

English Bimonthly Issue 122 January-February 2025

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# **SPIRIT OF ISLAM**

**Towards Global Peace & Spiritual Living**



The essence of harmony is rooted in mutual respect and understanding, acknowledging that while we may differ, we can coexist peacefully and productively.

# A Magazine for The Journey of Life

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

## **ARTICLES WRITTEN BY CPS MEMBERS**

*Many Islamic scholars from India and abroad have supported the CPS mission. Some of them have in fact become part of the CPS mission. Most notably, few graduates from Jamia Dar-us-Salam, Oomerabad spent a considerable time under the guidance, mentorship and training of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan. SOI editorial team has decided to carry articles written by these Islamic scholars within the pages of SOI. The articles written by these scholars display positivity, deep contemplation, a firm grasp on the knowledge of the modern world and the Islamic Scriptures. We hope that this new addition shall prove full of lessons and learnings for our readers.*

This issue of SOI marks the beginning of its 13th year of publication. The magazine begins by a New Year's Message by Dr Rajat Malhotra, CPS International, New Delhi. As part of our efforts to keep SOI updated on all fronts, the magazine is now being designed by Timer Media team which is dedicated to bringing out more clear, crisp and stunning presentation for our readers.

## Spirit of Islam.....

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

United in prayers  
**SOI Editorial Committee**



# **SPIRIT OF ISLAM**

Towards Global Peace & Spiritual Living

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## NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

By Dr. Rajat Malhotra, CPS International, New Delhi

Early five years ago, in February 2020, the world faced an unprecedented challenge: the COVID-19 pandemic. This global crisis affected everyone, regardless of wealth, age, gender, or background, highlighting our vulnerability. The unknown virus forced us to confront the fragility of life.

During those challenging times, it felt as if the world paused to reflect. People began to appreciate the simple things they once took for granted—oxygen, clean air, water, and sunlight. These essential elements became infinitely precious. The global crisis also underscored our interconnectedness, sparking hopes for a future of unity, peace, and brotherhood.

The Quran, particularly chapter The Merciful, serves as a profound reminder to acknowledge God's countless blessings. It repeatedly asks, "Which of your Lord's wonders would you deny?" (31 times in 78 verses), emphasizing gratitude, accountability, and the mercy of God. This verse urges us to recognize and cherish the blessings we receive.

However, as the pandemic subsided, gratitude quickly faded. Today, in the post-COVID-19 era, the lessons we learned seem forgotten. We witness nations embroiled in conflicts, and stress, greed, and tension dominate the world. Instead of focusing on peace, self-improvement, and the well-being of others, many are consumed by negativity, which has taken a toll on our mental and spiritual growth.

As we embark on 2025, it is crucial to remember the fleeting nature of time. Another year has passed, reminding us that our time on this planet is limited. This realization should motivate us to make thoughtful choices that shape not only our future in this world but also in the Hereafter.

The chapter The Passage of Time in the Quran delivers a clear and timeless message: “**I swear by the passage of time, that man is surely in a state of loss, except for those who believe and do good deeds and exhort one another to hold fast to the Truth, and who exhort one another to steadfastness.**” (103: 1-3)

These verses inspire us to deeply reflect and live with purpose. These remind us that life is a test, and true success lies in faith, good deeds, and staying true to our values. To grow spiritually, we must avoid distractions and focus on living honestly and meaningfully.

Prophet Muhammad beautifully described the transient nature of life in this world: “What do I have to do with this world? I am like a rider who stops under the shade of a tree for a while and then moves on.” (*Musnad Ahmad*)

This Hadith encourages us to take only what we need for life’s journey and to avoid becoming overly attached to worldly possessions. Our purpose is to discover what God expects from us and to fulfill it in a positive and meaningful way.

**The Spirit of Islam** magazine aims to guide readers toward this purpose. It seeks to cultivate a positive mindset, helping people recognize their Creator and live as well-wishers for humanity. By doing so, we can return to God as individuals who have lived meaningful and purposeful lives.

As we enter 2025, I urge every reader of **Spirit of Islam** to make a pledge: strive to become a giver in society, a source of positivity, and a well-wisher for all. Let us embody the wisdom of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, the founder of CPS International, who always said: “Love God and love His creation.”

May this new year inspire us to live with gratitude, purpose, and a spirit of giving. □



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



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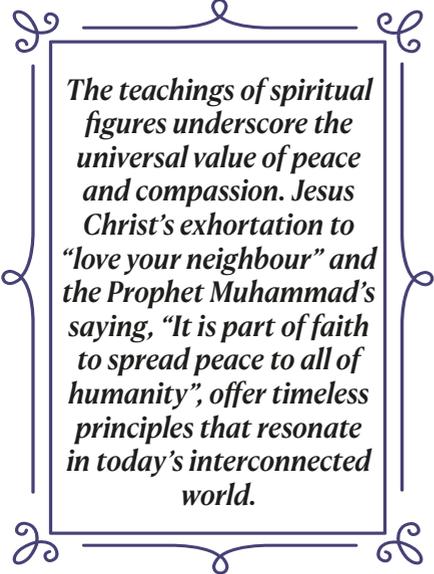
### STEPS TOWARDS SHARED GLOBAL PROSPERITY

In accordance with the Common Era (CE) calendar, the commencement of a new year occurs on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and consequently, New Year's Day is universally celebrated on this date across the world. The observance of New Year's Day is marked by a collective hope that the forthcoming year will surpass its predecessor. However, this aspiration can be realized only by individuals who maintain a meticulous account of their actions and choices, as opposed to those who lead lives characterized by negligence and complacency.

The world today is at a critical crossroads, grappling with complex challenges such as the ongoing Ukraine-Russia and Palestine-Israel conflicts. These turbulent times call for a renewed commitment to global peace and unity. The United States, with its historical and geopolitical influence, has a unique opportunity to lead global efforts towards peace, cooperation, and shared prosperity. Effective leadership in this era demands not only the exercise of power but also empathy, respect, and a genuine willingness to understand and incorporate diverse perspectives.

Historically, the United States has played a pivotal role in fostering peace and stability. Initiatives such as the Marshall Plan and the formation of the United Nations highlight America's contributions to global recovery and cooperation. However, the complexities

of modern conflicts require a departure from traditional power-centric approaches. Prioritizing diplomacy, dialogue, and multilateral collaboration can enable the U.S. to address the root causes of conflict, promoting peaceful resolutions rather than exacerbating tensions.



*The teachings of spiritual figures underscore the universal value of peace and compassion. Jesus Christ's exhortation to "love your neighbour" and the Prophet Muhammad's saying, "It is part of faith to spread peace to all of humanity", offer timeless principles that resonate in today's interconnected world.*

During Donald Trump's presidency, the Abraham Accords marked a significant step towards reconciliation in the Middle East, fostering peaceful relations between Israel and several Arab nations. As Trump assumes office as the 47<sup>th</sup> President, there is hope

that similar initiatives prioritizing peace and dialogue will be at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy. Such agreements demonstrate the potential for innovative diplomatic frameworks to achieve tangible progress, even in historically contentious regions.

The teachings of revered spiritual figures underscore the universal value of peace and compassion. Jesus Christ's exhortation to "love your neighbour" (Matthew 22: 39) and the Prophet Muhammad's emphasis on spreading peace, "It is part of faith to spread peace to all of humanity", (*Musnad al-Bazzar*) offer timeless principles that resonate in today's interconnected world. Similarly, the Quranic guidance that "reconciliation is best" (4:128) provides a foundation for addressing conflicts with mutual understanding. These universal values can inspire a foreign policy that transcends cultural and religious differences, focusing on shared human aspirations.

America's leadership should aim to facilitate conversations and provide support without imposing its own beliefs or ideologies. Respecting each nation's sovereignty and values fosters trust and lays the groundwork for productive collaborations. By engaging in multilateral diplomacy and building coalitions around shared interests—such as economic stability, global public health, and environmental sustainability—the U.S. can act as a unifying force in the international arena.

The founding principles of the United States, rooted in freedom, equality, and self-governance, serve as a timeless reminder of the nation's potential to inspire others. A foreign policy guided by compassion, cooperation, and mutual respect would align with these principles, setting a new standard for global leadership. Such an approach would not only address immediate crises but also contribute to a more stable and just international order.

Citizens play a vital role in advocating for peace and influencing their leaders to prioritize diplomacy over conflict. In an interconnected world, public opinion has unprecedented power to shape policy decisions. Social movements and digital activism provide platforms for individuals to amplify messages of unity and compassion, urging governments to pursue harmonious international relations.

To establish itself as a beacon of stability and shared prosperity, the United States can adopt several practical measures:

1. **Strengthening International Institutions:** Support for the United Nations, World Health Organization, and other global bodies can enhance collective problem-solving capabilities.
2. **Investing in Development:** Promoting education, healthcare, and infrastructure in developing nations can address the root causes of instability.
3. **Encouraging Regional Cooperation:** Facilitating dialogues among regional stakeholders can prevent conflicts and promote local solutions.

4. Promoting Trade and Economic Partnerships: Economic interdependence fosters collaboration and reduces incentives for conflict.

The United States stands at a pivotal juncture, with the potential to redefine its role in the world. By embracing principles of empathy, mutual respect, and genuine dialogue, America can lead the way in building a future characterized by global cooperation and shared prosperity. In doing so, it has the chance to leave a legacy of unity, inspiring hope and creating a world where peace becomes a common goal for all nations.

By taking these steps, the United States can set an enduring example of peace-driven leadership, demonstrating that true strength lies not in domination but in the ability to unite humanity around shared ideals and aspirations.

(This article appeared in the *Speaking Tree* column of the **Times of India** dated November 9, 2024.) □



## IN FOCUS

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



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

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

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

— Maulana Wahiduddin Khan (1925-2021)

## THE UNIVERSE AS A GRAND FACTORY

Imagine stepping into a factory where everything is meticulously organized and seamlessly operational. Introductory plaques guide you through each department, and knowledgeable staff are readily available to answer your questions. Even the literature provided explains every detail of the factory's functions, leaving no room for ambiguity.

Now, consider the universe. It functions as a grand factory, infinitely more intricate and complex than any human-made facility. Yet, unlike human-made factories, it lacks visible labelling, guiding systems, or explanatory brochures. Within this cosmic factory, there is a harmonious balance between supply and demand, efficient waste management, and a continuous flow of raw materials. However, there is no one present to articulate how these mechanisms work.

*The human quest for truth is our attempt to give voice to the silent symphony of the universe. This quest aligns with divine declarations, offering profound insights that connect humanity to the ultimate reality.*

The towering mountains may resemble a grand stage, yet they stand silent. The cheerful chirping of sparrows might hint at a hidden message, but their language remains enigmatic. The dazzling lightning and resonating thunder might seem like nature's instruments, perhaps conveying an announcement, but their meanings elude human understanding.

In this profound silence, faith emerges as a guiding light. Faith bridges the gap, enabling us to perceive the invisible beyond the visible. Just as a scientist deciphers the universe's mysteries through

observation and analysis, a believer seeks to comprehend the Creator within creation and the Designer behind the design.

Faith ultimately leads to truth. The human quest for truth is our attempt to give voice to the silent symphony of the universe. This quest aligns with divine declarations, offering profound insights that connect humanity to the ultimate reality. As believers, we interpret this silent broadcast as an expression of the Creator's message, an invitation to seek, understand, and share the profound truths encoded within creation.

This vision of the universe as a grand factory reminds us that every intricate detail points towards an intelligent design. From the synchronization of celestial bodies to the intricate structures of biological systems, the evidence of purpose and order is compelling. Faith and inquiry, when intertwined, allow us to approach this grand factory not only with wonder but with a deeper appreciation of its silent narrative. In doing so, we find purpose and connection in a universe that, while silent, speaks volumes to those willing to listen. □



O God! I seek Your refuge from that knowledge which  
is not beneficial, from that supplication which goes  
unanswered, from that heart that does not fear You,  
and from the self that is never satiated.

-- PROPHET MUHAMMAD

## THE UPBRINGING OF CHILDREN

Parents play a crucial role in training their children and fostering positive personalities during their formative years. CPS literature and videos serve as valuable resources to guide this process.

In a Western context, I encountered a Muslim family who expressed their desire for their children to stay with us for a few days and receive an Islamic upbringing. While I appreciated their interest, I declined the suggestion, believing that such an approach could be artificial. I firmly believe that meaningful tasks are best accomplished naturally, as unnatural methods often lead to unintended consequences.

This belief was reinforced by an incident that occurred in April 1981 during an international conference in Barbados. As part of the programme organized by the local Muslim community, a gentleman brought his 12-year-old son along. The child positioned himself outside the gathering, facing away from me. When someone approached him and suggested that he join the group, the boy responded with a nonchalant, "Not me," implying that he didn't care. This incident holds significant symbolic value for all Muslim families in today's era.

*The first ten years of a child's life are considered the "formative period."*

*During this phase, the personality that develops shapes the child's future and influences their life in profound ways.*

In our society, individuals often work diligently to earn money and then spend a substantial portion of their earnings on their children, ostensibly in the name of love. However, this approach can be detrimental to the children's well-being. It's important to recognize that true love involves nurturing and guiding children's development, rather than simply indulging their desires.

Psychologically, the first ten years of a child's life are considered the "formative period." During this phase, the personality that develops shapes the child's future and influences their life in profound ways. Unfortunately, in today's world, parents often inadvertently harm their children during this critical period, disguising their actions as love. Based on my experience, the primary concern lies in the lack of seriousness among contemporary parents regarding their children's upbringing. Their efforts are often superficial, limited to providing Islamic attire like round caps for boys and scarves for girls. They mistakenly believe that this alone constitutes a complete Islamic upbringing. However, I offer practical advice for parents genuinely concerned about their children's development.

Firstly, it is crucial to avoid pampering children in the name of love, just as one would abstain from anything forbidden. Pampering disconnects children from the realities of life, hindering their ability to develop a realistic approach. Moreover, it fosters a self-centred personality, which becomes a significant obstacle to achieving a successful life.

Secondly, it is vital to recognize that the child's initial formative period is spent with their parents. The personality that is formed during this period becomes deeply ingrained. Parents must understand that mistakes made in their child's upbringing during this phase cannot be easily compensated for in the future.

Corrective measures may be possible under exceptional circumstances involving shocking experiences that can become a turning point for the child. Although such instances are rare, they can lead to a positive revolution in a person's life. Therefore, providing a nurturing and balanced upbringing during the child's formative years is crucial.

Based on my experience, I advise parents to diligently introduce our organization's printed and online material to their children. Encourage them to read it repeatedly and engage with our curated audio and video content, which are accessible on our website [www.cpsglobal.org](http://www.cpsglobal.org).

Participating in this introductory programme is essential for parents who are genuinely interested in their children's upbringing and education. No magical measures can effectively reform children if they are not provided with this opportunity. □

# THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING

*Awakening the Potential Within*

One of the most remarkable gifts bestowed upon humanity is the extraordinary power of the mind. Unlike other creatures that operate solely on instinct, we possess a mind capable of remarkable transformations, creativity, and growth. However, this incredible potential remains dormant until we consciously make an effort to awaken it. Positive thinking serves as the catalyst that ignites this dormant potential, enabling us to transcend limitations and embrace a life of purpose, resilience, and success.

Positive thinking transcends mere optimism; it's a disciplined approach to navigating life with clarity and purpose. By choosing positivity, we break free from the reactive patterns of anger, revenge, and emotional impulsivity that cloud our judgement and obscure our vision. These negative reactions act as barriers to rational thinking, preventing us from making wise and thoughtful decisions. To unleash the full potential of our minds, we must cultivate openness and objectivity. We must approach life's challenges without bias, be prepared to adjust our perspectives and adapt to changing circumstances. This flexibility, coupled with a willingness to rethink and replan as necessary, forms the foundation for growth and transformation.



*When we practise positive thinking, we engage in a form of inner alchemy—transforming difficulties into opportunities, setbacks into stepping-stones, and dreams into reality. This approach uplifts not only ourselves but also those around us.*

Right thinking is the key to progress and development. When our thoughts are constructive and aligned with a higher purpose, they propel us forward on the path to self-improvement and fulfillment. On the other hand, negative and fearful thinking holds us back and prevents us from growing.

A powerful example of this mindset in action is the story of a shopkeeper who faced adversity when his shop caught fire. Instead of succumbing to despair, he quickly restocked his shelves with

fresh goods and displayed a sign that read, “You will find everything fresh in this shop.” This bold and creative move attracted more customers than ever before, transforming what could have been a devastating setback into a powerful success. In this moment of crisis, the shopkeeper’s choice to focus on opportunity rather than loss not only restored his business but elevated it to new heights.

This story reminds us that in life, we often have more opportunities than obstacles and more possibilities than problems. Positive thinking empowers us to see and seize these opportunities, channeling our energy into constructive action rather than complaints or resistance. By viewing life’s challenges as stepping-stones, we unlock pathways to success, personal growth, and spiritual fulfillment.

When we practise positive thinking, we engage in a form of inner alchemy—transforming difficulties into opportunities, setbacks into stepping-stones, and dreams into reality. This approach uplifts not only ourselves but also those around us, inspiring others to awaken their own potential. In the journey of life, our mind is an extraordinary resource, and with the right intentions and positive focus, we can cultivate a life of abundance, purpose, and peace. □



# INHERITANCE

## *Material Vs Moral*

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**M**ost fathers believe wealth and property are the most significant inheritances they can leave for their children. However, the most valuable legacy a father can bestow upon their children is moral inheritance. Karim Bakhsh was a simple, religious man who lived in a village and earned an average income. When he passed away at the age of 65, he left four children without any substantial property to bequeath to them.

Following their father's demise, the eldest son, Rahim Bakhsh, moved to the city in search of a better livelihood. There, he started a small business with limited capital. Unlike his father, Rahim Bakhsh did not inherit material wealth. Instead, he inherited something far more valuable—contentment, simplicity, and the ability to work diligently without complaint. These qualities proved to be immensely advantageous for Rahim Bakhsh. Despite having an average income, his simplicity and contentment propelled him forward. His temperament of avoiding conflicts and disputes further aided his progress. He gained the favour and support of everyone around him. Although his progress was gradual, it was unwavering.

While Rahim Baksh's business may have been modest, his integrity, selflessness, and honesty earned him the respect one would associate with a person of great stature. Despite having limited capital, people in the market would often say to him, "*Mian ji*, take as much merchandise as you need. Don't worry about payment. It can come later." Occasionally, he faced disagreements, but he remained silent rather than retaliating against those who wronged him. He focused on his business and offered prayers for their well-being. Whenever negative thoughts crossed his mind, he would envision his father's innocent face, reminding him that engaging in dishonest dealings or conflicts would not do justice to how his father raised him. This thought swiftly suppressed his emotions, and he resumed following the path of progress, the same path his father had shown him.

Their business expanded, requiring additional help. Consequently, Rahim Baksh decided to involve his brothers. Gradually, all four brothers moved to the city. Over time, their business flourished, establishing four permanent branches, each entrusted to one brother. While they would gather, dine, and socialize together from a business perspective, each brother operated his branch independently.

After a while, Rahim Baksh, the eldest brother and the business owner, noticed that his other brothers weren't showing the same

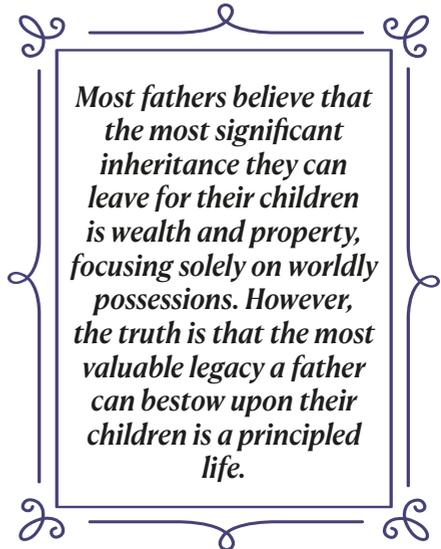
level of commitment as he had expected, given their responsibilities. Rahim Baksh had to make one of two choices: either assume complete control of the business and sever ties with his brothers, leading to lifelong enmity, or let the current state of affairs persist, including mutual grievances, and eventually divide the business with bitter memories.

Rahim Baksh pondered this dilemma for a few days. He then gathered all the brothers and openly discussed the matter with them. He expressed gratitude to God for the absence of major issues thus far and proposed the best course of action: each brother would assume individual responsibility for one business. This way, peace would be maintained between them, and Rahim Baksh believed it would bring blessings to everyone. The other three brothers were grateful for his generosity and agreed to abide by his decision.

After a brief discussion, they decided to draw lots to determine the assignment of each brother to a specific business. Now, all four brothers are engaged in their respective businesses, working diligently from morning till evening, often accompanied by their children.

Surprisingly, their relationships have improved even more than before. They willingly assist each other and have even established separate residences. However, Rahim Baksh remains the same elder brother he always was. No brother ever denies a request made by another, and when there's a need in one household, the women and children from all four families unite to fulfill it, treating it as a collective responsibility.

Most fathers believe that the most significant inheritance they can leave for their children is wealth and property, focusing solely on worldly possessions. However, the truth is that the most valuable legacy a father can bestow upon their children is a principled life. It's through imparting these lessons that children learn to trust in their hard work, engage in their pursuits without conflicts, be content with their rightful share, prioritize future possibilities over immediate benefits, embrace realism instead of indulging in fantasies, and understand that moral inheritance surpasses material wealth. Unfortunately, only a few fathers are aware of this profound reality. □



# THE ART OF THINKING

## *Result-oriented Thinking*

The study of the Quran tells us that the actual target of the Book of God (the Quran) is to change the thinking of an individual. The Quran gives many principles to inculcate right thinking in a person. Thinking is a person's greatest action. Right thinking is, in fact, a form of worship. After his death, someone asked the widow of Abu Darda, a Companion of the Prophet, what his greatest action had been. She replied, "Thinking and drawing lessons." Likewise, after the death of another Companion of the Prophet, Abu Dharr, someone asked his widow what his special worship had been, and she replied, "The whole day, he would keep thinking."

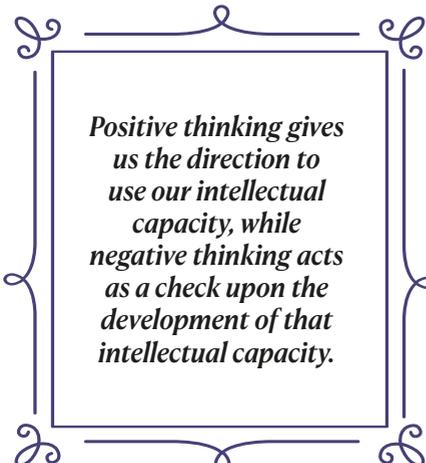
Thinking occurs at the level of the mind. It is the mind that is the biggest aspect of human existence. Thinking makes a person capable of effectively planning his actions, which is key to his success. Thinking is the means for one's intellectual development. Thinking lifts a person to a higher level of humanity. The Quran says: "Be mindful of God; He teaches you." (2: 282)

In this verse, the Arabic word *ilm* means understanding. The meaning of this is God-consciousness in a person will engender in him a proper understanding of the religion. (*Tafsir al-Qurtubi*) From this, we learn that it is possible for a person to possess knowledge or information about religion and yet not possess a proper understanding of religion. This is because the source of true understanding of religion is God-consciousness, not mere knowledge. There is a supplication in a *Hadith* as follows: "O God, I seek refuge with You from the knowledge that is of no benefit." (*Sunan an-Nasa'i*)

*Those who learn the art of right thinking can construct a successful life in this world. It is through right thinking that one understands the difference between one thing and another; one discovers solutions to difficulties; one discerns hidden realities.*

If a person possesses knowledge (in the sense of information) but

does not possess the insight of *marifah* (God-realization), he will not understand the difference between one thing and another. What he speaks will be based simply on the information that he possesses. But in fact, it will be based on ignorance, and nothing else. For God-realization, knowledge is necessary, but a person of *marifah* is able to go beyond external knowledge to see inner realities. He is able to properly analyze information. He can read between the lines. He can see events in their proper perspective. These are some of the attributes of a person of *marifah*. Only for a person of *marifah* can his knowledge become beneficial. Without *marifah*, knowledge will only lead to ignorance.



*Positive thinking gives us the direction to use our intellectual capacity, while negative thinking acts as a check upon the development of that intellectual capacity.*

Right thinking is an art. Those who have learned the art can construct a successful life in this world. It is through right thinking that one understands the difference between one thing and another; one discovers solutions to difficulties; one discerns hidden realities. Through right thinking, one learns how to convert minus points into plus points. Another name for right thinking is positive thinking.

Positive thinking gives us the direction to use our intellectual capacity, while negative thinking acts as a check upon the development of that intellectual capacity. Those who have a tendency towards negative thinking, think and plan only under the influence of external situations, which may or may not be particularly good. By keeping a positive mind, one can rise above the psychology of reaction or retaliation, plan objectively, and arrive at rational conclusions.

The truth of the matter is that it is our level of thinking that determines our success or failure. Success is the result of right thinking. Think right, do right, and succeed, both in this world and the Hereafter. □



# ADJUSTMENT IN MARRIED LIFE

*For Greater Partnership*

**A**djustment is the key to a successful married life. But what kind of adjustment? It's not just about making changes for the sake of it. It's about adjusting for a higher purpose—to create a harmonious environment where both partners can fulfil the true essence of married life.

Married life isn't just about cohabitation; it's about co-sharing. Each partner brings something unique to the relationship, and they both need to share that with each other. Everyone has different qualities, and each partner needs a share from their spouse to help them develop their personalities fully. In a marriage, both partners are givers and takers simultaneously, so they need favourable conditions to benefit from each other.

*To develop one's personality, the most important thing is to broaden one's mind by awakening their consciousness. Three key elements are needed to achieve this: study, observation, and intellectual exchange with others.*

Life is like a cogwheel. If one partner has one cog, the other partner has the other cog, and they both need to connect so that they can work together effectively. There are many marriages where both partners were aware of this and made adjustments to their relationship. But they were also conscious that their adjustments were not just about making things easier; they were about sharing and growing together. As a result, their marriages were successful.

One crucial aspect of marriage is what is called the "intellectual partnership." Every day, we face challenges, encounter new issues, and make decisions. We also want to explore new ideas and perspectives. This is important for both men and women. Everyone needs an intellectual partner with whom they can engage in meaningful conversations, exchange ideas, and discover better solutions. The best intellectual partner is your spouse.

When a man is born, he's like raw iron ore. Nature has shaped him like an ore, but he must develop himself independently. Just as nature

produces ore, man must transform it into steel through intellectual and spiritual growth to create a well-rounded personality.

Intellectual and spiritual development are crucial in this process. To develop one's personality, the most important thing is to broaden one's mind by awakening their consciousness. Three key elements are needed to achieve this: study, observation, and intellectual exchange with others. Books are an excellent source of knowledge and studying them is always beneficial. The world of nature is also a great source of observation. In intellectual learning, it's important to develop the habit of learning from others and continuing this process.

Married couples are each other's immediate intellectual partners. They're always available for each other, making marriage an ideal opportunity for intellectual development. Both partners can interact and progress intellectually together. Intellectual development is essential for everyone, and marriage offers an ideal setting for it. However, to succeed in this endeavour, one must prioritize intellectual development and make it a part of their daily life. In this way, the best way to describe the relationship between husband and wife is 'intellectual partnership.'

Everyone has adopted a culture of adjustment—the businessman with his customers, the working man or woman with their boss. While this adjustment culture is beneficial, its primary goal is often to earn money. However, it's also essential for married couples. Adopting this adjustment culture in marriage means prioritizing something far more important than money—the relationship between husband and wife.



*Adjustment should be for a higher purpose. By following the principle of adjustment, each partner can reap the rewards of intellectual development.*

Conversing with your partner is bound to spark new ideas. This process of intellectual partnership leads to intellectual development, which is the most significant goal for every man and woman.

Man is an explanation-seeking animal. When discussing adjustments in married life, both partners should ask, "Why adjustment?" A

good explanation is crucial to ensure the impact of any adjustment talk. While they may agree with your sermon on adjustment, they may not follow it in their practical lives. Adjustment should be for a higher purpose. By following the principle of adjustment, each partner can reap the rewards of intellectual development.

Remember, your spouse is an ever-ready intellectual partner. They are always available, day and night. Discover this aspect of married life, and any sacrifice for adjustment will seem insignificant. □



People asked the Prophet :  
“Is our Lord close? Can we address Him softly? Or is He distant? Should we address Him loudly?” Then this verse of the Quran [2:186] was revealed: “When My servants question you about Me, tell them that I am near. I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls to Me.”  
[Tafsir Ibn Abi Hatim, Hadith no 1667]

# RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES

## *The Road Ahead*

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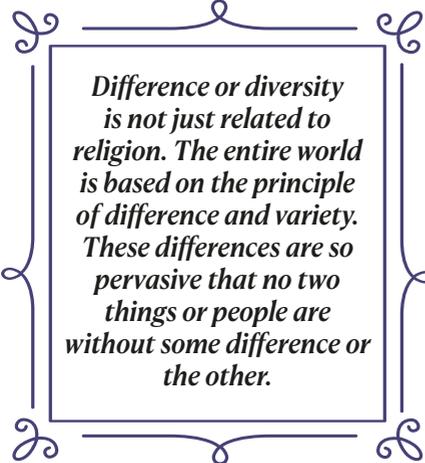
Some fundamental issues concerning the proper education of people about communalism require clarification. One such issue is the matter of religious differences. A comparative study of various religions reveals distinct differences among them. For instance, some religious communities adhere to monism, while others believe in monotheism. Some religions emphasize self-discovery of truth, while others hold that the Truth is revealed by God through messengers.

Some individuals believe that these religious differences and distinctions are the primary causes of all communal conflicts. They argue that communal harmony can only be achieved when these differences are somehow eliminated. Extremists advocate for the complete destruction of these differences, saying, "Bulldoze them all!" However, this approach is utterly impractical and not worth discussing.

Faced with the stark reality of religious diversity, some individuals attempt to somehow or the other 'prove' that all religions are, in fact, one and the same. A prominent example of such a person was the late Dr. Bhagwan Das (1869-1958), a highly accomplished individual. After meticulously studying all the major religions, he authored a book titled "*Essential Unity of All Religions*," which spanned nearly 1000 pages. Dr. Das asserted that the teachings of all religions are identical. However, attempting to demonstrate that all religions are one and the same by selectively extracting portions from various scriptures is akin to someone selectively culling sections from the constitutions of different countries and compiling them into a single volume, claiming that all world constitutions share the same rules, clauses, and provisions. Such an imaginary universal constitution may provide immense satisfaction to

the author of such a book, but it would be utterly unacceptable to even a single nation. Every country would reject it outright. The same principle applies to books like Dr. Das's. While these compilations may bring immense satisfaction to their authors, they cannot be accepted by the followers of diverse religions.

After delving into this issue in great detail, it can be concluded that asserting that all religions are one and the same is not in line with reality. In fact, there are numerous differences between the various religions that make it virtually impossible to prove their sameness. For instance, one religion proclaims the existence of a single deity, while another religion posits the existence of two gods, and a third religion asserts the presence of three gods. Yet another religion claims that there are many gods, while some religions assert that the number of gods is simply beyond comprehension.



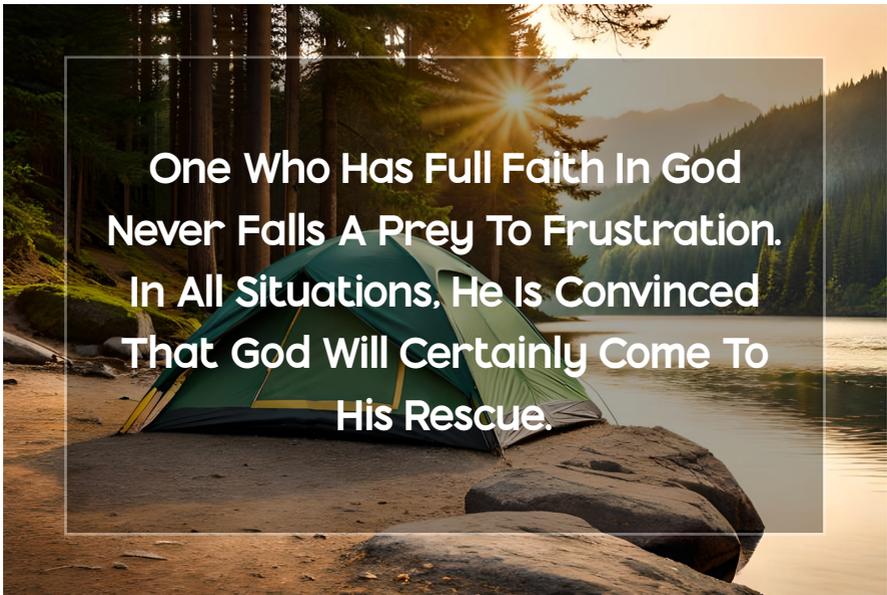
*Difference or diversity is not just related to religion. The entire world is based on the principle of difference and variety. These differences are so pervasive that no two things or people are without some difference or the other.*

In such circumstances, claiming that the teachings of all religions are identical may appeal to the minds of individuals predisposed to wishful thinking, but it lacks logical reasoning and is not based on factual evidence.

Even if, by some means or the other, it could be argued that the scriptures of different religions are, in fact, the same, the problem of differences will still remain unresolved. This is because there are multiple and conflicting interpretations of each of these scriptures, which lead to the formation of numerous sects within each religious community.

The fact is that such difference or diversity is not just related to religion. The entire world is based on the principle of difference and variety. These differences are so pervasive that no two things or people are without some difference or the other.

As someone has very rightly said, 'Nature abhors uniformity.' When differences are themselves a law of nature, how can religion be an exception to this rule? The fact is that, just as differences are found in everything else in the world, so also there are differences between one religion and another. We have not thought it necessary to eliminate differences in other matters, but instead have agreed to disagree. We should adopt the same practical formula in matters of religion as well. Here, too, we should emphasize unity despite differences. The fact is that there is only one way to resolve the issue of religious differences: 'Follow one, and respect all.' □



**One Who Has Full Faith In God  
Never Falls A Prey To Frustration.  
In All Situations, He Is Convinced  
That God Will Certainly Come To  
His Rescue.**

# TOWARDS GLOBAL PEACE

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



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## PEACE AND SECURITY

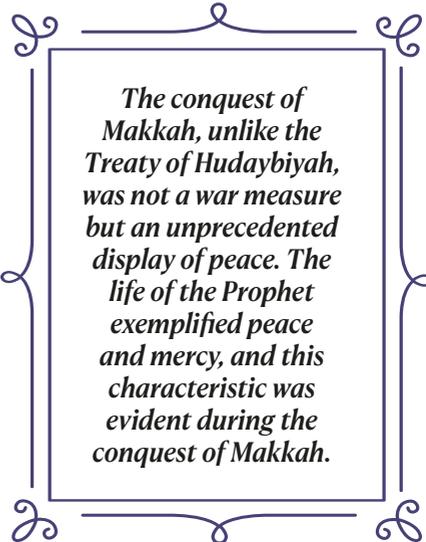
**P**ace and security hold immense significance in Islam. They are not merely social necessities but the very foundation of faith and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad. This truth is evident in the life, teachings, and prayers of the Prophet.

In the analogy of faith and Islam as a vehicle and peace and security as a road, peace serves as the essential companion that makes the journey of faith and Islam both comfortable and fulfilling. Even on the most challenging and bumpy roads, the presence of peace ensures a sense of security and contentment. However, without peace in external conditions, even the strongest faith can be tested and weakened.

The Prophet Muhammad's prayer, recited upon sighting the new moon at the beginning of each month, exemplifies the profound importance of peace. He prayed, "O God! Raise for us this (moon) in peace, faith, security, and Islam." This prayer is not just a fleeting moment of devotion but a conscious plan for months, years, and even the entirety of life.

In this prayer, peace is mentioned before faith and before Islam, conveying a clear message that an environment of peace and security is indispensable for the growth, development, and practice of Islamic teachings.

The life of Prophet Abraham serves as a practical and living example of the profound need for peace. Abraham's life was marked by extreme hostility and the deprivation of his religious freedom. He was subjected to the horrific act of being thrown into a fire and forced to embark on a perilous journey to the uninhabited desert of the Arabian Peninsula. Despite these hardships, Abraham established a global centre for worship in Makkah, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to peace.



*The conquest of Makkah, unlike the Treaty of Hdaybiyah, was not a war measure but an unprecedented display of peace. The life of the Prophet exemplified peace and mercy, and this characteristic was evident during the conquest of Makkah.*

The experiences he endured led him to realize the profound significance of peace, prompting him to pray specifically for the peace of Makkah: "My Lord, make this a city of peace. (14: 35)

Through this prayer, we can comprehend the depth of Abraham's yearning for peaceful conditions. Who could better understand the bliss of peace and security than he, who grappled with the challenges of maintaining faith in such circumstances? Abraham envisioned a permanent peace for the inhabitants of the Arabian Peninsula, particularly in the sacred area surrounding the Sacred Mosque, which would become the global centre of worship. He aspired to be an exemplar of peace for the entire world.

The life of the Prophet Muhammad serves as a practical illustration of the significance of peace. When he proclaimed his prophethood, the people of Makkah attempted to hinder his pursuit of Islam.

In chapter The Clot, a similar scenario is highlighted, “Have you seen one who prevents a worshipper from praying?” After the migration, when the people of Makkah refused to grant him peace even in Madinah, he was compelled to defend himself. However, he seamlessly intertwined the purpose of his prophethood with peace and security. The Prophet declared, “I have been sent with monotheism and a simple religion.”

In this *Hadith*, he emphasized two crucial aspects:

- *Al-Hanafiyah* (Monotheism): This belief in the oneness of God forms the foundation of Islam.
- *Al-Samaha* (Social Tolerance): It encompasses the teachings of tolerance and respect for the rights of others in social interactions.

This *Hadith* underscores the equal importance of monotheism in beliefs and social tolerance in Islam. These two aspects are fundamental to the establishment of peace and security.

The Treaty of Hudaibiyah stands as a remarkable sacrifice made in the pursuit of peace. The Treaty of Hudaibiyah stands as a testament to the Prophet Muhammad’s unparalleled sacrifice and strategic brilliance in establishing peace. It continues to serve as a valuable lesson for us today.

The Prophet demonstrated remarkable humility and wisdom by unconditionally accepting the conditions proposed by the opposing party to facilitate peace and pave the way for the spread of religion. Honest wisdom and insight guided the Prophet’s actions. He didn’t perceive them as acts of cowardice or disrespect to the beliefs of the believers. Instead, he believed that these actions were necessary to remove any potential obstacles to a peaceful agreement. He was confident that God’s vast mercy would ultimately prevail, and that the words of the Prophet would resonate deeply in the hearts of the people.

As for the aftermath of the treaty, it paved the way for a period of peace and prosperity in the region. The Prophet’s actions laid the foundation for future negotiations.

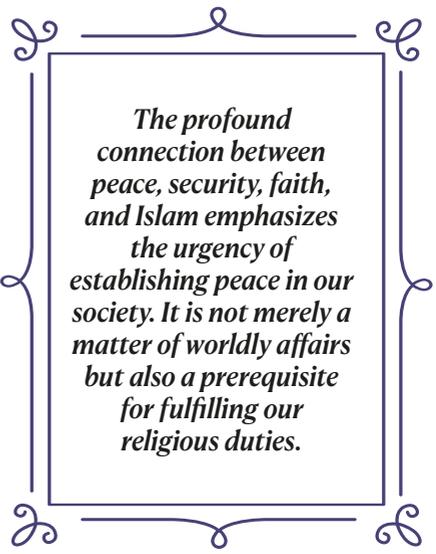
The miraculous effects of the Treaty of Hdaybiyah ushered in a new era in history. Within just four years, the number of hearts illuminated by the light of Islam surged dramatically. Over the course of 19 years, the Muslim population, which had been around 1,700, expanded to 125,000.

The conquest of Makkah, unlike the Treaty of Hdaybiyah, was not a war measure but an unprecedented display of peace. The life of the Prophet exemplified peace and mercy, and this characteristic was evident during the conquest of Makkah.

According to the Treaty of Hdaybiyah, neither party was permitted to attack the other's ally. However, the tribes of Bani Bakr and the Quraish, in support of the Hdaybiyah Agreement, opposed it and killed the people of Bani Khuza'a. When the Bani Khuza'a approached the Prophet with cries of distress, he dispatched his messenger to the Quraish and presented three conditions: they must pay the blood money, renounce their support for Bani Bakr, or declare that the Treaty of Hdaybiyah had been violated.

By listening to these terms on behalf of the Quraish, Qurtah ibn 'Umar said, "We accept the third condition."

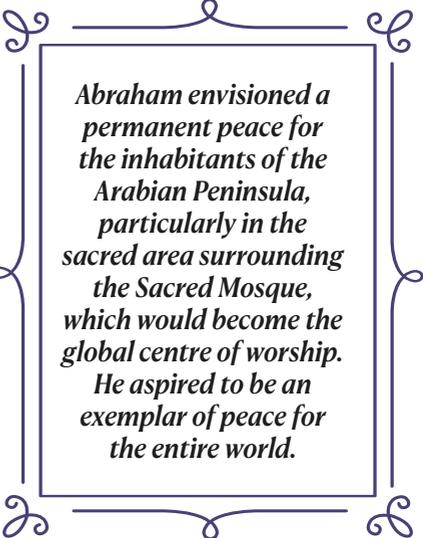
Immediately after this, the Quraish felt remorseful and promptly sent Abu Sufyan to Madinah to negotiate a renewal agreement. He arrived in Madinah and requested the Prophet to renew the peace treaty, but the Prophet refused. The Prophet then marched towards Makkah, ultimately conquering the city. The conquest of Makkah marked a complete victory for the Prophet over his opponents. They had caused immense suffering to him and his Companions, driven him



*The profound connection between peace, security, faith, and Islam emphasizes the urgency of establishing peace in our society. It is not merely a matter of worldly affairs but also a prerequisite for fulfilling our religious duties.*

out of Makkah, and engaged in wars against him. In accordance with the customs of the time, war criminals faced severe punishments, but the Prophet took a different approach. This can be seen from the fact that a Companion exclaimed, “Today is the day of war and bloodshed”, to which the Prophet responded, “Today is the day to forgive.”

The Prophet declared that anyone who entered the Sacred Mosque or sought refuge in Abu Sufyan’s house would be safe. This announcement not only exemplified forgiveness but also demonstrated the power of peace. He also forgave those who had tortured him and declared, “Go, you are all free.” This was the epitome of using the power of peace instead of resorting to violence.



*Abraham envisioned a permanent peace for the inhabitants of the Arabian Peninsula, particularly in the sacred area surrounding the Sacred Mosque, which would become the global centre of worship. He aspired to be an exemplar of peace for the entire world.*

In the case of Abu Sufyan, he championed his renewed peace initiative and pacifism, declaring his house a sanctuary for those seeking refuge. This move not only encouraged him but also resolved the long-standing rivalry between the clans of Bani Umayyah and Bani Hashim.

This strategy not only led to the successful conquest of Makkah but also paved the way for the ideological expansion of Islam. While the Treaty of Hdaybiyah was a non-combat agreement, the conquest of Makkah demonstrated a strategic move that extinguished the flames of vengeance. This aspect of the Prophet’s life continues to serve as a beacon for us, teaching us that true power lies not in violence but in peace and forgiveness.

Today’s followers of Islam have found peace without any sacrifices, which has led them to overlook its true value. This peace is the result of the selfless sacrifices made by the Prophet and his Companions. In contrast, contemporary Muslims are quick to anger and ready to resort to violence over minor matters. However, the Prophet

established social peace by refraining from using holy words, while we today create unrest in society by misusing them. He averted bloodshed by refraining from using holy words, yet we continue to engage in endless cycles of violence in the name of holy words. Notably, the Prophet refrained from resorting to violence even after gaining power, while we continue to fight against the people of the world without any authority.

Islam teaches us that peace is a transformative force that can turn ordinary stones into gold. This is the key to unlocking every opportunity, leading us to the path of progress and prosperity. As God said in the Quran, “Truly, We have granted you a clear victory.” (48: 1) These words remind us that sacrifice in the pursuit of peace is the key to a great victory. It is the key that unlocks doors to opportunity and brings us to the destination of success and fulfillment. The Prophet’s strategy and insight reveal that creating an atmosphere of peace presents opportunities for expressing love of God and the truth of the Messenger’s prophethood. Adopting the Prophet’s teachings and cultivating a spirit of sacrifice for social peace are essential.

This profound connection between peace, security, faith, and Islam emphasizes the urgency of establishing peace in our society. It is not merely a matter of worldly affairs but also a prerequisite for fulfilling our religious duties.

Abraham’s prayer and the Prophet Muhammad’s teachings and practical examples underscore the inherent essence of peace within the religion of Islam. We should pray for peace for our nation and the entire world and take practical steps to achieve it, even if it means sacrificing our personal interests. □



# THE EVOLUTION OF ANESTHESIA

*A Progressive Journey from Science to Spirituality*

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*The following article is written by Hafiz Syed Iqbal Umri.*

**I**n his book *Secret of Success*, under the chapter titled “Sacrificing Oneself for Humanity”, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan narrates the early days of anesthesia with chloroform.

During his studies Dr. Simpson had learnt that chloroform possessed certain properties which temporarily benumbed the senses, so he began to conduct research into it, finally coming to the conclusion that if patients were rendered unconscious by means of chloroform, they could be relieved of severe pain in the course of operations. He continued his research and, by experimenting upon himself, he proved that chloroform could successfully induce harmless anesthesia. This son of a poor baker was thus able to give to humanity, in the words of Dr. Brown, “one of God’s best gifts to His suffering children”. (*The Secret of Success*, p. 324-325)

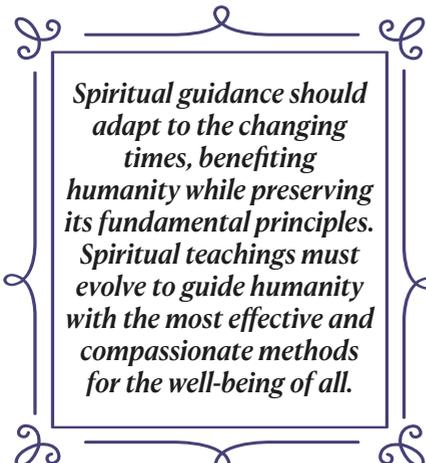
On a personal note, I experienced the profound impact of this discovery firsthand on July 22, 2024, when I underwent surgery for kidney stones on my right kidney. During the two-hour procedure, I was completely anesthetized, experiencing nothing but a state of oblivion. I was completely unaware of the medical interventions taking place, devoid of any sensation of pain or discomfort. This personal experience deeply resonated with Dr. Brown’s words, prompting me to reflect on the divine purpose behind Dr. Simpson’s gift.

O God, only the eternal bliss of Paradise can offer a truly pain-free existence. This is the profound message conveyed to humanity through all the prophets. Dr. Simpson’s contribution provided temporary relief from pain in this world, while the prophets offered the path to salvation from eternal suffering. It is our responsibility to share this uplifting news with the world.

In our modern era, we rely on chloroform to ensure that we remain pain-free during medical procedures. On the Day of Judgement, the divine consciousness granted by the prophets will eradicate all pain, allowing

believers to experience an eternal state of bliss. A believer will exclaim, 'Praise be to God who has taken away all sorrow from us. Our Lord is forgiving and appreciative. Through His grace He has admitted us to the everlasting Abode, where neither toil nor weariness affects us.' (35: 34-35)

On August 6, 2024, I visited the same Sri Ramachandra Hospital in Porur for surgery to remove a stone from my left kidney. The surgery was scheduled for August 8, and when I was taken to the operating theatre, two doctors, Dr. Balaji and Dr. Arafat, arrived to administer anesthesia.



*Spiritual guidance should adapt to the changing times, benefiting humanity while preserving its fundamental principles. Spiritual teachings must evolve to guide humanity with the most effective and compassionate methods for the well-being of all.*

I inquired about the anesthetic they would use, and Dr. Arafat informed me that chloroform had been the standard for the past 15 years, but that sevoflurane was now the preferred choice due to its superior results. This news was incredibly reassuring to me. It reminded me of the constant advancements in medical science, mechanical science, and various other fields. This realization extended beyond medicine and touched upon the realm of spiritual science as well.

Just as chloroform was once the primary anesthetic but was eventually replaced by sevoflurane for better outcomes and reduced harm, there is also a pressing need for continuous improvement in spiritual teachings. Spiritual guidance should adapt to the changing times, benefiting humanity while preserving its fundamental principles. Similarly, sevoflurane's replacement of chloroform achieved the same purpose with fewer adverse effects. Spiritual teachings must evolve to guide humanity with the most effective and compassionate methods for the well-being of all.

Reflecting on this, several things became evident to me. The journey of medical progress didn't end with Dr. Simpson's groundbreaking discovery; continuous advancements have persisted until the present day, with sevoflurane now the commonly used anesthetic. The drive to rectify past mistakes, improve, and find better solutions shapes our future. Just as humanity seeks superior options in every field, God has

always provided divine wisdom to guide humanity. This improvement serves as a reminder that such guidance must be embraced with an open heart.

Through the Quran, God offers the most comprehensive and secure guidance. As it states: Surely, this Quran guides to the most upright way and gives good news to the believers who do good deeds, so that they will have a great reward (17: 9)

My servants (...) listen to what is said and follow what is best in it. These are the ones God has guided; these are the people endowed with understanding (39: 18)

This continuous process of improvement, whether in scientific advancements or spiritual guidance, underscores the enduring relevance of God's wisdom. Humanity must remain open to learning, evolving, and applying the best practices for the collective well-being of society. □



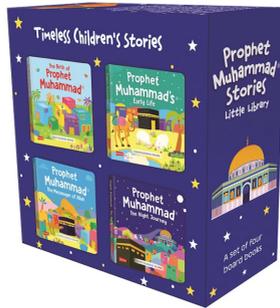
# CHILDREN'S CORNER

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## PROPHET MUHAMMAD STORIES - LITTLE LIBRARY (4 BOARD BOOKS SET)

By Dr. Saniyasnain Khan

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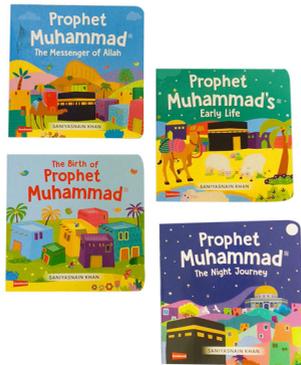


Prophet Muhammad Stories Little Library is a perfect gift for the little children. It comes with four board books with beautiful illustrations and engaging text. This gift box is a great way to introduce the life of Prophet Muhammad to young children.

This Enticing set has four illustrated board books. The four titles are:

1. The Birth of Prophet Muhammad
2. Prophet Muhammad's Early Life
3. Prophet Muhammad: The Messenger of Allah
4. Prophet Muhammad: The Night Journey

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



❁ **Publication Date:** 30th November

❁ **Trim Size:** 15 x 15 cm

❁ **ISBN:** 9789394886537

The following is a selection from Prophet Muhammad: The Night Journey.

During a difficult time in Makkah, the Prophet Muhammad had a special experience called the Night Journey and Ascension, or al-Isra and al-Miraj. This happened when Muslims were facing oppression.

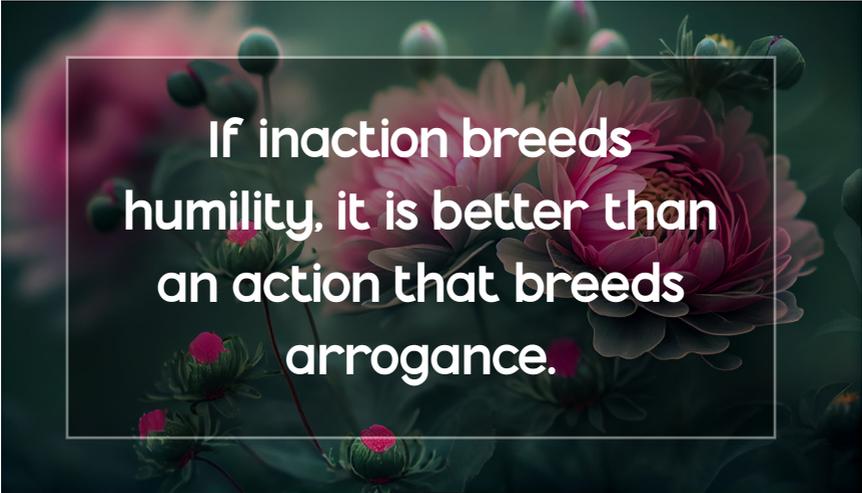
One night, the Angel Jibril woke the Prophet Muhammad up while he

was sleeping near the Kabah. The angel took him on a special animal with wings called Buraq from Makkah to al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

In Al-Aqsa Mosque, the angel Jibril asked the Prophet to lead the prayer. When the Prophet finished, Jibril said to him: "All the Prophets sent by Allah prayed behind you!"

Next, the Angel Jibril took the Prophet through the gates of Heaven, where he saw many angels. After that, Jibril showed the Prophet the Seven Heavens, one by one.

When he was there, he felt really peaceful. He saw a brilliant light from Allah's presence that was very special. □



**If inaction breeds  
humility, it is better than  
an action that breeds  
arrogance.**

# CPS NEWSLETTER

A revamped and renovated CPS International, New Delhi centre was inaugurated on November 23, 2024, by Dr Farida Khanam. The inauguration was attended by CPS members from across India. We share here some photographs to mark the occasion.





## The following is a list of YouTube links for some parts of the inauguration:

*Note: Kindly open the magazine in a PDF reader for the links to be clickable*



Introduction by CPS International, New Delhi:

[Click Here](#)



Welcome Address by Dr Rajat Malhotra:

[Click Here](#)



Address by Dr Saniyasnain Khan:

[Click Here](#)



Supplication by Ms Fathima Sarah:

[Click Here](#)



The inauguration was highlighted by release of 41 books of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan. Download links for some of the books are listed here:



The Issue of Blasphemy:

[Click Here](#)



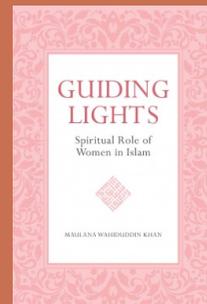
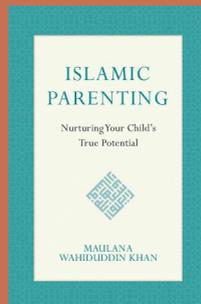
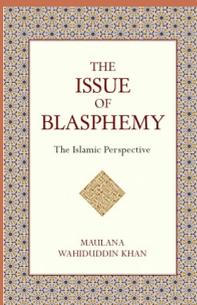
Islamic Parenting:

[Click Here](#)



Guiding Lights:

[Click Here](#)



# CPS WISDOM BOT

Welcome to CPS Wisdom Bot, a chatbot based on Maulana Wahiduddin Khan's books and his translation and commentary of the Quran. Ask about Islam, spirituality, peace and life's challenges, to gain profound insights from his teachings.

This initiative is ingrained in peace and spirituality, offering you the opportunity to interact, learn, and grow through the wisdom of CPS literature.

Click either of the links below to start your journey:



To access via Whats App

Click Here



To access via CPS website

Click Here

**Disclaimer:** This is a trial project. We would greatly appreciate it if you could inform us of any errors or provide feedback at: [info@spiritualmessage.org](mailto:info@spiritualmessage.org)



Let us explore, learn, and share together!

# Access the wisdom of the Quran on iPhone app.

Quran 365 app offers translations of the Quran in 18 languages. The app also includes commentary of the Quran by Maulana Wahiduddin Khan in English, Urdu, Hindi, and Sindhi.

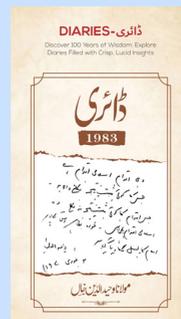


[Link to Download](#)

*(for iOS Device)*



Maulana Wahiduddin Khan's **travelogues** gained wide acclaim from his readers. These travelogues cover not only the many cities of India, but they also encompass international destinations. These writings in Urdu have now been converted into Android app. With excellent UI and useful search features, the app is free to download:



[Link to Download](#)

*(for Android users)*

## Peace Promotion in Muslim Societies

❁ Literature on peace and spirituality were gifted by members of Fruit Growers and Dealers Association Pulwama in presence of President Javid Ahmad Bhat to the team of police officers headed by SSP Madam Pulwama P D Nitya on the occasion of Police Divas at fruit Mandi Prichoo Pulwama.



❁ A shipment of 50,000 sets of English Quran translations, along with the book Discover Islam, was shipped to South Africa. These sets are intended for widespread distribution across

❁ We attended the wedding of a close relative yesterday in Ayodhya and set up a stall to distribute spiritual books among the guests. The responses from the attendees were overwhelming. Someone remarked, “Your stall became the most attractive point of this wedding.” People were amazed to discover that these books were available for free. Some began reading them on the spot and shared how easy they were to understand, unlike most other books. These books resonated with many, making the stall a memorable highlight of the wedding. (~Fahmida Khan: CPS Women Team)



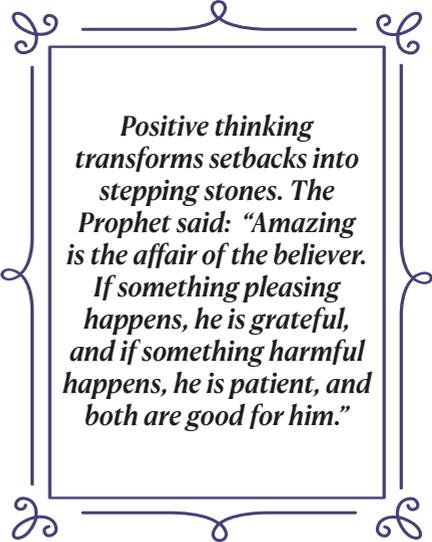
# TRANSFORMING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

## Through Positive Thinking

Life is akin to a journey, full of twists and turns. Like a skilled driver navigating a busy road with focus and care, we must approach life's challenges with patience, adaptability, and thoughtful responses. The diversity of people and perspectives inevitably leads to conflicts, but through positive thinking, even the most unfavourable situations can become opportunities for growth and spiritual elevation.

In Islam, positive thinking stems from *tawakkul* (trust in God). God reminds us in the Quran: You may dislike something although it is good for you, or like something although it is bad for you: God knows but you do not. (2: 216)

This verse encourages believers to view challenges as potential blessings in disguise. When we adopt a positive mindset, we align ourselves with God's divine wisdom, recognizing that every difficulty carries hidden opportunities.



*Positive thinking transforms setbacks into stepping stones. The Prophet said: "Amazing is the affair of the believer. If something pleasing happens, he is grateful, and if something harmful happens, he is patient, and both are good for him."*

The life of the Prophet Muhammad exemplifies this principle. When the people of Ta'if rejected him and treated him cruelly, he prayed for their guidance instead of cursing them. This unwavering positivity turned a moment of rejection into an eventual triumph for Islam.

Positive thinking transforms setbacks into stepping stones. The Prophet said: "Amazing is the affair of the believer. If something pleasing happens, he is grateful, and if something harmful happens,

he is patient, and both are good for him.” (*Sahih Muslim*)

This balance of *sabr* (patience) and *shukr* (gratitude) empowers believers to turn obstacles into spiritual progress.

The *Hadith*, “The number of opportunities is always greater than the number of problems” (*Al-Mustadrak al-Hakim*), further reinforces that no challenge is devoid of opportunities.

By embracing positivity, patience, and gratitude, believers unlock their potential for resilience and success. Let us strive to cultivate this transformative mindset, trusting God and using every trial as a means to grow closer to Him. □



# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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

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



## **What is death?**

Dictionaries often define death as “the permanent cessation of life.” However, religion presents a different perspective. It teaches that death is not the end of life but rather the beginning of a new phase. According to Islam, humans are created as eternal beings. Their life is divided into two parts: the pre-death phase and the post-death phase. The pre-death phase is a time of testing, while the post-death phase is a time of reward or punishment.

## **How should a believer view death?**

A believer should view death as an inevitable transition rather than an end. It is crucial for a believer to recognize that death is a moment of appearing before God, marking the end of the pre-death phase and the beginning of the eternal journey. This perspective encourages believers to prepare adequately for their eventual meeting with their Creator by leading a life that aligns with divine expectations.

## **The Prophet Muhammad said that a believer lives in preparation for death. How does this happen?**

The awareness of death serves as a profound reminder of the temporary nature of worldly existence. It compels believers to reflect on their actions and live in a manner that leads to success in the Hereafter. The Prophet Muhammad emphasized the importance of remembering

death, stating that it should create a heightened sense of urgency in fulfilling one's responsibilities and engaging in righteous deeds. Additionally, witnessing the death of others encourages believers to contemplate their own mortality and the lessons that can be learned from such occurrences. This reflection fosters a deeper connection with God and an opportunity to seek forgiveness for past shortcomings. Ultimately, a believer's outlook on death should be one of acceptance and preparation, cultivating a mindset that prioritizes spiritual growth and readiness for the life that follows.

**Every day, we witness funerals, both of known and unknown people. Yet, why do we fail to learn from these experiences?**

People often overlook the lessons from the deaths of others due to a profound disregard for the reality of mortality. Despite witnessing the passing of loved ones, many individuals continue to live as if they are immune to this inevitable fate. This lack of reflection leads to a dangerous delusion, where people believe, "Others had to die, but I will never die."

These experiences are often missed because people are caught up in their own lives and desires, neglecting the valuable lessons that can be learned from observing the fate of those who have passed away. The Prophet Muhammad emphasized that witnessing someone else's death should prompt thoughts about one's own death, but this reflection is often absent in daily life.

**The Prophet asked us to remember death frequently. Will it make us negative and disinterested in life?**

When we become aware of the reality that death can strike us at any moment, a sense of urgency is created within us. We become more mindful of our time and avoid wasting it on trivial pursuits. Such individuals are focused, and, in fact, their quality of life is often better than that of those who live in forgetfulness of death.

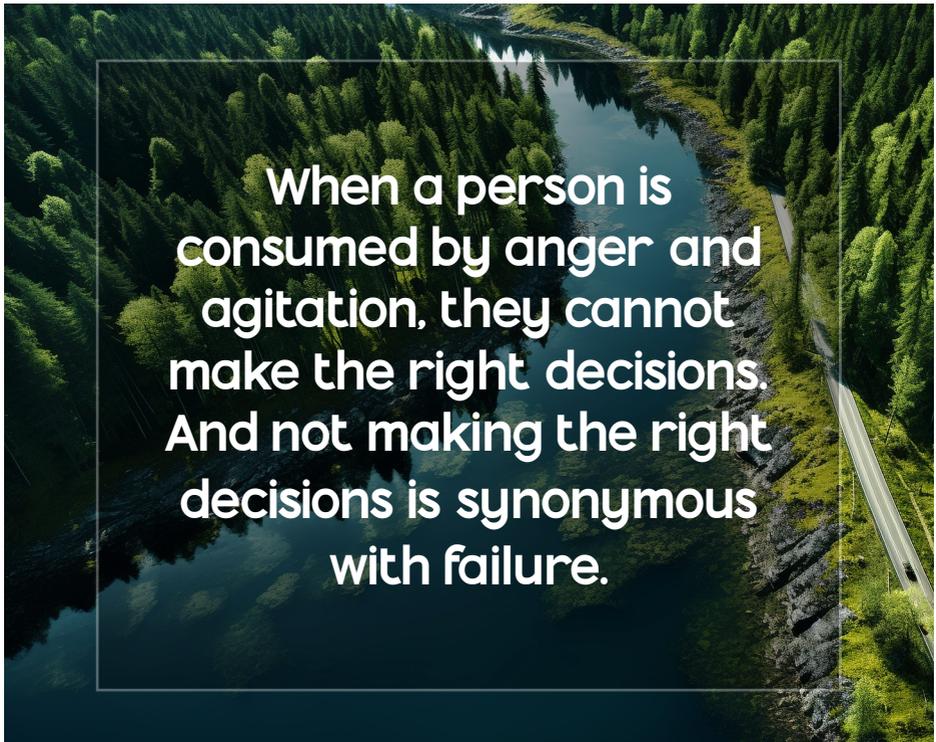
The ultimate goal of humanity is to discover our Creator, purify ourselves, and develop our spirituality. A person who understands the uncertainty of life will rush to fulfill their goals before meeting their Creator.

**In one of the prayers of the Prophet, he supplicated, "O God, let the best day of my life be that day when I meet You." How should we live our lives so that our best day becomes the day we meet God?**

By living in accordance with God's desires, being a well-wisher to others, conveying the peaceful message of God, living in God's remembrance, and by loving God the most!

### **How can we avoid living in despair?**

By comprehending that God has provided countless chances for humanity to demonstrate their worth, individuals should view setbacks as temporary obstacles rather than definitive failures. Furthermore, the Quran emphasizes that the Day of Judgement will be the day of actual gain and loss. A person's success lies in recognizing their Creator, bowing before Him, and adhering to a life of righteousness. Such an individual will find their reward with the Lord of the universe, achieving the ultimate triumph.□



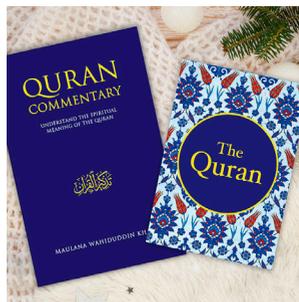
**When a person is  
consumed by anger and  
agitation, they cannot  
make the right decisions.  
And not making the right  
decisions is synonymous  
with failure.**

# THE WORD OF GOD

*From The Scriptures*

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

*Translated from Arabic and commentary by  
Maulana Wahiduddin Khan*



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

**Believers! Fear God, and let every soul look to what it lays up for the future. Fear God: God is aware of what you do. Do not be like those who forgot God, so that He caused them to forget their own souls [their own true interests]. It is they who are the rebellious ones. The people of the Fire and the people of Paradise are not equal. The people of Paradise are the victorious ones (59: 18-20)**

Human life is divided into two parts: 'today' and 'tomorrow'. The present world is a man's 'today' and the world of the Hereafter is man's 'tomorrow'. Whatever a man does in the present world, he has to face the basic consequences in the ensuing longer life. This is the truth and the other name for it is Islam. Man's success depends upon his always keeping this reality in mind. The whole life of one who is forgetful of this, will go wrong. In this matter, there is no difference between a believer or a non-believer. Believers will have the advantage only if they acknowledge realities. If they become forgetful of them, they will also meet the same fate as their precursors.

**Had We sent down this Quran on a mountain, you would certainly have seen it falling down and splitting asunder, because of the fear of God. We set forth these parables to men so that they may reflect. He is God: there is no deity save Him. He knows the unseen and the visible. He is the Compassionate, the Merciful. He is God, there is no**

**deity save Him, the Sovereign, the Most Pure, the Source of Peace, the Granter of Security, the Protector, the Mighty, the Subduer, the Supreme, Glory be to God, who is far above what they associate with Him. He is God—the Creator, the Originator, the Giver of Form. His are the most excellent names. Everything in the heavens and earth declares His glory. He is the Mighty, the Wise One (59: 21-24)**

The Quran is a declaration of the vital fact that man is not free, but is answerable for all his deeds to God Who is all-powerful and Who keeps a close watch on the actions of all humankind. This fact is of such grave import that it is enough to make even mountains tremble. But man is so negligent, forgetful and insensitive that, even after knowing this awesome fact, he is not perturbed. The names of God mentioned here are, on the one hand, an introduction to God's Being. On the other hand, they show how Great is that Being Who is the Creator of human beings and who keeps a constant watch over them. If an individual actually realizes this, he will be completely engrossed in the remembrance and praises of God. The universe, by virtue of its creative meaningfulness, mirrors the attributes of God. It is itself wholly taken up with singing the praises of God and urges human beings to follow suit. □





A person living in wishful thinking waits for the results of the journey he is yet to begin.

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