

## HOW MAN BECAME MISERABLE

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds, the Creator of all things by His Word. Prayer and praise, thanksgiving and worship be to Him who formed us from the dust and marvelously created us. Indeed, in this are wonders for those who perceive and comprehend.

I witness that there is no god other than Allah, the one God, the only eternal God, and that He has no associate. He rescues from error, leads to the truth, and guides to the straight path.

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As for what follows, often people ask themselves: Where did I come from? Why do I exist? Who am I? What is my reason for being? Most probably you have not found the solution and answer to



*Who am I?*

these questions. You are more and more troubled and frustrated, and you realize you are lost, wandering in darkness. You may try to satisfy yourself by studying philosophy. However, philosophy cannot satisfy your heart or quench your thirst. You search here and there, but you are still just as lost.

So come along with me, my brother, and let's try to understand humans – where they came from; how they came into existence; where they stand now; and where they are going.

Indeed, Allah, glorified and exalted, is a reality – not a product of people's imagination or fantasy. We cannot comprehend how Allah exists, for our understanding is limited. Allah is Spirit, and because our vision is finite, we cannot see Him. He is present in every place and in every age. Allah is eternal. He has absolutely no beginning or ending whatsoever. And Allah is



*Philosophy cannot satisfy*

everlasting. He never changes.

I read a story about a king who wanted to see Allah. He called together all his advisors and religious leaders and ordered them to show him Allah. He said: "If you don't show me Allah, I'll kill you all!" They were all puzzled as to how to deal with this difficult situation. A peasant who heard about their dilemma, was sure he could help solve the problem. He asked to see the king and said to him: "Your Majesty, if you want to see Allah, you must first look at the bright sun with your bare eyes." The king angrily replied: "You foolish man, do you want me to become blind? How can I look at the sun?" The peasant replied: "Your Majesty, if you would become blind by just looking at one of Allah's creations, how could you possibly look at Allah Himself?"

So, if we cannot see Allah, how do we know that He exists? How can I be certain that He is?

Look at nature, my brother; look at all of creation. It points to the existence of Allah. It is absolutely certain that behind the creation there is a Creator. And there can be no doubt that behind all the intricate designs of the world there is a Mighty Designer! Allah, mighty and exalted, by His power says to something, "Be", and it is.

So first of all, Allah created the heavens and the earth. Then He made plants, the sun, moon and stars, the animals and birds. After that, Allah created man. He breathed life into him, and the man began to live. This was Adam. Then Allah took a rib from Adam, made a woman from it, and gave her to Adam to be his wife. This was Eve.

At that time, evil did not exist in man. Ungodliness, sin, guilt, rebellion, pain, sickness, hatred, wars, and death – none of these were known. There was peace, joy, harmony, and unity.

Allah Almighty gave Adam and Eve power and authority over the earth and over all created things of the earth – vegetation and animals. People became Allah's deputies (caliphs) to rule over the earth so that Allah – may He be praised and honored – would receive glory and exaltation for His wisdom and power. Then Allah

“...planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there he put the man he had formed. He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood... the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.”

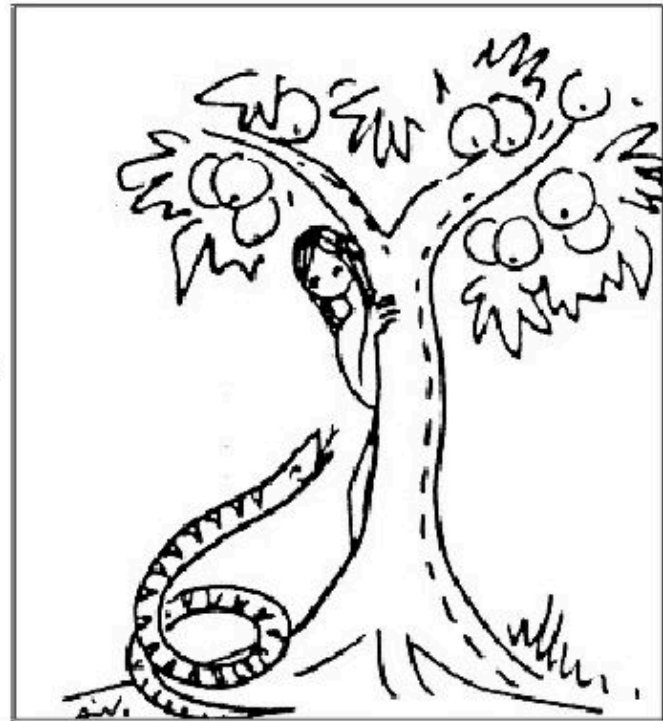
Allah, exalted, instructed Adam, saying to him:

“You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day.”

Death here means being cast away from Allah. It is spiritual death which leads to perishing in eternal hell.

Adam and Eve were naked, without shame, because they were completely innocent. They lived together in a state of happiness and well-being, and they had a good relationship with Allah, their Creator.

But one day, Satan came and slyly suggested to Eve to disobey Allah. Satan is humanity’s arch enemy. His constant goal is to make man fall into disobedience. So Satan said to Eve:



*Satan tempted Eve to disobey Allah*

“If you and Adam eat from the tree that gives knowledge of what’s good and what’s bad, you will not die. No, just the opposite! Your eyes will be opened, and you’ll become just like Allah, knowing what’s good and what’s bad.”

So Eve gazed at the tree and saw that its fruit was beautiful, appetizing, and good to eat. And she took, ate, and gave of the fruit to Adam, her husband; and he also did eat.

Immediately, both of them realized that they were naked. They made for themselves garments of fig leaves as a covering. In the evening, Adam and Eve heard the voice of Allah in the paradise. So they hid in the midst of the trees. Allah called to Adam and said:

“Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden; I was afraid and hid from you, because I was naked.” “Who told you that you were naked?” Allah asked. “Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to eat?” The man answered, “The woman you put here with me gave me the fruit, and I ate it.” Allah asked the woman, “Why did you do this?” She replied, “The snake tricked me into eating it.”

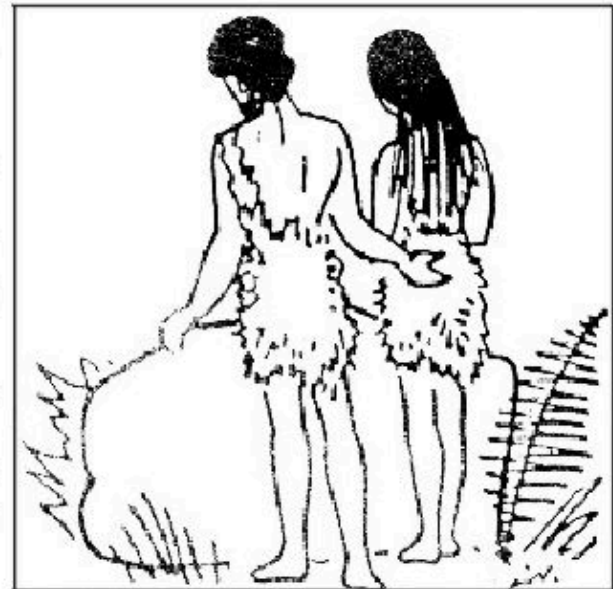
This was man's first sin. What was the result?

Allah cast Adam and Eve out of paradise. They lost their free access to Him because they had listened to the words of Satan and disobeyed the commandment of Allah.

Hence, the relationship of friendship and mutual belonging that had existed between the Creator and man was broken. Evil, iniquity, corruption, pain, sickness, despair, and death entered the life of man because he had fallen into sin by yielding to Satan and disobeying Allah.

But Allah, glorified and exalted, did two things. First, He made Adam and Eve garments of animal skin to use as a covering instead of the fig leaves. Second, He promised He would send a Person from among their descendants. This Messenger would defeat Satan by giving him a blow that would finally lead to his destruction.

Allah thus demonstrated His love and care



*Allah gave Adam and Eve animal skins as a covering*

for people. He did not want to leave them lost and perishing. Rather, He planned to rescue them from the disobedience into which they had fallen.

So then, my dear friend, we have discussed the answers to at least some of the questions we posed at the beginning of the lesson.

Where did you come from? Allah created you by His power. Why did He create you? So that you would be His deputy on earth, and that this would bring Him glory and exaltation. Where are you now? And where are you going? Allah willing, we will discuss these questions in the following lesson.

So, in the keeping and protection of Allah, good-bye for now.

Your friend,  
**Sheikh Abdullah**



# INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write your answers on the test sheet itself.
2. Do not return the lesson to us. This is for you to keep.
3. Do not copy the answers directly from the lesson or from any other person.
4. Study the lesson well and carefully review it. Then answer the test questions.
5. Write our address clearly on the envelope. Put your return address on the reverse side. If your address changes, send us your new address right away.
6. If you do not receive an answer from us within one month, it means that we have not received your letter. Please write to us again.
7. In all your correspondence with us use your student number that appears on the upper right-hand corner of your test sheet.

Our address is:

B.P. 14  
13080 - Luynes  
FRANCE

## In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Dear friend,

Warmest greetings! It is my desire to get to know you and send you the first lesson of the "Right Path" correspondence course from the International Center.

The goal of these studies is to help you in matters pertaining to life and eternity. This first set, "Right Path," has 7 lessons. We will send you these free of charge for the sake of Allah, wishing to please Him. Also, in the course of your study with us, we will send you, Allah willing, cassette tapes and excellent books as a gift.

The International Center has numerous branches in many parts of the world. Our concern is with thought, religion, and practical living. Whenever it is possible, we organize conferences and seminars so that our students can get to know each other and be encouraged in pursuing the kind of life that pleases Allah.

So dear friend, I would like you to study this first lesson very carefully and answer the test questions. Then when you send me the test sheet, we will correct it, give you a grade, and then return it to you with lesson two. I wish you Allah's goodness and peace.

Your friend,  
**Sheikh Abdullah**

- \* I received your letter in response to our ads in newspapers and on the radio.
- \* A friend of yours gave me your address and requested that we send you the lesson.

## **B. ANSWER BRIEFLY**

1. How do we know that Allah exists?

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2. Who is people's greatest enemy, and what is his goal?

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3. Why did Allah expel Adam and Eve from the garden?

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4. What is the cause of disease, hatred, and wars?

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5. Allah promised to send a Messenger from among Adam and Eve's offspring. What would this Messenger do?

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# LESSON 1 - QUIZ

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

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## A. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

1. The first man Allah created was \_\_\_\_\_
2. Allah gave Adam the freedom to obey Him or to disobey Him;  
but Adam \_\_\_\_\_
3. Adam tried to cover himself with \_\_\_\_\_ but Allah made  
for him \_\_\_\_\_
4. Spiritual death is \_\_\_\_\_
5. Allah Almighty cares for people. That is why when man fell into sin,  
Allah planned to \_\_\_\_\_