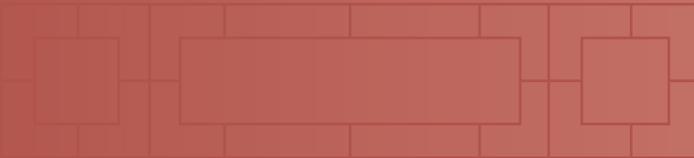


ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS ON ISLAM



THE SWORD OF ISLAM



The first few who embraced the 'new' religion at the hands of the Prophet were his wife Khadijah, his servant Zaid and his eleven year old cousin Ali.

Among the ones who later joined this faith in Makkah were the honest merchant, Abu Bakr, the iron man of Arabia, Omar the Great, the shy businessman, Othman, the Prophet's brave uncle Hamza and the family of a pagan's slave, Bilal. They simply couldn't resist the magic sword of a humble and lonely Prophet! The negligible minority of the Believers in this new Faith was soon driven away from Makkah (with their 'SWORD'). In the city of their migration, Madinah, people not only welcomed the bearers, but the 'SWORD' as well. It didn't cease to work even there and its magnetic force continued to pull people towards it until the whole of Arabia joined the Faith. Compared to the population of the rest of the world at that time, the Arabs constitute da tiny minority. A fraction of this minority decided to take the 'SWORD' beyond the boundaries of the Arabian desert to the mighty empires of Rome and Persia, the shores of the Mediterranean, the coast of Malabar and the far away East Indies Islands. People after people went on surrendering to this SWORD and joining the Faith.

So sharp was the edge of the SWORD! it simply conquered the hearts; bodies yielded automatically. It is the SWORD OF TRUTH, whose mere shine eliminates falsehood just like light wipes away darkness.

HAS THE SWORD GONE BLUNT? NO, FAR FROM IT.

It continues to pierce the hearts of countless men and women even today in spite of the relentless efforts by persons with vested interests who like darkness to prevail, so that they may rob people of their good things.

Read below the impressions of some who were recently conquered by the same 'SWORD'. They are from different countries, speak different languages and have different backgrounds. Where possible their present addresses are also given. Perhaps you

may like to ask them how it feels to be struck by the SWORD OF TRUTH.

1. AHMED HOLT *British Civil Contractor, Travelled extensively in search of the Divine truth. Spent much time in research and comparative study of Judaism. 'Christianity and Islam. (Embraced Islam in 1975).*

The "Sword of Islam" is not the sword of steel. I know this by experience, because the sword of Islam struck deep into my heart. It didn't bring death, but it brought a new life; it brought an awareness and it brought an awakening as to who am I and for what I am here?'

2. VANGATACHALAM ADIYAR *(Now Abdullah Adiyar): Indian, noted Tamil writer and Journalist. Worked as a News Editor in Dr M. Karunanidhir daily Murasoli' for 17 years. Worked with 3 former Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu. Received Kalaimamani Award (Big Gem of Arts) from TN Government in 1982 (Embraced Islam in 1987).*

'In Islam I found suitable replies to nagging queries arising in my mind with regard to the theory of creation, status of women, creation of the universe etc. The life history of Holy Prophet attracted me very much and made it easy for me to compare with other world leaders and their philosophies.'

1AshokAvenue, Rangarajapuram Kodambakkam, Madras, India.

3. HERBERT HOB OHM: *(Now Aman Hobohm). German Diplomat, Missionary and social worker. An intellectual, who has been serving the German Diplomatic Mission in various parts of the world. (Embraced Islam in 1941).*

'I have lived under different systems of life and have had the opportunity of studying various ideologies, but have come to the conclusion that none is as perfect as Islam. None of the systems has got a complete code of a noble life. Only Islam has it; and that is why good men embrace it. Islam is not theoretical; it is practical. It means complete submission to the will of God.'

Koenigswinterer Str. 269, 5300 Bonn 1, Germany.

4. CAT STEVENS (Now Yusuf Islam). British, Formerly Christian, World famous pop singer: (Embraced Islam in 1973).

“It will be wrong to judge Islam in the light of the behaviour of some bad Muslims who are always shown on the media. It is like judging a car as a bad one if the driver of the car is drunk and he bangs it with the wall. Islam guides all human beings in the daily life in it’s spiritual, mental and physical dimensions. But we must find the sources of these instructions: The Qur’an and the example of the Prophet. Then we can see the ideal of Islam.”

5. MS MARGARET MARCUS (Now Maryam Jamilah): American, formerly Jewish. Essayist and journalist. Author of many books.

‘The authority of Islamic Morals and Laws proceeds from Almighty God. Pleasure and happiness in Islam are but the natural by products of emotional satisfaction in one’s duties conscientiously performed for the pleasure of God to achieve salvation. In Islam duties are always stressed above rights. Only in Islam did I at last find all that was true, good, beautiful and which gives meaning and direction to human life and death.’

C/O. Mr. Mohammad Yusuf Khan, Sant Nagar, Lahore, Pakistan.

6. WILFRED HOFMAN: (Now Murad Hoffman). Ph.D. (Law) Havard. German, Social Scientist and Diplomat. Author of the book “ISLAM: The Alternative”. Former German Ambassador to Rabat, Morocco. (Embraced Islam in 1980).

‘For some time now, striving for more and more precision and brevity, I have tried to put on paper, in a systematic way, all philosophical truths, which, in my view, can be ascertained beyond reasonable doubt. In the course of this effort it dawned on me that the typical attitude of an agnostic is not an intelligent one; that man simply cannot escape a decision to believe; that the createdness of what exists around us is obvious; that Islam undoubtedly finds itself in the greatest harmony with overall

reality. Thus I realise, not without shock, that step by step, in spite of myself and almost unconsciously, in feeling and thinking I have grown into a Muslim. Only one last step remained to be taken: to formalise my conversion. As of today I am a Muslim. I have arrived.'

7. CASSIUS CLAY: (Now Muhammad Ali Clay): American boxer (Three times World Heavyweight champion), formerly Christian. (Embraced Islam in 1965).

'I have had many nice moments in my life. But the feelings I had while standing on Mount Arafat on the day of 'Hajj' (Muslims pilgrimage), was the most unique. I felt exalted by the indescribable spiritual atmosphere there as over a million and a half pilgrims invoked God to forgive them of their sins and bestow on them His choicest blessings. It was an exhilarating experience to see people belonging to different colours, races and nationalities, kings, heads of states and ordinary men from very poor countries all clad in two simple white sheets praying to God without any sense of either pride or inferiority. It was a practical manifestation of the concept of equality in Islam.' (Speaking to the daily 'Al Madinah' Jeddah, 15 July 1989).
1200E, 49 St, Chicago, 1L60615, U.S.A.

8. DR. SAHIB MUSTAQIM BLEHER: German, Formerly Christian, Journalist and book publisher (including 'Satanic Voices Ancient and Modern' the most effective response to those who supported Rushdie's rights to 'freedom of speech'). Founder member and general secretary of the Islamic Party of Britain. (Embraced Islam in 1980).

'The Qur'an, unlike other Scriptures, has its own unique style of language: simple and crisp, its basic meaning easy to understand for everybody who wishes to do so, whether a lettered person or not. Yet these simple, often allegorical sentences of the Qur'an open up upon closer contact, bringing to life the truth about ourselves and our environment in each sphere of life with an infinite depth of meaning. In fact, the language of the Qur'an is

not only preserved in its originality, it is alive today as it was at the time of its revelation, it gives the reader as much as he can take, it responds to his needs as a very personal guiding companion. This book is like an on-going revelation, and whoever opens it with the sincere intention to discover the truth about it will find it impossible to put it down.'

P.O. Box 844, Old brook, Milton Keynes, MK6 2YT, UK.

SOME PROMINENT NON-MUSLIMS'REMARKS

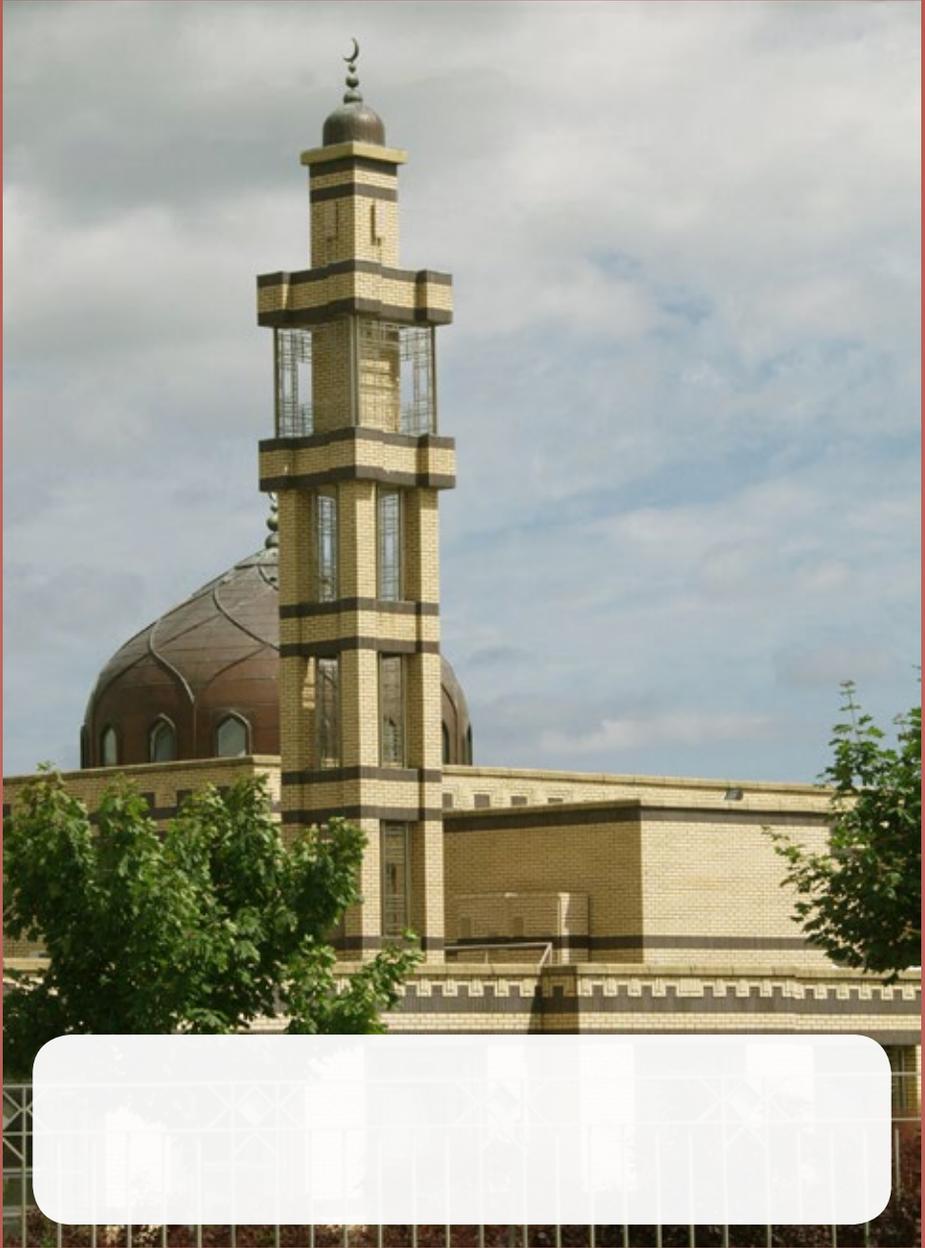
These were the impressions of a few persons who had themselves been struck by the SWORD OF TRUTH. As for the propaganda that it was the sword of steel (i.e. the force) which was instrumental in the universal expansion of Islam, we give below remarks of some prominent non Muslims refuting this baseless claim:

- 1 M.K. GHANDI: 'I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self effacement of the prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These, and not the sword, carried everything before them and surmounted every trouble.' Young India, 1924.
- 2 EDWARD GIBBON: 'The greatest success of Mohammad's life was effected by sheer moral force without the stroke of a sword.' History of the Saracen Empire, London, 1870.
- 3 A. S. TRITTON: 'The picture of the Muslim soldier advancing with a sword in one hand and the Qur'an in the other is quite false.' Islam, London, 1951 page 21.
- 4 DE LACY O'LEARY: History makes it clear, however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims, sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated.' Islam at Crossroads, London, 1923, page 8.

- 5 K.S. RAMAKRISHNA RAO: 'My problem to write this monograph is easier because we are not generally fed now on that (distorted) kind of history and much time need not be spent on pointing out our misrepresentations of Islam. The theory of Islam and sword, for instance, is not heard now in any quarter worth the name. The principle of Islam that "there is no compulsion in religion" is well known.' Mohammad the Prophet of Islam, Riyadh 1989 page 4.
- 6 JAMES A. MICHENER: 'No other religion in history spread so rapidly as Islam... The West has widely believed that this surge of religion was made possible by the sword. But no modern scholar accepts that idea, and the Qur'an is explicit in support of the freedom of conscience.' Islam The Misunderstood Religion, Reader's Digest (American Edition) May 1955.
- 7 LAWRENCE E. BROWNE: 'Incidentally these well established facts dispose of the idea so widely fostered in Christian writings that the Muslims, wherever they went, forced people to accept Islam at the point of the sword.' The Prospects of Islam, London 1944.

NO COMPULSION IN RELIGION

Whilst not a single Muslim soldier has set foot in Indonesia yet, it is the largest Muslim country today. This is in line with the command of the Qur'an: *"Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from error: whoever rejects false deities and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy hand hold, that never breaks. And Allah hears and knows all things. Allah is the protector of those who have faith: From the depths of darkness He leads them forth into light. Of those who reject faith their patrons are the false deities, from light they will lead them forth into depths of darkness. They will be companions of the fire, to dwell therein forever."* (Qur'an 2: 256 - 257)



For any further queries, information and tours, please feel free to contact

The Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland,

19 Roebuck Road, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14, Ireland

T +353 1 2080000 F +353 1 2080001

Web: www.islamireland.ie E-mail: info@islamireland.ie



هيئة آل مكتوم الخيرية
Al Maktoum Foundation

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