



جهاز كمالهوان اسلام ملاسيا
JABATAN KEMAJUAN ISLAM MALAYSIA

The Call to Islam



THE CALL TO ISLAM

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*“When Allah’s help and victory
come (when you O Muhammad
succeeded in conquering
Makkah),*

*And you see men embrace
Allah’s religion in multitudes,*

*Celebrate the praise of your
Lord, and seek His Forgiveness.
For, He is ever disposed to
mercy.”*

(an-Nasr: 1-3)



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"Islam is the best. I know because I came from Christianity. I know about that world and what they project in the non-Muslim world. And there is nothing to compare. There is no comparison."

Bro. Murad Aldeen

"You would not accuse a Christian who celebrates Christmas of being a 'fundamentalist' Christian. It is simply a basic part of their religion and practising Islam is a fundamental part of being a Muslim."

Sis. Zainab Sebai

"Equally I have met many people who said: 'O, what! You are a Muslim. Oh! My God, Muslims. They are a pack of hypocrites and anyway, they are always fighting among themselves. Look at them!'"

Bro. Hassan Guy Baton

"In my heart, I knew that Islam is the only religion and Islam is for everybody. But I could not face up to it yet. I still have to fight this fight within myself."

A Muslim Sister

"The sword of Islam is not the sword of steel. I know this from experience because the sword of Islam stabbed deep into my own heart. No, it did not bring death, but it brought new life."

Bro. Ahmed Holt

ANSWERING THE CALL

Assalamualaikum or peace be with you. The purpose of this book is to shed some light of what Islam really is and why it is attracting so many new followers here today in the West despite the prejudice in our media and the bias in our history books. We have prepared for you a series of interviews with men and women who, for one reason and another, have embraced Islam and have become practising Muslims.

All the people appearing in this particular book share a common background of being brought up in Western societies, dominated by Judaeo-Christian thoughts and values. They come from societies which have been extremely successful in discrediting Islam in the eyes of their own population. Now they are among Muslims themselves. What more can one reasonably expect from a system that continues to deny its access to unbiased information and now, even openly admits to being economical with the truth. Let us see then what attracted these Westerners to embrace this much malign and most misunderstood of the religions, Islam.

HASSAN GUYEATON

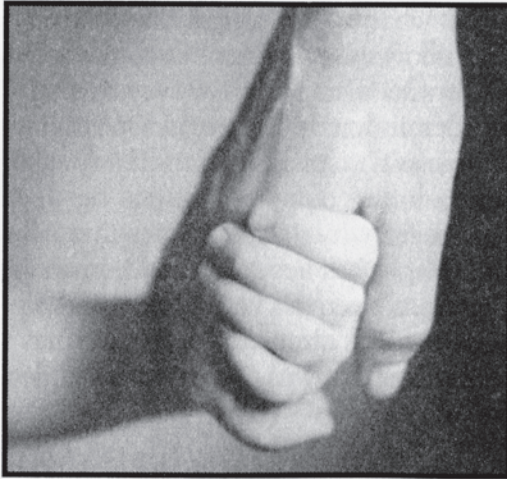
Certainly there is a great attraction of Islam in the West today. It shows itself more, I think, in France than in Britain for reasons that are rather most interesting. It seems to me the principle attraction turns on this simple fact. What is the claim we make for Islam as a religion? What specially distinguishes it from other religions?

We claim that Islam is the final summing up, the final synthesis of all the religions such have been given to mankind by various Divine Messengers. So if you realize that you need a religion and you do not have particular views on which is the better religion, the attraction of Islam is that this is the religion as such. It is a quintessence of all religions.

I think that is proven by a very interesting point. We are all very aware of what we Muslims have in common with Christians. We know what we have in common with orthodox Jews who follows Judaism truly. But we can also find parallels with all the other religions of the world. One of the most remote religions is Chinese Taoism. An extraordinary Japanese scholar wrote a book pointing out the parallels between Islam and Taoism. You can see why. Islam teaches that Allah (the Most Glorious, Most High) has never left any human group without guidance. Therefore, even in a very ancient and strange religion such as Taoism that has almost died out; we may well see the vestiges of a Message that was given to that sector of mankind a long time ago.

Most of the people in the West are more or less unbelievers. Those who believe have a very vague belief in God - they think there is someone 'upstairs' but it does not mean much to them. When they decide that they do need religion in their lives, they want something firm to hold on to. I have many Christian friends, and I have a high regard for Christians, but I think they themselves would agree that Christianity today has become a little 'wishy washy'. The outlines have been softened and

***Islam is the
hand-hold
that never
breaks***



obscured. We are all talking in England now about the way in which the Church of England cannot decide what it really believes.

The second Vatican council changed Catholicism. Catholicism used to be a very strong and unified doctrine. You knew exactly what you have to do to be a Catholic. The second Vatican council eased these limits and pushed them back. Now you can call yourself a Catholic even if you hold some very strange beliefs which would have been condemned as a complete heresy a few years ago.

When I was recently in France, I discovered what an extraordinary number of conversions that have been to Islam in France. Far more than in Britain, Germany or elsewhere. I asked why and nobody really knew the answer for sure. One reason they gave me was that many good Catholics were so disappointed by what has happened to the Catholic Church. They felt so lost because they no longer knew what rules to obey and they saw in Islam something that does not change with every change in fashion. They saw in Islam a religion that is not leaning over backwards or tumbling over backwards in the attempt to fit in with modern life. They saw a religion that is not afraid to criticise modern life, to criticise secularism whereas Christians are very afraid to do that nowadays.

So I think it is the strength and the firmness and the enduring quality of Islam, together with its universality and it's character of synthesis, that has attracted many people in the West to our faith.

AHMAD BULLOCK

Muslims have a treasure for mankind. Islam is in fact the future. If people realize what Islam is then there would be no question of being 'anti-Islam'. There is no argument if you really understand what Islam really is. However, we have a very bad press and there is a motivation behind blackening the face of Muslims and presenting them in the worst possible way.

If Islam did come into its own among mankind then a lot of people would be out of business. If the West but realize how Western civilization was derived from Islam and the influence of the medieval Arabs upon Europe through Spain and Italy. Philosophers of Islam like Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd, al-Ghazali and al-Farabi are very important to Western philosophy. Western society and civilization owes a tremendous debt to Islam which it is very reluctant to acknowledge.

ZAINAB SEBAI

People talk about 'Muslim fundamentalists' whatever they are. As far I can see, a 'Muslim fundamentalist' is simply a Muslim who practices what he is told to practice. In the same way, a 'Christian fundamentalist' would be a Christian who actually believes in God. The term is a very negative one and it is used in a derogatory way.

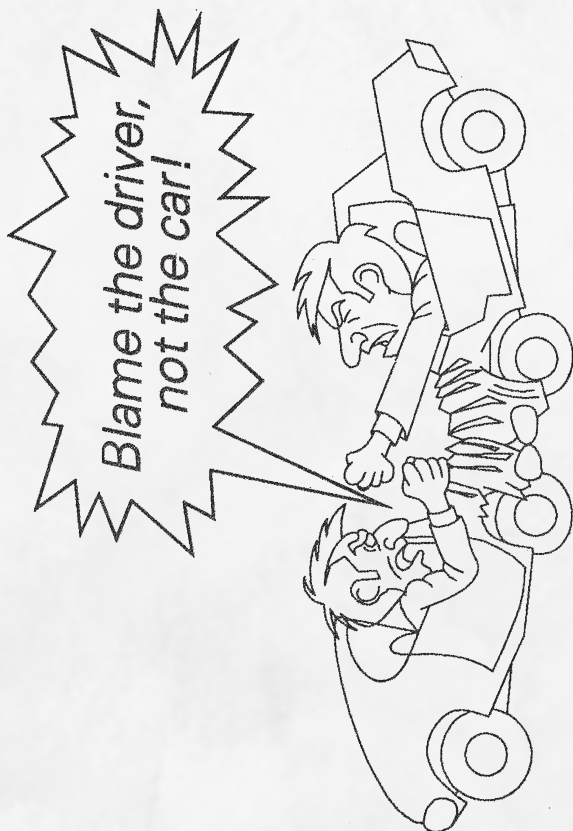
There is no such thing as a 'Muslim fundamentalist'. Either you practise Islam or you do not. In the same way, the term 'extremist' is used not to pinpoint certain modes of behaviour that people disapprove of but to cast a negative light on Islam as a whole.

The word 'Islam' means submission. You submit to the will of God. If you submit to the will of God, you are a Muslim. There is nothing 'fundamentalist' about it. Either you submit or you do not. And everyone is free to submit or not. It is their choice. So the term 'fundamentalist' is misleading and very misguiding and it is used in a very derogatory way. You would not accuse a Christian who celebrates Christmas of being a 'fundamentalist Christian'. It is simply a basic part of their religion and practising Islam is a fundamental part of being a Muslim.

YUSUF ISLAM (CAT STEVENS)

Islam today is one of the most misunderstood phenomena. Unfortunately, people are looking at Muslims by some of the incidents which we see going on in the world today, which are supposed to be a reflection of Islam. They are not a reflection of Islam. They are a reflection of badly misbehaving Muslims. That is the problem which is besetting the Muslim community.

There are, of course, very good elements and good practising Muslims but these are not normally seen. It is usually the bad and the most sensational elements which are shown on television and in the media. The way to solve this is for someone not to look at the Muslim, but to look at Islam. It would be wrong for someone to judge a car as being a bad car if the driver of the car was drunk and he crashed into a fence. You say, "That car is bad." It has nothing to do with the car. It is to do with the driver. So you must look at the car and see what kind of a car it is. How many miles it does for a gallon and so on. Once we look at the actual description of



Likewise, blame the Muslim, not Islam

what the car is then you will see that there is nothing wrong with the car. It is the driver.

Islam is to guide all human beings in their daily lives, in their spiritual, mental and physical dimensions. But we must find the source of this instruction which is, firstly, in the Qur'an and then secondly in the examples of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) being the last Prophet. So once we come to these two things, the Qur'an and then the example of the Prophet, which is called the 'sunnah' of the Prophet, then we can see the ideal Islam.

IBRAHIM HEWITT

The image that we have of Islam here in the West is very distorted. There are many prejudices which come out mainly because of ignorance. We are told very little about Islam in school and the actual educational system is trying to divert away from Islam. This is a historical thing. We feel strongly that there is this 'crusade' type of mentality. Islam is seen as a threat. It was a threat a thousand years ago and it has been a threat ever since. There has always been a big battle between Christian Europe and Muslim Middle East or Muslim North Africa or whatever. This 'in-built' prejudice among the Europeans is very strong.

This comes out in one way in education. We are taught small things which can completely distort the idea that you have about a particular faith. For example, Islam is often called 'Mohammadenism' and Muslims are called 'Mohammadens'. This implies that Muslims somehow worship Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) the way that Christians worship Jesus. Nothing can be further from the

truth. Islam preaches that there is only one God. Prophet Muhammad was His Messenger. He was a man.

This whole idea that Islam is a threat and something alien was hit home very strongly to me. Very early on when I became a Muslim, I was at a meeting where an eminent Christian from the British Council of Churches was giving a talk. I questioned him as to how he could quote from the Bible with confidence when he knows that the Bible is changing constantly and is always being altered. I asked him how he could say it was the truth. I explained that I was a Muslim and I believed that the Qur'an is unchanged for fourteen hundred years and it remains unchanged. His answer nearly swept me off my feet. He stood up and said "Christians can no longer deny that the Qur'an is the word of God and Christians can no longer deny that Muhammad is *Rasulullah*." He actually used the Arabic phrase '*Rasulullah*.' He did not say Prophet or Messenger. So he is affirming a belief in the Qur'an as the word of God and he is affirming a belief in the Prophethood of Muhammad (*peace be upon him*).

ABDEL RASHID SKINNER (PSYCHIATRIST)

One of the many problems that faces Islam in Britain is that it has a very negative image. This is partly the result of history. Islam was always a threat to Western Europe for a thousand years and this has coloured the popular image of Islam. I remembered as a child reading a school history book where I was presented with an illustration of Islam as a fierce looking Arab with a long beard and a sword. The assumption being that Islam was spread by the sword. That it was a savage and militant religion.

In recent years we had a large number of immigrants from the Indian sub continent who are Muslims. The effect of this has been also to shape public opinion to think of Islam as something foreign. The realities are quite different. I and other English people who have become Muslims have found the transition to Islam to be very easy. There is a great deal of the English culture, the finer points of the English culture, which fits very well in Islam. Good manners, good behaviour, honesty and integrity, these sorts of things fit very well with Islam.

PROFESSOR YACOUB ZAKI

Islam has succeeded in evolving a civilization which more closely expresses its own essence than perhaps any other religion in the world. The only other of the great world religions that I can think of which in many ways is comparable to Islam in this respect is Confucianism which is conceptional with the essence of Chinese civilization.

For instance, there is Islamic architecture, Islamic art and Islamic aesthetics. It is difficult to think of Christian art, architecture or aesthetics in the same way in which we can speak of Islamic art, Islamic architecture or Islamic aesthetics. For instance, take the principle building of the whole of Christendom: The Church of St. Peter in Rome. This building was erected in the Pagan style. It is a deliberate copy of the classical architecture of ancient Rome and Greece. In no sense therefore can it be considered a Christian building in a way in which a mosque can be considered an Islamic building.

**NO WINE!
NO WOMAN!
NO SONG!
AND NO
GAMBLING?!!!**



***Where Islam is in business,
vice is out of business***

Take one other aspect of Islamic civilization, perhaps its greatest achievement: The Islamic educational system. By the twelve century, Islam had evolved what is probably the finest educational system in history. Universities were founded all over the Islamic world. In fact, the university is a Muslim invention. People do not understand that 'university' is in fact a translation of the Arabic word, '*madrasah kuliyyah*.' '*Madrasah*' means 'place of study' and '*kuliyyah*' means 'universal,' hence a universal study place. This is precisely what a university is and Islam was the first religion to come up with the concept of universal knowledge, which today to us seems so straight forward and so simple. In fact, the concept could only emerge within the framework of Islam, and the Islamic vision of the universe.



JOURNEY BACK

The journey back to Islam can take many roots. As many roots, in fact, as there are people and situations that they find themselves in on the face of this planet. My own journey back resulted from being successful in achieving almost anything I set my heart on but finding no satisfaction in the resulting outcome. This is a common theme that went through all our stories.

AHMED HOLT

As a Christian I was very familiar with the Bible, The Holy Bible. I accepted everything that I read in it without question. And in later years I accepted that it was fitting that the Jews should be returned to their homeland. And in due course I felt a deep affection towards these people. In my mind I saw a small band of persecuted people who were being threatened by a surrounding hostile enemy, mostly Muslims, especially the Palestinians.

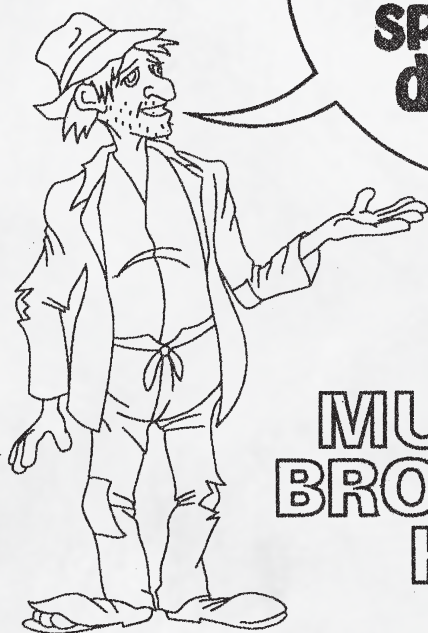
The time came when I felt myself drawn towards this land, what we call Israel, to identify with those persecuted Jews who have suffered terribly in Europe during the war. At that period of time my attitude towards the Muslims and towards the Palestinians was that they were terrorists and they were among the least of humanity. I always had that mental image of Islam advancing by the threat of the sword, the threat of death.

In the late seventies, I felt so moved that I decided that I must go to Israel to identify with the Jews, to identify with the Israelis, to help them in their struggle against the Palestinians in particular and against the Muslims in general.

There is an old saying, and it is a very true one, that God works in mysterious ways. And, *alhamdulillah* (praise be to Allah), it is very true. I arrived in Israel and I was welcomed by the Jewish people. I worked with them and I began to meet Palestinians.

There was something about the Palestinians. They knew who I was, my attitudes and thoughts and the reason why I had gone to Israel. There was something from their example that began to radiate into my life. Their warmth and their hospitality, their love and their affection. They always referred to me as a brother. Never a stranger, always a brother. And yet I had denied them and I had gone to work against them. There were many wonderful experiences that occurred in my meetings with the Palestinians. Although I must say that they never once tried to impress Islam upon my life, it was hardly ever mentioned, it was their example that radiated so much into my mind, my life.

The time came when, because of my association with the Palestinians, I was ordered to leave this so called 'Jewish state.' In the period of time I had been there a blindfold had fallen from my eyes and I began to see a new picture. I saw the suffering of the people who had been driven from their land. I saw the inhumanity of the Israelis toward the Palestinians whose land that they had stolen. I saw young men who had been in the prison and tortured. I saw people whose land had been confiscated and taken from them. I saw



**Brother,
can you
spare a
dime?**

**MUSLIM
BROTHER
HOOD**

***Never
a stranger,
always
a brother***

school boys who had been beaten up by the police. All these things were revealed to me at first hand.

When I came back to England, I gave a lot of thoughts to these events that occurred to me in what I had always called and referred to as 'Israel' which now in my mind, is imprinted 'Occupied Palestine.' In all truth, it was like putting pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together. I began to question. What is it that this people, who had been denied their homes, their land and their livelihood, many of them being so poor, what was it that they radiated into my life? What did they give to me? And I began to search, to reach out.

One day, on my visit to London, I met an English brother and he said, "You know, you are a Muslim and you don't recognise it." This was in effect the final piece of the jigsaw puzzle fitting into position.

Before I could confess Islam, before I could acknowledge Islam as my religion, there was an obstacle that I had to overcome. This is related to Jesus (Prophet Isa, *peace be upon him*). I had always accepted Jesus as being the 'Son of God' and 'God-made man'. I began to rationalize. To whom did Jesus pray? How did he pray? Jesus prayed as a Muslim. He went into the desert and he prostrated on the ground to the Supreme Authority, to the Supreme Creator. I began to give thought to the opening line of the Lord's prayer which Jesus (*peace be upon him*) taught himself. "Our father who art in Heaven." Not 'my' father but 'our' father. So Jesus is telling us all that Allah SWT (*the Most Glorious, Most High*) is the father of all beings, the father of all creation because all is created by Allah SWT . This eased the conscience in my mind and with a joyful heart, I became a Muslim.



HIDDEN TREASURES

Now we come to Islam and its hidden treasures or hidden benefits. Certainly they are too numerous to mention and they are indeed manifold. The important one from my standpoint was to find in Islam that one can approach one's Maker directly. Nobody but Allah (the Most Glorious, Most High) can hear everything and can deal simultaneously with every individual's problems in the world at any one given time. It takes the worry out of life and death situation. We find in Islam that there is true brotherhood and sisterhood and that one nation has been formed out of all other nations upon the face of the earth.

RABIA AMIN

When I was travelling in the Muslim world, I was very impress with the set up of the family there. I saw big families living together where the woman had her children and there was her sisters, her aunt and her grandmother living there. She was never left on her own to cope with all the problems and all the responsibilities. If she wanted to go out, she could easily go out. If she wanted to go back to work, there would be somebody else to look out after the children. The children would have other children to play with. I find that very nice.

I also witnessed a lot of help towards all the other women. When somebody was ill, for example, the rest of the family, all the neighbours would come and cook for the woman and

the family and clean the house and all these for free. They did it out of love for each other.

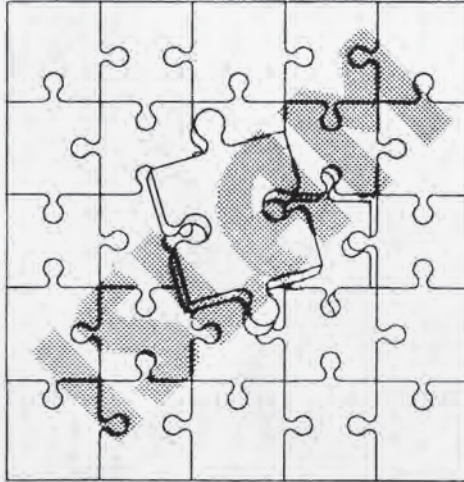
A MUSLIM SISTER

What I found most beautiful in Islam and what I still find so wonderful is the direct communication with God. We do not need a priest, or anybody in between. We do not need little men or little women, whatever way you want to see it. You talk to God in your prayers directly. He is there in front of you. When I say "*Allahu Akhbar*" (Allah SWT is Great) and I start my prayers, He is there in front of me and He listens to me. And this is something wonderful. It is also something I always knew ever since I was a child, ever since I was little. I always prayed "Dear God". I never prayed "Dear Jesus" or something like that. It never entered my mind until we were told otherwise in school and later in the church. So you get this love from God. You get a certain light from God. And you get peace in your hearts. You feel all the worries you had before are slowly disappearing.

Another thing which is very beautiful in Islam is that now I can talk about death. I am not afraid of it. I am looking forward to it because I know there is something waiting for me which is much better. I can talk to my husband about this. "What happens if you die?" and "What happens if I die?" When I say this to my friends, they say: "Don't talk about death! About this thing we don't talk about it." I say: "Why not?" Death is not the end. Death is a beginning and the beginning of something very beautiful if you lead your life in the way of God. But, of course, if you are leading a life where you are doing bad things, where you only think about materials things, then you are frightened. You are afraid



Realizing Islam is



***Fitting in the final piece
of life's puzzle***



what is going to happen to you because we all know instinctively that there is life after death and there is punishment.

YUSUF ISLAM

The most important thing which I found in Islam was the belief in One God. This is not just said in the sense that some people say they believe in One God and they leave it at that. The whole understanding of Islam is based on this truth. Nothing could exist without His will and every breath that we take is directly commanded by God. Everything in our life is happening because God has given it that allowance. He has given us that life.

AHMED HOLT

The sword of Islam is not a sword of steel. I know this from experience because the sword of Islam stabbed deep into my own heart. No, it did not bring death but it brought new life, '*alhamdulillah*' (praise be to Allah). It brought an awareness and an awakening of who I am, what I am and why I am here.

It is a fusion. The power of life in Islam is like a fusion. It brings people together and fuses us into one being. Like a black smith or a welder welding steel, Islam fuses human hearts together. I know this from experience. A leaf cannot fall from a tree or a raindrop from the sky without the will of Allah SWT .



***The power of Islam
is like a fusion***



***It brings people
together.***



AISHA GOUVERNEUR

What have I really found in Islam? What is the most important thing for me? What Muslims for the Muslim world do not understand about converts in this: Muslim already come with a sense of *'tawakkal'*, a sense of trust in Allah SWT. People from the West, people who have been brought up with attitudes other than that do not necessarily have that immediately. Muslims who are born Muslims are generous, They have it as a reflect reaction. But we do not have the same virtues so we want to be like Muslims. And this is something really very special.

After all these years as a Muslim, I really feel, I really know, that whatever happens is for the best. I do not worry anymore. I used to worry. For example, if some problems came with our house or anything like this, I used to be worried about it. Now I know. Do not worry about it because, *astaghfirullah* (Allah be forgiving), when you look back later you always realize it was for the best. So if you cannot understand what Allah SWT is doing when a trial comes, at least go into neutral, wait and see. Everything is for the best. Even for the terrible things, at the end we can always see what they are for. All these difficulties in our lives are to give us a chance to see ourselves, to gain patience, to gain generosity, to gain attachment, to gain sensitiveness. All these things are there for our use to become pure at heart.

If you are a bird in outer space, flapping and exhausted and becoming tired from the effort, all you have to do is to fold your wings and you will not fall. Just trust Him and learn to trust Him. This is the greatest thing I found in Islam: that I no longer have to worry and I know everything is all right.



***If you don't understand
what Allah SWT is doing
when a trial comes,
at least go into
neutral and wait
and see!***



THE BOOK FOR ALL TIMES

This is the Qur'an. The call of Islam. The final scripture to all mankind. The Message brought by the spirit of truth and without doubt, full of mature wisdom. A book wholly consistent with itself and in keeping with modern science and scientific investigation. The actual and literal word of Almighty God, like the books of Abraham and Moses and David and Jesus (peace be upon them). The Divine Message and the call to all mankind. This is the call of Islam. The Book, The Recitation, The Qur'an.

YUSUF ISLAM

*Say (O Mubammad): "He is Allah, (the) one, Allah the Self-sufficient Lord, Whom all creatures ask for all their needs. He begets none, nor is He begotten, and none is equal to Him."
(al-Ikhlās: 1-3)*

In this chapter we learn that everything is dependent on Allah SWT, and He is dependent on no one. Everything is relying On Him for life, for sustenance and He is not relying on anyone. It say that, "He gave not birth nor was He born". We cannot imagine Allah SWT in human form or any form because it says" And there is nothing similar to Him. "That is the heart of Islam. When you come to Islam, you learn first who is God. It corrects all the misconceptions and guide you to the truth of your Creator. That cannot be done just simply by

us sitting down and coming to some agreement about God. This must have come by permission of Allah SWT. One of the most unique features of Islam is the fact that God has preserved this Message, this revelation, this teaching in the book that we call the Qur'an.

RUKE ALDEEN SMITH (JOURNALIST)

I think what appealed to me about Islam most of all was the fact that, as a Western man, we do put a great deal of emphasis upon reason. The thing that struck me about reading the Qur'an, especially the second time round, was just how reasonable the book is. It always amuses me when people say that they want to be given certain types of miraculous proof regarding the religion or the Qur'an.

Reading the Qur'an for the second time, the truth in that book is almost self evidence. It seems to me that any man who exercises this common sense and we in the North of England pride ourselves of being 'down to earth' and 'commonsensical' any man who reads the Qur'an in that light could not deny that the Qur'an is purely in keeping with reason, purely in keeping with common sense. Any 'down to earth' man who still wants to be part of this world and not living in a cave, meditating or doing yoga or escaping from the world, finds his 'best belief system' in the religion outlined in the Holy Qur'an.

This is what impressed me most. It makes a clear demarcation line between the Creator and ourselves, the created. This is the first point. So many religions do not seem to have that guiding line. The Qur'an makes a clear demarcation between God and His Creation. While allowing that division, it

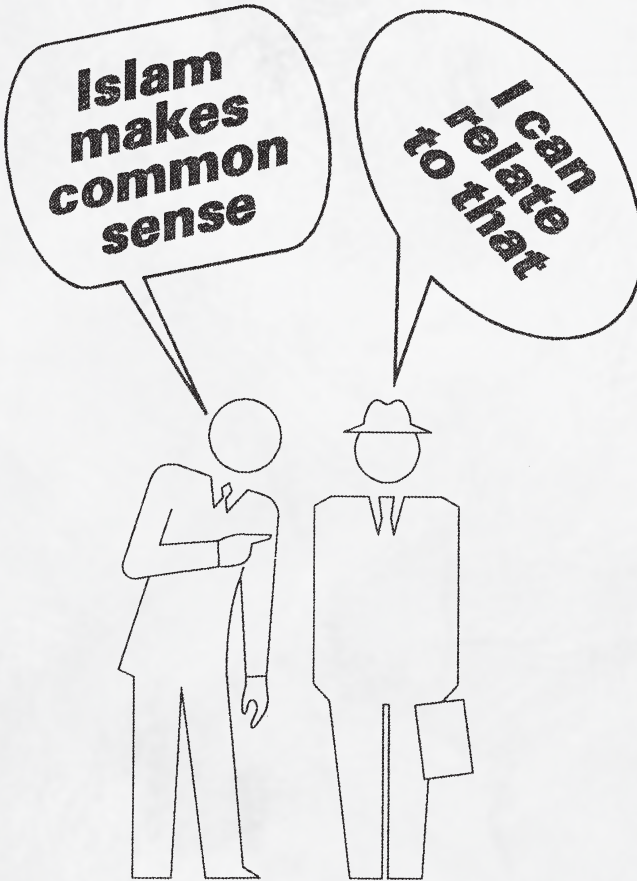
also provides a means whereby in reading the Qur'an, one enters into a very intimate relationship with God.

A MUSLIM BROTHER

There is no book coming after the Qur'an. This is the preserved word of Allah SWT to all of His creation. Allah SWT says that in the Qur'an is sure guidance. It is not the guess work of a philosopher. It is not the guess work of a learned man. It is pure knowledge, pure revelation coming from the one that we call '*Alim*,' the One who is all Knowing. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing upon the messenger of God), established the all right way that we should worship Allah according to the Qur'an.

The Prophet was the 'walking Qur'an.' Aishah (*may Allah be pleased with her*) was asked what the character of Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*)? She said, he was the walking Qur'an. Not only did he express the message verbally, but he lived the Qur'an. He was a perfect human being. Yes, he was the best of Allah SWT creations. Not only is the best of Allah SWT creation, but Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) he is the liberator, he is the Messenger, he is the guide and mercy of Allah SWT. Not just for fourteen hundred years ago, not just for today, but as long as man exists on this planet. Prophet Muhammad SAW is the leader for all times.

In this book, The Qur'an, I find much happiness and it answered many questions I used to have. It really made a difference in my life. It seems to be a purpose and a meaning.



***Islam appeals to the
'down to earth' man***



It made me very happy and filled my heart full of happiness. I am very lucky to be a Muslim.



THE NATURAL SOLUTION

Islam is the natural solution and is in fact the universal panacea that evades all but true believers. Islam is the natural selection at its best. When mankind has a chance to view Islam without the encumbrances and distortions that have been laid upon it, he has no choice and wishes to choose it for himself. Islam seeks natural cures not hasty surgery. It seeks a natural way of life, more conducive to peace, far from the madness of the Dallas or Dynasty lifestyles.

Pollution, as we read in the Qur'an, has only appeared on land and sea as a result of what man's own hands has produced. Islam is then the natural choice, the natural solution and the way chosen for mankind by Allah SWT. Therefore, there can be no adverse side effects. In Islam is the choice of people who want to find peace, prosperity, tranquillity, good in this life and in the life of the world to come.

MURAD ALDEEN (PREACHER)

Islam is so intelligent, so advanced and is the way of life for all times. The Muslim does not have to go outside of Islam to search for something to guide him. It is complete. In the Judaeo-Christian society, they have to have a secular guidance. They are not really guided by the religious ideology but the secular world guides them. Their government is secular and their religion is something that they either go to on Saturday or Sunday. For the Muslims, everyday is a day of worship of Allah SWT and obedience to Allah SWT, obedience

to the Qur'an and obedience to the Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*).

We have the best guidance. Islam is the best. I know. I came from Christianity. I know about that world and what they project in the non-Muslim world. And there is nothing to compare. There is no comparison.

ZAINAB SEBAI

Man cannot live by bread alone. It is perfectly true because the evidence for that is society as it stands now. We have societies that cater for part of our needs. We do not have societies that can provide us with safe streets and safe houses. We have lawless societies because they are godless societies. In most Marxist countries, atheism is enshrined in their constitutions.

In the West, the religion of most countries is normally Christianity. But it is only Christianity on a certain level. None of the principles of Jesus' teachings are actually applied here. I think the only time most people remember Jesus is at Christmas and Easter and that is only because they get presents. I do not feel that what Jesus taught is actually applied. If it was, perhaps the West would have decent societies. But it is not and so it does not.

Problems that concern most people today such as drugs abuse, AIDS and alcoholism, all these problems are the result of an irresponsible and basically godless society. The harmful effect of alcohol, for example, is recognized here in England. The British Medical Association launched a big campaign on Christmas on not drinking and driving. We



***Our houses
are not
safe
because
we live
in a
godless
society***

have got a big conference at the moment in London about the spread of AIDS. In the West we have many campaigns about drugs abuse. I think all-these can be put under one general heading and that is the society we live in at the moment is a godless society, which has no rules. Everyone is free to do what he likes and it is becoming anarchical.

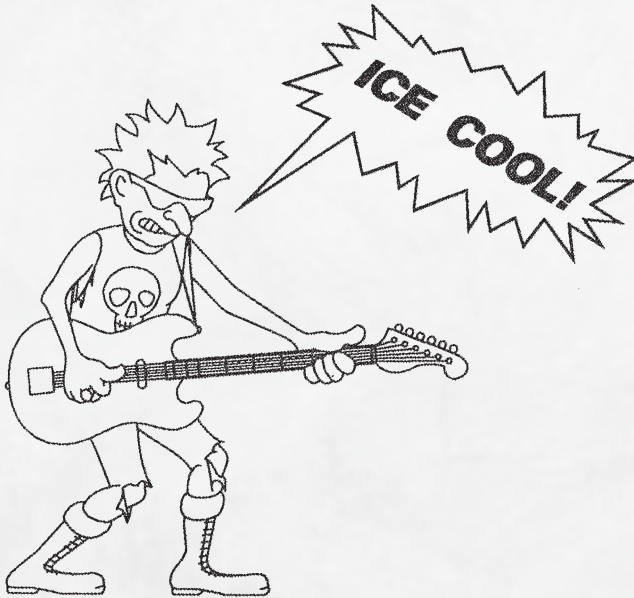
People see Islam as being a very severe and restricting religion. This is a shame because it is quite the opposite. I have experienced the freedom in Islam that I have never experienced before.

RABIA AMIN

Unfortunately the idea of freedom in the West is rather a confused one. People think that they can do as they like. They can dress as they like. They can take off their clothes as they like. They can buy what they like. They have this kind of freedom. They can drink, they can go out, they can have fun. This is freedom. But is this really freedom?

What about the freedom inwardly? I think it is a big illusion. This is not real freedom. This is only freedom for consumption. It is not real freedom. Freedom lies inwardly. That your spirit is free. This may mean that we have some outward restrictions. This is natural. Even the sportsman knows the feeling that in order to achieve something he has to have discipline. Islam gives us discipline in order to make us inwardly free. What we see in the West is that the people are outwardly free but inwardly they are completely confused. They have no freedom individually because they do not know.

***In the West, people are
outwardly free***



***But inwardly, they are
completely confused.***

YUSUF ISLAM

Many problems are facing us today in the world. Questions about test tube babies, nuclear threat, the creation of chemical weapons. We find questions about ecology such as pollution. We find questions about morality such as homosexuality: Is it right or wrong? All these questions actually have been answered but you have to seek the answers in the Qur'an and in the Sunnah. All these answers and all solutions to our problems today, even the economic problems which we are facing today, the catastrophic problems which are facing the world can all be solved in the teachings of Islam.

Islam really has got the long term solutions. But Islam has not been recognized today for those solutions. It has only been recognized for it being seen as a threat to the Western way of life. If you study carefully, you will find that many of the good things in the Western way of life has been brought about by the meeting of Islam with the West and the renaissance that evolved after that. If you look at what Islam gave in the way of heritage and culture to the world, in the sphere of medicine and science and in mathematics. So many things. This is the point that it is not been seen for what it has given.



As you can see, Islam and the call of Islam still continues to attract man and women of all ages to its fold. We hope that their stories have made clearer for you the real image of Islam and prove beyond any shadow of doubt that this is not just limited to the desert environment but that it suits Western man equally as the Eastern man.

Muslims at their best are real human beings and superior to any other human being because they are operating under Divine Order.

A Muslim brother

Islam is the light which shone from the dawn of humanity. To bring humanity into the right guidance. To know what is right and what is wrong.

Bro. Yusuf Islam

In Christianity, or even Judaism there are so many questions unanswered. If you have any question and you are serious about it, go and look for it in Islam. You will find it. I promise you.

A Muslim Sister

The sword of Islam is the Qur'an. It is the sword of light. It shines through the darkness to the people who have guidance. We are in darkness and yet al-Qur'an shines out the light to people and shows the way.

Bro. Ahmed Holt

The Muslims really are the only hope of the world now because they really do believe in God.

**Sister Elaine, 84 years old, became
a Muslim in December 1987**



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