# A MUSLIM'S BASIS FOR THE FEAR OF ALLAH AND HOPING FOR HIS MERCY WITH TOTAL CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINED SUBMISSION IN OUR BELOVED NIGERIA

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I have only created Jinns and men, that they may serve Me (Qur'an 51:56).

**This is the only means of connecting with Allah meaningfully, the definition of a Muslim's faith and orientation.**

This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion. (Qur'an 5:3).

Ye have indeed in the Messenger of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the Praise of Allah. (Qur'an 33:21).

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: and Allah has full knowledge of all things. (Qur'an 33:40).

**It is the conduct, the character or how he puts his faith, knowledge and resources or opportunities to use, that is his identity. Faith or Beliefs, Knowledge and Commitments, Actions or Discipline are INSEPARABLE. And the focus as well as the goal is Allah.**

Every soul draws the meed of its acts on none but itself: no bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another. Your goal in the end is towards Allah: He will tell you the truth of the things wherein ye disputed. (Qur'an 6:164).

Then shall anyone who has done an atom's weight of good, see it! And anyone who has done an atom's weight of evil, shall see it. (Qur'an 99:7-8).

**What matters is not conceptual or ideological claims but the commitments of a believer. These must both tally and not be contradictory or abusive of the beautiful DISCIPLINE of the Messenger (SAW). How this is possible without his Sunnah is logically and sensibly ahistorical.**

But those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, we shall soon admit them to gardens, with rivers flowing beneath, to dwell therein for ever. Allah's promise is the truth, and whose word can be truer than Allah's? (Qur'an 4:122).

To them will be passed round, dishes and goblets of gold: there will be there all that the souls could desire, all that their ayes could delight in: and ye shall abide therein (for aye). (Qur'an 43:71).

Allah hath promised to Believers, men and women, gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein, and beautiful mansions in gardens of everlasting bliss. But the greatest bliss is the good pleasure of Allah: that is the supreme felicity. (Qur'an 9:72).

**It is DEEDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, that is, consistent with the Discipline of Rasul (SAW), that will serve as the PASS for admission into Jannah, the ultimate goal and reward for the right purposeful livelihood, in this world. But it is still a creation. The pleasure of Allah is superior and the best.**

O ye who believe! save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is Men and Stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe, who flinch not (from executing) the Commands they receive from Allah, but do (precisely) what they are commanded. (Qur'an 66:6).

To it are seven gates: for each of those gates is a (special) class (of sinners) assigned. (Qur'an 15:44).

Narrated Abu Musa Ash'ari: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "If a rock is dropped into Jahannam (the first and topmost level with least punishments), it will remain plummeting for 70 years before touching the pith of Jahannam". (Muslim).

The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "Among the men of Jahannam, the least punishment given will be that both his shoes and laces will be made of fire, which will make his head boil like a cauldron, such that he will think that he is receiving the most severe punishment, although his punishment is the least." (Bukhari and Muslim).

**The measure or weight of commitments will determine admission into Jannah and safety from Jahannam. Livelihood in this world must therefore be consciously, actively and responsibly pursued; to safeguard oneself and families from the wrath, those who are careless or stubborn will be best entitled to.**

And those Foremost (in Faith) will be Foremost (in the Hereafter). These will be those Nearest to Allah: In Gardens of Bliss: A number of people from those of old, And a few from those of later times. (Qur'an 56:10-14).

**Like variation of number and quality of commitments as well as the measure by Allah, the grades of admission and rewards will not be the same for all believers. After all, Allah chose from among mankind, those to bear His message, and even they, are in grades. Believers therefore have a model in the beautiful conduct of Rasul (SAW) as Guide. And Rasul (SAW) clarified that they cover three generations.**

Say: "Ask forgiveness from your Lord; for He is Oft-Forgiving;" He will send rain to you in abundance; Give you increase in wealth and sons; and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers (of flowing water). (Qur'an 71:10-12).

**This stands out as the best gift, in the complete favour, granted the Ummah of Muhammad (SAW). The most asking of it should aid in getting closer to the best, since the possibilities are historically getting tighter. It is essentially the foundation for purification that is compulsory for connecting with Allah and getting His pleasant response. For example, when alcohol was prohibited, believers broke the pots. Today, engagement in public service system, banking, public works and services make you direct beneficiary of income from alcoholic products, gambling, usury, etc.**

Narrated Umar ibn al-Khattab: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "**If you were to rely upon Allah with reliance due to Him, He would provide for you just as He provides for the birds. They go out in the morning with empty stomachs and return full.**" (Tirmidhī).

**The definition of this DUE RELIANCE is a believer's submission based and driven by TOTAL convictions. The practical halfway is patience and perseverance in sticking to the right course.**

Narrated Ubayy ibn Ka'b: I said, "O Messenger of Allah, I send blessings upon you often. How many of my prayers should be for blessings upon you?" The Prophet said, "**As you wish**." I said, "A fourth?" The Prophet said, "**As you wish, but more is better for you**." I said, "A half?" The Prophet said, "**As you wish, but more is better for you**." I said, "Two-thirds?" The Prophet said, "**As you wish, but more is better for you.**" I said, "Should I say all of my prayers for blessings upon you?" The Prophet said, "**If so, your worries will be resolved, and your sins will be forgiven**." (Tirmidhī).

***Salatin Nabiyyi* is of double value. It affirms faith in Allah and gratitude for complete guidance. Allah has provided that He grants MORE to those who are**

**grateful. All prayers for blessing Rasul (SAW) will therefore solve all problems. And believers are encouraged to enable a taste of this, by their increasing sending of blessings on Rasul (SAW) on Fridays.**

Narrated Sa'id ibn Zayd: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "**There are ten in Paradise. Abu Bakr is in Paradise and Umar is in Paradise. Uthman, Ali, Al-Zubayr, Talhah, Abdur Rahman ibn Awf, Abu 'Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrah, Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas, and Abu al-A'war Sa'id ibn Zayd are in Paradise.**" (Tirmidhī).

**Are we even familiar with the detail disciplinary histories of these certified believers, to measure our trappings against their own? The restrictions they faced against our opportunities and their restraints against our liberties. How many of their likes are feasible or possible in our times? But we are more confident and careless. The ways and rate we ask for Jannatul Firdaus to be given to our choices, is a good pointer.**

The vanguard (of Islam), the first of those who forsook (their homes) and of those who gave them aid, and (also) those who follow them in (all) good deeds, well-pleased is Allah with them, as are they with Him: for them hath He prepared gardens under which rivers flow, to dwell therein for ever: that is the supreme felicity. (Qur'an 9:100).

**This is the definition of the Ummah. The community by character. We are now in greater manifolds of the size, with numerous scholars, political and institutional religious leaders, businesses champions, intellectual, professional, technical and creative giants. But we are not attractive to even unbelievers, we are at loggerheads with Christians and thriving internal conflicts.**

Narrated Abu Umamah: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "**My Lord has promised me that seventy thousand from my nation will enter Paradise without**

**reckoning or punishment. Along with every thousand are seventy thousand more, and three more immeasurable groups of His choosing.**" (Tirmidhī).

**This is from the Hijra of Rasul (SAW) and still counting to when the Trumpet will be blown. With the present settings of nation states, how many Nigerians, from Independence, can we gamble to be model for such belonging? When Rasul (SAW) pronounced this, a companion asked that Rasul (SAW) prays to Allah to make him ONE of them. He was told that his request was granted. ANOTHER stood up to ask, Rasul (SAW) said, he has been preceded.**

Narrated Nu'man bin Bashir: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever". (Bukhari and Muslim).

**Is the Ummah of Nigeria really supportive of itself? With all the leaders, institutions, da'awah, resources etc. Has anyone really cared about what is MISSING? The political rote of Muslim Muslim ticket is the best indicator of our ignorance, hypocrisy and unseriousness. How do generations of believers relate in promotion of Islam? Even the learned and scholars are in fierce competition for fame or acquisition of materials. In respect of age, the older rarely submit to the younger based on knowledge and discipline, except material or official status combines with it. The rich are as isolated and independent of the scholars like the political leaders.**

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "**Gabriel kept advising me to be good to neighbours until I thought he would make them my heirs.**" (Ibn Mājah).

**But what is the record of Muslims generally, in our relationship with Christians? How do Muslims stand in relation to non-Muslims at work places? What is the record of Muslim Chief Executives in Private and Public organizations? How is Muslims' neighbourhood in Muslim, non-Muslims and mixed settlements?**

Let no man guilty of adultery or fornication marry but a woman similarly guilty, or an Unbeliever: nor let any but such a man or an Unbeliever marry such a woman: to the Believers such a thing is forbidden. (Qur'an 24:3).

**How can premarital sexual relationships and marriage with pregnancy, that are now pervasive fit into these restrictions?**

Narrated Ubada b. as-Samit: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "Receive (teaching) from me, receive (teaching) from me. Allah has ordained a way for those (women). When an unmarried male commits adultery with an unmarried female (they should receive) one hundred lashes and banishment for one year. And in case of married male committing adultery with a married female, they shall receive one hundred lashes and be stoned to death." (Muslim).

**What is the state of the institution of Marriage and the Family in the Ummah of Nigeria today? The almost laughable best attempt to care is the institution of HISBA in Kano State. It is the best because it is the only pragmatic one in the country. It is laughable because the rest of the Ummah do not even appreciate to criticize it for doing something better.**

Those who devour usury will not stand except as stand one whom the Evil one by his touch Hath driven to madness. That is because they say: "Trade is like usury," but Allah hath permitted trade and forbidden usury. Those who after receiving direction from their Lord, desist, shall be pardoned for the past; their case is for Allah

(to judge); but those who repeat (The offence) are companions of the Fire: They will abide therein (for ever). (Qur'an 2:275).

**How many Muslims patronize the Islamic oriented banks? Is the Ummah incapable of a similar Insurance outfit? Is it unconstitutional? Are the wealthy among the Ummah incapable of initiating and establishing it?**

And O my people! give just measure and weight, nor withhold from the people the things that are their due: commit not evil in the land with intent to do mischief. (Qur'an 11:85).

**Corruption in public service has Muslims as forefront participants. Businesses in smuggling, contraband, adulteration of products, hoarding, over pricing, etc are not different.**

Narrated Abdur Rahman ibn Samurah: The Prophet (SAW) said to me, "**O Abdur Rahman, do not ask for authority! If it is given to you at your request, you will be held fully responsible for it. If it is given to you without your request, you will be helped by Allah in it**." (Bukhari and Muslim).

**But we have institutionalized competitive asking as the standard process for choosing our leaders.**

Narrated Abu Dharr: I said, "O Messenger of Allah, will you not appoint me as a leader?" The Prophet (SAW) struck my chest with his hand, then he said, "**O Abu Dharr, you are weak and it is a position of public trust. Verily, on the Day of Resurrection it will only result in regret, except for one who takes it by right and fulfills its duties.**" And the Prophet (SAW) said, "**I love for you what I love for myself. Do not command even two people, and do not manage the property of an orphan**." (Muslim).

**There is nothing comparable to the burden of being an accounting leader.**

And why should ye not fight in the cause of Allah and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)? Men, women, and children, whose cry is: "Our Lord! Rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from thee one who will protect; and raise for us from thee one who will help!" (Qur'an 4:75).

**The superiority of collective good over individual or sectional good, is the definition of the best jihad, a believer can engage in, on permissible terms. Da'awa and criticisms are therefore halfway to the goal. Provision of solution is the best.**

If two parties among the Believers fall into a quarrel, make ye peace between them: but if one of them transgresses beyond bounds against the other, then fight ye (all) against the one that transgresses until it complies with the command of Allah; but if it complies, then make peace between them with justice, and be fair: for Allah loves those who are fair (and just). (Qur'an 49:9).

**The religion or the truth is not the property of anyone or group, but that of Allah. Allah must be the rallying point as well as the goal. Believers must then help each other in attaining the same thing.**

O ye who believe! stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye swerve, and if ye distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted with all that ye do. (Qur'an 4:135).

**How is this possible without knowledge and discipline of our identity? This covers justice for ourselves, others and over trusts in our care. Are the records of Muslims in our present corrupt society not negatively consuming?**

O ye who believe! Persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear Allah; that ye may prosper. (Qur'an 3:200).

**The Path of True, Right Knowledge and Discipline is NOT SMOOTH. A believer will need to strive. Jihad begins with self, which is the beginning and the highest. The jihad outside self begins with the family one leads, before others like neighbours, community and society. The first form is by example followed by calling. Then of course the fate and ultimate destiny of man is, as Allah wills. But there are two indicators. The one is that those on Guidance will find the striving easy, whereas the others will find indiscipline easy, to qualify for damnation. The second is that, how one ends up, seals the identity.**

Narrated Abu Sa'id al-Khudri: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "**Every treacherous liar will have a banner raised over him on the Day of Resurrection, according to the measure of his betrayal. Surely, there is no greater betrayal than that committed by a ruler over the common people.**" (Muslim).

**How shocking then is seeking and fighting to lead? How worse is ignorance and indiscipline of a leader? How worst is evident bad leadership?**

Narrated `Imran bin Husain: The Prophet (SAW) said, "I looked into Paradise and found that the majority of its dwellers were the poor people, and I looked into the (Hell) Fire and found that the majority of its dwellers were women." (Bukhari).

**As a result, it is really wealthy in the hereafter, to be poor in this livelihood. To be least bearing of the rights of others and material contentment with modesty,**

**because of the requirements of purity in their acquisition and use. This is why the poor and wretched in the hereafter is the LOSER OF HIS GOOD DEEDS IN EXCHANGE FOR RIGHTS OF OTHERS APPROPRIATED IN THE WORLD, AND ACCUMULATION OF THE SINS OF THOSE HE IS UNABLE TO SETTLE WITH HIS GOOD DEEDS.**

Narrated Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said: O gathering of women! Give in charity, for I have seen you as a majority of people in Hellfire. They said, "Why is that, O Messenger of Allah?" The Prophet (SAW) said: You curse others often and you are ungrateful for your livelihood (i.e. your husbands who provide for you). (Bukhari).

**Women are the best symbol of living or lively form and example of trial. They can be the best omen and gift as well as temptation and ingratitude. This is because men seek and ask for the hands of women for marriage, the Sunnah that is half of the religion. A woman can have the misfortune of finding the same attributes in her man.**

Do they not reflect in their own minds? Not but for just ends and for a term appointed, did Allah create the heavens and the earth, and all between them: yet are there truly many among men who deny the meeting with their Lord (at the Resurrection)! (Qur'an 30:8).

**Is there anyone or anything in physics that is not subject to change, transformation or extinction? This is regardless of believing or same knowledge in the realm of metaphysics. For instance, those who know are aware that Jinns die. It is consequently a waste of self to believe and live in the ignorance of where and how one became and will inevitably return to, as the truth.**

Every soul shall have a taste of death: And only on the Day of Judgment shall you be paid your full recompense. Only he who is saved far from the Fire and admitted to the Garden will have attained the object (of Life): For the life of this world is but goods and chattels of deception. (Qur'an 3:185).

**No believer or intelligent person will await for the Day of Judgement that is neither independently known nor controllable, to take a committal stand on it.**

But to no soul will Allah grant respite when the time appointed (for it) has come; and Allah is well acquainted with (all) that ye do. (Qur'an 63:11).

**The consistent and unstoppable death of the strong and weak is more than sufficient for the wise, as absolute truth of Allah and the reality of the soul. When no better certifiable proof than the knowledge of these granted by Allah and Rasul (SAW) is available, it is worse than foolish to entertain any other trial explanation.**

He cannot be questioned for His acts, but they will be questioned (for theirs). (Qur'an 21:23).

**Only the unintelligent will wait in arguments and get overtaken, to face questioning without seeking knowledge of what is true and right as well as commitment to the discipline.**

Narrated Aisha: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "**Follow the right course, be devoted, and give glad tidings. Verily, none of you will enter Paradise by his deeds alone**." They said, "Not even you, O Messenger of Allah?" The Prophet (SAW) said, "**Not even myself, unless Allah grants me His mercy. Know that the most beloved deed to Allah is done regularly, even if it is small.**" (Bukhārī and Muslim).

**The greatest favour to the Ummah is the standard of the middle course in submission, by believers. This enables easy sustenance. Allah at His discretion fills up the gaps for sincere believers, and grants them salvation.**

Say: "Call upon Allah, or call upon Rahman: by whatever name ye call upon Him, (it is well): for to Him belong the Most Beautiful Names. Neither speak thy Prayer aloud, nor speak it in a low tone, but seek a middle course between." (Qur'an 17:110).

**So, what could a believer desire that is permissible yet cannot ask of Allah, who truly owns everything and has permitted us to ask Him for it? This direct access is the greatest favour to believers.**

O ye men! It is ye that have need of Allah: but Allah is the One Free of all wants, worthy of all praise. (Qur'an 35:15).

**Narrated Abu Dharr al-Ghifari: From the Prophet (SAW), is that among the sayings he relates from his Lord (SWT) is that He said:** "O My servants, I have forbidden oppression for Myself and have made it forbidden amongst you, so do not oppress one another. O My servants, all of you are astray except for those I have guided, so seek guidance of Me and I shall guide you, O My servants, all of you are hungry except for those I have fed, so seek food of Me and I shall feed you. O My servants, all of you are naked except for those I have clothed, so seek clothing of Me and I shall clothe you. O My servants, you sin by night and by day, and I forgive all sins, so seek forgiveness of Me and I shall forgive you. O My servants, you will not attain harming Me so as to harm Me, and will not attain benefitting Me so as to benefit Me. O My servants, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to be as pious as the most pious heart of any one man of you, that would not increase My kingdom in anything. O My servants, were the first of

you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to be as wicked as the most wicked heart of any one man of you, that would not decrease My kingdom in anything. O My servants, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to rise up in one place and make a request of Me, and were I to give everyone what he requested, that would not decrease what I have, any more that a needle decreases the sea if put into it. O My servants, it is but your deeds that I reckon up for you and then recompense you for, so let him who finds good, praise Allah, and let him who finds other than that, blame no one but himself." (Muslim, Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah).

**Therefore, there is no foolishness greater than refusing to know and seek Allah by anyone who believes. With Allah your prosperity is assured WISELY. And no misfortune is comparable to knowing Allah and being careless about discipline. Without Allah is worse than groping in darkness.**

Narrated 'Abdullah bin 'Abbas: One day I was riding (a horse/camel) behind the Prophet (SAW) when he said, "Young man, I will teach you some words. Be mindful of God, and He will take care of you. Be mindful of Him, and you shall find Him at your side. If you ask, ask of God. If you need help, seek it from God. Know that if the whole world were to gather together in order to help you, they would not be able to help you except if God had written so. And if the whole world were to gather together in order to harm you, they would not harm you except if God had written so. The pens have been lifted, and the pages are dry." (Tirmidhi).

**The unity of Allah is absolute. As firm and consistent the faith and submission of a believer is, so will he find Allah assuredly. He *Al-Hayyu* and *Al-Qayyum*. Disciplined submission is the foundation for connection with Allah, for His pleasure and mercies.**

**Narrated Abdullāh ibn Masʻūd: The Prophet (SAW) said: "Who among you considers the wealth of his heirs more beloved to him than his own wealth?" They replied: "O Messenger of Allah, there is no one among us except that he loves his own wealth more." He said: "His wealth is whatever he spends during his life (in good ways), while the wealth of his heir is whatever he leaves after his death." (Bukhari).**

**Modesty and contentment are the twin attributes of a believer's relationship with his struggles, earnings and expenditure. It neither allows extravagance nor blocks the legality of surpluses for possible inheritance.**

Verily the knowledge of the Hour is with Allah (alone). It is He Who sends down rain, and He Who knows what is in the wombs. Nor does any one know what it is that he will earn on the morrow: Nor does anyone know in what land he is to die. Verily with Allah is full knowledge and He is acquainted (with all things). (Qur'an 31:34).

**Certainly, if we can have assured and right knowledge of either the immediate or distant future or both, we can SAVE ourselves from most harm and maximize attainment of good for ourselves. Accidents and mistakes will be ruled out or be clear foolishness. As much as we really gamble on knowledge, except what Allah permits, we are wrong. Allah remains Al-Awwalu, Al-Akhiru, Az-Zahiru, Al-Batin, Al-Alimu, Al-Khabiru, Al-Hakimu, Al-Basiru, As-Sami'u, Al-Qaribu WITHOUT ANY PARTNER OR COMPETITOR. We are really empty and will be foolhardy to either claim knowledge, to be right, without Allah.**

And there is not a thing but its (sources and) treasures (inexhaustible) are with Us; but We only send down thereof in due and ascertainable measures. (Qur'an 15:21).

Verily, all things have We created in proportion and measure. (Qur'an 54:49).

**Allah creates from NOTHING; His wealth is not from amassment. And His provisions are in distinct measures of meaning, beauty, purpose or function and mystery, like proportions of water, bloods, bones, muscles, veins, arteries, hormones, organs and more are clothed in respective large skins, breathing, moving, talking, seeing, hearing, thinking, enjoying pleasure, smell or pain and lots more. How then can over population or poverty BECOME, if mankind and Jinns are obedient? If not for the intervention of Allah with mercies, how can we not have ended ourselves already?**

Narrated Ma'qil ibn Yasar: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "**The best of faith is patience and tolerance.**" (Zahr al-Firdaws 516).

Narrated Suhayb: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "**Wondrous is the affair of a believer, as there is good for him in every matter; this is not the case for anyone but a believer. If he experiences pleasure, he thanks Allah and it is good for him. If he experiences harm, he shows patience and it is good for him**." (Muslim).

Narrated 'Alqamah: Abdullah ibn Mas'ud said, "Patience is half of faith and conviction is faith in its entirety." (Shu'ab al-Imān 9083).

**So, trials are not only inevitable but bearing them on the PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS is the sign of half of Iman. And they can be with favours, that should ignite gratitude. They can be with losses, that should be bored with patience and trust in Allah. Only those who are able to also express gratitude in losses, because of their strong trust and reliance or satisfaction with the will of Allah, have completed their faith.**

Narrated Abu Malik al-Harith bin Asim al-Asharee: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, “Purity is half of Iman (faith). ‘*Al-hamdu lillah* (praise be to Allah)’ fills the scales, and ‘*Subhan-Allah* (how far is Allah from every imperfection)’ and *Al-hamdulillah* (praise be to Allah)’ fill that which is between heaven and earth. And the salah (prayer) is a light, and charity is a proof, and patience is illumination, and the Qur’an is a proof either for you or against you. Every person starts his day as a vendor of his soul, either freeing it or causing its ruin.” (Muslim).

**Then what favours of Allah can believers deny or have outstanding to ask? Allah is Ar-Rahman and additionally Ar-Rahim, exclusively to believers.**

Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from Error: whoever rejects evil and believes in Allah hath grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold, that never breaks. And Allah heareth and knoweth all things. (Qur’an 2:256).

**Islam is a personal responsibility of each believer. To believe. To seek to know what is true and right about the beliefs. To live accordingly to one’s utmost.**

Whatever good, (O man!) happens to thee, is from Allah; but whatever evil happens to thee, is from thy (own) soul. and We have sent thee as a messenger to (instruct) mankind. And enough is Allah for a witness. (Qur’an 4:79).

If any one does a righteous deed, it ensures to the benefit of his own soul; if he does evil, it works against (his own soul). In the end will ye (all) be brought back to your Lord. (Qur’an 45:15).

**The choice is strictly on the head and shoulders of each believer.**

Is he, then, to whom the evil of his conduct is made alluring, so that he looks upon it as good, (equal to one who is rightly guided)? For Allah leaves to stray whom He

wills, and guides whom He wills. So let not thy soul go out in (vainly) sighing after them: for Allah knows well all that they do! (Qur'an 35:8).

It is true thou wilt not be able to guide every one, whom thou lovest; but Allah guides those whom He will and He knows best those who receive guidance. (Qur'an 28:56).

If Allah so willed, He could make you all one people: But He leaves straying whom He pleases, and He guides whom He pleases: but ye shall certainly be called to account for all your actions. (Qur'an 16:93).

Those whom Allah (in His plan) willeth to guide, He openeth their breast to Islam; those whom He willeth to leave straying, He maketh their breast close and constricted, as if they had to climb up to the skies: thus doth Allah (heap) the penalty on those who refuse to believe. (Qur'an 6:125).

**The basis for fear and hope in Allah with love.**

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds; Most Gracious, Most Merciful; Master of the Day of Judgment. Thee do we worship, and Thine aid we seek. Show us the straight way, The way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace, those whose (portion) is not wrath, and who go not astray. (Qur'an 1:1-7).

**This is indeed the best gift. It is made compulsory for communing with Allah. With *Kalimatu shahada* the believer may be certain of the mercy of Allah, except it is self-cancelled at death. It serves as the basis that ignites, invites and propels the Rahma of Allah on the believers as a collective, continuously.**

Say: He is Allah, the One and Only; Allah, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; And there is none like unto Him. (Qur'an 112:1-4).

**This is the best explanatory declaration of faith. It encompasses everything. Its negation by one who already possess *Kalimatu shahada* justifies his execution, by Shari'ah, in this world and eternal damnation in the hereafter.**

Allah! There is no god but He, The Living, The Self-subsisting, Eternal. No slumber can seize Him nor sleep. His are all things in the heavens and on earth. Who is there can intercede in His presence except as He permitteth? He knoweth what (appeareth to His creatures as) before or after or behind them. Nor shall they compass aught of His knowledge except as He willeth. His Throne doth extend over the heavens and the earth, and He feeleth no fatigue in guarding and preserving them for He is the Most High, the Supreme (in glory). (Qur'an 2:255).

**This is the best security of a believer. And the most requirement is conscious submission to Allah. This is not a concept but a choice collective attributes of Who a believer is hanging on, against ANYONE AND ANYTHING.**

Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The Parable of His Light is as if there were a Niche and within it a Lamp: the Lamp enclosed in Glass: the glass as it were a brilliant star: Lit from a blessed Tree, an Olive, neither of the east nor of the west, whose oil is well-nigh luminous, though fire scarce touched it: Light upon Light! Allah doth guide whom He will to His Light: Allah doth set forth Parables for men: and Allah doth know all things. (Qur'an 24:35).

**This is what makes Allah beyond comprehension.**

THEN WHAT FAVOUR HAS A BELIEVER LOST TO BE GIVEN AND WHAT EXCUSE SHALL A BELIEVER HAVE FOR IGNORANCE OR CARELESSNESS, NOT TO BE HOSTED IN THE HELL FIRE FOR AS LONG AS HE HAS FAILED HIMSELF?

**In numbers of bearing the identity of Muslim, how many are we in Nigeria?**

**How many of us have not heard of or associated ourselves with the Qur'an and Rasul (SAW)?**

**How many of us can afford copies of the Qur'an and the *Sirah* of Rasul (SAW)?**

**How many of us have read them or are reading them and learning from them with a teacher or on our own or both?**

**How many of us care to understand them and are satisfied with our understanding?**

**How many of us make deliberate efforts to live what we have understood?**

**How many of us have our individual, marriage, families, occupations and relationships driven by what we have understood?**

**How many of us are tasting the pleasure and satisfaction with our efforts?**

**How many of us have accordingly become beacons of our identity to fellow believers and non-Muslims?**

**How many of us consider the personal vision of Rasul (SAW) or righteousness as of priority interest and pursuit?**

**How many of us are making the identity of a Muslim attractive to non-Muslims and unbelievers for respect?**

**What are the growing evidences of *Rahma* and especially *Barakah*, in our individual lives and the effect or impact of the Ummah, in Nigeria?**

**What is the fair measure of Islamic or Believers or Muslims benefit to the collective Ummah and Nigerians in general? The effects of our participation in**

**the political, economic, sociological, professional, intellectual leadership, production and services that are making the history of Nigeria.**

**Is this measure the right capacity of the Imam, the Salat, the Fasting, the Zakat/Sadaqat, Hajj and the *Ihsan* given to us as the complete and perfect tools, for making our Ummah a model among mankind?**

**But this is what our parenthood, our scholars, our imams, our Islamic organizations and institutions have been able to do.**

**To be modest, it is abysmally shameful.**

**The deductible challenge is for believers who are followers, students but are not foolish ignorants, to observe the gaps, omissions, additions, twistings and whatever, which are more responsible for the weaknesses and failure capacities, of our leadership, services and relationships. The shifts to be identified must use the standards of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of Rasul (SAW) as the guide. And they can become the current priorities of our generation for useful recovery.**

**This will be the combination of jihad against self and definitions of the gaps responsible for our shameful, self-imposed but helpful circumstance.**

Allah does not change a people's lot unless they change what is in their hearts. (Qur'an 13:11).

**Hence, it is the beliefs that chart and drive the actions and orientation of a people that matters in the attraction of the pleasure and intervention of Allah or otherwise.**

**You cannot be right praying for a corrupt and oppressive leader to continue in office or to be succeeded by another, of no less questionable character, especially when identity knowledge and discipline is on a low ebb. This is more so, when the apparatus for leadership is weak and corrupt. If you do, you are not asking for good, because your foundation is faulty. Allah is pure and loves only what is good. It is even worse in the case of Nigeria, where the greatest challenge is hypocrisy and not lack of the knowledgeable.**

**This is why it is really more wasteful to increasingly invest in probes, investigations of petitions, prosecutions, forfeiting or recovery of sums, property, assets, imprisonments THAN REORIENTATION EDUCATION AND DISCIPLINE OF THE CITIZENS. But we have ignored the primary for the tertiary, even when the secondary, in the forms of human capital development and institutions building have not been giving us the expected results.**

**This is why along with the destruction of our lands with industrial inputs for agriculture as well as our animals and poultry, the hazards of health are compounded by sharp practices of misuse of industrial products on perishable farm products, by sellers. The farmers and sellers are strengthening companions to foods and drinks industries that pump really unhealthy products into us. And the circle of self destruction process is completed by the pharmaceutical industry that is similarly corrupt and expensive. How can and what amount of inspectorate/control systems reform these, for our health, regardless of the funds, structures, professionalisms? The most intelligent and cheapest path to our real responsible health is Foundation IDENTITY KNOWLEDGE AND DISCIPLINE of the citizens.**

**This is why for all the ongoing problems with security; we have been praying. Non-Muslims allege that Muslims are using religious factors to drive insecurity. Muslims and Christians are victims of the insecurities. Muslims have been fingered or even established to have connections with insurgents and kidnappers. Muslims and non-Muslims have been arrested for insecurity activities. Security operations and some top officials have been fingered to be collaborating with the criminals. Security operations have been bursting some of the intended activities, destroying some of the criminals and arresting some of them. Budgets, appropriation and expenditure on security have been increasing in manifolds. But we have not been even responsive enough to overcome the challenges.**

When our resources, health and security are compromised because of our bankruptcy or carelessness in our identity knowledge and discipline, how can we expect anything better than we are now having and its build up? Historical process cannot be neutral. It is either driven by the identity knowledge and discipline of the men or their carelessness. The continuum is between what is intelligent and what is foolish.

Narrated Ali ibn Abi Talib: The Prophet (SAW) said, "The good deeds are made easy for the blessed, and bad deeds are made easy for the wretched." (Bukhari).

**May our lot not be among the wretched. Amen.**

**With our present livelihood run by systems, characterized by institutions, structures and processes, it can be self helpful to join efforts for collective good, just as it can be self destructive to be careless or neutral, that will continue to boost the capacity and performance of the present champions of our misfortunes.**

To each is a goal to which Allah turns him; then strive together (as in a race) towards all that is good. Wheresoever ye are, Allah will bring you together. For Allah Hath power over all things. (Qur'an 2:148).