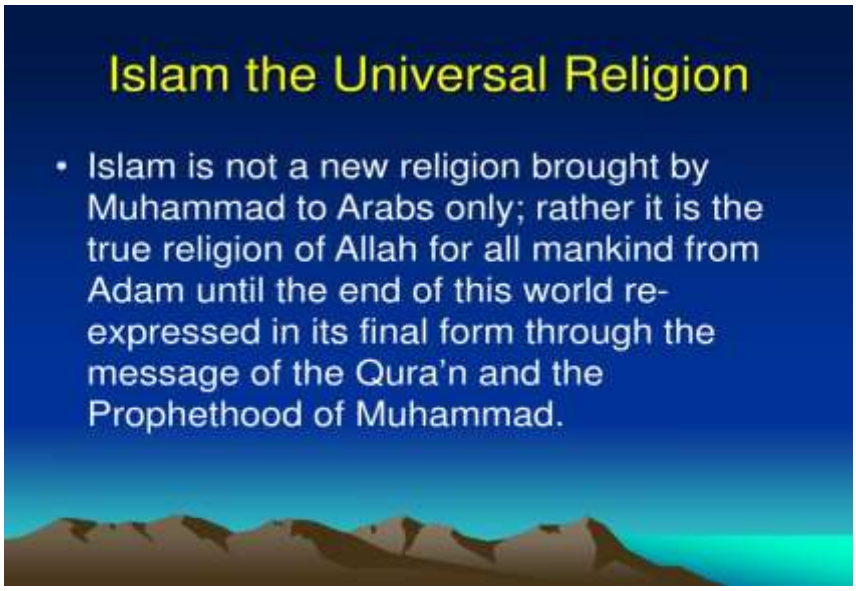

Islam is a Universal Religion

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After its emergence in Mecca in 610, Islam spread rapidly. The victories of the Islamic armies under the leadership of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) against infidels and polytheists strengthened the religion. Following the death of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in 632, during the reign of the four caliphs, Muslims achieved great conquests, expanding their borders and becoming wealthy. The advance of Islam extended into the interior of Europe through the Umayyads, Abbasids, Umayyads of Andalusia, Seljuks, and Ottomans, with Islamic armies conquering these territories. This expansion of Islam and its dominance over the world was met with great sorrow by followers of other religions and polytheists, leading them to devise numerous plans to weaken and ultimately destroy Islam. The Crusades were undertaken for this purpose, but each time they resulted in the defeat of the Crusaders.

When Europe witnessed the decline and weakening of the Ottoman Empire in the early 19th century, it devised plans to destroy Islam and forced the Ottomans to issue the Tanzimat Decree in 1839. During the Tanzimat period, Europeans infiltrated the Ottoman Empire, attempting to undermine it religiously and

economically. Knowing the power of Islam, Europeans understood that they could not dominate the world without eliminating it. Therefore, they sent Orientalists and missionaries to Islamic countries to distort Islam. These Orientalists and missionaries, through numerous slanders and lies, sowed discord among Muslims, attempting to alienate them from Islam and undermine its fundamental beliefs and tenets. These efforts began with the Tanzimat and have continued to this day through various plans and deceptions. These distorting movements, lasting nearly 200 years, have influenced some people in Islamic countries and led to the corruption of Islamic beliefs. The distortion campaigns put forward by the West have mainly focused on the following issues:

1) Islam is an Arab religion and is based on Arab culture, customs, and traditions. Islam is incompatible with the customs and traditions of other countries.

2) After a long period of contemplation, Prophet Muhammad arranged the verses of the Quran to suit the needs of his society and used verses from the Torah and the Gospel for this purpose. Then he declared himself a prophet and convinced those around him. Prophet Muhammad was an intelligent man and considered it his duty to spread his religion by conquering countries with the sword.

3) The reason for the current poverty and weakness of Islamic countries is Islam. Since Islam commands Muslims to have faith and submit to fate, Muslims have rejected wealth and preferred poverty.

These views have spread and gained acceptance among Muslims who have not fully internalized Islam. Those who found the commands and prohibitions of Islam burdensome to their egos have embraced the views of Western orientalists. They have believed that Western civilization and its wealth arose from these views, thus stepping outside the bounds of Islam. Furthermore, these individuals, influenced by the modernist ideas of the West, have come to believe that life is solely about this world. Thinking, "We only come to this world once, and we will perish anyway," they have desired to fully enjoy and indulge in this worldly life. We see these upheavals very clearly in the last fifty years of the Ottoman Empire. During the Constitutional Monarchy period, many members of parliament were non-Muslims. Many religious figures representing Islam knowingly or unknowingly sided with them. These upheavals continued after the proclamation of the Republic. The efforts to restructure the Quran and religious practices into Turkish and the attempts to eliminate the Arabic language should

be understood in this context. In this situation, Muslims struggled to understand true Islam. These upheavals continue in various forms today. Below, we respond to these distortions by Western orientalists:

● Islam is not an Arab religion. Islam does not represent Arab culture, customs, and traditions.

● Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did not write the Quran himself.

● The language of prayer is Arabic.

● Islam is not the cause of poverty and weakness.

Islam is not an Arab Religion

Islam is universal and addresses all people. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the last prophet sent to all people. This truth is expressed in many verses of the Quran.

"*We have not sent you but as a universal (Messenger) to men giving them glad tidings and warning them (against sins). But most people do not understand."* (Saba, 34/28)

Furthermore, the following verse expresses that our Prophet was sent as a mercy to all worlds:

"*We have not sent you but as a mercy for all creatures*." (The Prophets, 21/107)

Prophets who preached religions like Christianity and Judaism were sent to specific nations and societies. However, this is not the case for Islam. In the religion of Islam and in the hadiths of the Prophet, It is stated that in the sight of God, Arabs have no superiority over other people, nor do other people have superiority over Arabs. Our Prophet clearly expressed this in his Farewell Sermon:

"O people! Your Lord is one, and your father is one; you are all children of Adam, and Adam was created from earth. Just as an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab over an Arab, so a person with fair skin has no superiority over a dark-skinned person, nor a dark-skinned person over a fair-skinned person. Superiority is only in piety, in fearing God. The most valuable among you in the sight of God is the one who fears Him most.

O believers! Listen carefully to my words and remember them well. A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim, and thus all Muslims are brothers. The blood and property of a Muslim are not permissible for his brother. However, if he has given his property willingly, that is different."

Since Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), who was chosen and sent as the last prophet by God Almighty, was an Arab, it is quite normal that the Quran was revealed in the Arabic language. Our Prophet first preached to the Arabs, who were of his own race. Therefore, it is quite natural that the Quran was revealed in Arabic so that they could understand it.

"*Thus We have sent down to you an Arabic Quran so that you may warn the people of Mecca and those around it and frighten them of the terror of the Day of Resurrection, about which there is no doubt. A group will be in Paradise and a group in Hell*." (Shura, 42/7)

"*We have not sent any messenger except with the language of his people so that he may explain to them clearly.*" (Ibrahim, 14/4)

"*If We had made it a Quran in a foreign language, they would have said, 'Should not the verses of this Book have been explained in detail? A foreign language for an Arab messenger?'"* (Fussilet, 41/44)

However, as stated in both the verses and the hadiths, the message of Islam is for all humanity. In fact, the message of Islam was also given to all jinn. Our Prophet was sent as a prophet to all the worlds, just as he was the prophet of the jinn. Therefore, unlike other religions, Islam addresses all beings and declares that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was sent to them as a prophet. For this reason, it is completely wrong to say that Islam is exclusive to Arabs.

As Islam spread, other nations also accepted it and made great contributions to it. For example, Turks, Iranians, and Indians, upon encountering Islam, accepted it and performed many actions to serve it. In fact, the contributions of these non-Arab nations to Islam were so significant that they ensured the survival of Islam, both economically and culturally, for centuries. Thus, through the efforts of these nations, Islamic civilization encompassed the entire world and taught humanity, morality, science, and all good qualities. These facts are recorded in all world history books. To claim otherwise is a great folly and misconception.

Considering all these explanations, we can conclude that Islam does not represent Arab culture, customs, and traditions. The verses of the Quran laid down various commands and prohibitions to correct the wrong behaviors of the Arab society of that time. However, such and similar errors exist in all societies in the world. Therefore, the commands and prohibitions of the Quran are valid for correcting the wrongs and evils of all societies in the world. Slavery, usury, exploitation, and oppression are common problems of all human communities. The religion of Islam has forbidden these and shown the right path to all people. The Prophet, of course, first educated his own society with these commands and prohibitions. However, he also stated that these are valid for all societies in the world. Therefore, the claims of missionaries and orientalists on this subject are completely unfounded and untrue. In fact, they themselves know that these claims are not true. But they have not been able to do anything else to hinder Islam. Indeed, some honest researchers have admitted this.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) Did Not Write the Quran Himself

The Holy Quran was revealed by Allah Almighty to the heart of His Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) through Gabriel. Therefore, the Holy Quran is the word of Allah and is not a creation.

"*Say: Whoever is an enemy to Gabriel, let him know that it was he who sent down the Qur'an to your heart by the permission of Allah, as a guidance and a glad tidings for the believers, confirming the revelations that preceded it.*" (Al-Baqara, 2/97)

This struggle has been waged for centuries in the Islamic world. Those who claimed that the Qur'an was not created were persecuted. However, the truth has not changed, and in the end, people have given it its true due. Western orientalists who tried to destroy and distort the Islamic religion have tried to exploit this event and claimed that the Qur'an was written by the Prophet Muhammad. According to them, the Prophet Muhammad contemplated for a long time, examined heavenly books such as the Torah and the Gospel, and expressed the verses of the Qur'an according to the needs of his own society. It is easy to prove how invalid these claims are. Because a divine book like the

Qur'an cannot be the product of human contemplation. If it were possible to create a Quran through mere contemplation, many people would have been able to write numerous copies of the Quran over the past 1400 years. However, this has never been the case. Many philosophers and scientists have come and gone since the advent of Islam, but none have even considered such a thing, let alone attempted it. They knew perfectly well that it was impossible. In this regard, Allah Almighty, challenging the disbelievers and polytheists, declared that they could not write anything similar to even a single verse or surah of the Quran.

"*This Quran cannot be from a source other than Allah. It confirms the scriptures that came before it and explains them in detail. There is nothing in it that is in doubt. It is revealed by the Lord of the worlds. Do they say, 'Did the Prophet fabricate it?' Say, 'Then bring forth a surah like it, and call upon whoever you can besides Allah, if you are truthful.'"* (Jonah, 10/37,38)

"*Or do they say, 'He invented it himself?' Then say to them, 'Bring ten chapters like it, invented by yourselves, and call upon whomever you can besides Allah to help you. If you are truthful, you will do so.'"* (Hud, 11/13)

These verses are a miracle of the Quran. Because no human being has ever been able to express a verse similar to the verses of the Quran. In this regard, the disbelievers and polytheists have given up hope. However, since those who try to distort the religion of Islam have no other means at their disposal, they try to achieve their goals by putting forward such false ideas. But they will never achieve their goals.

People who cannot internalize Islam try to justify themselves by clinging to these ideas of Western orientalists. They have voiced these false and untrue claims of the orientalists as a means to justify their own disbelief and polytheism. However, these individuals are also responsible for their actions. Tomorrow, in the hereafter, they will be brought in front of God bearing the burden of both their own sins and the sins of those they led astray. Let them consider what kind of reckoning they will face there. God's law is unchanging. The rules He has set will be applied fairly to everyone. Everyone will receive the consequences of their deeds in the hereafter. These truths are expressed in many verses of the Quran.

Western orientalists write that the Prophet and Muslims forced Islam upon people using the sword. According to them, Islam is a religion of tyranny. These

claims have also been voiced by infidels and polytheists who could not accept Islam. However, many historians have stated that this is not the truth. Islam brought peace and security to the countries it reached. Thanks to this, Islamic states survived for centuries. Even the Christians in Istanbul, when Istanbul was besieged, refused to cooperate with the Catholics, saying, "We would rather see an Ottoman turban in Istanbul than a Catholic cross." This is a sign that these people believe in the honesty and trustworthiness of Islamic governments. However, in every era, there have been people who wanted to slander Islam. These individuals have defamed Islam with lies and slander, trying to diminish its value.

It is possible to encounter such people today as well. However, these activities have gradually lost their power, and the truth has once again prevailed in that society. Therefore, the efforts of unbelievers to slander and belittle Islam are in vain. By insulting Islam, they themselves put themselves in a difficult position before God. They will one day face the consequences of their actions. On that day, the very things they denied will surround them. There will be no intercessor or helper for them there. What a terrible outcome!

"*Say to those who disbelieve: You will surely be defeated and gathered into Hell. What a terrible resting place it is! Indeed, those who disbelieve and die while they are disbelievers, even if they were to give a ransom of gold filling the earth, it would never be accepted from them. For them is an unbearable torment, and they will have no helpers."* (Al-Imran, 3/12,91)

"Those who deny Our verses and refuse to believe in them—the gates of heaven will not be opened for them, nor will they enter Paradise until a camel passes through the eye of a needle. Thus We punish the wrongdoers. For them is a bed of fire in Hell, and above them is a covering of fire. Thus We punish the wrongdoers." (Araf, 7/40,41)

The language of prayer is Arabic

The verses of the Quran are the words of Allah. The words in the verses are composed of Arabic letters. However, their formation is entirely through a divine composition. This divine composition carries a meaning and a spiritual secret. These words contain God's divine secrets. Therefore, when Quranic verses are

recited during prayer, they must be read in Arabic as they were revealed. Otherwise, the divine meanings and secrets contained within these words will not be revealed. Reciting them in Arabic earns merit, which in turn reveals God's divine favor. It is God's command and desire. The secrets of these words are explained in Sufism through the Science of Secrets.

God Almighty commands that the Quran be recited with His names:

"*Read in the name of your Lord who created."* (Al-Alaq, 96/1)

In the Quran, He asks that He be glorified with His exalted names:

"*So glorify your Lord with His great name."* (Al-Waqi'ah, 56/96)

Therefore, it is commanded to remember God with these Arabic names. These words are not actually ordinary Arabic words. They are entirely composed of spiritual secrets. Reading the Quranic verses by translating them into Turkish does not reveal the same spiritual secrets and does not yield the same reward. When the Turkish translations of the Quranic verses are read, their divine secrets and characteristics are lost. For this reason, the language of worship in prayers is Arabic. Also, reading the Quran in Arabic is obligatory for this reason. It is the duty of a Muslim to understand the meaning of the verses of the Quran by reading their translations and interpretations, and this earns reward. Because knowing what Allah has revealed is important and a form of knowledge. Learning these things is also the duty of a Muslim. However, people can pray to Allah in any language they wish. There is no rule that prayer must be in Arabic. Prayer in any language is valid for Allah. However, expressing Allah's names in Arabic in prayers is beneficial for the acceptance of the prayer. Because great spiritual secrets are hidden in the Arabic forms of Allah's names. Only those who are knowledgeable in Sufism can understand these. It is a command from Allah that His servants pray to Him. Those who avoid and belittle prayer are condemned in Islam. Because in a verse it is said,

"*Pray to your Lord humbly and in secret. Indeed, He does not love the transgressors.*" (Araf, 7/55)

"*Say: Would my Lord have valued you if it were not for your prayer? But you have indeed denied [the truth], so the punishment for that will be inevitable."* (Furkan, 25/77)

“*But your Lord said, ‘Pray to Me, and I will answer you. Indeed, those who turn away from Me in arrogance will enter Hell in humiliation.’”* (Mumin, 40/60)

People who cannot internalize Islam have claimed that reading the Quran from a Turkish translation is the same thing and can be recited in prayer. However, this claim has no validity. Because the verses of the Quran have a divine structure. If you translate it into Turkish, this divine structure is distorted. This distorted structure cannot be recited in prayer. These ideas are constantly put forward by Western orientalists, thus trying to prevent the divine grace and mercy of the Quran from reaching Muslims. In prayer, it is sufficient for a person to recite the Fatiha surah and certain short surahs from memory. There is no need to know the specifics of the Arabic language for this. Memorizing these short surahs is quite easy. In an education system where children are made to memorize poems, it is easy for children to memorize these short surahs, learning their meanings as well, and it does not pose a problem.

Of course, Muslims should also strive to understand the meanings of the verses and acquire knowledge. Knowing the Arabic language is not necessary for this. Reading the translations and interpretations written by reliable Islamic scholars is sufficient. However, some may consider learning the meanings of Quranic verses as nonsense. Some may say that it corrupts and confuses the human mind. Some may claim that it prevents people from engaging in science. These are untrue. Because Islamic scholars, for centuries, have written many research papers and books in the world of science and technology, knowing Islam, thus contributing to the development of science. The foundations of today's advancements in Western science are thanks to the knowledge developed by Islamic scholars between the 8th and 13th centuries. It is beneficial to read the books of Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin on this subject. If the Arabic language had hindered scientific thinking, Islamic scholars would not have been able to produce knowledge for centuries.

Those who make such claims are people who do not believe in Islam. They may not believe in Islam themselves. Allah Almighty has given people freedom in matters of belief.

“*There is no compulsion in religion, for truth has been clearly distinguished from falsehood.”* (Al-Baqara, 2/256)

"*And say: The truth is from your Lord. So let whoever wills believe, and whoever wills disbelieve.*" (Al-Kahf, 18/29)

However, it is a very ugly act to slander believers and try to weaken their faith simply because they themselves do not believe. But they are responsible for their actions and will be held accountable in the hereafter. The law of Allah is unchanging.

Today, many people strive to learn foreign languages for worldly gain. However, those who learn Arabic for religious reasons will earn merit that will benefit them in the hereafter. This, of course, applies to those who believe in the hereafter and the existence of the Day of Judgment. We have nothing to say to those who do not believe this; they will give their own account.

Attempts to denigrate and hinder the learning of Arabic are common occurrences throughout history. However, these efforts have never been successful. It has not yielded results in the long run. To glorify His religion, Allah Almighty has directed Muslims to learn Arabic and understand His commands and prohibitions. No matter how much they are hindered, one day Muslims will turn to learning Arabic en masse. Today, we are witnessing these same activities closely. Muslims are striving to learn Arabic. Allah Almighty has promised to perfect His religion, even if the disbelievers and polytheists do not want it.

"*They want to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths, but Allah will complete His light, even though the disbelievers dislike it.*" (Saff, 61/8)

"Today I have perfected your religion for you and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as your religion." (Maide, 5/3)

Islam is Not the Cause of Poverty and Weakness

Western orientalists, attributing the poverty and weakness of Islamic societies in the 19th and 20th centuries to Islam, have put forward the claim that religion and worship make people poor. They have claimed that abandoning Islam is necessary to become rich. The absurdity of all this is obvious. However, they have no other option but to deceive ignorant people and lead them astray from Islam. Yet, Muslim countries have become impoverished due to the loss of their natural resources and the destruction of their ability to compete in trade as a result of

exploitation by Western imperialists. Those who aim solely for wealth have considered any means permissible to achieve it. Western imperialists, who occupied and exploited countries through various tricks and force, tried to deceive the people they exploited by slandering the Islamic religion. However, these weapons eventually backfired. The lust for wealth also turned imperialists against each other, causing the deaths of millions in the wars they waged against one another. This is the tragic story of people who portray religion as the cause of poverty and kill each other for the sake of wealth. These stories will continue in the history of humanity. Because humankind is an insatiable being. This greed and passion will continue until the Day of Judgment. Only intelligent Muslims can protect themselves from this. However, only those who adhere to the Quran and Sunnah can save themselves from the calamity of worldly greed.

"*And you love wealth and possessions without limit."* (Fajr, 89/20)

"Women, sons, heaps of gold and silver, thoroughbred horses, livestock, and crops have been made attractive to the people. But these are merely the fleeting benefits of this worldly life. But the beauty of the eternal life is with Allah." (Ali Imran, 3/14)

Those influenced by the propaganda of Western orientalists and those who do not believe in Islam have put forward the following views in our country:

"Those who are religious and moral are condemned to starve. Those who have religion and honor cannot earn, they are condemned to remain poor. It is impossible to enrich the country with such people. Therefore, we must first eliminate the concept of religion and honor."

These views are completely inconsistent and have no connection with reality. Religion and morality do not command people to starve, nor can they be the cause of it. Because religion and morality command people to work and produce honestly. Societies that are honest and productive never remain hungry and poor. Being moral and honest is one of the primary factors that sustains a society. Chaos reigns in immoral societies because people consider all kinds of deceit and trickery as their right to gain advantage. This leads to the collapse of that society. Why should those who are religious and honorable be condemned to poverty? In societies where those who are religious and honorable are in the majority, people do not violate the rights of others. Justice prevails there.

For those who see the purpose of life only as acquiring worldly wealth, religion and morality are seen as an obstacle. Because in societies where religion and morality prevail, it is impossible for people to obtain unjust gains. This is clearly an obstacle for those whose only aim is worldly wealth. Therefore, religion and morality are criticized and their elimination is considered. These ideas have served to ensure that Western imperialist countries can easily take over Islamic societies by weakening them through the collapse of their morality. Efforts have been made to corrupt the morals of the people of Islamic countries by imposing the principles of Western modern life. These efforts have yielded the desired results in Islamic countries today. Alcohol consumption, prostitution, adultery, and corruption have increased in Islamic countries. These behaviors, forbidden by Islam, have not enriched these countries; on the contrary, they have made them easier to exploit. The fact that Islamic countries have become colonies today is a consequence of their adoption of this worldview imposed by the West.

Western countries have not implemented these views, which they propagate, in their own countries. Western countries have established many punishments for those who are dishonest within their borders. Giving bribes and evading taxes are not so easy in Western countries. Those caught face severe penalties. That's why people there are trained to prevent others from cheating. In Western countries, no student can cheat on exams because other students prevent it. But in countries like ours, students help each other cheat on exams. This also becomes a source of pride. Cheating on exams is a form of unfair gain and a violation of another's rights. When a student who considers this acceptable enters life, they will feel entitled to anything to seize the rights of others. This kills the idea of justice in society. This is a sign of how dishonorable, honest, and moral are taken lightly in our society.

We see every day what the moral understanding imposed on us by the West has done to us. Prostitution, adultery, alcohol, drugs, murders, violence against women, and corruption are widespread everywhere. More time and a suitable environment are needed to correct the damage these things have caused in society. For this, we must return to the religion of Islam and cling tightly to the Quran and the Sunnah. If we cannot do this, it seems impossible for us as a society to solve all our problems.

When Islamic history is examined, it is seen that in periods when religion and moral principles were preserved, Islamic countries became strong and wealthy. Their conquest of the world was only possible thanks to their honest and virtuous societies. No one can deny this. Many Western scholars also confirm this in history. However, Western imperialists have spread such ideas through Orientalists and missionaries to weaken Islamic societies. They have been successful in this for two hundred years. Today, the morality of Muslim societies has weakened, and as a result, they have lost their economic and cultural power. But no one should think that this will continue. Within forty years, Allah Almighty will send true Muslims, and they will once again elevate Islam and dominate the world. Those who oppose Islam devise schemes, but Allah also has schemes. In the end, Allah Almighty will render their schemes ineffective. Because no one can render Allah powerless.

"Know that the disbelievers are always plotting, and I will counter their plots. Therefore, give the disbelievers a respite, grant them a short time." (Tariq, 86/15,16, 17)

The duty of a Muslim is to continue living and producing as honestly, morally, and honorably as possible. He should leave the rest to God and think:

"Let's see what God will do, whatever He does, He does it well."

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