

ARE WE TRUE MUSLIMS?

Our world is full of men who claim to be Muslims because of their birth (parents) or because they fulfill the basic minimum requirements to get through what they believe is the door to heaven. Each of these men, somehow find the security that they are going to Paradise by living their particular understanding of the "true religious life," while often condemning others for not following "their way". Yet it is in these very people we usually find an inconsistency which causes us to wonder where their authority comes from. This inconsistency is the living of a selfish, unrighteous life, and not feeling personally responsible to ease the suffering of the less fortunate in the world; while others who don't have a particular religious life or who are atheistic in beliefs often live a more public, righteous life. Also the fact that these religious people have an unsurity and non-understanding of why they do what they do (but their just doing it on blind faith because those before them did it in such a way) adds to today's confusion. In fact it is this very paradox that has and is often turning pure, righteous seekers of truth away from God to some form of atheistic beliefs, in their hopes to solve the problems of mankind. Yet, this blind faith is quite contrary to the many statements in the Quran that we must not just follow, but we must use our God given minds to question to the point of gaining a deep understanding of why we do what we do. Therefore the question we must ask is; who is a True Muslim in the eyes of God; And what is the correct understanding of the Quran from God's point of view?? It is very important for each of us to know the answer to these two questions so that we ourselves are not led to believe we are going to Paradise, when in fact we are living out-side of God's requirements.

Muslims Before Muhammad

The answer to our first question is to be found in the fact that Adam & Eve were the first True Muslims. Yet, to the sorrow of all mankind our first parents lost this position (as True Muslims because they didn't follow God's laws completely and came to put the forbidden fruit first before God. This means they surrendered their wills to their personal desires for the forbidden fruit, rather than surrendering their wills to God first.

This action of putting one's personal desire above and before God's desires was passed along to each generation of Adam's and Eve's descendants thereafter. Araf 27,28 "...When they do aught that is shameful, they say: "We found our fathers doing so;". Because of man's difficult situation God had pity on man and in His mercy and forgiveness He sent Prophets (True Muslims), to lead the fallen, evil children of Adam back to become True Muslims; they were generally unsuccessful in guiding mankind to become True Muslims, however.

How can there be Muslims before Having the Holy Quran and Our Guiding Laws??

The answer to this lies in a person's understanding of what makes a True Muslim. Is a True Muslim the outer clothes or tradition that one lives by or is it a certain quality of spirit (soul) living within a physical body?

A True Muslim is anyone:

- 1) Who is on a path of Spiritual purification to become as Adam and Eve were before they ate the fruit and were meant to be in maturity;
- 2) A person who believes in one God and who submits to God first in his life, having no-one or nothing equal or above;
- 3) Who loves and believes to follow all the prophets because of their being God's representatives on earth (thus being the embodiment of all we should become);
- 4) Who has the quality of righteousness burning in his spirit, such that whenever he sees evil he cannot rest until he has helped to correct it (even if it means risking his life);
- 5) Who prays, fasts, and worships God all day long through his living a pure life;
- 6) who doesn't remove himself from the problems of the world to live a spiritual life alone, but who actively works within the society to teach the confused people, a way of life centered on God;
- 7) who is not afraid of questioning, but who actively seeks to understand the Quran in terms of the universal principles of God that are its base, and which are meant to be the unifying factors between today's many different races, nationalities, and religions.

Asr₁₀₃ "By (the Token of) Time (through the Ages), Verily Man is in loss, except such as have Faith, And do righteous deeds, And (join together) In the mutual teaching of Truth, and of Patience and Constancy."

Mu-minun 102, 103 "Then those whose balance (Of good deeds is heavy, They will attain salvation:" "But those whose balance is light, will be those who have lost their souls; In Hell will they abide.

Rad 11 "...Verily never will God change the condition of a people until they Change it themselves (with their own souls)...."

Clearly, becoming a True Muslim is a process of change in the quality of the spirit (soul of a person; and not just following certain prescribed laws. This is why there could be True Muslims before we had the Quran and the Prescribed Law; because these previous Prophets had the inner spiritual quality (purity) that denotes a True Muslim. However, if being a True Muslim means having a certain kind of inner spirit, and men were considered True Muslims before having the Quran; then why does the Quran (law) now require us to pray, fast, etc. in certain prescribed ways??

Adam & Eve were kicked out of paradise because they lost the qualification to be in such a pure place where no evil existed. Before they ate the forbidden fruit they were naked, un-ashamed, innocent, pure, righteous, had only good inside, and thus they knew no evil. Yet, after eating the fruit they came to know evil and have evil inside their own souls, along with good; thus becoming too dirty to live in a perfectly pure place like paradise. This is similar to a man staining the name of his own tribe and himself consequently becoming an outcast.

In a similar manner mankind became an outcast of Paradise; came to live in a hell on earth and have his present two conflicting natures of good and evil within. Because of his losing the necessary qualifications to be in heaven and because of man's gaining a negative, conflicting nature; man's purpose changed from living in an ideal heaven on earth and in Heaven (serving and worshiping God), to washing himself, (meaning his becoming pure enough to regain the qualifications to go and live in Paradise and serve God).

This means man's purpose of life has changed from enjoying this world as a pure worshipper of God, to spiritual growth. We are like plants in soil; we are meant to grow spiritually from every thought, experience and personal action during our life here on earth, so that by the time of our death we will have regained the qualifications necessary to exist in heaven.

Now, because mankind hasn't known how to use his life's experiences (waking hours) effectively to grow spiritually, our God in heaven has sent prophets to guide all men in their spiritual growth. Each of these prophets came as a spiritual light to a darkened world (mankind) to reveal the course (road) of action necessary to remove the evil from each man's soul. As time passed the particular individual who was in the position of the most recent prophet changed, but the road (course of action to purify one's soul), always remained the same.

All Must Walk the same Road of Purification

From the beginning of history mankind lost his purity of heart and the control of his mind (invaded by Satan) through the eating of the fruit. To come back to God, each man must therefore go a reverse direction to regain his purity of heart and the control of his mind. Thus purification was and is the purpose of all the instructions given to man from God through the Prophets. This means that the revealed instructions (laws) weren't the end in themselves, but the means to gain the end; the purity of one's own personal soul. If such is the case, then the purpose of prayer, fasting, making Al-Hadj, paying zakat and all the other instructions is to remove one's personal fallen nature. These instructions are not the road itself, but the vehicle (which can change in models over time) to carry the individual down that road. This road itself can be described as the gaining of humbleness, righteousness, unselfishness, and purity in one's spirit or soul; which causes one to make God first in his daily life. The clearest example of this is prayer. Although the method of prayer changed with each prophet, still prayer was necessary to train one's heart in humbleness and purity, and to set order and discipline within one's life and mind.

In line with this, our God sent through Prophet Muhammad our present 5 time prayer not because He needed such worship, but for our own benefit or training. If then, the purpose of our instructions from the Holy Quran is for spiritual growth, let us then examine ourselves in line with this purpose in mind and not whether we have fulfilled the daily minimum requirements.

Each of us must examine within ourselves whether we are making contact with God's heart and becoming spiritually purer; rather than if we have prayed the required number, at the required hour, for the required time. A True Muslim is a person who acts (prays) because his love for God is so strong and not because he is afraid of hell (punishment) and thus begrudgingly carries out the law.

CAN'T GO TO HEAVEN WITHOUT SUFFERING

The True Muslim is the man who totally surrenders himself to God all day long, and not to other things like money, women, position, etc. Sadly today people are surrendering themselves their wills to their physical desires ("Weaknesses of the flesh") Taking our example of prayer, we see most people are praying 5 times a day for about 7 minutes. This means they are surrendering their wills to God for about half hour a day; while 23½ hours a day they are actively pursuing their flesh God of: (women, money and power).

\$-GOD - A majority of men have made money their God (in effect today), because of their pursuit of an easier life. They work 8 or more hours a day in order to get money to buy happiness. Money occupies their thinking even after work, causing a separation from God and often from their loved ones, to the point of their taking on two or even three jobs. (This is in spite of the fact that even the unwealthy people live in much better conditions today than the kings of past ages; having such conveniences like: fresh cool water, medical care, radio, etc.). Why can't we thank God and be happy with what he has given us. Even our more religious men rationalize their hidden pursuit of money with the thinking, "I've done my share" (2½% or a little more). "I must keep the rest in case of unexpected trouble, while around them some of their brothers are in really difficult situations."

SEX GOD - Most people if they speak from their deepest heart would have to admit they prefer their opposite sex to God. Often after marriage even the previously religious man becomes so engrossed with his wife that he stops the 5 time prayer and submits his will to the ways of this world. Frankly speaking, the most difficult obstacle to making God first in our lives is the Sex God. This problem has existed since the beginning of mankind, is presently destroying the western world, and must be made second, to our God in Heaven.

POWER - POSITION GOD - Mankind has fallen so far away from God that he even has the nerve to try to make himself above God by gaining control over people through taking away their free wills in various ways. Our loving God has chosen to give mankind free choice, while man himself has usually gone in the opposite direction. Through history we have seen how mankind has forsaken God, His principles, and often left everything (even his loved ones) to get control over people. Thus, many men have in effect no time for God because they must actively pursue their God of success (position) to beat the other guy.

Now it is since the beginning of our childhood that these previous Gods and others have been growing (being ingrained) in our minds to submit to. This has happened through the values given to us by the radio, television, novels, and the pattern of life lived by our parents. In all honesty to submit our wills to God 100% is near impossible after having grown up in an environment that has trained us to worship and actively chase after physical desires, even at the sacrifice of our friends. This is why to become a True Muslim requires a life of sacrifice (suffering). Each of us must completely remove the controlling desires of sex, money, power, or physical pleasures, to make God really the center

This doesn't mean you can't ever have good, beautiful physical things, but that you must make them your slave to express your inner love, beauty, and truth; rather than you being a slave to them. The physical world and the creations of man exist to be used to express each man's divine feelings or thoughts to his fellow man; meaning we must always put our surrounding men's hearts above (in preference to) physical things or self-centered desires.

Now in proportion to the control selfish desires have over us, will be the degree of suffering we must endure to be purified. The only road (way) to become selfless (God centered) is to remove the selfish desires we have; which is a process that produces pain to the evil, selfish ego - within. The path of becoming a True Muslims thus requires a degree of suffering and we must welcome such. If we don't find at least a little suffering in our attempt to live a God centered way of life, we had better closely examine our understanding of Islam and whether we are just living too easy a worldly life (in disguise of being a Muslim).

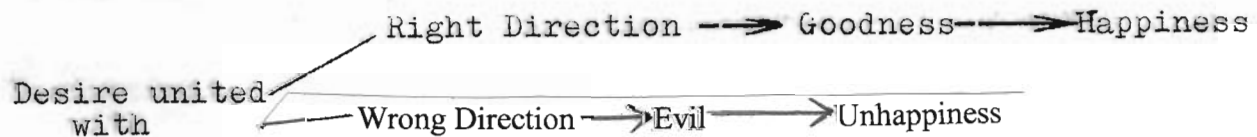
Thus we must clearly understand that the True Muslims is the person who has submitted his will 100% to God (making God the center of all his life's action) and who has made his fellow mankind's heart, happiness, and existence first; in preference to his own desires. He is a special quality of spirit called righteousness, striving for perfection; not an empty shell (physical body) carrying out some prescribed laws like an unthinking machine.

The True Muslim - Was He Created to be a Blend of Good & Evil??

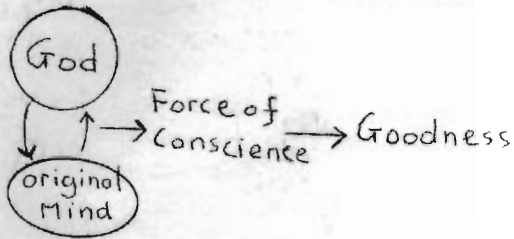
Today many people claim that man was created with both good and evil inside (from the beginning), and that without evil, life would be boring and impossible. To them this means the perfection of man and a world of peace is impossible and that anyone who dedicates his life for this purpose is foolish and crazy.

However it is they who are foolish, for our God has clearly stated that He created only good in man (Nisaa 79 "Whatever good, (O Man) Happens to thee, is from God; But whatever evil happen to thee, is from thy(own)soul..."); and that the present evil within man is from Satan and man himself. If we define good as that which produces harmony, everyone will have to admit it is impossible to make even a beginning (build something), if the beginning (or plan) is disharmony and destruction. Nothing can be built on an unstable, changing foundation. Can a house be built on quick-sand? Our universe on the atomic level has been built upon the harmonious relationship of atoms; if the beginning had been disharmony there could never have come into existence anything (only endless nuclear explosion).

Likewise mankind was created only to know harmony and God put into man's "original mind", only the desire to want good. When this original desire for good (centered on God), was and is fulfilled, man would feel happiness. However today, man's (our) desire is easily moved away from good to take another direction called evil, because we have gained a contradictory (disharmonious) nature within ourselves, and because we have grown up in evil environments and circumstances.



We also know this desire to go in the wrong direction does not come from man's original mind, because when evil desire is fulfilled, each of us feel pains and agony in our conscience. No matter how bad parents or teachers are none of them want their children to grow up to be evil. whenever man's original mind takes an objective position to God, he comes to hate evil (due to the force of the conscience), and is thus destined to do good.

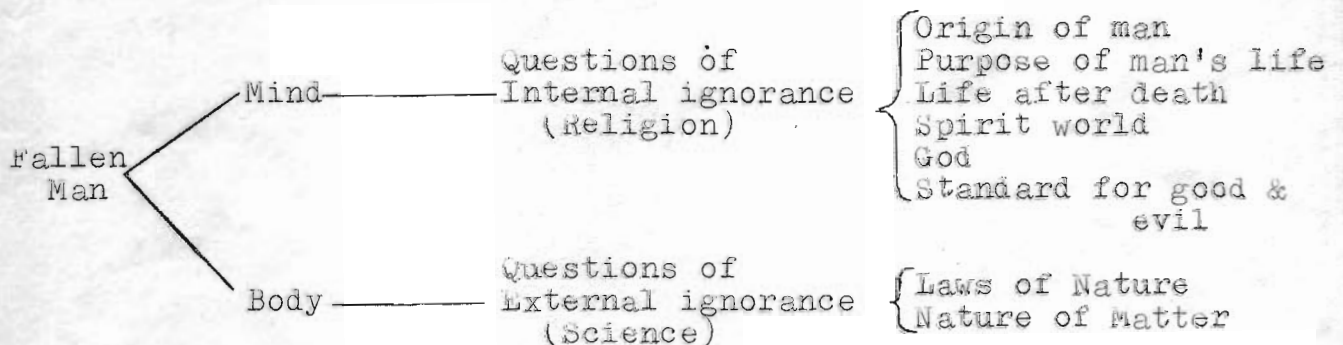


However, today we don't find such men of one minded God-righteousness, but we find within all individuals two minds at violent war against each other; the original mind which desires goodness and a fallen mind, which desires evil. This present situation of mankind we can compare to a cup. The structure

of a cup is designed to contain liquids, not to spill them. If there came to be a hole in the bottom of the cup, then the cup would not contain any liquids, but would spill them out as fast as they were put in. Such a cup would be of no use, because of it's having two contradictory purposes.

Similarly, man was originally created with one purpose; to do good and not to do evil. From the viewpoint of the creator (God), if man was to gain inside his mind two opposing purposes (good vs. evil), then such a man of conflict would be of no value to God. Such a man desiring two opposing purposes could'nt act to fulfill either of them effectively and would thus become a man of failure, immobility, and live in a state of mental suffering. Frankly speaking our loving God of harmony would never have created such a man of inherent contradiction. This means that the contradiction we find presently must have developed in mankind after he had been created by God. To be exact it was through the fall of Adam & Eve, that mankind fell into his present state of contradiction and ignorance.

Yes, through our first parents we (all of mankind) lost our ability to understand the internal and external truths of God, and how to live a life of purity and goodness. This loss caused human history to become the course of the restoration of fallen man; from a state of fallen nature (evil) into a state of God's nature, and from a state of ignorance into a state of knowledge. To accomplish this God sent: religion to develop man's understanding of the internal truths and science to develop man's understanding of the external truths.



SCIENCE - Man has been absorbed in studying the world of effect and phenomena in order to solve all the problems of life, in the material world. However, inspite of man's vast knowledge of the physical world and the joys gained through an easy material life, he still finds himself confused and a prisoner to the ups and the downs of each days experiences. Why?? This is because scientific research has not embraced the internal world of cause, but has only embraced the external world of result. Just as a man's sickness can only be cured by treating the inner cause rather than the outer symptoms, so also modern man must study the inner world of cause to gain true happiness. Even today many scientists are concluding this very point, that without the truth that relates to the invisible spiritual world of cause, man cannot attain the ultimate purpose of science; to understand the physical world in its completeness and affect it for the betterment of human life. Thus, science must use its methodical questioning to analyse and systematise the inner world fo cause, in order to end modern man's lingering ignorance.

RELIGION - Man has also been studying the nature of cause and the essential world to solve the fundamental problems of life and the unvierse, through many different philosophies and religions. But, inspite of so many religions and philosophies, mankind in majority still doesn't have a true view of life, know where to go, or what to do. Presently the world around us is witnessing a massive moral and religious decline; while the atheistic movement of Communism is on the verge of dominating a majority of men's thinking. This point really makes us question what's happening since our God sent the Holy Quran through our Prophet Muhammad 1500 years ago to answer our questions and show us how to live properly. If the Quran has clearly shown us how to live, then why all the present confusion? The answer to this question lies in the fact that the revelation of the Quran was given to be understood in stages (overtime), as mankind developed in his mental ability to understand and apply a deeper - more complete - comprehension. Regretfully however, mankind has not developed in his ability to understand and apply the Quran on the deeper levels and this is what has caused our religions influence over the masses to decline.

Unlike before, modern man (whose intelligence has developed to the utmost degree) now demands scientific proof for all things. However religious doctrine, which has remained generally unchanged does not interpret things scientifically. That is to say, man's interpretation of internal truth (by religion) and his interpretation of external truth (by science), are not in harmony. Does this need to be so?

Of course not. As we discussed, the Quran was given to mankind to be understood in stages. This means as modern man's intelligence developed, God also intended for modern man's understanding of His inner truths to develop. Science has been given by God to prove His very existence and to support and deepen man's understanding of the Quran; not to be used by marxists to attack our brother's and sister's faith. Therefore it is the responsibility of the present generation of believers to not to be old, rusted, and stiff in their intellectual perspectives; but to rise up to the challenge of defending our God (in men's minds) and a spiritual way of life, against the on-slaught of Pseudo scientific thinking and materialism. Today we must use all of mankind's accumaleted knowledge in this final showdown (Holy war) between: the forces of good and evil, believers and nonbelievers, Marxism and Godism, materialists and those who believe in a True Islamic way of life, to gain victory for our Loving God. Today is not a battle of the sword, but a battle of the mind and it is our personal responsibility to sharpen the edge of our intellectual weapons, to be the finest. Our prophet Muhammed began the battle

against evil; the Caliphs extended it and now it's our responsibility to defend against the attacking forces, counter-attack and build a new world of True Muslims; pure & righteous - with God as the center.

This then is the need and purpose of this book. To present the fundamental truths (given by our God to Adam & Eve, lost by mankind, and re-revealed through the Holy Quran), in modern intellectual scientific thinking. Our goal is to get behind the parables or external laws, into the inner meanings & purposes. This means the following reading material is meant for our Muslim brothers & sisters who ask "why!" Those who want to know the inner meanings in the Quran, who want to use science to fight against modern atheistic thought (to defend our way), and who view the Islamic Way of Life as a spiritual path of purification and restoration of one's relationship with God. It is my suggestion that whose: who feel they know enough; who don't feel they need help outside of themselves to understand the Holy Quran; or who are satisfied in their spiritual purity and relationship to God, not to continue reading. Those who continue reading I request a broad, open, deep thinking mind; non-opinionated until all has been read, thought, and prayed upon deeply.