

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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TRUE ISLAM “HIJACKED”

Many articles were written, especially in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, about how the religion of Islam has been hijacked by a small group of terrorists. This is absolutely correct. The Quran, the holy scripture of Muslims, contains no justification for terrorism and killing innocent people.

We believe that this hijacking of the religion by terrorists will be a wake up call for the majority of silent Muslims who are decent, God-fearing people. We also believe that the true religion of Islam was actually hijacked many centuries ago, albeit slowly and subtly, by so-called Islamic scholars with only superficial or distorted knowledge of the teachings of the Quran. These scholars gradually abandoned the Quran in favor of unauthorized sources for social and po-

litical gain. They have been shaping a religion for the masses based on premises that have nothing to do with the true religion, and are divergent from what is clearly presented in the Quran.

There is a famous experiment called “Boiling Frog Syndrome.” The idea is that if you throw a frog into a pot of boiling water, it will jump out. But if you place the frog into a pot of lukewarm water and slowly turn up the heat, it will boil to death! In other words, when people become accustomed to practices over a sufficient period of time, they come to accept these practices as normal.

The Boiling Frog Syndrome explains how the “Muslim” masses have come to accept breaches of the Quranic teachings that would

have provoked questioning and confrontation during the time of Prophet Muhammad. They have grown accustomed to distortions in the religion that are not sanctioned by the Quran.

Why does this great religion that produced unmatched civilizations now produce corrupt nations of the third world? Why are once proud, educated and progressive Muslims now economically and socially dependent? The picture is clear. When the Muslims followed the teachings of the Quran properly, they prospered. But, once they abandoned the words of God in the Quran and followed the corrupt teachings and innovations of their religious leaders, they began a long trail of decline.

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True Islam

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So where does Islam stand today? We believe that True Islam (Submission) is like a precious jewel that is buried under piles of man-made innovations and social traditions that have little to do with the religion. The terrorists and fundamentalists who claim to act on Islamic tenets to justify their ends make things even worse for decent Muslims. Thus the water in the aforementioned pot has reached a critical temperature. The frog that would have jumped out long ago if he were thrown in abruptly is still

accommodating these slow increases in temperature. Will our frog eventually awaken in alarm to the truth of his situation, that if he stays in the water he will be cooked alive, or will he remain in a state of warm contentment until it is too late? The Boiling Frog Syndrome is a warning for the true and caring Muslims to jump out of the pot and return to the basis of our great religion, the Quran.

Muslims will have to re-educate themselves about the Word of God in the Quran, other scriptures, and their history. They cannot blame the terrorists or the Western media anymore. The problem is a consequence of their inaction and igno-

rance. There is simply no room for complacency.

Only Muslims can save themselves from the situation they are in, and only by God's help. The Quran tells us clearly:

"...GOD does not change the condition of any people unless they themselves make the decision to change..." (13:11)

There is saying in line with this principle, *"God helps those who help themselves."* Unless we Muslims jump out of this boiling pot, we do not have anyone but ourselves to blame.

Abdullah

Seeing the truth:

Personal experience of an incarcerated brother

I thank you for the newsletters you've sent me! I do study them and they increase my hunger for knowledge!

I am presently incarcerated so I do not have the means to support the cause of Allah financially, nor can I contribute to buy some of your more detailed books.

I used to be a strong advocate of *hadith* and *sunnah*. I really felt that hadith/sunnah was the way to understand the Quran. Even though I read the Quran a lot, I obviously did not understand the Quran because I was under the impression that following the interpretation of the scholars was the right way, and that it was unlawful to draw a conclusion based on what the Quran says, even though the verses are clear and easy to understand. I also lived some time in a mosque which enhanced me in the innovations of hadith/sunnah.

The first time I read about the innovations of hadith/sunnah, I rejected the idea. But again some brothers in Islam gave me some information from Masjid Tucson, so I studied it. I stayed up nights contemplating my understanding of Islam. Then I literally felt the veil lift from my eyes and a burden fall off my back. The Quran is the complete guidance of Islam. I felt a little angry that I had been misled. And I believe sometimes intentionally being misled.

Also the history of Islam has shown me that the so-called Sunni Muslims hide the truth by suppressing it or exaggeration. I will *inshallah* (God willing) use this truth to propagate to other Muslims.

R. S.

[2:257] GOD is Lord of those who believe; He leads them OUT OF DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT. As for those who disbelieve, their lords are their idols; they lead them out of the light into darkness - these will be the dwellers of Hell; they abide in it forever.

The Amazing Bees

Sura (Chapter) 16 of the Quran is called "the Bee." Although the sura talks about many interesting matters, God chose that name because of its importance. The bees are one of these miracles of God. We should look at them, learn from them and remember to say, *Subhana Allah*, God be Glorified, or *Mashaa Allah*, This is gift from God. It is the will of God to give us these beautiful creatures to serve us.

It is interesting to note that the female bees, not the male bees are the ones who build the hives. This information was not known when the Quran was given to the Prophet Muhammad over 1400 years ago, but God knew. God in the Quran used the words that mean the female bees are the ones to build the hives.

Cross-pollination is that wonderful miracle of God by which pollen from one flower combines with the underdeveloped seeds of another to produce developed seeds that will grow into more flowers.

Bees are the chief engineers of cross-pollination. If it were not for them, half of our most beautiful flowers would disappear. The honeybee, which uses pollen as food for its young, does the most work and covers the most territory. Also, she has better pollen baskets than the bumblebee. These baskets consist of rows of stiff bristles on the hind legs. By packing pollen moistened with honey between these hairs, the bee can accumulate a ball of pollen sometimes as large as a quarter inch in diameter and containing 100,000 grains.

Bees work at amazing speed. On the head of a thistle a honeybee, thrusting her nose into one flower after another, can pollinate at the rate of about 30 flowers per minute!

Usually bees gather from only one kind of flower at a time. When two different flowers of the same dark purple color grew side by side, bees were noted to nearly collide in air, but never did a bee touch the pollen of the wrong flower.

Atef K., M.D.



Did you know...

- Bees maintain a temperature of 92-93 degrees Fahrenheit in their central brood nest regardless of whether the outside temperature is 110 or -40 degrees.
- Honeybees produce beeswax from eight paired glands on the underside of their abdomen.
- Honeybees must consume about 17-20 pounds of honey to be able to biochemically produce each pound of beeswax.
- Honeybees can fly up to 14 kilometers from their nest in search of food. Usually, however, they fly one or two miles away from their hive to forage on flowers.
- Honeybees are entirely herbivorous when they forage for nectar and pollen but can cannibalize their own brood when stressed.
- Worker honeybees live for about 4 weeks in the spring or summer but up to 6 weeks during the winter.
- Honeybees are almost the only bees with hairy compound eyes.
- The queen may lay 600-800 or even 1,500 eggs each day during her 3 or 4-year lifetime. This daily egg production may equal her own weight. She is constantly fed and groomed by attendant worker bees.
- A populous colony may contain 40,000 to 60,000 bees during the late spring or early summer.
- The brain of a worker honeybee is about a cubic millimeter but has the densest neuropile tissue of any animal.
- Honey is 80% sugars and 20% water.
- Honey has been used for millennia as a topical dressing for wounds since microbes cannot live in it. It also produces hydrogen peroxide. Honey has even been used to embalm bodies such as that of Alexander the Great.
- Fermented honey, known as Mead, is the most ancient fermented beverage. The term "honey moon" originated with the Norse practice of consuming large quantities of Mead during the first month of a marriage.
- Honeybees fly at 15 miles per hour.
- The queen may mate with up to 17 drones over a 1-2 day period of mating flights.
- The queen stores the sperm from these matings in her spermatheca, thus she has a lifetime supply and never mates again.
- A queen bee can control the flow of sperm to fertilize an egg when she is about to lay an egg. Honeybees have an unusual genetic sex determination system known as haplodiploidy.
- Worker bees are produced from fertilized eggs and have a full (double) set of chromosomes. The males, or drones, develop from unfertilized eggs and are thus haploid with only a single set of chromosomes.

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More on bees

I would like to point out the unique system of sex determination present in both ants and bees.

There are many systems of sex determination but all of them rely on the presence of special chromosomes referred to as sex chromosomes.

Humans for example, have 22 pairs of chromosomes and one pair of sex chromosomes.

While males have a heterogeneous pair of sex chromosomes (XY), females have a homogeneous pair (XX).

Subsequent division of the male cells produce sperm cells with half the number of chromosomes. Half the sperm cells have the Y sex chromosome and the other half contain the X chromosome. Thus, the sex of the baby depends on the sex chromosome type in the sperm cell which fertilizes the female egg.

All other mammals, most reptiles and insects have sex chromosomes. But most ants and bees do not.

In honeybees, the sex of each individual is NOT determined by the

presence of sex chromosomes. Instead, the sex of a honeybee is determined by the number of chromosomes it has.

Male honeybees develop from unfertilized eggs laid by the Queen.

Female honeybees develop from fertilized eggs and thus have double the number of chromosomes in males.

Thus honeybee males have **16** chromosomes while females have **32** chromosomes.

It is hence amazing that the chapter in the Quran named **The Bee** is also numbered **16**.

This chapter also contains 128 verses. The number 128 is divisible by both **16** and **32**.

While female honeybees do all the work, the sole purpose of the males is to fertilize the queen.

The bee community determines the number of female workers it needs by fertilizing the queen—to produce more females.

This ingenious method of selecting the sex of the newborn is a parable that might explain why God mentioned in verses 57-59 of the same chapter how the idolators used to discriminate against female born girls by burying them alive:

They even assign daughters to GOD, be He glorified, while they prefer for themselves what they like. When one of them gets a baby girl, his face becomes darkened with overwhelming grief. Ashamed, he hides from the people, because of the bad news given to him. He even ponders: should he keep the baby grudgingly, or bury her in the dust. Miserable indeed is their judgment. [16:57-59]

The chapter also deals very heavily with the miracle of God's creation.

And what more powerful way to illustrate it than by mentioning the amazing honeybee which displays remarkable power to do what humans still cannot do—namely controlling population through sex determination. As God said in verse 68 of the same chapter:

AND YOUR LORD INSPIRED THE BEE: build homes in mountains and trees, and in (the hives) they build for you. [16:68]

It may be of interest to note that the first statement of the verse "And your Lord inspired the bee" contains **16** (Arabic) letters.

Praise be to God forever and peace be on us all.

Sami R / Australia.