

# Is luxury living unlawful for a Muslim?

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HARUN YAHYA

**T**HROUGHOUT their lives, people want to be like those they regard as being of higher quality, and they often accept them as role models.

They look at pictures of movie stars and artists who take great pains over their appearance and try to imitate their tastes, and even their beliefs most of the time, out of admiration for them. Yet the sole belief worthy of being learned and praised is Islam, and Muslims who represent Islam must therefore live as high quality lives as possible. Regarding the opposite — that a low quality life is required by Islam — is an incorrect attitude stemming from failing to appreciate Allah properly and not living by the moral values of the Qur'an.

One of the most striking features of this current era is how the whole world can be in an instantaneous state of communication as a result of technological advances.

A young person sitting alone at his computer can be in simultaneous contact with Brazil, America, Russia, Turkey, Great Britain and China, and they can easily see the way people there live.

This rapid communication is one of the reasons why Muslims across the world must strive for high quality life. Concept of a quality life, in all places and at all times, has a positive effect on everyone and is instrumental in others taking an interest in one's beliefs.

Having a high quality of life is therefore an important way of preaching Islam.

Allah describes in the Qur'an how Muslims must wear clean clothes,

eat good food, live in pleasant environments and, most important of all, possess elevated moral values. All the prophets were people who led the highest quality lives among their peoples, within the conditions of the time and their own means.

The beauty and technological superiority of the palace of the Prophet Solomon (peace be upon him) was instrumental in Belkis, Queen of Sheba, coming to have faith. Our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) wore a Roman robe when welcoming visitors. People immediately recog-

nized our Prophet's rose-scented fragrance when he was walking in the streets. Our Prophet (peace be upon him) tinged his eyes with kohl and had his beard well-groomed. A superior concept of art and science, compassion and high quality arrived everywhere that Islam reached, not just the Arabian Peninsula.

For example, concept of a high-quality life reigned in all areas of life in the

Umayyad state of Andalusia in Spain. Inspired by love of Allah, Andalusian architecture and the Andalusian Muslims' democratic approach to people of all faiths,

cultures and beliefs, are still an example for all of Europe.

The spread of Islamic moral values throughout the world and their acceptance by large numbers of people in the West in particular can only become possible by eliminating the false image that has been established of Islam.

If someone who lives in a Western coun-

try, who benefits from all kinds of freedoms and who enjoys art and science, who appreciates beauty and has a certain standard of living, is given the impression that Muslims have to be inward-looking, avoid esthetic pleasures and live a life purged of all blessings, unhappy, devoid of beauty and music, and generally frozen, that person is not going to develop a positive opinion of Islam. If there are no pleasures that expand the human spirit, if there is no art, no beauty or aesthetics, no happy people having fun, then the world is never going to sign up to Islam.

A quality life does not mean expensive cars, palaces or designer clothing; someone who possesses all these but has no understanding of quality in his or her soul cannot set a good example.

A Muslim capable of beautifying his own life and surroundings with his moral values and presence is someone who lives by Islam in the finest manner, and that sincerity can be instrumental in many people turning to Islam.

■ *The writer has authored 300 books, translated into 73 languages on politics, religion and science.*

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# ISLAM IN PERSPECTIVE

## Let's become grateful servants of Allah

AMIN AUSTAN SALAM

**G**RATEFULNESS lies at the core of man's relationship with Allah. It may be expressed by the heart or tongue, or through deeds, words, and gestures. It is the gratitude flowing from the heart, the proper response for immense divine favors.



**DIVINE DEEDS:** If you are grateful, I will surely increase you [in favor]. (Qur'an, 1:7)

A grateful person is always mindful of being indebted to Allah's bounties, big and small, and articulates his or her feelings of every step to express gratitude. This feeling of constant gratitude has a very significant bearing on everyone's deeds. This is because a grateful servant finds great happiness in doing the deeds that are pleasing to his or her Beneficent and Merciful Allah.

Consequently, he or she is prone to thanking Allah incessantly. He or she truly appreciates Allah's bounties and favors and never ceases to thank Him for all that He has bestowed upon him or her.

Gratitude is a noble virtue that is ingrained in the hearts of all who are grateful to Allah. It is a noble virtue that is ingrained in the hearts of all who are grateful to Allah.

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behind them, and from their right-hand side and from their left-hand side, and you will not find a soul that is thankful. (Qur'an, 7:17)

Being grateful to Allah should not be an occasional thing. It should be a constant state of mind. It should be a constant state of mind.

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How to attain it? We cannot repay Allah for His countless favors. He has bestowed upon us so many favors that we cannot even begin to count them. We are grateful to Allah for His countless favors.

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## I found the message of Islam appealing

Educated at Oxford University, the late Abdullahi Abdur-Rahman, a former British politician, an English lawyer and a public man of wide repute, became acquainted with Islamic communications in Christianity as regards the status of Allah. He turned to Islam only to find an appealing message which he took no time to accept. Excerpt from his book, "Islam, Our Choice".

I AM deeply grateful for this opportunity of writing a few words to you to why I embraced Islam. I was moved under the influence of Christian parents. It was only after I became interested in studying Islam, and in contact with the Church of England, and took the interest in missionary work without an actual conversion to it.

Some years ago I gave my attention to the doctrine of "Eternal Punishment" of all mankind except a few elect. It became so intolerant to me that I embraced Islam. I continued, however, to believe in the existence of God, but was not willing to accept the commonly understood teaching of God's revelation as I found it in the Bible.

I then turned my attention to the teachings of other religions, only to find myself baffled. The ancient desire to worship and serve the True God grew in me.

The words of Christianity claim to be founded on the Bible, but I found there to be conflicting. It is possible that Bible and teaching of Jesus Christ had been misrepresented. So I turned my attention again to the Bible and determined to make a careful study, and I felt that there was something wrong.

I determined to make and for myself ignoring the words of men. I began to teach that men possessed a "Soul," and an "Eternal Fire" which was intended for those who were perished both in this world and in the next, that God in His Grace and Mercy was ever ready to forgive our sins if we only were truly repentant.

Reading the accounts of things up to the Truth and Allah's decree, that I may be the "best of the great past," I found myself drawn to the study of Islam.

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Having a high quality of life is therefore an important way of preaching Islam to Allah's creatures in Qur'an and Medicine from our own dear Islam.

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Adnan Oktar's piece on Arab News:

<http://www.arabnews.com/news/571356>

<https://www.harunyahya.info/en/articles/is-luxury-living-unlawful-for-a-muslim>