

Islamisation-Herald

ONE Pearl from the Precious String



Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Islamisation-Herald*.

This is CENTRIS's special publication dedicated on bringing to fore Islamisation discourse, one important point per issue—*ONE* pearl at a time *from the Precious String*, which *al-Marḥūm* Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Dr. Mohd Kamal Hassan (IIUM's third Rector) had meticulously strung in his "Islamicisation / Islamisation of Human Knowledge in IIUM Context" presented during IIUM *Ta'aruf* and Intellectual Discourse (TIDE) #43, dated January 27th, 2014.

Al-Marḥūm laid down twelve points of rationales for Islamisation, under the subtitle "WHY??", which he categorised as A.1 and A.2. He labelled A.1 as "*The Moral and Intellectual Desiderata of Being*".

The label itself is a point of interest that begs some elucidation. Desiderata (*sing. diseratum*) are things that are needed or wanted. Among its synonyms are requirements, prerequisites; indispensable, desired or needed things; essentials, requisites; things that are necessary; are lacking, wanting, or missing; dreams, ideals, hopes, and *sine qua nons* (from Latin) meaning essential conditions that are absolutely necessary (Oxford Learners Dictionary). Islamisation then is the indispensable moral and intellectual requirements or prerequisites that are absolutely necessary as Muslim intellectuals, scholars, educators and practitioners – our

hopes and our ideals – yet which are generally lacking in the context of the world that we live in today. The International Islamic University Malaysia hence carries the onus (burden of obligation) of fulfilling this noble mission, for it is her *raison d'être*, her very reason for being.

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The six points under A.1 "*The Moral and Intellectual Desiderata of Being*" are further explained below.

#1. The sons of Ādam (collective *sing. Insān*) are endowed with the '*Aql*' (intellect) and other faculties for knowledge proliferation. Humans are gifted with these faculties as a *Divine Amānah* (Trust), with the sole purpose of '*Ibādah*' (slave-servitude towards) Allāh ﷻ, The Creator-Sustainer.

#2. This is because humans are created to be *Ibād* (slave servants) of Allāh ﷻ

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

"And I have not created the invisible beings and men to any end other than that they may [know and] worship Me" (Q. 51:56).

#3. As *Ibād*, humans are appointed by Allāh ﷻ to serve Him as *khulafā'* (vicegerents or stewards) of His on Earth, to develop the environment and civilised human society in accordance with His ﷻ Divine Scheme of life.

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً

"Behold, your Lord said to the angels: "I will create a vicegerent on earth..." (Q. 2:30).

This includes measures to sustain the *mīzān* (balance) and *tawāzun* (equilibrium) that Allāh ﷻ has constructed within the structures of the cosmos.

وَيَقُومُوا أَوْفُوا الْمِكْيَالَ وَالْمِيزَانَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا تَبْخَسُوا

الْأَنفُسَ أَشْيَاءَهُمْ وَلَا تَعْنُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ

"Hence, O my people, [always] give full measure and weight, with equity, and do not deprive people of what is rightfully theirs, and do not act wickedly on earth by spreading corruption" (Q. 11:85).

#4. The *mu'minūn* (believers) in Allāh ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ are those who use the intellect in harmony with and guided by Allāh's Revelation (*Wahy*). They do not exult or consider themselves as independent from Allāh ﷻ.

كَذَٰلِكَ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنَافٍ . إِنَّ إِلَىٰ

رَبِّكَ الْرُجْعَىٰ

"Nay, but man does transgress all bounds. In that he looks upon himself as self-sufficient. Verily to your Sustainer all must return" (Q. 96:6-8).

#5. They are those whom the Qur'an addresses as '*Ulamā'*, *Ulū al-'Ilm*, *al-Rāsikhūn bi al-'Ilm*, and *Ulū al-Albāb*.

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ وَالْدَّوَابِّ وَالْأَنْعَامِ خُلُقَاتٌ أَلْوَنُهُ . كَذَٰلِكَ إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ ...

"And so, amongst men and crawling creatures and cattle, are they of various colours. Those truly fear Allah, among His Servants, who have knowledge..." (Q. 35:28).

شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُوا الْعِلْمِ قَاتِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

"God [Himself] proffers evidence - and [so do] the angels and all who are endowed with knowledge - that there is no deity save Him, the Upholder of Equity: there is no deity save Him, the Almighty, the Truly Wise" (Q. 3:18).

... وَالرَّاسِخُونَ فِي الْعِلْمِ يَقُولُونَ آمَنَّا بِهِ كُلٌّ مِّنْ عِنْدِ رَبِّنَا وَمَا يَذَّكَّرُ إِلَّا أُولُوا الْأَلْبَابِ

"... Hence, those who are deeply rooted in knowledge say: 'We believe in it; the whole [of the divine writ] is from our Sustainer - albeit none takes this to heart save those who are endowed with insight'" (Q. 3:7).

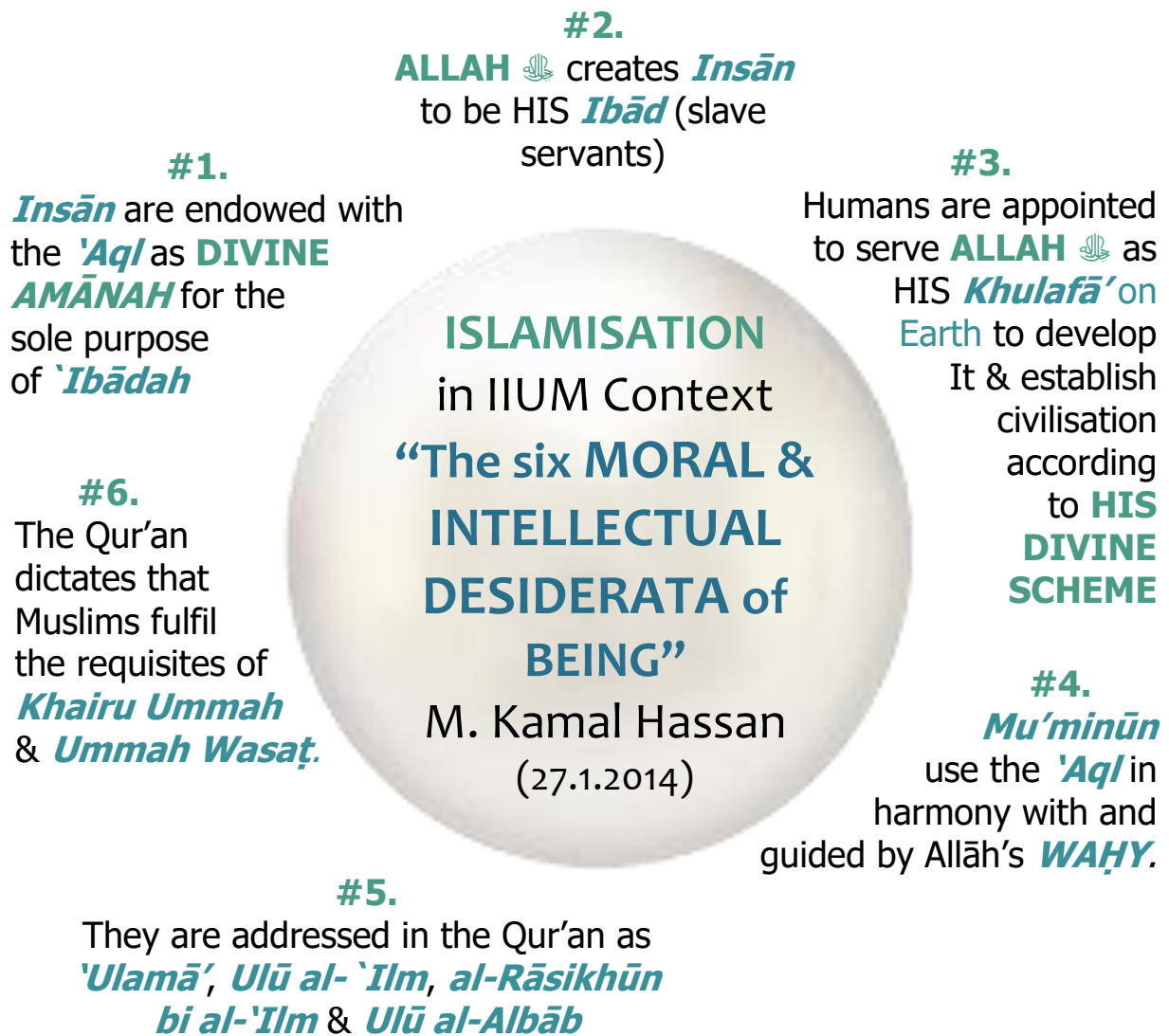
#6. The Divine dictate is that Muslims fulfil the requisites of *Khair Ummah* and *Ummah Wasaṭ*.

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ ...

"You are indeed the best community that has ever been brought forth for [the good of] mankind: [with the condition that] you enjoin the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong, and you believe in God..." (Q. 3:110).

وَكَذَٰلِكَ جَعَلْنَاهُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِّتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا ...

"Thus, have We made of you an Ummah justly balanced, that you might be witnesses over the nations, and the Messenger a witness over yourselves..." (Q. 2:143).



Translations of Qur'anic verses from
'Abdullah Yusuf 'Ali and Muhammad Asad
Nur Jannah Hassan • Resident Writer & Illustrator