

Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Raheem.

DEDICATION

Surely my prayers, my service of sacrifice, my life and my death are all for Allah ﷻ Almighty. This dedication is to my faithful husband Roy (Abdul) Razak, and my two precious children, Shazeena and Aslam Razak. Alhamdulillah I am very proud and very pleased with my husband and my two children, for their hard striving against the Shaitan's plot Alhamdulillah.

They fought and they struggled to overcome their tests and tribulations through prayers and the remembrance of Allah ﷻ and His Beloved Rasool ﷺ. They are examples of how Jihad should be treated; they never turned their backs from seeking Allah's ﷻ help and His guidance. Alhamdulillah they were able to pull themselves out of the devil's clutches.

Thanks and gratitude to Allah ﷻ for my husband, who is a very strong soldier of Islam, a faithful, peaceful and sincere servant of Allah ﷻ and a true lover and follower of our Beloved Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ. I chose to dedicate this article in loving thoughts of my husband and my two children in the hopes of showing them how much I appreciate all the kind and wonderful things they do for me. The topic of this article reminds me so much of their struggles in their lives. Jihad is not to be carried out with conflict and brutality, if, however, these things arrive they should be treated with justice and understanding. And this is exactly how my husband usually takes control over conflict; he exercise patience and he humbly seek Allah's ﷻ help through Zikr (Allah's remembrance) and humble supplication.

From the time that I met him in 1969, he was very active in an Islamic Organization called The Muslim Youth League in Guyana. After we got married and migrated to Canada in 1978, a couple of years later we both decided to form an Islamic organization in Canada. So with Allah's ﷻ help we formed the Sunnatul Jamaat of Ontario, and again years later we formed the International Muslims Organization of Toronto, which is now one of the most highly recognized organization Alhamdulillah. My husband did not just plant the seeds of these two organizations and walk away from them; he nourished them with firm faith and patience after numerous odds that were against him, which even resulted in him being hospitalized for two weeks. He put up with lots of insults and provocation, but his patience and trust in Allah ﷻ helped him to overcome these issues, so he was able to nourish the two beautiful seeds, which grew into two beautiful, leading organizations that Alhamdulillah many of the Ummah are benefitting from today.

This is how Jihad should be dealt, with patience and prayers and as such, good virtues will arrive from the hard struggle (jihad) that is done with the remembrance of Allah ﷻ as seen in the way which my husband and my two children conducts their lives. I am very proud of them and I am very grateful to Allah ﷻ for this blessing. Through the great love that my husband has for our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Allah ﷻ has blessed him with a beautiful voice to recite Naats. It is his favorite thing to do when he goes to blessed gatherings. Everyone who has the opportunity to listen to him sing, usually their hearts is filled with joy, and at times they don't get enough of his beautiful renditions on the Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, may Allah ﷻ bless him with health, strength and a long life to continue the good work. I pray Insha Allah the doors of Paradise will be open for him and all of us. Ameen.

My husband is a very good provider for his family. He is very generous in giving his children anything they asked him for, even if he has to put his needs on hold. He loves us very much and we also love him dearly. We are very blessed and very fortunate to have him in our lives Shukr-Al HamduLillah. From the very first time I met him and heard his melodious voice, I knew right away that it was not a dream, but it was real, because all the corruption and pain in my heart was set free with the delightful feelings I received. With these feelings my heart told me that by the will of Allahﷻ, I will get the opportunity to value and cherish this voice and this wonderful man for the rest of my life Shukr-Allah. My inspiration was right for I got married to this wonderful man in 1973. I owe him the greatest debt in my life that only my love can repay! Indeed Allah ﷻ is most Merciful and Kind to those who have patience and trust in Him.

I asked Allah ﷻ for just the right words or things I can say or do to let you guys (my husband and two children) know, how much I love and care for you. My heart fills with so much joy and gratitude to Allah ﷻ for blessing me with such a loving, caring, and understanding family. I thank you guys for believing in me. Being a wife and mother has taught me so much in life, and I will always remember how you all encouraged me to be the best that I can be. You are my family and my friends as well. With that friendship, by your patience, understanding, loving support and encouragement, I love and trust you more than anyone else in this world, no woman could ask for a better family, and no matter what happens (Insha Allah) I know I will find you guys right there by my side. I asked Allah ﷻ just how much to say to my family, the difference that they make in my life. Whenever they seem to sense when I am in need of their support and their encouragement to embrace my dreams and to stand by me through all my hardships, and Allah ﷻ answered there is no better way to tell them all these things than to simply continue to love and cherish them with all my heart and soul,

and not to forget to be grateful to Him for His favors. My dear husband! And my two loving children! You must know that your tender love and support makes my life complete. (Shukr Alhamdulillah) and thank you guys very much. May Allah ﷻ bless us all and may He also bless all the readers of this article and also the believing people that passed away and those who are alive, Ameen. May He give us the wisdom and the understanding to live with love, peace and unity amongst each other, May He pour out constancy and patience on us, and may He make our steps firm and cover us with His mercies and His forgiveness. May He let our entry be by the gate of truth and honor likewise our exit, Ameen, A little advice to the readers of my article, if you have any worries, bring Allah ﷻ to your remembrance, (and His Rasool as well) and He will help you to trust and believe in yourself, He will give you the understanding to know right from wrong, and to act with justice, He would make you feel the great joy of justice and the comfort it can bring and above all, He would teach you all about true love and trust and how important it is for your family and others. Giving yourself and allowing others to give in return would make your life the best example ever, and if anyone should say you are like so and so (righteous ones) it would make you very proud and happy. What can be more joy than to live a life knowing that Allah ﷻ and His Apostles love and cherish you, even if the world is against you, it wouldn't matter.

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an in Sura 103:

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.

Time is precious and should be treated with patience, prayers and in the remembrance of Allah ﷻ (Zikr).

Take time to pray

I went to bed one night without praying to my Lord. I tossed and turned with restlessness I cried: “Oh my Lord bring sleep to my restless eyes!” I woke up early the next morning and I rushed to begin my day’s work. I had so many things to do that I forgot to pray. I was rushing home after work when I stumbled down and broke my legs, in pain and anguish I cried: “Oh my Lord why didn’t you protect me from falling?” He answered: “You didn’t ask for my guidance or my protection.” Due to the pain I felt from my broken legs, my nights were restless, sleep wouldn’t come to my weary eyes, in pain and anguish I cried again: “Oh my Lord! Why are you suffering me so much?” He answered “You didn’t seek my forgiveness.” So I woke up the next morning and I paused before entering the day. I had so much to be grateful for that I took the time to pray. I gave thanks to my Lord for the suffering he caused upon me, for it helped me to remember to pray. From now on I will begin the days with His name (Allah) for it will help protect me from shame. It will help to guide me and not to depend on worldly fame, but I will practice and preach in my Lord’s name. I will love all his Angels, Apostles and Prophets so that I can gain my Lord’s mercies, guidance and His protection from the Shaitan’s stain. Islam is my Religion which I will not trade for a mountain of wealth; it is also a Religion for all mankind, whichever color they are. Islam means peace, love and unity, which is exactly what I needed to help me take the time to pray. The things that we can do today shouldn’t be left for tomorrow, since there is no guarantee of a tomorrow. Death is sure to come and knock on our doors and his visit will not be in vain for he will surely take our souls to our destination with or without our permission; no doubt about it! We will not be allowed to take any worldly wealth or possessions with us, all that we will be able to take are our spiritual wealth from the good or bad actions of our conduct in this short period of time that was given to us in this fleeting life. How can we achieve

spiritual wealth? The answer is easy; bring the remembrance of Almighty Allah ﷻ to your mind all day long. By saying Glory be to You Oh! Allah ﷻ, All praises are for you, You are the Greatest, There is no God but You and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the messenger of Allah ﷻ. Speak to Almighty Allah ﷻ in whatever language you wish, but just speak to Him all day long. In whatever language you speak to Him, He will listen to you and your complaint for He is the grantor of bounty and honor. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *That is (the Bounty) whereof Allah gives Glad Tidings to His Servants who believe and do righteous deeds. Say: "No reward do I ask of you for this except the love of those near of kin." And if any one earns any good, We shall give him an increase of good in respect thereof: for Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Ready to appreciate (service).* 42:23.

Part 1 Jihad (fighting for Allah's cause)

O Prophet! Fear Allah ﷻ, and hearken not to the Unbelievers and the Hypocrites: verily Allah ﷻ is full of Knowledge and Wisdom. 033.001. But follow that which comes to thee by inspiration from thy Lord: for Allah ﷻ is well acquainted with (all) that ye do.033.002 And put thy trust in Allah, and enough is Allah as a disposer of affairs. 033.003

I testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah ﷻ alone; He has no partners (with him). I also testify that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, is His slave and His Apostle, the one sent by Allah ﷻ as a mercy for the worlds (mankind and jinns). The one commanded by Allah ﷻ to fight against the pagans, (and all those who ascribe partners with Him). He fought for Allah's ﷻ cause with all his power and ability. May Allah's ﷻ peace and blessings be upon him, upon his family, and upon his companions who believed in him, honored him, helped him and followed the light (the Qur'an) and his traditions (Sunnat). Those who emigrated, and fought in the cause of Allah ﷻ with their properties, and with their lives, they were the supreme conquerors and heroes of Islam.

It is well known (to all Muslims) how our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to fight against the pagans, and all those who used to ascribe partners with Allah ﷻ. The Holy Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ task to stop ignorance and mischievousness from spreading was not easy, and despite the harm and injuries he had suffered, he still continued to carry on inviting the people to Allah ﷻ, and persisted in this invitation for 13 years. He used to visit the people in their gatherings and in the market place. He would recite the Holy Qur'an to the people, but most of them were hard minded and continued in their transgression. The Quraish people oppressed and harmed him and his followers, in order to screen them from their Religion (Islam), even to the extent that they exiled them from

their homeland. Some of them fled to Ethiopia, and some went to Al-Medina, some remained patient in Mecca in spite of the harm they received.

They were made to suffer from hunger and thirst, and they were beaten in a very horrible manner, so much so that some of them weren't able to sit straight from the severity of their beatings. They used to tie a rope around the neck of Hazrat Bilal (Allah be pleased with him) and pull him through the pathways of Mecca. They also used to harm the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ too: they strangled him till the eyes of the Holy Prophet bulged out and Hazrat Abu-Bakr R.A. rushed and released the Prophet and he said to the people, "Would you kill a man because he says my Lord is Allah"? With all the suffering that the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his followers faced, Allah ﷻ made fighting (jihad) obligatory, as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *"Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress limits; for Allah loveth not transgressors. (2:190) And slay them wherever ye catch them, and turn them out from where they have Turned you out; for tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter; but fight them not at the Sacred Mosque, unless they (first) fight you there; but if they fight you, slay them. Such is the reward of those who suppress faith. (2:191), And fight them on until there is no more Tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah; but if they cease, Let there be no hostility except to those who practise oppression.(2:193).*

These fights (holy wars) against the unbelievers were a test and trial for the Holy Prophet and his followers. As mentioned in ch 47: 4; but if it had been Allah's ﷻ will, He could certainly have exacted retribution from them (Himself) but (He lets you fight) in order to test you. In the first set of fights there were great loss of life: but when the enemies are fairly beaten, the believers were tested in their faith by the extent to which they were willing to make sacrifices, even to the point of losing their lives: these fights were also a test to the enemies of Islam, as to whether they

would repent and accept Islam and live a righteous life. Allah ﷻ made the fighting obligatory for the Muslims and gave importance to the subject matter of jihad in all the Suras (chapters of the Holy Qur'an) which were revealed (at Medina) *ch9:41 and ch2:216, ch61:11, ch61:12, ch61:13, ch9:19, ch9:20, and ch9:21.*

From what we read so far, we can clearly understand that Jihad is a struggle against odds. This struggle must be carried out with patience and prayers, as in the days of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and the people who were obedient to him and his teachings which were under the direction of Allah ﷻ Almighty. The people of true faith had accepted and obeyed the directions given to them by the Holy Prophet ﷺ with cheerfulness. Obedience, intelligence, discipline, zeal, faith and gratitude to Allah ﷻ Almighty were the true passports to success and protection from assaults of evil.

Killing oneself and innocent people for a reward from accessory motives, it is not Jihad, but it is fraudulent and willful disobedience to the Holy Prophets' ﷺ teachings, and the teachings of the Holy Qur'an. Jihad is a test and challenge to the true believers; it is a very difficult task in one's life, especially for those people who are facing up to some calamity or odd against them. To overcome the struggles in this life is to follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and the way he took hold of his struggles by true obedience to his creator Allah ﷻ Almighty, who comforts him, and who directs his mind to three precepts, 1) to forgive injuries, insults and persecution, 2) to continue to declare the faith that was in him, and not only declare it, but to act upon it in all his dealings with friends and foes, 3) to pay no attention to ignorant fools who raise doubts or difficulties, hurled taunts or reproaches, or devised plots to defeat the truth; they were to be ignored and passed by, not to be engaged in fights and fruitiest controversies or conciliated by compromises.

Our Beloved Prophet ﷺ was not sent to cancel mankind's limited free will, which was given to him by Allah ﷻ Almighty. He was sent to preach and teach Islam, which is a mission of unity and peace. Mentioned in Al Qur'an: *The religion before Allah is Islam (submission to his will) 3:19. "As to those who deny the signs of Allah , and in his defiance of right slay the Prophets, and slay those who teach just dealing with mankind, announce to them a grievous penalty". 3:21.*

Examples of the Prophets slain were; the Jihad they suffered from the righteous blood of Abel, the son of Hazrat Adam (pbut) unto the blood of Zacharias, son of Barachias, whom were slew between the temple and the altar. John the Baptist (Yahya) noble chaste, a Prophet of the goodly company of the righteous was bound, imprisoned and beheaded.

They were some of Allah's ﷻ messengers who suffered and struggled through heavy odd against them as mention in Al-Qur'an: *(Abraham) said," So ye then worship, besides Allah. things that can neither be of any good to you nor do you harm? 21:66*

They said, "Burn him and protect your gods, If ye do (anything at all)!" 21:68.

We said "O fire be thou cool, and (a means of) safety for Abraham. 21:69.

And to Lut too we give judgment and knowledge, and we saved from the town which practiced abomination. 21:74.

Remember Noah when he cried (to us) 21:76.

We helped him against people who reject our signs; truly they were a people given to evil, so we drowned them (in the flood all together). 21:77.

And remember David and Solomon, when they gave judgment in the matter of the field into which the sheep of certain people had strayed by night: We did witness their judgment. 21:78. To Solomon we inspired the right understanding of the matter: to each (of them) we give judgment and knowledge: It was our power that

made the hills and the birds celebrate our praise with David. 21:79. And (remember) Job when he cried to his lord. "Truly distress has seized me, but thou art most merciful of those that are merciful. 21:83. And remember Zun-Nun when he departed in wrath; he imagined that we had no power over him! But he cried through the depths of darkness, there is no God but thou; Glory to Thee: I was indeed wrong. 21:87

Zun-Nun is the title of Jonah, he was the Prophet raised to warn the Assyrian capital Nineveh. When his first warning was unheeded by the people, he denounced Gods' wrath on them. But they repented and they were forgiven for the time being. Jonah (known as Prophet Yunus) meanwhile, departed in wrath discouraged at the apparent failure of his mission. One day he went away to the sea and took a ship, but apparently the sailors of the ship threw him out as a man of bad omen in a storm. He was swallowed by a big fish, and by his repentance Allah ﷻ forgave him, and so the fish cast him out ashore where he was given the shelter of a plant. In his state of mental and physical lassitude, he was refreshed and strengthened, and the work of his mission prospered.

The real Jihad is the Gospel of unity, which is the true cure for all evil; for it gives the good news of God's supreme power, His mercy and His forgiveness. It warns us to avoid evil; for evil arose from selfish pride rebellion. No power has it over God Almighty servants, who are sincere and true. While revelation comes as a gift, free to all of God's creation. The Holy Qur'an states: *Say: "No reward do I ask of you for this (Qur'an), nor am I a pretender. Ch.38:86.*

The Holy Prophet ﷺ neither seeks nor expects any reward from man; on the contrary he suffered much at the evil ones hands, he is unselfish and satisfied with the hope that each one who will take a straight path to his Lord would be his

true follower and will make him proud. Let's strive for peace and justice through sincere devotion and we shall arrive at the goal in the hereafter.

Allah ﷻ provides guidance in every way for those who turn to Him in repentance, but He will leave those to wander astray who deliberately close their eyes and their hearts to His grace and the comfort that comes from remembering Him and celebrating His praises.

Allah's ﷻ signs or miracles are not something external: it is something internal, something in our mind, heart and soul. It depends on our inner spiritual experience. If we turn to Him, His blessed light would enable us to feel and experience the happiness from it, just as we enjoy a beautiful moon lit night. If we do not turn to Him then we would never experience His blessings and His favors and He will never force us into the remembrance of Him as well.

Through repentance, the blessedness, an internal satisfaction, an inward joy, which is difficult to describe in words, but just by looking at a pious person's face, the joy reflects itself in the good persons face, we are able to receive the same joy if we act with patience and justice, and carry out Allah's ﷻ messages the way His Prophets and Apostles used to, for His messages and His laws are always the same, Sins or Corruption prepares its own destruction. It was so with the generation of the Prophets. Persecution, abused and false charges were being leveled against them, but they were programmed to stand firm and do their duty to spread peace and unity amongst the people whom each one of them were sent to, as a guide with the truth from God Almighty.

In a minor degree, the sufferings which the Holy Prophets endured, and the struggles they encountered during their lifetime and the way they stood firm in their faith by constantly obeying the commands of their Lord, is surely an example for us to follow. Those of us who are struggling in the cause of Truth by Allah ﷻ

we surely will be rewarded for our efforts. As Allah ﷻ mentioned in the Holy Qur'an:

As to the Righteous, they shall drink of a Cup (of Wine) mixed with Kafur, 76:05. A Fountain where the Devotees of Allah do drink, making it flow in unstinted abundance.76:06.

They perform (their) vows, and they fear a Day whose evil flies far and wide. 76:07.

God Almighty Grace and His mercy come to those who are just and righteous in this world as well as in the hereafter. His penalty comes to those who are ignorant and act with injustice or out of revenge.

Allah ﷻ will and His plan works in their own good time; we are told to believe that His promises of mercies and justice in this world and in the hereafter are indeed true. The days of true justice and judgment will come and we must prepare for it, by truly following His commandments and by following the footsteps of His Prophets. Their task consists of eliminating evil deeds from their roots and branches and replacing it with act of righteousness. They had to proclaim the truth of God Almighty messages far and wide, without fear and without favors. They flourished on God Almighty Grace and Guidance to remove evil and injustice amongst the people who were sinners.

The corruptions in the world today shouldn't be happening as much, but many of us think that we can get the best of both worlds by compromising with good and evil, but this only increases the diseases of our own hearts; since we are not true to ourselves, and as such much mischief is caused by us who believes that we have a mission of peace; when we do not even have a true perception of right and wrong. By our blind arrogance, we oppress the good and encourage evil. The Holy Qur'an states: *Of the people there are some who say: "We believe in Allah*

and the Last Day;" but they do not (really) believe.002:008.
Fain would they deceive Allah and those who believe, but they only deceive
themselves, and realize (it) not! 2:09.
In their hearts is a disease; and Allah has increased their disease: And grievous is
the penalty they (incur), because they are false (to themselves).2:10
When it is said to them: "Make not mischief on the earth," they say: "Why, we only
Want to make peace!" 2:11
Of a surety, they are the ones who make mischief, but they realize (it) not. 2:12
These are they who have bartered Guidance for error: But their traffic is
profitless, and they have lost true direction, 2:16
Their similitude is that of a man who kindled a fire; when it lighted all around him,
Allah took away their light and left them in utter darkness. So they could not see.
2:17
Deaf, dumb, and blind, they will not return (to the path).2:18

Let us ponder hard on these verses, especially verses 11-12-16. Believers are fighting against each other, killing, burning homes and vehicles, beating and raping innocent women, destroying people's lives and their livestock. What is the cause for these fights? Surely it is not for Jihad, the innocent ones who are facing oppression from these ignorant fools, they are the ones who are struggling through a very difficult time in their lives. They are the ones who should be recognized and getting support from other Muslim brothers and sisters: and who so ever rushes to the aid of the suffering, will surely be rewarded by Allah ﷻ with all the good things in this world and Jannat in the hereafter.

Allah's ﷻ gifts are given to all human's, to some in a greater degree than others. We should work in love and unity and give all devotion to Him and Him alone. The day of requital is drawing ever near, when falsehood and injustice will

vanish and truth and justice will be established for all eternity as this Ayah explains: *And to every soul will be paid in full (the fruit) of its Deeds; and (Allah) knoweth best all that they do.* 39.70

When exclusive devotion is not rendered to Allah ﷻ, there is no true understanding in the minds: The Holy Qur'an confirms: *And your Lord says: "Call on Me; I will answer your (Prayer): but those who are too arrogant to serve Me will surely find themselves in Hell – in humiliation!"* 40.60

Allah's ﷻ wisdom and His attributes are perfect and everything around us confirms this: we are surrounded by His signs: If we follow His light without any doubt or fear, and with humility, He would crown us with the wisdom and understanding to act with justice and sympathy. Success will continue to crown our efforts of goodness until our last day on this earth. As mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *O ye who believe! if ye fear Allah, He will grant you a criterion (to judge between right and wrong), remove from you (all) evil (that may afflict) you, and forgive you: for Allah is the Lord of grace unbounded.* 8.29

Islam is an Arabic word; it is derived from two root words; Salam meaning peace and the other Silm meaning Submission. Islam stands for a commitment to surrender one's will to the will of God Almighty.

It is through the submission to the will of God Almighty that peace is brought about. Islam is a worldwide Religion, and an outlook on life, it is based on the recognition of unity, not of race or color, its virtues depend on good actions and piety, not on wealth or power: Our mission is to follow and carry out the mission of all the Prophets with humble service and true dedication to our Creator (Allah). The purpose of our life in this world is to worship and to obey the commandments of God Almighty. Our Creator did not leave us without any guidance for the conduct

of our lives. The values and foundation of our lives should base on the golden chain of the Prophet's messages to humanity.

The way men err from wrong doings, the Religion Islam is not to be blamed for man's mistakes through their sins, mischief, corruption, arrogance and feelings of superiority, which brought about their own downfall in life. This was the attitude of Shaitan towards his Lord, as Allah ﷻ mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *Behold! We said to the angels, "Bow down to Adam": They bowed down except Iblis. He was one of the Jinns, and he broke the Command of his Lord. Will ye then take him and his progeny as protectors rather than Me? And they are enemies to you! Evil would be the exchange for the wrong-doers! 18.50*

Allah's ﷻ purposes always win to the destruction of evil, so was it with the stories of the Prophets and the Apostles of Allah ﷻ. They were men of true faith and they were men of righteousness and Messengers with glad tidings to the believers and serious warning of Allah's ﷻ punishment to the wrong doers.

Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ task was to deliver the messages of the Holy Qur'an to the people as He was inspired to do. His task wasn't to force Islam on anyone or to make them believe in the Holy Qur'an. His task was to admonish those who were spiritually fit and those who were ready to receive admonition and to prepare themselves for the new and higher life destined for men in the hereafter. All the Prophets ﷺ have taught the unity of Allah ﷻ, so we must always remember that Allah ﷻ is always with us. The Holy Qur'an states: *Be not weary and faint-hearted, crying for peace, when ye should be uppermost: for Allah is with you, and will never put you in loss for your (good) deeds. 47.35* *The same Religion has He established for you as that which He enjoined on Noah - the which We have sent by inspiration to thee - and that which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: Namely, that ye should remain steadfast in religion,*

and make no divisions therein: to those who worship other things than Allah, hard is the (way) to which thou callest them. Allah chooses to Himself those whom He pleases, and guides to Himself those who turn, (to Him). 42.13.

Allah ﷻ caused many people to go deaf and spiritually blind due to their arrogant behavior towards the Prophets and the Apostles of Allah ﷻ. The ones that showed their love and respect, were the men of faith and loyalty to their spiritual leaders, and were very eager to get a command to serve the cause of Allahﷻ, even if it was at the sacrifice of their lives. As mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: 47:7-9, if everyone in the world were true believers there wouldn't have been so much destruction, because a true believer knows how to act with justice, when a disbeliever or a hypocrite only knows how to act as a blind person. If a blind person doesn't get the help of someone who can guide then on the right path what terrible things can happen! Allah ﷻ is the protector; only for those who believe in Him, 47:11. Willfully killing innocent people and using the word Jihad is not right. Whosoever is doing these kinds of acts, they are the ones who spring from the hypocrites of old as mentioned here in chapter 47:16, this verse is referred to the hypocrites (of old) who used to go to the assemblies of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and pretended to listen to him and his teachings but their hearts and their minds were not on his teachings, and so they did not grasp the unity of Islam and how it should be carried out with justice and not injustice. The legacy from these hypocrites of old, are the ones who are acting with injustice, and claiming that they are fighting for Jihad. The legacy from the true followers of the Holy Prophet ﷺ are those people whose actions are out for peace, love and unity amongst their neighbors and around their brothering of faith, the man of faith and loyalty were anxiously willing to obey the order of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, when a definite and categorical command was issued from him under the inspiration from Allahﷻ. Not so with those who were disloyal to him, the resolution from their actions (jihad)

wasn't under the guidance from Allah ﷻ, therefore they are the ones who fail to implement it by their own effort and sacrifice, which are in vain and not true to Allah ﷻ and His Beloved Prophet ﷺ. And such disloyalty and cowardice is what brings disgrace to Islam today. These people are deprived of Allah's ﷻ grace, they are left to stray on the wrong path because they deliberately rejected Allah's ﷻ guidance, see 47:23-24, 27.

Islam invites all people to Allah ﷻ Almighty's truth and His messages from the Holy Qur'an, and there is no cause for dissembling, and conflict among our brother hood. We should be working together in unity and discipline to conquer evil since our missions as Muslims is to teach peace, love, unity and also a mission of righteousness for humanity to follow. The Holy Qur'an received through the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ is a guide to the straight path. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an in 36:1-7.

The people who are humble and kind received the Holy Qur'an with Allah's ﷻ mercy and blessings, but the people who are evil and filled with jealousy received it with no regard, and this caused spiritual blindness and corruptions.

The wild and the ignorant made fury of passion and sin attain its own destruction and cuts off the least hope of repentance or mercy. The Holy Qur'an states: *Verily, by thy life (O Prophet), in their wild intoxication, they wander in distraction, to and fro.* 15:72.

Those who have no spiritual hope for the future grasp at any temporary advantage and in their blindness they vainly challenge Allah ﷻ in whom they do not believe. They do not believe in His punishment and therefore He blocked their knowledge. The result is that they were shut out from understanding the true meaning and the importance in the true messages from Allah ﷻ about His peace and His punishment, also about His signs in His creations, His mercies and His pleasure

which is Paradise, and his punishment which is the fire of hell. They shut the gates of salvation and Allah ﷻ mercies from entering their hearts. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *Follow (O men!) the revelation given unto you from your Lord, and follow not, as friends or protectors, other than Him. Little it is ye remember of admonition. 7:03.*

Those without faith are self-absorbed and are so wrapped up in themselves that they think every good that comes to them is due to their own merits or cleverness. Self-absorbed men also want to read their own desires or fancies into Religious precepts and they are often willing to use Religion for their own end, and therefore most of the corruption in Religion is due to their fraudulent actions. The Holy Qur'an states: *Generations before you We destroyed when they did wrong: their messengers came to them with clear-signs, but they would not believe! thus do We requite those who sin! 10:13.*

Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had lived his whole life of purity and virtue among his people. The jihad that our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ suffered from was due to the persecution, oppression and the ill-treatment the people put him and his family through: The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his family and few followers had to hide and pray. With the permission of the Prophet ﷺ his early followers used to go to homes in secret and teach other family members about Islam. When the unbelievers caught them doing this they used to put them through all sorts of inhumane punishment. Al-Hamdu-lillah we do not have this kind of fear or restriction today. We have it very easy now, to teach people about Islam, cruelty is not the way to do so. If we adore Allah ﷻ, He will make us learn through wisdom and understanding. The Holy Qur'an states: *O ye people! Adore your Guardian-Lord, who created you and those who came before you, that ye may have the chance to learn righteousness; 2:21.*

Adoration is the act of the highest and humblest reverence and worship. When we get into the relationship with Allah ﷻ, He will strengthen our faith and grant us wisdom and understanding so that we may act with justice and mercy. He also said that kind words and covering of faults are better than charity followed by injury. (*Al-Qur'an* 2:263).

The duty of God's Messenger was to deliver His messages as it was revealed to him, whether it pleases or displeases those who heard it. And even if it was for the people own good. He had to plead again, and again with them: "Will you (Oh people) not understand and see what glorious privilege it is for you to receive true guidance from God Almighty? Some accepted what he had to say and some laughed, stoned and mocked him and so Allah ﷻ gave him permission to fight the people who were the oppressors and who were his enemies that went looking for him and his followers to kill and destroy their lives. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for Allah loveth not transgressors 2:190. And fight them on until there is no more Tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah; but if they cease, Let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression. 2:193*

Let us bear this in our minds and let us not belittle him, it is disgracing to our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ with the wrong actions of killing innocent people. When the people challenged the Holy Prophet ﷺ to fight he refused, because his nature was not built on cruelty. He was not blood-thirsty; he was instead humble, kind and merciful. He could not disobey the revelation from Almighty Allah ﷻ telling him to fight with those people who were tormenting him. The people used to ridicule him and throw dirt and filth on him. They would throw stones on him, causing him to bleed, and in all of this pain and anguish he

would lift his hands in humble supplication to pray for Allah's ﷻ mercies for these people. So Allah ﷻ sent down the permission to fight them. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *Just as thy Lord ordered thee out of thy house in truth, even though a party among the Believers disliked it, 8:5. See also chapter 2 verses 190&193 above.*

Remember how the Unbelievers plotted against thee, to keep thee in bonds, or slay thee, or get thee out (of thy home). They plot and plan, and Allah too plans; but the best of planners is Allah. 8:30.

These battles would take place in the deserts of Arabia, children and women were not allowed to take part, this was the condition set by the Holy Prophet ﷺ, but yet the people used to attack the women and children in their homes. This is the same thing that is taking place today, disobedience to the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who are we really following?

It is definitely not the teachings of our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ nor the teachings of the Holy Qur'an or any of Allah's Apostles, for lots of them suffered as well to help bring the people out of darkness, and none of them were cruel to the disbelievers.

Today there is so much cruelty and injustice in the world and it has nothing to do with Islam or any other Religion as a matter of fact, it is not an act of Jihad, since Jihad is an act of struggling in the path of Allah ﷻ with words of wisdom, patience and constancy in faith, prayers and the remembrance of Allah ﷻ. It also may require fighting in God's cause as a form of self-sacrifice, but mere brutality and cruelty is opposed to the whole spirit of Jihad. A valuable form of Jihad is what the true, sincere, righteous people contribute, such as their words of wisdom, wealth in charity, patience as a true and kind soldier, acting with justice and those who strive and suffer in God's cause. The God-fearing people who struggled with

some serious illnesses and calamities fought their battle with patience and prayers, they are the ones who Jihad is accepted and they are the ones who guard themselves from evil, and fought their struggles with deeds of righteousness. For Allah ﷻ loves those whose actions are righteous. *Chapter 5 verses 96-97.*

The Holy Qur'an was revealed as a result of many supplications of our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ made to Allah ﷻ in pleading for mercy for the people who were ignorant and who quarreled with him and his followers. His last wish was for his Ummah to live with peace and unity among themselves. He used to spend most of his time in the cave of Hira. Days upon days and nights upon nights he would stand in prayers and humbling himself to Allah ﷻ pleading for His mercy. When Allah ﷻ sent down ease to him (as in Surah 94 of the Holy Qur'an) His mind and his heart was expanded and purified. The burden of his sorrow and the darkness of difficulties that was resting on his shoulders had been removed. His name was exalted in this world, and it will be in the next one as well. His mission was noble, and the path of his mission (Islam) is simple. It does not depend on mysteries of self – mortification, but on a straight way, and conduct of good actions such as justice, patience and kindness.

True faith leads to humility. the true martyrdom was the sacrifice of life in the service of Allah ﷻ and only the Holy Prophet ﷺ could have judged the truths, who were the people that deserved to be a martyr (since many people wanted to be martyrs due to their love for Allah ﷻ and the Holy Prophet ﷺ). Since only he had the right and privilege to act with Allah's ﷻ command and His favors. As the Holy Prophet ﷺ will never act with injustice or willfully force someone into injuring their lives in a state of conflict or war. The believers who were strong in their faith and love for Allah ﷻ and His Prophet ﷺ were the ones that were fit and willing to sacrifice their lives in the service of Allah ﷻ (in battle).

They also handled their injuries with firmness of patience, prayers and the remembrance of Allah ﷻ. They also had the full understanding when in a state of war or conflict, they must act as good as they could, in such case their retaliation was permissible provided the injury they inflicted was only to the persons who were their enemies. And the injury was not greater than that which they had received. They also had the full understanding that Allah ﷻ is Merciful and Just and He permit's retaliation under certain restrictions, which they were willing to obey and carry out.

They were very obedient and respectful to the Holy Prophet ﷺ as they were his followers and he was a guide and a great exemplar among them. And as such those who were his followers ought to be examples amongst each other. The best witnesses to God's truth are those who show its light in their conduct of righteousness and justice.

Revelation should ease the difficulties of our hearts and minds, for it tells the story of man's spiritual past. Allah ﷻ works in His world in mercy for His true servants (His Apostles and Prophets) and in just punishment for the evil and wicked people. Thus it was it in Hazrat Noah's (*pbuh*) story. When He worked unselfishly to change the people. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an: *The people of Noah rejected the messengers. 26:105. Behold, their brother Noah said to them: "Will ye not fear (Allah)? 26:106*

The generation of Hazrat Noah (*pbuh*) had lost all faith and abandoned them to evil. When Hazrat Noah (*pbuh*) was told to construct a great ark, not a regular ship, but a huge vessel in order to remain afloat in the flood, no one believed him. The evil people taunted and ridiculed him, calling him a liar, Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *But the chiefs of the Unbelievers among his people said: "We see (in) thee nothing but a man like ourselves: Nor do we see that any follow thee but the*

meanest among us, in judgment immature: Nor do we see in you (all) any merit above us: in fact we think ye are liars!" 11:27.

But he was rejected not only by the people, but by his own son and one of his wives. It became so bad that a point was reached where it was evident that there was no hope of saving these evil people, since they were bravely courting their own destruction.

Hazrat Noah (*pbuh*) was overwhelmed with oppression and torment from the evil people. So he raised his hands in humble supplication, and he pleaded for help from Allah ﷻ as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *Then he called on his Lord: "I am one overcome: do Thou then help (me)!" 54:10* and so Allah helped him, *So We opened the gates of heaven, with water pouring forth. 54:11, And We caused the earth to gush forth with springs, so the waters met (and rose) to the extent decreed. 54:12, But We bore him on an (Ark) made of broad planks and caulked with palm-fibre: 54:13*

Even Hazrat Noah's (*pbuh*) son and one of his wives were among those who perished in the flood. Before his son perished Hazrat Noah's (*pbuh*) heart was in pain for his son and he raised his hand in humble supplication to plead with Allah ﷻ to save his son, but his prayer was turned down. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *And Noah called upon his Lord, and said: "O my Lord! surely my son is of my family! and Thy promise is true, and Thou art the justest of Judges!" 11:45. He said: "O Noah! He is not of thy family: For his conduct is unrighteous. So ask not of Me that of which thou hast no knowledge! I give thee counsel, lest thou act like the ignorant!" 11:46.*

This was the struggle of Prophet Noah (*pbuh*) to his people and the legacy of Prophet Hud and their difficult task in their struggle (jihad) continued. The Apostles and Prophets were great exemplars of virtues in their conduct. Their

struggle (jihad) was the utmost effort of striving in the way of righteousness. Jihad then in the days of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the Muslim's idea of salvation, to conquered evil stage by stage.

War was only permissible in the days of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in self defense and under well defined limits. When undertaken it must be with vigor but not relentlessly, but only to restore peace and freedom for the worship of Allah ﷻ. Strict limits of cruelty were not to be in transgression: women, children, old men and old women were not to be molested, nor trees and crops cut down, and peace should be prevailed when the enemy comes to terms. In general Islam is the Religion of Peace, Goodwill, Love, Unity and mutual understanding.

The Religion Islam will not stand for any injustice and wrong actions. The true Muslims are those who hold their lives in cheap in the defense of honor and justice for their noble religion Islam, which they hold sacred. Their ideal is that of heroic virtue combined with unselfish gentleness such as is exemplified in the life of the Apostles and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. They also have the full knowledge and wisdom to know that war in those days (where Islam was easily practiced wrong), they would not take part in such war because of their obedience and discipline towards Allah ﷻ and His Beloved Apostle, and also for the establishment of Allah's ﷻ truth and righteousness.

The need for a Prophet arose whenever there was some corruption and inequity among the people, which he is sent to conduct. His presence then means a lot of trial and suffering, especially to the people who joined him in his protest against evil and committing wrong acts. *See Al-Qur'an: 7:94, 7:104, 7:105*

The story of Prophet Moses (pbuh) is told in many places in the Holy Qur'an with a special lesson in each context. In the story of many Apostles and Prophets such as Prophet Moses (pbuh), we have an instructive parallelism

similar to the story of Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ mission. These similarities include: How both of these righteous men of God had to fight against:

1. A foreign foe, which was arrogant, unjust, faithless and superstitious and
2. Against the same class of internal foes among their people.

Both of them won, however, in the case of Moses (*pbuh*) the foreign foe was Pharaoh and the Egyptians who boasted of their superior civilization. In the case of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ the foreign foes were the Jews and the Christians of his day. Prophet Moses led his people to the land of promise. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ succeeded completely in overcoming the resistance of his own people. Alhamdu-Lillah. May Allah ﷻ bless them both and unite us with them after our death, Ameen.

Each Apostle's and Prophets were sent on a mission to teach the people on accord of their ignorant conduct and circumstances. The jihad of today is not like in the days of the Apostles and Prophets, they were people who were very God-fearing, merciful and humble. They were never too proud to seek help from Allah ﷻ in their humble supplication; they sought help for several things such as: Mercy, Patience, Guidance, Faith, Protection from evil, and Help for their followers, Miracles and more. History has taught us how the people were wicked, oppressive, and vulgar, how they stoned and ridiculed both the Apostles and the Prophets, so much so that the Apostles and Prophets used to cry in pain and anguish in their complain to Allah ﷻ. Allah ﷻ answered most of their humble supplications and Allah ﷻ destroyed many of the people in their homes and in their cities, as we learned from Prophet Noah (*pbuh*) story.

The people during the days of the Apostles and Prophets were men without understanding, many of them who were trying to outdo each other. In order to help His Messengers, Allah ﷻ caused earthquakes to destroy the people of the Thamud.

Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *To the Thamud people (We sent) Salih, one of their own brethren: He said: "O my people! worship Allah: ye have no other god but Him. Now hath come unto you a clear (Sign) from your Lord! This she-camel of Allah is a Sign unto you: So leave her to graze in Allah's earth, and let her come to no harm, or ye shall be seized with a grievous punishment. 7:73.*

They were brave and they were bold enough to disobey the order of Allah ﷻ righteous servants, so they faced the consequences of their actions. The same thing happened with the people who rebelled towards the Apostle Lut. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *but we saved him and his family, except his wife: she was of those who* *legged* *behind.* *7:83,*
And we rained down on them a shower (of brimstone): Then see what was the end of those who indulged in sin and crime! 7:84.

To the Madyan people the Apostle Shu'aib was a big joke, so they were also destroyed by a terrible earthquake. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *But the earthquake took them unawares, and they lay prostrate in their homes before the morning!* *7:91*

The men who reject Shu'aib became as if they had never been in the homes where they had flourished: the men who rejected Shu'aib - it was they who were ruined!7:92

The people of Moses (*pbuh*) and the rebellious people of Pharaoh were drowned in the flood where they were covered up by the red sea. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *We sent an inspiration to Moses: "Travel by night with My servants, and strike a dry path for them through the sea, without fear of being overtaken (by Pharaoh) and without (any other) fear." 20:77. Then Pharaoh pursued them with his forces, but the waters completely overwhelmed them and covered them up. 20:78*

Many more people were wiped out for their sins. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *And remember We took from the prophets their covenant: As (We did) from thee: from Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus the son of Mary: We took from them a solemn covenant: 33:7. Behold! they came on you from above you and from below you, and behold, the eyes became dim and the hearts gaped up to the throats, and ye imagined various (vain) thoughts about Allah! 33:10.*

All these disasters happened in history where many cities were destroyed and the evil people were wiped out for their sins. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *But the (mighty) Blast overtook them before morning, 15:73, And We turned (the cities) upside down, and rained down on them brimstones hard as baked clay. 15:74*

If our claim is true that our Lord is Allah ﷻ, what fear can possibly come on us, or what calamity can there be to cause us grief? For our Lord is our Cherisher, Defender and Helper, our hope, our comfort, which can never fail. All Prophets have taught the unity of God and our duty to one another is to love and to live with peace and humbleness. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *And Pharaoh, and those before him, and the Cities Overthrown, committed habitual Sin. 69:9*

Each individual, each generation and people are responsible for their good deeds or misdeeds. You cannot blame one for another in their good or bad actions. The only remedy lies in seeking for God's Grace and His Mercy, not only for ourselves but for others in a brotherly or fatherly love.

There is no need to kill innocent people, and use the word Jihad to cover up deliberate actions of destroying innocent people's lives. Jihad means struggle, struggling in the utmost effort of striving in the path of righteousness. The Apostles and Prophets used to lay down their lives against their enemies of Islam and against the unbelievers, to bring Islam where it is today. Jihad was especially carried out during the days of our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ where he

struggled with his enemies and the hypocrites who were against him. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *O Prophet! strive hard against the unbelievers and the Hypocrites, and be firm against them. Their abode is Hell,- an evil refuge indeed.* 9:73

The Holy Prophet's ﷺ struggle was the jihad he suffered with the people who were plotting to kill him when he was returning from Tabuk. *See chapter 9 verse 74*

Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ suffered many wounds; he was stoned and ridiculed by the unbelievers. His uncle Lahab "Father of flame" cursed the Holy Prophet and Lahab's wife was a woman of equal character. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *Perish the hands of the Father of Flame! Perish he! 111:1, No profit to him from all his wealth, and all his gains! 111:2, Burnt soon will he be in a Fire of Blazing Flame! 111:3, His wife shall carry the (crackling) wood - As fuel!- 111:4, A twisted rope of palm-leaf fibre round her (own) neck! 111:5*

She used to tie a bundle of thorns with ropes of twisted palm leaf fiber, and throw them in the dark path where the Holy Prophet ﷺ used to travel early in the morning to attend His prayers. This persecution that our Beloved Holy Prophet ﷺ suffered was because his message and his mission were to bring peace, love and unity among the tribes and nations. The legacy of these two wicked people's conduct (Lahab and his wife) is still continuing in the world today.

The unbelievers who do not believe in a future life can therefore have no hope beyond this life, they are miserable in this life; for the negative things that happen to them in this life is real punishment to them, and for the believers the negative things that happened to them is just Allah's ﷻ test and His trial to help strengthen their faith and their love for Allah ﷻ, which would help them reach their goals in this life and the hereafter.

For those whose faith is weak and it goes and comes, faith for them is different, it is like a fleeting shadow that soon passes away and comes again. They will not be able to grasp firmness of faith and believe in Allah ﷻ with this kind of attitude and as such they would be left astray in total darkness, as mentioned in the following verse of the Holy Qur'an: *O ye who believe! Turn not (for friendship) to people on whom is the Wrath of Allah, of the Hereafter they are already in despair, just as the Unbelievers are in despair about those (buried) in graves.*60.13.

Jealousy and spite are causing serious pain on innocent people's lives. Through jealousy people are turning to evil, and sorcery etc. Evil causes innocent children to walk around killing, raping and robbing other innocent children. Parents are miserable over their children's behavior, for the children's behavior is sometimes uncontrollable and unpredictable, for example whoever is possessed, their actions will be based on their conduct of self-deceit. Among friends they are easy going people, but whoever they are programmed to hurt they will. They will lash out at these people very aggressively. They will have no idea of truth and wrong, after each fight they will be ready to seek forgiveness and before you know it they are back to square one with their ridicule. The reason why I brought this in my topic of Jihad is because it is the same kind of evil that the unbelievers were involved in during the days of the Apostles. The Prophet Noah had to lift his hands in humble supplications and ask Allahﷻ to wipe out all the wicked people from the face of this earth just as the Qur'an says in Chapter 71: verses 26-28. People used to ridicule and mock the Apostles calling them mad. Our Beloved Muhammad's ﷺ heart was so full of grief, but Allahﷻ gave him peace of mind through these verses from the Holy Qur'an *chapter 68:1-7*. The mystic pen and the mystic record are the symbolical foundation of the revelation to man. The adjuration by the pen disposes of the flippant charge that Allah's messenger

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as well as the Apostles were not mad, nor possessed, for they spoke words of power, which were full of meaning and through the record of the pen that meaning unfolds itself in innumerable aspects to countless generations. Our Beloved Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ was the living grace and mercy of Allah ﷻ. Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ very nature exalted him above abuse and persecution, and so it is for all of Allah's Prophets and Apostles, and this legacy of goodness will continue in their sincere followers. So there is hope in the messages from Chapter 68 verses 1-7 of the Holy Qur'an for the people who wish to fight against the evil influences that they were innocently pushed into, or walked into.

Allah ﷻ regards the humblest of His creatures and He hears their prayers and He sends Apostles out of their own brethren and to the Apostles He communicates the highest spiritual trust through His Angels, as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *Allah chooses messengers from angels and from men for Allah is He Who hears and sees (all things).*22.75.

In each age when the message of Allah ﷻ was renewed the very people who should have known better and who should have welcomed the messages of Allah ﷻ with great love, respect and gratitude, they took it as a joke and they laughed at it. They mocked it because of their weak faith.

They laughed and mocked the Prophets and the Apostles with insults, and they then turned later to hostility and became unbelievers. They even rebuked the Holy Prophet ﷺ saying he is just a man like themselves, what they failed to realize was all Apostles and Prophets that were sent by Allah ﷻ were men and not Angels or some other kind of being. They even accused him of witchcraft, of being a dreamer, a mad man, a poet who invented words and stories.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ migrated from Mecca to Medina where all the forces of truth and righteousness rallied around him, and the efforts by the Meccans and their confederates to destroy the Prophet and his community recoiled on their own hands. Gradually all the outlying parts of Arabia ranged themselves around his standards, and the bloodless conquest of Mecca was the prize of his patience and constant endeavors. After this whole tribes and countries collectively gave their adhesion to him, and before his earthly ministry was finished the soil was prepared for the conquest of the whole world for Islam. What was the lesson to be learnt from this history? Not man's self glory, but humility, not power, but service, not an appeal to man's selfishness or self sufficiency but a realization of Allah's ﷻ grace and His mercy, and the abundant outpouring of Allah's ﷻ praises in word and in conduct. Our Beloved Prophet ﷺ had another duty and privilege to pray for grace and forgiveness for his people, and guidance for them (the believers).

Permission was given by Allah ﷻ to the Prophets to fight the unbelievers who used to mock them. This order of fighting the enemies was given to the Prophets because of the oppression, violence and wickedness from their enemies. In today's time believers are fighting against each other and they are calling it jihad, this is fraudulent and totally wrong. *(Refer to the Holy Qur'an 47:4).*

Before our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ life on this earth, all who bowed to Allah ﷻ were Muslims (Believers).

Our Beloved Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was a Muslim (Believer), but the people were too arrogant to see this. Some worshiped him as God and some blasphemed him calling him the son of God. They fought against each other in confusion. The Holy Prophet Jesus (pbuh) spoke to them in regard for them to worship Allah ﷻ the one and only True God.

All the Apostles and Prophets struggled and fought their enemies to make Islam easy for us, but it is not enough for those of us who do not regard the hard task of the Prophets and Apostles.

Bombs are been used to destroy innocent lives, what regard do we have for Allah ﷻ much less His Apostle's and Prophets? Allahﷻ mentioned in the Holy Qur'an *Chapter 4 verse 92* "Never should a believer kill a believer. The lives of those who believe are sacred: If one is slain by mistake, full compensation should be made. Nor should a stranger, even in time of war, be treated as an enemy, without the fullest investigation. Every precaution should be taken with strong fear in one's hearts for Allah's ﷻ punishment. Allah ﷻ was merciful to all of His Apostles and Prophets. He protected all of them from their enemies. When they tried to crucify Jesus (pbuh), Allahﷻ brought Jesus (pbuh) to the heavens to be with Him. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an: *That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah";- but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:- 4:157, Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself; and Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise;- 4:158*

Allah ﷻ is always merciful to the people who show mercy. The people who go against Allah's ﷻ commandments through the teachings of His messengers are not on the right path. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *O ye who believe! Believe in Allah and His Messenger, and the scripture which He hath sent to His Messenger and the scripture which He sent to those before (him). Any who denieth Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Day of Judgment, hath gone far, far astray. 4:136.*

O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made

you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise (each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).49:13.

This verse from the Holy Qur'an is addressed to all mankind and not only to Muslims; we can understand very clearly that before Allahﷻ we are all one, and as it is, we are descended from one pair of parents; Adam and Eve (*pbut*). Tribes, races and nations are convenient labels by which we may know certain differing characteristics. Only those people who truly love Allahﷻ, His Angels, His Apostles and Prophets ﷺ are the true believers and servants of Allahﷻ.

True justice in accordance with Allah's ﷻ law does not follow man's selfish desires, only Allah's will, which was revealed to our Beloved Prophets and Apostles: Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, Adam, Noah, Abraham and more (*pbut*). Allah ﷻ sent His messages and warnings through all of His Blessed Messengers back in the days of ignorance, where tribalism and feuds were widespread (much like today). It is the mission of Islam to take us away from the ignorant attitude many of us hold over such things like racism, and religious differences. Islam calls for peace, love and unity. Islam teaches us to keep away from the people in whose hearts is a disease, to who religion is a mockery, and who worship evil. It is also against defamation that consists in speaking ill of one another or even acting wrongfully by judging someone whom we are not in a position to judge. A cutting biting remark or a taunt is hurtful and hard to forget, evil rumors can damage the good reputation of someone, and also spying, suspicion and back biting should be avoided. These are some crimes in themselves, for they cause cruel, injustice and can lead to mischievousness and malice in which case it is a sin added to sins.*Ch 49:012.*

Islam also teaches us to proclaim the truth of Allah ﷻ and be not afraid. We must try to follow the people who are just, sincere and humble, since there won't be any new Prophet to come. Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *All who obey Allah and the messenger are in the company of those on whom is the Grace of Allah,- of the prophets (who teach), the sincere (lovers of Truth), the witnesses (who testify), and the Righteous (who do good): Ah! what a beautiful fellowship! 4:69.*

If we ponder upon the meaning in this chapter Allah ﷻ will help us to see clearly who the people are, that we should be following and take examples from, to help turn our lives to the right direction. Fortunate indeed was the generation among which the Prophets and Apostles walked and taught.

Part 2: The evidence of Allah's existence

The evidence of Allah's ﷻ existence lies in all His creations; if only people can turn their earnest attention to it they would be able to understand His existence and His creations. The setting of a glorious star is a symbol of humility before the power, beauty and goodness of Allahﷻ. It is also a sign and establishment of God Almighty's peace, justice and the truth of his revelations.

Allah's ﷻ revelations are not a mechanical or material thing. They have to be safeguarded from being destroyed or corrupted by the power of evil. Allah's ﷻ mystery is something which no creature can know or see, except in so far as Allahﷻ reveals it to him. Allahﷻ reveals such valuable treasures (His revelations) to the extent that is good for man through His Apostles and His Prophets, among whom the best is Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the personified light of unity. As Allahﷻ sent His revelation to His Apostle's (one by one) He had to safeguard it with the strong force, just like a body guard who had to protect it from all sides so that the Shaitan would not get at it to destroy it as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *"He (alone) knows the Unseen, nor does He make any one acquainted with His Mysteries,- 72.26 ."**Except a messenger whom He has chosen: and then He makes a band of watchers march before him and behind him, 72.27, "That He may know that they have (truly) brought and delivered the Messages of their Lord: and He surrounds (all the mysteries) that are with them, and takes account of every single thing."* 72.28.

How can one explain the safeguarding of this precious information from Allah ﷻ to His Apostles and Prophets? Well, we can imagine a very great treasure, which has to be transmitted to a king. We can picture the amount of bodyguards it would require, to get it to the king and after it reaches the king safely

the messenger and the escorts present its credentials and an invoice showing the treasure being transmitted safely without anything missing.

The King who received such a treasure (Allahﷻ revelation) then recognizes the credentials and checks the contents on the tablets and acknowledges that it is a true message from His Lord, and that those who brought it are the true Messengers of their Lord. Allah's ﷻ revelations are described by four characteristics:

- (1) It is most honorable (Karim) which implies that besides the fact that it is worthy of receiving honor, it confers great favors on those who receive it and treat it with great love and respect.
- (2) It is well guarded (as we observed earlier) precious in itself and well preserved in its purity. (This is referring to the Holy Qur'an chapter 56, verses 77-80 *See below.*)
- (3) None but the clean shall touch it, clean in mind, body, thought, intention and soul. Only those of purity would be able to grasp its full meaning since they are the ones who have received wisdom and understanding.
- (4) It is a blessed treasure of true guidance and mercy from Allahﷻ the Lord of the worlds and therefore universal for all. *That this is indeed a Qur'an Most Honourable, 56:77. In Book well-guarded, 56:78. Which none shall touch but those who are clean: 56.79 A Revelation from the Lord of the Worlds. 56.80*

Seeing how valuable Allah's ﷻ messages are to mankind through the teachings of His Prophets, His Apostles and His Righteous servants and through His blessed book, the Holy Qur'an, also seeing all the signs in nature and their symbolical meaning in the spiritual world, man ought to turn to Allahﷻ and do His will. After knowing and realizing the importance of Allah's ﷻ revelation from the Holy Qur'an and from the other righteous books, how can anyone ignore it or treat it with contempt or refuse to allow it to help them improve their lives? The Holy

Qur'an states: *Is it such a Message that ye would hold in light esteem? 56.81. And have ye made it your livelihood that ye should declare it false? 56.82.*

Allah's ﷻ power and His knowledge extend to all things: we are to follow His laws and His light (guidance) and we should obey the messages that His Apostles and His Prophets leave with us such as: the importance of kindness and charity, we must strive and spend our resources and our own selves in the cause of Allahﷻ for He would grant us a light of guidance to go before us, which would help us to our eternal goal. And when success crowns our efforts, even then it is important for us to be humble and kind and not to get carried away by our good feelings of being loved by Allahﷻ. Al-Qur'an states: *Therefore stand firm (in the straight Path) as thou art commanded,- thou and those who with thee turn (unto Allah); and transgress not (from the Path): for He seeth well all that ye do.11.112 And be steadfast in patience; for verily Allah will not suffer the reward of the righteous to perish. 11.115*

Islam means peace, and peace means harmony, being friendly, calm, stillness and tranquility. Islam does not stand for conflict and hostility. In Islam we usually greet each other with a greeting in Arabic which is Assalaamu-Alaikum. These words means: "Peace and blessings of God Almighty be with you." Allah says in Al-Qur'an: *When a (courteous) greeting is offered you, meet it with a greeting still more courteous, or (at least) of equal courtesy. Allah takes careful account of all things. 4.86.*

There is a special message from Allahﷻ for us to grasp. If we greet someone with peace it means that we are wishing that person(s) freedom from arguments, fighting and animosity. In order to strengthen our good wish, the Angels say "Ameen" to our greetings, but we can only receive the full value from sincere greetings, not from one that is offered from the lips, but from the heart. If

we just offer this greeting by lip service and not for respect, then it will weaken our faith and cause us to fall deeper and deeper into weakness of mind. Wishing peace on someone with sincerity will help us and help those that we are greeting to attain a certain advanced stage of sensitivity and spiritual development, which will help us with the abilities to learn the inner truth of ourselves and which will also act as a vehicle to guide us on a straight path to get Allah's mercies and forgiveness. Allah says in Al-Qur'an: *When those come to thee who believe in Our signs, Say: "Peace be on you: Your Lord hath inscribed for Himself (the rule of) mercy: verily, if any of you did evil in ignorance, and thereafter repented, and amend (his conduct), lo! He is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful. 6:054.*

Allah's ﷻ loving care encompasses us all throughout our lives and delivers us from dangers by land and sea. He is our only Protector; how can we then forget Him and run after things that are vain and against His wishes. We should put all our trust in Him, for He is the Eternal God Almighty, adored and cherished by all Apostles and Prophets.

If we listen to people whose knowledge is only used for destruction we will earn nothing but misery. The extremists who claim to be righteous and educated with Islamic knowledge, and who encourage innocent lives to be taken as an act of Jihad need to re-read the Holy Qur'an with sincere love, zeal and respect. Then they would be able to act with justice and not with hatred or be out for revenge. Justice is a great attribute and to stand firm for justice to be a witness to Allah ﷻ, even if it is detrimental to our own interest of those who are near and dear to us as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *O ye who believe! stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye swerve, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do*

justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted with all that ye do. 4.135. O ye who believe! Believe in Allah and His Messenger, and the scripture which He hath sent to His Messenger and the scripture which He sent to those before (him). Any who denieth Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Day of Judgment, hath gone far, far astray. 4.136.

The time will inevitably come when those who allow themselves to be deceived by falsehood or deliberately break God Almighty's laws, they will find themselves in a terrible plight. They will then wish again and again that they had sought Allah's ﷻ will and walked in the light of truth. Our own interest requires that we should awake to the reality before it is too late for repentance.

Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was accused by the evil people of being mentally insane, or possessed, because he spoke of such intelligent things that the people could not even begin to imagine or understand. And he acted from a motive purer and nobler than they could even understand. Ignorance and evil do exist in this world, and we must not be impatient, nor lose our own faith over it. We must recognize that if such things are permitted, they are part of the universal plan and purpose of God Almighty, who is all wise, but whose wisdom we cannot fully fathom.

We as believers must only defend ourselves if we are attacked wrongfully by ignorant people, but we must persevere with patience and prayers as the Apostles did against their enemies. We should also pray for Allah's ﷻ guidance for the people who attacked us wrongfully and leave all our trust in Allah's ﷻ hands for Him to deal with them as mentioned in (026:227) that the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. If we act with patience and justice Allah's ﷻ mercies will cover our pain and our grief as it did with the Apostles and Prophets. Allah ﷻ says in Al-Qur'an: *In the case of those who say, "Our Lord is*

Allah", and, further, stand straight and steadfast, the angels descend on them (from time to time): "Fear ye not!" (they suggest), "Nor grieve! but receive the Glad Tidings of the Garden (of Bliss), the which ye were promised! 41:30 "We are your protectors in this life and in the Hereafter: therein shall ye have all that your souls shall desire; therein shall ye have all that ye ask for!- 41:031. "A hospitable gift from one Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful!" 41:32

The people who recognize and understand that the one and only reality is Allah ﷻ and further shape their probationary life on this earth firmly on the principles of that truth and reality, they will succeed in goodness in this life and they will enjoy the company of the Blessed Angels of Allah ﷻ, as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: (40:7-9).

The real struggle which the people of old suffered, was in the time when (*the followers of*) Islam were being persecuted and suppressed, and the Muslims had to leave and forsake their homes, which was not an easy thing for them, but for the sake of peace, they did what they were told by their leader who was our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Many of them had joined with Him in firmness of faith and strength to overthrow the fortress of evil, in which by the power of Allah ﷻ they were successful. Evil goes headlong into sins, it is a favorite trick of those who wish to dishonor and disgrace Islam. This is done by committing fraud in destroying the Muslims who are the true and sincere followers of our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

We should not think for a moment that Allah ﷻ is unjust, because of mankind's suffering on earth. It is due to the evil and mischief of the people who created conflict, violence and bloodshed which results in misery for innocent people. This causes Allah ﷻ to send down his wrath and suffering on earth in order to put fear into the believer's hearts as he did during the days of the Apostles

and Prophets. During those days when things became overbearing for them, they used to lift their hands in humble supplication to Allah ﷻ Almighty and when He answered their prayers and poured down His wrath on people and destroyed their cities and wealth. Their hearts were so hardened that not even an ounce of fear couldn't enter into their hearts, so that they can repent for the sinful conduct in their lives. This was one of the prayers of Prophet Moses (pbuh): Moses prayed: *"Our Lord! Thou hast indeed bestowed on Pharaoh and his chiefs splendour and wealth in the life of the present, and so, Our Lord, they mislead (men) from Thy Path. Deface, our Lord, the features of their wealth, and send hardness to their hearts, so they will not believe until they see the grievous penalty."* 10:88. Allah said: *"Accepted is your prayer (O Moses and Aaron)! So stand ye straight, and follow not the path of those who know not."* 10:89

Prophet Moses' (pbuh) humble supplication was answered; Allah ﷻ turned the wicked and vulgar people of Pharaoh's wealth into bitterness and hardened their hearts. They had several chances to see Allah's ﷻ signs, miracles, and punishments, but yet their hearts were as hard as stone. This is exactly what we are observing in today's society. People are using bombs to kill and destroy lives and calling it Jihad. If we want to be a true Muslim, then we must follow the pattern of all the Prophets, because all of them were Muslims and the most honorable people that ever walked on this earth. The noblest of mankind was our Beloved Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the best credentials of the Holy Prophet was the revelation which he brought (the Holy Qur'an), and the heroic, selfless life which he led.

All Religions that worship the one and true God are equal and therefore we all should live with peace, love and unity amongst one another, for in the sight of Allah ﷻ we are Muslims, for the word Muslim is an Arabic word which means

one who believes in the one and only God. We should put all of our trust in Allah ﷻ who knows all things and who holds every soul responsible for their own deeds. Allah ﷻ says in Al-Qur'an: *Let not the believers Take for friends or helpers Unbelievers rather than believers: if any do that, in nothing will there be help from Allah: except by way of precaution, that ye may Guard yourselves from them. But Allah cautions you (To remember) Himself; for the final goal is to Allah.* 3:28. The people who do not believe in Allah ﷻ and those who are hypocrites, their company may corrupt one's faith, just as we see in today's society in all the mischief and violence that are taking place in the beautiful world that Allah ﷻ Almighty has created for us.

The life of a hypocrite has no stability; their occupation is only to hinder the people who are their friends and family from the true and righteous path. They are the enemies of Faith, their evil actions seem pleasing to them, but Allah ﷻ does not guide those who reject faith. The hypocrites are the ones who are false and not sincere, and they have a slanderous tongue. They are a burden and oppressive around the believers. The Holy Qur'an states: *The Hypocrites, men and women, (have an understanding) with each other: They enjoin evil, and forbid what is just, and are close with their hands. They have forgotten Allah; so He hath forgotten them. Verily the Hypocrites are rebellious and perverse. 9:67. Allah hath promised the Hypocrites men and women, and the rejecters, of Faith, the fire of Hell: Therein shall they dwell: Sufficient is it for them: for them is the curse of Allah, and an enduring punishment,- 9:68.*

Part 3: RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF BROTHERHOOD

Islam teaches us to bow to Allah ﷻ our Creator and this is exactly what Prophet Abraham (*pbuh*) did as mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *Behold! his Lord said to him: "Bow (thy will to Me):" He said: "I bow (my will) to the Lord and Cherisher of the Universe." 2:131. Abraham was not a Jew nor yet a Christian; but he was true in Faith, and bowed his will to Allah's (Which is Islam), and he joined not gods with Allah. 3.67.*

This was the legacy that he left with his sons as mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *And this was the legacy that Abraham left to his sons, and so did Jacob; "Oh my sons! Allah hath chosen the Faith for you; then die not except in the Faith of Islam." 2:132. And the legacy of his son Jacob was passed on to his sons as well. Were ye witnesses when death appeared before Jacob? Behold, he said to his sons: "What will ye worship after me?" They said: "We shall worship Thy God and the God of thy fathers, of Abraham, Isma'il and Isaac,- the one (True) Allah: To Him we bow (in Islam)." 2:133*

Prophet Abraham (*pbuh*) was given the honor of leadership of the whole world, Allah ﷻ says in Al-Qur'an: *And remember that Abraham was tried by his Lord with certain commands, which he fulfilled: He said: "I will make thee an Imam to the Nations." He pleaded: "And also (Imams) from my offspring!" He answered: "But My Promise is not within the reach of evil-doers." 2:124*

He also pleaded for peace in his city as mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *And remember Abraham said: "My Lord, make this a City of Peace, and feed its people with fruits,-such of them as believe in Allah and the Last Day." He said: "(Yea), and such as reject Faith,-for a while will I grant them their pleasure, but will soon drive them to the torment of Fire,- an evil destination (indeed)!" 2:126.*

Also He and his sons were given the honor by Allah ﷻ to put down the foundation of the beautiful house of Allah ﷻ. *And remember Abraham and Isma'il raised the foundations of the House (With this prayer): "Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us: For Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-knowing. 2:127.*

And right after they raised their hands in humble supplication seeking blessings and guidance's as mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *"Our Lord! make of us Muslims, bowing to Thy (Will), and of our progeny a people Muslim, bowing to Thy (will); and show us our place for the celebration of (due) rites; and turn unto us (in Mercy); for Thou art the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful. 2:128.*

The house of Allah ﷻ is the Holy Ka'ba, this was the foundation of mankind which Allah ﷻ wanted for peace and unity among His servants when He ordered people to attend there as one brotherhood of love and unity as seen in Chapter 2 verse 196-198 of the Holy Qur'an. Allah ﷻ wants us to live with peace, love and unity, when this was revealed; the city of Mecca was in the hands of the enemies of Islam. Allah ﷻ says in Al-Qur'an: *Remember We made the House a place of assembly for men and a place of safety; and take ye the station of Abraham as a place of prayer; and We covenanted with Abraham and Isma'il, that they should sanctify My House for those who compass it round, or use it as a retreat, or bow, or prostrate themselves (therein in prayer). 2:125.*

The father of Abraham (*pbuh*) was one among the enemies of Islam. Abraham said to his father who used to worship idols. Al-Qur'an states: *Behold! he said to his father and to his people, "What is that which ye worship? 37:85." "Is it a falsehood- gods other than Allah- that ye desire? 37:86." "Then what is your idea about the Lord of the worlds?" 37:87, Then did he turn to their gods and said, "will ye not eat (of the offerings before you)? 37:91. He said: "Worship ye that which ye*

have (yourselves) carved? 37:95. "But Allah has created you and your handwork!" 37:96.

Abraham (*pbuh*) struck the idols his father and the people used to worship with his right hand, and he shattered them one by one, as mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *Then did he turn upon them, striking (them) with the right hand. 37:93*

This resort to violence, his father and his people planned to throw Abraham (*pbuh*) into a blazing furnace, as mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *They said, "Build him a furnace, and throw him into the blazing fire!" 037:097*

So their evil plot against the righteous Prophet of Allah ﷺ failed when Allah ﷻ made the fire cool for His Beloved Prophet Abraham (*pbuh*). Al-Qur'an states: *They said, "Burn him and protect your gods, If ye do (anything at all)!" 21:68. We said, "O Fire! be thou cool, and (a means of) safety for Abraham!" 21:69. Then they sought a stratagem against him: but We made them the ones that lost most! 21:70*

However difficult or impossible the mission of the Prophets (*pbuh*) may have appeared to them or to the world at first, they came through eventually even those who seemed to have been defeated.

Allah ﷻ Almighty was merciful to them and their followers, for He did protect them from the punishment that overtook the sinners. All of the Apostle's missions were strengthened and they were prosperous through their humble supplications, repentance and patience. Chastity was the virtue of Mary, the mother of Jesus (*pbuh*), with a son of virgin birth. She and her blessed son Jesus (*pbuh*) became a miracle to all nations. Let us put fear into our hearts and try our best to live with love and unity amongst each other, in the sight of Allah ﷻ we are all one, there will be no question of race. The world as we know it will be folded up like a scroll

of parchment and Allahﷻ will create an entirely new world. Allahﷻ says in Al-Qur'an: *The Day that We roll up the heavens like a scroll rolled up for books (completed),- even as We produced the first creation, so shall We produce a new one: a promise We have undertaken: truly shall We fulfil it. 21:104. Before this We wrote in the Psalms, after the Message (given to Moses): My servants the righteous, shall inherit the earth."* 21:105, *Verily in this (Qur'an) is a Message for people who would (truly) worship Allah. 21:106*

On the day of judgment each soul will have to answer for its own deeds, we will not be questioned about "what we used to do", since our record will be with us as is noted in the Al-Qur'an: *Lost indeed are they who treat it as a falsehood that they must meet Allah,- until on a sudden the hour is on them, and they say: "Ah! woe unto us that we took no thought of it"; for they bear their burdens on their backs, and evil indeed are the burdens that they bear? 6:31. Verily We shall give life to the dead, and We record that which they send before and that which they leave behind, and of all things have We taken account in a clear Book (of evidence). 36:12*

The people used to say things like becoming Jews or Christians is the only way to salvation. It is mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *They say: "Become Jews or Christians if ye would be guided (To salvation)." Say thou: "Nay! (I would rather) the Religion of Abraham the True, and he joined not gods with Allah."* 2:135

But the believers say to the people who were ignorant that they believe in Allahﷻ and the revelation given to them by the Apostles and Prophets, as mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *Say ye: "We believe in Allah, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) prophets from their Lord: We make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to Allah (in Islam)." 2:136*

The ignorant people continued to argue that Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac and Jacob were Jews or Christians, but Allahﷻ says in Al-Qur'an: *Or do ye say that Abraham, Isma'il, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes were Jews or Christians? Say: Do ye know better than Allah? Ah! who is more unjust than those who conceal the testimony they have from Allah? but Allah is not unmindful of what ye do! 2:140*

The men of old without faith believe not in Allahﷻ and in His Blessed Apostles and Prophets. Their arrogance claimed that all wisdom and all knowledge of God were enclosed in their hearts. Their claim was blasphemy, it is mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *We gave Moses the Book and followed him up with a succession of messengers; We gave Jesus the son of Mary Clear (Signs) and strengthened him with the holy spirit. Is it that whenever there comes to you a messenger with what ye yourselves desire not, ye are puffed up with pride?- Some ye called impostors, and others ye slay! 2:87. They say, "Our hearts are the wrappings (which preserve Allah's Word: we need no more)." Nay, Allah's curse is on them for their blasphemy: Little is it they believe. 2:88*

The curse of Allahﷻ is on those without faith as stated in Chapter 2 V 89 of Al-Qur'an. Misery is the price for those who deny Allah as stated in Chapter 2 verse 90 of Al-Qur'an, for when Allah's punishment comes there can be no turning back.

Allahﷻ created man with virtues and purity. He gave us intelligence. He surrounded us with all types of instruments of His grace and mercy. In spite of all this if we distort our own will by going against Allah's ﷻ will, yet his door of forgiveness is always open to us, if we make ourselves humble enough to accept our mistakes and seek His forgiveness.

Our beloved parents Hazrat Adam and Eve (*pbut*) were not too proud to seek Allah's ﷻ forgiveness as mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *They said: "Our Lord! We have*

wronged our own souls: If thou forgive us not and bestow not upon us Thy Mercy, we shall certainly be lost." 7:23. *They were innocent in both spiritual and material matters. They did not know anything about evil, but the faculty of choice which was given to them which raised them above the Angels and with their own free will they rejected the Shaitan's sway, but sadly they got trapped by his evil influences when he lied to them, and so they fell. Almighty Allah says in Al-Qur'an: And he swore to them both, that he was their sincere adviser. 7:21.*

They were exiled to earth and so was the Shaitan. (Allah) said: *"Get ye down. With enmity between yourselves. On earth will be your dwelling-place and your means of livelihood,- for a time."* 7:24.

One very important point to be observe from the above verse is: The word enmity which means hostile and due to this word, we all are bound to get corrupt either by the Shaitan whispering or by our own free will, poor judgment in our conduct in this life. As seen in the beginning of the hostile between our two spiritual brothers, Cain and Abel. The struggle started when Shaitan went after Cain and Abel to plant bitterness in Cain's heart for his brother (Abel), which eventually ended up in Abel's unfortunate death. The Holy Qur'an states: *On that account: We ordained for the Children of Israel that if any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people. Then although there came to them Our messengers with clear signs, yet, even after that, many of them continued to commit excesses in the land.* 5:32.

The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger, and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from

the land: that is their disgrace in this world, and a heavy punishment is theirs in the Hereafter; 5:33.

Two important points also to be observed are: 1. People who are God-fearing (like Abel) do not go against Allah's ﷻ commandment by killing people, or being arrogant. 2. Even when they are being attacked they tried to hold on to the rope of faith and patience and they even tried to speak words of wisdom as seen in Chapter 5 verse 32 of the Holy Qur'an where Abel tried to speak words of wisdom to his brother Cain. Cain was filled with pride and jealousy. He ruined himself by committing the murder of his innocent brother. Abel's speech was full of meaning, but was totally ignored by Cain. How sad was the struggle (jihad) of our spiritual parent's (Adam and Eve's) struggle, which lost their very precious son due to envy in Cain's heart for Abel.

Cain was intoxicated with the Shaitan's formula of jealousy and hatred so much that he murdered his own brother. Let us pause here for a second and think about how important it is to accept our faults, and seek Allah's ﷻ forgiveness. If our spiritual parents Adam and Eve (*pbut*) were arrogant like the Shaitan then we all would have been in total darkness, living in corruption and misery like wild animals. This state of being is similar to how those people who were unbelievers lived during those olden days before Allah ﷻ decided to send Apostles and Prophets to teach people how to live like human beings. These Apostles and Prophets sprang from our father Adam (*pbuh*) and so did the people who were their enemies. Shaitan boasted that he will seduce mankind and he will corrupt them in their nature with a brand that will mark them as his own people or that there will be a portion of them assigned to him. Allah ﷻ says in Al-Qur'an: *Allah did curse him, but he said: "I will take of Thy servants a portion Marked off; 4:118. "I will mislead them, and I will create in them false desires; I will order them to slit the ears of cattle, and to deface the (fair) nature created by Allah." Whoever,*

forsaking Allah, takes satan for a friend, hath of a surety suffered a loss that is manifest. 4:119.

Satan makes them promises, and creates in them false desires; but satan's promises are nothing but deception. 4:120

Satan's deceptions are false desires, superstitions, and fear. Everything about the Shaitan is false and useless. His lies and deceit stripped our parents (Adam and Eve) of their honor and innocence. Through their humble supplication they were blessed with the wisdom to know that that there is no value in suffering exile, if not for the cause of Allah's ﷻ pleasure, and the virtues that one can receive in their struggle of reaching their goal of entering the blessed kingdom of Allah ﷻ.

Allah's ﷻ truth will manifest itself against all odds, every soldier in the army of truth and justice will be victorious and they will be entitled to claim their share in Allah's ﷻ blessed kingdom. As Allah ﷻ says in Al-Qur'an: *Gardens of perpetual bliss: they shall enter there, as well as the righteous among their fathers, their spouses, and their offspring: and angels shall enter unto them from every gate (with the salutation): 13:23. "Peace unto you for that ye persevered in patience! Now how excellent is the final home!" 13:24.*

Part 4: Revelation makes everlasting truth clear

Revelation that was given to all of the Apostles and Prophets make everlasting truth clear: Those who mock merely undo themselves; we should consider the signs of Allah ﷻ. Gracious. We should glorify Him with praises and gratitude for all the favors that He has bestowed on us, rather than engaging in negative behavior, such as being hostile, killing innocent people.

We should keep away from fraudulent actions and we should be honest and straight in our daily matters. Justice is the central virtue in the religion Islam and in the sight of Allah ﷻ, and the avoidance of fraud, aggression, oppressive, resentful unsympathetic and deceit. Our whole life's conduct, physical and spiritual depends on Allah's ﷻ. True guidance and His mercies, and in order for us to receive His guidance, we need to respect and follow the true teachings of all of His blessed messengers which He sent down with revelations. The revelations came from Allah ﷻ, the Most Gracious, and it is one of the greatest signs of His Grace and His favors. He is the source of light, and His light is diffused throughout the universe. He has given to man the capacity to understand clearly the relations of things, and to explain them. See Al-Qur'an *chapter 55 verses 1-4*. All natures obey Allah ﷻ. Even some of the Jinns, one time the Jinns were discussing the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, as mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *Say: It has been revealed to me that a company of Jinns listened (to the Qur'an). They said, 'We have really heard a wonderful Recital! 72:1. 'It gives guidance to the Right, and we have believed therein: we shall not join (in worship) any (gods) with our Lord. 72:2. 'And Exalted is the Majesty of our Lord: He has taken neither a wife nor a son. 72:3. 'There were some foolish ones among us, who used to utter extravagant lies against Allah ﷻ; 72:4, 'But we do think that no man or spirit should say aught that untrue against Allah ﷻ. 72:5.*

These passages reflect a very mystic doctrine which I have mentioned earlier that revelation is not a mechanical or material thing. It has to be protected so that it will not be destroyed or corrupted by ignorance, or the power of evil. *See chapter 72 verses 26-28 in Al-Qur'an.*

It is clear to us from these verses how revelations from Allah ﷻ. To His messengers were guarded against evil. Allah ﷻ. Made sure that the revelations arrived safely at their destinations. This is how much the revelations meant to Allah ﷻ. And His Messengers. The messengers made huge sacrifices in order to practice and preach the true religion of Allah ﷻ, which is Islam, as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *The Religion before Allah ﷻ. is Islam (submission to His Will): 3.19* All the bloodshed and the wrong things that are taking place among the Muslim Umma could cause terrible grief on the hearts of Allah's ﷻ Messengers.

Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was given the Holy Qur'an as a gift, which he worked really hard for, and to observe how the people are misusing it to fit their own agendas is extremely sad. The Holy Qur'an states: *Praise be to Allah ﷻ, Who hath sent to His Servant the Book, and hath allowed therein no Crookedness:18.1*

When trouble became inevitable the first thing we as Muslims should do is turn to Allah ﷻ. in prayers and in humble supplication.

One of the greatest signs of Allah ﷻ, is His revelation, grace and favors to mankind as mentioned in *Chapter 55 verse 1-4* of the Holy Qur'an. Justice is a heavenly virtue which many of us as Muslims may not achieve, because of our fraudulent actions, arrogance and pride as a result of our unwillingness to raise our hands in humble supplications to Allah ﷻ or to exercise justice.

During the days of old, the people who used to curse the Apostles, Allah ﷻ return their curse back on themselves as they were rebellious and evil. Their hearts were hardened so Allah ﷻ ordered drastic actions to be taken on them to place a strong fear and terror in their hearts for (Allah's ﷻ) sufferings. These sufferings were given to several punishments: Execution, Crucifixion, cutting off of hands or feet from opposite sides, Exile from the land where the Apostles used to dwell. Allah says in Al-Qur'an: *As to those who reject Faith,- if they had everything on earth, and twice repeated, to give as ransom for the penalty of the Day of Judgment, it would never be accepted of them, theirs would be a grievous penalty. 5:36. Their wish will be to get out of the Fire, but never will they get out there from: their penalty will be one that endures. 005:037*

Also orders were given to the Prophets Moses and Jesus (*pbut*) that a “Life is for a life, eye for an eye, nose for a nose, ear for an ear, tooth for tooth and wound for wounds.

Allah ﷻ also enforced His law of mercy and justice to those who repented, as well to teach the people about His mercies and forbearing kindness. Allah says in Al-Qur'an: *(They are fond of) listening to falsehood, of devouring anything forbidden. If they do come to thee, either judge between them, or decline to interfere. If thou decline, they cannot hurt thee in the least. If thou judge, judge in equity between them. For Allah loveth those who judge in equity. 5:42*

An order was also given to cut off the thieves' hands, male or female just as it states in the Holy Qur'an *Chapter 5 v. 41*. Those who had drawn the curse of Allah on themselves were to be transformed into apes and swine as it states in the Qur'an *Chapter 5 verses 63-66*, their evil actions led up to fraud, infidelity, and sorcery. Evil was piling up and men and women became witch doctors and evil wizards and they cast their evil spell on those who tried to strive in the path of

goodness and if the innocent people's faith was weak then they will succeed in seducing the innocent persons with evil conduct. Some of the innocent people's actions will become like Cain's actions when he murdered his brother Abel as in Chapter 5 verse 33 of the Holy Qur'an and on this account the laws were enforced on the people that the punishment for those who slay an innocent person it will be as if they slay the entire world's population. If anyone saved one person's life, it will be as if they saved the lives of the entire world (*chapter 5 v.35*)

The root which many virtues spring from is through humble supplication. All the messengers from our Beloved Parents Hazrat Adam and Eve (*pbut*) right down to our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ made humble supplications to Allah ﷻ. Check the Holy Qur'an for examples of the humble supplications of our spiritual parents Adam and Eve, (007:023), for Moses' (*pbuh*) (010:088), Noah (*pbuh*) (010:45 to 47), Jesus (*pbuh*) (005:117). Right through my topic I mentioned the Apostle's humble supplication and where most of them were granted. Many Imams' do not make humble supplications. I asked myself who really these Imams's are following. Are they higher than the Apostles? Are we supposed to follow Imam's like this?

Part 5: Love and Relation to the Holy Prophet ﷺ

In spiritual love and relationship to the Holy Prophet ﷺ is entitled to more respect and consideration than blood-relations. Wherever there are conflicts and duties the believers should follow his teachings and his pattern of his life's conduct as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *Ye have indeed in the Messenger of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the Praise of Allah .33.21*

Our Beloved Prophet ﷺ is closer to us than our own selves as Allah ﷻ mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *The Prophet is closer to the Believers than their own selves, and his wives are their mothers. Blood-relations among each other have closer personal ties, in the Decree of Allah. Than (the Brotherhood of) Believers and Muhajirs: nevertheless do ye what is just to your closest friends: such is the writing in the Decree (of Allah).33.6.*

When the Believers saw the Confederate forces, they said: "This is what Allah and his Messenger had promised us, and Allah and His Messenger told us what was true." And it only added to their faith and their zeal in obedience. 33.22.

The believing men must not follow the pattern of the Holy Prophet ﷺ in the wrong way, where his marriages to his wives are concerned. This was a command given to the Holy Prophet ﷺ from Allah ﷻ, as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an: *O Prophet! We have made lawful to thee thy wives to whom thou hast paid their dowers; and those whom thy right hand possesses out of the prisoners of war whom Allah has assigned to thee; and daughters of thy paternal uncles and aunts, and daughters of thy maternal uncles and aunts, who migrated (from Makka) with thee; and any believing woman who dedicates her soul to the Prophet if the Prophet wishes to wed her;- this only for thee, and not for the Believers (at large);*

We know what We have appointed for them as to their wives and the captives whom their right hands possess;- in order that there should be no difficulty for thee. And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. 33:050. Thou mayest defer (the turn of) any of them that thou pleasest, and thou mayest receive any thou pleasest: and there is no blame on thee if thou invite one whose (turn) thou hadst set aside. This were nigher to the cooling of their eyes, the prevention of their grief, and their satisfaction - that of all of them - with that which thou hast to give them: and Allah knows (all) that is in your hearts: and Allah is All-Knowing, Most Forbearing. 33:51. It is not lawful for thee (to marry more) women after this, nor to change them for (other) wives, even though their beauty attract thee, except any thy right hand should possess (as hand maidens): and Allah doth watch over all things. 33:52

Allah ﷻ also stopped the Holy Prophet ﷺ from marrying more women after the one's he was given permission to marry in *Surah 33 v. 51*. Nor was he allowed to change them for other wives. And so our Beloved Holy Prophet ﷺ obeyed Allah's ﷻ commands and did not marry any other woman after the ones whom he was commanded by Allah ﷻ to marry.

Please do not fly in the face of Allah ﷻ and speak ill of the Holy Prophet's ﷺ marriages. We saw clearly in *S. 33, v. 50-52* how Allah ﷻ himself ordered the Holy Prophet ﷺ to marry these pious ladies who were respectfully the mothers of all the believers. According to my understanding from *S.33 v. 50* Allah ﷻ has selected these respectful ladies (some of them were widows of war) to be the mothers of the believers. And as much as Allah ﷻ put them under the protection of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, at the same time He wishes to reward them for their righteous work of taking care of the civilians of the war and also the poor and the needy people as well. So, Allah ﷻ has appointed and authorized our Beloved

Prophet ﷺ to marry these respectful ladies who gain the title: Mothers of the believers.

Our Beloved Prophet ﷺ gave his love and his respect to these ladies in a most gentle way. He obeyed Allah's ﷻ commands and he married them even though he did not have any wealth to share with them. So, he shared his true love and his kindness to them. He also tried his best to observe the rule of equality with them, in other things as well and in the relation to the conjugal night.

To the believing men, more than one wife is not permissible if you fear that you will not be able to treat them equally or deal justly with them as mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *Allah has not made for any man two hearts in his (one) body: nor has He made your wives whom ye divorce by Zihar your mothers: nor has He made your adopted sons your sons. Such is (only) your (manner of) speech by your mouths. But Allah tells (you) the Truth, and He shows the (right) Way. 33:4*

The only youthful marriage of the Holy Prophet ﷺ was his first marriage that was with Hazrat Khadija (May God be pleased with her). He was married to her for 15 years before he received his call to apostleship. Their marriage lasted for 25 years. Their mutual devotion was of the noblest, judged by spiritual as well as social standards. During Hazrat Khadija's (May God be pleased with her) life He had no other wife, which was unusual for a man of his standing among his people. She was the mother of all his children except a son, Ibrahim, who did not live long. As well as being a wife, Khadija (May God be pleased with her) was also a friend to her husband, the sharer of his inclinations and ideals to a remarkable degree. Their marriage was wonderfully blessed; they lived together in profound harmony. The Prophet ﷺ did not marry for another four to five years after Khadija's (May God be pleased with her) death. Providing their daily food and provisions, bearing their troubles and hardships, Muhammad ﷺ, looked after his children and

performed the duties of mother as well as father. To allege of such a man that he was a sensualist or suffered from lust for women, is as disgraceful and as stupid a lie as can be imagined.

When Khadija (May God be pleased with her) died the Holy Prophet ﷺ was 50 and it's curious as to if he would ever marry again, as He was most abstemious in his physical life. The two things which governed his later marriage were:

1. Obedience to Allah's ﷻ command, compassion and clemency. As when he wanted to provide for the suffering widows who could not be provided for in any other way in that stage of society (except for marriage) some of them (his new wives) like Sauda (May God be pleased with her), had issues in their former marriage, requiring protection,
2. He needed help and support in his duties of leadership with women who had to be instructed and kept together in the large Muslim family, where women and men had similar social rights.

Hazrat Aisha (May God be pleased with her) (daughter of Abu Bakr) was very smart and she used to teach other women on Islam's way of life and more. She was also the youngest of his wives and in Hadith; she is an important authority on the life of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. His wife Zainab (May God be pleased with her), (daughter of Khuzaina), was called the mother of the poor. Another wife Zainab (daughter of Jahsh) who also worked for the poor and helped them out in every possible way she could, as she was also well skilled in working in leather trades. All the rest of the Holy Prophets ﷺ wives had to work and assist as mothers of the Ummat (followers of the Prophet). They did not have idle lives, either for their own pleasure or the pleasure of their husband. As mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *O Prophet! Say to thy Consorts: "If it be that ye desire the life of this World, and its glitter, - then come! I will provide for your enjoyment and set you free in a handsome manner.* 33:28.

But if ye seek Allah and His Messenger, and the Home of the Hereafter, verily Allah has prepared for the well-doers amongst you a great reward 33:029.

In this verse they are told that they had no place in the sacred household if they merely wished for ease or worldly glitter. The wives of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ, were all well-doers and very respectful, humble and kind, not only to the Holy Prophet ﷺ, but to their communities as well. They were very obedient to Allah's ﷻ command. As mentioned in the Al-Qur'an: *O Consorts of the Prophet! If any of you were guilty of evident unseemly conduct, the Punishment would be doubled to her, and that is easy for Allah. 33:30. But any of you that is devout in the service of Allah and His Messenger, and works righteousness,- to her shall We grant her reward twice: and We have prepared for her a generous sustenance. 33:31*

And due to their outstanding conduct, Allah ﷻ gave them a highly respected status. First as righteous women and again as mothers of the believers.

And stay quietly in your houses, and make not a dazzling display, like that of the former Times of Ignorance; and establish regular Prayer, and give regular Charity; and obey Allah and His Messenger. And Allah only wishes to remove all abomination from you, ye members of the Family, and to make you pure and spotless.33:33.

From the above passages of the Holy Qur'an we happened to see clearly that the Holy Prophet's ﷺ, wives were not like ordinary women, nor were their marriages ordinary marriages. They all had a special position and special responsibilities, especially in the matter of guiding and teaching women who came into the folds of Islam. In those days only women could teach other women, that Islam is a way of life and that all Muslims are a family; and women have as much

place in Islam as men and therefore the women's intimate instruction must obviously be done through women. And the wives of the Prophet ﷺ were chosen by Allah ﷻ for their position and that's how they got their title "Mothers of the believers."

We, who are the believers and followers of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, should never question His motives and judgment, or we should never say a word against his respectful wives, who are our blessed spiritual mothers (mothers of the believers).

They were kind and gentle to all; they were to be guarded on account of their special position as well. People might misunderstand or take advantage of their kindness; they were to make no vulgar, worldly display as in the times of paganism as in *Surah 33 v. 33* of the Holy Qur'an. Again we must not put our own wisdom in competition with Allah's ﷻ wisdom; His decree is often known to us by the logic of fact. We must accept it loyally and do the best we can to help in our own way to carry it out. Allah ﷻ mentioned in Al-Qur'an: *It is not fitting for a Believer, man or woman, when a matter has been decided by Allah and His Messenger to have any option about their decision: if any one disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he is indeed on a clearly wrong Path.33:36*

Again we come to the discussion of a very important marriage of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, who was Zainab (daughter of Jahsh). She was a lady of noble birth, descended and a close relative of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. She was, moreover, a woman of great piety, who fasted much, kept long vigils, and gave generously to the poor. The Holy Prophet ﷺ asked for the hand of Zainab for Zaid. Zaid who was taken captive as a child in the course of tribal wars and sold as a slave. The noble Khadija whose slave he was presented him to the Holy Prophet ﷺ, on the occasion of her marriage to Him. The Holy Prophet ﷺ immediately gave Zaid his freedom and shortly afterwards adopted him as his son. Zaid, the freedman, was

among the first to embrace Islam, he was a good Muslim likewise Zainab, the lady of noble birth, was also a good Muslim, most pious and with exceptional quality. The marriage did not bring happiness to either Zainab or Zaid. Both loved and obeyed the Holy Prophet ﷺ but their marriage was unsustainable because of their mutual incompatibility. Zaid found it no longer tolerable and on several occasions expressed the wish to divorce. The Holy Prophet ﷺ, however insisted that he should persevere with patience and that he should not separate from Zainab.

Then, on an occasion while the Prophet ﷺ was in conversation, the Angel Gabriel came and a Divine Revelation was given to him. The Holy Prophet's ﷺ marriage to Zainab was announced in the revealed verses as a bond already contracted; We have married her to you, as the Holy Qur'an states: *Behold! Thou didst say to one who had received the grace of Allah and thy favour: "Retain thou (in wedlock) thy wife, and fear Allah." But thou didst hide in thy heart that which Allah was about to make manifest: thou didst fear the people, but it is more fitting that thou shouldst fear Allah. Then when Zaid had dissolved (his marriage) with her, with the necessary (formality), We joined her in marriage to thee: in order that (in future) there may be no difficulty to the Believers in (the matter of) marriage with the wives of their adopted sons, when the latter have dissolved with the necessary (formality) (their marriage) with them. And Allah's command must be fulfilled. 33:37.*

There can be no difficulty to the Prophet in what Allah has indicated to him as a duty. It was the practice (approved) of Allah amongst those of old that have passed away. And the command of Allah is a decree determined. 33:38

From the above verses of the Holy Qur'an, it clearly proves how Allah ﷻ do instruct the Holy Prophet ﷺ with His inspiration of true guidance This command was one of the severest trials the Holy Prophet ﷺ had yet to face. For he was

commanded to do a thing contrary to the traditions of his people, but had to be done for the sake of God.

Zainab proved herself most worthy to be the Prophet's ﷺ wife; she was always aware of the responsibilities as well as the courtesies proper to her role, and fulfilled those responsibilities to universal admiration.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ was sent by Allah ﷻ as a witness to all mankind, about the spiritual truth which had been obscured by ignorance and superstition, he came to teach the religion of peace (Islam). He is also a witness to Allah ﷻ about the people's conduct and how they received His messages, also he was sent as a bearer of Glad Tidings of the mercies of Allah ﷻ to all of His true servants, with messages of hope for repentance. The Holy Prophet ﷺ also came as a Warner to those who are heedless, that this life is short and will not last, and that there is a future life which is all very important. The Holy Prophet ﷺ also came as a light or lamp to illuminate the whole world. The Holy Qur'an states: *O Prophet! Truly We have sent thee as a Witness, a Bearer of Glad Tidings, and Warner,- 33:45. And as one who invites to Allah's (grace) by His leave, and as a lamp spreading light. 33:46. Then give the Glad Tidings to the Believers, that they shall have from Allah a very great Bounty. 33:47. And obey not (the behests) of the Unbelievers and the Hypocrites, and heed not their annoyances, but put thy Trust in Allah. For enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs. 33:48*

The Holy Qur'an was sent down to our Beloved Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ by Allah ﷻ in truth, it was not forged by any mortal. It has descended in truth; it was not and has not been falsified or corrupted in the process of being communicated to mankind. As mentioned in the Al-Qur'an: *We sent down the (Qur'an) in Truth, and in Truth has it descended: and We sent thee but to give Glad Tidings and to warn (sinners).17:105.*

(It is) a Qur'an which We have divided (into parts from time to time), in order that thou mightiest recite it to men at intervals: We have revealed it by stages. 17:106

Our Beloved Prophet ﷺ was not just a messenger of Allah ﷻ. He was responsible for those people's actions who do not wish to follow the true messages from the Holy Qur'an. He fulfilled his mission in promulgating and explaining it (the pure and truthful way which Allah ﷻ revealed it to him) sometimes by Angel Jibril or sometimes by Himself and leaving it as a legacy to the world. *The Revelation of the Book is from Allah the Exalted in Power, Full of Wisdom. 46:2*

Please! We should all heed to the warning from the Holy Qur'an where Allah ﷻ says only those people are true believers, who believe in Allah ﷻ and who believe in His Apostle and we have no doubt in Allah's ﷻ true message from the Holy Qur'an: *Only those are Believers who have believed in Allah and His Messenger, and have never since doubted, but have striven with their belongings and their persons in the Cause of Allah: Such are the sincere ones. 49:15*

If we act right and we act with justice, peace will follow us. We claim to be Muslim (believers) but where are the fruits of our faith, *verse 15:49* addresses all Muslim brotherhood (believers, all humankind).

He gets most honors that are most righteous. Insolence consists not only in the breach of the rites of religion, even more vital in the defiance of the law of nature, which Allah ﷻ has made for us. These laws for us, humans include those which relate to our fellow beings in society, to whom kindness and consideration from the basis of our social duties, such as our duties to our families and our children in intimate matters.

Part 6: Beware of the Shaitan's formula

Temper, haste, hatred, jealousy and envy are diseases to the hearts of people, and should be treated with wisdom, kindness and understanding.

What is the Shaitan's formula?

These five categories that are mentioned above are the chemicals that make up the Shaitan's formula.

Evil exists in this world and it takes the strong effect on those whose faith is weak. We must realize that evil is permitted to occur. It is part of the universal plan and purpose of Allah ﷻ, who is all-wise and all good, but whose wisdom and goodness we cannot fully fathom.

We must not be impatient or lose our hope and courage. Those who exercise patience will be the ones to gain spiritual and material strength to overcome the difficulties in their lives. Ameen

(1) Temper

Temper is like a balloon and all it takes to burst a balloon is a little prick from a pin. One should not tease or taunt someone when they are in temper for it will be like waving a red flag in front of a bull. Temper should be treated with the remembrance of Allah ﷻ Almighty. Call on Allah ﷻ and pray "Oh Allah ﷻ, cool this fire down through our Beloved Prophet Abraham ﷺ who was cast into the fire and You made that fire cool for him. Recite this until the temper subsides. Also remember to always give thanks to Allah ﷻ for His help and mercy.

(2) Haste

Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *Those who avoid the greater crimes and shameful deeds, and, when they are angry even then forgive; 42:37. Gracious is Allah to His servants: He gives Sustenance to whom He pleases: and He has power and can carry out His Will. 42:19*

Haste can cause many negative things to happen, such as making wrong judgment causing embarrassment, injustice, also lots of mistakes and regret can also be caused through hasty behavior. As Allah ﷻ mentioned in Al Qur'an (*Chapter 17 verse 11*) that man is given to haste deeds, sometimes we mistake evil for good due to our hasty and arrogant actions. We must realize that such things that are disgraceful in this world and we should think before we rush to do them, with our wrong judgments. The results from making hasty decisions are like a blind person crossing the road without someone to guide him. Think of what the outcome of this blind person's decision of crossing the road by his or herself can result in. A couple of things can happen: (1). He can be hit by a vehicle (2). The driver and their passengers can also be hurt. These are some of the results from hasty actions. It is not worth it to live with regret. Take the time to think before you act. The treatment to get rid of hastiness is to ask Almighty Allah ﷻ every minute of the day "Oh Allah ﷻ please give me patience, wisdom, and understanding the same way that you granted patience to all of your Apostles". For sure Allah ﷻ Almighty will answer your prayers and grant you patience and wisdom to help you think before you act. As they say, hurry, hurry makes bad curry! The Holy Qur'an states: *But indeed if any show patience and forgive, that would truly be an exercise of courageous will and resolution in the conduct of affairs. 042:043*

(3) Jealousy and Envy

Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *By the Book that makes things clear,- 43:02. We have made it a Qur'an in Arabic, that ye may be able to understand (and learn wisdom). 43:3 And verily, it is in the Mother of the Book, in Our Presence, high (in dignity), full of wisdom. 43:4*

Jealousy and envy are both very harmful. They are contaminated and they spread pollution. They are like contagious diseases. One should not accept them when it tries to enter into their hearts, for it is the Shaitan's formula which he promised Allah ﷻ Almighty that he would spill onto the hearts of mankind so that he can get them under his evil conduct and influences. He made this promise to Allah ﷻ, because he wanted to spite Him for banishing him from Heaven. Which one of us would like to be the devil's solidier? Then these two contaminated tools of jealousy and envy will surely help you to achieve this position.

Advice: Think wisely before you choose to accept the devil's formula (jealousy and envy) because not only will it lead you towards the devil's conduct, but it will eat away at your heart and spread its germs throughout your entire body as it acts as a form of leprosy, taking over your mind, body, and soul. It will bring you nothing but pain and anguish in both this world and in the hereafter. Anyone who is walking around with this disease, they should know that they will contaminate everything else around them. They should not approach to hug or greet any good or righteous people. The good and righteous people should keep these types of people at arm's length. This pollution spreads corruption, conflicts, and many more evil and horrifying things. There are no remedies to prevent jealousy and envy from entering into our hearts, as it has been effecting mankind since it entered into the heart of our brother Cain and drove him to kill his brother Abel, which caused grief on their parents (Who are our spiritual parents as well) Adam and Eve. The devil's suggestion did enter into our parents (Adam and Eve) hearts as well, so who are we to say that it cannot enter into our hearts? Since none of us are perfect.

The remedy to remove this is to act as soon as we take notice that it has entered into our heart we must make it exit. Just as we would rush to open a window or

door if a fly entered our house, we would be in an even bigger state of panic if a stinging bee were to enter. The stinging bee is a good description of the Shaitan's influences. The bee gives honey, but at the same time it can sting you. There are lots of ways to get out the Shaitan's formula (jealousy and envy) from our hearts.

Here is something that worked for me, and I am sure it will work for you as well. I usually pray like this "Oh Allah ﷻ Almighty, kick the devil out of my heart, the same way that you kicked him out from your kingdom". Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *(Allah) said: "Get thee down from this: it is not for thee to be arrogant here: get out, for thou art of the meanest (of creatures)." 7:13.*

I repeat this until I feel a sense of peace and relief. (Warning) When the devil leaves my heart it will come back charging at me from another direction using one of his soldiers to physically attack me. When this happens I view it as a test from Allah ﷻ Almighty and I pray "Oh Allah ﷻ Almighty grant me the patience, wisdom, and understanding to conquer this attack from the devil and his soldiers, the same way that you gave patience to our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to stand up firmly to the Shaitan's assault. This little prayer worked miracles for me in the battlefield against Shaitan's soldiers.

When jealousy and envy enters our hearts we must treat it right away with positive thinking, prayers humble supplications, and trust in Allah ﷻ Almighty. Allah's ﷻ mercy and kindness will overpower the devil's whispering of jealousy and envy in our hearts, and feelings of ease and comfort will cover the fear and remove the bitterness and anger from our hearts. Jealousy, envy and hatred are a result of fear, negativity, resentment and spite. These categories which lead to jealousy, envy, and hatred are the passport to the fire of hell. Jealousy, envy and hatred are the fire itself which constantly burns in the hearts of people who practice

these kinds of behavior. Isn't this a stress upon itself to live in constant bitterness, what pleasure do we get to willfully hurt someone's feelings?

There is a way out from this kind of bitterness. Just imagine eating a rotten fruit, it will cause sickness, and the difference of eating a delicious one, which makes you happy and leaves you satisfied. The example of the rotten fruit illustrates the feelings of keeping jealousy in our hearts, resulting in a miserable frame of mind. If we eat a delicious fruit, it will make us feel satisfied. The satisfaction one would receive from eating a delicious fruit illustrates mercy; patience and humbleness. This thought will help remove the bitterness from your hearts. Allah ﷻ Almighty has given us respite for a long enough life which He opens the door to allow us to repent. Time for Allah ﷻ is nothing. His existence is absolute, and not conditioned by time or place. What we call a thousand years may be nothing more than a day or a minute to Him. Please let us pay heed to these few messages and try to live with peace, love and unity among each other.

If any suggestions come to our minds that is not in accordance with Allah's ﷻ will and his plan then know right away that it is the suggestion of Shaitan (the stinging bee) and bring the remembrance of Allah ﷻ right away to your mind by simply inhaling and picturing the word Allah ﷻ, and exhale with the word Hu. Do this for as long as it takes to get rid of the evil suggestion. You should also make it a habit of doing this constantly in your daily lives. Allah ﷻ says remember me and I will remember you. Be grateful to me and reject not faith. Let us bear this in our minds at all times, it is the steering wheel that will lead us to our noble destination which is paradise, how rewarding will it be for us.

(4) Hate

Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *O ye who believe! Devour not usury, doubled and multiplied; but fear Allah; that ye may (really) prosper. 3:130. Fear the Fire,*

which is repaired for those who reject Faith: 3:131. And obey Allah and the Messenger; that ye may obtain mercy. 3:132. Be quick in the race for forgiveness from your Lord, and for a Garden whose width is that (of the whole) of the heavens and of the earth, prepared for the righteous, - 3:133.

Hate is the outcome of jealousy and envy. When the pollution from the disease of jealousy and envy produce spreads and covers up the heart, there will not be room left in the heart for mercy which is Allah's ﷻ light. The darkness will spread over to the eyes where it will cover it and cause them to become spiritually blind. This blindness can cause great damage, such as frustration, and animosity. Shaitan's regrets of disobeying Allah ﷻ are causing him to be rebellious. He knows that he traded Allah's ﷻ beautiful kingdom for the blazing hell fire and is ashamed of the path he chose. But he had too much pride inside of him to accept Allah's ﷻ commands. This is why the people who are influenced by him and do not seek sincere repentance from Allah ﷻ, their actions (Pride and arrogance) will be just like him as well. The people whose actions are like our parents Adam and Eve ﷺ their shame appeared to them. This is a sign for us to grasp, because they repented for their wrong doings since their shame was revealed to them. This was not the case with Shaitan since he did not repent.

He knows about the word shame, but he is not aware of the full meaning, since he didn't have the courtesy to repent for his wrong doings and so it will be for his soldiers as well. The healing for a diseased heart can be accomplished in different ways such as: We must put our trust in Allah ﷻ Almighty, which brings its own reward, and will help our eyes open and help us see any obstacles of evil clearly. This will enable us with wisdom and understanding of Allah ﷻ Almighty's goodness and his favors. These blessings of Allah ﷻ will keep our minds fresh and our hearts content.

The people, who choose the Shaitan's path of their own free will, choose to become his slave and will not know the true meaning of the word shame. They would bravely hurt someone and act as though they are innocent or as if they can do as they wish. They can do as they like yes, but not for as long as they like! For one day it will all come back to haunt them.

Allah ﷻ says in the Holy Qur'an: *But those who believe and work righteousness, - no burden do We place on any soul, but that which it can bear, - they will be Companions of the Garden, therein to dwell (for ever). 7:42.*

It is no shame on a believer if the devil's formula, of envy enters into their hearts and if they accept it in good faith by turning around and using it to their advantage. Example: If one cannot recite Al-Qur'an and he or she saw someone who has converted to Islam and is making the effort to learn Al-Qur'an, and they say to themselves "Wow, I am so envious of that person, I really admire the way that he or she is trying to learn Al-Qur'an and I am a Muslim, born into Islam and have never made the effort to learn Al-Qur'an myself. I should make the effort and start now". This type of envy, which is used to motivate one to do a good deed, is using envy in a positive way, and there is nothing to be ashamed of in doing this. If we accept the envy and jealousy in a negative and arrogant way to go after someone through evil omen or some sort of evil ritual like black magic, obeah, or any type of sorcery then this is what we should be ashamed of. There is no bath or soap that can cleanse us of the Shaitan's formula, so how can we begin to pray when Allah ﷻ Almighty ordered us to be clean, and purify ourselves from all these obstacles before we stand in front of Him to pray. He also said it is not turning your face towards East or West that makes you clean, it is your heart and what it contains along with your intentions that make you clean.

If we try to pull someone down from their spiritual status, we are only fooling ourselves. The same way that Shaitan planned to envelope the righteous servants of Allah ﷻ Almighty with his assaults it is the same way that Almighty Allah ﷻ planned to envelope His righteous servants with His mercies, guidance, and favors. The believers who stand up firmly in their patience and in their prayers, they are the ones who will achieve Paradise.

We do not need to live with hatred on our minds, for it will bring us nothing but shame and disgrace in this world and in the hereafter.

Good or evil will be embodied in a scroll which will be opened to us in the light on the Day of Judgment. On this blessed Day of Judgment, the people who wasted all of their energy on hatred, or jealousy or other evil actions, their regrets will be too late, with no chance of repentance as well. When their shameful actions will appear to them as bright as the sunlight. The people who are humble and take their complaint to Allah ﷻ, and those whose eyes are fixed on the hereafter for the enjoyment of Paradise, they will also share in Allah's ﷻ bounty and in His grace with full enjoyment. I hope Insha Allah these small examples will work to help us get rid of the Shaitan's formula from our hearts. These five categories (Temper, Haste, Hate, Jealously and Envy), is the Shaitan's pleasure and Almighty Allah's ﷻ displeasure. This should be in our minds at all times.

Part 7: A few Hadith's

1. Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was asked who's Islam (religion) is best and who is a good Muslim (a believer in oneness of Allahﷻ) He answered "One who avoids hurting a believer with his tongue and with his hand."
2. Our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also said that "No one will have true faith until he likes for his Muslim brother what he likes for himself, and also until he loves Me more than his father, his children and all mankind."
3. A man went to seek the Holy Prophet's ﷺ permission to take part in Jihad, so the Holy Prophet ﷺ asked him if his parents are alive, the man answered, "Yes". The Holy Prophet ﷺ told the man then "exert yourself in their service."
4. Once our Beloved Holy Prophet ﷺ was overwhelmed with terrible sorrow, so He looked up at the sky since a cloud was shading him unexpectedly, He then saw Angel Jabriel who called Him and said "Allah ﷻ knows your distress, what the people did to you and how much they hurt you." and so Allah ﷻ sent the Angel of the mountain to You, so You may order him to do whatever You wish to those people that hurt You. And so the Angel of the mountain called on the Holy Prophet ﷺ and asked Him if he wants him to crush the people by letting the two mountains fall them. Our Beloved Prophet's ﷺ reply was "No, but I would like for Allah ﷻ to give them children who would be believers and would worship Him and Him alone."