

The first few who embraced the “new” religion in Makkah in the Arabian Peninsula at the hands of the Prophet (ﷺ - peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him), were his wife Khadījah, his servant Zaid, and his eleven year old cousin ‘Ali. Among the ones who later joined this faith were the honest merchant, Abu Bakr; the iron man of Arabia, ‘Umar the Great; the shy businessman, Uthmān; the Prophet’s (ﷺ) brave uncle Hamzah; and a slave of a pagan, Bilāl (may Allāh be pleased with them). They simply couldn’t resist the MAGIC SWORD of a humble and lonely Prophet?

The negligible minority of believers in this new Faith was soon exiled from Makkah and they arrived in the city called Yathrib which later became known as MADĪNAH. The Muslim emigrants to Madīnah brought their SWORD with them. The SWORD continued to work and its magnetic force continued to “pull” people towards it until the whole of Arabia joined the Faith. Compared to the population of the rest of the world at that time, the Arabs constituted a tiny minority. A fraction of this minority decided to take the SWORD beyond the boundaries of the Arabian desert to the mighty Mediterranean, the coast of Malabar and the far away East Indies Islands. People after people continued surrendering to this SWORD and joining the Faith.

So sharp was the edge of the SWORD! It simply conquered the hearts; bodies yielded automatically. It is the SWORD OF TRUTH, whose mere shine eliminates falsehood just like light wipes away darkness.

Has The Sword Gone Blunt? No, Far From It!

It continues to pierce the hearts of countless men and women today - in spite of the relentless efforts by persons with vested interests who like darkness to prevail, so that they may rob people of their good things. Read below the impressions of some who were recently conquered by the same SWORD. They are from different countries, speak different languages, and have different backgrounds.

1. **LEOPOLD WEISS** (now Mohammed Asad): Austrian statesman, journalist, former foreign correspondent for the *Frankfurter Zeitung*; author of *Islām at Cross Roads* and *Road to Mecca* and translator of the Qur’ān. He embraced Islām in 1926.

“Islām appears to me like a perfect work of Architecture. All its parts are harmoniously conceived to complement and support each other. Nothing is superfluous and nothing lacking, with the result of an absolute balance and solid composure.”

2. **AHMED HOLT**: British Civil Contractor, traveler in search of the Divine truth, spent much of his time in research and comparative study of Judaism, Christianity and Islām. He embraced Islām in 1975.

“The SWORD OF ISLĀM is not the sword of steel. I know this by experience, because the sword of Islām struck deep into my own heart. It didn’t bring death, but it brought a new life; it brought an awareness and it brought an awakening as to who am I and what am I and for what am I here?”

3. **BOGDAN KOPANSKI** (now Bogdan Atallah Kopanski): originally Polish, now American; Ph.D. in history and politics, had a very interesting journey to Islām and faced severe hardships; was imprisoned twice by the Polish communist regime (1968, 1981-82). He embraced Islām in 1974.

“When I was 12 years old I rejected illogical and contradictory faith of the Church. Two years later in 1962 I was fascinated by the victorious struggle of the Algerian Muslim mujahideen against French colonialism. It was the first arrow of Islām... The high school and earliest days of my education in the University, I was a typical example of the ‘rebel generation’ of Reds... My way to the Truth of Al-Qur’ān was slow and unpaved... In 1974, I visited Turkey, I wrote my M.A. dissertation about Sultan and Caliph Suleiman Kanuni’s policy towards the Polish Kingdom. There I was hit by the most beautiful voice of mankind, Adhan, the call to prayer. My hair stood up. An

unknown, powerful force led me to an old masjid in Istanbul. There, old, smiling, Turkish bearded men taught me Wuzu, ablution. I confessed to tears, Shahada, and I prayed my first Salah Maghrib... I swept out the rubbish ideologies... The first time in my life, my mind was relaxed and I felt the pleasure of Allah’s love in my heart. I was a Muslim...”

4. **VENGATACHALAM ADIYAR** (now Abdullah Adiyar): Indian, noted Tamil writer and journalist; worked as a news editor in Dr. M. Karunanidhi’s daily *Murasoli* for 17 years; assisted 3 former Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu. Received Kalaimamani Award (Big Gem of Arts) from Tamil Nadu Government in 1982. He embraced Islām in 1987.

“In Islām I found suitable replies to nagging queries arising in my mind with regard to the theory of creation, status of woman, creation of universe, etc. The life history of the holy Prophet attracted me very much and made easy for me to compare with other world leaders and their philosophies.”

5. **HERBERT HOBOHM** (now Aman Hobohm): German diplomat, missionary and social worker. An intellectual who has been serving the German diplomatic missions in various parts of the world. Cultural Attache in German Embassy in Riyadh. He embraced Islām in 1941.

“I have lived under different systems of life and have had the opportunity of studying various ideologies, but have come to the conclusion that none is as perfect as Islām. None of the systems has got a complete code of a noble life. Only Islām has it; and that is why good men embrace it. Islām is not theoretical; it is practical. It means complete submission to the will of God.”

6. **CAT STEVENS** (now Yusuf Islām): British; formerly a Christian and a world famous pop singer. He embraced Islām in 1973.

“It will be wrong to judge Islām in the light of the behavior of some bad Muslims who are

always shown on the media. It is like judging a car as a bad one if the driver of the car is drunk and he bangs it into the wall. Islām guides all human beings in daily life - in it’s spiritual, mental and physical dimensions. But we must find the sources of these instruction, the Qur’an and the example of the Prophet, then we can see the ideal of Islām.”

7. **MARGARET MARCUS** (now Maryam Jamilah): American; formerly a Jewess, essayist and author of many books. She embraced Islām in 1962.

“The authority of Islāmic Morals and Laws proceeds from Almighty God. Pleasure and happiness in Islām are but the natural byproducts of emotional satisfaction in one’s duties conscientiously performed for the pleasure of God to achieve salvation. In Islām duties are always stressed above rights. Only in Islām was my quest for absolute values satisfied. Only in Islām did I at last find all that was true, good, beautiful and which gives meaning and direction to human life and death.”

8. **WILFRIED HOFMAN** (now Murad Hoffman): Ph.D. in law (Harvard); German social scientist and diplomat; German Ambassador in Algeria. He embraced Islām in 1980.

“For some time now, striving for more and more precision and brevity, I have tried to put on paper in a systematic way, all philosophical truths, which in my view, can be ascertained beyond reasonable doubt. In the course of this effort it dawned on me that the typical attitude of an agnostic is not an intelligent one; that man simply cannot escape a decision to believe; that the createdness of what exists around us is obvious; that Islām undoubtedly finds itself in the greatest harmony with overall reality. Thus I realize, not without shock, that step by step, in spite of myself and almost unconsciously, in feeling and thinking I have grown into a Muslim. Only one last step remained to be taken: to formalize my conversion. As of today I am a Muslim. I have arrived.”

9. **CASSIUS CLAY** (now Muhammad Ali): American; three times World Heavyweight Champion, formerly a Christian. He embraced Islâm in 1965.

"I have had many nice moments in my life. But the feelings I had while standing on Mount Arafat on the day of Hajj (Muslims' pilgrimage), was the most unique. I felt exalted by the indescribable spiritual atmosphere there as over a million and a half pilgrims invoked God to forgive them of their sins and bestow on them His choicest blessings. It was an exhilarating experience to see people belonging to different colors, races and nationalities, kings, heads of states and ordinary men from very poor countries all clad in two simple white sheets praying to God without any sense of either pride or inferiority. It was a practical manifestation of the concept of equality in Islâm."

(Speaking to the daily *Al-Madînah*, Jeddah, 15 July, 1989)

These were the impressions of a few persons who had themselves been struck by the **WORD OF TRUTH**, that is, the **Message of Islâm**.

AS FOR THE PROPAGANDA that it was the sword of steel, that is, force, which was instrumental in the universal expansion of Islâm, we give below quotations from the writing of some of the prominent non-Muslim scholars and leaders refuting this baseless accusation.

1. **M. K. GANDHI**: *"...I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islâm in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and his own mission. These, and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every trouble."* **YOUNG INDIA**, 1924.

2. **EDWARD GIBBON**: *"The greatest success of Mohammed's life was effected by sheer moral force without the stroke of a sword."* **HISTORY OF THE SARACEN EMPIRE**, London, 1870.

3. **A. S. TRITTON**: *"The picture of the Muslim soldier advancing with a sword in one hand and the Qur'ân in the other is quite false."* **ISLAM**, London, 1951, p. 21.

4. **DE LACY O'LEARY**: *"History makes it clear however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims, sweeping through the world and forcing Islâm at the point of sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated."* **ISLAM AT CROSSROADS**, London, 1923, p. 8.

5. **K. S. RAMAKRISHNA RAO**: *"My problem to write this monograph is easier because we are not generally fed now on that (distorted) kind of history and much time need not be spent on pointing out our misrepresentations of Islâm. The theory of Islâm and sword, for instance, is not heard now in any quarter worth the name. The principle of Islâm, there is no compulsion in religion, is well known."* **MOHAMMED THE PROPHET OF ISLAM**, Riyadh, 1989, p. 4.

6. **JAMES A. MICHENER**: *"No other religion in history spread so rapidly as Islâm...The West has widely believed that this surge of religion was made possible by the sword. But no modern scholar accepts that idea, and the Qur'ân is explicit in support of the freedom of conscience."* **ISLÂM - THE MISUNDERSTOOD RELIGION, READERS' DIGEST** (American Edition) May 1955.

7. **LAWRENCE E. BROWNE**: *"Incidentally these well-established facts dispose of the idea so widely fostered in Christian writings that the Muslims, wherever they went, forced people to accept Islâm at the point of the sword."* **THE PROSPECTS OR ISLAM**, London, 1944.

IF YOU TOO POSSESS A SOFT TENDER HEART AND AN OPEN MIND, do write to us for some basic information about the way of life called "Islâm". Do not believe the hearsay: learn from the direct sources. We are ready to help.

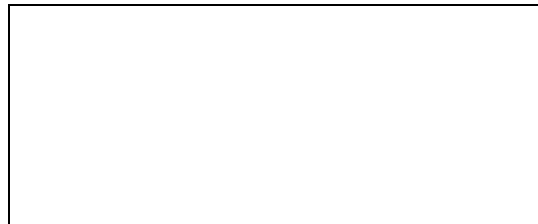
RECOMMENDED INTRODUCTORY PUBLICATIONS:

1. *THE MEANINGS OF THE GLORIOUS QUR'ÂN* by Marmaduke Pickthall.
2. CCM Brochure Series, obtained from the address below.
3. *THE QUR'ÂN, AN INTRODUCTION* by A. R. Doi, Kazi Publications, Chicago, Illinois.
4. *THE HADITH, AN INTRODUCTION* by A. R. Doi, Kazi Publications, Chicago, Illinois.
5. *MUHAMMAD, HIS LIFE BASED ON THE EARLIEST SOURCES* by Martin Lings, Inner Traditions International, Rochester, Vermont.
8. *MUHAMMAD: THE IDEAL PROPHET* by Saiyid Sulaiman Nadwi, Islamic Book Trust, Kuala Lumpur.
9. *THE RELIGION OF PEACE* by Ishtiaq Husain Qureshi, Kitab Bhavan, New Delhi, India.

**For more information,
please contact:**

Connecticut Council of Masajid
P.O. Box 4456, Hamden, CT 06514
info@ccminc.faithweb.com

or your local mosque:



9/18/2001

CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF
MASAJID
Brochure No. 6

The Sword Of Islam

