

& awakened awareness against error, sin, evil. Against stagnation. Against complacency. Jihad is analysis followed by motion. Does it suffice to say, I am a Muslim? Do you think the utterance of the Shahadah suffices to earn Allah's pleasure? **"Do people think that they will be left alone on saying, we believe, and not be tried?"** (29:2)

"No God but Allah" is the doorway. But we are the ones who must step through. Do you think that standing on the doorway "saying" Islam will get us through the door? The step toward the door, the crossing of the threshold, the advance & the checked, redressed stumble: these are Jihad. **The soul's battle.** The "din without power to govern is a building in the mind's eye." **Of course Jihad is battle.** Don't buildings require builders and bricklayers to battle the pull of earth's gravity? **The din without the battle to govern our inner selves is evaporating mist.** The din without governing our social selves is a building camped in clouds. **The effort, the "struggle" to govern the inner and the outer, to regulate the tides of uncontrolled impulses, inwardly & outwardly, in soul & society, is the reason for Islam's being.** But the soul's battle without the power to physically live Islam is partial Islam. Establishment of the power to govern our own destinies according to the din is our minimal collective task. Jihad is dawah to ourselves & to others. Jihad is our right to Islam & our right to bring Islam to others. Jihad is our duty where this right is thwarted.

Sayyid Qutb was martyred for his Islam. He was executed for spreading Islam by the **word**, not the **sword**. This the "fight" Allah asks from us, the highest fight. It costs lives. And is pure, clean, just. It takes no innocents with it (8:39) "By the sword": There are those who battle to keep Islam down. The Jihad against them is real. It is necessary. This is not a synonym of violence. To the desperate, to the cornered, it is survival. **The battered has a "right" to impede battering.** The word is "Defense." The delicate trick is to clearly renounce and denounce offense while adopting the proper defense. Protection of the battered is the proper defense. This is the Islamic Jihad; by any means possible, justice and redress for all. The word and the attainment of Islam available to all. The ideal would be that physical defense would not be required. We do not live in an ideal world. Sayyid Qutb, jailed but free, wrote: "Jihad did not aim at converting people to Islam by force, but only at removing all hindrance in the way of the Islamic call."

Stubbe is the first European Christian to write favourably of Islam & Jihad. He died in 1676, after being accused of heresy, and spending some time in prison. Far from regarding the Islamic institution of

the just war as a reproach, he **extols** it, contrasting it with what he regarded as the insipid and irresponsible pacifism of the unknown New Testament authors. Stubbe is an English gentleman of a generation that had known war, and knew that **there are some injustices in the world that cannot be dissolved through passive suffering, through turning the other cheek.**

There are other idiots who write sarcastic "poetry" that vilify Jihad: "Take up the Jihad's burden; Send forth young men to bleed; Go bind your sons with dynamite; To serve Osama's needs; To wait in mountain hideouts; And sleeper cells dispersed; Your dispensable soldiers; Half worshipped & half cursed; Take up the Jihad's burden; In poverty it hides; To bring the threat of terror; And serve your leader's pride; By hateful speech & simple; A hundred times made plain; To die for other's profit; And make another's gain." Really Mr. Idiot: America & Europe have armed themselves to the teeth to protect the system of Satan they are enforcing throughout the world. For this they are using their full technological resources, weapons of mass destruction & misguided manpower. Who coined many murderous phrases such as "Let's bomb them back to the Stone Age?" This system of evil is MAD. Muslims prefer Jihad.

Reminders must be given: The missionaries of western values must reflect on why Europe, the heart of the west, should have generated two world wars which killed more civilians than all the wars of the previous 20 centuries. As Muslims point out, we are asked to call them "world wars" despite their reality as **western wars**, which targeted civilians with weapons of mass destruction at a time when Islam was at peace.

The Quran asks us to stand up for justice, even if it is against ourselves. Marlon Brando, a Hollywood actor, did just that. He refused to accept an Oscar award in 1973, & sent this letter to be read: "For 200 years we have said to the Indian people who are fighting for their land, their life, their families & their right to be free: Lay down your arms, my friends, and then we will remain together. Only if you lay down your arms can we then talk of peace & come to an agreement which will be good for you. When they laid down their arms, we **murdered** them. We **lied** to them. We **cheated** them out of their lands. We **starved** them into signing fraudulent agreements we called treaties which we never kept. We turned them into beggars...**What kind of moral schizophrenia** is it that allows us to shout at the top of our national voice **for all the world to hear** that we live up to our commitment when every page of history & when all the thirsty, starving, humiliating days/nights of the last 100 years in the lives of the American Indian **contradict** that voice?" **Contradiction is hypocrisy!!!**

Brando continues: "It would seem that the respect for principle & the love of one's neighbor have become dysfunctional in this country of ours, and that all we have done, all that we have succeeded in accomplishing with our power is simply **annihilating the hopes of the newborn countries** in this world, as well as friends & enemies alike, that we're not humane, and that we do not live up to our agreements."

Am not done yet...Let Brando continue to speak words that indict Hollywood: "The motion picture community has been as responsible as any for degrading the Indian & making a mockery of his character, describing him as **savage, hostile & evil**. It's hard enough for children to grow up in this world. When Indian children watch TV & films, and when they see their race depicted as they are in films, their minds become injured in ways we can never know...If we are not our brother's keeper, at least let us not be his executioner." My God!

Jihad is a noble endeavour. **What is to be said of American murder & mayhem?** We can use Brando's words with one change: "The motion picture community has been responsible as any for degrading the Muslim & making a mockery of his character, describing him as **savage, hostile & evil**..." In 2010 Hollywood is at it again making crap films such as "5 Minarets in New York."

Muslims have a Jihad to perform on themselves first of all. **One jihad is to recognize & to end the unthinking, unsanctioned & indiscriminate use of this exquisitely-calibrated concept.** To elevate the term to its potential, rather than allow it to sink toward its very opposite, blind impulse, as in the "poetry" above. The darkest impulses are the hardest to resist, and Islam came to show us how. It brought "Jihad" in its wake. **It did not bring terrorism. Be proud of Jihad.**

Were we all perfect, were we all immaculate, were we all regulated, inwardly and outwardly, we would not have needed then, nor would we need now, Islam. We would face no test from Allah or for Allah. We would belong to the animal/vegetable/mineral kingdom. We would vegetate. Not striving/struggling for the Kingdom of God. Is Islam not advancement? Is Islam not **the striving** to please God? We are human beings. **In Jihad, we conquer ourselves, for God.** Then & only then can we win over others. No Muslim swords needed, if Muslim souls multiply. Jihad builds Muslim souls. Jihad builds the good conquerors. Jihad is a word with a mountain of meaning. Why do TV airheads refer to a molehill meaning of "holy war?" Jihad is a message of harmonious striving as effortlessly & sublimely as a child picks a flower. Go on...**Practice Jihad.**

Oh, BTW, **that's a coil of rope! So now that your basic assumptions are correct, your ensuing logic & behaviour is RIGHT. Respect Jihad. Condemn Murder.**

The Struggle

Don't be afraid of the word

Jihad

It's safe...
Keep reading

An exquisitely-calibrated concept

A person in a dark place **mistakes**
a coil of rope
for a snake.

From then on

their logic may be impeccable,
their behaviour entirely
reasonable;

**but they are still
wrong**

It is the **basic assumptions** which
determine all the rest.

You are fed the mistaken "snake" propaganda, **Muslims are terrorists**, by devious members within the global media. Over the last decade, so as not to make you forget, they keep stoking the fires with stories of "jihad" & "jihadists." You respond with "logic" & "behaviour" that is correspondingly appropriate. **But wrong.** All religions have their deviants...which does not make the religion "terrorist." Does the infamous & sex-crazed American Jim Jones, a Christian, who killed over 900 Americans, thru a warped interpretation of the Bible, represent all Christianity? Should Muslims keep reminding the world of 11/18/1978. Should pastors burn their own Bibles? David Koresh, another crazed American Christian preacher, responsible for illicit sex, death & destruction. They & their gov't have modified The Lord's Prayer: "Give us this day our daily **dead.**" **Paranoid hype masquerading as analysis** ...insulting God, Islam & the Muslims. **Murder vs. Jihad...a study.**

The effort, the “struggle” to govern the inner & the outer, to regulate the tides of uncontrolled impulses, inwardly & outwardly, in soul & society, is the reason for Islam’s being. Practicing Islam in its totality throughout life without link to revenge, barbarism, destruction & violence. Jihad is an all-round struggle in the path of God. Believing in God, staying the straight path, reaching for positive thinking during hard times, controlling anger: this is Jihad. Life itself is a Jihad. And every human struggle becomes Jihad when it follows the commandments of God & His Messenger. In his unique style the Prophet (p) explains: “The best of Jihad is the uttering of the word of truth in the face of a tyrannical ruler.” Such a lovely concept ridiculed by the irreligious. So when American-Islamophobes like Daniel Pipes, Glenn Beck, Brigitte Gabriels & Sean Hannity, snarl their lips like pitbulls & say “JEEHAAD” in a bloodcurdling tone, you’ll know they are ignorant. Notwithstanding their doctoral degrees. Jihad: It’s the only channel toward God.

The word Jihad is derived from jahada, “he exerted himself.” Literally jihad means exertion, striving; but in juridico-religious sense it signifies the exertion of one’s power to the utmost of one’s capacity in the path of God. Striving...not “holy war.”

Dictionary meanings are wrong: 1. a holy war undertaken as a sacred duty by Muslims. 2. any vigorous, emotional crusade for an idea or principle.

Jihad has been used as an antonym to qu’ud in Islam. Qu’ud: sitting, resistance, abstention, refraining, renunciation, abandonment. “Those of the believers who sit still, other than those who have a hurt, are not on an equality with those who strive in the way of God with their wealth & lives. God has conferred on

those who strive a rank above the sedentary. Unto each God has promised good, but He has bestowed on those who strive a greater reward.” (4:95)

View the nature & significance of Jihad only in the context of the teachings of Islam as a whole, and the objectives which Islam seeks to realize. “It is an intense God-consciousness that expresses itself in a rational acceptance of all God-created nature: a harmonious side-by-side of intellect & sensual urge, spiritual need & social demands. Islam aims at translating the moral attitude into a definite social scheme which would ensure to every member of the community the greatest possible measure of physical & material well-being; thus, the greatest opportunity for spiritual growth.” The Road to Mecca.

The word Jihad is often confused with the word Qital (fighting) & these are used in one & the same sense, whereas the Quran has made a clear distinction between them. Jihad fi sabil Allah – struggle in the way of God – refers to a complete effort. The Quran points out that jihad denotes two kinds of striving: striving with the help of God-given faculties, both mental & physical, & striving with the help of resources which one has at their command.

Since Jihad is a struggle directed to so many channels, it necessitates the employment of different methods to fulfill its wide and varied responsibilities. A Muslim is required to struggle against three foes: 1. Against the visible enemy. 2. Against the devil. 3. Against one’s self. War in Islam is not a casual phenomenon of violence; it is one of the phases of man’s striving against all that is evil, whether in thought, feeling or action. The raising of the sword is one aspect only of the all-encompassing struggle to establish peace in the world.

Western scholars have indulged in a good deal of mud-slinging on the use of the sword in Islam. But if one were to think calmly on this point one would be convinced that the sword has not been used recklessly by the Muslims. That is why in all 82 encounters between the Muslims & non-Muslims during the life of the Prophet (p) 1,018 persons lost their lives on both sides. Out of this 259 were Muslims whereas the remaining 759 belonged to the opposite camp. That was back in those old-fashioned times. In our new, “sophisticated” times war, especially by America, continues to slaughter by the millions. Such “modern” callousness has never been seen in the history of man. The viciousness unleashed in

Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine by the Americans and others who delude themselves that they are “civilized” have no parallel. It’s barbarism.

Wonder at the audacity of western writers when one only compares the religious wars of Charles the Great, in which 4,500 pagan Saxons were killed in cold blood; when one recalls the famous answer by which the Papal Legate, in the Algerian War, quieted the scruples of a too conscientious general, “kill all, God will know His own.” When one recalls the Spanish Inquisition, the conquest of Mexico and Peru, the massacre of St. Bartholomew. America, this “great” nation was built on the murder of millions of Red Indians. And yet, “Muslim believers” flock to this tyrannical democracy to reap its “bloody fruits.”

The ruthless criticism on the use of the sword by the Muslims, emanates from those whose hands are dripping with the blood of countless millions of innocent human beings. By those who exult in the techniques of homicide, who have depersonalized warfare to such an extent that millions of innocent men, women & children are put to death & numberless ones are thrown into concentration camps without any qualm of conscience. As human beings, we should hang our heads in shame when we think of the horrifying atrocities which have been perpetrated and are being perpetrated by the “modern” American & Western man. Vampires!

Ways of Jihad: ❶ Jihad by one’s heart. Self-purification. This type of exertion was termed “Greater Jihad.” A Muslim should develop their sensitivities to the point of excellence, so much so that nothing which is evil should find its way either in their heart or mind. They should have a deep-rooted aversion against evil and a strong desire to fight it tooth and nail, whether it is found in one’s self or in the outside world.

❷ Jihad by one’s tongue. Persuading people to adopt the right path and to dissuade them from evil. The power of expression has a vital role to play in the establishment of a sound and just social order, free from all kinds of exploitation. This power should be exercised eloquently, with noble words and with the noble ideals that imprint their superiority in the minds of others. “Invite to the way of their Lord with wisdom and goodly exhortation and dialogue with them with that which is best.” (16:125) The “word of truth” includes speech, writing & reason. It requires politeness, strategy and occasional diplomacy.

❸ Jihad by one’s hand. Supporting the right and

correcting the wrong by using physical means short of violence. This kind of Jihad is obligatory on the state rather than individuals. The individual’s own perception of right & wrong & use of physical force may cause injustice, parochialism & chaos instead of bringing peace, stability & fraternity among the citizens.

The Prophet (p) summed up the responsibility of man toward his fellow man in this way: “Help your brother whether he is the wrongdoer or the wronged.” People asked: “O Prophet (p) we can help the one who is wronged but we fail to understand how a wrong-doer can be helped.” The Prophet left these words of wisdom: “You can do this by holding his hand from an act of oppression.”

Every Battle is Not Jihad. Terroristic activities, vengeance, self-imposed & self-declared wars, without strict adherence to the Islamic laws of Jihad, cannot be sanctified Jihad. Every fighter is not a mujahid. Every dead Muslim is not a martyr either. Umar, the second Caliph says: “You call those people who fight in the battles martyrs? I advise you not to make such assertions and say as the Prophet (p) said: ‘One who lays down his life in the way of Allah or one who is killed for no fault of his own is a martyr.’ The Prophet (p) said: “How many persons receive injuries and die, but they are neither martyrs nor are their sacrifices laudable. On the other hand many a person courts natural death on the bed, in the eyes of the Lord, they are a champion of truth and thus a martyr.”

Those who know nothing of us or Islam are telling us what Jihad is. Those American news “anchors.” Listen: we will tell them what Jihad is. We will tell them & they will be amazed. Where are you living? Wheresoever it is, you’re living Jihad. We do not here refer to the war cries of battle. We do not of course deign to even refer to the cheap/sensational titles of eye-popping dvds. We do not here consider the passions of rage howling their pain or frustration. If you are Muslim, if you practice Islam, you know what this core reference implies. You know what the real Jihad is. How are you living? The Jihad is the central implication of living Islam. The Jihad is effort. Inward & outward effort toward improvement & betterment, careful

The darkest impulses are the hardest to resist... Jihad is the shield

Zamals Software Co.; 6 Dowding St. Kitty
shamal2007@yahoo.com; Brochures on zamalsgy.com
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