

AFTER

BECOMING

MUSLIM

-

WHAT

NEXT

?

SHAMIM A SIDDIQI

FORUM PUBLICATION # XII

- COPY RIGHT** : **Contents of this Book can be quoted**
Or presented by others
Only after obtaining written
permission from the Author.
- Published By** : **The Forum for Islamic work**
140 - 11 Ash Avenue, # 5 A, Flushing,
NY 11355
Phone: (718) 961 - 7708
- I S B N #** : **978-0-9625301-5-9**
- Price** :
- Printed** : **In the USA. , in November 2017**
- By** : **Sanatech Printing Corporation**
37-28, 56th Street, Woodside, NY 11377
Ph: 718-457-4218; Fax: 718-457-1576

Table of Contents

PREFACE & DEDICATION	v
FOREWORD	xiii
INTRODUCTION	1
I. THE TRADITIONAL MUSLIMS:.....	2
II. THE RE-BORN MUSLIMS:	7
CHAPTER – 1: WHAT CONSTITUTES IMAN?	15
OUR AQEEDAH AND ITS COHESIVENESS.....	15
I. IMAN OR BELIEF IN ALLAH – TAWHEED/Monothelism	15
II. BELIEF IN ANGELS - MALAI'KAH:.....	18
III. BELIEF IN THE BOOKS OF ALLAH - SCRIPTURES:.....	19
IV. BELIEF IN THE MESSENGERS OF ALLAH:.....	21
V. BELIEF IN THE LAST DAY OF JUDGMENT OR YAWMUL - QIYAMAH	22
VI. THE TAQDEER - DESTINY:.....	24
VII. BELIEF IN RESURRECTION - THE LIFE AFTER DEATH:	26
THE COHESIVENESS OF OUR AQEEDAH:	27
CHAPTER-II: IMAN BILLAH & WHAT IT DEMANDS?	33
WHAT IS IMAN BILLAH?	33
1. The Concept of Iman Billah - WHO IS ALLAH?	33
QUESTION – WHAT THIS IMAN DEMANDSA FROM A MUMIN?.....	37
Chapter – III: CONCEPT OF AKHIRAH – ITS ROLE IN CHARACTER BUILDING & REMODELLING THE SOCIETY	41
I. What is the concept of Akhirah?.....	41
II. How humans treated the concept of Akhirah:.....	42
III. What Character the Rejection of Akhirah produces?	43

IV. Concept of Akhirah – The Character it Produces at Individual and Collective Levels:	44
Chapter – IV: STUDY OF THE LAST 10 VERSES OF SURAH AL-IMRAN.....	51
WHAT IT DEMANDS: AS EMPHORIZED BY PROPHET MOHAMMAD (S)	51
Now man has no choice:	55
Chapter – V: MY GOD” & MY IDEAL.....	64
Allah is my God and my God is everybody’s God; and Prophet Muhammad (S) --	64
The Most perfect human Model on earth is my ideal and the only model for all humanity.].....	64
I. “MY GOD”:	65
PERSON_TO_PERSON CONTACT WITH GOD:	69
PERSONAL SUPPLICATION: AL-DU’A - THE ESSENCE OF EBADAH - [AL-MUKH-KHUL EBADAH]:	77
Amen! Ya Rabbul A’lameen!	82
II. MY IDEAL:	84
CHAPTER –VI: THE IDEAL MUSLIM AND MUSLIMAH - THE PRE-REQUISITE OF IMAN	88
CHAPTER – VII: EHTESAB-E-NAFS [SELF – EVALUATION]	92
CHAPTER – VIII: “KA’ANAHU WALIYUN HAMEEM” - AS IF HE IS YOUR BOSOM FRIEND	97
THE PROCESS TOWARDS ATTAINMENT:	101

PREFACE & DEDICATION

In the name of ALLAH, The Magnificent. The Merciful

Alhamdulillah, I have written so for the following eleven books about the feasibility towards introducing the truthful concept of paramount Abrahamic Islamic faith to Judeo– Christian Community of Euro-American Society and elsewhere in the world where the people of Abrahamic faith live. All are available on my Website: WWW.DAWAHINAMERICAS.COM One can visit my Website and go through them to find out their contents and feel my eagerness to do the same as early as possible along with the intense reality that this phenomenon work can be done now by Muslims only. So, in the fitness of the matter, Muslims should be the first to be revived as pioneers of this Supreme task of Revival. The task was originally entrusted to them as the Qur’an dictates in Verse # 110 of Surah Al-Imran and it is the Muslims who again can do it as their Champion as they did at the advent of sixth century AD.

“You are [The Muslims] the best Community that has been raised up for mankind. Ye enjoin right conduct and forbid the indecency; and ye believe in Allah. And if the people of the Scripture had believed, it had been better for them. Some of them are believers but most of them are evil-doers.”

[Verse#110 of Surah Al-Imran]

So, the Muslims have, therefore, no choice but to resurrect their fate as “Ummatun Wasatan”, [the best of nations], rise to the occasion, and make them as the Role Model in the Community of nations in every respect and invite the Judeo - Christian Community and the Pagan world to follow their footpath in order to have peace, order and harmony in the human abode, solve the human problems with the help of Divine Guidance that the Qur’an presents for humans. This is our foremost obligation as Muslim and

we are obliged to do so as our priority # One. In this context, I produced the essential literature so far, keeping the aforesaid vision crystal clear and paramount before us, exhorting Muslims to do their assigned job as the foremost call from our Creator and Sustainer and equally urging the Western secular societies to follow what our Creator and Sustainer demands from all of us.

The readers will find both the paramount concept and concern running together with equal force in all my books. The theme has reached to the Climax in my last books # 10 & 11 – ‘Calling Humanity’ and “Global Islamic Movement –Why & How?”. I am sure, my prolong humble efforts will convince the readers to go through the final effort that I am presenting in this book to answer the Question of - “WHY & HOW?” that I envisioned in my last book for Muslim Ummah to think and undertake as the paramount mission of our life-long pursuit.

1. What they have to do now?

2. The need of “Ideal Muslim and Muslimah” who can and should undertake to accomplish

The job of Revival of the fate of Muslim Ummah.

3. How Can they reach to their zenith after realizing that they have become Muslim? What

they have to do then in the context of modern world?

The answer of these fundamental questions they will get in Chapter - IV, “My God and My ideal?”

List of books produced by the Author by the Grace of God so far are listed as under:

1. The Commitment;

2. Methodology of Dawah Ilallah;

3. The Dawah Program;
4. The Greatest Need of Man;
5. Looking for the Book of Wisdom;
6. Dawah & Its Objective;
7. The Revival;
8. The Provision for Akhirah;
9. Al-Fateha & Its Significance;
10. Calling Humanity;
11. Global Islamic Movement – Why & How?

The expediency before us is enormous as America too is fast becoming the Epic Center of Modern JAHILIYA [Ignorance] as Makkah developed into old JAHILIYA before the advent of Prophet Mohammad Ibne Abdullah as the Messenger of God to eradicate it in its totality and establish the Kingdom of God on the pattern Prophet Moses and Solomon [peace be upon them] established in their respective times, following the footsteps of Prophet Abraham {AS}, the common Patriarch of Jews, Christians and Muslims.

After the departure of Prophet Muhammad (S) , his four rightly guided Caliphs, Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman and Ali [May Allah be pleased with Each of them] carried out his (S) mission to Asia, Africa and a minor part of Europe the then known world.

It was at the beginning of Seventh Century. Now we are standing at the threshold of 21 Century AD when the world consists of Seven Continents which were not known or discovered by that time and it contains more than Seven Billons and ever growing population. In view of this development our responsibilities as Ummah has increased enormously by every leaps and bounds when world faces total moral breakdown, sexual anarchy has spread all around, moral degradation has reached its bottom

line and humanity has lost trust and confidence in its own species and destroying it by its own hands day in and day out. The only Khair [the Goodness] was expected to come from the down trodden Muslim nations that were raised by our Supreme LORD as “Ummatun Wasatan” and the Qur’anic Verse quoted above confirms it.

The secular world must, therefore, leave the Muslim world “alone” to play its dominant role of “Ummatun Wasatan” in the community of nations which was entrusted to Muslims by our Creator and Sustainer at the very outset which we, unfortunately, left behind through our own indolence, inactions and lethargies and enormous interference by the secular Western countries in our internal affairs every now and then since the Renaissance and their Colonization Era. If Muslims are NOW left alone by the Western powers to do their job by introducing Islam as a political entity in their home affairs and solve their problems through Divine Guidance that our God has provided us through the Qur’an, I am more than sure that within a decade or so, Muslims will emerge as the promised ‘Ummatun Wasatan’ and provide concrete Models to others to follow and the Divine Wisdom of the Qur’an will solve all their/ours socio-economic-cultural and political problems in toto within a decade or so – the problems which West couldn’t solve in centuries together, the Devine System of Islam will solve them in a couple of decades. It is a challenge to Western ingenuity and I am sure they will accept it as a challenge for a couple of decades. When they have endured the burden of their “failure” for CENTURIES, a calculated Risk of a couple of decades is worth to be quite insignificant and, I hope, they will all gladly accept this situation with pleasure.

This book: “After Becoming Muslims - What Next?” will change the fate of Muslim first, Insha Allah, will serve as potential model for the Muslim world and then serve the entire secular world as model to resurrect it’s down to earth morally degraded fate for centuries together.

In this book, I have tried to depict as how to transform the fate of Muslim Ummah from it existing down trodden position to the status of superb nation of repute and a model for others. The Muslim Ummah has to

resurrect its head in the Community of nations as the Champion of High moral values with enormous responsibilities on its shoulders to serve as model for mankind till eternity. If this book attains the supreme objective before the author leaves this mortal world, I will think that my goal to raise the fate of Muslim Ummah from the very outset I landed in this country of Hopes and Expectations in October 1976 is fully accomplished. Now, onward, I will devote my entire time, talents, energies and resources towards introducing *Islam to our Judeo-Christian brothers and sisters towards calling them all to our common Abrahamic faith:*

1. God is one and only one i.e. Monotheism: to live in this world as it is commanded by Him.

2. ACCOUNTABILITY AFTER DEATH - ON THE LAST Day of Judgment;

3. Believe in the Last and the final Messenger of God, Muhammad Ibne Abdullah [May Allah be pleased with him!] as our lifelong Model to follow till Eternity and that I will continue to follow as the last Supreme Mission of my life till I breathe my last. Ameen!

I am extremely grateful to my MOST RESPECTFUL brother and friend LATE Br. Amin Awad of Palestine and equally my beloved friend Br. Amin Uddin Hussaini when I consulted both to write my last boob for Muslim Ummah and they learned about the captioned title, they exhorted me to write as such prayed to Allah for its successful theme and both love the title. I will dedicate the book to sad memories to my late Br Amin Awad Merhoom and to the living memory of Mohtram Amin Uddin Hussaini and to the living memory of his younger brother Mohtram Amar Ullah Hussaini, the founder Member of ICNA. Unfortunately both brothers are suffering for long from protracted illness. May Allah bless them with perfect recovery and the soonest; Simultaneously, I must pay my sincere most thanks to my most beloved brother and friend Mohtram Nawabzada Mirza Shamsher Ali Baig Saheb for his unending and marvelous friendly advices and constant Mashwarah (consultation) at every step of my life throughout my Tahreeki Zindagi [Movement Oriented life] in America. We have developed very

cordial family relations all through our life and, hence, it is incumbent upon me to DEDICATE this Book to the rich and respectful memory of so many decades to these respectful brothers. The last but not the least name that I am indebted a lot is that of Dr. Omar Afzal of Ithaca University, Ithaca, NY. I, my family and all my children are especially indebted to each of these respectful brothers for their respective fatherly advices as and when it needed. May God reward all of them immensely!

DEDICATION TO:

1. LATE BR. AMIN AWAD
2. BR. AMINUDDIN Hussaini
3. Br. AMRULLAH HUSSAINI
4. Br. MIRZA SHAMSHER ALI BAIG
5. Dr. OMAR AFZAL , ITHACA, NY

Alhamdulillah, all were/and are the most talented and energetic Tahreeki brothers of the Islamic movement of North America. They were and are involved intellectually and with Tahreeki wits and wisdom at every stage of the Islamic Movement of North America and by virtue of that ICNA is pulsating as such in the socio – politico environment of the country.

By the time, ICNA is the truthful Islamic Movement of America, introducing and spreading the Abrahamic faith to the Judeo – Christian Community of the country and I hope that with the Mercy of Allah they will accomplish it soon. Unfortunately, it couldn't produce any Tahreeki literature so far. As such, the desired results are not forthcoming as it ought to be by this time. The sooner ICNA gets rid of this policy of hesitancy, the better it would be for the desired "IMOA". In case, the desired situation is not achieved soon, the Batil forces of the land will be the happiest. Time and again I am urging them to the task and make genuine efforts towards building the truthful IMOA and I hope that the new leadership will resurrect itself soon to this dire need of time.

Hope that the entire Movement oriented brothers and sisters of America will go through this book at their earliest and take positive actions towards delivering ICNA a new lease of life by throwing away its lethargies soonest through their Election Process and meet the future hope of mankind towards delivering justice, peace and harmony to human society that lives both in the West and the East, especially the Muslim world with equal opportunity that *Islam showers both to the affluent and the have-nots*. Both must shine together which was robbed indiscriminately due to over encroachment by the Western inhuman behavior against *Islam and Muslim Ummah for centuries together*. It will then provide the requisite boon and benedictions to both the human strata – the low and the high at par.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: The Title page of the Book has been prepared by my beloved grand-daughter Hera Soherwardy, a Computer Science Graduate. It is attractive and presents the theme of the book in a moderate fashion. It is meaningful that in the global perspective of Islam if Muslims can play their positive role as Ummatun Wasata [the Nation of Middle Path] in the manner I have envisaged in this book and they all play their respective individual role and invite the people of this country as effective Da'ee Ilallah. It will gradually change the outlook of human society as the map depicts and that will be all Khair (Good) for humanity at large. So it is hope against hope and we all stand and live by hope.

The entire Computer work has been done by my Grandson Salman Mazhar, a Master in Computer Science and I am extremely grateful to him for that. May Allah bless both of them and give them good health and honest means of living.

I will not forget at all to acknowledge the benevolent help that I received very frequently in course of long duration of completing this book from my third son Ejaz A Siddiqi and the youngest one Tariq Adeel Siddiqi [the golden boy of our family] in getting the book completed. May Allah bless each of them with Barakah in their respective Rizq and children in abundance and keep all my six children (Four boys and two cute daughters), fourteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren on the

path of glory and righteousness. They all have come to my help one way or the other in my long life of 92 years. All thanks to “my God” who has been very magnanimous all through my humble life in so many ways that I cannot envision now at this old age when all my body parts are cracking fast and saying Good-By.

In conclusion, I only address my readers to pray for me to complete the undertaken mission of my life to introduce and spread the Deen of Allah to the Judeo- Christian-Muslim community of America in order to deliver the peace, security and justice as the common cause to nurture and develop for the human society in more accomplished way than what she is doing today to the community of nations around the world. *If I can accomplish* this self-conceived assignment in the remaining short period of my life, I will feel that the mission of my life has been accomplished by the grace of “my God” and the combined mission of Abrahamic Communities of America will carve out a distinctive position in the annals of human history. Only then America will stand tall and in distinctive position in the community of nations as it is dreamed by our current Respected President Mr. Trump. Only the Paramount Abrahamic Faith and the Combined Joint Effort of Judeo-Christian-Muslim Community can attain it as the miracle of twenty first century. Ameen!

SHAMIM A SIDDIQI

JUNE FIRST, 2017/6 AMADAN, 1438 HIJRI

FOREWORD

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL

Shamim A Siddiqi, the author of this monograph is a prolific writer on Islamic topics, and a luminary of the Islamic movement in North America.

His heart throbs with an earnest longing for presenting Islam and Islamic way of living to the entire world lucidly and easy to follow diction. It is evident from the large number of tracts he has produced in the last quarter of a century.

Siddiqi's main target is the "Islamic worker" who has settled in the West, especially in N. America. Siddiqi's reminds all the Muslim in the west that they have to fulfill their duty of inviting the all to believe and practice the last and final guidance from God for the humanity. He exhorts all not only to profess by word of mouth but earnestly practice the spirit of Islam in their own lives and try to establish an Islamic entity - a practical model for the rest of the world to emulate.

Siddiqi challenges the Muslims to show the vitality and the vibrancy of Allah's Deen. There are a lot of misconceptions and misunderstandings that The Muslims have to clear, not only by word of mouth, but also by putting in practice What Allah requires them and follow in the footsteps of Allah's final Messenger - Muhammad (PBUH).

The Muslims who have settled in the New World have a dual responsibility: They have to live Muslims and convince the people around them how following the Islamic foot-steps is going to eliminate all the thorny issues that have been plaguing the human race for decades.

Unfortunately, we have added to the thick fog that has covered the world from observing the real Islam, not the lifeless "religion" as it appears now in most places occupied by the Muslims.

Any reader who is familiar with J. Lang's work, especially his "Losing My Religion...." will hugely benefit from Siddiqui's writings. May Allah SWT bless his efforts and create a world-wide Islam-loving group that lives the life of truly devoted Muslim workers.

Dr. Omar Afzal
1069 ELLIS Hollow Road
ITHACA, N Y, 14850

OCTOBER, 31, 2017

Dr. Omar Afzal is a retired Professor of languages of the University of ITHACA, NY.

INTRODUCTION

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL

Islam is to be understood in the true perspective of the Qur'an and the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (S). The condition of the existing Muslims is also to be judged on the same criterion. At present there are about 1.7 billion Muslims on this earth, but nowhere in the world is the Deen of Allah traceable in a dominant position. This is the greatest tragedy of human history. The Deen [the Way of life] that could deliver justice, peace and security to mankind is nowhere visible as a political entity. Though "struggle" is going on in different parts of the world for the establishment of Allah's Deen, the success appears to be a distant dream at almost all the places. To find out the cause of this desperate situation, we have to examine what the Muslims constitute today and what they are displaying? What are their basic beliefs and what they are demonstrating in life? What is their understanding of Islam, where they lack and what are their shortcomings? Is there life compatible to what the Qur'an demands and where it differs from the life-pattern of Rasulullah (S)? These are the fundamental questions that must be discussed about the Muslims as what they were, what they have become and what they should have been in terms of the Qur'an and Sunnah.

In the present context of the world and on closely watching the condition of the Ummah, Muslims can be categorized into two distinct groups. They are either traditional or the re-born Muslims. I will discuss some of the important features of each in order to make them clearly identified from each other and how for each differs from the ideological needs of the Qur'an and Sunnah. This division attains more significance when the issues of each are to be resolved in American perspective.

Let us first take up the position of the traditional Muslims and examine as:

1. What believes and convictions they hold?
2. What they follow or demonstrate in their personal and public life?
3. How far their life-style is controlled by the Qur'an and the Sunnah and how for it is contradictory to their teachings and directives?

These are very serious questions on which hinges the fate of the resurrection of the Ummah. If we can make a proper and a true diagnosis of our existing position, it would be easier to find out the cure.

I. THE TRADITIONAL MUSLIMS:

A traditional Muslim is one who is born in a Muslim family and whose parents are Muslims. He or she gets the first lesson of Islam in his or her home by his or her parents or elders as a tradition from father to sons and daughters. Where the emphasis is given on learning and reading the Arabic text of the Qur'an, memorizing some small Surah of the 30th Chapter for recitation in regular Salah [prayers], learning some basic believes [Aqeedah], some rituals of religion to practice as a routine in life, learning some day today Fiqh problems about Wadhu, Taharah, [cleanliness] Salah [prayers], Sawm [Fasting], Zakah, Hajj, dress code, eating manners, some Islamic etiquette in the respective cultural back grounds, etc. A scratchy life history of Prophet Muhammad (S) is taught along with some account about Khulafa Rashedeen [the rightly guided first four Caliphs] and significance of some days of Islamic Calendar. More or less that is all what a traditional Muslim or Muslimah gets at the most in his or her family environment.

It is nothing but a very limited concept of Islam. This limited understanding of Deen squeezes the concept of Deen Al-Islam into a religion, restricted to some rituals and forms of worship as other religions like Judaism, Christianity or Hinduism are. These traditional Muslims and Muslimah follow mostly what they learn about Islam in their family traditions and background. What they learn from their parents and forefathers in a continuous process, these traditional Muslims preserve, protect, profess and promote it as a sacred trust and pass on to their progenies for onward transfer to their future generations. It is going on for centuries together. But the position is becoming worst and worst day by day. The tragedy of the traditional Muslims is further aggravated when one finds that most of them are involved very often in practices like sectarianism, Qabar Parasti [grave worshipping], "Peer parasti" [saint worshipping], Rasum Parasti [custom worshipping], A'ba Parasti [parents worshipping], Qaum Parasti [tribal, clan or nation worshipping] and many more evils of old and modern Jahiliyah alike.

Islam in its truest form as ordained in the Qur'an and Sunnah is perhaps never brought before the traditional Muslims. They recite Kalimah [LA ILAHA ILLA ALLAH – There is no deity except Allah] but unfortunately don't understand what it demands from them. What is the mission of Prophet Muhammad (S) and how he accomplished it always remains obscured from their sight. The revolutionary aspect of Kalimah is never taught to them. They do not care to learn and understand Islam as the Deen, the only way of life for mankind till doomsday and the Qur'an is the only book of Guidance from Allah (SWT) to follow in its entirety till eternity. They are never told or taught that they are the "salt of the soil and the lamp of the hill"; they are the **"Best of the Nations"** and have been raised as **"Ummatun Wasatan"** [the Balanced Nation] on earth. Their assignment from Allah

(SWT) is to establish “Al-Qist” [Justice] amongst the people and nations. They are to display to humans the practical demonstration of Islam as the way of life. They are to show to the world what is honesty; what integrity of character is; what is justice and fair-play; how promises are kept and fulfilled when commitments are made at different levels of life; what trustworthiness is in its accomplished form; and how to be nice and decent to their neighbors and countrymen around them.

They are to demonstrate to their respective countrymen and women: what is a benevolent neighborhood; what is a peaceful citizen; what is rendering selfless services to the suffering humanity; how to make the society clean by fighting against Munkar (the evils and what is prohibited) and promoting what is Ma’roof (the good and permissible).

Equally, they are never told, taught or reminded that their mission on this earth is to free the humans from the slavery of man and bring them back to the obedience of their Creator and Sustainer, God, the Almighty. They know little that the assignment from their beloved Prophet Muhammad (S) is to carry out his (S) mission of Dawah Ilallah [calling the people to the fold of their Creator and Sustainer] to every nook and every corner of the world. The mission of their life is to get the Deen of Allah introduced and spread on this earth. The culminating point of their mission is to get the **“Kingdom of God”** established on this earth. For the whole of their life, they are to struggle in the way of Allah for His pleasure and be prepared to give up all for His sake as and when it is necessary or the situation warrants. This revolutionary aspect of Islam for which Rasulullah (S) and his beloved Companions struggled hard for the whole of their life is **rarely taught** to the Muslims whether traditional or otherwise. Thus, the very objective for which Islam stands and the Muslim Ummah was

raised on this earth as the last hope of suffering humanity is lost or remained obscured to Muslims.

That is the reason the Muslim Ummah stands nowhere today. If a nation or a people who hold an ideology for the deliverance to mankind forgets or ignores the very objective of its existence, how can it hold her head high with honor and dignity in the community of nations? As such, Muslims have no say in the affairs of the world and they have become a true example of what Rasulullah (S) foretold in one of his Hadith It is narrated by Sauban (R) as under:

“Rasulullah (S) addressing his companions said that a time will come when the multitudes of Kufr [idolaters] will prevail upon you and they will invite each other to pounce upon you as if invited upon a feast. A Prophet’s (S) companion inquired, “Will it be due to our shortage in numerical strength”. Rasulullah (S) said, “At that time you will be in great numbers but will be like foam of the flood water. The Batil will not have any fear of you”, Allah will seed “Wahan” in your hearts”. Upon this the companions of Rasulullah (S) asked, “O Prophet of Allah, “what is Wahan”? Rasulullah (S) explained that it is nothing but “the love of this world and the fear of death”.

[Narrated by Abu Dawood, Baihaqui and Mishquat Vol. II Hadith # 5135]

The entire Muslim Ummah from Casablanca to Indonesia and from Eden to Caucasia, though it contains 57 independent Muslim states, but the Deen of Allah is nowhere in a dominant position. The rest of the world is treating them as disgraceful beggars with bowels in the hands of each, begging financial aid, technical know-how and political favor and support from Washington, London, Paris, Moscow or Peking for the protection of their respective despotic un-Islamic regimes. Almost all of them are just Muslims in name, traditional in approach,

hypocrite in practicing Islam and completely reluctant to bring and establish Islam as a way of life as a political entity in their respective countries. Rather, each of them is very enthusiastic to introduce the cultural values of the secular West and establish the social, economic and political system of Europe and America. In terms of the Qur'an, all the regimes of the Muslim world and their henchmen are the oppressors ["Zalemoon"] and the transgressors ["Faseqoon" – Ref: Al-Maidah - 45, 47] In fact, they have only lip sympathy for Islam. They do not want to go beyond the concept of traditional Muslims who keep Islam limited to some rituals and some Ebadah [worship] only. The rest of Islam is totally obscured to these rulers, monarchs, dictators, Sheikhs and the so-called "Elected" heads of the states. They are just the traditional Muslims and their Muslims population is sailing in the same boat as the masses have no say in managing the affairs of their respective countries.

Traditionalism has now become the greatest curse and hindrance in the way of progress towards reconstructing the Muslim societies on the lines the Qur'an and Sunnah ordain. Traditionalism is a sickness of mind and a sign of lethargy towards Allah's Deen. It has made the Muslims inactive, indolent and "blind" to understand the conspiracies going on around the world to annihilate the Ummah altogether from the surface of the earth and "subjugate" their lands for good. Traditionalism should be accepted as a sickness by Ulama and the learned scholars of Islam should deal with it seriously on war footings. Unfortunately, the brute Majority of the Muslim Ummah is traditional. They need correct understanding of their Aqeedah [creed] and its comprehensiveness, Islam as a Deen, as a way of life **detaching it from their respective cultural background**, upholding and implementing it in the body politics in every country where Muslims are inhabited. This is the most important job of the Muslim leadership everywhere. If the

task of reconstruction is not undertaken as seriously as it is envisaged above, the fate of Ummah cannot be revived. **Equally, the traditional Muslims are the stumbling blocks of the Islamic Movements and everywhere in the Muslim world. It is they who are being exploited by the secular regimes of the Muslim world for their nefarious personal ends. The top most priority of the Muslim leadership is to re-build the Ummah on the same pattern as it was raised by Rasulallah (S) and his beloved companions in the first fifty years of the advent of Islam.**

The Muslims of America are no exception to it. The Majority of the immigrant Muslims is mostly traditional Muslims. They bear all the signs and symptoms of the traditional Muslims that I have discussed above. They demonstrate their Islam in their respective cultural background from where they originate. As such, they have become problematic to be understood by the re-born Muslims of America. Traditional Muslims are found both amongst the immigrants and the re-born Muslims of America. I will, Insha Allah, now discuss the condition of the re-born Muslims and their issues that need immediate attention.

II. THE RE-BORN MUSLIMS:

The re-born Muslims are those who accept the Deen of Allah and come into His fold on their own accord. They recite Kalimah, take Shahadah and become Muslim. They are re-born Muslims because when they were born, they were born as Muslim, physically obedient to their Creator and Sustainer by nature. Thus, by birth, they were Muslims but it is the environment, the society and their parents who make them to follow a Deen [a way of life] other than Islam. It may be Judaism, Christianity or any pagan fold. When they become Muslim, they actually go back to the Deen of Allah on which they were born. It would be, therefore, correct to pronounce them as “**re-born**

Muslims.” The verdict of the Qur’an is very clear in this respect:

“---The nature (frame) of Allah, in which He had created man---” [It means that all are obedient to Allah by birth in the physical aspect of life]

(The Qur'an:30:30)

Thus, all humans are born as Muslim, obedient to their Creator and Sustainer physically but coming to maturity they adopt different ways of life [Deen] in their optional [moral] life where they have freewill and a choice of their own. They become Jews, Christian, Hindus and what not. But when they enter into the fold of Islam consciously, the most appropriate name to be given to them must be the **“re-born”** Muslims. Some brothers call the new Muslim brothers and sisters as “born-again” Muslims. Fundamentally, there is no difference between the two.

Dawah efforts are going on more or less in almost every country where Muslims are living in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and Americas. But the Muslims who are rendering Dawah work to their respective native non-Muslims carry with them the “limited” concept of Al-Deen as discussed earlier with a few exceptions here and there. As a result, the outcome is the same as that with the traditional Muslims. The brothers and sisters who are involved in Dawah activities have an obscured or a very limited vision of Islam as a Deen, as a way of life. Equally, they do not understand, very often, the concept of Dawah Ilallah. To them Dawah is just to distribute some flyers/booklets on the street, at market places, at malls, Public gatherings, subway stations and rallies, talk about some basics of Iman and Islam and they think that the job is done.

Mostly they do not understand that Dawah Ilallah is a determined, an organized and a continuous effort to call the people to the fold of their Creator and Sustainer till the time he/she [the Dawah contactee] accepts the paramount Sovereignty of Allah and HIS Deen as the way of life, commits to change his/her life pattern and undertakes to live, act and behave like a conscious Muslim and Muslimah. The process continues till it engulfs the entire mankind in its fold. In this situation when a person accepts Islam through taking Shahadah, giving witness that he/she accepts the authority of Allah and Prophet Mohammad (S) as His Messenger, only the first stage of Dawah Ilallah is completed. The process does not end here. His or her understanding of Islam remains incomplete and his/her onward vision remains somehow blurred. He/she is rarely taught that, after accepting Islam, he/she has to live by Islam and be its model in a gradual process. Ultimately, he/she too has to carry out the mission of Islam to his/her countrymen and women and struggle hard for establishing the authority of Allah on self, family and in the society in which he/she lives. If the case is not so, after the initial acceptance of Islam as faith, the quantum of his/her education remains more or less the same as that of the traditional Muslim. Here the blame does not lay on the re-born Muslim but on the "Da'ee" and his/her own inadequacies.

There are two big tragedies that are running simultaneously parallel to each other. The so-called traditional Muslim is "blind" to his restricted faith by birth but the new Muslim is devoid of the total concept of Deen by circumstances in which he is placed. He is not properly educated by the person or the institutions that have brought him or her to the fold of Islam and then left him/her to remain obscured from understanding the depth of their Deen and what it demands and what he/she should give up after entering into Islam and what is the mission

of his/her life now onward. In the case of re-born Muslims, the tragedy is more disastrous as they are made “blind” to true Islam due to their ignorance not on account of their fault but to the ignorance of Muslims who call them to the fold of Allah and are involved in Dawah work “enthusiastically but traditionally”. It is just their misfortune.

As a result, the re-born Muslims soon become ritualistic in their manifestation of Islam as the total concept of Deen is missing from their approach. Mostly they do not enter into the Deen of Allah in its totality. Islam is mostly accepted by the new Muslims as their moral, spiritual and social need. **Their respective cultural background remains the same as with the so-called traditional Muslims. In consequence, they carry their cultural backlash to their new faith as it is whereas Islam by itself is a complete code of life or a code of conduct for the entire human life. Islam remains with them only as a belief not as a complete system of life. Perfection of Iman and what it demands from a Muslim or Muslimah in most of the cases is not attained. The need and urgency to bring their entire social, cultural, economic and political life, both at individual and collective levels, under the control of the Qur’an and Sunnah is never realized. As such, Islam remains, unfortunately, as a ritualistic faith consisting of some Ebadah and some religious practices as “dogmas,” with the re-born Muslims in the same proportion as with the traditional Muslims with only a few exceptions here and there. It matters little and makes no difference whether they are living in Asia, Africa, Europe or America or are born in a traditional Muslim family or become a New Born Muslim.**

This is not only the case in the context of the modern world. It had happened in the past too. After the conquest of Madinah, people entered in Islam in multitudes. Later on, during the Caliphate of Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman and Ali [May Allah be pleased with them.] nations after nations entered into Islam. The Islamic education and **the concept of Deen of the new comers could not be polished and completed the way it was done during the time of Rasulullah (S) on “person to person basis”**. As such, the “conquered” nations and people brought their cultural and social backlash with them. The process of reformation and education of Deen could not keep pace with the extraordinary growth of new Muslim Ummah at that time. The legacies of those “lapses” are still visible in the body politic of Ummah. It affected the purity and quality of Islamic way of life subsequently a lot. And I have no idea as how long the Ummah will suffer on this count. This is one of the reasons that Muslim Ummah could not resurrect itself to its original format again after the time of Guided Caliphs and its dark shadows are still lingering and only Allah knows how long?

On my visit to Japan in 1982, I was told to my utter astonishment by a very responsible brother of Islamic Movement in Tokyo that Professor Saito of Japan University who had accepted Islam some time back was of the opinion that their economic and political systems are OK. They have accepted Islam as their social and spiritual need only. This kind of amalgamation of Islamic believes with cultural backlash of the past is visible everywhere - in the USA, Europe, Africa and Indian sub-continent and the Muslim Ummah is paying a heavy toll for this inherent shortcomings. It could not revive itself to take the leadership of mankind due to these pitfalls and pull-backs everywhere. A new culture is being developed or is in the process of formation in these societies. It is neither Western nor Islamic. **As such, Islam is not**

showering its promised blessings and inherent values and benedictions both upon the Muslim Majority as well in Muslim minority societies.

The tragedy of our re-born Muslim brothers and sisters does not end here, especially in European and American perspective. These re-born Muslims, after accepting Islam as their faith, need proper mentorship at least for four to six months for understanding and learning Islam in practicing its Ebadah [worship], in learning manners, etiquette, norms and ethical values as a practical demonstration when passing some time in close brotherly atmosphere daily or weekly at least with a Muslim family in a formal way. It would have practically perfected their Islamic education that mere books and lectures cannot provide. This brotherly environment is essential when he or she is cut off from his/her fraternal relations. It gives him or her basic feelings that he/she is not alone in the Muslim society but there are many brothers/sisters to look after him/her. Similarly, the re-born Muslims need relocation of their position in the society, getting financial help to continue their incomplete school/college education and some honest means of living in changed circumstances. The Muslim society must provide and see that he/she is absorbed with honor and grace in the Muslim community. Muslim Ummah would have to create special funds to cater these basic needs of re-born Muslims as priority # one of their Dawah efforts.

Currently, Dawah efforts are going on extensively in correctional facilities around the USA/Canada and Europe. A lot of non-Muslims inmates are being converted to Islam but when they get out of jail, there is practically no one to look after their education, attend their relocation process in the society and transform them as useful Muslim/American citizens. In consequence, very often they, after

sometime, land again in some other jail. It needs building “**half-way house**” in each big city to cater these basic needs and impart some vocational training to enable them to stand on their own legs within a year or so.

Thus, the Muslim Ummah is passing through a very serious and alarming situation both at home and abroad. The problems are our own creation due to “inculcating” and promoting a truncated and incomplete concept of Allah's Deen. It needs immediate attention. It exhorts us to make a detailed analysis and dig deep into our beliefs and conviction to find out the causes for such a deplorable plight which is contradictory to the prophecies of the Qur’an and Sunnah. Muslims have to realize that their despondency and ignominy is only due to the fact that they are not “true” Muslims and Muslimah as they ought to be in terms of their Deen. For their disrespectful condition, they are to blame none but themselves and the Muslim leadership that is oblivious of the fact: where Ummah stands today and what it needs to revive its fate as “Ummatun Wasatan” at the time when the secular force of Kufr and Shirk are making global efforts in full swing to “enslave” the Ummah all around.

It is, therefore, desirable that we must make genuine efforts to find out what Iman is? What declaration a Muslim or a Muslimah makes when he or she realizes that he/she is a Muslim by birth or claims that he or she is a Muslim, by reciting Kalimah and taking Shahadah? **What connotations this “realization” or “declaration” of Iman in Allah entails and “What” affirmative actions it demands from each and every Muslim and Muslimah “After Becoming Muslim”?** A realization of the concept of Kalimah and what it demands will make a big difference when it will be accompanied by dedication and devotion to the mission which it undertakes to profess and accomplish as his or

her life-long pursuit in the way of Allah. This realization on the part of Muslims and their adherence to live and die for it, Insha Allah, will be the turning point of the fate of Ummah.

In the following pages, I will try my best, in my humble way, that “after becoming Muslim - what he/she has to do” to be model conscious Muslim and Muslimah, the only way to restore the lost prestige to Muslim Ummah in the community of nations and be again the Leaders of mankind on its own merit.

CHAPTER – 1: WHAT CONSTITUTES IMAN?

OUR AQEEDAH AND ITS COHESIVENESS

The IMAN or the AQEEDAH of a Muslim or Muslimah constitutes the following believes or concepts:

1. Belief in Allah – Tawheed – Monotheism
2. Belief in His angels – Malaikah;
3. Belief in Scriptures - The Books;
4. Belief in the Messengers of Allah;
5. Belief in the Day of Judgment - Yawmul Qiyamah or Yawmul Akhirah;
6. Belief in the happening of things or events, whether good or bad, as pre-destined by Allah – The Destiny
7. Belief in the Resurrection after death;

Now I will spell out some fundamental details of each belief:

I. IMAN OR BELIEF IN ALLAH – TAWHEED/Monotheism

It is also termed as Iman Billah - It connotes that:

1. Allah is One and the most Exalted One. He begets none nor is He begotten. Making any partner or associate, either in His person or in His attributes, is a great and unpardonable sin. This is called Shirk (making partners with Allah). He has no father, no mother, no wife and no son at all.
2. Allah is alone and none else is worthy of worship and devotion;

3. No one is His compeer or equal to His status ["Laisa Kamislehi Shaiun" - Nothing is as His likeness. The Qur'an 42: 11;
4. Allah knows everything. Nothing is hidden from Him. He knows what you do, openly or secretly or what lies in your heart and mind. He is the Knower and Listener. He is self-existent. He neither eats, nor drinks, sleeps or feels drowsy. He is eternal. He was there when there was nothing and He will be when there will be nothing. He is invisible but is present everywhere. He is closer than your jugular vein.
5. He is not only the CREATOR of this cosmos and what it contains but is its SUSTAINER and Law Giver. He is the Controller and the Regulator of this universe - the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, planets and what lies beyond the ken of mortal eyes;
6. His authority is paramount. His sovereignty is: Eternal, Self-sustained, Absolute, Supreme, indivisible and inalienable over everything on the earth and skies. No human being, no parliament, no Congress, no Senate or no monarch is above Him. His laws and directives are unquestionable and everyone is subservient to Him.
7. He gives life and death to all the creatures. Allah created man in his best form and out of man created woman. He created this cosmos/universe for them to use, explore and utilize for the benefit of self/mankind. All and everyone depend on Him and He depends on none;
8. Allah is the provider of Rizqué (food) to all creatures, including human beings and all the animate objects;
9. Allah created men and women with three strong urges of rest/sleep, hunger/thirst and sex and endowed them with Free will to satisfy the urges the way they like. He has made it as a TEST to

ascertain who is obedient to Him out of his or her own freewill on this earth. ?

10. Allah has given to both men and women a life whose span is not known, a time space within the span of life, talents and capabilities, resources, and harnessed this cosmos and what it contains for them to explore and exploit for the benefit of self and mankind. These all are Allah-gifted TRUST (Amanah) in our hands. Men and women are only the TRUSTEES, not the Masters as it is taken or understood commonly. Here lies the TEST. How can we use these God-gifted Amanah - the way you and me like or the way Allah likes or ordains? The accountability after death depends on the way the TRUST is used by the Trustees;

11. Allah, in His infinite mercy, arranged to send Guidance to humans, the TRUSTEES, through His appointed messengers in a continuous process to tell the humans how to live, act and behave on this earth and use the TRUST the way He likes or ordains;

12. Allah created angles, His most obedient agents, and assigned them with specific tasks to administer His kingdom of earth and heaven;

13. He has fixed a Day of Judgment, known to Him alone, when all human beings will be accountable to Him for their actions and deeds on this earth.

14. That Day of Resurrection is known to Allah alone. Bur it is inevitable. It is the Day of Al-Qayama. It will be sudden and catastrophic.

II. BELIEF IN ANGELS - MALAI'KAH:

Angels, as stated earlier, are the creation of Allah. They are made of light (NUR). They are invisible to human sight. They are neither male nor female. They do not disobey Allah and do not commit acts of sin. They are always busy in glorifying Allah, executing His orders and commands and carry out the directives which Allah assigns them without any if and but. They are the most dutiful agents of Allah.

No one except Allah knows the exact number of the angels. They are very large in numbers. They are everywhere. Even two angles are permanently sitting on the right and left of our shoulders and maintain a total, complete and comprehensive record of what we do on this earth. In the Qur'anic language, they are called "Kiramun Katebin", the sacred writers. They are attached to each individual. When a person decides to do something, the angles help him or her to get it done or thwart to get it undone. That is in terms of his or her destiny which is known to Allah alone but the individual is responsible for his or her decision and acts which he or she performs or does. He or she is not made responsible or accountable for the intentions or resolutions which he or she could not do or fulfill. This is Allah's kindness. The angles will produce the account of each man and woman on the Day of Judgment which will go a long way to decide his or her ultimate fate.

The four most renowned angels are:

1. **Arch-Angel Gibril (Gabriel)** - Who was commissioned to bring Allah's messages, Scriptures (the Guidance) to His appointed Messengers. He brought, revealed or delivered Torah to Moses, Zabur to David, Ingeel to Jesus and the Qur'an to Muhammad (Peace be upon all of them). Gibril is the most trusted and the most powerful of all angels of Allah. Rasulullah (S) saw him twice in his original form and shape. It was huge and covered the horizon from one end to the other. The angels can change their image and come also in human shape to fulfill their errands.

2. **Isra'fil** - Who is holding the trumpet to blow it on the Day of Judgment? This will herald the beginning of the Day. With the first blow of the trumpet, all the living creatures, including human beings, at that time will die. With the second blow, all will be resurrected and assembled for their accountability.

3. **Mika'il** - He is appointed to manage the rains and deliver livelihood to the creatures of Allah. In fact, he is the angel for the distribution of Rizqué (provision) to all the animate objects of this cosmos. Human beings are the essential part of this scheme. The Rizqué, for which every human being is always worried for, comes from Allah in the measures and quantities already fixed and allotted. None can increase or decrease it. This is a very essential part of Iman.

4. **Israel** - He is in charge of death. He takes out the souls from the creatures of Allah. When the appointed hour of death comes, he takes out the soul from the body. In consequence, death is pronounced.

Besides these prominent angels, the incharge of paradise is called Ridw'an and that of the hell is called Malik. Angels are the direct link between Allah and His appointed messengers. Iman in angels, therefore, must be observed beyond any shadow of doubt. But they are just Allah's agent and do not possess any power or authority other than what Allah assigns them. Attributing any other quality or expecting them to do intercession for humans, as was treated by the idolaters of Makkah, is a great sin. It has been pronounced as Shirk and Allah never pardons Shirk, i.e., making partners with Him

III. BELIEF IN THE BOOKS OF ALLAH - SCRIPTURES:

Allah (SWT)] ordered Adam, Eve and the Devil (Satan), "Go down, all of you (to the earth) from hence (Paradise); but verily there comes unto you from Me a Guidance; and whoso follows My Guidance, there shall no fear come upon them neither shall they grieve".

" But they who disbelieve, and deny our revelations, such are rightful owners of the fire. They will abide therein".

(The Qur'an 2: 38 -39)

This was a clear commitment from Allah, the Creator and the Sustainer of humans. Since that time, Allah (SWT) managed, in His infinite mercy, to maintain His undertaking with Adam/Eve and their prodigies. Adam was himself the prophet of Allah and he was guided how to live and behave on earth. When that guidance was lost or interpolated by man, Allah, as per His commitment sent the Guidance afresh to the appointed messenger of the time. Thus, whenever the guidance was lost, distorted or innovated, Allah replaced it with a fresh and updated Guidance for humans to live on earth the way He likes in order to keep the abode of man in peace and harmony and save it from disorder and misbalances in the art of living and maintaining human relations and the relation with the Creator upright.

The most prominent of these Divine Books of Guidance were four. They were revealed to the Prophets of the time one after the other as and when the guidance was needed by man and the human society. The rest of the books which might have come to other prophets are not known. They are totally lost in obscurity.

- * The **TORAH**, The Old Testament, was revealed to Prophet Moses [Peace be upon him - (PBUH)];
- * The **ZABUR**, The Psalms, was revealed to Prophet David (PBUH);
- * The **INJEEL**, The New Testament, was revealed to Prophet Isa or Jesus (PBUH);
- * The **QUR'AN**, the last and the final and the most updated Book of Guidance was revealed to the last Prophet of Allah, Muhammad (PBUH).

Guidance in the format of Scrolls (Shahadah) was given to Prophet Adam, Prophet Abraham and Prophet Shith (pbut). Only their name is mentioned in Scriptures. The rest is not known.

IV. BELIEF IN THE MESSENGERS OF ALLAH:

It is Allah's tradition that He does not talk to His servants (humans) directly. He sends His guidance to mankind as how to live, act and behave while living on the earth, through His appointed Messengers from amongst men. He has sent the guidance to all the people of all ages and all the regions in a continuous process. These individual human beings who were selected by Allah to serve humanity are called the Prophets and the Messengers of Allah. A Muslim believes in all the Prophets/Messengers without any exception, any distinction or any discrimination. It is prohibited by Allah to discriminate in His prophets. One who does not believe in any of the prophets or denies any one of them, his or her Iman is not complete. Hence, he or she cannot remain a Muslim.

As the angels are the essential links between Allah and the Prophets, equally, the Messengers formulate a strong bridge between man/woman and his/her Creator. The task of a Messenger is not only to deliver the message or the Guidance from Allah but to present an immaculate and perfect model of the teachings in his person for the people to follow. His practical life becomes the manifestation of the life-pattern which Allah expects from each human to lead on earth. The Messenger of the time explains the intricacies of the message, teaches Hikmah (wisdom) to his followers and purifies their character. That is why; the messenger is to be followed in totality. Believe in the Prophets of Allah is, therefore, an essential part of our faith or Aqeedah.

Thus, the Guidance which Allah promised to send to humans came in a continuous process. As a result, there is a continuity of His guidance and the continuity of the institution of prophet hood is also established. It is because man should never have the plea to say at any time as what to follow, how to live, there is no guidance? This is Allah's arrangement for man to live in peace and harmony and lead a balanced life.

Though innumerable prophets were appointed by Allah at different time, place and ages but only a few of them are now known to human history. The known prophets of Allah are about twenty four in number. Their names have appeared in Scriptures one way or the other. The episode of their mission, the response of the people of the age and the result of their denial or acceptance are recorded somewhere in brief and somewhere in a bit detail in Torah, Bible and the Qur'an. The prominent amongst them are Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, HUD, Saleh, Shuaib, Zakariah, Yahya (John the Baptist), Jesus and Muhammad (Peace be upon all of them). The first was Adam and the last prophet is Muhammad [pbut].

Though a Muslim is to believe in all the prophets whether known or unknown, but he or she is to follow only the life-pattern of Prophet Muhammad (S) and be respectful to all. Prophet Muhammad (S) is the last prophet of Allah. No prophet is to come after him. Why? Because the guidance which came in the form of the Qur'an is intact in its original form and is free from any kind of innovation. Allah Himself took the responsibility to protect it from any kind of human innovation. The Qur'an is now the only book of Guidance for humanity till eternity and the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the inspiring model for human beings to follow for all times to come. No prophet is to come now after him. This is the Iman of a Muslim. The stronger his Iman in Allah and His Prophet (S), the greater efforts he or she will make to follow the Book of Guidance, the Qur'an and the life of the guide, Prophet Muhammad (S).

V. BELIEF IN THE LAST DAY OF JUDGMENT OR YAWMUL - QIYAMAH

It is a pre-determined date but no one knows except Allah when it will happen. On that date, all the living creatures, including humans, will die. The entire world will perish. The mountains will blow like cotton puffs. The stars, the planets, the sun and the moon will all disintegrate. The earth will be stretched like a plain field. All and everything will be reduced to nothing. Angel Israfil will blow his

trumpet on command from Allah. Its sound will be so loud, so thunderous and so horrible that no one will survive its shock and all will be dead. This is the inevitable. That will be the end of life on earth. Except Allah (SWT), none will exist on that Day. The authority on that day will be only in the hands of Allah and He will be the sole Master of the situation. That will be the day of Resurrection and the Day of Accountability to Allah.

Though no-body knows when the Qiyamah will come but its approaching signs have been mentioned by Rasulullah (S). The signs are as follows:

- * Sins will be committed in abundance;
- * Disobedience to parents and harsh treatment to them will be rampant;
- * Trusted deposits will be tampered with;
- * Singing, dancing and revelries will be on increase by leaps and bounds;
- * Younger generation will be abusing their forefathers;
- * The uneducated or the ill-educated will become leaders;
- * Shepherds and lowly placed persons will begin to build lofty buildings; and
- * The incompetents will come to hold high offices;

When such things start to happen, then, it can be concluded that the Day of Judgment is near. One must be fearful of that Day and its horror. A Muslim must seek the protection of Allah from its harshness. May Allah protect all of us!

The belief on the Day of Judgment covers the following concept of Akhirah. It must, therefore, be clearly understood by the Muslims. Our entire attitude of life depends on it. It connotes:

1. The humans are not irresponsible creatures. They are responsible to their Creator and Sustainer for all of their actions and deeds on this earth.

2. The existing arrangement and management of this earth or universe is not permanent. It **will come to an end one day which is known to Allah alone.**

3. After the destruction of this world, another world, different from the present one, will be created by Allah and the entire mankind, from Adam to the last human born, will be resurrected. All will be gathered together for accountability before Allah and each and every one will be rewarded or punished accordingly.

4. According to His decision, those who have committed good deeds on earth will be rewarded with Paradise and those with bad deeds will be thrown in the hell fire.

5. The criterion of success and failure is not the prosperity or the hardship of this life but the real success will be secured by those who come out successful on the Day of Judgment. The real loser will be those who will cut a sorry figure on that day.

As a result, a Muslim is supposed to struggle for whole of his or her life to come out with flying colors on the Day of Judgment. It will be possible only when he or she resolves to live and act only to seek His pleasure day in and day out.

VI. THE TAQDEER - DESTINY:

When Allah first created the Qalam (the Pen), He asked the Qalam to write. The Qalam wrote each and everything from the beginning to the end - how and what is going to happen. It is written in the Book with Allah. Its name is Lauhe Mahfooz or Ummul Kitab. It is the Ilm (knowledge) of Allah. It is the planning and the process of Allah

through which He fashioned the earth and heaven to come into existence and created man and what is going to happen to him or this cosmos, including the earth. The knowledge perceives what is going to happen or who will do what. It is the destiny of each and every animate and inanimate object of this universe. It also includes the destiny of men and women.

But this pre-destiny has nothing to do with the freewill which Allah has endowed to humans. Men and women are free to do what they like to do on this earth to satisfy the demands of their urges to live, survive and promote their specie. The decision in each case will be theirs. They are free to strive, struggle and achieve what they prefer most. The angels of Qada and Qadar (destiny) will help each man and woman to attain their goal. But whether they will succeed or not is in the knowledge of Allah. This is his or her pre-destiny. He or she will be accountable for the goal or intention and efforts which he or she puts for it. If the intention, goal and objective are good he/she will be rewarded whether he/she succeeds or not. If the goal or intention and efforts which he/she puts for that are bad, he/she will be punished, if he/she succeeds in it. Whether one will succeed or not is the knowledge or Ilm of Allah or He knows his or her destiny or fate which one will meet. The Ilm of Allah is not known to us. We are simply to make our efforts and leave the results in the hands of Allah. A Muslim remains satisfied with the result in either of the case. He or she always remains contented. A Muslim expresses this contentment by expressing thanks to Allah, if he or she succeeds and observes patience (Sabr), in cases where he or she meets failures. He or she clearly understands that either of the situations is from his or her Creator, Allah. This is called the pre-destiny of the individuals (his or her Qadar) as well as that of the nations whose rise and fall occurs due to their own follies and mistakes but it happens as per their destiny which is the knowledge of Allah.

A Muslim must have a confirmed believe in his destiny but he or she must struggle consistently and persistently for the betterment of this as well as the next world. This concept of pre-destination emboldens

him or her to struggle his or her utmost and leaves the results in the hands of Allah. This will explain the situation where people make life-long efforts but do not succeed because it was not in their destiny; whereas there are many cases where people make little or no effort but their life is adorned with success. That was their destiny or the will or the ILM of Allah. This increases the faith of a Muslim and Muslimah in his or her Creator immensely.

VII. BELIEF IN RESURRECTION - THE LIFE AFTER DEATH:

On the Last Day of Judgment, when the first trumpet will be blown by Angel Israel, everything will be dead. When he will blow his trumpet second time, everything will come to existence. All humans will also come to life. Then all will be presented to Allah on the plains of Resurrection. Each and every one will be put to account and each will be rewarded or punished accordingly.

This is the ultimate reality of life. This world is a place for actions and deeds. The next world is the place to harvest the crop which a person grows on earth. This is the logical conclusion of the life which a man or a woman passes on this earth. A man/woman commits a crime. The consequences of that crime may continue to bitter the life of millions for centuries together. Similarly, the consequences of a good deed may continue to benefit the human society for centuries together. The total effect even of one action, good or bad, cannot be measured till this world comes to an end and every one's account is closed with total debits or credits which he or she has earned on this earth. It is, therefore essential that one day is fixed when this world must come to an end. Everybody's account is thus closed. Allah presides over the final court of Justice, everybody is accounted for and full justice is delivered in either case. The evil-doers are brought to book and punished and the good-doers are well compensated for their good deeds, the resurrection on the Day of Judgment is the logical corollary of our existence on this earth. It is the demand of justice and fair play

that a day is fixed where the evil designers are punished and doers of good deeds are rewarded.

The Arabs of the time of Rasulullah (S) were not prepared to believe in the resurrection after death. They used to come to the Prophet (s), showing him a sandy or rotten bone and ask him (S): Is this bone going to be resurrected; we cannot believe it. To them it was far from truth. Allah has discussed this question of the idolaters time and again in the Qur'an in various forms. Like the old Jahiliyah, the modern Jahilyah (ignorance) are not prepared to accept the concept of life here after. To both of them, this is the only life. They do not believe in any life after death. As such, they do not feel accountable to anyone for their actions and deeds. As a result, they become irresponsible and behave like a reckless creature on earth. In consequence, they fill the earth with disorder, chaos, disbalances and bloodshed. One who believes in the Day of Resurrection, he or she feels responsible and accountable to his or her Creator. They, in turn, fill the earth with peace and order and make the human society worth living.

Thus, one can see the contrast in life and in its pattern which they believe in Resurrection can make. One can imagine the difference of hell and heaven in its acceptance and rejection. This believe changes the concept of life altogether.

THE COHESIVENESS OF OUR AQEEDAH:

From the above discussion, it appears that all the beliefs are well integrated and interlinked. One stems out of the other. The basic concept is Tawheed [Monotheism}, believe in Allah alone and in His supreme authority over this cosmos. He created a species from light. It is called angels for the administration of His universe. He created another species from clay. It is called man and from man created woman. He made man and woman as His Vicegerents on earth. He or she is to live here and strive whole of his/her life to achieve His pleasure with three potent urges and strong will to use the resources

of self and of this cosmos for the satisfaction of his/her needs and urges. Allah, in His infinite Mercy committed Himself to send His Messengers to deliver His Guidance to man as how to live, act and behave on this earth to attain His pleasure. For this important communication with the humans, He fixed a tradition on His own accord that the Guidance will come to humans through His appointed Messengers from amongst the human beings, as and when it will be needed. But there is no "free-lunch" from Allah. He appointed a day when the entire universe and what it contains will come to an end. Everything, including the humans will be dead. Then, they all will be resurrected and brought to book as how they passed their life on this earth: in His obedience for cultivating His pleasure or in rebellion against His authority. The concept of Accountability stems out of the position which man holds on the earth and the Trust which Allah entrusted to him/her for his/her survival and maintenance on earth. A reference to a Hadith will not be out of context which gives emphasis over the concept of accountability in Akhirah.

This Hadith is from Tirmizi, Number 305/306 (Vol. II) and is narrated by Abdullah Ibne Maswood and Berzah AL- Aslami (May Allah be pleased with them) that Rasulullah (S) said that on the Day of Judgment nobody will be allowed to budge an inch from the Court of Allah unless he or she answers the following five questions:

1. About his/her age, how he/she passed it;
2. About his/her knowledge (Ilm), how he/she used it and brought into practice;
3. About his/her earnings, how he/she made it (through Halal or Haram means);
4. About his/her expenditures, how he/she expended his/her earnings, i.e., on what accounts.
5. About his/her time, where he/she used it (and on what counts).

One can well imagine the difficult situation which will be confronted by each and every human being on the Day of Judgment. It will not be easy to answer these questions to Allah who knows everything which

is open or secret. Presumably, the only answer on that Day which will carry some weight will be that if one could say, **"O Allah! Whatever You gave/entrusted me - life, time, talents/capabilities and resources, I put them all in Your way only to seek Your pleasure"**. That will be the simplest answer and that is the objective of life which a Muslim or Muslimah is to profess and practice and that is what his or her Aqeedah demands.

The above aspect presents the scenario of our Aqeedah. All the beliefs which I have discussed are interlinked. One stems out of the other. This creates a paramount vision for a Mumin to hold for his or her entire life. This is the axis on which hinges the life and total activities of a Mumin and a Muminah. It fixes the position of man/woman and that of a Muslim/Muslimah on this earth. It explains the objective for which this universe and the humans are created. Why they all short live for a brief period of life. Why one day this entire workshop of man on earth and this magnificent universe will suddenly come to a catastrophic end. Why the day of Resurrection is hidden and is known only to the Creator. In fact, it is an open TEST to ascertain who obeys Him out of his or her own sweet will and who disobeys Him as per his/her own choice. There is no coercion on this earth to follow Him and His Guidance under compulsion. The choice is of ours only. Man is free to accept Him as his Lord or reject. This lies in the domain of his or her freewill or free choice. The net result will be delivered and administered by the Creator in Akhirah. Heaven is for the obedient and hell-fire for the disbelievers.

Form the above, one can easily conclude that why one who believes and inculcates this Iman, brings these concepts into practice, and makes this Aqeedah a motivational force in his or her life develops an attitude of a responsible citizen, a loving father or mother, a devoted husband or wife, a God-fearing human being, a careful and conscious neighbor and very mindful of service to humanity. This Aqeedah creates a society, a culture, a civilization and an Ummah of God-conscious people, the only hope of mankind to attain peace on earth and create a society free of exploitation and prejudices which we see

around us. This is the message which Muslims of America are to communicate to every man and woman of their country in contrast to Godless and secular creeds which are rampant around them, creating an irresponsible and reckless attitude of life in our countrymen and women and advocating maximizing their personal pleasure and comfort in this life. Those who hold these materialistic concepts do not believe in the life hereafter behave like reckless creatures and in return fill the earth, the abode of man, with injustices, disorders, confusion and bloodshed.

This is the theme of our Dawah efforts in this country. The concept of Tawheed, the concept of Amanah (Trust), and the concept of Accountability on the Day of Judgment, the need of the life of Prophet Muhammad (S) as a model and guide for the suffering humanity are the basic points which are to be presented to the people of the land in a very palatable and convincing manner. The Judeo-Christian society of America has practically lost the guidance which came in the form of Torah and Bible and now holding only some dogmas and rituals. Muslims are to draw a pathetic picture of the life-style which the people of the land are leading and the horrible consequences which they are harvesting in their social, cultural, economic and political life. The approach should be that of love, concern and sympathy and not of animosity in any way.

We will succeed in our Dawah efforts only when each and every Muslim of America becomes a true model of this Aqeedah in thoughts and practice. Muslims are to develop an approach to involve the Jews and Christians to a meaningful dialogue about the Aqeedah which is a common denomination of all Abrahamic faiths - Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The concept of Tawheed, the concept of Prophet hood and the concept of Accountability in Akhirah, one way or the other, are common to all. Muslims of America are to take initiative and invite Jews and Christian's brothers/sisters for discussion about these paramount concepts in a friendly atmosphere **through our Inter-faith dialogue, if possible or individually inviting them to their homes or**

visiting their houses in their locality. This is our supreme task as a Muslim and for that we are to present the character which is trustworthy and depicts these believes. We as Muslims are to profess, practice and demonstrate in our day today life what this Aqeedah demands. Only then, Allah (SWT), in His infinite mercy, will pave the way for useful, fruitful and effective Dawah or mutual contacts with the people of the land.

The mood of worships which will be the theme of our next study are nothing but provisions to develop, sustain and promote our relation with God and nurture the concept that we are for Allah and one day we all are to return to Him. The more we are stronger in our Aqeedah (believes) in depth, the stronger will be our Iman. The more our Iman is strong in depth, the more it will motivate us to invite the people of the land to the fold of our God. The strength of Aqeedah is supreme. A Muslim wherever he/she is and in whatever circumstances he/she is placed, he or she struggles for the whole of his or her life for the propagation of the Aqeedah which he or she holds and sustains, even at the cost of his or her life – the faith of Prophet Abraham that can bring all the three Communities, the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims at one platform of Monotheism, the only way to establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

May Allah make all of us truthful torch-bearers of our Aqeedah and give us Tawfeeq (blessings) to practice and profess it in every action, in every move and in every walk of life. Amin!

IMPORTANT NOTES: The essence of the **FUNDAMENTALS OF DEEN**, Alhamdulillah, I have covered in Chapter – V: “My God & My Ideal” and elsewhere at different places, hence it will be redundant to repeat it afresh in a separate Chapter. The reader is requested to study that chapter with deep interest. Insha Allah, he will get the taste of Iman in all tranquility to

change his or her life to be the True servant of God, the Al-Mighty.

However, I have elaborated the salient features of Iman Billah and Iman Bil-Akhirah in Chapter –II and Chapter –III respectively providing all the different features of the two Essentials of Deen with brief Notes and Proper references to enable the readers to do some important homework in order to enable him/her to build the edifice of Iman Billah and Iman in Akhirah through his or her own efforts to cherish its sublime taste when he/she is In deep adoration of all His surmountable Mercy and all - accountable questioning of his/her quests in worldly life. This is a humble but priceless gift from the Author to cherish by each reader with the only request to pray to Allah for his Maghfirah [pardon/forgiveness].

CHAPTER-II: IMAN BILLAH & WHAT IT DEMANDS?

WHAT IS IMAN BILLAH?

Iman is to belief in Allah as a conviction as our Creator and Sustainer, feeling always accountable to Him after death for all our actions and deeds on earth – to be rewarded if good with eternal pleasure in Paradise and to be punished with eternal torment in Hell. This will keep the humans in upright positions always on earth if they are ever-conscious of this program of accountability.

1. The Concept of Iman Billah - WHO IS ALLAH?

* You must know Him – He is not the personal God of Jews, not of Christians who made Prophet Jesus as Son of God - the incarnate; not of pagans who worship the manifestation of His power in all animate and in-animate objects of nature;

* Allah is the Creator, the Sustainer, the law-giver and the Regulator – He is the Rab, the Malik & the Ilah of the people
[114: 1-3]

* These are the rights of Allah on His people: He is the **Sustainer**, He is the Supreme Lord. So, all obedience are meant for Him alone. This is the pure Monotheism and it eliminates all shadows of Shirk with His person, His attributes and His supreme authority in any form or shape.

* **Verse # 255 of Al-Baqarah** contains total concept of Allah's Sovereignty as defined by:

- **Harold Laski defines the concept of Soveronty: It can be located; is Absolute; Indivisible; Inalienable, Eternal & Self Sustained.**

* **Al-Ekhlis: Surah 112 of the Qur'an sums up - Who Allah is?**

* **Total multi-dimensional authority is described in Verse # 26 -27 of Al-Imran-His Prerogatives. All must memorize it by heart.**

* **Al- Hadeed Verse 1-6 [Must be studied in detail to have the perfect concept: Who is Allah?]**

2. **All loyalties, worship & obedience [Ebadah] are for Allah: [Iyyaka nabudu WA Iyyaka Nasta'een]** - It ends all kinds of Shirk. It makes the Iman pure and unadulterated in any way.

- Seek help only from Him – It produces the purest model of Iman in Muslim:

- **A capsule Ayah of the Qur'an:** Total surrender to Allah; His total obedience & Total dependence on Him

[The Reader Will know more about it when studying my other book: "Al-Fateha & Its Significance" at my Website WWW.dawahinamericas.com]

3. **This obedience is Total** not partial as Allah demands: **"Udkhulu fi-Al-Silmey Ka'ffataun" [2: 208]**

- Enter into Islam 100 %, not even 99.9 recurring.

4. **This obedience is for life time: “Innal - Lazina Qua’loo Rabbunallah Summa Istaqamu”** [They say: Allah is our Lord and they remain steadfast or upright by it - **Qur’an 41: 30**] *

Al-Imran Surah 3 VERSES 27/28: “Thou causest the night to pass into the day, and Thou causest the day to pass into the night. And Thou bringest forth the living from the dead, and thou bringest forth the dead from the living. And Thou givest sustenance to which Thou choosest, without stint.”

“Let not the believers take disbelievers for their friend in preference to believers. Whoso doth that hath no connection with Allah unless (it be) that ye guard yourselves against them, taking (as it were) security. Allah biddeth you beware (only) of Himself. Unto Allah is the journeying.”

- A Hadith narrated by Ibne Omar (RA) strengthens the aforesaid concept: “A person came to Rasulullah (S) and asked him (S) to tell one thing and that suffices him forever. Rasulullah (S) advised him, “**Say, Amantu Billah summa Istaqim**” [Say: I believe in Allah and then am steadfast by it]

5. **Only Allah has the authority to declare “Halal & Haram”** and none else, even the Messengers.

- “Today I have perfected your Deen..... [Ref; Verse # 3 of Al-Ma’edah] What is Haram and Halal is fully described in the Qur’an and that is the end of it. *

6. **Only the Shariah or the Deen that had come from Allah is to be practiced, followed and established in its totality on SELF, FAMILY, IN THE HUMAN SOCIETY AND ON this earth as the only Code of life for the humanity:**

- “Inna Al-Deena indallahey Al-Islam” [Al-Imran-19] *

- “Afaghaira Deenallahey yabghoon; Wallahu Aslamu mun fi-alsamawatey wa-al-ardey Tauun wa karhun wa elahey turjawoon” [Al-Imran: 83] *
- “Wa mun yabtaghey ghairul Islama Deenun falan yuqbalu minhu; wa hum fil-Akheratey min-al-khasereen” [Al-Imran: 85] *

7. **Concept of Amanah:** Whatever we possess belongs to Allah;

- * What Allah has given us? Time, talents, energies and resources;
- We are not the Master but just Trustees as ordained in the Qur’an?

* “Wa Huwal-Lazi Jaa’lakum Khalaifal Ardey WA Rafaa badakum fauqa Badin leyabluakum fi ma’ata’kum. **[Al-An-Aaam”: 165]**

* “Summa Ja’alnakum Khalaifal Al-Ardey Mim Bادهim leynanzura kaifa taalamoon”: **[Yunus: 14]**

* “Wal-Lazina Hum leyamanatehim WA Ahdehim Ra’woon” **[Al- Muminoon: 8] + Al-Nisa: 32;**

8. **Concept of Accountability in Akhirah:**

- We all are accountable to Allah for all our actions and deeds on earth: **wa bilakherate hum Yuqenoon [Al-Baqarah: 3];**

“Wa Elaika-al-Maseer” [Al-Baqarah: 285]

- In fact, the concept of accountability stems out of the concept of Amanah.

* We will discuss it separately in detail when elaborating “Iman Bil-Akhirah”

9. All troubles and glad tidings come from Allah alone:

* “Ma Asaba’ min musibatin fi Al-Ardey wa-la-fi-anfusekum illa fi kitabin min Qabley an-nabra’ha. Inna zaleka alallahey yaseer. Lekaila ta’sau ala’ ma-fatakum wa la- tafrahu bema a’ta’kum. Wallahu la-yuhibbu kullu Mukhtalin fakhur” **[Al-Hadeed: 22 - 23]**

10. Our Iman is subject to test from Allah (SWT):

* It is inevitable when, especially, Iman becomes a challenge for the Batil as ordained by Allah:

- A’ Hasebun al-nasu un-yutraku un yaqoolu A’manna wa hum la-yuftanoon. Wa Laqad fatanna al-Lazina min qab-lehim; fa-layalamanaalhu al-lazeena sadaqu wa-layalamann-al-kazebeen” **[Al-Ankabut: 2-3]***

QUESTION – WHAT THIS IMAN DEMANDSA FROM A MUMIN?

1. TOTAL OBEDIENCE TO ALLAH: No Shirk at all:

- Allah accepts no partner or associate to His person, powers or attributes:

* “Ya bunayyah: La Tushrik Billah; Inna al-Shirka lazulmun Azeem” **[Luqman: 1]**

* **Hadith quoted both in Bukhari and Muslim and narrated by Maa’z bin Jabal (RA)** who was riding behind Rasulullah (S) – only the hump of camel was in between, he (S) called, “O Maa’z bin Jabal (RA)”. I said, “Ya Rasulullah (S), I am attentive”. Some time passed, he (S) again called, “O Maa’z”.

He (S) called me thus three times and I responded in the same way. He (S) then said, **“Do you know the rights of Allah over His slaves”?**

I said, “Allah and His Messenger (S) have the knowledge.”

He (S) said, “The right of Allah on His slaves is that they worship Him and don’t make any shirk with Him.” Again some time passed, and then he (S) called, “O Maa’z bin Jabal (RA).” I answered, “O Messenger of Allah, “I am present and attentive.”

He (S) said, “Do you know: what is the right of slaves on Allah when they act like that?”

I said, “Allah and His Messenger (S) have the knowledge.”

He (S) said, “He [Allah] does not punish them.” [From Bukhari & Muslim]

* Just let us try to understand where and how we are committing Shirk in our life, knowingly or un-knowingly: Our traditions; our ego; our habits and customs; forefathers; birthdays; National flags; wealth; people’s will; national anthem; hero worshipping – anything that hampers your obedience to Allah tantamount to Shirk

2. REMOVING ALL THE INCONSISTENCIES FROM LIFE:

- IN AQEEDAH: thoughts and actions from personal life, family life, social life and collective life;

- From cultural, economic and political life: It **needs STUDY to increase the knowledge of Islam** to be obedient and follow Allah’s directive in every walk of life.

* Sibghatallah. Wa mun ahsanu minallahey Sibghatun, wa Nahnu lahu Aa’bedoon” [**Al-Baqarah: 138**]

[Say: “Our life takes its] hue from Allah! And who could give a better hue [to life] than Allah, if we but truly worship Him”] + “Udkhulu fi-al-Silmey Ka’ffataun” **[Al-Baqarah: 208]** *

3. **DENYING ALL THE AUTHORITIES ON EARTH EXCEPT ALLAH:**

- “La Ilaha”: Denying all sources of power: May be Individuals; Institutions or Collective Bodies

* **Important Warning:** You cannot do it as you are not living in a vacuum. Vested interests will not let you do it as there is established Rule of law and you have to abide by it.

- Compromises you cannot make – Allah do not permit it: **“Lakum deenukum waleya Deen” [109: 6]**

5. **So, What to do? Follow Allah’s given laws and Shariah in your personal and family life to the extent possible and make every effort to change the System only through available peaceful and constitutional means. THAT IS THE DOMAIN OF DAWAH ILALLH – [THE COMMITMENT- My book on my Website: WWW.dawahinamericas.com .PLEASE GO THROUGH IT AND LEARN IT. If anything not clear please contact the author through**

E-mail: tsidd96472@aol.com

5. Are we prepared to work for the change of Batil with Haq? – That is the call of our Iman.

- **Alone we cannot do it. Hence, it needs collective efforts – Building the requisite Team of Da’ees on the pattern Rasulullah (S) did in his (S) life time.**

- **How can we proceed? “The Book: The Commitment” will explain you, Insha Allah.**

* **CONCLUSION: DO WE KNOW?**

- Iman is a Commitment: Our Kalama is a Challenge; a Movement and a Revolutionary Political Slogan: O people: say "la Ilaha Ilallah" Tuflehu; Tamleku beha Al-Arab WA Tazillu Lakum Al-Ajm; WA Isa Amantum kuntum mulukan fi-al-Jannah" As quoted: In Seerah Ibne Hisham, Balazari in Fatuhul Baladan & Ibne – Athir in Albadayah WA Al-Nahayah

Chapter – III:

CONCEPT OF AKHIRAH – ITS ROLE IN CHARACTER BUILDING & REMODELLING THE SOCIETY

I. What is the concept of Akhirah?

“Wa Bil-Akhirate hum Yuqenoon” [Al-Baqarah: 4] *

- It is the most important part of our Aqeedah

* “Akhirah” is a comprehensive word, representing the following believes:

1. Man is not an irresponsible creation but he is accountable to his Creator/Sustainer.
2. The System is not eternal. One day it would come to an end and man will face his Creator and Sustainer with all his A'ma'l [his actions and deeds on earth];
3. There will be another world where the entire human beings will be resurrected & assembled;
4. All would be accounted for: REWARDED OR PUNISHED accordingly: “Innallaha Sareeul Hisab” [3: 199; 14: 48. Those who were obedient to Allah will be rewarded with eternal peace in Jannah and those who disobeyed Him will be punished with eternal torment of the Hellfire;

5. It means: the criterion of success is not this life but the life in the Hereafter. We all must struggle for the whole of our life to get success in the life Hereafter: **Al-Dunya Mazrat'ulAakhirah [Hadith];** That is the "**Yaumul Taghabun** [Q.64: 9]

6. **Aakhirah is an unknown and unseen phenomenon [It is the part of Iman Bil Ghaib]**

II. How humans treated the concept of Akhirah:

This attitude can be categorized in three ways:

* **Total Rejection** – Universe created by accident and will come to an end one day through a **Big Bang**;

- **Mazdakiyat** in Iran 524 CE; **Communism** –Carl Mark's- Das Capitol; To **Yahudiyat** –no Akhirah;

- **Ref:-[Qur'an: Al Ja'siya; 24]**

* **Partial acceptance and partial rejection:** Christianity- Believes in life after death only spiritually not physical resurrection; **Crucifixion of Jesus** on Cross as Kaffarah;

- **Hinduism:** Transmigration of soul [Awah- Gawan] Soul never dies; appears in different shape;

- **Tashkik**- In doubt as Mushrikeen Makkah they were in doubt about resurrection:

- **Comments of Qur'an:** [Surah Qaf: 3; Yaseen: 78 -79; Al Naba: 1-3; Al-Zariyat: 6-8]

* **Total Acceptance** “Wa Bil Akheratey hum Yugenoon”;
 Malikey Yaumuddeen; “Rabban ma Khalaqta haza batellun-Al-Imran -191; Inna Youmul Fasley kana Meeqatun – Naba: 17;
 Afahasibtum Annama Khalaqnakum abasun WA Unnakum
 Elaina la Turjaoon : Surah **Al-Muminoon Verse # 115]**

III. What Character the Rejection of Akhirah produces?

* Irresponsible attitude in life – becomes a reckless and careless “vagabond”;

* With no sense of accountability - man lives as per his/her whims, desires and caprices;

* **In consequence, fills the earth** with Injustices, Zulm, confusion, bloodshed, exploitations & disorder;

* **Man rules over men** [Dialogue between Rustum and Mughirah bin Shabah (RA):

“Yujaheduna layukhrejunnasu min ebadatil ebad ela ebadatillah wahdahu la shareeka lahu”]

* **No Justice in the world**: Human’s rights are denied, usurped at every stage as we see everywhere around the world.

* **Chauvinistic style in life**; Stinginess; depriving others [**Al-Ma’woon # 107]**

* **Greed and Rivalry in Worldly Gains** – [**Al-Takasur # 102]**,

- Always found busy in **increasing Standard of living** at the **cost of Have-nots –This is the only life and don't believe in the life after death;**

- **Negation of Akhirah destroys the character both of individuals and nations:**

Famous American Historian of Berkley Paul Kennedy in his Book: "The Rise and fall of The Great Powers" writes, published in 1988: That so for "35 civilizations have died and are lying on the death bed of history the 36th will be the USA".

The ultimate end of human life and the human society is inevitable. Man has no escape from it but when that date is known to God alone. So, we must be watchful of our human behavior as how erroneously we are living on this earth and how wrongly we are using its assets that were entrusted to us as a trust. We are its trusty and have to use them only as our Lord Commands us to do.

IV. Concept of Akhirah – The Character it Produces at Individual and Collective Levels:

- It makes individuals & society **Allah-conscious**, God-fearing and feeling always accountable to Allah for all their actions and deeds on earth.

- **On Individual level:** * Allah-conscious/God-fearing men and women **build a nation of:**

* **Good citizens**; *faithful husband; *affectionate father/loving mother;*benevolent neighbors;

* **Dutiful employee**, irrespective of the fact where he is and what he is doing.

* **Benevolent Employer**, As manufacturer, businessman, as Employer

* **Dutiful military soldier/security men** - honest custodian of peace at home and protection of others Life, Property, Honor and Peace at home and abroad

* They would transform the society into an abode of **“Rahmah” – a mercy for all**;

* **No corruption, no kickback at any level [No Mr. Ten %] - Files will move freely in offices**

* Business, trade. commerce. will prosper beyond imagination **due to honest trade practices/dealings and no fraudulent trade practices**;

* **Cost of production will fell down** as **no wastage** will be in all factors and cost of Production [L+C+M]

* Operating cost of Running Government will be reduced tremendously.

* **Justice will be mostly FREE**; Crimes less; less prison expenses;

* **No discrimination at all at any level** about color, race, religion or language;

* In short, that Islamic society would be a heaven, a boon and benediction on earth for all.

- This ideal society will help further in producing Allah-conscious people in its midst.

Examples: Kingdoms of David, Solomon, Khulafa-e-Rashideen –Abu Bakr, Omar, Osman, Ali and Omar bin A Aziz. (May Allah bless all of them!)

V. Let us SEE: what difference the denial of the concept of Akhirah makes with the blessings when it is accepted as the creed of life. Both the scenarios are before us to distinguish between the two.

- Now it is our obligation to convince the world to share the blessings that Islam offers;

- We can get it at ease if we establish a model community on this pattern. And invite our Jodeo-Christian Brothers and Sisters to be our guests and feel its blessings in our midst.

VI. REASONING – WHY AKHIRAH IS ESSENTIAL & INEVITABLE:

* **Natural Phenomenon- Al-Imran: 191.** [Rabbana ma Khalaqta haza batellun + **Al-Mulk: 2**]

- Humans & the cosmos are produced with the same matter by Allah **–How he/she used it?**

* **Continuation & Perfection of the effects of worldly life:** Effects both of good and bad deeds may continue for centuries together after the death of the person concerned, his accounts remains open for getting total effect. It would be possible only when **a cut date is applied** and that is the Ultimate Date of Judgment [DOJ]...

* **Akhirah is the logical need of Allah's Rahmah [kindness];** He must do justice both to **good and bad**

* **A MORAL NEED: To be Rewarded or Punished according to his/her deeds on earth. One who had done good deeds must be rewarded and one who had committed crimes/bad deeds must be punished accordingly.**

* **Historical Evidence:** The End Result of nations who denied the concept of Akhirah –

- Most of the people denied accountability; Nations became irresponsible; moral degradation; filled the earth with oppression, Create Fasad; humans become arrogant resulting in total annihilation: **Examples: Nations of Noah, A'd. Thamud. Lot. Parowan**

[Ref: Rise & Fall of The Great Nations – Paul Kennedy] **All became corrupt and removed from the surface of earth in consequence;**

[Qur'anic Ref: Qaf: 12-13; Al-Imran: 137; Al-Namal-69; Al-Rome -9]

* **Intellectual Reasoning:** When humans are Khalifa on earth with discretionary power and freewill, they must be

accountable for what they do on earth- **For them the Day Of Judgment will be the logical end/conclusion**

* **Allah's Physical laws are firm. Similarly His Moral laws are firm too in Cause and Effect-** Akhirah is the manifestation or the culminating point of Moral life of man on earth: **How man dealt with His Guidance for his optional life on earth through his free choice. And so he/she must meet the logical consequences of his physical and moral lapses on earth.**

* **Evolutionary Process's perfection:** Human life will get **Eternal bliss** when enters in Jannah or **eternal curse** when thrown in the Hellfire.

* **END RESULT:** Mumin becomes the Will of God that covers his/her's life- long activities and the hidden forces of nature become his companion on earth as he is always fearful of Allah, lives and dies only for Him and His pleasure.

VII. CONCERN FOR AKHIRA: Considering the Importance of Akhirah, a Muslim should and must always be vigilant, watchful and scare of accountability on the DOJ.

* **Directives & Inspiration from Allah to this effect:**

- **Preparation for Akhirah - Hashr 18: Ya-Ayyuhal Lazina A'manuttaqulah wal-tanzuru Nafsun ma Qaddamat leghad"**

- **Al-Rahma'n: 46 –"Wa Leman Khafa Muqama Rabbehi Jannatan"**

- **Al-Tahreem: 6: "Quo Anfusakum wa Ahlikum Nara...."**

- **Al-Furqan: 65-66: “Rabbana Asrif anna Azaba Jahannama Inna Azabaha kana Gharama. Innaha s’at Mustaqarrun wa Muqama”**

- **Al-Daher. 7 & 10: “Wa Yakhafuna Yaumun kana Sharruhu Mustateera. Inna Nakhafu min Rabbena Youmun abusun Qamtreera”**

* **Little Interest for this world and total concern from Akhirah:** Ahadith Rasulullah (S)

- **Jabir (RA): Inakum a’louma fi darul-amal; La hesaba; wa Ghadun antum fi darul Akhirah wa la amala”**

* **Examples- who feared Akhirah and did good deeds on earth**
 : **Caliph Abu Bakr**, Omar, Othman, Ali Omar bin A Aziz, Ikramah bin Abu Jahal’s Iman, Sasa bin Muawiyah, (RA); Punishment of Rijm , Crown of Rustum in Qadsiya,; Sister Zainab Ghazali of Egypt, Abdul Haq of Islamabad , Dr. Nazir Ahmad Shaheed; Mian Tufail Muhammad, Late Afzal Hussain; Late Ch. Ghulam Mohammad; Late Choudhry Ali Ahmad Khan, Late S A Ala Maudoodi, Qa’zi Hussain Ahmad . Maulana A Rahim many more and Prof. Ghulam A’zam and many OTHER STALWARTS AROUND THE WORLD.

* **FIVE QUESTIONS IN AKHIRAH FROM EVERY Muslim and Muslimah:** **[From Abi Barza Aslami (RA):** 1. About his/her Age how they passed? 2. How far you practiced the knowledge of Deen? 3. From where you earned? 4. Where you expend? 5. Where you diluted your body?

NO BODY WILL BE ALLOWED TO BUDGE AN INCH FROM THE MIGHTY COURT OF ALLAH ON THE DAY OF JUDJMENT UNLESS HE OR SHE ANSWES THESE QUESTIONS TO HIS/HER LORD.

Accountability about Allah's Amanah ON the Day of Judgment.

May Allah help all of us to be successful in Akhirah!

Chapter – IV:

STUDY OF THE LAST 10 VERSES OF SURAH AL- IMRAN

**WHAT IT DEMANDS: AS EMPHORIZED BY PROPHET
MOHAMMAD (S)**

**EVERY MUSLIM MUST RECITE IT IN DEPTH EVERYDAY AND BE ITS
MODEL**

The importance of these verses centers in the fact that it envelopes the entire spectrum of human life both Physical and Moral, both individual and collective spheres of life as how to live, act and behave on earth in every walk of life, the way it is commanded by our Lord or the way man thinks, plans and prefers to live as per his or her wishes, whims, desires and caprices: one way leads to heaven whereas the other lands straight in the Hellfire. So we must study these Verses in depth.

Introduction: Ata Bin Abi Rebah (RA), a talented Tebei of great fame, one day approached Aisha Siddiqa (RA) and asked her, “Can you please tell me a story of Rasulullah (S) that was THE MOST amazing to you?” She said, “His (S) whole life was full of amazing stories.” He said, “Just please tell me only one story that was the strangest to you.”

She said, “One night Rasulullah (S) was in her bed. He asked, Aisha (RA), “Can you let me go to pray my Lord.” She said, “Why not? He left the bed, made Wudu and started praying and while praying was weeping and crying like anything. Then he (S) went to Ruku and continued weeping. Then in Sajdah but crying and continued to cry in Qayam, Ruku and Sajud till the time of Fajr. His beard, his shirt and his chest all were wet till Bilal (RA) appeared to call him (S) for Fajr Congregational prayers [Jamaah] and saw Rasulullah (S) crying profusely. He said, Ya Rasulullah (S)! Allah has

pardoned all your sins –past, present and that of future. Why are you crying so much?

Rasulullah (S) said, “O Bilal! These are the tears of thankfulness. You know: ‘Tonight Allah has revealed to me ten verses and the person who recites these verses but does not ponder over them; curse will be upon him/her. Then he (S) recited these ten verses of Surah Al-Imran and advised that every Muslim must recite these verses every day and if he/she doesn’t ponder over it in depth, he/she will be in great trouble.”

Let us ponder over each of these Verses and see what it contains:

Verse # 190: Lo! In the creation of heavens and earth and in the difference of day and night, there are clear signs [of His sovereignty] for men/women who are intelligent and of utmost understanding’

“Lub”: it stands for intellect of man and its plural is “Al-Bab” meaning intelligent persons who think and ponder over His creation of this universe: what is the purpose behind the creation of this huge cosmos? It is not purposeless. Everything of this universe has its purpose. So this universe too must have its objective.

When man thinks about himself, he finds that he has two different domains in his existence:

1. Physical Needs: That covers the entire spectrum of man’s physical needs: food, water, shelter, air and the entire environment in which man lives for his survival. God created this physical phenomenon from earth to heavens: day for man to struggle for his existence, earning his wages build his home, makes a family life and breeds his children and erects the “Building Blocks” that helped the growth of human society to this age and night to take rest and regain stamina and vigor lost during daytime engagements.

2. Moral Needs - As how to Live, Act and Behave amongst themselves: God first created man, fashioned him with all delicacies and intricacies of manhood with three strong human needs and urges and freewill and then created the woman out of man and kept both somewhere in the heaven. God then created all the spirits of humans up to the last human beings

from amongst the human species and asked them, “Who is your Lord?” They are acclaimed affirmatively: **Definitely You are our Lord**”. The Qur’an has recorded this dialogue in Verse #172 of Surah Al-Airaf:

“And remember when thy Lord brought forth from the children of Adam, from their reins, their seed, and made testify of themselves, (saying): “Am I not your Lord? They said: Yea, we verily. We testify. (That was) lest ye should say at the Day of Resurrection: Lo! Of this we were unaware;”

Adam and Eve remained in heaven till the earth was made ready and habitable for human species to live on it and was ready to provide all the physical human needs of man till eternity. The Qur’an depicts the entire above phenomenon in the following verses of Surah Al-Baqarah:

Verse # 30: God “declared to all the Angles that He intends to create His vicegerent [Caliph] on earth. The Angles inquired from God: Wilt thou place therein one who will harm therein and will shed blood, while we hymn Thy praise and sanctify Thee? He (God) said: Surely I know that which ye know not”.

31: And He taught Adam all the names, and showed them to Angles, saying: Inform me of the names of these if you are truthful.

32. They said: Be glorified! We have no knowledge saying that which Thou hast taught us. Lo! Thou art the knower, the Wise.

33. He said: O Adam! Inform them of their names, and when he had informed them of their names. He said: Did I not tell you that I knew the secret of the heavens and the earth? And I know that which ye disclose and which ye hide.

34. And when We said unto the Angles: Prostrate yourselves before Adam. They fell prostrate, all save Iblis. He demurred through pride, and so became a disbeliever.”

35. And We said: O Adam! Dwell thou and thy wife in the Garden, and eat freely (of the fruits) thereof where ye will; but come not nigh this tree lest ye become wrongdoers”

36. But Satan caused them to deflect therefrom and expelled from the (happy) state in which they were; and We said: Fall down, one of you a foe unto the other! There shall be for you on earth a habitation and provision for a time.”

37. Then Adam received from his Lord words (of revelation), and he relented towards him, Lo! He is the Relenting and Merciful.

38. We said, Go down all of you, from hence; but verily there cometh unto you from Me a guidance; and who so follows My guidance, there shall no fear come upon them neither shall they grieve.

39. But they who disbelieve, and deny Our revelations such are rightful owners of the Fire. They will abide therein.”

[The Qur'an: Verses from 30 to 39 of Surah # 2, Al- Baqarah]

From the above elaborate arrangement that God made for the sustenance of man on earth, it is extremely important to understand that He made the physical arrangement to meet the needs of man by Himself through creating this cosmos in its entirety as a spellbound beauty in its detail which is beyond the comprehension of man. He left the man to find out his Moral needs from the life pattern of His Messengers that he promised to send to earth in a continuous process in a chain as and when needed in terms of the aforesaid verses quoted above. It was essential for humans to have some practical model examples in this respect and that God arranged through His appointed Messengers who brought the Guidance for man, followed himself meticulously and set the model example for his followers as how to act, live and behave on the earth. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the last Messenger of the series and the Qur'an is the last book of Guidance for mankind till eternity as no Prophet was to come after him (S) and none came so far and none will as the guidance which we have now from the Qur'an and the life pattern of Prophet Muhammad(S) are complete, Perfect and conclusive in all respects, for today and for all times to come.

Now man has no choice:

1. Either man has to use his God-given wisdom and wit and follow the moral rules and principles that had been sent through His last Messenger, Mohammad Ibne Abdullah of Makkah (S) and live the life of peace, tranquility and in harmony to others or

2. Coin his own man made system of life and lead his total life in oblivion, gloom and frustration with no peace, no harmony and no justice at all as we see today in the human society in all its sectors. Man is crying for peace, justice and security but he cannot get it till the time he misuses the God-given freewill, ignores the moral guidance which God sent for man through His appointed Messengers and trying to carve out his life as per his/her wild wishes, whims, desires and caprices.

The last ten Verses of captioned Surah Al-Imran refer the same two concepts of life that cover the entire spectrum of human life of both the attitudes: 1. following the God –given concept of life or 2. Man-managed or man’s self-created system of life that failed one after the other to deliver any Khair [good] to human abode. Rather, filled the earth with all kinds of injustices in all the sectors of human life through all ages and all times. God has taken care of the Physical sector of man and is managing super fine but in Moral sector where man is given freedom of choice, he/she has ruined - devastated it by all means and the game of ruination is continuing incessantly unabated.

Let us study the Verses/ one by one and see the logical effect of man’s innovations in the moral sector with its devastating effect in his Physical sector too.

Verse # 190: Lo! In the creation of heavens and the earth and in the difference of night and day are tokens [of His sovereignty] for men of wit and understanding:

God hasn’t created anything in His cosmos in vain. The earth and the skies all carry signs and symbols of his authority of total control. Men of knowledge and intelligence are the keen observers of these tokens scattered all around the universe. There are the innumerable signs

pinpointing that these creations are not objectiveless. It is impossible to believe that such a Supreme Authority will create such a vast cosmos without any wisdom, foresight and objective. It is fulfilling the needs and urgencies of humans from birth to grave and from personal life to all his/her social, cultural, economic and political needs and urgencies in order to make man's existence on earth safe and sound and easily accessible to man and are within his reach.

Thus, a person thinking like this recognizes the ever presence of God and His bounties for man and thereby reaches to the concept of accountability in Akhirah [Last Day of Judgment] after death automatically and when he/she reaches that concept of accountability, he/she starts trembling, realizing the end-result of this phase of life when he will be standing alone before his/her Lord. God will ask: where you passed your time, spent your talents, energies and resources - from where he/she earned his living and where he/she expended it. That will be the most difficult situation for man to encounter in Akhirah. Thus, this process of thinking over the vastness of nature will lead him not only to his Creator and Sustainer but face the "Question –Answer" session in the mightiest Court of God, the Almighty - the most difficult part of his end-life – the culminating point where he will be alone facing Allah Who knows all what you have done on earth and He knowing fully well all your intents and purposes behind all and each of your actions and deeds on earth.

This concept of Accountability inclined him/her to lead a responsible life on earth, leaving a very mindful life that he/she is accountable to Him ultimately for all their actions and deeds while living on earth. This super conscientiousness of accountability after death will keep man always in an upright position. He will be living a life trembling with fear on earth to be ever just and honest in every walk of life. Human society has practically lost this consciousness in their day to day livings and dealings and, therefore, has made the human abode a hell. The world will not get the peace of mind, justice and fair play till it all starts to live with the concept of Akhirah with all its connotations that I have elaborated above.

Man may travel in space, land at moon and any remote planets will never ever get the peace of mind and the solace of heart till they all believe in One God, live as per His directives and live a life based on accountability in Akhirah. When this concept is lost, he/she becomes vagabond in every

walk of life as we see today from the behavior of men and women who do not believe in God and the accountability after death. They have filled this earth only with injustices, loot and corruption all around. Man has, thus, no justice, no peace and harmony in human abode worth its name. The culminating point of the material life is the corporate interests that are fast covering each and every sector of human society.

This Verse in question reminds us to live like that under Divine Guidance and develop the consciousness that he/she is accountable to Him after death. Only then man will have peace in the human abode. If not, his future ends in death, destruction and inevitable God's wrath and will land in the Hellfire – an eternal life of doom and displeasure. This is a thinking process and man must develop the habit of contemplation and remembering it through constant "Zikr and Fikr" and the getting the concept of Akhirah cemented in thoughts and action only through thinking process throughout the life so much so that it becomes the constant habit of his or her life as a routine. It will then become the pleasure of life for all times to come.

2. Verse # 191: And who remember God when they stand, when they sit, and when they lie down to sleep, and [thus] reflect on the creation of heavens and the earth: O our Sustainer! Thou hast not created [aught of] this without meaning and purpose. Limitless art Thou in Thy glory! Keep us safe, then, from suffering through fire!

Who are the men of intelligence? Those who think about this cosmos and what it contains but couldn't reach to God and its logical concept of Accountability lurking behind it, their mind seems to have no brain. They are empty headed and hence couldn't get the real objective behind this entire creation of God Who is the ultimate reality of this cosmos and human commonsense confirms it. The concept of Akhirah and that of accountability thereto is integrated with it. Man will attain it automatically through his thinking process and those who are "Ulul Albab" [The men of wit and intelligence] they always remember God.

Through the process of thinking in the universe, the men of intelligence come to the conclusion that this Vast cosmos is not a play field. Hence there must be a day of justice when the men of good deeds must be

rewarded and the evil doers must be punished and those who depend on false intercession must face the reality that none comes to their help.

3. Verse # 192: “Our Lord! Whom thou causest to enter the fire: him indeed Thou hast confounded. For evil doers there will be no helpers.”

At this critical juncture, none will come to his rescue in the Hellfire. The evil doers will experience the most horrible disgraceful punishment which is meant for the oppressors.

5. Verses # 193 & 194:

“O our Sustainer! Behold, we heard a voice call (us) unto faith, Believe in your Sustainer! Forgive us, then, our sins, and efface our bad deeds; and let us die the death of the truly virtuous! And O our Sustainer, grant us that which Thou hast promised us through Thy apostles, and disgrace us not on Resurrection Day! Verily, Thou never failest to fulfill Thy promise!”

This prayer is full of dedication and total surrender when a person heard the call from a Da’ee for submission to Allah, his affirmative response is: O my Lord! I have heard the call for submission: I submit to it with complete subordination; O Our Lord! Forgive our sins, remit our evil deeds and make us die the death of the righteous. And give us that which You have promised to us through Thy Messengers. Confound us not on the Day of Resurrection. You do never break Your promise and fulfill it always.

This is a very comprehensive and meaningful prayer that a devoted Muslim offers to his Lord while busy in his lifelong pursuit to be His dutiful “Abd” [The 24 Hours servant to the Lord of this cosmos]. He should never fail to fulfill his obligations and must remain ever attentive to follow his or her commitments that he/she is the most vigilant servant of God and this all-comprehensive Du’a will be his/her most effective barometer to adjust his/her life activities while he/she is performing the busy schedule of life day in and day out. And when he/she is ever conscious of his fidelity to God of this universe, the life on earth will be smooth, harmonious and fill of ever-consciousness of Accountability in the life after death. As this important dimension is missing from human life to regulate, man has become mostly, corrupt, unreliable, greedy and, in consequence, has filled the human abode only with injustices all around. The human life has

virtually become “Hell” on earth and he has no escape from this despondency till he/she turns their faces to Divine Guidance that man has neglected in his self-imposed failure to live on earth on his own accord.

5. Verse # 195: And thus does their Sustainer answers their prayers with assurance:

“I shall not lose sight of the labor of any of you who labor [in my way], be it man or woman: each of you is an issue of the other. Hence, as for those who forsake the domain of evil, and are driven from their homelands, and suffer hurt in My cause, and fight [for it], and are slain - I shall most certainly efface their bad deeds, and shall most certainly bring them into gardens through which running water flows, as a reward from God: for with God is the most beautiful of rewards.”

In response, Allah [SWT] gives a guaranteed assurance to his every slave/servant who struggles hard while on earth towards introducing and spreading His Deen in the human society with great honor in the life hereafter and he/she will live in Jannah – the choice of His eternal pleasure. In fact, this is the direct key to Paradise to get the best reward for the life on earth that is totally devoted towards struggling with “Mal & Jan” [Life and property] in the way of Allah for establishing His Deen on this earth. What a fantastic reward that is waiting after death of a Mujahid in the way of Allah that He assures in this verse. This is the only way to resurrect the fate of Muslim Ummah to regain her lost position in the community of nations and that is “Ummatun Wasatan” as spelled out in Verse # 110 of Surah Al-Imran. It is raised to establish Ma’roof and eradicate Munkar from human abode for good.

6. Verse # 196 - 197: “Let it not deceive thee that those who are bent on denying the truth seem to be able to do as they please on earth: it is [but] a brief enjoyment, with hell thereafter as their goal – and how vile a resting place!”

The life of the nonbelievers is a wide and wild deception while living on this earth. It is due to misuse of the freedom of choice that God has given to humans to use the world and its bounties the way they like in the Moral sector of human life. As such, they live and fill their Socio-cultural–politico-economic life in total insubordination to the will of God leading to

deception and a curse to human society. Almost all their actions and deeds in every sector of life become futile, hopeless, deviated, and full of denial of the authority of the Supreme Lord of this cosmos.

The Freedom of choice that our Kind and Merciful God gave us as human beings to fill the earth with justice and fair play through our just actions to make a communion between our Physical and Moral life when both would have followed the will of God in conformity with the entire Universe that is following the will of God automatically by creation culminating into diversity and lack of cohesiveness from heaven down to earth in one order, paving the life of man on earth in every sector of human life with justice, peace and fair play. If not, the entire human life will be filled with arrogance all around leading only to deception, falsehood, chaos and self-ego as humans follow only “Man-made” laws in their entire spectrum of life. When man gives up the Divine Guidance and depends only upon his own intelligence which is always short sighted, incompetent, and selfish and lacks in future envision. Such persons cannot lead the destiny of mankind to its ultimate end – either success on earth nor good fortune in the life Hereafter. It is doomed for good.

That is why Allah gives His Supreme verdict that in such condition man’s life and his activities in every field – social, cultural, economic. Political at all levels of life - local national and international, are simply deceptive and are not trustworthy in any way. So is the case of all man-made laws directives and initiatives and there is no “Khair” [goodness] left in them. That is the reason why man couldn’t solve any of the human problems in spite of his all tall talks, claims and boastings by beating of drums since the very inception of man existence on earth nor he will ever be able to do it. Man is lost in his self-imposed quagmire of delusions and deceptions. If he surrenders to his Creator and Sustainer without any ifs and buts, only then he will succeed, otherwise not.

7. Verse # 198: But those who keep their duty to their Lord, for them are gardens underneath which rivers flow, wherein they will be safe for ever - A gift of welcome from their Lord. That which Allah hath in store is better for the righteous.

Contrary to the above deceptive life of the misguided humans, the people who fear God their life after death will have eternal pleasure in the life

Hereafter living in gardens with rivers flowing beneath them – a gift of welcome from their Lord. It shows that what Allah has for them in store is better for the righteous people in comparison to people who passed the life of deception on earth.

8. Verse # 199: And Lo! Of the people of the Scripture, there are some who believe in Allah and which is revealed unto you and that which revealed unto them humbling themselves before Allah. They purchase not a trifling gain at the price of the revelations of Allah. Verily their reward is with their Lord, and lo! Allah is swift to take account.

And from the people of Scripture who believe in Allah and that which is revealed to you, O Mohammad, the Messenger of Allah, the Qur'an and what was revealed unto them, the Torah and the Bible and have fear of Allah, don't sell the Verses of Allah for trifling gains, they will, surely, have their reward from their God and nothing will be wasted. It means they do possess the continuity of Iman in Allah along with believing in all the scriptures that came through Moses, Jesus and Mohammad [pbut]. They were and are the most successful believers from amongst the people of Scriptures. They all will find Allah very swift in checking their individual accounts and may land in Jannah with the grace of their Lord. It is a kind of consolation for the continuity of their Iman in Allah, His Prophets and all of His Scriptures in succession.

9. Verse # 200: O ye who believe! Be patient in adversity [Endure], outdo all others in endurance. Be ready and observe your duty to Allah, in order that you may succeed.

This is the last Verse of the Surah Al-Imran. It, therefore, contains all the basic guidance that are essential, the fundamentals of Sharia and were necessary to encounter the environment and the circumstances in which Muslims of the time were surrounded with and were positive to meet all such eventualities in future. These directives are Four:

1. Sabr - Endurance: The true spirit of this word is to keep oneself steadfast in sustaining and maintaining of some right in spite of all kinds of opposition and adversaries, irrespective of the fact whether these resistances are from within or confronted from outside. Without

strengthening this habit of endurance, one cannot fulfill the right of even the smallest right of anyone or anything.

2. Endurance in comparison to your opponent's: It is called "Masabrah" in Arabic. It means you have to show greater amount of endurance in comparison to what your opponent is showing. It was essential to be pinpointed to Muslims at this occasion as the Mushrikeen of Makkah who were opposing Rasulullah (S) were more persistent and consistent to oppose the Islamic Movement of that time. Hence the Muslims were exhorted by Allah (SWT) to show greater amount of endurance to make them feel disparate that in spite of their stiff opposition Islam was spreading gradually and constantly in ones and twos all along in Arabian Peninsula. .

It was Muslim's spirit of endurance that Muslims were very strongly determined to follow and pursue the Deen of Allah and their opposition was not deterring them at all to budge even an inch and the Mushrikeen of Makkah couldn't compel even a single Muslim to return back to Shirk and Kufr of that Jahiliyah. The Muslims tolerated all their torture, harshest punishment that they rendered to them and the greatest temptation offered by the Mushrikeen, Muslims remain solid like rock in their Iman and rejected all their offers and persuasions with Sabr and Sakina. In consequence, the forces of Kufr and Shirk were annihilated and Islam became victorious against its adversaries. It confirms that victory does not depend on arms and ammunition but it is the character and morality that succeeds in the battle of right and wrong, Haq and Batil, truth and untruth. The history of Islam through ages confirms it.

3. Murabeta [Total Preparedness]: This word originates from "Rabita-Al-Khail" [Ref: Tadabbur Qur'an Vol. I, page # 835 - The original concept of it is to make the military horses ready and prepared to encounter the enemies at country's borders. Now tanks and fighter planes have replaced horses.]

With the change of time the contents of the word have also changed. After giving the directive of "Masabrah", the directive of "Murabeta" was given to Muslims to be ready to make all the "Material Needs" of war in all respects as "Moral Preparedness" was and are indispensable to meet the adversaries of the time.

4. Taqwah – Allah-Consciousness: Taqwah – is to protect and to be vigilant, of all the conditions, cares, limitations and restrictions that Allah (SWT) has imposed, with complete fear and sincerity. It is the essence of Deen and its objective that a Muslim must carry out throughout his and her life meticulously with no exception at all.

If Muslims can lead a life fulfilling the aforesaid four conditions, they will get all the benefits and benedictions of both the world, here and Hereafter.

SUMMATION: Very humbly, I have presented the sum and substance of the last Ruku of Surah Al-Imran as per my humble understanding with hope that Allah will accept it and pardon me, If there is any mistake in explanation, it is only due to my shortsightedness and I implore to my God to pardon me and save the readers from its repercussions, if any.

DU'A ISTIGHFAR FOR THE REMEMBEARANCE OF ALLAH ALWAYS: Subhan Allah, Wa Alhamdulillah WA La Ilaha illa Allah WA Allah-u-Akbar; Wala HouL Wala Quowata illa Billah Alaihul Azeem; Subhan Allah wa Behamdehi Subhan Allah Al-Azeem wa Behamdehi Subhan Allah Al-11zeem; Astaghfarullah Min Kulle Zumbin Wa Atoobal Elaih, Astaghfarullah Min kulle Zumbin Wa Atooba Elaih, Astaghfaeullah min kulle Zumbin Wa Atooba Elaih.

Chapter – V:

“MY GOD” & MY IDEAL

**Allah is my God and my God is everybody’s God; and
Prophet Muhammad (S) --**

**The Most perfect human Model on earth is my ideal and
the only model for all humanity.]**

Allah is “my God”: This is a very simple but an extraordinary challenging statement to all the prevailing concepts of God –against the concept of personal God of Jews [O God of Israel!], Christianity that sacrificed His “supposed son” on cross and made “him” the God of Christians with a confused concept of Trinity and the pagan world that hinges on His various “incarnations” on earth, worshiping, them as gods in human shape, as idols and His “manifestations” in various inanimate objects of nature. But my God, the ONLY God is different from all these humanly created gods. He is the Creator, the Sustainer, the Law-giver, Unique, Eternal, Omni-potent, “Al-Samad”, the Benevolent and the Merciful to all species and animate objects of this cosmos. He knows the past, the present, the future and knows what is in our hearts and what is in our mind. He is the God of both known and the unknown.

My Ideal, is the life pattern of Muhammad Ibne Abdullah, the Messenger of Allah [May Allah bless his (S) soul and shower peace upon him]. My love for Muhammad (S) is above everything of this world, including myself and my parents. He (S) is the Model for everything that he (S) did, lived by, dealt with, said, endorsed and advocated on this earth, the most perfect, the most truthful and the most inspiring character that ever came or will come as human. He (S) told me and to everyone that there is “ALLAH” [God] and I accepted it

with all conviction that he (S) had always spoken Truth and nothing but Truth, under the ever-vigilant guidance of Allah. So, he (S) is “My Ideal” and I will share his (S) life pattern in the second part of this paper that why he (S) is so dear to me and to all who accept Allah as their Lord, the Creator and Sustainer and him (S) as a human and the Messenger of Allah, but first “My God”.

I. “MY GOD”:

To ascertain as “**Who is my God**”, I have to go to the origin of man and this universe and observe that “My God” is the same as He was in the beginning, what He is today, will remain the same till eternity? It is essential that at the very outset I evaluate the facts that throw light on the subject as why He is “My God” and convinces the readers to comprehend what I want to communicate onward **that why He is my God and the God of entire human beings as such, all and everyone must surrender to Him, obey Him, prostrate before Him and follow His directives as how to live, act and behave on earth as envisaged in the Qur’an that He sent to all of us to follow and live by that.**

1. When there was nothing, only my God was there and when there will be nothing only my God will be there; He is open, outward, everywhere as He is inward: “He is the First and the Last, and He is the Outward as well as Inward, and He has complete knowledge of everything.” [The Qur’an: **Al-Hadeed - 57: 3**]

* His sovereignty is absolute, indivisible, inalienable, all-comprehensive and prevails over everything that is in Heavens or on earth. “There is nothing like Him” (Ref” **Al-Shurah: 11**) and all and everything is to return to Him. The Qur’an elaborates this concept of His total, complete and perfect sovereignty in very comprehensive manner:

“God – there is no deity except Him, the Ever - Living [the Eternal], the Self-Subsistent Fount of All Being; neither slumber overtakes Him, nor sleep. He is all that is in the heavens and all that is on earth. Who is there that could intercede with Him, unless it is by His leave? He knows all that lies open before men and all that is hidden from them, whereas they cannot attain to

ought of His knowledge save that which He wills [them to attain]. His eternal power overspreads the heavens and the earth and their upholding wearies Him not. And He alone is truly exalted, tremendous.” **[The Qur’an: Al-Baqarah: 255]**

Say: “O God, Lord of all dominions! Thou grantest dominion unto whom Thou wilt, and take away dominion from whom Thou wilt: Thou exaltest whom Thou wilt, and abasest whom Thou wilt. In Thy hand is all good. Verily, Thou have the power to will anything.”

“Thou makest the night grow longer by shortening the day, and Thou makest the day grow longer by shortening the night. And Thou bringest forth the living out of that which is dead, and Thou bringest the dead out of that which is alive. And Thou grantest sustenance unto whom Thou wilt, beyond all what he/she will do on earth reckoning.”

[The Qur’an: Al-Imran -3: 26-27]

2. The first and the foremost thing that Allah designed and created and fashioned by “Himself” was the “man” within His image with all the complexities, intricacies and delicacies in his frame that man will go on discovering through his scientific efforts till doomsday. God created man with three strong human urges [of hunger/thirst, sleep/rest and sex] and Freewill.

* Allah ordains: “And We created you [humans], then fashion you, then told the angels: fall ye prostrate before Adam! And they fell prostrate, all save Iblis [Shaytan – the devil], who was not of those who make prostration.”

[The Qur’an: Al-Airaf. - 7: 11]

* “He said: O Iblis! What hinders thee from falling prostrate before that which I have created with both My hands?”

[The Qur’an: Sad - 38: 75]

3. After the creation of man, sometime somewhere in His infinite kingdom, Allah gathered together the spirits of all humans that were to come or born

on earth as Adam's progenies and asked them who is their Lord? With one voice they confirmed that "He is their Sustainer" and Qur'an narrates it:

"And remember when thy Sustainer brought forth from the children of Adam, from their reins, their seed and made them testify of themselves (saying): Am I not your Lord? They said Yea, verily. We testify (That was) lest you say at the Day of resurrection: Lo! Of this we were unaware"

[The Qur'an: Al-A'raf- 172].

This story as a part of human history that is obscured and shows that every individual human being stands committed to worship and obey the Lord of the universe and it is embedded in him/her much before their physical birth on earth. **Thus, every individual who is born on earth has his or her separate individual gene, a separate character, a separate identity and a fortune especially allotted to each with a clear commitment by his/her unborn "individual identity" that he/she will obey only his/her Lord of this cosmos. This commitment he/she is supposed to carry out consciously after birth and getting maturity. It must be clarified at this stage that what he/she will do on earth. is the knowledge of the Creator and Sustainer but what he/she does on earth is his/her fate as he/she lives on earth as per his/her freewill and for that he/she will be held responsible on the last Day of Judgment.** His or her individual "freedom" is thus, totally maintained on earth. Otherwise, the entire concept of accountability in Akhirah would have become meaningless.

In fact, every individual is born "independent" with his/her lot as a "Muslim", **obedient to his/her Creator and Sustainer** by birth. However, it is the society, the environment in which he/she is born, the family traditions under which he/she grows and the parents who care/nurse him/her make him/her Muslim, Jew, Christian or pagan. Now, while living on earth, he/she is to recognize his/her Lord through **knowledge** and understanding as what guidance he/she is to follow on earth. By making rightful decision one is to recognize his/her Creator and Sustainer and **become a conscious Muslim and Muslimah through his/her own freewill or free choice.** If he/she fails to recognize "God" as his/her Creator and Sustainer, he/she uses His universe and His bounties ungratefully. He lives on his own, behaves like an arrogant and irresponsible creature and fills the earth with disbalances and chaos both in personal and collective life. So, man has to live on earth as His

“servant”, follow the Guidance that came from Him consciously and live by the model presented by His appointed Messengers.

5. After the creation of man, God created this universe for the physical needs and urgencies of man and harnessed it for his use and benefit. He made the earth habitable for man through gradual evolutionary process and provided everything on earth that was essential for the growth and sustenance of man till doomsday.

* “Don’t you see how Allah (had created and) harnessed for you (made subservient to you all) whatsoever is in the sky and whatsoever is in the earth, and has lavished upon you His blessings, both outward and inward?

The Qur’an: Luqman – 31: 20]

* “He it is Who has created for you all that is on earth and has applied His design to the heavens and fashioned them into seven heavens: and He alone has the full knowledge of everything”.

[The Qur’an: Al-Baqarah 2: 29]

* **“My God”** is **Al-Rahman** and **Al-Raheem** [Extremely and eternally Kind, Merciful and Benevolent], the two characteristics of God with extreme sense of exaggeration in their concept. He is **“Al-Rahman”** in the style of Arabic measure **“Fala’n”** that carries the sense of “bursting up” with extreme kindness and so He created this cosmos for Humans. But, equally, God is **“Al-Raheem”** in the Arabic measure **“Tafyeel”** that carries the sense of “permanency” in the manifestation of His extreme kindness. So He is maintaining and sustaining this universe for the benefit and utilization of humans. By virtue of these attributes, He is **“Rabbunnas”**, **“Malikunnas”** and **“Ilahunnas”** [Sustainer of people, Master of the people and Lord of the people]. Allah claims obedience from man as He is not only the Creator, but because He is the **Sustainer**. He is the **“Rabbul-Alameen”** [Sustainer of the world’s] **that takes care of me and every living soul and living creature on earth.**

So, He is “my God.” He is very kind and benevolent to me. He provides me what I need and I implore from Him what I want. He is very watchful of me.

He is everywhere with me wherever I am. Rasulullah (S) advised his (S) one of the most beloved companion Abu Zar Ghaffari (RA) **that you ask from Allah alone whatever you need even it may be the lace of your shoe or the lash for driving your camel.**

***How beautifully, Prophet Abraham implores, attributes and recalls His personal favors to him: “[The Sustainer of all the world] who has created me and is the One who guides me; and is the One who gives me to eat and drink; and when I fall ill, is the One who restores me to health and who will cause me to die and then will bring me back to life – and who, I hope, will forgive me my faults on the day of Judgment.” O my Sustainer! Endow me with the ability to judge [between right and wrong], and make me one with the righteous, and grant me the power to convey the truth unto those who will come after me, and place me among those who shall inherit the garden of bliss! And forgive my father – for verily he is among those who have gone astray – and do not put me to shame on the Day when on which neither wealth will be of any use, nor children, [and when] only he [will be happy] who comes before God with a heart free of evil.”**

[The Qur’an: Al-Shura – 26: 79 to 89]

PERSON_TO_PERSON CONTACT WITH GOD:

* The foregoing categorically confirms that God, in His infinite mercy, favors every individual on person to person basis, attends his needs and prayers as and when he/she calls. There is no intermediary between man and his God. There is no concept of priesthood in Islam. An individual can call Him anywhere and at any time when he/she is in distress or needs His help. Qur’an declares:

“And if my servants ask thee [O Muhammad] about Me – behold, I am near: I respond to the call of him who calls, whenever he calls unto Me: Let them, then, respond unto Me, and believe in Me, so that they might follow the right way.”

[The Qur’an: Al-Baqarah -2:186]

* His response to my prayers and supplications is prompt, immediate, direct and adequate:

* **SALAH:** When I offer Salah and recite Al-Fateha, the “Sab-e-Mathani” [often repeated seven Verses], His response comes forthwith with every verse as the Hadith-e-Qudsi goes: It is quoted by Muslim and narrated by Abu Hurairah (RA) from Rasulullah (S): Allah says: “I have divided the Salah between Me and My slave, half is for Me and half is for My slave. When My slaves says, “Alhamdulillah Rabbil A’lameen [All praise is for Allah, the Sustainer of the world’s], Allah’s response comes immediately, “My slave praised Me”; And when he says, “Al-Rahman Al-Raheem”, Allah responds, “My slave adored Me”; and when he says, “Malikey-Yumuddin” [Master of the Day of Judgment], the response comes from Allah, “My slave glorified Me”; and when he says, “Thee alone we worship Thee alone we ask for help”, the response comes from Allah: this is between Me and My slave and My slave will get what he asked for; and when he calls: “Show us the right path, the path of those whom Thou has favored; not (the path) of those who earn Thine anger nor of those who go astray”, the response comes from Allah: This is for my slave and My slave will have what he asked for:” [How personalized the opening Chapter, Al-Fateha of the Qur’an is - a direct ‘conversation “between me and my God.” It tones down my total surrender to Allah and rightfully sets my position to Him from the very outset of my Salah as every Rakah starts with it and I repeat this extreme sense of devotion and commitment “consciously” at least 17 times in my obligatory Salah every day. Every Muslim must feel always like that in his or her Salah five times a day at the least. What a great communion with God every day for Muslims who are regular in prayers. This is His direct reward on earth and what he/she will get after death will be much more and that is known to Allah alone what a fortunate the Muslim is!

This personal favor from my Lord does not end here. It becomes multiple when I recite Surah Al-Fateha in a very “thoughtful and pensive mode” with rapt adoration: reciting its seven Verses with tongue and envisioning the contents of each deep in my heart simultaneously as what each VERSE connotes, what it demands and what the inward light it throws on my body

and soul making me an integral part of Al- Fateha in its letter and spirit. My heart then weeps in rapt adoration. My soul realizes its intrinsic beauty and gravity in their extreme depth to the extent that the entire universe becomes the part of my life with the sublime beauty and taste of total devotion to my God as if I am only born for Him and live for Him alone till eternity and will ultimately die for Him fulfilling my total commitment in terms of Verse # 162 of Surah Al-Ana'm:

“Say: Behold my prayers, and (all) my acts of worship, and my living and my dying are for Allah alone – the Lord of this cosmos.”

***SALATUR VITR**: The sublime beauty of my total devotion and submission does not end here but the process becomes more and more personal when I offer the “VITR” as the last prayer of the day after Esha and recite the last four Verses # 27 to 30 of Surah # 89 - Al-Fajr:

[But unto the righteous God will say,] “O thou human being that has attained to inner peace! Return thou unto thy Sustainer, well pleased [and] pleasing [Him]: enter then, together with My [other true] servants –yea, enter thou My paradise!”

***SAWM**: My fasting is purely personal for Allah as Hadith says, **“Al-Sawm is for Me and I will give its reward to My slave”** [in proportion to the quality of Sawm.] When I fast in Ramadan or observe Qayamul lail [night vigilance] with [a constant] sense of Iman and that of its accountability, Allah pardons my past sins. It develops secret, personal contact between me and my God. A constant month long fasting along with non-obligatory fasting throughout the year keeps me ever closer to “my God”, creating **Allah’s consciousness** [Taqwah] in my heart causing everlasting influence on my character, my actions and deeds, reminding me always that Allah is there and He is watching me and I am under His “active” vigilance and supervision always. **[This is my conviction as that of others who are living as conscious Muslims and Muslimah]. Hope He will pardon all my sins and give me Tawfeeq to be His Abd an [all-time] servant and He will certainly address me with His most personalized address on the Day of Judgment as proclaimed by Him at the end of Surah Al-Fajr verses # 27 to 30 – the climax of human emancipation in the sight of our Lord:**

27. “But Ah! Thou soul at peace

28. Return unto thy Lord, content in His good pleasure!

29. Enter thou among My bondsmen

30. Enter thou My Garden!”

“O thou human being that has attained to inner peace! Return thou unto thy Sustainer, well pleased.”

* **HAJJ:** Hajj to the House of Allah is an extraordinary individual Ebadah with total devotion and commitment to Allah. It is obligatory on every Muslim and Muslimah once in life provided one has the means to bear the cost and health to sustain the hardship on its way. It is in response to the call given by our forefather Abraham on directives from Allah:

“**And proclaim** unto mankind the [duty of] pilgrimage: They will come unto thee on foot and on every [kind of] fast mount. Coming from every far-away point [on earth], so that they might experience much that shall be of benefit to them, and that they might extol the name of God on the days appointed [for sacrifice], over whatever heads of cattle He may have provided for them [to this end]: eat, then, thereof and fed the unfortunate poor.

[The Qur’an. Al-Hajj- 22: 27-28]

It is in response to that universal call of Prophet Abraham (AS), Muslims from every nook and corner of the world go to Makkah, where the House of Allah is situated, reciting loudly, when reaching its bounds and clad in Eham, with total devotion to Allah:

“Labbaika, Allahumma labbaik, labbaik la sharika laka labbaik, innal hamda wa naimata laka wal mulka, la Sharika lak” [Here I am O Lord, here I am O Lord, You have no partner. Here I am, surely praise, blessings and the kingdom are for You. You have no partner]

Hajj, in fact, is a scenario of total devotion to Allah for five days, from the eighth to twelfth of Zul-Hajja, in commemoration of what is attributed to

Abraham, his devoted wife Hagar and equally his most obedient son Prophet Ismail about extreme personal sacrifices that they rendered for Allah while re-building His House in the wilderness of Makkah more than 4000 years ago. The way each of them sacrificed in the way of their Lord what He ordained them to do, every Muslim and Muslimah must always be prepared to sacrifice all that he/she possesses in their respective life time for the sake of Allah in His way. It is the prime most personal Ebadah when one performs “Tawaf” of Haram, makes “Sayee” and reaching “Mina” prays to Allah, sitting or standing around the Mount of Arafat, He pardons all the past sins and grants the prayers that one is begging from Him in all humility.

My God is very magnanimous, kind and Merciful. He has prescribed the formats of personal Ebadah of Salah, Sawm and Hajj to cement and maintain my individual relation with Him always afresh round the clock, throughout the year in life-long pursuits to seek His pleasure on earth. Through this process of continuous personal Ebadah, my God provides me immense opportunity to build my relation with Him on a constant “**personal**” basis as His devoted and most dutiful **Abd** [slave], the very axis on which hinges the Falah and success in the world Hereafter.

If we treat the human life on earth in the form of a triangle with three cones: I hold one cone – and at the other two cones: at one cone Allah is there and the other cone is occupied by human beings. The personal Ebadah as elaborated above strengthens my “personal relation” with my God. For cementing “relation with human chain” that lives on earth, Allah (SWT) has prescribed another form of Ebadah and it is “Infaq-fi-Sabil-Allah” – spending in the way of Allah through Zakah and Sadaqat.

WA MIMMA RAZAQNAHUM YUNFIQOON: They spend (in the way of Allah) out of what (He) provides them. [Ref: Verse # 3 of Surah Al-Baqarah].

The growth of human society is very uneven. It is full of rich and poor, haves and have-nots, sick and incapacitated, affluent and deprived. There are able bodied, intelligent and people of means, whereas there may be millions` in each society that suffer from hunger and diseases, living in the world of God which is full of His bounties. It is Allah’s planning that men of means must take care of those who are less fortunate in means, health and talents. It is His planning that humans who can afford and have plenty must come to the help of the poor, the needy and the incapacitated on the principle of

“mutual-help”. However, Allah has made the “helping others” as a personal Ebadah and made it incumbent on each Muslim to share his/her means with others to the extent possible even with a “Qitmir” [the white skin over a date pit]. He ordains it as the specific character of Muslims who spend in the way of Allah for His pleasure.

* “And in whose wealth there is a due share acknowledged [by them], [for help] for the beggars and the deprived [destitute]” [The Qur’an. Al-Ma’arij – 80: 24-25]

* “And in their wealth, the beggars and the deprived had due share” [The Qur’an. Al-Dhariyat – 51: 19]:

* Allah (SWT) describes this character, the habit of Mumineen, in Verse # 274 of Al-Baqarah:

“Those who spend their wealth by night and day, by stealth and openly, verily their reward is with their Lord, and there shall no fear come upon them neither shall they grieve”

See how eager a Muslim is to spend his/her wealth, day and night, openly and secretly for the poor, the needy and the have-nots with the commitment from Allah that he/she will have no grieve and no fear will overcome him/her. **But they spend their wealth without expecting any reward or favor from anyone.** How categorically Qur’an confirms it:

“Those who spend their wealth for the cause of Allah and afterward make no reproach and injury to follow that what they have spent their reward is with their Lord and there shall no fear come upon them, neither shall they grieve”.

[The Qur’an. Al-Baqarah – 2: 262]

As in the case of personal Ebadah, the reward in each case of spending in the way of Allah is manifold. Just think of a society where every individual is spending day and night, openly and secretly, for his/her brothers and sisters, for his/her countrymen and women, the have-nots, the suffering humanity, the underfed and who are in distress at every nook and corner

of the society, will there be anyone left hungry, unfed, unclad, uneducated, shelter less and without medical care?

This is the arrangement of my God and as an individual I am to perform these bountiful egalitarian jobs out of my personal wealth that Allah has given me with no favor to anyone. In fact, Allah has categorically put his/her share in my lot and now it is my **obligation** to find the have-nots in the society around me and **with all humility** I am to hand over their share with no favor to them.

* This magnanimous program of sharing wealth with others **on voluntary basis** does not end here. At the end of each year, I am to take stock of my wealth, cash, kind and stocks in trade with gold and silver that I have, and work out **“Zakatul mal”** @ of 2 ½ percent if the total accumulated wealth increases the fixed Nisab of 52 tola of silver or 7 ½ tola of gold or both and find out the brothers and sisters who have less than the Nisab and hence are entitled to accept the Zakatul mal for the fulfillment of their basic needs of life till the rehabilitation of their personal economy comes to the stage that they themselves reach the status to pay Zakah on their own. **This is my personal Ebadah** and I am to do it regularly every year, if there is no Islamic state to collect Zakah and distribute it under an organized plan to rehabilitate the economy of the have-nots of the society and ultimately from the Ummah at large.

Unfortunately, there are 57 Muslim States but this system of Zakah is not established anywhere as an obligatory Institution. As such, the inherent benefits of the System are not visible in augmenting the economy of Muslim countries at mass level. In consequence, the have-nots of not only Muslim countries are suffering to rehabilitate their economic position, the have-nots of other undeveloped economies of the world are not able to get the benefit of surpluses of Zakah of the Muslim world which will be inevitably accrued if the system works in Muslim lands and solves the economy of have-nots of their respective lands. This is the boon of Islamic economy that Qur’an sustains.

Those who oppose the emergence of Islamic State in the world, in fact, are denying their have –not to enjoy the benefits and bounties that Islam offers to human societies with no cost. The stalwarts of the secular world must think over the fallacies of their thinking process and must leave

behind the emergence of Islamic States in the Muslim lands and elsewhere in the world. The USA and its secular camp must give up their unethical and immoral opposition to the emergence of Islam as a political entity in the community of nations. Their opposition to Islamic System of life is totally wrong and stands as a curse for humanity at large. The advocates of Christianity must think over it for the elimination of poverty at Global level. The easiest way God recommends is through the Divine Guidance that Islam promotes and guarantees when it is established in every corner of the world.

This process is the integral part of the self-sustained, self-motivated and self-controlled **Social Welfare System of Islam** and “my God” accomplishes it through our individual efforts as personal Ebadah. This spending of the personal wealth in the way of Allah is conditioned only with the definition of “**Al-Afwah**” - that is spending all in the way of Allah what is left over after meeting the legitimate expenses of self and family and having no extravaganza in life

(Ref: Verse 219 of Al-Baqarah).

* Over and above this, **paying of Zakah every year on the accumulated wealth**, every Muslim becomes boon for his/her society, in removing poverty and creating/sharing “welfare” for all. The Islamic State comes in picture only to distribute it justifiably in an organized manner and with the vision to spend it only on the fixed eight heads of disbursement of Zakah as spelled out by Allah in Verse # 60 of Chapter Al-Tawbah, in order to eliminate the uneven economic condition of the Islamic society. The system ultimately distributes/shares the **leftover** of his/her wealth with legal, “close” heir/relatives, immediately after death, completing the personal account of every Muslim as soon as he/she closes his/her eyes for good.

* A Muslim or Muslimah must think that how magnanimously “**my God**”, [equally the God of others] has given full-fledged importance to individuals in personal Ebadah and personal spending in His way, in molding and building one’s character, making him/her always mindful of His presence with every moment of time, remembering Him always with every gesture of life, irrespective of the fact whether he is in Qayama, Ruku, or Sajud, reciting the Qur’an, contemplating over the most inspiring character and deeds of our beloved Prophet` (S) and his (S) devoted companions, while eating, sleeping

and enjoying His blessings and bounties or spending in His way. **He/she is never alone, while receiving and enjoying the Barakah of his bounties. It makes him/her ever Allah-conscious, thinking always that He is “my God” and I am doing all for Him alone, depending always under each and every condition of life, the zenith of Tawakkal Alallah and expecting the best reward from Him in both the worlds.**

This process of “personification” of God conceptually in actions is perhaps now the only process for Muslims to rediscover them as a living Ummah that Allah raised on earth for the betterment of humanity and delivering justice and fair play to all and malice to none. So “my God” is Eternal and looks after “me” wherever I am and whatever I am doing. When every member of Muslim Ummah will be behaving and practicing like that, the revival of Ummah will not be impossible in the present context of the world. The concept of “my God” will keep every Muslim in “upright” position wherever he/she is and what he/she is doing. The effect of “Allah-consciousness” reaches to new bounds when it is supplanted with extreme supplication, imploring and begging from Him alone round the clock and with every moment of our life.

PERSONAL SUPPLICATION: AL-DU’A - THE ESSENCE OF EBADAH - [AL-MUKH-KHUL EBADAH]:

“My God” loves the hands of His slaves that are stretched before Him with all humility, imploring Him to grant his/her prayers. “My God” feels shy of returning those supplications unanswered and unattended. Hadith of Rasulullah (S) confirms it. It is narrated by Salman Farsi ® .Rasulullah (S) said, “Allah is modest as well generous.” [From When His servant spreads his hands before Him [for prayers], He feels shy to return them empty handed Abu Dawood, Tirmizi. and Ibne Ma’ja]. His response comes in three ways: Either He accepts, or differs or sheds my sins or elevates my position in Akhirah.

When I pray to my God, loudly or in the heart of my heart, with choking voice with all devotion and concentration to Him, I put before Him all that is within me and what I urged from Him consciously, He listens and responds forthwith graciously. The recitation of Al-Fateha at the very outset fixes the tone and submission of my imploration before Him in all humility:

- I beg from Him to keep me/ (us) on the straight-path of those whom He honored and not of those whom

He condemned and is not gone astray;

- O my Lord! Condemn me/us) not if I forget or miss the mark;

- O my Lord! Lay not on me/ (us) such a burden as Thou did lay on those before us;

- O my Lord! Impose not on me/ (us) that I/ (we) which have no strength to bear

- Pardon me/us, absolve me/us and have mercy on me (us); Thou are the Protector and give us victory over

The infidels. **[Verse 286 of Al-Baqarah]**

- **O my God!** All my acts of worship, and my sacrifice, and my living, and my dying are for my God alone,

The Sustainer of all the worlds. **[Ref: Ayah 162 of Chapter Al-Ana'm]**

- **O my God!** I seek Thy protection from degradation and laziness, from cowardice, old age and miserliness, and I seek Thy refuge from the punishment of grave and the trials of life and death, from debts and dominance of men.

[Bukhari & Muslim: Narrated by Anas Bin Malik (R)]

- **O my God!** I seek Thy refuge of the evils of my hearing, from the evils of what I see, from the evils of my tongue [what I speak], and the evils of my heart (what it desires and nurtures).

[Tirmizi & Abu Dawood: Narrated by Shakal bin Humaid (R)]

- **O my God!** I seek Thy refuge from immoral behavior, from evil deeds, and from evil fantasies

[From Tirmizi: Narrated by Qatbah bin Malik]

- **O my God!** I seek Thy refuge from the trial of fire and from the evils of affluent and poverty

[Tirmizi & Abu Dawood. Narrated by A'yeesha Siddiqah (RA)]

- **O my God!** I seek Thy refuge from hunger as it is the worst thing for a person to live with for the night, and from embezzlement as it is the worst ailment of heart,

[From Abu Dawood: Narrated by Abu Hurairah (RA)]

- **O my God!** I seek Thy refuge from the knowledge that is not bountiful, and from the heart that has no fear of Thine, and from the supplications (Du'a) that are not heard (or not responsive)

[From Muslim Narrated by Zaid bin Arqam (RA)]

- **O my God!** I seek Thy refuge from the evil of deeds that I performed and that of which I could not.

[From Muslim, narrated by A'yeesha Siddiqah (RA)]

[All these personal prayers, seeking refuge from Allah are from Chapter "Mauvezat" Vol. VIII: Tafheemul Ahadith – Sayed AA Maudoodi (RA)]

These extremely personal prayers thought by my beloved Prophet Muhammad (S) motivate me to live constantly under the ever-lasting vigil and protection of my Lord, bringing me closer and closer to Him. And I pray with greater devotion: **O my Lord!** "You are the Creator of the heavens and the earth! You are my protecting friend in the world and the Hereafter: Make me to die submissive (unto Thee), and join me to the righteous" **[Ref: Verse # 101Of Chapter Joseph]**; And I beg from Allah: **O my Lord!** Give us the best of this world and the best of the world Hereafter and save us from the doom of fire **[Ref. Verse 201 of Surah Al-Baqarah]**

*In the concluding prayers at night in “Witr”, every Muslim recites **“Qunut”**, a symbol of total submission and unconditional surrender to His authority:

- **“O my Allah:** We seek Your help and ask Your forgiveness and we believe in You and trust in You. We praise You in the best way and we thank You and we are not ungrateful and we cast off and forsake him who disobeys You. **O Allah!** You alone we worship and to You we pray and before You we prostrate, to You we turn in haste, and hope for Your mercy and fear your punishment. Thy punishment overtakes the unbelievers”

Rising head from Ruku, it is followed by extremely personal prayers before going to Sajdah, while standing and crying before Allah in all humility with hands raised and stretched towards Him:

- **O Allah!** Guide us and count us amongst those whom You have guided;

Save us and count us among those whom You have saved;

Protect us and count us among those whom You have protected;

Bless us and count us among those whom You have blessed;

Give Barakah in what You have favored us;

Save us from the evil effect of what You have resolved;

Because You are [the authority] to enforce decision and none can enforce [his] decision on You;

One cannot get honor that You count as Your enemy;

And he will never be disgraced who becomes Your friend;

Most blessed! You are, my Lord, You are most exalted; we seek Your pardon and turn back to You with repentance.

- **O Allah!** Pardon the sins of Muslims and Muslimah, Mumineen and Muminah, polish their mutual relations, fill their hearts with love [for each other] and help them over Yours and their enemies.

Verily, You have the power to do all and everything. [From Qunut-e-Nazilah]

- **O Allah!** I beg You with [giving] the witness that verily there is no deity except Allah: You are One, You are Al-Samad who begets not nor was begotten and there is none comparable to You [Ref: Tafseer of Surah Al-Ikhlās – Ibne Katheer]

- **O Allah!** I beg from You: Perfect health, Tongue that always glorify You, knowledge that is bountiful, heart that is contented filled with [Your] fear and honest provision that is Halal, Tayyeb and in abundance.

- **O Allah!** Fill my heart with Noor [Your light], and my eyes with Noor, and my insight with Noor, and my right side with Noor, and my left side with Noor, and Noor above my head, and Noor beneath me, and Noor in my front, and Noor at my back, and grace me with Noor on the Day of Judgment [when I would be in its dire need]

- **O Allah!** Include me amongst those who are steadfast, and those who are truthful, and those who are obedient, and those who spend [in your ways], and those who beg (Your) pardon in the morning hours of night. [**Ref: Verse # 17 of Chapter -3, Al-Imran**]

- **O Allah!** I seek Thy protection from [the condition of] helplessness and indolence, and cowardice, and miserliness, and burden of debt, and dominance of people. [**From Bukhari & Muslim, Narrated by Anas Bin Malik (RA)**]; **O Allah!** Make me to die as Muslim and make me one with the Saleheen [the righteous people] Ref: Yusuf: 101

- **O my Sustainer!** Open my heart [to Thy light], and make my task easy for me, and loosen the knot from my tongue so that [my addressees] fully understand my speech [**Ref: Verses 25 -28 of Chapter 20 - TAHA**]

- **O my God!** Endow me with the ability to judge [between right and wrong] and make me one with the righteous [Ash-Shua'ra: 83], and **make me one with the "Al-Qaleel"** [Ref: Al-Waqiah: 14}

Amen! Ya Rabbul A'lameen!

SUMMATION: The scenario of personal Ebadah - submission, supplication to Allah (SWT) and spending in His way day and night, openly and secretly, irrespective of the fact where I am and what I am doing, in fact, depicts the life of a Muslim and the way he/she should live on earth as His devoted "Abd" [slave] for all times till he/she breaths his/her last. This sets the requisite tone of life that we are ever to live, act, behave and die for Him, seeking help only from Him, begging always His pardon and Rahmah for His eternal bliss in both the worlds, while making every effort to establish the authority of Allah on self, family and the society in which he/she lives in an organized and continuous process till the Deen of Allah becomes dominant all around or one gives up his/her life in that pursuit. One who lives like that is a Mumin and the entire universe is for him/her. **And when a team of such Muslims and Muslimah is available on earth, only then Allah will prepare the ground to entrust the reign and management of this world to it.** Till then only ignominy and disgrace is our fate. It is we who are responsible for our disgraceful condition not the "Aghyar" [the outside world - whom we always blame foolishly].

Truly speaking, nothing belongs to me or to anyone, specially the Muslims who have already bargained their life and wealth with Allah in lieu of Jannah and they have to live with that commitment for the whole of their life. Only then Allah will fulfill His commitment with Muslims/Mumineen. The verdict of the Qur'an is extraordinarily clear in this respect. It is the highest bargain towards success [Falah] that I and every Muslim have struck with Allah (SWT). It goes as follows:

"Behold: Allah has bought of the believers their lives and their possessions, promising them paradise in return, [and so] they fight in the way of Allah, and slay and are slain: a promise which is binding on Him in the Torah and the Gospel and the Qur'an. And who could be more faithful to his covenant

than Allah? Rejoice, then, in the bargain that you have struck with Him: for this is the supreme triumph”

“[Triumphant] are those who turn [unto God] in repentance [whenever they have sinned], and who worship and praise [Him], go on and on [seeking His goodly acceptance], and bow down [before Him] and prostrate themselves in adoration, and enjoin of doing what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong, and keep to the bounds set by Allah. And give thou [O Prophet] the glad tidings [of God’s promise] to all believers,”

[The Qur’an: Verse # 111 -112

of Surah At-Tawbah]

The life of a Muslim begins with the aforesaid covenant between him and his Allah: He/she is to struggle for the whole of his/her life in His way for His pleasure, spending his/her life - time, talents and resources for the Iqamah of Allah’s Deen on earth. And then Allah will fulfill His commitment and give His Jannah in lieu of his/her life-long sacrifices and who can be better than Allah to fulfill His promise? This is what verse # 111 recalls. Verse# 112 reflects the effects of this commitment in his/her life. **If he/she fulfills it, his/her character will be the true embodiment of what is described in this verse. This would transform his/her life into a vibrant Da’ee Ilallah on all counts. This is the ideal that “my God” wants from “me” and from each Muslim and Muslimah on earth. Our success in this world lies only through this way.**

Individually, every Muslim and Muslimah will have to fulfill this solemn covenant practically in the way I have depicted above as an inherent demand and devotion to **“My God”**, building a contented soul on earth as His slave and servant round the clock and the whole of life. Allah (SWT) will address only to this contented soul on the Day of Judgment as:

“O the contented soul! Return thou unto thy Sustainer, well pleased [and] pleasing [Him]: Enter, then, together with My [other true] servants. And enter thou in My paradise” [The Qur’an: Surah Al-Fajr – Verses # 27 -30]

What a great personal success we will find in waiting on the Day of Judgment if we serve the God of this universe as **“my God”** with love, devotion and total surrender in every phase of life. I have elaborated the

concept of “my God” in detail only to give an idea to our Muslim brothers and sisters as how to live, act and behave on this earth in utmost submission to mine/yours God as briefed under “Summation” above. Only then, we would be able to change the world as Allah ordains and His Messenger {S} struggled for the whole of his (S) life.

II. MY IDEAL:

“My God” is very kind and magnanimous in showering His limitless bounties on His slaves through the personal prayers the way I have elaborated above. In His infinite mercy, He did not left me and the humanity to grapple in dark as how to accomplish His demand of total surrender and obedience to what He ordains in every field of life. As such, He appointed the most beloved human being of all times, Muhammad, the son of Abdullah of Makkah as His Messenger to deliver His final and the most updated message through the Qur’an and demonstrated to mankind as how to live, act and behave on this earth both individually and collectively. **In him (S) I got the most perfect model of what I am to do.** He (S) is “my Ideal” in every phase and every department of my life: in Ebadah – offering Salah, observing Sawm, performing Hajj, paying Zakah; in doing “Infaq-fi-Sabil Allah”; in rendering social and humanitarian services to the poor, the needy, the destitute and the have-nots; in dealings with our neighbors, relatives and the fellow citizens; in dealing with kids, women, orphans, labor, servants [slaves]; in treating parents, wife, children and nears and dears; in fulfilling the rights of countrymen and women and the humanity at large. The life of Rasulullah (S) is the truthful model of what he (S) did in his (S) personal and public life; as a father, as a husband, as a businessman, as a Murabbi and Muzakki, as a Statesman, as a General, as an Ambassador of peace, as the Head of the state and the way he delivered Al-Adl wa Qist [justice and fair play] to the suffering humanity. You think of his (S) behavior in any form, his (S) model is there and humanity could not and cannot produce any better ideal than him (S). **In fact, humanity got perfection in all the manifestations of its virtues in his (S) life-pattern till eternity.** History has preserved and protected it in its minutest detail

The most important thing is that it is he (S) who said that there is God and we accept it as he (S) was always known as **“Amin and Sadiq”** [trustworthy and truthful]. He (S) truthfully delivered to us what was revealed to Him from Allah, both openly and secretly. During his (S) long twenty three years of

Prophethood, he (S) struggled day and night with all the means of men and material at his(S) disposal in glorifying his (S) Lord, in establishing His authority on self, family and building a society and a state accordingly. He (S) was kind, merciful to all who came in contact with him (S). He (S) was full of compassion for the oppressed, the weak, the have-nots and the down trodden. Even animals used to approach him (S) against the cruelty of their masters. For the whole of his (S) life, he (S) stood for the commitment, the covenant, the promises and the treaties he (S) made with individuals, tribes and nations within and outside his (S) domain

Prophet Muhammad (S) was not only the center of extreme love and devotion from his companions when he was alive and living with them. He (S) was the center of extraordinary love and affection for all times, afterward, today and will remain so till eternity. His (S) benevolent character, the perfect mode of his (S) life-pattern and our unquenchable love for him (S) are the center of gravity of Muslim Ummah. His (S) fascinating human character miraculously attracts the people to enter into fold of Allah and adhere to it meticulously. That is the reason the Kuffar and idolaters have always been attacking his (S) position as Rasulullah (S), and willfully have tried and are trying even to this day to raise fingers on his (S) unblemished character that was always acknowledged as spotless even by his (S) adversaries, right from the very outset of his (S) Prophethood in Makkah. However, the Jews and Christians were extremely prejudiced and were not prepared to believe that the Qur'an is from Allah and alleged that someone is helping him (S) as he was not literate. Unfortunately, these false and baseless allegations are going on till today by Jews and Christians missionaries' day in and day out, poisoning only the minds of their respective followers.

Jews, Christians and the Pagan world could not produce any model like him (S) in the past, nor they can do it today or till the doomsday. However, their individual and collective false propaganda is going on ruthlessly through western media, personal nonsensical twisted and out of context allegations and distorted historical events of his (S) life in the form of a heinous campaign. However, his (S) life-pattern is tremendously attracting millions of humans everywhere. The sustained love and devotion of about 1.7 billion Muslims on the surface of the earth is the most glorious tribute that Muslim Ummah is offering him (S) day and night. Thus, he (S) holds the most blessed position that Allah promised him (S): **“Wa Rafaana laka Zikrak”** [And (have

We not) exalted thy fame – **The Qur’an. 94: 4]** If Muslims become true models of his (S) life pattern, the world can still be transformed into a worldly paradise for humanity, both for the affluent and the have-nots.

The life-pattern of Rasulullah (S) is **“My Ideal”** and I am trying my utmost to follow his (S) pattern in every walk of life, day and night and every moment of my life and advocating the same to be observed and followed by all the Muslims around the world. **Only by following Rasulullah (S), the Muslims will follow Allah as ordained by Him in Verse # 80 of Surah Al-Nisa.**

“Whoso obeys the Messenger, obeys Allah, and whoso turns away: We have not sent thee as a warder over them.”

[Verse # 80 of Surah Al-Nisa]

Only then Muslims will be able to fulfill their commitment to Allah and Allah in turn will fulfill His commitment **[Ref: Verse # 40 of Surah Al-Baqarah]**

CONCLUSION: I follow **“My God”** and trying to strive hard for what He demands from me by following through **“My Ideal”**, the life-pattern of Prophet Muhammad (S) as its model. Rasulullah (S) followed and practiced what Allah directed him(S) to do openly and secretly in its most perfect form. **It is, thus, incumbent upon me to follow him (S) throughout my life and the same I have depicted above in all humility as my life-long pursuit.**

Equally, the life pattern of Rasulullah (S) is the ideal for every Muslim and Muslimah on earth. They are to follow him (S) meticulously, the way I have elaborated in the foregoing pages under the captions: “My God & My Ideal”. Only then the fate of the Muslim Ummah can be revived sooner than later we expect. Allamah Iqbal has correctly summarized the entire situation very beautifully in the following capsule.

“Afrad key hathun mein hai Aqwam ki Taqdeer <> Har fard hai millat key muqaddar ka sitara”. [Translation: Destiny of a people lies in the hands of [its] individuals; every individual is the guiding star of the Millah.]

May Allah give Tawfeeq and courage to me and every Muslim and Muslimah to follow **“MY GOD & MY IDEAL”** the Way I have humbly elaborated above!

Amen! And this is what the born, the traditional and the Reborn Muslim is supposed to do after he/she realizes that what they all have to do devotedly and honestly after becoming Muslim and taking "SHAHADAH" [Individual Commitment to Allah] and entering into Islam by reciting The words of the Second" KALIMAH-e-SHAHADA": "ASH-HADU UN LA-ELAHA ILLAH ALLAH WADAHU LASHAREEKA LAHU <> WA ASHADU UNNA MUHAMMAUN ABDAHU WA RASULUHU"

TRANSLATION: I Stand witness that there is no deity Except Allah and He has no partner; and I stand witness that Muhammad (S) is His ABD and HIS MESSENGER;

[May 3, 2006]

CHAPTER –VI: THE IDEAL MUSLIM AND MUSLIMAH - THE PRE-REQUISITE OF IMAN

Alhamdulillah, different brothers define in their way that who is an ideal Muslim. Those are the qualifications of a "routine" or a "traditional" Muslim whereas the need is that of an Ideal Muslim and for that we need extra efforts to find out who are they, where they are found, what they constitute, how they can be built, how they live, act and behave, and how they would look like as living human beings in the context of the modern world?

* **The Ideal Muslim** - He is a twenty four hours servant [Abd] of his Master, leading a conscious life that his "Salah, sacrifices, life and death all are for his/her Lord", seeking help only from "Rabbunnas" [The Sustainer of humans] "Malikunnas" [Master of the people],"Ilahunnas"[the Lord of mankind] and constantly feeling accountable to Him for all his/her actions and deeds on earth so and so that it becomes the regular and integral part of his/her habit and he/she never forgets that he/she is all time servant of his/her Creator and Sustainer, irrespective of the fact where he/she is and what he/she is doing. This is the life of a perfect Muslim and a Muslimah.

* He always tries to seek the pleasure of his Master, obeys His commands to the maximum possible extent and keeps away from all that He has prohibited not to go nearby it even.

* 'Whenever his Lord said unto him: "Surrender", he said: Lo! I have surrendered to the Lord of the cosmos" [Ref: Verse # 131 of Al-Baqarah].

* He always sustains the vision as how to get the world streamline for Truth and bring it under the control of its Creator and Sustainer?

* That Ideal Muslim and Muslimah would always be thinking as how to manage his/her life for the prolong struggle against Batil forces who are occupying the abode of man either "forcefully, cunningly and wrongly" and filling the earth with all kinds of Injustices - torture, greed, lust, corruption, confusion, oppression, exploitation, fraudulent trade practices, filth and wrongful usurpations?

* That Ideal Muslim and Muslimah is the most obedient servant of God, maneuvering always as how to get the Deen of Allah introduced, spread and establish in the human community and His authority ultimately on self, family and the society in which he/she pulsates;

* That ideal Muslim and Muslimah would always champion the cause of the poor, the needy, the incapacitated and the have-nots through the prescribed self-sustained welfare system of Islam with justice to all at equal footings and malice to none. It will be a constant source of justice and fair play to each and every individual living within its domain;

* That Ideal Muslim and Muslimah will always fight for human rights at all levels and strata of society and constantly struggle to deliver Justice [Adl and Qist] to all and sundry;

* Thus, his/her whole life will be a living embodiment of total fight for Khair against Batil and to continue that fight ceaselessly till he/she breaths last; he would require a lifelong companion to give him comfort in life, bear and rear the new generation to continue this struggle for ages to come till the Batil and the untruth is rooted out from the human society altogether and that Haq is established in its place as ordained by Allah in **Verse # 18 of Chapter # 21, Al-Ambiyah**

-- "Nay, but We hurl the truth against falsehood [Batil], and it crushes/breaks the latter's head. And lo! It vanishes or [withers away]. And yours will be woe for that which ye ascribe (unto Him)

[The Qur'an, Surah Al-Ambiyah: 21:18]:

* The Muslim society must be constantly busy and immensely pre-occupied in creating, producing and sustaining that ideal trustworthy character in its sons and daughters in transforming them into Ideal Muslim and Ideal Muslimah as its prime obligation on earth and making them complimentary and supplementary to each other.

* That "Ideal Muslimah" will then emerge as the prime need of the aforesaid "Ideal Muslim Society" to produce the ideological "fighters" ceaselessly for

the dominance of Haq over Batil as ordained by Allah in Verse # 18 of Surah Al-Ambiyah (21) as quoted above.

* These ideal Muslims and Muslimah through their determined and sustained joint and concerted efforts will fill the earth with peace, justice, compassion and harmony and will inhabit their next world, the “Jannah” after death as the reward of the sacrifices that they both would render for the whole of their life in the way of Allah to attain His pleasure.

* The Muslim society, our fathers and mothers and the Muslim leadership would have to produce and culture a generation like that towards the resurrection of the fate of Muslim Ummah as the prime most obligations of Muslims on this earth.

In my humble way, I appeal the Muslim leadership to rise to the occasion, feel the onerous responsibility that is lying on their shoulders, accept this most sacred challenge of time and put tremendous efforts in producing the requisite generation of Ideal Muslims and Muslimah. The Muslim Institutions of the USA and that of the Muslim world at large must undertake this task forthwith as their life-long mission to accomplish.

Let Muslims resolve to produce the requisite team of Ideal Muslims and Muslimah as early as possible. If they resolve today it would take a generation or so to bridge the gap towards resurrection.

This is the prime most objective that inclined me to write this Book “AFTER BECOMING MUSLIM –WHAT NEXT.? This is the Goal and ambition to which a Muslim is committed by faith and this is the cultural/Moral need of time to which Muslims stand committed to fulfill and accomplish as the fastest demand of their Iman in Allah and Prophet Muhammad (S) as His Messenger and to which we all will be accountable to our Supreme Lord on the Day of Judgment when there will be none to help him/her or come to his/her rescue. He/she will be standing alone before our Lord with our lifelong Scroll of deeds in our hands who knows all our intents and purposes behind each of our acts committed by us on earth.

Only a broad and deep consciousness of this delicate phenomenon will keep us ever-conscious on earth to be upright in our worldly actions and deeds, feeling always accountable to Him. Only this ever-presence consciousness

will save us from all the evils deeds on earth and will enable us to face our Lord with flying colors, Insha Allah, in Akhirah. No recommendation will come to our help from anyone whatsoever it may be. Only our good deeds will stand by our side. All Muslim men and women will be standing on their own legs

May Allah Help the Muslim Ummah to resurrect its fate on these lines as the resurrection of the fate of humanity depends on the resurrection of Muslim fate! The Jodeo-Christian Community should help us in a panoramic struggle of all the Abrahamic system of life that we all profess and practice. Ameen!

It has common denominations of 1.Tawheed [Monotheism]; 2. Accountability in Akhirah on the assumption how all individuals lived on this earth, acted and behaved as individual human being and used their time, talents, energies and resources from where they earned their earnings through rightful means or wrongful and where they spend it in luxuries, show off or in the way of Allah for the humanity at large and; 3.To what extent they lived like the model life prescribed by the Messengers of time – Prophet Mohammad (S) as the last Messenger for humans till the Doomsday or as per their whims, desires and caprices. If he lived a reckless life of his/her own, he/she will be doomed for good but if he/she passed his/her life on earth as responsible human being in total obedience to their Lord of this cosmos, they all will be destined to be honored by His paramount pleasure of happiness and will be allowed to live in His eternal paradise for good.

August 7, 2016

CHAPTER – VII: EHTESAB-E-NAFS [SELF – EVALUATION]

What I have discussed and elaborated in the previous Chapter to attain the position of an Ideal Muslim or Muslimah can be accomplished vociferously in a moderate fashion, if we all do our individual self – evaluation regularly on day today basis as we have the natural habits of eating, drinking, urinating and sleeping etc. as our natural needs and habits and observe them as our natural needs with normal ease and comfort. Similarly we all can do and adopt our respective self-evaluation program as the natural need of man, feeling always extremely uncomfortable if we ignore them as if you have missed your regular meal and feeling hungry without it and you cannot live or survive without doing your self-evaluation with every breath of your life. It is a compulsory Self-sustaining course of life to keep US all on right track.

What evaluation you are to make on regular basis as to where and how you are using your time, your energies, your talents, your stamina, your resources and your capabilities as they all are the trusts in your hands and entrusted by our Almighty God in our hands in natural process. This is a natural phenomenon and you get them all by birth and by inheritance from our parents and family traditions. These are trusts in your hands and you have to use them by extreme care and concern as our Creator and Sustainer commands them to do.

You have, therefore, to be extremely vigilant in using all these trusts as to whether you are using them for the benefit of mankind or causing damages to human species and her abode and environment. In case you are using them in right causes as your Creator and Sustainer commands you to do for the benefit of individual human being, the human society at large and the natural environment in which we are living and breathing or using them in destroying and demolish the human environment and

natural phenomenon that protects you and provides you proper breeding and nourishing you and the entire natural phenomenon.

It needs proper programing so that not a single segment of entire human life is left over and neglected by mistake or oversight. Hence this job needs to be done in an organized fashion and sector wise as I am planning onward;

1. EBADAH:
 - Prayers: A Muslim or a Muslimah offers Salah at least five times a day. He/she must be attentive, mindful of his/her obligatory prayers while praying five times in a day along with the non-obligatory prayers at night [Tahajjud] with total concentration and rapt adoration to what he/she is reciting, thinking over what he/she is imploring in depth, understanding its meanings in utter devotion and applying its contents on his or her life as to whether he/she is sincerely following the contents in his/her life in complete obedience to his/her Lord. To make this point crystal clear, I am undertaking Surah Al-Fateha as its barometer to judge and going through it verse by verse, applying its contents on our life and see where we stand contrary to its concept and where our life is in complete conformity and where we negate in toto.

2. When we recite Al-Fateha and say: Alhamduillah-e-Rabbil A'lameen: we must envision the entire universe and what it contains in our vision momentarily thinking that Allah is not only the Creator and Sustainer but He is meticulously nourishing each one of them round the clock for our nourishment and healthy growth. We should be thankful to Him in the heart of our heart.

3. When we recite: “Al-Rahman, Al-Raheem”, we should have complete vision of our Kind and Merciful God that He created us and the entire cosmos for us out of His extreme love for human being. But equally He is Raheem and by virtue of that extreme kindness He

is constantly maintaining for us this universe day and night to keep us in perfect shape and sound. Our heart.

4. Therefore, we must feel equal gratitude to Him with extreme devotion and consciousness that how kind and merciful He is to all of us. This is the total surrender to our Lord in all sublimity and expectations that He is the only supreme authority that can help us.
5. When we recite: **“Malik-e- Yaumidden” {Master of the Day of Judgment}**: Allah is not only the Creator and Sustainer but He will be the Supreme Authority on that Day when each of us, every individual human being will face Allah (SWT) questioning to each of us: how we passed the life on earth – whether in accordance to what He ordained to live on earth or the way he/she lived on earth as per their personal likes and dislikes, ignoring His commands. They all will be rewarded with eternal Paradise if lived as per His commands/directives sent to human beings through HIS appointed Messengers of respective time; If not, all will be sent to eternal fire who disobeyed Him and ignored His guidance.

It gives the complete scenario of human life down from berth to death and from earth to heaven, pinpointing that man’s success and failure depends if he/she can stand well in the mighty Court of Allah and answer His questions in decent and proper way, confirming: O My Lord, I lived and died only for you on earth only to seek Your pleasure. Only then one who will be able to say so will come out from His Mighty Court successfully with flying colors. The rest will be doomed forever.

6. When we recite with all humbleness, devotion and dedication: **“Iyyaka Nabudu wa Iyyaka Nasta’een”**, [We worship only Thee and we seek help only from Thee] we surrender to Him all our self in rapt adoration, cutting off from the rest of the world and seek help and guidance only from Him as there is none in this cosmos except Him to this

effect. Thus. These moments lead us to complete communion with the Supreme authority of our Lord.

7. When we beg from Him His guidance by reciting : :**“Ehdena Als Siratal Mustaqeem”** **O Allah: show/keep us on the straight path – the path of those whom You showed and kept them on right path and not the path of those who gone astray”** , the most accomplished prayers of a Momin in all sublimity, he surrenders to His authority in toto.
8. This entire scenario of Surah Al- Fateha brings forth that the Momin is committing to spend his/her entire “time. Talents, energies, capacities and resources that Allah gave him/her, he/she is expending only in His way in understanding and establishing His Deen on self , in his family and in the society in which he/she is living and pulsating to attain His pleasure in every sector of his/her life and pursuit.
9. To this effect a Momin /Mominah must evaluate his/her activities of life on daily basis in the evening before sleep that whatever he/she did throughout the day was for the pleasure of Allah and for His Deen or not just wasted in the way of his/her arch enemy Shaytan and thus stand as a loser. This is the daily life -long program of a Momin, the Islamic Worker who stand committed to Allah to invest his/her time, talents , energies and wealth only for the pursuit of Allah’s pleasure and nowhere else. This is his regular job and he/she must evaluate this procedure meticulously every day or every night as his or her life-long pursuit in order to come out of the mighty Court of Allah with flying colors . That will be his or her greatest success of his worldly life. This Program will save him or her from the ignominy of shame and disaster on the Day of Resurrection. Only then Allah will address him on the Day of Judgment as under:

{Arabic text}

[But unto the righteous God will say,]"O thou human being that hast attained to inner peace! (The contented soul) Return thou unto thy Sustainer, well pleased (and) pleasing (Him): enter, then, together with My (other true) servants - yea, enter thou My paradise!"

[Surah Al-Fajr. Verses #27 to 30]

CHAPTER – VIII: “KA’ANAHU WALIYUN HAMEEM” - AS IF HE IS YOUR BOSOM FRIEND

[To turn an individual into your bosom friendship or a society, a people becoming friendly and loving to you [O Muslims!] in all respects is something quite unique to attain in the community of nations.

This is what this Verse connotes and commands Muslims to do it both at individual and collective levels through Dawah efforts, through person to person contact” as the only reality of life]

THE BACKGROUND: Since the time he was placed on earth as the vicegerent of God, the man, using his freewill, has been ever trying his best to carve out different systems of life at different times to live on earth the way he likes in contrast to what was delivered to him constantly from his Creator and Sustainer through His appointed Messengers. In the primitive time, man lived the life of nomads and social anarchies. Then switched over, in gradual process, to tribalism, feudalism, monarchies with religious hierarchies, and absolute kingship with the growth of time to get justice, peace and security on earth **but** only got wars, plundering, disruption, slavery, and the life of serfdom, poverty, and exploitation except the fortunate few who commanded power and position in their respective societies. The old and the medieval ages are saturated with these tragedies. Human society suffered in its every corner as all man-made systems failed to deliver justice, peace and security to mankind at any level.

With the dawn of modern age, man invented some new systems of government like Democracy, Socialism, Communism, Constitutional Monarchies, Sheikdoms, and Social Democracies with charming slogans like: People’s democracy, dictatorship of proletariat, freedom of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, equality before law, human rights for all and sundry, and the welfare system for common man and

the have-nots. These political slogans were quite good and appealing in some of the Western societies but, in fact, were and are dreams for the rest of humanity who cannot afford it due to paucity of funds/resources and prevailing corruption in the political system everywhere. It is cracking at many places even in the West and soon may become things of past as they are based on wrong footings, especially in the face of dwindling economies and selfish human behavior of man in every walk of life. USA, the land of prosperity, the latest country where President Trump is going to cut down the common/poor man's facilities of life to enrich the rich richer by curtailing the rates of taxes in an abnormal way on a false pretext that it would be good for the poor and needies.

All these systems of governing the human affairs in the past and present have failed and are failing fast due to their inherent shortcomings. It is the **incompetent man** who invented, designed or fashioned these systems to meet his dominating need to live in peace with self and harmony with others. However, he failed because of his inherent weaknesses – lust for power, political corruption, lack of knowledge of the past, the present and that of the future, greed and caprices, concentrating wealth and resources all in one or few hands, augmenting only favoritism, parochialism, and the exploitation of the weak. **In consequence**, man has filled his abode **with**: enormous Zulm [oppression] all around, rampant political corruption, economic exploitation in every field of life, moral degradation at its lowest ebb, human rights violation in every domain, thereby making the concepts of equality, justice, and peace and security meaningless terminologies. It is generating only exploitation of the poor, the needy and the have-nots. It shattered man's dream to live in his self-designed and self-invented systems of life through his own lust, greed, follies and caprices. **Only humanity is crying and lamenting under these unbearable pressures and injustices. How long? Only the Creator of this cosmos knows what will be the end-result of these ever-increasing lapses.**

HOW TO GET THE SITUATION CORRECTED: The Creator and Sustainer of man and the universe was well aware of these bitter tastes of human freedom and the free application of his freewill with dire consequences that I have depicted above. The Sustainer has given His verdict about man's incompetency in these words:

**“Verily, man is born with restless disposition.
[As a rule] whenever misfortune touches him, he is filled with self-pity;
And whenever good fortune comes to him, he selfishly withholds it [from others]
Save who constantly turn towards God in prayers”**

**[The Qur'an – Al-Ma'arij 70:
19 - 22]**

**“For, verily, he always been to be most wicked, most foolish” [Ref:
Al- Ahzab: 72]**

“For man is prone to be hasty (in his judgment) [Ref” Al-ISRA 17: 11]

How ignorant man is!

“Verily, with God alone rests the knowledge of when the last hour will come; and He [It is who] sends down rain; and He (alone) knows what is in the womb: whereas no one knows what he will reap (earn) tomorrow, and no one knows in what land he will die. Verily, God is all-knowing, all-aware”

[Surah Luqma'n 31: 34]

These verses and many more from the Qur'an confirm that **man is totally incompetent** to deliver a system of life for his species to live in harmony on earth with justice, peace and equity. In consequence, the entire human history is filled with chaos, wars, destruction, confusion, anarchy and imbalances at all fronts and at all levels or strata of human society. **Humanity experienced justice, peace and security**

only when it lived with the Divine Guidance brought by His appointed Messengers – the time of David, Solomon and Muhammad and his four caliphs [pbut]. This verdict of the Creator and the Sustainer is full of truth. Human history confirms it.

Man is always overpowered by the arrogance of his authority, the inherent weaknesses of his character and the misusing or the improper use of his God-gifted freewill to meet his urges. He mostly forgets, avoids and abhors living in moderation through practicing the System of Life which the Creator, out of His infinite Mercy, had been sending to human society through His appointed Messengers to practice in this worldly life. These Messengers were appointed continuously from Adam to Prophet Muhammad [pbut] in a chain with Divine Guidance. The Qur'an is its last and the latest Edition, a living monument and a lively Code of conduct for man to follow for acquiring justice, peace and security that he needs now above everything in this world as his Greatest Need. Currently there is no Justice no peace and no security anywhere on this earth.

The survey of human march in time that I have depicted above only summarily speaks conspicuously that man cannot achieve justice, peace and security on earth unless he turns back his face towards God-given way of life – the Divine Guidance that his Creator and Sustainer has designed for him keeping in view all of his natural instincts, physical urges and the paramount needs of life to satisfy each and all at a time while keeping an equilibrium in the process. But man could not do it due to his inherent shortcomings as briefly pointed out above.

Currently, man stands at poles asunder. His urges are pulling him far and far away from the prescription that God had sent for his cure and survival. Man's attitude is mostly negative and that of denial to this alternate way of life that could bring moderation and normalcy to all sectors of human's life and maintain a harmonious growth both in his personal and collective life.

THE PROCESS TOWARDS ATTAINMENT:

It would have been quite an easy process of transmission of Cure to entire mankind, had the Muslim Ummah been observing and practicing it uniformly and set its model somewhere in the Muslim lands as a political entity in the context of the modern world.

Man needs urgent solution of his enumerable and ever-growing problems but the secular world has no solution except compounding them multifariously. The secular Isms could not solve any of man's problems during the lost four to five hundred years of its emergence. All its economic planning, political maneuverings, world parleys, scientific developments [except in the field of transport and communication], trade and commercial treaties, the ever-growing standard of living stand nowhere when in comparison, we look to man's ever-surmounting list of his problems that are now reaching the top of Everest. Seeing this state of affairs of human society as it stands today, man must accept his total failure to deliver a system of life to his fellow citizens to live in peace and harmony with each other and get his needs and urgencies satisfied without any exploitation, favoritism and discrimination at any level at all.

This all man could get only in accepting the Creator and Sustainer as his Supreme Lord, commit himself to live by His Divine Guidance in the shape of the Qur'an, feeling always accountable to Him for all of his actions and deeds on earth and taking the life pattern of Prophet Muhammad (S) as the model for humanity till eternity. It would have made him a responsible human being with no lust, no greed and no easy-profit making engine through exploitation of others by using fraudulent trade practices that are rampant around us.

It would have given man the requisite peace of mind, trust in each other, and the mission to make the human abode as the cradle of justice, peace and security for all and malice to none and the vision to feel always responsible by giving up reckless behavior of his life

that he is currently demonstrating and practicing in every walk of life.

This process would have become easy only when Muslims themselves have been living by Islam in its totality as the System of life, implementing it in their body politics as an identity and standing as Da’ee Ilallah by “Calling the Humanity” to the fold of its Creator and Sustainer with love, care and concern for every one while presenting their own life as its model. Our adversaries would have then been convinced in our sincerity of purpose, and started believing in Muslims and in the Message of the Qur’an and took the Muslim as their trustworthy friends and well-wishers. Only then our addressees would have taken a right about turn to Allah’s Deen and have become our “Bosom Friends” as the captioned Verse envisages.

The Qur’an has put this entire scenario beautifully in these Verses and each and every Muslim has to prove worthy of it. **Unless our addressees get confidence in us, they will not accept Allah’s Deen. It is the messenger that gives confidence about his message as Rasulullah (S) did.** It is incumbent on every Muslim and Muslimah living on this earth to behave like that as a Da’ee at his or her place and in his/her environment. **It is the total mobilization of Muslim Ummah to this effect. Every Muslim is a Da’ee on his or her own merit, howsoever small he/she is. His manners, behaviors, etiquette even his smiling face is a means of Dawah Ilallah. If he/she believes in Allah, in His Prophet and in the accountability in Akhirah, he/she has no choice but to accomplish it.** See, how Qur’an advocates it so vehemently:

“And who could be better in speech he who calls [his fellow-men] unto God and does what is just and right and says, “Verily, I am of those who have surrendered themselves to God [I am a Muslim – obedient to God alone]

The Good deed and evil deed are not equal. Repel the evil deed with something that is better – and lo! He between whom and thyself was

enmity (may then become) as though he had (always) been a bosom friend.”

**[Ham Mim Al-Sajdah 41:
33 -34]**

CONCLUSION: If Muslim Ummah and its leadership are really interested to introduce Islam as an alternate System of life to other communities or the contemporary world, they will have to be its Role Model both at individual and collective levels and try to transform each of their Dawah contactee as “WALIYUN HAMIM” [their Bosom Friend]. **Only then they will think about Islam as their need. Only then the age old prejudices against Islam and Muslims will start melting in the warmth of this friendship of vision and common destiny to meet the Lord of this cosmos as an Ummah that lives and dies for the pleasure of its Lord.**

It will be possible with the Tawfeeq of Allah and the sincere efforts on the part of each and every Muslim globally. Muslims will have to undertake it as the mission of their life.

Let us all beg it from our Lord and struggle hard for the attainment of this Goal as the priority # 1 of our life. It is Allah’s Deen and He helps those who help themselves. His help is just in waiting right in the horizon. His commitment to this effect stands firm and irrevocable:

“As for those who struggle for Us [For the Iqamah of His Deen], We surely guide them to Our path, and lo! Allah is with the Mohseneen,

[Al-Ankabut 29: 69]

The End

November 8, 2017