



## Newsletter

Rabiul Awwal 1445

### In this Issue:

- **Putting Things in Perspective: How Angel Jibril Taught Us Our Religion - A Nice Way to Explain About Islam**
- **Disaster Relief Efforts - Palestine, Afghanistan, Morocco, Libya, Turkiye/Syria**
- **Rebuilding Homes for Widow/Orphan Families in Pakistan**
- **Financial Report for 2022**

### Hidaya Foundation

1765 Scott Blvd, Suite # 115  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Mail checks to:  
PO Box 5481, Santa Clara, CA 95056

A US based 501(C)(3) Non-Profit  
Organization Tax ID # 77-0502583

### Putting Things in Perspective: How Angel Jibril Taught Us Our Religion - A Nice Way to Explain About Islam

Due to the high display of faith by Muslims in Gaza, countless people all over the world have been intrigued to learn more about this faith that gives them such courage and steadfastness in such a difficult time. As Muslims in the West, it is our duty to be ambassadors of Islam and we should be ready to explain our faith to our friends and neighbors if and when they have questions. While it is best to encourage them to read the Qur'an and converse with Allah themselves, we should be able to give them a simple introduction.

In the famous "Hadith of Jibril," the Angel Jibril (Gabriel) came in human form to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in front of some of his companions to teach them the basics of the religion. It is one of the best ways to explain to others about Islam and what Muslims believe.

#### Hadith of Jibril

*It was narrated on the authority of Umar (may Allah be pleased with him), who said: "While we were one day sitting with the Messenger of Allah (pbuh), there appeared before us a man dressed in extremely white clothes and with very black hair. No traces of journeying were visible on him, and none of us knew him. He sat down close by the Prophet (pbuh), rested his knee against his thighs, and said, 'O Muhammad! Inform me about Islam.' The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said, 'Islam is that you should testify that there is no deity except Allah and that Muhammad is His Messenger, that you should perform salah, pay the Zakah, fast during Ramadan, and perform Hajj to the House, if you are able to do so.'*

*The man said, 'You have spoken truly.' We were astonished at his questioning him (the Messenger of Allah) and telling him that he was right, but*

*he went on to say, 'Inform me about iman.' He (Muhammad) answered, 'It is that you believe in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers and in the Last Day, and in qadar (fate), both in its good and in its bad aspects.' He (the man) said, 'You have spoken truly.' Then he (the man) said, 'Inform me about Ihsan.' He (Muhammad) answered, 'It is that you should serve Allah as though you could see Him, for though you cannot see Him yet (know that) He sees you.' He (the man) said, 'Inform me about the Hour.' He (Muhammad) said, 'About that, the one questioned knows no more than the questioner.' So he (the man) said, 'Well, inform me about the signs thereof.' He (Muhammad) said, 'They are that the slave-girl will give birth to her mistress, that you will see the barefooted, naked, destitute, the herdsmen of the sheep (competing with each other) in raising lofty buildings.' Thereupon the man went off. I waited a while, and then he (Muhammad) said, 'O Umar, do you know who that questioner was?' I replied, 'Allah and His Messenger know better.' He said, 'That was Jibril (the Angel Gabriel). He came to teach you your religion.'" [Sahih Muslim Book 1, Hadith 5]*

While many beautiful scholarly commentaries exist about this hadith, as there is so much that can be analyzed and learned from it, we just want to give a basic explanation about the questions and answers in the dialogue:

- Inform me about Islam
- Inform me about Iman
- Inform me about Ihsan
- Inform me about the Hour and its signs

continued on next page . .

### Basic Terminology:

For better understanding, one must learn some basic terminology first:

**Allah** - The One God and Creator of the universe and all that exists

**Islam** - Submission to Allah

**Muslim** - One Who Submits to Allah

**Iman** - Faith, belief in the message of Islam

**Ihsan** - A Muslim's responsibility to strive for perfection and excellence in worship and all areas of life

**The Hour** - The time for the Day of Judgment

### What is Islam (Submission to Allah)?

Here we learn the 5 pillars of Islam. They are called so because such that a house is built with pillars to hold it together with strength against the elements, these 5 pillars are what holds together the faith of a Muslim against the happenings of life. The 5 pillars mentioned are:

**1. Shahada (The Testimony of Faith)** - Once one has believed in the message of Islam, that person only needs to utter the following phrase to declare their faith, hence becoming a Muslim: "There is no true deity except Allah, and Muhammad is His Messenger."

**2. Salah (Prayer)** - The word "Salah" literally means "link" as the prayer is our direct link to Allah. Muslims are required to take a break from the world 5 times a day to perform a short prayer and get refocused and re-aligned with their Creator.

**3. Zakat (Obligatory Charity)** - The original meaning of the word zakat is both 'purification' and 'growth.' All things belong to Allah, and wealth is therefore held by human beings in trust. Allah appoints a small share of the wealth of each person for certain classes of people in need. Muslims are required to give this specified small portion of their wealth once a year to the deserving. By doing so, they fulfill a form of worship while purifying their wealth and allowing it to grow.

**4. Sawm (Fasting in the Month of Ramadan)** - Muslims undergo a spiritual and bodily cleansing every year by fasting the month of Ramadan.

**5. Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)** - Muslims are required to make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in their lifetime if they are physically and financially able to. The Hajj consists of rituals performed along with large crowds of Muslims from all corners of the world in a way that strips away distinctions of class and culture so that all stand equal before Allah.

*References [Al-Qur'an 2:43; 2:183-184; 2:196-198; 3:96-97; 22:27]*

### What is Iman (Faith)?

Here we learn about what have been come to be known as the 6 articles of faith. In Islam, faith is not supposed to be blind, but accompanied by reason and understanding. The 6 articles of faith are:

**1. Belief in Allah** - The concept of Allah in Islam is that God is The Greatest, The One Creator of all things, dissimilar to any of His<sup>1</sup> creations and Eternal. Allah has many names and attributes by which He has described himself, however, we can not fully comprehend what He is. All we know is what He has revealed to us, and what we can ponder upon from what little we know about of what He has created.

**2. Belief in the Angels** - Muslims believe in the existence of angels and that they are honored creatures made of light. The angels worship Allah alone, obey Him, and act by His command. The angels have ranks and are delegated tasks by Allah.

**3. Belief in The Scriptures** - Muslims believe in all of the Scriptures revealed by Allah to His prophets as they were given in their original form. This includes the Taurat (Torah) revealed to Musa (Moses), the Zabur (Psalms) revealed to Dawud (David), the Injeel (Gospel) revealed to Isa (Jesus), and of course the Qur'an revealed to Muhammad, peace be upon them all. However, the only scripture still remaining in its true revealed form is the Qur'an which remains unchanged in the Arabic language in which it was revealed, while all other scriptures have lost some meanings

*1: Note that Allah is not gender specific as He is unlike any of His creation, however due to limitations in the English language, we are somewhat forced to choose a pronoun to make the description flow better.*

due to undergoing several translations, as well as changes/additions/omissions by people over time to serve their own agendas.

**4. Belief in the Prophets** - Muslims believe that all Prophets were Muslims (those who Submit to God) and that they all invited their people to Islam (Submission to God). The Qur'an mentions 25 prophets by name but also tells that Allah (God) sent many other prophets and messengers, to all the different nations that have existed on Earth. Prophets that we know of include Muhammad, Isa (Jesus), Musa (Moses), Harun (Aaron), Yusuf (Joseph), Yunus (Jonah), Suleyman (Soloman), Dawud (David), Ayub (Job), Nuh (Noah), Idris (Enoch) and Adam to name some, peace be upon them all. Muslims believe that Muhammad (pbuh) is the final prophet to humanity and there will be no Prophets after him until the return of Isa (Jesus) (pbuh) to earth.

**5. Belief in the Day of Judgement** - Muslims believe in the Day of Judgment (the Day of Resurrection) when all people will be resurrected for Allah's judgment according to their beliefs and deeds. From Qur'an and hadith of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) we are given a great deal of knowledge about the Hereafter, including prophecies of things that will happen (or in our case many have already happened) in the world before the advent of the Day of Judgment, things that will happen on the Day of Judgment, about life in the Grave, about Paradise and about Hellfire.

**6. Belief in Allah's Predestination (Fate)** - Muslims believe that we have freewill to live and make choices as we please on a path that Allah has already pre-determined for us. We believe that Allah is the Creator of all things and has all knowledge of what His creation will do, and has already written everything that exists, and that what Allah wills happens and what He does not will does not happen.

*References [Al-Qur'an 2:255; 2:285; 4:136; 5:69; 112:1-4]*

### What is Ihsan?

The term Ihsan refers to a Muslim's responsibility to obtain perfection and excellence in his worship of Allah. Muslims should strive to try to attain a level of God-consciousness at all times. Whether it be worshipping their Creator, any action they commit, any dealing with another person, or even how they treat animals or other creations – they would do it in the best way possible while giving it the full rights out of their love for Allah and seeking His pleasure and love, as well as their fear of Him and not wanting to disappoint or anger Him.

### About the Hour and its Signs:

As the Prophet (pbuh) mentioned in the hadith, neither he nor Jibril knows when the Hour will take place, meaning that nobody but Allah knows its appointed time. However, through revelations in Qur'an as well as hadith, we know many of its signs. It is amazing to note that, among the many prophecies of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), none of them have ever come out wrong. All of them have either been accurate in their descriptions and understood by Muslims when they happen, or are yet to happen.

The two signs mentioned in this particular hadith are indicating that society will change so much that things will be upside down. Amazingly, one can contest that both of the mentioned signs are among us today:

**1. The slave-girl will give birth to her mistress** - While there are different scholarly interpretations of this - one opinion is that children will be disobedient to the point of treating their own mothers like their own personal servants. We do see this kind of disrespectful behavior commonly in today's societies, when it was something very uncommon even just a few decades ago.

**2. The barefooted, naked, destitute, the herdsmen of the sheep competing with each other in raising lofty buildings** - In the Arab gulf countries we see that their rulers have been active in building the current tallest buildings in the world, where just some decades ago, before they discovered oil in their lands, they were known to be the poorest of people.

*Reference [Al-Qur'an 33:63] ♦*

# Disaster Relief Efforts

It has been a very difficult year for Muslims as disasters are affecting us in large numbers. While our brothers and sisters endure the hardship with patience in shaa Allah, we must do what we can to help them to the best of our ability.

*Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said, "The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever". [Al-Bukhari & Muslim]*

Hidaya Foundation has disaster relief efforts on several fronts. Please donate for these efforts and may Allah have mercy on us all.

**Palestine Relief** - The harsh reality that the people of Palestine, and especially Gaza are enduring is heart breaking. Hidaya is working with partner organizations that are distributing food assistance within Gaza, as well as with trucks prepared to enter from the Egyptian Rafah crossing.

So far, Hidaya has funded approximately 2,500 food parcels from existing supplies within Gaza and distribution of more than 25,000 hot meals to displaced civilian families in Southern Gaza.

The situation is very dire for millions affected by this siege, please keep them in your prayers. Hidaya will go on assessing the situation and channelizing funds as the situation permits.



**Afghanistan Earthquake** - Multiple earthquakes in October 2023 have devastated the Herat region of Afghanistan. Tens of thousands of people are affected as thousands of homes have been reduced to rubble. Hidaya Foundation is working through partners in the region to provide assistance to families who have lost their homes.

**Morocco Earthquake** - Hidaya Foundation has shipped 5 containers of winter clothing for distribution among affected families in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco where many villages have been destroyed from the earthquake and falling rocks. Each container has about 50-55,000 lbs of supplies including long and heavy coats, ski jackets, leather jackets, polar fleece, sweatshirts, and more.

Additional support is being planned for families living in the mountains to rebuild their houses.

**Libya Floods** - A massive storm that dumped 8 months worth of rain in 1 day in Libya overwhelmed 2 major dams that failed, causing a massive flash flood that destroyed much of the coastal city of Derna, and washed entire neighborhoods out to sea. Hidaya has purchased and is sending 3 containers of school supplies, including backpacks, notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, rulers, whiteboards, markers and more for over 14,000 students who lost all their belongings in the floods.



**Turkiye/Syria Earthquake** - In February of 2023, earthquakes wreaked havoc across 11 provinces in Turkiye and parts of North Western Syria, an area the size of Germany where many cities incurred massive damage. The death toll reached over 57,000 people and more than 115,000 were injured. More than 13.5 million people and 4 million buildings were affected by this disaster.

Hidaya Foundation was active with distributing food, blankets and winter clothing on both the Turkish and Syrian sides of the disaster. Also, medical camps and clinics were funded to treat the injured and sick who were left outside in the winter elements.

Now Hidaya is in talks with partners and planning for longer term projects to help families and the region. We are mainly focusing on agriculture projects so that jobs would be created and food sustenance would be secured in the region and beyond. ♦

## Rebuilding Homes for Widow/Orphan Families in Pakistan

After the floods in Pakistan last year, millions of people lost their homes. The sitting waters melted the mud bricks causing the homes to collapse. Because this has become such a chronic problem with the rains every year, Hidaya Foundation is manufacturing cement bricks to be used, so that in future the homes' walls will be able to withstand the sitting water. The bricks are currently being used for rebuilding homes for widow and orphan families that we support.

Hidaya Foundation is regularly **supporting over 15,000 orphans and 8,000 widows each month in 11 countries**. We are continuously working towards growing these efforts even further, and in more countries in shaa Allah.

Each month, cash stipends are given of about \$30 for each widow for household needs, and \$10 per orphan child (up to 4 per family) for educational needs via our "No Orphan without Education" initiative. Please donate to our Widow/Orphan Support project. ♦



## Financial Report for 2022

With the Blessings of Allah, on August 15, 2023, Hidaya Foundation successfully completed its 2022 financial audit. In 2022, Hidaya Foundation had an overall management **overhead of just 4.72%**, meaning about 95% of all funds received go towards benefiting the deserving through our many projects. This year in 2023, we are on pace to be around the same percentages again.

Full financial statement (as well as previous year statements) are available for review at:

[www.hidaya.org/financials](http://www.hidaya.org/financials). ♦

HIDAYA FOUNDATION Statement of Revenue and Expenses Year Ended December 31, 2022			
Management Overhead		<b>4.72%</b>	
EXPENSES			
	Program Expenses	Management and General	Total
Program Grants	\$ 14,702,031	\$	\$ 14,702,031
Payroll	443,710	200,025	643,735
Marketing		130,418	130,418
Postage and Shipping	148,910	38,358	187,268
Bank and Merchant fees	117,239	5,323	122,562
Advertising		203,035	203,035
Insurance	578	99,871	100,449
Rent	41,378	11,860	53,238
Supplies	1,270	3,313	4,584
Professional fees		13,375	13,375
Utilities	1,793	16,861	18,654
Travel	25,884	1,261	27,145
Repairs and maintenance	1,767	441	2,209
Taxes and Licenses	440	3,273	3,713
Dues and subscriptions		517	517
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 15,485,000</b>	<b>\$ 727,932</b>	<b>\$ 16,212,932</b>
REVENUE			
Gifts and contributions received	15,667,424		
Investment income	(239,981)		
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 15,427,443</b>		

## Donation Form

Name | \_\_\_\_\_

Email | \_\_\_\_\_

Address | \_\_\_\_\_

City | \_\_\_\_\_

State | \_\_\_\_\_ Zip | \_\_\_\_\_

Phone | \_\_\_\_\_

Signature | \_\_\_\_\_ Date | \_\_\_\_\_

Card No | \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: (mm/yy) | \_\_\_\_\_

Visa, Master, Disc, Amex

	Zakat	Amount	Monthly
Zakat (Obligatory Charity)		\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sadaqah (Charity)		\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disaster Relief (Palestine, Afghanistan, Morocco, Libya)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Widow/Orphan Support (\$50 per month)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other : _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other : _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other : _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>	

**Set-up a Monthly Donation**  
(LEAVE THIS BOX BLANK IF YOU ARE DOING A ONE-TIME DONATION)

If you would like to set-up using your checking account (preferred), please include a voided check along with this donation form, or you may fill your card information in the spaces provided above. *Note - please make sure to completely fill in the donor information section so we can properly set-up your donation.* By signing, I would like to make this a monthly donation for the project(s) that I have filled in above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Starting Date: \_\_\_\_\_