

Islam Condemns Hypocrisy

Introduction:

Hypocrisy is a disease of the soul, which can be cured, provided the person practising hypocrisy is honestly determined to rid his soul of hypocrisy. Some people are so deeply entrenched in extended practices of hypocrisy, that they are really not aware of it and assume hypocrisy is part of natural philosophy of life.

Discussion on Classifications of Hypocrisy:

1) In broadness of classifications of hypocrisy, one of the most serious hypocrisies of all times (1st level) has been shallow statements by some people that they believe in the Oneness of Almighty God, when in fact they do not and they invest their spiritual beliefs into other considerations¹. The next serious hypocrisy (2nd level) is against all the prophets of Almighty God. There were 124,000 past prophets². In almost all cases, hypocritical people deceptively stated to the prophets that they believed in those prophets, but in fact they secretly conspired³ against the prophets and teamed up with those who were rejecting and opposing the prophets. These hypocritical people do not understand that those prophets, who directly served their communities, were in those roles as ambassadors of Almighty God. The third category (3rd level) of practitioners of hypocrisy were people against common people regardless of status, because of social reasons. This third classification is perhaps the widest in practice and includes amongst others, community leaders, religious leaders, workers' leaders, rebel leaders and political leaders in almost every country. These leaders have widespread desired impact upon their communities, whether or not the messages they deliver are truthful. In almost all cases of normal persons, the guardian

¹ In the main, other considerations refer to idolatry, polytheism, astrology and witchcraft.

² From names of Prophet Adam to Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*), a total of 124,000 Prophets (*Nabi*) were ordained by Divine revelations, but directly delivered to them by Archangel Gabriel, as spiritually contracted. Out of 124,000 Prophets, only 313 are Messengers (*Rasul*). Out of 313 Messengers, only 25 have been mentioned by name in the Holy Qur'an. Note: that every Messenger (*Rasul*) is also a Prophet, but every Prophet (*Nabi*) is not a Messenger. All of these 124,000 prophets were regular human beings who must eat food, drink water, breath air and need atmospheric pressure to stay alive. The figure of 124,000 prophets is quoted in Hadith No 21257 of *Musnad ibn Hanbal*. Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) was the Last and Final Prophet and after his death in 632AD, that sealed off all prophets of any description whatsoever being ordained by Divine revelations, to serve humanity on Earth. This is stated in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ33:40** "*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 is ever Knower of all things.*" Seal means total shutting off arrival of any prophet of whatsoever description: No new prophet and no re-entry of any of the past 124,000 prophets will eventuate.

³ A classic example is the hypocrisy of Jews and Rabbis against their last Israelite prophet, Jesus Christ, which led to his being tried by the Roman Government, under their official Roman state religion of Mithraism at that time. Jesus Christ was also a Jew. The biased trial of Jesus Christ proceeded with Jews and their Rabbis as witnesses. Those Jews and Rabbis (as witnesses) were never cross-examined. The Jews succeeded in their hypocrisy, leading to crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which brought much joyous satisfaction to the hypocritical mobs.

angels will always internally inspire people⁴ to do the right thing; notwithstanding, hypocrites will ignore wilfully and then do the wrong thing.

2) There are at least 28 verses in the Holy Qur'an, which directly condemn hypocrisy (plus a few more verses, depending on one's interpretations). The ultimate destiny of all hypocrites is in the midst of the great Fire of hell. It is considered imperative that each of these three categories is sequentially identified in the Holy Qur'an and then analysed.

3) According to the Holy Qur'an, in the most serious cases (1st level), mankind will state superficially to please others that they (the hypocrites) believe in absolute Oneness of Almighty God and the Great Day of Judgement, whereas in fact they do neither. These hypocrites strive to deceive Almighty God, so as to please their hypocritical contemporaries on Earth⁵. When the hypocrites congregate for prayers, they do so sluggishly with no real spiritual discipline and mind-set, but they do so just to show their visual presence at such prayer gatherings. The Holy Qur'an warns mankind that Almighty God will never assist such hypocrites, but leave them in error.

4) Here are two supportive material quotations from the Holy Qur'an at **HQ2:8-10** *"And there are some people who say: We believe in Allah and the Last Day; and they are not believers. They seek to deceive Allah and those who believe, and they deceive only themselves and they do not perceive. In their hearts is a disease, so Allah increased their disease, and for them is a painful punishment because they lie."* **HQ4:142-143** *"The hypocrites seek to deceive Allah, and He will pay them back their deceit. And when they stand up for prayer, they stand up sluggishly — they do it only to be seen by people and they remember Allah but little, wavering between that (and this) — (belonging) neither to these nor to those. And whomsoever Allah leaves in error, you will not find a way for him."*

5) The next serious hypocrisy (2nd level), is that the Holy Qur'an warned the prophets to steer clear from disbelievers and hypocrites, with a tag that Almighty God knows the hypocrites best in actuality; and Almighty God is Wise. Almighty God alerts His prophets that the hypocrites are surely liars. Further, Almighty God counsels those prophets that He will encounter the hypocrites on the Great Day of Judgement and He will then deliver them the punishment due to theirs being hypocrites. The

⁴ The Holy Qur'an explains succinctly the role of guardian angles, always internally inspiring people to do the right thing, whilst at same time the devil is also striving to mislead humanity contrary to the that inspiration. This deeply seated explanation is in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ2:177** *"It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards the East and the West, but righteous is the one who believes in Allah, and the Last Day, and the angels and the Book and the prophets, and gives away wealth out of love for Him to the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the traveller and to those who ask and to set slaves free and keeps up prayer and gives the due charity; and the performers of their promise when they make a promise, and the patient in distress and affliction and in the time of conflict. These are they who are truthful; and these are they who keep their duty."*

⁵ This is known as visible comparatives. Hypocrites can actually see their contemporaries and are ready to take sides with them, as they are afraid of them. Whereas these hypocrites cannot see Almighty God, do not fear Him and tell lies.

next two exactly appropriate quotations from the Holy Qur'an demonstrate the lowliness of hypocrites at **HQ33:1** *"O Prophet, keep your duty to Allah and do not obey the disbelievers and the hypocrites."* **HQ63:1** *"When the hypocrites come to you, they say: We bear witness that you are indeed Allah's Messenger. And Allah knows you are indeed His Messenger. And Allah bears witness that the hypocrites are surely liars."*

6) The most widely practised and third category (3rd level) of hypocrisy, is as the Holy Qur'an reports that Almighty God clarifies to communities in the Middle East, to whom were revealed their previous Holy Scriptures⁶ before Islam's Holy Qur'an. They are also warned that the hypocrites will take advantage of circumstances and slyly take sides with them; but Almighty God warns that He knows best that the hypocrites are surely liars and will not keep to their words. It is indeed most saddening at what so many of the past prophets had to endure with hypocrites.

7) The next three supportive quotations in the Holy Qur'an reveal historical lowliness and untrustworthiness of common hypocrites at **HQ9:75-78** *"And some of them made a covenant with Allah: If He give us out of His grace, we will certainly give in charity and be of the righteous. But when He gave them out of His grace, they became miserly with it and they turned away and they are averse. So He repaid them with hypocrisy in their hearts till the day when they meet Him, because they broke their promise with Allah and because they lied. Do they not know that Allah knows their hidden thoughts and their secret counsels, and that Allah is the great Knower of the unseen things?"* **HQ9:101** *"And some of the dwellers of the desert around you are hypocrites; and some of the people of Madinah (also) — they persist in hypocrisy. You do not know them; We know them. We will punish them twice, then they will be turned back to a severe punishment."* **HQ59:11** *"Have you not seen the hypocrites? They say to their brethren who disbelieve from among the People of the Book: If you are expelled, we certainly will go forth with you, and we will never obey anyone concerning you; and if you are fought against, we will certainly help you. And Allah bears witness that they surely are liars."*

8) The Holy Qur'an has clearly identified and described the destiny of hypocrites. The destiny of hypocrites who are undeniably inclusive of and described as a classification of collective hypocrites, comprising both men and women, and who are all alike. They enjoin evil and forbid good and withhold their hands. The hypocrites have forsaken Almighty God and He has forsaken them. Surely the hypocrites are the transgressors. Almighty God promises the hypocrites, both men and women, and the disbelievers that they will remain within the Fire of hell for as long as He wants them to be. It is enough for them! And Almighty God summons them and then He decrees

⁶ Examples of previous scriptures revealed in Middle East were the Torah of Jews, the Zabur of the Sabeans (also called Psalms of David), and the Injeel of Jesus Christ.

that for them are lasting punishments. This roll out of events has been decreed in the Holy Qur'an at **HQ9:67-68** *"The hypocrites, men and women, are all alike. They enjoin evil and forbid good and withhold their hands. They have forsaken Allah, so He has forsaken them. Surely the hypocrites are the transgressors. Allah promises the hypocrites, men and women, and the disbelievers the Fire of hell to abide in it. It is enough for them. And Allah curses them, and for them is a lasting punishment."*

9) Almighty God warns the rest of humanity, whether they plead forgiveness for the hypocrites or not plead forgiveness for them, it makes no difference. Even if all communities pleaded forgiveness for the hypocrites seventy times, Almighty God will still not forgive the hypocrites. This is because the hypocrites disbelieved in the absolute Oneness of Almighty God.

10) Then Almighty God seals off the fate of hypocrites that they shall surely be in the lowest depths of the Fire of hell, and all others will not find any helper for those hypocrites scorching in hell.

11) The Holy Qur'an has sanctioned their fate at the next three aptly concluding verses at **HQ9:80** *"Ask forgiveness for them or do not ask forgiveness for them. Even if you ask forgiveness for them seventy times, Allah will not forgive them. This is because they disbelieve in Allah and His Messenger. And Allah does not guide the transgressing people."* **HQ66:9** *"O Prophet, strive against the disbelievers and the hypocrites, and remain firm against them, and their abode is hell; and evil is the destination."* **HQ4:145** *"The hypocrites are surely in the lowest depths of the Fire, and you will find no helper for them..."*

Conclusions with Recommendations:

- a) Addressees should impart this information to those others who may need to understand that hypocrisy is deliberate and wilful falsehood.
- b) Hypocrisy is so widespread that it is not easy to detect a hypocritical person from a non-hypocritical one and as result, brings about instability in common society in all counties and in all walks of life.
- c) All people must reach an understanding about falsehood resulting from hypocrisy and at least attempt to reduce hypocrisy.
- d) People must also understand that practising honesty in all aspects of life is a pathway in reducing hypocrisy.
- e) Parents must coach their children and dependents emphatically, that hypocrisy is an evil habit and they must commence and practise honesty at times.

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