

MISCONCEPTIONS, ALLEGATIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT ISLAM AND MUSLIMS

As part of Dawah work to mankind to understand Islam, answers to frequently asked questions against Islam would enable the Muslim readers to give an explanation to their Non-Muslim friends to remove their misunderstanding and misconceptions about Islam and Muslims.

Information on the selected answers to particular questions as given by world renowned Muslim Scholar Dr. Zakir Naik and the contributions from Islamic Research Foundation is presented here. May Allah (God) reward special favors to all of them including those striving in His cause.

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Q.I. If Islam stands for peace then why does Qur'an 'command Muslims to do Jihad?

The world today is being considered a Global Village i.e. a small place where information from all corners can be gathered in fraction of a second. Thanks to electronic media (especially) for enabling men to know each other.

Sitting in the East to know West and sitting in the North to know South is just at our finger tips. Information from one corner of the world is travelling to the other corner just at the speed of light.

On analyzing, it has been realized that **MOST** of this advanced technology is being controlled directly or indirectly by forces opposing Islam and Muslims. To be a little more specific by '**MUSTASHRIQEEN**' an Arabic term that may be used for **Orientalists**. Convinced that the people throughout the world are mesmerized by the media and its glamorous presentation, so much, that, they have started accepting anything flashed through electronic media as absolute TRUTH, these anti-Islamic forces (in particular) are utilizing their best ability to either project a few wrongly practicing Muslims as Orthodox Muslims or malign a Glorious lesson of Qur'an befitting human need as very much against human welfare. **JIHAD is one such victim of Media Terrorism.**

To learn the meaning of any word a person would search in the dictionary the exact meaning of the word; similarly, The Most Authentic Dictionary for Islamic terminologies is the Glorious Qur'an. Therefore let us understand the term **JIHAD** according to the **Glorious Qur'an.**

JIHAD: The literal meaning of the word Jihad is - **To Strive, To make an effort, To struggle or To fight.**

In an **Islamic** context **Jihad means - To strive**, to make efforts, to struggle or to fight - **In The Cause of Almighty God Allah.** If we read the Glorious Qur'an we find that Allah mentions in **Sura Nisa- 4:40**, that Allah is the least unjust i.e. Injustice is against the Glory of Allah and therefore the One who is **unjust** can **never be Allah.** As such if we make Jihad i.e. strive, make efforts, struggle or fight in the cause of Allah but natural it would only be to establish justice and put an end to tyranny and injustice on earth.

Unfortunately we Muslims have not successfully overcome the allegations raised against Islam by the Terrorists who have again and again dared to misquote Aayaats (generally Aayat is mistranslated as verse) of the Glorious Qur'an to create **ISLAM - O - PHOBIA**.

It is Obligatory upon every Muslim to understand and practice Qur'an only as was practiced by Prophet Muhammad- pbuh, His Sahaaba (The Companions of Prophet- pbuh) and those who follow Islam according to them. In the light of Qur'an and Hadees we may conclude that Jihad is done basically against four enemies. These four enemies can be further divided into two basic categories as:

(I) Invisible and Non-human enemies and (II) Visible and Human enemies.

(I) Non-Human and Invisible Enemies:

1. NAFS- Arabic word meaning- soul, life, self, or selfish desire.
2. SHAITA'N- Satan the accursed and an unseen, alien being.

(II) Human and Visible Enemies:

1. ZALIMEEN AND MUNA'FIQEEN- The oppressors and Hypocrites.
2. KAFIR (KUFFAAR- plural of Kafir)- The Disbelievers.

Let us analyze the Concept of Jihad mentioned in Qur'an against each of them-

Non-Human - Invisible Enemies:

1. JIHAD- UN- NAFS- Means, Jihad or struggle against the selfish desires existing within one's own self.

Allah warns in the Glorious Qur'an and informs Prophet Muhammad- pbuh about the person who follows his/her own desire as one who has taken another god (his/her selfish desire) besides Allah for worship. Taking anyone besides Allah as God is termed as 'SHIRK' in Arabic language and SHIRK is the only unforgivable sin in the sight of Allah as testified in the Qur'an in- Sura Nisa- 4:36, 48,116.

Therefore Allah commands to struggle against all desires that may lead one to act against the Will of Allah (The commands of Islam given in Glorious Qur'an and Authentic Ahadees). This struggle in Arabic language is called **Jihad- un- Nafs**. One may easily understand now that this Jihad does not allow bloodshed or fighting non-Muslims. The command to struggle against 'Nafs' is given in the Glorious Qur'an in- **Sura Nisa-4:135, Sura Ma'ida-5:8, Sura An'am-6:120, Sura Aeraf-7:176, Sura Furqan-25:43, Sura Jasiya-45:23, Sura Sa'd-38:26.**

2. JIHAD- USH- SHAITAAN: Is the Jihad i.e. struggling and making efforts against the whispers of Shaitaan (Satan) and changing the way to avoid following the footsteps of Satan.

Allah warns in the Glorious Qur'an not to follow the footsteps of Satan and informs us about the harms this Satan may cause as he is an open and avowed enemy to mankind. Allah testifies this in the Glorious Qur'an in **Sura Baqra- 2:208**.

The other places in the Qur'an where Allah warned about the evil designs of the Satan are- **Sura A'raf- 7:200, Sura Mominoon-23:97, Sura Fatir- 35:6, Sura Sa'd- 38:82,83**.

Jihad against selfish desires and Satan is **PERMANENT** and **UNCONDITIONAL**.

Alhamdulillah again Jihad-ush-Shaitaan confirms that this struggle and this fight against Shaitaan i.e. Satan does not require any bloodshed.

Let us now analyze the remaining category of Jihad involving two visible kind of enemies.

HUMAN – VISIBLE ENEMIES

1. JIHAD- UZ- ZALIMEEN WAL MUNAFIQEEN-

(Struggle or fight against Oppressors and Hypocrites)

Qur'an gave two kinds of Jihad against these visible human enemies-

2 WAYS OF DOING JIHAD -

(a) Jihad-bil-Lisaan - i.e. Jihad with tongue.

(b) Jihad-bis-Saif - i.e. Jihad with sword and in our modern times with arms and ammunition.

Jihad-bil-Lisaan is Unconditional and Permanent whereas **Jihad-bis-Saif** is **Temporary** and **Conditional**. Jihad-bil-Lisaan involves Da'wah and Islah i.e. Invitation to understand, accept and practice Islam and simultaneously rectify one's own deeds in conciliation with Qur'an, Sunnah as understood and practiced by Salaf-e-Saliheen i.e. Prophet Muhammad-pbuh and Sahaaba Akram (R)- The Companions of Prophet Muhammad- pbuh.

For Jihad-bis-Saif against these Zalimeen, Munafiqeen, and Kafirs (disbelievers or non-Muslims) the basic conditions are same for both.

Munafiqeen is a plural of **Munafiq** meaning a hypocrite i.e. a person who tries to pose as an ambassador of peace between two conflicting parties but intentionally he is the main trouble monger who wants to satisfy two conflicting groups that he is basically with one of them. Meaning to say that when he meets one of these parties he tells lies against the other party to gain favor from this one and when he is with the other party he tells lies against the conflicting

group to satisfy his position with this party this time. This selfish attitude can cause both groups to clash with each other causing a great loss.

Therefore regarding these hypocrites, Allah confirmed in the Glorious Qur'an in Sura Nisa that these Muna'fiqeen will be given the severest punishment on the Day of Judgment. Allah says in the Glorious Qur'an in **Sura Nisa- 4:145-** "The hypocrites will be in the lowest depths of the fire: no helper wilt thou find for them."

Further Allah informs Prophet Muhammad- pbuh not to recommend for the forgiveness of Allah for these hypocrites. Allah says in **Sura Tauba- 9:80-** "Whether thou ask for their forgiveness or not (their sin is unforgivable): **if thou ask seventy times for their forgiveness Allah will not forgive them:** because they have rejected Allah and His apostle; and Allah guideth not those who are perversely rebellious."

2. JIHAD- UL- KUFFAR: The struggle or the **fight against Kafir** by a Muslim or Muslims again involves - **two methods - (1) Unconditional and Permanent: Jihad-bil-Lisaan (2) Conditional and Temporary: Jihad-bis-Saif.**

On a thorough analysis of the Glorious Qur'an one finds that Allah has encouraged Jihad-bil-Lisaan more than anything else. Allah says that the best people in the world are Muslims as mentioned in **Sura A'1-e-Imran- 3:110** and reason to be best is because they invite to GOOD and FORBID evil. Allah encourages to form a team of Da'ees- i.e. a particular group of Muslims involved in full time Da'wah i.e. Inviting non-Muslims to Islam and correcting the wrongdoing Muslims, in both the above Aayaats Jihad-bil-Lisaan is the most important and permanently used source. Further **Allah confirms** that the **BEST CAREER** of a Muslim in the sight of Allah is **Da'Wah** i.e. Jihad with the tongue as mentioned in **Sura Fussilat- 41:33-** "Who is better in speech than one who calls (men) to Allah works righteousness and says "I am of those who bow in Islam"? In the next two Aayaats i.e. **41:34, 35** Allah educates Muslims to ward off evil by good deeds and informs that this would require a lot of patience and that the patient are not all but few selected and fortunate people.

Jihad-bil-Lisan i.e. Making effort in the cause of Allah to convince a non-Muslim man or woman cannot be done by abusing the dieties or samples they worship as God because Allah says in **Sura An'am- 6:108-** "Revile not yet those whom they call upon besides Allah lest they out of spite revile Allah in their ignorance...."

JIHAD-BIS-SAIF: In the modern age using weapons, arms and ammunition or waging wars cannot be done until and unless the fundamental and basic conditions mentioned below are unfulfilled-(a) Till the Muslims unitedly accept one individual as their LEADER who has the power to implement Jihad bis Saif as per the Shariah.

Similarly 'Bait' (pledge) cannot be made on the hands of a self proclaimed Khalifa or leader of the Muslims unless verified whether he has the capacity to implement Judiciary. Moreover his implementation of Shariah should be in conciliation with 'SALAF i.e. the Companions of Prophet (S) like, Abu Bakar Siddique, Umar, Usman, Ali, Mua'wiya(R), etc. Kingdom is also permitted in Islam and a Muslim King implementing Shariah is like the Khalifa. **Sura Nisa-4:59.** But the most preferable is Abu Bakar's, Umar's, Usman's and Ali's (R) method of Khilafat (Leadership).

(b) The time to do Jihad with weapons will be decided and agreed upon by this leader. It is obligatory for all the remaining Muslims to accept and obey the decision of the leader once he takes the decision. This condition also makes the matter clear that lay Muslims by their logic and understanding cannot form various groups with different names and appoint for themselves many leaders and then claim to be doing 'Jihad'.

(c) Suppose the leader of the Muslims command the offensive strategy of Jihad then it is compulsory for him to decide only after he has made sure that the people against whom he has taken the decision of Jihad-bis-Saif (war) have already been given a proper and satisfactory invitation to accept Islam and its teachings i.e. Jihad-bil-Lisaan -Da'wah. Da'wah before! war with enemies is obligatory because Allah too does not. punish kafirs until Da'wah is not completed. **Sura Isra-17:15.**

"For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

To fulfill His own teachings Jesus-"The Prince of Peace" commanded and declared-

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; **I have not come to bring peace, but a sword**". Gospel of Matthew - 10: 34.

"Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, **but rather division**; for henceforth in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three; **they will be divided**, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law". Gospel of Luke - 12: 51-53.

But as for these enemies of mine, **who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them before me.**"Gospel of Luke- 19: 27.

Q.2. Why are most of the Muslims fundamentalists and terrorists?

This question is often hurled at Muslims, either directly or /indirectly, during any discussion on religion or world affairs. Muslim stereotypes are perpetuated in every form of the media accompanied by gross misinformation about Islam and Muslims. **Infact, such misinformation and false propaganda** often leads to discrimination and acts of violence against Muslims. A case in point is **the anti-Muslim campaign** in the **American media** following the Oklahoma bomb blast, where the press was quick to declare a 'Middle Eastern conspiracy' behind the attack. The culprit was later identified as a soldier from the American Armed Forces.

Let us analyze this allegation of 'fundamentalism' and 'terrorism':

1. Definition of the word 'fundamentalist': A fundamentalist is a person who follows and adheres to the fundamentals of the doctrine or theory he is following. For a person to be a good doctor, he should know, follow, and practice the fundamentals of medicine. In other words, he should be a fundamentalist in the field of medicine. For a person to be a good mathematician, he should know, follow and practice the fundamentals of mathematics. He should be a fundamentalist in the field of mathematics. For a person to be a good scientist, he should know, follow and practice the fundamentals of science. He is a fundamentalist in the field of science.

2. Not all 'fundamentalists' are the same: One cannot paint all fundamentalists with the same brush. One cannot categorize all fundamentalists as either good or bad. Such a categorization of any fundamentalist will depend upon the field or activity in which he is a fundamentalist. A

fundamentalist robber or thief causes harm to society and is therefore undesirable. A fundamentalist doctor, on the other hand, benefits society and earns much respect.

3. I am proud to be a Muslim fundamentalist: I am a fundamentalist Muslim who, by the grace of Allah, knows, follows and strives to practice the fundamentals of Islam. A true Muslim does not shy away from being a fundamentalist.

I am proud to be a fundamentalist Muslim because I know that the fundamentals of Islam are beneficial to humanity and the whole world. There is not a single fundamental of Islam that causes harm or is against the interests of the human race as a whole. Many people harbor misconceptions about Islam and consider several teachings of Islam to be unfair or improper. This is due to insufficient and incorrect knowledge of Islam. If one critically analyzes the teachings of Islam with an open mind, one cannot escape the fact that Islam is full of benefits both at the individual and collective levels.

4. Dictionary meaning the word 'fundamentalist': According to Webster's dictionary 'fundamentalism' was a movement in American Protestantism that arose in the earlier part of the 20th century. It was a reaction to modernism, and stressed the infallibility of the Bible, not only in matters of faith and morals but also as a literal word of God. Thus fundamentalism was a word initially used for a group of Christians who believed that the Bible was the verbatim word of God without any errors and mistakes.

According to the Oxford dictionary, 'fundamentalism' means 'strict maintenance of ancient or fundamental doctrines of any religion, especially Islam'. Today the moment a person uses the word fundamentalist he thinks of a Muslim who is a terrorist.

5. Every Muslim should be a terrorist: Every Muslims should be a terrorist. A terrorist is a person who causes terror. The moment a robber sees a policeman he is terrified. A policeman is a terrorist for the robber. Similarly, every Muslim should be a terrorist for the antisocial elements of society, such as thieves, dacoits and rapists. Whenever such an anti-social element sees a Muslim, he should be terrified. It is true that the word 'terrorist' is generally used for a person who causes terror among the common people. But a true Muslim should only be a terrorist to selective people i.e. anti-social elements, and not to the common innocent people. In fact, a Muslim should be a source of peace for innocent people.

6. Different labels given to the same individual for the same action i.e. 'terrorist' and 'patriot': Before India achieved independence from British rule, some freedom fighters of India who did not subscribe to non-violence were labeled as terrorists by the British government. The same individuals have been lauded by Indians for the same activities and hailed as 'patriots'. Thus, two different labels have been given to the same people for the same set of actions. One is calling him a terrorist while the other is calling him a patriot. Those who believed that Britain had a right to rule over India called these people terrorists, while those who were of the view that Britain had no right to rule India called them patriots and freedom fighters:

7. Islam means peace: Islam is derived from the word 'Salaam' which means peace. It is a religion of peace whose fundamentals teach its followers to maintain and promote peace throughout the world.

Thus, every Muslim should be a fundamentalist i.e. he should follow the fundamentals of the Religion of Peace: Islam. He should be a terrorist only towards the antisocial elements in order to promote peace and justice in the society.

Q.3.Doesn't Islam promote violence, bloodshed and brutality since the Qur'an says that Muslims should kill the kafirs wherever they find them?

A few selected Aayaats from the Qur'an are often misquoted to perpetuate the myth that Islam promotes violence, and exhorts its followers to kill those outside the pale of Islam.

1. Aayat from Sura Tauba: The following Aayat from **Sura Tauba** is quoted very often by critics of Islam to show that Islam promotes violence, bloodshed and brutality: "Kill the 'Mushrikeen' (pagans, kafirs) where ever you find them;" [**Al-Qur'an 9:5**]

2. Context of Aayat is during battlefield: Critics of Islam actually quote this aayat out of context. In order to understand the context, we need to read from Aayat 1 of this Surah. It says that there was a peace treaty between the Muslims and the 'Mushriks' (pagans) of Makkah. The 'Mushriks' of Makkah violated this treaty. A period of four months was given to the 'Mushroom' of Makkah to make amends. Otherwise war would be declared against them. **Aayat 5 of Sura Tauba** Says: "But when the forbidden months are past then fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them and seize them beleaguer them and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war);

but if they repent and establish regular prayers and practice regular charity then open the way for them: for Allah is Oft-Forgiving Most Merciful." -**Al-Qur'an 9:5**.

This Aayat is quoted during a battle do agree that no one will go to hell, but this world would become hell to live in. If all human beings are going to go to heaven then this life cannot be called a test for the hereafter.

3. Allah only forgives if a person repents: Allah (S) only forgives if a person repents. The Qur'an says in **Sura Zumar - 39:53-55** "Say: "O my Servants who have transgressed against their souls! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah: for Allah forgives all sins: for He is Oft-Forgiving Most Merciful. "Turn ye to your Lord (in repentance) and bow to His (Will) before the Penalty comes on you: after that ye shall not be helped. "And follow the Best of (the courses) revealed to you from your Lord before the Penalty comes on you of a sudden while ye perceive not!

There are four criteria for repentance: first, agree that the act is wrong. Secondly, stop it immediately. Thirdly, never do it again in future and lastly, compensate for the loss if caused to anyone.

Q.4. How can Islam be called the religion of peace when it was spread by the sword?

It is a common complaint among some non-Muslims that Islam would not have millions of adherents all over the world, if it had not been spread by the use of force. The following points will make it clear, that far from being spread by the sword, it was the inherent force of truth, reason and logic that was responsible for the rapid spread of Islam.

1. Islam means peace: Islam comes from the root word '**Salaam**', which means peace. It also means submitting one's will to Allah (SWT). Thus, Islam is a religion of peace, which is acquired by submitting one's will to the will of the Supreme Creator, Allah (SWT).

2. Sometimes force has to be used to maintain peace: Each and every human being in this world is not in favor of maintaining peace and harmony. There are many, who would disrupt it for their own vested interests. Sometimes force has to be used to maintain peace. It is precisely for this reason that we have the police who use force against criminals and anti-social elements to maintain peace in the country Islam promotes peace. At the same time, Islam exhorts it's followers to fight where there is oppression. The fight against oppression may, at times, require the use of force. In Islam force can only be used to promote peace and justice.

3. Opinion of historian De Lacy O' Leary: The best reply to the misconception that Islam was spread by the sword is given by the noted historian De Lacy O' Leary in the book "Islam at the cross road" (page 8): "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 myth that historians have ever repeated."

4. Muslims ruled Spain for 800 years: Muslims ruled Spain for about 800 years. The Muslims in Spain never used the sword to force the people to convert. Later the Christian Crusaders came to Spain and wiped out the Muslims. There was not a single Muslims in Spain who could openly give the adhan, that is, the call for prayers.

5. 14 million Arabs are Coptic Christians: Muslims were the lords of Arabia for 1400 years. For a few years the British ruled, and for a few years the French ruled. Overall, the Muslims ruled Arabia for 1400 years. Yet today, there are 14 million Arabs who are Coptic Christians i.e. Christians since generations. If the Muslims had used the sword there would not have been a single Arab who would have remained Christian.

6. More than 80% non-Muslims in India: The Muslims ruled India for about a thousand years. If they wanted, they had the power of converting each and every non-Muslim of India to Islam. Today more than 80% of the population of India are non-Muslims. All these non-Muslims Indians are bearing witness today that Islam was not spread by the sword.

7. Indonesia and Malaysia: Indonesia is a country that has the maximum number of Muslims in the world. The majority of people in Malaysia are Muslims. May one ask, "Which Muslim army went to Indonesia and Malaysia"?

8. East Coast of Africa: Similarly Islam has spread rapidly on the East Coast of Africa. One may again ask, if Islam was spread by the sword, "Which army went to the East Coast of Africa"

9. No compulsion in religion: With which sword was Islam spread? Even if Muslims had it they could not use it to spread Islam because the Qur'an says in Sura Baqra- 2:256- "Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from error"

10. Sword of the intellect: It is the sword of intellect. The sword that- conquers the hearts and minds of people. The Qur'an says in **Sura Nahal- 16:125-** "Invite (all) to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious."

11. Increase in the world religions from 1934 to 1984: An article in Reader's Digest 'Almanac', yearbook 1986, gave the statistics of the increase of percentage of the major religions of the world in half a century from 1934 to 1984. This article also appeared, in 'The Plain Truth' magazine. At the top was Islam, which increased by 235%, and Christianity had increased only by 47%. May one ask, which war took place in this century, which reverted millions of people to Islam?

12. Islam is the fastest growing religion in America and Europe: Today the fastest growing religion in America is Islam. The fastest growing religion in Europe is Islam. Which sword is forcing people in the West to accept Islam in such large numbers?

13. Dr. Joseph Adam Pearson: Dr. Joseph Adam Pearson rightly says, "People who worry that nuclear weaponry will one day fall in the hands of the Arabs, fail to realize that the Islamic bomb has been dropped already, it fell the day MUHAMMAD (pbuh) was born."

Q.5. Killing an animal is a ruthless act, then why do Muslims consume non-veg. food?

Allah commanded in the Glorious Qur'an in **Sura Baqra- 2:168** "O ye people! eat of what is on earth lawful and good; and do not follow the footsteps of the evil one for he is to you an avowed enemy." Further if we read **Sura Baqra- 2:172**, Allah says "O ye who believe! eat of the good things that We have provided for you and be grateful to Allah if it is Him ye worship."

Further Allah says in **Sura An'am- 6:118** "So eat of (meats) on which Allah's name hath been pronounced if ye have faith in His Signs." and **6:119** "Why should ye not eat of (meats) on which Allah's name hath been pronounced when He hath explained to you in detail what is forbidden to you except under compulsion of necessity? But many do mislead (men) by their appetites unchecked by knowledge. Thy Lord knoweth best those who transgress."

As such if we Muslims eat non-vegetarian food that is-permitted by Allah and His Messenger- pbuh, we feel that we are using Allah's ; resources judiciously considering them as Niyamat (Divine Blessing) and Amaanat (Trust) from Allah. According to Islamic belief, Allah created earth and the wondrous flora and fauna for the benefit of mankind, as Allah mentioned in **Sura Jaasiya- 45:13** "And He has subjected to you as from Him all that is in the heavens and on earth: behold in that are Signs indeed for those who reflect. "

If we further analyze, by studying Glorious Qur'an, we may conclude that the **Muslims are not supposed to eat all kinds of non-vegetarian food**, instead we are supposed to eat meat of docile animals like. Cow, Sheep, Camel etc.

The following Qur'anic Aayaats are a proof to eat non-vegetarian "food. Allah says in **Sura Mai'da-5:1** "O! You who believe! Fulfill (all) obligations lawful for you (for food) are all four-footed animals with the exceptions named...." Further Allah says in **Sura An'am - 16:5** as well as in **Sura Moominoon- 23:21** "And in cattle (too) ye have an instructive example: from within their bodies we produce (milk) for you to drink; there are in them (besides) numerous (other) benefits for you; and of their (meat) ye eat."

Many people think that a Muslim cannot be a true Muslim if he/she does not eat non-vegetarian food, but, **infact a Muslim can be a true Muslim even after eating only vegetarian food**. But we Muslims would eat non-vegetarian food because the medical science tells us today that meat is a very rich source in protein and meat contains all the 8 essential amino acids that are non synthesized by body and should be supplied in the diet.

Further Allah created mankind with an omnivorous set of teeth and an omnivorous style of digestive system. As such on consuming both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food we find our teeth and digestive system well tuned and co-operating in their functioning to act upon food.

If whole of mankind becomes vegetarian then there would be an overpopulation of the cattle since their reproduction and multiplication is very swift. As Allah alone is the True and Only Creator, therefore he knew how to maintain the balance of His creation appropriately. One of these ways is permitting us to have meat of the cattle. Moreover by eating these cattels the Muslims are doing a 'Great Favour'¹ for vegetarians. Had we not eaten these cattels then the cattels would have eaten away great quantity of vegetation on earth, which in turn would have led to starvation deaths of the 'pure vegetarians.' Therefore the vegetarians should thanks us Muslims for the same.

The cost of vegetables is directly proportional to consumption of vegetarian food. Following the logic of eating only vegetarian food would mean that the prices of vegetables will go very high with increase in demand for vegetables not just because all humans would demand vegetables but even the cattle left un-slaughtered would also feed upon the vegetarian food only

as Islam permits us to eat only animals that are docile and are not carnivorous as mentioned earlier.

The people who claim that killing animals for food is a ruthless act, say so, because they consider such an act as violation of animal rights and consider killing of a life that is inferior to the human life as barbaric. Therefore they argue against non-vegetarian food. But such people should realize that the modern science tells us today that even plants have got life and in comparison to animals, plants are more inferior. Therefore if killing animals on such grounds is un-acceptable and barbaric act then definitely killing a species (plants kingdom) inferior to animal kingdom is the most barbaric act.

A section of people in India has started agitating against consuming of non-vegetarian food. This is just because they are under the direct influence of Jainism. These Indian people think that consuming of non-vegetarian food is against the Dharma or the religion. Therefore, it is the duty of us Indian Muslims to remind all such Indians that non-vegetarian food is permitted according to religious Scriptures claimed to be 'oldest and from God.'

ACCORDING TO THE VEDAS-

- 1) **Rig Veda- Book 4: Hymn 18: Mantra or verse 13-** Indra says that, because, Indra was in desperate condition, therefore he cooked intestines of a dog.
- 2) **Rig Veda- 10:16:7-** Agni is a Vedic God and is described as fed on Ox and Cow .
- 3) **Rig Veda- 10:16:7-** A ritual enveloping dead body with Cow's flesh before putting it on fire.
- 4) **Rig Veda- 10:86:13-** Indra eats bulls.
- 5) **Rig Veda- 10:86:14-** Indra says, "They have cooked for me fifteen bulls and twenty, so that I may eat the fats as well. Both sides of my belly are full."

ACCORDING TO THE UPANISHAD

Brhadaranyaka Upanishad- 6:4:18- He who wishes, "May a son born to me, who will be a reputed scholar, attend assemblies, speak words that one likes to hear, be versed in all the Vedas and attain full longevity" should have rice cooked with beef that of a young mature bull and with his wife eat it mixed with ghee. Then they will be able to produce such a son.

MANUSMRITI-5:30- The eater who eats the flesh of those to be eaten does nothing bad, even if he does it day after day..... 5:31-Eating meat is right for the sacrifice.....**5:39, 40-** God Himself created sacrificial animals for sacrifice...;.Therefore killing in a sacrifice is not a killing.

ACCORDING TO MAHABHARAT- ANUSHASAN PARVA-Ch:88

Narrates the discussion between Dharmaraj Yudhishtira and Pitamah Bhishma about what food one should offer to Pitris (ancestors) during the Shraddha (ceremony of dead) to keep them satisfied. Paragraph reads as follows:

"Yudhishtira said, " O thou of great puissance, tell me what that object is, which, if dedicated to the Pitris (dead ancestors), become inexhaustible! What Havi, again, (if offered) lasts for all time? What, indeed, is that which (if presented) becomes eternal?"

"Bhishma said, "Listen to me, O Yudhishtira, what those Havis are which persons conversant with the rituals of the Shraddha (the ceremony of dead) regard as suitable in view of Shraddha and what the fruits are that attach to each. With sesame seeds and rice and barely and Masha and water and roots and fruits, if given at Shraddhas, the pitris, O king, remain gratified for the period of a month. With fishes offered at Shraddhas, the pitris remain gratified for a period of two months. With the mutton they remain gratified for three months and with the hare for four months, with the flesh of the goat for five months, with the bacon (meat of pig) for six months, and with the flesh of birds for seven. With venison obtained from those deer that are called Prishata, they remain gratified for eight months, and with that obtained from the Ruru for nine months, and with the meat of Guvaya for ten months, WITH BEEF presented at the Shraddha, their gratification, it is said, LASTS FOR A FULL YEAR FOR A FULL YEAR. Payasa mixed with ghee is as much acceptable to the pitris as beef. With the meat of Vadfarinasa (a large bull) the gratification of the pitris lasts for twelve years. The flesh of rhinoceros, offered to the pitris on anniversaries of the lunar days on which they died, becomes inexhaustible. The potherb called Kalaska, the petals of kanchana flower, and meat of (red) goat also, thus offered, prove inexhaustible."

RAMAYANA- Even according to **Valmiki Ramayana** it is mentioned that King Rama tells his mother before leaving the kingdom for exile that he would be missing the delicious dishes of meat cooked by her i.e. King Rama's mother.

Moreover Sita's request to Rama to hunt the deer, can be assumed for the purpose of eating it as food. Otherwise, she would have asked King Rama to capture the deer rather than hunt it.

Moreover we **Muslims do not eat cow to hurt the sentiments of** any particular section of the community, but simply because Almighty God, Allah permitted us the usage of beef that we find now to be permitted to others also according to their religious Scriptures. By eating cow we Muslims follow Qur'an's teaching mentioned in **Sura An'am- 6: 119** "Why should ye not eat of (meats) on which Allah's name hath been pronounced when He hath explained to you in detail what is forbidden to you except under compulsion of necessity? But many do mislead (men) by their appetites unchecked by knowledge.-Thy Lord knoweth best those who transgress."

The psychologists tell us today that the food that a man eats acts on his/her behavior. Therefore as Cow is referred in Sanskrit as "GO" and is considered **a symbol of peace**, as such if we consume it we feel that we **would be peaceful and not violent**.

Q-6. Allah Commanded Muslims to take Jizya from non-Muslims living in an Islamic state. Is this not oppression and injustice?

The only place where Allah commands about the collection of Jizya as mentioned in the Glorious Qur'an is in Sura Tauba- 9:29.

Many people have a misconception that Jizya is a tax. Jizya is not a tax but is only a compensation.

The Muslim State which collects Jizya from non-Muslims has to obligatorily protect the lives, chastity and property of those non-Muslims from their enemies. The Islamic teachings educated Muslims that any damage or harm done to lives, chastity and properties of these non-Muslims would make the Muslim State and its authorities accountable in this world as well as to Allah (B) in the Hereafter.

In case any enemy attacks these non-Muslims then they would be protected by Muslim army that would go in the battlefield to fight the enemies of these non-Muslims who pay Jizya. They enjoy all social rights just as the Muslims enjoy.

If we analyze tax system of the world we find that tax is fixed on the total amount of salary earned. But in an Islamic State the Judge (Qazi) would study and verify the requirements of the non-Muslims eligible to pay Jizya in order to know what does he spend genuinely for himself and his family and what then remains with him. Based on the amount remaining the Qazi would decide the amount of Jizya to be paid. But in tax system suppose a man earns Rs. 10,000- and the necessary expenditure on the family is Rs. 9,800- yet he has to pay tax for Rs. 10,000- he

earned and not for Rs. 200- that remains. The same is not the case concerning Jizya. Instead he pays from those Rs. 200- that remains and receives so many favors from the Muslim State.

Moreover Allah commanded the Muslims to pay Zakat (compulsory charity of 2.5 % for a fixed amount, at the end of every lunar year). So where is the injustice? If Allah made only non-Muslims pay Jizya and no command to Muslims to compulsorily spend of their wealth, then we would call it injustice.

Allah says in the Glorious Qur'an in **Sura Nisa- 4:40** "Allah is never unjust in the least degree: if there is any good (done) He doubleth it and giveth from His own presence a great reward."Moreover Jizya is exempted to non-earning non-Muslims, children, sick etc.

Q.7 All religions basically teach followers to do good deeds. Why should a person only follow Islam? Can he not follow any of the religions?

1. Major difference between Islam and most other religions:

All religions exhort mankind to be righteous- and eschew evil. But Islam goes beyond that. It guides us towards practical ways of achieving righteousness and eliminating evil from our individual and collective lives. Islam takes into account human nature and the complexities of human society. Islam is guidance from the Creator Himself. Therefore, Islam is also called the Deen-ul-Fitr (the natural religion of Man).

2. Example: Islam commands us to shun robbery and also prescribes method of eliminating robbery-

a. Islam prescribes method of eliminating robbery: All major religions teach that theft is an evil act. Islam teaches the same. So what' is the difference between Islam and the other religions? The difference between Islam, besides teaching that robbing is evil, shows a practical way of creating a social structure in which people will not rob.

b. Islam prescribes Zakat: Islam prescribes a system of Zakat (obligatory annual charity). Islamic law prescribes that every person who has a saving that exceeds the nisab level i.e. more than 87 grams of gold, should give 2.5% of that saving every lunar year in charity. If every rich person in the world give Zakat sincerely, poverty will be eradicated from this world. Not a single human being would die of hunger.

c. Chopping off the hands as punishment for robbery: Islam prescribes chopping off the hands of the convicted robber. The Glorious Qur'an says in Sura **Ma'ida- 5:38**- "As to the thief, male or female, cut off his or her hands: a punishment by way of example, from Allah, for their crime: and Allah is Exalted in power, full of wisdom." The non-Muslims may say, "Chopping off the hands in this 20th century. Islam is a barbaric and ruthless religion!"

d. Results achieved when Islamic Shariah Implemented: America is supposed to be one of the most advanced countries in the world. Unfortunately it also has one of the highest rates of crime, theft, and robbery. Suppose the Islamic Shariah is implemented in America i.e. every rich person gives Zakat (2.5% of his savings in charity above 85 grams of gold every lunar year), and every convicted robber has his or her hands chopped off as a punishment. Will the rate of theft and robbery in America increase, remain same or decrease? Naturally it will decrease. Moreover the existence of such a stringent law would discourage many a potential robber.

I agree that the amount of theft that takes place in the world today is so tremendous that if you chop off the hands of all the thieves, there will be tens of thousands of people whose hands will be chopped off. The point here is that-the moment you implement this law the rate of theft will decline immediately. The potential robber would give it a serious thought before jeopardizing his limbs. The mere thought of the punishment itself will discourage majority of a few person's hands would be chopped off but millions would live peacefully without fear of being robbed.

Islamic Shariah is therefore **practical**, and achieves results.

3. Example Islam prohibits the molestation and rape of women. It enjoins hijab and prescribes capital punishment for a convicted rapist-

a. Islam prescribes method of eliminating molestation and rape: All the major religions declare the molestation and rape of women as grave sins. Islam teaches the same. What then is the difference between Islam and the other religions? The difference lies in the fact that Islam does not merely preach respect for women, or abhor molestation and rape as serious crimes, but also gives clear guidance as to how society can eliminate such crimes.

b. Hijab for men: Islam has a system of hijab. The Glorious Qur'an first mentions hijab for the men and then for the women. Hijab for the men is mentioned in the following Aayat **of Sura Wur- 24:30**- "Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their

modesty: that will make for greater purity for them: and Allah is well acquainted with all that they do."

The moment a man looks at a woman and if any brazen or unashamed thought comes to his mind, he should lower his gaze.

c. Hijab for women: Hijab for women is mentioned in the following Aayat of Sura **Nur- 24:31-** "And Say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons..."The extent of hijab for a woman is that her complete body should be covered. The only part that can be seen, are the face and the hands up to the wrists. If they wish to cover, they can cover these parts of the body. However Islamic scholars insist that even the face should be covered.

d. Hijab prevents molestation: The reason why Allah has prescribed Hijab for the women is given in the Qur'an in the following Aayat of **Sura Al-Ahzab- 33:59-**"O Prophet! Tell thy wives and daughters, and the believing women, that they should cast their outer garments over their persons (when abroad): that is most convenient, that they should be known (as such) and not molested. And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."

The Qur'an says that Hijab has been prescribed for the women so that they are recognized as modest women this would prevent them from being molested.

e. Example of sisters: Suppose two sisters who are twins and who are equally beautiful, walk down a street. One of them is wearing the Islamic Hijab i.e. the complete body is covered except for the face and the hands up to the wrists, and the other twin is wearing a mini skirt or shorts. Around the corner there is a hooligan who is waiting for an opportunity to tease a girl. Who will he tease? The girl wearing the Islamic Hijab or the girl wearing the mini skirt or shorts? Dresses that expose more than they conceal, are an indirect temptation to the opposite sex for teasing, molestation and rape. The Qur'an rightly says that the hijab prevents women from being molested.

f. Capital punishment for rapist: The Islamic Shariah prescribes capital punishment for a convicted rapist. The non-Muslim may be horrified at such a stringent punishment in this age. Many accuse Islam of being ruthless and barbaric. I have asked a common question to hundreds

of non-Muslim men. Suppose God-forbid, someone rapes your wife, your mother or your sister and you are made the judge. The rapist is brought in front of you. What punishment would you give him? All of them said, "We would put him to death." Some went to the extent of saying, "we would torture him to death," If your, wife or your mother is raped you want the rapist to be put to death But if someone else's wife or mother is raped, capital punishment is a barbaric law. Why the double standards?

g. U.S.A. has one of the highest rate of Rape: The United States of America is supposed to be one of the most advanced countries in the world. An F.B.I report in the year 1990 says that 1,02,555 cases of rape were reported. It further says that only 16% of the cases of rapes are reported. Thus, in order to know the actual number of rapes that took place in 1990, the reported figure should be multiplied by 6.25. We get a total of 6,40,968 rape cases that took place in the year 1990. If the total is divided by 365 the number of days in a year, we get an average of 1,756 rape incidents every day. Later another report said that an average of 1900 cases of rape are committed in U.S.A. every day. According to National Crime Victimization Survey Bureau of Justice Statistics (U.S. Dept. of Justice) in 1996 alone 3,07,000 cases of rape were reported. Only 31 % of the actual cases of rape were reported. Thus, $3,07,000 \times 3.226 = 9,90,322$ rapes took place in 1996. That is, an average of 2,713 cases of rape took place everyday in America in 1996. Every 32 seconds one rape is taking place in America. Maybe American rapists got bolder. The FBI report of 1990 continues and says that out of the rape cases that were reported only 10% of the rapists were arrested, that is only 1.6% of the actual rapes committed. Out of those arrested, that is only 1.6% of the actual rapes committed. Out of that only 0.8% of the rapists faced a trial. In other words if a person commits 125 rapes the chances that he will get a punishment for rape is only once. Many would consider this a good gamble. And the report says that of those people who faced trial 50% received sentences of less than a year's imprisonment though the American law says rape carries a seven year sentence of imprisonment. The judge is lenient to first time offenders. Imagine a person commits 125 rapes and the chances of being convicted is only once and more than 50% of the time the judge will grant leniency and give a sentence of less than a year!

h. Results achieved when Islamic Shariah implemented: Suppose the Islamic Shariah is implemented in America. Whenever a man looks at a woman and if any brazen or unashamed

thought comes to his mind, he lowers his gaze. Every woman wears the Islamic Hijab, that is the complete body is covered except the face and the hands upto the wrists. After this if any man commits rape, he gets capital punishment. The question is, will the rate of rape in America increase, will it remain the same or will it decrease? Naturally it will decrease. Islamic Shariah gets results.

4. Islam has Practical Solutions for the Problems of Mankind: Islam is the best way of life because its teachings are not doctrinaire rhetoric but practical solutions for the problems of mankind. Islam achieves results both at the individual and collective levels. Islam is the best way of life because it is a practical, universal religion not confined to any ethnic group or nationality.

Q-8. Islam makes women to be behind the veil. Does this not mean that Islam degrades women?

If we look around in the world we find the authorities of the countries like Presidents of countries, Prime Ministers of countries or other V.I.Ps who are disallowed to mingle with the common people by their security officers. Is this because these authorities are degraded citizens? But natural, one would answer in the negative to the question asked and would further explain and say that the lives of these personalities are important and valuable and any hurt to them or disrespect to them is a hurt and disrespect to the whole nation. Therefore no risk is taken and they are protected with the best measures available. At the same time this does not mean that the remaining common people who move around freely as per their own liking are degraded, upgraded or doubted for their intentions, instead, this example establishes an understanding that things have to be maintained and continuously practiced as per their requirement.

Similarly the command to women in Islam for remaining behind the veil is not to degrade them but as a precaution to protect them from becoming victims of men with animal instincts.

Few feminists have sometimes argued that nowhere does the Qur'an command women to wear a Burqa - name of the clothes very popularly worn by Muslim women (Specially Sunni) that is black in color and covers the women from head to the toe.

Let us analyze Islamic teachings regarding this issue. The main purpose of Islam is to segregate opposite sexes from each other in order to avoid pollution, nudity, passion and obsession in the society and maintain a very dignified and well-balanced society. If we study the

Glorious Qur'an which is the most authentic and most fundamental Book to know and understand Islam, we find that the **command of veil is first given to the man and then to the woman**. The popular connotation in Arabic for veil is **HIJAB**.

If we read **Sura Nur**, Allah says that the man should lower his gaze and guard his modesty (abstain from illegal sexual relationships).

The command to follow the same is given to the man first and then to the woman as Allah says in Sura Nur- 24: 30 "Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: that will make for greater purity for them: and Allah is well acquainted with all that they do." and in the next Aayat Allah says, "And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husbands their fathers their husbands' fathers their sons their husbands' sons their brothers or their brothers' sons or their sisters' sons or their women or the slaves whom their right hands possess or male servants free of physical needs or small children who have no sense of the shame of sex; and that they should not strike their feet in order to draw attention to their hidden ornaments. And O ye Believers! Turn ye all together towards Allah that ye may attain Bliss." Sura Nur- 24: 31. Now, no person possessing the least bit of common sense will ever enquire about the extended education given to the women in the next Aayat because it is naturally understood that the extended **education of Hijab was to suit the anatomical features of the woman**. The other fact to be understood is that by nature man get easily tempted at some bodily features of the woman or by gazing at the figure of the woman while it's not exactly the same case with the women. For e.g. if a man in a street walks without his upper garment, he will not attract women around him to get sexually aroused towards him, but it would not be the same with the woman. In order to protect her from these uncalled for incidents that can become nightmares throughout her life, Islam commanded her to cover and not to tempt evil doers to take a chance at her.

The six (6) most fundamental conditions of Hijab derived after a thorough study of complete Qur'an and Sunnah are: 1. Man should minimally and compulsorily wear clothes from navel to the region just above the ankles. Whereas "a woman should compulsorily cover herself completely from head to, toe.

The remaining five points are common for both men and women.

2. Men and women should not wear transparent clothes through which their bodies are visible.
3. Men and women should not wear tight clothes that stick to the body so much that the curves of the body are visible.
4. Men should not wear clothes of dark colors that can attract opposite sex towards them nor should women wear the dark colored dresses that may attract the opposite sex.
5. Men should not wear clothes that are popular in the society in which he lives as women's clothes neither should the women wear clothes popular in their society as man's wear.
6. Muslim men and Muslim women should not wear dresses resembling them with disbelieving men and women or a dress popularly identifying any non-Muslim community.

Of these six, the dress code compulsory for a woman mentioned in the first condition is derived in the light of a particular Aayat of the Glorious Qur'an mentioned in **Sura Ahzab- 33:59** in which Allah commands "**O prophet! tell thy wives and daughters and the believing women that they should cast their outer garments over their persons** (when abroad): that is most convenient that they should be known (as such) and not molested: and Allah is Oft-Forgiving Most Merciful." The Arabic word Malaabi- behinna' is used in this Arabic Aayat and that is derived from the word 'Jilbab' meaning a cloth used to cover the body beginning from the head till the toe. As such the black colored (stitched) cloth, popular in non Arabian Muslims as '**Burqa**' and amongst Arabs as '**Jilbab**' has to be used by women. **This also clarifies the misconception of few Muslim feminists opposing the concept of Burqa or Jilbab.**

The dos and don'ts in Islam are basically divided into 5 (five):

- (a) Fard** – Obligatory **(b) Mustahib** - Greatly recommended **(c) Mubah** - Permitted
(d) Makrooh – Disliked **(e) Haraam** - Forbidden

Some scholars have argued that the covering of the face of a woman falls in the **second category** of dos and don'ts i.e. covering the face, feet and palms of a woman is not **Obligatory** upon her but instead it is **Mubab** - i.e permitted. To support their argument they present the Aayat of the Glorious Qur'an from **Sura Nur- 24:31** where Allah commanded the woman to cover herself completely except what appears by itself. So, these Ulema (Scholars) argue and say that this exception in this Aayat means face, fingers, and palm upto wrist i.e. fist area and the feet are also exempted from covering. If this is agreed as fact then still we find that the Prophet-pbuh said, "one should follow the Ijma." The Prophet- pbuh has commanded that in matters of doubtful subjects or subjects falling under permitted category, if Ummah has an IJMA meaning unity in learning, understanding and practicing a subject then it is obligatory for all the remaining in my Ummah to be a part of the **IJMA** without delaying and opposing it. As such the

IJMA regarding the **COVERING OF THE FACE of a WOMAN** in our modern age is that she **MUST COVER HER FACE, PALMS, FEET ALSO** and therefore all the Muslim sisters should follow this **IJMA**.

This question has been cultivated into the minds of many brothers and specially innocent sisters by that notorious section of 'Terrorist' media whose main aim is to exploit females for the satisfaction of their own selfish desires. Most of them asking this question are basically without a proper belief in any religion including the one which they themselves claim to follow and if at all they do follow it then that would be only for name sake without understanding their actions pertaining to religion. These questioners are generally orientalist belonging mainly to Western Civilization of European and American region.

On analyzing the statistics of crime committed against women in the most developed country and the so called 'Super Power' of the world that is America and which also claims to lead the world with an example one would either change the definition of modernism and outdated or would silently accept **Islam as the only solution to the problem of 'MODERNISM AND LIBERALISM.'**

According to **U.S. Justice Department, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000, National Crime Victimization Survey** declares that **every two (2) minutes** somewhere **in America**, someone is **sexually assaulted**. This term sexually assaulted is a broad category that Justice Department wants to classify rape, attempted rape and other violent felonies that fall short of rape (which it defines as "forced vaginal, anal or oral penetration").

According to the **U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey** there were a total of 2,49,000 **sexual assaults** in the year 2001 C.E. of which **84,000 were completed rapes**. This means that **on an average 230 women are completely raped every 24 hours in America**.

According to the **same U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey Bureau (USDOJ NCVS)** has presented the **attacker's relationship to the victim** in percentage and this percentage of total attacks includes rapes, attempted rapes and sexual assaults. The table given is as follows-

| Relationship with Victims | Percentage |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. Intimate (Includes blood relatives like father, brother etc.) | 17.0% |
| b. Other Relatives (Based on 10 or fewer cases) | 2.0% |

c. Friend / Acquaintance 43.0% d. Total non-stranger 62.0%
e. Stranger 34.0% f. Unknown 4.0%

Alhamdulillah, fortunately enough the sisters following the command of being behind the veil as laid down by Islam were not the victims of rape of sexual assaults (as their percentage is absolutely negligible).

All these statistics establish the image of women in America like a cigarette that many puff from their lips, but neither bite, nor chew, nor swallow for digestion instead after the cigarette was between the lips of and many enjoying a few puffs and as a result cigarette getting burnt away (like a woman's youth and beauty exploited) it is finally stamped beneath the feet of someone. Whereas we Muslims putting our Muslim women behind veil protect it like the costliest diamond in the midst of a diamond show covered with bullet proof glasses disallowing the diamond thieves to steal the diamond (the beauty and chastity of a Muslimah which is much more precious than a diamond to us). **Moreover we Muslims should according to Islam have similar regards for our non-Muslim sisters also.**

If we read the religious Scriptures of other religions we can very well understand the position of women in those religions as well as the command for them to maintain Hijab. For example in Hinduism, the status of women as per Vedas is-
Indra himself said, "The mind of a woman cannot be disciplined, her intellect has little weight,"
Rig Veda- 8:33:17.

With women there can be no lasting friendship. Hearts of women are the hearts of Hyenas. Rig Veda- 10:95:15. Cast down your eyes and look not up. Set more closely your feet. Let none see what your garment veils, for you a Brahman, has become a noble woman- **Rig Veda- 8:33:19.** Moreover Hindu women were burnt alive on funeral pyre of their dead husbands as they were supposed to be ill omen if continued to live. This Hindu practice is called Sati and is negligibly practiced since Indian Government banned it.

Similarly if we read the Bible, the Religious Scripture of Jews (Old Testament) and Christians (Old Testament + New Testament = Bible) we can understand the status of woman as well as the command for Hijab given to her.

If we read the Bible, according to **Book of Genesis- 3:16** woman (Eve) is described as the main cause of Adam committing the original sin. According to **Book of Leviticus- 12:1-5**

"The Lord said to Moses, Say to the people of Israel, if a woman conceives, and bears a **MALE CHILD**, then she shall be **UNCLEAN SEVEN DAYS**; as at the time of her menstruation, she shall be unclean, And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. Then she shall continue for **THIRTY-THREE DAYS** in the blood of her purifying; she shall not touch any hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are completed. But if she bears a **FEMALE CHILD**, then she shall be **UNCLEAN TWO WEEKS (14 days)** as in her menstruation; and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying for **SIXTY-SIX DAYS**, (mother become unclean for double period if a girl child is born)

Nowhere in the New Testament does Jesus Christ- pbuh calls his own mother Mary as "Mother", instead, Jesus always abused his own mother by saying, "O! woman what have I to do with thee?" (**John- 2:4**)

If we further read the Bible it is mentioned in **Ist Timothy-2:12-14** which says, " I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over men; she is to keep silent-(12). **For Adam was formed first, then Eve-(13)**. And **Adam was not deceived**, but the **woman was deceived and became a transgressor-(14)**.

It is given in the **Book of Deuteronomy- 22:5**, which says, " A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment; for who-ever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God. And the Bible says, " But any woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled dishonors her head - it is the same as if her head were shaven. For **if a woman will not veil herself**, then she **should cut off her hair**; but if it is **disgraceful for a woman** to be shorn or shaven, **let her wear a veil."**-**Ist Corinthians-11:5,6**.

Let us now briefly analyze the status of women in famous world Civilizations and Cultures like-**Babylonian Civilization- Women were denied all rights** and if a man murdered a woman, instead of him being punished, his wife was put to death.

Greek Civilization- Was once considered the most "Glorious Civilization" of the world and during this time women were deprived of all rights and were looked down upon. According to Greek mythology an '**imaginary woman**' called '**Pandora* was supposed the root cause of misfortunes of humans** and Greeks considered women as sub-human. In later period of Greek Civilization, prostitution -became a regular practice amongst all classes of Greek society.

Roman Civilization When Romans were at the zenith of their glory, the **Roman man was permitted to take the life of his wife.** Prostitution and nudity were common features of Roman. **Egyptian Civilization-** Egyptians considered **women as a sign of a devil.**

Pre-Qur'anic and Pre-Muhammad-pbuh Arabia- The Arabs before Muhammad-pbuh declared his Prophethood and before Qur'an was revealed **buried alive their female children.**

It was Islam that put the women behind veil to prevent them from becoming victims of rape, attempt to rape or sexual assaults and not degraded but upgraded by educating people the message of Qur'an from **Sura Nahal** in which Allah says, "When news is brought to one of them of (the birth of) a female (child) his face darkens and he *is* filled with inward grief!" **Sura Nahal- 16:58** and then Allah says in **Sura Nahal 16:59-** "With shame does he hide himself from his people because of the bad news he has had! Shall he retain it on (sufferance and) contempt or bury it in the dust? Ah! what an evil (choice) they decide on!".

Moreover Allah says **in Sura Takwir- 81:8,9** "When the female (infant) Buried alive is questioned; For what crime she was killed"

According to Amily Bekinin a BBC reporter, reported in Program, "**ASSIGNMENT**" entitled "Let **Her Die**" that in my own beloved **country India unfortunately about 3,000 (three thousand) fetuses are aborted daily** on knowing that they **are female fetuses.** This means that **in 1 year** (365 days) about more than a **MILLION FEMALE FOETUSES are ABORTED in India alone.**

Now when you read Qur'an Allah says in, Sura Baqra- 2:228 women shall have rights similar to the rights of men, according to what is equitable.

Further Allah says in the Qur'an in **Sura Nahal- 16:97** "**Whoever works righteousness man or woman** and has faith verily to him will We give a new life a life that is good and pure and **We will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions.**"

Finally when we read **Sura Ahzab- 33:35** Allah mentions a list of 10 (ten) categories of Muslim men and Muslim women and says that all of them should be equally rewarded without women being degraded.

We would also like to remind all who criticize Muslim women as outdated if they are behind the veil that how unjust they are ; because If a **Christian woman** covers herself she is a Nun doing service to **God- BUT- If a Muslim woman** is behind veil she is outdated.

If a **Hindu woman** covers herself completely with her saree (popular dress of Indian women) then she is **SATI SAVITRI** (a title for a chaste [Indian] woman) - **BUT - If a Muslim woman** is behind veil she is outdated. We would like to know as to what kind of Justice is this?

All these explanations bear witness **that Islam puts women behind veil to protect them, give them an identification of religiosity and upgrade them from an identity of 'A SEX TOY' played and thrown away by an 'Adulterous and Evil Generation.'**

Following are a few more statistics to open your eyes. Illegitimate Pregnancy and Abortion: The United States has the highest teenage pregnancy rate of all developed countries, a fact stated in a recent CDC report. About 1 million teenagers become pregnant each year; 95% of those pregnancies are unintended, and almost one third (approx. 350,000) end in abortion. Public costs from teenage childbearing totaled \$ 120 billion from 1985-1990.

Internationally, there are estimated to be between 1 and 4.4 million adolescent abortions per year, most of which are unsafe because unskilled practitioners perform them illegally and under hazardous circumstances.

Data from the National Women's Study, a longitudinal telephone-survey of a national-household probability-sample of women at least 18 years of age, found that 6,83,000 women are forcibly raped each year in the USA, and that 84% of rape victims did not report the offense to the police. Of rape victims who reported the offense to law enforcement agencies, about 40% were under the age of 18, and 15% were younger than 12. In another national survey, 27.7% of women reported a sexual experience since the age of fourteen that met the legal definition of rape or attempted rape.

The adult pregnancy rate associated with rape is estimated to be 4.7%. Physical injuries occur in approximately 40% of completed rape cases. Victims of rape often manifest long term symptoms of chronic headaches, fatigue, sleep disturbances, recurrent nausea, decreased appetite, eating disorders, menstrual pain, sexual dysfunction, and suicide attempts. In a longitudinal study, sexual assault was found to increase the odds of substance abuse by a factor of 2.5. The National Public Service Research Institute estimates the lifetime cost for each rape with physical injuries occurring in 1987 to be \$60,000.

From the statistics of American Prevention Programs with some sobering facts and figures, for every day in America alone-

1. About 2,000 (two thousand) women are raped every day, most are under 18 years of age.
 2. There are 30,000 new cases of STDs, 130 of which are AIDS.
 3. There are 3,000 illegitimate pregnancies. 4. Over 1,000 fetuses are aborted.
- (Jumuah Magazine- Vol-14, Issue-11, Pages-54,55.)

Q.9. Why is a man allowed to have more than one wife and why does Islam prohibit a woman from having more than one husband?

In a general understanding one would think that Islam permits POLYGAMY. Infact Islam does not permit polygamy. **Polygamy-** Can be defined as a system of marriage whereby one person can have more than one wife or more than one husband at a single time. Islam does not permit both the conditions and instead permits the first condition.

Islam only permits a man to have more than one wife at a time and this condition is called as **POLYGyny**.

Moreover Islam forbids a woman to have more than one husband at a time i.e. Islam forbids **POLYANDRY**.

Islam permits limited polygyny: If we read the Glorious Qur'an, the •. undoubtedly authentic most source of Islam, Allah (B) mentioned in **Sura Nisa- 4:3-** "If ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly with the orphans marry women of your choice two or three or four; but if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly (with them) then only one or (a captive) that your right hands possess. That will be more suitable to prevent you from doing injustice." thereby putting an **UPPER LIMIT (up to 4 only at one time)** to marrying more than one woman at a time. **THE LIMITED POLYGyny IS CONDITIONAL:** Moreover if we analyze the Aayaat of **Sura Nisa- 4:3**, we find the permission to marry more than one woman at a time is **CONDITIONAL**. The condition being- **ESTABLISHING JUSTICE BETWEEN THEM (wives)**. In other words it would mean that if one is not capable of establishing justice between them then he should not perform polygyny. **Qur'an, The Only Religious Scripture-** If we read the Glorious Qur'an and the other religious Scriptures of the major religions we would conclude that the **Glorious Qur'an is the Only Religious Scripture** that has a Unique statement that says- (**Sura Nisa- 4:3**) "if you fear that you may not be able to do justice then **MARRY ONLY ONE**."

Prophet's (pbuh) saying: Muhammad- pbuh, the last Messenger of Allah said that the person who has more than one wife and does not do justice between them shall rise on The Day of Judgment as one whose body is paralyzed on one side.

Other Religious Scriptures: No other religious Scripture except the Glorious Qur'an puts an upper limit to polygyny. Neither does any other religious Scripture forbids their followers from polygamy leave aside forbidding polygyny.

Other Religious followers: The Concept of Marrying Only One Wife not found.

Judaism: According to the TALMUDIC Law, Prophet Abraham-pbuh had three wives and Prophet Solomon- pbuh had 100 (hundred) wives. **The Jews too practiced polygyny** till as late as **10th and 11th century** Christian Era. It was somewhere between- **960 C.E. To 1030 C.E.** that **Gershorn bin Yehudha issued a verdict against polygyny.** Yet the **Jewish Sephardic Community** living in Muslim dominated countries **continued till** as late as **1950**, when an Act of **Chief Rabbinate** of Israel extended this **ban on polygyny** for all the Jews. **Christianity:** The Christian men were permitted as many wives as they wished, since the **Bible puts no restriction** on the number of wives. It was only a few centuries ago that the **CHURCH** restricted the number of wives to one.

Hinduism- Vedas, Upanishads, Mababharata including the **Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana etc.** are few of the most prominent Religious Scriptures of Hinduism. If we read them we find that **none of them restrict a Hindu from marrying more than one wife.** After independence of India in 1947, it was only in 1954 that the elected representatives of the Indian people passed the popular **Hindu Marriage Act** that made it illegal for a Hindu man to marry more than one wife according to Indian Constitution and not according to Hinduism.

POLYGYNOUS- Hindu, Muslim ratio:

According to the report of, "**The Committee of The Status of Women In Islam,**" published in the year 1975 mentioned one page 66 and 67 about percentage (%) of polygamous marriages between the years 1951 and 1961- (10 years)- The report was- **Hindus** performing polygamous marriages was- 5.06% while the **Muslims** performing polygamous marriages was- 4.31% i.e. Hindus were more polygamous practically than the Muslims.

Polygyny in Islam not compulsory:

The dos and don'ts in Islam can be divided basically into **five** categories-

- 1) **Obligatory or Compulsory- Fard** 2) **Encouraged or Recommended- Mustahab**
3) **Permitted or Allowed- Mubah** 4) **Discouraged- Makruh** 5) **Forbidden or prohibited.**

As such marrying more than one wife is **Mustahab** for a particular section of the Muslim society while it is **Mubah for the rest**. Marrying more than one wife is recommended for those who are wealthy and have means to maintain justly more than one wife at a time. This is like extending help to the society to maintain morality and characters upto the mark.

But for those who do not have proper means to deal justly between more than one wife, polygyny would only be a permitted condition so that this leisure of Islam is not misused causing pollution of morality in a society by divorcing the wives etc. **Medical Science on Male- Female life span**-The medical science supports the wisdom of the Islamic teaching of a man marrying more than one wife as it says that by nature males and females are born approximately in the same ratio but a female child is with a more strong immunity system than a male child to fight germs and diseases in childhood. For this reason during paediatric age itself more male child die than the female children.

Other statistics-

- a) During wars more males die than females.
- b) More men die due to accidents than women.
- c) More men die as victims of murders than females.
- d) The average life span of a female has been recorded more than that of a male.
- e) At any given time widows are more than widowers.

Unfortunately India is one of those few countries in the world where male population is MORE THAN females. The reason lies in high rate of female foeticide in India, according to a survey report published in "Times of India," (a daily English News paper of India) in the month of September-2003 C.E. and also the fact that more than one million foetuses are aborted every year on an average in India on knowing (through scanning etc.) that it is a female child's foetus. If this evil practice stops, India will be a country with more females than males.

World'S Male, Female Ratio: According to about a decade old statistics-

U.S.A. alone has 7.8 million women more than men. New York has one million females more than males. Moreover U.S.A. alone has 25 million gays i.e. men who are medically unfit to marry a woman or become a husband or who are impotents. This means, U.S.A. alone has 32.8

million females who do not have partners or who have no men in their own country to marry them as their first wife.

Russia- In the form of USSR, had 9 million females more than males.

Germany- Has 5 million females more than males.

U.K.- Has 4 million females more than males.

In short only these four countries of the world put together would have 50 million females more than males approximately. According to current statistics about **2002-2003 C.E.**

U.S.A. has **40,90,171** females more than males + about 25 million gays who are of no use to another 25 million females of America.

U.K. has 11,52,846 females more than males.

Germany has 16,19,308 females more than males and **France** has 14,38,492 females more than males.

Applying Wisdom, Logic and Reasoning:

If we apply wisdom with logical and reasonable approach, the only solution for these excessive women would be to marry a man who is already mamed or become a public property. Therefore the solution of polygyny permitted by Islam would be the only and the best option.

Can they remain Sphinster (Virgin or Un-married) throughout the life?

The medical science disagrees that any man can throughout life remain a bachelor or any woman throughout life can remain a sphinster until and unless they have a medically unfit condition. What the sexual hormones produce daily has to be released out of the body and of the various ways the best is to abide by the Islamic permission of polygyny and enjoy the social status of being the wife of a person rather than a butterfly in the society or merely someone's concubine. These are few of the many popular reasons behind the wisdom of polygyny in Islam.

Islam Forbidding Polyandry:

As already explained polyandry is a state in which a woman has more than one husband at a time. Islam forbids this as Allah commands in the Glorious Qur'an in **Sura Nisa- 4:22-24. In Sura Nisa- 4:24, Allah says-** "Also prohibited are women married."

In other words Allah commanded men not to marry women already married and the vice versa of it would be that a woman should not marry in case she is already married and already lives with a husband.

With all the details of male and female population ratio mentioned above it is very clear that had Islam permitted polyandry then still more females would have increased in the society who would not find un-married men.

Islam might have forbidden polyandry because in such a case otherwise it would not be possible to identify the true father of the child. Even today after using the services of DNA scientists, yet it is not easily possible and moreover that examination is not cheap to be applied on each and every one and neither is there a guarantee that the result is 100% correct. Where as in polygyny if a man has more than one wife the father of the children of all the different women is easily identified.

Psychologists tell us today that the children who do not know their parents especially their father undergo severe mental trauma and mental disturbances that can damage their normal growth. Many surveys have shown that the children of prostitutes do not have a normal and healthy childhood.

Biologically and psychologically a woman cannot serve more than one husband at a time whereas a husband can serve more than one wife at a time. Psychological and behavioral changes occur in a woman during menstrual cycle whereas no. such changes occur in a man and as such a man is constant.

Medical science tells us that a woman who has more sexual partners at a single time is prone to more risk of acquiring sexually transmitted diseases and general diseases including AIDS while this is not the case in a man having more than one wife and none of his wives having extra-marital sex. These are some of the many reasons behind Islam's reason to forbid polyandry.

Q.10. When Muslims in India insist on having a separate Muslim Personal Law for them, why don't they also insist to implement the Islamic Criminal Law for the Muslims i.e. the hands should be chopped off when they rob?

1. Muslim Personal Law

Personal Law is a law concerning an individual person and the persons closely related to him, e.g. laws relating to marriage, divorce, inheritance, etc. It includes laws that are mutually agreed upon by a group of people. This law does not include any crime or an act that will harm the society directly.

2. India is Secular and Democratic: In any country, the Personal Law may differ for different groups of people and for different communities. Since India is a secular and democratic country it allows different groups of people to follow their own personal law if they wish.

3. Islamic Personal Law is the Best

Muslims believe that compared to all the different types of personal laws available in the World, the best and the most result oriented is the Islamic Personal Law. Muslims of India prefer following the Muslim personal law also because of their own belief in Islam.

4. Criminal Law

Criminal law is that law which is associated with a crime or an act that directly affects the society e.g. robbing, raping, murdering, etc.

5. The Criminal Law should be the same for all people

In any country, the criminal law unlike the Personal Law cannot be different for different groups of people. It has to be same for all people of different groups and different religions e.g. In Islam if a person robs, his hands are chopped off. This punishment is not prescribed in Hinduism. If a Hindu robs a Muslim, what would be the robber's punishment? The Muslim would want the hands of the robber to be chopped, while the Hindu Law would not agree.

6. The Muslims in India alone cannot separately follow the Islamic Criminal Law without involving the non-Muslims:

Even if a Muslim agrees, that as far as he commits a crime he should be given punishment according to Islamic Criminal Law, it would be practical. In case an allegation is made against a Muslim for robbery and if the witnesses are non-Muslims, and if each one follows his own Criminal Law, the punishment in Islam for bearing false witness is 80 lashes, whereas in the India Criminal Law, a person giving false witness can easily escape. Thus, for a non-Muslim to falsely accuse a Muslim of any crime is very easy, if both follow their own criminal law. However, if both follow the Indian Law where the punishment is lenient for false witnesses and robbers, it will encourage both the robber to rob as well as encourage the witnesses to give false witness for their own benefit.

7. The Muslims in India would prefer the Islamic Criminal Law to be implemented on all Indians: We Muslims would prefer that in India the Islamic Criminal Law be implemented on all the Indians, since, chopping the hands of a thief will surely reduce the rate of robbery in

India, Similarly, 80 lashes for giving false testimony will prevent a person from giving false witness.

8. Islamic Criminal Law is most Practical:

Islam besides pointing out a crime, it also gives you a solution showing how to prevent the crime e.g. chopping the hands of a robber, death penalty for the rapist. The punishment is so severe that it is a deterrent for the criminal to commit the crime. He will think a hundred times before committing a crime, thus if crime has to be reduced or stopped in India the best solution is to implement 'The Common Islamic Criminal Law'.

Q.11. Some Non-Muslims burn their dead bodies, while Muslims bury them. Which is non-polluting?

There is not a single Aayat in the Holy Qur'an that directly commands a Muslim to bury their' dead, but there are Aayaats that indirectly indicate that a dead body should be buried.

If you read the Holy Qur'an Sura Ma'ida- 5: 27-31- Allah (B) narrates the story of two sons of Adam- pbuh one of whom killed his own brother and did not know what to do with the dead body. So Allah says in Sura Ma'ida- 5: 31- that a raven was sent at that place and this raven showed how to hide the naked dead body.

Another place in the Holy Qur'an in Sura Taha- 20:55- Allah (B) says "From the (earth) did We create you and into it shall We return you and from it shall We bring you out once again."

The other reason why we Muslims bury dead bodies is because Allah (B) says in the Holy Qur'an in several places Obey Allah and His Messenger, it is mentioned in Sura A'l-e-Imran- 3: 31, 32, Sura Nisa- 4: 59, 65 and in Sura Ma'ida- 5: 92.

Sura A'l-e-Imran-3:32 - "Say: "Obey Allah and His Apostle"; but if they turn back Allah loveth not those who reject Faith."

So even if we find some other method of disposing off the dead bodies that may appear good to us still we cannot do it because Allah says that we cannot be True Muslims unless we do not accept and follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet. :

According to an authentic Hadith recorded .in Riyadh- us-Saleheen, Vol: 2, Ch: 158, H: 941 narrated by Abu Huraira (R.A) that the Prophet Muhammad- pbuh said that be quick in taking the coffin to the graveyard for burial because if the dead body is of a virtuous person you

should hurry him towards good and if the dead body is of an evil person you should lay down evil from your necks.

Today the modern science tells us that all the components that are present in the earth are present in the human body in lesser or greater quantity and in **Sura Taha- 20: 55**, Allah (B) says that man has been created from earth so by burying we are returning back to the earth its own components. The dead bodies are the food of several creatures beneath the earth as such within a period of time the dead body disappears with few bones left thereby leaving space for the burial of a new dead body so there is no fear of the whole earth being occupied by dead bodies. These dead bodies act as fertilizers and these dead bodies after their decomposition help in the production of petroleum products that is obtained from the earth. According to an authentic Hadis Prophet Muhammad- pbuh advised to dig the "grave 5-6 feet deep and this measurement is so scientific because the external bacteria cannot reach so deep into the ground and cause diseases over the surface and it is not so deep that it may touch the water table.

Regarding the burning of the dead bodies or the cremation of the dead bodies there was a report published in **A.P. News, India, Dated- 10-Novemeber- 86** which says that the ecologists feel a threat in India due to 32% loss of the Indian forests that is a serious threat to environment because cutting down trees or deforestation ceases rainfall. The report published further says that when a Hindu is cremated in India one or more medium sized trees are chopped down to accompany him on the funeral pyre and as a result each day **about 6.50 million kg** timber goes up in fire and the loss in one year is **about 2.50 million tons**.

According to another statistic published in **Indian Express Dated- 12- July - 1993**, reported that **J.V. Mali, Chief Engineer, Mumbai Municipal Corporation-** "The daily **firewood** requirement for each cremation is **400 kgs**, which is equal to 60,000 kgs. of wood for 150 bodies cremated every day. **This amounts to 20,000** fully grown trees or 4 acres of forest land, adding up to **10 hectares of forest cover every year.**"

Q.12. If Muslims do not accept these Books of other religions as Word of God then why do they quote it?

Suppose if a person 'A' has a dispute with a person 'B' over a property issue. Person 'B' is at fault and has forged documents and if both are summoned by the court. In the court if person 'A' points out to the judge, certain clause mentioned in the documents of person 'B' on whose

grounds person 'B' claims the title, then does this mean that person 'A' confirmed that person 'B' carries genuine documents or does this mean that person 'A' pointed to the judge the weakness in person 'B' fighting case against person 'A'. But natural this does not mean that person 'A' agreed with documents of person 'B' instead it only means that person 'B' is defeated in the case as person 'A' proved his point from the documents that person 'B' carried as evidence against person 'A'. Similarly we Muslims quote from other religious Books to prove teachings of Islam (Qur'an and Hadees) mentioned even in their Books that they call as Word of God and to prove only Islam as the Only Religion of Allah the Only One God and Qur'an as 'the Only Word of God.'

Q.13. Is there any scientific way or explanation to convince somebody that man was not created by chance but Allah created man?

This question needs a scientific answer to convince the opponent that man was not created by chance but there is some Superhuman force responsible for the creation of man.

If you read the Holy Qur'an Allah (B) says in Sura **Mominoon- 23:14** "Then We made the sperm into a clot of congealed •• blood; then of that clot We made a (foetus) lump; then We made out of that lump bones and clothed the bones with flesh; then We developed out of it another creature: so blessed be Allah the Best to create!" and Allah (B) says that he created man with the best mould as mentioned in **Sura Teen- 95: 4-** "We have indeed created man in the best of moulds"

Now does the modern science agree that Allah (B) created mankind. If no, Allah (B) poses a question in the Holy Qur'an in **Sura Tur- 52:35** "Were they created of nothing or were they themselves the creators?" And the answer is No, we were not created from nothing?

Then the Holy Qur'an poses another question. If you read the Holy Qur'an, Allah (B) asks a question in **Sura Waqia - 56: 58-59** "Do ye then see? The (human seed) that ye throw out, Is it ye who create it or are We the Creators?" Again the answer is we are not the creator.

Now for those who think all this happened by chance, let us analyze their claim. **Protein Molecule** is a very important structure of the living cell and it contains 10s of thousands of atoms and each atom is made by a combination of five free elements out of the 92 known free elements they are **Hydrogen, Oxygen, Carbon, Nitrogen, Sulphur-** The chances of only these five free elements to come together to form an atom and then 10s of thousands of atoms to form a protein molecule was calculated by a scientist called **Frank Alien** who came out with the result

that, this whole procedure to happen by itself i.e. by chance is 1×10^{160} and according to the subject of mathematics this calculation leads to the result that it is thrice impossible to happen by chance.

Charles Eugene Guye calculated the time for it to occur on one small planet and said that it would take **10^{243} light years** and this figure is again according to mathematics almost five times impossible to happen by chance and Charles Guye after calculating this said that the amount of material necessary to produce one protein molecule is much greater than the material comprising the whole universe and the doctors tell us today that there are approximately **6 billion molecules** in a new born child.

As such **modern science** does not reject the existence of God Almighty. But it definitely **rejects the man made forms of God.**

Q.14. if Islam is against idol worship then why do Muslims bow down and worship Kaba in their prayers?

Islam is not just against idol worship, but also against making any kind of image of Allah or if any image is created even in imagination and one thinks that Allah might be as thought by his mental imagination then even that is strictly forbidden in Islam.

Allah (B) confirms in the Glorious Qur'an in **Sura Shoora- 42:11** "...there is nothing whatever like unto Him..." Allah (B) also confirms in **Sura Iqbal- 112:4** "And there is none like unto Him." Therefore there is no way that a Muslim can ever worship Ka'ba.

Instead, Ka'ba is just a direction or a landmark, geographically located in the center of the earth, to which we Muslims turn our faces while performing Sala'h (The best Muslim way of worshipping Allah).

Allah commanded in the Glorious Qur'an in **Sura Baqra- 2:144** "We see the turning of thy face (for guidance) to the heavens; now shall We turn thee to a Qiblah that shall please, thee. Turn then thy face in the direction of the Sacred Mosque; wherever ye are turn your faces in that direction. The people of the book know well that that is the truth from their Lord nor is Allah unmindful of what they do." The Arabic word used in Qur'an is **SHATR AL MASJID AL HARA'M**. The Arabic word **SHATR** means "**TOWARDS**" and not "**TO**", therefore the command in Qur'an to Muslims is to face "**TOWARDS**" **KA'BA** and not "**TO THE KA'BA.**"

To be more explanatory Qur'an commands to face in the direction of Ka'ba from wherever we are on earth and Qur'an never commands to face the Ka'ba.

Moreover any idol worshipper would at no point of time, ever stand on the head of the idol he/she worships. But according to an authentic Islamic source, after conquering Makka, Prophet Muhammad (S) ordered Bilal (R) to stand on the roof of Ka'ba and give the call for prayers i.e. A'dhan (The Muslim way of calling mankind to pray Allah).

In our modern age, that position of earth, which we call as North and South were previously not the same, instead, present day North was called the South in olden days and present day South was called North in olden days. Even after shift in the names of directions, yet, Ka'ba stood in the center of the earth enabling all the mankind from all directions on earth to turn TOWARDS the Ka'ba and perform salah.

Q.15. The Hindu Pundits and Scholars agree that Vedas and other Hindu scriptures prohibit idol worship, but initially because the mind may not be mature, an idol is required for concentration while worshipping. After the mind reaches higher consciousness, the idol is not required for concentration.

1. Muslims have reached the higher level of consciousness

Muslims have reached the higher level of consciousness. If an idol is required for concentration only in the initial stages and not later on when the mind reaches higher consciousness then I would like to say the Muslims have already reached the state of higher consciousness because when we worship Allah (SWT) we do not require any idol statue.

2. Child asks why does it thunder?

When I was discussing with a Swami at IRF. He said that when our child asks us, "Why does the sky thunder?", we reply that "aace ma chakki pees rahi hai", the grandmother is grinding the flour in the heaven; because he is too young to understand. Similarly in the initial stages people require an idol for concentration.

In Islam we don't believe in telling a lie, even if it's a white lie. I will never give such a wrong answer .to my child because later on when he goes to school and learns that the thundering sound after lightning is due to the expansion of rapidly heated air, he will either think that the teacher is lying or later on when he understands the fact he will conclude that the father is a liar. If you feel that the child may not understand certain difficult things you should simplify the answer rather

than give a wrong fictitious reply. If you, yourself do not know the answer, you should have the guts to be truthful and say 'I don't know'. But many children nowadays will not be satisfied with this. If this was given to my son, he would say "Abba (father), why don't you know?" This will compel you to do your homework and thus educate yourself as well as your child.

3. Those in standard one require idol for concentration - ($2+2=4$ will remain same in standard one and ten)

Some pundits while trying to convince me regarding idol worship said that in standard one the student is initially taught to worship God by concentrating with the help of an idol but later on when he graduates he no longer requires the idol to concentrate while worshipping the God. A very important fact to be noted is that only if the fundamentals of any particular subject is strong, then only will he be able to excel in future for e.g. A teacher of mathematics in standard one teaches the students that $2+2=4$ irrespective whether the student passes school or does graduation or does a Ph.D. in mathematics, the basics of $2+2=4$ will yet remain the same, it will not change to 5 or 6. In higher standards the student, besides addition may learn about Algebra, Trigonometry, Logarithm, etc. but the fundamental of addition will yet remain the same. If the teacher in standard one itself teaches the fundamentals wrong, how can you expect the student to excel in future?

It is the fundamental principal of the Vedas regarding the concept of God that He has got no image, so how can the Scholars even after knowing this fact keep silent at the wrong practice being done by people.

Q.16. Why does not Islam believe in Reincarnation (rebirth) like in Hinduism?

Hinduism believes in the concept of rebirth and reincarnation based on 'Karma'. That means that whatever a person does in this life is rewarded to him in this world itself. If he is a good human being, then after his death, he is reborn into a superior and higher caste successively. If his evil deeds are more than the good ones, then he will be reborn into an inferior and lower caste successively unless he does good deeds in his present life.

Islam believes in equality of all human beings. The concept of superiority or inferiority based on caste, creed, race and financial position is alien to Islam. The Qur'an says in Sura **Al-Hujurat**- 49:13:"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each

other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)."

Islam believes that all human beings are born into a state of fitrah, 30:30 that is, in a state of natural purity. The only thing that makes one person superior to another is Taqwa', piety, God-consciousness. Muslims don't believe in the concept of reincarnation because it is against the foundation of brotherhood and equality, which it is based upon.

Everyone will be judged on the Day of Judgement

Islam believes that every human being who has lived on this earth will be brought to account for everything he has done on this earth on one great Day when everything will be accounted for. The Qur'an says in **Sura Al-Zalzalah- 99:6-8**:"On that Day will men proceed in companies sorted out to be shown the Deeds that they (had done). Then shall anyone who has done an atom's weight of good see it! anyone who has done an atom's weight of evil shall see it."

Every human being will be judged on that day as to what he has done on this earth. According to his deeds, he will earn eternal life in Paradise or Hell. Allah says in **Sura Al-Muminun- 23:115**:"Did ye then think that We had created you in jest and that ye would not be brought back to Us (for account)?"

Concept of Reincarnation is illogical : The concept of reincarnation is against the Islamic beliefs. Moreover it is illogical.

Suppose a 'higher' caste man does bad deeds and in the next life, he is born into a lower caste. He continues with his evil deeds and is successively born into a lower caste again and again to the extent that he turns into an insect. Now he changes his 'mind' and begins to do good deeds. The question is, What good deed did he do as an insect that he starts becoming a higher caste again? The power of thought to decide between right and wrong is the distinct characteristic of human beings that differentiates them from animals.

According to the concept of reincarnation, as more and more people do evil deeds, more and more people should be reborn as animals and insects and the population should decrease. In today's world, the rate of crime is ever on the increase. Yet we find that the population of the world is growing at a very fast rate. This contradicts with the concept of reincarnation and rebirth. If we accept the logic that the animals we see around us were human beings who are born

into that state because of their sins of past, then we should not help them, feed them or use them because the wrath of God is on them for their past deeds and they are a condemned species!

Q.17. Water is called by different names in different languages: in English as water, in Hindi as 'paani', in Tamil as 'tanni'. Similarly if God is called either Allah, Ram, or Jesus is it not one and the same?

1. To Allah belongs the Most Beautiful Names, the Glorious Qur'an says in Sura Isra- 17:110:

"Say: "Call upon Allah, or call upon Rahman: by whatever name ye call upon Him, (it is well): for to Him belong the Most Beautiful Names." You can call Allah by any name, but it should be a beautiful name should not conjure up a mental picture, and should have qualities that only Allah possesses.

2. Water can be called by different names in different languages but something else besides water cannot be called water in another language.

You can call water by various names in different languages, like water in English, paani in Hindi, tanni in Tamil, mai in Arabic, apah in Sanskrit, jal in Shudh Hindi, jal or paani in Gujrati, pandi in Marathi, neer in Kannad, neeru in Telugu, vellam in Malayalam, etc. If a person tells me that his friend has advised that every day early in the morning he should have one glass of paani, but he is unable to drink it because when he drinks it, he feels like vomiting. On enquiry he says that the paani stinks and it is yellowish in color. Later I realize that what he is referring to as paani is not water but urine. Thus you can call water by different names having the same meaning but you cannot call other things as water or paani.

People may think that the example is not realistic and I agree with them because even an ignorant person knows the difference between water and urine. He will have to be a fool to call urine 'water'¹. Similarly when any person who knows the correct concept of God, sees people worshipping false gods, he naturally wonders how a person cannot differentiate between a true God and false gods.

3. Purity of Gold is not verified by calling it by different names in different languages but rubbing it against a Touchstone. In the same way, gold can be called sona in Hindi, gold in English, dhahaba in Arabic. In spite of knowing all these different names for gold, if a person wants to sell you his gold jewellery and says this is 24 carat pure sona, you will not blindly believe, without verifying it with a goldsmith. The goldsmith confirms whether it is gold or not

with the help of a touchstone. The yellow glittering jewellery may not be gold, because all that glitters is not gold.

4. Sura Ikhlas is the Touchstone of Theology. Similarly, any person or candidate who is called God cannot be accepted as the true God without verifying him with the touchstone. The touchstone of theology, that is study of God, is **Sura Ikhlas- 112**, of the Holy Qur'an, which says: "Say, 'He is Allah, The One and Only; Allah, The Eternal, Absolute; He begets not Nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him.'" [Al-Qur'an 112:1-4]

5. Any candidate who passes the Acid test can be called God. Any candidate who claims to be God and fits in this four- line definition, passes the Acid test, is entitled to be called God and worshipped as God. Suppose a lunatic says that Muhammad (pbuh) is God, (God forbid). Let's put him to the test of Sura Ikhlas.

(i) "**Qul hu Allah hu ahad**"- Say He is Allah, The One and Only; Is Muhammad (pbuh) one and only? No! He was not the only messenger. There were many messengers.

(ii) "**Allah bus Samad**"- Allah, The Eternal, Absolute; We know that Muhammad (pbuh) had to undergo many hardships. Though he was the mightiest messenger of God, he died at the age of 63 and was buried in Madinah.

(iii) "**Lam ya lid wa lam yulad**"- He begets not nor is He begotten, We know that he was born in Makkah and his parents were Abdullah and Aaminah. He even had several children e.g. Fatimah, Ibrahim (may Allah be pleased with them), etc.

(iv) "**Wa lam ya kullahu kufirvan ahad**"- And there is none like unto Him.

Though all the Muslims love and revere the Prophet (pbuh) and are supposed to follow each and every of his commandments, yet you will not find a single Muslim in the whole world, who in his senses will ever say that Muhammad (pbuh) is God. The Islamic Creed is, "La illaha illallah Muhammadur Rasoolullah" which means that there is no god but Allah, and Muhammad (pbuh) is the messenger of Allah. This is repeated five times a day during the call for prayer, so that the Muslims are reminded daily that although they respect and obey him, he is only a Messenger and servant of God, and not God Himself.

6. Verify the Gods you worship

Now that we have explained to you how to use the touchstone of theology it is the duty of everyone to verify with this touchstone, whether the gods that they worship are true or false.