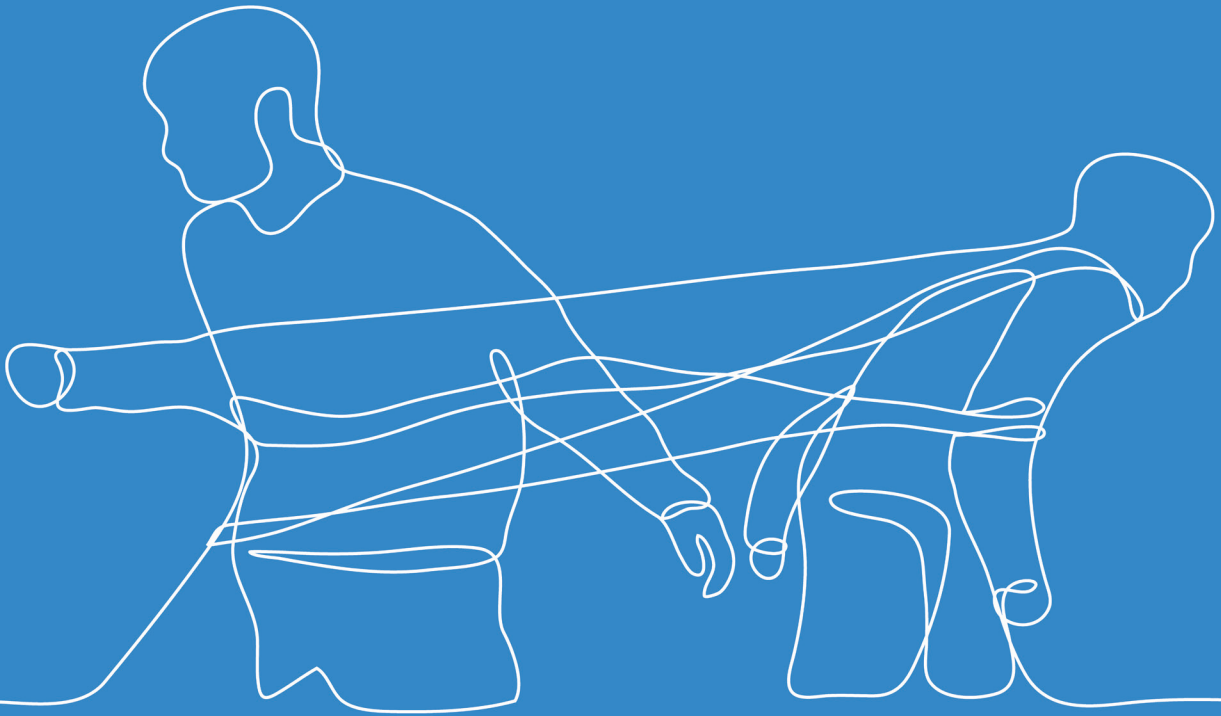


What Should Be the Attitude of Muslims Towards Disrespectfulness to the Sacred Values of Islam?





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INSPIRING MEETINGS — 6

Thursday, November 12, 2020 - İSTANBUL

International Youth Association / Üsküdar

TOPIC:

What Should Be the Attitude of Muslims Towards Disrespectfulness to the Sacred Values of İslam?

During the 15- year journey of GENÇ, we have been in contact and communicating with thousands of our young friends, we have made substantial solidarity in the name of competitions in charity, international voyages, projects, conferences, trainings, camps, feasts, panels, etc. We came together on various occasions.

With the title of “Inspiring Meetings”, we hope to get together with the Young Volunteers and brainstorm on issues we deem important and necessary about youth. We discuss youth-related issues thoroughly at every meeting with young volunteers at undergraduate, graduate and doctorate levels who study at different universities. In order to preserve our diversity and colorfulness, the participants are different at each meeting, volunteers from various NGOs meet with us and a different agenda is discussed.

On November 12, the sixth Inspiring Meetings took place, and our agenda was “disrespecting towards İslam and our sacred values”, which we have encountered on a global scale for a long time. In this context, we especially search for the answers to the following questions: What should be the attitude of the Muslim youth against the attacks targeting our Prophet (PBUH)? What should be the responsibility of Muslim individuals, societies and states?

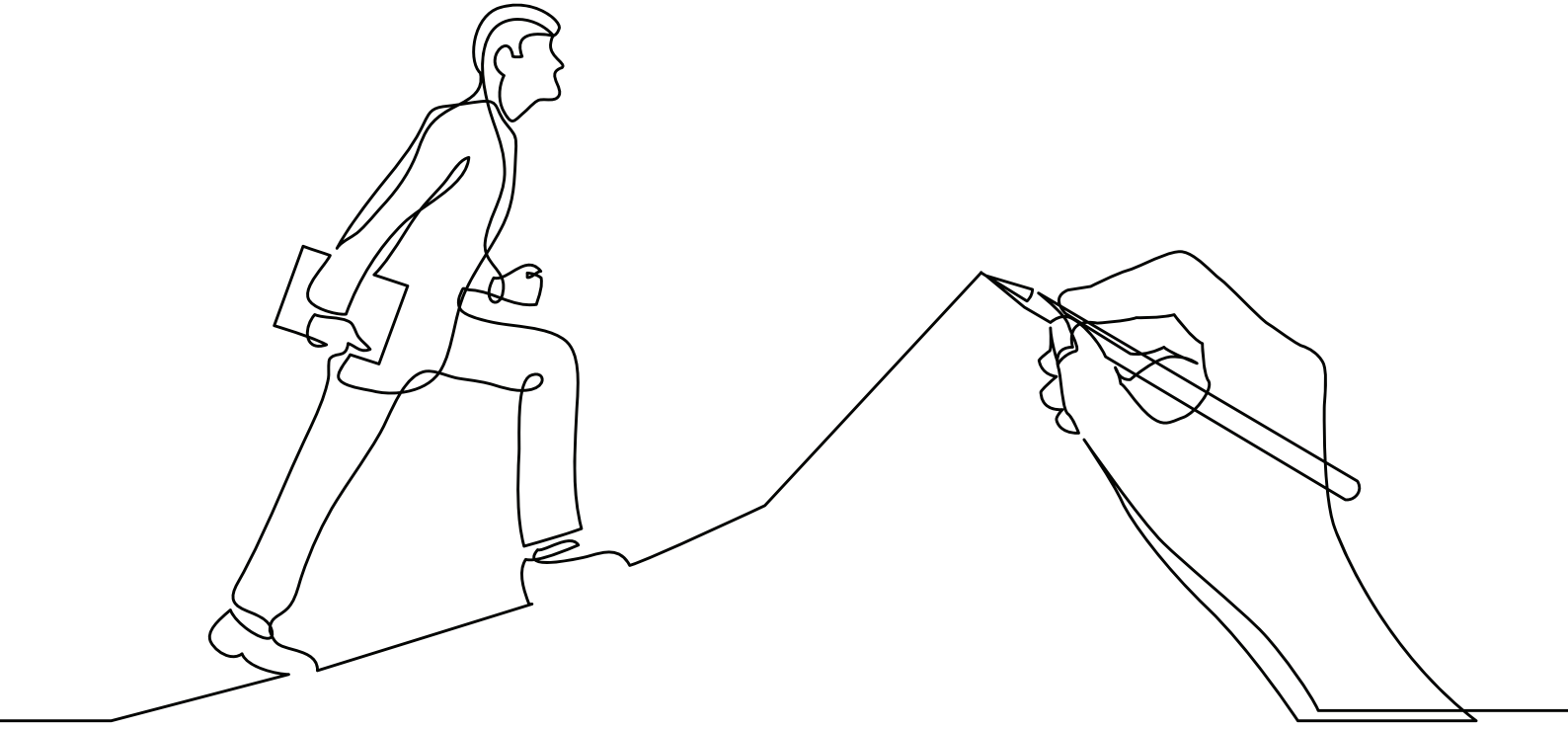
Each participant fellow declared their minds, there was an exchange of ideas. We would like to share some of the notes compiled at the meeting with the public, with the intention of being a means of charitable contributions.

Süleyman Ragıp Yazıcılar

President of the International Youth Association

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

There has been intense anti-Islam propaganda on a global scale for a long time. Especially the recent attacks targeting the Prophet (PBUH) clearly reveal this hostility. What kind of attitude should we, as Muslims, behave in the face of such attacks? What actions can states, societies and individuals take?



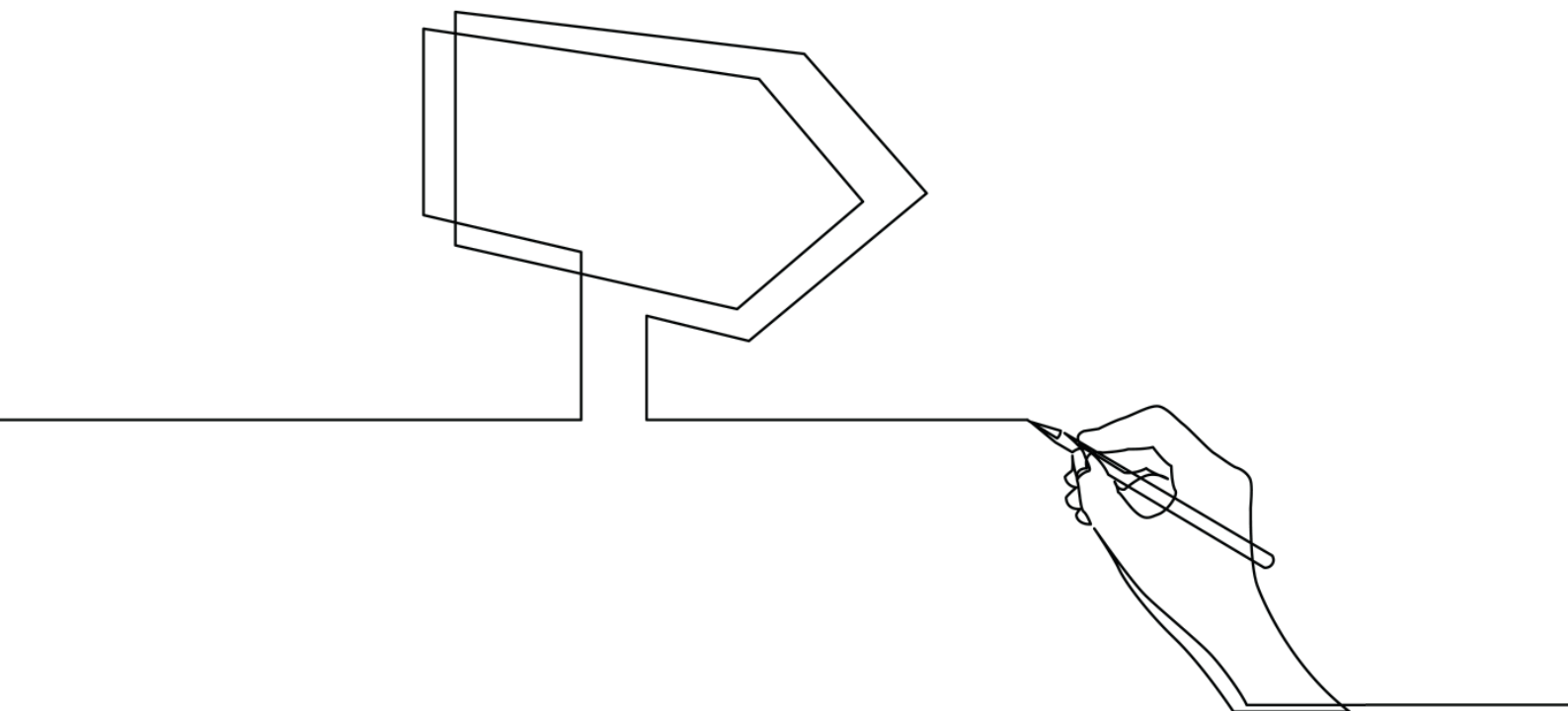
DEEP ROOTS

The roots of such problems we face today are actually quite old. It does not seem possible to make sense of the situation we are in by only considering the current and recent history.

For this reason, it is important that we do an archaeological reading. Although this reading is also valid for the prophets before Prohphet Muhammad (PBUH), we can understand the situation clearly if we look at the last 14 centuries.

During the first period of Islam, there was a constant intellectual and physical struggle of Muslims with Jewish, Christian and polytheist nations. In the following years, we see that the Islamic lands, which experienced a very rapid expansion period, reached from the west of Europe to the Great Wall.

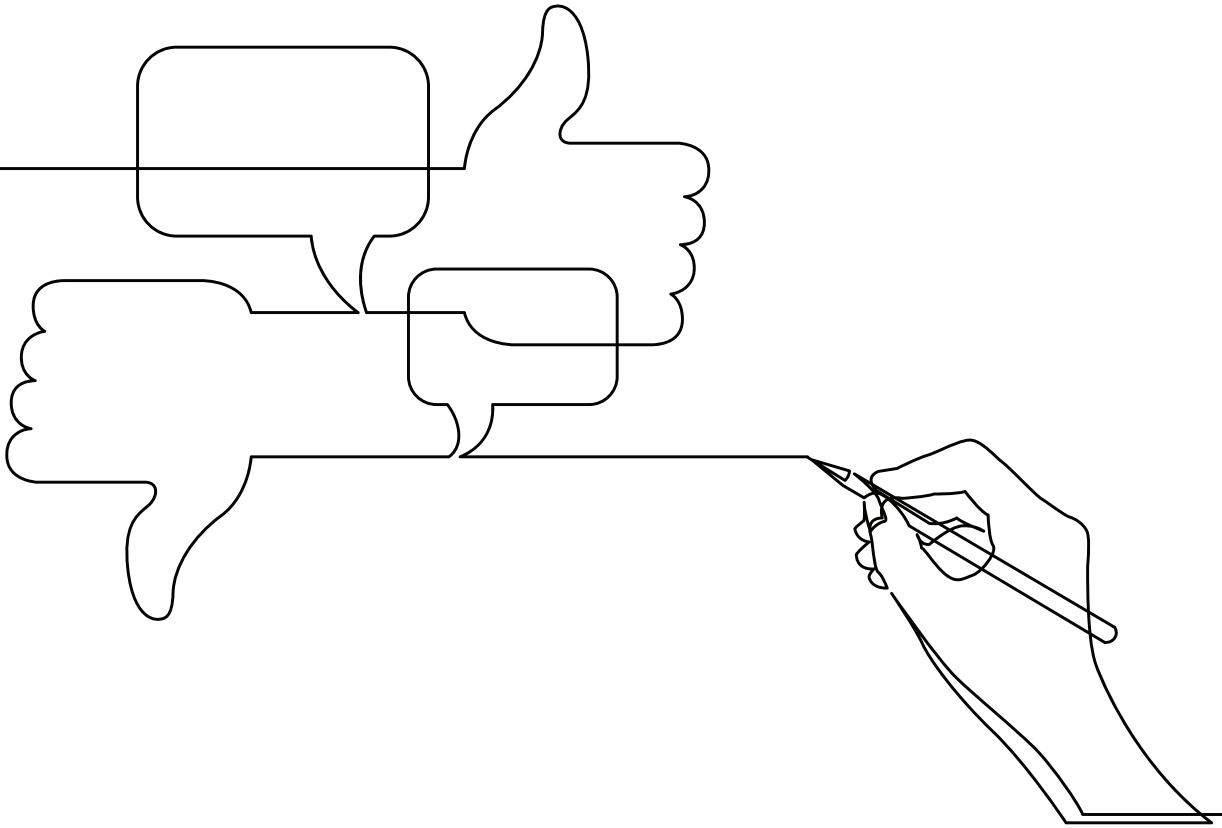
Historical figures such as the Umayyad State of Andalusia, which had the ideal of establishing a pioneering civilization in Europe for 400 years, the Ayyubids who took Jerusalem back from the Crusaders, and the Ottoman Empire reaching to the gates of Vienna, have been in the subconscious of the whole West.



A NATURAL PREJUDICE

To be honest, we exist as Muslims in the lands where Christianity and Judaism were born and reached their peak. Jerusalem, which is considered sacred to the three heavenly religions, have a Muslim identity even when the Jews are the strongest.

Likewise, Turks have been living in Anatolia for centuries, where the foundations of Christianity were laid and which have extremely sacred shrines. Therefore, it is quite natural that they have an inherent prejudice against us. For example, if Christians or Jews had come to Mecca and Medina and ruled there, maybe we could have the same prejudice.



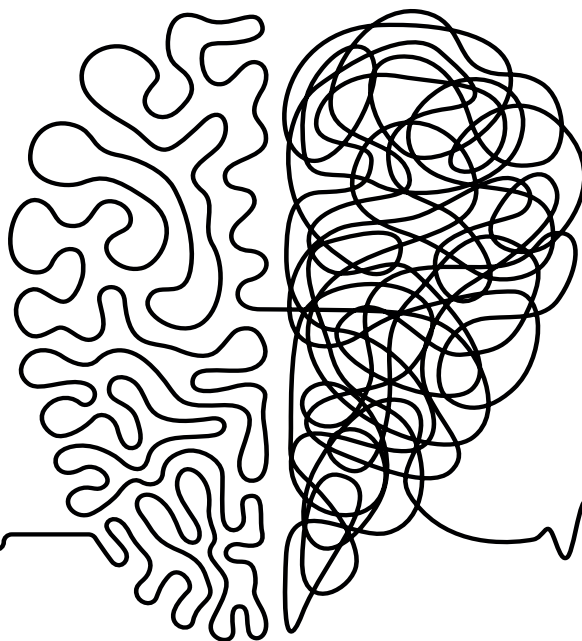
THERE IS A CUMULATIVE GRUDGE, A SUBCONSCIOUS HAS BEEN BUILDING FOR CENTURIES

For example, there is a man named John of Damascus who lived in the 8th century. An Arab Christian also known as the last master of the Church. He sees Islam and Muslims as natural enemies of Christians. Dante Alighieri, who lived in the fourteenth century, portrays our Prophet as a person who suffered torment at the bottom of hell in his “Divine Comedy”.

Another example, they cite Our Prophet (PBUH) as an example of imposter in one of the old French dictionaries.

Martin Luther sees Islam as a calamity sent directly upon the Christianity. There may be hundreds of examples like this one. Racist expressions that we see explicitly in most western philosophers also affecting minds constantly.

However, the West is in a great crisis of meaning of life. Despite their constant search, they cannot turn to Islam because they are afraid. There is an enmity towards Islam placed in their subconscious. That's also one of the main reasons of these are the philosophers who are the leading architects of Western Civilisation.



GOETHE ASIDE

Although we have told about the West and westerners as they are all against Islam, there are some people who are not to be injustice with. First of all is Wolfgang von Goethe, who we all know whether well or not.

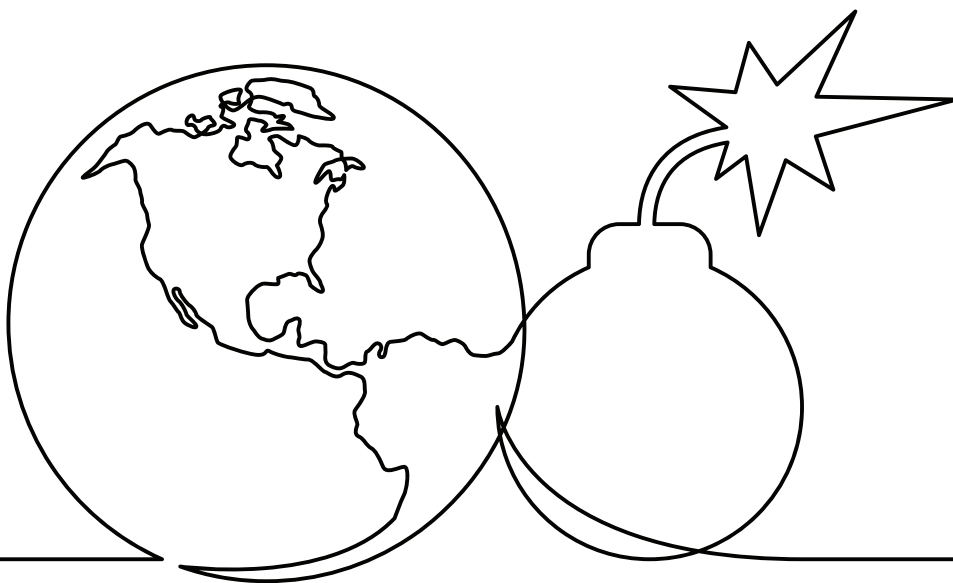
Goethe, in his famous “Mahomet’s Gesang” “Mahomet’s Song” uses a metaphor in order to express his ideas about Islam as starting from the smallest beginning and growing to be an immense spiritual power, expanding, unfolding, and gloriously ending in the ocean, the symbol for divinity. Additionally, he identifies our Prophet as the Spirit of the East.



TOTAL HEATHENISE POLICY?

Today, perhaps we just want to talk about Islamophobia, but we should not ignore this fact. The Renaissance that took place in Europe in the fourteenth century was not an anti-Islam event, but an anti-Christian event. Since then, a continuous policy of secularization has been pursued in the Western world.

In history, turning points such as the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution caused the West to break away from its religious foundations and turn to science. In the modern West today, the perception it carries out through digital platforms such as Netflix, Amazon etc. can also be interpreted as a fight against the concept of religion. The dominant system is hostile not only to Muslims, but also to non-Muslims who want to live a religious life.

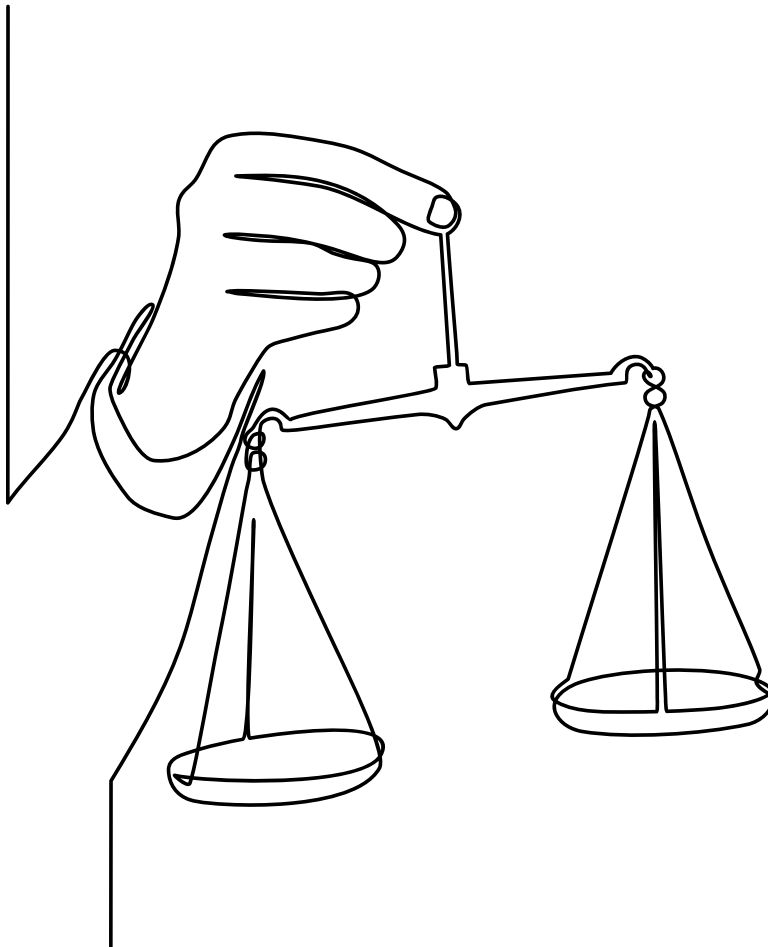


ISLAM HAS A CLAIM!

We have mentioned above that a global heathenise policy is being pursued, but it is a fact that we see Islam as the first target in this dirty fight. The reason for this is also obvious.

Today, the understanding of Christianity and Judaism does not seem to conflict much with the principles that Western civilization wants to spread to the whole world. Two highly corrupted religious understandings are unable to react against the West. The current states of Far Eastern religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Shintoism are also in the open.

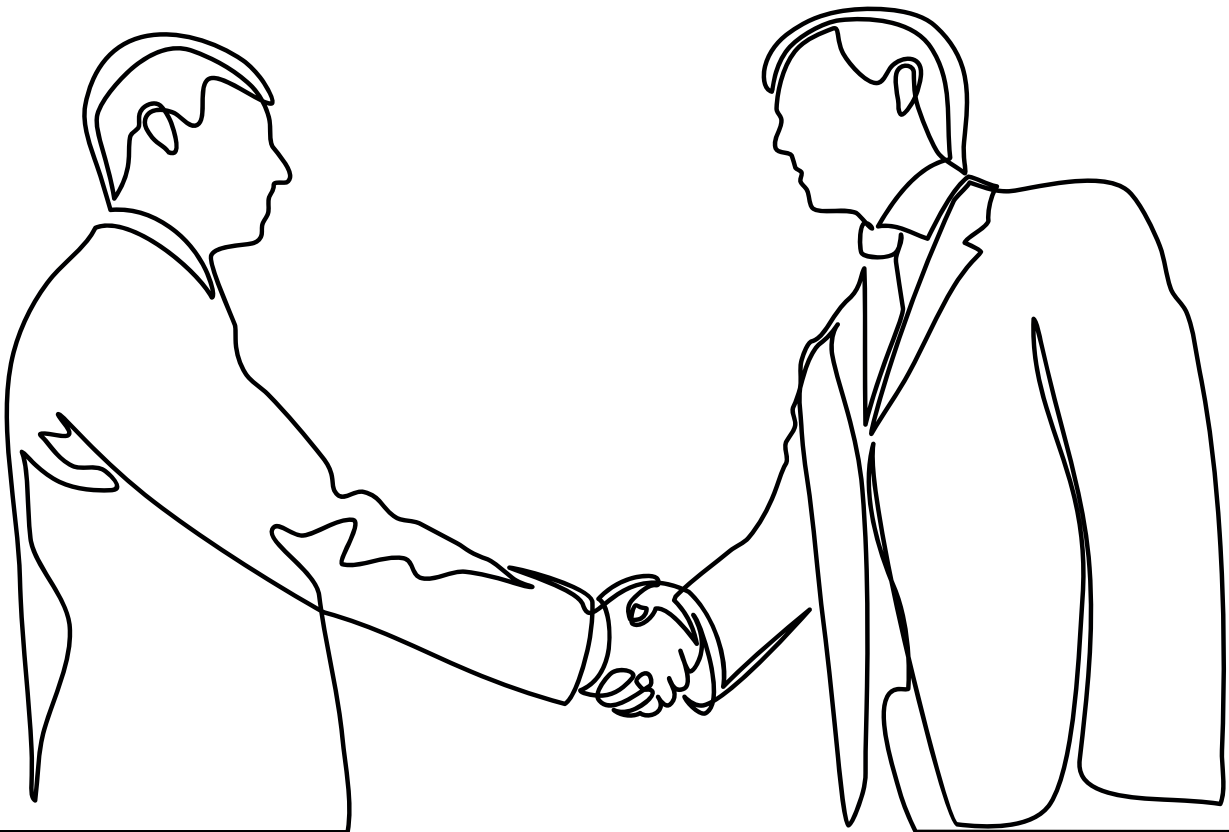
Purely and simply, Islam remains. Islam still has a claim after one thousand and four hundred years. Islam still rebelling against the whole system of oppression established and strives not to be a prisoner of modernity. It promises a fair order to the whole world. Therefore, it would be illogical to have any other target rather than Islam.



WE BECOME DEFINED WHEN WE DO NOT DEFINE OURSELVES

Unfortunately, the Islamic world is faced with a reality called orientalism. Orientalism is the general name of the works of Western intellectuals, academicians or travelers on the Eastern geography, more precisely, the lands where Islam is lived.

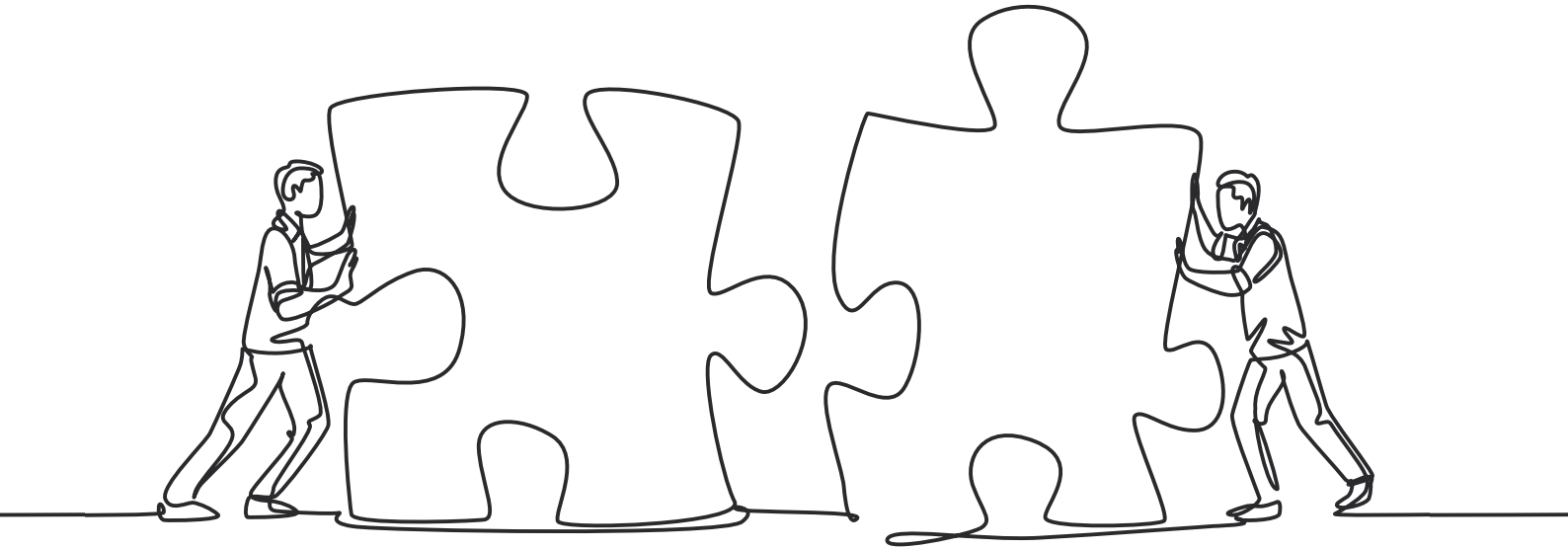
Westerners have increased their research significantly after they have gained knowledge. They made important research on these soils in theory and in the field. What were the reasons for all this? Why, for example, should a man get up from England and do research in the Arabian deserts or in different Islamic lands, or rather suffer? The need of defining is in their souls.



Knowing your enemy is the main rule of war, because you cannot fight against what you cannot define. Therefore, at the end of all these processes, we have given our consent to the concepts of Western science, their measurements and even the definitions that they are using.

Orientalists' research on Islamic societies is often based on some prejudices and misconceptions. One of the biggest mistakes made in this regard is trying to define the religion through texts. However, Islam is a religion that is to be lived, not just reading a text. Those who follow this religion did not just take the Qur'an and try to understand it. If that were the case, Allah would have been able to send the Qur'an directly to people without the help of the prophet. This religion only makes sense with its Prophet.

After such intense orientalist studies, we approach theology from an Islamophobic perspective, even as a Christian, Jewish or Muslim theologian. Especially after the nineteenth century, westerners even managed to be included in our religious texts. They even entered hadith texts, tafsir texts. The hadith transcription system we still use was set up by them. Therefore, an Islamic religion that is defined by Westerners in the modern period.



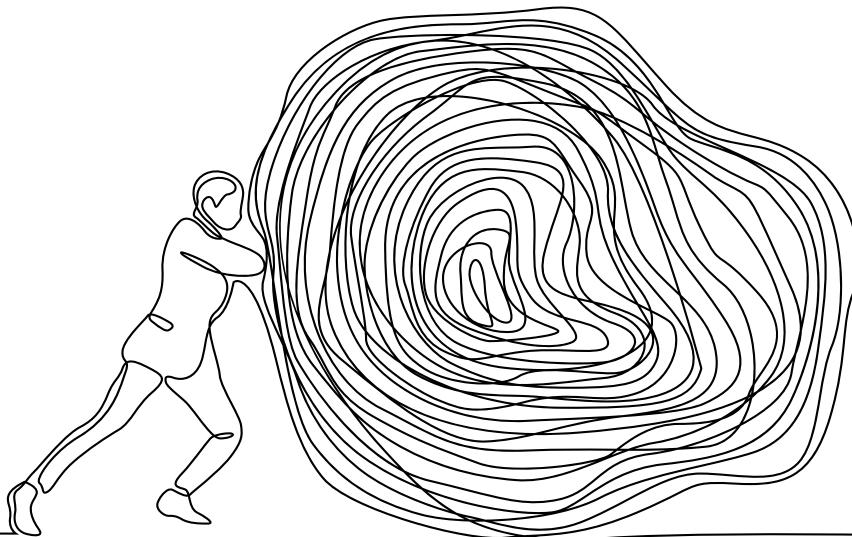
THE PERISHMENT SCREAM OF THE WEST

We have a leading Western civilization for centuries. When we look at Reform, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Industrial Revolution, capitalism, modernism, post-modernism, and so on, we see that the West has consumed everything it has.

From the very beginning, it was desired to build a culture on consumption. As a result, they had a truth left in their hands, and it ran out at last. There is a West now, like a truck with no brakes, tearing down the people around it.

How far-sighted Nietzsche was when he said “God is dead” 150 years ago, it is amazing. God served as the link that held together the whole West, its culture, civilization, and history, but it is unlinked now. Right now, there is a move towards nothingness. We do not think that there will be such a thing as progress and decline between these two civilizations again. It seems that West will roll off the cliff and disappear and Islam will evolve as the only truth.

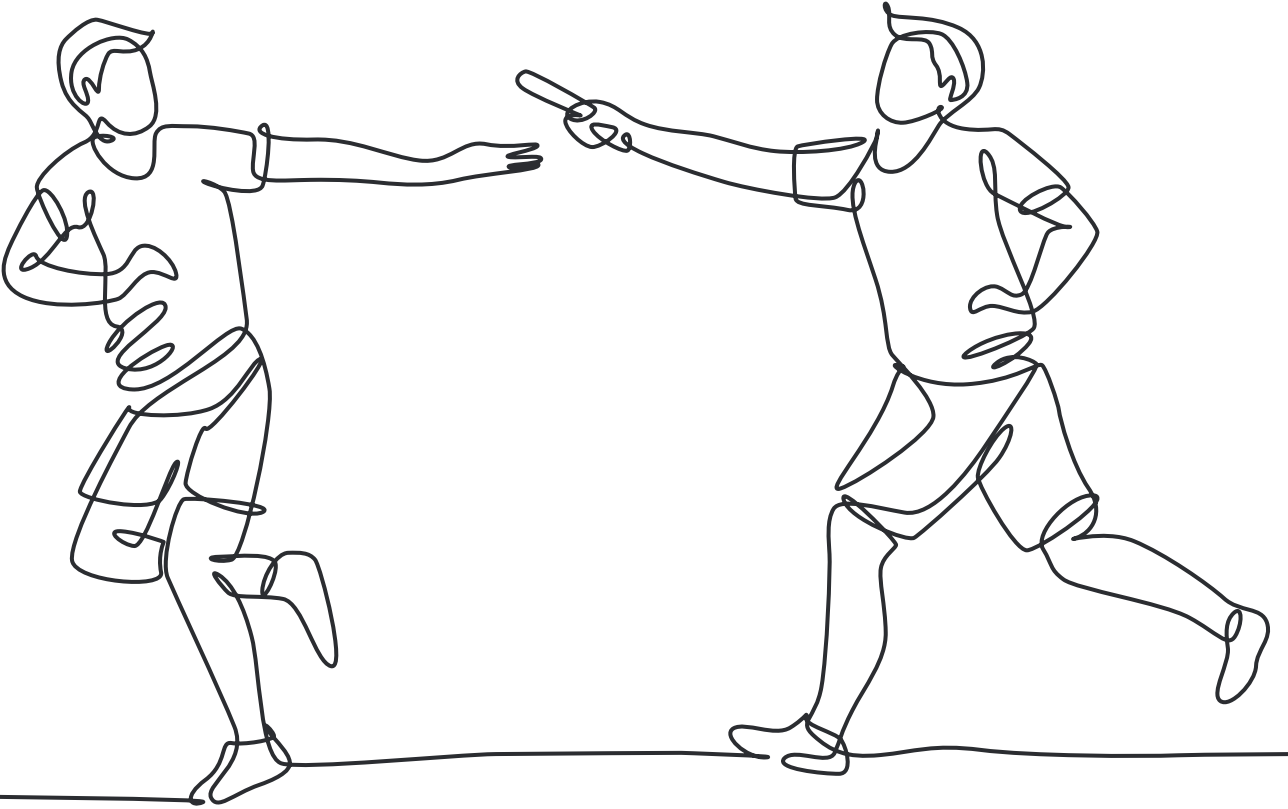
To tell you the situation through an example, like the spoiled child of a family with an extremely high level of welfare in Scandinavia, who has no purpose in life after tasting all kinds of worldly pleasures and who is eventually driven to suicide. Therefore, we consider the Islamophobia led by Europe as a scream of perishment. We believe that this is an obvious battle between truth and falsehood. And when truth comes, falsehood is bound to perish.



A DEPENDENT WEST TO THE EAST

Western systems are dominating all areas whole over the world. Of course, we are not talking about a soil domination but a mental occupation. There is a race about who will look more like the west. It can also be said that who will be more western than western.

However, we always overlook this fact. Trying to look like them in such a situation would be giving up our own origin. Ibrahim Kalin says in his book “I, the Other and the Beyond” that “The West always defines itself against the East.” It seems that a major weakness of the West. Without us they cannot exist. They depend their existence to the existence of another being. But we were existed without them, and we will remain as the only truth after they disappear. This is Allah’s promise.



SO TO SPEAK, IT IS A NEUROSIS

We have an unsolvable problem at our plate. There are Muslims who do not want to be like the West, and a West that will not accept Muslims until they become like the West. On the other hand, the problem is that Muslims worship the West. So, there is a huge duality, on the one hand we want everything in the West, on the other we cannot accept any of their theories. Considering all this, we are experiencing a neurosis.

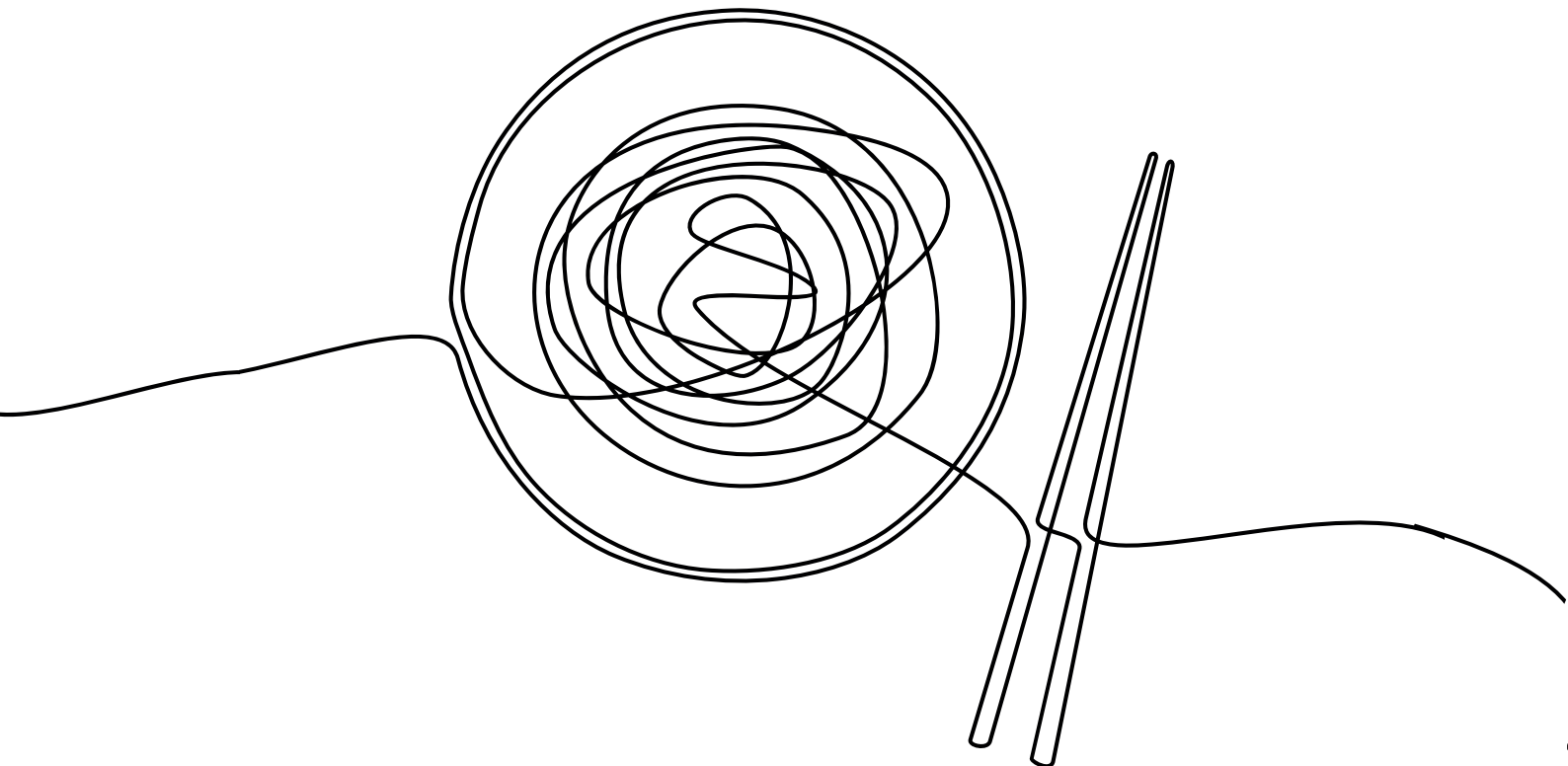


EATING THEIR HAND-MADE IDOLS DOESN'T BOTHER THEM

Westerners dominated not only every field but also the concepts. They produced concepts that would reinforce their own civilization. They called some of them, freedom, democracy, and human rights. They also subjected us to their own concepts.

In today's western world, there are various movements to preserve these concepts. At the beginning of these movements is the attempt to protect these concepts by violating them. So freedom only applies when they want for people to be free. If you push their buttons, freedom will be just a rhetoric.

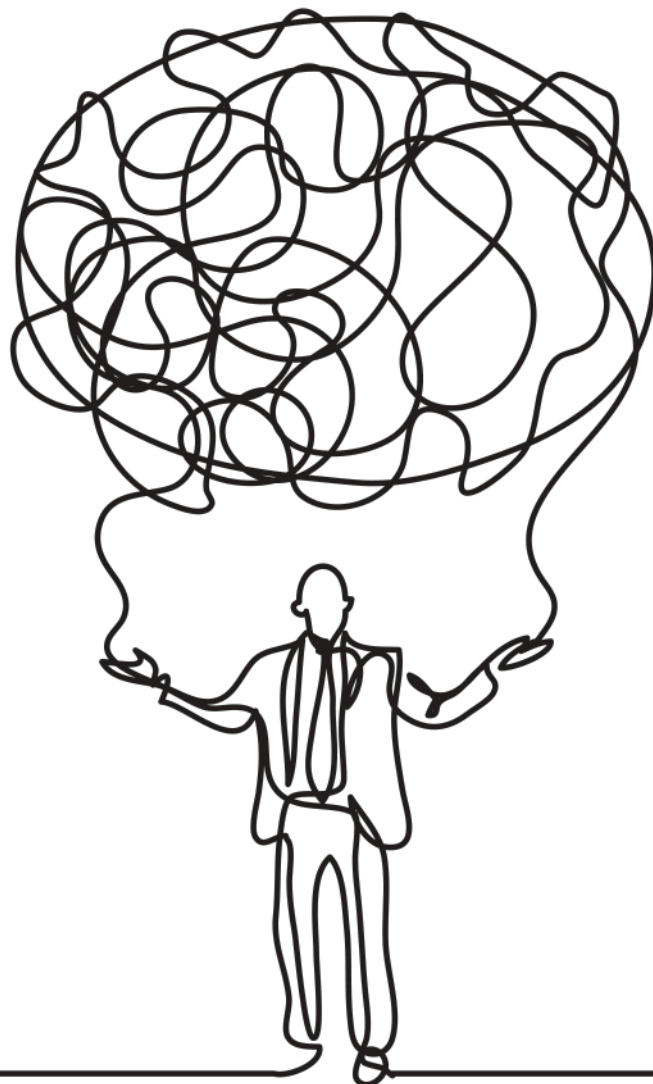
For example, if you try to criticize the Jewish community today, you will be defined as anti-semitist and you would be a food for the coyotes. If we think about what they defend as democracy, we see that they support a bloody military coup as “democrats”. While talking about human rights on the one hand, they can make inhumane practices about refugees on the other. They put some idols made of halva, and as you see, they do not take offence eating these idols.



WE HAVE TO SPREAD THE RIGHT ISLAM

Here we are talking about Islamophobia, secularization, and heathenization policies. We are thinking about the religion of Islam that defined by them. We are trying to understand how they see us, how they define us. Of course, trying to make sense of the world where we live in is so stimulating.

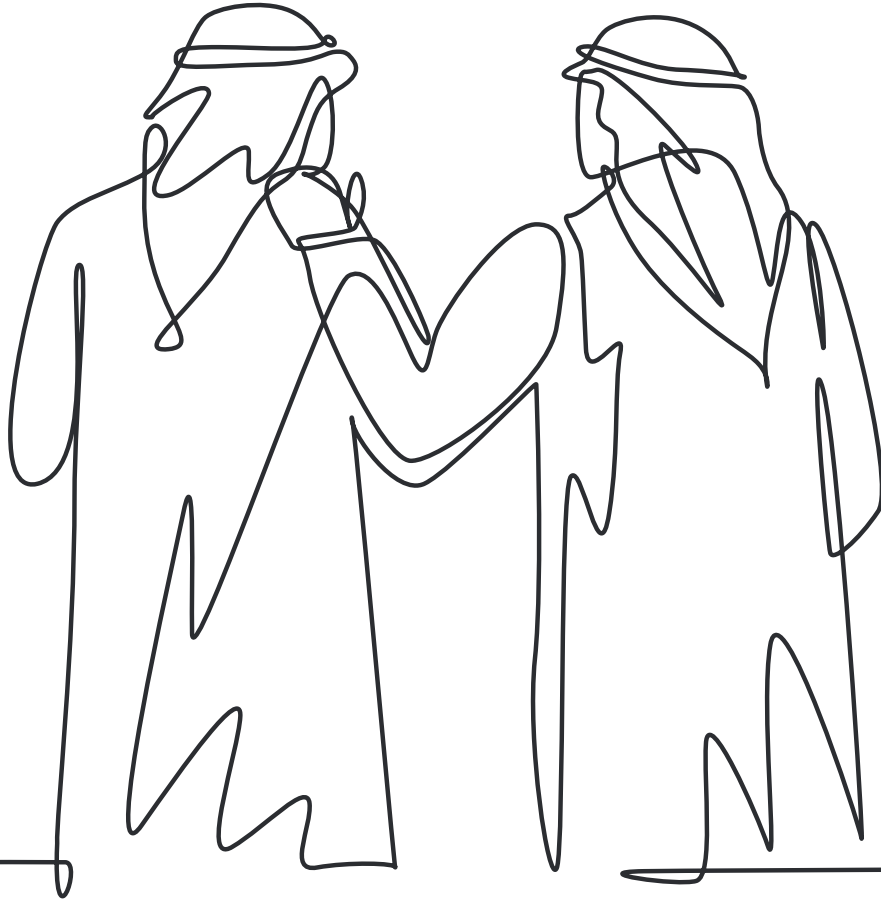
However, there is something more essential to do. Since we are witnessing such intense attacks on Islam and Muslims and we are convinced that these attacks are unjustified, then we have to tell the world about Islam correctly. Unfortunately, we cannot avoid being the victims of any criticism or attack after we cannot resolve this issue in our own conscience.



We must engage in an all-out fight against the false historical, geographical and opinions that the West has nurtured on the religion of Islam. They should learn about us from us so that they don't rely on false information about us from here and there. We can form a solid line by using their tools. We can especially use digital media extensively. We can create our own platforms and deliver true Islam to the whole world, relying on authentic sources.

Of course, one should understand the subject before spreading it. It would be a futile effort if we do not evaluate ourselves frankly. How aware are we of the truth of Islam? Which Islam do we believe in as Muslims? How well do we know Allah and His Messenger? Do we have any doubts about this religion in our minds?

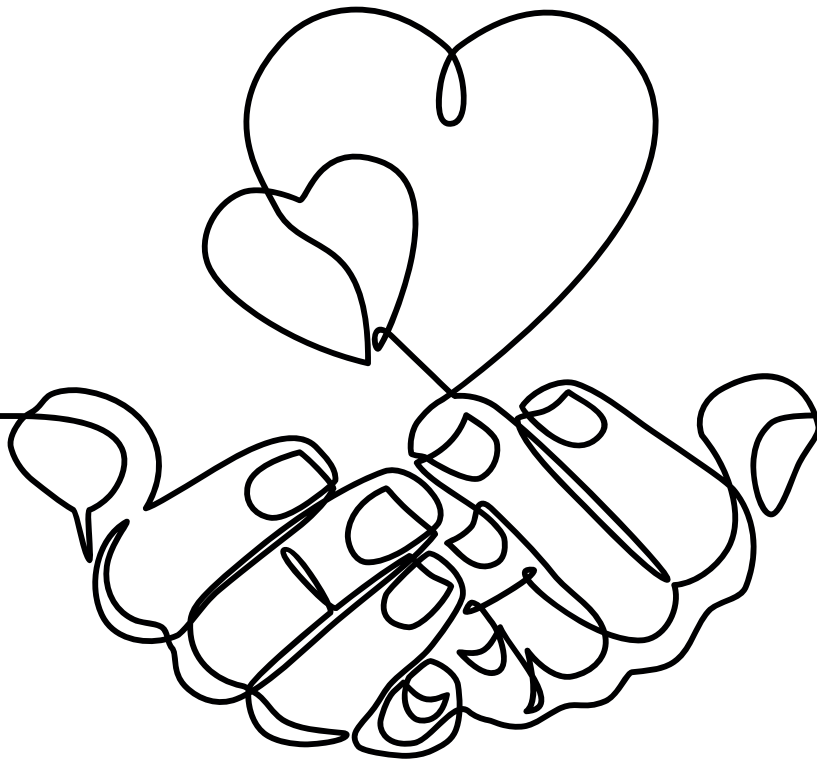
How can we properly represent Islam without answering these and other questions? If we don't learn the basics of Islam, if we cannot reach a certain level in areas such as the Qur'an or catechism knowledge, we will be dragged into an incomplete life firstly.



WE CAN'T DEFEND HIM WITHOUT KNOWING HIM (PBUH)

This evening, we are discussing the question of how we can fight against all kinds of disrespect towards the Prophet (PBUH). It is impossible for us to defend the holy Nabi without knowing Him and without the awareness that He is the best example sent to each of us.

By taking a genuine prophetic biography education, we need to catch the sparks reflected from his life to the present day with all its details. The best answer to the question of how he behaved, how should I behave can only be learned in this way.



THE MOST AUSPICIOUS UMMAH

We know clearly that Islam is the truth. Muslims are the best ummah sent to this world. With this awareness, we must shout out the truth in a way befitting the dignity of Islam. Once we have this awareness, we should not be afraid to implement the necessary propaganda tools.

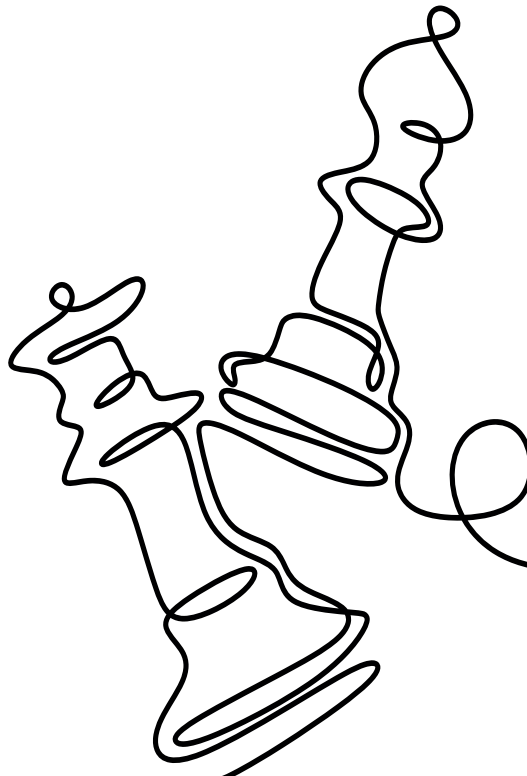
We should hesitate to spread the truth while staying away from being judgmental and snooty. If we try to explain Islam without living it, we will be deeply disappointed. Our state should exemplify what we tell.



ISLAM SHOULD BE PURIFY FROM FAKE MUSLIMS

Unfortunately, we are being judged for what Muslims do. While we describe Islam as the religion of peace and tranquility, they see Muslims in the Middle East competing to kill each other.

We have arrived a situation that even if Israel leaves Jerusalem today, we would get into a fight about who should rule Jerusalem. Therefore, we cannot defend the truth without coming to terms with ourselves. I do not think this issue will be solved before Islam gets rid of fake Muslims.



WE CANNOT RESPONSE AS THEY DO

Unfortunately, we do not have a clear prescription against the hostility against Muhammad (PBUH) and Islam, but of course we have something to do. These people have existed throughout the history.

Arif Nihat Asya in his poem “Naat”:

“They say Abu Lahab is dead:

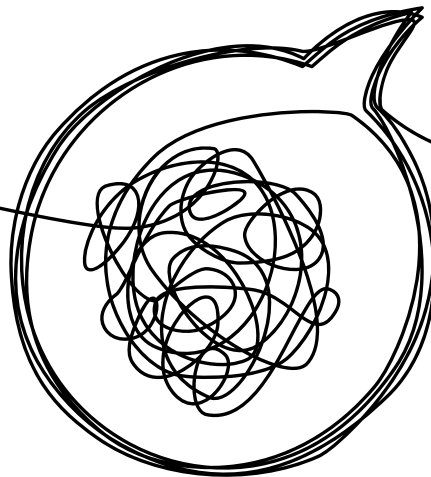
Abu Lahab is not dead, oh Muhammad;

Abu Jahil is traveling continents “

he says. For this reason, we will be in a constant struggle. Allah says in the Qur’an, Surat Al-An’am, verse 108, “ Revile not ye those whom they call upon besides Allah, lest they out of spite revile Allah in their ignorance”.

Thus, we cannot respond to them as they do by obeying what Allah says. We can only defend the Truth in accordance with the Truth. We cannot respond to evil with evil, we cannot throw stones that throw stones at us.

As a matter of fact, the Messenger of Allah did not do so to the people who stoned him during the Taif journey. He opened his hands and asked God for forgiveness for them. Later, Allah’s vast mercy accepted all Taif people under the umbrella of Islam.



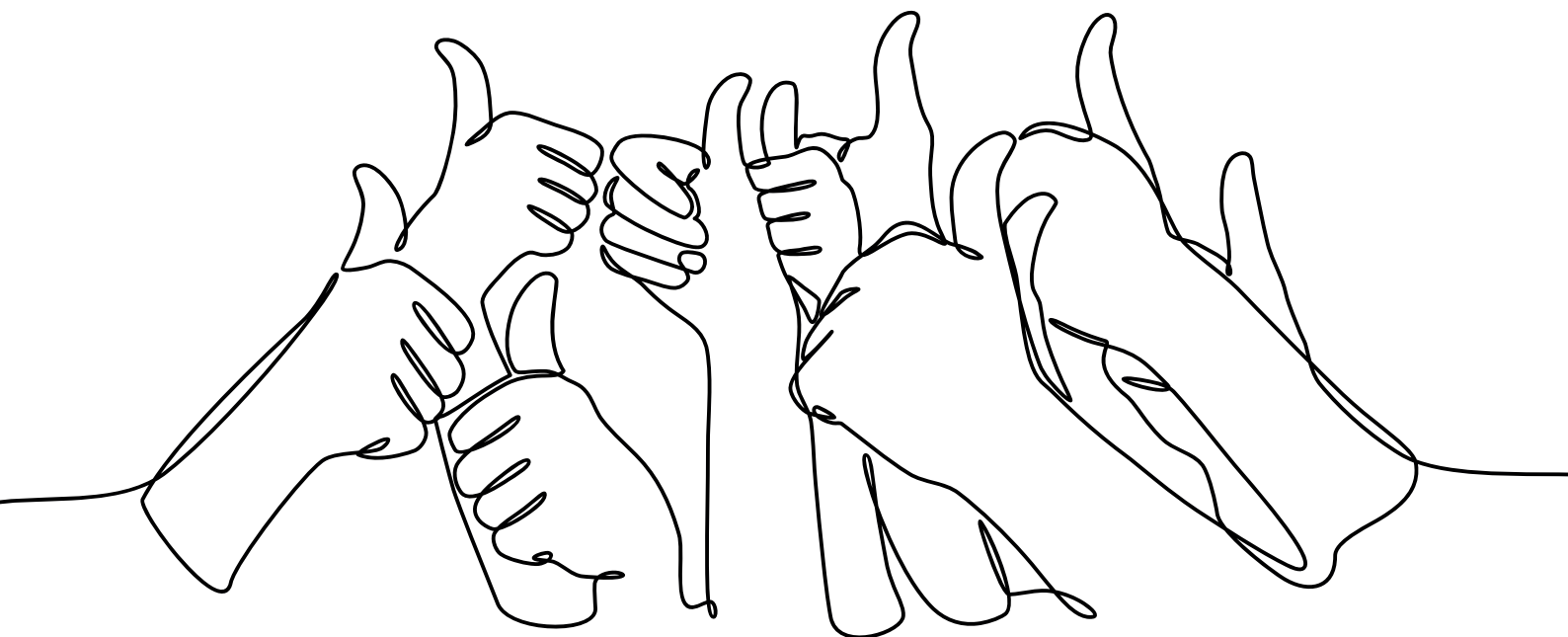
POLITICAL POWER MATTERS

The world we live in has a ruthless order where the strong prevail and interests are held above all else. In such order, political power is very important for making our ideas acceptable.

We all know the letter Suleiman the Magnificent sent to the King of France against the widespread dancing tradition. Or we keep talking about the theater that Abdulhamit Khan's threat that he wanted a theater to be banned in France on the grounds that it insulted Islam, otherwise he would release all the Islamic armies on them. At that time, the Ottoman Empire was absolutely powerful in its region and even in the Islamic geography. Their attitude was also determining the truth.

Today, as Turkey, we have an effect on Islamic world, whether some might like it or not. Perhaps the bond of the caliphate from the past, maybe the warm relations between nations have strengthened these ties over time.

Even today, Muslim people are curious about Turkey's attitude towards a situation, we believe that Turkey's stronger willpower would get the appreciation in the Islamic world.



INTERNATIONAL UNIONS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE UMMAH GEOGRAPHY

One of the things that Erbakan Hodja did during his short stay in power was that he established a union between Muslim states under the name of D-8. In some countries we still see the benefit of this union, just as we are enjoying the benefit of the caliphate or the Ottoman Empire. This state of affairs can have positive effects as well as negative effects. In a way, it can drag us into a dry swamp that is called valor. We cannot look forward because bragging about our past and some figures from our history is stonewalling us.

In this respect, one of the most important things that needs to be done today is to establish unions as states and learn to stand on the same side as Muslims.

We can react collectively to attacks against our common values through such formations with high sanctions power. Yes, we are also aware that the established order in the world defends the interests and the people who hold the leash in their hands, but we still believe that the reaction to the attacks against the religion we believe in and the prophet we believe will not be too difficult.

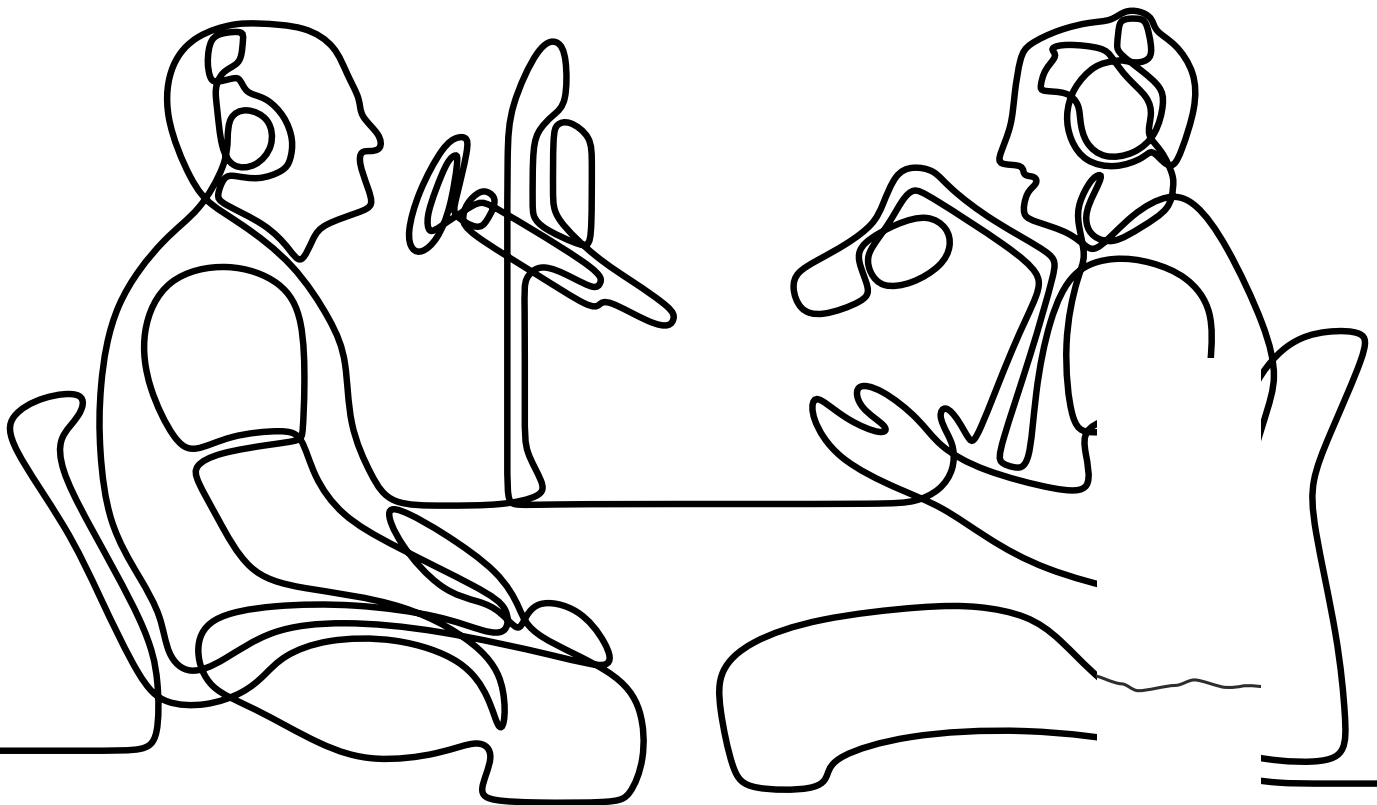


FAMOUS NAMES COULD STEP IN

Everyone is obliged to do their best. However, the result of our efforts can reach a very limited number of people. We have a lot of famous people who are known by millions of people, who are followed affectionally.

You know, we constantly hear the news of the sajdah that Mohammed Salah went after scoring a goal. Thanks to his news, thousands of people met with Islam.

The Muslim attitude of such famous people have a greater impact than we can imagine. The good deeds they will do without being ashamed of the religion they believe in, and the good words they say would be great too. Maybe this is their test, and they will be questioned mostly from this power in the afterlife.

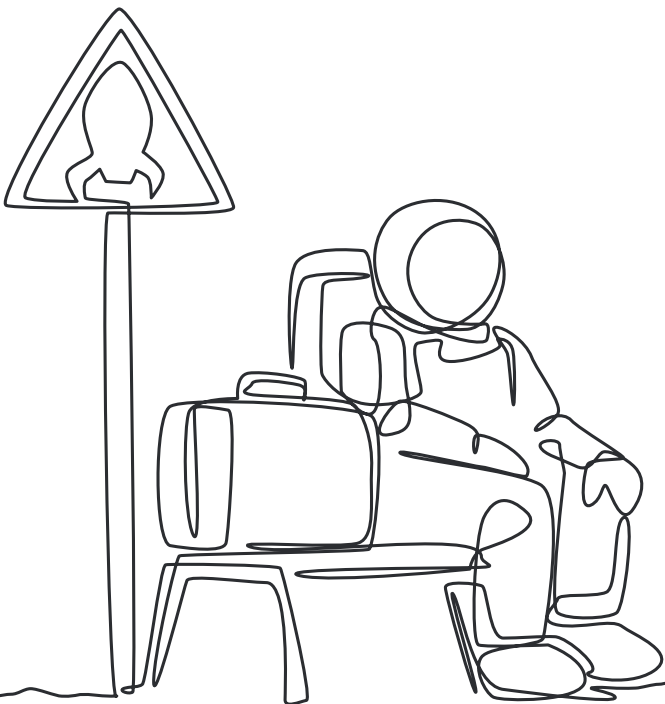


WE SHOULD BE PATIENT WITH ENVIABLE PATIENCE AND WE SHOULD BE HOPEFUL

A lot of the cruelty and injustice inflicted on today's Muslims were made against the Prophet and his companions 14 centuries ago. They were just a bunch of believers who trusted in Allah. They were very patient and Allah did not let them down.

It is the biggest duty of us, as Muslims to place our trust in Allah after we pray. You know, they say; we are responsible for the expedition, not the victory. Allah will complete His promise, even if the unbelievers / wrongdoers do not want it.

We believed; we have placed our trust. We will do our best and continue to fight without losing hope. Allah is with who patiently persevere.



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