

Rebuttal to Edward Cline's article: "The Madness of Qutb's Milestones"

By

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In the website "Family security matters" whose mission is to inform Americans about the issues surrounding national security, the writer Edward Cline wrote an article under the title "The Madness of Qutb's Milestones". His intention was to warn Americans against the violent religion of Islam.

Edward Cline was parroting the falsehood we hear about Islam from its enemies everywhere. I thought I would learn something from his article, but I got nothing but hatred and ignorance.

Before commenting on Edward Cline's article, it is better to inform the reader about the true personality of Sayed Kutb, the one whom Edward Cline used his milestone to slam Islam and accuse it of nihilism!

Sayed Qutb was an eminent member of the Muslim brotherhood. They say that he was the supreme guide of the Muslim brotherhood for only one day.

According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia, in July 1952, Egypt's pro-Western government was overthrown by the nationalist Free Officers Movement headed by Gamal Abdel Nasser. Both Qutb and the Muslim Brotherhood welcomed the coup against the monarchist government — which they saw as un-Islamic and subservient to British imperialism — and enjoyed a close relationship with the movement prior to and immediately following the coup. Many members of the Muslim brotherhood expected Nasser to establish an Islamic government. However, the cooperation between the Muslim brotherhood and Free Officers which marked the revolution's success soon soured as it became clear the secular nationalist ideology of Nasserism was incompatible with the Islamism of the Muslim brotherhood.

Nasser had secretly set up an organisation that would sufficiently oppose the Muslim Brotherhood once he came to power. This organisation was called "Tahreer" ("freedom" in Arabic). It was well known that the Muslim brotherhood were made popular by their extensive social programs in Egypt, and Nasser wanted to be ready once he had taken over. At this time, Qutb did not realize Nasser's alternate plans, and would continue to meet with him, sometimes for 12 hours a day to discuss a post monarch Egypt. Once Qutb realized that Nasser had taken advantage of the secrecy between the Free Officers and the Muslim brotherhood, he promptly quit. Nasser then tried to persuade Qutb by offering him any position he wanted in Egypt except its Kingship, saying:

"We will give you whatever position you want in the government, whether it's the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Arts, etc.

Qutb refused every offer, having understood the reality of Nasser's plans. Upset that Nasser would not enforce a government based on Islamic ideology, Qutb and other Brotherhood members orchestrated a plot to assassinate the Egyptian president in 1954. The attempt was foiled and Qutb was jailed soon afterwards; the Egyptian government used the incident to justify a crackdown on various members of the Muslim Brotherhood for their vocal opposition towards the Nasser administration. During his first three years in prison, conditions were bad and Qutb was tortured. In later years he was allowed more mobility, including the opportunity to write.

This period saw the composition of his two most important works: a commentary of the Qur'an "Fi Zilal al-Qur'an" (In the Shade of the Qur'an), and a manifesto of political Islam called Ma'alim filTariq (Milestones). These works represent the final form of Qutb's thought, encompassing his radically anti-secular and anti-Western claims based on his interpretations of the Qur'an, Islamic history, and the social and political problems of Egypt. The school of thought he inspired has become known as Qutbism.

Qutb was let out of prison at the end of 1964 at the behest of the Prime Minister of Iraq, Abdul Salam Arif, for only 8 months before being rearrested in August 1965. He was accused of plotting to overthrow the state and subjected to what some consider a show trial. Many of the charges placed against Qutb in court were taken directly from Ma'alim filTariq (milestone) and he adamantly supported his written statements. The trial culminated in a death sentence for Qutb and six other members of the Muslim Brotherhood. He was sentenced to death for his part in the conspiracy to assassinate the President and other Egyptian officials and personalities, though he was not the instigator or leader of the actual plot. On 29 August 1966, he was executed by hanging.

To tell the truth, I have never read any of Sayed Qutb's books. I am not a member in the Muslim brotherhood, I even reject their longing for power and the way they impose their conservative ideas on the people when they are firmly established and acquired the power to rule. However, Edward Cline touched some Islamic principles, which he might have read in Qutb's milestone with disgust and repulsion, a matter necessitating clarification to the reader.

The following is a rebuttal to Edward Cline's article.

Edward Cline said that I wrote a "long apologetic about Islam together with a call for censoring of critics and mockers of Islam and Muhammad, which included an attack on Robert Spencer of Jihad Watch. It echoes Qutb's theme".

I do not write apologetics. The Message of Islam is complete and final and does not need anyone to defend it. I write the truth and nothing but the truth. I warn the ignorant not to attack Islam because their abode would be terrible if they do not refrain from attacking the religion of their Lord. The attackers of Islam think that the Koran is not divine and Muhammad is not a Prophet, and Allah is not their God. Their false belief about Islam made them race to attack Islam with all the falsehood their hands can lay on.

My writings about Islam are solely for the sake of Allah. If people believe in them, they will benefit their own souls, if not, they but hurt their own selves. As for us, we have been blessed with guidance, and other people's infidelity cannot hurt us.

The Koran says:

O believers, you should worry only about your own souls. If the others go astray, they cannot hurt you, as long as you are guided. Unto Allah shall you return, altogether, then He will tell you what you were doing (Al-Maidah, 105).

When I first saw all these wars against Islam, especially after the events of September 11, I thought that the attackers were incognizant of Islam as a religion, so I started my writings by explaining the religion to the attackers haply they might understand. But I realized after a short while that the attackers were part of well-organized coalitions principally formed to tarnish the religion of Islam and picture it as violent and fake. The coalitions included the Evangelical Christian Right, televangelists, Judeo-Christian coalition, and some Republican Senators affiliated to one or more of these organizations. The war hit innocent Muslims in the United States and in many other parts of the world. The war extended to defile the Koran, belying it, and even burning it. The Prophet of Islam was slandered with silly pictures and foul epithets; Allah the Lord of creation was described as a moon god, monkey god and demon god! Islam as a religion was described by some morons as a cult or a sect!

I was really amazed to see all this falsehood coming from these cults and sects. Do they think they will be left uncontrolled? Know they not that Allah watches over His servants and is a witness to all things?

Allah states in the Koran:

“He knows what is in the heavens and on earth; and He knows what you conceal and what you reveal: and Allah knows well the secrets of all hearts.” (At-Taghabun, 4).

“Whether you hide your word or publish it. He certainly has full knowledge of the secrets of all hearts. He is the One that understands the finest mysteries and is well-acquainted with them.” (Al-Mulk 13, 14).

I therefore added to my writings the terrible consequences awaiting the enemies of Allah who do not mind humiliating their Creator and His Message addressed to them. They are so blind as not to see the disastrous doom awaiting them in the Hereafter – Hell with its ferocious Fire.

It should be pointed out that my writings are not intended at all to convince non-Muslims to join Islam, for guidance comes only from Allah.

If God had willed, He would have made you one nation; but He leads astray whom He will, and guides whom He will; and you will surely be questioned about the things you wrought (Al-Nahl, 93).

You cannot guide whomever you please; it is Allah who guides whom He will. He best knows those who would accept guidance (Al-Qassas, 56).

My writings are addressed to those who set themselves as rivals to Allah, those who dispute the signs of Allah with opposing arguments under the pretext of freedom of speech. I first, explain the religion of Islam to them, and then I warn them of the calamities awaiting them in the present life and the torture they are going to suffer in the Hereafter. It is my duty to warn them; haply they may wake up and reconsider their disgraceful conduct.

The Koran says:

Surely those who disbelieve in Our signs – We shall certainly roast them at a Fire; as often as their skins are wholly burned, We shall give them in exchange other skins, that they may taste the chastisement. Surely, Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise (Al-Nisa', 56).

Edward Cline defends Robert Spencer, this human Satan who filled the world with falsehood about Islam, who blogged the Koran to prove that it is false, who wrote some garbage that Muhammad never existed, who think he is an Islamic scholar and he doesn't know a bit of Arabic, the one who conceal the truth and covers it with falsehood, the one who sold himself to the devil, the one who is hired to tarnish the religion of Islam, the one who live on unlawful money resulting from selling books attacking the Creator and the seal of His Prophets – I exposed him in several of my articles, he and several others like him. Now they know the terrible doom awaiting them if they do not desist, repent, and then follow the right path – Islam, the only religion of Allah since he created the universe and until He inherits the earth and all that is on it.

Edward Cline raised the issue of comparing the Koran with Hitler's Book "Mein Kamph". He referred to Geert Wilders the one who compared the Koran with Hitler's Book. Is the Koran a Book of violence and racism to be compared with Mein Kamph? Is the Word of Allah to be compared with the word of a man? Geert wilders, is a fanatic racist and Islamophobe hate monger. He was prevented from entering England twice because of his bigotry and hatred towards Islam!

Edward Cline compared jihad in Islam with Hitler's violence? Was Hitler trying to purify his soul through greater jihad (struggling to protect the soul against worldly temptation), or defending his country against invading enemies through lesser jihad? (struggling to defend the country against invaders). Hitler, the Christian, killed millions because of his aggression and violence. All Muhammad battles were made according to Allah's commands, and the number of causalities did not exceed 600. He fought his enemies after they persecuted him for eleven years and won in

the end. He established the last religion of Allah on earth, the religion of peace and justice.

Edward Cline, is this the sum of your knowledge – to compare the divine Book of Allah with Mein Kamph? Are you serious or just fooling yourself and your readers?

Comparing the Koran with Mein Kamph is irrational and not scientific, but rather imbecility and hallucination coming from a man who is not in full possession of his faculties.

It would be more feasible if Cline makes a comparison between the Koran, the one unified Book that stood the test of time, and the corrupted Bibles or Gospels now existing. Assuredly, it would be a good study if the Koran is used as a reference to purify the adulterated Bible from the inventions and fabrications Cline's forefathers added to it.

Edward Cline claims that there is dualism in Islam! The opposite is true. We do not say, "There is no compulsion in religion" and then force people to embrace Islam. People are free to believe or not to believe. If they believe, it is to their own gain, if they do not, it is to their own loss because they will be questioned about why they did not follow the right path of salvation – Islam.

The Koran says:

Surely it is a Reminder (the Koran) to thee and to thy people; and assuredly you will be questioned (Az-Zukhruf, 44).

Mr Cline, We do not wage war on the infidels to slay, convert or enslave as you falsely claimed. The Prophet and his companions defended themselves against their foes, but you and your like wished to see the prophet defeated, and here, Islam, in your sight, would have been a peaceful religion. After the establishment of Islam, it is up to the people to believe or not to believe. If they do believe it is to their own gain, if not it is to their own loss, there is no compulsion in religion. The Prophet spread the Message, and we his followers are following suit, we are not a guardian over you, we are not here to watch over your folly. The Prophet's task is only to deliver the Message, and the Message includes good tidings and a severe warning. All people will be accountable to Allah and He will ask them about this Message. Did they believe in it, or they threw it behind their backs. If they followed it they will be recompensed with paradise, if not, they will be the inhabitants of Hell.

Listen to the Koran:

People of the Book (Jews and Christians), now there has come to you Our Messenger, making things clear to you, upon an interval between the Messengers lest you should say, 'There has not come to us any bearer of good tidings, neither

any warner. Indeed, there has come to you a bearer of good tidings and a warner; Allah is powerful over everything (Al-Maidah, 19).

Say: 'I have no power to profit for myself; or hurt, but as Allah will. Had I knowledge of the Unseen I would have acquired much good, and evil would not have touched me. I am only a warner, and a bearer of good tidings, to a people believing.' (Al-A'raf, 188).

One might argue: Why Islam in particular, what about Christianity and Judaism? The answer is: religion with Allah is only Islam. Islam dates back to the age of Adam and its Message has been conveyed to man by Allah's Prophets and Messengers, including Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad.

Islam was the religion of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Tribes, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. They all came to call people for the unity of Allah: Allah is One, so worship Him alone without incorporating with Him other deities.

Edward Cline found Sayed Qutb's book an "exercise of nausea, mental ravings of psychotic murderers, a manifesto of nihilism, etc." Sayed Qutb was in fact an Islamic scholar who wrote several books about Islamic jurisprudence. His books and writings were highly appreciated in the Muslim world. Sayed Qutb expressed his view that in Islam there is no separation between religion and the state, so he got himself in trouble with Nasser's regime in the 1960's, he was then put on trial, and for political reasons was executed. This calamitous incidence however, does not degrade Qutb in any way, for he was an eminent Islamic scholar.

Edward Cline used Sayed Qutb's milestones as an excuse to attack Islam. He said in his article: "I have been writing for years saying that Islam is fundamentally a nihilist ideology, and that President Obama is a practising nihilist, as well. Thus his symbiosis with Islam."

Well Mr Cline, President Obama won the last elections; the American people must have seen in him such glaring nihilism that prompted them to choose him for a second term.

Cline's ignorance of Islam as a religion, and his evident ignorance of history, in addition to his unjustified hatred towards Islam, made him believe that Islam is nihilistic. Islam being nihilistic is the silliest idea I have ever heard.

Is Islam a nihilist ideology as Edward Cline claims? Let us put this claim to the test.

No other revealed book praises and encourages work, science and knowledge as does the Koran, and it is for this reason that the Koran names the pre-Islamic era as the "age of ignorance." In over a hundred verses, reference is made to science and knowledge in a variety of ways; and many of these verses praise the value of scientific knowledge. Beside various Koranic verses emphasizing the importance of knowledge, there are hundreds of Prophetic traditions that encourage Muslims to acquire all types of knowledge from any corner of the world.

Islam attaches great importance to knowledge and education. When the Quran began to be revealed, the first word of its first verse was “Iqra” that is, read.

Allah says in the Koran:

"Read! In the Name of your Lord Who has created (all that exists). He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who has taught (the writing) by the pen. He has taught man that which he knew not (Al-'Alaq, 1-5).

Education is thus the starting point of every human activity. Allah created man and provided him with the tools for acquiring knowledge, namely hearing, sight and wisdom.

We read in the Koran:

And Allah has brought you out from the wombs of your mothers while you know nothing. And He gave you hearing, sight, and hearts that you might give thanks (to Allah) (An-Nahl, 78).

The vast universe spread out before us serves as a magnificent introduction to recognize Allah. The existence of a limitless world in the form of the earth and the heavens is a proof that there must be a Creator behind it. The creation of the heavens and earth and all what they contain are signs to only those who reflect on these signs. For to be able to arrive at the truth, one has to be sincere in one's research for it, and one has to rise above worldly considerations before drawing one's conclusions. This can be achieved only by total absorption, not in externals, but in the research for the inner reality that lies beneath the outward surface of things. Allah urged Muslims to think and reflect on the signs of His creation and to search for the inner reality that lies beneath the outward surface of things. Muslim scientists adopted this Koranic precept in their research.

The Koran says:

Surely in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of night and day and the ship that runs in the sea with profit to men, and the water Allah sends down from heaven therewith reviving the earth after it is dead and His scattering abroad in it all manner of crawling thing, and the turning about of the winds and the clouds compelled between heaven and earth – surely there are signs for a people having understanding (Al-Baqarah, 164).

Islam has asked people to think of the universe and recognize the wisdom behind the creation.

The Koran says:

What, have they not journeyed in the land so that they have hearts to understand with or ears to hear with? It is not the eyes that are blind, but blind are the hearts within the breasts (Al-Hajj, 46).

Allah is the Creator of the earth, the heavens and all things. This creation could have been haphazard, i.e. all things could have been created, then left in confusion. But He did not do so. He linked all things in an absolutely perfect, well organized and wisely regulated system, and activated them in such a way that everything kept working exactly in the manner in which it ought to, if it had to serve the collective interest.

Allah has ordained that man should believe in Him in the unseen, and in order to do that, he must strive to know Him through His creation. Man must contemplate the creation of the universe and try to decipher its secrets. If he studies the miraculous creation, he will discover the greatness of the Creator and consequently submit to Him by surrendering his will to His will.

The Koran urges one to reflect upon the creation of the earth, the seas, the mountains, the desert, and the wonders contained below the surface of the earth, the difference between night and day and the changing cycle of seasons. It urges humankind to meditate on the extraordinary creation of the plants and the order and symmetry governing their growth, as well as the multiplicity of the animal kingdom.

In the context of describing the many qualities of the believers the Korans states:

who remember Allah, standing and sitting and on their sides, and reflect upon the creation of the heavens and the earth: 'Our Lord, Thou hast not created this for vanity. Glory be to Thee! Guard us against the chastisement of the Fire (Al-Imran, 191).

The Koran commands man to travel in the world in order to witness other cultures and to investigate the social orders, history and philosophies of past people. Thus it calls man to study natural sciences, mathematics, philosophy, the arts and all sciences available to man, and to study them for the benefit of man and the well-being of society. The Koran recommends the study of these sciences on the condition that it leads to truth and reality, that it produces a correct view of the world based on an understanding of Allah.

Surely your Lord is Allah, who created the heavens and the earth in six days -- then sat Himself upon the Throne, covering the day with the night it pursues urgently -- and the sun, and the moon, and the stars subservient, by His command. Verily, His are the creation and the command. Blessed be Allah, the Lord of all Being (Al-A'raf, 54).

A knowledgeable person is accorded great respect in many prophetic narrations. Because of the importance of knowledge, Allah commanded His Messenger to seek more of it.

Allah says in the Koran:

"My Lord! Increase me in knowledge" (Taha, 114).

The Prophet made seeking knowledge an obligation upon every Muslim, and he explained that the superiority of the one who has knowledge over the one who merely worships is like the superiority of the moon over every other heavenly body. He said that the scholars are the heirs of the Prophets and that the Prophets, did not leave behind any money, rather their inheritance was knowledge, so whoever acquires it has gained a great share. Furthermore, the Prophet said that seeking knowledge is a way leading to Paradise.

He said:

“ whoever follows a path in the pursuit of knowledge, Allah will make a path to Paradise easy for him.” (Al-Bukhaari).

The Koran repeatedly asks us to observe the earth and the heavens. This instils in man a desire to learn natural science as well. All the books of Hadith have a chapter on knowledge. In Sahih Al-Bukhari there is a chapter entitled "The virtue of one who acquires learning and imparts that to others."

Islam calls us to learn all kinds of beneficial knowledge. Branches of knowledge vary in status, the highest of which is knowledge of Shariah (Islamic Law), then other fields of knowledge, such as medicine, etc.

This is the knowledge (Shariah) with which Allah honoured His Messenger ; He taught it to him so that he might teach it to mankind.

We read in the Koran:

"Indeed, Allaah conferred a great favour on the believers when He sent among them a Messenger (Muhammad) from among themselves, reciting unto them His Verses (the Koran), and purifying them (from sins by their following him), and instructing them the Book (the Koran) and the wisdom (the Sunnah of the Prophet), while before that they had been in manifest error"(Al-Imran,164).

According to Koranic perspective, knowledge is a prerequisite for the creation of a just world in which authentic peace can prevail. In the case of country's disorder or war the Koran emphasizes the importance of the pursuit of learning.

Allah says in the Koran:

"Nor should the believers all go forth together: if a contingent from every expedition remained behind, they could devote themselves to studies in religion, and admonish the people when they return to them - that thus they may learn to guard themselves (against evil)." (Maryam,122).

Knowledge, which merely keeps a man occupied and prevents him from knowing the reality of his own existence, is equated with ignorance.

Allah says:

"They know only some appearance of the life of one world and are heedless of the Hereafter" (Ar-Rum, 7).

Allah also says:

"Have you seen him who makes his Desire his goal, and Allah sends him astray purposely and seals up his Heart and sets a covering on his Heart. Then who will lead him after Allah (has condemned him)." (Al-Jathiyah, 23).

It is shameful to see the scientists of today recognize the superb plan in the universe-but fail to see the planner behind it. They observe the wonderful design in nature-but not the Designer!

The Koran not only stimulates the desire for study but also is itself a complete system of education of divine knowledge; it provides a model for human behaviour and thought. This complete way of life is called Islam, the way of submission.

Based on the above, the Islamic World had a very significant impact upon Europe, an impact, which cleared the way for the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution. In the Medieval age, Islam and Muslims influenced Europe in a number of different ways. One of the most important of these subjects was Science.

Ever since Islam was born, Muslims had made immense leaps forward in the area of Science. Cities like Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo and Cordoba were the centres of civilization. These cities were flourishing and Muslim scientists made tremendous progress in applied as well as theoretical Science and Technology. In Europe, however, the situation was much different. Europe was in the Dark Ages. It had no infrastructure or central government. To the Muslims, Europe was backward, unorganized, carried no strategic importance and was essentially irrelevant. The Catholic Church (which at the time was the strongest institution in Europe) successfully convinced Christian Europe that the Muslims were infidels. This caused Europeans to think that Muslims were culturally inferior to Europe and thus Europe was unable to benefit from the new scientific discoveries being made in the Islamic lands before the 1100's. Due to this false belief, Europe kept itself in the Dark Ages while from China to Spain Islamic Civilization prospered. During the Crusades, there was limited contact between Muslims and Christians and not much was transferred. As A. Lewis explains, "The Crusaders were men of action, not men of learning". The real exchange of ideas which led to the scientific revolution and to the renaissance occurred in Muslim Spain.

Cordoba was the capital of Muslim Spain. It soon became the centre for all light and learning for the entire Europe. Scholars and students from various parts of the world and Europe came to Cordoba to study. The contrast in intellectual activity is demonstrated best by one example: 'In the ninth century, the library of the monastery of St. Gall was the largest in Europe. It boasted 36 volumes. At the same time, that of Cordoba contained over 500,000!'

Out of hundreds of eminent Arab and Muslim scientists, I mention here just few names:

Al-Khwarizmi, mathematician; (Ben Mousa); Al-Farabi (Abunaser); Muhammad ibn Jābir al-Harrānī al-Battānī (Albatenius); Ibn al-Haytham (Alhacen); Abū Rayhān al-Bīrūnī; Avicenna (Ibn Sīnā); Abū Ishāq Ibrāhīm al-Zarqālī (Arzachel); Omar Khayyām; Ibn Bajjah (Avempace); Ibn Tufail (Abubacer); Nur Ed-Din Al Betrugi (Alpetragius); Averroes; Jābir ibn Hayyān (Geber), father of chemistry; Abbas Ibn Firnas (Armen Firman); Al-Kindi (Alkindus); Abū Rayhān al-Bīrūnī; Avicenna; Ibn Khaldun; Al-Khwārizmī, Algebra, (Mathematics); Ibn Sīnā (Avicenna); Al-Ghazali; Ibn al-Nafis; Ibn Khaldun ; Ibn Khaldun; Al-Maqrizi.

In addition to having extremely advanced science and medicine, Islam also, had some of the most developed and advanced cities in the world. The two major Islamic cities during the golden age were Baghdad and Cordoba. Baghdad was an extremely diverse cultural centre where intellectual and artistic leaders of the day would visit to share their knowledge. While Cordoba boasted impressive statistics such as a population over 1,000,00, 27 free schools, a library with 400,00 volumes, and 80,455 shops and stores. This masterpiece of cultural development also featured paved and lighted streets, and a large supply of fresh water.

These scientific advancements came to fruition largely as a result of the positive light with which the Koran and Muhammad looked at science and research. The Prophet said, "A person who follows a path for acquiring knowledge, Allah will make easy the passage to Paradise for him." The Prophet also said, "A Muslim will not tire of knowledge until he reaches Heaven." This contradicts the stereotype of Islam being an extremist religion totally discounting science.

As for Muslim scientists in modern time, to mention just a few, we have the Egyptian - American scientist Ahmed Hassan Zewail known as the "father of femtochemistry", he won the 1999 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on femtochemistry.

We also have Mostafa A. El-Sayed, Egyptian-American chemical physicist, a leading nano-science researcher, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a US National Medal of Science laureate. He is also known for the spectroscopy rule named after him, the El-Sayed rule.

After all these facts that are clear to all, saying that Islam is a nihilistic ideology, is not based on any logic but rather on dotage and unjustified hatred and bigotry.

Hating Islam without reason made Edward Cline read the words of Sayed Qutb with a twisted mind. He mocked at the words of Qutb: " Allah is our objective, the Koran is our law, the Prophet is our leader, jihad is our way, and death for the sake of Allah is the highest of our aspiration."

Qutb's words are very true Mr Cline, if you reject them, it is because you are programmed to tarnish the religion of Islam without understanding its injunctions and principles. You are in fact parroting the falsehood the gang is spreading against

Islam in the American society. The gang exemplified by Daniel Pipes, Sam Shamoun, Bill Warner, Robert Spencer, Pamela Geller, Geert Wilders in the Netherland, televangelists, and some Republican Senators attached to organizations hating Islam like the Christian right, Judeo-Christian coalition, neo-conservatives, and Tea Party. The theme of your article was parroting exactly their ugly words about Islam. This showed clearly that you are one of the gang's members.

Yes, Mr Cline, the Koran is our Law. The Koran serves as a guide to believe in the Oneness of Allah, and leads to an ethical life defined as submission or surrender to the Will of Allah. The Koran distinguishes between moral and immoral, ethical and unethical, good and evil. The Book helps Muslims make ethical choices in their daily lives. The Koran confirms and reminds the world of the teachings of past Prophets and the fabrications that were added to these teachings, thus deviating from the true path of salvation. The Koran helps Muslims turn away from their lower passions, towards the higher aspirations of worshiping and obeying Allah. The Koran presents a personal relationship between the Muslim and His Lord, a God-consciousness that elevates the soul and frees the mind from moral diseases, such as materialism, jealousy, and anger. The Koran serves as a roadmap for social change built on social justice, economic equity, racial harmony, human rights, and dignity. The Koran calls the Muslim community to actively enjoin, that which is right, good, and just and to struggle against that, which is wrong, evil, and unjust. The Koran came to clarify the fabrications that were added to the Torah of Moses and the Gospel of Jesus. The Koran explained the true words of Moses and Jesus, and warned the followers of those following these distortions. The Koran came to restore the oneness of Allah on earth. The Koran is thus the 'return' to the true Message of Allah.

Yes, Mr Cline, the Prophet is our leader because he has fulfilled for his people a role that combines the functions - of a distinguished prophet, political leader, author, and reformer. He has earned for himself therefore the respect and reverence of countless people, Muslim and non-Muslim everywhere. His Message aimed at the realization of fundamental social, economic, and political reform. The religion he founded was hampered by no wrangling creed or barrier to man's relations with Allah.

The Prophet accomplished all this through the strength of his character and personal example; he inspired in his followers a love, devotion and sense of awe that was unparalleled. While other men would have been corrupted by the absolute power that he wielded in his later years, Muhammad remained humble, ever aware of the Source of his blessings. 'I am just Allah's servant,' he said, and 'I have only been sent as a teacher.' Although he spent his days in serving people and his nights in prayer, he preached religious moderation and balance; he forbade his followers to adopt a monastic lifestyle and preferred that they establish strong families and engage themselves in bettering the world around them, while remaining deeply conscious of Allah, their Lord.

In the brief space of time and during his own lifetime, the Prophet Muhammad successfully transformed the religion of the Arab pagans from idol worship to worshipping the One and only true God, Allah. Within 100 years, his Message had touched the hearts and lives of millions in Africa, Asia and parts of Europe.

Yes, Mr Cline, jihad is our way. The enemies of Islam emptied the beautiful meaning of the word jihad, and wrongly considered it as a vicious war against Christianity and the west in general. Jihad is the Arabic word for struggle. The word is generally misunderstood by the West to mean "holy war".

Allah says:

“Let there be no compulsion in religion. Truth has been made clear from error. Whoever rejects false worship and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that never breaks. And Allah hears and knows all things.” (Al-Baqarah, 256).

One of the fundamental truths established by the Koran is that no one can be compelled to accept Islam. It is the duty of Muslims to explain Islam to the people so that truth can be made clear from falsehood. After that, whoever wishes to accept Islam may do so and whoever wishes to continue upon unbelief may do so. No one should be threatened or harmed in any way if he does not wish to accept Islam.

The above verse is decisive in establishing that each person has the right to make his or her own choice about embracing Islam. There is other equally decisive evidence in the Koran, among which are the following verses:

And if thy Lord had willed, whoever is in the earth would have believed, all of them, all together. Wouldst thou then constrain the people, until they are believers? (Yûnus, 99).

Allah says:

“So if they dispute with you, say ‘I have submitted my whole self to Allah, and so have those who follow me.’ And say to the People of the Scripture and to the unlearned: ‘Do you also submit yourselves?’ If they do, then they are right guided. But if they turn away, your duty is only to convey the Message, and Allah sees His servants.” (Âl-`Imrân, 20).

Allah also says:

“The Messenger’s duty is but to proclaim the Message.” (Al-Mâ’idah, 99).

Edward Cline says that if Islam indeed advocates such an approach, then what is all this we hear about jihad? He thinks that this is a glaring dualism! How can Muslims explain the warfare that the Prophet and his Companions waged against the pagans, and Allah says, ‘There is no compulsion in religion’?

The answer to this is that jihad in Islamic Law can be waged for a number of reasons, but compelling people to accept Islam is simply not one of them.

The reason why jihad was first permitted in Islam was to allow Muslims to defend themselves against persecution and expulsion from their homes.

The Koran says:

Leave is given to those who fight because they were wronged – surely Allah is able to help them – who were expelled from their habitations without right except that they say, ‘Our Lord is Allah’...(Al-Hajj 39, 40).

These were the first verses of the Koran that were revealed regarding jihad. Thereafter the following verses were revealed:

“Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for Allah loves not transgressors. And slay them wherever you catch them and drive them out from whence they drove you out, for oppression is worse than killing. But fight them not at the sacred mosque unless they fight you there. But if they fight you, slay them. Such is the reward of those who suppress faith. But if they cease, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression and there prevail justice and faith in Allah. But if they cease, let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression.” (Al-Baqarah 190-193).

From this point on, the scope of jihad was broadened from being purely for defence against direct attack to being inclusive of resistance against the persecution meted out by those who suppress the faith and deny people the freedom to choose their religion for themselves.

As for the spread of Islam, this is supposed to take place peacefully by disseminating the Message with the written and spoken word. There is no place for the use of weapons to compel people to accept Islam. Weapons can only be drawn against those who persecute and oppress others and prevent them from following their own consciences in matters of belief. The Muslims cannot just stand by while people are being denied the right to believe in Islam and their voices are being crushed. This is the meaning of Allah’s words: “And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression and there prevail justice and faith in Allah.” (Al-Baqarah, 193).

Once the people have heard the Message without obstruction or hindrance, and the proof has been established upon them, then the duty of the Muslims is done. Those who wish to believe are free to do so and those who prefer to disbelieve are likewise free to do so.

Even when the Muslims are compelled to fight and then, as a consequence, subdue the land, their duty thereafter is only to establish Allah’s law in the land and uphold justice for all people, Muslim and non-Muslim. It is not their right to coerce their subjects to accept Islam against their will. Non-Muslims under Muslim rule must be allowed to remain on their own faith and must be allowed to practice the rights of their faith, though they will be expected to respect the laws of the land.

Had the purpose of jihad been to force the unbelievers to accept Islam, the Prophet would never have commanded the Muslims to refrain from hostilities if the enemy relented. He would not have prohibited the killing of women and children, and this exactly what he did.

Had the purpose of jihad been to force the unbelievers to accept Islam, the rightly guided Caliphs would not have prohibited the killing of priests and monks who

refrained from fighting. When the first Caliph, Abû Bakr, sent an army to Syria to fight the aggressive Roman legions, he went out to give them words of encouragement. He said: "You are going to find a group of people who have devoted themselves to the worship of Allah (i.e. monks), so leave them to what they are doing."

In Islam, we have two kinds of Jihad, the great jihad and the small jihad. The great jihad is to protect the soul against worldly temptation. It is a continuous internal, individual, spiritual struggle toward self-improvement, moral cleansing and intellectual effort. Temptation of the soul is an enemy that never disappears; hence, this war knows no end.

Muslims make a great effort to live as Allah has instructed them; following the rules of the faith, being devoted to Allah. But living Allah's way is quite a struggle. Allah sets high standards, and believers have to fight their own selfish desires to live up to these standards.

Allah Most High said:

And whosoever Strives (great jihad)), strives only for himself (Al-Ankabut, 6).

Allah also says:

As for those who strive in Us (in the cause of Allah), We surely guide them to Our paths, and lo! Allah is with the good doers (Al-Ankabut, 69)

Small jihad is fighting back armed aggression, once the aggression has ceased, armed jihad comes to an end. There are only two situations where lesser Jihad is allowed to be undertaken 1) For self-defence. When someone attacks you or when your nation has been attacked; 2) Fighting against evil and unjust. It is also a sin if a Muslim sees unjust been done, capable of stopping it, yet not doing anything about it. This can include war on drug, war on child labour as well as war on terror! Small jihad is also undertaken when the religion of Islam is attacked, and here Muslims rise to defend the religion of their Lord.

I wonder, what is wrong with lesser Jihad if it is fighting for self-defence?

Many of the Koranic verses are being quoted out of context to wrongly justify terrorist actions. Yet, most of those verses are only referring to a particular situation; such as the battle of Badr or the battle of Uhud. In other words, all the verses of violence in the Koran are not open-ended, but restrained by the historical context of the surrounding texts.

In all divine Books, including the Koran, Allah ordered His Prophets and the believers to fight back the disbelievers in order to defend His religion. Since Allah's religion is only one, and that is Islam, His words in all divine Books regarding fighting the disbelievers and annihilating them are

decisive, irrevocable and conclusive. His Words of fighting the disbelievers stayed clear in His Books throughout the centuries, and there is none who can alter the Words of Allah.

I would like to emphasize here that in the Bible there are 842 violent passages amounting to 31102 verses, corresponding to only 164 verses in the Koran. Does that mean that the Bible and the Koran are violent Books?

Yes, death for the sake of Allah is our highest aspiration. If one dies during lesser jihad, he is considered a martyr and will have a great reward in the Hereafter. It is not for everyone – least of all, poltroons and fainthearted persons who are fit to fight in the cause of Allah. To do so is a privilege, and those who understand the privilege are prepared to sacrifice all their interests in this life, and this life itself; for they know that it is the sacrifice of something fleeting and of little value, for the sake of something everlasting and of immense value. Whether they win or lose, they are certain that they win the prize for which they are fighting – viz. honour and glory in the sight of Allah. The only alternatives here are death or victory. The true fighters know no defeat.

We read in the Koran:

So let them fight in the way of Allah who sell the present life for the world to come; and whosoever fights in the way of Allah and is slain, or conquers, we shall bring him a mighty wage (Al-Nisa', 74).

Edward Cline mocks at my words: "I advise Muslims to use their logic, reasoning and intellect because the Koran commands them to do so." Cline then wonders, "but how Muslims use their intellect and reasoning and the Koran commands them to submit their will to their Lord? The Koran wants them to obey without thought. How Muslims could think and act freely while they are subservient to their Creator? How could they act and they submit to a blind submissive faith? Islam does not want men to think, it wants men who obey without thought."

I am really amazed, is Edward Cline so ignorant as not to understand what submission to the Lord really means? Is submission to the Creator a kind of subservience and slavery? Is that what the poor person thinks?

Before I explain what submission is, I want to remind Mr Cline that all the great Muslim scientists of the golden age and those of present, those whose pictures and names are hung and imprinted on the walls of the European universities, were all submitters. The Muslim Caliphs and rulers who ruled the world for a thousand years and spread the Islamic civilization everywhere, were all submitters. The Muslim millionaires and billionaires who are building the world and are contributing to its welfare

are submitters. All the Prophets who came before Muhammad fully submitted to their Lord. Muhammad, the father of the submitters, was able to spread the divine Message of Islam to most of the ancient world in only 23 years. The American author Michael H. Heart in his book entitled "The 100: A Ranking Of The Most Influential Persons In History" stated, 'My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular level.' This is certainly not nihilism Mr Cline.

Now, the adherents to Islam surpass one billion and five hundred millions living in the four corners of the world, and still, Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. The tremendous efforts exerted by these Muslims in all ages to advance humanity is certainly not nihilistic at any rate.

Now we come to the issue that makes Cline wonders: why Muslims submit to Allah, the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

I need volumes and volumes to explain what submission is. Submission means Islam, and Islam is a complete code of life.

Sometimes, in my writings, while commenting on the views of the haters of Islam, and due to their ignorance of the religion of Islam, I find myself compelled to explain in detail some Islamic facts that are relevant to the subject, a matter that might take me to lengthened writings which not only explain the subject to the attackers, but also to all the readers who seek the truth. This article will follow the same trend.

Of all the creatures in the world, man has been given special superiority. Allah provisioned man with the good and wholesome virtues, he placed him in a class distinctly above many of His creatures, and He ascribed to him distinguished attributes. He furnished him with power of the mind, the will, the reason and the perception of truth or fact, theoretical and practical understanding of art, science, language, and many other faculties. Allah granted man talents by which he can transport himself from place to place by land, sea and now air. All the means of the sustenance and growth of every part of man's nature were provided by Allah, also the spiritual faculties – the greatest gift of Allah to man, raised him above the greater part of Allah's Creation.

The Koran says:

We have honoured the children of Adam, and carried them on land and sea, and provided them with good things, and preferred them greatly over many of those We created (Al-Isra', 70).

Allah recounted these favours to enforce the corresponding duties and responsibilities of man.

Allah has created the universe especially for man. Allah made serviceable to man whatsoever is in the heavens and the earth, and has loaded him with His favours both without and within. After making the universe subservient to man, Allah appointed him a viceroy in the earth for solely putting him to the test.

The Koran says:

It is He who has appointed you viceroys in the earth, and has raised some of you in ranks above others, that He may try you in what He has given you. Surely thy lord is swift in retribution; and surely He is All-Forgiving, All-Compassionate (Al-An'am, 165).

We also read in the Koran:

Have you not seen how that Allah has subjected to you whatsoever is in the heavens and earth, and He has lavished on you His blessings, outward and inward? Yet among men, there is such a one that disputes concerning Allah without knowledge or guidance, or an illuminating Book (Lukman, 20).

The trust is something given to a person, over which he has a power of disposition; he is expected to use it as directed or expected, but he has the power to use it otherwise. There is no trust if the trustee has no power, and the trust implies that the giver of the trust expects that the trustee would use it according to his wish and not otherwise.

As the Koran teaches, Allah offered the trust (moral responsibility and all the duties, which Allah has ordained), to the heavens and the earth and the mountains but they refused it lest they should betray it. They preferred not to be given the freedom to choose between good and evil. They favoured to submit their will entirely to Allah's will, which is All-Wise and Perfect, a matter that will give them far more happiness than a faculty of choice, with their imperfect knowledge.

But man was less fair to himself, in his ignorance he accepted and betrayed the trust, with the result that some of his race became hypocrites and unbelievers and were punished, though others were faithful to the trust and received Allah's mercy.

The Koran says:

We offered the trust to the heavens, the earth, and the mountains, but they refused to carry it and were afraid of it; and man carried it. Surely he is unjust (to himself) and ignorant (of its results) (Al-Ahzab, 72).

Because the trust was so heavy, Allah gave man intellect to think, strong will to take decisions, and freedom of choice to choose between right and wrong. This is why He cautioned man by sending Messengers with divine Books.

Before assigning to man this vicegerency, and before man emerged in this world, Allah took from him a primordial covenant. The covenant is binding on all human beings to the extent that they must remember it and cannot defend themselves in the Hereafter by simply saying that they were unaware of it.

In this primordial covenant Allah made it clear to man that He alone is the Lord, the Ruler and the Deity. As such, the entire universe and all the creatures in it should submit to Him alone. In order to put this covenant into effect, Allah brought forth all of Adam's descendants from the loins of their fathers and made them all acknowledge His unity and testify to it. He then had them witness against each other that they made this acknowledgement and gave this testimony.

As the Koran teaches:

And when thy Lord took from the Children of Adam, from their loins, their descendants, and made them testify touching themselves, 'Am I not your Lord?' They said, 'Yes, we testify'-- lest you should say on the Day of Resurrection, 'Verily, we had no knowledge of that'. Or lest you should say (in trying to excuse themselves): 'Our forefathers were idolaters aforetime and we were seed after them. Will You, then, destroy us for the deeds of the vain-doers?' (Al-A'raf, 172, 173).

The Prophet said:

"Every newborn child is born with a primordial nature and disposition inclined to Islam" (al-Bukhārī, "Janāiz," 80; Muslim, "Qadar," 22)."

Islam means therefore, submission to the will of Allah and obedience to His law. Everything and every phenomenon in the world other than man is administered totally by Allah-made laws, i.e. they are obedient to Allah and submissive to his laws, they are in the state of Islam. Man possesses the qualities of intelligence and choice, thus he is invited to submit to the good will of Allah and obey His law, i.e., become a Muslim. Submission to the good will of Allah, together with obedience to His beneficial Law, i.e., becoming a Muslim, is the best safeguard for man's peace and harmony. This of course comes only through submission to the Creator.

Peace with Allah implies complete submission to His will because Allah is the source of all purity and goodness, and peace with man implies the doing of good to fellow man.

We read in the Koran:

Nay, but whosoever submits his will to Allah, being a good-doer, his wage is with his Lord, and no fear shall be on them, neither shall they grieve (Al-Baqarah, 112).

The goal to which Islam leads is the abode of peace.

The Korans states:

And Allah summons to the Abode of Peace, and He guides whomsoever He will to a straight path (Yunus, 25).

Islam calls to the belief that the Creator of the universe is One and Unique without any partners. His nature is so sublime that it is far beyond our limited conceptions. He is not a mere abstract of philosophy. All the creatures testify to His Existence, and none is comparable to Him. The unity of design and the fundamental facts of creation and existence of the universe proclaim His Oneness.

Allah is Eternal, without beginning or end, the Absolute, Who is not limited by time or place or circumstance. He is the Creator, the Sustainer and the Planner of the whole universe. None has the right to be worshipped except Him. He has the most Beautiful Names and the Loftiest Attributes. His Knowledge extends to everything seen and unseen, present and future, near and far. His Grace and Mercy are unbounded. He is the All Mighty, the All Wise.

Islam is submission, and submission is stability and constancy in the true reality of existence. Submission is the vitality of Islam because of the dynamic evolution and revolution that takes place from the core of the believer's heart, where all boundaries of separation and duality cease to exist. In this truthfulness, the believer attests to the oneness of Allah. Attestation is not only verbal; the believer's body, mind, and heart. His entire being must resonate with the presence of the one God - Allah.

Experiencing Allah in one's inner self, submitting to Him, and loving him with one's mind and heart, is the reality of the Islamic religion (1).

In the Koran Allah has 99 attributes, one of His attributes is "the All-peaceable".

He is Allah; there is no god but He. He is the King, the All-Holy, the All-Peaceable, the All-Faithful, the All-Preserver, the All-Mighty, the All-Compeller, the All-Sublime. Glory be to Allah, above that they associate (as partners with Him) (Al-Hashr, 23).

The inhabitants of Paradise will hear no ill tongues or what is morally evil, but only 'peace, peace be upon you', a greeting addressed by the angels who express good will.

The Koran says:

Therein they shall hear no idle talk, no cause of sin, only the saying 'peace, peace' (Al-Waqi'ah 25, 26).

We read in the Koran:

The true religion with Allah is Islam (submission) (Al-Imran, 19).

On first impression, many who read the above statement will immediately say: 'hold on, what about Judaism and Christianity?' After all, these religions were also authorised by God!

In the early 1st millennium BCE, Judaism got its name from "Judah", the land of the Hebrews. The word Judaism was never pronounced by Moses the bringer of the Torah. Jesus was a Jew, a prophet sent to the Jews. He never claimed that his religion was Christianity or that he was a Christian. The word "Christian" originated with Paul when he started the idea of original sin, atonement and trinity against the teaching of Jesus. The word "Christianity" did not become common until the 4th century when the Roman Empire adopted it as official creed. This word became a symbol of modern Christianity after being enacted by the Council of Nicaea. In other words, the words Judaism and Christianity are man-made labels.

In actual fact, Jesus proclaimed that he has not come to change the law of the Torah but to confirm it (Mathew 5:17-18). The term 'Christianity', as a separate religion independent of Judaism, was not used except long after Jesus was dead.

If we discard all labels: Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and inspect the ideology of any of these divine revelations we would realize that contrary to what many believe, the word Islam is never used in the Koran as a title for the religion belonging only to the Koran or to the prophet Muhammad. The word Islam simply means submission to Allah. It is necessary thus to stop thinking of Islam as the religion exclusive to the Koran, or to Muhammad, but rather a spiritual state of submitting to Allah alone.

All the prophets of Allah submitted to the One and only God Allah, and called their people to submit to Him alone. After discarding the labels, we realize that the only true religion with Allah, and which all Prophets proclaimed, is submission to Allah, i.e. Islam.

The Koran teaches that Islam, the total submission to Allah is as old as Abraham, and that all the practises of Islam were first given to Abraham and his sons long before Muhammad was born.

We read in the Koran:

O men, bow you down and prostrate yourselves, and serve your Lord, and do good; haply you shall prosper; and struggle for Allah as is His due, for He has chosen you, and has laid on you no impediment in your religion, being the creed of your father Abraham; he named you Muslims aforetime and in this, that the Messenger might be a witness against you, and that you might be witnesses against mankind. So perform the prayers and pay the alms, and hold you fast to Allah; He is your protecto – an excellent Protector, an excellent Helper (Al-Hajj,78).

Islam or total submission to Allah, was the same religion given to all the Prophets who came before Muhammad.

The Koran says:

He has laid down for you as religion that He charged Noah with, and that We have revealed to thee, and that We have charged Abraham with, Moses and Jesus: 'perform the religion, and scatter not regarding it.' Very hateful is that for the idolaters, that thou callest them to. Allah chooses unto himself whomsoever He will, and He guides to Himself whosoever turns penitent (Ash-Shura,13).

The Koran also states:

No! Abraham in truth was not a Jew, neither a Christian, but he was a Muslim and one pure of faith; certainly, he was never of the idolaters (Al-Imran, 67).

We also read in the Koran:

The true religion with Allah is Islam (Submission) (Al-Imran, 19).

The above Koranic verses confirm the truth that as far as Allah is concerned there has always been one religion; the one religion that was decreed to Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad.

All the Scripture revealed to mankind from Allah advocate one and the same religion, submission to Allah alone. Among hundreds of verses commanding people to worship the one god, Allah, I mention the words of prophet Abraham to his people:

Surely I am quit of what you associate. I have turned my face to Him who originated the heavens and the earth, a man of pure faith; I am not of the idolaters (Al-An'am 78, 79).

The Koran also states:

And they scattered not, those that were given the Book (Jews and Christians), excepting after the Clear Sign came to them. They were commanded only to serve Allah, making the religion His sincerely, men of pure faith, and to perform the prayer, and pay the alms – that is the right religion (Al-Bayyinah 4, 5).

The principal command from Allah in all Scriptures is to worship Him alone and to devote all religion to Him and rejecting all other gods and idols:

Old Testament:

"You shall have no other gods besides Me" (Exodus 20:3).

New Testament:

"You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Luke 4:8).

The Koran:

Know thou therefore that there is no god but Allah, and ask forgiveness for thy sin, and for the believers, men and women. Allah knows your going to and fro, and your lodging (Muhammad, 19).

Submission to Allah is the religion whereby we recognize Allah's absolute authority, and reach an unshakable conviction that He alone possesses all power; no other entity possesses any power that is independent of Him. The natural result of such a realization is to devote our lives and our worship absolutely to Allah alone.

The above Koranic verse (Ash-Shura,13) confirms that the religion that was revealed to Muhammad is not different from what was revealed to the previous prophets.

Within the religion of Islam Allah decreed specific rituals and practices designed to teach man how to worship Him alone. These practices and acts (Prayer, pilgrimage, paying the alms, and paying in charity, etc.) were first taught to Abraham long before the time of Muhammad.

And We gave him (Abraham) Isaac and Jacob in superfluity, and everyone made we righteous and appointed them to be leaders guiding by Our command, and We revealed to them the doing of good deeds, and to perform the prayer, and to pay the alms, and Us they served (Al-Anbiya' 72, 73).

Across the ages however, many of these rituals were corrupted and the element of idolising human Messengers and saints crept in. All the practises were thus restored to their pristine purity in the Koran. Allah also promised that the Koran will never be corrupted. Thus all believers will always have access to the pure way of worshipping Allah.

It is We who have sent down the Remembrance (the Koran), and We watch over it (Al-Hijr, 9).

Muhammad and all believers were commanded to follow the creed of Abraham, which is pure monotheism, and to refrain from associating partners in worship with Allah.

Surely, Abraham was a nation obedient to Allah, a man of pure faith and no idolater, showing thankfulness for His blessings; He chose him, and He guided him to a straight path. And We gave him in this world good, and in the world to come he shall be among the righteous. Then We revealed to thee: 'Follow thou the creed of Abraham, a man of pure faith and no idolater (An-Nahl 121-123).

Allah also tells Muhammad and the believers that within each revelation there are laws and rites that are specific to the receivers of this particular revelation. As for Muhammad, the command is issued that he should follow the rites given to him in the Koran and not the rites of previous revelations.

And We have sent down to thee the Book (the Koran) with the truth, confirming the Book (Torah, Gospel) that was before it. So judge between them according to what

Allah has sent down, and do not follow their caprices, to forsake the truth that has come to thee. To every one of you We have appointed a law and a clear way (Al-Maidah, 48).

Essentially, if there is only one religion decreed by Allah, then there must be one truth, and that is: Allah is One God, and He is to be worshipped alone without incorporating with Him other deities. All the revelations came to confirm this absolute truth – Allah's oneness.

The need for different revelations at different times and for different people was because each revelation was corrupted after a certain period of time and people deviated from truth by worshipping other idols besides Allah. It was therefore important to send another revelation succeeded by another. It is important to denote that although the revelations were diverse and different in form, they never contradicted one another, because they all called to the worship of the One God, Allah - strict monotheism.

If there appear any apparent contradictions between different revelations, they are the result of human inability to interpret such revelations and more importantly the failure to preserve the 'truth' contained in the revelation, which always tends to be impaired and altered with the passing of time.

Through corruption of the Scripture, together with the social and cultural factors that always widen the gap between the factions, we are left with a multitude of corrupt religions. These sub-religions in many ways hardly bare any resemblance to one another, or to the original religion decreed by Allah.

It became a necessity for mankind therefore to receive another revelation that puts people back on track with Allah's original religion – Islam. A divine promise has been endorsed in the Koran that it will not be corrupted like previous Scripture. As a result, the Koran invited all people to embrace the last of the religions, because according to the precepts of the new religion Allah will judge people's deeds. However, this invitation is voluntary and not obligatory because man was given free will to choose between belief and disbelief. But in the end he will return to his Lord and He will inform him of all that he has done (2).

The greatest achievement of man is that he should be able to attain Allah's mercy. But the grace of Allah falls to the lot of those who associate themselves with Allah to such an extent that all their emotions without exception are directed towards Him. They should call out only to Him and behave with humility towards Him alone. They should entertain hopes of receiving things from Him, and fear Him alone lest things be taken away. They seek closeness to Allah and Allah awards them a place close to Him.

The Koran says:

Call on your Lord, humbly and secretly; He loves not transgressors. Do not spread corruption on the earth after it has been set in order – pray to Him in fear and hope, Allah's mercy is close to the good-doers (Al-A'raf 55, 56).

The carnal soul does not want to accept or acknowledge Allah's existence or His being the Lord of the universe. This is because it desires to live in whatever way it wishes, satisfying all of its ambitions and appetites without recognizing any power that may be able to restrict it. But the carnal soul cannot prevent its owner, the human being, from feeling and acknowledging Allah's existence in its conscience. A person can deny Allah when he is under the influence of his carnal soul directed by Satan.

But everything, every truth, becomes manifest when man dies and is left with no other choice but to acknowledge that he has felt deeply and many times during his worldly life the existence of Allah, and that Allah is his Lord, the One Who created and sustained him and protected him during his worldly life many times against dangers, and in spite of that, he cut himself off from Allah and did not care to worship Him alone, or worshipped Him by incorporating with Him other deities (3).

In many places in the Koran, Allah asserts that there is no god but He, and to this effect do the angels and those endued with knowledge give this witness. Allah also asserts that His religion is only Islam and no other, yet not until the people of the Book (Jews and Christians) had received divine discourse did they fall in dispute and set themselves at variance through mutual envy and ill will. He who disregards Allah's revelations and His signs shall find that Allah is swift in calling to account.

The Koran states:

Allah bears witness that there is no god but He - and the angels, and men possessed of knowledge – upholding justice; there is no god but He, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise. The true religion with Allah is Islam. Those who were given the Book (Jews and Christians) were not at variance except after the knowledge came to them, being insolent one to another. And whoso disbelieves in Allah's signs, Allah is swift at the reckoning (Al-Imran 18-20).

The Prophet was commanded to invite the people of the Book to Islam. Should they argue with him and maintain their irreverent position by offering their unfounded reasons, the prophet was commanded to say to them, 'I have vowed to resign myself to Allah's purpose, and I have conformed my reason and will to His blessed will, and so did those who fell with me into line.' The Prophet was also instructed to say to the people of the Book (Torah and Gospel) and to the illiterates, 'Are you now satisfied of what you heard from the Koran and have your doubts been satisfied? If you are, then conform to Islam'. If they do, then they are on the right path, but should they turn a deaf ear and their hearts have no ears for the truth, the Prophet is only responsible for relating the Message. Allah however, keeps a watchful eye upon His creation and upon the way they conduct themselves in life and he knows the attributes inherent in each and all.

The Koran states:

So if they dispute with thee, say, "I have surrendered my will to Allah, and whosoever follows me." And say to those who have been given the Book and to the common folk: 'Have you surrendered?' If they have surrendered, they are right guided; but if they turn their backs; your duty is only to deliver the Message; and Allah is aware of His servants (Al-Imran, 20).

People, on account of their short-sightedness however, appoint various types of objectives for their lives and stop short at worldly purposes and desires, yet the purpose of creation is very different. Allah has specified it in the Koran:

I have created jinn and men so that they should worship me (Adh-Dhariyat, 57) .

According to this verse, the purpose of man's creation is to worship Allah and loses one's self in Him. The real purpose of all the external and internal limbs and faculties that have been bestowed on man is to understand Allah and worship Him alone. The principal means for achieving this purpose is to have faith in the True God, Allah. If this first step is wrongly taken and other deities in the form of man, animal, idols, etc. were set up with Allah, it cannot be expected that man's subsequent steps would lead him to the straight path.

The Korans says:

We created not the heaven and the earth, and whatsoever between them is, for a mere play (Al-Anbiya', 16).

Allah has created man and made the universe subservient to him, and has given him power and responsibility just to test him.

We read in the Koran:

He created death and life that He might try you which of you is fairest in works; and he is the All-Mighty, the All-Forgiving (Al-Mulk, 2).

These verses refute the conception that man is free to do whatever he likes, and there is none to call him to account or take him to task, or that there is no life in the Hereafter where one's good deeds would be rewarded and evil deeds punished.

Sometimes Allah tests man by bestowing on him good fortune and prosperity and sometimes He tests man with hardship, poverty and affliction. He who remains grateful to Allah in prosperity as well as in misery is indeed successful in the test and such a person would be rewarded.

The following Koranic verses confirm that man will be judged on the Day of Judgment according to his deeds whether good or bad.

And surely we shall try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives and crops; but give glad tidings unto the patient who, when they are visited by an affliction, say, 'Surely we belong to Allah, and to Him we return'; upon those rest blessings and mercy from their Lord, and those – they are the truly guided (Al-Baqarah 155-157).

Every soul shall taste of death; and We try you with evil and with good for a testing, then unto Us you shall be returned. (Al-Anbiya', 35).

Who created death and life that He might try you which of you is fairest in works; and He is the All-Mighty, the All-Forgiving (Al-Mulk, 2).

Or did you suppose you should enter Paradise without Allah know who of you have struggled and who are patient? (Al-Imran, 142).

It is He who has appointed you viceroys in the earth, and has raised some of you in rank above others, that He may try you in what He has given you. Surely thy Lord is swift in retribution; and surely He is All-Forgiving, All-Compassionate (Al-An'am, 165).

And know that your possessions and your children are a test, and that with Allah is immense reward (Al-Anfal, 28).

The most honourable of men in the sight of Allah is the most pious.

O mankind, We have created you male and female, and appointed you races and tribes, that you may know one another. Surely the noblest among you in the sight of Allah is the most god-fearing of you. Allah is All-knowing, All-aware (al-Hujurat, 13).

The office of viceroyalty places a great responsibility on man. All these blessings have been given to man with a view that Allah may try him by the test of that which He has given him. Will man be thankful for all these blessings and submit to Allah in reverence and obey His commands, or will he be ungrateful and disobedient?

Man was also endowed with the faculties of thinking and understanding, and has been given the power to understand the purpose of his life and distinguishes right from wrong.

Say: 'It is He who produced you, and appointed for you hearing and sight and hearts; little thanks you show! (Al-Mulk, 23).

The human body originates from the earth and has a defined period of life on this earth. The soul originates from Allah and does not die. Islam encourages the individual to focus on keeping the soul healthy, through the remembrance, obedience and worship of Allah. There should be a correct balance in strengthening the soul and not over-indulging with the pleasures of the body.

A Submitter can be defined as a person who submits to the will of Allah. The state of submission, which can only take place between the person and Allah, is in fact the

only acceptable form of worship by Allah. Therefore, Submission can be recognized as one's devotion to Allah alone.

Allah says in the Koran:

Truly, the religion with Allah is Islam. Those who were given the Book (Jews and Christians) did not differ except, out of mutual jealousy after knowledge has come to them. And whoever disbelieves in Allah's signs, then surely, Allah is swift in calling to account (Al-Imran, 19).

Allah also says:

And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers (Al-Imran, 85).

Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib described Islam:

"Islam is submission, submission is conviction, conviction is affirmation, affirmation is acknowledgement, acknowledgement is performance of obligations, and the performance of obligations is good deeds."

Submission is a religion whereby one recognizes Allah's absolute authority, and reaches a conviction that only Allah possesses all power, no other entity possesses any power that is independent of Him. The natural result of such a realization is to devote one's life and one's worship absolutely to Allah alone. This is the First Commandment in all the scriptures, including the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Final Testament, the Koran.

The Submitters follow Allah's revelations, and obey His commandments as much as they can. They follow the truth from their Lord, and not false religions and fabricated doctrines.

Submission to Allah does not entail self-humiliation or a denial of human intellect; rather, it means trusting the knowledge, wisdom, and fairness of the Creator.

Trusting the wisdom of Allah does not constitute abandoning one's intellect, but rather, it constitutes following one's natural inclination.

Islam or total submission to Allah is the religion of our father, Prophet Abraham. He was the first to call us Muslims.

Allah says in the Koran:

O men, bow you down and prostrate yourselves, and serve your Lord, and do good; haply so you shall prosper; and struggle for Allah as His due, for He has chosen you, and has laid on you no impediment in your religion, being the creed of your father Abraham; he named you Muslims aforetime and in this, that the Messenger might be witness against you, and that you might be witness against mankind. So perform the prayer, and pay the alms, and hold you fast to Allah; He is your protector – an excellent Protector, and excellent Helper (Al-Hajj 77, 78).

In another passage of the Quran we read:

Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was a true Muslim [submissive to Allah] and was not one of the polytheists.” (Al-Imran, 67).

Not only did Prophet Abraham call his religion Islam, but the prophets after Abraham also called their religion Islam.

Prophet Joseph in the chapter entitled “Joseph” in the Koran states:

“My Lord! You have given me authority and taught me the interpretation of things. O, Creator of the heavens and earth! You are my guardian in this world and in the Hereafter. Cause me to die as a Muslim, submitting to Your will, and join me with the righteous.” (Yusuf, 101).

If a man submits to Allah and fears Him, and does whatever Allah has commanded him to do and refrains from doing whatever Allah has prohibited; he is inspired to be able to distinguish truth from falsehood. The greatest stimulus to the proper use of human capabilities is fear of Allah that results from total submission to Him. Man in a state of fear from Allah, becomes extremely realistic in all matters. Fear of Allah removes all veils from man’s mind that he is able to rise above all mistakes and misunderstanding and can then form the most correct opinions.

This ability to distinguish between right from wrong is almost the same as inner realization. Insight creates an inner light, which enables man to see everything in its reality without his being deceived by its outward aspects. If a man becomes totally submitted to Allah, his inner realization becomes so intense that, he cuts through all confusion, and straightaway understands the reality of the matter.

Development of this divine insight in man is the greatest guarantee that he will be safe from evils; it will enable him to place his relations with Allah on a sound footing and he will be finally entitled to Allah’s grace. The nursing of this capacity develops to the extent that the truth and man become complimentary to each other. Thereafter his being saved becomes necessary as the saving of truth. Such true submitters (true believers) come directly under Allah’s protection. Plotting against them amounts to undermining the truth itself.

The Koran states:

O believers, if you fear Allah, He will assign you a salvation, and acquit you of your evil deeds, and forgive you; and Allah is of bounty abounding (Al-Anfal.29).

Submission describes the state of mind of anyone who recognizes Allah’s absolute authority, and reaches a conviction that Allah alone possesses all power; no other entity possesses any power or control independent of Him. The logical consequence of such a realization is to devote one’s life and one’s worship absolutely to Allah alone.

Submission is therefore a spiritual state of mind and not a title of a religion that belongs to a specific group of people. Anyone who submits and worships one God without idolizing other entities is a submitter.

Based on that, one can safely conclude that the Message of Islam or submission has been in existence way before the time of prophet Muhammad and way

before the Koran. All Allah's Messengers, since Noah, devoted their lives and worship to Allah alone and were submitters to Him alone.

As the Koran teaches, when Jesus sensed the disbelief of the Children of Israel, he said:

And when Jesus perceived their unbelief, he said, 'Who will be my helpers in Allah's cause?' The disciples said, 'We are the helpers of Allah; we believe in Allah; and bear witness that we are Muslims (submitters) (Al-Imran, 52).

The fear of Allah develops the psychology of responsibility in man. The attention of the believer is focused on his duties and not on his rights. Instead of looking at himself, he should look towards Allah. His heart softens in obedience to Allah. He becomes a praying and a worshipping subject of Allah. He derives satisfaction from giving to people and not from snatching things away from them. These qualities create in man the attitude of realism and readiness to admit the truth. They put their trust in their Lord, and in return they have a good standing with Him; grades of dignity and forgiveness, and honourable provision in the Gardens of Eden.

We read in the Koran:

Those only are believers who, when Allah is mentioned, their hearts quake, and when His signs are recited to them, it increases them in faith, and in their Lord they put their trust, those who perform the prayer, and expend of what we have provided them, those in truth are the believers; they have degrees with their Lord, and forgiveness, and generous provision (Al-Anfal 2-4).

But how man can acquire this divine insight in order to come under Allah's protection in this life, then attains the mighty success in the Hereafter? This is accomplished by worshipping Allah sincerely without incorporating with Him any deities, and at the same time following strictly His commandments. But what is the kind of worship that would guarantee success in the present life and the life to come?

The Koran clearly states:

Nay, whoever submits himself entirely to Allah, and is the doer of good to others, he has his reward from his Lord, and there is no fear for such, nor shall they grieve (Al-Baqarah, 112).

To submit to Allah in all matters and obey Him is worship; to fear Allah at all times in all places is worship; to remember Allah at every junction of one's life is worship; to submit to each and every guidance and command of Allah and His Messenger regardless of what one's heart desires is worship; to abstain from everything which Allah and the Messenger have prohibited is worship; to fulfil all the rights of one's family, friends, loved ones, neighbours, and the society at large is worship; to earn one's livelihood in a lawful manner so that one may support one's family is worship; to spend of one's means in the cause of Allah is worship; to do anything to spread Islam further is worship; to promote and enjoin the

good is worship; to abstain from evil and stop it is worship. The Islamic rites like prayers, fasting, and pilgrimage, and paying the alms known as 'zakat' is worship, charity giving is worship.

The Koran says:

who, if We establish them in the land, perform the prayer, and pay the alms, and bid to honour, and forbid dishonour; and unto Allah belongs the issue of all affairs (Al-Hajj, 41).

The Koran also says:

"Whoever works righteousness, whether male or female, while he (or she) is a true believer, verily, to him We will give a good life (in this world with respect to contentment and lawful provision), and We shall pay them certainly a reward in proportion to the best of what they used to do (i.e. Paradise in the Hereafter)." (An-Nahl, 97).

The Muslim should keep in mind that his outlook on moral behaviour should always be in accordance with the Creator of the Universe and His ordained principles and moral values. A divine civilization is that which is ordained by the Islamic Message. Man, in this philosophy, is a servant of Allah. Allah alone has full authority over man. Within the framework of obedience to the Will of Allah, man can live a life founded on justice and wisdom and exercise his divine given rights of freedom in his daily behaviour.

Islamic understanding of peace means submission or surrender. Peace comes only after one surrenders or submits one's self. Submission or surrender to whom? Submission to only Allah – the only true God - and to His Messenger Muhammad.

Man has also been invested with free will. Allah is very explicit in regards to religious freedom, and for the right of free will and choice.

Say: 'The truth is from your Lord; so let whosoever will believe, and let whosoever will disbelieve (Al-Kahf, 29).

We also read in the Koran:

No compulsion is there in religion. Rectitude has become clear from error. So whosoever disbelieves in idols and believes in Allah, has laid hold of the most firm handle, unbreaking; Allah is All-hearing, All-Knowing (Al-Baqarah, 256).

This verse makes it clear that the prophet Muhammad's duty is to simply convey the Message of Islam, it does not state that the prophet duty is to preach the Message, but if people reject it, he forces them to accept his Message. The verse does not state that if the people turn away, then he must get the sword out and force them into Islam.

The Koran goes on to say:

It is only for the Messenger to deliver the Message; and Allah knows what you reveal and what you hide (Al-Maidah, 99).

In other words, man must not think himself totally free and must realize that this earth is not his permanent abode. He has been created to live on it only for a probationary period and, in due course, he will return to his Lord, to be judged according to the way he has spent that period. The only right course for man is to acknowledge Allah as the only Lord, and to follow His guidance and His commands in all he does. His sole objective should be to merit the approval of Allah by worshipping Him alone without incorporating with Him other deities, and obey His commands as mentioned in the Koran and the Sunna of the Prophet.

Even though man has been given a free choice to believe or not to believe, he will be questioned on the Day of Resurrection.

Surely it is a Reminder (the Koran) to thee and to thy people; and assuredly you will be questioned (Az-Zukhruf, 44).

And pursue not that thou hast no knowledge of; the hearing, the sight, the heart -- all of those shall be questioned of (Al-Isra', 36).

If Allah had willed, He would have made you one nation; but He leads astray whom He will, and guides whom He will; and you will surely be questioned about the things you wrought (Al-Nahl, 93).

Man however is not allowed to roam at will and spread mischief in the land.

Remember Allah's bounties, and do not mischief in the earth, working corruption (Al-A'raf, 74).

Disbelief in Allah will not pass without punishment.

The Koran states:

But those who disbelieve, and die disbelieving – upon them shall rest the curse of Allah and the angels, and of men altogether, therein dwelling forever; the chastisement shall not be lightened for them; no respite shall be given them (Al-Baqarah 161, 162).

These are two disputants who have disputed concerning their Lord. As for the unbelievers, for them garments of fire shall be cut, and there shall be poured over their heads boiling water (Al-Hajj, 19).

Surely We have prepared for the evildoers a fire, whose pavilion encompasses them; if they call for succour, they will be succoured with water like molten copper, that shall scald their faces – how evil a potion, and how evil a resting place (Al-Kahf, 29).

What then would be the reward of the righteous that believe in Allah and worship Him in earnest and devotion?

Those -- their recompense is forgiveness from their Lord, and gardens beneath which rivers flow, therein dwelling forever; and how excellent is the wage of those who labour! (Al-Imran, 136).

If man follows a course of righteousness and godliness (which he is free to choose and follow) he will be rewarded in this world and the next. In this world he will live a life of peace and contentment, and in the Hereafter he will qualify for the heaven of eternal bliss, Paradise. If he chooses to follow the course of godlessness and evil, (which he is equally free to choose and follow), his life will be one of corruption and frustration in this world, and in the life to come he will face the prospect of that abode of pain and misery which is called Hell.

The Koran deals in many passages with man's relationship to Allah and the concept of life, which naturally follows from that relationship. Its message is epitomised in the following verse:

Allah has bought from the believers their selves and their possessions against the gift of paradise; they fight in the way of Allah; they kill, and are killed; that is a promise binding upon Allah in the Torah and the Gospel, and the Koran; and who fulfils his covenant truer than Allah? So rejoice in the bargain you have made with Him; that is the mighty triumph (Al-Tawbah, 111).

In the above verse, the nature of the relationship which comes into existence between man and Allah (the belief, trust and faith in Allah) is called a 'bargain'. Everything in this world belongs to Allah. As such, man's life and wealth, which are part of this world, also belong to Him.

This bargain does not mean that Allah is purchasing something which belongs to man. Its real nature is this: all creation belongs to Allah but He bestowed certain things on man to be used by him on trust. Allah wants man to willingly and voluntarily acknowledge this. A person who acknowledges Allah's sovereignty, and, in so doing, 'sells' his 'autonomy' (which, too, is a gift from Allah) to Allah, will get in return Allah's promise of eternal bliss in Paradise. A person who makes such a bargain is a believer, a man of faith. A person who chooses not to enter into this contract, or who, after making such a contract, does not keep to it, is an infidel. The avoidance or abrogation of the contract is technically known as ungodliness.

Accordingly, Muslims believe that everything within their possession and which they conveniently call their property is not only provided by Allah but ultimately belong to Him. What actually Muslims have is merely placed in their trust, and must be preserved and delivered back to Allah in the best manner possible.

The Koran says:

Believe in Allah and His Messenger, and spend of that unto which He has made you trustees. And those of you who believe and spend shall have a mighty wage (Al-Hadid, 7).

Submission as obedience to Allah extends to include Muslims' money and wealth. Money and wealth is not Muslims' goal in life, their main goal however, is to win the supreme success - paradise.

Listen to the Koran:

A similitude of the Garden (Paradise) which is promised unto those who keep their duty (to Allah): Underneath it rivers flow; its food is everlasting, and its shade; this is the reward of those who keep their duty, while the reward of disbelievers is the Fire (Ar-Ra'd, 35).

O my people! Lo! this life of the world is but a passing comfort, and lo! the Hereafter, that is the enduring home (Ghafir, 39).

Lo! as for those who believe and do good works, for them is a reward enduring (Fussilat, 8).

Muslims are not after the evanescent fleeting world, they are after winning an eternal life in The Gardens of Eden. That is the supreme success.

The Koran says:

Allah promiseth to the believers (submitters), men and women, Gardens underneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide - blessed dwellings in Gardens of Eden. And - greater (far)! - acceptance from Allah. That is the supreme triumph (At-Tawbah, 72).

In Islam, acquiring wealth is not the purpose of life. Even though wealth is one of the greatest blessings that mankind has been given, Islam considers it at the same time one of the greatest trials and temptations.

Allah states: "Your wealth and your children are only a trial (fitnah). And Allah - With Him is a great reward (Paradise)." (Al-Taghabun, 15).

Allah also states:

And know that your possessions and your children are but a trial (fitnah) and surely with Allah is a mighty reward (Al-Anfal, 28).

In one of the most explicit verses in this regard, the Muslim is advised to understand his priorities, or suffer the consequences:

"Say: If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your kindred, the wealth that you have gained, the commerce in which you fear a decline, and the dwellings in which you delight, are more beloved to you than Allah and His Messenger, and striving in His Cause, then wait until Allah executes His Decision (torment). And Allah guides not the people who are rebellious (disobedient to Allah)." (Al-Tawbah, 24).

Countless verses censure those who hoard wealth in denial of Allah's rights:

Woe to every slanderer and backbiter. Who has gathered wealth and counted it. He presumes that his money will make him immortal (Al-Humazah, 1-3).

Have you seen him who disbelieved in Our verses and (yet) says: 'I shall be given wealth and children (Maryam, 77).

Allah threatens such people:

And let not those who disbelieve ever think that (because) We extend their time (of enjoyment) it is better for them. We only extend it for them so that they may increase in sin, and for them is a humiliating chastisement (Al-Imran, 178).

By these verses we come to understand that an unrighteous life of wealth and worldly enjoyments is not a blessing but rather a curse (4).

In describing the evils of greed, the prophet gave a beautiful parable:

"Two hungry wolves, if let loose amongst a flock of sheep, cause less harm than a man's eagerness to increase his money and his prestige." (Reported by al-Tirmidhi and Ahmad and others).

In another saying of the Prophet said:

"Three things destroy, and three things save. As for the three things that destroy, they are: greediness that is obeyed, and desires that are followed, and a person becoming self-conceited (and proud) with himself. As for the three things that save, they are: the fear of Allah in secret and public, and moderation in poverty and richness, and fairness in anger and pleasure." (reported by al-Bazzar (# 80), Abu Nu'aym in his Hilya (2/343), al-Hayhaqi in his Shu ab al-Iman (2/382) and others).

Extreme love for this world cannot exist in a heart devoted to Allah.

The prophet said:

"The Day of Judgement has come close, and mankind will only increase their desire for this world, and they will only go farther and farther away from Allah." (Reported by al-Hakim : 4/324).

There is a direct relationship between the love of this world and loss of devotion to Allah; the more a person loves this world, the less he loves Allah, and vice-versa. Therefore, one's love for money will harm him in this world and in the Hereafter as well. On the Day of Judgement, every single person will be questioned about the

money that he or she has earned. In fact, this questioning will take place as soon as one is resurrected from the grave.

The Prophet stated:

"The two feet of the son of Adam will not move on the Day of Judgement in front of his Lord until he is asked about five things: about his life, and how he spent it? And about his youth, what did he consume it in? And about his money, how did he earn it? And what did he spend it on? And how much did he act upon what he knew?" (Reported by al-Tirmidhi (2/67)).

Loving money only leads a person to injustice and sin. The more one is involved with increasing his wealth, the greater the chance that he or she will fall into sin while trying to accrue such wealth. Only the person who truly has the fear of Allah will be able to save himself from such temptation.

A person cannot remain upon two divergent paths, or retain a tight grip on two items moving in opposite directions. Given that the path to fulfilment of illicit worldly desires and the path to the pleasure of Allah travel in different directions, excessive love of wealth risks compromising obedience to Allah, and the blessings to be gained from seeking His pleasure.

The Prophet said:

"The plentiful (i.e., the rich) will be the lowest on the Day of Judgement, except he who distributed his money left and right (i.e., at all times in useful and charitable ways), while he earned from pure (means)." (Reported by Ibn Majah (# 4130), Ibn Hibban (# 807), Ahmad (2/340), and others).

From the Islamic perspective, all wealth belongs to Allah and man is only a trustee.

The Koran says:

and give them something out of the wealth that Allah has bestowed upon you." (An-Nur, 33).

This means that it is Allah who owns the wealth and that wealth has been bestowed by Him. Since Allah is the absolute owner, man is just a trustee.

Therefore, the first right to wealth is Allah Himself, but Allah does not need wealth as we perceive it and He has prescribed conditions as to how to use the wealth that he has bestowed on us. Muslims therefore, should follow the guidelines and injunctions of Allah in their respective professions. As mentioned above, Islam considers wealth as a trust and thus Muslims would be accountable for how it has been amassed and how it has been spent. On this point, Islam prescribes ways to carry out the trust.

For example, Islam provides guidelines on how Muslims should spend their wealth while they are alive and how it should be distributed when they pass away. In that sense, wealth would be blessed.

A blessed wealth in this context is wealth that brings benefits to oneself and others. The Prophet Muhammad said "the upper hand is better than the lower hand". The upper hand is the hand that gives benefits to others whereas the lower hand is the hand that receives. Thus, in Islam, wealth is vital to enhance and to develop the economic system. With wealth, Muslims will be able to serve Allah through giving alms (one method of wealth purification).

The Prophet said:

"Blessed is the wealth of a Muslim from which he gives to the poor, the orphans and the needy traveler".

Islam has always emphasised the significance of attaining Allah's blessings (pleasures) by giving to others. Islam considers man as the best of Allah's creation and treats him as such. Allah has granted him certain rights and has prescribed certain responsibilities for him.

From the Islamic viewpoint, ownership rests with Allah. However, Allah has created everything in the universe for the use of mankind.

The koran says:

He it is Who created for you all that is in the earth. Then turned He to the heaven, and fashioned it as seven heavens. And He is Knower of all things." (Quran 2:29) .

The Quran further says:

And hath made of service unto you whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth; it is all from Him. Lo! herein verily are portents for people who reflect." (Quran 45:13).

Therefore, He has delegated the proprietary rights to mankind under specified terms i.e. trusteeship and man is therefore subject to the terms of that trust and must not forget that the real owner is Allah and man's ownership is granted by Him (5).

The final Book of Allah and His final Messenger stand today as the repositories of this truth. Everyone who agrees that the concept of Reality stated by the Prophet, and the Holy Book is true, should step forward and surrender himself to the will of Allah. It is this submission, which is called Islam. And those who of their own free will accept Allah as their Sovereign, surrender to His Divine will and strive to regulate their lives in accordance with His commandments, are called Muslims or submitters (6).

Submission in Islam means freedom. Muslims do not submit to a ruler, a president, a political system, but to the Lord of creation. Submission to the will and laws of Allah is the source of all freedom. It liberates the mind, soul, and behaviour from the evil influences of the world. It helps humankind overcome oppressive tyrants, unjust laws, lusts, deviation and psychological complexes, which enslave his will. Submission to the will of Allah grants man the right to choose a better way of life, to live his life in a moral and upright way. If during his life man submits to the will of Allah, he can depend on His mercy at the time of judgement. This is why the Prophet of Islam was sent as a mercy to all mankind.

The Koran states:

And We have not sent you but as a mercy to the world (Al-Anbiya', 107).

The Prophet is quoted as having said:

"Surely, I am a granted mercy."

Islam freed mankind from the darkness of polytheism, slavery, and injustice. It introduced the light of faith. It opened the doors to moral and social reform, and created an atmosphere of security and safety in which man was free to think, invent, and seek the road to perfection and salvation.

Islam came to break man's fetters and tear down the wall of this prison. It enabled mankind to cast off the chains that hindered his growth and to follow the path to moral perfection. It created an atmosphere of hope and optimism, which gave a true meaning to human existence.

The freedom that Islam grants is based on commitment and responsibility without which there can be no true freedom. Freedom without restraints leads only to nihilism, the consequence of which is the complete breakdown of the moral and social order.

The irresponsible concept of freedom expounded by existentialism, democracy and modern theories of freedom of expression lead only to corruption and immorality since they are not tied to any concept of higher moral values or self-control. For Islam, freedom lies in commitment and responsibility. They form an integral part of each other and can in no way be separated. There is no freedom of choice without responsibility, and no responsibility without freedom.

Because Allah has granted man free will, which allows him to choose his course in life, man is answerable to Allah for his actions.

Allah says in the Koran:

"Surely We have shown him the way: he may be thankful or unthankful (Al-Insan, 3).

"...Nay! man is evidence against himself, Though he puts forth his excuses (Al-Qiyamah, 14, 15).

"And stop them, for they shall be questioned. (as-Saffat, 24).

"And We have made every man's actions to cling to his neck, and We will bring forth to him on the Resurrection Day a book which he will find wide open. Read your book; your own self is sufficient as a reckoner against you this Day."(Al-Isra' 13, 14).

Freedom in Islam means to express it and to practise it within the limits of responsibility and self- control. Otherwise, freedom may become a tool of destruction, annihilation and doctrinal deviation.

Freedom does not mean to satisfy all man's instincts. Nor does it mean to give into the pressure of lusts and desires. Behaviour should be guided always by our sense of what is right and should not be motivated by our desire for pleasure or immediate gratification.

The Koran and the Messenger of Allah nourished the Islamic concept of freedom. Never did Muhammad deny his followers freedom of expression. Muslims could always speak their minds while in his presence. He consulted them about his revelations and listened to their views and counsels. The first Muslim community lived in unprecedented freedom under the banner of the Holy Qur'an and the leadership of the guiding Messenger. Everyone lived in an atmosphere of social justice and harmony. There was no place for pride and arrogance. Even as the teeth of a comb did they live. The only privilege accorded to anyone was that conferred by piety. All nations lived as one.

The principle of freedom in Islam has not come as a result of a revolution, or societal evolution, but it has come from above. It has come from heaven to bring the people of earth up high. Islam has come to liberate people from the different types of enslavement: their intellectual, political, social, religious, and economic types of enslavement.

The pre- Islamic society into which Islam was revealed was pastoral. Its pillars were slavery, exploitation and injustice.

Islam laid down the principles of justice, equality and freedom and established moral values. Since the concept of slavery was entrenched in the pre-Islamic world, and equally contrary to the Islamic concept of freedom, many inducements to free slaves were introduced. Freeing a slave could help expiate sin. Sin is a spiritual perversion, called by the Koran "a deviation, a malady". It separated man from Allah and His Mercy.

Freedom in Islam is an inalienable right, which enable man to lead a moral and upright life, and brings him under the mantle of justice and mercy of Allah (7).

The concept of freedom in Islam is not against the Islamic concept of submission to Allah. The foundation of Islam is submission to Allah alone. Therefore, the Islamic concept of freedom is to remove any absolute authority over the individual, for such authority negates the very gifts that Allah has granted him. Submission to Allah is by necessity realized within the context of freedom. It is intrinsically tied in with responsibility. Freedom in Islam is not freedom from moral obligations and

responsibilities or freedom from truth, justice, virtue, and righteousness. Freedom from these values is not freedom, but anarchy and corruption. Islam says that human beings must be free mentally, spiritually, as well as physically.

Islam ensures religious freedom for all people. *"There should not be any compulsion in religion"* (Al-Baqarah: 256). People should be free to practice their religion, but they should not force their religion on others. Similarly Islam allows freedom of expression, but people should not utter falsehood and lies. Islam teaches political freedom so that people choose their leaders by their own consent, and if the leaders are dishonest or incapable then people remove them from their office. Islam allows economic freedom. People should be free to earn and to own as much as they want but without indulging in fraud, deception, and cheating.

Freedom has both positive and negative connotations: freedom for something and freedom from something. Islam wants freedom for living a happy, healthy, prosperous, moral, and dignified life. Islam wants people to be free to worship, to express themselves, to earn, to have family, and to have a government of their choice. On the other hand, Islam wants people to be free from economic, political, and social oppression. Islam wants people to be free from materialism and selfishness. Islam wants people to be free from religious persecution. Finally and most importantly, Islam wants people to be free from Hell in the eternal life and to live happily in Paradise in the company of Allah (8).

To conclude, Islam promotes the type of responsible freedom: A type of freedom that respects the other, and respects the guides of the Shari`ah. It is a type of "public" freedom, not the selfish individualistic freedom. Abusing oneself, his/her family, his/her wealth, and his/her society is not the real freedom. Freedom is based on the principle "of no harm", no harm to oneself, and the others."

The collapse of the civilization and man's fall into misery and helplessness are direct consequences of permissiveness and the frenzied pursuit of pleasure. The Koran presents us with lessons drawn from history. It tells us of nations and communities that destroyed themselves by ignoring the way of Allah and following only the way of the flesh, being ruled by their whims and desires.

Allah says:

"But there came after them an evil generation, who neglected prayers and followed the sensual desires, so they will meet perdition." (Maryam, 59).

"So leave them plunging into false discourses and sporting until they meet their day which they are threatened with." (Az-Zukhrf, 83).

"Like those before you, who were stronger than you in power, and more abundant in wealth and children; so they enjoyed their share; so you enjoy your share, as those before you enjoyed their share. You have gossiped as they gossiped. Those it was whose deeds shall be nullified in this world and in the Hereafter; and those - they are the losers. Has there not come to them the tidings of those who were before them - of the people of Noah, and Ad and Thamood, and the people of Abraham, the dwellers of Madyan and the cities overthrown? Their Messengers came to them with

the clear signs; Allah would not wrong them, but they wronged themselves." (At-Tawbah 69, 70).

The emphasis on materialism and freedom without responsibilities in today's societies is destroying the social and moral fabric of these societies. It gives rise to moral decadence, promiscuity, crime and a lack of respect for all moral, legal and natural courses of actions.

Freedom is abused and has become a subversive tool, a scourge to mankind. This abuse of freedom has resulted in chaos throughout the world. It has led to corruption, crime, war, poverty, drug addictions, alcoholism and life destroying diseases such as AIDS.

The appalling suffering brought about by these diseases and addictions are a result of man's inability to practise freedom with restraint, and responsibility. The limitless freedom has resulted in chaos, disorder, crime, despair and death and for many the annihilation of the very freedom they wished to express.

One of the major results of uncontrolled freedom is that women viewed freedom as breaking away from the home. Sexual freedom was unrestrained by moral commitment or responsibilities and promiscuity raged and ravaged the population. The family collapsed and a generation of children was lost- a generation which is in need of love and care. The results are seen everywhere in drinking, drug taking and crime which is destroying millions of young lives.

This is the consequence of the materialistic life, which has turned its back on Allah and all the moral and spiritual values of the Koran.

Is this the kind of nihilistic freedom Edward Cline is proud of?

As it seems, Mr Edward Cline, prefers to be subservient to the irresponsible freedom we see now in his society, freedom leading to racism, sex abuse, sex outside marriage, pornography, manipulation, abortion, Atheism, suicide, prostitution, hate speech, drug and alcohol addiction, mass shooting and gun violence. How about adding to these social ills the establishment of islamophobe industry in the American society by the Islamophobe hate mongers , thus spreading discord between Muslim and non-Muslim Americans! Is this the life style he Cline is defending? Is this the culture and way of life he is proud of? Is this the freedom he wishes to enjoy?

Human life in the West is gravely threatened by the collapse of the natural male-female relationship, free sex, debauchery and man's lack of self-control. Dangerous and often fatal diseases are the natural consequence of unlicensed sexual practices.

This kind of lifestyle Mr Cline is proud of, is truly the ideology of nihilism, and not the righteous life that Islam offers.

Mr Edward Cline thinks that Islam is "fundamentally a nihilist ideology", as if Islam were a sect or a cult invented by some ignorant people. The man talks so confidently against Islam that one may think he belongs to an ideology more superior or more civilized. He talks against Islam so boldly that you may think he came from a people

having all the knowledge while Muslims are ignorant and far astray. But in reality the opposite is true.

If Mr Edward Cline thinks that Islam is a nihilistic ideology, I would like to ask him: 'what is exactly the system you believe in? Is it capitalism, which failed to bring about the well - being of most of the people on this planet?' Under capitalism, wealth is not evenly distributed and even in the USA, 25% of the people live below the poverty line. Can we really say that capitalism is a well-working economic system when millions of people are struggling just to survive? The current global financial crisis underscores the inequality, fragility and unpredictable future of the capitalist economic system. While the US government bailed out banks and financial institutions that had failed due to their reckless greed, no one was there to save the thousands of ordinary people who lost already their homes and life savings.

Mr Edward Cline do you believe in that greedy capitalism, which claims to harness that greed for the good of society? Or is it the nihilistic ideology of the cancer cell – growth for the sake of growth and to hell with the poor and the middle class! Does Cline understand that America has gone from a recession into a depression?

Growth in the US economy is an anaemic 2.5 per cent, while unemployment remains at near-depression levels, amid rising poverty and widening social inequality. While the Federal Reserve pours money into the financial markets, boosting corporate profits, real incomes for the mass of the population continue to fall.

What is more, the European economic outlook is worsening. Europe is now facing stagnation. Investment is declining and unemployment continues to rise and financial markets remain fragmented.

Economic freedom is seen as a means to exploit the underprivileged by bribery and corruption. A capitalist class, whose sole aim is to amass wealth in the hands of a few, has grown powerful and influential on the sweat of others.

The capitalist system Cline believes in, has impoverished the world's masses as the world's wealth became concentrated in the hands of a greedy few causing economic crises.

Mr Edward Cline's claim that Islam is a nihilistic ideology prompts me to ask him: 'what is your religion?' Is it the Christianity we see today? Do you think that contemporary Christianity is superior to Islam? Let me teach you the facts about contemporary Christianity, the religion you think is better than Islam.

The Koran says that the current Torah, Psalms and Gospel (the New Testament) have been badly corrupted. Numerous passages of the Koran refer to man's distortion and alterations of the previous books of revelations from Allah. These passages in the Koran note that the received books by the People of the Book, the Jews and the Christians, do not conform to the original revelations that were given to Moses, David and Jesus. Seeking out loopholes in any part of the Holy Scriptures that did not conform to their wishes, they altered the Word of Allah at will; religion was subordinated to their worldly interests.

The following verses from the Quran are among the more direct in addressing this distortion of the prior books of Allah.

Can ye (o ye men of Faith) entertain the hope that they (the Jews) will believe in you? Seeing that a party of them heard the Word of Allah, and perverted it knowingly after they understood it. Then woe to those who write the Book with their own hands, and then say: "This is from Allah," to traffic with it for miserable price!- Woe to them for what their hands do write, and for the gain they make thereby. (Al-Baqarah 75,79).

There is among them (the Jews) a section who distort the Book with their tongues: (As they read) you would think it is a part of the Book, but it is no part of the Book; and they say, "That is from Allah," but it is not from Allah: It is they who tell a lie against Allah, and (well) they know it! (Al-Imran, 78).

And remember Allah took a covenant from the People of the Book (Jews and Christians), to make it known and clear to mankind, and not to hide it; but they threw it away behind their backs, and purchased with it some miserable gain! What an evil bargain they made! (Al-Imran, 187).

But on account of their (the Jews) breaking their covenant We cursed them and made their hearts hard; they altered the words from their places and they neglected a portion of what they were reminded of; and you shall always discover treachery in them excepting a few of them; so pardon them and turn away; surely Allah loves those who do good (to others). And with those who say, We are Christians, We made a covenant, but they neglected a portion of what they were reminded of, therefore We excited among them enmity and hatred to the day of resurrection; and Allah will inform them of what they did. O followers of the Book (Torah and Gospel), indeed Our Messenger has come to you making clear to you much of what you concealed of the Book and passing over much; indeed, there has come to you light and a clear Book from Allah (Al-Maidah 13-15).

No just estimate of Allah do they make when they say: 'Allah has not revealed anything to any human being.' Say, 'Who revealed the Book which Moses brought, a light and guidance for the people, which you made into separate sheets, showing some but hiding many? You have been taught things that neither you nor your fathers had known before.' Say, 'Allah has sent it;' then leave them toying away with their speculation.' (Al-An'am, 91).

One may say, We do not believe in the Koran as a divine Book, so the Koranic statements that the Bible and the Gospel were corrupted is incorrect.' But Prophet Jeremiah stated that the Bible was corrupted and became unreliable and was mostly filled with man-made laws and corruption!

"How can you say, 'We [the Jews] are wise, for we have the law of the LORD,' when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely?' (From the NIV Bible, Jeremiah 8:8).

The Revised Standard Version makes it even clearer: "How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us'? But, behold, the false pen of the scribes has made it (i.e., the bible) into a LIE. (From the RSV Bible, Jeremiah 8:8).

In either translation, we clearly see that the Jews had so much corrupted the Bible with their man-made cultural laws, that they had turned the Bible into a lie!

See Also Deuteronomy 31:25-29 where Moses peace be upon him predicted the corruption/tampering of the Law (Bible) after his death.

The Book of Moses predicted that the Law (Bible) will get corrupted. The Book of Jeremiah which came approximately 826 years after did indeed confirm this corruption.

After Abraham, Moses and David died, the book of Abraham was lost, The Torah of Moses was corrupted and badly edited as time went on and most of the Psalms of David were written by unknown writers. As for the Gospel, well as soon as Jesus left the earth—the New Testament was badly corrupted by unreliable oral traditions, growing legends, fictional forms and cheats and frauds who were pretending to be apostles of the original church like Paul of Tarsus.

The corruption of the divine Books by the Jews and the Christians have terrible consequences.

The Koran states:

Then woe be unto those who write the Scripture with their hands and then say, "This is from Allah," that they may purchase a small gain therewith. Woe unto them for that their hands have written and woe unto them for that they earn thereby (Al-Baqarah, 79).

When the Koran speaks of the Gospel, it refers to an original divinely revealed Book that came to the Prophet Jesus Christ. It does not refer to any Gospel written by any of Jesus's disciples, such as the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and other lost Gospels such as that of Peter.

Although Muslims believe that Jesus' original Gospel has been corrupted and lost, they believe that hints of the message of the original Gospel are still evident in the traditional Gospels of Christianity. However, like the Torah, they believe that there have been additions and subtractions made to the real story in these Gospels.

The corruption of the former divine Books necessitated that the Prophet of Islam comes with a Book that will not be altered or changed because Allah has guarded it against corruption.

Surely we have revealed the Reminder (i.e. the Koran) and We will surely be its guardian (Al-Hijr, 9).

The Prophet said, "Why do you ask the people of the scripture about anything while your Book (the Koran), which has been revealed to Allah's Apostle is newer and the latest? You read it pure, undistorted and unchanged, and Allah has told you that the people of the scripture (Jews and Christians) changed their scripture and distorted it, and wrote the scripture with their own hands and said, 'It is from Allah,' to sell it for a little gain. Does not the knowledge which has come to you prevent you from asking them about anything? No, by Allah, we have never seen any man from them asking you regarding what has been revealed to you!" (Translation of Sahih Bukhari, Holding Fast to the Qur'an and Sunnah, Volume 9, Book 92, Number 461)".

The religion of Allah – Islam - has been restored and enforced in the last stage of the religious evolution by Allah's last Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad. Muhammad had to come then to re-establish the oneness of Allah on earth; to urge people to worship Allah alone without incorporating other deities with Him; the One and Only Eternal God, Creator of the Universe, Lord of all lords, King of all kings, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful.

The corruption of the divine Books has led to distortion in Allah's teachings. The oneness of Allah has been altered and other deity or deities had been incorporated with Allah in worship. Incorporating with Allah other deities (Jesus the son of Mary, pope, rabbis, priest as a mediator, animal, idol, tree, nature, etc.) is considered in Islam as the most heinous and unforgivable sin.

The Koran says:

They serve apart from Allah, what hurts them neither profits them, and they say, 'These are our intercessors with Allah.' Say, 'Will you tell Allah what He knows not either in the heavens or in the earth?' Glory be to Him! High be He exalted above that they associated (Yunus, 18).

The matter of fact is that by worshipping false god or gods, they wrongfully commit excesses in the land, but their excesses only affect their own selves. They can have the enjoyment of the present life, but in the end to Allah they shall return and He will inform them of all that they have done.

The Koran states:

They say, 'Allah has taken to Him a son.' Glory be to Him! He is All-Sufficient; to Him belongs all that is in the heavens and in the earth; you have no authority of this. What, do you say concerning Allah that you know not?' (Yunus, 18).

The Koran teaches that Allah forgives all sins except incorporating with Him other deities.

Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him in worship; less than that He forgives to whomsoever He will. Whoso associates with Allah anything has indeed forged a mighty sin (Al-Nisa', 48).

The distortion made in the Gospel has led the Christians to consider Jesus the son of Mary as God or the son of God. This is considered in Islam a glaring blasphemy.

The Koran says:

In blasphemy indeed are those who say, 'Allah is Christ the son of Mary.' Say, 'Who then could prevent Allah if He so willed from destroying Christ, son of Mary, and his mother and everyone on earth? The kingdom of the heavens and the earth and everything between them belong to Allah. He creates what He will and Allah has power over all things.' (Al-Maidah, 17).

The Koran rejects the concept of the Trinity: God the Father, God the son, God the Holy Spirit - as strongly as it rejects the concept of Jesus as the son of God. This is because God (Allah) is One. Three cannot be one.

The Koran clearly states:

They are unbelievers who say, 'Allah is the third of three. No god is there but One God. If they refrain not from what they say, there shall afflict those of them that disbelieve a painful chastisement (Al-Maidah, 73).

Indeed the Messiah shall not turn indignant for being a servant of Allah nor shall be the angels nearest to Him. He who turns indignant for serving Allah must realize that he shall be thronged to Allah's August presence in the Day of Judgment, and an everlasting torment awaits him.

We read in the Koran:

The Messiah will not disdain to be a servant of Allah, neither the Angels who are close to Him. Whosoever disdains to serve Him and walks proud, He will assuredly muster them to Him, all of them (Al-Nisa', 172).

The denial of Jesus divinity is presented in the Koran in the form of a dialogue, at the Day of Judgement, between Allah and Jesus. All the Messengers will gather before Allah to be asked how they were received by their people and what they said to them. Among those who will be questioned is Jesus:

"And when Allah said, 'O Jesus, son of Mary, did you say unto men, "Take me and my mother as gods, apart from Allah?" He said, 'To You be glory! It is not mine to say what I have no right to. If I indeed said it, you would have known it, knowing what is within my soul, and I know not what is within Your soul; You know the things unseen. I only said to them what you did command me: "Serve Allah, my Lord and your Lord." (Al-Maida, 116).

Given that the Koran denies the Trinity and the son-ship of Jesus, what was the real mission of Jesus? The answer is that Jesus was a link in a long chain of Prophets and Messengers sent by Allah to various nations and societies whenever they needed guidance or deviated from His teachings.

The polytheists' acceptance of an unproved god show that such people can never be prosperous, because how can a god who is actually non-existent come to help anybody or fulfil anybody's wishes? Their only possible fate will be to finally become helpless and without support and forever suffer disgrace and disappointment.

Jesus was miraculously supported by numerous miracles to prove that he was a Messenger from Allah. However, the majority of the Jews rejected his ministry.

It is a sad fact of history that not many are following the "straight path" to which people were called by Jesus. He was only followed by a few disciples inspired by Allah to support him. The non-believers plotted - as they would against Mohammad, six centuries later - to kill Jesus. But Allah had better plan for him and his followers, as the Koran tells us:

"And when Jesus perceived their unbelief, he said 'Who will be my helpers in the cause of Allah? The apostles said, 'we are Allah's helpers. We believe in Allah; so bear witness of our submission to Allah, we believe in that you have sent down, and we follow the Messenger. Inscribe us therefore with those who bear witness. 'And they devised, and Allah devised, and Allah is the best of divisors. When Allah said, 'Jesus, I will take you to Me and will raise you to Me, and I will purify you (of the falsehoods) of those who do not believe. I will make your followers above the unbelievers till the Resurrection Day.'"(Al-Imran 52-55).

As the above verses indicate, Jesus was taken and raised to heaven. He was not crucified. It was certainly the plan of the enemies of Jesus to put him to death on the cross, but Allah saved him and someone else was crucified.

In the context of reprimanding the Jews for their rebellion against Allah, the Koran denies the crucifixion of Jesus:

"And for their unbelief, and their uttering against Mary a mighty calumny, and for their saying, 'We slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, the Messiah of Allah - yet they did not slay him, neither crucified him, only a likeness of that was shown to them. Those who are at variance concerning him surely are in doubt regarding him, they have no knowledge of him, except the following of surmise; and they slew him not for a certainty - no indeed; Allah raised him up to Him; Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise (An-Nissa 156-158).

Jesus the son of Mary was a Prophet; he had to eat and drink to survive, as do all other human beings. Allah does not eat or drink or sleep, there is none equal to Him.

The Messiah, the son of Mary, was no more than a Messenger; many were the Messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their (daily) food. See how Allah makes His signs clear to them; yet see in what ways they are deluded away from the truth!" (Al-Maidah, 75).

In the Koran Jesus identified his identity:

He [Jesus] said: 'I am indeed a servant of Allah. He has given me revelation and made me a prophet; He has made me blessed wherever I be; and He has enjoined on me prayer and charity as long as I live. He has made me kind to my mother, and not overbearing or miserable. So peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)!' Such was Jesus the son of Mary. It is a statement of truth, about which they (vainly) dispute. It is not befitting to (the majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son. Glory be to Him! When He determines a matter, He only says to it, 'Be,' and it is" (Maryam 30-35).

But what was the true teachings of Jesus? The Koran says:

When Jesus came with Clear Signs, he said: 'Now I have come to you with Wisdom, and in order to make clear to you some of the (points) on which you dispute. Therefore, fear Allah and obey me. Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him - this is a Straight Way.' But the sects from among themselves fell into disagreement. So woe to the wrongdoers, from the penalty of a grievous day!" (Az-Zukhruf 63-65).

The Koran tells us that Jesus came to teach the same basic Message which was taught by previous prophets from Allah; that we must shun every false god and worship only the one true God, Allah. Jesus taught that he is the servant and Messenger of that one true God, the God of Abraham. These Koranic teachings can be compared with the Bible (Mark 10:18; Matthew 26:39; John 14:28, 17:3, and 20:17) where Jesus teaches that the one he worshipped is the only true God. See also Matthew 12:18, Acts 3:13, and 4:27 where we find that his disciples knew him as Servant of Allah.

The Koran narrates what Jesus said to his people::

And (I come) confirming that which was before me of the Torah, and to make lawful some of that which was forbidden unto you. I come unto you with a sign from your Lord, so keep your duty to Allah and obey me. Lo! Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is a straight path. (Al-Imran 49-51).

The Koran tells us that some of the Israelites rejected Jesus, and conspired to kill him, but Allah (God) rescued Jesus and raised him to Himself. Allah will cause Jesus to descend again, at which time Jesus will confirm his true teachings and everyone will believe in him as he is and as the Koran teaches about him.

The Koran also teaches that Jesus is the Messiah. He is a word from Allah, and a spirit from Him. He is honoured in this world and in the hereafter, and he is one of those brought nearest to Allah.

Jesus was a man who spoke the truth, which he heard from Allah. This can be compared with the Gospel according to John where Jesus says to the Israelites: "You are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from Allah" (John 8:40).

The Christians think that since Jesus had no human father then Allah must be his father. The Koran rejects this view. The position of Jesus with Allah is comparable

to the position of Adam with Allah. Just because Adam had no human parent does not mean we should call him the Son of God.

We read in the Koran:

Lo! the likeness of Jesus with Allah is as the likeness of Adam. He created him from dust, then He said unto him: Be! and he is (Al-Imran, 59).

According to the Koran, every creature on earth or in heaven are Allah's slaves including Jesus.

And they say, 'The All-Merciful has taken unto Himself a son.' You have indeed advanced something hideous! The heavens are well nigh rent of it and the earth split asunder, and the mountains well nigh fall down crashing for that they have attributed to the All-Merciful a son; and it behoves not the All-Merciful to take a son. None is there in the heavens and earth but he comes to the All-Merciful as a servant; He has indeed counted them, and He has numbered them exactly. Everyone of them shall come to Him upon the Day of Resurrection, all alone (Maryam 88-95).

The Christians of today shut their eyes to Allah's glory and goodness, and go after false gods (Jesus, pope, priest as a mediator, Mary, etc.). They give plausible excuse to themselves, such as that they will intercede for them, when they themselves have need to Allah's mercy. Even the best and noblest cannot intercede as of right, but only with Allah's permission. To pretend that there are other powers than Allah is to invent lies and to teach Allah of something He knows not in the heavens or on the earth. There is nothing in heaven or earth that Allah does not know, and there is no other like unto Him.

In this world, nobody except Allah has the power to grant benefits or to inflict harm. A person who realizes this truth devotes all his attention to Allah. He worships only Allah; he fears only Him and reposes his hopes in Him alone; He makes the One and only God, Allah, his all.

But the Christians of today make Jesus their god and attach to him hopes and fear as should have been directed towards the One and only God, Allah. Allah is free of imputing partners to Him. No such belief befits the image of the qualities of Allah.

Allah says in the Koran:

They serve, apart from Allah, what hurts them not, neither profits them, and they say, 'These are our intercessors with Allah.' Say: 'Will you tell Allah what He knows not either in the heavens or in the earth?' Glory be to Him! High be He exalted above that they associated (Yunus, 18).

By worshipping false god or gods, the Christians of today wrongfully committed excesses in the land. They can have the enjoyment of the present life, but in the end to Allah shall they return and He will inform them that he had sent down to them the Koran which explains the truth about Jesus' religion, and that he was an honourable Messenger and not God.

The Koran states:

They say, 'Allah has taken to Him a son.' Glory be to Him! He is All-Sufficient; to Him belongs all that is in the heavens and in the earth; you have no authority of this. What, do you say concerning Allah that you know not? (Yunus, 68).

The Christians of today are polytheists. Their acceptance of an unproved god will never make them successful, because how can a god who is actually non-existent come to help anybody or fulfil anybody's wishes? Their only possible fate is to finally become helpless and without divine support and forever suffer disgrace and disappointment.

We read in the Koran:

Those who forge against Allah falsehood shall not prosper. Some enjoyment in this world; then unto Us they shall return; then We shall let them taste the terrible chastisement, for that they were unbelievers (Yunus 69, 70).

Idol worship is a heinous crime in the sight of Allah. But what is idol worship? Idol worship is to believe that anything besides Allah can help us, or to hold something as more important to us than Allah. Thus, for example, if we consider our properties and jobs as more important than Allah, we are committing idol worship.

How would a father feel if he takes care of his own child, give him the best education, and prepare him for life, only to see him thank someone else? The ungrateful servant is the one who after being showered with Allah's blessings incorporates with Him in worship other deities.

The Koran teaches that associating partners with Allah is a gross injustice.

And when Lukman said to his son, admonishing him, 'O my son, do not associate others with Allah; to associate others with Allah is a mighty wrong (Lukman, 13).

When a man shows arrogance with regard to the truth (Allah's oneness), the reason for it is mostly polytheism. The position taken by most people is that while accepting Allah they also love some living or dead beings in whom they have placed their trust and to whom they give a position of greatness. They lead their lives relying on these great ones, though before Allah all of them are small. Ultimately, the only thing which will save them, will be their right belief and their own personal deeds, and not the exaltedness of the great ones.

The Koran says:

And most of them, even when they profess belief in Allah, attribute partners to Him (Yussuf, 106).

Allah does not forget idolatry, but He forgives lesser offenses for whomever he wills. Anyone who sets up idols beside Allah, has forged a horrendous offense.

The Koran says:

Allah will not forgive anyone for associating something with Him, while He will forgive whoever he wishes for anything besides that. Whoever ascribes partners to Allah is guilty of a monstrous sin (Al-Nisa', 48).

Allah tells us that idol worship nullifies all work.

It has already been revealed to you as it was to those before you” If you join others with Allah, then surely all your deeds will be in vain, and you will certainly be among the losers. Nay, but worship Allah alone and be among the grateful (Az-Zumar 65, 66).

Any work we do, if not devoted absolutely to Allah, does not serve to grow our souls. On the day of Resurrection, if our souls have not grown strong enough to withstand the presence of Allah - we will have to forsake Allah's kingdom on our own volition. Everything we have done in this world will be nullified.

The Christians of today exalt Jesus to the same level as Allah, and call him Allah. This is idol worship. In Matthew 7:21-23: Jesus clearly disowns those who call him “Lord”.

Idol worship is not just restricted to worship of any statues or picture frames, etc. The Koran cites many forms of idol worship: statues as idols; worshipping other gods is worshipping the devil; Jesus as idol; Jinns as idols; children as idols; humans as idols; intercessors as idols; Satan as an idol; property as an idol; dead Prophets, Messengers and saints as idols; Allah’s servants as idols; ego as an idol; upholding religious sources other than Allah’s words, is idol worship; religious leaders and scholars as idols; creating sects in religion is idol worship; dividing believers and providing comfort to those who oppose Allah and His Messengers is considered as idol worship.

We learn from the Koran that idols cannot judge (Ghafir, 20); idols cannot create anything and are powerless (Ar-Ra’d, 16 & Al-Ahqaf, 4); idols do not bring us closer to Allah (Az-Zumar, 3); idolaters follow conjecture (Al-An’am, 148); On the Day of Judgment the idolaters will be asked: ‘Where are your false deities?’ They will lie against themselves saying, ‘By Allah, our Lord, we were not those who joined others in worship with Allah.’ The deities they invented will not rescue them from the Fire.

Allah grants perfect security and happiness for the believers who are devoted to Him alone without committing idol worship.

Those who believe, and do not pollute their belief with idol worship, have deserved the perfect security, and they are truly guided (Al-An’am. 82).

Those, who eschew the serving of idols and turn penitent to Allah, for them is good tidings. So give thou good tidings to My servants who give ear to the Word (the Koran) and follow the fairest of it. Those are they who Allah has guided; - those they are men possessed of mind (Az-Zumar, 17).

According to Christian doctrine, humankind is considered wayward and sinful. The doctrine of original sin states that humankind is born already tainted by the sin of Adam and therefore separated from Allah, and in need of a redeemer. Islam on the other hand outrightly rejects the Christian concept of original sin and the notion that humankind is born sinful.

The Judeo-Christian conception of the creation of Adam and Eve is narrated in detail in Genesis 2:4-3:24. Allah prohibited both of them from eating the fruits of the forbidden tree. The serpent seduced Eve to eat from it and Eve, in turn, seduced Adam to eat with her. When Allah rebuked Adam for what he did, he put all the blame on Eve:

"The woman you put here with me she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it."

Consequently, Allah said to Eve:

" I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you."

To Adam He said:

"Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life..."

In Islam, whenever a person commits a sin, he alone is responsible for that sin. Every person is responsible for his or her own actions. Consequently, no human being who has ever lived is responsible for the mistakes made by Adam and Eve.

Allah says in the Koran:

"And no bearer of burdens shall bear another's burden." (Fatir, 18)

The idea that innocent babies or children are sinful sounds completely absurd. Humankind, according to Islam is born in a state of purity, without sin and naturally inclined to worship and praise Allah. However, human beings are also given free will and are thus capable of making mistakes and committing sins. Part of being human is making mistakes. Islam teaches that Allah is the most forgiving, and will go on forgiving, repeatedly.

The Koran denies the doctrine of original sin because Adam and Eve repented and Allah accepted their repentance. When Adam and Eve realized that they have disobeyed Allah by eating the fruit they called:

'Our Lord we have wronged ourselves, If You forgive us not and have mercy upon us, we shall surely be among the losers (Al-A'raf, 23).

And Allah accepted their plea:

Thus did Adam disobey his Lord, so he went astray. Then his Lord chose him, turned to him with forgiveness, and gave him guidance (Taha 121,122).

In Islam and as depicted by the Koranic verses above, Adam does not blame Eve for their fault. Both share the responsibility and both receive blame, equally. Furthermore, Allah does not curse Eve for her mistake by "increasing her pains in

childbearing". This erroneous concept was a contributing factor for the unequal treatment of women in early Christianity.

The Koran states clearly that Allah does not curse Adam for committing his sin and most importantly, Adam's sin is not inherited by his generations. In other words, Islam rejects the Christian doctrine of original sin.

At the heart of Christian faith, is the reality and hope of salvation in Jesus Christ. The Christians believe that salvation is made possible by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, which in the context of salvation is referred to as the "atonement". The majority of the Christians agree that salvation is made possible by the work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God dying on the cross. Specifically, it was Jesus' death on the cross and subsequent resurrection that rescued the Christians from eternal punishment for sin. Salvation is only available through faith in Jesus Christ.

In Islam however, salvation is attainable through the worship of Allah alone. A person who seek true salvation must believe in Allah first as the only God and follow His commandments. This is the same Message taught by all the Prophets including Moses and Jesus. There is only One worthy of worship. One God, alone without partners, sons, or daughters. Salvation and thus eternal happiness can be achieved by sincere worship of Allah alone without incorporating with Him partner or partners. If one falls into sin, all that is required is sincere repentance followed by seeking Allah's forgiveness. When a person sins he or she pushes themselves away from the mercy of Allah, however sincere repentance brings a person back to Allah.

We read in the Koran:

And whoever does evil or wrongs himself but afterwards seeks Allah's forgiveness, he will find Allah Oft-Forgiving, Most-Merciful. (An-Nisa', 10).

And, O my people! Ask forgiveness of your Lord and then repent to Him, and He will lose heaven in torrents upon you, and He will increase you in strength unto your strength; and turn not your backs as sinners (Hud, 52).

Say: 'O My slaves who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah, indeed Allah forgives all sins. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most-Merciful.' (Az-Zumar, 53).

Consequently, Islam rejects the concept of vicarious atonement. Every person is responsible for his action. No person is responsible for someone else's mistake. On the Day of Judgment, Jesus will not atone for the sins of others as the Christians claim.

The Koran states:

"That no soul laden bears the load (sins) of another, and that a man shall have to his account only as he has laboured, and that his labouring shall surely be seen, then he shall be recompensed for it with the fullest recompense (An-Najm, 38-41).

Seeking salvation without believing in Allah's oneness is of no avail. If man, is a monotheist and worships Allah alone, no matter what sins he may have committed, if he resolutely turns to Allah alone, seeking forgiveness his salvation is assured.

Prophet Muhammad described sin as black spots covering the heart. He said, "Indeed if a believer sins, a black spot covers his heart. If he repents, stops the sin, and seeks forgiveness for it, his heart becomes clean again. If he persists (instead of repenting), it increases until it covers his heart.

Salvation in Islam is not required because of the stain of original sin. Salvation is required because humankind is imperfect and in need of Allah's forgiveness.

People in the West want to live freely without limits; committing all the sins, they want without restriction! And why not, hasn't Jesus atoned for their sins! Do they believe such myth, such fabrication their forefathers invented in the religion of Jesus. They will be judged according to their own personal deeds. Jesus will not atone for their sins. Every soul earns only to its own account, no soul laden bears the sins of another, and then to their Lord shall they return, to receive punishment or reward.

Now, as you see Mr Edward Cline, the religion you believe in is a distorted version of the original Gospel of Jesus. The Koran is the reference you should rely on in order to know the truth about the true religion of Allah, and not your corrupted Books. Allah guards the Koran against corruption; this is why it stood the test of time. The Koranic verses we read today are the same as those that first descended on the Prophet more than 1400 years ago.

Allah has sent down the Koran confirming the Scriptures which were revealed before and serving as the Book of reference which does answer any query on matters disputed among the Jews and the Christians, for it is the umpire of all preceding Scriptures, and the decision that is based upon its precepts shall have to be accepted as final.

In other words, the Koran safeguards the former Books for it has preserved within it the teachings of all preceding Books. It watches over these Books in the sense that it will not let their true teachings to be lost. It supports and upholds these Books in the sense that it corroborates the Word of Allah, which has remained intact in them. It stands as a witness because it bears testimony to the Word of Allah contained in these Books and helps to sort it out from the interpretations and commentaries of the people which were mixed with it: what is confirmed by the Koran is the Word of Allah and what is against it is that of the people (9).

So, as you see Mr Cline, the Koran has rejected all the false doctrines the Christians invented in their religion. The Koran refuted the concepts of original sin, the doctrines of the Trinity, vicarious atonement, crucifixion, and mediation by high priests.

Mr Cline, you follow without thinking a distorted nihilistic Christianity that will not be accepted by Allah on the Day of Judgment. Allah will never accept a man standing before him on the Day of Judgment saying to Him, 'Lord, I worshipped you as one in

three or three in one.' Allah's response will be terrible, because never shall Allah forgive incorporating with Him Jesus or any other deity.

Edward Cline, and those ignorant, relies on a system of faith, which does not have the standing upon the ground of truth. They worship not Allah their Creator, but a man nailed to the cross. They worship Jesus the son of Mary and consider him as God or the son of God! They are not monotheists, as they should be, but rather polytheists associating Jesus in worship with Allah the Creator.

It must be realized that nothing is acceptable to Allah, which does not proceed from sincere faith. Unbelieving in Allah's oneness and worshipping Him by incorporating with Him partners, renders prayers, good deeds and fasting valueless. If the individual's life is devoid of true faith, his actions without such spirit have no value before Allah. Allah accepts good deeds only after believing in Him as the only true God.

Allah accepts from the true believers the best of what they do and He overlooks their bad deeds. They will be among the people of Paradise – this is a true promise that has been given to them.

We read in the Koran:

Those are they from whom We shall accept the best of what they have done, and We shall pass over their evil deeds. They are among the inhabitants of Paradise – the promise of the very truth, which they were promised (Al-Ahqaf, 16).

Muslims are on the right path because they are monotheists worshipping the One and only God Allah. They complement their strict monotheism by doing good deeds based on the teachings of their Book and the tradition of the Prophet.

Those who chatter about Islam without thinking, their words against Islam have terrible consequences. They are but compiling sins over sins upon their heads. They should wake up now before it is too late. Believing in such distorted Christianity will take them by the nose to Hell-Fire.

Acceptance of the Truth (Allah's oneness and the Day of accountability), is in fact acceptance of Allah. Whenever a person refuses to accept the Truth, he does so relying on the apparent strength of some thing or some personality. Such reliance is false, because in this world nobody has any power except Allah. On the Day of Judgment, there will be nobody to save him, Because Allah is the only saviour and such a person would already have lost Allah's support due to his disobedience.

Allah reveals His signs, but these signs of the life hereafter have no effect on those whose minds are preoccupied with the thoughts of this world. Allah discloses His arguments, but the arguments of the life hereafter do not appeal to those who are lost in the affairs of this world. Such people fail to accept guidance, and might as well think that Allah's law is nihilistic! If they do not give any weight to Allah's Word, how can they expect Allah to take their deeds into account for any divine consideration.

Let us listen to the Koran:

What, do the unbelievers reckon that they may take My servants (angels, prophets, Jesus, saints priests, popes, etc.) as lords apart from Me? We have prepared Hell for the unbelievers' hospitality. Say: 'Shall We tell you who will be the greatest losers in their works? Those whose striving goes astray in the present life, while they think that they are working good deeds. Those are they that disbelieve in the signs of their Lord and the encounter with Him; their works have failed, and on the Day of Resurrection We shall not assign to them any weight. That is their recompense – Hell for that they were unbelievers and took My signs and My Messengers in mockery (Al-Kahf 102-106).

Edward Cline and his like have so deadened their faculties that they do not work. They carry hearts stigmatized with dullness of comprehension, and eyes, which lack perception and they have no ear for admonition. They stand similitude exact of cattle, in fact even worth, for they are heedless of warning and heedless of all truth. Truth is available to those who are awake; for neglectful people, no truth is truth.

A clear Koran has come to them from their Lord, yet they turn their backs as if they have not heard the divine Message! Whoever chooses to see does so for his own good; and whoever chooses to remain blind does so to his own loss. Our job as Muslims is only to explain the Message to the people, but we are not here as their keepers.

Allah has chosen Islam as the only religion acceptable to Him. Islam is the best way of life for all. It serves as the best solution to all sorts of problems no matter how perplexing they may be. Islam is the absolute answer to those who seek a perfect religion and a complete way of life. It guides man to a well-balanced life, one that makes him happy and contented in this world and in the life Hereafter. It is the way to attaining supreme success in the everlasting world to come. In short, Islam, as the complete way for all, is Allah's Mercy to the whole of mankind.

Muslims have been chosen by Allah to be the best nation evolved for mankind. They order what is right, and forbid what is wrong. They command justice, kindness and giving their due to near relatives, and forbid all shameful deeds and injustice. They believe in Allah the only Lord of the universe.

The Koran says:

You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah. If only the people of the Book (Jews and Christians) had faith, it were best for them: among them are some who have faith, but most of them are morally depraved (Al-Imran, 110).

The perfection of Islam is manifest in the fact that Allah has made it reign supreme and prevail over other religions. Allah's favour upon the Muslims is manifest in the fact that He granted them true guidance, support and honour in this world and in the

Hereafter. He has also chosen for them Islam as their religion because it is the Truth, and it is for this reason that He will not accept any other religion but Islam.

Allah says in the Koran:

"And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it shall not be accepted from him, and in the life to come he shall be among the losers." (Al-Imran, 85).

In conclusion, the word Islam implies "peace" which is the natural consequence of total submission to the will of Almighty Allah. Hence, Islam was not a new religion brought by Prophet Muhammad in Arabia in the Seventh Century, but only the true religion of Allah re-expressed in its final form.

Beware Edward Cline that life here is but illusive, a sport and pastime. Your life is not based on god-fearing but is entirely given to worldly pleasures and trivialities. The pleasure seeking life will last in terms of eternity for only a matter of days and, with death, will come to an end, whereas the god-fearing life, lived according to Allah's eternal principles, will continue to stand man in good stead both in this world and the next. Those living to enjoy only the pleasures of the fleeting life, as soon as the freedom given to them ends, will realize their mistake, though repentance at that time will be of no avail.

The Koran warns:

The life of this world is but play and amusement. Surely the home of the Hereafter is best for those who fear their Lord. Will you not understand? (Al-An'am, 31).

Wake up Edward Cline. The respite Allah gives you and the other hate mongers does not mean that you are safe, when he takes you, it will be harsh and merciless. Allah is severe in retribution. Allah just delays you for an appointed time.

Listen to the Koran and take heed before it is too late:

We have created for Hell many jinn and men; they have hearts, but understand not with them; they have eyes, but perceive not with them; they have ears, but they hear not with them. They are like cattle; nay, rather they are further astray. Those – they are the heedless (Al-A'raf, 179).

Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, has been commanded to deliver to the whole world that Allah is only One God. Therefore, he who acknowledges Resurrection and Judgment and hope to be welcomed in Allah's heavenly realm and be a recipient of His mercy and blessings will have to imprint his deeds with wisdom and piety and never to incorporate with Allah other deities nor should he invokes besides Him any.

Islam is simply but adequately described in the next verse:

Say: 'I am only a mortal the like of you; it is revealed to me that your God is One God. So let him, who hopes for the encounter of his Lord, work righteousness and not associate with his Lord's service anyone (Al-Kahf, 110).

Working righteousness must be based on the commandments of the Koran and the teachings (Sunnah) of the Prophet.

Edward Cline considers Islam a nihilistic ideology, thus humiliating Allah's last Message to the world. The Message, which took man from darkness into light, Cline sees it nihilistic! Edward Cline, and several others like him indulged in idle talk and telling lies against Allah and His Messenger Muhammad. Allah caused hypocrisy to settle in their sick hearts until the day of their meeting with Him. They think they are brave enough to stand against Allah their Creator, and why not, they live in a free country and their constitution allows them freedom of speech, they are therefore free to dispute with opposing arguments against their Creator. Was it at Allah's verses and Law they are disputing!

But their ugly words against Allah will not just disappear in the air. Allah knows the secrets within the breasts. He knows what they conceal and what they reveal. They may laugh a little now but they will weep much in return of their arrogance and impudence. They without doubt will be the greatest losers in the world to come. Hell is their dwelling place as a reward for their evil deeds.

Wake up Edward Cline. Listen to the Koran and take heed before it is too late:

We have created for Hell many jinn and men; they have hearts, but understand not with them; they have eyes, but perceive not with them; they have ears, but they hear not with them. They are like cattle; nay, rather they are further astray. Those – they are the heedless (Al-A'raf, 179).

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