



If I were to discuss each of the morals, this would be a long discussion and still not be enough. I have in front of me a large collection of assorted books on morality, some of which are: "The Characteristics of the Prophet" by Shaykh al-Asbahaaniy, "The Noble Characteristics" by al-Tabaraaniy, and al- Karaa'etiy, "The Morals and Biographies" by Ibn Hazm, "Constitution of Morals in the Qur'an" by Muhammad 'Abdullah Darraaz... etc.

So this message, my dear brothers, is not a research into morality and its philosophies, but an illustration along with many evidences, of a host of worthy characteristics which I felt were of great importance for the daa`iya. I have commented in some important areas, and left the rest which is accessible through reference for he who desires it.

## **Famous Personalities of Islam**

### **Imam Bukhari**

Imam Abu Abdallah Muhammad ibn Ismael was born in 809 A.C. in Bukhara, a town in the eastern part of Turkestan. His father died while he was still in his infancy and his upbringing was left entirely to his mother, who looked after him very carefully and spared nothing in order to provide him with the best education.

Quite early in his life, Imam Bukhari's intellectual qualities became noticeable. He had great piety and an extremely good memory and devotion for learning. It is said that while he was still young he knew at least seventy thousands sayings of the prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

In 825 A.C. while he was 16, his mother brought him to Mekka and he enjoyed his stay in the holy city so much that he decided to prolong his visit in order to benefit from the company of great Muslim scholars in Mecca. At the age of 18, he wrote his first book on the prophet's companions and their immediate successors, and later a book on history called "Al-Tarikh-al-Kabir.

Imam Bukhari was very interested in history and the ahadith. He sought the company of great scholars in order to learn and discuss the ahadith of the holy

Prophet. He visited various countries and traveled to Damascus, Cairo, Baghdad, Basra, Mekka, Madina etc. During his stay in Baghdad, he frequently used to have discussion with Imam Ahmed Hanbal, the founder of the Hanbali School of Law.

During all of his traveling, Imam Bukhari had only one aim: to gather as much knowledge as possible and to make the greatest possible collection of the Traditions of the Holy Prophet. He wrote profusely all the time. He once said, "I have written about 1800 persons, each of whom had a saying of the prophet, and I have written only about those who have passed my test of truthfulness.

The Imam possessed one of the most amazing memories and his contribution to the science of the ahadith remains unequalled. He wrote several books on ahadith but in his book "Al-Jame-al-Sahih", the Imam had recorded all the sayings of the prophet (pbuh) which he found to genuine after thorough examination and scrutiny. He spent sixteen years in research and examined more than sixty thousand saying from which he selected some 7,275, which he considered genuine and accurate, and without any slightest doubt. Deducting duplicates, the Imam's collection contains about four thousand distinct sayings.

Imam Bukhari was extremely charitable in his remarks and opinions about men and scholars. He never called a person with false or incorrect hadith, a liar or forger, but simply called them untrustworthy. His popularity and greatness inspired jealousy in the heart of reactionary Ulema of his time and he was banished from the land of his birth by the governor of Bukhara as a result of intrigues against him.

This great scholar of Islam passed away in 869 A.C. at the age of 62 in a small town near Samarkand, Tajikistan.

*The Messenger of Allah (SAW) is reported to have said: "Paradise is surrounded by hardship and Hell is surrounded by wishes and desires."*

[Sahih al-Jaami]

## **WAHABISM, old weapon new faces**

The term "Wahabism" has been in vogue for over a century and it began to be used in India and spread to the whole of the Muslim world. It is a derogatory and an accusatory term used to denigrate Muslims of certain aqeedah and who shun certain practices, perceived by others to be Islamic. According to users of the term "Wahabism" it refers to Muhammad Ibn Abdulwahhab of Nejd in the Arabian Peninsula who lived in the eighteenth century C.E.

Let us examine "Wahabism" to find which of the above categories it fits. There is no place or tribe or country or nation or family by the name of "Wahab"; it is therefore, not applicable. If we examine to see if Muhammad Ibn Abdulwahhab originated a new aqeedah we find no such thing in his teachings to give credit to him for something new. Did he originate a new Sufi order? We discover that he was neither a sufi nor did he support them. In fact, he fought against certain innovations of the sufis. Did Muhammad Ibn Abdulwahhab present any new school of fiqhi principles? We find that he was himself an ardent follower of HANBALI madh-hab, and he revered Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal. One of the major contributions of Muhammad Ibn Abdulwahhab is that he discovered and brought into the limelight another great Hanbali scholars, Imam Ibn Taimiyah and his student Ibn Qayyim. We find that Muhammad Ibn Abdulwahhab remained throughout his life a follower of Hanbali madh-hab and did not deviate much from it.

In the light of what has been said there is no definition of the term "Wahabism" possible except as a label to bring hatred against certain group of people. It is stereotyping, slanderous and a hate-mongering term; no educated person should allow himself to the use of this term. Those who made their goal to fight "Wahabism" are fighting a non-existent enemy, a creation of a figment of their own mind, an imaginary ghost.

Alleged "Wahabis" do not call any one to follow any new fiqh, any sufi order, any new aqeedah but they call Muslims to follow the Qur'an and Sunnah of the Prophet (S) found in the famous

books of Hadith like Bukhari, Muslim, Muwatta, Ibn Majah, Abu Dawud and others. The books of Hadith mentioned are famous and all Sunni Muslims give lip service to them. It is unfortunate that those who call you to go one step beyond lip service to the Qur'an and Sunnah and implement the teachings in your lives are labelled as Wahabis by their opponents.

Who was Muhammad Ibn Abdulwahhab? He was a reformer and called people of Najd to the Qur'an and Sunnah instead of getting trapped into following personality cults of self-appointed, ignorant religious leaders leading masses into the pit of disgrace in this world and the pit of fire in the life hereafter. He did hurt the business of selfish, ignorant and arrogant religious leaders of Arabian Peninsula and he tried to eliminate shirk (associations with Allah) and bid'ah (innovation in the deen al-Islam). Islam as brought by Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) does not allow either of these things. He (pbuh) himself said "do not take my grave as a celebration and do not praise me with whom Christians are praising Jesus.

The Crusaders of Europe wanted to evict Muslims from Jerusalem but could not do so without creating hate hysteria in the European population. Today in America there are Christian Crusaders of pen and tongue, like Anis Shorrosh, Robert Morey, John Ankerberg and others who are fanning the flames of hatred against Muslims through slander, lies and fabrications about Islam and Muslims. In our age, our enemies have adopted another Christian term to denigrate Muslims, that is, fundamentalism, a term without definition but made derogatory.

All educated, intelligent and thinking Muslim brethren have a duty to isolate all those who use the term "Wahabism" or "Wahabis" and associate them with hate mongering groups. We have a duty to love all those who profess to be Muslims and educate those who are ignorant of the true teachings of Islam, rather than creating hate. Those who use the term "Wahabism or Wahabis" are agents of our enemies, particularly our worst enemy, Shaytan (Satan). We have a duty to do all we can to free our brethren from the clutches of Shaytan and his friends.

In our time, when Islam and Muslims are under attack from all sides, from Christians, Jews, Hindus, atheists, agnostics, secular humanists and secular nationalists, it is not right for us to divide ourselves and fight against each other. We have to pool our resources together and fight the common enemies of Islam and Muslims. If a group among us is different, we should learn to ignore the differences, emphasize the commonality and call each other to the true teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah of the Messenger (S) of Allah. We should not call any group of people by any name, which they do not like, that is slander. There is no group of people who like to be called "Wahabis", therefore, this term should be dropped by the Muslims. The term "Wahabis" and "Wahabism" was the invention of the British to divide Muslims and fight against each other and weaken each other, so that the British could continue to conquer Muslims land and rule them. We should not allow ourselves to continue to be the victims of Imperialist designs.

### ***Community News***

Friday prayer has been shifted to Masjid An-Nour, 530 N Wall Street from May 3, 2002. There will be no Friday prayer at ICC.

### ***Current activities***

Islamic Sundays School for children, 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, at ICC.

Taleem, Sundays, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM, at Masjid An-Nour.

Sewing and craft classes for sisters, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays at ICC.

Video/live lectures, Islamic quiz contests for adults and children, indoor sports, Fridays between Maghrib and Isha, at ICC or Masjid An-Nour.

### ***Upcoming events/Seminars/Conferences***

Islamic summer school for children. June 6<sup>th</sup> to August 18, 2002. For registration contact ICC. Fees, \$25.00 per month single child, \$40.00 per month

two or more children.

Islam in America Conferences, July 5-7, for registration and information visit online [www.isna.net](http://www.isna.net).

39<sup>th</sup> ISNA Annual Convention: ***Islam :A Call for peace and Justice***, August 30 - September 02, Washington D.C. For registration and information visit online [www.isna.net](http://www.isna.net).

### ***Kids and Teens corner***

We encourage kids, teens and young writers to write for Almuslim. Best articles will get cash prizes and awards.

We also encourage community members for their participation in Almuslim. It can be through suggestions, comments and writing articles. Articles can be submitted electronically via email at [islamic\\_center511@yahoo.com](mailto:islamic_center511@yahoo.com) or by surface mail at ***Islamic Center, 511 S Poplar street, Carbondale, IL-62901***. Articles must be in text format using Microsoft word or Word perfect files. Hard copies can also be submitted.

Community news can be submitted on above email address or by calling at **457-2770, 457-6522**, no later than 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### ***Classified***

None available yet. We request Muslim sellers, buyers, Merchants and business owners to put their ads. in this section.

### ***Breaking News***

Kellogg's brand cereals contain pork gelatin. In UAE all brands of Kellogg have been pulled out from super markets after this news. Kellogg's representative upon contact released following statement: "Kellogg Brands which contain pork gelatin are Kellogg's Rice Krispies, Squares, Kellogg's Rice Krispies Chocolate Squares and Kellogg's Pop Tarts. Kellogg's Frosted Wheat breakfast cereal contains beef gelatin. Gelatin is listed on the ingredient panel.