

**A1 MAJLIS**  
ISSUE No.2



المجلس

FOR ISLAMIC ENLIGHTENMENT Ksh. 50/=

إخلاص

Sincerity

And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him), and perform As-Salat and give Zakat, and that is the right religion. Q98:5



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## AL-MAJLIS

is a biannually religious magazine  
published by

**Majlis Al-Ma'arif**

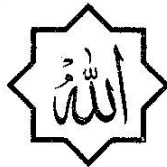
**Al-Islamiyyah**

**P.O BOX 104**

**Kikambala – Mombasa**

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P.O BOX 104, KIKAMBALA

Computing and typesetting

Juma W. Juma.

**KShs 50/=**

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*Handle this magazine with due respect as it contain  
ayats from the Holy Qur'an.*

*After reading this magazine please forward it to others.*





# A continuous nerve-racking struggle

All praises belong to Allah Ta'aalaa Alone. Peace and blessings be upon our beloved Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam.

**I**t's all happening now. Our beloved Rasool of Allah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, had said it clearly, that a time will come when practicing deen will be like holding a live coal in the hand. How? The foes of Islam are behind it. By using radical elements to create anarchy and chaotic situations, and then putting the blame on the Muslims, creating hatred and uneasiness in the masses.

The result? People of sound thinking are being driven away from Islam. Non-Muslims become uncomfortable when a devout Muslim happens to be in their company. For example, I was once travelling in an express train abroad, when suddenly it was stopped abruptly by some passengers just because in their cabin were two elderly devout Muslims, and the police was called! 'Moderate Muslims' also look scornfully at the devout Muslims and, a number of times, they are also harassed by the law authorities – just because they are practical and sincere followers. In the end, these poor devotees feel uneasy and, in order to avoid attraction, let go some basic Islamic practices, as everywhere the environment is hostile to them. As for those whom Allah Ta'aalaa has granted steadfastness, for them it is a continuous battle against heavy odds.

Another tough situation is in the Deeni Madaaris. This is the other method used by the foes of Islam, to weaken its spread and carry the Muslims even further away from their religion. They (the enemies) have targetted the Madrasas; tarnishing their good cause, calling them breeding grounds for terrorists, etc. They know very well that through centuries, these deeni Madrasas have served as the beacons of guidance, and their graduates, the noble Ulamaa, have all along served selflessly for Islam and have always stood up to defend it against the 'Kuffaar' onslaught or whenever any person tried to defame it in any way.

So its high time we Muslims geared up to strive for Islam and support all its activities that are in course to strengthen it. Truly, in Islam lies our security, tranquility, peace, harmony, brotherhood, prosperity and progress. Our real abode is Jannah. And the only passage to it is Islam. But mind you, the going is tough.

*AbdulHafeez Khandwalla*

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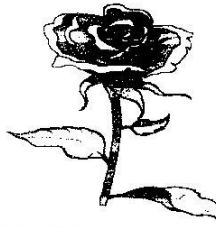
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# Sincerity



# إخلاص

## The Reality of "Ikhlaas" - Sincerity

**T**he real essence in every deed is Ikhlaas - sincerity - to do it only and solely to seek the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala, the Lord of all creations, and no one else. And at the same time, to carry out the deed in the manner so as to please Allah Ta'ala, as a pious elder explained, "Suppose someone wishing to present a gift to a very respectable and an influential person; how much time, thought and resources at his disposal, would he utilize to choose and then wrap it up to make it really presentable in order to get the admiration of the recipient? Such should be the case when carrying out a good deed - doing it so sincerely and nicely so that my Allah, my Lord gets, pleased."

The Ulamaa have explained that Ikhlaas is the cleansing and purification of something and refining it - making it pure. Others have also explained that Ikhlaas is to purify the heart; making it flawless and crystal clear of all traces of 'Riyaa' (hypocrisy, dissimulation or seeking others' praise or some other vanity).

The true reality of 'Ikhlaas' is to rid oneself of all inclinations other than Allah Ta'ala. The sincere one is the one who has no incentives, but to seek the closeness to Allah Ta'ala. Sincerity can only be attested when one actually performs the deed.

### Allah Orders To Have Sincerity In Worship

وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ  
خُنْفَاءً وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ  
وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقِيَمَةِ \* (البينة : ٥)

Commanding Ikhlaas, says Allah Ta'ala; "And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, (being) sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayers and to give Zakah. And that is the correct religion (the right religion)."

(Al-Bayyinah : 5)

Commenting on this ayah, Maulana AbdulMajid Daryabaadi writes, "A creed so precise, so stripped of all theological complexities and consequently, so accessible to the ordinary understanding, might be accepted to possess, and does indeed possess, a marvellous power of winning its way into the conscience of man."

And Ustadh Abdullah Yusuf Ali says, "This standard and straight Religion, free of all ambiguity, and free of all casual rights and ceremonies, is summed up in three eternal principals;

- (1) Sincere devotion to Allah;
- (2) Prayer and praise as drawing man nearer to Allah;
- (3) The service of Allah's creatures by deeds of practical charity."

قُلْ أَمَرَ رَبِّي بِالْقِسْطِ وَأَقِيمُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ كَمَا بَدَأَكُمْ تَعُودُونَ \* (الأعراف : ٢٩)

"Say, (O Muhammad), "My Lord has ordered justice and that you maintain yourselves (in worship of Him) at every place (or time) of prostration, and invoke Him, sincere to Him in religion. Just as He originated you, you will return (to life). (Al-A'raaf : 29)

Abdullah Yusuf Ali writes, "Our devotion should be sincere, not as in other men's sight, but by presenting our wholeselves, heart and soul, to Allah. Even so, it may not be enough, for the sight of our heart and soul may be faulty. We should call upon Allah to give us the light, by which our sincerity may command itself to Him as true sincerity 'as in His Sight'. Our sincerity should be real sincerity, as in His Sight, for when we return to Him, we shall be stripped of all pretence, even such self-deception as may satisfy us in this life."

### Allah Looks At Your Piety

لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهُ لُحُومَهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤها وَلَكِنْ يَنَالُهُ  
التَّقْوَى مِنْكُمْ \* (الحج : ٣٧)

"It is not their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah; it is your piety that reaches Him."

(Al-Hajj : 37)

Abdullah Yusuf Ali states, "No one should suppose that meat or blood is acceptable to the One



True God. It was a Pagan fancy that Allah would be appeased by blood sacrifices. But Allah does accept the offering of our hearts, and as a symbol of such offer, some visible institution is necessary."

### **Allah Ta'ala Now And Again Commands Us To Be Sincere**

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ \* أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ (الزمر : ٢-٣)

"Indeed, We have sent down to you the Book, (O Mohammad), in truth. So worship Allah, (being) sincere to Him in religion." (Az-Zumar : 2,3)

Therefore, worship Allah Ta'ala alone being sincere in worshipping Him and don't aspire or intend through your action and intention anyone other than Allah Ta'ala. And beware, O People, verily Allah Ta'ala does not accept (any deed or action) except which is sincerely for His Majesty, as He alone possess the distinguished grandeur attributes of divinity, Who is cognizant of all secret thoughts and innermost consciences. 'AL-KHAALIS' - means to be clear of all traces of "shirk" (idolatry) and 'Riya' (performing an act of worship with the intention of showing it off to people, seeking their praise or some other vanity). (Muhammad Ali Saabuni's Safwatut-tafaasir)

قُلْ إِنِّي أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ (الزمر : ١١)

"Say (O Muhammad), "Indeed I have been commanded to worship Allah, (being) sincere to Him in religion." (Az-Zumar-11)

### **Allah Has Sent Us To Test Us**

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ \* (المالك : ٢)  
 "(He) Who created death and life to test you (as ١٥) which of you is best in deed - and He is the Exalted in Might, the Forgiving." (Al-Mulk : 2)

Al-Fudhayl Ibn Iyaadh Rahima-tullah, while commenting on the above verse, said, "It is that deed which is most sincere and most correct."

The students asked, "O Abu Ali, what deed is most sincere and most correct?" He said, "Verily if a deed is done sincerely and yet not done correctly, it won't be accepted. And if a deed is done correctly, but not sincerely for Allah, it still won't be accepted, until and unless it is done sincerely and correctly. Sincerely - to be done for Allah alone, and correctly - to be done according to the Sunnah".

He then recited the saying of Allah Ta'ala:

فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا \* (الكهف : ١١٠)

"Who so then hopes the meeting with his Lord, let him do righteous deeds, and let him not join anyone on the worship of his Lord. (Al-Kahf : 110)"

So it is not a mere belief in monotheism (belief in only one God) that matters; all forms of worship and adoration also are due to Him alone.

### **The Sincere Ones Are Saved From The Deception Of "Iblees"**

قَالَ رَبِّ فَأَنْظِرْنِي إِلَى يَوْمِ يُبْعَثُونَ \* قَالَ إِنَّكَ مِنَ الْمُنظَرِينَ \* إِلَى يَوْمِ الْوَقْتِ الْمَعْلُومِ \* قَالَ رَبِّ بِمَا أَغْوَيْتَنِي لَأُزَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ \* إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلَصِينَ \* (الحجر : ٣٦-٤٠)

"He (Iblees-Shaitaan) said, "My Lord, then reprieve (delay/postpone) me till the Day they (the dead) are resurrected." (Allah) said, "So indeed, you are of those reprieved. Until the Day of the time well-known."

"(Iblees) said, 'My Lord, because you have put me in error, I will surely make (disobedience) attractive to them (i.e., mankind) on earth, and I will mislead them all. Except among them, your chosen servants.'" (Al-Hijr:36-40).

Thus the sincere, upright and righteous servants of Allah Ta'ala are saved from the deception of the Iblees. And if they do err, they make haste in repenting and seeking forgiveness.

### **Glad Tidings For The Sincere Ones**

إِنَّكُمْ لَذَائِقُو الْعَذَابِ الْأَلِيمِ \* وَمَا تُجْزَوْنَ إِلَّا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ \* إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلَصِينَ \* أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ رِزْقٌ مَعْلُومٌ \* فَوَاكِهِ وَهُمْ مُكْرَمُونَ \* فِي جَنَّاتِ النَّعِيمِ \* عَلَى سُرُرٍ مُتَقَابِلِينَ \* يُطَافُ عَلَيْهِمْ بِكَأْسٍ مِنْ مَعِينٍ \* بَيْضَاءَ لَذَّةٍ لِلشَّارِبِينَ \* لَا فِيهَا غَوْلٌ وَلَا هُمْ عَنْهَا يُرْفَوْنَ \* وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَاصِرَاتُ الطَّرْفِ عِينٌ \* كَأَنَّهُنَّ بَيْضٌ مَكْنُونٌ \* (الصافات : ٣٨-٤٩)

"Indeed you (disbelievers) will be testers of the painful punishment. And you will not be recompensed except for what you used to do. But (not) the bondsmen of Allah, the sincere ones. Those! Theirs shall be a provision known. Fruits; and they shall be honoured. In the Gardens of Delight. Facing each



*other on raised couches. Round will be passed to them a cup from a clear-flowing fountain. Crystal-white, of a taste delicious to those who drink (thereof). Free from headiness; nor will they suffer intoxication therefrom. And besides them will be chaste women (damsels) restraining their glances, with big eyes (of wonder and beauty). As if they were (delicate) eggs closely guarded."* (As-Saaffaat : 38-49).

### **Allah Is Watching The Hearts!**

It has been related by Abu Hurairah, radhyallahu anhu, Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, said, "Verily, Allah does not look at your bodies nor your appearances, but looks at your hearts and your actions." (Muslim)

The Hadith highlights the importance of sincerity and good intentions. Therefore, it is essential that the heart should be purged of the lust of all such things, which destroy noble deeds. Since the true condition of the heart is known to Allah alone, the true position of one's actions will be known on the Day of judgement, when one will receive reward or retribution for them from Allah. In this world, one will be treated to his apparent condition while the hidden will be left to Allah. (Riyad-us-Saliheen Commentary by Hafiz Salahuddin Yusuf.)

### **Sincerity - Deliverance In Adversities.**

Abdullah bin Umar bin Al-Khattab, radhiyallahu anhu, narrated that, he heard Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, as saying, "Three men, amongst those who came before you, set out until nightfall made them seek shelter in a cave, and entered it. A rock slithered down

from the mountain and blocked the entrance of the cave.

"They said, (to one another), 'Nothing will free you from this rock except by supplicating to Allah through your righteous deeds.'

"Thereupon one man among them said, 'O Allah! I had two parents who were very old, and I used to offer them milk before offering it to anybody. One day, I went far away in quest of fodder and could not come to them in the evening until they had fallen asleep. I milked for them and brought them their drink and found them asleep. I hated to disturb them and also disliked giving the milk to anybody before giving it to them both. So I stayed there - and the bowl was in my hand - waiting for them to wake up, until daybreak, and the children were crying due to hunger at my feet. Hence they woke up and drank their milk. O Allah! If I did this to seek Your pleasure, deliver us from the distress we are in because of this rock.' The rock moved a bit but were unable to get out.

"The next said, 'O Allah! I had a female cousin whom I loved more than anyone else. I tried to persuade her to have sexual relations with me, but she refused. Until when she was hard pressed in a year of famine, she came to me. I gave her one hundred and twenty dinars (gold coins) on the condition that she would yield herself to me. She agreed. So when we got together, (for sexual intercourse), she said, 'Fear Allah and don't deflower unlawfully.' I moved away from her, although I loved her more than anyone else and left the gold I had given her. O Allah! If I have done this to please You, then relieve us from the distress we are in.' The rock

moved, but still they were unable to come out.

"And the third one said, 'O Allah! I hired some labourers and paid them their wages except one man. He left his due and went away. I invested his money in business and the wealth increased. After some time the man came and said, 'O Slave of Allah! Pay me my dues.' I said, 'All that you see is from your wages; the camels, cattle, goats, and slaves.' He said, 'O Slave of Allah! Don't mock at me.' I said, 'I am not joking with you.' So he took everything and drove them away and did not leave anything. O Allah, If I have done this to please You, then relieve us from the distress we are in.'

"The rock moved and they walked out." (Bukhari/Muslim)

The Hadith shows how, through the medium of sincerely performed deeds, one can obtain deliverance in adversities and receive divine help.

### **Being In The Company Of The Sincere Is Equally Accorded With The Grace Of Allah Ta'ala.**

It has been narrated by Abu Hurairah, radhiyallahu anhu, that Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, said, "There are angels of Allah Ta'ala who wander in the streets seeking those who remember Allah. When they find a group remembering Allah Azza Wa Jalla, they call one another and say, 'Come to what you are looking for.' Hence they surround them with their wings till the space upto the lowest sky is filled up. Their Lord - although knows best - asks them, "What are my slaves saying? "The angles say, 'They are glorifying You and praising You (saying, *Subhaa-*



*nallah, Allahu Akbar, Al-hamdulillah*). 'Allah says, "Have they seen Me?" They say, 'No, indeed they have not seen You. 'Allah says, "How would they act if they were to see Me?" They say, 'If they were to see You, they would worship You much more earnestly and would glorify You much more.'

"He then says, "And what are they asking for?" They say, 'They beg You for Paradise.' Allah Ta'ala says, "Have they seen it?" They say, 'No, our Lord, they haven't seen it.' He says, "How would they act if they were to see it?" The angels says, 'Verily, if they were to see it, they would be more intensely eager to seek it, and desire it much more.' Allah Ta'ala says, "Against what are they seeking protection?" The angels said, 'They seek protection from the fire of hell. He says, "Have they seen it?" They say, 'No, by Your honour, they have not seen it.' Allah Ta'ala says, "How are they to act if they were to see it?" They say, 'If they were to see it, they would flee away from it even more and fear it even more.'

"Allah Ta'ala says, "I call you to witness that I have forgiven them." One angel from the group of the angels says, 'Among them is one such person who is not among them. He only came in need for something.' Allah Ta'ala says, "Those are the assembly of people whose companions (one sitting with them) is not wretched." (Bukhari/Muslim).

This Hadith clearly explains that those who seek the companionship of the righteous sincere people, won't go empty handed. They will also be forgiven, though by virtue they are not to the standards of the righteous sincere ones. So we should always seek

the company of righteous sincere people.

### ***Sincerity Guaranties The Shade Of Allah On The Day Of Judgement***

It has been narrated by Abu Hurairah, *radhiyallahu anhu*, *Nabiullah sallallahu alaihi wasallam*, said, "There are seven types of people whom Allah would grant protection under His Shade on the Day when there would be no shade except for His Shade (i.e., on the Day of Judgement); (1) A just ruler; (2) A youth who grew up with the worship of Allah; (3) A person whose heart is attached to the Masaajid; (4) Two persons who love and meet each other and depart from each other for the sake of Allah; (5) A man whom an extremely beautiful woman seduces (for illicit relations), but he (rejects the offer by saying) 'I fear Allah'; (6) A person who gives in charity and conceals it (to such an extent) that the left hand does not know what the right hand has given, and (7) A person who remembers Allah in solitude and tears flow from his eyes." Bukhari/Muslim

The qualities mentioned in the above hadith can only be found in a person who is ever-aware of Allah Ta'ala's Majesty and Sovereignty, and of him being answerable to Allah Ta'ala for all his actions, and strives for His pleasure and grace.

### ***The Sincerity Of A Soldier In The Good Old Days***

In one of the battles that the Muslims raged against the Romans, the Muslims - under the commandment of Maslamah bin AbdulMalik Marwan, *Rahimahu-llah* - surrounded a city that had a tall and well-fortified wall. The siege went on for months.

Then one night, one of the Muslim soldiers came to General Maslamah and told him of a hole that he had accomplished to bore through the wall. "It is only large enough for a slim soldier". He knelt closer, "quickly, send with me someone who can squeeze through and fight the army on the inside until he has opened the gates for all of us to enter."

Maslamah sent out the news, and that night someone volunteered. In a sweeping assault, the gate was opened and the Muslim were victorious. Maslamah overwhelmed with happiness, sent out the word that the soldier that entered the hole should come forward. No one showed. A day passed and the request was repeated. Another day, then another. No one arrived to take the credit.

On the fourth day, a soldier approached Maslamah, his face wrapped in a scarf. He said to him, "I have news of the soldier that entered the hole."

Maslamah sat up sharp, "Tell me who it is?" "First, however," said the soldier, "he has three conditions before exposing himself. Do you agree to this?"

"Of course," Maslamah said.

"The first is that you do not try to compensate him for what he did. The second is that, you do not tell anyone who he is. And the third is that you shall not ask for his presence ever again. Do you agree with these conditions?"

"It is agreed," Maslamah said.

The soldier, uncovering his scarf said, "It is I. I went through that hole only for the sake of Allah." Then, turning, he walked away.

After that day, Maslamah was

often heard praying to Allah, "O Allah, (on the Day of Resurrection) grant me companionship with the soldier of the hole."

So we should always check our intentions. At the time of intending to do anything, ask yourself, "Why am I doing it? For whom?" The noble companions of Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, the Sahabas, radiyallahu anhum, did not even want anyone to be thankful to them for rendering any services. Allah Ta'ala, recalling their worthy sentiments, Says, "We feed you for the sake of Allah alone; No reward we desire from you, nor thanks. Indeed, we fear from our Lord a day austere and distressful." (76:9, 10).

They, the Sahabas, radiyallahu anhum, had rocksolid faith in Allah Ta'ala and His bounties. They cherished the reward from Allah Alone and were careful their reward was not diminished in any way.

### **The End Results Of Our Actions Based On Difference In Intentions**

In concluding the topic, let us examine how beautifully Allah Ta'ala has put it to us the effect of our intentions on our actions.

وَمَثَلُ الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ ابْتِغَاءَ مَرْضَاتِ اللَّهِ وَتُبَيْتًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ كَمَثَلِ جَنَّةٍ بِرَبْوَةٍ أَصَابَهَا وَابِلٌ فَآتَتْ أُكُلَهَا ضِعْفَيْنِ فَإِن لَّمْ يُصِبْهَا وَابِلٌ فَطُلَّ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ \* أَيَوَدُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن تَكُونَ لَهُ جَنَّةٌ مِّنْ نَّجِيلٍ وَأَعْنَابٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ لَهُ فِيهَا مِنْ كُلِّ الثَّمَرَاتِ وَأَصَابَهُ الْكِبَرُ وَلَهُ ذُرِّيَّةٌ ضُعَفَاءُ فَأَصَابَهَا إِعْصَارٌ فِيهِ نَارٌ فَاحْتَرَقَتْ كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ الْآيَاتِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَفَكَّرُونَ \* (البقرة : ٢٦٥-٢٦٦)

*"And the example of those who spend their wealth seeking means to the approval of Allah and assuring (reward for) themselves is like a garden on high ground which is hit by a downpour - so it yields its fruits in double. And (even) if it is not hit by a downpour, then a drizzle (is sufficient). And Allah, of what you do, is seeing. Would one of you like to have a garden of palm trees and grapevines underneath which rivers flow in which he has from every fruit? But he is afflicted with old age and has weak (i.e., immature) offspring, and it is hit by a whirlwind containing fire and is burned. Thus does Allah make clear to you (His) verses that you might give thought."* (Al-Baqarah: 265-266).

The first example is; when the intention is pure, the rewards are high and in ratio with the actions, just as the yields are high on a high fertile land - to the extent of the rainfall it receives.

The second example is; when the intention is not pure, or there is boasting and the charity is reminded every now and then, the reward of the good action is lost just as one, who, suppose, had a beautiful garden, well-watered and fertile, with delightful views of streams, and a haven of rest for mind and body, while old age is creeping in and the children are either too young or too feeble in health, then a sudden whirlwind comes with lightning or fire in its train and burns it up, thus blasting the whole of his hopes for the present and for the future. So how would he feel? He is too old to begin again and the children are too young or too feeble to help in repairing.

In the same manner, when the motives are not pure, or the intentions are not right, or the

recipient of a certain favour is reminded again and again of that favour, the reward of the good done is destroyed just as the beautiful garden as portrayed in the second ayat. But, when the intention and motive is pure, the reward is in abundance, just as the yields of a very fertile land as mentioned in the first ayat.

The life in this world is for a limited duration and so are its pleasures and afflictions. On the contrary, the pleasures and afflictions of Akhirah and the life there has no bounds - for ever. We, in all our actions, should strive for the merits of Akhirah and certainly not derive any benefits for our actions in this transitory world, so as not to lose the actual rewards. The hadith mentioning a martyr, a religious scholar and the one who was given abundance of wealth, should be a lesson to us all. They did great acts of virtues, but due to impure intentions, their retribution was awful.

So we should check our intentions every now and then and make it purely to please Allah alone, and at the same time, to carry out our actions in the manner it will please Allah the most. To achieve true sincerity and Ikhlaas, we have to supplicate to Allah Ta'ala to grant us Ikhlaas. The following Duas will inshallah be very helpful:

- (١) اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّىْ اَعُوْذُبِكَ اَنْ اَشْرَكَ بِكَ شَيْئًا وَّ اَنْ اَعْلَمَهُ وَّ اَسْتَغْفِرُكَ لِمَا لَا اَعْلَمُهُ
- (٢) اَللّٰهُمَّ طَهِّرْ قَلْبِيْ مِنَ الْبَغَاۗءِ وَ عَمَلِيْ مِنَ الرِّبَاۗءِ وَّلِسَانِيْ مِنَ الْكُذْبِ وَ عَيْنِيْ مِنَ الْغِيَاۗءِ فَاِنَّكَ تَعْلَمُ خَائِنَةَ الْاَعْيُنِ وَ مَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُوْرُ .

**May Allah Ta'aalaa grant us all Ikhlaas in all our actions, Aameen. ■**



# Interest – Free Business In a Large Enterprise

## Where There Is a Will, There Is a Way

[Source: ALBALAGH International]

The following is a letter to Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani from Mr. Phiroz A. Poonawala, the owner of a business estate. He read the historic judgement of the Supreme Court (Pakistan) on interest written by Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani. His story is a brilliant example how Allah Ta'ala helps and guides to the right path to those who sincerely try to get rid of evil. This provides an example for others to follow. I reproduce his letter and Mufti Sahib's answer for the benefit of the readers.

**D**ear Brother in Islam,  
Mr. (Rtd.) Justice Maulana Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani

Assalamu alaikum

Few months back, text of the historic judgement on interest given by the Supreme Court was downloaded and only recently I was able to obtain a copy of the book on the judgement published by Idaratul - Ma'arif, Karachi.

Please accept my *mubarakbadi* for this historic judgement. May Allah always be with you in the service and in the cause of Islam.

May I share my information and involvement in my manufacturing unit. After my graduation and for nearly two decades, I had constantly kept on borrowing money from commercial banks in Poona – India, for manufacturing activities of union steel Industries, at 23/1 Hadapsar Industrial estate. Pune – 411 013 (India), where we manufacture all kinds of sheet metal, deep drawing parts for automobile, dairy, defence, electrical and other industries, import substitute items like crampons and many similar items to cater to companies in and around Poona.

On one or two occasions, in my

earlier days in my factory, thoughts and Qur'anic words crossed my mind so often that as a Muslim, I must do away with any element of Riba/interest from my business. Borrowing had become a habit. Often it looked very dangerous, fearful and it appeared as if my unit would become a non-performing enterprise and perhaps keep on building up liabilities. It also appeared I will not be in a position to pay even interest component or service the debts in long run. Paying principal amount was out of question at a certain point of time.

There was no role models, no case, no guidance, no literature guiding me to do away with the element of riba. There were authors and scholars but with no 'hands of experience' to guide people to bring about a paradigm shift and be a non-interest bearing units. No Islamic Banks or financial institutes even existed in this part of our country, nor do they exist even today.

On one auspicious day, I decided to put thoughts and words in action and decided to create interestless manufacturing unit. We had various account heads such as current account, cash

credit, open loan, key loan, project finance, etc. and decided to inform the bank to freeze all our borrowing limits. Most of these were created to manipulate to borrow more and more money to survive in lean periods. Bank was also informed about adjusting our overdrawn accounts against all receivables, allowing us only to retain minimum amount required for salaries, wages and taxations etc. Disposed off cars, old machines even all the raw materials on the floor, did away with dies, punches and tools, requested little longer credits from our suppliers, bought what was necessary, curtailed consumption, travelling, entertainment, etc. and with grace of Allah, we were no more debtaholics for the first time after being in business for nearly two decades. We had completely kicked off all elements of riba from our transactions.

Result as far as my unit is concerned, after doing away with bank borrowing, is encouraging. There has been four to five fold growth in turn-over, better cost control, better revenue generation, constant creativity, diversification and above all, sustainable growth with no liability. A constant modernization from internal

accruals has been an order of the day.

This 'hands on experience' I share only with entrepreneurs, businessmen and people from all walks of life and I term this as 'Holistic Turnaround'. This term is used so that I do not drive away listeners and strengthen cause of interestedness effectively and even avoid the term interest in my lecture, as to look like a natural management approach.

My involvement in propagating this concept of 'La - Riba' provided me an opportunity to attend an international symposium at Famagusta and lately, 5<sup>th</sup> Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance at Boston, (USA). Apart from this, I have also conducted several half a day workshops and delivered many lectures all over India jointly with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), as well as Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Poona, National Institute of Bank Management, Industrial Development Bank of India, Management Institutes and social forums like Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs and others, have been effectively propagating this interest-free approach for entrepreneurs.

Incidentally, a case study has been prepared on our unit by a prominent management institute, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

I also take this opportunity to enclose work done to popularize and propagate this approach and *Alhamdulillah*, there has been a very very positive response and my target group is non-Muslims generally. Please note, that in a secular country like India, where there are no Islamic Banks or Islamic

Institution, this was a challenge to turnaround a unit, inspired by the Qur'anic Ayats and with Grace of Allah, there was an inspiring success.

**It is my humble conclusion that where there is a will to put Qur'anic message into an action, there is always a way to solution to problem.**

One of the purpose of this letter is, I am also looking an opportunity in Pakistan to motivate entrepreneurs people who may be borrowing, to share with them my hands on experience, perhaps motivate them to do away with servicing of debts and become a 'La - Riba' unit.

This approach needs to be reinforced.

Also looking for an opportunity to come and interact with businessmen, entrepreneurs, management consultants, economists and others in Pakistan.

It will be my pleasure to hear from you, Sir.

Wassalam,  
Yours in Islam,  
Phiroz A. Poonawala  
**Holistic Turnaround Management  
Foundation, India.**

Dear Brother.

Assalamu alaikum  
I am extremely grateful for your letter dated 31. 1. 2005. I congratulate you on your blessed efforts you have made to relieve yourself from the grip of vicious circle of interest and for the efforts you are making to promote an interest-free entrepreneurship. May Allah give you strength and bless you with successes.

I am taking the liberty to publish your letter in our monthly magazine, *Albalagh International*.

Wassalam  
**Muhammad Taqi Usmani**

## Contentment

Contentment is a treasure and a source of happiness, while discontentment is a disease which brings unnecessary worries and troubles. When pre-measurement is a fact and an article of belief with a Muslim, there is then no other alternative but to remain satisfied with one's measured share of fortunes and misfortunes. Mishaps bereavements, accidents and death must come. There is no worries and grief. On the other hand, contentment brings peace of mind which is the foundation stone of all our progress in life and which teaches concentration of mind in the true divine service. A disturbed mind cannot turn its attention towards the Almighty. Unless there is peace in government, every hope of its ordered progress is shattered. Therefore peace is the first step towards progress of soul. There is another reason for this blind contentment. We don't know our future and we don't know the future condition of the world. That is known by Allah. So it is impossible for us to judge what will be good for us in future. Therefore the Qur'an says "*Perchance you hate a thing while it is good for you, and perchance you love a thing while it is bad for you and Allah knows best, while you do not know*" (2:216). In all circumstances it is a good thing. Discontentment arises mostly out of greed for more and more wealth. Discontentment in nations arises out of greed for more political power and extensive territories. It is therefore said; uneasiness lies in the head that wears a crown. The Holy Prophet sallallahu alaihi wasallam said, "The fortune of a man is in contentment in what Allah Pre-measured for him. How happy is he who is guided to Islam, and whose livelihood is sufficient and who is satisfied with it." ■



# ALLAH'S MAJESTIC QUDRAT IN THE TSUNAMI DEVASTATION

In the first issue, we gave our esteemed readers an eye witness report on the earth quake in Turkey that depicted the Qudrat of the Supreme Authority, 'Allah Subhaanahu waTa'ala'. In this issue we shall endeavour to furnish our esteemed readers of yet another Qudrat of His Majestic Authority 'Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala' in yet another devastation or destruction that the atheist (scientists) acknowledged as "one of the Nature's most massive killers." Such acknowledgement is designed to shroud nature with the capability of challenging the Qudrat of Allah, while Nature is Allah's creation.

The eyes have seen the reality of the Tsunami action and devastation live or in the screen depicted by the west. After this visual proof that had no shadow or iota of doubt in the Qudrat of Allah, the western scientist had the audacity to challenge this Qudrat with their petty theories that deceived the minds of many people with little or no Imaan. They explained thus: "Geologic plates pushing against each other slipped violently, creating a bulge on the bottom that could be as high as 10m and hundreds of kilometers long. Its just like moving an enormous paddle at the bottom of the sea. A big column of water has moved, we are talking of billions of tons. This is an enormous disturbance," said

DAVID BOOTH, a Seismologist at the British Geological Survey.

The above theory is not compatible with the predestined Command of Allah Ta'ala. Infact it is just in contradiction with what Allah willed. The truth of the matter is and what our belief should be, is that no leaf drops, or an atom moves, or wind blows or rain falls, except with direct intervention of the Omnipresent, the Creator of all things and the Controller of the universe. Allah is able to bring forth a catastrophe He wills against all odds or logic. No theory or force can stand His way. In Allah's scheme of things, there is no accident. There are no fortuitous occurrences, which juxtapose with Allah's Command.

**"Geologic plates  
pushing against each  
other slipped violently,  
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the sea. A big column of  
water has moved, we  
are talking of billions of  
tons.**

The catastrophe of the subsequent earthquake in Turkey on the 17th of August 1999, and the present

Tsunami of 26th December 2004, are not examples in exception in displaying the Qudrat of Allah Subhanahu waTa'ala. The Nations of the bygones when transgressed, suffered similar ordeals as the Qur'an reveals, *"And, everyone (i.e., every community of perverted transgressors) We had seized on account of their sins. From among them there were those on whom we rained down stones; among them were those whom we caused to be swallowed by the earth and among them were those whom we had drowned. And Allah did not wrong them (in anyway) But they had oppressed their own souls."* (29:40).

فَكَأَخَذْنَا بِذَنبِهِ فَمِنْهُمْ مَن أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِ

حَاصِبًا وَمِنْهُمْ مَن أَخَذَتْهُ الصَّيْحَةُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَن

خَسَفْنَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَن أَغْرَقْنَا وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ

يُظْلِمُهُمْ وَلَكِنَّ آفْسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ (٢٩:٤٠)

Such adhaab was decreed to people whose transgression attained the ebb of perversion with no intention of repentance and reform. Similar chastisement will be decreed to any other people who transgress the boundaries of Allah's Sanctuaries. Allah has this verse to tell the Nation of Hood and every single individual who may toe their footsteps up to the day of resurrectio; *"And the horrible (liver shattering) scream seized the perverted transgressors (the Nation of Hood), and by the*

*morning they were lying prostrate (devastated) and dead in their houses as if they had never dwelt there.” (Surah hood 67:68)*

وَأَخَذَ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا الصَّيْحَةَ فَأَصْبَحُوا فِي دِيَارِهِمْ جَائِعِينَ، كَانُوا لَمْ يَغْنَوْا فِيهَا إِلَّا لَنْ تَعُودَ تَكْرُرُوا رَجْمُ الْأَبْدَانِ لِلنَّوْدِ

Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi waeallam, had the following hadith in elaboration; “At that time (of evil and immorality) await the red-hot scorching wind, earthquakes, swallowing of people by the earth, disfiguration of the faces of people and showers of stones from the skies.” (Mishkaat)

Understand me right, these admonitions and chastisements are not confined or meant for the nations of the by-gones in general, or the people of Indonesia in particular, but such a warning and upheavals can descend any nation anywhere anytime, depending on how they behave in severing their relationship with the Lord of the Universe. The geographical features, geological patterns or setup or rather the technological advancement a nation may achieve, are no reasons to deter the will of the Omnipresent. The economic ability and the brain tanks any nation may acquire, are no equals to the Qudrat Allah Commands.

The tidal waves that rocked various islands and areas around Asia and Africa claimed the lives of thousands and left millions devastated. The suddenness with which the destruction occurred has left the global community reeling with shock and disbelieves. Allah subhanahu waTa’ala not only punishes, but forgives. And that forgiveness is the attribute which is more prominently placed before us. It is not our wisdom that can really

define the bounds of forgiveness or punishment, but His will or plan, which is the true standard of righteousness and justice.

**Rasoolullah sallallahu alaihi wasallam had the following hadith in elaboration “At that time (of evil and immorality) await the red-hot scorching wind, earthquakes, swallowing of people by the earth, disfiguration of the faces of people and showers of stones from the skies.” (Mishkaat)**

Seven years ago, on 17th August 1999, there was a tragic earthquake in Turkey, which claimed invariable number of lives, while exactly a year before the Tsunami, yet another earthquake in Bam, Iran, killed 31, 000 people, i.e., on December 26th 2003. The entire world remained in shock from the disastrous earthquakes and then the recent Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. There remains much sadness too, and a desire to do something, as reports just keep on pounding in about the aftermath of the devastation, the destruction and loss of life and property. We have witnessed the largest natural tragedy to strike the human race in modern times. A 9.0 magnitude quake struck 6 miles beneath the ocean and captured a 600 miles stretch of fault running north and south off the coast of Sumatra. The earthquake moved the entire Island of Sumatra about 100 ft to the southwest. This is the sign of the awesome Power of Almighty Allah Rabbul A’alameen.

This awesome earthquake beneath the seafloor caused a large region of the seabed to drop, resulting in the whole sea above, perhaps over

an area of hundreds of square miles, to drop by the same amount, setting off a train of massive waves known as Tsunami, which can accelerate to 600 m/h, and stretch up to 100 miles long. Such a Tsunami development and the result...? Within hours, over 200,000 dead, over 40 million displaced, over a million injured, thousands missing, leaving up to five million people across 12 countries without access to the basic requirements for life, like drinking water, food and sanitation.

We have indeed witnessed devastation of biblical proportions, and suffering unprecedented in contemporary times, death and destruction beyond belief, affecting the most heavily populated areas of the world. The images of the aftermath of the Tsunami and the earthquake are shocking, and by comparison with past disasters, this one has not been confined to one country or region, neither in terms of impact, nor in news worthiness. This is the first cataclysmic tragedy, in which the entire Indian Ocean region is both a shocked spectator and direct victim.

The epicenter of the quake was in Indonesia, its shock waves and the subsequent Tsunami spread to Srilanka and as far as the eastern seaboard of Africa. The countries most devastated are; Indonesia, Srilanka, India, Thailand, Somalia, Burma, Maldives, Malaysia, Tanzania, Seychelles, Bangladesh and Kenya. Amateur videotapes played on television showed terrifying scenes from several countries of huge walls of water crashing through palm trees and over the tops of buildings and roaming up coastal streets with cars and debris bobbing on the surface. A Srilankan tablighi



jamaat that came to Kenya, reported in a sitting talk during the Jawlah in Malindi, in Sheikh Nassor mosque, that a bus in Srilanka was dragged by the massive waves and its remains were recovered in Thailand!

The waves arrive like a great, big, huge tide coming in quickly, with the tall waves washing everything away before them for hundreds of yards inland, then the waves wash out, ripping down buildings and dragging debris and people out to sea with inescapable pull. The receding waves are often the deadliest part of the Tsunami, particularly hard on the elderly and infants, too weak to hold on to anything. To backdrops of screams and shouts, people were shown - clinging to buildings, being swept away by the current, running for their lives, weeping, carrying the injured and cradling dead children. The images seen were moving and heart breaking.

10,000 had been killed in a single town, Meulaboh, in Aceh Province at the northern tip of Sumatra Island, the hardest hit region in Indonesia. In Srilanka, around 1,000 people were dead or missing from a train that was flung off its tracks when the gigantic waves hit. A bulldozer dug a mass grave in Tamil Nadu, southern India, for 150 young boys and girls, as their weeping parents looked on. In the aftermath, hundreds were buried in mass graves, millions were displaced from their destroyed homes, hospitals ran out of medicines, and food and water was scarce.

We live in a universe of cause and effect, and the consequences of certain causes are inescapable. Fire burns, water drowns, and disease-germs destroy. These facts have moral and social

implications. Certainly the giant waves generated by the quake made no attempt to differentiate between the regions of those whom it made its victims. Hindus were swept away in India, Muslims were carried off in Indonesia, and Buddhists in Thailand. Visiting Christians and Jews received no special treatment either. The world is anything but a serene, and still, we are all vulnerable to natural threats, both internal and external. Meteor showers and asteroids are only a few of the factors likely to pose threats to the world from outer space.

**But these forces of Nature do not just occur perchance or result from their own, since they are a creation of Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala, who has complete control over them,**

As for the seemingly solid Earth, the planet's interior has an inner core of molten elements. It surely would not be an exaggeration to call this part of the Earth which remains invisible to our eyes, "a flaming core". There also exists an atmosphere surrounding the Earth, which is a "shield" against external threats. Yet, no part of the earth is immune against the effects of atmospheric forces like thunderstorms, storms or hurricanes or celestial dangers like meteors. Any of these hazards may strike at any time. They can cause considerable loss of life and property. What is common to all these disasters is that, in just a moment they can reduce a city with all its inhabitants to ruin.

كَانَ لَمْ تَقُنْ بِالْأَسْسِ

"As if they were not there yesterday."

But these forces of Nature do not just occur perchance or result from their own, since they are a creation of Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala, who has complete control over them. They remain ever subservient to His Supreme Authority, thus acting to His Will. Therefore, in order to safeguard ourselves from any natural calamity, we should hold no fear to their causes and actions, but should turn our attention to the Creator Himself for our salvation. Other theories contrary to this principal, whether scientific or logical, may worsen the situation to the point of no return. It is high time we wake up from the slumbers in which most of us are entrapped, and treat our lives with fairness, lest we may doom our souls, as did the people of the past.

وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُمْ مِنْ قَرْنٍ هُمْ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ بَطْشًا  
فَنَقَّبُوا فِي الْبِلَادِ هَلْ مِنْ مَّجِيسٍ، إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ  
لَذِكْرٍ لِمَنْ كَانَ لَهُ قَلْبٌ أَوْ أَلْقَى السَّمْعَ وَهُوَ

شَهِيدٌ

"But how many Generations before them did we destroy (for there sins), stronger in power than they? Then did they wander through the land: was there any place of escape (for them)? Verily in this is a message for any that has a heart and understanding or who gives ear and is a witness." (50:36/37) ■

## LEARNING THROUGH MISTAKES

It is narrated by Abu Sa'eed, radhiyallahu anhu, that the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, said, "No one would learn to be forbearing except after having stumble; and no one would learn to be wise except after having gained experience." [Ahmad, Tirmazi] ■

# The Indigenous Muslims of The Taita – Taveta District

[Report prepared by students from Taita – Taveta District studying in Majlis Al-Ma'arif]

**T**aita Taveta is a district in the Coast Province which borders a neighbouring country Tanzania in a place called TAVETA. Elsewhere it borders Kilifi and Kwale Districts. The principal towns in the district are Taveta, Voi, Mwatate and Wundanyi which ranks as the District Headquarter. The natives of this district are the Taitas, the Tavetas, the Sagalas and the Mbololos.

The Taitas belong to the Bantu Origin which are said to have migrated from the Congo Forests in Central Africa. The reasons for their migration were: (a) Sick- ness (b) Famine (c) Lack of sufficient rainfall, e.t.c.

The Taitas started living in the district even before the advent of the Colonies. Their original clothing before the colonists introduced to them their western type of clothing, was a dress known as MANYATTA. This type of dress does not have stitches or design, but it remains a single plain piece which covers ones body from the shoulder to the ankles.

**TRACES OF ISLAMIC TRADITIONS IN THE TAITA CULTURE**  
It is in their their tradition, that when they miss rain for a long time, they normally slaughter a goat for sacrifice. They practice

circumcision, during which they gather all boys under seven years of age and get them circumcised together in a traditional manner, using the knife and then smear the circumcised area with a locally prepared medicine to let the wound heal. Thereafter a ceremony is held in favour to justify their growth to manhood. They also practise polygamy and have the tendency to wear decently.



## NUMBER OF MUSLIMS IN TAITA - TAVETA

The number of Muslims in the district is approximately thirteen thousand, while the number of non muslims is much greater. The number of Mosques in the whole district, as listed below, is twenty-one. There are no independent MADRASAS in the district. Though, every mosque caters for a madrasa within it and their state maybe deplorable.

## HOW ISLAM FIRST SPREAD TO TAITA - TAVETA DISTRICT

History reveales that Islam penetrated in this District during the time of the construction of the railway line from Mombasa to Nairobi. Quite a few of the taitas accepted Islam, while a good number accepted Christianity. What normally attracted the people to accept Islam at that time was the good behavior of the Muslims. The non Muslims on their part, used the slander campaign of mud slinging Islam with a claim that Islam is a religion of the Arabs, that the Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam, was not a true Prophet and the Qur'an is the book of the Devils (*naudhubillaah*).

## EFFORTS OF SPREADING ISLAM AND ITS METHODS

There are two major methods used in spreading the Religion in Taita Taveta.

### (1) DEBATES:

In this method, Muslim preachers meet their Christian counterparts at open grounds. There debates are one of the issues which gathers many people together. In these debates, they use the Holy Qur'an and the Bible. The end results of such debates is the embracing of many Christians to the fold of Islam. Even though, many Christians,



despite knowing the truth, their embracing of Islam is rather difficult.

## (2) D'AWAH-(TABLIGH)

The Tablighi Da'wah group visiting Muslims door to door, has attracted many people to embrace Islam.

Although these are the methods in use, they have so far not yielded much fruits, since these two major methods are done seasonally (normally after every three months). Also those who are embracing Islam are not getting the basic Islamic teachings due to the scarcity of religious institutes related to adult literacy and the unavailability of sponsors.

## HOW ISLAM IS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN TAITA - TAVETA

As Taita-Taveta is predominantly Christian, this has hampered the spread of Islam a great deal. The methods aforementioned, have been thwarted by the Christian majority and quite often the Muslim preachers are harassed and sent wallowing into the prison chambers.

Many of the converted Muslims leave the religion and become apostates due to missing basic Islamic knowledge; a fact which makes them a prey to conviction to revert to their original religion. While those who remain Muslim, do so at the risk of remaining ignorant of their religion, which sometimes makes them unstable in their principle of faith.

## ACTIVE ISLAMIC ORGANISATIONS IN TAITA - TAVETA

There is an Islamic organization known by the name of ISTIQAMA, which operates in Taita/Taveta District.

This organization helped in creating projects like opening of shops for businesses, building madrasas and paying salaries to teachers in some madrasas, helping in sponsoring students to various Muslim schools, like the ones in Sudan and elsewhere in the country. The organization also sponsored and organized seminars to motivate people in their proper management of their initiated projects.

Despite this organization having done so much effort in development projects, there are many troubles facing it, such as low moral of some of its members due to inability in serving in the capacities to which they were elected.

## NUMBER OF MOSQUES IN TAITA - TAVETA

### TAVETA DIVISION

<u>Village.</u>	<u>Mosques.</u>
(1) Bura Ndogo	2
(2) Taveta Town	2
(3) Kimala	1
(4) Mata	3
(5) Eldoro	2
(6) Riata	2
(7) Madarasani	1
(8) Challa	2
(9) Njukini	3
(10) Chunvini	2

### VOI DIVISION

<u>Village</u>	<u>Mosques.</u>
1. Kariokor	1
2. Voi stage	2
3. Mwakingali	1
4. Sofia	2
5. Tanzania	1
6. Majengo	3
7. Mariveni	1
8. Sagalla	2
9. Kasigau	3

### MWATATE DIVISION

<u>Village</u>	<u>Mosques.</u>
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1. Dembwa	2
2. Mkameni	1
3. Mwatate Town	1

### BURA DIVISION

<u>Village</u>	<u>Mosques.</u>
1. Bura Town	2
2. Bura Mission	1
3. Kwa Mnengwa	2
4. Mwakitau	1
5. Bura Sisal	2

### WUNDANYI DIVISION

<u>Village</u>	<u>Mosques.</u>
1. Wundanyi Town	2

## Salvation and Ruin

The Noble Companion, Abu Hurairah, radhiyallahu anhu, narrated that the Holy Prophet sallallahu alaihi wasallam said, "There are three things which bring salvation to Man, and three others which bring destruction to Man. The three things which ensure the salvation of a man are:

- ✎ To fear God in public and in privacy.
- ✎ To say the truth, whether pleased or displeased in a particular situation.
- ✎ To be moderate in expenditure, both in affluence as well as in poverty.

"And the three things which may cause the ruin of a person are:

- ✎ The blind and reckless pursuit of lust or low desires.
- ✎ Avarice and greed which may be followed day in and day out.
- ✎ Self conceit."

And, the Holy Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wasallam said, "This third quality is the most fatal of all" [Baihaqi] ■



# Courage and Valour

Any person endowed with Eemaan will crown the killer of **KA'B BIN ASHRAF** and applaud him as the most courageous man on earth Islamic history has ever known. This is because executing the Prophet's order at the dawn of Islam when Muslims at that time had not gained the armory and physical strength that is today regarded as means to justify the end, was the thing every **SAHABI** was striving to achieve at all costs. At this juncture, **MUHAMMAD BIN MASLAMAH (R.A.)** attained this fortune of killing the most heinous character that instilled fears to the rigid hearts of the Jews up to now and upto the time Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala will inherit this world and what it contains.

**KA'B BIN ASHRAF** was born from an Arab father from the tribe of **TWAI** and a Jewish mother of **Banu Nadhir**. His eloquence in Arabic was classic and his hatred of the Prophet sallallahu alaihi wa sallam was manifest given that his maternal uncles were staunch Jews. Hence, he was reared in an environment full of obscenity, usage of speech, hatred, jealousy, nepotism and hood winking.

After the successful Battle of Badr where Muslims emerged victorious over the infidels. **KA'B BIN ASHRAF** took to sowing seeds of discord among the Arab tribes to revolt and revenge the death of their slain masters amongst the **Kuffaar**. He further went on to singing poems that were meant to bring a breach of peace all over **HIJAAZ**. He even had the audacity to mudslinging the pious Muslim women reducing their chastity to the level of sunken whores.

It was at this level, the perseverance the Prophet of Allah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam, always harboured in his life, came to a halt and hence issued a decree for the infidel to be eradicated. This decree did not take time to be fulfilled when **Muhammad bin Maslamah** and his heroic companions; **ABAAD BIN BISHR**, **HARITH BIN AWS**, **ABU ABSI BIN JABR** and **SILKAAN BIN SALAAMAH** who volunteered to undertake the mission. The last hero, **Silkaan bin Salaamah**, was **KA'B'S** foster brother.

It was this foster brother of the villain who lured the traitor outside his fort in the late hours of the night to meet his fate. It is a known factor that the best way to deal with a deceitful person is to deceive him before he deceives you. Since the Jews have this habit in their inborn impulse, one would be wasting his time in their numerous camp and summits to seek compromising with them Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'ala has an explanation to this,

وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةً وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ لِلَّهِ فَإِنْ  
انْتَهَوْا فَلَا عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ {البقرة ١٩٣}

*"And fight them until there is no more persecution, And the religion becomes Allah's; But if they cease let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression."*

The task ahead of **Muhammad bin Maslamah** to slay the villain was not that easy, as he was always confined to his fortress and rarely went out and when he did venture an outing, he would do so under heavily armed guards. Using his foster brother to lure him out in the guise of confiding with him

matters that would be detrimental to the spread of Islam would yield fruits. This is the most desired thing among the Jews and they would not hesitate to gamble to achieve it even with their dear lives.

When **KA'B** was going to meet his foster brother, his wife had a presentiment that he would be killed but his enthusiasm to finish Islam and the Prophet of Islam overwhelmed her plea urging him to stay indoors. He therefore went out to meet his death to the celebration of many Muslims at that time until today as the Muslims were saved from the most heinous character the history of Islam has ever known.

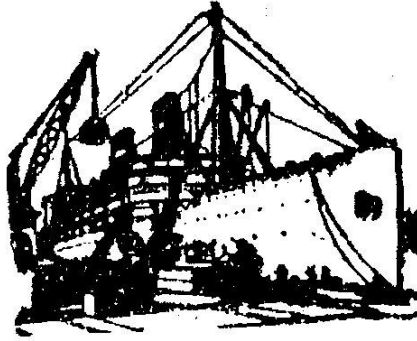
This and many episodes that depict **JiHAAD** and its values in eradicating evil and its doers are nowadays being suppressed in the guise of striving for peace, whereas the Prophet himself was the inaugurator of peace ever known in the history of mankind but never at any time did he condone any act of tyranny. The spirit of **JiHAAD** is being erased in the minds of the present day Muslims to the extent that pilgrims to the two holy cities, when taken around for **ZIARAAT**, are never shown such places like **SHIIBIL AJUUZ** (شعب العجوز) or the cave of the old woman where **Ibnul Ashraf** met his death. The **ZIARAAT** are organized and confined to specific areas which conform to the security of the regime. Even the guides are selected employees, who are given short training prior to Hajj season and would not entertain questions that would make one's hair stand on ends.

الجهاد سنة الله إلى عباده وسنة الله ماض إلى يوم القيامة  
Jihad is Allah's decree to his servants (mankind) and the decree of Allah will be there upto the day of reckoning.  
والله لأمرن بالمعروف ونهون عن المنكر ولتأخذن على يد الظالم ولتأطرنه على الحق أطرا، ولتقصرن على الحق

فصرا، أوليظرون الله بقلوب بعضكم على بعض ثم  
للعنكم كما لعنهم.  
{رواه أبو داود و الترمذى و قال حديث حسن}  
“Indeed, by Allah, you either enjoin good and forbid evil and catch hold of the hand of the oppressor and persuad him to act

justly and stick to the truth, or Allah will involve the hearts of some of you with the hearts of others and will curse you as He had curse them {Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhy} ■

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# Invite a non-muslim to Islam TODAY

**T**hose who embraced Islam in the dawn of the true faith did not do so by chance, but an effort was made on them and even sacrifices were undergone to bring them to the fold of Islam. One of the most significant effort in application during those days when barbarism and tyranny was rampant, was the direct dialogue. This is evident from many events and episodes that engulfed the lives of the elite Sahabis of the Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, who gathered their guts to make dialogue with the most tyrannical kings of their times. Notable examples of these elite Sahabis are Sayyidinaa Abdullah bin Hudhayfa As-Sahmy and Sayyidinaa Ribiyu bin A'amir, Radhiyallahu anhuma. Their courage and eloquence towards the kings of the superpower states of their times left them spellbound. The kings tried to corrupt them with all sorts of worldly pleasures, but they stuck to their guns: "*Aslim Taslam*" (Come into the fold of Islam and save yourself). The effect of their dialogue made their Da'wah stronger as it emanated from their Yaqeen that was unshakable.

Many people admired them and envied their ways, hence they were left with no choice but to emulate their good ways by embracing Islam enmasse.

It is through dialogue that people came to understand Islam and this is what is summarized as "Da'wah". At times the dialogue may bring forth negative results to

the caller due to the attitude of the called person, but this should not deter the caller from persisting his call, as the eventual effect is the work of the Al-Mighty Allah Subhaanahu waTa'ala, and not the caller himself.

Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, made more than seventy approaches to Abu Jahl to call him to proclaim the Kalimah. Though he could not proclaim it, Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, never gave up his call, until Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala Himself stopped him outright by telling him,

إِنَّكَ لَا تَهْدِي مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ

*"You cannot give hidaayat to whomsoever you wish".*

However, this ayat was only telling the Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, that hidaayat is squarely on the hands of Allah Subhaanahu waTa'ala, but the effort should still be made. If Abu Jahl, who understood the demands in the Kalimah more than any other person, was approached several times despite shrugging his shoulders to every single approach, why me and you should be disappointed by being repulsed by anyone whose understanding is below average in intelligence? Anybody who does not know his purpose of creation in this world is a naive even if he possesses all the degrees of the western universities.

One would wonder why Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, could be so much concerned with calling a hardcore

like Abu Jahl severally? It is the sympathy he had on him, despite being his number one arch enemy. Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, had witnessed the conflagration of the Hellfire with his naked eyes during his accession to Heaven, and he was pretty sure that no human skin or flesh has the slightest endurance to such a chastisement. This was the feeling of our beloved Prophet, and should be the feeling of every true follower of the Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, upto the day of Resurrection.

You could also be a source for a person to be saved from the fire of Hell and as well elevate your status in front of Allah Subhaanahu waTa'ala, by talking to a non-Muslim friend or neighbour about the attributes of Allah Subhaanahu waTa'ala and invite him to the fold of Islam. This just requires us to open our mouths and make dialogue to anyone we come across with. To invite them to Islam is their right upon us. So go ahead, talk to them today.

Our failure in making dialogue, will call for the wrath of Allah Subhaanahu waTa'ala befalling us, and the non-believers will have a justification before Allah Subhaanahu waTa'ala on the Judgement Day, that we have neglected them outright. This kind of challenge will have very bitter consequences to our deeds. May Allah save us all from such challenges. Amin ■

# Abu-Muslim Al-Khaulani

## THE HEAD OF THE TAB'IS\* AND A PIOUS PERSON OF HIS TIME

### HIS NAME AND GENEALOGY (LINEAGE)

He is Abdullah bin Thuwab. He is also known as Ibn Thuwab or Ibn Abdillah or Ibn Ubaid or Ibn Auf or Ibn Muslim. His name is also said to be Ya'quub bin Auf Abu Muslim Al-Khaulani Ad-daariyyi Azzahid.

He was born in the era of ignorance, before the prophethood of Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, and lived in Sham (Syria), in a place known as DARIY, but his origin is from Yemen. He embraced Islam during the lifetime of Prophet Muhammed, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, but did not meet him. He entered Madina during the reign of Abubakr As-siddeeq, radhiyallahu anhu.

### HIS TEACHERS

He took the sayings of the Prophet Muhammd, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, (hadith) and other knowledge from the following: *Omar bin Khattab, Abu Ubaidah bin Al-Jarrah, Muadh bin Jabal, Abu Dhar, Ubadah bin As-Swami, Auf bin Malik, Radhi-yallahu anhum.*

### HIS STUDENTS

Very many Muslim scholars took hadith and other knowledge from

Abu Muslim Al-Khaulani.

Among them: Abu Idris Al-Kaulani, Umair bin Hanii Al-Ambasy, Makhul, Atiyyah bin Qais, Ataa Al-Khurasaniy, Ataa bin Abi Rabaahi Al-Makky, Jubair bin Nufair, Sharahbiil bin Muslim, Abu Qulaaba Al-Jarmiiy, Abu Aaliyah Ar-riyahi, e.t.c.

### HOW MUSLIM SCHOLARS PRAISED HIM

Many Muslim scholars have praised him. Here are just to name a few:

-Yahya bin Mu'in said "Abu Muslim Al-Khaulani Shamiy is a reliable authority."

-Ibn Saad said, "He was a reliable authority, i.e., Abu Muslim."

-Imam Al-Bukhari said, "He was a Qur'an reciter for Shamites (People of Sham)." Also Abu Hatim made the same remarks.

-Abdul Jabbaar bin Muhammad Al-Khaulani said, "He was born during the age of ignorance, and he was among the respectable people of his time. He took hadith from some of the Prophet's, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, companions. He was respectable, religious and pious."

-Al-Ijli said, "He was reliable and was among the great Tabiis of Sham, and he was among the pious ones."

-Malik bin Dinar said, "Abu Muslim is the wise man of the Muslim Ummah."

-Abu Naeem said, "Among Muslims, are people who are not bothered with difficulties in life. They are always concerned with Allah's remembrance and worship. Al-Khaulani Abu Muslim Abdullah bin Thuwab is the wise man in this Ummah and a good example for them. He is among the first people to work for the Ummah and to free it (from shirk)."

-Ibn Hajar praised Abu Muslim Al-Khaulani as a pious, reliable and righteous person.

### SOME OF HIS CHARACTERISTICS AND SAYINGS

Az-Zuhry reported that one day, Abu Muslim heard people of Sham (Syria) talking ill of Aisha, radhiyallahu anha. He said, "Should I not tell you the example of myself and this mother of yours (i.e., Aisha, rathiyallahu anha)? It is like two eyes in one's head irritating him, but he can not deal with them except with what is good for them." (In other words, he was also hurt by their remarks and advised them to think of ways of rectification.)

-Uthman bin Abi Al-Atika reported that Abu Muslim hung a whip in the mosque and used to say, "I deserve this whip more than the animals." Whenever he failed in performing his tough religious obligations, he used to whip his legs once or twice. And

\*Tab'is are the second generation of Muslims, i.e., those who came after the companions of the Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alaihi wasallam. They did not meet the Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, but met the Sahabas

he used to say, "In case I saw paradise or hell with my eyes, my good deeds would not increase." (Meaning his 'Eemaan' was in such a high state, that believing was just like seeing.)

-Attiyah bin Qais reported that people from Damascus (Syria), met Abu Muslim in Rome during the time of a Jihad. They found that he had dug a wide area in his tent and put a leather mat in it and had poured water into it, and was rolling on the mat (i.e., to reduce the heat). They said, "What made you to fast and yet you are out for jihad?" He replied saying, "If the war erupts, I will break my fast and then prepare for it and will be strong. Surely horses do not run faster if they are fat, but they run faster when they are slim. Surely our real days are there forthcoming, for which we have to work."

-AbdulMalik bin Umair reported that whenever Abu Muslim would pray for rain, it would rain. (His prayers were answered.)

-It was reported from Muhammad bin Ziyad, that there was a woman who misled Abu Muslim's wife. He prayed against her and she became blind. The woman came and accepted her mistake and repented. Abu Muslim prayed, "O Allah, if she is truthful, return her vision," and she started seeing.

-Bilal bin Ka'b reported that some boys asked Abu Muslim, "Pray to Allah so that He could confine for us this gazelle so that we could take it." He prayed, and Allah con-fined the gazelle and they took it.

-Its reported by Ataa Al-Khurasani, that one day Abu Muslim's wife (Ummu Muslim), complained

that there was no flour in the house, Abu Muslim asked her if she had anything. She said, "I've got a dirham (silver coin) by

selling a piece of cloth". Abu Muslim said, "Fetch it and bring a sack (bag)". He then went to the market, and a needy person approached him, and begged persistently, so he gave him the dirham and filled the sack with dust and soil and took it home, with fear of his wife in his heart. He left the sack there and went away. When the wife opened the sack, she found it filled with white flour. She knead the dough and prepared bread. When Abu Muslim came back at night, she gave him the bread. He asked, "Where did you get this bread from?" She replied, "From the flour!" He ate the bread and cried.

-Saeed bin Abdul Aziz said that during the battle of Siffin. Abu Muslim used to recite a poem saying, "What is stopping me from facing death, yet I've worn my shield, and I am going to die in obedience?"

-Saeed bin Abdul Aziz said that Abu Muslim said, "If I could be told now that hell fire has been lit, I would not be able to increase my good deeds". (It shows the high state of his Eemaan).

#### **SAYINGS OF ABU MUSLIM**

-He said, "In the good old days, people were leaves with no thorns, but now they are thorns with no leaves. If you abuse them, they abuse you. If you criticize (challenge) them, they criticize you. But if you leave them alone they won't leave you alone. And if you run away from them, they catch up with you. Someone asked, "Then what shall I do?" He said, "Give in your honour to suffice for your day of great need."

-He said, "Shall I not tell you of someone, if I honour him and please him and bade him farewell, he will still disgrace me tomorrow before Allah, but if I annoy him and exhaust him and

discipline him, he will be glad with me tomorrow?" The people asked, "Who is it, O Abu Muslim?" He answered, "I swear by Allah, it is my body."

-He said, "The example of a leader (Imaam) is like a big, clean spring with good clean water that flows from it into a big river. Then people plunge into it and make the river dirty, but the spring always replaces it with clean water. But when the spring itself is dirty, the river will always be dirty." He also said, "And the example of a leader and that of the ordinary people, is like a tent which cannot stand without a pole. And the pole cannot stand without the tent's ropes. So whenever a tent's rope is removed, the pole becomes weaker. People cannot do without a leader, and a leader cannot do without people."

-He said, "Four things are not accepted due to four things; neither Jihad, nor Hajj, nor Umra and nor Charity; by utilizing wealth got by unjust means or by usurping orphans' property, or by using wealth derived through cheating and theft." (I.e., These are the four types of bad money that annul good deeds, even though they are very auspicious, namely; Jihad, Hajj, Umra and Charity).

-Humaid said that when Abu Muslim became aged, people told him to be lenient to himself since he was an old man, Abu Muslim said, "Is it not that when you send a horse on the race track (race course), you tell the rider to be lenient on it and compete on it, but when it nears the end of the race, you tell him not to spare it? (I.e., he should make it run faster). I've seen the end of my life so leave me alone."

-He said, "I haven't done any deed that I care anyone seeing it, except when one is in privacy with his wife, or when going for a



natural long call. I don't do it as to show others, but to encourage them in doing good deeds."

-Muhammad bin Ziyad reports from Abu Muslim, that when he went for Jihad in Rome, and came across a river, he used to say, "Cross it in the name of Allah." He then led them to cross the river. Thus they used to cross a flooding river, but water would only reach the knees of their animals, or even below the knees. When they had crossed a river, he called out, "Has anyone of you lost anything? If anyone of you has lost anything, I will be responsible for it (to return it back to him)." One of his soldiers threw his feedbag intentionally. When they had crossed the river, he claimed that his bag has fallen in the river. Abu Muslim said, "Follow me." He followed him and found it hanging on a tree branch in the river. Abu Muslim told him to take it.

-Uthman Bin Abi Al-Aatika said that Abu Muslim bought a mule so Ummi Muslim (his wife) said, "Pray so that Allah blesses it for us." He prayed, "O Allah, bless it for us." The mule died. He bought another one and she said, "Pray so that Allah blesses it for us." He prayed, "O Allah, bless it for us." It died. He bought another one and she said, "Pray so that Allah blesses it for us." He prayed, "O Allah, make them beneficial for us." The mule lived with them.

-He said after the martyrdom of Uthman bin Affan, "O Ye People of Madina, I swear by Allah, you are more sinful in the sight of Allah than the people of Thamud. The Thamudians killed Allah's camel and you've killed Allah's representative to the people. And Allah's representative is more honourable before Allah than His camel."

-He said, "Show renunciation of peoples' possessions, and you will be rich. Don't beg from

people as begging will make you poorer. Save yourself from uttering things from which you will later have to apologize. And perform your prayers as if you are praying them for the last time. If you are able to make today better than yesterday and tomorrow better than today, then do it."

-Muawiyah said, "Its calamity over calamity due to the death of Abu Muslim Al-Khurasani and Kuraib bin Seif Al-Answari.

Abu Muslim passed away in 62 A.H., or earlier than that. Allah knows best. ■

### Sayings of Arafiy Rahimahullah

→ "Keep time under your control, then time will be at your disposal and there will be '*Barkah*' in what you do (you will be able to accomplish it and do a lot in a small duration). Big and tough challenges are accomplished through intentions and courage".

→ "Make your habit of saying, *إِيَّاكَ عِبْدُ وَإِيَّاكَ سَعَيْنُ* before every work, and rather keep praying in your heart every time, "O Allah! Now what shall I do?" then see what happens".

→ "Hadhrat Abdullah bin Omar, *radhiyallahu anhumaa*, said, "A Godly, devout and pious person is that who does not desire any favour for himself from anybody apart from Allah Ta'aalaa."

→ "*Amr bil Ma'roof*" - to enjoin the good, means, to talk with a person with the good intention to seek the betterment of him (for whom the advice is

meant). If the intention is not for the betterment of the person, then this is '*Kibr*' - pride and arrogance".

→ "The elders have said that the one who neglects the '*Mustahabbaat*' (desirable acts), will slowly by slowly neglect the '*Sunnah*' practices. And the one who neglects the Sunnah practices will gradually neglect the '*Waajib*' (compulsory) acts. And the one who is negligent of the '*Waajib*' acts, will eventually neglect the '*Fardh*' (the incumbent and obligatory) practices. And neglecting the '*Fardh*' will cause his ruin and destruction in Dunya nad Akhirah".

→ "Amusingly he said, "Your chief reformer is your wife. Strive to have her acknowledgement of you being an orderly and reformed person. Surely her attestation is an infallible true assessment of yourself."

→ "People claiming to be devote are many, but rather few really love."

## Love and Compassion

*The messenger of Allah is reported to have said, "Undoubtedly the faithfuls are to one another like (parts of) a building each part strengthening the other." [Bukhari & Muslim]* □

# The Sweet Taste of Imaan

When the Imaan with its pristine purity gets in the deep channels of the heart, it creates a solid bond with Allah Ta'ala, and pleasing Him becomes the ultimate goal of life on earth in such a manner that no force or authority can deter such solid and sound relationship. So when this submission is total, the Divine Force gets into action and causes the unimaginable to happen. Such was the case of this Russian sister who embraced Islam and got the real taste of the sweetness of Imaan.

The following is a breathtaking, account of her embracing Islam and that which ensued, as related by Sheikh Ebraheem Al-Faarisi. We should ask ourselves, "If she can do it, why not I?"

*The Sheikh continued to say.....*

“**T**he story has been repeated to me in different ways and I may relate it to you in another manner, which may have some minor additions, but it won't effect the core of the story and won't change the actual episode. This story my revered brothers, is about a Russian woman - *a Russian woman!* I am not talking about any woman from here or there, or anyone from the Islamic world. No! But, from either America or British, or from Russia, so that we may take tangible admonition from this story.

This Russian woman, my dear friends, came from Russia accompanied by a Russian in a group of young women. This man had brought them to a neighboring Gulf state. The purpose of this visit was to import foreign goods. And that was by buying personal electrical equipment and appliances and to enter them into Russia on the pretext that they are for personal use so as to be exempted from excessive custom

duty and only pay a minimum duty. The Russian business man would pay for the goods which are on the custody of the women and then sell them at prices many times higher and then giving the ladies a small portion of the profit. Such a thing is common and done abundantly due to the cheapness of goods in the Gulf states. So naturally, this man came with this purpose with a group of young women.

**She snatched her passport and then ran from the house, or the apartment, into the street.**

When they had reached the desired destination, the Russian man presented to the young women a plan, which was completely different from the one they had agreed upon. He said, 'We came here to get a great amount of monetary gains which this country is distinguished for the excessive wealth and rare riches found here. And also due to its people, who give out abundantly. So what's your opinion to pursue more wealth?' And he readily put before them a

vice and an immoral pact, and that was to trade in with their bodies to satisfy carnal desires in return for worldly goods and wealth. 'So whoever is prepared for the deal should announce it quickly'. and be started to spread his net and also began to allure them with temptations and resorted to all sorts of tricks to entangle them. Soon he was able to convince a large number of the young women about his plan. Naturally the ladies were convinced, and why not? As there was no Imaan force to restrain them, nor decent morality to stop them. Plus the poverty that lived in their hearts, called upon them practically to indulge in such behavior. Except for one woman, who saw that it was not possible for her to take up such a thing.

The man laughed at her and said, 'In this country you will be finished. You don't possess anything except what you are wearing now. And I am not giving you anything.' She started to study the situation and quickly shaped up a plan in her mind. And what she did was a very wise act. She snatched her passport and then ran from the house, or the

apartment, into the street. She had nothing with her except for what she was wearing, and that too, didn't cover her entirely, as she had wore them to reveal her prettiness. The cloth on her body and her passport was all what she had. Out in the streets she went wandering about aimlessly. The Russian man called out to her saying, 'If the roads close upon you and the going becomes difficult, you can come to me and this is my address ....., but the woman had already gone.

The one relating this story said, "I was walking along the street with my mother and sisters when suddenly this woman on the street hurriedly came running towards our direction and started talking with us in the Russian language, and none of us could speak that language. She asked, 'Can you speak English?' I said, 'Yes' together with my sisters. Hearing this made her very happy, but her happiness was mixed with sadness and crying.

"She said, 'I am from Russia, and so and so has happened to me', and started to relate the whole story.

"All I need from you is accommodation for a short period of time in which I can ponder over my situation with my family in my country', she said.

The man went on saying, "I started to discuss the subject with my mother and sisters; Should we accept her or not? She could be deceiving or maybe employing some tricks.

"In the end of our wandering discussion, we decided to accept her request and took her home with us. She started to communicate with her family, but with no response, as the

communication lines in her country were not in order. Nonetheless, she continued all the time trying to contact her family.

"Of course my sisters started to treat her as a sister and presented Islam to her, but she disliked it disregarded it, and refused to accept it, and was also unwilling to discuss about it and neither liking it. And why? Because she came from a fanatic and conservative Orthodox family which dislikes Islam and the Muslims.

**He was accompanied by four women; three of them had themselves covered with some sort of a hijab, i.e., their faces and hands were open, and the fourth one was a model of beauty, and was only partially covered; both her hair and face were uncovered.**

"We saw that desperation was growing in her heart but did not lose hope despite trying again and again. I used to help my sisters in the discussion and was persistent upon them, and would sometimes intervene in the discussion. Then one day, I went to the Da'wah library and sought assistance from the manager of the library."

"The librarian, giving the account, said, "This man came to me and said, 'Do you have a book about Islam in the Russian or the English language?' I told him, 'Yes, but they are very few left. I will give you what I have. You can come to me after one week or after ten days and I will give another lot.'

He said, "The man took the small lot of books and went away. After a period of time, this man came to me, but this time, he was accompanied by four women; three of them had themselves covered with some sort of a hijab, i.e., their faces and hands were open, and the fourth one was a model of beauty and was only partially covered; both her hair and face were uncovered. I quickly requested him to take the ladies' to the ladies' waiting room. Hence the man entered and sat down and started talking to me: 'This lady is a Russian,' and started relating the whole story and said, 'I came to you last week and requested from you some books and now I require another books and cassettes. I have proposed to her to accept Islam and she has started to show her approval I have promised her that I will marry her if she became a Muslim.'

The librarian continued, "I gave him another lot of books. He took them and came back after some days and said that she has agreed to become a Muslim and wants to announce her Islam. I requested that she should read all the books, as the law in that country required practical examination for anyone embracing Islam. So she read the books and he brought her to me to be tested. I took her test and she passed. I then promised her to come another day to take the documents stating her declaration of embracing Islam, and the story is quit long. Nevertheless, when she had declared her Islam, I told the man that there is a group of women in one house who are teaching the Holy Qur'an and are well known for their knowledge, culture and high standard of teaching. So may be they could understand each other with this lady in her language, or at least in



the English language, and the matter ended there.

The librarian, continuing the story said, "After a period of time, the man came with this woman to take the confirmation certificate. The man said, 'I have got married and I am now satisfied and very happy. All praise and gratitude to Allah.' I told him that the marriage certificate will be delayed. But the thing that aroused my interest most was that this woman had covered herself fully, not like his sisters and his mother. Strange! She adheres complete hijab.

"I inquired from him politely how was that, and he related to me a strange happening. He said, "After I and she had gone to the market to buy some necessities, my wife inquired about a woman who had covered herself completely, and this was the first woman she saw completely covered, and was very astonished. She asked me, 'Why has she covered herself in such a manner? I am sure this woman has got some defect which she wants to conceal.' The man said, 'I, defending Islamic sense of honour, said to her. 'No. This woman has worn the hijab which Allah Ta'ala has ordered for His slaves and the one prescribed by His Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wasallam.' Then after thinking for sometime, she told me, 'Yes. Practically this is the Islamic hijab. Now here, when I enter any shopping complex, the gazes of the owners of these shopping complexes stay fixed on my face as if my face is being joined together piece by piece. I must cover this face of mine. It should be reserved for my husband only. Therefore, I won't go out of this market except that I have covered myself fully,' and insisted that I buy for her a full hijab and she started wearing it at once."

The librarian carried on saying, "This man – the one who married the Russian woman – who, apparently to me, seemed to be a Palestinian, disappeared for quite a long time. I guess it must be five or six months. or may be more than that. And I didn't hear anything about him. Then one day, he came. I asked him after greeting him, 'Where have you been?! Before, you used to come every week or after every two weeks. But now – such a long gap! Maybe I have done something wrong?' He said, 'No! I did not cut off from you due to something I disliked here, or now that I have achieved my purpose, so I stopped coming here. But some circumstances made me cut off from you. And now I have come to you to relate to you the whole thing, as in it there is a lesson and an admonition."

{“This, my respected friends, is the core of our story and the actual theme.”}

"He started off, saying, "After that I had married this woman, and started to lead with her a pleasant life, and I loved her with the whole of my heart, and she occupying all my senses and feelings, a problem cropped up. Her passport had expired and it had to be renewed from the woman's country of origin, or rather, from her hometown. It could not be renewed from the embassy. It was necessary we travelled, otherwise her stay would have been illegal. So we made up our minds to go to Russia.

**‘No. This woman has worn the hijab which Allah Ta’ala has ordered for His slaves and the one prescribed by His Prophet,**

**sallallahu alaihi wasallam.’ Then after thinking for some time, she told me. ‘Yes. Practically this is the Islamic hijab. Now here when I enter any shopping complex, the gazes of the owners of these shopping complexes stay fixed on my face as if my face is being joined together piece by piece. I must cover this face of mine. It should be reserved for my husband only.**

"As it was, our financial condition made us to look for the cheapest airline, and it turned out that the cheapest airline was the Russian airline. We took two seats and boarded the plane, with my wife in her complete hijab. I said to her, 'O Slave of Allah! O Woman of peace! We will have problems now.' She said; 'O Khalid! Now you want me to obey these immoral infidels, who will lead the way to hell when they die, for what they are, and what they do, and disobey Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala?! I cannot do that!!' These were her words, and her Islam was of only a few months!

"We boarded the plane and the people were staring at us. After a short while later, the stewardesses started to serve meals together with alcoholic beverages, and soon the effect of alcohol started taking place. The speech of the people turned vulgar. Laughing and jokes became the rhythm and started pointing fingers and look with dozed eyes, and stood near us making funny sounds and passing comments about us."

He continued saying, "I didn't understand a word the people were saying, but my wife sometimes smiled and at times laughed and translated what they were saying. 'This one is saying, 'Look at her! She looks like such and such.....', and this one commented, '.....', and this one is making fun.' Whenever she translated what they were saying, it was like an arrow piercing my heart without being removed. But she! She said, 'No. Don't get upset, and it should not annoy you or get depressed. This is a small thing compared to what the sahabas underwent! And how the female sahabas suffered from test and trials.'

"We finally landed in our deaired destination. When we were getting down on the airport, I thought casually that we would go to her folk's place and stay with them till we accomplish all the due procedures and then return, but the views of this woman were far sighted. She said, 'No. My family is distinguished for their staunchness and fanaticism towards their religion, so I don't want to go to them now. But instead we will rent a room and stay there and accomplish all the procedures, then after that we can visit my family.'

"I saw that this was more appropriate, and we at once rented one room and stayed there. The next day we went to the passport office.

"We went to the first office, then to the second, then to the third. We wanted to complete all the procedures and all the officers asked for the old passport and a photograph of the woman. All the time the woman took out a black and white photograph of herself in her hijab revealing her face only. Every officer said, 'No. This

photograph is contrary to the requirement.' They said, 'We want a coloured one showing her face, hair and the whole of her neck.' The woman would reply, 'It is not possible for me to be photographed in such a manner. Never!' Every office said, 'It is not possible for me to give a passport except with this specification.'

**Whenever she translated what they were saying it was like an arrow piercing my heart without being removed. But she! She said, 'No. Don't get upset, and it should not annoy you or get depressed. This is a small thing compared to what the Sahabas underwent!**

"So every officer would sends us to another officer till we reached the Principal Officer in this department, who was a lady.

"My wife went to her office, and while trying to convince her, said, 'Can't you see my facial appearance and compare it with the passport photograph with you?' She said, 'Yes, but the condition is that you must have a coloured photo with the right specifications.' She was adamant and got annoyed. My wife asked, 'Now what is the solution?' The officer replied, and was surely in a bad taste: 'Nobody can solve the problem apart from the Principal Immigration Officer in Moscow.' My wife turned towards me and said, 'O Khalid, we must travel to Moscow.' 'O Lawful daughter, O So and so ....., I pleaded, trying to convince her. "Allah does not overburden any soul except with what it can manage." Fear Allah

*to the degree that you can afford."* And right now you are not forced by anybody. The passport will only be seen by a few people, then you can hide it in your house until it expires, and its duration is six to sevens years.' She said, 'No. Its not possible for me to expose myself after knowing the religion of Allah, the Almighty. If you don't want to travel to Moscow, then I will travel alone as the matter is very important.' I thought about it. In fact her attitude and manner was a pride for me. I made the decision and we travelled.

"We arrived in Moscow and rented a room where we stayed. The following day, we went to the Immigration Office, and as usual, we started with the first officer, then the second and third; the same procedure that took place in the first town, took place in Moscow. At last we reached the Principle Immigration Officer, and he was among the most hated people. He saw the passport and the photograph and said, 'What proves to me that you are the one in this photograph?' He wanted her to uncover her face. She said, 'Ask one of your female officers or your secretary to come and verify, but you, you can't do it.' He got annoyed and took the passport together with the photo and locked them in his drawer and said, 'You won't have a new passport or the old one, unless you bring photographs with the required specification.' We tried to convince him, but without any success. I also tried to convince my wife with a verse from the Holy Qur'an. "Nobody is overburdened except with what he can manage", but she replied me back saying, 'O Khalid, I learnt at the house teaching the Holy Qur'an, "Whoever fears Allah, He will make for him a way out and will provide him from where he

**does not expect.”** As we were discussing, the Principal Immigration Officer got annoyed and chased us from his office.

“We came out of the Immigration Department and went back to our room to discuss at length about the issue. I tried to convince her, and she in return tried to convince me. I put forward an argument, and she came up with another, until it was night. We then performed the Isha prayers and had our supper. I prepared to go to bed and she said, ‘O Khalid, you are going to sleep? With this trying situation, and you will sleep? We are in a situation that needs us to resort to Allah for help. Come on and beg to Allah. This is the time for one to devote to Allah.’ I stood up and prayed whatever Allah enabled me to pray, and went to sleep. But as for her, she continued praying. Everytime I opened my eyes, I could see her either in *rukuu*, or in *sajda*, or in *qiyam*, or making *dua* and crying, until it was time for fajr prayers.

**After a short while, three young men came with an old man to where I was sitting. I thought they were now ready to welcome their son-in-law, but the welcome turned out to be slaps and blows.**

**When I saw myself between these inhuman people I knew I could die here.**

“She woke me up saying, ‘Its now time for fajr prayers. Come, let us pray together.’ I woke up and performed my ablution and we prayed together. She then slept for a short time.

“Waking up, she said, ‘Let us go to the immigration Office.’ ‘We go to the Immigration Office?!’ I asked her perplexed. ‘On what point? Where are the photos? We have no photos.’ She said, ‘Let us go and try. Don’t loose hope of Allah’s Mercy and don’t despair of Allah’s Benevolence.’

“I swear by Allah, when we stepped in the Immigration Office, my wife’s appearance a was distinguished one – every part of her bofy was covered. At once one of the officers called out her name, ‘Ms. So and so,’ and she replied, ‘Yes?’ He said to her, ‘Take your old passport and fill in the application forms for a new passport with the required specifications, but pay the fee first.’ We were overjoyed. By Allah, if he would have told us to pay all the money we had, we would have given it to him. We took the passport, paid the fee and returned back to our room.

“My wife looked at me and said, ‘Didn’t I tell you, *“And whoever fears Allah, He will make for him a way out”*?!’ I swear by Allah, these words coming out from her, striked my heart and made an immense impact on my ‘Iman’, which I had never experienced before in all these years of my life, together with all that we were going through in our stay in Russia, it was all admonition for me.

“The officer had also said to her that the passport must be stamped in your town of origin, from which you came from. She said, ‘Let us go to my home town. Now is the chance for us to visit my family after we complete all the procedures.’ We travelled to her hometown and rented a room. We had the passport stamped, and were now through with all the

requirements. Then my wife and I went to visit her family.

“When we reached the place and knocked at the door, a big boy, her brother, opened the door. When he saw his sister, he was happy, but also perplexed. His sister was also happy to see him, but then his curiosity had no bounds. The face was of her sister’s, but the dress was not. Black - covering every thing apart from her face! She entered the house smiling and hugged her brother. I entered after her and sat in the living room. The house was of a low-class family house and very simple. One could see signs of poverty in it. I sat alone as she entered into the inner rooms of the house. I could hear them talking, men and women, in the Russian language, without understanding a word, nor knowing what was going on in there. Suddenly their voices rose up and the tones changed and the screaming increased. I sensed that there was something wrong, but I was unable to get the real picture as I didn’t understand the language. After a short while, three young men came with an old man to where I was sitting. I thought that they were now ready to welcome their son-in-law, but the welcome turned out to be slaps and blows. When I saw myself between these inhuman people I knew I could die here. There was nothing before me apart from running away for my safety. Running away was the only way out. I hurriedly opened the door as fast as I could, and ran out with them in hot pursuit. I was able to shake them off my trail between the people feeling quite embarrassed, and returned to my room, which was not far away from the house.

“I examined myself and saw signs of blows on my forehead, cheeks and nose. My mouth was bleeding



and my cloths were torn. 'I surely had heavy blows.' I said to myself. 'I am now safe but what is the situation with my wife?' I forgot about myself and started thinking about her. The problem with me was that I loved her dearly, that's why I could not forget her and think about myself. 'I pictured her in my mind thinking, 'Is she at this time facing the same slaps, blows and situation that I had already faced? I'm a man and was able to resist, but she is a woman and would not be able to resist. I'm sure she will give in. I'm sure she will leave me. I'm sure she will renounce Islam. I'm sure ..... I'm sure ..... The devil started doing his job in my mind, bringing different thoughts, right and left, to come to the conclusion that 'there is no wife for you from today.' I asked myself, 'What should I do? Should I go? No, its not possible. Life in this country is cheap. Its possible to hire someone to kill at a cost of only ten dollars. They can do it. Therefore, I should stay indoors.'

"I stayed in my room until dawn. I changed my clothes and went out to try to gather any information. I watched their house from a distance, trying to figure out what was going on in there, but the door was closed. Suddenly the door opened and three boys and the old man, who seemed to be their father, came out. They were the same boys who had beaten me up. From their appearance I could make out that they were going to their work. They closed the door and locked it. I watched and watched, wishing to see the face of my wife, but all in vain. The people started returning back from there jobs, and I just stayed there watching. Hours and hours went by as I kept watching, going and coming back. I repeated the same thing on the second day and then

on the third day. I lost hope and thought that my wife was dead. She's murdered. But, if she is dead, then at least there should have been some movements in the house, and visits of condolence from relatives, but I saw nothing. Therefore she is still alive.

"On the fourth day, after these people had gone to their jobs, the door opened, and my wife's face appeared, looking right and left. Never had I seen in my life a more pleasant scene than what I was witnessing now! Such a wonderful thing! I couldn't imagine that I would be able to see something so marvellous, so charming than this! Despite the fact that the face I was seeing was red – covered with blood! Why? And how? I hurriedly went close and stared at her. I was astonished. Confused. I felt sick. Her colour had changed to red. I could not imagine! There was blood on her face, on her arms, on her thighs and on her legs. Only a small piece of cloth covered her. Her feet and hands were chained and locked together behind her back. I looked at her and started crying. I was unable to control myself.

"She said to me, 'Khalid, listen! First, be assured about me, that I am still a Muslim, with my promise by the name of Allah, by Whom there is no other God to be worshipped but Him. Whatever I am going through now, is nothing compared to what the Sahabas and Tab'iins encountered, together with the Prophets and Messengers before them. Secondly, I request you, Khalid, not to interfere between me and my family. Thirdly, wait for me in the room until, *inshallah*, I come there, but increase your duas and prayers at night. Perform salaah a lot, as salaah is the only resort after Allah, the all Mighty.

"I went back to my room and remained there. A day goes by. Two days. The third day goes by. Then in the dead hours of the night following the third day, the door is knocked. I ask myself, 'Who is that? Who could be at the door?' It is for the first time that the door is knocked. I get nervous. Who can come at this hour of the night? Could be these people have come to know. May be my wife has given in due to the blows and strokes, and has said that he stays in a certain room, and they have now come to kill me. I got terrified of death. I say to myself, 'Now there is nothing between me and death. Here now I am asking myself, 'who is at the door', and death has approached before me!"

**I hurriedly went close and stared at her. I was astonished. Confused. I felt sick. Her colour had changed to red. I could not imagine! There was blood on her face, on her arms, on her thighs and on her legs. Only a small piece of cloth covered her.**

"Suddenly I heard a sound of a voice very familiar. I had never heard a sound so sweet, so pleasant and so beautiful then this. It was the voice of my wife, saying, 'Open the door, I'm so and so.' I opened the door and my world lit up with joyous brightness. She said to me, Come, let us leave now.' 'Now?! At this state of yours?' I inquired, quite surprised. 'Yes', she said.

"I took out some of my simple cloths that were with me and put them on, and she took her dress and a big veil that covered her entirely and put them on. We took all our belongings and got into a

taxi. I asked her in Russian, 'The airport?' I had learnt the Russian word for airport. She said, 'No! No! We are not going to the airport. We are going to such and such village.' 'Why? Don't we want to run away?' I asked her. She replied, 'No, if my family came to know about my escape, they will try to trace us to the airport. But let us go to a village, then from there to another village, then to the third, fourth, fifth, and then to a town with an international airport.'

"We eventually reached the International Airport and booked our tickets. Our reservations were for a later date, so we hired a room and stayed there.

"I looked at my wife, trying to see if any part of her body had been spared of bleeding – none. On our journey to the airport, I had asked her to relate all that had happened. Unfolding the whole thing, she started off saying, 'When I entered the house and sat down together with my family, they started asking me about my dress, 'What is this you are wearing? Were you intending to give us a sweet surprise?' 'No,' I said. 'This is an Islamic dress.' They then asked me, 'Well, and who is this man?' 'This is my husband.' I told them. I have embraced Islam and got married to this Muslim man.' They said, 'This cannot be possible.' I said to them, 'First let me narrate the whole story to you,' and told them everything; about the Russian man, and how he wanted to lead her to indecency and sell her dignity. They said, 'Listen. If you would have taken up with immorality and sold your dignity, it would have been better for us than you being a Muslim!' *{Just look how bigoted these people were!}* 'We bet, you are not getting out of this house unless you become an Orthodox

or a stiff corpse!' At that very moment, they took hold of me and tied me up, and then came for you and beat you up. I was listening when they were beating you while I was tied. Then after you had run away, my brothers came and bought chains and chained me up, and then they started whipping me. I was subjected to agonizing strokes by strange canes, from evening up to bedtime. In the mornings my brothers and father were at their jobs and my mother remained in the house. I was left with nobody apart from my small sister, whose age was fifteen years. She used to come to me and make jokes with me. This amusement was the only solace and break I had. Sometimes I stayed unconscious. They used to strike me until I became unconscious and slept. Their only demand was that I renounce Islam, and I refused.

"It reached a point that during my sister's joking spells, my sister started asking me, 'Why are you leaving your religion and the religion of your mother and father?' I started to convince her and explain to her. She began to understand and started feeling convinced, and also got impressed. The picture became clear to her and the fallacy in which they were living in, became clear. She at once said, 'The truth is with you. This is the right religion. This is the religion I should follow.' She then said to me, 'Listen, my sister, I am going to assist you.' I said to her, 'If you want to help me, then let me meet my husband.'

"She continued: 'My sister started looking from the upper windows and saw you walking. She said to me, 'I'm seeing a man with such and such characteristics', and started to describe you. I said to her, 'That is my husband. If you

see him, open for him the door so that I can talk to him.' True to her words, she opened the door and I came out and talked to you. But now there was a problem; I was chained up with two chains, then there was a third chain, which was fastened to one of the pillars, so that I could move about to a limited range. The keys of this chain were with my sister.

"Carrying on, she said, 'The day I asked you to remain in your room until I came there, on its following third day, I was able to fully convince my sister and she embraced Islam, and resolved to make a sacrifice greater than mine. *{'Laa hawla wala quwwata illaa billaah!'} – There is no power and no strength save from Allah alone!}* She was determined to help me run away from the house, but the keys of the other two chains were with my brother, and he was very strict about them. "On that very day, my sister came up with a plan. She prepared a very strong beer for my folks and organized a drinking party. So they all drank and drank until they became totally drunk and slipped into a deep slumber. She then took out the keys from her brother's pocket and unlocked the chains, and I came to you in the late hours of the night.'

"I asked her, 'And what about your sister?' She said, 'I advised my sister not to announce her Islam, but to keep it secret and worship in secrecy, until we can plan something for her.'

"We travelled on our scheduled flight and returned back to the country. I took my wife to the hospital and she was admitted for some days for the treatment of the wounds sustained due to the beatings." ■

# The Beef We Eat; Is It Really Healthy?

**A**llah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala says in ayat 2:168; "*O Ye people! Eat of what is on earth lawful and good*", And in ayat 2:172 Allah Ta'ala says; "*O Ye who believe Eat of the good things that We have provide for you.*"

Allah Subhaanahu waTa'ala is Most Merciful and through His utmost mercy for us that He has prescribed laws which are only for the betterment of mankind. Among them being those related to sacrifice of animals which are Halal to eat. As Allah is Merciful and Has prohibited to inflict unjustified pain and harm to any creature, so is the case when slaughtering an animal, that care should be taken to save it from unnecessary pains. Rasoolullah, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, has been reported to have said, "Verily, Allah the Exalted, has enjoined to be good to everything. So if you kill, then kill nicely, and if you slaughter, then slaughter proficiently. And (before slaughtering). one of you should sharpen his knife and should relieve his slaughter animal (of pain)."

The command to treat the slaughter animal nicely and kindly underlines the benefits twofolds; to the animal – to relieve it of pain, because a sharp knife will slit the throat and the blood vessels of the animal expeditely, causing the blood to gush out very fast, and in no time the animal becomes unconscious thus feeling very little pain. The other benefit

is to the consumer of the animal's meat, as the meat will be healthy by sparing the animal from getting scared or shocked. This could be the reason behind the Sharia guidelines regarding slaughtering when we are emphasized to sharpen our knives before holding the slaughter animal and that the sharpening of the knife should not be in view of the animal. Furthermore it should not be slaughtered in the presence of the other slaughter animals, and also the carcass of a slaughtered animal be removed before bringing another animal to be slaughtered. All these guide-lines are there to save the animal from getting scared or shocked, as it will cause its blood to freeze and hamper the normal circulation of blood in the living body, causing little blood to flow out during slaughtering and a large quantity of impure blood to remain in the flesh. So when this circulating blood, which is unhygienic and unhealthy, is also consumed with the flesh, it causes various diseases to the eater. And as regarding to the Qur'anic ayats quoted in the beginning, we are commanded to eat that which is pure, healthy and clean. But alas, what is happening today in the slaughter houses, is rather contrary to the guidelines stated by our pristine Sharia.

Here in Kenya, it is law that every licensed slaughterhouse should have a stun gun. And the method widely practiced in these slaughterhouses is stunning. This gun (the stun gun) has a steel cone

in the place of a bullet. The barrel of the gun is placed on the forehead of the animal and at the pull of the trigger, the steel cone penetrates the skull, piercing the brain tissues of the animals causing much pain and shock to the animal resulting in the freezing of its blood, thus little blood gushes out when the animal is slaughtered, and a large quantity of blood either dries up, or remains in the flesh of the slaughtering animal. By the blow of the gun, the animal becomes unconscious due to the extensive damage to the brain tissue, making it easier to slaughter. If the animal is not slaughtered quickly, the animal can die as the brain is already damaged. Allah Ta'ala knows best the sincerity of the people who slaughter the animals in our slaughter houses, how experienced and fast are they, and make sure that the animal has been slaughtered before its dead. And if the animal dies before slaughtering it, then its flesh is now haram to consume.

Here we produce a copy of a letter written by Dr. A. Majid Katme of Halal Meat and Food, Islamic Medical Association, U.K., which was first published in 'impact', states clearly the pain the slaughter animals goes through by stunning.

## Only Halal is Humane

What we always knew about *Halal* slaughter is borne out by the results of a recent study undertaken by Professor Wilhelm Schulze and Dr. Hazim at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Hanover University,



Germany. The Professor and his colleague have found that the 'Direct Method' of slaughtering an animal, which is the Islamic method of *Dhabh*, is more merciful as compared to the conventional method in the West, whereby the animal is stunned with a 'captive bolt pistol' before being slaughtered.

Research into the pain and consciousness of an animal slaughtered in the *Halal/Dhabh* way, as was practiced by Prophet Muhammad, *sallallahu alaihi wasallam*, and enjoined upon Muslims to follow, discovered that:

\*The first three seconds (after the fatal incision is made across the throat, as is done in the *dhabh* method) as recorded on the EEG (Electroencephalogram) - electric recording of the brain - did not show any change, that is, as compared to before the incision, thus indicating the animal did not feel any pain during or immediately after the incision.

\*In the following three seconds, the EEG recorded a condition of deep sleep - unconsciousness - caused by the large quantity of blood gushing out of the body;

- After the lapse of these six seconds, the electric recording of the brain (EEG) registered zero level, showing no feeling of pain by the animal at all.

However, in contrast to this Islamic *Halal* or *Dhabh* method, the western Direct Method with a captive bolt pistol showed:

- The animal was apparently unconscious soon after stunning;

- EEG indicated severe pain being experienced by the animal, immediately after stunning;

- The heart of the stunned animal stopped beating earlier than the animal that is slaughtered according to the Islamic method of *dhabh*, resulting in retention of more blood in the carcass. Meat thus produced for consumption is unhygienic (and can cause poisoning and disease to the consumer).

Stunning an animal before killing has been found to spread the mad cow disease in recent research carried out at Texas University and by Canada's Food Inspection Agency as it scatters brain tissue throughout the animal. The brain tissue is the most infectious part of the animal.

Therefore, the proper *Halal* or *Dhabh*/Direct Method is not only the humane method - a mercy to the animals - of slaughtering animals, but also the safest for consumption of meat - for it rids the meat of blood.

This is also the only method that drains the blood completely from the carcass (blood is unhygienic and harmful) and without any danger to health from the brain and spinal chord.

Truly, Prophet Muhammad *sallallahu alaihi wasallam*, came as a mercy to all (*al-'aalameen*): saved animals from suffering and

showed the way to healthy and safe way of consuming meat.

Unfortunately, many Muslims in Britain do not follow the Prophet's way (without stunning) even though the law allows us to do *dhabh* as prescribed by our beloved Prophet, *sallallahu alaihi wasallam*.

After reading the above report, one can ask himself, 'Which is causing more harm or 'cruelty' to the slaughter animal; the stunning method or the prescribed Islamic slaughtering method???' Which is more healthy for you? Is there any organisation, society or group that can look into the seriousness of the matter and press for a change and for better slaughtering methods to be devised in our slaughter houses and spare the slaughter animals from unnecessary pain and injury? Can the numerous Muslims butchers throughout the country come together and form a forum and look into the matter seriously? Can anybody stand up and raise his/her voice and press for methods to save the humanity from the diseases being spread because of stunning? Who doesn't consume meat today? O Allah! Help us!

## For Kiswahili readers

Read **AL-MA'ARIF**  
In Kiswahili

Published quarterly by **Majlisul Ma'arif El-Islamiyyah**  
P.O Box 104,  
Mtwapa, Kikambala, Kenya

**USOME**

**UELIMIKE**

**UONGOKE**

# The Power of Dua

*Dua can change our life, our outlook, and our fate. It is the most potent weapon of a believer.*

*By Khalid Baig*

Once Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, passed by a people who were suffering from some affliction. "Why don't they make dua (pray) to Allah for protection," he said. With all the suffering and disasters Muslims are facing in various parts of the world, the question can be directed to all of us today.

It is not that we have forgotten dua completely; we refer to it regularly. But, our ideas and practice regarding dua have become distorted. Often it is reduced to the level of a ritual. Generally it is considered when all our efforts have failed - an act of last resort. It is belittled through actions and sometimes even with words. Is it any wonder that today, mostly a mention of dua is meant to indicate the hopelessness of a situation.

What a tragedy, for dua is the most potent weapon of a believer. It can change fate, while no action of ours ever can. It is the essence of Ibadah or worship. With it we can never fail; without it we can never succeed. In the proper scheme of things, dua should be the first and the last resort of the believer, with all his plans and actions in between.

Dua is conversation with Allah, our Creator, our Lord and Master, the All Knowing, the All-Powerful. This act in itself is of extraordinary significance. It is the most uplifting, liberating, empowering and transforming conversation a person can ever have. We feel relieved after describing our difficulties to our Creator. We feel empowered after having communicated with the

All Mighty. We sense His Mercy all around us after talking to the Most Merciful. We get a new commitment to follow His path for that is the only path for success. We feel blessed with each such commitment.

In every difficulty our first action is dua, as is our last. We ask Allah to show us the way to handle that difficulty; we ask His help in following the path He shows to us; we seek His aid in making our efforts successful. When we fall sick, we know that we cannot find the right doctor without His Will; that the best doctor may not be able to diagnose our condition without His Command; that the best treatment plan will not succeed without His Permission. We make dua for all of these. We make dua before we seek medical help, while we are receiving it and after it has been delivered. The same is true of all other difficulties we may encounter.

Dua is the essence of Ibadah. A person engaged in dua affirms his belief in Tawheed (monotheism) and shuns belief in all false gods. With each dua his belief in Allah grows. He beseeches Him, affirming his own powerlessness. A person seriously and sincerely engaged in dua understands exactly the relationship between himself and the Creator and affirms it through his actions. That is the essence of worship! Additionally, such a person can never become arrogant or proud, a logical result of true worship.

Dua is our most potent weapon in

all struggles of life as well as in jihad in the battlefield. During the battle of Badr, the Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, stood up all night in prayer seeking Allah's help in the battle between unequal armies that would follow the next day. In the decisive battles against the crusaders, Sultan Salahuddin Ayyubi was busy day and night. His days were devoted to jihad. His nights were spent making dua, crying, seeking Allah's help. This has been the practice of all true mujahideen.

Dua is conversation with Allah. It is the most uplifting, liberating, empowering and transforming conversation a person can ever have.

We should make it a point to make dua for all things, big and small. It is the beginning of wisdom to realize that big and small are arbitrary labels that are totally irrelevant in this context. Nothing is too big for Whom we are asking from; nothing is too small for the one who is asking. That is why we have been taught to ask Allah when we need something as small as a shoelace. We should ask as a beggar, as a destitute person, for that is what in reality we are in relationship to Allah. At the same time we should ask with great hope and conviction that we shall be granted our prayers. We should remember the Hadith: "There is nothing more dear to Allah than a servant making dua to Him." On the other hand, a prayer lacking concentration and conviction is no prayer at all.

We should make dua at all times, not only during times of distress. The Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, said: "Whosoever desires that Allah answers his duas in unfavourable and difficult conditions, he should make plentiful duas in days of ease and comfort." He also said, "The person who does not ask from Allah, Allah becomes angry with him."

We should ask for all of our needs: those related to this world as well as those related to the Hereafter. Those who only concentrate on the former are, in effect, announcing that they don't care for their life in the permanent abode. They should blame nobody but themselves for the total ruin in that world that the Qur'an assures us, awaits them.

Those who only concentrate on the later are also showing lack of balance, for we need Allah's help to lead a good life here as well.

We should make dua not only for ourselves, but also for our parents, brothers and sisters, spouses and children, relatives and friends, teachers and other benefactors, and destitute and struggling Muslims everywhere. We should pray for them for the good in this world as well as in the Hereafter. The Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, said: "The dua of a Muslim for his brother (in Islam) in his absence is readily accepted. An angel is appointed to his side. Whenever he makes a beneficial dua for his brother, the appointed angel says, 'A'ameen. And may you also be

blessed with the same.' [Sahih Muslim]

In the dark ages that we are living in today, everyday brings fresh news about atrocities committed against our brothers in Palestine, Kashmir, India, Afghanistan, Iraq, Chechnya, and the list goes on. And what do we do? We can continue to just feel frustrated and depressed. We can petition the determined perpetrators or a fictional 'International Commu-nity'. We can just forget all this and move on to some other subject. Or we stand up before Allah and pray for His help, Who alone can help. Dua can change our life, our outlook, and our fate. It is the most potent weapon. But it works only for those who try sincerely and seriously to use it. ■

## FAITH

# Questions and Answers

## On Islamic Beliefs

[Source: 200 Q&A on Islamic Beliefs  
By Sheikh Hafidh Al-Hakamy]

### Q4: What is worship?

A: 'Worship' is a comprehensive word that refers to all that which pleases Allah, and which He likes, of sayings and deeds; inwardly or outwardly, and are free from that which contradicts this.

### Q5: When can a deed be considered an act of worship?

A: If two elements are fulfilled in it: perfect love (for Allah) along with perfect submission (to Him). Allah, the Almighty says: *{But those who believe, love Allah*

*more (than anything else)}*. (Al-Baqarah, 165)

Allah, the Almighty says: *{Verily those who live in awe for fear of their Lord}*. (Al-Mu'minun, 57)

Allah, the Almighty gathered these two elements in the following verse that reads, *{Verily, they used to hasten on to do good deeds, and they use to call on Us with hope and fear, and use to humble themselves before Us}*. (Al-Anbiya, 90)

### Q6: What is the proof of a slave's love for his Lord, the Great and the Mighty?

A: The proof is evident when one loves what is loved by Allah and dislikes what is disliked by Him; and adheres to His Commandments and keeps away from His Prohibitions; he befriends with those who love Allah and show severe enmity to His enemies. That is why love and

hatred for the sake of Allah are the most significant signs of Imaan (Faith).

### Q7: How can the servants of Allah know what He loves?

A: They gain this knowledge through the Messengers of Allah and the Revelation of Divine Scriptures that contain the orders and prohibitions of Allah, the Almighty. Thus, He has presented His irrefutable proof and showed His infinite wisdom to all mankind. Allah, the Almighty says: *{Messengers as bearers of good news as well as of warning in order that mankind should have no plea against Allah after the (coming of) Messengers}*. (An-Nisa', 165)

He says: *{Say (O Muhammad (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) to mankind): If you (really) love Allah, then follow me, Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful}*. (Al-Imran, 31) ■



## OH!

## But for the love of Allah

**A** long time back I met a friend who was young and pious. Spending time in her company for some time made me realize what little understanding of Islam I had. Whenever she talked about Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'aalaa and Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, she always would say, 'My Allah and my Prophet!' I was perplexed and awed. I felt I was being left out. In a very small voice, I said, 'But Allah is for everyone, yet you say, My Allah, my Prophet.' Looking at me, she said, 'He can be yours too!' 'How?' I asked. 'Simple.' She said. 'Follow all His Commandments with utmost zeal and sincerity.' Well! I had been doing all these things without the actual feeling. I felt I had missed so much and what a waste all my years had been, and I had to start somewhere where I could have the closeness and love of Allah. My strong motive was that we are to live with Allah forever. Our attachment should be to Him only, and to create a strong link with Him in our hearts by spending some time alone everyday remembering Him.

Being born in a religious family, I did everything systematically with no zest to find out more. However, things started changing after my confrontation with my friend, and I started reading more in Islam and joining friends who were more into deen. I could feel my prostrations in salaah are longer now since Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'aalaa Loves His servants bowing to Him. The need to go out to markets and malls is less now, since I occupy my time with housework and Zikr and a few odd jobs.

It doesn't stop here. I am always looking for duas or other ways where our connection becomes stronger to Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'aalaa and His Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wasallam. To achieve this goal of understanding Allah, is to have Ikhlaas in obeying Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'aalaa in whatever you do, and following the Sunnah of the Prophet, sallallahu alaihi wasallam, from morning till night. Following one Sunnah is a reward of 100 martyrs. So, since waking up the Sunnah way and doing all chores the Sunnah way, I am sure nothing is missed by our blessed Malaikas who note down all our good deeds by ten folds on each reward. Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'aalaa is so generous. Making amends daily and staying away from all evil enjoyments makes you stronger and firmer. Honesty and truthfulness earns you the name of 'Siddique'. We all know for whom this word was chosen. Abu Bakr Siddique's character is what our aim should be where all the gates of paradise are welcoming him. The dunia is still in your hands and pockets, it hasn't been snatched away (material possessions), but the love of dunia will be out of your heart and only the love of Allah and following the straight path will take its place. Honestly, you will be surprised how your hearts will be filled with contentment when doing Zikr, and slowly you will experience guilt when lying and remorseful when back-biting. You will fear gossip and truly you will start cursing the largest of iblees (T.V., Video) and wished you never had them in your house.

We have to observe patience when problems afflict us, and gratitude, when granted a bounty. This makes our connection stronger with the Lord of the Lords. After all, the reason for our creation is as Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'aalaa says, *"And I have not created jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone) (51:56)*. So much is said in this small verse, if only we should have time to practice upon it. Unknowingly, we are so much attached to this dunia that all this looks boring and we leave it for old age. Do we surely know how long we are going to stay in this corrupt world? After all, we only live in this world for the time decreed for us, and every minute missed, we are the losers. Zikr begins with birth and ends with death. Its our responsibility to bring love of Allah in the children's minds through teaching them all about Islam. Lets all wake up now, maybe someone, somewhere, will be blessed with Hidayah at the earliest of one's life, so that we do not miss the love of Allah. ■

# A Letter To You From Satan

*I saw you yesterday as you began your daily Chores.*

*You awake without kneeling to pray Fajr. As a matter of fact you didn't even say Bismillah before your meals, or pray Isha before going to bed last night.*

*You are so unthankful, I like that about you.*

*I cannot tell you how glad I am that you have not changed your way of living, Fool, you are mine.*

*Remember, you and I have been going steady for years, and I still don't love you yet.*

*As a matter of fact, I hate you, because I hate Allah.*

*I am only using you to get even with Allah. He kicked me out of heaven, and I'm going to use you as long as possible to pay him back.*

*You see, Fool, ALLAH LOVES YOU and HE has great plans in store for you.*

*But you have yielded your life to me, and I'm going to make your life a living hell.*

*That way, we'll be together twice.*

*This will really hurt Allah.*

*Thanks to you, I'm really showing Him who's boss in your life with all of the good times we've had.*

*We have been watching dirty movies, cursing people out, stealing, lying, being hypocritical, fornicating, overeating, telling dirty jokes, gossiping, being judgmental, back stabbing people, disrespecting adults, and those in leadership positions, no respect for the Mosque, bad attitudes.*

***SURELY** you don't want to give all this up.*

*Come on, Fool, let's burn together forever. I've got some hot plans for us.*

*This is just a letter of appreciation from me to you.*

*I'd like to say "THANKS" for letting me use you for most of your foolish life.*

*You are so gullible, I laugh at you.*

*When you are tempted to sin, you give in HA HA HA,*

*You make me sick.*

*Sin is beginning to take its toll on your life. You look 20 years older, and now, I need new blood.*

*So go ahead and teach some children how to sin.*

*All you have to do is smoke, get drunk or drink while under-aged, cheat, gamble, gossip, fornicate, and live being as selfish as possible.*

*Do all of this in the presence of children and they will do it too.*

*Kids are like that.*

*Well, Fool, I have to let you go for now.*

*I'll be back in a couple of seconds to tempt you again.*

*If you are smart, you would run somewhere, repent for your sins, and live for Allah with what little bit of life that you have left.*

*It's not my nature to warn anyone, but to be your age and still sinning,*

*It's becoming a bit ridiculous.*

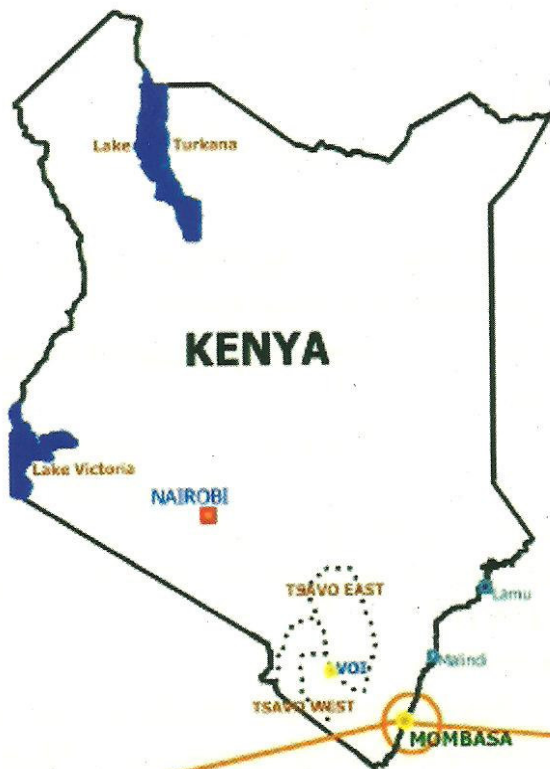
*Don't get me wrong, I still hate you.*

***IT'S JUST THAT YOU'D MAKE A BETTER FOOL FOR ALLAH.***

***PS: if you really love me, you won't share this letter with anyone.***



# PHYSICAL LOCATION OF MAJLISUL MA'ARIF EL-ISLAMMIYYAH



A view of MASJID-UN-NAEEM



A View of Classes and Dormetry

