

“Whatever he had said he could do, his disciples would straightway have seen him do. They could not help attributing to him miraculous acts which he never did, and which he always denied he could do. What more convincing proof of his sincerity is needed? Mohammed to the end of his life claimed for himself that title only, with which he began, and which the highest philosophy and the truest Christianity will one day, I venture to believe, agree in yielding to him, that of a Prophet, a very Prophet of God.” (Rev. Bosworth Smith M. A., *Mohammed and Mohammedism*, London 1874, p. 93)

“It has become clear that global peace, order and self determination of people’s cannot be achieved without intelligent respect for Islam and the inalienable rights of Muslims to live their religion. The immediate benefit in reading the Qur’an therefore, is that it is a necessary step toward the understanding and tolerance without which world peace is, in fact, inconceivable. For non-Muslims, one special advantage in reading the Qur’an is that it provides an authentic point of reference from which to examine the biased stereotypes of Islam to which Westerners are habitually exposed. Primary information is essential to distinguish between opinion and fact in a reasonable manner.” -*Thomas Cleary (The Essential Qur’an(1993), page viii*

“Doubts are beginning to crop up in the West whether its triumph after the fall of Communism are actually justified. Does the 20th Century not hold the record as the bloodiest in human history? What about its atrocious World Wars, the employment of weapons of mass destruction, extermination camps and ‘ethnic cleansing?’ All that - of all places - took place in “civilized” Europe, known for its proud claims as a haven of reason and humanity. ... Nobody, regardless of geographic location, will deny that the future development of his world is going to be influenced, if not determined, by what will happen in the Muslim World and to Islam itself. Could Islam, as a consequence, turn out to be the very therapy that could save the West from itself?” -*Murad Wilfried Hofmann, Religion on the Rise, 2001*

“It is not true that Muslims are filled with a hatred of the West. Muslims want modernity, but not one that has been imposed on them by America, Britain or France. Muslims admire the beautiful technology of the West, but when they look at Western society, they see no light, no heart and no spirituality. They want to hold on to their own religious and moral traditions and, at the same time, to try to incorporate some of the best aspects of Western civilisation.” -*Karen Armstrong*

“The concept of “*holy war*”, as *jihad* is nowadays usually translated, is un-Islamic.” -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

“Professional *integrity* is the cornerstone of a journalist’s credibility.” -*Society of Professional Journalists*

“...hostile newspapers are to be feared more than 1000 bayonets.” – *Napoleon Bonaparte*

“The Qur’an clearly says “*There shall be no compulsion in Religion*” (2- 256). The belief that the Arabs swept out of the peninsula on some fanatical religious mission, a mission embodied in the term, *jihad*, has been *substantially refuted*. The concept of *jihad*, which is customarily but *erroneously* translated as “holy war”, inspires a collective fear of Islam even today. *Jihad* must be the most *overused* and *ill-understood* word in contemporary Islam. Literally, the word means “*utmost effort*” in promotion and defence of Islam. *Jihad* has a much wider meaning. *Jihad* does not mean fighting a war; it means to *struggle* (“strive”) for what is required of one in *obedience* to God. The Qur’an does not unequivocally command believers to seek out conflict. When the faith is challenged, they are obliged to respond.” -*Thomas W. Lippman* (In, *Understanding Islam*, 1982)

“History makes it clear, however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically *absurd myths* that historians have ever repeated.” -De Lacy O’Leary (In, *Islam at the crossroads*, London 1923)

“It is extremely shameful to anyone to believe that Islam is nothing but a bunch of lies. And, it is equally shameful to believe that Muhammed is a liar. We must fight such *shameful rumours*. The mission that Muhammed achieved and fulfilled is still the lit candle for the past twelve centuries for approximately two hundred million people.” -*Thomas Carlyle*, (*The Nobel Prize winner*, in his book, “*The Heroes & hero worship*”)

“The *lies* which well-meaning zeal has heaped around this man (Muhammad), are *disgraceful*.” -*Thomas Carlyle* (*The Heroes and hero worship & the Heroic in History*, 1840)

“His readiness to undergo persecutions for his beliefs, the high moral character of the men who believed in him and looked up to him as leader, and the greatness of his ultimate achievement - all argue his fundamental integrity. Moreover, none of the great figures of history is so poorly appreciated in the West as Muhammad.” -*W. Montgomery Watt*, (In, *Muhammed at Mecca*, Oxford, 1953, p. 52).

Professor Jack. G. Shaheen (*Professor of mass Communications Emeritus at Southern Illinois University*. For the past 20 years, he has been studying the way Arabs and Muslims have been

portrayed in American popular culture. He has published more than 300 periodicals highlighting the impact that stereotypes have on people. His work has included research on more than 800 feature films, hundreds of TV newscasts, documentaries, print and broadcast news stories, editorials and cartoons. The following few extracts are from his book: Arab and Muslim Stereotyping in American Popular Culture, 1997)

“Another misused term is “fundamentalism” for which *no Arabic word even exists*. Although “fundamentalism” is an American word referring to Protestants who take the meaning of the Bible literally, journalists often tag Muslims as “fundamentalists”, and fundamentalism is equated with fanaticism.” -*Professor Jack. G. Shaheen*

“To begin to resist the impact of falsehood and stereotyping, it is essential to improve one’s *knowledge of Islam*. The word Islam means peace. Advocating brotherhood and understanding, Islam is a religion of Peace.” -*Professor Jack. G. Shaheen*

“Reporters seldom exploit Christianity or Judaism. U.S. journalists may refer to members of the Irish Republican Army as terrorists, but not as “Catholic terrorists.” Nor was religion an issue when Baruch Goldstein machine-gunned Palestinian Muslims praying in Hebron’s mosque, killing 29 and injuring scores. Journalists do not refer to Goldstein as a “Jewish terrorist.” Finally, when terrorists killed thousands of Muslims in Burma, the assassins were not labelled as “Buddhist terrorists”, writes Braibanti. He questions the double standard, saying that when reporters in Bosnia-Herzegovina write about the “genocide of Bosnian Muslims” they do not label the executioners as “Orthodox Christians.” -*Professor Jack. G. Shaheen*

“Americans have an abysmal understanding of the world, especially the Islamic world.” -*Professor Jack. G. Shaheen*

“The Religion Newswriters Association’s survey disclosed that not a single of their 100 reporters was Muslim. The absence of Muslims in the newsrooms, influences stories about Muslims.” -*Professor Jack. G. Shaheen*

“History was compiled by European writers whose main objective was to produce histories that would serve their policy of divide and rule.” -*Dr B.N. Pande Scholar and noted historian*

“The great enemy of truth is very often not the lie, but the myth.” – J. F. Kennedy

“The assumption is that whenever there is an explosion or some horrible act, an Arab or Muslim has something to do with it. I have never seen such mass hysteria and incompetence in my life.” - *Edward Said*

“Arabs and Muslims have been the victims of ugly racial stereotypes in recent years. It ought to stop.” -*Editors of the New Republic, 1980.*

“Neither as Christians or Jews, nor simply as intellectually responsible individuals, have members of Western civilisation been sensitively educated or even accurately informed about Islam.” -*Lex Hixon*

“Sabb ar-rasul, slandering of the Prophet, is one of the worst crimes.” -Professor Annemarie Schimmel

“Western hostility towards Islam springs from ignorance.” -*Karen Armstrong*

“There can be little doubt that the public’s perception of Islam has tended to be characterized by ignorance, confusion and misinformation.” -*Professor J.L. Esposito*

“The average Americans view of Islam arises out of a brief and at times inaccurate description of the religion and its adherents presented in the schools. Beyond this perhaps murky picture, he is influenced not by definitions of what Islam as a religion preaches, but by what he sees (on TV & cinema) acted out by groups identified as Muslims.” -*Professor J.L. Esposito*

“The picture of the Muslim soldier advancing with a sword in one hand and the Qur’an in the other, is quite false.” -*A.S. Tritton*

“Far too many Christians, brought up in a spirit of open hostility, are against any reflection about Islam. The Vatican documents note this with regret. It is on account of this that they remain totally ignorant of what Islam is in reality, and retain notions about the Islamic Revelation, which are entirely mistaken.” *Dr Maurice Bucaille, The Bible, The Qur’an & Science, 1976*

“Europe and other territories were not captured by the sword but rather, by sheer eloquence, appeal to reason, excellence & charm of the Qur’an.” -*Carnegie Research Publication (#376)*

“It has become clear that global peace, order and self determination of people’s cannot be achieved without intelligent respect for Islam and the inalienable rights of Muslims to live their religion. The second immediate benefit in reading the Qur’an therefore, is that it is a necessary step toward the understanding and tolerance without which world peace is in fact inconceivable.

For non-Muslims, one special advantage in reading the Qur'an is that it provides an authentic point of reference from which to examine the biased stereotypes of Islam to which Westerners are habitually exposed. Primary information is essential to distinguish between opinion and fact in a reasonable manner." -*Thomas Cleary (The Essential Qur'an(1993), page viii):*

"Centuries of ignorance and widely-spread but false ideas concerning Islam have indeed prevailed in the West, thus poisoning the atmosphere. The time has come for a change."

-*Dr Maurice Bucaille, The Bible, The Qur'an & Science, 1976*

"It is distressing that today the minds and hearts of the great majority of people in the West have very little direct rapport with the Qur'an. In an age wherein spiritual poverty of man is becoming more and more pronounced and his moral cravings are seeking new avenues of expression, contact between the Qur'an and the soul of the ordinary man and woman in the West is minimal – they are hardly even conscious of their own historical debt to the Qur'an. What lies at the root of this estrangement? Prejudice against Islam and its basic book is one factor. The dismal eras of the crusades and of colonialism brought ignorance and prejudice in their wake and the people in the West are still living under their ominous shadows. The barrier they set up can only be removed by a more open-minded approach to the Qur'an and by giving people easier access to it." -*Professor Thomas Ballantine Irving, The Qur'an – Basic teachings, 1979*

"A headscarf is perceived as appropriate in paintings if it adorns a person like Mary or Christian sisters. But the same piece of cloth stirs up negative reactions whenever a Muslima covers her head that way." -*Murad Wilfried Hofmann, Religion on the Rise, 2001*

"In a study published in 1997, the British Runnymede Trust arrived at the following conclusion: "Islamophobia is dread or hatred of Islam and of Muslims. It has existed in Western countries and cultures for several centuries but in the last 20 years has become more explicit, more extreme and more dangerous. It is an ingredient of all sections of the media and is prevalent in all sections of society." -*Murad Wilfried Hofmann, (Religion on the Rise, 2001)*

"Nothing in their entire history has threatened Muslims as much as the western media." -*Murad Wilfried Hofmann, Religion on the Rise, 2001*

"Many Muslims are absolutely convinced that the Bosnian conflict would have taken a different turn if influential Western players had not been under the influence of media Islamophobia." *Murad Wilfried Hofmann, Religion on the Rise, 2001*

Gibbon, a historian of world repute says, "A pernicious tenet has been imputed to Mohammedans, the duty of extirpating all the religions by sword." This charge based on ignorance and bigotry, says the eminent historian, is refuted by *Qur'an*, by history of Musalmaan conquerors and by their public and legal toleration of Christian worship.

The great success of *Mohammad's* life had been effected by sheer moral force, without a stroke of a sword." -By Prof. K. S. R. Rao, (Head of the Department of Philosophy, Government College for Women University of Mysore, Mandya-57140. From "Islam and Modern age", Hyderabad, March 1978)

Jeremiah, Chap 31 verse: "...I will put my law¹ in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people".

This prophecy can only be attributed to the Arabic Glorious Qur'an and to no other Scripture! It is an added miracle of the Glorious Qur'an that it is not necessary to be an Arab to be able to memorize the more than 6,000 verses in Arabic! This can easily be substantiated as non-Arabs have memorized the Glorious Qur'an. We Muslims can truly claim that Jeremiah 31:33 applies to the Glorious Qur'an and it is a living miracle that it is inscribed in people's hearts!

"God has got no length and breath as these are attributes of a body which is an originated thing. Its Creator existed from before it. So how would He enter in a body, as He existed by Himself before all originated things and there was nobody along with Him? He is an All Knowing, Almighty, Willing Creator. These attributes are impossible for a body. He exists by Himself without the substances of a body. He is not like any worldly thing, rather He is ever living, ever lasting, and nothing is like Him. Where is the similarity of the Creator with the created, the Fashioner with the fashioned? Hence it is impossible that anything can ever resemble Him!" Imam Ghazzali. , "The Revival of the Religious Sciences" Vol 1-page 130

Qur'an- 2:255 : "Allâh — there is no deity but He, the Ever-living, the Self-subsisting by Whom all subsist. Slumber overtakes Him not, nor sleep. To Him belongs whatever is in the *samâwât* and whatever is in the earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him but by His permission? He knows what is before them and what is behind them. And they encompass nothing of His knowledge except what He pleases. His knowledge extends over the *samâwât* and the earth, and the preservation of them both tires Him not. And He is the Most High, the Great."

¹ "The more important factor for the spread of Islam is the religious law, (Sharia, which is all inclusive, all embracing) which was designed to cover all manifestations of life" (Rosenthal, *Political Thought in Medieval Islam*; p.21)

Qur'an- 2:256- “There is no compulsion in *Dîn* - the right way is indeed clearly distinct from error. So whoever disbelieves in the *shaitân* and believes in Allâh, he indeed lays hold on the firmest handle which shall never break. And Allâh is Hearing, Knowing.”

The Qur'an contains the purest and best teachings for humanity for every period of time and condition. There is not one verse against humanity when read in context, and that is a challenge to anyone for all time. Do not be misled by the press and writers, but rather read the Qur'an for yourself and then challenge it for any misleading and inhuman teachings. The Qur'an was revealed in the 7th century of the Christian era and contains over 700 verses pertaining to science alone. Not one fact of these verses have been proved wrong up to now, but rather the Qur'an has guided scientists to uncover more information about their disciplines even to the 21st century. (Refer to Prof. Keith Moore on Embryology). Below are just a few verses on science:

36:36 “Glory be to Him Who created pairs of all things, of what the earth grows, and of their kind and of what they know not!”^a

36a. This verse establishes a great scientific truth that pairs exist in all creation, even in the vegetable kingdom and in things which had not yet come to the knowledge of man. The Arabs certainly did not know this, but modern research corroborates this truth.

23:12 “And certainly We create human beings of an extract of clay,^a **13** Then We make him a small life-germ in a firm resting-place, **14** Then We make the life-germ a clot, then We make the clot a lump of flesh, then We make (in) the lump of flesh bones, then We clothe the bones with flesh, then We cause it to grow into another creation. So blessed be Allâh, the Best of creators!”^a

12a. The creation of human beings is here traced back to earth, for the life-germ in sperma is an extract of food, which is drawn from earth in whatever form it may be. It should be noted that while the first ten verses speak of the devotional growth of human being, their physical growth is here spoken of, and thus a comparison may be established between the physical and the devotional growth. Though described in the past tense, it is a general law of the creation of human beings that is spoken of here. The addition of the words, *then We cause it to grow into another creation* (verse 14), is to show that human being's creation does not end with the

completion of the different stages of physical growth, as in the case of other animals, but he is endowed with certain other faculties — the reference being to the moral and religious side of human being's growth.

14a. The several stages in the growth of the human child, as given here, and unknown then, are quite in accordance with scientific investigation. It should be borne in mind that the word *fā*, meaning *then*, as used in *then We clothe the bones ...* does not always imply order. This is clear from the context, which states that there is first a lump of flesh, and the nucleus of the bones is generated in this flesh

21:30 “Do not those who disbelieve see that the *samâwât* and the earth were closed up, so We rent them.^a And We made from water everything living.^b Will they not then believe?”

30a. The *samâwât* and the earth may stand here for the whole universe. Or for the solar system in particular, which has developed out of a nebular mass. And the *fatq* or *separation* may refer to the starry creation or to the throwing off of the planets of the solar system - and also the great symmetry of its arrangement and the motions of the various bodies in the *samâwât*. There is a reference to the orbits of the various planets further on in verse 33. But there may also be a deeper allusion in the *closing up* of the *samâwât*. And the earth to the cessation of Divine revelation for a time before the advent of the Holy Prophet, which was marked by the absence of a prophet in the world for six hundred years and the prevalence of corruption all over the world. The opening up of the heavens and the earth would in this case signify the coming of revelation, which brought life to the world. In physical nature too, rain opens up the earth.

30b. While this statement reveals a remarkable truth in the physical world, a truth which science has established only recently. And which was not known to the world generally at the time of the Prophet. Namely, *that water is the source of all life*, it draws attention to the equally remarkable religious truth that it is only by Divine revelation, which is again and again compared with water in the Arabic Glorious Qur'ân, that life is given to a world otherwise dead in sin and corruption.

21:33 “And He it is Who created the night and the day and the sun and the moon. All float in orbits.”

Who could have known that the sun and the moon had fixed orbits during the 7th century? And so there are hundreds of scientific verses that are 100% accurate. The knowledge could have only emanated from the All-Knower.

“Muslims’ objection to the use of the term “fundamentalism”, pointing out quite correctly, that it was coined by American Protestants as a badge of pride, and cannot be usefully translated into Arabic. *Usul*, as we have seen, refers to the fundamental principles of Islamic Jurisprudence, and as all Muslims agree to these, all Muslims could be said to subscribe to *usuliyah* (fundamental principles).” *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

“In Britain, there is often outrage when Muslims request separate schools for their children, even though people do not voice the same objections about special schools for Jews or Roman Catholics.” *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

“Ever since the Crusades, the people of Western Christendom developed a stereotypical and distorted image of Islam. It was Christians who had instigated a series of brutal holy wars against the Muslim world.” *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

“Muslims are absolutely aghast when non-Muslims attempt to interpret the Qur’an for them. Muslim society views such opinions of “experts” as Euro-centrism and cultural imperialism. Nobody would ever have the audacity to even suggest to Jewish citizens how to read the Torah and the Jerusalem Talmud.” -*Murad Wilfried Hofmann, Religion on the Rise, 2001*

What others say about God...

“There exists One Ultimate Source from which the entire Universe is harmoniously flowing.” - *Lex Hixon (in his book, Heart of the Koran)*

“The Muslims understand that everything created praises the Creator with its own silent eloquence for this is the purpose for which they were created. Thus, the entire Universe could be seen, as it were, in a religious light: that is why every human act is judged from religious viewpoints and regulated according to the Divinely revealed Laws.” -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

“Reputed British botanist, John Ray, was an authority in both Botany and Zoology. In his famous book, “*The Wisdom of God in Creation*”, he introduced thousands of plants, insect, bird and fish species.” He reported that Nature reveals the existence of a Creator.

Further, he said, “the works Created by God at first, and by Him conserved to this day, are in the same state and condition in which they were first made.” Furthermore, as a deeply believing scientist, he stated, “ there is for free man no occupation more worth and delightful than to contemplate the beauteous works of nature and honour the Infinite Wisdom and Goodness of God.” -*John Ray (1627-1705)*

Robert Boyle , known as the father of Chemistry, made many revolutionary scientific discoveries. He was also a devout believer in God. He believed that there is an intelligent design in nature, which was Created by an All-Powerful Creator. Boyle taught in his lectures and writings that science and belief in God should stand side by side. In one of his lectures he said “Remember to give glory to the one who authored nature...use knowledge to bring good to mankind” -*Robert Boyle (1627-1691)*

Isaac Newton is considered one of the greatest scientists for his contribution to the discovery of the Law of universal gravitation. In addition he formulated the concept of mass in relation to Force and acceleration, and the Laws of action vs. reaction,. In addition to his groundbreaking work in Mathematics and Physics, he wrote many critical essays rejecting atheism (that there is no god) and defending Creation (that God Created everything). He defended the idea that “creation is the only scientific explanation.” Furthermore, Newton believed that the mechanical universe, like a gigantic clock working non-stop, could only be the work of an all-powerful and all-wise Creator. Underlying Newton’s obsession with nature was his desire to come closer to God. In his famous writings in the Principia Mathematica, he wrote:

“He (God) is eternal and infinite, omnipotent and omniscient; that is, his duration reaches from eternity to eternity; his presence from infinity to infinity; he governs all things, and knows all things that are or can be done. He is eternal, infinite. He endures forever and is everywhere present. We know Him only by His most wise and excellent contrivances of things... we reverence and adore him as his servants.” -*Isaac Newton (1642-1727)*

“If works of art are products of man, then living things must be the product of a Being far superior to man.” -*William Paley (1743-1805), scientist*

Faraday has been universally acknowledged as a remarkable and gifted scientist for his contribution to the sciences of electricity and magnetism. He firmly believed in the existence of a Creator and said: Because One God created the world, all of nature must be interconnected as a single whole.” -*Michael Faraday (1791-1867)*

Mendel gained historical acclaim for his discovery of the Laws of genetics and the principles of inheritance. He said, “God had created the world – blind chance could not be responsible for the outcome.” -*Gregory Mendel (1822-1884)*

“Pasteur is a well-known contributor to the fields of Science and Medicine. His contributions are numerous and his famous contributions include: the germ theory of disease, developing vaccines for rabies, diphtheria and anthrax, and developing the process for pasteurisation and sterilization. He said “little science takes you away from God, but more of it takes you to Him” and “the more I know, the more does my faith approach that of the peasant (ie the faith which is serene, complete and unquestioning)” -*Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)*

Einstein is one of the most important scientists in history. He is also well known for his deep faith in God. Einstein was convinced that the Universe was too perfectly designed to have originated by a chance event, and a Creator with Superior Wisdom Created everything. Some of his sayings include:

“I cannot conceive of a genuine scientist without profound faith”; “Science without religion is lame”; “In every true searcher of Nature, there is a kind of religious reverence”- *Albert Einstein (1879-1955)*

“The world is God’s Creation, and scientists in understanding the world, are simply retracing God’s Thoughts. Scientists are not creators but discoverers. The important thing about the act of creation is that it reveals the Creator. The act of creation always bears the signature of the Creator.” -*William Dembski, Mathematical Scientist & researcher*

“As a matter of fact, there is teleology, purpose, and design all over the place. One cannot escape it, in the heavens above or on the earth below. To deny a Great Designer is quite illogical.’ -*Prof Dale Swartzendruber Soil scientist at the University of California, and also a Member of the Soil Society of America.*

“I argue that neither chance nor “pre-biotic selection” nor physical-chemical necessity, can explain the origin of information in the first cell.” -*Professor Stephen Meyer Associate-Professor of Philosophy, at Whitworth College.*

“The world we live in and its natural laws, are very precisely set for us by the Creator, for the benefit of us humans.” *Professor Edward Boudreaux Professor of Chemistry University of New Orleans*

“Yes I am as certain that there is a God as I am certain of everything. Belief in the existence of God provides the only complete, ultimate and rational meaning to existence.” *Professor Andrew Conway Ivy (Head of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology of Northwestern University Medical School and Distinguished Professor of Physiology and Head of Clinical Science, University of Illinois, College of Medicine, Chicago)*

“Given the truth of the maxim *ex nihilo nihil fit* (out of nothing comes nothing), the Big Bang requires a supernatural cause. Since the initial Cosmological singularity represents the terminus of all space-time trajectories, there cannot be any physical cause of the Big Bang. Rather, the cause must transcend physical space and time: it must be independent of the Universe, and unimaginably powerful. Moreover, this cause must be a personal Being endowed with a free Will. The cause of the origin of the Universe must therefore be a personal Creator, who a finite time ago brought the Universe into existence by His free agency.” -Professor William Lane Craig (*Professor of Philosophy, at the University of Birmingham, England*).

“Creation isn’t a theory. The fact that God Created the Universe is not a theory – it is true.” -Dr Kurt Wise, *Palaeontologist and assistant Professor of Science, Department of mathematics and Natural Science, Bryan College*

Professor Annemarie Schimmel, Professor of Indo-Muslim Culture at Harvard University. She is the author of numerous works including Islam: An introduction and The Works of Jalaluddin Rumi; among the unusual honours that have been awarded to her have been the naming of a Boulevard in Lahore, Pakistan in her honour, and receiving the Levi Della Vida Medal awarded by the University of California for her outstanding contributions to Islamic studies. These are some quotes from her book, Deciphering the Signs of God – A phenomenological approach to Islam:

The Spirit awakens when coming into contact with material things. That is, the highest spiritual experience can be triggered off by a sensual object: a flower, a fragrance, a cloud, or a person. Islamic thinkers have always pondered the relation between the outward manifestations and the Essence, based on the Koranic words: “We put Our signs into the horizons and into themselves.” (S41V53). For the Muslim, everything could serve as an ayah, a sign from God, and the Koran repeats this truth over and over again. -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

“God is the absolute Truth, *al-Haqq*. God is absolute Wisdom, and the Muslim knows that there is wisdom in everything. For *Allahu a’lam*, “God Knows better.” -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

“Mercy and Compassion are expressed in His two Names, which precede every Surah of the Koran, namely, Ar-Rahman, Ar-Raheem, “The All Merciful, the All Compassionate.” They come from the root R-H-M, which also designates the mother’s womb, and thus conveys the warm, loving care of the Creator for His creatures.” -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

“For Muslims, Allah (God) is the central fact of reality; He is the same God who revealed Himself to all the Prophets (Adam, Moses, Jesus) and finally, and most completely, to the Prophet Muhammad. This revelation to Muhammad, the Last of the Prophets, is contained in the Qur’an, the actual, literal living Word of God. A Muslims duty is obedience and submission (Islam) to the Will of God. However, the submission incumbent upon the Muslim is not that of mere passivity or acceptance of a set of rituals; rather, it is submission to the Divine Command, to strive (jihad) to actively realize God’s will in space-time, in history. Thus, the Qur’andecares that man is God’svicegerent or representative (khilafah) on earth. God has given creation to man as a Divine Trust (amanah).” -*Professor J.L. Esposito, Director of the Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University.*

“As God is One, so all of His creation has an underlying unity and is subject to His rule. God is Sovereign ruler, and man, as His vicegerent, must implement His rule on earth. Therefore, religion is not separate but rather integral to every aspect of life: prayer; fasting; politics; law and society.” -*Professor J.L. Esposito*

“Man does not stand alone in the firmament of Creation. His existence is not a fortuitous accident of history. Everything is part of a Divine Plan. A basic premise established firmly in the Qur’an is that the entire scheme of existence is purposive; that God is not only the Creator and Nourisher of the Universe, He is also the Source of all Guidance; and that everything in the Universe, exists and operates with the laws of nature designed by God.” -*Professor Thomas Ballantine Irving, The Qur’an– Basic teachings, 1979*

“Man needs Divine Guidance to have a correct perception of Reality. Man, unaided by Divine Guidance, is incapable of solving the riddles of Creation or of deriving those values and principles whose application in life can produce peace and harmony in man’s soul and personality.” -*Professor Thomas Ballantine Irving, The Qur’an– Basic teachings, 1979*

What others say about the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ...

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) has been described as the “greatest man that ever lived.” His teachings produced an ever growing base of loyal supporters who cherish his ideals that there is Only One God, that man has been born free, that man’s role is to serve God by serving humanity, that racism, slavery, discrimination and injustice are against human nature and that we have been created by God and we have to return to Him either in a state of purity or corruption of our soul.

“The life of the Prophet Muhammad is a story of overpowering pathos and beauty. It is history, tragedy, enlightenment compressed into one tale. It is also a story virtually unknown to the West.” -*Barnaby Rogerson*

“Muhammad, the Prophet of God, the last and greatest of that long line of men, from Adam through to Abraham, Moses and Jesus, who have struggled to bring the word of God to mankind. Even when viewed in an entirely secular perspective, he remains a superhero.” -*Barnaby Rogerson*

“It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia, who knows how he taught and how he lived, to feel anything but reverence for that mighty Prophet, one of the great messengers of the Supreme. And although in what I put to you I shall say many things which may be familiar to many, yet I myself feel whenever I re-read them, a new way of admiration, a new sense of reverence for that mighty Arabian teacher.” -*Annie Besant The Life & Teachings of Muhammad, Madras, 1932, p. 4.*

“It was the genius of Muhammad, the spirit that he breathed into the Arabs, through the soul of Islam that exalted them. That raised them out of the lethargy & low level of tribal stagnation up to the high watermark of national unity and empire. It was in the sublimity of Muhammad’s deism, the simplicity, the sobriety, and purity it inculcated the fidelity of its founder to his own tenets, that acted on their moral and intellectual fibre with all the magnetism of true inspiration.” -*Arthur Glyn Leonard (Islam: Her Moral & Spiritual values)*

“He was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without Pope’s pretensions, Caesar without the legions of Caesar: without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a palace, without a fixed revenue; if ever any man had the right to say that he ruled by the right divine, it was Muhammed, for he had all the power without its instruments and without its supports.” -*Bosworth Smith (Mohammad and Mohammedanism, London, 1874, p. 92).*

“Serious or trivial, his daily behaviour has instituted a canon which millions observe this day with conscious memory. No one, regarded by any section of the human race as Perfect Man, has ever been imitated so minutely.” -D.G. Hogarth. (in “Arabia”)

“Muhammad had in fact finally achieved victory by an ingenious policy of non-violence; the Qur’anadamantly opposes force and coercion in religious matters, and its vision – far from preaching exclusion and separation- is tolerant and inclusive.” Karen Armstrong (in, *Islam, a short History*)

“The good sense of Muhammed despised the pomp of royalty. The Apostle of God, submitted to the menial offices of the family, he kindled the fire, swept the floor, milked the ewes, and mended with his own hands his shoes and garments.” -Edward Gibbon (*Decline & fall of the Roman Empire, 1823*)

“He was by far the most remarkable man that ever set foot on this earth. He preached a religion, founded a state, built a nation, laid down a moral code, initiated numerous social and political reforms, established a powerful and dynamic society to practice and represent his teachings and completely revolutionized the worlds of human thought and behaviour for all times to come. "His Name is Muhammad" May Peace of God Be Upon Him. He was born in Arabia in the year 570 C.E. (common era), started his mission of preaching the religion of Truth, Islam (submission to One God) at the age of forty and departed from this world at the age of sixty-three. During this short period of 23 years of his Prophethood, he changed the complete Arabian peninsula from paganism and idolatry to worship of One God, from tribal quarrels and wars to national solidarity and cohesion, from drunkenness and debauchery to sobriety and piety, from lawlessness and anarchy to disciplined living, from utter bankruptcy to the highest standards of moral excellence. Human history has never known such a complete transformation of a people or a place before or since. -*The Genuine Islam (Singapore, Vol. 1, No. 8, 1936)*

“I have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion, which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence, which can make itself appeal to every age. The clergymen in the middle ages, as a result of discrimination and ignorance, had painted a dim picture for Muhammed. They considered him an enemy for Christianity! However, after researching his personality, I discovered that he was a great man. He was never an enemy for Christianity; rather he should be called the saviour of humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to

assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness: I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today.” -G.B. Shaw (*In, The Genuine Islam, Vol. 1, No. 8, 1936*). “The personality of Muhammad, it is most difficult to get into the whole truth of it. Only a glimpse of it I can catch. What a dramatic succession of picturesque scenes! There is Muhammad, the Prophet. There is Muhammad, the Warrior; Muhammad, the Businessman; Muhammad, the Statesman; Muhammad, the Orator; Muhammad, the Reformer; Muhammad, the Refuge of Orphans; Muhammad, the Protector of Slaves; Muhammad, the Emancipator of Women; Muhammad, the Judge; Muhammad, the Saint. In all these magnificent roles, in all these departments of human activities, he is like a hero.” Prof. K. S. R. RAO, (*in "Muhammad, The Prophet of Islam,"*)

“He is the implacable lawgiver, the guide who has clearly pointed out the roads of destiny: this way leads to Heaven, this way to hell. He is the loving grandfather, leading the prayers in the Mosque while his infant grandson clammers upon his shoulders. He is the sacrificial hero who goes into the spiritual world for the benefit of mankind. He is the wise sage who despised the luxurious trappings of royalty, the halls, the guards, courtiers, silks and gold, that hitherto had always been associated with power. He is the Hero of Heroes.” -*Barnaby Rogerson*

“Muhammad was never venerated as a divine figure, but he is held to be the Perfect Man.” *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

“Never has a man set himself a more sublime aim to subvert superstitions, which had been interposed between man & his Creator, to render God unto man and man unto God; to restore the rational & sacred idea of divinity amidst the chaos of the material & disfigured gods of idolatry. Never has a man undertaken a work so far beyond human power with so feeble means. Never has a man accomplished such a huge and lasting revolution in the world. If greatness of purpose, smallness of means & astounding results are the three criteria of human genius, who could dare to compare any great man to Muhammad?” -*Lamartine (Histoire de la Turquie, Paris 1854, Vol. 11 pp. 276-277)*

“On the basis of a Book, every letter of which has become law, he created a spiritual nationality, which has blended together peoples of every tongue and of every race. He has left to us the indelible characteristic of the Muslim nationality, the hatred of false gods & the passion for the One & immaterial God. The idea of the Unity of God was in itself such a miracle that upon its

utterance from his lips, it destroyed all the ancient temples of idols.” -*Lamartine (Histoire de la Turquie, Paris 1854)*

“When the Quraysh violated the peace treaty, Muhammad marched upon Mecca with an army of 10,000 men. Faced with this overwhelming force, the Quraysh conceded defeat. Muhammad took Mecca without shedding a drop of blood. He destroyed the idols around the Kaaba and rededicated it to Allah, the One God. Single handedly, Muhammad had brought peace to war-torn Arabia.” *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

Doa of Yusuf [as]

“His life, his meditations, his heroic reviling against the superstitions of his country, his boldness in defying the furies of idolatry, his firmness in enduring them for 13 years at Mecca, his acceptance of the role of the public scorn & almost of being a victim of his fellow countrymen, all these and his incessant preaching, his wars against odds, his faith in his success & his superhuman security in misfortune, his forbearance in victory, his ambition which was entirely devoted to one idea & in no manner striving for an empire, his endless prayer, his mystic conversations with God, his death & his triumph after death – all these attest to a firm conviction; it was his conviction which gave him the power to restore a creed; this creed was two-fold: the Unity of God and the immateriality of God: the former telling us what God is, and the latter telling us what God is not.” -*Lamartine (Histoire de la Turquie, Paris 1854)*

“Philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, warrior, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational dogmas, of a cult without images; The founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire, that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?” -*Lamartine (French Historian, excerpts from Histoire de la Turquie, Paris, 1854, Vol. II, pp 76-277)*

“I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind...I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self effacement of the Prophet, the scrupulous regard for pledges, his intense devotion to his friends &

followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These, and not the sword, carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle. When I closed the second volume (of the Prophets biography), I was sorry there was not more for me to read of that great life.” -*Mahatma Gandhi, (Young India), 1924*

“If ever man on this earth found God; if ever man devoted his life to God’s service with a good & great motive, it is certain that the Prophet of Arabia was that man; Not only great; but of the greatest man that humanity has produced.” *Major Arthur Glyn Leonard (In “Islam: Her moral & spiritual value”)*

“This unparalleled combination of secular & religious influence, which I feel, entitles Muhammad to be considered the most influential single figure in human history.” -*Michael H Hart (in his book on ratings of men who contributed towards the benefit and upliftment of Mankind, "The 100 : A Ranking of the 100 most influential persons in History, New York, 1978)*

“My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world’s most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels.” -*Michael H. Hart*

“There are messengers, prophets and wise men who started great missions, but they died before completing them, such as the Messiah in Christianity and Moses in Judaism. But Muhammed is the only messenger who completed his religious message and all its rulings were complete. Complete nations and peoples followed the religion of Muhammed during his lifetime. Besides, he established a government and a state, which is considered as a worldly affair as well. Muhammed united all the tribes and clans in one people and established laws-of-life. He set his nation to preach the religion to the rest of the world. Therefore, he is the only man throughout the history who succeeded on the religious and secular levels.” -*Michael H. Hart (The 100: A Ranking of the most influential persons in History, New York, 1978, p. 33)*

“The league of nations founded by the prophet of Islam put the principle of international unity and human brotherhood on such universal foundations as to show candle to other nations.” -*Prof. Hurgronje*

“Muhammad’s surrender to God had been so complete that he had transformed society and enabled the Arabs to live together in harmony. The word *Islam* is etymologically related to

salaam (peace), and in these early years Islam promoted cohesion and concord.” *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

“The Prophet of Islam taught self-control and discipline to the extent of praying even on the battlefield. In an age of barbarism, the Battlefield itself was humanized and strict instructions were issued not to cheat, not to break trust, not to mutilate, not to kill a child or woman or an old man, not to hew down date palm nor burn it, not to cut a fruit tree, not to molest any person engaged in worship. His own treatment with his bitterest enemies is the noblest example for his followers. At the conquest of Mecca, he stood at the zenith of his power. The city which had refused to listen to his mission, which had tortured him and his followers, which had driven him and his people into exile and which had unrelentingly persecuted and boycotted him even when he had taken refuge in a place more than 200 miles away, that city now lay at his feet. By the laws of war he could have justly avenged all the cruelties inflicted on him and his people. But what treatment did he accord to them? Mohammad’s heart flowed with affection and he declared, "This day, there is no reproof against you and you are all free." "This day" he proclaimed, "I trample under my feet all distinctions between man and man, all hatred between man and man." by *Prof. K. S. R. Rao, (Head of the Department of Philosophy, Government College for Women University of Mysore, Mandya-57140; from "Islam and Modern age", Hyderabad, March 1978)*

‘*Muhammad* has been admitted by friend and foe as Al Amin, or the faithful. If a conqueror is a great man, here is a person who rose from helpless orphan and a humble creature to be the ruler of Arabia, the equal to Chosroes and Caesars, one who founded a great Empire that has survived all these 14 centuries. If the devotion that a leader commands is the criterion of greatness, the Prophet’s name even today exerts a magical charm over millions of souls, spread all over the world.” -By *Prof. K. S. R. Rao, (Re-printed from "Islam and Modern age)*

“He had not studied philosophy in the school of Athens or Rome, Persia, India, or China. Yet, he could proclaim the highest truths of eternal value to mankind. Illiterate himself, yet he could speak with an eloquence and fervour which moved men to tears, to tears of ecstasy. Born an orphan blessed with no worldly goods, he was loved by all. He had studied at no military academy; yet he could organize his forces against tremendous odds and gained victories through the moral forces, which he marshalled. Gifted men with genius for preaching are rare. In the person of the Prophet of Islam the world has seen this rarest phenomenon walking on the earth, walking in flesh and blood.” -By *Prof. K. S. R. Rao, (Re-printed from "Islam and Modern age)*

“Head of the State as well as the church, he was Caesar and Pope in one. But he was Pope without the Pope’s pretensions, and Caesar without the legions of Caesar, without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a police-force, without a fixed revenue. If ever a man ruled by the right Divine, it was Muhammad, for he had all the powers without their supports. He cared not for the dressings of power. The simplicity of his private life was in keeping with his public life.” -*Reverend Bosworth Smith (Muhammad & Muhammadism, London 1874)*

“Orphanages had sprung up for the first time under the teaching of the Prophet Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam. The world owes its orphanages to this Prophet, who himself was born an orphan.” -*Professor Nassignon*

“Muhammad is the most successful of all Prophets and religious personalities.” -*Encyclopaedia Britannica*

“It suffice Muhammed that he salvaged a humiliated bloody nation from the grip of Satanic customs and put them on the road of development and progress. The Shariah laws of Muhammed shall spread all over the world because it agrees with the common sense and wisdom.” -*The Russian writer Tolstoy (Interesting note: the day Leo Tolstoy died, a small pocketbook of the Prophet’s(SAW) sayings were found in his shirt pocket)*

“Knowledge of this path, of the details of the life of the Prophet Muhammed, is vital, if one is to enter the imagination & understanding of the Muslim World.” -*Barnaby Rogerson (The Prophet Muhammad, a Biography)*

“Muslims call Islam the “religion of Love”, for Muhammad appropriated the station of perfect love beyond any other prophet, since God took him as His beloved: *Muhammad habibi*; Muhammad is regarded as the one who shows God’s love and His will and thus guides humanity on the Straight Path: “Say: if you love God then follow me, so that God loves you.” (S3;V31) -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

“As an inspired man, as the vessel of Divine Revelation, as a Prophet, guide, leader, commander, exemplar and lawgiver, Muhammad is revered, admired and imitated, but he is not worshipped. The basic tenet of Islam is that Allah is One God and that no person, creature or thing may be associated with Him.” -*Thomas W. Lippman (Understanding Islam, 1982)*

“Few men have left so great a mark on history as did Muhammad. In a public career of just over twenty years, he established a major world religion that still flourishes 1400 years later. He

instilled the virtues of mercy, justice, integrity and self-restraint into a pagan society. And he left the Qur'an, the Revealed Book, as a guide, beacon, inspiration, law, and consolation to the Muslims who would follow him.” -*Thomas W. Lippman (Understanding Islam, 1982)*

When the Prophet was asked: “What is the best Islam?” He replied: “ The best Islam is that you feed the hungry and spread peace among people you know and those you do not know.” -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel (From “And Muhammad is His Messenger”)*

“It seems to me that Muhammad was a very ordinary man. He could not read or write. In fact, he was illiterate. We are talking about 1400 years ago. You have someone who was illiterate making profound pronouncement and statements that are amazingly accurate about scientific nature. I personally cannot see how this could be mere chance. There are too many accuracy's and, like Dr. Moore, I have no difficulty in my mind in concerning that this is a divine inspiration or revelation, which led him to these statements.” *Dr. T.V.N. Persaud, Professor of Anatomy and Head of the Department of Anatomy, and a professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. He is the author or editor of 25 books, and has published over 181 scientific papers. In 1991, he received the most distinguished award presented in the field of anatomy in Canada.*

“As a scientist, I can only deal with things, which I can specifically see. I can understand embryology and developmental biology. I see no evidence to refute the concept that this individual Muhammad had to be developing this information from some place... so I see nothing here in conflict with the concept that Divine intervention was involved in what he was able to write...” -*E. Marshall Johnson, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, and Director of the Daniel Baugh Institute, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Author of over 200 publications*

“As far as we know, Aristotle wrote the first embryology book in the 4th century BC. In it he recorded some observations on comparative embryology, especially on the general progress of the developing chick. He promoted, however, the incorrect idea that the human embryo developed from a formless mass that resulted from the union of semen with menstrual blood. Scientific knowledge of embryology did not progress significantly for nearly 2000 years.”
Professor Keith Moore: Africa Events, May 1985, p. 16.

“It is not the propagation, but the permanency of his religion, that deserves our wonder. The same pure & perfect impression, which he engraved at Mecca and Medina is preserved.” - *Edward Gibbon & Simon Oakley (History of the Saracen Empire)*

“All that is of merit to mankind is embodied by the Prophet Muhammad.” -*Barnaby Rogerson (in, The Prophet Muhammad)*

“Like almost every major Prophet before him, Muhammad fought shy of serving as the transmitter of God’s word, sensing his own inadequacy. But the Angel commanded “Read.” So far as we know, Muhammad was unable to read or write, but he began to dictate those inspired words, which would soon revolutionize a large segment of the earth: “There is One God.” -*James A. Michener "Islam: The Misunderstood Religion," in Reader’s Digest (American edition), May 1955, pp. 68-70.*

“These observations make the hypothesis advanced by those who see Muhammad as the author of the Qur’an untenable. How could a man, from being illiterate, become the most important author, in terms of literary merits, in the whole of Arabic literature? How could he then pronounce truths of a scientific nature that no other human being could possibly have developed at that time, and all this without once making the slightest error in his pronouncement on the subject?” - *Maurice Bucaille (Dr. Maurice Bucaille addressed the French Academy of Medicine in 1976 concerning the existence in the Qur’an of certain statements concerning physiology and reproduction. The above is an extract of his speech based on his famous book, The Bible, The Qur’an & Science, 1978, p. 125).*

“I think it is almost impossible that he (Muhammad) could have known about things like the common origin of the universe, because scientists have only found out within the last few years with very complicated and advanced technological methods that this is the case.” -*Professor Alfred Kroner (Geologist)*

“About 14 centuries ago, at a meditation retreat near Mecca, Muhammad received a first message through the Archangel Gabriel. The First message was followed by successive revelations spanning a period of some twenty years. They were not only transcribed while the Prophet was still alive, but also recited by heart by his followers and later by the many believers who had gathered around him. ... Muhammad himself arranged it into surahs. After his death the various elements were brought together in a Book, henceforth known as the Qur’an. It contains the Word of God, to the exclusion of any human addition. In contrast to this, the Christian Revelation is based on numerous indirect human accounts. We do not in fact have an eye-witness account

from the life of Jesus, contrary to what many Christians imagine.” -*Dr Maurice Bucaille, The Bible, The Qur’an & Science, 1976*

“By a fortune absolutely unique in history, Muhammad is a threefold founder of a nation, of an empire and of a religion.” -*Rev Bosworth Smith (in Dictionary of Islam, 1986)*

“Muhammad, thirteen hundred years ago, assured to the mothers, wives, and daughters of Islam, a rank and dignity not yet generally assured to women by the laws of the West.” -*Pierre Crabitte (in Dictionary of Islam, 1986)*

“From the earliest times, Muhammad, the Messenger of God, had been the ideal for the faithful Muslim. His behaviour, his acts and his words, served as models for the pious, who tried to imitate him as closely as possible even in the smallest details of outward life.” -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel (In Mystical Dimensions of Islam)*

“Muhammad’s greatest gift to the world is revealed every time a Muslim stands alone to pray directly to God. This revolution in spiritual attitude, the direct communion between believer and Divine, is Muhammad’s triumphant achievement. He himself always possessed an extraordinarily close relationship with the Divine, revealed in that haunting Revelation that “God is closer to you than your jugular vein.” -*Barnaby Rogerson (in, The Prophet Muhammad)*

What others say about the Qur’an

“I ask you to temporarily suspend any negative judgements. Simply assume Islam to be among the great wisdom traditions of humanity, all of which are worthy of fundamental respect. This will create an attitude of openness in which the reader can drink from the illuminating fountain of the Holy Koran.” -*Lex Hixon (In the preface to his book, Heart of the Koran)*

“Any preconceived notions and prejudices will cause the spirit of the Qur’an to elude the reader.” -*Professor Thomas Ballantine Irving (In, The Qur’an– Basic teachings, 1979)*

“The revealed words of the Koran, when experienced reverently and profoundly, are not relics from the past, **but exist in a timeless present**, communicating as vividly as when they were first uttered. These Words of Allah, often refer with mysterious precision to whatever historical or personal situation presents itself to us.” -*Lex Hixon*

“Muhammad had achieved his success by being the recipient of a Divine revelation. Throughout his career, God had sent down the Oracles that formed the Qur’an. His life had thus represented

a constant dialogue between transcendent reality and the violent, puzzling and disturbing happenings of the mundane world. The Qur'an had therefore, followed public and current events, bringing Divine Guidance and illumination to politics." *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

"A fundamental difference in the Scriptures of Christianity and Islam is the fact that Christianity does not have a text, which is both revealed and written down. Islam, however, has the Qur'an, which fits this description." -*Dr Maurice Bucaille (in, The Bible, The Qur'an and Science)*

"Europe and other territories were not captured by the sword but rather, by sheer eloquence, appeal to reason, excellence & charm of the Qur'an." -*Carnegie Research Publication (#376)*

"Radical as it sounded, the Qur'an insisted that its message was simply a 'reminder' of truths that everybody knew. This was the primordial faith that had been preached to the whole of humanity by the prophets of the past. God had not left human beings in ignorance about the way they should live: He had sent messengers to every people on the face of the Earth." *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

"A totally objective examination of it [the Qur'an] in the light of modern knowledge leads us to recognize the agreement between the two, as has been already noted on repeated occasions. It makes us deem it quite unthinkable for a man of Muhammad's time to have been the author of such statements, on account of the state of knowledge in his day. Such considerations are part of what gives the Qur'anic Revelation its unique place, and forces the impartial scientist to admit his inability to provide an explanation, which calls solely upon materialistic reasoning." -*Dr. Maurice Bucaille in his book: "The Bible, The Qur'an and Science" - 1981, p. 18*

"There is an unearthly, timeless magic about the Qur'an. There are verses in it that must have seemed mysterious and indecipherable for centuries, but which suddenly glow with an acute relevance in later ages whose outlook has been changed by scientific discoveries and an expanding understanding of the World." -*Barnaby Rogerson (in, The Prophet Muhammad) Qur'anic beliefs are based on reason -Dr Sir Tritton (In his book "Belief & practices")*

"It is difficult to imagine that this type of knowledge was existing at that time, around 1400 years back. -*Professor Durja Rao (Professor of Marine Geology)*

"In a relatively few ayahs (Qur'anic verses) is contained a rather comprehensive description of human development from the time of co-mingling of the gametes through organogenesis. No

such distinct and complete record of human development such as classification, terminology, and description existed previously.” -*Gerald C. Goeringer, Professor and Co-ordinator of Medical Embryology in the Department of Cell Biology, School of Medicine, Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA*

“This book will go on exercising through all ages a most potent influence.” -*Goethe*

“The Qur’an is probably the most often read book in the world, surely the most often memorised and possibly the most influential in the daily life of the people who believe in it.” -*James A Michener*

"... It follows that not only is there no conflict between genetics and religion but in fact, religion may guide science by adding revelation to some of the traditional scientific approaches... There exist statements in the Qur’ân shown centuries later to be valid which support knowledge in the Qur’ân having been derived from God." -*Joe Leigh Simpson, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA. He is the President of the American Fertility Society. He has received many awards, including the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Public Recognition Award in 1992. Like many others, Professor Simpson was taken by surprise when he discovered that the Qur’ân and Hadîth contain verses related to his specialised field of study*

Keith L. Moore, Professor Emeritus, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Toronto. Distinguished embryologist and the author of several medical textbooks, including Clinically Oriented Anatomy (3rd Edition) and The Developing Human (5th Edition, with T.V.N. Persaud). He did intensive study and investigations into the “alaqa” or leech-like stage of the early embryo. Prof. Moore was a former President of the Canadian Association of Anatomists, and of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists. The Canadian Association of Anatomists honoured him with the prestigious J.C.B. Grant Award and in 1994 he received the Honoured Member Award of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists "for outstanding contributions to the field of clinical anatomy. This is what he said:

“For the past three years, I have worked with the Embryology Committee of King Abdulazîz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, helping them to interpret the many statements in the Qur’ân and Sunnah referring to human reproduction and prenatal development. At first I was astonished by the accuracy of the statements that were recorded in the 7th century AD, before the science of embryology was established. Although I was aware of the glorious history of Muslim scientists in the 10th century AD, and some of their contributions to Medicine, I knew nothing about the

religious facts and beliefs contained in the Qur'ân and Sunnah."
-Professor Keith L. Moore

Later, at a Conference in Cairo Professor Moore presented a research paper and stated:
 "It has been a great pleasure for me to help clarify statements in the Qur'ân about human development. It is clear to me that these statements must have come to Muḥammad from God, or Allah, because most of this knowledge was not discovered until many centuries later. This proves to me that Muḥammad must have been a messenger of God (Allah)." *-Professor Keith L. Moore*

"Because the staging of human embryos is complex, owing to the continuous process of change during development, it is proposed that a new system of classification could be developed using the terms mentioned in the Qur'ân and Sunnah. The proposed system is simple and comprehensive, and conforms with present embryological knowledge." *-Professor Keith L. Moore*

"The intensive studies of the Qur'ân and Ḥadīth in the last four years have revealed a system of classifying human embryos that is amazing since it was recorded in the seventh century A.D... the descriptions in the Qur'ân cannot be based on scientific knowledge in the seventh century." *-Professor Keith L. Moore*

"The proof of the Divinity of the Qur'an is that it has been preserved intact throughout the ages since the time of revelation till the present day – read and re-read by the Muslim world. This book does not rouse in the faithful any weariness. Rather, through repetition, it is more loved everyday." *-Laura Veccia Varlieri (Apologie de L'’Islamisme)*

"The Qur'an was revealed at a time when Greek & Roman civilisations were plainly dead. The Qur'anic people created their own sciences and arts." *-Professor Arberry (Cambridge University, in his book "The Qur'an interpreted")*

"Never have a people been led more rapidly to a civilisation such as it was the case of Muslims through the Qur'an." *-Professor Dr Hartwig Hirschfeld*

"The Qur'an is congenial with regard to convincing power, eloquence and composition. The Qur'an was the fountainhead of all sciences." *-Professor Hirschfeld*

“The scientific, economic, political, social & literary concepts were given to Europe by the Qur’anic civilisation.” -*Professor Max Mayer (Paris University in French Research Le Monde Islamique)*

“The Qur’an has abolished the greatest misery from humanity at large by the abolition of priesthood.” -*Professor Will Durrant*

“The Qur’an is undeniably a book of great importance even to non-Muslims, perhaps more today than ever. One aspect of Islam that is unexpected and yet appealing to the post-Christian secular mind, is the harmonious interplay between Faith and Reason. **Islam does not demand unreasoned belief. Rather, it invites intelligent Faith, growing from observation, reflection & contemplation, beginning with nature and what is all around us.** This connection between Faith and Reason enabled Islamic Civilisation to absorb and vivify useful Knowledge, including that of ancient people’s, whereby it eventually nursed Europe out of the Dark Ages, laying the foundation for the Renaissance -*Thomas Cleary (The Essential Qur’an(1993), page vii)*

“The Qur’an is undeniably unique in this tradition and indeed unique in the entire context of classical sacred tradition throughout the world, in having been revealed in the full light of history, through the offices of a Prophet who was well known. As the last link in a chain of revelation going back to time immemorial, even to the very origin of humankind, the Qur’an has the special function of recollecting the essential message of all revealed Books and distinguished this from the opinions and reactions later interpolated into ancient texts whose original dispensation had taken place in remote and even unknown times. Therefore, the Qur’an is not only called the Reading or the Recital but also the Criterion : it is called a Reminder and also a Clarification.” -*Thomas Cleary (The Essential Qur’an(1993), page ix)*

“Because the Qur’an synthesizes and perfects earlier revelations, its function as a Criterion to distinguish between Truth and falsehood is not carried out in the form of dogmatic assertion or condemnation of one religion or another, but in the form of distinction... Between hypocrisy and true faith.” -*Thomas Cleary (The Essential Qur’an(1993), page ix)*

“The Qur’an speaks to humanity as a whole, to nations, communities, families, and individuals; complete with both an outer teaching and an inner teaching, it speaks both to persons and to souls, individually and collectively.” *Thomas Cleary (The Essential Qur’an(1993), page x)*

“ One feature, which is strictly specific to the Qur’an, is the existence of a multitude of reflections on all kinds of natural phenomena: from Astronomy, human reproduction, the earth, to the animal and vegetable kingdoms.” *Dr Maurice Bucaille (In, The Bible, The Qur’an& Science, 1976)*

“The Qur’an most definitely does not contain a single proposition at variance with the most firmly established modern knowledge. Furthermore, a large number of facts are mentioned in the Qur’an, which were not discovered until modern times.” *Dr Maurice Bucaille (In The Bible, The Qur’an& Science, 1976)*

“In view of the state of knowledge in Muhammad’s day, it is inconceivable that many of the statements in the Qur’an, which are connected with Science, could have been the work of a man. It is perfectly legitimate, not only to regard the Qur’anas the expression of a Revelation, but also to award it a very special place on account of the guarantee of authenticity it provides and the presence in it of scientific statements which, when studied today, appear as a challenge to human explanation.” *Dr Maurice Bucaille (In, The Bible, The Qur’an& Science, 1976)*

“The Qur’an is the foundation and the mainstay of Islamic life and culture. If ever a book transformed a people from a motley group of warring tribes into a civilized, international community, gave them a distinct identity, fashioned their historical personality, and continued to be their main source of inspiration for over a millennium, it is the Qur’an.” *-Professor Thomas Ballantine Irving (The Qur’an– Basic teachings, 1979)*

“The Qur’an is God’s Final Revelation to man, preserving and protecting what was revealed to mankind through earlier prophets, and completing and perfecting that guidance for the future.

“Whether one believes in the Qur’an or not, a book which makes such a claim should be studied and understood with great sympathy and reverence.” *-Professor Thomas Ballantine Irving (In, The Qur’an– Basic teachings, 1979)*

“The Qur’an is a book, which is a code of laws, a book of common prayer, all in one. It is a miracle of purity of style, of wisdom and of truth. It is the one miracle claimed by Muhammad – his “standing miracle”; and a miracle indeed, it is *Rev Bosworth Smith (In Dictionary of Islam, 1986)*

“The Qur’an contains a complete code of morals. It also lays the foundation for every institution of Justice, for finances and for a most careful legislation for the poor; all of this is built on the belief in the One God.” -Krehl - (in *Dictionary of Islam, 1986*)

“The Qur’an is full of the ideas of gentleness and loving-kindness. God is called “The Merciful”, “The Compassionate”, “The Forgiver,” “The Clement,” “The Acceptor of Repentance”, “The King”, “The Pardoner” and the “Patient.” These gentle attributes are mentioned again and again.” -Gardiner (in *Dictionary of Islam, 1986*)

“The language of the Qur’an is surrounded by a unique mental and moral climate; it has a distinct style, supported by a value-laden idiom, a multi-dimensional phrase structure, sequential interrelatedness and a powerful expression... The message of the Qur’an can penetrate the heart of man today as it penetrated human hearts in the past; it can sink into the soul of its seeker in the West as it has sunk into the souls of men elsewhere.” -Professor Thomas Ballantine Irving (In, *The Qur’an– Basic teachings, 1979*)

“The Qur’an was revealed piecemeal; it is always rewarding to read the Qur’an a little at a time, to reflect and meditate on what has been read, and to try and follow it step by step. Only then does the Qur’an reveal its secrets to its seekers, help them traverse its spiritual landscape and enable them gradually to move forward in communion with its spirit and ethos.” -Professor Thomas Ballantine Irving (In, *The Qur’an– Basic teachings, 1979*)

“Guidance is sought and offered in two forms – the Book of God and the Prophet of God. The book contains the Divine Word, uncreated, unaltered and intact. The Book reveals those aspects of Divine Reality whose Knowledge is required to develop a correct relationship with God and His Creation, even though the Totality of the Divine Reality remains beyond human comprehension.” -Professor Thomas Ballantine Irving (In, *The Qur’an– Basic teachings, 1979*)

“I can say I am very much impressed by finding true astronomical facts in the Qur’an.” - Professor Yushudi Kusan (Director of the Tokyo Observatory)

“Whenever I hear the Qur’an chanted, it is as though I am listening to music. Underneath the flowing melody, there is sounding all the time the insistent beat of a drum. It is like the beating of my heart.” -A.J. Arberry

“I have read the Sacred Scriptures of every religion; nowhere have I found what I encountered in Islam: *perfection*. The Holy Qur’an, compared to any other scripture I have read, is like the Sun compared to that of a match. I firmly believe that anybody who reads the Word of Allah with a

mind that is not completely closed to Truth, will become a Muslim.” –S. Dirk Walter (Mosig, U.S.A).

What others say about Islam

“The rise of Islam is perhaps the most amazing event in human history. Springing from a land & a people who were previously negligible, Islam spread within a century over half the earth, shattering great empires, overthrowing long established religions, remoulding the souls of races and building a whole new world – the world of Islam.” -*A.M.L. Stoddard*

“Islam will continue to blossom throughout the future of the planet, awakening human beings to the true nobility of the soul and to the sublimity of its source, providing a disciplined and harmonious way of life for a large segment of humanity.” -*Lex Hixon*

“The principle of Islam, that “There is no compulsion in Religion”, is well known.”

-*Prof. K.S.R. Rao (in, Muhammad , the Prophet of Islam, 1989)*

“Social justice is the crucial virtue of Islam. Muslim’s were commanded as their first duty to build a community (*Ummah*) characterized by practical compassion, in which there was a fair distribution of wealth. This was far more important than theological speculations and debates. Far more crucial was the effort (*jihad*) to live in the way that God had intended for human beings. (Page 6, *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*)

“For more than one thousand years, Islam provided the only universally acceptable set of rules and principles for the regulation of public and social life.” -*Bernard Lewis (In, Islam in History, 2nd Ed, 1993)*

“Islam is a religion that is essentially rationalistic in the widest sense of this term .. the teachings of the Prophet, the Qur’an, has invariably kept its place as the fundamental starting point. The creed of Unity of God, has always been proclaimed therein with a grandeur, a majesty, an invariable purity, and with a note of sure conviction, which it is hard to find surpassed outside the pale of Islam ... a creed so precise, so stripped of all theological complexities , and consequently so accessible to the ordinary understanding, that it does indeed possess a marvellous power of winning its way into the consciences of men.” -*Edward Montet (La Propagande Chretienne et ses adversaries Musalmans), Paris 1890*

The *nafs ammara* (S12V53) the “soul that incites to evil” can be educated by constant fight -the veritable “greater jihad” ... against its base qualities to become the *nafs lawwama* (S75V2) , (self-reproaching soul) a concept not far from the western “conscience”, and finally it is called back to

its Lord after reaching the state of *nafs mutma'inna*, “the soul at peace.” (S89V27) -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

‘Islam is the religion of Majesty and Humility.’ -*Gerardus van der Leuw*

“Islamic brotherhood is a social and spiritual fact. Islam is not only a faith, it is a legal system and a social system. Islam possesses a brotherhood, which is a unifying factor amid the clashes of colour, race, nationality and class.” -*Rev. Murray Titus (in Dictionary of Islam, 1986)*

“For the pious Muslim, Islam shows itself everywhere in the Universe – in the Blood circulation, the movement of the stars in their orbits, in the growth of plants – everything is bound by Islam, surrender and subordination, to the Divinely-Revealed Law.” -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

The 1st Pillar is the Shahada, the profession of Faith : there is no god but God, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God.” -*Thomas W. Lippman (Understanding Islam, 1982)*

The 2nd Pillar is Prayer. These occur at dawn, midday, afternoon, evening and night. -*Thomas W. Lippman (Understanding Islam, 1982)*

The 3rd pillar of the Faith is the Zakaat, the “alms tax”, a mandatory donation to charity.

The obligation to share what one has with those less fortunate is stressed throughout the Qur’an -*Thomas W. Lippman (Understanding Islam, 1982)*

The 4th Pillar of Islam is the fast during Ramadaan. Muslims are obliged to refrain from eating, smoking, fluids and marital relations from the first light to the last light unless they are minors, ill, travelling, nursing or pregnant. Islam is not an ascetic religion, but it does teach control of the appetites and discipline of the passions. The requirement of fasting as laid down in the Qur’an, contributes to the Muslim’s mastery of his worldly concerns and fosters compassion for the hungry and thirsty. -*Thomas W. Lippman (Understanding Islam, 1982)*

The Hajj, the 5th Pillar, is the unifying force of Islam.

It brings together all the people of this multiracial, international religion: rich and poor, herdsmen and tycoon, scholar and illiterate, man and woman, Arab, Persian, and Turk, African and Asian, all journey to the Sacred shrine. Some stay in tents while others stay in Hotel suites,

but all are equal before Allah as they kneel in prayer, indistinguishable in the white raiment of pilgrimage. The events of the Pilgrimage are a mass commemoration of the story of Abraham and of the lessons to be learned from it. The rites of pilgrimage enhance the spiritual purpose, which is to achieve a purity of soul. -*Thomas W. Lippman (Understanding Islam, 1982)*

“Islam is a Religion of Peace, as the Prophet had shown when he made a Treaty with the Quraysh at Hudaibiyyah, a feat which the Qur’an calls a “great victory.” -*Karen Armstrong*

“The extinction of race consciousness as between Muslims is one of the outstanding achievements of Islam and in the contemporary world there is, as it happens, a crying need for the propagation of this Islamic virtue...”-*A.J. Toynbee*

“The universal brotherhood of Islam, regardless of race, politics, colour or country, has been brought home to me most keenly many times in my life - and this is another feature, which drew me towards the Faith.” -*Colonel Donald S. Rockwell (Poet, Critic and Author)*

“Islam is a religion that is essentially rationalistic in the widest sense of this term.. The teachings of the Prophet, the Qur’an, has invariably kept its place as the fundamental starting point, and the theme of Unity of God, has always been proclaimed therein with a grandeur, a majesty, an invariable purity, and with a note of sure conviction, which it is hard to find surpassed outside the pale of Islam ... a creed so precise, so stripped of all theological complexities, and consequently so accessible to the ordinary understanding, that it does indeed possess a marvellous power of winning its way into the consciences of men.” -*Edward Montet (La Propagande Chretienne et ses adversaries Musalman, Paris)*

“If any religion had the chance of ruling over England, nay Europe, within the next 100 years, it could be Islam.” -*Sir George Bernard Shaw (The Genuine Islam), Vol. 1 No 8, 1936*

“No other society has such a record of success in uniting in an equality of status, of opportunity and endeavour so many and so varied races of mankind. The great Muslim communities of Africa, India and Indonesia, perhaps also the small community in Japan, show that Islam has still the power to reconcile apparently irreconcilable elements of race and tradition. If ever the opposition of the great societies of the East and west is to be replaced by cooperation, the mediation of Islam is an indispensable condition.” -*H.A.R. Gibb, (in, Whither Islam, p. 379)*

“It has become clear that global peace, order and self determination of people’s cannot be achieved without intelligent respect for Islam and the inalienable rights of Muslims to live their religion. The second immediate benefit in reading the Qur’an therefore, is that it is a necessary step toward the understanding and tolerance without which world peace is in fact inconceivable. For non-Muslims, one special advantage in reading the Qur’an is that it provides an authentic point of reference from which to examine the biased stereotypes of Islam to which Westerners are habitually exposed. Primary information is essential to distinguish between opinion and fact in a reasonable manner.” -*Thomas Cleary (The Essential Qur’an(1993), page viii):*

“For Islam, Religion and Science have always been considered twin sisters. From the very beginning, Islam directed people to cultivate Science; the application of this precept brought with it the prodigious strides in Science taken during the great era of Islamic Civilization from which the West itself benefited.” *Dr Maurice Bucaille (The Bible, The Qur’an& Science, 1976)*

“Islam is about simplifying life, not making it harder and more complicated.” -*Murad Wilfried Hofmann (In, Religion on the Rise, 2001)*

“It was the first religion that preached and practiced democracy; for, in the mosque, when the call for prayer is sounded and worshippers are gathered together, the democracy of Islam is embodied five times a day when the peasant and king kneel side by side and proclaim: “God Alone is Great”... I have been struck over and over again by this indivisible unity of Islam that makes man instinctively a brother.” -*Sarojini Naidu (Famous poetess of India, in “Ideals of Islam”, vide Speeches & Writings, Madras, 1918, p. 169)*

“Sense of justice is one of the most wonderful ideals of Islam, because as I read in the Qur’an I find those dynamic principles of life, not mystic but practical ethics for the daily conduct of life suited to the whole world.” -*Sarojini Naidu (Lectures on “The Ideals of Islam;” Madras, 1918, p. 167.)*

Islam is the Fastest Growing religion

“Islam is the fastest growing of the world’s religions.” -*Professor Jack. G. Shaheen*

“Islam is the fastest-growing religion in America, a guide and pillar of stability for many of our people...”-*Hillary Rodman Clinton, Los Angeles Times, May 31, 1996, p.3*

"Islam is the fastest-growing religion in the country." -*Newsday, March 7, 1989, p.4*

"Islam is the fastest-growing religion in the United States..." -*New York Times Feb 21, 1989, p.1*

“Moslems are the world’s fastest-growing group...” -*USA TODAY, The population reference bureau, Feb. 17, 1989, p.4A*

What they say about Muslims

“All Muslims place the Qur’an at the centre of their life, faith, and practice for every word was received by the Prophet Muhammad.” -*Lex Hixon*

“Muslims are those who consciously and constantly surrender their lives to the Single Source of the Universe. This is the practice of living prayer that enables humanity to realize balance, responsibility, freedom, ecstasy and peace. May we all experience such surrender.” -*Lex Hixon*

“Science is the most momentous contribution of Muslim Arab civilisation to the modern world.”

-*Robert Briffault (in, Making of Humanity)*

“The chief duty of Muslim’s was to create a just community in which all members, even the most weak and vulnerable, were treated with absolute respect.” *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

“It is highly probable that, but for the Muslims, modern European civilisation would never have arisen at all.” -Robert Briffault (in, Making of Humanity)

“While the Muslims are called to see God’s marvels in creation as pointing to Him, and to listen to the adoration of everything created, they are also warned in the Koran, not to rely upon the *dunya*, “this world”, for the *dunya* is the power which can divert humans from the *al-akhira*, the Hereafter.” -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

“Many of the first believers were converted by the sheer beauty of the Qur’an, which resonated with their deepest aspirations, cutting through intellectual pre-occupations in the manner of great art, and inspiring them, at a level more profound than the cerebral, to alter their whole way of life.” -*Karen Armstrong*

“Within 100 years of the Prophet Muhammad’s death, the original Islamic community became an empire more extensive than any the world had known. In addition to developing political, social, and legal institutions, Islam gave birth to a great civilisation. Muslims contributed to philosophy, mathematics, geometry, optics, the physical sciences and the arts. While western Christendom passed through its Dark Ages, Islamic civilisation flourished; the Muslim world was the locus for major centres of learning and culture.” -*Professor J.L. Esposito*

“From the 8th-12th Century the European language was Arabic. Arabic was the scientific & progressive language of mankind because the whole history of science is proof to it; Muslims were aroused by enthusiastic curiosity & scientific genius in the fields of mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, physics, medicine, geography, botany and technology.” -*Carnegie Research Publication (#376)*

“The doctrine of brotherhood of Islam extends to all human beings, no matter what colour, race or creed. Islam is the only religion, which has been able to realize this doctrine in practice. Muslims wherever on the world they are, will recognize each other as brothers.” -*R. L. Mellema*

(Anthropologist, Writer and Scholar)

“From my studies and from what I have learned throughout this conference, I believe that everything that has been recorded in the Qur’an 1400 years ago must be the truth that can be proved by the scientific means. Since the Prophet Muhammad could neither read nor write, Muhammad must be a messenger who relayed this truth, which was revealed to him as an enlightenment by the One Who is an eligible Creator. This Creator must be God, or Allah. Therefore, I think this is the time to say “Laa-ilaaha-illallah”, that there is no god to worship except Allah, “Muhammad Rasool Allah”, and Muhammad is messenger of Allah...”

Professor Tagata Tagasone, formerly Head of the Department of Anatomy and Embryology at the University of Shiang Mai in Thailand. He is now the Dean of the College of the Medicine at the University.

“I am not a Muslim in the usual sense, though I hope I am a “Muslim” as “one surrendered to God,” but I believe that embedded in the Qur’an and other expressions of the Islamic vision are vast stores of divine truth from which I and other occidentals have still much to learn, and “Islam is certainly a strong contender for the supplying of the basic framework of the one religion of the future.”” -*W. Montgomery Watt (Islam & Christianity today, London, 1983, p. ix.)*

“In a Mosque there is perfect equality among worshippers. Nothing can be a more devotional sight than a crowd of Muslim worshippers going through their genuflexions with perfect regularity and silence.” -*G.W. Leitner (in Dictionary of Islam, 1986)*

“Among Muslims there is much kindly feeling. Their religion knits them as it were, into a general fraternity, in which every member, rich or poor is affectionately received.” *John Wood (in Dictionary of Islam, 1986)*

“There is a great example shown by the Muslims, that is, they are all brothers in faith, with no distinction of colour or race, believing in Mohammad and the Qur’an, which has never altered since its origin and is read most fervently by the millions of Muslims as a Holy revelation and Book of Laws. With such facts, I cannot see how enquiring minds can come to any other conclusion than to accept its true and reasonable tenets as most suitable to our time and age.” - *Birkenhead (in Dictionary of Islam, 1986)*

“The life and achievements of Muhammad would affect the spiritual, political and ethical vision of Muslim’s forever. They expressed the Islamic experience of ‘salvation’ which does not consist in the redemption of an “original sin” committed by Adam and the admittance to eternal life, but in the achievement of a society which puts into practice God’s desires for the human race.” *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

What others say about Women in Islam

“The Koran certainly ameliorated the woman’s position compared to previous times. It would indeed be amazing if Islam were a religion that is against women.” -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

“Polygamy is permitted so that the man can marry up to four legitimate wives; but from the condition that these wives have to be treated absolutely equally (material sustenance and affection).” -*Professor Annemarie Schimmel*

“The emancipation of women was a project dear to the Prophet’s heart. The Qur’an gave women rights of inheritance and divorce, centuries before Western women were accorded such status. The Qur’an also came to permit polygamy; at a time when Muslims were being killed in the wars against Mecca, and women were left without protectors, men were permitted to have up to four wives provided that they treat them all with absolute equality and show no signs of favouring one rather than the others. The women of the first Ummah in Medina took part in its full public life. They did not experience Islam as an oppressive religion.” -*Karen Armstrong*

“Islam came as the defender of the weaker sex and entitled women to share the inheritance of their parents. It gave women, centuries ago, the right of owning property, yet it was only 12 centuries later, in 1881, that England, supposed to be the cradle of democracy, adopted this institution of Islam and the act was called "the married woman act." But centuries earlier, the Prophet of Islam had proclaimed that "Woman are twin halves of men. The rights of women are sacred. See that women maintained rights granted to them.” *By Prof. K. S. R. Rao, (Head of the Department of Philosophy, Government College for Women University of Mysore, 1978)*

“Muslim women have had property and legal rights greater than those afforded to women in Europe and North America. The Qur’an clearly states that there is no discrimination between women and men- they are protectors of one another, observing regular prayers, practicing charity and doing their best to obey God. Like their counterpart in the West, many Muslim women are loved, honoured and respected by their fathers, brothers, and husbands. Muslim women are successful physicians, teachers, and journalists, as well as homemakers ... excelling in those roles.” *-Professor Jack. G. Shaheen*

Muslim Contribution to Science –some examples

“It is an established historical fact that the early Muslims, inspired by the Qur’an and the sterling example of the Prophet Muhammad, sparked the Scientific revolution while the rest of Europe was still in the dark ages. Islam removed ignorance and superstition and replaced it with Science and the art of critical observation. Muslims contributed thousands of volumes to the World of Science. Much of this work has either been plagiarised or not given due credit. For sake of posterity, these quotes show only some of the early Muslim contributions. The purpose is neither to gloat over the past nor to reminisce over a romantic historical age, but rather, to inspire the current generation of youth, that the teachings of the Qur’an and Sunnah are not only universal, but if applied correctly, they serve to unlock the latent potential that lays dormant in each and everyone of us. Europe has continued to keep out of our sight our scientific obligations to the Muslims. Surely, they cannot be much longer hidden. Injustice, founded on religious rancour and national conceit, cannot be perpetuated forever.” *-Rev. G. Margoliouth*

“A splendid and glorious life was that of Baghdad, Dar-ul-Islam, – the seat of Scientific learning during the rule of the Abbasids, It was the Paris of the 8th century, a city of palaces, princes, hotels, mosques, colleges, universities, bazaars, markets, squares and orchards all adorned with the graceful charm of Muslim architecture. Grand edifices spread along the banks of the Tigris

under a sky of marvellous purity. With the roar of a gigantic capital mingled the hum of prayer, the carolling of birds, the thrilling of harp and lute and bewitching strains of the professional singers, poets, and dancers. The splendour of the capital kept pace with the Prosperity of the Empire. Baghdad became a city with no peer in the whole world.” -*Professor Ziauddin Ahmad (In his book, Influence of Islam on World Civilisation)*

“Under the administration of the Muslims, and at its peak of prosperity, Cordova (Spain), the brightest Jewel, became a beautiful city of palaces and gardens. With its 113,000 homes, 21 suburbs, 70 libraries and numerous bookshops, mosques and palaces, it acquired international fame and inspired awe & admiration in the hearts of the travellers. After sunset a man might walk through its solidly paved streets in a straight line for 10 miles by the light of public lamps whereas 700 years later there was still not even one public lamp in London or Paris.” -*Professor Ziauddin Ahmad (In his book, Influence of Islam on World Civilisation)*

“The Muslims in Spain embarked upon a brilliant literary career. In Art & Science the Caliphate of Cordova rivalled, if not outshone, the Glory of Baghdad. The University of Cordova was a great fountain of learning where thousands of students flocked to slake their thirst for knowledge.

Education was compulsory and universal. There were 800 public schools frequented by all without racial or religious distinctions including Muslims, Jews and Christians alike.”-*Professor Ziauddin Ahmad (In his book, Influence of Islam on World Civilisation)*

“The Fatimid Library in Cairo had about 100,000 books while the number of books in the Great Library of the Spanish caliphs was 600,000.” -*Professor Ziauddin Ahmad (In his book, Influence of Islam on World Civilisation)*

“Beautiful as were the palaces and gardens of Cordova, her claims to administration in higher matters were no less strong. The mind was as lovely as the body. Her professors and teachers made her the Centre of European culture ; students would come from all parts of Europe to study under her famous doctors, and even the German nun, Hroswitha, could not refrain from singing the praises of Cordova, “*the brightest splendour of the world.*” Every branch of science was seriously studied there, and medicine received more and greater additions by the discoveries of the doctors and surgeons of Andalusia than it had gained during all the centuries that had elapsed since the days of Galen. Astronomy, Geography, Chemistry, natural Science & History,

all were studied with ardour at Cordova. And as for the graces of literature there never was a time in Europe when poetry became so much the speech of everybody – when people of all ranks

composed those Arabic verses which perhaps suggested models for the ballads and canzonet's of the Spanish minstrels." -*Professor Ziauddin Ahmad (quoting Lane-Poole in his book, Influence of Islam on World Civilisation)*

"The taste for Science and Literature had, by the 10th Century, established in this privileged corner of the world, a toleration of which modern times hardly offer us an example. Christians, Jews and Muslims spoke the same tongue, sang the same songs, participated in the same literary & scientific studies. All the barriers, which separated the various people, were effaced: all worked with one accord in the work of common civilisation. The Mosques of Cordova, where the students could be counted by thousands, became the active centres of Philosophical and Scientific studies." -*Professor Ziauddin Ahmad (Quoting the French Thinker, Renan, in his book, Influence of Islam on World Civilisation)*

"The Muslims established a splendid network of medical institutions – colleges, hospitals, dispensaries and laboratories – in their Empire and organised them on Scientific lines. Important among them were the hospitals in Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo, Jerusalem, Alexandria and Cordova. They also had first aid dispensaries and the first of its kind was founded by Ahmad ibn Tulun in 875AD." -*Professor Ziauddin Ahmad (In his book, Influence of Islam on World Civilisation)*

"A century or so in advance of the West, there grew up in the Muslim world at a number of centres, at Basra, at Kufa, at Baghdad, Cairo, and at Cordova, a series of great universities. The light of these Universities shown far beyond the Muslim world, and drew students to them from east and west. At Cordova in particular, there were great numbers of Christian students. The influence of Muslim philosophy coming by way of Spain upon the Universities of Paris, Oxford & upon western European thought, was considerable indeed. The book-copying industry flourished at Alexandria, Damascus, Cairo and Baghdad, and at about 970AD, there were 27 free schools open in Cordova for the education of the poor." -*H. G. Wells*

"Medieval Islam was technologically advanced and open to innovation. It achieved far higher literacy rates than in contemporary Europe; it assimilated the legacy of classical Greek civilization to such a degree that many classical books are now known to us only through Arabic copies.

It invented windmills, trigonometry, lateen sails and made major advances in metallurgy, mechanical and chemical engineering and irrigation methods. In the middle ages the flow of technology was overwhelmingly from Islam to Europe." -*Jared Diamond (World-renowned*

UCLA sociologist, and physiologist won the Pulitzer Prize for his book: "Guns, Germs, and Steel" –page 253)

“The debt of our science to the Arabs does not consist in starting discovers or revolutionary theories. Science owes a great more to Arabs culture; it owes its existence.” -*Robert Briffault (In the conclusion of “The making of Humanity”)*

“The great work of *Abu Zanariya ibn Mohammad ibn –al-Awwam of Seville*, a vast monument of industry & erudition embracing every conceivable branch of the subject, shows to what extraordinary perfection the science of agriculture has been carried out in the 12th Century by the Spanish Muslims. It describes the breeding and care of every species of domestic animals, their qualities, their relative excellence, their defects, their habits and their diseases. It teaches different methods of cooking and the preparation of various confections, jellies, syrups, and sweetmeats of every description.” *Professor S.P. Scott (In History of the Moorish Empire, Vol III, Chapter 30)*

“In the field of natural history, especially botany pure and applied, as in that of Astronomy and Mathematics, the Western Muslims enriched the world by their researches. They made correct observations on sexual differences between such plants as palms and hemsps. A treatise on agriculture by Ibn-al-Awwam, is the most outstanding medieval work on the subject. It describes 585 plants and explains the cultivation of fifty fruit trees. It presents new observations on grafting and the properties of soil and manure and discusses the symptoms of several diseases of trees and vines, suggesting methods of cure.” -*Professor Philip K. Hitti (in A Short History of the Arabs)*

“Nowhere in Europe did the ceramic art attain such perfection and excellence in materials, design and execution as in Muslim Spain.” -*Professor Ziauddin Ahmad (in, Influence of Islam on World Civilisation)*

“In the 8th Century, the Moors conquered Spain and a splendid civilisation sprang into being. While Christians were slaughtering one another for the glory of God, the Spanish Moors were writing treatises on the Principles of Trade and Commerce. A Christian stricken by disease sought the aid of a saint and wanted a miracle, while the Muslims relied on the Physician or skills of a surgeon. Rome and Constantinople were asserting the flatness of the Earth, while the Spanish Arabs were using globes in their common schools. In practical Science, especially in Astronomy, Botany, Optics, Surgery & Medicine, their achievements were beyond imitation or even comprehension of the rest of Europe for hundreds of years.” -*Charles T. Gorham (In, Christianity and Civilisation)*

“The scrupulous cleanliness of the Muslims was achieved by baths of marble that were supplied with both cold and warm water; the courts were cooled by cascades; the palaces were adorned with mosaics and tapestries and lighted by chandeliers; the streets were paved and lighted, centuries before London or Paris had imagined such luxuries. This made Cordova, a great city of learning and prosperity.” -*Charles T. Gorham (In, Christianity and Civilisation)*

“There were men in Europe who, though good Christians, recognised that the Muslims in Spain and the East knew more than they did of Science, Medicine and Philosophy. They were anxious to learn from them, and some even learnt Arabic for this purpose.” -*Bernard Lewis (in, Islam in History, 2nd Ed, 1993)*

What others say about the decline in Muslim’s contribution....

“After about 1000 years of brilliant Islamic rule where peace prevailed in all the lands where they ruled, where the main focus was on intellectual knowledge and research, prosperity and growth, the Islamic Empire’s era of peace & Scientific superiority was ended “by waves of nomadic invasions including the mighty Mongol devastations which inflicted irreparable damage on so many Muslim lands between 1220-1260AD.” -*J.J. Saunders*

“In 1258 Baghdad suffered severe atrocities. The slaughter and outraged humanity lasted 6 weeks. The palaces, mosques, and mausoleums were destroyed by fire or levelled to the ground for their golden domes. In the academics, the immortal works of great and learned men were consumed to ashes; books were thrown into the fire or were dumped in the waters of the Tigris.” -*Professor Ziauddin Ahmad (In his book, Influence of Islam on World Civilisation)*

“The Mongol invasions of the 13th Century had destroyed much in the eastern lands of Islam. Material prosperity had gone because of the large-scale destruction of the irrigation works. The educational institutions and the centres of learning were annihilated, scholars dispersed and books destroyed, thus drying up the sources of Muslim intellectual activity.” -*Dr I.H. Qureshi*

“I have to deplore the systematic manner in which the literature of Europe has contrived to put out of sight our scientific obligations to the Mohammedans. Surely they cannot be much longer hidden. Injustice founded on religious rancour and national conceit cannot be perpetuated forever.” *J. W. Draper: The History of the Intellectual Development of Europe, page 356, 2nd Edition, 1864.*

“Roman Catholics and Protestants have burnt each other, but Europe has never witnessed, since the wholesale slaughter of the Spanish Moors, the terrible massacre committed by the Tartars in all the Centres of Muslim civilisation and culture, in which fell the most talented and learned scholars who formed the backbone of the nation.” -*Professor Ziauddin Ahmad (In his book, Influence of Islam on World Civilisation)*

“In 1216, Genghis Khan, with an appalling swarm of 60,000 Mongolian barbarians, riding fleet horses and armed with strange bows, appeared, to spread havoc and destruction. Before them, the cultural centres of Eastern Islam were practically wiped out of existence, leaving bare deserts or shapeless ruins, where formerly had stood stately palaces and libraries. A crimson streak marked their trail.” -*Professor Philip K. Hitti*

“When Baghdad was destroyed by the Mongols it had 36 public libraries. It was a fashion among the rich Muslims to have an ample collection of books. A physician refused the invitation of the Sultan to come and live at his court, on the grounds that he would need 400 camels to transport his personal library. Princes like Sahab ibn Abbas in the 10th Century, personally owned as many books as could be found in all the libraries of Europe combined.” -*Will Durant (in, Story of Civilisation, vol IV, page 237)*

“On the eve of the 2nd Christian millennium, the Crusaders massacred some 30,000 Jews and Muslims in Jerusalem, turning the thriving Islamic holy city into a stinking charnel house. For at least five months the valleys and ditches around the city were filled with putrefying corpses, and a stench hung over Jerusalem, where the three Religions of Abraham had been able to coexist in relative harmony under Islamic rule for nearly 500 years. This was the Muslim’s first experience of the Christian West.” *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

“The political fall of Islam in Europe unfortunately took place at a moment when intellectual activity in the world of Islam ceased. Europe took up the task of research and discovery and began to reap the fruits of the labours of Muslim thinkers. The shape of modern science and philosophy are in many ways only a further development of Muslim culture. The ignorance of the Musalman today is so great that they consider thoroughly anti-Islamic what has in the main, arisen out of the bosom of their own culture e.g. the theory of Einstein was seriously studied in the early scientific circles of Islam (*Abul Ma’ali quoted by Averroes*) and the whole system of Logic started from Razi’s well-known objection to the deductive logic of Aristotle.” -*Sir Dr. Mohammad Iqbal*

“The European invasion of the Islamic world was not uniform, but it was thorough and effective. The colonized countries provided raw materials for export, which were fed into European industry. The local industry of the colonized nations was destroyed.” *Karen Armstrong (in, Islam, a short History)*

Who is God (Allah)?

The answer to this question is found in the **Chapter 112: Surah Al-Ikhlaas: Verses 1-4: Purity (of Faith)**. This is one of the shorter chapters in the Qur’an

In the Name of Allah (God), Most Gracious, Most Merciful

“Say: He, is God (Allah), the One, and Only; God (Allah), the Eternal, Absolute; He begets not, nor, is He begotten; And, there is none, like unto Him.”

“Allah (God) is the Light, of the Heavens and the Earth. The parable of His Light is, as if, there were a Niche, and within it, a Lamp: the Lamp, enclosed in Glass: the Glass, as it were, a Brilliant Star: lit from a Blessed Tree, an Olive, neither of the East, nor of the West, whose Oil, is well-nigh Luminous, though Fire, scarce touched it: Light upon Light! Allah (God) does Guide, whom He will, to His Light. Allah (God) does set forth Parables, for men: and Allah (God) does Know, all things.” -*Qur’anS24 V35*

“There was once a civilization that was the greatest in the world. It was able to create a continental super-state that stretched from ocean to ocean, and from northern climes to tropics and deserts. Within its dominion lived hundreds of millions of people, of different creeds and ethnic origins. One of its languages became the universal language of much of the world, the bridge between the peoples of a hundred lands. Its armies were made up of people of many nationalities, and its military protection allowed a degree of peace and prosperity that had never been known. The reach of this civilization’s commerce extended from Latin America to China, and everywhere in between. And this civilization was driven more than anything, by invention. Its architects designed buildings that defied gravity. Its mathematicians created the algebra and algorithms that would enable the building of computers, and the creation of encryption. Its doctors examined the human body, and found new cures for disease. Its astronomers looked into the heavens, named the stars, and paved the way for space travel and exploration. Its writers created thousands of stories. Stories of courage, romance and magic. Its poets wrote of love, when others before them were too steeped in fear to think of such things. When other nations

were afraid of ideas, this civilization thrived on them, and kept them alive. When censors threatened to wipe out knowledge from past civilizations, this civilization kept the knowledge alive, and passed it on to others. While modern Western civilization shares many of these traits, the civilization I'm talking about was the Islamic world from the year 800 to 1600, which included the Ottoman Empire and the courts of Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo, and enlightened rulers like Suleiman the Magnificent. Although we are often unaware of our indebtedness to this other civilization, its gifts are very much a part of our heritage. The technology industry would not exist without the contributions of Arab mathematicians. Sufi poet-philosophers like Rumi challenged our notions of self and truth. Leaders like Suleiman contributed to our notions of tolerance and civic leadership. And perhaps we can learn a lesson from his example: It was leadership based on meritocracy, not inheritance. It was leadership that harnessed the full capabilities of a very diverse population—that included Christianity, Islamic, and Jewish traditions. This kind of enlightened leadership — leadership that nurtured culture, sustainability, diversity and courage — led to 800 years of invention and prosperity. In dark and serious times like this, we must affirm our commitment to building societies and institutions that aspire to this kind of greatness. More than ever, we must focus on the importance of leadership— bold acts of leadership and decidedly personal acts of leadership. With that, I'd like to open up the conversation and see what we, collectively, believe about the role of leadership.”

CARLY FIORINA (*Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P.*): Minneapolis, Minnesota-September 26, 2001- “Technology, Business And Our Way Of Life: What’s Next”

The compiler's biography : Dr. Ahmed Adam of Laudium, Pretoria and his reason for writing the book. Please note this book is an extract from his original book titled “Islam in the Media.”

Dr Ahmed Adam has 4 degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He is also a certified internationally trained NBI Brain profile consultant and a Neuro-Semantics Practitioner. He has worked in general medical private practice for 10 years, and for the next 10 years as the Board Member and Executive Strategic & Marketing Director of a Private Hospital comprising 260 general beds, 24 bed ICU, 15 bed Neonatal-ICU and 6 operating theatres. He has conducted numerous talks & workshops on patient care, customer care, teamwork, leadership, total quality management, staff motivation, goal setting & problem solving in the workplace. His passion is to help people unlock the potential within themselves by getting a better understanding of their amazing brain. He brings his medical background and corporate experience into these inspiring workshops which have been delivered to business leaders, school pupils, educators and

parents. In addition to the above, he is a human rights activist, TV presenter, speaker & MC at numerous functions and an author of 2 books, with 3 others under construction. He has delivered numerous talks at the Friday Khutbah (in English, prior to the Arabic Khutbah). Following his extended chronic illness, he has now dedicated himself to be a lifelong student of Islam, where the search (& spread) of knowledge is an ongoing process.

His reason for writing this book is succinctly encapsulated in the following 2 quotations:

“Doubts are beginning to crop up in the West whether its triumph after the fall of Communism are actually justified. Does the 20th Century not hold the record as the bloodiest in human history? What about its atrocious World Wars, the employment of weapons of mass destruction, extermination camps and “ethnic cleansing?” All that - of all places - took place in “civilized” Europe, known for its proud claims as a haven of reason and humanity. ...**Nobody, regardless of geographic location, will deny that the future development of his world is going to be influenced, if not determined, by what will happen in the Muslim World and to Islam itself. Could Islam, as a consequence, turn out to be the very therapy that could save the West from itself?**” -*Murad Wilfried Hofmann, Religion on the Rise, 2001*

“It has become clear that global peace, order and self determination of people’s cannot be achieved without intelligent respect for Islam and the inalienable rights of Muslims to live their religion. The immediate benefit in reading the Qur’an therefore, is that it is a necessary step toward the understanding and tolerance without which world peace is, in fact, inconceivable. For non-Muslims, one special advantage in reading the Qur’an is that it provides an authentic point of reference from which to examine the biased stereotypes of Islam to which Westerners are habitually exposed. Primary information is essential to distinguish between opinion and fact in a reasonable manner.” -*Thomas Cleary (The Essential Qur’an(1993), page viii*

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