

# THE MILESTONE

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## AFGHANISTAN

Graveyard of Super Powers

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# EDITORIAL

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Life is about perpetual actions. This fact applies to individuals as well as nations. Living nations are always on the move and making their marks on the pages of history. To make today better than yesterday, nations strive to take positive actions. They believe that the opposing wind strengthens their intentions and morale, and helps them fly higher. The past and present are the witnesses to the fact that the Muslim Ummah is the name of such a caravan. Though the rise and fall of the nations is a continuous process, The Muslim Ummah as a whole never declines. According to Iqbal:

jahāñ meñ ahl-e-īmāñ sūrat-e-ḵhurshīd  
jiite haiñ  
idhar Duube udhar nikle udhar Duube  
idhar nikle

Whenever we took stock of our affairs and rectified our shortcomings accordingly, the ways of ascension opened before us and we rose to the position of leadership and governance. Currently, the global scenario proves that the groups which used the power of *ijtihad* and have learnt from the mistakes of the past, came back with a new strategy and therefore victory and success embraced them.

The past of the Muslims of India is also a golden chapter of history. This branch of the Ummah has always associated itself with the sentiments and feelings of the Islamic world. Even when there were few people left to weep over the fall of the Ottoman Caliphate, Indian Muslims fully represented the Ummah through the Khilafah Movement. But now the leaders of the past are driven out, those on whom springs were showering flowers, black clouds of autumn are hovering over us now. This journey of Indian Muslims towards degradation is not just an accident, Rather it is a change that takes place according to the divine law.

About which Allah says:

**“These are the ups and downs of the times that we keep circulating among the people” (Al-Imran).**

To change the scenario, we sometimes complain against social degradation, and sometimes against economic stagnation, or some people tease about the under-representation of Muslims in education and administration. We think that the cure for our pain is in solving these problems. As a result, in this “international race” we Muslims are also put in the line with other nations. But what is the result? Only a never-ending storm of failure and problems! What is the reason behind this? Muslims should not judge themselves on the standard of development of other nations. The Muslim Ummah is the caravan of Haqq through which Allah Almighty wants to fulfill His mission in this world. Allah says:

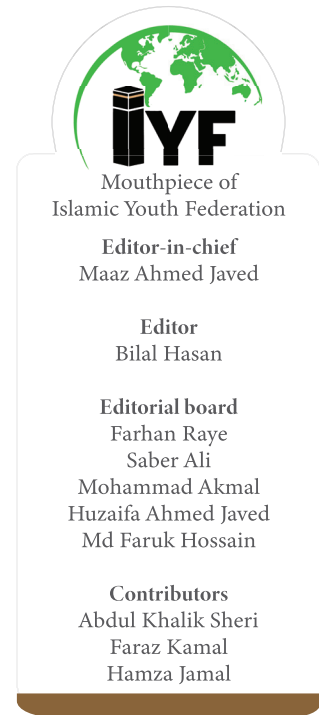
**“And thus have We made you an intermediate nation that you may be witnesses to the people of the world and the Messenger may be a witness over you.” (Al-Baqarah ).**

The Almighty has described “**commanding the good and forbidding the evil**” as the basic duty of Muslims in the Qur’an. That is, “**the promotion of virtuousness and goodness in society and the breaking of the forces of evil**”, is the main task of this Ummah. This is the divine mission of this Ummah. Our re-emergence is just associated with this mission.

The Qur’an repeatedly reminds us that Allah will never let the believers be humiliated and disgraced. He has made helping the believers obligatory upon Himself. He said, “**Allah will surely help those who help him, and Allah is Mighty, Powerful.**” (Al-Hajj). Because Allah, the Lord of Glory, who is the owner of all open and hidden powers, when he promises support, help, and cooperation, then what is to fear!

But this promise is not for a verbal claim of faith, but to those who fulfill the commandments of Allah as responsible believers. Allah said,

**“Do people think that they will be left alone to say, ‘We believe,’ and they will not be tested?” (Al-Ankabut).**



The faith led the Companions of Prophet (ﷺ) to fulfill every promise made to Allah and His Messenger (ﷺ). They supported the Messenger (ﷺ) in every situation of hardship, ease, poverty, and comfort. About this faith, it is said,

**“Indeed, the believers are those who believed in Allah and His Messenger, who had no doubt, and who fight in the cause of Allah with their lives and their wealth. They are the truthful people. (Al-Hujurat).**

Today, due to uncertainty in our faith, we have deliberately neglected our basic duties and confined ourselves to minor issues. The domination of falsehood has made our senses too weak that we are reluctant even to support those who fulfill the duty of ‘The Testimony of the People’. We fear that our comfort zone might fall apart. Although Allah says: “O Prophet! Do not be deceived by the wanderings of disobedient people in the lands of the world. It’s just a little bit of fun in life. Then they all will go to hell, which is the worst place.” (Al-Imran).

That is, The Almighty gives respite to those who are disobedient to Him in this world only.

We need to get out of the deception of the world and strive to make eternal life a success by sticking to the real mission.

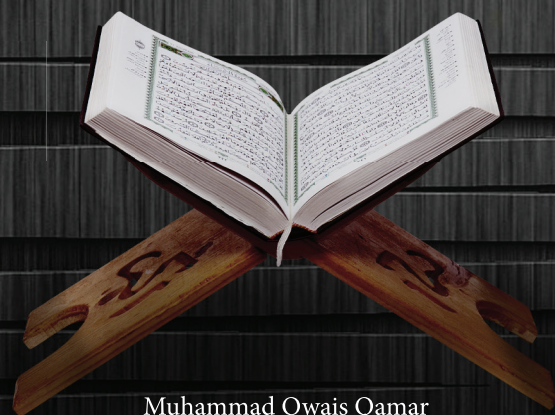
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وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا ﴿٦٣﴾ وَالَّذِينَ يَبِيتُونَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَقِيَامًا ﴿٦٤﴾ وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا اصْرِفْ عَنَّا عَذَابَ جَهَنَّمَ إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا ﴿٦٥﴾ إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا ﴿٦٦﴾ وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَتَقَفُوا لَمْ يَسِرُّوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ قَوَامًا ﴿٦٧﴾ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ وَلَا يَقْتُلُونَ النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا يَزْنُونَ ﴿٦٨﴾ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ يَلْقَ أَثَامًا ﴿٦٩﴾ يُضْعَفُ لَهُ الْعَذَابُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَيَخْلُدُ فِيهِ مُهَانًا ﴿٧٠﴾ إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا فَأُولَئِكَ يَبْدِلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ ط وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا ﴿٧١﴾

# Creator's Call

And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth softly, and when the ignorant address them [harshly], they say [words of] peace. And those who spend [part of] the night to their Lord prostrating and standing [in prayer]. And those who say, “Our Lord, avert from us the punishment of Hell. Indeed, its punishment is ever adhering; indeed, it is evil as a settlement and residence.” And [they are] those who, when they spend, do so not excessively or sparingly but are ever, between that, [justly] moderate.

And those who do not invoke with Allah another deity or kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed], except by right, and do not commit unlawful sexual intercourse. And whoever should do that will meet a penalty. Multiplied for him is the punishment on the Day of Resurrection, and he will abide therein humiliated. Except for those who repent, believe, and do righteous work. For them, Allah will replace their evil deeds with good. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful.



Muhammad Owais Qamar  
Jamiatul Falah

The above are verses 63 to 70 of Surah Al-Furqan and it is a Meccan Surah.

In these verses, Allah Almighty has drawn a map of the moral virtues of the believers and placed it in front of the people so that they can be tested on the criterion of who is worthy and who is not to Allah.

Mentioning the virtues of the believers, Allah notifies the polytheists of the Makkah that in fact, everyone is a servant of Allah, but the beloved servants of Allah are the only ones who have truly accepted Allah as their God and because of this they possess these virtues. But, on the other hand, these polytheists have become the source of evils.

Therefore, Allah Almighty mentions the first virtue of His beloved servants as ‘walking gently’.

**Here a question arises that why did Allah Almighty mentions about the posture of a man first?**

A person's posture reflects his personality and character. As we may have seen many times how tyrant and arrogant people walk, on the contrary, the beloved servant of Allah walks on the land of Allah with moderation and gentleness.

Then the second virtue of the believers is stated that whenever they encounter a person who is ready for quarrel, unjust treatment and treats the nobles in an abusive way, the believers do not respond to such a person with abusive words instead they greet them and depart gently.

Then Allah describes the life of the believers that they do not spend their nights in robbery, immorality, and similarly evil deeds like the disbelievers and the polytheists, but they spend their nights in prayers, to seek Allah's pleasure and despite such acts of worship, they do not become arrogant, but seek refuge of the torment of the Hell from their Lord.

Then Allah has mentioned another virtue of the believers that they do not spend their wealth in vain nor they are miser, but they spend their wealth where the Most Gracious has commanded them to spend.

Finally, Allah Almighty states that the most important and basic attribute of His beloved servants i.e., they avoid the three great sins that were commonly found in the polytheists of Makkah.

1. Associating partners with Allah (Shirk)
2. Unjust killing
3. Adultery

In these few verses, Allah Almighty reflects the virtues of the believers and invites the polytheists of Makkah to compare their characters with those who have accepted Allah as their true God. These verses are a mirror for those who claim to be among the believers and the beloved servants of Allah, so that they may consider whether they are His beloved or not.

We pray to Allah to make us all develop these qualities within ourselves.  
Ameen

# AFGHANISTAN: THE GRAVEYARD OF SUPERPOWERS



Dr. Mubashir Aliq  
Phd. Zionism and creation of state of Israel

History stands a witness to fates and fortunes of world-powers. When a superpower is down on luck, it resolves to invade Afghanistan. 'Sun never sets in Britain', the hyperbolic identity of 19th century giant, The Great Britain; unfortunately, British Empire found its sunset site in Afghanistan. Like Britain, 20th Century superpower, the Soviet Russia was subjected to adverse consequences. The imperialist structure including the communism suffered a major breakdown, which led to the independence of more than a dozen of countries. We are aware of the situation with which the United States, the 21st century superpower, is struggling. The supremacy and arrogance made U.S heedless of the opposition by the whole world against Afghan invasion thereby embarking on self-destructing mission called, 'war on terror'. Nonetheless, it is obliged to find an escape from the battleground even in the darkness of night.

Afghanistan has always been the centre of major power struggles. Certain neighbouring forces fantasized about capturing Afghanistan, while others tried and even attacked it. The seventeenth century witnessed a cold-war between the Mughals of India and the Safavids of Iran to capture this region. Britain had fought three wars against Afghanistan. In October 1839, Lord Auckland, the Viceroy of India, declared war on Afghanistan at Shimla. Afghan nation and its leader, Dost Muhammad Khan, did not retaliate for a while; however no sooner did Afghans hit back than the British army began trembling and eventually

tried to escape. The Afghans pursued this retreating army by **hunting their fleeing** soldiers. When they **reached Jalalabad**, only two British soldiers **remained** who were spared alive so that they could narrate the story of their destruction to their rulers. One of the soldiers couldn't make it, while the other, whose name was Brydon, reached Peshawar and reported the ordeal to his commanders.

Since the time of British incursion, Russia was also trying to establish its occupation in Afghanistan through different means. On one hand, Russia was using the rulers of Afghanistan as its pawn, and on the other endorsing the communist groups present there. In September 1953, Mohammad Dawood became the Prime Minister of Afghanistan, replacing Shah Mahmud. During Mohammad Dawood's reign, Afghanistan became a stronghold of the Russian intelligence agency KGB. KGB was trying to transform Afghanistan into a communist state by locating and organizing people of its interests among the groups of Afghan society such as students, businessmen, workers and peasants. At the same time, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, a communist party was formed including Babrak Karmal, Noor Mohammad Tarakai and Hafizullah Amin. Afghanistan was attacked by the Russia when Hafizullah Amin became the governor. After this attack, Islamic Movement in Afghanistan started the armed revolt against Russian military. Within two weeks of the attack, the Islamic Movement took remarkable military actions against the Russian troops, which stunned them. Guerrilla-styled warfare of Afghans took a new

turn with the provision of the Stinger missile from the U.S, which made them more challenging for the Russians. Russian fighter planes and gunship helicopters were hunted down like birds. Moreover, invaders were unable to withstand the Afghan retaliation and were white-washed from Afghanistan. Subsequently, the Geneva Agreement was signed between the then puppet government of Afghanistan and Russia, under the guise of which Russian troops crossed the Amu River and escaped Afghanistan.

After Russia's exit from Afghanistan, absence of a formal government, law and order led to infighting amongst various warlords and factions. Eventually an organization called Taliban established its control over Afghanistan with their social, political and armed efforts. Though they formed an Islamic government and restored peace and justice, America and its allied countries considered Taliban as an unfavourable force for their objectives and policies in the region. On the pretext of 9/11 attack, on 7th October 2001 United States declared a full-fledged war on Afghanistan. Just a few days had passed and Defence Minister of U.S said that we cannot occupy Afghanistan indicating that U.S has realized its blunder, finally after 19 years America signed the Doha Agreement with Taliban to retreat and escape Afghan conundrum after innumerable loss of lives, assets and money.

It's for the time to tell which Nation will endeavour to conquer it, however it is certain that whoever does that, it will not only be a historical mistake but also a foolish adventure.

# MARRIAGE OR PARTNERSHIP



Er Danish Ahmed,  
B.tech Mechanical

Today we are living in the age of Dajjal. The present-day culture of Dajjal is inherently against the family system. This can be witnessed in many events that have already taken deep roots in our society such as Dating, Valentine's Day, not to forget live-in relationships i.e. partnership, etc. But what makes this matter worse is when highly educated and so-called Muslim leaders from their platform or western platform back up such perversion. One such incident that recently occurred was the interview of Malala Yusuf that was published in Vogue magazine, who said **"I still don't understand why people have to get married. If you want to have a person in your life, why do you have to sign marriage papers, why can't you just be in a partnership?"**. The purpose of the article is to answer this question for the young Muslim generation in the light of the Quran & Sunnah, scientific researches, & logic so that we can think critically and then make our decision.

In the light of the  
Quran and Sunnah.



Marriage is a religious obligation in Islam. Allah commands us in the Quran  
- **"And marry the unmarried among you and the righteous among your male slaves and female slaves."**  
[Surah An-Nur:32].

Also, in a hadith, Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said **"Oh young people! Whoever among you can marry, should marry, for it restrains (eyes from casting evil glances) and preserves one from immorality."**. To lay more emphasis, Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said, **"Marry, even with only (a Mahr equal to) an iron ring."** One might think why is there so much emphasis on this issue, but the answer is quite simple. In Islamic

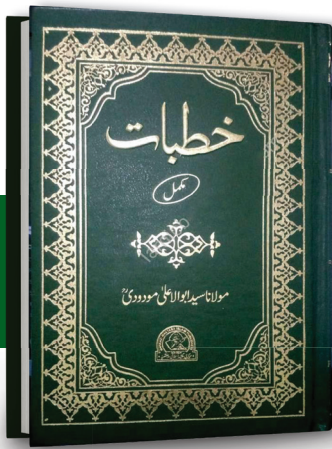
teaching purpose of marriage is far deeper than just mere lust, it means keeping the society free from immorality & debauchery, getting spiritual and psychological tranquillity, preservation of the human race, cooperation between spouses for building the family, and raising Islamic children as a family which is the building block of society. Due to this reason, Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said **"He who marries completes half of his religion; it now rests to him to complete rest half by leading virtuous life in constant fear of God."**

## Modern social scientific researches

In one study published in the Journal of *Biosocial Science* in the year 2000, sociologists Neville Bruce & Katherine Sanders showed that the average high school romantic relationship only lasts about eleven weeks. Also, Dr. Leonard Sax argues that premarital romantic relationships and dating often develop bad habits in the youth. Those boys and girls may very well carry those bad habits (acquired while dating) with them for the rest of their lives. For instance, they may learn that it is very easy to dump your boyfriend or girlfriend for the smallest mistake he or she had made. Another study published in the *National Library of Medicine* by G P Joffe showed that multiple sexual partners and partner choice are believed to increase the risk of sexually transmitted disease (STD). In National Council on Family Relations, a Study of Commitment and Relationship revealed that cohabiters (live-in partners) overall are less serious and less satisfied with their relationships and are more likely to consider ending their current relationships than are married respondents. Likewise, American social scientist George Gilder notes in his book *Men & Marriage*

that in any society, successful and famous men are those who are married. This is so because only after a man subjects his undefined, immense potential abilities to the creative energies and motherhood of a woman, she channels his abilities into the right direction and he climbs the ladder to success. For more scientific research you can refer to the book by Dr. Gohar Mushtaq **"Encouraging Marriage & Discouraging Divorce."**

Just think logically, What will happen to the kids if the partnership breaks? Who will be responsible for the child's upbringing? What if one has multiple partners at the same time and one of them is suffering from an STD, will it not ruin the lives of others? What about the safety of women? Social scientific studies have demonstrated that children who are in broken homes suffer physically, mentally, and emotionally. Such children encounter deprivations, addictions, and failures in their lives. Also, there are cases of more child abuse, child neglect, early deaths, and increased suicide rates of kids. This is the reason Patrick Fagan, a cultural expert and former family counselor said: **"The effects of marital breakdown on the national prosperity and the well-being of individual children are like the action of termites on the beams in a home's foundations. They are weakening, quietly but seriously, the structural underpinnings of society."** On the contrary, Islam gives deeper meanings to marriage which involves developing a loving relationship and intimate knowledge, and commitment to another human being and building a family which in turn makes a prosperous nation. So it's up to the young minds to think whether they want a happy life i.e. married life or a ruined life i.e. a live-in relationship.



# BOOK REVIEW

**Book Name:** Khutbaat(Iman)

**Writer:** Maulana Syed Abul Ala Maodudi

**Publisher:** Markazi Maktaba Islamiya (MMI)

Tufail Ahmed  
(B.tech, Petroleum, AMU)

## Introduction

Khutbaat is the collection of public addresses given by Sayyid Abul A'la Mawdudi in Pathankot to the local villagers around 1938. **Maulana tries to explain the true message, the fundamental concepts, and the spirit of Islam in simple words.** 'Khutbaat' is divided into five parts. The book review of the first part Imaan is before you.

## Book review

In this part, Maulana explores the meaning of Imaan, its definition, and the responsibilities of accepting the Kalimah, and the differences between a Muslim and a Kafir.

Islam means submission to and obedience to Allah. To entrust ourselves completely to Allah is Islam. A person who is unaware of the difference between Islam and kufr is like someone walking along a track in complete darkness. But if we are blessed with the true light of knowledge we will be able to see the clear path of Islam at every step of our lives.

He then proves that Islam is not a birthright; a Muslim does not become truly a Muslim simply because he is born a Muslim. Rather, a man is a Muslim because he follows Islam. Islam is not a race or a family in which membership is automatically passed on from father to son. For example, Ibraheem (عليه السلام) was born into the home of an idolator, but he came to know Allah and obeyed him. The son of Nuh (عليه السلام) was born into a Prophet's home and he did not obey Allah.

The difference between a kafir and a Muslim is not because of their different names like Kartar Singh and Abdullah respectively, but because of the difference

in knowledge and actions. Whoever will understand the message of Islam and follow accordingly is a Muslim, No matter what the name is.



Maulana mentions that *Kalimah Tayyibah* is like a noble tree, whose roots are firmly fixed in the earth whose branches reach the sky; and all the while it continues to yield abundant fruits. On the other hand- False beliefs, unislamic ideologies, and the wrong methodologies are said to be *Kalimah Khabeesahh*, which is like a self-seeded plant growing in poor, shallow earth and easily plucked out with a single pull. *Kalimah Tayyibah* teaches Godhood and that sovereignty belongs to none but Allah, whereas *Kalimah Khabeesah* teaches that either there is no Allah or that someone else is in addition. The same contrast is found between consequences. **Kalimah Tayyibah produces sweet fruits:** peace, truth, justice dominates, and people benefit accordingly. And the fruits of **Kalimah Khabeesah are bitter and poisonous.** We can see with our own eyes when kufr, idolatry, or secularism prevails- man is bent on destruction, nations are set on destroying each other, the weak are cowed by the armies and police, jailing and executions become common. The individuals' morals are so depraved that even Satan would be ashamed. Human dignity and rights are trampled upon. Abortion, wife swapping

are being practiced, and so on. All these are because of following Kalimah Khabeesah instead of Kalimah Tayyibah.

Maulana also recognizes why our condition is not good today, why our necks are in the grip of Kuffar, why our heads are now bowed before human beings, why our honor is being trampled upon. This is because there is something wrong with our claim to be Muslims. Maulana highlights a blunder- the irreverence and misuse of the Qur'an we do. We use Qur'an in keeping it in our houses to drive away jinns and ghosts, reading its contents without comprehending their meaning in the hope of receiving some reward. But the Qur'an was sent to men to read, understand, act upon it, and, with its help establish Allah's rule on the earth. The Qur'an came to grant us dignity and power.

Maulana gives an example of Israelities with the reference of the Qur'an to illustrate that our humiliation is because of ignoring Allah's book. Israelites were given the Tawrah and the Injeel and were told:

**“Had they established the Towrah and the Gospel and what was sent to them by their lord, they would surely have partaken of all the blessings from above them and beneath their feet.”**

(Al Maidah:66)

But they adopted wrong attitudes towards these books, and reaped the consequences:

**“An ignominy and helplessness were led upon them, and they were laden with the burden of Allah's anger. That, because they used to disbelieve Allah's message and slay the prophets against all right; that, because they disobeyed and were transgressors.”**

(Al-Baqarah 2:61)

Now, If we possess Allah's book and still live in disgrace and subjugation, we are surely being punished. The only way to save ourselves from Allah's anger is to turn back from this grave sin and start trying to render ourselves according to His book. Until we adopt this method, our condition will never change—even if we open colleges in each and every village, all our children graduate from universities, and we amass millions and billions of different means.!!



Safi ur Rehman Mubarakpuri

## An Advisory Council to debar Pilgrims from Muhammad's Call

ﷺ

During those days, Quraish had another serious concern; the proclamation of the Call had only been a few months old when the season of pilgrimage was soon to come. Quraish knew that the Arab delegates were coming within a short time. They agreed that it was necessary to contemplate a device that was bound to alienate the Arab pilgrims from the new faith preached by Muhammad [ﷺ]. They went to see Al-Waleed bin Al-Mugheerah to deliberate on this issue. Al-Waleed invited them to agree on a unanimous resolution that could enjoy the approbation of them all. However, they were at variance. Some suggested

that they describe him as *Kahin*, i.e., *soothsayer*; but this suggestion was turned down on grounds that his words were not so rhymed. Others proposed *Majnun*, i.e., *possessed by jinn*; this was also rejected because no insinuations peculiar to that state of mind was detected, they claimed.

"Why not say he is a poet?" Some said. Here again, they could not reach a common consent, alleging that his words were totally outside the lexicon of poetry. "OK then; let us accuse him of practicing witchcraft," was the fourth suggestion. Here also Al-Waleed showed some reluctance saying that the Prophet [ﷺ] was known to have never involved himself in the practice of blowing on the knots, and admitted that his speech was sweet-tasting root and branch. He, however, found that the most plausible charge to be leveled against Muhammad [ﷺ] was witchcraft. The ungodly company adopted this opinion and agreed to propagate one uniform formula to the effect that he was a magician so powerful and commanding in his art that he would successfully alienate son from father, the man from his brother, wife from her husband, and the man from his clan.

It is noteworthy in this regard to say that Allah revealed sixteen verses as regards Al-Waleed and the cunning method he contemplated to manipulate the people expected to arrive in Makkah for pilgrimage.

Allah says:

**"Verily, he thought and plotted; so let him be cursed! How he plotted! And once more let him be cursed, how he plotted! Then he thought; then he frowned and he looked in a bad-tempered way; then he turned back and was proud; then he said: 'This is nothing but magic from that of old; this is nothing but the word of a human being!'"**

[Al-Qur'an 74:18-25].

The most wicked of them was the sworn enemy of Islam and Muhammad [ﷺ], Abu Lahab, who would shadow the Prophet's steps crying aloud, "O men, do not listen to him for he is a liar; he is an apostate." Nevertheless, Muhammad [ﷺ] managed to create a stir in the whole area, and even to convince a few people to accept his Call.

# WHY CONSPIRACY THEORIES SPREAD EASILY?

Muhammad Azam  
(B.tech, C.S, AMU)



We have lately been exposed to a lot of conspiracy theories in the media. These are often purposely spread by the governments and media bodies themselves. Generally, there are two important properties that a conspiracy theory must satisfy for making it a *super spreader*. They are: -

- I. It must be something terrifying. The people must become scared when they hear it.
- II. It must not be easily verifiable. This is so that the confusion about the conspiracy theory remains. The longer the confusion, the more will be the fear.

In this article, we will انشاء الله try to find out the reasons as to why they are spread.

**1. For confusion:** As we live in a world full of injustice and evil; there are a lot of real conspiracies going on around us. We also know that we have access to the internet and other media. Although there is a firm grip of international companies and governments on the media; removing or partially hiding these things is not always easy. The preferable solution is to fill the internet with all types of absurd and weird conspiracy theories so that any person should get extremely confused as to which one is true and which one is false. Thus, in this case he will eventually give up upon the idea of finding the truth.

**2. For misdirecting attention:** As the people are curious by nature, they want to know whether the 'conspiracy theory' being told is true or false. They become restless when they hear that the government is planning to do this or that against the citizens. They want to find out the truth. In this way, the attention of the people can be grabbed and more important things can thus be hidden from discussions of the general public. To understand this, let us take the example of 'the demonetization' that happened in India. Amidst the note ban when the people were worried about the effects and problems of the demonetization; a conspiracy theory started circulating in the media. *It stated that there is a chip in the new Rs. 2000 note and it can be used to detect the location of any Rs. 2000 note.* As the public in India is not much educated about these things, therefore, they became worried. **Is there a chip or not? Should they rip the Rs. 2000 note to check it? Should they protest against the chip installation or the demonetization? But the chip is not yet verified to be there or is it...**

This directed the public's attention from the note ban to a meaningless topic. Instead of worrying about the demonetization and its effects, they started to discuss the hypothetical chip which was what the government presumably wanted anyways.

**1. For desensitization of evil:** It is a simple fact that when we are confronted with a more terrifying thing, the fear of all other things automatically decreases. So, the governments spread extremely terrifying conspiracy theories so that the people become so scared by them that they neglect the smaller real wrongs that the government may be committing.

**2. For spreading fear:** As conspiracy theories are very terrifying, continued exposure to them can easily make a person very fearful and hopeless. Therefore, this technique acts as a self-fulfilling prophecy because the more the people are exposed to conspiracy theories, the more they become fearful and hopeless, and thus in this way it becomes easier for the rulers to implement the conspiracy theory. Note that, this is generally done by the international media.

**3. For causing anarchy:** This is also done generally by the international media. When these types of conspiracy theories are spread, several people believe in them and others don't. As the conspiracy theories are specially crafted for believability, the people who believe in them and those who do not believe in them turn against each other. This leads to hate and anarchy. For example, the conspiracy theory that the corona vaccine is killing people has caused significant differences among the people and many people have started hating the local administration and doctors.

In the light of the above arguments, we see that conspiracy theories are much more damaging than we often think them to be. In this age of disinformation, we must be very careful of what type of input we get into our minds. One thing that we all must keep on practicing is that we should increase our knowledge because it helps in living in these troubled times. May Allah help us in the tough times coming ahead. Ameen

... 'Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding.' (Az-Zumar: 9)

## ACROSS THE GLOBE

### Israeli jets launch air raids on southern Lebanon

Hezbollah-run station confirms two air raids outside the town of Mahmoudiya, near the Lebanese-Israeli border. (5 Aug 2021)

### The many challenges facing Iran's new President Ebrahim Raisi

From managing an ailing economy to balancing ties with the West, Iran's eighth president will not have an easy job. (5 Aug 2021)

### Turkey slams US statement on planned resettlement of Afghans

Ankara says Washington's plan to take in Afghans through third countries could cause a new regional migration crisis. (4 Aug 2021)

### Ismail Haniya re-elected as leader of Palestinian group Hamas

Haniya, Hamas chief since 2017, re-elected for four-year term following an unopposed internal election by party members. (1 Aug 2021)

### Egyptian court sentences 24 Muslim Brotherhood members to death

Eight of the 24 accused were tried in absentia in separate cases involving the killing of police officers. (30 Jul 2021)

### Troops deployed in Pakistan town after mob attacked Hindu temple

Statues damaged, temple's door burned down by mob that said a Hindu boy, granted bail on Wednesday, committed blasphemy. (5 Aug 2021)

### Dalit girl allegedly raped, killed and forcibly cremated in India

Nine-year-old girl's family alleges she was gang-raped and murdered by a Hindu priest and his associates in New Delhi. (4 Aug 2021)



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