

Allamah Sayyid Sa'eed Akhtar Rizvi

Your Questions

Answered

VOLUME

ONE

xkp

Your Questions Answered - Volume 1

Allamah Sayyid Sa'eed Akhtar Rizvi - XKP

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Chapter 1

PREFACE TO THE 2ND EDITION

The first edition of this book, although poorly-printed, proved very popular and all copies were sold out in record time. Ayatullah Seyyid Mohammad Mahdi AI-Husaini Shirazi, Muftahid(Kuwait), and other scholars highly appreciated the book. Some parts were reprinted in the Muslim Review Madrasatul-Waezeen, Lucknow (India).

Encouraged by this the Mission is reprinting it by offset process on good-quality paper; the typeface is sure to please the discerning taste.

The first edition contained replies to 142 questions; but some replies only referred the questioner to some books or articles without conveying any detail. Such questions have been omitted from this edition, which now contains 131 replies.

Also, the first edition contained names of the correspondents which have been deleted from this edition, except where the name was thought necessary.

Our readers will be glad to learn that the second volume of this book is already in press; and the third volume has been compiled, and is expected to be published in 1976, Insha-Allah.

The mission is grateful to Mr Murtaza A. Bandali for his assistance in checking the proof.

Seyyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi.

DAR-ES-SALAAM

1st August, 1975.

Chapter 2

What is Islam?

Joseph Mwambwa, Mombasa, Kenya.

A. Islam is to believe and accept that there is none to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad His Messenger. It means that one MUST believe in and accept all that has been brought by Muhammad (s.a.w.w.). For details, see "Islam" obtainable from this Mission.

Chapter 3

Why are you a Muslim?

A. I am a Muslim because I realise that: First of all, religion is the most essential thing to develop man into a perfect human being. And secondly, I have come to the conclusion, after a thorough study of the world religions, that only Islam is the perfect, sensible and well-balanced religion in the world.

Chapter 4

What is the Best Religion in this World?

A. Islam is the only perfect religion in this world. See for details the booklet "Need Religion" published by this Mission.

Chapter 5

Who Started the Religion of Islam?

A. Islam is a religion which was originally brought in this world by Hazrat Adam (A.S.). All the prophets have been following the same religion (e.g. One God, Day of Resurrection, etc.) but the actual laws of religion differed from time to time depending upon the time of respective prophets. The last Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W.) brought the same religion, which is commonly known as 'ISLAM' today. There will be no Prophet after him. Therefore, Islam is the first and last religion having been started by Hazrat Adam (A.S.) and perfected by our Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W.).

Chapter 6

What is the Basis of Faith and What role does it Play in our Lives?

A. About basis of faith: In our theology, Reason is the basis of faith. Here we differ completely from the Christianity whose motto is "First believe, then you will understand". But we say "First understand then believe". The role which our faith plays in our lives is very comprehensive and prevalent. Muslim's faith governs all his religious, ethical, social, and financial and family activities. It is not like Christianity in which the hold of religion on a Christian's life is limited to a few minutes of Sunday mornings when he attends the church.

Chapter 7

Where can I go to register myself as a Muslim and am I allowed to be a Muslim since I like the Religion Very Much.

Miss Mary Oyoo, Mombasa, Kenya.

A. If you have studied the tenets of Islam and are convinced of its truth, there is no need to get your name registered anywhere. Islam is the only religion which establishes a direct relationship between human being and God. There is no organised clergy or priest-hood as in Christianity; there is no forgiving of sins by priests; no dispensation and nothing to show that you depend on some human being for the salvation of your soul. If you are convinced about the truth of Islam and if you recite the following sentences with conviction, you are a Muslim without any need of any witness or priest registration.

"I BEAR WITNESS THAT THERE IS NO GOD (OR NONE TO BE WORSHIPED) EXCEPT ALLAH, AND I BEAR WITNESS THAT MUHAMMAD IS THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH".

Chapter 8

What should we do if we want to be the most God-Fearing Person?

A. The most God-fearing person these days is the one who obeys all the commands of God and abstains from all forbidden things

Chapter 9

What should we do if we want to be the Richest of People?

A. The richest person is he who is the most perfect in faith.

What Should we do if we want to be the Faithful?

A. The faithful (i.e.): Faith() has been defined as "Firm belief, declaration by tongue and Action according to the commands of Allah.

Here I seek some question on Islam. I think of a man, who sincerely believes in all the fundamentals and professes them in words but he neither observes prayer nor performs pilgrimage. Would it be right to call him a true Muslim?

A. Your question concerns the relationship between 'Iman' and 'Good Deeds'. Iman is likened to the flame of a lamp, and worship of Allah and good deeds are like its light. The stronger the flame of the lamp, the brighter its light. Likewise, the stronger the Iman the better and more sincere the worship of Allah and more virtuous good deeds. If a person is slow in worship and good deeds, it means that his Iman is weak. If he does not worship Allah and performs no good deeds at all his claim of Iman is like a claim that a lamp is burning while the whole room (walls, floor, roof, furniture) is absolutely dark.

How many Muslims are in the World and where is the Headquarter?

A. There is no authentic figure available. But it is estimated that there are between 650 and 750 million Muslims in the world. There is no headquarter if you mean something on the lines of the Vatican. But the holy places of Islam are in Mecca and Medina (Saudi Arabia), Najaf, Kerbalain, Kadhimain and Samarra (Iraq), Damascus (Syria) and Masjid-ul-Aqsa (Jerusalem).

The other day my cousin asked me what proof have we got that Islam is the true religion. I told him that the Qur'an proves it. But he said that even Christians have Bible for their own proof. How Should I Reply Him?

A. Your approach to that question was wrong and it gave your cousin the chance to object in the way he objected.

According to Shia Ithna-Asheri faith, the matters of belief (known commonly as Usul-e-Deen) must be understood through reason and intellect. When a person has accepted by logical reasoning that there is a Creator who is Omnipotent, Omni-scient, Omni-present; that He is Just and Loves His creature; that because of that Justice and Love, He cannot leave mankind without a Guide; and that the Last of those guides was our Holy Prophet (S.A.W.W.) who brought Islam and Qur'an, then, and only then, may we argue with him on the strength of Qur'an and Hadith.

Otherwise, if he does not believe in God (or the Holy Prophet), you cannot expect him to accept the verdict of Qur'an and Hadiths.

You have been sent 5 units of the Islamic Correspondence course. You may show them to your cousin and he may find the answer to his problems in them.

If after carefully reading those books, he wants more clarification, he or you may write to me,

All religions believe in God. So do I. But where did God come from?

A. God did not come from anywhere. He is "Self-existent"; therefore, His existence cannot be limited by "from" and "to". He is forever.

Other things sometimes exist, sometimes do not exist. We may ask about these things "when", "how" or "where from" did they come into being.

Does our Ithna-Asheri faith accept the theory of evolution, i.e., we were not created at an instant, but were evolved?

A. First let it be clear that our faith is based on the "belief in the Creator". If evolution means that Allah created different things in stages, there is not much conflict with religion. If, on the other hand, evolution means that there is no creator and that the things came into being just by progress of matter, then it is naked "Kufr" (atheism) and our faith cannot tolerate it even for an instant.

Does this verse support human evolution? “And surely He has made you Fashion after Fashion”. (71:14).

A. The translation of ayat given by you is wrong. It is translated by Abdullah Yusuf Ali as :“Seeing that it is He that has created you in diverse stages

”Mir Ahmad Ali translates it :- “While indeed He created you through regular stages.”

And the meaning of "in diverse stages" or "through regular stages" is explained by Aamma(a.s.) as reference to the various stages a foetus passes through, which has been shortly described in Qur'an (23: 5) :-

"O' people! if you be in doubt about (your) rising again (resurrection), then (reflect ye that) verily We created you from dust, then from sperm, then from a clot, then from a lump of flesh, formed and (sometimes) partly unformed, that we may manifest (our power) unto you, and We cause to stay in the womb what We will until an appointed term, then bring ye forth as babes, then (foster you) that ye reach your maturity; and of you is he who is caused to die, and of you is he who is brought back to the feeblest (stage of) old age that he knoweth not aught after knowing (much)".

In another Ayat, it is described thus :-"

And indeed We created man, from an extract of clay. Then we made him sperm, in a firm resting place. Then made We the sperm a clot, then made We in the lump of flesh bones, then clothed We the bones with flesh; then We did grow it into another creation; so Blessed be God, the Best of the creators (23:13-15).

If you are interested to know the Islamic view of the hypothesis of evolution, you will find it explained in "Need of Religion" and "God of Islam", both published by this Mission.

About how many years ago, Nabii Adam was created?

A. We have not been informed of it in the Traditions of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.W.) or Imams(A.S.).

How can I be convinced that Allah was the God which Muhammad preached?

A. Well, open any page of the Qur'an and you will find the name "Allah" mentioned in several times. Once a Hindu friend of mine happened to look at an English translation of the Qur'an and said, "It is safe to say that the key word of this book is "Allah"

The Kalema which the Holy Prophet preached contains the name "Allah" twice in the two short sentences. What more proof can anyone demand?

Why does God Exist?

A. Your question is misplaced. God is "Self-existent" therefore His existence cannot be questioned. Other things sometimes exist, sometimes do not exist; a few years ago you were not there, now you exist; after some years your existence will come to an end. We may ask about such things why do they exist. Their "being" needs a creator; without a force to cause them "to be" they cannot come into existence.

Therefore, it is quite right to ask the cause of the existence of other things; but God is Existent Himself and we cannot ask "why" does He exist.

Why have we been Created?

A. Allah says in the Qur'an :-

"And I did not create Jin and Human Beings but so that they worship me". The Maarifat(knowledge of Allah and then obeying His Will and Command is included in the word"Worship"

How far away from the Earth is the Moon?

A. The average distance of moon from the earth Is estimated to be 238,860 miles.

I believe God is nature; that means that nature is God. Is it right?

A. The answer is "NO" — Nature is a created thing and God is its Creator. The two cannot be the same.

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