

HAQĪQAH

ISSUE 002



ESCAPE FROM HELL

HAQIQAH

THE REALITY OF ISIS

COVER IMAGE:
Craig F. Walker
The Boston Globe
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EDITORIAL

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST MERCIFUL, THE MOST KIND. ALL PRAISE IS DUE TO ALLAH (SWT) AND PEACE AND BLESSINGS BE UPON OUR BELOVED PROPHET MUHAMMED (SAW).

Shaukat Warraich, Editor-in-Chief

Assalaumu Alaikum my dear brothers and sisters. Welcome to the second edition of Haqiqah. This magazine was created by British Imams to directly challenge ISIS (known in the region as Daesh). As Imams, Ustadhs and Scholars it is our duty to make clear that ISIS has no claim and legitimacy to the beautiful and compassionate teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Since the launch of the first edition, it is now even more apparent that Daesh are losing. Their own words and actions are testimony to this. When ISIS say that Non-Muslims are the 'enemies' and "to kill them wherever you find them" Muslim communities respond by protecting their Jewish and Christian brethren through 'human shields' in Norway, France and Tunisia.

The mass exodus of refugees has exposed ISIS' false claim of having established a Khilafah for Muslims in the region. When ISIS say that the 'West' is the 'enemy' Syrians seek sanctuary in Europe. 'Westerners', both Muslims and Non-Muslims, have raised millions of pounds for medical supplies, food, accommodation and clothing for the Syrian and other displaced people. This provision of shelter imbibes the true spirit of Islam, akin to



WE PRAY FOR THE SWIFT DEMISE AND REMOVAL OF OPPRESSORS AND THOSE THAT SEEK TO SUBJUGATE HELPLESS PEOPLE UNDER THE FALSE INTERPRETATION OF ISLAM THAT DAESH AND OTHER GROUPS ARE PEDALLING.

—By Shaukat Warraich

the Ansar welcoming our beloved Prophet (saw) as a refugee.

Now ISIS in their desperation are telling Syrians that they are committing a 'major sin' in Islam if they seek protection in the West. According to Daesh, this makes thousands of Muslim refugees who are fleeing unspeakable oppression (zulm) from Daesh, other groups and Assad 'apostates'.

The contributions from British Imams in this second issue will show you why Muslims are fleeing to the West rather than into the 'welcoming arms' of the 'Islamic State'. This 'state' professes to be a sanctuary for its fellow Muslim brothers and sisters but its barbaric nature only serves to push more and more people away. This oppressive way of life is not what Allah and our beloved Prophet

(saw) ordained. This is why Muslims are leaving in their thousands. These refugees with the billions of Muslims across the globe fully recognise that Daesh's actions are not Islamic.

The world is beginning to hear the truth from the increasing reports of defectors and victims. Despite all of Daesh's videos and messages, their own actions are exposing their failure. It is incapable of holding any concept of protection or any ability to safeguard its citizens from harm. Muslims throughout the world know that Allah and our beloved Rasul (saw) would never have permitted the killing of thousands of people, the sexual abuse of

Yazidi women, the spread of fitna, and the destruction of churches and mosques. ISIS' actions have nothing to do with the Islam we love.

Daesh say that if the refugees seek protection in the West they are living in Dar ul-Kufr. Millions of Muslims live in the West. We have never 'been forced into kufr' as Daesh claim. Allah says in Surah al Baqarah,

AND TO ALLAH BELONGS THE EAST AND THE WEST. SO WHEREVER YOU [MIGHT] TURN, THERE IS THE FACE OF ALLAH. INDEED, ALLAH IS ALL-ENCOMPASSING AND KNOWING.
—(2:115)

Daesh claim they follow the example of our Sahabah but they ignore that our beloved Prophet (saw) approved the Muslims' first hijra to Abyssinia under the protection of the Christian King Najjashi (Negus).

Daesh are failing. Haqiqah will make clear that their claims to establish the 'hukm' of Allah are false. In these blessed days of Dhul Hijjah, as the devoted pilgrims descend upon the holy land of Makkah, let us remember those suffering in the world. We pray for the swift demise and removal of oppressors and those that seek to subjugate helpless people under the false interpretation of Islam that Daesh and other groups are pedalling. May Allah continue to unite us in the face of adversity and make us compassionate to serve humanity as our Prophet (saw) did.

LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/AFP/Getty Images



By Shaykha Safia Shahid

MY DEAR SISTERS IN ISLAM. TODAY I AM SPEAKING TO YOU FROM MY HEART. THESE ARE THE WORDS OF A SISTER AND A TEACHER CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR WELFARE. I AM PAINED TO SEE YOUR STATE.

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MESSAGE TO MY SISTERS

MY DEAR SISTERS IN ISLAM. TODAY I AM SPEAKING TO YOU FROM MY HEART. THESE ARE THE WORDS OF A SISTER AND A TEACHER CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR WELFARE. I AM PAINED TO SEE YOUR STATE.

I feel it is my duty to help you and protect you from the allures of Shaytaan. It is my duty to offer you advice and warn you of the dangers. It is my duty to inspire you to make the right decisions.

We live in a world of trials and tribulations. We face challenges that we need to overcome but, because of these trials, we can become better people. Our experiences make us grow and help strengthen us. It is best to face any challenge with a firm belief and trust in Allah Ta'ala, always seeking His guidance.

In today's world, people are misled into thinking that their problems can find idealised, illusory solutions that ostensibly involve heroism, valour and romance.

There will be those who will seek to manipulate you by telling you that they know what you are going through, assuring you that they can relate to your inner most feelings and promising you to help you forget your troubles.



Unfortunately, there is a group that is manipulating Muslims under the guise of religion. The 'mujahids' of ISIS are preying on the vulnerabilities of our sisters, living both here in the UK and abroad, by enticing them with promises of a life in a 'perfect' Islamic State and of marriage to a 'mujahid.' This is ISIS propaganda, which is designed to appeal to the young and impressionable.

These 'mujahids' prey on your insecurities and try to make you doubt the righteousness of your practice of Islam. Do not be inspired by ISIS' superficial authenticity; its actions do not represent Islam in any shape or form. In fact, ISIS bears a resemblance to the Khawarij, a group that deviated from mainstream Islam in its early history.

ISIS, like the Khawarij, has strayed far from the teachings of Islam. Its apparent authenticity is nothing but deception, no matter how much its adherents pray and fast.

The Prophet (PBUH) said about the Khawarij,

THERE WILL APPEAR SOME PEOPLE AMONG YOU. YOU WILL BELITTLE YOUR PRAYERS AND FASTING IN COMPARISON TO THEIRS. THEY WILL RECITE THE QURAN BUT IT WILL NOT EXCEED THEIR THROATS. THEY WILL PASS OUT OF THE RELIGION JUST AS AN ARROW PASSES OUT OF A PREY.

—(Sahih Bukhari, Book 66, Hadith 83)

ISIS, the modern day Khawarij, is seeking to take you away from your friends and loved ones. Its adherents are only motivated by greed and lust. They know only ignorance and have professed every obscenity against Islamic law.

Know that the promises of ISIS are false. In the pursuit of studying Islam, I lived for five years (2003–2008) in Syria, which has been an epicentre of sacred knowledge and Prophetic inheritance for centuries. Not once did I find in any text anything that could sanction ISIS' actions as being legitimate. Nor did I ever meet any scholar who could sanction them as such. Not once.

In Islam, it is not permitted to indiscriminately kill, maim, pillage, and rape. In Islam, there is no black and white 'us against them' dogma. The 'mujahids' of ISIS are lethal to anyone who opposes them. They have sunk their claws in innocent lives and subjected them to every manner of brutality.

Do not engage, online or otherwise, with Jihadist propagandists that offer you marriage as a means of escaping from your world to theirs. They claim that marriage to one of these self-professed warriors of Islam is a noble act, forgetting that they constantly commit the most heinous acts. They entice you to leave all that you hold dear, to abandon the love of your family and forsake the obedience due to your parents to join them in their illegitimate crusade.

Eventually, this 'utopian Islamic dream' is not easy to sustain; it shattered for Tareena Shakil, a British woman who travelled to Syria with her young son. She had to escape from an ISIS stronghold to avoid becoming a 'jihadi bride'. She begged her father to take her back and asked him for forgiveness. Life with the jihadists was hard. She avoided a forced marriage to a one-legged ISIS 'mujahid' by scrambling over a barbed wire fence; others may not be so fortunate.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is mercy,

WE HAVE NOT SENT YOU EXCEPT AS A MERCY TO THE WORLDS

—(Quran 21:107)

Let us return to the beautiful character of the Prophet (PBUH), who taught us virtuous behaviour and kind treatment even of animals,

such as the case of a man who was rewarded for giving water to a thirsty dog (Bukhari). The Prophet's way is one of mercy, compassion and righteousness.

My sisters, I pray that you will withstand this trial. I advise you to cut off all communication with any online 'mujahids' or supporters of the so-called Islamic State. Do not forget the promise of Allah Ta'ala and the rewards for righteousness. Let us seek out the channels of right guidance so that we may be counted among the successful in this world and the next.

—By Shaykha Safa Shahid

**ISIS, LIKE THE
KHAWARIJ, HAS
STRAYED FAR FROM
THE TEACHINGS
OF ISLAM**



MY YOUNG BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN ISLAM, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT JIHAD? IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONCEPT OF JIHAD IN ISLAM IS NOT A TRIVIAL MATTER, IT IS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY AND IT IS CERTAINLY NOT ABOUT THE SENSELESS MURDER OF PEOPLE.

Daesh, in their arrogance and misunderstanding are saying that the killing of men and women, that the destruction of yourselves and those around you is a 'fard al ayn' upon you. It is important that we are not taken in by the whispers of shaytaan who desires nothing but harm for you and to take you away from the bounty of Allah and the goodness of Islam. By understanding what Allah desires

WHAT JIHAD ARE YOU FIGHT- ING FOR?

-By Dr Musharraf Hussain al Azhari

WHAT WILL YOU GAIN FROM THE MURDER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE OTHER THAN THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR OWN SOUL?



for us, Daesh will not be able to persuade you with their calls of illegitimate violence and a 'duty' to spread corruption in the lands.

Groups like Daesh will have you believe that their actions constitute a legitimate Jihad. Understand that they speak from a position of ignorance; they have manipulated the true maqasids of Islam and promote ideals that will only lead to ruin and regret. These people speak with a clear lack of understanding and distort the noble history of Islam to serve their own twisted ideas. They call for attacks on innocents, on our neighbours and friends, based on grievances towards states and governments. Islam is clear in its teaching when Allah revealed the verse,

'AND EVERYONE OF THEM WILL COME TO HIM ALONE ON THE DAY OF RESURRECTION (WITHOUT ANY HELPER, OR PROTECTOR OR DEFENDER)'

—(Qur'an 19:95)

which clearly shows that every person will be accountable for their own actions and so there is no justification to retaliate and take action over grievances of one person on another. What will you gain from the murder of innocent people other



than the destruction of your own soul? Is it not better to work together to redress wrongs and grievances in a state of peace rather than an environment of war?

Nothing in Islam has been prescribed for you in an arbitrary way. It is important that we constantly assess the situation and reflect on our actions to ensure that they are in line with the teachings of our beloved Prophet (saw) and are pleasing in the eyes of Allah (swt). The notion of Jihad is one of these things that we need to understand and clarify. I ask you then, who is the mujahid? Is the mujahid the one who seeks to murder in anger and hate? No it is not. As has been narrated by the beloved Prophet (saw),

'THE MUJAHID IS HE WHO FIGHTS HIS OWN SOUL'

—(Jam'i al Tirmidhi, Book 22, Hadith no.3)





It is clear in the opinion of the scholars that the Jihad-un-nafs or 'struggle of the soul' has always been understood as Jihad-e-Akbar or 'Greater Jihad'. It is even said that piety and obedience to one's parents is your Jihad as is seen in the narration of the Prophet (saw) who said when approached about Jihad that,

'IT IS FOR THEM THAT YOU SHOULD PERFORM JIHAD'

—(Jam'i al Tirmidhi, Book 23, Hadith no.2)

Why then do you desire to abandon all that is good and all that has been made valid for you as Jihad and heed the call of shaytaan, who desires for you to be abhorrent in your actions and seek to kill without justification? The person who goes out of his way to commit these heinous crimes will be one of the oppressors, both of others and themselves. The true Muslim is not the oppressor but rather, as the Prophet (saw) said, that the Muslim is he

'FROM WHOSE TONGUE AND HANDS OTHERS ARE SECURE'

—(Sahih Bukhari, Book 18, Hadith no.2)

Our struggle in today's world should be for the establishment of peace, to establish goodness and kindness between others, to engage in dialogue and to truly work on the protection and improvement of our souls. This is our true challenge. This is our Jihad and this is what has been made fard al ayn upon us.



—By Dr Musharraf Hussain Al-Azhari

**THEY CALL FOR ATTACKS
ON INNOCENTS, ON
OUR NEIGHBOURS
AND FRIENDS BASED
ON GRIEVANCES
TOWARDS STATES AND
GOVERNMENTS.**



WHO IS YOUR HERO?

By Qari Muhammad Asim

HEROES: WE ALL HAVE THEM. THERE IS ALWAYS THAT ONE PERSON WE LOOK UP TO, THAT ONE PERSON WE WANT TO BE LIKE WHO INSPIRES US AND MAKES US WANT TO BE BETTER. WHO ARE YOUR HEROES? WHO ARE YOUR ROLE MODELS?

REUTERS/Murad Sezer

In today's world, full of fantasy warriors and superheroes, it can become difficult to identify an actual individual as a role model. You can be forgiven to believe that in today's complex, conflict ridden world those real heroes and role models are few and far between. Perhaps it is because real heroes have disappeared that our world can sometimes look like a sad and lonely place? What if I told you that heroes still exist, that role models and inspirations can be found all over the world. It is in the midst of conflict, pain and loneliness that true heroes emerge and sometimes it can be the smallest gesture that has the greatest impact.

Islamic history shows us that throughout time, ever since the Prophet Muhammad (saw) was alive, that Muslims have been doing extraordinary things. The noble companions of the Prophet (saw) would frequently go above and beyond in undertaking good deeds, displaying kindness and generosity. It was through their actions, through their ability to imbibe the true spirit of Islam that so many others were inspired to do the same. If we look at the great heritage of Islam, we see feats of incredible achievements in different fields of work. We see the advancement of medicine, literature, philosophy, architecture and astronomy happened at the hands of great Muslim thinkers. Our history is a rich tapestry, full of wonder and

belief, with individuals spurred on through a desire to prosper and help those around them.

But a lot of the time, it seems that we find it hard to comprehend these feats. We find it hard to identify with these great thinkers. We see their accomplishments as something to marvel at but not really something we can emulate. We desire to leave a legacy in this world; we want people to know that there was once a great Muslim who lived within the true spirit of Islam who was able to inspire a generation of people.



Martin Alan Smith/Pacific Press/LightRocket via Getty Images

HEROES: WE ALL HAVE THEM. THERE IS ALWAYS THAT ONE PERSON WE LOOK UP TO, THAT ONE PERSON WE WANT TO BE LIKE WHO INSPIRES US AND MAKES US WANT TO BE BETTER.

—By Qari Muhammad Asim



Through this desire though, we can sometimes be swayed by false claims and misleading accounts of heroism and bravery. We can be tricked into believing that we are guilty of many sins and that Allah will not forgive us unless we commit to fighting for a manipulated world view.

A world view peddled by the likes of Daesh/ISIS who prey on this emotion and claim to be great men of Islam emulating the way of the righteous. They provide accounts of themselves braving severe conditions and defying all odds to overcome their enemy but forget the abhorrence Islam and the Prophet Muhammad (saw) had towards violence and arrogance, which is made clear in a hadith in which the Prophet says,

'NO ONE WHO HAS EVEN AN ATOM'S-WEIGHT OF ARROGANCE IN HIS HEART WILL ENTER PARADISE'

—(Sahih Muslim, 91)

There seems to be no sincerity in their actions. They desire only an evil end to their evil ways. Do not be drawn into their ways.

By contrast, reflect upon some of the positive stories of contemporary, every day Muslims who are doing good all over the world purely for the pleasure of Allah. Take the example of a newlywed couple from Turkey that spent their wedding day feeding 4,000 refugees. Take the example of Muslims in America who came together to help support and rebuild black Churches. Look at the actions of Muslims in Phoenix; faced by angry anti-Muslim bikers they invited them into the Mosque to show them what Islam is actually about. Take the fantastic



—By Qari Muhammad Asim

**THESE ARE THE
PEOPLE YOU
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AS YOUR "HEROES"**

example of young British Muslims in Liverpool who decided to show neighbourliness to the non-Muslim residents around their Mosque by handing out small gifts for Eid.

Consider the inspiring example of young Muslims in Leeds who have been feeding the homeless for a number of years and donating gifts to young children in a Children's hospital and the elderly in a hospice. Take these examples, and the examples of Muslims all over the world that are helping people on a daily basis as your inspiration. They are showing that even the most ordinary of people can do extraordinary things that make a huge difference.

Such are the people whom you should take as your 'heroes'—these are individuals who are reviving the Sunnah of the Prophet (saw) by striving to always do good, enjoining kindness and acting with full sincerity in the desire to be rewarded by Allah. The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

"THE BEST OF PEOPLE ARE THOSE THAT BRING MOST BENEFIT TO THE REST OF MANKIND."

—(Daraqutni)



US VS THEM



By Shaykh Dr Mohamed e1 Sharkawy

THERE IS A WAY OF THINKING WE MUST ADDRESS THAT THREATENS TO TAKE OVER THE MIND OF YOUNG MUSLIMS AND CORRUPT THEIR WORLDVIEW. DAESH HAVE MADE THEIR POSITION CLEAR IN ARROGANTLY CONCLUDING THAT THE 'GRAYZONE' IS NOW EXTINCT.

Their words and actions are entrenched in violence and rooted in an idea that gives them the liberty to abandon all concepts of morality, decency and humanity. By self-victimising and convincing yourself that the whole world is your enemy, you can be fooled into accepting and propagating the clichéd 'us vs. them' approach. If there was ever a notion that disposed of any and all concepts of goodness, compassion or responsibility it is this.

If you look at their own words you can see the inherent flaws and inconsistencies in their reasoning. Their egotistical ranting exposes their lack of knowledge and highlights the contradictions in what they say and believe. The foundations for their corrupt worldview are not prophetic or Islamic in any way. The idea that the world has now 'been divided into two camps and two trenches, with no third camp present...' is accredited to statements made by the likes of Osama bin Laden, not from quoting the Qur'an or the Hadith. The laughable irony in statements like this is that Daesh's overarching worldview, the worldview that absolves them of morals and permits them to commit unthinkable atrocities, stems from individuals that represent ideals they so vociferously detest. They have been quoted as saying that they will, 'carry upon the manhaj of the imam Shaykh Usamah...' yet we have seen the likes of Al Qaeda come out and disavow themselves from Daesh, the results being nothing but the trading of insults and open hostility between the two factions.

In this pettiness and bickering between these groups we see their inherent insecurity. It is the fear of losing control that drives this paranoia and confusion, not the adherence to any Islamic ethos.

If we look at the life and teachings of the Prophet (saw) in our attempt to make sense of Daesh's nonsensical 'us and them' worldview, we can see its giant pitfalls and brazen insult of the Prophet Muhammad (saw). If their worldview and the establishment of their 'Islamic state' truly had its roots in the prophetic teaching, we would have seen this theory being expounded by the Prophet (saw) when he introduced the ideal Islamic state to the city of Madinah. However, if we actually take a close look at the Madinah Covenant that was authored as the first manifesto of the Prophet's state we see, quite explicitly, that it is a bastion for inclusion, civility and coexistence. If the Prophet had held fast to the twisted ideals that ISIS insultingly accredit to him we would not see declarations of unity amongst different sects within society or principles of economic solidarity when distributing economic responsibilities among the different groups in society. Additionally, if we needed further evidence of the deceit in Daesh's words, ask yourselves why would the Prophet Muhammad (saw) send his companions to Abyssinia to seek refuge under its Christian king if he thought the way Daesh do?

**IT IS THE FEAR OF
LOSING CONTROL THAT
DRIVES THIS PARANOIA
AND CONFUSION, NOT
THE ADHERENCE TO
ANY ISLAMIC ETHOS.**

—By Shaykh Dr. Mohamed el Sharkawy



REUTERS/Thaier al-Sudani



Further to this Daesh, in their flawed justification for the extinction of the grayzone and their ultimatum to Muslims to make a choice between the 'two camps', say that we can either, 'stay where we are and apostatise and adopt kufr religion or emigrate to the caliphate to avoid persecution...' It is not in the domain of the 'scholars' of Daesh to definitively say who has abandoned their religion or not. For centuries the scholars of Islam have spoken out against the dangers of committing 'takfir' on people. Who or what someone believes in is a matter between them and their Lord. For those that issue 'fatwas' like this, the Prophet (saw) has warned quite clearly that,

**'THOSE WHO ISSUE FATWAS WITH EASE
ALSO APPROACH HELL FIRE WITH EASE'**

—(Sunan al-Darimi, Hadith 159)

Let us also focus on this notion of 'emigrating to the caliphate to avoid persecution' which is riddled with contradictions and exposes Daesh for what they are. The atrocities committed by Daesh could take up an entire publication in itself so it begs the question as to exactly what persecution we are avoiding by emigrating to this 'caliphate'. Under Daesh rule we have seen indiscriminate mass murder (Muslims and Non-Muslims), the use of horrendous torture techniques and killing methods such as burning and mutilating, the capture and killing of innocent humanitarian aid workers simply because they held a certain nationality, the killing of Imams and Scholars that exposed them for the irreligious beings they are, the corruption of sacred laws, the destruction of Mosques and places of worship, the unjustifiable enslavement of innocent young girls and the list goes on and on. Time and time again the Qur'an and the Prophetic teachings implore us to act in moderation, to act in kindness and with justice. Nowhere in the Islamic tradition do we see any justification for what Daesh are doing. Allah is explicit when he says,

**'WHOEVER KILLS A BELIEVER
INTENTIONALLY, HIS PUNISHMENT IS
HELL TO LIVE THEREIN FOREVER. HE
SHALL INCUR THE WRATH OF ALLAH,
WHO WILL LAY HIS CURSE ON HIM
AND PREPARE FOR HIM A WOEFUL
PUNISHMENT'**

—(Qur'an 4:93)

THEIR WORDS AND ACTIONS ARE ENTRENCHED IN VIOLENCE AND ROOTED IN AN IDEA THAT GIVES THEM THE LIBERTY TO ABANDON ALL CONCEPTS OF MORALITY, DECENCY AND HUMANITY

—By Shaykh Dr Mohamed e1 Sharkawy

Daesh's understanding of the world is riddled with confusions and contradictions. The only 'camp' that has emerged is the one that will continue to stand united in opposition against Daesh's false belief that they are somehow upholding the legacy of Islam and 'walking the prophetic path'. The louder Daesh shout that they are on the haqq the more determined we become to expose them for what they really are.

SHOW FORGIVENESS, ENJOIN WHAT IS
GOOD AND TURN AWAY FROM IGNORANCE

—[Qur'an 7:199]

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