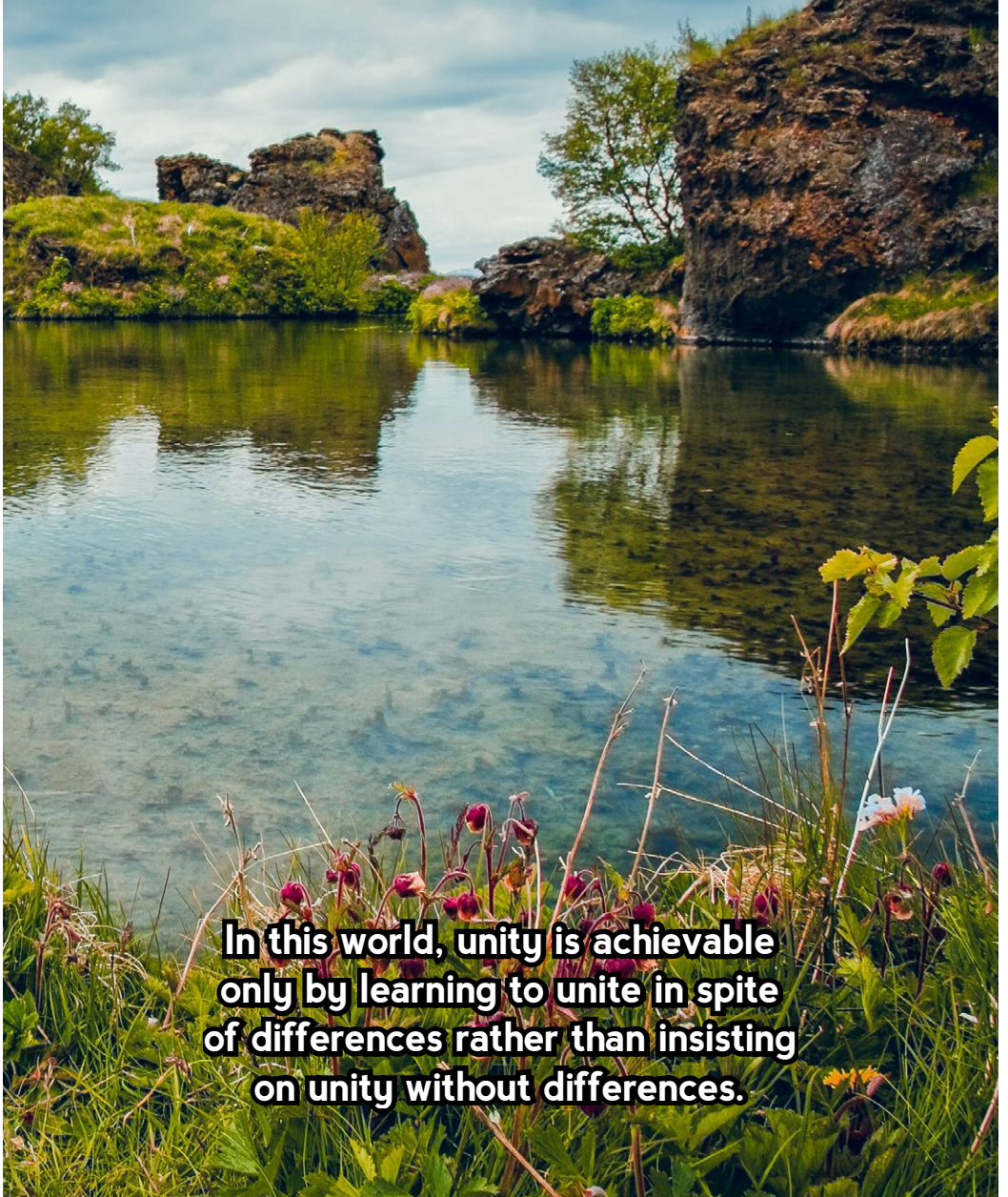


ENGLISH BIMONTHLY ISSUE 120 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2024

# SPIRIT OF ISLAM

Towards Global Peace & Spiritual Living



**In this world, unity is achievable only by learning to unite in spite of differences rather than insisting on unity without differences.**

# A MAGAZINE FOR THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

This is a current magazine. Its articles are based on sound principles of reason and science with a particular emphasis on the spirit of Islam rather than the form or the ritual. All the articles have been either written by Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, translated from his Urdu writings, or based on his writings developed by a team trained and guided by him.

## Spirit of Islam bimonthly...

- ▶ Presents Islam, the religion of nature, in the contemporary idiom to help Muslims rediscover Islam from the original sources
- ▶ Explains Creation plan of God for humankind
- ▶ Enlightens people on the subject of global peace
- ▶ Addresses contemporary issues
- ▶ Assists the readers to deal with life's challenges
- ▶ Offers Spirituality to a wider circle of seekers
- ▶ Fosters greater communal harmony through religious understanding

United in prayers  
SOI Editorial Committee

# SPIRIT OF ISLAM

Towards Global Peace & Spiritual Living

ISSUE 120 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2024

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

PROF. FARIDA KHANAM

**EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**

DR. NAGHMA SIDDIQI

**ADVISORS**

INAYATHULLAH UMRI  
PROF. ZAHEERUDDIN

**SENIOR EDITOR**

MOHAMMAD USMAN

**DEPUTY EDITOR**

SUBIA KAUSER

**PUBLISHER**

FATHIMA SARAH

**OFFICE**

SPIRIT OF ISLAM  
Bengaluru  
Karnataka, INDIA

**ACCESS ONLINE AT**

[www.cpsglobal.org](http://www.cpsglobal.org)

**FOR ARCHIVES & ARTICLE  
SEARCH**

[www.spiritofislam.co.in](http://www.spiritofislam.co.in)

C  
O  
N  
T  
E  
N  
T  
S

■ FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S DESK	5
■ DISCOVERY OF THE QURAN	8
■ THE SEARCH FOR TRUE DIVINE CONNECTION	12
■ SUPERIOR MANAGEMENT	15
■ THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE OF HATRED	17
■ THE REALITY OF <i>TAZKIYAH</i>	19
■ THINK, REFLECT, AND REALIZE	20
■ TRADITIONAL SCHOLARS AND MODERN SCIENCE	22
■ TOWARDS GLOBAL PEACE	25
■ CHILDREN'S CORNER	27
■ NURTURING BETTER HUMAN BEINGS	29
■ CPS NEWSLETTER	32
■ THE GREATEST DECEPTION	36
■ THE PATH TO CONTENTMENT	37
■ THE VIRTUE OF RETURNING GOOD FOR EVIL	39
■ LIFE AFTER DEATH	40
■ THE FINAL REALIZATION	43
■ THE WORD OF GOD	45
■ YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED	46
■ SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS ON THE SPIRIT OF ISLAM	49

## FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S DESK



*Prof Farida Khanam is an author, editor, translator, public speaker and former professor of Islamic Studies at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Among her books are 'A Simple Guide to Islam' and 'A Study of World's Major Religions'. She has translated into English many books authored by Maulana Wahiduddin Khan. Currently the chairperson of CPS International, she is a regular contributor of articles to various publications. Prof Khanam has edited Maulana's English translation of the Quran and has also translated his Urdu commentary on the Quran into English. She can be reached at [spiritofislamperiodical@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofislamperiodical@gmail.com)*

---

### THE EARTH IS MOVING TOWARD ITS END

In the renowned Indian English daily, *The Times of India* (June 17, 2023), New Delhi edition, the headline on the Times Global page was:

**H**EATWAVES, wildfires hit globe; Asia, Europe, US sizzle at 40°C+, meaning that heatwaves and wildfires have gripped the world. The news under this headline invites serious reflection. According to the report, temperatures of 40°C were recorded in Asia, Europe, and the United States. On Sunday, intense heat engulfed three continents—Asia, Europe, and America. The increasing incidents of wildfires and extreme temperatures are pointing to the grave danger that global warming is escalating day by day.

Meteorologists have issued severe heat forecasts for the future. China has issued several alerts regarding temperatures, warning that in the desert regions of Xinjiang, temperatures may range from 40 to 45°C, and in the southern Guangxi region, it may reach 39°C. The U.S. National Weather Service has reported that intense heat and heatwaves could peak from California to Texas. Death Valley in California is one of the hottest places on Earth. Meteorologists estimate that temperatures there could exceed 54°C. Wildfires in several forests in Southern California are being dealt with.

In Canada, wildfires have burned over 10 million hectares of land this year. In Italy, it is estimated that temperatures will reach 43°C or higher,

prompting the Ministry of Health to issue red alerts for 16 cities. The Acropolis of Athens in Greece, a major tourist attraction, was closed for several days in July 2023 due to excessive heat.

In 2024, people in the Indian subcontinent and other regions are experiencing similar unbearable and extreme heat. According to a report by *India Today* (May 30, 2024), the hottest day of the year in New Delhi was recorded in May 2024 at 52°C. Temperatures in 37 cities in India exceeded 45°C. According to a report by the Associated Press (AP) (May 24, 2024), temperatures in Mohenjo-Daro, Pakistan, reached 49°C in May, and reached 50.5° C in June. Due to the rising temperatures, living on planet Earth is becoming increasingly difficult. If we consider the situation, the phenomenon of global warming is gradually turning into global boiling. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, in a speech at an environmental conference, said, "The era of 'global warming' has ended, and the era of 'global boiling' has arrived."

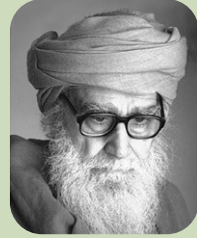
When I read these terrifying news reports, two verses from the Quran came to my mind: We have adorned the earth with attractive things, so that We may test humankind as to which one is best in conduct, but We shall reduce all this to barren waste. (18: 7-8) Commenting on these verses, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan writes, "Attractions of this world are purely temporary. They exist till the period fixed for man's trial is over. Thereafter, the glamour of the earth will be taken away, so much so that it will be reduced to the condition of a barren desert. (Commentary of the Quran, p. 877)

Changing climate is beyond human control; what is within human control is changing one's perspective on living on earth. The resources of life on planet Earth are not for entertainment, but rather, according to God's creation plan, a preparation ground for the next stage of life. Global warming is a silent divine announcement that the Earth's role concerning humanity is gradually coming to an end. In such a situation, it is not wise for humanity to live life in heedlessness of God, the Lord of the universe, and His creation plan. □



## IN FOCUS

We bring you two articles every issue under the headings of 'Personal Experiences' and 'Journey towards God-realization' of our mentor and founder of CPS International Maulana Wahiduddin Khan (1925-2021). Though he is no more with us, we feel the presence of his guiding spirit motivating us through his teachings and his advice.



Maulana, through his study of science, religion, psychology and the experiences of his own life, enlightens about the path to discovery of God through one's journey of life. A discovery of this kind involves pondering on the Word of God, converting one's material experiences into spiritual insights, constant introspection, and contemplating on the numerous phenomena of the universe.

The journey of realization begins with a questing spirit. Seeking is an intellectual journey. If a person is sincere and honest in his discovery of God, if there is no negativity in his thinking, if he is free from prejudices, if he has become a completely complex-free soul, attainment of God-realization is as certain as the dawn of light after the rising of the sun.

The greatest success in this world is to live life in such a manner that you should not have an iota of negative thought against any person. You should depart from this world with a totally positive mindset. This is my last discovery in this world.

***-Maulana Wahiduddin Khan (1925-2021)***



## DISCOVERY OF THE QURAN

*(This is a translation from the Urdu transcript of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan's talk on August 4, 2013)*

*This is the second of a two-part series.*

**A**S I mentioned in my last lecture, every person should have a pocket-sized Quran with translation. Everyone should keep it in their pocket and read it whenever they get a chance. People ask questions about the Quran. The style of the Quran is unique. It is not a story-like narrative. Each verse seems independent, each paragraph seems independent. This is very beneficial for us. If the Quran were a continuous story, from beginning to end, we would need to read it all at once to understand the theme. But the Quran is not such a book.

The Quran is a collection of wisdom. It contains highly intellectual, wise, insightful sayings spread throughout. That is why it is referred to as *Basayir* (sayings of wisdom) in the Quran: This Book is an enlightenment from your Lord and a guide and mercy to true believers. (7: 203)

This is extremely helpful for us. If it were a continuous story from beginning to end, we would have to read it all at once to understand the message. Now, you can open the Quran to any page and find a complete message in one or two verses. So, it has become possible for you to discover something new in the Quran every day.

And remember, if you only read the translation in order to complete it, you have benefitted less from the Quran. Benefitting more from the Quran means continuously discovering new things in it every day.

A learned intellectual read the Quran and said that in today's age, the Quran should be re-revealed. I would say that this is an incorrect statement. The correct statement is that the Quran should be rediscovered today. This is not just for today but for all time. The person who discovers something new in the Quran every day will understand its greatness. It does not mean the entire Quran must be rediscovered every day, but each day discovering a new aspect of any verse. This way, your connection with the Quran will remain creative. Then the Quran will remain a living book for you.



The Quran is the source of the connection between God and His servant. This connection will be established when you discover new things in the Quran every day. Otherwise, stagnation will set in. The Quran is the book of the Creator of the universe. The Creator of the universe is described as manifesting Himself in a new glory every day. This means that His attributes are endless.

A reflection of this is present in the Quran. When you continuously read the Quran with contemplation, you will discover new things every day.

For example, when I read in prayer the verse, *Alhamdulillah Rabbi Alamin* (All praise is due to God, the Lord of the universe). (1: 2) Suddenly, it occurred to me that this verse means that all praise is for God, the Lord of all worlds. He is perfect in every respect, and there is no deficiency in Him. So how can a person praise Him?

In this world, we see people living in complaints and grievances, everyone has suffered some loss or injustice. How can a person sincerely say, "All praise is due to God"? It will be just lip service. This world appears to them filled with evil. They always think in terms of conspiracy, evil, oppression, these thoughts are coming to their minds. In a world filled with evil, how will they say "All praise is due to God" sincerely?

They cannot say it. Muslims generally recite the above verse without understanding its true import. This is a matter of test. It means that although there is evil in the world, despite the evil, you must discover the world as a place of trial and your heart should be filled with praise. In spite of all those evils, you have to discover the creation in a way that your heart is full of God's glory. What we call evil is not actually evil; it is challenges.

Recently, a person from Sweden came to me. He is a senior professor. We had a conversation, and he started talking about problems. I told him what he considered as problems were actually challenges.

Without challenges, there can be no progress. You have to convert evil into good. Only then will you be able to say "All praise is due to God" sincerely. Otherwise, your *Alhamdulillah* will be lip service. You will say it with your tongue, but your heart will be empty. Your heart must be free from complaints. Complaints and negativity should not reside in your heart. Only then will you be able to say "All praise is due to God" sincerely. This is the meaning of this verse.

***The Quran is the source of the connection between God and His servant. This connection will be established when you discover new things in the Quran every day. Otherwise, stagnation will set in.***

Faith is not just repeating the statement of creed. Faith is a conscious process. We must think every day, convert negative thoughts into positive thoughts. We must free ourselves from complaints every day. Whenever there is a negative experience, we must convert it into a positive one. Only then will we reach the level where we can sincerely say *Alhamdulillah Rabbil Aalamin*. We will feel that God is truly praiseworthy. Otherwise, it will be lip service.

Until you reach this state, until your mind becomes so prepared, so developed that every experience triggers your mind and leads you to new insights, the Quran will not become a living book for you. You will just regard it as a piece of blessing and place it on a shelf and do nothing more.

The month of *Ramadan* is the month when the Quran was sent down as guidance for humankind with clear proofs of guidance and the criterion by which to distinguish right from wrong. (2: 185)

It means that we should contemplate the Quran more in the month of *Ramadan*. The minimum is that at least one month should be spent contemplating the Quran.

I was thinking of a chapter in the Quran, *The Night of Destiny*, that says: We sent it [Quran] down on the Night of Destiny. (97: 1) God revealed the Quran in the Night of Destiny. As I thought about it, I realized that no night can be the night of destiny. What is it that is called destiny?

This is the style of the Quran. What is said in reference to the night is actually in reference to the Quran. The Book of Destiny is the Quran, not the night. This was a remarkable discovery for me.

As long as we considered the one night as the Night of Destiny, it seemed mysterious. Its meaning was not understood. On this night, God revealed the Book of Destiny. The Book of Destiny means that God has explained the laws and the creation plan. By following it, you can shape your destiny. The laws of human destiny are stated in it. How human destiny is formed is explained in it. Consider a verse from the Quran. The Book of Destiny is the Quran, this is not a mysterious matter.

It is stated in the Quran: Avoid dissension, lest you falter and are no longer held in awe. Have patience: God is with those who are patient. (8: 46) The same thing is mentioned in the *Hadith*. The Prophet said during the month of Ramadan: "I was given knowledge of the Night of Destiny, but when I came out to inform you, two men were disputing, so the knowledge was taken away." (*Sahih Al-Bukhari*)

Reflect on this. Muslims are living in disputes and conflicts, so the knowledge given to them by God will be taken away. How will it be taken away? When there is a climate of disputes and conflicts, what will happen? There will be neither any contemplation on the Quran, nor will anyone reflect on its message.

People think only about negative things. The Quran remains in the cupboard. The subject of reflection will be something else, and the eternal truths will not be pondered on. Look at today's Muslims, there is hatred, violence, and conflict everywhere. No rational thought reaches their understanding.

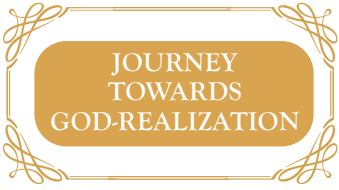
The Quran is the Book of Destiny in the sense that the principles and laws that shape human destiny are stated in it. By following them, one can achieve progress and success. If Muslims are busy with disputes and conflicts, the true knowledge will be taken away because they will not have time for reflection. It will eventually lead to a state where you will remain unaware of the great opportunities.

In the present age, so many opportunities for peaceful introduction of the Word of God have opened up. The modern era of printing allows for the printing of millions, trillions of copies of the Quran. Modern communication allows it to reach all over the world, both through printing and the internet. There are enormous opportunities that never existed before. But Muslims are unaware of them. Hatred comes from disputes and conflicts. Hatred will eliminate positive thinking. There will be talks of problems, not opportunities. Hatred will exist, but goodwill will not. To do the work of peaceful introduction of the Word of God, total well-wishing is needed.

***We must think every day, convert negative thoughts into positive thoughts. We must free ourselves from complaints every day. Whenever there is a negative experience, we must convert it into a positive one.***

If well-wishing is not present in your heart, how will you do the work of peaceful introduction of the Word of God? This is the meaning of the Night of Destiny. The Night of Destiny is in this sense; on this night, the Book of Destiny was revealed. The Quran states the principles that shape human destiny.

Thus, when you discover something new in the Quran, it will become a source of true faith for you. □



## THE SEARCH FOR TRUE DIVINE CONNECTION

**A**NTHROPOLOGY, the study of human beings, has delved deeply into the nature of humanity, revealing that the concept of God is intricately woven into human existence. Every person, regardless of background, is born with an inherent awareness of God. This concept is not just an abstract idea; it is a fundamental part of human consciousness, driving people to seek meaning and purpose in life.

This innate awareness compels humans to search for explanations for their existence and the world around them. However, due to human limitations, this search often leads to a sense of helplessness. This helplessness can only be alleviated by recognizing a Being greater than themselves—God. Experience shows that every human life is filled with unfulfilled desires, and it is God alone who provides hope for their fulfillment. The Quran reassures us of this divine support: When My servants ask you about Me, say that I am near. I respond to the call of one who calls, whenever he calls to Me. (2: 186)

***Human beings, by their nature, seek conviction in their lives, a sense of certainty that can only be fully realized through a relationship with God. Without this divine connection, life's journey can feel aimless and unfulfilled.***

Human beings, by their nature, seek conviction in their lives, a sense of certainty that can only be fully realized through a relationship with God. Without this divine connection, life's journey can feel aimless and unfulfilled. The Quran emphasizes the importance of remembering God in all aspects of life: Surely in the remembrance of God hearts can find comfort. (13: 28)

Studies show that belief in God is universal. Even those who claim to be atheists often call out to God in moments of crisis. This universal tendency suggests that belief in God is not merely a cultural artifact but a deeply ingrained part of human nature. However, the question arises:

Why do so many who profess belief in God still feel disconnected from divine blessings? Why do they lack peace of mind despite their faith?

The answer lies in the distinction between true belief in God and the ritualistic belief that is bereft of heart and soul.

One such scholar was the Bengali doctor Nishikant Chattopadhyay, who addressed this issue in a 1904 lecture in Hyderabad, later published as a booklet. He argued that all religions revealed before the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD initially presented the concept of one God, but over time, their original texts were altered by followers. As a result, the true concept of God became distorted and could not be preserved.

Many people may say they believe in God, but in practice, they associate other entities with Him. Whether it is the deification of historical figures, the worship of natural phenomena like the sun or moon, or the elevation of human reasoning above divine revelation, these practices divert true devotion from God.

One should embark on a journey to discover the Creator of the universe, a quest that leads to profound understanding and purpose. As a guide on this path, we consult the Quran, the divine revelation that has been preserved in its original form for over 1400 years. God says: It is We who have sent down the Reminder and We will, most surely, safeguard it. (15:9) This preservation is a testament to the Quran's authenticity and its role as a timeless source of guidance. According to the Quran, God is one, the Creator and Sustainer of all that exists. He is a living, personal God who is fully aware of human needs and responds to them. God's guidance is provided through His prophets, culminating in the final revelation of the Quran. The Quran is not just a book of laws but a guide to understanding the divine nature and establishing a relationship with God.

***Many people, through their own experiences, have testified that the Quran provided them with the concept of God they had been seeking all their lives. They found in the Quran God who fulfils the deepest needs of the human heart—God who is compassionate, just, and all-powerful.***

Many people, through their own experiences, have testified that the Quran provided them with the concept of God they had been seeking all their lives. They found in the Quran God who fulfils the deepest needs of the human heart—God who is compassionate, just, and all-powerful. The Quran affirms: This is the Book; there is no doubt in it. It is a guide for those who are mindful of God. (2: 2)

In every age, humanity has sought knowledge of God to satisfy the natural inclination toward the divine. The Quran, revealed in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, has been preserved perfectly, providing a reliable source for seekers of truth. As the Quran itself testifies: Do they not ponder on the Quran? If it had been from anyone other than God, they would have found much inconsistency in it. (4: 82)

The concept of God, as presented in the Quran, provides the answers to what our earthly life is all about, the creation plan of our Creator for us and what awaits us in the life after death. □

“I made a mistake” is only a sentence of four words. However, it is difficult in the present world to find even four people who may utter this line. The only words that exist in the dictionary of the people are “You are at fault”. Their dictionary is empty with the words “I am at fault”. People do not accept their own fault at any cost, even at the cost of truth. Therefore, in trying not to acknowledge their single mistake, they continue to commit lots of mistakes.

The beginning of developing a positive personality is acknowledging one’s mistakes.

-Excerpt from the book, *'The Secret of Success'* by Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

## **CPS Women's Group**

New Delhi

Official Number +91 9910288870

---

**According to Islam, men and women are different in role, but equal in respect.**

---

# SUPERIOR MANAGEMENT

## *Count Your Blessings*

*A member of CPS Tamil Nadu team, Maulana Iqbal Umri (Umrabad, Tamil Nadu) recounts his experiences and insights from his recent surgery.*

---

**O**N July 19, 2024, I was admitted to the General Block of Ramachandran Medical College in Chennai. I was suffering from kidney stones. A large stone got stuck in the duct and wasn't coming out, causing significant pain and distress, which led to the decision for surgery. I've had this problem for fifteen years, but never received proper advice regarding surgery. Nowadays, surgery has become the ultimate solution for such problems, although it takes time to decide on it.

The advancements in modern medical science, especially in the field of surgery, are nothing short of miraculous. It's as if God has turned miracles into medical achievements. This event is proof of humankind's conquest over the ailments of the human body, leading humans to the illusion that they have found solutions to all human problems. While this phenomenon should be seen as a marvel of human capability given by God, we observe that humanity is busy interpreting life without God. Indeed, these advancements are the pinnacle of human capability, but behind them lies the presence of a Creator and Sustainer who gives this whole event its true meaning. This is proof that humans are capable of utilizing creation, not reaching the status of the Creator. By using creation, humans have reached the peak of progress, and with the acknowledgement of the Creator, they can attain the eternal passport to even greater heights. But human negligence and the lack of the call to faith have given atheism a high status.

I was wondering why humans deny God. Upon reflection, I realized that when humans go through moments of weakness, instead of discovering their vulnerability, they act rebelliously and ask why, if God exists, they are made weak and needy, or why they face difficult situations like illness. By posing such questions, they seek to compensate for their own weakness and then live as rebellious beings against God. Human vulnerability is a step toward discovering God, but humans take nourishment for rebellion from it.

Indeed, there is vulnerability in human life, but the Creator of this state of weakness has also made full arrangements for its compensation.

In the past, this compensation was adopted on a lower level, now humans are adopting it on a higher level. It's as if even the denier of God, when seeing the world of compensation, realizes that the arrangement for minor weakness is made with great compensation. The modern era, in one respect, is a time of superior management of compensation for weakness. In this era of superior management, the door to superior atheism has opened when the chapter of superior realization of God should have been unlocked. During the times of the prophets, arrangements for compensation for weakness were made on a miraculous level. Now, there is a shower of blessings through medicine and science. Humans have found a solution for almost every problem. If there is pain, there is its medicine. However, human beings have generally failed to realize that the support system to produce medicine is provided by the Creator. When He gave humans the ability to discover, they found the cure but lived with the feeling that "I created, I discovered, I solved".

The Quran clearly mentions the creation of humans and their weaknesses. The wisdom in this is what makes humans self-discovering and keeps them moving on the path of progress through challenging conditions.

***Humans have found a solution for almost every problem. If there is pain, there is its medicine. However, human beings have generally failed to realize that the support system to produce medicine is provided by the Creator.***

We have created man into a life of toil and trial (90: 4)

Man has been created weak. (4: 28)

Man is a creature of haste. (21: 37)

And regarding its compensation, these are the relevant Quranic references:

He has given you all that you asked of Him; and if you try to reckon up God's favours, you will not be able to count them. Truly man is very unjust, very ungrateful. (14: 34)

Today, there is a need to take the advancements of the modern era positively and use them for realization of God. This is the test of gratitude for every human being. □





# THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE OF HATRED

## *A Poison to the Soul*

A Western psychologist once compared hatred to a corrosive acid, explaining that it often causes more damage to the container that holds it than to the intended target. This analogy perfectly captures the destructive nature of harbouring hatred. When we nurture feelings of animosity and resentment, it is like igniting an internal fire that consumes us from within. Though we may intend to direct this harm toward others, the reality is that such efforts rarely succeed, leaving us with nothing but the burden of our own destructive emotions.

The Quran warns against the dangers of harbouring ill will towards others, urging us to instead seek peace and reconciliation: Do not let your enmity for others turn you away from justice. Deal justly; that is nearer to being God-fearing. Fear God. God is aware of all that you do. (5: 8)

Hatred is a punishing force, regardless of its outcome. As long as the desire for revenge persists, the person consumed by it suffers in the flames of their own vengeance. And even if they manage to succeed in harming their target, the satisfaction is fleeting, often replaced by a deep and enduring sense of guilt. This guilt arises because, in pursuing vengeance, they suppress their own humanity, only to be haunted by it once the heat of the moment fades. The conscience, though dormant during the act, eventually awakens, condemning the individual with an unrelenting inner voice: "You have committed something abhorrent."

Prophet Muhammad emphasized the importance of controlling such emotions, saying: Do not be envious of one another, do not hate one another, do not turn your backs on one another, and be, O servants of God, brothers. (*Sahih Muslim*)

An attorney with extensive experience in criminal law once noted that many of his clients were individuals accused of murder. Despite their initial resolve, these individuals almost invariably found themselves tormented by remorse after committing the crime. In the heat of the moment, they acted on their hatred, only to be plagued by profound regret later. This pattern is universal among those who commit such acts; none escape the clutches of guilt. After the crime, their heart transforms into a psychological prison, where they endure ongoing punishment for their actions.

This reality highlights a fundamental truth: negative actions, particularly those driven by hatred, are ultimately self-inflicted wounds. The Prophet Muhammad warned of the dangers of such emotions, urging believers to let go of hatred and seek a higher path: Beware of hatred, for it is the razor. I do not say that it shaves hair, but that it shaves off the religion. (*Tirmidhi*)

The Quran offers a path out of this cycle, encouraging forgiveness and the pursuit of peace: Whoever pardons, and amends will find his reward with God. He does not love the wrongdoers. (42: 40)

By choosing forgiveness and letting go of hatred, we not only protect ourselves from self-destruction but also align ourselves with the divine guidance that leads to true inner peace. The wise person recognizes that hatred serves no one—not the target, not the perpetrator, and not society at large. Instead, we are called to rise above such destructive emotions, cultivating love, compassion, and forgiveness in our hearts. □



# THE REALITY OF TAZKIYAH

## *A Noble Endeavour*

**T**HE Quran emphasizes that one of the Prophet Muhammad's key roles was to "teach them the Scripture and wisdom and purify them." (2: 129) Purification, known as *tazkiyah* in Arabic, is essential for every believer. Without it, one cannot develop the calibre of personality described in the Quran as a God-oriented individual (3: 79). In essence, purification is the pathway to true success, including entry into Heaven (20: 76).

*Tazkiyah* literally means growth, akin to the growth of a tree from a seed. The Quran says: You see the earth, dead and barren, but no sooner do We send down rain upon it than it begins to stir and swell, and produce every kind of luxuriant vegetation: that is because God is the truth. It is He who gives life to the dead and He has the power to will anything. (22: 5-6)

When a seed is placed in a nurturing environment, it transforms into a flourishing tree. Similarly, the process of *tazkiyah* enables personal growth and development. This growth encompasses both intellectual and spiritual dimensions.

God has endowed human beings with immense potential, and this potential is realized through *tazkiyah*. The Quran states: He who purifies himself, who remembers the name of his Lord and prays, shall indeed be successful. (87: 14-15) It can be described as the process of building one's personality on a divine foundation. As a person embraces faith, they embark on the journey of *tazkiyah*, gradually evolving into a purified and spiritually developed individual. Such a person is destined for the eternal Paradise of the Hereafter. The Prophet Muhammad said, "The best among you are those who have the best manners and character." (*Sahih Bukhari*)

*Tazkiyah* is not a mysterious concept. It is attained through contemplation rather than meditation. The Quran encourages reflection, stating: Do they not ponder about their own selves? God has created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them for a purpose and for an appointed time. Yet many deny they will ever meet with their Lord. (30: 8) This involves reflecting on oneself and the universe, gaining intellectual and spiritual insight that leads to God-realization. This process results in a purified personality, and it is grounded in personal effort rather than esoteric inspiration from saintly figures. □

# THINK, REFLECT, AND REALIZE

## *Contemplate Life's Greatest Realities*

**I**MAGINE if a living human being emerged from a cave where no life had previously existed—such an event would astonish everyone, leaving them awestruck and full of questions. Yet, the birth of a child from its mother, an equally miraculous event, happens every day without eliciting the same sense of wonder. Why is this so? The difference lies in familiarity. We have become so accustomed to the daily occurrence of childbirth that we no longer pause to reflect on its significance. We take this miracle for granted, failing to see the extraordinary in what has become ordinary.

However, if we took the time to truly contemplate this phenomenon, we would find ourselves face to face with the Creator. The Quran invites us to ponder the signs around us: One of His signs is that He created you from dust and, behold, you became human beings and multiplied yourselves throughout the earth. (30: 20)

The birth of a living, conscious human being—a creature who can walk, see, and speak—is a profound sign of the existence of a Creator. Every child is not just a new life but a living testament to the Creator's power and wisdom. As we reflect on this, we recognize that every person is a walking introduction to their Creator, a reminder of the divine hand in creation.

Similarly, when we look at the world around us, we see that it is perfectly equipped to support human life. The earth, the sun, the moon—everything is intricately arranged to fulfill our needs without us having to pay a price. The Quran reminds us of this divine provision: It is He who created everything on the earth for you: then He turned towards heaven and fashioned it into the seven heavens. He has knowledge of all things. (2: 29)

Yet, despite all the provisions and comforts, a time inevitably comes when death approaches. Every human being, despite their innate desire for eternal life, must face death. This reality is inescapable, and the Quran highlights the certainty of this transition: Every soul shall taste death; We test you with both good and evil [circumstances] as a trial. To Us you shall return. (21: 35)

Life and death are two of the most significant experiences a human being can undergo. If we reflect deeply on these experiences, we will uncover a profound truth: our existence in this world is not a reward but

a test. The freedom we enjoy in this life is a means of determining how we use it—whether we lead lives of principle or stray into unprincipled behaviour.

The Prophet Muhammad emphasized the importance of reflection, saying: The wise person is the one who subdues his self and works for what comes after death, and the foolish person is the one who follows his desires and merely hopes in God. (*Tirmidhi*)

Death is not the end but the beginning of a new phase of existence. In essence, humans are eternal beings, with life divided into two parts: the pre-death period, which is a test, and the post-death period, which is for receiving the rewards or punishments based on our actions in this life. The Quran confirms this duality of existence: You will surely be called upon to account for all your actions. (16: 93)

In this world, we are living, conscious beings, and this conscious existence is meant to continue beyond death. The day of death is when our current, temporary life gives way to the eternal life that awaits us. On that day, every material support we rely on in this world will be stripped away, leaving us to face the reality of the next life.

The wise person is the one who prepares for this inevitable moment, recognizing that life in this world is but a brief prelude to the eternal life to come. The Quran urges us to be mindful of this: Believers! Fear God and let every soul look to what it lays up for the future. (59: 18)

***Humans are eternal beings, with life divided into two parts: the pre-death period, which is a test, and the post-death period, which is for receiving the rewards or punishments based on our actions in this life.***

Reflecting on these truths encourages us to live with purpose, mindful of the life that awaits us after death. By thinking deeply about the signs around us—birth, life, and death—we can better understand our place in the universe and our responsibilities toward our Creator. This understanding leads to wisdom, preparing us for the day when we stand before our Creator to account for our deeds, a day that will determine our eternal destiny. □



# TRADITIONAL SCHOLARS AND MODERN SCIENCE

## *Balancing Quranic Interpretation*

**T**HE Quran is a comprehensive guide revealed for human guidance. It contains two types of verses: the first type pertains to religious commandments, while the second type relates to cosmic verses or verses about the universe and the self. Understanding the role of traditional scholars and the importance of modern scientific research in interpreting these verses is crucial to better grasp the true essence of the faith.

### **Verses Related to Religious Commandments**

To comprehend the verses related to religious commandments, it is essential to consider the teachings of traditional scholars as standard. Traditional scholars have done a remarkable job of preserving religious knowledge and protecting the form of the faith. Their interpretations and judgments serve as a valuable guide for us. For example, in fundamental matters like prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, and almsgiving, the guidance of traditional scholars keeps us on the right path.

### **Cosmic Verses and Verses About the Universe and the Self**

*Although the Quran is not a scientific book in the absolute sense, it contains many scientific indications that can be better understood in the light of modern research.*

On the other hand, modern scientific research is necessary to understand cosmic verses and verses about the universe and the self. During the time of traditional scholars, scientific advancements were minimal, so relying solely on their interpretations for these verses can lead to limitations.

Example: Do not those who deny the truth see that the heavens and the earth were joined together and that We then split them asunder? And that We have made every living thing out of water? (21: 30)

The traditional interpretation of this verse suggests that the sky was closed, and when it was opened, rain began, and the earth was closed, and when it was opened, crops and grains emerged. However, with the help of scientific scholars, the correct understanding of this verse is:

“Have those who deny God’s existence not seen the evidence and signs of the origin and beginning of the universe, how it was once a united entity, and We separated it, and We made every living thing from water.”

This verse points to the origin of the universe, i.e., the Big Bang Theory, and also to the origin of life. We know that all living beings are made of cells, and the cytoplasm, which is the part of the cell between the nucleus and the cell membrane, contains a large amount of water (approximately 70-80%). This research reinforces our belief in the Quranic statement that not only the entire body but even a single cell indicates that humans and living creatures are created from water.

Example: We built the universe with Our might, giving it its vast expanse.  
(51: 47)

According to traditional scholars, this verse describes God’s power and greatness. However, scientific research suggests that this verse refers to the expanding universe:

“We constructed the universe with Our might, and We are continuously expanding it.”

Although the Quran is not a scientific book in the absolute sense, it contains many scientific indications that can be better understood in the light of modern research. These indications draw our attention to the creation of the universe, the origin of life, and other natural phenomena.

We should consider traditional scholars as standard in religious matters, but we should also take modern research into account when interpreting scientific verses. This way, we can better understand the spirit of the faith. Scholars who insist on interpreting every verse solely based on the explanations and interpretations of the early scholars should recognize that while religious commandments should indeed be understood in light of the traditional scholars’ teachings, it is more appropriate to understand cosmic verses through modern scientific research.

***The traditional scholars preserved the fundamental teachings of the faith, modern scientific advancements are necessary to understand cosmic verses and verses about the universe and the self.***

We shall show them Our signs in the universe and within themselves, until it becomes clear to them that this is the Truth. Is it not enough that your Lord is the witness of all things? (41:53) Therefore, later generations

should look towards modern scientific research and discoveries for interpreting these verses rather than solely relying on the traditional scholars.

The traditional scholars preserved the fundamental teachings of the faith, modern scientific advancements are necessary to understand cosmic verses and verses about the universe and the self. It is essential to adopt a balanced and fair approach to better understand both the Quran and the universe. The Quran is the spoken Word of God, while the universe is His unspoken Word, and both support each other. □



*A person is not a true believer  
if he looks down on someone  
he considers to be lesser, or  
he feels jealous of those he  
perceives as superior.*





# TOWARDS GLOBAL PEACE

*We often talk of peace in the context of war. But this is a very narrow and restricted notion of peace. Peace is deeply linked with the entirety of human life. Peace is a complete ideology in itself. Peace is the only religion for both—man and the universe. It is the master-key that opens the doors to every success. Peace creates a favourable atmosphere for success in every endeavour. Without peace, no positive action—small or big—is possible.*



---

## THE CAUSE OF EXTREMISM IS DISCONTENTMENT

**T**HE Prophet of Islam once said, “Successful is the one who embraces Islam, is provided with sustenance that is sufficient for his needs and is content with what God has given him.” (*Sahih Muslim*)

This *Hadith* highlights the concept of contentment. If a person truly internalizes the psychology of contentment, it will make them completely peace-loving. On the contrary, those who lack the psychology of contentment will remain dissatisfied with their situation, eventually becoming frustrated and resorting to violent actions to obtain what they could not achieve through peaceful means. The reality is that contentment breeds a peaceful nature, while discontentment breeds a violent nature.

The spirit of contentment instills in a person the psychology that they are a fulfilled individual. A person who considers themselves fulfilled can never fall into frustration or violence. Contentment is not just a virtue but a shield against the inner turmoil that can drive a person towards harmful actions.

The Prophet Muhammad said, “Richness is not having many possessions. Rather, true richness is the richness of the soul.” (*Sahih Bukhari*) This *Hadith* underscores that true wealth lies in contentment and satisfaction with what one has, rather than in the accumulation of material goods. The path of contentment leads to inner peace, while discontentment leads to frustration, conflict, and ultimately, extremism.

***True wealth lies in contentment and satisfaction with what one has, rather than in the accumulation of material goods. The path of contentment leads to inner peace, while discontentment leads to frustration, conflict, and ultimately, extremism.***

In contrast, a person plagued by the psychology of discontentment will constantly suffer from a sense of deprivation. This feeling will continuously provoke them to seek what they have not attained. If they realize that they cannot acquire what they lack through peaceful means, they will try to obtain it through violent methods.

They will consider all those who, in their view, obstruct their desires as enemies. They will hate those people, gather weapons to fight against them, even though all of this will be the result of their inability to be content with what God has given them—they have fallen victim to discontentment instead of embracing contentment. □



A believer is someone in whose life  
two things come together perfectly—  
*principles and noble character*



# CHILDREN'S CORNER

**Name of the book:**

My Quran Friends Storybook

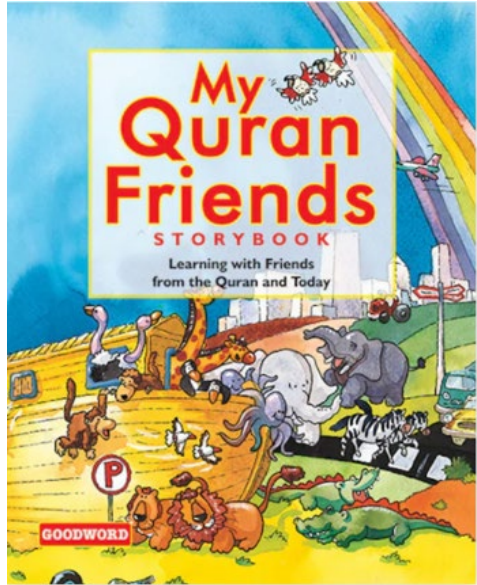
**Name of the Authors:**

Dr Saniyasnain Khan

**Pages:** 166

**ISBN:** 9788178985428

Saniyasnain Khan is a children's author, with over 100 children's books to his credit. His books have been translated into Arabic, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Danish, Polish, Swedish, Bosnian, Russian, Turkish, Malay, Thai, Urdu, Malayalam, and other languages. He hopes that his books will be a true companion on the path of spiritual development and will help children to know the true purpose and meaning of life.



**My Quran Friends Storybook** has sixty stories from the lives of the Prophets and today's children, highlighting the Islamic teaching and virtues. This book encourages children to read Allah's word and apply it in their everyday life. It will help them to imbibe the true spirit of Islam. We have selected a story for you.

---

## Help for Tsunami Victims

The tsunami created havoc in countries like Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and the southern parts of India. It killed many people and destroyed their homes in a matter of a few minutes. Those who survived lost their loved ones, houses, money and everything else. Hamza asked his mother, "How can we help the victims of the tsunami?" His mother said, "We are already collecting money and useful items in the mosque; you can also do the same in your school."

The next day, Hamza and sensible Sidra, talked to their friends and also to the class teacher about helping the tsunami victims. The class

teacher talked to the principal, everyone agreed and so they excitedly started collecting money and useful items. The whole school started working for this noble cause. Hamza, Sidra and Sarah gave their monthly pocket money. When Hamza was taking out his old clothes, his mother suggested, "Give clothes and shoes which are in good condition, not the old and torn ones." The children understood this and gave only useful and good things. Finally, the school sent off a large amount of money and many useful items.

Later, in the same way, they helped people who had been affected by an earthquake in India and Pakistan and also the victims of the hurricane called Katrina in New Orleans. They thanked Allah for guiding them to do these good deeds.

### **Talk with me**

What did Hamza want to do for the tsunami victims? In what way did the children continue their good deeds?

### **Say with me**

He that gives his wealth for the cause of Allah is like a grain of corn which brings forth seven ears, each bearing a hundred grains. Allah gives in plenty to whom He will; Allah is very generous and all-knowing. Those who give their wealth for the cause of Allah and do not follow their almsgiving with taunts and insults shall be rewarded by Allah; they shall have nothing to fear or to regret. (2: 261, 262)

### **Pray with me**

Dear Allah, we are very grateful to you for making us do good deeds by caring for our fellow human beings, especially when they are in trouble. □



#### **USA**

Centre for Peace and Spirituality  
2665 Byberry Road, Bensalem, PA 19020  
kkaleemuddin@gmail.com

# NURTURING BETTER HUMAN BEINGS

*Through Education and Home*

A woman's role as a mother is to prepare the next generation. Humanity is like a flowing river, where the old water constantly flows away, making room for new water. The same is true for the human caravan; the previous generation passes away, and the new generation takes its place. A mother's duty is to prepare this new generation, ensuring that each time, she sends forth better human beings.

Education is just as important for women as it is for men. Without education, both are incomplete. Ignoring education is to risk not reaching their highest potential and dying with a sense of failure. Education is so crucial for both men and women that no excuse is acceptable: If you have a good excuse, don't use it.

The importance of education is not just for a job but for building a better life. In today's world, everything is connected to knowledge and education. Neither men nor women can afford to remain uneducated because being uneducated means being unable to live a truly human life.

Everyone is born as a biological being. It is education that elevates them from the level of a mere animal to that of a human being. The difference between an animal and a human is education. Education enables a person to realize and actualize the hidden potential within themselves. This can never be achieved without education.

***Everyone is born as a biological being. It is education that elevates them from the level of a mere animal to that of a human being. The difference between an animal and a human is education.***

By education, we do not mean only professional education but value education—the kind that brings one into the world of knowledge and wisdom. Professional education might only secure a job, but the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom elevates a person to the highest level of humanity.

A better human being is someone who has the courage to live life, who rises above negative thinking and embraces a positive mindset. This person is capable of planning life constructively and does not create problems for society. They are a "giver member" of society, not just a "taker member."

In this regard, a mother should instill in her children the quality of maturity, ensuring they do not enter society with an immature mindset. Let's clarify this with a few examples.

Nancy Alva Edison, an American woman, had a son named Thomas Alva Edison (d. 1931). Edison was born with hearing difficulties. His schoolteacher noticed that he couldn't hear properly in class and wasn't able to do his schoolwork well. The teacher became frustrated and labeled Edison as a "retarded boy," expelling him from school.

***A mother should tell her child that every wealthy person's father or grandfather was once poor but became rich through hard work. Similarly, the child can achieve anything through hard work.***

However, Edison's mother played a constructive role here. She instilled in Edison the belief that he was not a disabled child but that his disability was a challenge he could overcome by using his natural abilities. She made his education her mission. As a result, Edison's name is recorded in history as a great scientist.

It is commonly believed that a person born into a wealthy family is fortunate, while someone born into a poor family is unfortunate. A mother's role here is to teach her child, if born into a poor family, that being poor is not a deprivation. Such a mother should teach her child that while a wealthy child may have money, a poor child has an increased incentive to strive, which becomes a source of strength: If a rich person is born with a silver spoon in his mouth, the poor person is born with an incentive spoon in his mouth.

A mother should tell her child that every wealthy person's father or grandfather was once poor but became rich through hard work. Similarly, the child can achieve anything through hard work.

Another misconception is the division of society into the "haves" and the "have-nots." This is a false dichotomy. We often see that a person who belongs to the "have-not" category in childhood later becomes a member of the "haves." For example, individuals like C.V. Raman, G.D. Birla, Mr Oberoi, Dhirubhai Ambani, and Dr Abdul Kalam were seemingly from deprived backgrounds in their childhood but later became prominent members of society. Therefore, the true dichotomy in this world is not between the "haves" and the "have-nots" but between the "potential haves" and the "actual haves." □

September-October 2024  
Issue can be downloaded  
from: [www.cpsglobal.org](http://www.cpsglobal.org)



## **SPIRIT OF ISLAM**

Towards Global Peace & Spiritual Living

A revamped Spirit of Islam  
has been launched with  
excellent user-friendly  
features. Kindly visit:

<https://spiritofislam.co.in/spiritnew/>

# CPS NEWSLETTER

Quran Hall has been recently opened at the CPS International Centre, New Delhi. Students from Jamia Hamdard University attended a seminar and presented their papers on the topics listed below.

1. Analysis of CPS International and its Founder Maulana Wahiduddin Khan
2. Islam and World Peace from the writings of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan
3. Creation Plan of God from the writings of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan.



CPS Delhi member Dr Rajat Malhotra represented CPS International on June 30, 2024, at in Old Delhi and delivered a talk on Creation Plan of God to the students.



This talk can be viewed on YouTube by clicking on this link: <https://youtu.be/w1muAtEno7E>



**Students shared their impressions of the talk. Two of these are mentioned here:**

**Comment 1:** I wish to thank the CPS team for giving us their valuable time and guidance. We have gained some great insights today. This hard work and passion will not go to waste. We will pass this treasure trove of knowledge and wisdom onto the next generation. The seed has been planted; you will see it grow into a tree soon.

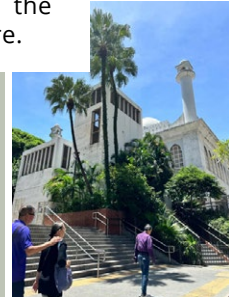
**Comment 2:** This session taught me a lot. I learned to stay grateful and hopeful no matter what, trusting that God has the best plan for us. Every creature has a purpose, including us. God is very merciful and loves to forgive, so we should always ask for His forgiveness. We should never lose hope in God’s mercy. If we don’t get what we want, it means God has something better for us. Our prayers should be realistic and sensible. We should work hard and use the intelligence God gave us wisely. Life will have problems, but by facing them and asking God for help, we can overcome them.

News from the **The Islamic organization AVIDA of Angola:**

On August 10, 2024, the Islamic organization AVIDA of Angola arranged the distribution of 2000 copies of the Portuguese translation of the Quran at district of Viana.



As part of *Peace Promotion among Muslim Societies*, **Mr Khurram Qureshi** visited **Kowloon Mosque and Islamic Centre in Singapore**. He discussed Maulana Wahiduddin Khan’s mission of peace and spirituality with the members of the centre.



**Ghamidi Centre of Islamic Learning, USA, has produced a documentary on Maulana Wahiduddin Khan.** The documentary can be accessed at the following link: <https://youtu.be/NziWL2GdnUs?si=43NvWieOrMVUB04f>

Audio books of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan are available on Spotify. Some links are listed here:

**Taaruf-e-Islam:**

<https://open.spotify.com/show/1aLkVORouYl0qVryQqvlP>

**Paighambar-e-Inquilab:**

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3WVo2ad8WAlns3rVYBYDec?si=585773356201493e>

**Tarbiat-e-Aulad:**

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3BKAvR7LI60LA0O44nvHyv>

**Haqeeqat-e-Hajj:**<https://open.spotify.com/show/1Aq8ClkRjj8UM6lzTwur7R>



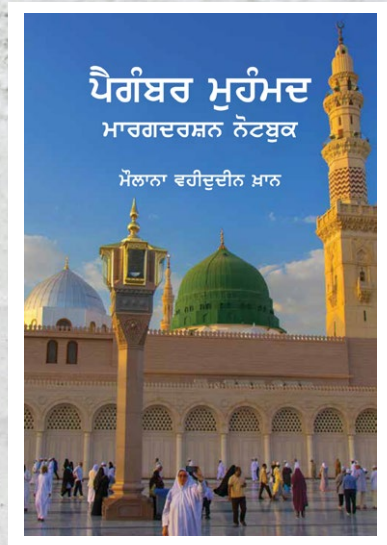
As part of promoting **peace** among the Muslim societies, **peace literature of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan** was **gifted** to the guests at a **marriage function** by CPS Jamshedpur on July 29, 2024.

## BOOK RELEASE

New Book on Life of Prophet Muhammad in Punjabi Language

**Download PDF:** <https://www.cpsglobal.org/books/prophet-muhammad-punjabi>

**Read Online:** <https://www.cpsglobal.org/books/prophet-muhammad-punjabi/title-page-prophet-muhammad-guidance>



**Maulana Wahiduddin Khan's English translation of the Quran Audio**, beautifully narrated by Sean Barrett, has reached a milestone with a staggering 4.3 million downloads on Spotify and various other platforms! Don't miss out on this enlightening experience. Dive into the depths of wisdom today!

**Download link:** <https://open.spotify.com/show/1lIBPascXiLSvgbzPJSK34>



# THE GREATEST DECEPTION

## *A Mirage of Success*

**A** young man completed a C.A. (Chartered Accountancy) course. After that, he earned an MBA degree from America, securing first place in both examinations. This opened the doors to progress for him. He went to the UAE and got a job with lucrative perks and salary. Soon after, a Saudi delegation called him for an interview. The interview was successful, and he immediately got a position in Saudi Arabia with even more salary. He continued to progress in this manner and his salary kept increasing.

The opportunities for progress in the present era are the greatest deception of our time. The result is that a person considers himself first class on a false basis, whereas the reality is different. He falsely believes he is successful, while he is far from the path of true success.

***The opportunities for progress in the present era are the greatest deception of our time. The result is that a person considers himself first class on a false basis, whereas the reality is different.***

As the Quran states: Never forget that the life of this world is only a game and a passing delight, a show, and mutual boasting and trying to out rival each other in riches and children. (57: 20)

The possibilities of the present age have allowed many people to find themselves in environments where they have furnished houses to live in, luxurious cars for travel, a bank balance, and a credit card in their pocket through which they can access any amount of money in any part of the world. These things have become a tremendous temptation for modern humans.

Everyone is selling themselves in the temporary market of materialism. Everyone is trapped in the illusion of success. Everyone has built a palace of imaginary optimism around themselves. However, these things have no value. An American medal of honour holds no value in Russia. Similarly, the skills of the present world will be weightless in the Hereafter. Alas, the human being who lives in a false deception believes that he has built a secure fortress on the mountain of value. □



# THE PATH TO CONTENTMENT

## *A Spiritual Perspective*

**L**IFE is not a bed of roses; it is fraught with challenges. In this world, a problem-free existence is an unattainable ideal. Whether rich or poor, powerful or weak, literate or illiterate, every individual is faced with some form of difficulty. This universal truth is acknowledged in the Quran, where God says: We have created man into a life of toil and trial. (90: 4)

Despite this reality, human nature inclines towards the pursuit of a life free from difficulties. Everyone strives to smooth the path before them, hoping to achieve a life without friction. However, after years of struggle and countless efforts to eliminate problems, one often finds that they have merely exchanged one set of difficulties for another. This new set of problems may be even more challenging, reflecting a cycle that continues throughout life.

This cycle is a common human experience. Many spend their lives searching for a problem-free existence, only to realize, often too late, that such a life does not exist. The Quran reminds us of the transient nature of worldly life and its inherent difficulties: We shall certainly test you with fear and hunger, and loss of property, lives and crops. Give good news to those who endure with fortitude. (2: 155)

The truth is that in this world, the choice is not between a life with problems and a life without problems but between different kinds of difficulties. The Prophet Muhammad also emphasized the importance of patience and contentment in the face of life's challenges. He said: Wondrous is the affair of the believer, for there is good for him in every matter, and this is not the case with anyone except the believer. If he is happy, then he thanks God, and thus there is good for him; and if he is harmed, then he shows patience, and thus there is good for him. (*Sahih Muslim*)

This *Hadith* highlights that the secret to success in this world is not in eradicating problems but in finding opportunities despite them. It is a common weakness, both for individuals and nations, to squander

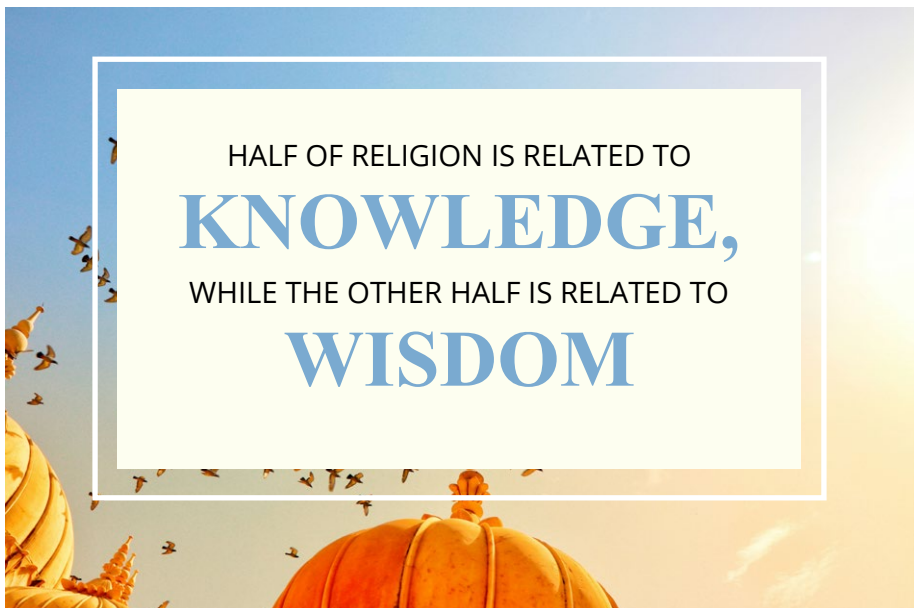
***The key to a fulfilling life lies in the acceptance of life's trials as part of the divine plan. By focusing on what can be achieved within the constraints of one's circumstances, individuals and communities can thrive.***

energy in the futile pursuit of a problem-free life. The real challenge is to learn to live with problems and to construct one's life around their existence.

In essence, the key to a fulfilling life lies in the acceptance of life's trials as part of the divine plan. By focusing on what can be achieved within the constraints of one's circumstances, individuals and communities can thrive, finding contentment in the knowledge that patience and perseverance in the face of adversity are virtues greatly rewarded by God.

As the Quran reassures: surely with every hardship there is ease; surely, with every hardship there is ease. (94: 5-6)

Thus, the wise course is to embrace the trials of life, to seek contentment and growth within them, and to trust in the divine wisdom that governs all affairs. In doing so, one finds true success, not in the absence of problems, but in the ability to navigate them with faith and resilience. □



# THE VIRTUE OF RETURNING GOOD FOR EVIL

*Responding to Negativity with Kindness*

**T**HE Quran describes God's beloved servants as those who forgive when angered (42: 37). This principle is central to Islamic teachings, urging believers to respond to negativity with kindness. The Prophet Muhammad emphasized this by stating that true strength lies in controlling anger. He said: The strong man is not the one who can overpower others in physical strength, but the strong one is the one who controls himself when angry. (*Sahih Bukhari*)

This concept is beautifully illustrated through the allegory of trees. In the natural world, when humans exhale carbon dioxide, trees absorb it and release oxygen, thus sustaining life. If trees behaved like humans, releasing carbon dioxide, the world would become uninhabitable. This contrast teaches us a profound lesson: even when faced with harm, we should respond with goodness.

The Quran frequently uses nature to impart ethical lessons. For instance, The Quran advises: Good and evil deeds are not equal. Repel evil with what is better; then you will see that one who was once your enemy has become your dearest friend (41: 34) This verse highlights the transformative power of kindness in overcoming enmity.

Just as trees improve their surroundings by converting harm into benefit, humans are called to elevate their interactions. The ethics observed in the world of trees are a practical demonstration of the higher moral standards that humans should strive for. Trees do not give back what they receive; they improve the world around them by transforming what is harmful into something beneficial.

The Prophet Muhammad embodied this principle throughout his life. Despite facing persecution, hostility, and even physical attacks, he consistently responded with patience, forgiveness, and compassion. His treatment of the people of Ta'if, who rejected him and caused him harm, is a well-known example. Instead of cursing them or seeking revenge, he prayed for their guidance. □



# LIFE AFTER DEATH

## *Evidence of Eternal Existence*

**W**ILL I be raised again after I die and turn to dust or ashes? This question, though not often explicitly asked, lingers in the minds of those who doubt the existence of life after death. A person who shows no concern for the afterlife in their daily life may be demonstrating an underlying uncertainty about what comes after death, whether they consciously think about it or not. The Quran says: 'What!' they say, 'When we are turned to bones and dust, shall we be restored to life?' Say, '[yes] even if you turned to stones or iron, or any other substance which you think unlikely to be given life.' Then they will ask, 'Who is it that shall restore us to life?' Answer them, 'He who created you the first time.' They will then shake their heads at you and say, 'When will that be?' Say, 'It may well be very soon.' (17: 49-51)

However, if we take a moment to reflect deeply on this matter, the reality of life after death becomes more evident. While God has kept the specifics of the afterlife hidden from us as part of our test, countless signs in the world around us hint at these truths. The universe itself serves as a mirror reflecting the reality of the world to come.

***The body, made up of tiny cells, is in a constant state of renewal. Over time, every cell in our body is replaced, so much that after about ten years, we have an entirely new body.***

We were not always in our current form. Human life begins as a formless, lowly substance in the womb, gradually developing into a fully-formed human being. This miraculous transformation of an unseen, insignificant substance into a six-foot-tall person is a phenomenon we witness daily. So, why should it be difficult to believe that the particles of our bodies, once dispersed into the earth, could come together again to form a complete human being?

Every human being is composed of countless atoms that were once scattered across the Earth and atmosphere. These atoms, brought together by air, water, and food, now form a living person. After death, the elements of our bodies will disperse again, only to be reassembled at God's command, just as they were in the beginning. If something has happened once, why should it be surprising if it happens again?



The material world itself offers examples that life can be renewed. Each year, during the rainy season, the earth turns green, only to dry up again in the summer. Yet, when the rain returns, the dead land springs back to life. In the same way, humans will be resurrected after death.

Doubt about life after death often arises because we think of ourselves only in terms of our physical bodies. We see a person moving, speaking, and functioning, and we believe that when the body decays, it marks the end of that person. We witness the end of a living being daily when someone dies and their body disintegrates. But our true existence is not in the physical body that we see; it is in the inner self that gives life to the body. When the soul departs, the body remains, but life is gone.

The body, made up of tiny cells, is in a constant state of renewal. Over time, every cell in our body is replaced, so much that after about ten years, we have an entirely new body. Yet, despite this complete physical renewal, our sense of self remains unchanged. If you made a contract ten years ago, you would still recognize that it was “you” who made it, even though your body is entirely different now. This inner self, the soul, does not change with the body; it remains constant.

This demonstrates that we are not defined by our physical bodies, which are temporary, but by our souls, which are eternal. Some argue that life and death are merely the gathering and dispersal of material elements. But if life were simply “the appearance of order in the elements,” it should persist as long as those elements remain ordered, and it should be possible for scientists to create life by assembling those elements. Yet, we know this is not the case.

People of all ages and conditions die, sometimes without any apparent cause. A healthy person may suddenly pass away, with no doctor able to explain why. Even though the body remains intact, life has departed. This shows that life is not merely the result of an orderly arrangement of elements but something distinct that continues to exist.

Scientists acknowledge that while they know the human body is composed of specific material elements, they cannot create life by simply assembling these elements. The body of a living person is more

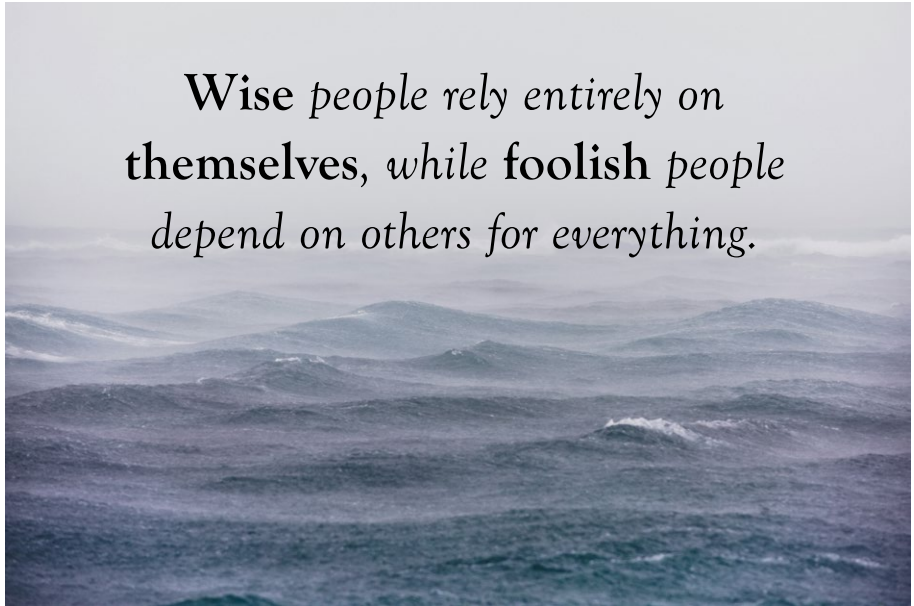
***Scientists  
acknowledge that  
while they know  
the human body  
is composed of  
specific material  
elements, they  
cannot create life by  
simply assembling  
these elements.  
The body of a living  
person is more than  
just a collection of  
inanimate atoms.***

than just a collection of inanimate atoms; it is both atoms and life. After death, the atoms remain, but life moves on to another world.

This understanding makes it clear that life is not something that perishes. It is something that endures. Thus, the concept of life after death is both rational and natural. It suggests that life cannot be limited to what we experience before death; it must continue beyond it. Our intellect recognizes that this world and its lifespan are temporary, but human life, in its essence, endures. Death is not the end; it is the beginning of a new chapter in a continuous existence. This life is just a brief phase in our eternal journey. □



*Wise people rely entirely on themselves, while foolish people depend on others for everything.*



# THE FINAL REALIZATION

## *When Death Approaches*

**A**LEXANDER the Great (356–323 BC), the son of King Philip of Macedonia, is often remembered for his incredible conquests and the vast empire he built. The city of Alexandria in Egypt still stands as a testament to his victory there. However, despite all his successes, Alexander met his end in a palace in the ancient city of Babylon, dying in the same helplessness as any ordinary person in a humble hut. Though he had achieved everything he desired in life, he left this world empty-handed. His vast empire was divided among his generals after his death, as his only heir had already been killed. In his final moments, he confessed, “I wanted to conquer the world, but death conquered me.” He lamented that he could not achieve the peace in life that an ordinary person might attain.

The greatness of Alexander was so profound that even Julius Caesar, upon passing by a statue of Alexander in Spain, wept uncontrollably, lamenting that he had not been able to achieve even a tenth of the conquests Alexander had accomplished in just ten years.

Similarly, Napoleon Bonaparte, a man of immense power, expressed deep despair at the end of his life. His final words were, “Disappointment was a crime to me, but today no one in the world is more disappointed than I am. I hungered for two things: power and love. I attained neither power nor love. I searched extensively for love, but I never found it. If this is all that human life has to offer me, then surely human life is a meaningless thing, because its end is nothing but despair and destruction.”

Harun al-Rashid, a ruler of a great empire, admitted in his old age, “I have spent my entire life trying to avoid sorrow, yet I could not avoid it. I have lived a life of boundless sorrow and worry; there is not a single day of my life that I have spent without worry. Now, I am on the brink of death; soon the grave will swallow my body. This is the final fate of every human, but every human remains unaware of their end.”

When Caliph Mansur al-Abbasi faced death, he realized the futility of his worldly pursuits. He said, “If I were to live a few more days, I would set fire to the kingdom that repeatedly led me astray from the truth. The truth is that one act of goodness is better than this entire kingdom. But I realized this only when death took me into its embrace.”

These historical figures, who once stood as the epitome of success and power, faced death with the realization that their achievements were ultimately meaningless. Most of the world's most successful individuals have died with the feeling that they were the most unsuccessful people in the world. The truth is that if the insights that come to a person near death had come to them earlier, their lives would have been completely different.

***When a person stands on the edge of death, all the glories of the world seem more futile than a pile of ashes. Behind them lies a world they have lost, and ahead is a world for which they have done nothing.***

When a person stands on the edge of death, all the glories of the world seem more futile than a pile of ashes. In those final moments, they are often consumed by regret, unable to think about anything else. Behind them lies a world they have lost, and ahead is a world for which they have done nothing. There is no point in remembering death when it comes; the time to remember death is before it arrives. When a person is in a position of power, capable of oppressing others, and justifying their cruel actions, they are often unwilling to think about the consequences. At that time, they do everything they should not do to satisfy their ego. But when their strength diminishes, when their actions start

to haunt them, and when they realize they are in the clutches of the merciless angel of death, that's when they remember their mistakes. The time to remember, however, was when they were making those mistakes and refusing to heed any advice.

Mao Zedong (1893–1976), after ruling over a great nation with nearly 800 million people for almost 30 years, finally departed from this world. In 1965, he told Edgar Snow during an interview, "A thousand years from now, all of us—even Marx, Engels, and Lenin—will look rather ridiculous." Although he said this in the context of political and economic theories, perhaps death would reveal within just ten years that this statement holds true in another sense as well. What a person does before death to create their personality becomes completely meaningless in life after death. They suddenly realize that those things considered most important, and for which they dedicated their entire life, hold no value here. □

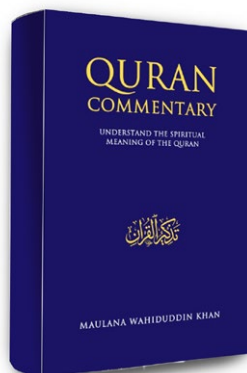


# THE WORD OF GOD

*From The Scriptures*

*The Quran is the book of God. It has been preserved in its entirety since its revelation to the Prophet of Islam between CE 610 and 632. It is a book that brings glad tidings to humankind, along with divine admonition, and stresses the importance of man's discovery of the Truth on a spiritual and intellectual level.*

Translated from Arabic and commentary by  
**Maulana Wahiduddin Khan**



---

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

***Why, then, when the soul of the dying man reaches the throat, and you are [at that moment] looking on [helplessly]- and We are nearer to him than you, although you cannot see Us- why, then, if you are not subject to Our command, do you not cause the soul to return to him if you are truthful in your claim?***

***But if he [the dying person] is one of those brought near to God, then for him there shall be comfort and plenty and a Garden of Bliss; and if he is of those who are on the Right, he will be greeted with, 'Peace be to you,' by those on the Right. But if he is one of those who rejected [the truth] and went astray, he will be welcomed with boiling water. He will burn in Hell. This is indeed the indubitable truth. So, glorify the name of your Lord, the Supreme.*** (56: 83-96)

The event of death is the last proof of the fact that man is completely helpless before the Divine powers. Every man will essentially die at a fixed time, and nobody can save him from the angel of death. In view of this, man should be more concerned about his condition after death. Those who performed deeds deserving of paradise in their life before death, will be ushered into paradise in the life after death. However, those who shunned God in this world will be denied God's grace in the Hereafter. They will be greeted with scalding water and the fire will be their abode. □



# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

***The remedy for ignorance is asking questions. (Prophet Muhammad)***

***The spirit of enquiry is the hallmark of an open society and the above saying of the Prophet aptly illustrates this principle. A culture of curiosity and open-mindedness will foster development in any society by motivating its members to learn enthusiastically and enrich their knowledge. This is because awareness of one's ignorance is half of knowledge, as it becomes a stepping-stone to seeking and finding answers. A questioning mind is like a flowing river that is replenished with fresh thoughts and ideas and continues on its journey.***

---

## ***What is the Quran?***

The Quran is the Book of God preserved for all time to come. It is written originally in Arabic and accessible through its translations to the non-Arabic knowing world. The Quran is the word of God. It aims to bring about an intellectual revolution within man, called *Marifah* (realization of God) (5: 83), and make him aware of the Creation Plan of God. The purpose of the Quran is to tell man why God created this world, the purpose of settling man on earth, what is required from man in his pre-death life span, and what he will confront after death. The Quran, thus, serves as a guide for man in this world as well as in the Hereafter.

## ***What is the message of the Quran?***

The message of the Quran is the Creation Plan of God. According to the Creation Plan of God, man is born as an eternal creature, and his life span has been divided into two periods, pre-death period, which is a time of trial, and the post-death period, which is the time for receiving reward or punishment merited by one's actions during one's lifetime. Therefore, the secret to man's success in life is to discover God while He is unseen, understand His creation plan and map out his life accordingly.

## ***How should one read the Quran?***

We should make it a point to read the Quran in the language we understand, instead of just mere recitation of the Arabic text. There are two layers of Quranic learning: one is understanding its literal meaning, and the second is understanding its more profound meaning and its application in daily life. If you want to know the message of the

Quran, then knowing its literal meaning will suffice. To find the deeper meaning of the Quran, besides developing a seeking spirit and sincerity, we need to contemplate its verses. Then we must extract principles of life from these verses and apply them in our daily life.

### ***How can we apply the Quran in daily life?***

If we read the Quran, we will feel that God Almighty directly addresses man in it, saying: 'O man! This is your God addressing you. Listen to Me and follow it. This is the path of success for you.' It is as if at any moment, we as readers of the Quran can consult its Writer—God Almighty—put our questions to Him and receive answers. As man's Creator, God directly hears and answers man's call. When we connect with God, we develop a live attachment to the Book of God. The Quran becomes a source of inspiration and spiritual nourishment in our lives. All our thoughts and actions spring from the Quran. The Quran becomes the very life and soul of our existence. It is the way of applying the Quran in our daily life.

### ***What is the importance of reading the Quran in the morning?***

The Quran says that the recitation of the Quran at the dawn prayer "is indeed witnessed". (17: 78) "Witnessed" here means validated by the angels. We learn from a *Hadith* that the early morning is a time especially favourable for God-realization, when in peace and solitude the angels in great numbers become witnesses to the recitation of the believer. When, in the morning, a person reflects upon the message of God in the peaceful environment of nature, he starts feeling the presence of God. Then he has that state induced in him which has been thus expressed in an injunction in a hadith: "Worship God as if you are seeing Him."

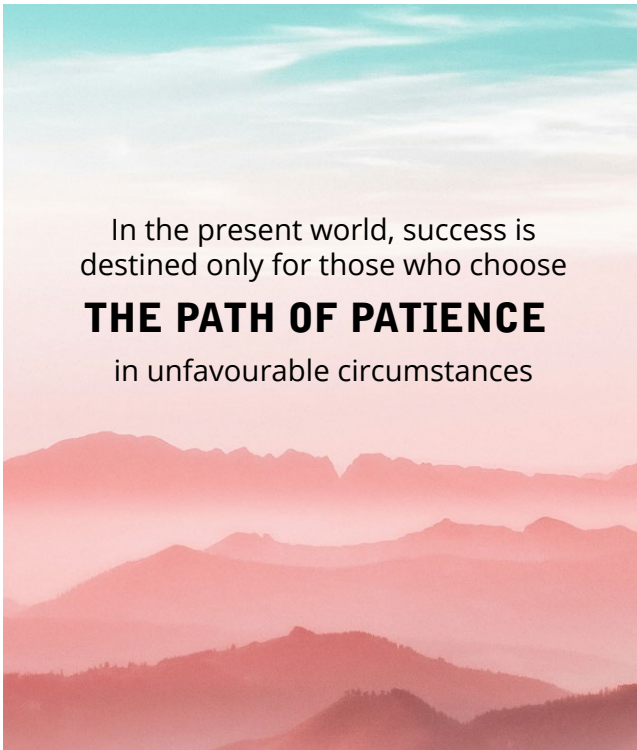
### ***What is the spiritual interpretation of the Quran?***

Quranic spirituality is the spirituality of the positive kind. It means living in the world and trying to derive spiritual food from material things as an intellectual discipline. It means to control rather than kill one's desires. The formula for Quranic spirituality is expressed as: Be devoted servants of God. (3: 79) Becoming a devoted servant of God means adopting a God-oriented life. The God-oriented way of life is a complete way of life. It calls for the use of all human faculties. It means God-oriented thinking, speech, behaviour, morality, etc.

### ***What does the Quran tell us about being God-conscious?***

God Almighty is the treasure trove of all goodness. He is the only Giver. At the same time, he is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy (7: 151). When a person discovers God Almighty and realizes that He has all these high attributes, he will be filled with feelings of love for Him. At the same time, you know that God is the Greatest, the All-Powerful, and God is the Lord of everything. You want to bow down and show your love and reverence to such a Being. The Quran says: True believers are those whose hearts tremble with awe at the mention of God. (8: 2)

God consciousness is the highest form of man's sentimental expression. When a person reaches this level of consciousness, he finds himself living in midst of awe and fear of God. Such a fear is a positive fear, fear of not treading the wrong path or of wronging God's creatures so as to displease Him. □





# SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS ON THE SPIRIT OF ISLAM

**Dear Readers,**

The *Spirit of Islam* magazine, published bimonthly, is an inspiring beacon of spiritual enlightenment based on the profound writings of the esteemed Islamic scholar Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, a recipient of numerous national and international awards. This publication reaches a diverse readership from various walks of life, each finding unique spiritual benefits within its pages.

We invite you to share your impressions, reviews, and the spiritual guidance you have derived from this magazine. Your insights and experiences not only enrich the magazine but also inspire others on their spiritual journeys. The best two pieces of writing will be featured in each issue, offering you a platform to share your voice and contribute to our collective understanding.

## **What to Share?**

**1. Personal Reflections:** How has the *Spirit of Islam* influenced your spiritual growth? Share your journey and the impact of the magazine on your daily life.

**2. Reviews:** Provide your thoughtful reviews on specific articles, issues, or themes. What resonated with you the most? How did it challenge or deepen your understanding of Islam?

**3. Spiritual Benefits:** Describe the practical benefits you have gained from the magazine. How have the teachings of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan helped you in your personal or professional life?

**4. Guidance and Insights:** Offer any guidance or insights that you believe could benefit other readers. How can we collectively implement the principles shared in the magazine to improve our lives and communities?

## **Submission Guidelines**

- **Word Limit:** Aim for concise and impactful pieces within 150-200 words.

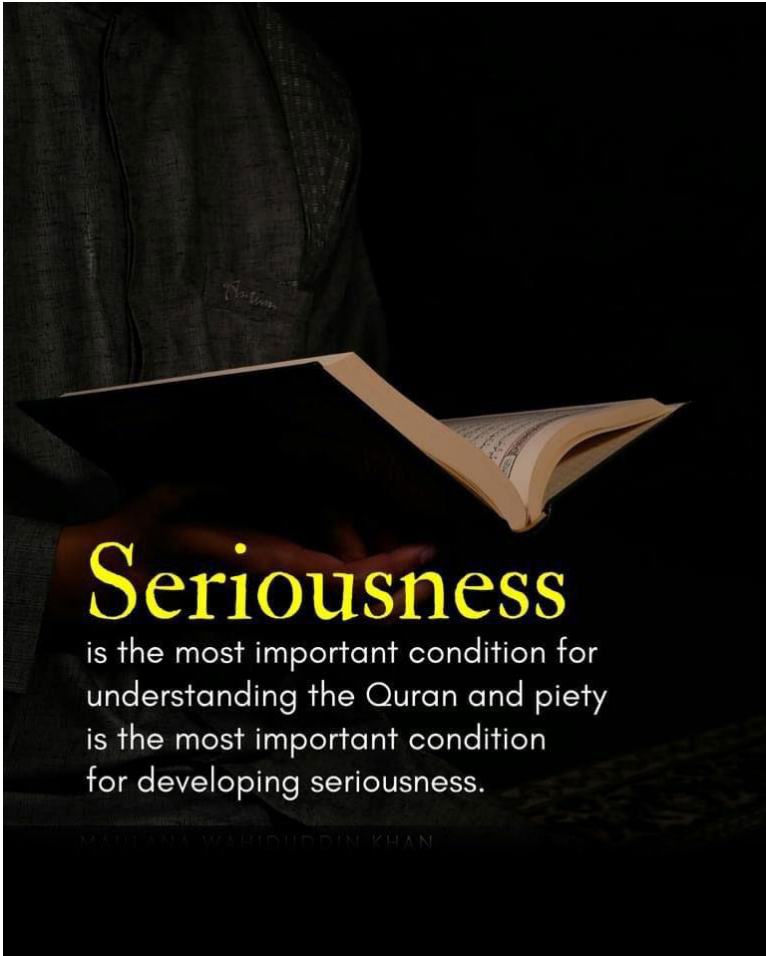
- **Format:** Submit your entries via email to [spiritofislamperiodical@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofislamperiodical@gmail.com), including your name, contact information, and a brief introduction about yourself.

Your contributions are invaluable. We eagerly await your submissions and look forward to featuring the most inspiring and insightful pieces in our upcoming issues. Let us come together to share the light of wisdom and the spirit of Islam with one another.

**Warm regards,**

**The Editorial Team** 

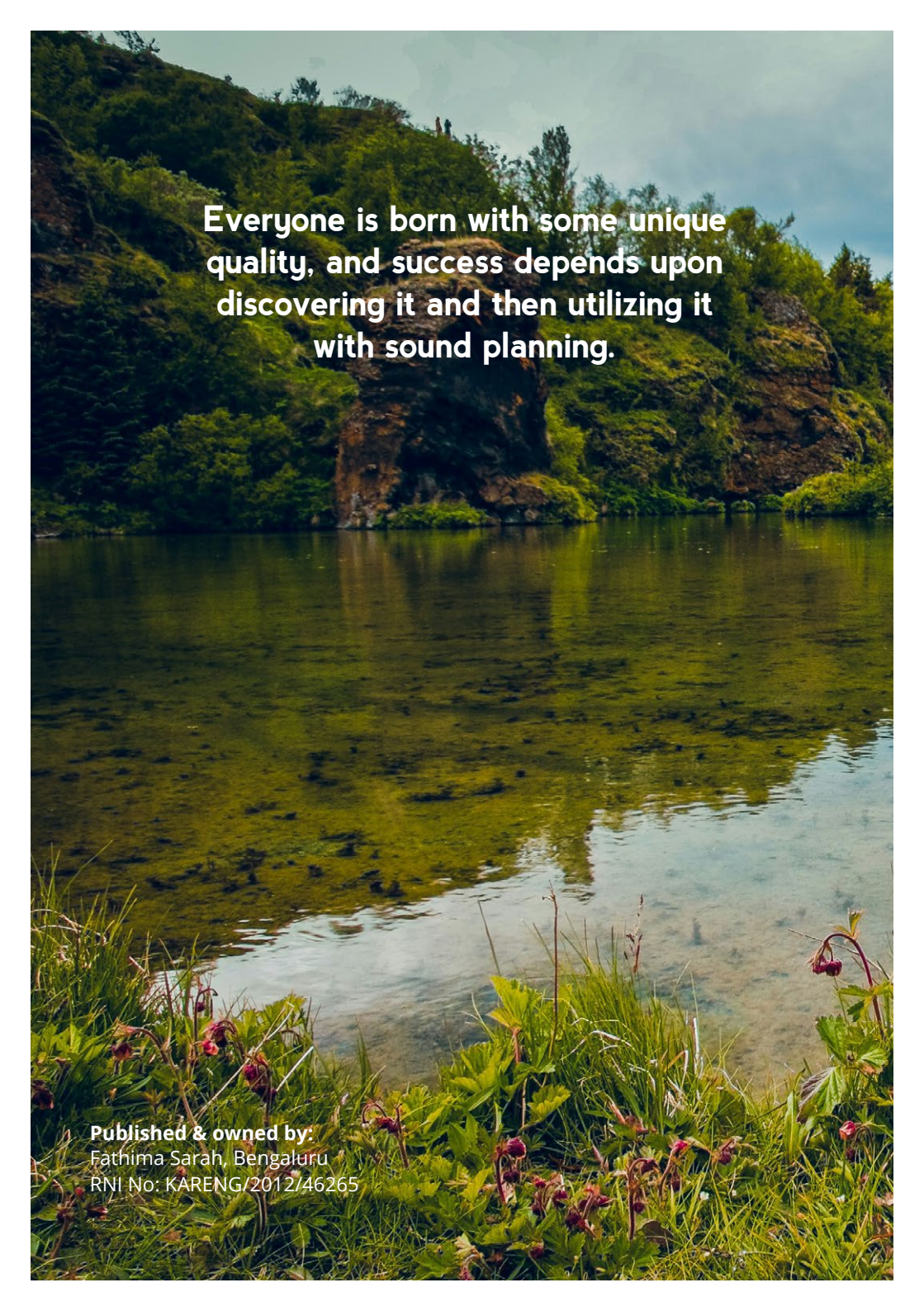
**Spirit of Islam Magazine**



**WE ASKED CHATGPT TO OFFER  
SOME INFORMATION ABOUT CPS  
INTERNATIONAL, NEW DELHI.  
THIS IS THE RESPONSE.**

The Center for Peace and Spirituality (CPS) is a renowned organization dedicated to promoting peace, harmony, and spiritual enlightenment.

Founded by Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, CPS aims to foster understanding and cooperation among people of diverse backgrounds and faiths. The center's activities include interfaith dialogues, seminars, and conferences that encourage mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. CPS also emphasizes the importance of personal and spiritual growth, offering guidance and resources for individuals seeking a deeper connection with themselves and the world around them. Through its inclusive and compassionate approach, CPS serves as a beacon of peace, inspiring positive change and unity in society.



**Everyone is born with some unique quality, and success depends upon discovering it and then utilizing it with sound planning.**

**Published & owned by:**

Fathima Sarah, Bengaluru

RNI No: KARENG/2012/46265