

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN HINDUISM AND ISLAM – PART 3

by Dr Zakir Naik

LESSON 1 – CONCEPT OF JIHAAD IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

Ashraf Mohammady: It seems that we have a non-Muslim brother on that mike. Yes Brother, Can we have your name and profession so that we get to know your background.

Questioner: Well I'm Sushant Shekar from Ranchi, Jharkhand I'm doing my engineering from Satyaavan Engineering college here. Sir, your lecture, after hearing your lecture our misbelief about Islam and Muslims vanished today. Sir, I've been to Jammu & Kashmir & I've seen the Trauma & pain that the people are suffering there because of the so called Jihad of the Muslims. Sir, my question is that does Islam support such activities? If no then what actually the word Jihad means? Is it in accordance with the 56th verse of the 7th chapter of Qur'an which says "Do not mischief" or the 40th verse of the 42nd chapter which says "Forgiveness is better than retaliation" or the 32nd verse of the 5th chapter which states "If anyone killed a person he kills the mankind" Sir I have one more question in the same context & it is that does Islam teach us to give priority to the religion i.e. Dharam or Madhab before the country or motherland i.e. Matra Bhumi or Qaum? Thanks a lot.

Dr. Zakir: The brother asked very good questions. The first question is regarding concept of Jihad. He says that why are people fighting, he's been to Kashmir, about Jihad. Does Islam encourage this fighting? What is the meaning of Jihad? Does it not disagree with the quotations he gave of Surah Al Maidah – Chapter no. 5 verse .32? Brother as far as the word Jihad is concerned there's a misconception not only amongst the non-Muslims but even amongst the Muslims. What most of the people think that any war fought by any Muslim for any reason whether it be for his personal gain, whether it be for politics, whether it be for language, whether it be for color, it is called as Jihad. Jihad does not mean any war fought by any Muslim. Jihad comes from the Arabic word 'Jahada' which means to strive, which means to struggle. Like how we have Jido-Jahad so Jihad basically means to strive, to struggle. And in the Islamic context it means to strive against one's own evil inclination. It also means to strive to make the society better. It even includes to strive in the battle field to fight in self defense. Jihad also means to fight against oppression & tyranny. Jihad basically means to strive or to struggle. Many people have misconception that Jihad means Holy War and many people translate Jihad as Holy War. The Arabic word for Holy War is Harbum Mukadassa. If you read the Qur'an no where in the Qur'an, not a single verse, no where in the authentic Hadith of Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is the word Harbum Mukadassa mentioned anywhere. There's no Harbum Mukadassa at all. The translation of Jihad is not holy war at all. This word

holy war was first used by the historians to describe the Crusades of the Christians who spread Christianity and who killed thousands of people in the name of Christianity. Unfortunately today, many people including so called Muslim scholars, inverted commas, they translate Jihad the holy war. It's a mistranslation. Yes Jihad means to strive, to struggle. One of the striving can include fighting. Fighting also should be in a way of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) i.e Qitaal Fi Sabilillah.

Now regarding your question that why does Islam encourage fighting & killing and there are many critics of Islam who normally say Islam is a ruthless religion, it always says that you should kill the non Muslims wherever you find them. Many critics, including the critic of India Arun Shori & he writes in his book the World of Fatwas he quotes Surah Tawbah Chapter no. 9 verse no. 5 & says that the Qur'an says wherever you find a Kaafir into bracket Hindu that you kill them & if you open the Qur'an Surah Tawbah Chapter no.9 verse no. 5 and if you read it, it does say wherever you find a Kaafir you kill him. But this is a quotation out of context. For the context if you read the first few verses it speaks about a peace treaty between the Mushriks of Makkah and the Muslims. If you read Surah Tawbah chapter. 9 first few verses it speaks about a peace treaty between the Muslims and the Mushriks of Makkah, now this peace treaty was unilaterally broken by the Mushriks of Makkah by the time Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) reaches verse no. 5 he gives them ultimatum to the Mushriks and He tells them put things straight in 4 months time otherwise a declaration of war and in the battle field Allah says that when the enemies come to attack you, you kill the enemies. So this verse is revealed in the battle field that when the enemies come to kill you don't get scared fight them But naturally any army general today to boost up the morale of his soldiers he will say that when the enemies come kill them he'll not sit there & just be quiet. And Arun Shoorie after quoting verse no. 5 he jumps to verse no. 7 because verse no. 6 has the reply. Surah Tawbah Chapter 9 verse no. 6 says that if the Kaafir, if the enemy seek asylum, if they want peace don't just give it to them escort them to a place of security. If the enemy wants peace or asylum escort them to a place of security.

Today, the most merciful army general maximum will tell his soldiers that let the enemy go. Here Allah says don't just let the enemy go escort them to a place of security. So whenever these verses are there of killing including the verse of Surah Anfaal chapter. 8 verse no. 60 when they say that prepare your steed, and be prepared attack the enemy the next verse says but if the enemy is inclined towards peace you give it to them. So almost all the verses which talk about fighting after that it says that if they want peace, peace is better.

Now regarding your question what about the verses of Surah Maidah Chapter no. 5 verse 32, Surah Nisa Chapter no. 4 verse 40 that if anyone kills any human being it is as though he's killed the whole humanity this is the basic rule of Islam that if anyone kills any human being whether it be a Muslim or a non-Muslim unless it be for murder or for creating mischief in the land, spreading corruption in the land it is as though he's killed the whole of humanity and if anyone saves any human being it is as though he's saved the whole of humanity. Now if you read, if you read Bhagvad Geeta, Bhagvat Geeta Chapter no. 2 verse no. 50 it says Krishna, Shri Krishna tells Arjun to do Jihad, strive. If you read Mahabharata, Mahabharata talks about thousands of verses of fighting, thousands of verses, many number of times more than the Qur'an speaks. Mahabharata is a scripture, as you may be aware, which

talks about a feud, a fight between Pandavs and the Kauravs. The 5 brothers Pandavs and 100 brothers Kauravs fight and Bhagvad Geeta is a part of Mahabharat 18 chapters in which Shri Krishna, Lord, he gives advice to Arjuna, Arjun says, Arjun says in

Bhagvat Geeta Chapter no. 1 verse 42 to 46 that

“I would prefer getting killed unarmed rather fighting my cousins. How can I fight my cousins, the Kaurav are my cousins, I would prefer getting killed unarmed rather than fight.”

Immediately Lord Krishna, you know what does he say, in chapter no. 2 verse no. 2 and 3 says that

“How could impure thought come in your mind. It is sinful. How could you become so impotent? How could your heart become so weak?”

So Lord Krishna says such thoughts are impotent, they're impure, they're sinful. It'll prevent you from going to heavenly planets, going to Jannah. After that

Bhagvad Geeta Chapter no. 2 verse 31 to 33 says, he says, Lord Krishna, he says to Arjun that

“It is the duty of a Shatriya to fight, if he does not fight he shall not go to heaven and if you do not fight you're doing a sin.”

So if you analyze in Bhagvad Geeta, Krishna says that you have to fight. Imagine if I take verses of Bhagvad Geeta and say that Lord Krishna tells Arjun that you have to kill your relatives. If I quote out of context it would be devilish but in context it is Lord Krishna says that if you have to fight against falsehood for the truth you can fight against anyone even if be it your relatives so in context it makes sense that if you have to fight for justice even if it be against your relatives there is no problem so that is the message of Bhagvat Geeta and Mahabharat fighting truth against falsehood the moment I tell a Hindu about Mahabharata and Bhagvad Geeta he has the knowledge. He says no but Mahabharata and Bhagvad Geeta is a fight between truth and falsehood that is the same thing what's mentioned in the Qur'an. The moment I quote to you Bhagvad Geeta & Mahabharata, you understand the Qur'an better.

And further more many people say O! this Qur'an is talking about Jihadis if you do Jihad, you die you go to Jannah. Many critics including Arun Shori quote, and they quote even the Hadith of Sahih Bukhari Vol. no. 4 in the book of Jihaad chapter no.2 Hadith 46 It says that

“A Mujahid is a person who strives in the way of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) and Allah alone knows who strives and further our Prophet said If a Mujahid dies in a battlefield he shall go to Jannah, he'll get paradise but if he returns back he does not die he'll return back with the booty of war.”

This Hadith and several verses of the Qur'an have been quoted by the critics of Islam. I wonder how could the Hindu Critics quote these things. Haven't they read the Bhagvat Geeta? Haven't they read the Mahabharata? Even Shri Krishna, he mentions in Bhagvat Geeta in chapter no. 2 verse no. 37

"O Arjun, O son of Kunti rise up and fight even if you are killed no problem you'll go to heaven and if you return back successfully, you'll get the good riches of this earthly world, same thing as the Hadith

So when Krishna says to Arjun that fight if you're killed no problem you'll go to heaven if you return back successful you'll get the riches of the world that is the same thing that Sahih Bukhari says, what the Qur'an says. So therefore you should understand each other better by reading the scripture so Islam allows fighting as a last resort in self defense or to fight against oppression otherwise no. And Jihad means to strive, to struggle.

Now coming to your second question which is more important, which is more important following the rules of the country or following the Madhab the Deen It is like you asking me who do I belong to first, Do I belong to my father or my mother first? Brother, as far as following the rules of the country and following the rules of Deen Almighty God is concerned, Almighty God is our Creator He is more superior to us following the rules of Deen is more important than any other rule laid down by father, mother, or any country but, but I'm an Indian, I know there's not a single law in the Indian constitution which prevents any Muslim in India to follow Islam. Infact India is one of the few countries which is mentioned in the constitution that it is the right it is a birth right of every citizen of India to preach, practice his religion. That's what I'm doing. There's not a single law in India which prevents me from doing something which is Fard or compelling me for doing something which is Haraam there's no law I can offer 5 times Salaah if I want if I don't, want I cant offer. There's not a single law in the Indian constitution which prevents me from becoming a good Muslim. Therefore as far as I'm concerned I'm a very practicing Muslim Alhamdulillah and also a practicing Indian. And if by definition, by geographical definition an Indian geographically is called a Hindu. So if Hindu means a geographical definition I'm a Hindu living in India and I'm a practicing Muslim.

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LESSON 2 – SIMILARTIES BETWEEN THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM AND HINDUISM

Let us discuss the various similarities between Islam and Hinduism. Allah says in the Quran in Surah Maidah ch. no. 5 verse no. 90, Allah says

“O you have believe”	يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا
“Most certainly intoxicants and gambling”	إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ
“Dedications of stones, divination of arrows”	وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَمُ
“These are Satan’s handiwork”	رَجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ
“Abstain from the handiwork that you may prosper”	فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

Allah says that intoxicants, gambling divination of arrows, all these are Satan’s handiwork, abstain from it that you may prosper.

Let’s analyze what do the Hindu scriptures have to say about these things.

If you read it’s mentioned in Manusmriti chapter. no. 9 verse no. 235, it says that

“A person who is a priest killer, who is a liquor drinker and who is a person who lies on the marriage bed of the Guru and who is a thief, all of them do major sins”

And in Manusmriti chapter. no. 9 verse no. 238, it says that

“All of these should be punished”

And it says that these people, no one should talk to them, no one should sacrifice for them, no one should marry them and all of these people should leave all the religions and should wander in the world, they should be excommunicated.”

That means anyone who has intoxicants according to Manusmriti, they should wander in the world and they should be excommunicated from all the religions, it is more strict than Islam. And if you read the Hindu scriptures, intoxicants have been prohibited in several places, if you read

Manusmriti chapter. no. 11 verse no. 55, it says that

“A person who drinks and a person who kills the priest, who steals and who sleeps on the marriage bed of the Guru all of them, all those who are associated with them, all of them are major sinners”

It's further mentioned that alcohol has been prohibited in Hindu Scriptures in several places including

Manusmriti chapter. no. 7 verse no. 47

Manusmriti chapter. no. 7 verse no. 50,

In Manusmriti chapter. no. 9 verse no. 225,

In Rigveda Book no. 8 Hymn no. 2 verse no. 12,

in Rigveda Book no. 8 Hymn no. 21 verse no. 14,

in several places the Hindu scriptures, they prohibit the having of intoxicants.

Even gambling has been prohibited in Hindu scriptures in Rigveda Book no. 10 Hymn no. 34 verse no. 3, it says that

“A person who gambles, his wife, he has left aloof and his mother, they hate the gambler and no one supports him”

Its further mentioned in Rigveda Book no. 10 Hymn no. 34 verse no. 13, it says that

“Do not play with the dice rather you should do farming, if you do farming even if you earn less money, it will be good for the hereafter”

If you analyze the Hindu scriptures, they forbid for a person to gamble.

It's mentioned in Manusmriti chapter. no. 7 verse no. 50, it says that

“A person who drinks, a person who gambles, a person who indulges with women and hunting, all of them, they are the most 4 major crimes that a person can do.”

Gambling has been prohibited in several places in

Manusmriti chapter. no. 7 verse 47,

in Manusmriti chapter. no. 9 verse no. 221 to 228,

Its also mentioned in Manusmriti chapter. no. 9 verse no. 258,

The Hindu scriptures also prohibit fortune telling as Allah says in the Qur'an in

Surah Maidah chapter. no. 5 verse no. 90

“O you have believe”

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا

إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ

“Most certainly intoxicants and gambling”

وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَمُ

“Dedications of stones, divination of arrows”

رَجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ

“These are Satan’s handiwork”

فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

“Abstain from the handiwork that you may prosper”

Gambling has been prohibited, besides gambling and alcohol even fortune telling has been prohibited,

it’s also prohibited in Manusmriti chapter. no. 9 verse no. 258

“That all those who do fortune telling, they are doing a sin”

And verse no. 262 says that

“King should punish them according to the severity of the crime”

Allah also says in Surah Baqarah chapter. no. 2 verse no. 188, Allah says

“Use not your wealth as a bait for judges in order you may eat other people’s wealth”

Bribing has been prohibited in the Qur’an. Even the Hindu scriptures, in Manusmriti chapter. no. 9 verse no. 258 that

“All those who bribe, all those who deal in fraud, all of them are major sinners”

And the punishment is mentioned in Manusmriti chapter. no. 9 verse 262 that the

“The King will punish them depending upon the severity of the crime”

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LESSON 3 – WOMEN IN HINDUISM AND ISLAM

Furthermore Islam believes in polygamy and Allah says in the Quran in

Surah Nisa chapter. no. 4 verse no. 3, Allah says that

“Marry women of your choice in twos, threes or fours but if you can’t do justice, marry only one.”

Quran is the only religious book which says marry only one. There is no other religious scripture on the face of the earth which says marry only one. All the major religious scripture if you read, no religious scripture says marry only one. If you read the Hindu scriptures, if you read Ramayana, it says that King Dashrat, the father of Ram, he had more than one wife.

It’s mentioned in Vishnusutra chapter. no. 24 verse no. 1 that “A Brahmin can have 4 wives”

If you read Mahabharat (Anushasana Parva Sec. 15), Krishna. How many wives did he have? Krishna had 16,108 wives. So if Krishna can have 16,108 wives so why can’t we Muslims have up to 4?

If you analyse, the Hindu scripture say, a Hindu can marry as many wives as they may want, it is the Indian Government which has put a limitation, the Indian Government has passed a law in 1954 called as the Hindu Marriage Act and says that a Hindu can only marry one wife. But the Hindu scripture say that the Hindus can marry as many wives as they want, there is no upper limit but the Indian Government has put up a limit that they can marry only one.

If you read the report of the Indian Government on the status of women, its mentioned on page no. 66 and 67, it gives the statistics of the polygamous marriages done in a span of 10 years from 1951 to 1961 and the Muslims have done 4.31% of polygamous marriages and the Hindus have done 5.06% polygamous marriages. The reasons for polygamy has been mentioned in my cassette on ‘Women’s Rights in Islam’ this was in brief regarding the similarities between Hinduism and Islam.

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LESSON 4 – HINDU REFORMERS

You can keep on talking for hours together and for the complete day but if you analyse because of the British rule we find that Hinduism has gone down. And especially the Britishers, they came to India to do business and they changed many of the rigid beliefs of the Hindus, that's the reason late towards the 18th century and 19th century there was a search of Hindu reformers and the pioneers among the Hindu reformers was the person by the name Raja Ram Mohon Roy. Raja Ram Mohon Roy, he was from Bengal and he was born in 1772 and he preached that you should believe only in one God, should not do idol worship, he was against the caste system and he wrote a book in 1803, he learnt Persian English as well as Arabic. And in that book, he condemned idol worship; he said he does not even agree in the Avtar. And he started a new trust by the name of Brahmo Samaaj and this Brahmo Samaaj in the trust deed, he writes that no sculpture, no graven image, no picture, no painting, no photograph should enter the building. And later on there were many off shoots of the Brahmo Samaaj and all of them, they had the common teachings that All Mighty God is one, he has got no images, there are no idols of All Mighty God, All Mighty God has got no Avtar, they were against idol worship and regarding believing in the cycle of birth, death and rebirth this is optional, if you want you can believe, if you don't want, you don't believe.

The other great reformer which is off shoot of Brahmo Samaaj was Justice Ranade.

Justice Ranade, he was a person who started the Prarthana Samaaj. I hope you are aware of Prarthana Samaaj. Are you aware of Prarthana Samaaj? Very good, you are aware of Prarthana Samaaj. How many of you know about Justice Ranade? How many of us? This person, he started an off shoot of Brahmo Samaaj and he even preached against caste system, he even preached that the widows, the women, they should re-marry; he even preached that the women should be educated.

The other great reformer amongst the Hindu was Swami Dayanand Saraswati. He started in 1875 the Arya Samaaj and the 3 Pandits, they are from Arya Samaaj. What he said that we should strictly follow the Vedas and we should not follow anything but the Vedas, believe in one God, that you should not do idol worship, should not believe that God has got Avtar. He started the Arya Samaaj.

We even have one more famous reformer by the name of Swami Vivekananda. He was the founder of Shri Ramakrishna Mission and he said that Hinduism is a misnomer. We should call the followers as Vedantist. And he made Hinduism common to the western world where he gave a talk in Chicago in the parliament of religion.

We find that many Hindu reformers were there, they tried to improve the teachings of Hinduism. And today we come to know from history that the Britishers, they had come to India to do business, they came to India about few centuries back, they came for doing business but they looted our country, they even ruled our country. And these Britishers, they changed the religious beliefs of the Indians and these people, they saw to it that they changed the philosophy of Hinduism. So we find a surge of Hindu reformers especially in the late 18th century and the 19th century. For example as I mentioned Raja Ram Mohon Roy, example of Vivekanada, example of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Justice Ranade and these people, they were reformers. And people may wonder that all these things that I mentioned in my talk about the facts of Hinduism that I mentioned, they weren't concoction but I received all these guidance about Hinduism from these great reformers like Raja Ram Mohon Roy and Justice Ranade and after I read this book, these people were great scholars.

I am just a student of comparative religion, I am not a scholar. When I read the books of these scholars, I being a student of comparative religion, I don't take anything for granted, whatever they say I checked up whether are they available in the sacred scriptures of the Hindus and after verifying them I have mentioned the facts of Hinduism while quoting the references of the Hindu Scriptures and all the facts I mentioned about Hinduism I have also mentioned the references from the Vedas as well as the other scriptures, like Upanishads like Bhagavad Gita etc. those Hindus who strictly believe in the Vedas they don't believe in any other Scripture of Hinduism so even if you remove all the other reference of the Hindu scriptures whatever references I have given, I have quoted the Vedas as well as the other scriptures. If you remove the references of the other scriptures yet the message of Hinduism is the same.

There are other Hindus though they believe that Veda is the most sacred among the Hindu scriptures but they even believe in the other scriptures and they more commonly read Bhagavad Gita etc. that's the reason I have even quoted the Vedas, even the other Hindu scriptures. I have been enlightened by the great reformers of Hinduism and from history we have come to know that the Britishers, they ruled India by having a philosophy of divide and rule. With this philosophy, they ruled India for several years. We Alhamdulillah, more than 50 years back, we have got the freedom of this country from the rule of the British but unfortunately we yet continue following the philosophy of the Britishers of divide and rule. And we have examples that most of the Indian politicians they follow the philosophy of the Britishers and they have the philosophy of divide and rule for the vote banks.

And we find that in this country of ours the maximum riots in any country of the world, it's in India and the cause, that these politicians, they instigate these riots, they follow the philosophy of divide and rule. And many people say that the politicians, they add fuel to the fire. I disagree. The politicians of India, they don't add fuel to the fire, these people, they add fire to the fuel.

We know that the fuel is used for constructive work for vehicles, for factories, for upliftment of India. But these people, they add fire to the fuel and they cause the destruction of India. All the politicians aren't like that but most of them, they add fire to the fuel. And they use it as a vote bank, most of them if not all. Irrespective whether they are Hindu politicians, Muslim politicians or Christian politicians.

And there was an article which came in the Times of India few weeks back, it said that according to Japan, according to Japan in the next 20 years India will be a superpower. And its my humble request to my dear Hindu brothers, to my dear Muslim brothers, to my dear politicians of this great country of India, its my humble request that you people, you should understand, you should follow the sacred scriptures, go back to the sacred scriptures of Hinduism and of Islam and if we follow our sacred scriptures, In Sha Allah, God willing in the next 20 years India will be a superpower. India will be better than America and the European countries.

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LESSON 5 – CONCLUSION

It's clearly mentioned, its clearly mentioned in

Rigveda Book no. 10 Hymn no. 71 verse no. 4,

It's mentioned that

“Seeing the word, you see not, hearing the word you hear not”

You hear the word of All Mighty God but you hear not, you see the word of All Mighty God but you see not.

Allah says in the Quran in Surah Baqarah ch. no. 2 verse no. 44, Allah says that

“You read the scriptures but why don't you follow it?”

Allah says in the Quran in Surah Baqarah chapter. no. 2 verse no. 18

“Summun Bukmun 'Umyun Fahum Laa Yarji'oon”

“The deaf, the dumb, the blind, they will never return to the true path”

And we find that the religious personalities of most of the major religions, they prevent the followers from reading the scriptures. The religions leaders whether they be Hindus, Muslims or Christians, they prevent their followers of the religion to read their scripture with understanding. And I have given a talk on ‘Al Qur’an – Should it be Read with Understanding?’ and I have proved there that the Qur’an was revealed so that a person should understand, the revelation of All Mighty God and follow the commandments of All Mighty God, the best is to understand Arabic as a language. If you can't understand Arabic as a language, read the translation of the Quran in the language you understand the best. And today we find that even though there are various sects in the religion of Islam there are minor differences but the major principals of the various sects in Islam, it is the same, all the various different sects of Islam, they believe that there is one God, they believe that the Qur’an is the last and final revelation of God, they believe in the last and final messenger, it's the same. There may be minor differences but the major pillars are the same. And if we analyze the reason that even though Islam has been divided into different sects, the major things are the same because Qur’an was revealed in Arabic and Arabic is a living language, there are several hundreds of millions of people who know Arabic as a

language because of this, because the Qur'an was revealed in Arabic no one can change the main teachings of the Qur'an.

A great critic of Islam, Sir William Muir, he says though he is a critic of Islam, he says that Qur'an is the only book which has remained pure for 12 centuries, he mentioned this 200 years back. And today Quran is a book which has remained pure for 14 centuries.

If you follow main scriptures, if you understand Arabic or understand in the language which you understand the best, the principals are the same. It's my humble request to the Indian Government; it's my humble request to my Hindu brothers that you should revive Sanskrit. The Indian Government and my Hindu brothers, they should revive the Sanskrit language.

Today Sanskrit is a dead language; you should revive the Sanskrit language and understand the scripture of Hinduism. If you understand the scripture of Hinduism, you will realize that your scripture and the Islamic scripture, they speak about the same one God, they believe in the same message and the last final messenger Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), they believe about the resurrection, about life after death.

I would like to end my talk with the verse of the Glorious Quran of Surah Yunus chapter. no. 10 verse no. 108 which says

“Qul Yaaa Ayyuhan Naasu Qad Jaaa'akumul Haqqu Mir Rabbikum”

“Say, O humankind! Truth has arrived from the Lord. Those who receive guidance are on the straight path and those who go astray, they will be on the wrong path and I have not been sent to manage your affairs”

Wa Aakhiru Da'wana Anil Hamdulillahi Rabbill Aalameen!

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LESSON 6 – QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION – PART 1

Ashraf Mohammady: Do we have a question from the sister's side? Do we have a non-Muslim sister who has a question?

Questioner: Good Evening everybody. I'm Aarti and I'm an engineering student. Aah... I believe that most religions are just a set of beliefs. Hinduism is a belief, Islam is a belief, Christianity is a belief, and most, most major religions like the Islam or the Hinduism or Christianity have been formed through ages. There can, they have come past through a lot of ages so there can, there can be a lot of additions and subtractions which can add value to the religion and which can also cause some kind of a demolish to the name of religion itself. So my question is why do we have to stick on to few religious books like the Qur'an or the Vedas to follow the life of our own why can't we just take the rights, the positives and the negatives and leave the negatives alone and take the positives of the Qur'an, take the positives of the Vedas alone and lead a life of good and no matter what for example no matter what the Vedas say or no matter what the Qur'an says I believe that a man should have a single wife and I would definitely, I would definitely not agree upon the fact that Vedas contain something like that or the Qur'an contains something like that. It is up to my conscience to leave off the negatives of, However great a religious book might be and take the positives of the book alone. And why are we here to even discuss about the.. the... I mean why are we even here to discuss about the differences and similarities between the two great religions? Why can't we just take the positives of both religions and just lead a life of our own? That's my question.

Dr. Zakir Naik: Very good. Sister's asked a very good question. A very good question a very relevant question that why should we follow religion? Why Hinduism, why Islam, why Christianity? Why not follow the good things of all and that's it, finish. Who'll decide what is good what is bad?

For example in America wearing skirts and shorts is common, western country. It is modest. So for there, wearing skirts and short is modest if you wear in Chennai if a girl walks on the street with shorts and skirts you'll call it immodest including you sister even you'll say she's immodest. So what is modest in America is not modest here. When I went to America a few years back there was a person who told me that you Indian women you are immodest I was shocked why? How come Indian women are immodest? Because when you wear the Saree you show your belly. So for the Americans, for the Americans the women showing the belly is immodest. So who will decide? If you go to certain Muslim countries, the Arab countries looking at a woman, staring at a woman is immodest. Here as long as you don't touch a woman, you can talk to her, you can look at her it's modest therefore when you greet the Indian they say Namaste without touching, in the western countries it is common that

you shake hands so shaking hands between a lady and a man is modesty. As long as you shake hand and don't touch any other part of the body, in some western countries it is modest. In other western countries kissing a woman on the lips and the cheek is modest. In some western countries you can do what you want, the male and the female as long as you do willingly it is modest. Who will decide? Who will decide? Who will decide? If you go to America there are nude beaches, there's a ship I read in the times of India 2 months back a nude cruise, a nude cruise, nude everyone in the ship will be nude, for them it is modest. Who will decide? The best person to decide is the Creator, sister. Now I'm asking you who'll decide what is right and what is wrong? Who will decide? And if you say that select the best I'm with you. I agree with you sister select the best of all the religions so that's what I've done. I've selected the best from the Vedas but, but what is best, is not best for you. That's the problem I'll discuss that also. I challenge, I challenge any human being to point out a single principal of Islam which is against humanity as a whole, single. I challenge, I say, I'm not speaking on behalf of other Muslims. I'm putting my head on the guillotine. I challenge anyone, anyone. Yes there may be many non-Muslims who may think certain thing is wrong for example the sister disagrees with a man having more than one wife I'll discuss that In Sha Allah after I give you the answer you'll be convinced In Sha Allah, God willing. You'll be convinced.

For example if you ask a problem $2 + 2$ is how much if you don't know the answer I'll give you the answer now once you know the answer you get convinced.

So what you've to discuss sister the things which you don't agree you can come on the microphone and tell me. I'm just a student I'll try my level best with Allah's help to try and reply. Now though the Vedas say you can marry more than one wife, the Christian Bible says, the Qur'an says. Now you don't believe in all of them no problem. Lets talk about logic, lets talk about logic.

Sister do you know that by nature male and female are born in equal proportion, by nature male and female are born in equal proportion but if you ask any Pediatrician, a doctor of the children. He'll tell you that the female child can fight the germs and diseases better than the male child. So in the pediatric age itself there are more male children dying as compared to the female children so in pediatric age itself there are more females than the males as life goes on there's death due to cigarette smoking, death due to alcoholism, death due to accidents, death due to war, more male are dying as compared due to females so today in the world there are millions of women more in the world as compared to male. Only in some countries, third world countries like India the female population is less than the male population you know why? Because of female infanticide. According to a BBC report, BBC report according to Emile Buchanan on the programme 'LET HER DIE' the topic was Assignment. Every day more than 3000 fetus are being aborted in India after they're identified that they are females. That means more than 1 million female fetus are being aborted in India every year after they are identified they are females if you stop this evil practice. And according to Tamil Naidu government hospital report this state of yours that report says out of 10 female born alive 4 are put to death do you say it is right? It is wrong. If you stop this evil practice even in India the female population will become more than the male population.

In America alone there are 7.8 million females more than male, in UK alone there are 4 million female more than male, in Germany alone there are 5 million female more than male, in Russia alone there are 9 million female more than male. God alone knows how many million of females are more than males in the world. Suppose sister hypothetical question suppose my sister happens to live in America or suppose your sister happens to live in America, USA and the market is saturated, every man has found a woman for himself yet there'd be 7.8 million females who will not find life partners. Now only option remaining for them for these females who've got no life partner is that either they marry a man who already has a wife or become public property. You may say 'PUBLIC PROPERTY' Brother Zakir such a harsh word, sister it is the most sophisticated word I can use I cannot use a better word.

In America on an average the statistics tell us a person has 8 different sexual partners before he settles down with one. Mistresses is common you can have 10, 20, 30 no problem 100 also the law will not say anything. If you marry more than one wife that thing does not go down their throat. Why? In mistresses the woman does not get her right she's degraded, she's dishonored. In Islam when you have second wife you have to give equal rights she has a honor, she has respect. But I do agree with you sister, I agree with you that no woman, no woman under normal circumstances would like to share her husband with any other woman. I agree with you, I agree with you sister but, but the basic law of Islamic Shariah is Let a small loss take place to prevent a big loss, Let a small loss take place to prevent a big loss so all the Muslimah, all the Muslim women who know that there're millions of women if they would not allow their husband to have more than one wife they'll become public property they say we would not mind sharing our husband to prevent our other sisters to become a public property. Hope that answers the question.

Ashraf Mohammady: I would request all the brothers and sisters who have a question to please form a queue so that the volunteers get an opportunity to identify and bring all our non-Muslim friends right in the front. Yes brother... I'm, I'm coming to,

Questioner: I..I... appreciate this movement Peace to Humanity. Really it's a movement it needs in our country but the quarrel is not based on the religion. Please understand. The division in this country is not based on the religion, it is not based on the God, it is not based on the scriptures, it is based on self interest. Politicians and certain communities, certain caste who feels that they are the superior and they should control this country, they create it. In the name of religion, they are fighting. Not in the name of the God. Everyone knows that God is the same. Everyone knows, we we worship the same God but here what contradicts is the superiority. One Caste..

Ashraf Mohammady: Brother, Brother...

Questioner: one particular caste... who claims themselves as Hindus

Ashraf Mohammady: Excuse me brother can you, can you please come to the question.

Dr. Zakir: Brother asked a question that he agrees that religion doesn't cause division. It is the politicians and that's what I told in my talk in the conclusion of my talk I did mention that the British had a policy of divide and rule and, unfortunately, most of the politicians they've inherited this policy and they get their vote bank by division and rule. So therefore, this talk I've told that if all the Indians, the Hindus and the Muslims, if you go back to the scriptures. These people are like Khutwatush Shaitan. Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Baqarah Chapter no. 2 verse no. 168

Yaaa Ayyuhan Naasu - O you who believe do not follow the Khutu Waatish Shaitaan, the footsteps of the devil"

So we get impressed by these politicians therefore we should go back to our scriptures and follow the established truth of the scriptures then, In Sha Allah, we will not be deviated from these people and come back. And my request to the politicians also, even my request to the politicians is that if you try and get the vote bank by getting to the established truth, you'll get a bigger vote bank, irrespective whether you get a vote bank here or not in the Aakhiraah you'll get a seat, In Sha Allah. In the next life.

Questioner: I'm Devraj, I'm a matricidal engineer. I'm working as a senior manager in Tractor Form Equipments. Dear brothers and sisters, today, is an excellent evening I can say. Is a really an eye opener to all Hindus. And was really amazed, astonished, surprised and what not about illustrations given by Dr. Zakir from various Vedas, Upanishads. I have to admit and most of the people will also admit it's really a God's gift given to Dr Zakir. One thing I could notice here is the specific is very clear in Islam for the Human being to be followed. In Hindus it's not clear, its there, its not clear. Lot of misinterpretations are there. Lot of interpretations and opinions, beliefs it's based on. There it is there but in a different format. My request to the organization is to call Hindu scholars and Hindus and arrange for a debate so that truth will come to surface. So that Hindus and Muslims can become much closer and closer. And be together to..to.. be together towards the prosperity, unity and peace for the nation and society. Thank you!

Dr. Zakir: The brother has given a very good suggestion and I appreciate him, I do agree with him it's an eye opener many of the Hindus even for the Muslims it's an eye opener even for the Muslims brother. I'm sure, is it or not? And the brother has given a very good suggestion that we should call the Hindu scholars and have a debate. I'd say rather a dialogue and that is again based on the verse of the Qur'an which I started my talk with Surah Ali Imran Chapter no. 3 verse 64 which says, Ta'aalaw Ilaa Kalimatin Sawaaa'im Bainanaa Wa Bainakum "come to common terms as between us and you" and that's what I'm doing brother I'm traveling in different parts of India, different parts of the world, having dialogues with scholars of Christianity, of Hinduism. I'm only a student, I'm not a scholar, I'm a student of comparative religion and I've had discussion dialogues in Kerala, with Hindu Priests, in Bombay and now there's a request In Sha Allah, I'll be going to Bangalore very shortly within a couple of months that Shri Shri Ravi Shankar, he has requested that we should have a common dialogue. And you might have heard of the person Shri Shri Ravi Shankar, he's of great fame, he has got centers in 40 different countries of True Living and if anyone in Madras if you can organize brother, if there's any priest in Madras we'd love to have to come on a common platform and have a dialogue. I

was there in Madras and I spoke with Shankar Acharya of Kashi, when I had come last time a few months back, and we had a discussion on the issue of Babri Masjid, asking me some questions and I gave him some clarification, of Kashi and there's no problem brother, we love it.

We are here to come to common terms. If you can arrange any brothers out here non-Muslim or Muslim brothers can arrange, any dialogue just come to a common understanding but get a person who's knowledgeable, you know, knowledgeable of high standards whether Shankar Acharya or top priest so that we can discuss and come to common terms, live harmoniously built a big Indian nation.

Ashraf Mohammady: Do we have a question from a non-Muslim sister?

Questioner: Yes exactly, question from a non-Muslim friend of mine. She's asking me like within you Muslims itself you have confusion, like when you meet, you ask first the question is whether you're a Wahabi or a Sunni, whatever. This kind of questions like...there's confusion between you itself. What do you want us to follow? What is that we can exactly come, follow and..

Dr. Zakir: The sister's asked a question that a non-Muslim sister asked there's a confusion among the Muslims when you meet you ask you're a Wahabi or are you a Hanafi or a Shafi or a Maliki so there's a confusion among the Muslims so what's the reply. I do agree with the non-Muslim sister that unfortunately many Muslims call different names but when I tell the Hindus to go back to the Vedas I tell the Muslims to go back to the Qur'an.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Ali Imran Chapter no..3 verse no.103, Allah says

W A'tasimoo Bi Hablil Laahi Jamee'anw Wa Laa Tafarraqoo.

“Hold to the rope of Allah strongly all together and do not become divided.”

We have to hold to the rope of Allah. The rope of Allah is the Glorious Qur'an and the authentic Ahadith.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah An'am Chapter no..6 verse no.159 that

“Anyone who makes division in the religion of Islam, O Prophet you have nothing to do with him.”

Making sects, making division in Islam is prohibited, it is Haraam but when we ask the Muslims what are you some says I'm a Hanafi, some say I'm a Shafi, some say I'm a Humbali, some say I'm a Salafi, what was the Prophet? Was the Prophet Hanafi, was he Shafi, was he Humbali, was he Malaki, What was he? He was a Muslim.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Ali Imran in Chapter no. 3 verse no. 52 Esa Alaihi Salaam, Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him) was a Muslim, Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Ali Imran Chapter 3 verse 67 that Abraham (Peace be upon him), he was a Muslim, Allah says in the Qur'an Surah Fussilat Chapter no..41 verse no. 33

Wa Man Ahsanu Qawlam Mimman Da'aaa Ilal Laahi Wa 'Amila Saalihanw Wa Qaala Innanee Minal Muslimeen

“Who is better in speech than one who invites to the way of thy Lord, works righteousness and says that I am a Muslim.”

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was a Muslim. Allah has told us to call ourself Muslims. There cannot be a better label than a Muslim. See all these 4 great Imams, Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Shafi, Imam Ahmed Ibn Humble, Imam Malik, May Allah be pleased with them all. They were great scholars I love them, I respect them all. They were great scholars but all these great scholars said, all these 4 Alimaams said that if you find any of my Fatwa which goes against Allah and his Rasool then you throw my Fatwa on the wall.

So here if we analyze that all these Imam that came, they came not to make new sects, they came for the people to go back to the original scriptures the Qur'an and the Sahih Ahadith. So what we have to realize, I know that there are people who say that isn't there Hadith in which the Prophet said that there'll be 73 sects it's a Hadith of Tirmidhi, it's a Sahih Hadith, Hadith no. 171, the Prophet said “there will be 73 sects”, Prophet didn't say you should make. Prophet knew that even though Allah says don't make, you're bound to make. So the best is to go back to Allah and His Rasool and the best label you can have is call yourself a Muslim.

Any scholar, let it be anyone in the world, let him be the biggest scholar of the world, you ask him for proof. “Qul Hatooburhanakum” “Produce your proof if you are truthful”, if you're honest produce your proof. So any scholar if there's difference of opinion you ask for proof, get the proof check it up therefore in my talk I always give references what I say, what Zakir says, it is rubbish in Islam it is 'Zero' nil. Therefore I say Zakir doesn't say Allah says “Qul Huwal Laahu Ahad. Say” “He is Allah one and only”. If Zakir says its rubbish, it is zero, nil in Islam. If Allah says it carries weight, if the Prophet says, it carries weight.

So therefore, sisters Muslims should not be divided, you should call yourselves Muslims and follow the Qur'an and the Sahih Hadith. Anyone who divides the religion, they are going against the Qur'an.

Ashraf Mohammady: May we have the next question from brother here. Your name and profession?

Questioner: I'm Rajaji, First year MA, new college. In.. My views are so controversial to him so but it is my duty to pose my question. You have said that Krishna had married to 16,000 wives and why can't a Muslim marry 4-5 wives. This shows that you two religions are united in suppressing the human rights. You've said that.. you.. you may say that womens, women are so attractive but this is a personal perspective and if you find so, your views are corrupted and you're mind is corrupted. The concept of beauty is itself also changing. Once *Cleopatra* was beautiful but it is not so now *Aishwariya Rai* ranks first. And You've also suggested for the original text but it creates only the fanatics and fundamentalists. When you're convinced to a particular religious ideology you find no wrong in your crimes. That is

why... that is the thing which happened in Gujarat where 2000 Muslims are murdered in the streets. No God has come, only communists and some democrats... reports were there. People are renouncing all the religious values and for you like persons that ..ah.. it has come to a sharp values. Religion is failed and not the people. So please allow the people to free and allow them to join the social movements like communists and excel by movements. That is true.

Dr. Zakir: Brother, I believe, is a communist. He's asked a very good question. He's saying that if Hinduism allows and Krishna has married 16,108 wives and Islam allows, so Hinduism and Islam is joining in suppressing the women. According to you. According to him brother he's saying Cleopatra was beautiful, today she's not. Aishwariya Rai is no. 1. For you not for me. So what is beautiful for you may not be beautiful for me, I do agree with you. It is a perspective, I do agree with you Aishwariya Rai may be no.1 for you, not for me. So we realize brother, the concept of difference changes and I gave the example what is modest in America is not modest here. What is modest here is not modest in America. Who's to decide? I do agree with you if you think that marrying more than one wife is suppressing the women, who's going to take care of the millions of women, You? Who will take care? Will your communist movement take care. Allah in the Glorious Qur'an gives you the solutions to the problems of humankind. The solution doesn't go down the throat. I'm asking you a question, today there are millions and millions of women more than men who's going to take care of them? Who? Even if you give them charity every month that charity will not be sufficient. See a man and woman have been made sexual by nature.

Allah says in the Qur'an in Surah Room Chapter no. 30 verse 21.

"He has put love and mercy between their hearts."

I'm a medical doctor, I'm a medical doctor, a woman cannot remain a virgin throughout her life. Cannot it's not possible. What are you going to do? What will happen? They'll go to prostitution. What will your communism do for them? What's the solution? No solution. Allah gives the solution, our Creator; the solution doesn't go down the throat. So the problem is brother that the solution is a, you give a better solution. Can you think of a better solution? In Islam it's not compulsory to marry more than one wife, it's not compulsory to marry 4. I don't know of a single Indian Muslim who has got 4 wives, I don't know of any. There are other foreigners Muslims who have got. Here you've to realize brother this is the solution. Everyone cannot marry more than 1 woman, everyone cannot. But certain men who can do justice between the wives Allah has given them permission. If they can do justice then what is troubling you I don't understand. Where are we suppressing them? We're uplifting them.

The so-called modernity you're talking about in America in the name of Art & Culture what are they doing? They are degrading the woman. Your talk of woman's liberalization is nothing but it is an exploitation of her body, degradation of honor and deprivation of her soul. The western society claiming to uplift the women has actually degraded her to a concubine, to a mistresses, and society butterflies which are hidden behind the color skin of Art and Culture. In the name of Art & Culture, Aishwariya Rai, what is that? Modeling, Is it right? So the problem is brother, you

have to put your thinking right, is important. We don't want to sell our daughters; we don't want to sell our mothers if you want you can do it. And the famous Ad I am told which I gave the example last time of the BMW, someone told me, very famous Ad. You know BMW car? It is a very famous car; youngsters go in competition with Mercedes. In the Ad, there's a woman standing in a Bikini in front of the Ad. "Test drive her now" Who the girl or the car? What are you doing? in the name of communism, in the name of uplifting the women you are selling your daughters; you are selling your mothers. We Muslims don't want to do it. we don't want to do it.

In America, in America you can have Mistresses 5, 10, 20 no one can stop you. So in communism having mistresses are allowed. Having more than one wife you have to give her rights, you cannot ill-treat her, you have to give her honor, you have to give your property that doesn't go down your throat. Who's degrading the women you or me?

You know in America, one of the most advanced countries, these Americans who talk about that Islam degrades the women, do you know out of those people accepting Islam, today Islam is the fastest growing religion. Out of those people accepting Islam, two third of the people are women. If Islam degrades the women then why are the American women accepting Islam? Why the American men accepting Islam? Who forced Dr Abu Ameena Bilal Philips to accept Islam? Who forced Brother Abdur Raheem Green to accept Islam? Who? If you see the women, two third of the people are women, they are accepting Islam. Why? If Islam degrades the women why will they accept Islam? Because they know that Islam gives security to women, Islam uplifts the women that security may not go with your purpose of making money in art & culture. Like the politicians they want to divide and rule, these people of art and culture talking about uplifting the women, beauty contests, they're selling cosmetics, they make billions of dollars, you know that the beauty contests for what? In the name of beauty contests, they're making billions of dollars. So just because they want to make billions of dollars. all of.. many of the human beings want to go and see. So if you realize brother we don't believe in exhibiting our women in front of public. We respect them, we love them and we revere them. We don't want to degrade them.

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN HINDUISM AND ISLAM – PART 3

by Dr Zakir Naik

LESSON 7 – QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION – PART 2

Ashraf Mohammady: We have a non-Muslim sister. Ya..

Questioner: Ah. the answer that you gave me.. your logic and statistics made me think for a while. Ah...but I still have a point to be cleared. Probably.. I mean ... in previous point of time, In those days men had to go to the battle field, the only source of income for family was through men but now the times are changing and probably in the future times will still more change. And women might go to the battle field and right now women are... are going for jobs and probably the mortality rate for women might increase too. At that point of time is it okay to modify and say that there can be just one wife for a man. After all religion is for modal creatures like us and not for...not for God

Dr Zakir: The sister's asked a very good question. At that time in wars may be men were dying more and I agree with her, now the times of war have changed but even today sister, in the wars more men are dying. In the gulf war more men died, in the Afghanistan war more men died, in Vietnam war more men died. But the percentage was much less as compared to the olden.... I do agree with you. Today, I gave the statistics more people of dying of cigarette smoking they are men rather than women, more people dying of alcoholism more men than women. Accidents-more men than women. I do agree with you that now women started going to the battlefield

And in America, when I was there in USA, just a few years back they started a women section. Women going, and there was a big section of women joining the military. Do you know, the President of America that time, it was Bill Clinton, I think Bill Clinton, he had to apologize in the Parliament. You know 96 women were raped by the superior. He had to apologize in the parliament. Majority of the women that take part in the battle field, they're raped by their superior. When you have shoulder to shoulder going to war, what will happen? See this is statistics, sister this is statistics of America. The problem, I do agree with you... Sister I do agree with your question, your question are innocent because you don't know the statistics. Do you know the statistics; I do agree that women are going for job. In America, do you know, in America every day according to the statistics of 1996 US department of justice 2713 women are being raped everyday, every 32 seconds 1 woman is being raped, we're here in this auditorium for the past 3 hours, for the past 3 hours, more than 300 women may have been raped in USA till the time I'm here.

Why? Islam is not against women working. Islam is not against women working but it is the duty of the man to be the bread earner. They can work but it should be a modest work. It should not be modeling, dancing, singing or intermingling with the

gents, working is allowed sister but if you do those work which are immodest there are high chances that you may be degraded, there may be an immorality. Yes sister you have some comments.

Questioner: I'm not talking about any.. I mean degrading the modesty of a women kind of jobs. I'm talking about modest jobs say driving itself... there are.. the number of women drivers in the world are increasing. What? at one point of time lets say of a hypothetical situation at one point of time the number of women drivers in the world increased and the mortality rate of women increase at that point of time is it okay for us to accept a religion and say that a man can have just one wife.. I'm not just talking about this particular aspect of..of any religion alone. Any aspect of religion is it okay to modify religion as times are changing.

Dr. Zakir: Sister's asked a very good question that can we modify religion as times are changing. If the religion is not perfect it requires a modification. If the religion is perfect no modification is required. So if the religion has a problem, therefore I told you point out a single fault. You're talking hypothetically, hypothetically after 100 years if women starts driving, if women die if women population becomes less, if, if, if. Sister, Our Creator, Almighty God knows the future, you & I don't know. He knows the future. He said a man is permitted to have more than 1 wife, not compulsory, even if I agree with you, even if I agree with you, the women population becomes the same, it's not compulsory for a Muslim to have more than 1 wife. I have only 1 wife sister. I have got 1 wife only and I'm satisfied with her. I don't intend marrying more. There's no problem. If someone can do there's no problem at all. Want to marry, marry. Don't want to marry, don't marry but if you marry, you should do justice between your wife. So sister our Almighty God, Creator, he knows about the future.

Suppose Dr. says don't have cyanide, but if the cyanide doesn't harm me and if I have it. Hypothetical. See Dr. knows. But Dr is a human being, can make mistakes but Almighty God is the biggest Dr of everything. He is the biggest Dr. He knows what is required for. Therefore I said point out a mistake now. Tomorrow there may be something then In Sha Allah you can come and ask me the question tomorrow and then I'll give the reply.

Ashraf Mohammady: May we have the next question from the brother at the back.

Questioner: My name is Shri Ram. I'm an engineering graduate. I would like to pose a question. You said that Dashrat had 3 wives and we know that in Ramayana Dashrat in an attempt to give equality to all the 3 wives, he lost his life. You can say this as test of, test by In Sha Allah but is this test suitable for the wives because they're being suffered. Who's going to take care of the wives if the person is not.. failing in the test. What will be the position of those people? Is this correct?

Dr. Zakir: The brother's asked a question. That King Dashrat had more than 1 wife. While giving equality to the wives the women suffered. That's what he's saying. So that's a test. The Qur'an says suffering is a test. So when I studied, when I studied for my MBBS exam... I slogged out, I use to slog out. Believe me even if you give me a million rupees I would never like to appear for my medical examination again. I slogged out for the degree. So all the suffering it is a test, it is a test. So here we

realize that's a test for her. If she behaves like a good wife, that woman, and follows the commandments of Almighty God does a duty of her wife even if her husband does or not she'll pass the test. The husband may fail the test. So this life brother is a small portion. An average human being lives for about 50 years or 40 years some die at the age of 20, some at the age of 80, average about 40 to 60 years a human being lives. But this life compared to next life is .0000000, very small percentage. So if I tell you that in this small percentage compared to next life I'll give you pain.. in Next life whatever you want you'll get. You'll say I don't mind you do what we want, give me pain, next life I'll get what I want. So a good businessman will say I don't mind trouble and pain. Like before the examination we slog out, we don't sleep also. Why? Because we want to pass the examination. Similarly, if the wife undergoes certain trails and tribulations whatever it is if she follows the commandments of Almighty God in the Quran, she'll go to paradise. If the husband doesn't follow, he'll not go to paradise. If he follows he'll go to paradise. Hope this answers the question.

Ashraf Mohammady: May we have the next question from the sister's side.

Questioner: Assalaam Alaikum I'm Shelder, a software engineer. I embraced Islam at the time of my marriage I just have only one question which relates to humanity. Our topic is about Peace to Humanity. Does Islam or in anywhere in the Qur'an is it's specified about the woman organ donation? If it is so, is it allowed or like why is the reason it is not allowed? So as I hear from some of my friends.

Dr Zakir: Sister asked a question that is there any mention in the Qur'an that organ donation can be done or not? There is no verse in the Qur'an or any authentic Hadith where organ transplantation, organ donation can be done or cannot be done. But all the scholars have got together and there're several conferences taken place in Makkah, in Riyadh, in Malaysia and the scholars unanimously agree that the organ donation and organ transplantation can be done if 3 criteria's are fulfilled

No. 1 the person donating the organ, it should not cause a major loss to his health. I can't give my heart. If I donate my heart I will die. But doctors say that I've got 2 kidneys 1 kidney is sufficient and if my mother, both her kidneys have failed, I can give a kidney to her, even she will survive and even I will survive. So point no. 1 the person donating the organ, should not cause a major loss to his health.

Point no. 2 the person receiving the organ should be a major benefit for his health.

Point no. 3 it should not be for money, for economic reasons. A person can't sell his kidney. So if these 3 things are fulfilled. The scholars say under these conditions organ donation can be done, organ transplantation can be done. Hope that answers the question.

Ashraf Mohammady: yes brother, can we have the next question from you?

Questioner: Respected Sir, I have 4 questions. first one is Sir its hard to believe...

Ashraf Mohammaddy: Brother please, please mention your name and 1 question at a time.

Questioner: Sigil. There are some hard to believe instances in any scriptures. For instance in Qur'an, like, birds dropping stones in battle fields on the enemies. Context like that which is hard to believe. That's my first question.

Dr. Zakir: The brother's asked a question that there are certain things mentioned in the Qur'an like birds dropping stones talking about Surah Feel, Surah Feel Chapter no. 105. There are many things for example Qur'an says about Shaqqul Qamar, Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) split the moon into two. Musa (Alaihi Salaam) split the sea into two.. These are difficult things, yes, these are known as miracles. Miracles are those things which a human mind cannot conceive how it happened. For us human being to make the moon into two is not possible, for us human being to split the sea into two and have a path way is not possible. So these are known as miracles which only God can do. You & I cannot do. So it's difficult for us to conceive. The only way for us to testify is to go back into time. Here sitting now we cant go back 3000, 4000 years back and check up whether Musa (Alaihi Salaam), Moses, did he split the sea or not? So what we say these are Miracles which doesn't allow us to go back in time but there are many things which Qur'an has said which has come true today. For example Qur'an speaks about science about the Big Bang, Qur'an speaks about the light of the Moon not its own light. Qur'an speaks that the earth is spherical. Qur'an speaks the Sun rotates. Which to a man 1400 years back would sound what is this non sense? That the moon has its own light, that the earth is spherical, all these things about the big bang. But today after science has advanced we've come to know it's a fact. But to know what happened in the past, we can't go back in time. So what my logic says whatever the Qur'an has mentioned, certain things we can check up now certain things we can't check up. We can't go back in time so that goes in the ambiguous slot. So what things we can check up today out of those things whatever we can check up 80% things we can check up. So my logic says 80% of what the Qur'an mentions we can check up today and we've come as 100% correct. Whatever we can check not even 1% is wrong.

Questioner: Rest of the comments are historic I think so.

Dr. Zakir: Yes that what I'm telling you brother. A historic... for you to say that thing didn't happen you can only prove by going back in time. If the Qur'an says Prophet Moses split the sea you can't prove that he didn't split. Neither can you prove he split. But we can't go back in time. Can we go back 3000, 4000 years back? Can we go? we can't. so what we say logically this may have happened, may not have happened. May have happened, may not have happened. The birds may have dropped stone, may not have dropped stone. Correct? What we say this is ambiguous. If we talk about the nuclear bomb, thousand years back, would they have believed? Would they have believed? They would have said this is non sense. Right or wrong? But today you and I believe or not? Because science has advanced. Similarly there is nuclear bomb; there is atom bomb so birds dropping stones what's the problem. It is so easy. Nuclear bomb is more difficult. So here we realize we cannot go back in time. What my logic says whatever we can testify today, whatever we can analyze today out of that 100% has been proved to be correct. 20% we can't

analyze. We can not go back. We can't go in future. We cannot prove scientifically whether there's heaven or hell. So you'll ask me brother Zakir you're a medical doctor how do you believe in heaven and hell? I say that goes in 20% ambiguous slot. So my logic says when 80%, what we can check today of the Qur'an has been 100% to be correct. Not even point 1% is wrong. So my logic says what 20% is ambiguous, In Sha Allah God willing even that will be correct. May be science will advance after 50 years, after 20 years we'll come to know about life after death. We will come to know about heaven or hell. So my logic says, it's a logical belief that when not even point .0001% has been proved wrong of the Qur'an, 80% is 100% correct so my logic says, In Sha Allah, the 20% which we cant verify by going back in time or going in future even that, In Sha Allah, will be correct. Hope that answers the question.

Ashraf Mohammady: May we have the next question from the brother here.

Questioner: Hello! I'm Ashok here. I'm doing my MA Economics in Loyla College. Sir my question is that in this time of this.. like .. as the world is in a very distress we are in a way of.. we want peace. Whether it a religion.. religion peace or whatever it is. We need peace, we need some humanity and we have lots of people from outside country also. So is the religion is the sole thing that we are doing so much of problems all around. Is the religion is the sole problem for that we are demolishing all the WT all around and we have lots of problem over there and is .. is the religion is the solution for the things happening all around the world and is it the solution for the people dying in Ethiopia? We have children dying out of hunger is there, is the religion solution for them? What is the solution for the real thing for what we are wondering all around? Is it the religion the only solution for what we are debating all this time? What? I think so we need some solution for that.

Ashraf Mohammady: Thank you brother.

Dr. Zakir: Brother's asked a very good question that we are having so many problems in the world is religion the solution for this problem? There are so many people dying in Ethiopia, is religion the solution? Brother, the religion which is true is the solution.

Allah says in the Qur'an Chapter no. no. 3 verse no. 19

Innad Deena 'Indal Laahil Islaam

"The only religion acceptable in the sight of Almighty God is submitting your will to Almighty God."

If every human being submits his will to Almighty God you won't have a problem in Ethiopia. Allah says in the Qur'an and several Sahih Hadith that the third pillar of Islam is every rich person who has a saving of more than the Nisaab level, 85 grams of gold, should give 2.5% of his savings in charity. If every rich human being gives charity poverty will be eradicated from this world. Leave aside Ethiopia; there will not be a single human being anywhere in the world who will die of hunger. Do you know that the three richest men in the world, the 3 richest men in the world, their wealth is equal to 48 poorest countries GDP. 3 richest men. If all of these people give Zakaat

it will solve the problem of the humankind. So the problem is that if every human being follows...follows the religion of submitting his will to Almighty God. like that you gave one problem. Any problem you get, Alhumdulillah, the Glorious Qur'an has the solution to the problem. Follow the right religion and you'll get real peace.

Ashraf Mohammady: Next question from the brother at the back. Yes.

Questioner: Ah.. I want to make one thing clear. Is everything test of Allah? is everything the test of Allah?

Dr. Zakir: Brother's asked a question that is everything a test of Allah. this life is a test sometimes we ourselves create a problem for us, we ourselves create problems for us so this life brother is a test for the hereafter

Questioner: Then you mean to say that nobody reaches heaven because to error is human.

Dr. Zakir: The brother said that if that's the case then nobody reaches Heaven because it is human to err. And I agree with you brother. I agree with you totally It is human to err. Everyone will make a mistake. That's the reason our beloved Prophet said and I mentioned in my talk on the second day that no one can enter Jannah without the grace and Mercy of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). I said that in my talk that we human being makes mistakes but Allah is forgiving. He's Gafoor, He is Raheem, He is Merciful, He is Beneficent and He Forgives His people but even He has rules and regulations. Even He Himself doesn't just say, okay fine, you look good I forgive you, you don't look good I don't forgive you. He has got His rules and regulations for the human beings mentioned in the Qur'an so you can only go to Jannah with the Mercy of Almighty God. If Almighty God catches every mistake of yours and gives you a negative point and gives you a positive point. for the good deeds that you do then no human being will enter Jannah not even the Prophet Muhammad (*Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam*) himself! That's what the Prophet said it's the Hadith of the Prophet it's mentioned in the Qur'an that Allah will multiply your good deeds by 10 times but your wrong things He'll only count as one. So because of this mercy of Almighty God. He forgives many of mistakes.

The only thing which He will not forgive it's mentioned in the Qur'an in Surah Nisa Chapter no. 4 verse no. 48 and Surah Nisa chapter no. 4 verse 116 that the sin which Allah will never forgive is the sin of Shirk, associating partners with Almighty God, any other sin if He wants, He may forgive you because associating partners with Almighty God is a sin which is biggest of them. Hope that answers the question.

Ashraf Mohammady: Do you have a counter question brother?

Questioner: Ya, then you mean to say that a person who is doing all good deeds and making an error in having 3 wives but not.. Treating them equally will it be .. ah .. will he be attaining heaven?

Dr Zakir: Brother's asked a question if a..

Questioner: Will that... will that not..

Dr Zakir: I've understood your question. That If a person if he has 3 wives and doesn't treat all his wives equally can he go to Jannah? He can go, why not? Because, see, for us to be absolutely pure you yourself said it is human to err. With all the good things... something evil thought will come in your mind even that's wrong. So if you make mistakes you ask for forgiveness. A person who doesn't treat his 3 wives equally if he asks for forgiveness Allah may forgive him. Allah may put him in Jannah. His other good deeds may be so much that Allah will forgive this. So that depends on Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) whose the Master of the Day of Judgment. A person should treat his wife equally but if he doesn't treat he may go to Jannah, may not go. Depending upon all his full life put together, Allah is the Master of the Day of Judgment. He may go, he may not go if he asks for forgiveness, Allah may forgive him. Hope that answers the Question.

Ashraf Mohammady: Ah.. we'll take this. Yes brother you have...

Questioner: Sir, what are the Halal or allowed means of entertainment in Islam? What about the role of music and what about Sufi vision of Islam? Does it come inside the framework or is it outside?

Dr. Zakir: Brother's asked what are the Halal ways of entertainment? Entertainment is your perception. What is entertainment for you may not be entertainment for me. Like people today are being entertained. They're getting knowledge and are entertained. This is Halal. So the Halal ways of entertainment are those entertainment which doesn't go against the Qur'an and Sunnah. What is mentioned Haram in the Qur'an and the Sahih Hadith if you abstain from that, all the other ways are Halal.

As far as music is concerned it's a Hadith of beloved Prophet Muhammad (*Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam*) that music is not permitted except for Duff. Except for the Duff, one sided open drum. All the other music is not permitted because it takes you away from Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala), takes you away from the remembrance of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) that's the reason it has been prohibited. And your third question was the Sufi thing of Islam. Sufi is an Arabic word, comes from Suff. It is again more of a deviation. In my earlier answer I told you the right concept is following the Qur'an and the Sunnah. So if you follow anything which is not mentioned in the Qur'an and the Sunnah and said it's a part of Deen then it's a deviation. Most of this is a deviation that you have of the Sufism. It's more of a deviation. It's not. The right Islam is following The Qur'an and the Sunnah. Any Scholar says anything. Let him be any scholar, you've to go and see in the Qur'an and the Sunnah. Any other source, the right source is Qur'an and the Sahih Hadith.

Questioner: Most authentic English Translation. Most authentic in your, in your opinion?

Dr. Zakir: Most Authentic English translation? Brother the Arabic is the word of God is 100% without any error. All the translations are human work and they're bound to have errors. So there cannot be error-free translation. Yes but amongst the translations available the good one that I feel, one of them is the Sahih International.

The English translation I'm talking about. Other languages you can ask the local people. In English one of the good translations, I feel, is the Sahih International which has been translated by 3 ladies who were originally American, the westerners they were and they accepted Islam, Sahih International, the copy which I gave to the brother earlier. And if you want I'd like to give you also In Sha Allah, after the talk you can contact brother Ashraf. He will give you a copy of the Sahih International and you can read the translation. Hope that answers the question.

Questioner: thank you very much!

Dr. Zakir: you're most welcome.