



Selected Questions and Answers from Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri – Part 2

April 17, 2008

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Q.) “There are those who say that jihad has conclusively failed as a method for removing the governing regimes in Muslim countries, including several clerics – more than just those who appear on the Al-Nas channel. They claim that this jihad has brought disasters upon our outreach and missionary work and [has not given us] a single good thing. What is your response to that?”

A.) “There is no hope of removing the foul regimes in the Muslim countries by anything but force. There is no opportunity for change through peaceful activity. Anyone who disagrees needs to bring me a single example [which proves his claim], because the history of Algeria stands as proof against it—and the way in which the Egyptian and Jordanian regimes treated the [Muslim] Brotherhood in the most recent elections is only more evidence against it. [Former Egyptian President Anwar] al-Sadat had put all of the Islamic movements in prisons, including the [Muslim] Brotherhood and the Salafiya, and he built the Istiqbal prison just for them, with no intention of releasing them. Only his death led to their release. If Sadat was left alone to continue with his plans, he would have schemed to divide the Islamic world into mini-states smaller than their current ones. In the second issue of my book ‘Knights Under the Prophet’s Banner’, I have mentioned Mr. Fathi Radwan al-Muhami—may Allah have mercy upon him—and his acknowledgement of this truth, whereas the Salafists of the Palaces and Visa Cards refuse to acknowledge it. The freedom which the [Muslim] Brotherhood and other groups enjoy these days is only due to the military activities. If it wasn’t for those actions, they would be in prisons today. But, instead of thanking the mujahideen—or at least not speaking ill of them—they have presented themselves as a mutually-agreeable alternative to America and its agents, to insult and to defame the mujahideen. In the statement ‘The Exoneration’ and my book ‘Knights Under the Prophet’s Banner’ before it, I have clarified that the jihad against a regime in a country like Egypt will not fail simply because of the strength of the government, which was on the verge of collapse from the strikes of the mujahideen. Yet, due to the current global siege which has largely been the responsibility of America, the mujahideen have decided to unite in order to strike back at it.”



Q.) "...O' honorable Shaykh, I wish to depart and participate in the jihad. I'm a fifth year medical student in Europe, and come from the [Gaza] Strip in Palestine. I'm 29 years old. Should I now go to Afghanistan, given the chance, or wait this year to finish my studies and then go? I'm at a loss: the situation of the Muslims is breaking my heart, and I cannot concentrate on my studies, and I would like to get your advice. May Allah reward you well. Allah willing, I will follow you to the death. Have you and your brothers, the prominent leaders of the jihad, considered writing down your experiences for future generations? We, your sons, look for every little piece of news from you. Often, we hear rumors attributed to you by the media merchants, but we disregard all of them, for they do not come from reliable sources. The Islamic nation has lost many leaders in recent years, most of whose history has not been written as they have lived—other than what is related by their brothers who were closely associated with them. We very much wish to read about your happenings so that it will become common knowledge and remain in the memory of the Islamic nation, and so that those who trade in false news will not gain profit."

A.) "I advise you to finish the fifth year [of medical school] and then go to Afghanistan. Only Allah knows. May Allah reward you well for you kind thoughts. I have written a book 'Knights Under the Prophet's Banner', and Al-Sharq al-Awsat got a hold of a copy from U.S. intelligence, who had seized it from my computer in Afghanistan. Later on, they invented a false story of how they got hold of it, and put into it comments of their own and took away large parts of it—particularly regarding Egypt and Saudi Arabia. But I have received a full transcript via the Internet, and now I am preparing its second release, which I hope Allah will help me finish shortly. Concerning what you mentioned about media merchants, I have found many lies written about me, and I cannot follow every word written about me. It would be foolish to turn and reply to idle rumors. I am surprised about all these things being written about me while I am still alive—what will they write about me once I am dead? One of the strangest aspects about this situation is that the U.S. [West Point] Counter Terrorism Center has published a book called 'The Militant Ideology Atlas: Research Compendium' containing a report about me which is approximately a page and a half long. There were thirteen mistakes in it, despite the fact that the three writers all had PhD's, and despite the fact that the U.S. military believes this center to be excellent. One of their mistakes was stating that I had joined the Muslim Brotherhood at the age of fourteen—in all my life, I never joined the Brotherhood. One of the most comical—and most depressing—things is that one of [those spreading rumors] has written a book about me, claiming that he was my representative and friend in and outside of prison. All these claims are far from being true, and I have pointed this out in chapter eighteen and in the second part of the 'The Exoneration', and in the second issue of the book 'Knights Under the Prophet's Banner'. May Allah safeguard us."

Q.) "Is Mullah Mohammed Omar the leader [Emir] of all the believers? Or [only] the leader of the Islamic Emirate in Khorasaan? Who is the global leader of the believers? What is the rank of Shaykh Usama [Bin Laden] relative to the Islamic Emirate?"

A.) "Mullah Mohammed Omar—may Allah protect him—is the leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and of the mujahideen who have joined him. Shaykh Usama Bin Laden—may Allah protect him—is one of his soldiers. The leader of the Muslims around the world is the Imam of the Caliphate State—and we strive for its return, like any true Muslim, Allah willing."

Q.) "Why hasn't our Shaykh Usama [Bin Laden] mentioned the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) in his speeches? Does he agree on the declaration [of the State] and its timing?"

A.) "Shaykh Usama has spoken approvingly about the Islamic State of Iraq and its leaders more than once, as well as in his most recent speech. The honorable brother [who asked the question] should consult it."

Q.) "Our honorable Shaykh, we would like to ask you about the youth of the Islamic Maghreb: to which front do you recommend them to go? Those who are opposed to the concept of jihad attempt to play games with the issues of bloodshed and Takfir, and they mislead the majority of Muslims into believing that the mujahideen have condemned other Muslims as infidels, and so they have outlawed them. What do you suggest to the supporters of jihad in order to disprove these false claims?"

A.) "I advise the youth of the Islamic Maghreb to join up with Al-Qaida's Committee in the Islamic Maghreb—with their souls, wealth, knowledge, and experience. I advise the mujahideen two things: first, to be extremely careful when planning their operations in order to... [avoid] causing damage to the Muslims as much as possible. Second, to confront the campaign of lies and propaganda with a campaign of facts which will demonstrate the truth. Allah will help any good deed."

Q.) "Things are unclear to many Algerians following the recent attacks in their capital targeting the buildings of the constitutional court and the United Nations—despite all of the warnings issued by the leadership of Al-Qaida's Committee in the Islamic Maghreb about staying away from institutions of the state, the army, and the security [forces], especially the most important ones which are obvious targets. But the deaths of several innocent Algerian victims have raised great fears that the Muslim people of Algeria will be targeted and punished again, a reversal from the relief felt by many Algerians after the Salafist Group for Prayer and Combat (GSPC) officially joined Al-Qaidat ul-Jihad. The Algerians hope that you will reassure them and strengthen the firmness of their resolve, because much depends of the Algerian front due to its relative distance to the direct influence of America and its close proximity to Europe and its interests. The Algerians ask you to give them kind words to strengthen their resolve and steadfastness, because their bitter experiences are known to everybody..."

A.) "My message, as requested by the dear brother, is as follows: My Muslim brothers in Algeria, I assure you that your brothers from Al-Qaida's Committee in the Islamic Maghreb sincerely care about your lives, property, and honor. They conduct jihad in the cause of Allah in order to liberate you from America, France, and the sons of France, and they regard you as their brothers in faith and ideology. They consider guarding your safety as one of their most important religious obligations and they never intend to kill a Muslim unlawfully. If such a thing has occurred, it was either an unintentional act by them, or it is one of the lies of the media of the crusader regime, whose lies and deceit you know well. O' brothers, you have also engaged in a war to free Algeria from France, and now you are in a war to free the land of Islam from America, France, and the sons of France. Sometimes, mistakes can happen during times of war, which should be corrected and dealt with according to the Shariah. But this doesn't mean that the jihad should simply be stopped. Rise truly for Allah, O' beloved ones, for you may fulfill the prophecy of the prophet... Rise for the glory in this world and the rewards of paradise—for Andalusia calls to you, and al-Aqsa (mosque) calls to you, and Mecca and Medina call to you, and Baghdad, Kabul, Grozny, Ceuta and Melilla. They are all calling upon you. The Prophet, may peace and prayer be upon him, is calling upon you: take revenge on those who have insulted me. May Allah grant you success and support you in the jihad on his behalf, for the victory of his religion and book, and his Prophet, peace and prayers be upon him."

Q.) "The ninth group of questions deals mainly with Pakistan, and it is represented by the question of Brother Abu Mohammed al-Afghani: We have heard recently that there have been efforts and meetings taking place in order to unite the lines of the mujahideen in Pakistan, and that, following these meetings, commander Baitullah Mehsud (may Allah protect him) was declared commander of the mujahideen in Pakistan. What is the effect of this unification on the jihad in Pakistan? Are there other projects aimed at uniting the banner of jihad in Afghanistan and Pakistan? What is your view of the coming phase regarding the Christians in Afghanistan and their treacherous regimes in Afghanistan and Pakistan?"

A.) "My answer to Abu Mohammed al-Afghani is as follows: the area of Afghanistan and Pakistan is currently witnessing an enthusiastic jihadi awakening, which I expect (Allah permitting) will change the prevailing state of affairs in this region, and will have a major impact on the Islamic world as a whole. As for the Christians and their agents in Pakistan and Afghanistan, they have begun their downfall—but mind you, victory will only come with patience."

Q.) "O' Shaykh, a number of students have reached the legal opinion that operations in Saudi Arabia and other places are not necessarily forbidden—but they say that it would be beneficial for Al-Qaida to avoid executing these operations, specifically in Saudi Arabia. Instead, it would be better if they would channel their efforts towards the well-known battlefields [of jihad], where

there is an obvious foreign occupation, such as Iraq. There, no matter how much the media tries to play with popular opinion, the truth is still clear before the eyes of any observer. This way, the mujahideen are in a position to gain many more supporters. Even though we have accepted the existence of an occupation in Saudi Arabia, it is still indirect and, thus, there is a risk for public opinion. The media can easily turn the facts upside down, and thus Al-Qaida might lose many of its own supporters and much of its financial contributions.”

A.) “I have quoted in the past from the words of the martyred Shaykh, as we consider him, Abu Omar al-Saif (may Allah have mercy on him), and what his response was to this confusion. I would like to add that the matter which the Muslim public understands the best is the importance of jihad [against] the Jews and the Christians, and therefore, the rulers of Riyadh endeavor to prevent it in any way they can, so that it will not shake the pillars of their rule and embarrass them.”

Q.) “In 2004, you threatened Norway and other countries because of their aid to America in her war against you, and because of their forces being present in Afghanistan and fighting against you. Don’t you think that these kinds of threats against Norway and Europe will only increase the pressure on Muslims living here, most of who came seeking a peaceful life and to flee the autocracy of the majority of regimes in the Middle East? Furthermore, why are the Scandinavian countries, such as Norway and Denmark, considered as targets by Al-Qaida Organization?”

A.) “We have threatened Norway and every other country that participated in the war against the Muslims as part of the defense of our ideology, nation, ourselves, and our sacred rites. Denmark has done her utmost to demonstrate her hostility towards the Muslims by repeatedly dishonoring our Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him salvation. I admonish and incite every Muslim who is able to do so to cause damage to Denmark in order to show your support for our Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him salvation, and to defend his esteemed honor. We prefer to live underground [i.e. dead] rather than accepting the limited response of boycotting Danish dairy products and goods. Denmark keeps on dishonoring the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him salvation, even though these criminals are unable to attack the Jews or raise any doubts about the Nazi Holocaust, even though it was the result of a Christian war... As for Muslims living in the West, they are forbidden to live permanently under the laws of the infidels unless it is a necessity. They ought to participate in the individual duty [of jihad] in order to defend the lands of Islam against those who are assaulting them.”

Q.) “Do you think that the Muslims have established an Islamic Emirate or Caliphate in Afghanistan and Iraq? If so, then what is the evidence that you can provide to prove this, either from the news or articles or with facts? Please be clear in your response—that is, what exactly makes an Islamic Emirate?”

A.) “My response is that the Muslims have established an Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan and Iraq, but they have not yet resurrected the Caliphate. We ask Allah for that to happen soon, by his grace and mercy. The evidence of this is that that both of them [i.e. the Islamic Emirates] have extended their reach over vast regions of Afghanistan and Iraq, have defended them, and have enforced Shariah law there as much as possible.”

“Here, I would like to address a misconception that has been raised regarding these two emirates. Some people claim that the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan has turned from a developing Emirate into merely an Emirate of jihad and warfare. As for the Islamic State of Iraq, they claim that it is an Emirate under an occupation and in the midst of open warfare—which cannot be established. The Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan is a developing emirate, by the grace of Allah, both before the invasion and after it. It reorganized its forces after the invasion—not in the capital and other major cities, but rather in the countryside, the mountains and the frontiers, which are the natural bases of power and authority in Afghanistan. Then, it renewed its campaigns and assaults, until it compelled the Christian forces and their apostate agents to withdraw and confine themselves to fortresses. This has caused them to resort to airstrikes, which have targeted the general population—women, children, and villagers—until they exert enough pressure on the mujahideen to leave the area and abandon their campaigns. However, eastern and southern Afghanistan are, by the grace of Allah, in the grasp of the Islamic Emirate, which defends them, keeps them safe, clears them of spies, and enforces Shariah law there. Rulers and

officials have been appointed there and, in many areas, the battle has turned into a conventional war with strictly-marked limits—in addition to the painful blows that continue to rain down on the capital and other major cities across Afghanistan. This is what the Christians themselves have admitted, and they have confessed that they are being defeated in Afghanistan.”

“Moreover, America presses with all her might on her allies in Europe to send their men, so that they will die in the place of her own troops in the mountains and valleys of Afghanistan. The matter is not restricted to Afghanistan alone, such as in Pakistan where the Taliban enjoy authority and control across vast regions, are able to defend them, and use them to support their brothers in Afghanistan—and to blunt the assaults of the traitors from the Pakistani army, the dogs employed by America. These attacks have resulted in total failure, by the grace of Allah and by his power, and the morale of the Pakistani army has sunken to an abysmal level. The dogs of Musharraf were even forced to sign agreements with the Taliban in order to save themselves from harm. With this treacherous policy, Musharraf has brought Pakistan to the brink of destruction and division, and he has ignited the fire of civil war. The only thing that he has accomplished with these policies is a complete failure marked by dishonor and treachery. All the Taliban and their supporters in Pakistan owe loyalty to the Mullah Mohammed Omar, the mujahid who Allah will use to support Islam and the Muslims. These are the true and real facts, which the Christians have themselves been willing to admit before any others...”

“As for the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), may Allah support her; she is still to this day, by the grace of Allah, the main force confronting the Christians and their agents and thwarting the ambitions of the Iranians. Despite all the assaults of the Americans and their agents, and despite the rivers of dollars which have flowed in an effort to recruit a throng of traitors and apostates, the Islamic State of Iraq has survived all their attacks and, by the grace of Allah and his power, is still striking mortal blows on the Americans and their agents, whose entire plan has failed. [The ISI] is, by the grace of Allah and by his might, the greatest force that is confronting Christian and Iranian ambitions in Iraq—something which everyone has acknowledged. [The ISI] is still, by the grace of Allah, in control of vast regions of Iraq, despite the military and slanderous propaganda attacks upon her. I would ask those who doubt the legitimacy of the Islamic State of Iraq three questions:”

“1.) Can you deny that the Islamic State of Iraq is the most dangerous threat to the Christian and Iranian schemes and ambitions in Iraq?”

“2.) Can you deny that the Islamic State of Iraq is the strongest mujahideen force in terms of the number of its supporters? If the answer to this is ‘yes’, it is so by the grace of Allah. The only reason for this is the public support [the ISI] receives. Would it be possible for an organization to acquire this amount of power and to successfully fend off all these assaults by the most powerful forces in the world, and to thwart all these schemes and false propaganda, if they did not enjoy acceptance or were unpopular? The Muslims in Iraq support the Islamic State of Iraq and defend her, because they know that she is the most sincere force in defending them against the Christian and Iranian threats.”

“3.) I say to those who doubt the legitimacy of the Islamic State of Iraq and her control over territory: can anyone deny that the blessed [ISI] controls at least one square kilometer of the land of Iraq? If the answer to this is ‘yes’, then it is so by the grace of Allah. Therefore, how can you deny them the right to establish an Islamic State upon the land which they control? How large was the territory of the state of blessed Medina before the raid of the confederates? What was her state during the raid of the confederates? ...Are these not Quranic facts? Is this not directly from the biography of the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him salvation? Is this not what we have learned about in the Quran?”

“Now, with the permission of my brother Muslim, I would like to proceed a little beyond what he asked, and address two things which I consider to be important. First, the banner and the methodology of the Islamic State of Iraq are among the purest banners and methodologies in Iraq. This is an Islamic State which relies upon the Shariah alone in making legal decisions, and considers its allegiance to Islam and loyalty to our faith above all other allegiances and loyalties. This is exactly the thing that is lacking from many of the movements claiming a relationship to

Islam. This is a State which calls for and struggles toward the resurrection of the Caliphate state, and [the ISI] incites Muslims towards [establishing] it. Second, this is a State that threatens the occupying state of the Jews to their great consternation. Who among us can forget the words of the martyr of Islam, as we consider him, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, may Allah have mercy upon him: 'Verily, we fight in Iraq, but our eyes are turned towards Jerusalem.' Who among us can forget the support of Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, may Allah protect him, for our Palestinian brothers in Iraq? Those who were slain by the gangs of treachery, who bartered with the legacy of the blessed family [of the Prophet], may Allah be pleased with them, under the cross of Bush."

"Therefore, I ask those who have doubts about the Islamic State of Iraq: what is the point of destroying an Islamic state that has arisen after such a long wait in the heart of the Muslim world? I reply to them, what is more likely, offers greater freedom and dignity, and is more dangerous to the enemies of Islam—the steadfast Islamic State of Iraq or the supplies of petroleum that float above American aircraft carriers on the beaches of the [Persian] Gulf? Or the United States of America in Riyadh? Or the American services agency in Egypt? Or a state run by the descendants of Sharif al-Hussein, for whom Churchill used his pen to create a state in the desert as repayment for the betrayal against the Caliphate state?"

Q.) "If there are two Islamic emirates, or caliphates, in Afghanistan and Iraq, are they two separate states? Or are they ruled by a single ruler? To be precise, is there a difference between the roles of the Mullah Mohammad Omar, Shaykh Omar al-Baghdadi, and Shaykh Usama Bin Laden? What is the relationship between their roles?"

A.) "My response is that the Islamic State of Iraq, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan—and I would add to them the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus—are individual Islamic emirates that do not yield to a single ruler, and may it be that the Caliphate state will be soon resurrected. This would encompass the three of them and the rest of the Muslims. Shaykh Usama Bin Laden is a soldier of the Emir al-Mumineen, Mullah Mohammed Omar, may Allah protect him, and all of those you have cited help and cooperate with each other in order to support Islam and the jihad."

Q.) "How were the leader/leaders of the two emirates/caliphates in Afghanistan and Iraq chosen? Please be specific in your answer to this question."

A.) "My response is that Afghanistan and Iraq were in a state of riots, discord, and hostility towards Islam before the rise of the Islamic states there—not to mention, the Christian assault and the obvious military interference of Iran in coordination with the Christians in Iraq. Given this situation, it is impossible for a ruler to be chosen in a normal fashion, as is the case with firmly-established states and nations—and thus, the Muslims aim and approximate in order to reach the best option. The establishment of an emirate or an Islamic State is an obligation according to Shariah and an essential necessity. It is impossible to postpone it under the pretext of there being unsuitable conditions for choosing a ruler—otherwise, the corrupted and the enemies of Islam would seize control over our nation, we would have no sense of safety, and our sacred rites would be threatened. Internal strife, which spoiled the fruits of the jihad in Afghanistan, and may also spoil the fruits of the jihad in Iraq, would burst forth if an Islamic Emirate did not exist. Thus, all the internal and external conditions in these two countries are ready to explode into internecine bloodshed, unless an Islamic legal authority rises and is able to thwart these plots."

"Regarding Afghanistan, the measure of decline and corruption there before the establishment of an Islamic state is well-known. For the people of Afghanistan, the matter has already reached its climax, and therefore they have expressed their acceptance of an Islamic state, and this is revealed through the following:"

- "The welcoming of the Taliban and the calls from the people of various districts and counties for them to come over and help purify their neighborhoods from corruption. This is the secret of the rapid spread of territorial control by the Taliban, eventually over 95% of Afghanistan. In this regard, despite all of the abundant resources and support received from outside forces by the Afghan parties which participated in the jihad against the communists, they have failed."
- "The pledge of allegiance of 2,000 clerics at a conference in Kandahar to the Emir al-Mumineen, Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Emir [commander] of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan."

- “The territorial control of the Islamic Emirate over large portions of Afghanistan, despite the Christian campaign and the efforts of the Afghan renegades who serve it, and despite the Pakistani treachery that has stabbed the mujahideen of the Emirate and their supporters in Pakistan in their backs. Despite all of these efforts, the authority of the Emirate continues to expand further and become stronger, due to the sweeping public support which it enjoys.”
- “In Iraq, the brothers were divided in the past regarding their efforts to unite the ranks of the mujahideen through the Mujahideen Shura Council and, later, the ‘Hilf al-Mutayibeen’, and then finally the oath of allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq taken by all the mujahideen factions following the righteous path and the mujahideen tribes in an unambiguous way. The greatest evidence of this is the brave defiance of the blessed state, which has shattered their military campaigns, the discord, and their schemes.”

Q.) “Who is the highest-ranked woman in Al-Qaida? You don’t have to state names, but what are their positions in the organization?”

A.) “There are no women in the Al-Qaidat ul-Jihad Organization, but the wives of the mujahideen play a heroic role in managing their homes and sons despite the hardships of immigration, moving from place to place, fighting, and expecting the strikes of the crusaders. But the crusaders—who claim [they are] defending freedom and human rights—openly have struck women, children, and civilians during their wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Palestine, in order to force the fighters to retreat or surrender. This is their typical behavior during their wars. Later, after they destroy villages and houses, they say that the mujahideen are the ones who are responsible, because they have hidden among civilians. These crimes will not go unpunished, Allah willing.”

Q.) “How many times have you personally met Imad Mugniyeh, and when were they?”

A.) “I haven’t met him. This is a strange question, and I don’t understand what the intent is behind it.”

Q.) “Can you clear up the confusion that many Westerners have about technology—on one hand, you shun modern values, but on the other hand you accept modern Western technology such as the Internet?”

A.) “This question is based on two false premises. The fact that I accept or shun a certain value is not based on whether it is ancient or modern. But I am opposed to polytheism; scorning the religion; establishing relations based on material benefit and achieving sensory pleasures; lying, deceiving; acting on self-interest; alcoholism; gambling; vices; taking over other people’s countries and oppressing them; stealing the riches of others; double standards; immunity against being held accountable for crimes for which others will be punished; spreading killing, abuse, destruction, and the destruction of the environment and climate merely to master the land, rob, and plunder. Scientific knowledge is neither Eastern nor Western—it is the property of mankind which circulates among us equally in various times and places. The scientific progress of the West was originally based on our riches, which they are still plundering to this day. Where is our stolen share? Secondly, the West tried to cover up its crimes against us and against the rest of mankind by priding itself in its scientific supremacy. Under the cover of this progress, they have attempted to convince occupied and weaker nations that they [the West] are superior to them, and more deserving to manage the world and to plunder its riches—and to demean other people. Neither the Muslims, nor anyone else, will be fooled by this trick any longer. We know that the West gained supremacy over us because we abandoned our traditional values and not because their values are superior to ours. We have studied the West thoroughly and have learned the knowledge upon which it is based. We have discovered its shortcomings and inadequacies, and we do not suffer from a complex of being awestruck by it, a complex which has befallen many from our Islamic nation. Third, in our defense of the Islamic nation against Western crimes, we understand the nature of the enemy. We do not try and catch up with him in his progress, but we have studied his weak points—and we have pressed against them, and will continue to press against them, Allah willing. If Allah wills it, they will collapse and be defeated. Fourth, we have

offered the Western nations the chance to remove their armies from our countries in order to reach a situation of mutual benefit—and the response was only more aggression.”

Q.) “How do you reconcile the values of your medical training—to help people and prolong their lives—with the fact that you killed Anwar al-Sadat and that you shape the minds of bombers and suicide commandos?”

A.) “During my medical studies, I learned that life is Allah’s miracle and his gift. Thus, one must be careful to obey him. I have learned from surgery about how to save the body by amputating failing organs and removing cancers, and how to cure illness-inducing bacteria. Medicine, when practiced as a sacrifice to Allah and to help the oppressed, will grant the soul happiness and joy, which will never be experienced by those who have twisted it into a tool for greed, robbing others and exploiting their pain for their own benefit.”

Q.) “If your moral system is so very far from the Western system of morality, why do you bother addressing us?”

A.) “This is the role of the messengers and their followers. Allah, praised and exalted be he, says: ‘Therefore, remind [men] in case the reminder should profit [them]; the reminder will be heeded by those who fear [Allah]; But it will be avoided by the wretched’ (Quran, 87:8-10) and he says: ‘So remind them, you are only a messenger; you are not a dictator over them; Save the one who turns away and disbelieves; then Allah will punish him with the greatest punishment’ (Quran, 88:21-23).”

Q.) “How do you see your ideology in ten years?”

A.) “If you mean the past ten years, I praise Allah for keeping me from deviating from the truth and allowing me to live long enough to see the beginning of the defeat of America. If you mean the next [ten years], Allah willing, there will be an Islamic jihad awakening which will strive to liberate the Islamic world. It will shake the foundations of the Western crusader oppressors, and it will extend a hand to every oppressed person suffering under tyranny.”

Q.) “Do you think that our course of action regarding members of the [Muslim] Brotherhood should change? Do you have any advice for them, O’ venerable shaykh? Do you think that we should decrease the intensity of our condemnations of them and our criticisms, without abandoning any of our firm religious or ideological principles?”

A.) “The advice I give to every devotee of the [Muslim] Brotherhood Organization and other Islamic organizations is that they should make an effort to purify their organizations. If they fail to succeed, then may their loyalty to Allah and his messenger (may He bless him and grant him salvation) come before any other loyalty. They should make an effort to improve the image of their organization after the miserable situations which they have gotten themselves entangled in—such as pledging allegiance to Hosni Mubarak and their silence regarding their brothers entering Kabul and Baghdad on the backs of Christian tanks. Furthermore, I would advise them to avoid following the misconceptions of the clerics of the Marines, who have approved the faith of Hosni Mubarak and his efforts to convey the mission of Islam. They have allowed Muslims to kill their own Muslim brothers under the banner of America, and they approved the normalization of relations with Israel, on the condition of their withdrawal from part of Palestine. These clerics, who are still insisting on their mistakes and are too proud to change their minds or to apologize before their Muslim nation for the Islamic verdicts they have issued which have caused such harm. They do not deserve to be Imams followed by people, but they need a severe reprimand that would remind them of their duty to Allah.”