Islam, was born about A.D. 570 into an Arabian tribe that worshipped idols. Orphaned at birth, he was always particularly solicitous of the poor and needy, the widow and the orphan, the slave and the downtrodden. At twenty he was already a successful businessman, and soon became director of camel caravans for a wealthy widow. When he reached twenty-five, his employer recognizing his merit and proposed marriage. Even though she was fifteen years older, he married her, and as long as she lived, remained a devoted husband.

"Like almost every major prophet before him, Muhammad fought shy of serving as the transmitter of God's word, sensing his own inadequacy. But the angel commanded 'Read'. So far as we know, Muhammad was unable to read or write,

but he began to dictate those inspired words which would soon revolutionize a large segment of the earth: "There is one God."

"In all things Muhammad was profoundly practical. When his beloved son Ibrahim died, an eclipse occurred, and rumors of God's personal condolence quickly arose. Whereupon Muhammad is said to have announced, 'An eclipse is a phenomenon of nature. It is foolish to attribute such things to the death or birth of a human-being.'

"At Muhammad's own death an attempt was made to deify him, but the man who was to become his administrative successor killed the hysteria with one of the noblest speeches in religious history: 'If there are any among you who worshipped Muhammad, he is dead. But if it is God you worshipped, He lives forever.'"

(*Islam: The Misunderstood Religion* In Reader's Digest (American Edition), May 1955, Pp. 68-70)

- **Michael H. Hart**

"My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular level."(*The 100: A Ranking Of The Most Influential Persons In History*, New York: Hart Publishing Company, Inc. 1978, P. 33)

- **Sarojini Naidu**

"It was the first religion that preached and practiced democracy; for, in the mosque, when the call for prayer is sounded and worshippers are gathered together, the democracy of Islam is embodied five times a day when the peasant and king kneel side by side and proclaim: 'God Alone is Great'... "(*The Famous Indian Poetess Says* – S. Naidu, *Ideals Of Islam, Speeches And Writings*, Madaras, 1918)

- **Thomas Carlyle**

"How one man single-handedly, could weld warring tribes and Bedouins into a most powerful and civilized nation in less than two decades?"

"The lies (Western slander) which well-meaning zeal has heaped round this man (Muhammad) are disgraceful to ourselves only. How one man single-handedly, could weld warring tribes and wandering Bedouins into a most powerful and

civilized nation in less than two decades. A silent great soul, one of that who cannot but be earnest. He was to kindle the world; the world's Maker had ordered so."(Heros And Heros Worship)

- **Stanley Lane-Poole**

"He was the most faithful protector of those he protected, the sweetest and most agreeable in conversation. Those who saw him were suddenly filled with reverence; those who came near him loved him; they who described him would say, "I have never seen his like either before or after." He was of great taciturnity, but when he spoke it was with emphasis and deliberation, and no one could forget what he said."(Table Talk Of The Prophet)

- **George Bernard Shaw**

"I believe if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring much needed peace and happiness.

I have studied him - the man and in my opinion is far from being an anti-Christ. He must be called the Savior of Humanity.

I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today."

(The Genuine Islam Vol.No.8, 1936)

IV: CONCLUSION

In Islam there is nothing to lead people to atheism. There are no mysteries which baffle the mind. Islam is simple and profound.

- There is only One God; He has created all beings and all will return to Him.
- He sent the same message to prophets of all nations. A simple straightforward message and one condition of salvation: Belief in One God and to unify Him in worship. It is a clear and simple concept.
- In Islam, there is no priesthood, religion is for all. All people are equal and they are treated as they deserve to be, according to their deeds, good actions, and duties in this world. There is no superiority of one race over another.
- It is the right of the Creator to be worshipped alone, and the right of the human being to have direct connection with his Creator.
- Every child is born sinless. Everyone can call upon their Creator without any intermediary. If the child is left alone without parents or any teachings, he will grow up worshipping the Creator alone. At the age of puberty, he will be responsible for his actions and he has a choice to remain monotheist worshipping his Creator alone, or to change his natural religion and take a wrong path by praying to God through an intermediary (Jesus, Mary, Buddha, Idols, Muhammad... etc).
- There is no original sin, no sacrifice of the innocent for the sins of others. God tests each individual on the basis of their piety and righteousness.
- Islam calls for good manners and avoiding evil, therefore bad behavior of some Muslims is due to their cultural habits, or ignorance of their own religion.
- Islam does not conflict with science.³⁹ It should be remembered that many Western scientists who did not believe in God came to discover His existence through scientific discoveries.⁴⁰
- The name of Islam is not connected to any person or place or a special group, but reflects the relationship with God (submission to God).
- Prophet Muhammad was sent to all people with the pure message of Islam.

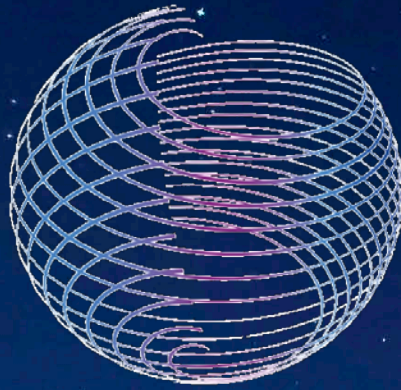
³⁹There is a difference between the primary cause and the primary event. The primary event according to science is the Big Bang, (a scientific theory about how the universe was created) but the primary cause should be what caused the Big Bang. During ancient philosophy, Aristotle argued that the world must have existed from an eternal source. A primary source that is uncaused. "God to Aristotle is the first of all substances, the necessary first source of movement who is Himself unmoved. God is a being with everlasting life, and perfect blessedness, engaged in never-ending contemplation." (Science and Philosophy)

⁴⁰In 2007, Sir Anthony Flew, arguably the most influential atheistic philosopher of the twentieth century, published a book stating: "There is a God." Flew stated that the most impressive arguments for God's existence are those that are supported by recent scientific discoveries.

"And We have not sent you except comprehensively to mankind as a bringer of good tidings and a warner. But most of the people do not know."(Qur'an 34:28)

- Becoming a Muslim is simple and easy. All what the person has to do is to say a sentence known as the testimony of faith, which is:

I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except one God; the Creator (Allah), that He has no partner or son, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and His final messenger. I bear witness that the messengers of God are true, I bear witness that Heavens (Paradise) and Hellfire are true.



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