

ONE Pearl from the Precious String

The current series of *Islamisation-Herald* focuses on the 'WHAT' aspects of Islamisation, based on what *al-Marḥūm* Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr. M. Kamal Hassan had laid out.¹ This is issue 2 No. 2, April 2025, a continuation of the first issue of the "WHAT" series, which highlights the concept of "Islamisation" being as old as Islam itself, despite the term being "new".

WHAT IS ISLAMISATION?

“It is a new expression or label for a **fundamental religious imperative incumbent upon Muslims and Mu'minūn** (Believers), '*Ulamā'* (Scholars) and the *Ummah Wasat* (Justly Balanced Community).²”

In fact, the concept can be traced to the time of Prophet Ādam and his wife Ḥawwā ('a.s.). Issue 1 No. 1 features verses of *Sūrah al-A'rāf*: 19 – 30, which narrate the early history of the blessed father of humanity. In essence, Islamisation is the collective endeavours that brings us back on the path of *al-Ṣirāt al-Mustaqīm*, upon veering away.

According to *al-Marḥūm* Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr. M. Kamal Hassan, in the broad sense, **Islamisation/Islamicisation of Human Knowledge (IOHK)** is:

“The **proper** way for the **servants** of Allah (SWT), the vicegerents, the believers, the Islamic scholars to **use** their **God-given intellect** ('*aql*) in **pursuit** of **wellbeing** in this world and **wellbeing** in the Hereafter.³”

This can be traced to the history of the beginning of humanity. The experience of Prophet Ādam and his wife Ḥawwā ('a.s.) as narrated in *Sūrah al-A'rāf*, verses 19 to 30 is referred to:

- “O Adam! Dwell you and your wife in the Garden, and enjoy (its good things) as you wish: **but approach not this tree, or you run into harm and transgression.**”

- “Then began Satan to whisper suggestions to them, bringing openly before their minds all their shame that was hidden from them (before) - he said: ‘Your Lord only forbade you this tree, lest you should become [as] angels or such beings as live for ever’. And he swore unto them, ‘Verily, I am of those who wish you well indeed!’.”

- “So by deceit he [Satan] brought about their fall: when they tasted of the tree, their shame became manifest to them, and they began to sew together the leaves of the garden over their bodies. And their Lord called unto them: ‘**Did I not forbid you that tree, and tell you that Satan was an avowed enemy unto you?**’.”

قَالَ رَبُّنَا طَلَعْنَا نَافْسَنَا وَإِنَّا لَمُتَّقُونَ
لَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

“They said: ‘Our Lord! We have **wronged our own souls**: If You forgive us not and bestow not upon us Your Mercy, we shall certainly be lost!’.” (Q. al-A'rāf, 7: 23)

- “(Allah) said: ‘Get ye down. With enmity between yourselves. On earth will be your dwelling-place and your means of livelihood - for a time’. He said: ‘Therein shall you live, and therein shall you die; but from it shall you be taken out (at last)’.”

- “O you Children of Adam! We have bestowed raiment upon you to cover your shame, as well as to be an adornment to you. **But the raiment of righteousness, that is the best.** Such are among the Signs of Allah, that they may receive admonition!”

- “O you Children of Adam! **Let not Satan seduce you, in the same manner as He got your parents out of the Garden, stripping them of their raiment, to expose their shame: for he and his tribe watch you from a position where you cannot see them:** We made the evil ones friends (only) to those without faith.”

- “Say: ‘My Lord has commanded justice; and that you set your whole selves (to Him) at every time and place of prayer, and call upon Him, making your devotion sincere as in His Sight: such as He created you in the beginning, so shall ye return’. Some He has guided: Others have (by their choice) deserved the loss of their way; in that they took the evil ones, in preference to Allah, for their friends and protectors, and think that they receive guidance.” (Q. al-A'rāf, 7: 19-30)

So it is... *Rasūlullāh* (s.a.w.) once drew in the sand a straight line and diverging lines going forth from the straight one. When asked what these lines meant, he explained that the straight line represented *al-Ṣirāt al-Mustaqīm*, and those diverging from it were **diverse wayward ways**.

As exemplified by the story of Prophet Ādam ('a.s.) above, we have the duty to bring ourselves, and the people around us, together with the various systems, institutions and functionings that have veered away from *al-Ṣirāt al-Mustaqīm*, **back to the Straight Path**, which will bring us to Allah (S.W.T.), where we came from.

This – in essence – is **Islamisation**.

The essence of Islamisation, portrayed in the Qur'anic narrative of the early history of Prophet Ādam and his wife Ḥawwā, peace be upon them.

^{1, 2, 3} M. Kamal Hassan, “Islamicisation / Islamisation of Human Knowledge in IIUM Context”, IIUM Ta'aruf and Intellectual Discourse (TIDE) #43, January 27th, 2014.

The **proper way** of using the 'aql is to **acknowledge** and **act upon** the fact that human beings

* are **servants** of Allah (SWT) ('ibādu'llāh) & His **vicegerents** (khulafā') on Earth

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ۝

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

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلَائِفَ الْأَرْضِ وَرَفَعَ بَعْضَكُمْ فَوْقَ بَعْضٍ دَرَجَاتٍ لِّيَبْلُوكُمْ فِي مَا آتَاكُمْ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ

سَرِيعُ الْعِقَابِ وَإِنَّهُ لَغَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ۝

"It is He Who has made you (His) agents, inheritors of the earth: He has raised you in ranks, some above others: that He may try you in the gifts He has given you: for your Lord is quick in punishment: yet He is indeed Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful" (Q. 6:165).

* as **believers** & **scholars** of the Ummah, we are to use our **intellect** in the **right manner**. It **ought to be** in line and harmonious with the guidance by **Al-Qur'an & Prophetic Sunnah**.

إِنَّ هُدَى اللَّهِ هُوَ الْهُدَىٰ

وَأْمَرْنَا لِنُسَلِّمَ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ...

"...Allah's guidance is **The (Only) Guidance**, and we have been directed to **submit ourselves to the Lord of the worlds...**"

(Q. 6:71).

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ فَبِهِدَّتْهُمْ أَفْتَدِهِ...

"Those were (the prophets) who received Allah's guidance: follow then the guidance they received..." (Q. 6:90).

One of the greatest gifts that Allah (SWT) has blessed humans with, is **the intellect**. As great and as wonderful as it is, **The Divine Intellect** is **The One Supreme**. Human intellect is thus **subservient to** The Divine Intellect.

Those with the false idea that humans are independent of God (deists, secularists), that it does not matter whether or not He exists (agnostics), or that He does not exist at all (atheists), the Qur'an warns,

كَلَّا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنَافٍ ۝ إِنَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ الرُّجْعَىٰ ۝

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

This return to Allah The Lord Sustainer and Reckoner is an **absolute Truth**. Hence, the ethics of human intellect, being subservient to The Lord Master and Owner of all that exists, **pursues wellbeing in this life** in all matters and manners that are permissible and promoted by the Guidance of the Qur'an and Sunnah—brings humanity towards **wellbeing in the Hereafter**. Thus is the broad meaning of **Islamisation or Islamicisation of Human Knowledge**.

Nur Jannah Hassan • Resident Writer & Illustrator