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The Light of Islam



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THE LIGHT OF ISLAM

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نور الإسلام

The Light of Islam

All praises are due to Allah, *Rubb*¹ of the Worlds, and may Allah exalt the mention of Prophet Muhammad after whom there is no prophet or messenger, and render him safe from every derogatory thing.

Dear reader, I am truly concerned for your well-being in this life and in the Hereafter, this being out of mercy and pity for you.

¹ I used the word *Rubb* instead of the word *Lord* because this term is limited to the following: master, chief, proprietor or ruler and can never convey the conclusive signification of the term *Rubb*. Among other things the word *Rubb* means the One Who gives life and causes death, the Creator, the Fashioner, the Provider, the One upon whom all Creatures depend for their means of subsistence.

Islam is not as some people erroneously imagine or allege...that it is a *Deen*² of harshness and harsh ideals.

I am positive that these ideas are not borne in the minds of people; rather these ideas have been planted by the anti-Islamic media whose goal is to mar the image of Islam and to keep people away from knowing its true reality.

If you ask any of them...Did you receive this (erroneous) information about Islam from a good practicing Muslim who follows the

² The Arabic term *Deen* is usually translated into religion. Religion in Western terminology means a way of spending an hour or so on Sundays to listen to a sermon in a church. The word *Deen* commonly refers to a whole way of life. It is all in one theological dogma, acts of worship political practice, and a detailed code of conduct, including the hygiene or etiquette. Hence, it is preferable to refer to Islam as '*Deen*' instead of religion.

teachings of Islam? You would find that the answer would be 'No'

There is no doubt that every sane person in the right sense of mind knows that in order to know something about a certain thing, he has to consult the proper person in that respective field of specialty. If a person has a heart disease, would it be appropriate for him to seek the help of an eye specialist? Likewise it is not appropriate for a person to understand Islam from other than the Muslims who are practicing their *Deen*.

Islam is the *Deen* of truth, justice and guidance; its goal is to deliver mankind from the darkness of polytheism to the light of Islam, to deliver man from the deviance to the pure guidance, and from misery to happiness.

We present you with this brief booklet about Islam in dialogue format. I ask Allah to guide us to the Truth and Guidance.

Allah, the Exalted, says:

(قد جاءكم من الله نور وكتاب مبین یدہی بہ اللہ من اتبع رضوانہ سبیل السلام
وینخرجہم من الظلمات إلى النور بإذنه ویہدہم إلى صراط مستقیم)

'Indeed there has come to you a light and a plain Book. Wherewith Allah guides all those who seek His good pleasure to ways of peace, and He brings them out of darkness by His will unto light and guides them to the Straight Way' (Al-Ma'idah 14- 15)

Abdullah: Would you like to know about Islam?

Tom: Of course, I would love to hear about Islam from a Muslim, for it is not possible to learn about Islam properly except from a Muslim.

Abdullah: Did you know that Islam is a *Deen* which calls upon its followers to seek knowledge, and that it is supported always by evidences and proofs?

Tom: How is that?

Abdullah: Any ruling which is given in any matter is not acceptable until the appropriate proofs point to its legality.

Tom: This is unique and beautiful!

Abdullah: Did you know that the general Islamic guideline is that it commends and approves of every good thing and stands against every evil?

Tom: Please tell me more about Islam!

Abdullah: Before I talk to you about Islam, there are two things which should be clarified:

1. Our goal is to reach the truth, and this is not possible unless we put aside our prejudices and follow the proof wherever it takes us.
2. You should be able to scrutinize anything you read or hear, and pass it over your pure human intellect and inner self, for indeed the truth is that which you are comfortable with

and that which is supported by proofs and evidences.

*First of all, you should know that every created thing has an end purpose, for example, the table's end purpose is that you can use it to put things on it, and the chair was made so that you can sit on it, and the end purpose of a pen is that you can write with it, such is the case with all things, no matter how irrelevant a thing may seem, it has to have an end purpose...

No doubt, that the end goal behind your creation is greater than all of this...so what is the purpose behind your creation? Why were you brought into this life?

Tom: I cannot answer your question, and whenever this question is raised, I become confused! So what is the answer to this question!?

Abdullah: We were not brought into this life

without a purpose; we were created for a sole purpose, that is to worship Allah alone Who created us and all that is in this universe, we try our best to please Him, so that we may attain the ultimate pleasure in the Hereafter.

*Secondly, you should know that any created thing must have a creator; when you see a beautiful car or a near perfect mechanism or a missile or airplane or if you enter an exhibition for modern technology...what is the first question that comes to mind? Who designed these instruments! Is it not?

Tom: Your question is quite appropriate; for a door would have had to be designed by a carpenter, and the buildings around us must have been built by workers...this is normal!

Abdullah: Now have you asked yourself this same question in the following circumstances:

1. When you enter a zoo, and stare in amazement at the different animals there...did you ask yourself...who created them?
2. When you look at different plants species whether flowers or trees, did you ask yourself, who created these things and perfected their creation?
3. When you look at the mountains, stars, and oceans, did you ask yourself, who created all of this?
4. When you look at the heavens, the earth, the sun, the moon...did you ask yourself, who created them? Who caused the heavenly bodies to orbit in such perfect orbits!
5. Then look at yourself, and ponder over the many functions which your body executes perfectly, whether it is your hearing, sight, beating of your heart, and the other five senses...Just imagine, your heart continues to

beat, and does not stop until you die!

Know, that the Creator of all this is your *Rubb*, Allah!

*The pure human nature points to the existence of a Creator. Every human has an inner sense which guides him to the truth. Likewise, the human intellect points to the existence of the Creator, for all created things must have a creator, for man cannot create himself, neither can the existence of man be a mere coincidence!

*All Prophets, and Messengers informed of the existence of our *Rubb*, the Creator, the Provider, the One who gives life and causes death.

* Think about the amazing attributes of the Creator?

Do you think that an ignorant god can create the entire universe in such perfection?

Nay, rather only an All-Knowing God can create all these creatures!

Is it possible that a powerless god can create the

entire universe?

Nay, rather only an All-Powerful God can create such a thing!

Is it possible that a deaf god can create all of this?

Nay, rather an All-Hearing God can only create all of this!

Is it possible that a mute god could create all of this?

Nay, rather a God that can speak!

Is it possible that a blind god could create all of this?

Nay, rather a God Who is All-Seeing!

Is it possible for Him to create all of this, yet to be imperfect?

It is only possible that the One Who created the entire universe is perfect, and to Him belong the perfect attributes!

Abdullah: Who is the One to Whom all these attributes belong to?

Indeed He is Allah, the Exalted, He is the One Who has created, provided...the One who causes death and gives life!

I want you to listen to what Allah, the Exalted, says concerning this in the Qur'an:

'If you were to ask them who created the heavens and the earth, they would say, Allah. How then are they deviating? Allah enlarges the provision for whom He wills of His slaves, and straitens it for whom (He wills). Verily, Allah is the All-Knower of everything. And if you were to ask them: 'Who sends down water (rain) from the sky, and gives life therewith to the earth after its death? They will surely reply: 'Allah' Say: 'All the praises and thanks be to Allah!' Nay most of them have no sense. And this life of the world is only an amusement and a play! Verily the home of the Hereafter-that is the life indeed (i.e. the eternal life that will never end) if they but knew. (Ankaboot 61-

64)

Thirdly: Who is the King of this universe, Who runs all its affairs? Is He one or more than one?

In answer to this query, I say to you:

Is it possible to have two leaders, who are equal in all aspects, whether in a country, an aircraft, or a ship to run or take care of what they have been assigned in perfection? Of course not!

If there were such a case, what would be the end result? The airplane would either crash, the ship would either sink, and the country would either be overrun by civil strife!

Now, according to the above intellectual argument...were there to be two creators in the universe, the heavens and the earth would fall into chaos! This certainly is not the case! The perfection of the system by which the universe is run surely is the clearest sign that its Creator is one, its King is one, its *Rubb* is one. The creation has no other god besides Him. As it is impossible for the universe to have two creators,

likewise, it is impossible that the creation has two or more gods that deserve to be worshipped; for indeed the worship is only given to Him Who deserves it, and the One who deserves it is the *Rubb*, Who is far removed from every imperfection, Who created this universe...so how can it be that the acts of worship be given to other than He who is deserving? This indeed is an act of lunacy, and disregard to the One Who has created man.

Tom: What is the meaning of the Testimony of Faith?

Abdullah: The testimony of Faith means, 'That there is no god worthy of being worshipped except Allah'. All that is worshipped besides Allah, are all false gods and deities, whether they be idols, trees or the like. The True God is Allah alone. The Testimony also means to worship Allah alone, whether it is issues in the

Iman (faith), or *Salah* (prayers), or fasting, *Zakah* (poor-due), or *Hajj* (pilgrimage) or the like, we only worship Allah. It also means to disbelieve in everything which is worshipped besides Allah, whether they are idols, stones or trees, lusts and desires, money, or the like. If you know that the creator of this universe is One, then you should worship Him alone without associating any partners to Him.

Abdullah: Would you like to know what Allah says about this in the Qur'an?

Tom: Of course!

Abdullah: Allah says, *'Or have they taken for worship (other) gods besides Him? Say: 'Bring your proof.' This is the reminder for those with me and the reminder for those before me. But most of them know not the Truth, so they are averse. And We did not send any Messenger before you but We revealed to*

him (saying) 'La ilahah illa Ana (none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allah)) so worship Me. (al-Anbiyaa 24-25)

*Fourthly: Do we worship Allah the way we desire? Or by a divine method which Allah loves?

Indeed we worship Allah in a manner which he loves.

Tom: How do we know the appropriate method which He loves?

Abdullah: Indeed Allah has sent the Messengers, and revealed the Scriptures to guide man to the things that He loves and is pleased with.

Tom: Who are the Messengers Allah sent to mankind?

Abdullah: Allah sent many Messengers, of them Adam, Noah, Ibraheem, Ishaaq, Ya'qoob, Yousef,

Younus, Zakariyah, Yahya, Musa, Eesa, and Muhammad, may Allah exalt their mentions. All of them called to worship Allah alone, they are all Messengers of Allah and His slaves, and they are not to be worshipped. Whoever does not believe in one of them, he would have no share in Islam. This is well affirmed in the Qur'an, for Allah says, *'Each one believes in Allah, His Angels, His Books, and His Messengers. (They say), 'We make no distinction between His Messengers' –and they say, 'We hear and we obey. (We seek) Your forgiveness, our Rubb, and to You is the return.'* (al-Baqarah 285)

Tom: Who is the last prophet?

Abdullah: Prophet Muhammad, may Allah exalt his mention.

Tom: Who is Muhammad?

Abdullah: He is Muhammad b. Abdullah *al-Qurashi*³ from the Arabs; He was born in Makkah and later moved to *Madinah*. Allah sent him to guide men from the darkness of polytheism to the light of pure Islamic monotheism.

Tom: Is he specifically for the Arabs?

Abdullah: No, he is the Messenger of Allah. Allah sent him to Arabs and non-Arabs alike, and to the black and white. Most of his followers are from the non-Arab race.

Tom: What is the evidence of the Prophet-hood of Muhammad?

Abdullah: There are numerous proofs and evidences. Is it not true that the Truth will last till the end of time, whereas falsehood would diminish?

³ i.e. from the tribe of Quraish.

Tom: Indeed!

- Today which is well over 1400 years from the commissionment of the Prophet, may Allah exalt his mention, Islam is strong and spreading all over the world rapidly.
- The divine Islamic system of life, by which mankind has benefited from a great deal, was conveyed to us by Prophet Muhammad, may Allah exalt his mention, who was an orphan, and was raised in a poor society, which knew no advancements or technology, and neither did they know how to read or write, nor did they study in schools, or graduate from universities.
- The followers of this *Deen* ruled the world, which was a mercy to mankind, and by these very rules did mankind leap ahead in all fields of science and medicine.
- Using your own reason, can the Message which the Prophet Muhammad may Allah

exalt his mention, came with...Can it be something from himself...or a divine revelation? It can only be a Divine Revelation from Allah!

Now, I would like to relate to you this authentic narration:

It is narrated by a man named Abu Sufyaan, and at that time, he was one of the greatest enemies of the Prophet, may Allah exalt his mention, such that he fought and waged wars against him...Allah then guided him to Islam, after which he said: 'I set out during the truce that had been concluded between me and Allah's Messenger, may Allah exalt his mention. While I was in Sham, a letter sent by the Prophet, may Allah exalt his mention, was brought to Heraclius. Dihya al-Kalbi had brought and given it to the governor of *Busra*, and the latter forwarded it to Heraclius. Heraclius said, 'Is there anyone from the people of this man who

claims to be a Prophet? The people replied, 'Yes,' so, along with some other *Quraishi*⁴ men, I was called and we entered upon Heraclius, and we were seated in front of him. Then he said, 'Who amongst you is the nearest relative to the man who claims to be a Prophet? I replied: 'I am the nearest relative to him from amongst the group.' So they made me sit in front of him and made my companions sit behind me. Then he called upon his translator and said (to him). 'Tell them (i.e. Abu Sufyaan's companions) that I am going to ask him (i.e. Abu Sufyaan) regarding that man who claims to be a Prophet. So, if he tells me a lie, they should contradict him (instantly).' By Allah, had I not been afraid that my companions would consider me a liar, I would have told lies. Heraclius then said to his translator, 'Ask him: What is his (i.e. the Prophet's) family status amongst you?' I said, 'He belongs to a noble

⁴ i.e. men from the Arab tribe of Quraish.

family amongst us.' Heraclius said, 'Was any of his ancestors a king?' I said, 'No.' He said, 'Did you ever accuse him of telling lies before his saying what he has said?' I said, 'No'. He said, 'Do the nobles follow him or the poor people?' I said, 'It is the poor who follow him.' He said, 'Is the number of his followers increasing or decreasing?' I said, 'They are increasing.' He said, 'Does anyone apostatize after embracing his religion? Being displeased with it?' I said, 'No'. He said, 'Did you fight with him?' I replied, 'Yes.' He said: 'How was your fighting with him?' I said, 'The fighting between us was undecided and victory was shared by him and us in turns. He inflicts casualties upon us and we inflict casualties upon him.' He said, 'Did he ever betray?' I said, 'No, but now we are away from him in this truce and we do not know what he will do in it.' Heraclius said, 'Did anybody amongst you claim the same before him?' I said,

'No.' Then Heraclius told his translator to tell me, 'I asked you about his family status amongst you, and you told me that he comes from a noble family amongst you. Verily, all Messengers come from the noblest family among their people. Then I asked you whether any of his ancestors was a king and you denied that. Thereupon I thought that had one of his forefathers been a king I would have said that he was seeking to rule the kingdom of his forefathers. Then I asked you regarding his followers, whether they were the noble or the poor among the people, and you said that they were only poor (who follow him). In fact, such are the followers of the Messengers. Then I asked you whether you have ever accused him of telling lies before he said what he said, and your reply was in the negative. Therefore, I took for granted that a man, who did not tell a lie about others, could never tell a lie about Allah. Then I asked you whether

anyone of his followers had apostatized after embracing his religion being displeased with it, and you denied that. And such is faith when its delight enters the heart and mixes with it completely. Then I asked you whether his followers were increasing or decreasing. You claimed that they were increasing, that is the way of true faith till it is complete. Then I asked you whether you had ever fought with him, and you claimed that you had fought with him and the battle between you and him was undecided and the victory was shared by you and him in turns; he inflicted casualties upon you and you inflicted casualties upon them. Such is the case with the Messenger, they are put to trials and the final victory is for them. Then I asked you whether he has ever betrayed anyone; you claimed that he had never betrayed. Indeed, Messengers never betray. Then I asked you whether anyone had said this statement before

him; and you denied that. Thereupon, I thought if somebody had said that statement before him, then I would have said he was a man copying some sayings said before him.'

Abu Sufyan said, 'Heraclius then asked me, 'What does he order you to do?' I said, 'He orders us to pray and give out Zakah, and to keep good relationship with the kith and kin, and to be chaste.' Then Heraclius said, 'If whatever you have said is true, then he is really a Prophet. I knew that he was going to appear, but I never thought that he would be from amongst you. If I were certain that I can reach him, I would like to meet him and if I were with him, I would wash his feet; and his kingdom will expand (surely) to what is under my feet.' Then Heraclius asked for the letter of Allah's Messenger, may Allah exalt his mention, and read it wherein was written:

I begin with the name of Allah, the Merciful

From Muhammad b. Abdullah to the Heraclius of Rome. Safety be granted to the one who follows the guidance.

I call you to Islam, embrace Islam and be safe, and Allah will give you a double reward, and if you refuse you would carry the sins of all the people in your kingdom. 'Say O people of the Scripture: come to a word that is just between us and you, that we worship none but Allah (alone), and that we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords besides Allah. Then, if they turn away, say: 'Bear witness that we are Muslims.' '

Abu Sufyaan said: 'When he finished reading the letter, voices grew louder near him and there was a great hue and cry, and we were ordered to go out.' Abu Sufyaan added, 'While coming out, I said to my companions, 'The matter of Ibn Abu Kabshah (he meant the Messenger of Allah, Muhammad, may Allah exalt his mention) has become so prominent that event the king of Banu

al-Asfar (Romans) is afraid of him.'

Allah says: 'They want to extinguish Allah's light with their mouths, but Allah will not allow except that His Light should be perfected even though the Kafirun hate it. It is He Who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of Truth, to make it superior over all religions even though the Musrikun hate it.' (at-Tawbah 32-33)

*Besides this, the Prophet, may Allah exalt his mention, came with the clear signs and miracles which prove that he is a Prophet; of these the everlasting miracle, which will last till the end of time, the *Qur'an*.

Tom: What is the *Qur'an*?

Abdullah: The *Qur'an* is the words of Allah, by which He spoke, far removed is He from every imperfection, the Arch-Angel Gabriel conveyed His words to Prophet Muhammad, may Allah exalt his mention.

Tom: What are its qualities?

Abdullah: It is the words of Allah, unlike human speech. Its listener surely would know that no man can bring similar to it. The Arabs were a people, who spoke eloquently, and Allah challenged them to come forth with a *Qur'an*, or ten chapters, or one chapter, like it, and they could not; mankind can never bring words like the words of Allah, which is revealed in a clear Arabic tongue, it has a great affect on the hearts. In fact people, who cannot speak Arabic, would be full of awe upon hearing the *Qur'an*. I have met quite a few non Arabs who were not Muslims, and asked them about the *Qur'an*...they said when we hear the recitation of the *Qur'an* we are awestruck; some even said that my hair stood on end, when I heard the *Qur'an* being recited.

Tom: Tell me more about the Qur'an?

Abdullah: The Qur'an is a miracle that Allah has promised to preserve, for indeed the Qur'an which was revealed to Muhammad, may Allah exalt his mention, is still the Qur'an that we recite today, not one letter has been changed or replaced. The Qur'an here in the East is the same in the West, not one letter has changed! And it is well over 1400 years since its revelation...it will stay like this till the Final Hour.

The previous scriptures have all been distorted, changed, to such an extent that we find many copies and versions. As for the Qur'an, it is preserved in the *Mushaf*, and in the chests of men. If a person makes a mistake during his recitation the Muslims would quickly correct him, even during prayers.

Tom: What does the Qur'an talk about?

Abdullah: In it are the stories of those before us, whether they are Messengers, Prophets or stories of previous nations, from the time of Adam until the commissionment of Prophet Muhammad, may Allah exalt his mention. In it is the mention of what will happen at the end of time, from the Resurrection, trials, Hell-Fire, and Heaven, also in it are the rules of social interaction, politics...everything has a reference in the Qur'an!

Allah says, *'Verily, this Qur'an guides to that which is most just and right and gives glad tidings to the believers, who do righteousness deeds, that they shall have a great reward.'*

He also says, *'Verily there has come unto you a Messenger amongst yourselves, it grieves him that you should receive any injury or difficulty. He is anxious over you; for the believers full of pity, kind and merciful.'*

Tom: What is the general creed of the Muslims concerning the Messengers, and in specific Jesus?

Abdullah: Muslims believe that Allah sent Messengers, of whom were Noah, Abraham, Ishaq, Jacob, Jonas, Zechariah, Yahya, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad, may Allah exalt their mentions. They believe all of them were sent by Allah, and they do not discriminate between them.

All of them were human, and each Prophet was sent to his people, as for Muhammad, may Allah exalt his mention, he was sent to mankind at large, because he is the last of Prophets and Messengers. And the *Deen* of Islam is the last of religions, and it suits every time and age.

As for the Muslims' belief in Jesus, may Allah exalt his mention, they believe that he is the slave of Allah and His Messenger, he was sent to the Christians, and the Gospel was revealed to

him. He is a man, who Allah created from a mother without a father...there is nothing strange about this, for Allah created Adam without a father or mother; ask yourself, what is easier? Without doubt the creation of Jesus from a mother without a father!

They also believe that his mother, Mary, the Virgin, was a pure woman who never fornicated. And whoever believes that she fornicated is a disbeliever in the sight of the Muslims, since Allah mentioned her story in the Qur'an, and it is unlawful to disbelieve in the Qur'an, or His Messenger.

Allah says in the Qur'an: *'Verily the likeness of Jesus before Allah is the likeness of Adam. He created him from dust, then (He) said to him: 'Be!' and he was.'*

Tom: You mentioned that Muhammad is the Last of Messengers and that Islam is the last Deen...what is your proof?

Abdullah: If you know that Muhammad is a Prophet, is it then possible that a Prophet would lie?

Tom: No

Abdullah: The Prophet Muhammad, may Allah exalt his mention, told us that he is the last of Prophets and that Islam is the final *Deen*. If you are to look from the commissionment of the Prophet, may Allah exalt his mention, till today (which is well over 1400 years) has a Prophet come forth to man, who was known to be telling the truth? All that we have heard about are a few pseudo-prophets and liars whose calls faltered and vanished! Whereas the *Deen* of Islam will last till the end of time and its people love their Prophet and hold him in high esteem.

The *Deen* of Allah is appropriate and convenient for all ages, and will last till the establishment of

the Final Hour. All the Prophets ordered their followers to believe in him; this can be found in the Divine Scriptures such as the Bible and Old-Testament, before they were distorted. Some priests and rabbis know this fact but do not come forth openly expressing it.

The Muslims believe that Muhammad is the slave of Allah, and His Messenger, Allah sent him with the *Deen* of Islam which is the final *Deen*, to all mankind whether they be Arabs or non-Arabs. The Muslims also believe that Muhammad, may Allah exalt his mention, is the last of Prophets and Messengers.

Tom: What are the Pillars of Islam?

Abdullah: The pillars of Islam are five:

1. To testify that there is no god except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.
2. To perform prayers.

3. To give out *Zakat*⁵.
4. To fast the month of *Ramadan*.
5. To perform *Hajj* (pilgrimage) for him who can afford the journey.

Tom: Tell me about the prayers:

Abdullah: The prayer ties the slave with his *Rubb*. In Islam we worship Allah directly without any intermediaries. We do not need the help of a rabbi or a priest to have our prayers accepted.

Tom: What is the accepted and appropriate act of worship in the sight of Allah according to the Muslims?

Abdullah: This is the act of worship which has two conditions:

1. That it be done sincerely for the sake of Allah,

⁵ i.e. poor-due.

2. That the method of the Prophet is followed when worshipping Allah.

So the slave does not perform the act of worship however he wishes or pleases.

Tom: These two conditions are beautiful, but how many times do you have to perform prayers in a day?

Abdullah: The Prayers are obligatory on man five times a day, and this is easy for him who Allah makes it easy for; the single prayer takes only five minutes to complete...altogether all the daily prayers take up only one hour of your time.

Tom: What is the benefit of the prayers?

Abdullah: The Muslim performs prayers which are acts of worship because Allah has enjoined them. Allah alone rewards the one who prays.

The prayer has numerous benefits; of them the

purification of one's soul, and the inner peace and tranquility which one attains when praying to His *Rubb*, so prayers, the worship in general and the Iman are the food of the soul!

Tom: 'Food of the Soul'...What do you mean by this?

Abdullah: Indeed our bodies are in need of food and drink, and for it to be beneficial it has to be pure and sanitary. If the person consumes something poisonous, or rotten, he would fall sick or die. Likewise, the soul needs food, many people who do not know or have the appropriate food for their soul, live a life which is bordered by sadness or boredom, or experience a spiritual emptiness...In some cases we find people who work the whole day just to keep these sorts of thoughts from creeping into their minds; and when they return home, they would intoxicate themselves or busy themselves by fulfilling their desires and lusts, in order to

avoid the issue. This would lead a person to commit suicide; this is quite common amongst those who do not believe in Allah. The appropriate food for the soul is the *Iman*, the belief in the Oneness of Allah, and to be in a state of continuous worship. This would give a man a sound mind and put him in a state of tranquility. By this method the person would live a happy life, one filled with tranquility and peace, and also die in a happy state, and would be raised on the Day of Resurrection in a similar state.

Tom: When a person wants to pray what does he do?

Abdullah: The prayer necessitates *Taharah* (ablution) and for a person to be in a state of cleanliness. Islam encourages the Muslim to be in a state of cleanliness...and it is of two types; the spiritual cleanliness and the habitual

cleanliness. The spiritual cleanliness comprises the cleanliness of the heart from the filth of polytheism, hypocrisy, and devious innovations, and also from the filth of jealousy, hatred towards those whom Allah and His Messenger love.

As for the habitual cleanliness, it comprises the cleanliness of the body, clothes, food and drink. Islam has ordered us with the *wudhu* which is a water ablution, by which the slave washes his face, hands and feet, and wipes over his head. It also requires that a person clean himself from any urination or defecation, with a tissue or with water or with both. It also requires that the person's clothes be free also from these types of filth, so that he can be in a state of purity. Islam also encourages the Muslim to bathe, every Friday, when the Muslim comes to the Masjid to pray in congregation, and also for the two Eed celebrations, and after a sexual intercourse. Islam

forbids its followers to eat anything filthy which would harm the body and cause sickness.

Tom: What are the necessary conditions for the prayer?

Abdullah: It is compulsory upon the Muslims to face the *Qiblah* when they want to pray. The *Qiblah* is the direction of the *Ka'bah*. This is the very *Ka'bah* which was built by Ibraheem, and it is the first House which Allah assigned to people as a place of worship. The *Ka'bah* is the *Qiblah* of Muslims whether they are in the East or the West. They face the *Qiblah* because Allah has ordered them to. The Muslims God is one, their *Qiblah* is one, their prayer is one, their prostration, bowings, and all actions during the prayer behind the Imam are one. During the Hajj season you will find more than two million people who have come to gather around this Great House. Islam encourages its followers to

unite together and perform acts of worship, which points to the fact that our hearts and intentions to worship Allah should be united.

Tom: This is the second condition of Islam, so what is the third condition?

Abdullah: The third pillar of Islam is to give the *Zakah*. The *Zakah* is to give a portion of the wealth to the poor and needy; willingly, it being an act of worship.

Tom: What is the set percentage a person has to take out of his wealth to give the poor and needy?

Abdullah: The percentage or portion that a person has to take out for the poor and needy differs by the type of wealth. If the wealth one owns is gold, silver, or money, such as dollars or the like, he has to take out after the completion

of the appropriate conditions 2.5% for the poor and needy.

If the wealth one owns is vegetables and fruits, and it is watered naturally and mechanically then the person would have to give out 5% for the poor and needy. If they are watered naturally by rain water, then the person would have to give the poor and needy 10%. This is what the All-Knowing, Allah, has ordained, such that these amounts would not harm the one giving it out, and the one receiving it would benefit from it. This social welfare in Islam which is an obligation upon every Muslim who meets the conditions is called *Zakah*. Islam has also encouraged the Muslims to give out alms, and charity by which a Muslim would gain great reward. This social welfare system in Islam would make the rich look out and care for his poor brother, and would not make the poor abhor or hold hatred in his heart towards his

brothers, by this system the poor would not venture out to steal from the rich.

This system is an obligation upon every Muslim who meets its conditions, whether he lives under an Islamic country or not, for the true Muslim has an Islamic sense, which causes him to amend and do the right and to forbid and prevent the evil, for indeed the Muslim knows that Allah is watching over him and knows all that he hides and does.

Islam also encourages economical balance, such that it refuses the principles of communism and capitalism whose sole concern is to gather money, no matter the cost or the method sought in gathering it. Under it many are wronged and oppressed, whereas others live as kings. The final goal of capitalism is that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, to a point that the poor would hate the rich and would cause him to lash out by theft, killing, and the like. This system not

only seeks to utilize those under it, rather it seeks to ruin the weaker countries...Where is the justice and human rights they claim to protect.

Islam has given the Muslim the right to own, but to do so using only lawful methods and means which do not cause harm to the public benefit. In Islam there is a solution to every economical problem the world faces today, this Islam which is well over 1400 years old, but most people know not!

Tom: We now know that the first pillar is the *Shahadah*, which is the Testimony of Faith, that there is no god worthy of being worshipped except Allah, and that Muhammad is His Messenger, and that the second pillar is performing the prayer, and that the third is giving out the Zakat...what is the forth pillar of Islam?

Abdullah: The fourth pillar of Islam is observing

the fast of *Ramadhan*.

Tom: Talk about observing the fast of *Ramadhan*?

Abdullah: *Ramadhan* is the name of the ninth month in the lunar calendar. Allah has prescribed the fast of *Ramadhan* upon the Muslims. The Fasting of this month is an obligation which Allah prescribed upon the Muslims, as it has been prescribed upon the nations before us.

Tom: How does one observe fast? And what should one abstain from during the fast?

Abdullah: The fasting generally is to abstain from food and drink and the (sexual) desires from the *Fajr* till sunset. When the sun sets the Muslims eat and drink, and it is lawful for them to approach their wives, and when the *Fajr* breaks, they would abstain from all the above till the night.

Tom: What is the benefit of the fast?

Abdullah: There are many benefits of them:

1. It is an act of worship by which the Muslim seeks nearness to his Rubb, Who would reward him greatly for it. It would teach him self restraint, and to forward the love of Allah over all of his worldly desires and whims.
2. The Muslim's Iman would increase.
3. The Muslim would learn from it how to be patient.
4. When the Muslim feels the heat of hunger, he would remember his poor and needy brothers all over the world, which would cause him to give out for the sake of Allah.
5. There are many health and nutritional benefits, for the stomach needs some rest after a full years work!
6. Fasting is a sign of the solidarity and unity of

the Muslims all over the world, for everyone would fast it, whether they be poor, rich, kings or subjects, elderly or young, male or female...everyone fasts for the sake of Allah, seeking His forgiveness. If you want to see an actual example of this, then look at the *Haram* (the Sacred House) of Allah, to see the hundreds of thousands who break their fast at the same time, is there a greater proof of the Muslims unity?!

7. Fasting would comfort the person spiritually, for indeed the 'struggle' between the good and evil within man is continuous, and by fasting the good would gain the upper hand, and the comfort and tranquility would then spread to all the parts of the body.
8. Fasting would strengthen the person's willpower and he would learn from it, the ethical manners, and would actually feel that Allah is watching over him.

Tom: Now talk to us about the fifth pillar of Islam

Abdullah: The fifth pillar of Islam is the pilgrimage to the House of Allah for him who can afford the journey. Hajj linguistically means to intend; in its full meaning it is to intend to travel to the House of Allah in Makkah to perform the rituals of Hajj, namely the *Tawaf* (circumambulation around the House), *Sa'iee* between the mounts of *as-Safa* and *al-Marwah*, standing on *Arafah*, and the rest of the rituals. It is an obligation on every Muslim, who can afford it, financially and physically, for indeed Allah does not overburden any soul.

Tom: What are the apparent rituals one does throughout this Pillar?

Abdullah: Once the Muslim is about to enter the boundaries of Makkah, he cleans himself, has a

shower, and then wears two white clean pieces of cloth which are called the *Izaar* and *Ridaa'*. As for woman, she can wear anything she pleases, as long as the clothes are clean, and cover her body in an appropriate manner (and match the Islamic dress code).

They then circumambulate around the Ka'bah, and then make *Sa'iee* (tripping) between the mounts of *as-Safa* and *al-Marwah*. They then stand on *Arafah* on the ninth day from the month of *Dhul-Hijjah*. They then spend the night at *Muzdalifah*, which is the night after *Arafah*. They then stay in Mina during the days of *Tashreeq*. There is no difference between the rich and poor, the black and white, the Arab and non-Arab. Everyone wears the same clothes, and they all stand in the same place, and stay in the same places. Their *Qiblah* is the same, their *Deen* is the same, and their *Rubb* is one, Allah, the Exalted, Who deserves all the acts of worship. This is

how Islam teaches its followers to unite, and to love each other, and that all are equal. The only reason we see the Muslims falling behind today in many fields, is that they have put aside their *Deen*...were they to actually stick to it, they would have been successful in all fields.

Tom: Is there anything else a Muslim believes in?

Abdullah: Yes, to know about the six pillars of *Iman* (faith).

Tom: What is the *Iman*?

Abdullah: *Iman* is the belief, which comprises the belief expressed by the tongue, the belief which is concealed in the heart, and the belief expressed by actions. It increases by the doing good deeds, and decreases by doing evil deeds; so a person is not always on one level of *Iman*.

Sometimes his *Iman* increases, when he seeks

nearness to his *Rubb*, by the good deeds, and sometimes his Iman weakens, if he does an evil deed.

Tom: What are the pillars of *Iman*?

Abdullah: The Pillars of Faith are six, the first is to believe in Allah; thus you have to believe that He is the creator of this universe, and its king and owner, and He is the creator of everything and the provider and the one who causes life and death; thus He is the only One worthy of worship, we do not worship any except Allah, and do not associate any partners with Him. We also believe and affirm all of Allah's beautiful names and attributes, for indeed all the beautiful names belong to Him.

Abdullah: The second pillar is to believe in the Angels:

Tom: Who are the Angels?

Abdullah: The angels are a creation of Allah, Allah created them from light, and assigned each of them specific actions that each does perfectly in this world; they do not disobey Him, and do only that which pleases Him. Of the angels is the Arch-Angel Gabriel, who Allah assigned with the revelation.

Abdullah: The third pillar is to believe in the Messengers.

Abdullah: The Messengers are humans who eat and drink and walk in the market places, but Allah honored them by charging each to deliver the Message and a set of laws. They are the best of mankind, and the purest. They are many, of whom are: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ismael, Ishaq, Ya'qoob, Yousef, Zakariyah, Yahya, Yunus, Musa, Eisa, Muhammad, may Allah exalt their mentions and render them safe from all

derogatory things. Each prophet was sent to his people specifically, whereas, Muhammad, may Allah exalt his mention, was sent to mankind at large.

Abdullah: The fourth pillar of Iman is the belief in the Scriptures.

Tom: What are the scriptures a Muslim believes in?

Abdullah: The Scriptures are those books which Allah supported his Prophets with, for He sent with each Messenger a Scripture, which clarified the *Tawheed* (belief in the Oneness of Allah) and the *Haram* and *Halal* (lawful and unlawful matters). The Muslim believes that Allah has revealed the *Torah* and the *Injeel* (gospel) the *Zaboor*, and the sheets of Ibraheem and Moses. They believe in the *Qur'an* which Allah revealed to His Messenger, Muhammad, may Allah exalt

his mention.

Abdullah: The fifth pillar of Iman is the belief in the Last Day.

Tom: What is the belief in the Last Day?

Abdullah: That is to believe that after death there is life, resurrection, trials, and that there is *Jannah* and Hell-Fire. The believer believes that people would be raised then tested and that there is a *Jannah*, which Allah has prepared for His believing slaves; in it there is what no eye has seen, nor ear has heard off, nor mind has thought off! The believer also believes that there is a Hell-Fire, which only the evil doers would enter; those who rejected the words of Allah, His Messengers or Scriptures. They believe that the people of *Jannah* would live an everlasting life in *Jannah*, whereas, the people of Fire would live forever in the Fire.

Abdullah: The sixth pillar is to believe in destiny its evil and good consequences.

Tom: What is the belief in Destiny?

Abdullah: Indeed Allah has preordained all that will come to pass, and knows of all that which will take place before anything takes place. The believer knows that nothing would afflict him except that which is destined for him; so whatever Allah plans he would not be able to escape from it. If the Muslim is afflicted with a calamity, he would bear patiently and seek the reward from Allah, because he knows that Allah has planned for him whatever has taken place as a test to see how he reacts when he is hit by this calamity. If he bears patiently and seeks the reward from Allah, Allah would give him a great reward, but if he does not bear patiently, he would not be able to change anything from the course of the calamity which struck him,

rather he would have sinned. The Muslims believe that if the whole of mankind were to gather to extend a benefit of any sort to a certain individual, he would not benefit from it, save that which Allah has ordained for him. Likewise, if they gather to extend harm to him, nothing would reach him save that which Allah has planned for him. The believer believes in the *Qadr* (destiny) its good and evil, and that both are ordained by Allah.

Tom: What is the benefit in believing in the destiny?

Abdullah: Belief in destiny has many benefits:

1. Attaining the great reward for believing in this pillar of Faith.
2. A person should not feel sorry for whatever opportunities have missed him; rather, he believes that Allah has not ordained for him that which he missed.

3. Whenever the true Muslim attains a position or an opportunity or gains some wealth, he does not walk around boasting arrogantly amongst the slaves of Allah. He knows that he attained it through the mercy of Allah; he also thanks Allah and humbles himself before Him.

Tom: What does a non-Muslim do to enter Islam?

Abdullah: It is quite simple, all a male or female has to do to enter Islam, is to pronounce the testimony of Faith, that is to say

'Ash-hadu an-Lailahah Il'lul-laah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadar rasool Allah.'

And to believe in the meanings of these two testimonies, which is, 'I bear witness that there is no true god worthy of being worshipped, except Allah; and I bear witness that Muhammad is the last Messenger of Allah who was sent to

mankind at large.' Whoever says these words and believes their meanings in his heart would become a Muslim.

Tom: What are the consequences of uttering these words?

Abdullah: When the slave is truthful to Allah upon uttering these words, he would enter *Jannah*. And upon entering Islam, Allah would change his sins into good deeds, and forgive him all his past, by this he would experience a new life, which would be full of happiness. He would know the purpose of his existence, the reason behind his creation, he would know who the Provider is, and he would know who deserves all acts of worship. Whenever he gains a good thing he would thank Allah, and if he is afflicted by a calamity he would bear patiently. He does not fear death, as others fear it, because he knows what Allah has prepared for the good

doers in the Hereafter, and that it is everlasting. It is a must upon the Muslim to seek knowledge because Islam orders us to seek knowledge. Islam also encourages the Muslims to invent and search for all beneficial things for man. Islam does not conflict with any firm scientific facts; the biggest proof to this is the scientific facts found in the Qur'an. Many of the scientific, economical, political, social, facts are clarified in the Qur'an. We call people to Islam to take them out of the darkness to the *light of the truth*, and from the oppression to justice, and from the darkness of polytheism to the light of the Islamic monotheism, and from the worship of creatures to the worship of the *Rubb* of all creatures.

The True Muslim knows the following:

1. Who created us?
2. Why did He create us?
3. Where are we headed?

4. He knows that only that which Allah has ordained would come to pass.
5. He knows that the right of Allah upon His slaves is to worship Him alone not associating any partners with Him. And the right of the slaves upon Allah if they do that that...is that He would not torture them.

Finally, know that the true Muslim loves for all people what he loves for himself, and he loves that all people attain the happiness in this life and in the Hereafter; in this life by entering Islam, and in the Hereafter by entering *Jannah*. We ask Almighty Allah to show us the right path and inspire us to follow it, and to show us the wrong path and inspire us to avoid it. *Ameen*.

نور الإسلام

المؤلف

أبو سعد علي بن سعد العصيمي
عضو مكتب الدعوة بمكة

ترجمة

أبو عبد الله الكندي



نُورُ الإسلام



المؤلف
علي بن سعد العصيمي

SA2280000296608010070509 : حساب التبرعات بمصرف الراجحي

SA5305000068200517913000 : حساب التبرعات بمصرف الإنماء

SA5615000999115390770007 : حساب التبرعات بنك البلاد

SA1180000296608010070707 : حساب الزكاة بمصرف الراجحي



جليزي