



# **AN AUTHENTIC ILM MISSION PRESENTATION**

**Addressing Queries on Divine  
Perception in Times of Crisis**



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# Introduction:

Presented by Authentic Ilm Mission (AIM), this paper embarks on an enlightening journey to address and alleviate the burgeoning queries and doubts that arise in times of profound adversity, particularly about the divine nature of Allah, the Exalted. As we navigate through the tumultuous waters of the ongoing crisis in Gaza, a poignant question emerges in the hearts of many: How do we reconcile our Faith with the overwhelming human suffering and injustice we witness?

In this critical exploration, we confront the negative perceptions that often cloud our understanding of Allah, especially during wars and calamities. Questions like, "Where is Allah in the plight of Gaza's people?" or "Why doesn't Allah intervene in the face of clear, undisputed injustice?" are not just rhetorical expressions of despair but are reflective of a more profound crisis of Faith. These queries resonate with the agony and search for justice felt by countless individuals, particularly as they witness the suffering of innocents – women, children, and families losing their lives, homes, and sense of security.

This paper is motivated by a desire to provide answers and solace, presenting an analysis steeped in religious authenticity and understanding. It seeks to bridge the gap between earthly trials and the divine perspective, addressing the misconception that views worldly life as disjointed from the hereafter. Our exploration delves into the shift in the universal Divine System – a transition from an era of direct divine intervention to a phase where human action, guided and supported by Divine Will, becomes more prominent, especially following the revelation of the Torah and the establishment of Jihad.

Furthermore, we will illuminate the profound impact of limited knowledge about Allah's names, attributes, and the wisdom underlying these hardships. By doing so, AIM aims to provide answers and a path to spiritual resilience and deeper understanding. This journey is about finding answers and reigniting Faith and hope in the hearts of believers, encouraging them to view their struggles through a lens of divine wisdom and purpose. Join us in this enlightening quest to understand, empathize, and find solace in the Divine Narrative during times of crisis.



## Worldview Isolation: Bridging Earthly Life and the Hereafter

In navigating life's challenges, especially during times of crisis and hardship, it is imperative to expand our perspective beyond the immediate and transient nature of worldly events, connecting them with the eternal realm of the hereafter. This broader view, deeply rooted in Islamic teachings, can be a powerful antidote to developing negative perceptions about Allah. Understanding life as a testing ground, as stated in the Quran,

“ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ”

**"He who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best indeed"**

Quran (67:2) Surat Al-Mulk,

The above verse provides a crucial context for our experiences, including suffering and trials.

The concept of Al-Qadar (Divine Predestination) is central to this understanding. It teaches us that everything, good and what we perceive as bad, happens by Allah's will. This belief is not meant to induce fatalism but to instill resilience and a sense of purpose. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) illustrated this beautifully when he said, "Amazing is the affair of the believer, certainly all of his affairs are good, and this is not for no one except the believer. If something of good/happiness befalls him, he is grateful, and that is good for him. If something of harm befalls him, he is patient, which is good for him" (Sahih Muslim).

These concepts take on a profound significance in the context of martyrdom and the expiation of sins. Martyrdom, as understood in Islam, is not just about dying in the way of Allah but also living a life dedicated to upholding truth and justice, even in the face of adversity. The Quran says,

(وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَنْ يُقْتَلُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتٌ بَلْ أحيَاءٌ وَلَئِن لَّا تَشْعُرُونَ)

**"And do not say about those who are killed in the way of Allah, 'They are dead.' Rather, they are alive, but you perceive [it] not".**

Quran (2:154) Surat Al-Baqarah



The above verse elevates the status of those who sacrifice in the path of righteousness, assuring believers that their struggles are not in vain but are steps towards eternal life.

Without a doubt, the virtues of martyrs are immense and immeasurable. Allah, the Exalted, has made the martyr an intercessor for seventy of his family members. Allah honors him by granting forgiveness for his sins and transgressions at the time of his martyrdom. Furthermore, the martyr receives great rewards, including eternal life, sustenance from Allah, and joy in what Allah has given them. They also rejoice in anticipation of their brethren who will join them.

An illustrative example of enduring Faith amid trials is in the story of Prophet Ayyub (Job). Despite losing his health, wealth, and family, his patience and unwavering Faith in Allah's wisdom were exemplary. His story reminds us that suffering, and hardship can be transformative experiences, bringing us closer to Allah and purifying us from sins. Allah mentions in the Quran,

وَوَجَدْنَاهُ صَابِرًا نَعْمَ الْعَبْدُ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ

**"Indeed, We found him patient, an excellent servant. Indeed, he was one repeatedly turning back [to Allah]"**

Quran (38:44) Surat Saad

By understanding that our earthly life is interwoven with the hereafter and that every challenge is a part of Allah's more excellent plan, we can cultivate a mindset that looks beyond immediate circumstances. This perspective encourages us to see trials as opportunities for spiritual growth, patience, and resilience. It teaches us that our response to adversity shapes our character and destiny in the hereafter. In this light, even the most painful experiences can be reframed as steps towards a higher purpose, aligning us more closely with divine will and leading us towards ultimate success in the life to come.



## Universal Laws: Divine Intervention and Human Responsibility

The Islamic narrative on divine intervention and human responsibility presents a profound evolution from the era of early prophets to the present day. This shift, from direct divine punishment to an emphasis on human agency and moral responsibility is pivotal in understanding the balance between divine decree and human action.

In early Islamic history, communities such as Ad and Thamud and during Noah's time faced direct divine retribution for their transgressions. These events, detailed in the Quran, were stern reminders of the consequences of straying from the path of righteousness. However, after the revelation of the Torah to Prophet Musa (Moses), a significant shift occurred like divine intervention. This shift is evidenced in a hadith recorded in Mujam At-Tabarani, which states that Allah did not destroy any nation after the revelation of the Torah to Musa, except for the people who violated the Sabbath. This shift indicates a move from direct intervention to a system where human beings are given a more active role in upholding justice and righteousness.

The Quran, Allah states,

**(وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا أَهْلَكْنَا الْقُرُونَ الْأُولَىٰ بِصَايِرَ لِلنَّاسِ وَهَدَىٰ وَرَحْمَةً لِّعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ)**

**"And indeed, We gave Moses the Scripture [after We had destroyed the earlier generations]."  
Quran (28:43), Surat Al-Qasas**

This verse is significant in understanding the transition in the divine approach. After the Torah's revelation, divine intervention focused on providing guidance and laws for human conduct. This transition marked a new phase in the divine-human relationship, where humans are expected to take a more active role in upholding justice, guided by divine teachings.

The concept of التَّدَافِعُ (mutual resistance or struggle) further illustrates this point. Quranic verses such as: Allah says,

**فَهَرَمُوهُمْ يَأْذُنَ اللَّهِ وَقَتَلَ دَاوُودُ جَالُوتَ وَآتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَعَلَّمَهُ مِمَّا يَشَاءُ ۗ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَفَسَدَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَلَئِنَّ اللَّهَ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ (251)**



**"And if Allah did not check one set of people using another, the earth would indeed be full of mischief: But Allah is full of bounty to all the worlds."**

Quran (2:251) (Surat Al-Baqarah)

Allah also says:

أَذِنَ لِلَّذِينَ يُقَاتَلُونَ بِأَنَّهُمْ ظَلِمُوا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ نَصْرِهِمْ لَقَدِيرٌ

**"Permission [to fight] has been given to those being fought because they were wronged. And indeed, Allah is competent to give them victory."**

Quran (22:40) (Surat Al-Hajj)

These verses highlight critical aspects of Islamic teachings on the balance between divine intervention and human responsibility, particularly in justice and combating oppression. They suggest that while direct divine intervention has diminished, Allah's support for those striving for justice remains. This dynamic implies a synergistic relationship between divine aid and human effort. For instance, the story of David and Goliath, as depicted in the Quran, is a powerful example of this principle. David, a young and seemingly ill-equipped shepherd, faced the mighty Goliath. Despite the odds, David's Faith, reliance on Allah, and strategic use of a sling led to a miraculous victory. This story epitomizes the balance of divine support and human initiative in overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges.

This framework does not diminish the role of divine intervention but redefines it so that human effort becomes necessary for divine aid. It underscores the importance of proactive human engagement in combating injustices and upholding moral and ethical values while always relying on and seeking religious support in these endeavors.

In conclusion, the shift from direct divine intervention to a focus on human responsibility and moral guidance is a central theme in Islamic teachings. It highlights the evolution of the divine-human relationship and underscores the balance between Allah's will and human action. This perspective encourages believers to pursue justice and righteousness actively, armed with the guidance of divine teachings and the support of Allah's wisdom.



## Divine Attributes: Exploring Allah's Infinite Wisdom:

In the quest to understand the nature of conflicts, like those in Gaza, and their place in the divine scheme, it is crucial to delve into the attributes of Allah – His infinite knowledge, power, and wisdom. These attributes offer profound insights into the reasons behind such trials and their roles in Allah's grand design.

1. **Allah's Infinite Knowledge:** The Quran repeatedly emphasizes Allah's omniscience, as in Surat Al-An'am (6:59), which states, "And with Him are the keys of the unseen; none knows them except Him." This verse reminds us that Allah's knowledge encompasses all, including the hidden aspects of every situation. The conflicts we witness are part of a larger picture that only Allah fully understands. In times of strife, this belief offers comfort and reassurance, reminding us that every event is within Allah's profound understanding, no matter how inexplicable or challenging.

2. **Allah's Infinite Power:** Allah's power is absolute and all-encompassing. As mentioned in Surat Al-Baqarah (2:106), "For whatever sign We [might] abrogate or consign to oblivion, We bring a better one or the like thereof." This illustrates that Allah's will is paramount and that His power to alter or replace circumstances is beyond human comprehension. In the context of conflict, this teaches us that change, and resolution are within Allah's power, no matter how distant they may seem.

3. **Allah's Wisdom:** One of the most profound attributes of Allah is His wisdom. The Quran, in Surat Al-Baqarah (2:269), says, "He gives wisdom to whom He wills, and whoever has been given wisdom has certainly been given much good." The trials and tribulations communities face are not random or meaningless but imbued with divine wisdom. This perspective helps believers to see beyond the immediate pain and suffering, understanding that there is a greater purpose and a lesson in every challenge.



## Wisdoms of Conflict: A Faith-Based Reflection on Crisis:

The ongoing crisis in Gaza, when viewed through the lens of Islamic Faith, reveals profound layers of divine wisdom, and catalyzes various reflective outcomes that underscore the intricate balance between human experience and divine attributes.

**1. Testing Faith and Patience:** Conflicts like those in Gaza are significant tests of Faith and resilience. Allah states in Surat Al-Baqarah (2:155), "And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits but give good tidings to the patient." This verse highlights that such trials are a means to strengthen Faith, patience, and perseverance.

**2. Means of Expiation and Elevation:** The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "No fatigue, nor disease, nor sorrow, nor sadness, nor hurt, nor distress befalls a Muslim, even if it were the prick he receives from a thorn, but that Allah expiates some of his sins for that" (Sahih Bukhari). Suffering in conflict, therefore, can be a means of expiating sins and elevating one's spiritual status, providing a deeper understanding of life's purpose and the hereafter.

**3. Reminder of the World's Impermanence:** These conflicts also remind believers of the transient nature of this world and the importance of justice, compassion, and standing up against oppression. They highlight the impermanence of worldly life and redirect focus toward the eternal life of the hereafter.

**4. Spiritual Awakening:** One of the most profound outcomes of the crisis is the spiritual awakening it ignites. Challenges often bring individuals closer to their Faith, encouraging a re-evaluation of life's priorities and a renewed commitment to spiritual and moral values.

**5. Increased Understanding Among Non-Muslims:** The resilience of the people of Gaza has opened avenues for increased empathy and understanding among non-Muslims, providing insight into the strength that Faith offers in adversity and breaking down barriers of ignorance and misunderstanding.





6. **Reinforcement of Quranic Revelations:** The crisis has underscored Quranic teachings about upholding agreements and the consequences of injustice and betrayal, reinforcing the need for integrity and justice.
7. **Highlighting the Role of Muslim Leaders:** The situation has prompted a re-evaluation of Muslim leadership roles, encouraging leaders to take principled stands per Islamic teachings and champion the causes of justice and peace.
8. **Awareness of Global Injustice:** Finally, the conflict in Gaza has emerged as a powerful symbol of global injustice, drawing attention from the international community and challenging people worldwide to confront uncomfortable truths about oppression and inequality.

In summary, these reflective outcomes demonstrate that there can be profound wisdom and opportunities for positive change and growth even amid conflict and suffering. They serve as reminders that every crisis, when viewed through the lens of Faith and understanding, can contribute to spiritual deepening, greater empathy, and an unwavering commitment to justice and righteousness. This holistic understanding of Allah's attributes in the context of conflicts offers believers a way to find meaning and purpose in their struggles, viewing their sacrifices as contributions to a greater divine plan and fostering patience, resilience, and a deeper faith.



## Prophet's Teachings: Steadfastness in Adversity:

In the formative years of Islam, the Prophet Muhammad and his companions confronted severe persecution in Makkah. One poignant instance of this is captured in the narration of Khabbab ibn al-Aratt, as chronicled in Sahih Al-Bukhari. Khabbab, embodying the distress of the early Muslim community, sought the Prophet's intervention against their sufferings.

Khabbab recounted, "We complained to the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, while he was leaning upon his rolled-up cloak in the shade of the Ka'bah. We said, 'Will you ask Allah to help us? Will you supplicate to Allah for us?' The Prophet said, 'Among those before you, a believer would be seized, a ditch would be dug for him, and he would be thrown into it. Then, they would bring a saw that would be put on top of his head to split him into two halves, and his flesh would be torn from the bone with iron combs. Yet, all of this did not cause them to abandon their religion. By Allah, this religion will prevail until a rider travel from Yemen to Hadhramaut, fearing no one but Allah and the wolf, lest it trouble his sheep. Rather, you are being impatient.'" Sahih al-Bukhari 6943

In his response, the Prophet Muhammad provided a broader perspective grounded in Allah's universal system. He recounted the severe trials endured by believers in earlier times, possibly alluding to the People of the Ditch (Ashab al-Ukhlood) mentioned in Surah Al-Buruj (85:4-8) of the Quran. These believers faced extreme persecution, yet their unwavering Faith remained steadfast.

The Prophet's message to Khabbab and his companions was clear: true victory in Allah's sight is not in immediate relief from hardship but in remaining steadfast and firm upon the truth. He emphasized that believers have faced extreme trials throughout history, but their commitment to their Faith was unshaken. This narrative highlights the virtues of patience, endurance, and unwavering Faith in adversity.



This historical lesson from the Prophet is a profound reminder that the trials and tribulations believers face are part of Allah's divine plan – a test of their Faith and resolve. These challenges purify a believer's Faith, strengthen their character, and elevate their spiritual status hereafter. The key to ultimate success lies in steadfastness in religion and meeting Allah with unwavering Faith.

This historical narrative from the early days of Islam offers invaluable insights into contemporary crises, such as in Gaza. It teaches that the appropriate response to pain and suffering is not despair but steadfast Faith, patience, and perseverance. The story of Khabbab and the Prophet's guidance stand as beacons of hope and resilience, illustrating that steadfastness in Faith and adherence to truth are the highest virtues in the eyes of Allah, paving the way to ultimate triumph and success.

## **Conclusion: Lessons from Uhud and Our Collective Responsibility**

As we conclude this presentation, it's imperative to draw upon a defining moment in Islamic history that vividly mirrors the current state of the Muslim Ummah and offers profound insights into our collective struggles, including the agonies faced by the people of Gaza.

The Battle of Uhud serves as a poignant reflection of our present condition. The Muslims were initially united in this crucial battle, ready to face their adversaries. However, a pivotal moment arose when many of the 50 archers tasked with guarding a critical strategic position decided to leave their posts, lured by the prospect of immediate gains, and swayed by their whims and desires. This act of disobedience to Allah and His Messenger led to a significant setback for the Muslim army.

This historical incident is not just a tale of a battle long gone; it's a mirror reflecting our current reality. It symbolizes how, in our pursuit of worldly gains and personal desires, we may unconsciously contribute to the collective suffering of our Ummah, including the plight of those in Gaza. The archers' desertion symbolizes how our individual choices, especially those that deviate from the path of righteousness and collective responsibility, can have far-reaching consequences.



In this context, we must ask ourselves: In what ways are we metaphorically 'coming down from the hilltop'? How are our actions, or inactions, contributing to the challenges faced by our brothers and sisters in different parts of the world? This introspection is crucial, for it reminds us that our collective strength lies in unity, obedience to Allah, and adherence to the teachings of His Messenger.

As we reflect on our position and responsibilities, let's remember that our support for the people of Gaza, and indeed for any oppressed community, goes beyond supplications. It extends to our actions - to realigning our personal and communal priorities with the principles of justice, compassion, and steadfastness that Islam teaches. Each of us has a role, a 'position on the hilltop', to guard and uphold. By returning to these positions and committing ourselves to the path of righteousness and collective responsibility, we strengthen ourselves and contribute positively to the Ummah's resilience and success.

Let this message from the Battle of Uhud inspire us to rethink our choices to stand firmly in our roles as protectors and supporters of our Faith and fellow believers. By aligning our actions with our supplications, we can actively contribute to alleviating the sufferings of those in distress, like the people of Gaza. Our unity, obedience, and righteous actions are powerful tools that, when wielded together, can bring about the change we seek and the relief we pray for.

In conclusion, let us recommit to our duties, uphold the values of our Faith, and work collectively towards a future where justice, peace, and prosperity prevail for every member of our Ummah. This is not just a call to action; it's a call to become agents of positive change, guided by the timeless lessons of our Faith and the enduring wisdom of our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).