

5 The Sources of Islam

QUESTION: What are the sources of Islam? Where do Muslims take their beliefs from?

ANSWER: Islamic beliefs are taken from two sources. ¹

The first source is the Quran.

The second is the Sunnah of Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessing be upon him). The Sunnah refers to his statements, his actions, his approvals (meaning those things which were done in his presence and he did not object to) and those things that he abandoned.

These two sources need to be understood in the correct way.

As we have seen, many different people, both Muslims and non Muslims, quote from these two sources to justify their own opinions.

So what is the correct way?

It is the understanding of the early generations of the Muslims, in particular the Companions of Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessing be upon him).

The Companions lived with him and were able to ask him questions about any matter that was unclear to them.

So they had the clearest and most correct understanding of any of the Muslims that have lived since the time of Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessing be upon him).

They are the 'gold standard' that Muslims should refer to, when trying to find out 'what does this verse mean? what does this statement of the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessing be upon him) actually refer to?'

Sadly, Muslims have seen much argumentation and splitting over the last 1400 years.

Yet this is something that is forbidden and condemned in Islam, since this leads to weakening of the Muslims, spilling of innocent blood and also foreign beliefs and practices coming into Islam.

Allah says in the Quran:

And hold fast all of you together to the Rope of Allah (the Quran) and do not split apart from each other.

Surah 3 ayah 103

It is notable that we do not see this fighting and splitting during the earliest years of Islam.

Although there may have been minor differences of opinion about certain issues, the Companions were united in their beliefs about Allah, the Angels, etc – those things which we mentioned as being their 'aqeedah'.

=====

NEXT TIME: What do Muslims believe about the first of these two sources, the Quran? Is it different from what the Christians and Jews believe about their books?

¹ Refer to '*aqeedah ut tawheed* p11 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information