

Da'wah Course DP206 at IIU

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July 15 to September 30, 2003

Outline Lecture 12: September 30, 2003.

Recommended books.

1. Questions this Modern Age Puts to Islam by M. Fethullah Guelen
Published: Truestar (London) Ltd., P.O. Box 2881, London N3 3UD, U.K.
Note: I have not yet read this book. This appears to be Turkish author.
2. Studies in Early Hadith Literature by Muhammad Mustafa Al-Azami
Amana Trust Publications. Contact ISNA for their Islamic Book Service.
Note: This is the Ph.D. thesis of Dr. Al-Azami at Cambridge University, England. This repudiates many attacks on Hadith by the orientalist.

Commonly raised questions.

1. Isn't it true that the Qur'an verse "*la yamassuhu ill-al-mutahharoon*" (56:79) forbids people from touching the Qur'an under "impure" condition?

Answer: We should look at the context of the verse because we cannot take one verse in isolation and interpret it. Read 56:75-80, which is in translation,

"Nay, I swear by the places of the stars; and lo! That verily is a tremendous oath, if you know. That is indeed a Noble Qur'an; in a Book kept hidden, which none touches except the purified, a revelation from the Rabb of the Worlds."

Evidently, Allah is not talking about touching the Qur'an but *Kitabib-Maknoon*, a Hidden Book. In another place in the Qur'an Allah calls it *Lawhim-Mahfoodh*, a Protected Tablet. This book or the tablet is in the heaven, which none touches but the angels. This is not about the human beings.

It is understood that one verse of the Qur'an is as sacred as the whole Qur'an. If the Qur'an cannot be touched by an impure even one verse could not be touched by an impure person. There are many authentic Ahadith saying that the Messenger of Allah sent out letters to many kings and rulers that included Qur'an verses and these letters were handed over to the non-Muslim rulers.

Secondly, we do not find a single authentic Hadith verifying the prohibition by the prophet. There is one Hadith narrating that a woman in her days of menstruation should not touch the Qur'an but Hadith has been shown to be a weak one by Imam Ali ibn Hazm in his book *Al-Muhalla*. Ibn Hazm has explained in many pages of discussion on this issue and rejects any such prohibition.

Thirdly, Qur'an is the best Da'wah book for all the people including Arab Christians and Jews. Is there any choice when an Arab Christian asks for a copy of the Qur'an to read but giving him the Qur'an in Arabic? Can you say no to him? If he takes bath (Ghusl) or does Wudu, is his purifying ritual with impure faith any good?

Some people cite the story of Umar ibn Al-Khattab's conversion story but this is also out of context. This incidence took place before his Shahadah and wudu before Shahadah is not valid. Also consider that the verse of wudu (5:6) was revealed in the last year of Prophet's life. In the verse 9:28 Allah says that idolaters are filthy because there is no faith of unity of Allah and other components of Iman in their heart; the same applies to all non-Muslims. What about hypocrites who say that they are Muslims but they have no faith in their heart – can you forbid them from touching the Qur'an? Allah says in the verse 4:45 that hypocrite will be thrown in the lowest level of hell that means that even Kuffar will be in a higher level of hell.

2. Allah guides whom He wills and misguides whom He wills; isn't this verse is about fatalism in Islam? Such verses appear as 2:6-7, 18:17, 16:36, and 7:178.

Answer: There is no fatalism in Islam because Allah says that He does not change condition of a people until they change themselves (13:11). It means that people are not condemned at birth or elevated at birth but people have choices to change themselves and this is the meaning of guidance. In verses 2:2-5 Allah gives option to choose and such choice is repeated throughout the Qur'an at numerous places. See verses 91:1-10 where Allah says that He has given man guidance in his conscience to choose between right and wrong. Again in 92:1-13 Allah says he makes it easy for a person to follow a good path or a bad path whatever he chooses himself. Verses 53:38-41 and 39:53-54 emphasizes that each person is responsible for his own burdens.

3. Is Satan a fallen angel?

Answer: Qur'an verses 2:34, 7:11 and others gives the impression that the Shaytan is a fallen angel but Qur'an clearly says that he was a Jinn, see 18:50.

4. Jesus was not killed or crucified (Qur'an 4:157) then what happened to him?

Answer: Muslims offer two theories, (a) Substitution theory, and (b) Swoon theory. Some Ahadith and the Gospel of Barnabas support substitution theory. According to this theory Judas Iscariot, a disciple of Jesus betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver and helped the arrest of Jesus by the Roman police. But Allah miraculously changed Judas' face to appear like Jesus and he was the one who was crucified. According to Swoon theory, which is supported by Ahmad Deedat and some modern day Muslim students of the Bible, Jesus was crucified but he did not die on the cross; he went into swoon, taken down from the cross thought to be dead and was buried in the stone chamber where he was revived. Allah knows best.

5. Why do Muslims pray towards Makkah?

Answer: This is done according the Will of Allah as given in verses 2:142-144. According to the verse 3:196 Ka'bah in Makkah was destined to be the Qiblah from the very beginning.

6. Was Islam spread by force?

Answer: No, there is no evidence for such an accusation. Qur'an verse 2:256 opposes it and it does not condone any forced conversion. A British Christian scholar Sir Thomas Arnold researched this topic and wrote a book called "Preaching of Islam" published in 1896 in England. It is being republished in Pakistan and India. Muslim tolerance of other faiths is evident from the history of Orthodox Church, which has been headquartered in Istanbul (formerly Constantinople) since the 4th century and Muslims never removed it. There are people of many other faiths living side by side with Muslims without being harassed and they have prospered. Muslims in Spain, Mediterranean islands and India are good examples where Muslims ruled for 7 to 9 centuries and

remained a minority. Turkish Muslims ruled East Europe for four centuries yet remained a minority.

6. Why marriage of a Muslim woman to a Christian or Jewish man is prohibited but the converse is not?

Answer: Qur'an verse 2:221 prohibited all interfaith marriages, which was revealed in early Madinah period. The verse 5:5, which was revealed in the last year of the Prophet's life makes an exception for the Muslim men to marry a women from the People of the Book but makes some strict conditions. Some of the conditions are also mentioned in the verse 60:1. The verse 60:10 explicitly prohibits the marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim man. See my article "Interfaith Marriages" to be posted at my web site www.ilaam.net.

7. Is Islam against progress? If Islam is so good then why are the Muslim countries so backward every way?

Answer: In the verse 24:55 Allah promises to make Muslims a Superpower provided they meet certain conditions. Evidently, Muslims in our time do not meet those conditions. In addition, in the verse 2:85 Allah promised to make the Muslims disgraceful if they do not implement commandments of the Qur'an. An overwhelming majority of the Muslims are ignoring many of the Qur'an's commandments and those who are trying to implement them, are doing it with mediocrity.

8. Is Allah the moon god?

Answer: Robert Morey wrote this false accusation in 1991 in his book. Many Christian Fundamentalists have picked it up and publishing a lot of trash based on this false accusation. Chick publication has published several tracts on anti-Islam themes. A simple answer is given in my article Allah, the Creator and Lord of the World posted on my web site. The answer is based on the Qur'anic declarations that Allah is the Creator of the Sun, the Moon and the Earth- the question is that creator and the created cannot be the same. Allah is the Creator and Moon is His creation.

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