HOW PROPHET PROPHET MUHAMMAD MUHAMMAD LEGISLATED



Responding to David Wood

BY JALAL ABUALRUB
EDITED BY ALAA MENCKE

ISLAM'S CRITIC writes:

Muhammad says that he was thinking of forbidding the [Ghilah] practice. But then he remembered that the Persians and Romans do it, so he didn't forbid the practice. Apparently, if he hadn't remembered that the Persians and Romans practice Ghilah, he would have condemned it, and Muslims today would say that Allah forbids Ghilah. Isn't it obvious that this had nothing to do with any divine insight on Muhammad's part, and that what he rejected and accepted was simply a matter of his all-too-human thought processes? ... Muhammad's reasoning had nothing to do with revelation. Why, then, accept his command to follow his regulations?

What is the Ghilah (Gheelah) practice? What is the response to this criticism of how Prophet Muhammad legislated?

Read this brief book to find the answer to this question and many more.

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First Edition

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Did Prophet Muhammad Legislate According to His Desire?

Introduction

I am not a fan of blogs or have the time to spend on such type of media, even though it is popular these days and has a wide audience. I have a hard time as it is concentrating on my books and articles, and my books are the most important project of my life. However, I did manage to read through a number of issues about Islam which David Wood is discussing on his blog. It is not possible to comment on all of what David Wood says, because there are so many distortions, lies and fabrications to address.

David Wood wrote in an article titled, Muhammad's Reason for Not Forbidding Ghilah, "The following Hadith gives us a glimpse of Muhammad's method of forbidding and accepting various practices: Sunan an-Nasa'i 3328--It was narrated from Aishah that Judamah bint Wahb told her that the Messenger of Allah said: 'I was thinking of forbidding Ghilah until I remembered that it is done by the Persians and Romans'--(one of the narrators) Ishaq said: '(They) do that--and it does not harm their children.' Ghilah refers to having sex with a woman who is breastfeeding. Muhammad says that he was thinking of forbidding the practice. But then he remembered that the Persians and Romans do it, so he didn't forbid the practice. Apparently, if he hadn't remembered that the Persians and Romans practice Ghilah, he would have condemned it, and Muslims today would say that Allah forbids Ghilah. Isn't it obvious that this had nothing to do with any divine insight on Muhammad's part, and that what he rejected and accepted was simply a matter of his all-too-human thought processes? If so, why are Muslims so obsessed with following Muhammad's regulations (especially when they include pagan practices, such as bowing to the Ka'ba, etc.)? Here Muslims will say, 'We follow Muhammad's regulations because he commanded us to follow his regulations.' But that's exactly my point. As this Hadith shows,

Muhammad's reasoning had nothing to do with revelation. Why, then, accept his command to follow his regulations?"

David Wood, A Loving Christian!

The, Acts 17 Apologetics Ministry, is described on their website as, "A Christian YouTube channel founded by Dr. David Wood (a former atheist) and Dr. Nabeel Qureshi (a former Muslim). Nabeel went on to join Ravi Zacharias International Ministries and to write the bestsellers 'Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus' and 'No God but One.' Then he went on to be with the Lord."

David Wood, born in 1976, is a professional evangelical critic of Islam, who writes against Allah **1, Islam, the Quran, and Islam's Prophet, Muhammad **2, criticizing various aspects of the Islamic religion. He also actively protested the establishment of some *masajid*, meaning, the Islamic houses of worship. Wood travels around the United States debating Muslims about Islam. He also debates with atheists.

David Wood and I debated in the past. I have been reading some of his posts about Islam ever since then and have responded to a number of them. What David Wood does, is no different from what other anti-Islam evangelicals do. They invent concepts and ideas, then paste what they invent to Islam, then criticize Islam for the invented concepts and ideas that they came up with. Meanwhile, when learned Muslims respond to what evangelicals invent in and about Islam, the evangelicals insist on promoting the invented concepts and ideas, without making changes or retractions.

It is important to note here that we are not in the business of exposing anyone's past, personal mistakes. However, an exception is made here, especially for David Wood. We dedicate this special status to David Wood after he had made a video **while dressed in his wife's nightgown**, accusing Prophet Muhammad ## of wearing his wife's

¹ **Sub'hanahu wa-Ta'ala':** This statement is recited after mentioning Allah's Name; translated, it means, 'He (Allah) is Glorified and Exalted.' There are other statements of glorification Muslims recite upon mentioning Allah's Name.

² **Salla-Allahu `Alaihi wa-Sallam:** Muslims recite this statement after they mention Prophet Muhammad; it generally means, 'Allah's Mercy, Honor and Blessings on him.'

clothes. Hence, we came to the conclusion that, **those who have no honor**, **should not be afforded respect**. Additionally, the information gathered here about David Wood, is all in the public domain. He, him-self, seems to dwell on his past, even admitting to the acts ascribed to him.

In response to David Wood's shameless nightgown stunt, we wrote an article titled, "David Wood: The Un-Pretty Evangelist in His Wife's Nightgown." Allah willing, we will include the mentioned article towards the end of this booklet, so as to demonstrate how lowly such characters can sink into in their crusade to defame Islam and its Prophet . This defamation claim was -again- responded to at length in our book, Did Jesus and Muhammad Practice Cross-Dressing? This book is found on our website www.IslamLife.com.

David Wood, like many others, made personal mistakes in the past; "I thought I had to do something that would really get to the heart of the matter. That's when I decided to kill my dad." (David Wood speaking to Heather Tomlinson. "David Wood: From Nihilism to New Life." Premiere Christianity, the UK's leading Christian magazine, 14 April 2016). Indeed, normal people do not make the savage 'mistake' quoted from Wood above.

Still, like many other evangelists who claim to have found Jesus-such as in jail- and then claim that their lives have changed towards becoming, a loving Christian, David Wood went through a similar transformation. This quote is asking the question many of us have, "How can a person (David Wood) become a loving Christian who cannot feel emotion? Would God have to do an outstanding medical miracle of healing their brain to make them a candidate?" (Stephen Rowland's Special to The Daily Herald. "Serving a God of Hope." July 15, 2020).

David Wood is also described here as to having been a "Sociopath atheist [who] tried to kill his dad – instead prison changed his life bringing him to Jesus. Believing he was the next level of human evolution, David Wood didn't need to follow normal social behavior. He was a sociopath, thus lacking in empathy. When sociopaths see people suffering, they don't feel badly, they usually don't feel anything at all. David believed that he reached a higher stage of humanity where he wasn't held back by any emotions. This

lack of emotion led him to break into places and steal things. As he did these things, he felt like he was stripping the layers of rules that people and society had been imposing on him his entire life. To prove that he was free from any rules of society, he decided to kill his dad in a brutal fashion. He hit his dad with a hammer several times in the head until he thought he was dead. He just laughed afterward." (Le-Jovale Vallejo. "Sociopath Atheist Tried to Kill his Dad." Christian Learning. Written by 'God tv', October 25, 2021)

Such a hateful personality whose opposition to Islam takes a remarkably hostile form filled with lies and slander, should not be described as 'a loving Christian.' It remains to be seen what effect his finding Jesus -in jail- has had on his heart and mind. He is abusive, rude, cruel, and cold. Describing David Wood as a loving Christian is not a good sign for Christianity. And, what is a 'loving' Christian, anyway? Is he or she one who is abusive and intolerable, lying about other religions in order to promote their own faith? This has been our experience with today's evangelists, a flock that is despised by most Christians. Harsh words? We will give some further examples.

Nabeel Qureshi, is another example. Was he really a believer in, *No God but One*, to begin with? Qureshi was from the Ahmadi sect, a rebellious group that completely broke away from Islam. Ahmadis are not Muslims, as the scholars of Islam agree. Qureshi did not 'taste' the true Islamic Faith. He did not find the One God when he reverted from the Ahmadi religion to polytheistic Christianity that preaches a trinitarian creed never before preached or advocated by any Prophet, including Prophet Jesus, Allah's blessings on him, himself. Qureshi passed away in 2017. Qureshi now knows the truth.

Jalal Abualrub

March 1, 2025

They Say They Studied Islam

What truly astonishes one, first and foremost, is that the type of evangelical Christian who would take it upon themselves to criticize Islam, claim that they have studied Islam for such and such years, or more or less, but they were not convinced it is a true religion. Well, it is clear they are not convinced, or they pretend to be unconvinced, but did they really study Islam?

About Islam Seeking to Dominate the World

On his blog, David Wood posts a picture of a Muslim carrying a poster that reads, 'Islam Will Dominate the World.' Typically, David Wood said something about violence in his comment on the poster. David Wood seems to take offense at this statement and describes what he thinks it implies. Thus, we guess, this means that Christianity <u>does not</u> seek to dominate the world, right? Surely, this is good news for Muslims of the world, especially at a time when one of these two situations has occurred: (a) Muslim navies are cruising all the waterbodies of the world that border Christian countries and are currently, or have recently been occupying a number of Christian countries; or, (b) Christian navies are cruising all the water-bodies of the world that border Muslim countries and are currently, or have recently been occupying a number of Muslim countries.

If one's choice is **(a)** then nothing we may say can change one's view of the world. A pure and clean heart is needed to see correctly, and only Allah can grant such a heart. If one's answer is **(b)**, then one would be as astonished as we are at the strange attitude displayed by Christian bashers of Islam. To truly describe this Christian stance, we quote here an old Arab saying that reads, "Ramatni bi-da-iha wansallati". Translated, this statement means, "She accused me of having the sickness that she suffers from, all the while claiming she doesn't suffer from it herself!"

Ibn Ishaq's Seerah

In his article titled 'Muhammad's Reason for Not Forbidding Ghilah', David Wood quotes hadeeth scholar Ahmad Ibn Shu`aib An-Nasaii (215-303AH³/838-926CE) narration of a hadeeth, meaning, statement from the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, also collected by hadeeth scholar Muslim Ibn Al-`Hajjaj Al-Qushairi (204-261AH/827-884CE), without mentioning Muslim's narration or the fact that he even collected it. Muslim's narrations are at a higher grade than An-Nasaii's narrations. But who are we to tell these experts on Islam, who studied Islam for years, or more, or less, very much less, about what hadeeth collection is higher in grade, especially evangelicals who use Ibn Is`haq's Seerah as a hadeeth collection, even though Seerah could never sound like 'hadeeth! Seerah is in reference to biography and history, especially with regards to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

³ **AH:** After the Prophet Muhammad's *hijrah* migration from Makkah to Madeenah which occurred in the year 623CE.

David Wood's Analysis on Muhammad's 'Method'

David Wood wrote, "The following Hadith gives us a glimpse of Muhammad's method of forbidding and accepting various practices."

Following are a few comments on this segment of David Wood's argument.

Prophet Muhammad said,

"Laqad hamamtu an anha `an Al-Gheelah", which could translate into, "I thought of forbidding Al-Gheelah." (Muslim)

Conclusion: Muhammad **%**, the Prophet of Islam, did not forbid the *gheelah*. *Hammun*, which is the root-word of *hamamtu*, pertains to a thought that crosses one's mind, that is, without acting on the thought. Surprisingly, David Wood used the words 'thought process' in his article, while describing what was indeed, thought process.

There is nothing wrong with Prophet Muhammad's method here or anywhere else. What is wrong, though, is to intentionally deviate and corrupt this *hadeeth* from its true meaning relying on the old/new Christian method of rejecting anything and everything that Prophet Muhammad ** said or did.

David Wood is Just Confused

David Wood is apparently confused, torn between what is an aspect of life and what is an aspect of religion in Islam. He, being 'an expert on Islam', has decided on his own that the topic of this *hadeeth* was about how Prophet Muhammad ## received revelation. Islam is again-being explained by Christian enthusiasts, regardless of what knowledgeable Muslims may say about their own religion.

The `hadeeth regarding gheelah, is about a matter of life that Allah's Prophet, Muhammad \$\mathbb{#}\$, discussed, and in this regard, he \$\mathbb{#}\$ often benefited from the experience of other nations and cultures. There is nothing in the hadeeth to suggest that Allah's Prophet Muhammad \$\mathbb{#}\$ was discussing or describing how he received divine revelation or how to add whatever to the revelation. This is a fantasy invented by those who have no clue what **context** is about when it comes to Islamic texts.

The *hadeeth* regarding *gheelah* was not about adding or not adding *gheelah* to the divine inspiration. It was -and still is- about an entirely different aspect of Islamic *sharee'ah*, meaning, Islamic Law.

There are *hadeeth* narrations that demonstrate how and when Islam's Prophet Muhammad ** received revelation from Allah ***, such as this *hadeeth*, meaning, one of Prophet Muhammad's statements,

"Allah revealed to me that, 'Be humble, so that none of you should boast above others and none of you should oppress others" (Found in the saheeh, meaning authentic hadeeth collection, by scholar Muslim). The hadeeth regarding gheelah was not of this type.

The hadeeth regarding gheelah was not of the type where the Angel Jibreel (Gabriel) inspired Prophet Muhammad's heart, by Allah's Permission,

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⁴ **Alaihi As-Salam**: This statement, which means, 'Blessing and mercy of Allah on him,' is recited on mentioning individual angels and prophets.

" إِنَّ رُوحَ القُدُسِ نَفَتَ فِي رُوعِي أَنَّ نَفْسًا لَنْ تَمُوتَ حَتَّى تَسْتَكُمْمِلَ أَجَلَهَا وَتَسْتَوْعِبَ رِزْقَهَا، فَانَّقُوا الله وَأَجْمِلُوا فِي الطَّلَبِ وَلا يَحْمِلَنَّ أَحَدَّكُمُ اسْتِبْطاءُ الرِّرْقِ أَنْ يَطْلَبُهُ بِمَعْصِيةِ اللهِ، فَإِنَّ الله تَعَالَى لاَيْنَالُ مَا عِنْدَهُ إِلاَّ بِطَاعَتِهِ "

"Roo'h Al-Qudus (Angel Jibreel [Gabriel]) inspired my heart (by Allah's command) that no soul shall die except after it completes its life-span and consumes its entire Rizq (sustenance). Therefore, fear Allah and seek your sustenance righteously. One of you should not become hasty and, instead of patiently awaiting their sustenance, seek their sustenance through disobedience of Allah (through theft, usury, selling alcohol, etc.), because what's with Allah, the Exalted (of blessed sustenance; Paradise) can only be earned through obedience to Him." (Nasir Ad-Deen Al-Albani. Saheeh Al-Jami', from Abu Umamah Al-Bahili \$5,\$ the Prophet's Companion; Scholar Al-Albani graded this hadeeth as saheeh, authentic, on account of its various narrations that strengthen each other)

In fact, the *hadeeth* regarding *gheelah* was not among the types of revelation that the Prophet of Allah, Muhammad **%**, received at all,

عَنِ الْحَارِثِ بِنِ هِشَامٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّهُ سَأَلَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ كَيْفِ وَسَلَّمَ: " أَحْيَاناً يَأْتِينِي مِثْلَ كَيْفَ يَأْتِيكُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: " أَحْيَاناً يَأْتِينِي مِثْلَ صَلْصَلَةِ الْجَرَسِ، وَهُوَ أَشَدَّهُ عَلَيَّ، فَيُفْصَمُ عَنِّي وَقَدْ وَعَيْتُ عَنْهُ مَا قَالَ، وَأَحْيَانًا يَتَمَثَّلُ لِيَ اللّهُ رَجُلاً فَيُكَلِّمُنِي فَأَعِي مَا يَقُولُ " اللّهُ رَجُلاً فَيُكَلِّمُنِي فَأَعِي مَا يَقُولُ "

Al-`Harith Ibn Hisham said that he asked the Messenger of Allah about how he received revelation, and he said, "The Angel (Jibreel [Gabriel]) sometimes comes to me with a voice which resembles the sound of a ringing bell, and when this state abandons me, I remember what the Angel has said; this type of Divine Inspiration is the hardest on me. Sometimes the

⁵ **Radhiya allahu `anhu**, means, 'May Allah be pleased with him'; it is recited for the benefit of the Prophet's individual male Companions.

Angel (Jibreel [Gabriel]) comes to me in the shape of a man and talks to me, and I understand and remember what he says." (Bukhari and Muslim⁶)

The type of *hadeeth* regarding *gheelah* was from the following type, called, *Al-Masla`hah Al-Mursalah*. An example, is the *hadeeth* collected by scholar Muslim which he reported, from Usamah Ibn Zaid , the Prophet's Companion, that a man came to Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah , saying that he was practicing *Al-`Azl*, meaning, he did not ejaculate inside his wife's womb, or he refrained from having sexual intercourse with his wife altogether. When the Prophet asked him why he did that, the man said that he was worried about their nursing baby, meaning he was worried about the health of the baby if his wife became pregnant while still nursing. Allah's Prophet said,

"If that [Gheelah] would have carried harm, it would have harmed the Persians and the Romans." In another narration, the Prophet of Allah said, "If that is the reason, then do not do it (do not do `Azl), because that (Al-Gheelah) did not harm the Persians or the Romans." (Muslim)

The Arabs used to say that having sexual relations with a nursing mother, meaning one's own wife who is breastfeeding their baby, may cause adverse health effects to nursing baby and reduces the quality of the mother's milk. The Arabs observed through their own experience that babies of *gheelah* grew up to be weaker than others, while riding horses, for example. This was the reason behind the man mentioned

⁶ As-Saheehan: The Two Authentic Collections, Bukhari and Muslim. Muslims

of narrators and the texts for various *hadeeths* to determine authenticity of the narrations or the lack thereof.

them, by relying on the statements of *hadeeth* scholars, who study the chains

have agreed that the *hadeeth* collections of Muhammad Ibn Isma'eel Al-Bukhari (194-256AH/817-879CE) and Muslim Ibn Al-'Hajjaj Al-Qushairi (204-261AH/827-884CE), are the two most authentic collections of *hadeeth*. Normally, it is sufficient to say that a *hadeeth* is found in *Saheeh Al-Bukhari*, *Saheeh Muslim*, or both of them, to indicate authenticity. As for other *hadeeth* collections, it is necessary to establish the authenticity of *hadeeths* found in

in the quoted *hadeeth* practicing *Al-`Azl*. Muhammad , the Prophet of Allah, stated that since this practice, *gheelah*, was used by the Persians and the Romans, it would be harmless for Muslims to practice it, meaning that *gheelah* did not have substantial health risks on Persian or Roman babies of *gheelah*, or the risk was negligible.

In the *hadeeth* narration we quoted above, the Prophet said to the man that, if that is why he did `Azl, then he should not do `Azl, thus, indicating that he # already decided on the matter. The Prophet of Allah # did not completely deny that there are risks. Instead, in another authentic hadeeth found in Saheeh Ibn Majah⁷, the Prophet # stated that because of gheelah, a male child may fall off of his horse when he becomes a man. This is what the Arabs have noticed. This is why the man asked. To add, this may have been the reason why the Prophet # had initially disliked gheelah, as a hadeeth found in Saheeh *Ibn Majah* indicates. Scholar Abu Sulaiman Al-Khattabi (319-388AH/931-998CE) stated that, "The Prophet * meant that if the nursing mother became sexually intimate [with her husband, of course] and became pregnant, her milk may spoil [or become less nutritious] which may make the nursing baby weak. ... When the baby grows up to be a man and rides a horse, the weakness of gheelah may cause him to fall off of the horse." (Adheem-Abadi, Muhammad Shams Al-'Hagg. 'Aun Al-Ma'bood li-Shar'hi Sunan Abi Dawood (Explanation of Sunan Abu Dawood), Pg., 291-292)

Had the Prophet so outlawed *gheelah* as a part of eternal Islamic prohibitions, *and he did not do that*, it would have been because of the physical harm it may cause. **A hint:** the Prophet said in the *hadeeth* quoted by David Wood that he sobserved that this practice did not

⁷ *Sunan Ibn Majah*: Muhammad Ibn Yazid Ibn Majah (209-273AH/824-886CE) collected the Prophetic *hadeeth* collection known by, *Sunan Ibn Majah*, one of the six major collections of Prophet Muhammad's *hadeeth* statements. [AH, means after the *hijrah*, meaning, after Prophet Muhammad's migration from Makkah to Madeenah which occurred in 623CE.]

Saheeh Sunan Ibn Majah, by Nasir Ad-Deen Al-Albani, lists saheeh (authentic) hadeeths found in, Sunan Ibn Majah, while Al-Albani's **Dha'eef** Sunan Ibn Majah collects the dha'eef (weak) hadeeths found in, Sunan Ibn Majah.

have adverse effects on nursing babies of Persia and Rome. Thus, this practice was discussed as a health issue.

Scholar Ibn Qayyim Al-Jauziyyah⁸ said that the Prophet of Allah stated that gheelah may cause the nursing baby to grow to be a man who falls off his horse [while riding it], saying that even though this may cause some harm, it does not kill the baby by causing it to perish. Ibn Al-Qayyim added that the Prophet #, "Thought of forbidding [gheelah] as a preventive measure to avoid the harm that may touch the nursing baby. But he realized that preventing this probable harm carries less weight than the ill effect of men stopping having sexual intimacy with their wives while their wives are still nursing. This is especially the case with regards to young men and those who have a strong sexual drive which cannot be satisfied except if they have sexual relations with their wives. He & saw that the two nations, Persia and Rome, which were among the most numerous and strongest nations then, practice [gheelah] and do not avoid it yet maintain vigor and strength. So, he decided not to forbid gheelah." (Ibn Al-Qayyim. *Mufta`h Dar As-Sa`adah*.)

Consequently, the *hadeeth* regarding *gheelah* was referring to a health issue, by evaluating the harm or benefits of disallowing *gheelah*. Allah's Prophet # did not say to his Companions that he was thinking about adding *gheelah* to the divine revelation or that this is how he received inspiration from Allah #. David Wood invented this notion on his own as part of his 'scholarship' on Islam.

⁸ Muhammad Ibn (the son of) Abu Bakr Ibn Ayyub Ibn Sa'd Al-Zur'ee Ad-Dimashqi, famously known as, Ibn Qayyim Al-Jauziyyah (691-751AH/1291-1350CE): a pillar of Islamic reform, and one of the scholars who followed the way of the *Salaf*, meaning, Righteous Ancestors of Muslims. He was born and died in Damascus, Syria of today. Ibn Al-Qayyim studied under Sheikh Al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah, the foremost Muslim scholar of his time. Ibn Al-Qayyim authored many valuable books that are unique in the well-researched knowledge found in them. Among his books: *I`laam Al-Muwaqqi'een*; *Shifaa Al-'Aleel*; *As-Sawa'iq Al-Mu'hriqah*; *A`hkaam Ahl Adh-Dhimmah*; *Madarij As-Salikeen*; and many other books. His biography is found in scholar Adh-Dhahabi's, *Siyar A'laam An-Nubalaa* (6/56).

Gheelah in Today's World

Currently, the topic of gheelah is still widely discussed by medical authorities. Here is an example, "Globally, a new pregnancy is one of the most common reasons for weaning. Sometimes the baby will initiate weaning because the milk tastes different or is less plentiful. Sometimes the mother will decide to stop from fatigue, from nipple pain, or from fears about the effect of nursing on the new baby. Still, millions upon millions of women around the world do choose to continue nursing while pregnant. Some people feel that if you do nurse while you are pregnant, you will somehow steal nutrients away from the baby forming inside of you, or your breast milk wouldn't be an adequate source of nutrition for your older child. I disagree with this. Your body instinctively makes the forming baby a very important priority. Whatever nutrients you take in will be given directly to help the unborn baby. If you maintain adequate fluid intake and adequate nutrition, there will be plenty left over for your breast milk to be a rich source of nutrition. Moreover, your one-year-old should be getting so many other rich sources of nutrition at this age that she'll [or he'll] do fine. I believe continued nursing can be a great experience, provided that Mom pays attention to her own body's needs. It is the norm in many, many cultures today and in most cultures throughout history. The luxuries of formula, other sources of infant nutrition, and birth control are relatively recent inventions: in other societies women have had to nurse while pregnant, and have done just fine." (Alan Greene MD. "Nursing While Pregnant.")

Prophet Muhammad Understood Gheelah

Muhammad **%**, the Prophet of Allah, gave his Companions **89** a sufficient answer regarding *gheelah*, centuries before David Wood ever heard of this topic, if he ever heard of it.

Note that the segment from the medical article we quoted states the following:

1. "Globally, a new pregnancy is one of the most common reasons for weaning."

As the *hadeeth* quoted above states, a man practiced *Al-`Azl* by ejaculating outside the womb or by not having sex at all to avoid the effects of *gheelah* on his breastfeeding child, if his wife became pregnant while nursing.

2. "...the milk tastes different or is less plentiful. Sometimes the mother will decide to stop from fatigue, from nipple pain, or from fears about the effect of nursing on the new baby."

This part of the quoted article demonstrates some of the adverse effects of *gheelah*.

- **3.** "If you maintain adequate fluid intake and adequate nutrition, there will be plenty left over for your breast milk to be a rich source of nutrition ... your one-year-old should be getting so many other rich sources of nutrition at this age ... continued nursing can be a great experience, provided that Mom pays attention to her own body's needs..."
- **4.** This and similar medical advice were not adequately available to women before recent times, let alone the availability of rich sources of nutrition, adequate fluid intake, etc. In older times, the *gheelah* was

⁹ **Radhiya Allahu `Anhum**: This statement means, 'May Allah be pleased with them.' It is recited for the benefit of the Prophet's Companions, who, as the Prophet ****** declared, are the best people:

[&]quot;The best people are my generation, then the next generation, and then the next generation" (Bukhari and Muslim).

rightfully a source of worry and concern for nursing mothers, "The luxuries of formula, other sources of infant nutrition, and birth control are relatively recent inventions."

5. "[Gheelah] is the norm in many, many cultures today and in most cultures throughout history," including the Persians and the Romans, as the Prophet ** remarked.

The Prophet of Allah stallowed *gheelah* for Muslims, since its adverse effect is negligible compared to the effect it would have on young men who might have to wait years to have sexual relations with their nursing wives. Additionally, nations that practiced *gheelah* during the Prophet's time still produced men who were healthy and strong, as he stated.

David Wood is, basically, mocking the thought process of Prophet Muhammad . He cannot even get himself to say 'prophet of Islam' when he mentions the Prophet's name, even if to follow it by saying that this is what Muslims believe, for example. In contrast, Muslims always say: 'Alaihi As-Salam', meaning, 'Allah's mercy and blessing on him,' whenever they mention the name of Allah's Prophet `Esa (Jesus), Allah's Prophet Musa (Moses), or any other prophet from Allah. We thank Allah, the Exalted, the All-Mighty, the All-Generous, for Him guiding us to the best ways, the best manners, and the means of ascension to Him.

Was it a Revelation?

David Wood added, "Muhammad says that he was thinking of forbidding the practice. But then he remembered that the Persians and Romans do it, so he didn't forbid the practice."

This hadeeth proves that, there is nothing in it to indicate or even hint to how Prophet Muhammad received revelation from Allah or that he was discussing this issue as more than a health issue that was of concern to his generation. The famous book titled, At-Tibb An-Nabawi (Healing with the Medicine of the Prophet), by the great Muslim scholar Ibn Qayyim Al-Jauziyyah (691-751AH/1291-1350CE), addresses the topic of gheelah. This book, which I translated years ago, a blessing from Allah indicates clearly that gheelah was a health issue, not part of the divine revelation. At-Tibb An-Nabawi, is available in English and contains numerous authentic narrations collected from the Prophet of Allah, Muhammad prescribing natural remedies and healers for illnesses of the heart and the physical body.

In his famous encyclopedia on the Prophet's biography and Sunnah practices, Zad Al-Maad, scholar Ibn Al-Qayyim wrote, "There is no doubt that having sexual relations with nursing mothers is among the widespread occurrences and that, it is difficult for a man to avoid [intimacy] with his wife for the term of the nursing. Had [the topic of] having relations with [nursing mothers] been a part of the [religious] prohibitions it would have been known in the religion. This [avoiding gheelah] is one of the reasons why the Arabs used to hire nursing mothers for their nursing babies, i.e., not the babies' own mothers. The outlawing in this case [had it occurred] would have been a type of, Sadd Adh-Dharee'ah, [outlawing] what may lead to harming [nursing] babies, as in this example. If a current real (actual) benefit stands in contradiction of, Sadd Adh-Dharee'ah, the benefit takes precedence." (Ibn Qayyim Al-Jauziyyah. Zad Al-Maad fi Hadyi Khairi Al-`Ibad)

Accordingly, it has become clear that the topic of *gheelah* was not a part of the divine Islamic revelation. Instead, this aspect applies to another type of Islamic Law,

"La (no) Dharar wa-la (or) Dhirar" (Hadeeth scholars Malik Ibn Anas (93-179AH/716-802CE) in his book, Al-Muwatta, Ahmad Ibn `Hanbal (164-241AH/787-864CE), Muhammad Ibn Yazid Ibn Majah (209-273AH/824-886CE), and other scholars, collected this hadeeth. Scholar Nasir Ad-Deen Al-Albani (1333-1420AH/1914-1999CE) graded this hadeeth as saheeh, authentic, in his book, As-Silsilah As-Saheehah).

Translated to English, this `hadeeth means, "Neither cause harm to your-self, nor to others."

The *hadeeth* about *dharar* has always been used in various ways, such as outlawing smoking and using drugs, two current practices that cause grave harm and serious illnesses to one's own-self and to others, including nursing babies and the unborn yet. However, while there are no explicit Islamic texts or laws that specifically forbid using drugs or smoking, this *hadeeth* is clear and specific outlawing harm to one-self and to others.

To add, outlawing smoking, for instance, is not itself a part of Islam's divine law or revelation. It is a part of the Islamic method of avoiding *dharar*, a divine law that is extremely helpful in that when we realize that something, smoking in this example, causes harm to one's own health and to second and third-hand smokers, we use the method of *dharar* to outlaw the practice. This is what the Prophet was discussing in the *hadeeths* regarding *gheelah*. Prophet Muhammad weighed the effects of *gheelah* and thought about outlawing it as part of *Sadd Adh-Dharee`ah*, which seeks to close the doors to *dharar*, meaning harm, so as to prevent the harm before it occurs. This and similar aspects of the Islamic law fall under a category of the *sharee`ah* legislations and the judgment concerning it is left for Muslims to decide if such aspects may cause harm severe enough to warrant their being designated as outlawed or not.

Contrary to what enlightened evangelicals may think, Islam does not, and did not, claim that there is a definite ruling in Islam for everything. Rulings for new occurrences that do not have a specific law in Islam that allows or prohibits them, need to be derived from the general guidelines and regulations that have always afforded Muslims great flexibility to deal with new occurrences. This flexibility granted to Muslims was frequently practiced by Islam's Prophet, Muhammad , himself, including the *hadeeths* regarding *gheelah*, to teach Muslims that not everything in their life has a definite, divine ruling that regulates it. Some things are left to Muslims' judgment, either totally or partially, including what Allah stated in this *ayah*, meaning, Quranic Statement,

﴿ يَتَأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ لَا تَقْتُلُواْ ٱلصَّيْدَ وَأَنتُمْ حُرُثِرٌ وَمَن قَتَلَهُ مِنكُم مُّتَعَمِّدًا فَجَزَآءٌ مِّ مَّنَا بَلِغَ ٱلْكَعْبَةِ أَوْ كَفَّرَةٌ فَجَزَآءٌ مِّ مِّنَا بَلِغَ ٱلْكَعْبَةِ أَوْ كَفَّرَةٌ طَعَامُ مَسَكِينَ أَوْعَدُلُ ذَاكِكَ صِيَامًا لِيَدُوقَ وَبَالَ أَمْرِةً عَفَا ٱللهُ عَمَّا سَلَفَ وَمَنْ عَادَ فَيَنتَقِمُ اللهُ عِمْنَا اللهُ عَمَّا سَلَفَ وَمَنْ عَادَ فَيَنتَقِمُ ٱللهُ مِنْ أَوْ وَلَلتَهُ عَزِينٌ ذُو ٱنتِقَامٍ ۞ المائدة: ٩٥

{O, you who believe! Kill not the game while you are in a state of Ihrâm [meaning, for 'Hajj or for 'Umrah (pilgrimage)], and whosoever of you kills it intentionally, the penalty is an offering, brought to the Ka'bah, of an eatable animal (i.e., sheep, goat, cow) equivalent to the one he killed, as adjudged by two just men among you; or, for expiation, he should feed Masâkîn (poor persons), or its equivalent in Saum (fasting), that he may taste the heaviness (the punishment) of his deed. Allâh has forgiven what is past, but whosoever commits it again, Allâh will take retribution from him. And Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Able of Retribution.} (5:95)

This flexibility is only a part of what makes Islam the dynamic religion it is. Millions of western Christians freely chose Islam as their religion, partly because it is the religion that provides them with the perfect balance between life and religion.

Again, contrary to what David Wood and the other evangelicals like him may imagine about Islam, not all aspects discussed by Islam's Prophet, Muhammad , were part of the divine revelation. Wood and the other evangelicals similar to him are just like someone going to the forest by night to cut wood in complete darkness. They severely lack knowledge in Islam yet they, so often, invent topics and issues that Muslims do not propagate or advocate as a part of Islam or as a part of the divine revelation, then criticize Islam based on what they have invented. This is a typical case where Wood claims that a *hadeeth*

about a matter of life is an example of how the Prophet Muhammad **
received divine revelation.

What is unfortunate, however, is that this type of Christian only fishes for mistakes and does not make the least effort to seek the truth. Otherwise, what Muslim scholar and what book written by Muslims suggested that the *hadeeth* regarding *gheelah* is an example of how the Prophet of Islam # received divine revelation?

The example discussed in this booklet about *gheelah* is not the only time that Prophet Muhammad # treated issues of life or health as a man who was aware of the practices of people around him, or even as a man who has made errors in his judgment about a worldly issue, though such errors are very few.

Here are a few examples.

First Example:

Anas Ibn Malik reported that Allah's Messenger passed by some people who were grafting date-trees and said to them, "If you were not to do it, it might be good for you." They abandoned this practice and there was a decline in the yield. The Prophet passed by them later on and asked them about what went wrong with their trees. They said, "You said such and such." He said, "You have better knowledge (technical skill) in the affairs of your world" (Scholar Muslim collected this authentic hadeeth).

The Prophet, Allah's blessings, honor and mercy on him, did not command them to abandon the practice; He only offered his opinion. **Second Example:** Muhammad ﷺ, the Prophet of Allah, thought about surrendering a share of the produce of Madeenah to a major pagan Arab tribe in return for their refraining from joining a large coalition of pagan Arab tribes that surrounded Madeenah during the battle of

Al-Khandaq (the Trench) in the year 5AH¹¹¹, corresponding to the year 627CE. When Allah's Prophet consulted with two of his major Companions, they asked him if he was willing to do that to save them or if it was a revelation. When he said that it was his own opinion, they said that they would not give that tribe what they demanded (Abu Al-Hasan, Ali Ibn Abi Bakr Al-Haithami (735-807AH/1335-1405CE). Majma` Az-Zawa-id. Scholar Al-Haithami then graded the chain of narrators for this hadeeth as being trustworthy, except for one narrator whose trustworthiness was of a lesser grade; Al-Haithami still graded the hadeeth acceptable).

Third Example: Allah's Prophet, Muhammad , made a decision to accept ransom from the captured pagans of Quraish after their defeat during the battle of Badr in 2AH, which is the year 624CE. Allah criticized His Prophet for not making the better decision,

﴿ مَا كَانَ لِنَبِيِّ أَنَ يَكُونَ لَهُ وَ أَسْرَىٰ حَتَىٰ يُشْخِنَ فِي ٱلْأَرْضِ تُرِيدُونَ عَرَضَ ٱلدُّنْيَا وَٱللَّهُ يُرِيدُ ٱلْآخِرَةً وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزُ حَكِيدٌ ﴿ لَوَلَا كِتَبُ مِّنَ ٱللَّهِ سَبَقَ لَمَسَّكُمْ فِيمَا آخَذَتُمْ عَذَابُ عَنِيدُ الْآخِورَةً وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزُ حَكِيدٌ ﴿ فَا لَكَ عَلَا لَكَ عَلَا اللَّهُ عَلَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَعُورٌ تَحِيدُ ﴿ فَ عَذَابُ عَظِيمٌ ﴿ فَكُلُوا مِمَّا غَنِمْتُمْ حَلَلًا طَيّبًا وَٱتّقُواْ ٱللَّهُ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَعُورٌ تَحِيدُ ﴿ فَ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَعُورٌ تَحِيدُ ﴿ فَ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ ٱللَّهُ عَلَالًا عَلَيْهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ ٱللَّهُ عَنُولُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهُ عَنُولُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ اللَّهُ اللللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ الللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ الللَّهُ اللَّهُ الللَّهُ اللَّهُ الللَّهُ الللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ الللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ الللَّهُ اللَّهُ الللَّهُ الللللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ الللَّهُ الللْعُلْمُ الللْمُوالِمُ الللَّهُ الللللَّهُ الللَّهُ الللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللللْمُولُولُ الللَّهُ الل

{It is not for a Prophet that he should have prisoners of war (and free them with ransom) until he had made a great slaughter (among his combatant enemies) in the land. You desire the good of this world (the money of ransom for freeing the captives), but Allâh desires (for you) the Hereafter. And Allâh is All-Mighty, All-Wise. Were it not a previous ordainment from Allâh (that ransom will ultimately be allowed), a severe torment would have touched you for what you took. So (now) enjoy what you have gotten of booty in war, lawful and good, and be afraid of Allâh. Certainly, Allâh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.} (8:67-69)

¹⁰ **AH**, means, after the *hijrah*, meaning, after Prophet Muhammad's migration from Makkah to Madeenah, which occurred in 623CE.

Muslims Submit to the Will of Allah and Obey His Messenger

David Wood wrote next, "Apparently, if he hadn't remembered that the Persians and Romans practice *Ghilah*, he would have condemned it, and Muslims today would say that Allah forbids *Ghilah*."

This statement is simply false. Allah's Prophet, Muhammad **36**, **did not** forever or temporarily forbid *gheelah* practice to begin with. Also, he **36** discussed this practice as pertaining to health, not as part of the Islamic divine legislation. The words of the *hadeeth* said so, "...it does not harm their children."

Allah's Prophet, Muhammad , did not refrain from outlawing gheelah, effectively making it a matter of Islamic law had he prohibited it, merely because he remembered that the Romans and the Persians practiced it. He did not forbid it, because <u>he knew</u> that gheelah does not appear to cause severe harm to the health of the nursing mother or to her nursing baby. The stark difference between David Wood's statement and the truth is apparent and plain. This is why Prophet Muhammad said in another narration collected in Al-Albani's book, *Ghayat Al-Maram*,

"Thumma ra-aitu..."

In yet another narration collected by *hadeeth* scholar Muslim, the Prophet ***** said,

"Fa-nadhartu fee..."

Thumma ra-aitu, used in the narration collected in Ghayat Al-Maram literally translates into "...then I saw", meaning he realized.

"`Hatta dhakartu", found in the narration quoted by Wood above does not only mean *remembered*. *Dhikr*, the root-word of, *dhakartu*, pertains to knowledge, remembrance, realization, frequent recitation,

observance, and so forth. Also, the narration found in *Saheeh Muslim* that reads, *Fa-nadhartu fee*, literally translates into, "*I looked into*…"

Therefore, the correct meaning here is that Prophet Muhammad ## thought regarding forbidding *gheelah* due to its perceived harm, if it was not for the fact that he ## knew, observed, realized, saw that the Romans and Persians practiced *gheelah* yet it did not cause substantial harm to their infants.

As usual, David Wood, who does not speak Arabi, relies on an English translation that cannot possibly list all various meanings for, *dhakartu*, or elaborate at length about its full *context* in this *hadeeth*. As is his habit, Wood simply tries to build a case for Christianity by relying on a shallow explanation of an Arabi *hadeeth*, translated into English.

Muslims Do Obey Their Prophet

Certainly, all Muslims <u>do accept</u> Prophet Muhammad's religious commandments and <u>do obey</u> them. How can David Wood possibly criticize this aspect when it is an essential part of faith? We, Muslims, thank Allah that we are not like those who claim to believe, yet, break every law Allah sent to His prophets, eat what was clearly prohibited for them in their own, 'holy books', then claim that these commandments came for the Jews not for them.

Muslims believe in, respect, follow, and obey Muhammad **, their Prophet. This contrasts sharply to how Christians believe in, respect, follow and obey their claimed lord and savior, who never told them he was their lord and/or their savior. Christians, for example, claim that Jesus is God, himself. Yet, they hear him say that he was only sent to the Children of Israel, "Jesus stated that, 'I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel' (Matthew 15:24). The Quran agrees. In the Quran, Allah ** also stated that Prophet `Esa (Jesus) ** delivered this good news to the Children of Israel,

{And (mention) when 'Îsâ (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary), said: "O, Children of Israel! I am the Messenger of Allâh unto you, confirming the Taurât [(Torah) which came] before me, and giving glad tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmad (Prophet Muhammad); But when he (Ahmad, Muhammad) came to them with clear proofs, they said: "This is plain magic."} (61:6). Ahmad, one of the names of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, literally means, 'one who praises Allah more than others do;' Muhammad literally means, 'praiseworthy.'" (Jalal Abualrub. Muhammad's Role in Islam, Pg., 26)

Christians firmly insist on ascribing themselves to Jesus even though they belong <u>not</u> to the -still lost- sheep of the House of Israel. The Children of Israel had a magnificent opportunity to become true believers, by believing in Jesus and then believing in Muhammad Instead, the Children of Israel are still looking for the Messiah, 2000

years after the true messiah, `Esa (Jesus) , came. The Jews have, and continue to, fight against Islam from the early Islamic era, until now.

David Wood is Correct

David Wood wrote, "Isn't it obvious that this had nothing to do with any divine insight on Muhammad's part, and that what he rejected and accepted was simply a matter of his all-too-human thought processes?"

Finally, David Wood admits to the obvious that "this had nothing to do with any divine insight on Muhammad's part." The Prophetic hadeeth about gheelah was certainly about the Prophet's human thought process. Allah's Prophet, Muhammad , did not say that he was discussing this as a matter of revelation or divine laws that he was instructed to convey. He did not include gheelah in the revelation. He did not say, "Should we add this aspect to divine revelation, then claim that it came from Allah?"

Surely, *this* particular issue has nothing to do with other Islamic laws and legislations wherein the Prophet & commanded Muslims to do or not to do. David Wood refutes the Prophet's divine inspiration with regards to the entire religion of Islam based on what Prophet Muhammad & did not include in divine inspiration to begin with.

As we stated above, *gheelah* was not discussed as part of divine inspiration, but as a health issue, as the *hadeeths* clearly indicate and as we explained above with evidence and proof. In contrast, here is part of the divine inspiration and why it is a part of the divine inspiration,

"It was revealed to me that you will be tested in your graves" (collected by Bukhari and Muslim).

The topic here is, being tested in the grave. Why it is a revelation? Because the Prophet said so!

Obey the Prophets

David Wood continues, "If so, why are Muslims so obsessed with following Muhammad's regulations (especially when they include pagan practices, such as bowing to the Ka'ba, etc.)?"

In contrast to evangelical Christians, Muslims are not obsessed with anything. Muslims do exactly what the Quran and what also the Bible command to do: **Obey the Prophets**.

Allah said in the Quran,

{*He* (or she) who obeys the Messenger, has indeed obeyed Allâh} (4:80).

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament agree, "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper" (2 Chronicles 20:20); "And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people" (Acts 3:22).

David Wood knows well who 'that Prophet' is; he spends his life resisting him # by ways of lying, deceit and slander. Otherwise, why were the messengers sent then, to be disobeyed? True Muslims can never follow the Christian method of believing in the prophets by disobeying them. If Muslims ever follow this unrighteous path, they will never prosper.

However, we do not really find it strange that David Wood would criticize Muslims for obeying their Prophet . David Wood belongs to a flock that gladly consumes what Jesus never ate or drank and never allowed anyone to eat or drink. They even defy their own claimed 'god' by making Jesus into a god, a claim never uttered, promoted or condoned by Jesus . This is how Christians of the world show and demonstrate their obedience and loyalty to their claimed lord and savior, by disobeying him and contradicting his practices. Then they have the courage, the audacity, to criticize Muslims for obeying their Prophet . Does this make any sense?

Do Muslims Worship the Ka'bah?

I am surprised, though, at David Wood repeating the popular evangelical theme that, since Muslims bow during the Islamic prayer while facing the Ka'bah, this -somehow- indicates they worship the Ka'bah itself, and as such, it is a pagan practice. I, and a number of other learned Muslims, repeatedly refuted this utter, yet silly, lie, and in various ways. However, these evangelical people just cannot stop repeating false claims about Islam since their mission is simply to lie, deceive and slander.

We responded at length to what David Wood said here about the Ka'bah in a number of articles and posts, such as, "Do Muslims Worship the Ka'bah?", and, "The Un-Pretty Evangelist in His Wife's Nightgown." The last article is at the end of this booklet.

Christians Worship Images and Statues

Throughout their long history, the majority of the Christians have prayed to statues and pictures. They invoke statues and pictures, as in worshipping statues and pictures, for they adore statues and pictures.

For an unequivocal example, here is the decision of the seventh session of Nicaea II, "We define ... with all certainty and care that both the figure of the sacred and life-giving Cross, as also the venerable and holy images ... are to be placed suitably in the holy churches of God, on sacred vessels and vestments, on walls and pictures, in houses and by roads; that is to say, the images of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, of our immaculate (meaning, perfect) Lady the holy Mother of God, of the honourable angels and all saints and holy men. ... For honour paid to an image passes on to its prototype; he who worships ... an image worships the reality of him who is painted in it. ... That is still the stand-point of the Catholic Church." (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. VII, Pg. 670-672. 1910)

The ultimate Christian religious decision has thus been made. As a result, most Christians of the world have always abided by, and still abide by, statue and image worship and adoration wholeheartedly, passionately, and devoutly, until now. Surely, Protestants and similar sects are the minority while other Christians consider them to be fake Christians.

David Wood seems to act like other evangelicals who, arrogantly, act as if they, alone, are the true representatives of Christianity when the reality is that they are but minority sects, including the sect which started fifteen centuries after the early era during which Jesus lived. David Wood should make *dhikr* of the fact that much of his views are not mainstream Christian, but in fact minority sectarian ideas rejected by most Christians.

To date, we have never heard of a single protestant evangelical leader or evangelical enthusiast who clearly and emphatically stated that Catholic and Orthodox Christians are true Christians. These two sects comprise the vast majority of Christians, more than 50% and 12% respectively, meaning that close to 65% of all Christians in the world

worship statues, icons and pictures. We spoke about these facts at length in our book, 50 Righteous and Humane Concepts Brought by Muhammad, which can be found on our website: www.IslamLife.com.

David Wood pretends to dislike the Christian practice of statue and image worship. So instead of dwelling on this Christian practice and analyzing it, he falsely insinuates that Muslims worship objects other than Allah , when he knows for certain that Muslims do not worship the Ka'bah or the Black Stone,

{And the Masajid (houses of Islamic worship) are for Allâh (Alone), so invoke not anyone along with Allâh} (72:18).

It should be noted here that, *masajid*, which is plural for *masjid*, represents the true name of the Islamic houses of worship. Countless people, including many Muslims, falsely use the word 'mosque' to speak about *masajid*. Mosque, does not mean any-thing; it is an alien term to describe the *masajid*.

It seems that most Christians of the world do not find a problem with this pagan fallacy about Islam concerning the Ka'bah, since their religious practice accepts the worship of religious objects, such as statues, for example, which are idols. It is quite certain that most Christians of the world today could not care less what David Wood and Cohorts claim to be the true Christianity. To the contrary, most Christians do consider David Wood's sect to be misguided, not a true Christian faith. Just ask the Popes, and they will tell you all about it with heartfelt passion. For instance, Pope Benedict XVI reiterated the age-old view that the Catholic Church is the only true church (Jalal Abualrub. 50 Righteous and Humane Concepts Brought by Muhammad, Pg., 116, footnote number 51). This book is also found on our website: www.IslamLife.com

In contrast to the pagan practice that most Christians consider an essential aspect to their worship, Muslims do not pray to the Ka'bah. The Ka'bah is the *qiblah*, meaning the direction of the Islamic prayer, as Allah & clearly stated in the Quran,

﴿ قَدْ نَرَىٰ تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي ٱلسَّمَأَءُ فَلَنُولِيَّيَنَكَ قِبْلَةَ تَرْضَدَها فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ ٱلْمَسْجِدِ ٱلْحَرَامِ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنتُم فَولُواْ وُجُوهَكُم شَطْرَةً وَإِنَّ ٱلّذِينَ أُوتُواْ ٱلْكِتَبَ لَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ ٱلْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّهِمُ فَمَا ٱللَّهُ بِعَنِفِلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿ وَلَيْنَ أَتَيْتَ ٱلنِّينَ أُوتُواْ ٱلْكِتَبَ بِكُلِّ ءَايَةٍ مَّا تَبِعُواْ قِبْلَتَكَ وَمَا أَنتَ بِتَابِعِ قِبْلَتَهُمْ وَمَا الذِينَ أُوتُواْ الْكِتَبَ بِكُلِّ ءَايَةٍ مَّا تَبِعُواْ قِبْلَتَكَ وَمَا أَنتَ بِتَابِعِ قِبْلَتَهُمْ وَمَا بَعْضُهُم بِتَابِعِ قِبْلَةَ بَعْضِ وَلَيْنِ ٱلنَّبَعْتَ أَهْوَآءَهُم مِّنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَآءَكَ مِن ٱلْمِلْمِ إِنَّكَ إِذَا لَيْمِنَ ٱلظَّلِمِينَ ﴿ ٱلْكِينَ ءَاتَيْنَهُمُ ٱلْكِتَبَ يَعْرِفُونَهُ وَكَمَا يَعْرِفُونَ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ وَإِنَّ فَرِيقًا مِّنْهُمْ لَيَكَتُمُونَ ٱلْحَقِّ وَهُمْ يَعَلَمُونَ ﴿ اللَّهِ وَبِهُ اللَّهِ وَمِنَا اللّهُ وَلِيَا

{Verily, We (Allâh) have seen the turning of your (Muhammad's) face towards the heaven. Surely, We (Allâh) shall turn you to a Qiblah (prayer direction) that shall please you, so turn your face in the direction of Al-Masjid Al-Harâm (at Makkah). And wheresoever you people are, turn your faces (in prayer) in that direction. Certainly, the people who were given the Scripture (Jews and Christians) know well that, that (your turning towards the Ka'bah at Makkah in prayers) is the truth from their Lord (Allâh). And Allâh is not unaware of what they do. And even if you were to bring to the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) all the Ayât (proofs, evidences), they would not follow your Qiblah (prayer direction), nor are you going to follow their Qiblah (prayer direction). And they will not follow each other's Qiblah (prayer direction). Verily, if you follow their desires after that which you have received of knowledge (from Allâh), then indeed you will be one of the Dhâlimûn (polytheists, wrongdoers). Those to whom We (Allâh) gave the Scripture (Jews and Christians) recognize him (Muhammad; and the Ka'bah at Makkah) as they recognize their sons. But verily, a party of them conceals the truth while they know it - [know the qualities of Muhammad which are written in the Taurât (Torah) and the *Injeel* (Gospel)].} (2:144-146)

Therefore, the Quran clearly designates the Ka'bah as the direction of prayer, the *qiblah*, not as the object receiving the bowing and the prayer. Muslims pray to Allah, Alone, without partners, while facing the direction of the Ka'bah, which is the *qiblah* of prayer for Muslims. David Wood is welcome to consult Arabi dictionaries, including those

written by Arab Christians, to find what *qiblah* means. *Qiblah*, here means, direction; in the context of Ka'bah, it is the direction of Islamic prayer, as stated.

We refuted this total lie which David Wood keeps repeating when I and the Muslims present prayed, when we had the debate between me and Wood, in California. At that time, we reminded all present that the Ka'bah was not physically there, where we prayed. We, Muslims, bow and prostrate in prayer while facing the Ka'bah because it is the *qiblah*, i.e., the direction of worship to Allah ; the Ka'bah is not, in itself, the object of our worship. When unavoidable, Muslims pray while flying in airplanes or traveling in ships, without facing the Ka'bah due to the circumstance.

Wood does not seem to listen with care, intentionally. Wood does not seem to listen at all. Instead, he continues to repeat what he surely knows to be false. But, that's Christian evangelism for you, a group that is currently loathed by most Christians of the world.

Wood does not seem to have a problem with his own holy book that calls upon him to kneel before a man like him, a man who was created, who was weak, who needed to eat, drink, sleep and relieve the call of nature, who had fears and hopes, and who, according to Christians, was so weak and helpless that he allegedly died by the hands of some of his supposed creation, the Jews. David Wood surely read this passage in his holy book, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth" (Philippians 2:10).

This blatantly pagan practice seems perfect behavior according to Christians, not idolatry. Meanwhile, when Muslims pray to Allah , Alone, without partners or offspring, facing the unified prayer direction of the Ka'bah, it is a pagan practice as Christians claim. What nonsense!

Before They Faced the Ka'bah Muslims First Faced Jerusalem While Praying

David Wood does not seem to have a problem with the fact that, before the Ka'bah became the Muslim *qiblah* in place of Jerusalem, Muslims used to have the direction of Jerusalem's *Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa* for prayer, may Allah return it to Muslims soon from the Jewish thieves who stole it. Were Muslims bowing to the Temple during that era of their worship, to worship the site itself? Was facing Jerusalem's sacred place of prayer, while praying, a pagan practice or a righteous practice?

To perfect his invented lie, why does David Wood not also claim that taking Jerusalem's sacred place of worship as the direction of prayer is a pagan practice too? If he does that, he will not be only offending the Jews, but also his claimed lord and savior.

How the Ka'bah Was Built

David Wood hides the truth about the Ka'bah from his audience. He, being a Christian 'expert on Islam,' and the earth is full of them these days, should know what the Quran says about the story behind building the Ka'bah, since he seems to think that he, at least, read the Quran.

David Wood so wickedly chose to be an enemy to Allah's Prophet Muhammad , but he can still be honorable in his enmity by not hiding the truth about, among many other things, how the Ka'bah was built. Instead, David Wood continues to spread the fabrication that the Ka'bah is a pagan house of worship. By repeatedly saying this falsehood, he is insinuating that when Muslims pray to Ka'bah's direction, they are simply practicing paganism.

Here is the story of the Ka'bah from the Quran. We will mention *ayat*, meaning Quranic statements, 2:127-132 in segments and follow each segment with a brief comment.

Allah **said**, what translated means,

﴿ وَإِذْ يَرْفَعُ إِبْرَهِهُ ٱلْقَوَاعِدَ مِنَ ٱلْبَيْتِ وَإِسْمَعِيلُ رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا أَيْكَ أَنتَ ٱلسَّمِيعُ ٱلْعَلِيهُ ﴿ وَإِنَا مَنَاسِكَنَا وَتُبَ الْعَلِيهُ ﴿ وَرَبَّنَا وَالْجَعَلْنَا مُسْلِمَيْنِ لَكَ وَمِن ذُرِّيَّتِنَا آلْمَاةً مُسْلِمَةً لَكَ وَأَرِنَا مَناسِكَنَا وَتُبَ عَلَيْهُ مِ رَبَّنَا وَالْجَعَلْمُ وَصَلَا مِنْهُمْ يَتُلُواْ عَلَيْهِمْ ءَايَتِكَ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّكَ أَنتَ ٱلْعَرِينُ ٱلْحَكِيمُ ﴿ وَمَن يَرْغَبُ عَن وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ ٱلْكِتَبَ وَٱلْحِكُمَةَ وَيُنَكِيمِهُ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ ٱلْعَرِينُ ٱلْحَكِيمُ ﴿ وَمَن يَرْغَبُ عَن وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ ٱلْكِتَبَ وَٱلْحِكُمةَ وَيُنَكِيمِهُ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ ٱلْعَرِينُ ٱلْحَكِيمُ ﴿ وَمَن يَرْغَبُ عَن وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَبَ وَالْحِكُمَةَ وَيُنَكِيمُ وَلَقَدِ ٱصْطَفَيْ نَهُ فِي ٱلدُّنْيَا وَإِنَّهُ وِي ٱلْاَثِينَ وَالْمَعِينَ ﴿ وَلَقَدِ الْصَطَفَيْ نَهُ فِي ٱلدُّنِي ٱلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿ وَوَصَى بِهَا الصَّلِحِينَ ﴿ وَلَقَدِ اللّهُ وَاللّهُ اللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ عَلَى اللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ وَاللّهُ اللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَلَا اللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَلَيْكُولُ اللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَلَا لَاللّهُ وَلَا لَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَلَهُ اللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَلَا لَا لَهُ وَلّهُ اللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَلِي اللّهُ وَلَا لَا اللّهُ وَلَا لَا الللّهُ وَلَا اللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَلَا لَهُ وَلَا لَلْمُ وَلَا الللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَلَا اللّهُ وَلَا لَا اللّهُ وَلّهُ وَلَا لَا اللّهُ وَالْمُ وَلَا لَا الللّهُ وَاللّهُ وَلَا لَا اللّهُ وَلَا لَا اللّهُ وَلَا اللّهُ وَلَا لَا اللّهُ وَلَا لَا لَا الللّهُ وَلَا لَا اللّهُ وَلَا اللّهُ وَلَا الللللّهُ وَلَا الللللّهُ وَلَا الللّهُ وَلَا الللّهُ وَلَا الللّهُ وَلَا اللّهُ وَلَا الللّهُ وَاللّهُ

{And (mention) when Ibrâhîm (Abraham) and (his son) Ismâ'îl (Ishmael) were raising the foundations of the House (the Ka'bah at Makkah), (saying), "Our Lord (Allâh)! Accept (this service) from us. Verily, You are

the All-Hearer, the All-Knower"}. Thus, the Ka'bah was built by two Prophets from Allah for Allah &, Alone, while they were supplicating, {"Our Lord (Allâh)! And make us submissive unto You"}, "make us Muslims," {"and of our offspring a nation submissive unto You"}, the Arabs are the direct descendants of Prophet Ibraheem (Abraham) through his son, Prophet Isma'eel (Ishmael) , {"and show us our Manâsik (ceremonies of the pilgrimage: Hajj and 'Umrah)"}, which Muslims still practice until today following the tradition established by Prophets Ibraheem and Isma'eel , {"and accept our repentance; Truly, You are the One Who accepts repentance, the Most Merciful". They prayed to Allah ﷺ, Alone, just as Muslims after them pray to Allah ෴, Alone, {"Our Lord (Allâh)! Send amongst them a Messenger of their own who shall recite unto them Your Ayat (revelations) and instruct them in the Book (this Qur'an) and Al-Hikmah (Islamic laws), and purify them; Verily, You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise."}. Indeed, Allah ﷺ accepted their invocation by sending Muhammad # to their descendants, {And who turns away from the religion of Ibrâhîm (Abraham) (Islâmic Monotheism) except him who befools himself? Truly, We (Allâh) chose him in this world and verily, in the Hereafter he will be among the righteous}. Next, Allah, the All-Knowing, affirms the faith that His Prophet Ibraheem (Abraham) had, by saying, {When his Lord (Allâh) said to him, "Submit (i.e., be a Muslim)!" He said, "I have submitted myself (as a Muslim) to (Allâh) the Lord of the 'Alamîn (humankind, jinn and all that exists)." And this (submission to Allâh, Islâm) was enjoined by Ibrâhîm (Abraham) upon his sons and by Ya'qûb (Jacob) (saying), "O, my sons! Allâh has chosen for you the (true) religion, then die not except in the Faith of Islâm (as Muslims — Islâmic Monotheism)."} (2:127-132)

Not only did the Jews, and later on the Christians, change the religion of Allah's Prophet Ibraheem , but also the Arabs did the same thing when they introduced idols to the Ka'bah, the House of Allah built on Islamic Monotheism from the first day. The Arabs, too, corrupted the religion of Prophet Ibraheem (Abraham). The Arabs spoiled the religion of their two righteous fathers, Prophet Ibraheem and his son Prophet Isma'eel, by placing hundreds of

idols in and around the Ka'bah, as Bukhari and Muslim reported from Abdullah Ibn Mas'ud &, the Prophet's close Companion.

When Prophet Muhammad ** was sent as Allah's Last and Final Prophet and Messenger, he ** remained in Makkah for thirteen years calling the Arabs back to the Islamic Monotheism that was established by their fathers, Ibraheem ** and Ismaeel **. In the early era of Islam, Muslims were ordered to pray in the direction of *Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa* in Jerusalem. Later on, the *qiblah*, direction of prayer, was changed to *Al-Ka'bah* at Makkah.

The thirteen years that Prophet Muhammad spent in Makkah, before he immigrated to Madeenah in 623CE, which is the beginning of the Islamic *hijri* calendar, AH, were filled with violent opposition from his own people, the Quraish tribes who oppressed and tortured Muslims, and killed some of them. They even tried to kill the Prophet their own cousin. Muslims had no power to remove the idols from around or inside the Ka'bah, or to destroy them.

Rituals of the 'hajj, meaning pilgrimage, established by Prophet Ibraheem and his son Prophet Ismaeel , were still largely unchanged. However, Arab pagans altered the monotheistic religion of Ibraheem and Ismaeel by introducing idols to the Ka'bah's vicinity. The first to introduce idols to the Arabs, thus changing the religion of Ibraheem and Isma'eel, was an Arab man called 'Amr Ibn Lu'hai (Al-Albani. Silsilat Al-A'hadeeth As-Saheehah; Al-Albani graded this hadeeth as 'hasan, meaning acceptable). The idols were not in, or around the Ka'bah before then.

When Allah's Islamic Monotheism was reintroduced in Makkah by Muhammad , Allah's Prophet, a direct descendant of Prophet Ibraheem through his son Prophet Isma'eel , Islam was -and still remains- built on and around Allah's Islamic Monotheism that defies paganism in every respect. The pagans of Quraish, and other Arab pagans who visited the Ka'bah, did not pray like Muslims prayed, yet when they prayed, even they, prayed to the idols and not to the Ka'bah itself.

The Ka'bah is a house of worship, not a religion. By now, readers should realize how dreadful David Wood's lie is: not even the pagans of Makkah or other Arab pagans prayed to the Ka'bah itself thus taking it as their object of worship. To them, as well as to all Muslims,

the Ka'bah was their house of worship. For David Wood to claim that bowing in the direction of the Ka'bah while praying is a pagan tradition Muslims imitate, he needs to bring proof that the pagans worshipped the Ka'bah, instead of or along with the hundreds of idols they erected in and around the Ka'bah.

The fact that Arab pagans introduced idols to the Ka'bah by no means diminishes the Ka'bah's value and its status as being a house of worship for Allah built on Islamic Monotheism from the first day. The fact that Arab pagans introduced idols to the Ka'bah, in no way means that Muslims cannot or should not pray in its direction. It is, and has always been, the house of monotheistic worship established by the honorable Prophets of Monotheism, Ibraheem (Abraham) and Isma'eel (Ishamel)

To finally dissipate the lie that Muslims imitate pagan traditions while praying to Allah facing the direction of the Ka'bah, Allah's House, we should remember that when Muhammad the Prophet of Allah, finally was able to retake Makkah and the Ka'bah from the pagans, he destroyed all of the idols that were in or around the Ka'bah (Scholars Bukhari and Muslim reported this incident). How then can David Wood make such a false claim about the Ka'bah, Muslims, and paganism, when paganism was defeated and completely destroyed by Prophet Muhammad and his Companions?

Jerusalem Temple Housed Idols Before the Time of Jesus

Another house of worship built on Monotheism from the first day went through a similar transformation to that which happened to the Ka'bah at Makkah. Idols and pagan practices were also introduced to that house, by the Jews. This did not stop the believers from taking that house as the direction of prayer for them. The believers who came afterwards cannot be accused of imitating pagan practices, just because the generations that came before them had introduced idols into the house of worship which was established on monotheism and which was their direction of the prayer.

Surely, David Wood knows that Jesus if frequently entered the Temple in Jerusalem to worship Allah inside it, not to worship himself that is. When Jesus in entered the Temple to worship Allah inside it, "12. And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, 13. And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer." (Matthew 21:12-13)

Surely, David Wood knows that the Temple where Jesus prayed was the direction of prayer for the Children of Israel, "44. If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name. 45. Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause." (1 Kings 8:44-45). These two verses provide unequivocal proof that completely destroys the blatant lies invented by David Wood, an evangelist who never imitates the way Jesus prayed, even while declaring Jesus as being God.

Surely, David Wood and his likes must have heard about the *Mizrah* and must have seen the Jews of the current era, and also many Christians who visit Jerusalem, nod their heads repeatedly and cry while praying towards the wall of, *Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa*.

Using David Wood's bizarre logic, Jesus must have bowed to the walls of the Temple and also to the east, to worship the walls or even

the east. Hopefully, David Wood remembers that when Jesus prayed, he bowed down as the New Testament testifies, "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39).

Matthew 26:39 clearly demonstrates that the method of prayer practiced by Jesus himself to Allah, his Creator, is the very Islamic sujood prostration. Why then do Christians mingle, dance, sing, and jump in churches, instead of prostrating in grace and self-respect, as their falsely claimed lord and savior did when he prayed? In contrast, Muslims pray exactly as Jesus we used to pray, taking a direction for the prayer as Jesus did, and, during the early era of Islam, Muslims prayed to the same qiblah direction of prayer as Jesus did.

The Jerusalem Temple was the place of worship for the Children of Israel during the time of Jesus , as it was before that era, including when the Israelite Jews erected idols inside the Temple, "1. Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. 2. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. **3.** He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. **4.** He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, 'My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever.' 5. In both courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts. 6. He sacrificed his children in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced divination and witchcraft, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger. 7. He took the image he had made and put it in God's temple, of which God had said to David and to his son Solomon, 'In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever. 8. I will not again make the feet of the Israelites leave the land I assigned to your ancestors, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them concerning all the laws, decrees and regulations given through Moses.' 9. But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites." (2 Chronicles 33:1-9) Yet, Jesus prayed at the temple even after it was filled with idols.

Having a *qiblah* direction of the prayer is not unique to Muslims. The prophets of old also had a direction of prayer, as these examples testify in the clearest of terms.

1. "And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them" (Numbers 20:6).

Prophets Moses and Aaron prostrated before the door of the tabernacle, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them!

2. "39. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God. ... 41. And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. 42. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees." (1 Kings 18:39, 41-42)

Elijah prostrated down on the earth, on the top of the mountain. Do Wood and his brand of Christians prostrate as Elijah prostrated?

3. "If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the Lord toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name" (1 Kings 8:44).

The 'Lord's people' prayed toward Jerusalem, toward the Temple. Is there a need for comment here, except to emphasize the hypocrisy of those who lie about Islam?

4. "**10.** Daniel ... went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. **11.** Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God." (Daniel 6:10-11)

Daniel also prostrated in prayer while facing Jerusalem. Muslims, too, prostrated to Allah facing Jerusalem's *Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa*, before Allah ordered them to change the direction of prayer towards the Ka'bah at Makkah. The first *qiblah*, direction of prayer for Muslims, before the Ka'bah, was the same *qiblah* that Daniel faced when he prayed.

Do David Wood and his brand of extremist Christians face the prayer *qiblah* of biblical prophets? Of course not. Nothing that 'God' commanded in the Old Testament seems to apply to Christians, only

Jews were meant to obey them! All Christians need to do is love Jesus, and they will end up in heaven, no obedience or prayer necessary!

David Wood has a response to the story about Daniel, a biblical prophet praised in the Old Testament, "Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God" (Ezekiel 14:14). Daniel prayed while facing the direction, qiblah, of the Temple. Meanwhile, David Wood said something to the effect that he, an evangelist, is not familiar with the Old Testament, the first part of the Christian 'Literal Word of God', as he is with the New Testament. Nice faith to have, if any, in a half of the 'holy book'.

David Wood is obliged to bring evidence that when Muslims take the Ka'bah as the direction of Islamic prayer that they, in fact, pray to the Ka'bah itself, rather than praying to Allah while facing the Ka'bah's direction. His evidence can be in the form of what Muslims say in their prayer, such as, if they invoke the Ka'bah, or admire how high and beautiful its building is, or say anything in the prayer indicating that they pray to the Ka'bah as the object of worship instead of the Ka'bah merely being the direction of the Islamic prayer, which is dedicated to Allah Alone, without partners.

Proof that David Wood Fabricates

David Wood is well aware that Muslims do not worship the Ka'bah and these *ayat* are proof that it is a lie. Facing the Ka'bah in prayer is done regardless of the distance the praying person is from it. Wood knows that Muslims do not bow to the Ka'bah, but to Allah ,

{And from wheresoever you start forth (for prayers), turn your face in the direction of Al-Masjid Al-Harâm (at Makkah), and wheresoever you are, turn your faces towards it (when you pray) so that people may have no argument against you except those of them that are wrongdoers, so fear them

not, but fear Me (Allâh)! And so that I (Allâh) may complete My Blessings on you and that you may be guided.} (2:150)

This *ayah*, 2:150, proves that David Wood continually repeats a lie, and as Allah instructed Muslims in the *ayah*, Muslims do not fear Wood or his likes; nor do they fear their lies about Islam. This *ayah* explicitly orders Muslims that when they start praying, to face the direction of the Ka'bah. Muslims face the Ka'bah in prayer but pray to Allah Alone, prostrating to Allah Alone, bowing down to Allah Alone, invoking Allah Alone, begging for forgiveness from Allah Alone, and seeking refuge with Allah Alone from His shameless enemies,

{And (mention) when We (Allâh) showed Ibrâhîm (Abraham) the site of the (Sacred) House (the Ka'bah at Makkah) (saying): "Associate not anything (in worship) with Me (Allâh), and sanctify My House for those who circumambulate it, and those who stand up (for prayer), and those who bow (submit themselves with humility and obedience to Allâh), and make prostration (in prayer to Allâh)} (22:26).

What is Wood's Point Exactly?

David Wood wrote, next, "Here Muslims will say, 'We follow Muhammad's regulations because he commanded us to follow his regulations.' But that's exactly my point.'"

Not sure what Wood's point is *exactly*.

Allah's Prophet, Muhammad , did not make any regulations for Muslims in the *hadeeth* regarding *gheelah*, except to say that because people practiced *gheelah* and it did not adversely affect the health of mother or nursing baby, he did not outlaw it for them. Does Wood agree with the conclusion that, based on the fact that it had been safely practiced, *gheelah* can safely be practiced? David Wood, not Muslims, is the one who came up with the idea that the *hadeeth* regarding *gheelah* is about divine revelation. Can Wood at least acknowledge that this supposed revelation was good?

Prophet Muhammad stated that sometimes he offers his own opinion which can -sometimes- be mistaken, such as when he passed by a people who were grafting date-trees by combining the male with the female trees so that trees yield more fruit, he said that he did not think it is useful to do so. When he passed by them later on, he found that they had abandoned the grafting practice and as a result, the produce declined. He said,

"It was just a personal opinion of mine; do not go after my personal opinion (if it is mistaken). However, when I say to you anything on behalf of Allah, then do accept it, for I do not attribute lie to Allah ..." (collected by Muslim)

Muslims surely abide by Prophet Muhammad's regulations and commands, when the regulations and the commands are a part of the religion. As for the *hadeeth* regarding *gheelah* practice, it was not about legislating in Islam based on what the Romans or Persians did or did

not do. It was about the health effect of *gheelah* on nursing mother and nursing baby.

Evangelists Persist in Deception

David Wood wrote, "As this Hadith shows, Muhammad's reasoning had nothing to do with revelation. Why, then, accept his command to follow his regulations?"

As is typical of those who hate Islam, *Tau'heed* and anything and everything that has to do with Islam, David Wood keeps repeating the same old false words, lies and distortions. They know their audience well and that, if they keep repeating the same false words, lies and distortions, their audience will come to believe in what they tell them. Unfortunately, those who listen to them do not investigate or search for the truth, for they rely on those who they think are more knowledgeable than themselves in the topic of Christianity and Islam.

David Wood cannot bring a shred of evidence that the topic of the *hadeeth* under discussion was about adding a practice that the Persians and Romans observed to the divine revelation the Prophet ** received from Allah **. The *hadeeth* only discussed a health issue and how to deal with it by observing the effect it had on those who practiced it. Also, Allah's Prophet, Muhammad **, did not give any regulation in this *hadeeth* except to affirm that *gheelah* is allowed as a practice, since it does not greatly affect mother or her nursing baby.

If anything, the *hadeeth* discussing *gheelah* practice proves that the Prophet's human wisdom was very sound, since he did not outlaw for Muslims what did not prove to carry substantial health risks. If anything, this *hadeeth* makes it even more convincing to Muslims that the Prophet of Allah, Muhammad def, the Final and Last Prophet and Messenger, was rightly guided and had qualities that did not only touch the religion, but also matters of life and health.

These are a few words responding to the false arguments David Wood made on his blog. Why would Wood's brief article require such a lengthy response? Because what David Wood wrote was so wrong on multiple issues and so lacking in knowledge and sincere research, as to call for a lengthy response. Additionally, our detailed responses present added benefits, evidences, proofs, references, and comparative religion, as well as, discussing other related topics that need to be

explained. Indeed, it is an opportunity to promote the excellence of the Islamic religion and its regulations and laws.

We are not sure why David Wood keeps repeating the same arguments even though he was efficiently refuted on them in various ways. Wood seems to be consumed by his dislike of Islam, so much so that he persists in stubbornness even though his criticism of Islam is always flawed, since it is not based on reasonable human processing of information. Instead, Wood's arguments are based on his personal dislike of the religion of Islam and its Prophet . He seems to deny that there is anything good about Islam or its Prophet . Yet, he has also demonstrated severe lack of understanding of the Islamic religion that he took up enmity to, and to its holy book, Prophet, creed, practices and even what is not a part of the revelation.

We, the Muslims, do not like Christianity and certainly, we do not believe in its creed or practices. However, in our books and articles, where there are aspects shared between Christianity and Islam, we acknowledge them and usually assert that they are part of the divine revelation that came to the Children of Israel that was untouched by corruption. Can David Wood afford the same treatment to Islam or will his hatred of it consume him even more?

Islam shall surely dominate the world as Prophet Muhammad ** promised, when he said,

"This matter (Islam) will spread to wherever the night and day reach, until Allah enters this religion into every house made of brick or of hair" (Ahmad Ibn `Hanbal collected this hadeeth and Al-Albani graded it as saheeh, meaning authentic, for being on the guidelines which hadeeth scholar Muslim used in his saheeh collection. Reference: Al-Albani. Ta`hdheer As-Sajid Min It-Tikhadhi Al-Quboori Masajid.)

Islam will dominate all other religions, not because of violence as Wood insinuates, even suggests, but on account of Islam's superior creed and the ease in its laws and commandments. As for the violence part, Muslims are the recipients of violence directed at them mainly by

the hands of Christians, Jews, communists, Buddhists, Hindus, etc. Yet, Islam continues to prosper unhindered. The glory in all of this belongs to Allah , Alone, for He connected the success of Islam to Himself not to Muslims, who might sometimes be weak and divided such as currently.

What we said here should open your heart, mind and eyes to the truth, David Wood. Perhaps one day you will submit to the truth,

{And they belied them (Allâh's Ayât) wrongfully and arrogantly, though their own-selves were convinced thereof. So, see what was the end of the Muſsidûn (disbelievers; disobedient to Allâh; evildoers; liars).} (27:14)

Allah willing, we will keep refuting with ease claims that David Wood and his evangelical Cohorts make against Islam,

{They (pagans; Jews; Christians; disbelievers; idolaters) want to extinguish Allâh's Light (with which Muhammad was sent — Islâmic Monotheism) with their mouths (words), but Allâh will not allow except that His Light should be perfected even though the Kâfirûn (disbelievers) hate (it). It is He (Allâh) Who has sent His Messenger (Muhammad) with guidance and the religion of truth (Islâm), to make it superior over all religions even though the Mushrikûn (pagans; Jews; Christians; disbelievers; idolaters) hate (it).} (9:32-33)

Currently, Islam has become the largest religion on earth. All the thanks and praises are due to Allah , Alone, and may Allah's blessings, honor and mercy be on all of His Messengers and Prophets, starting with Adam, passing through Nu`h (Noah), Ibraheem (Abraham), Musa (Moses), and `Esa (Jesus), and ending with Muhammad .

Jalal Abualrub on March 1st, 2025 (www.IslamLife.com)

The Un-Pretty Evangelist in His Wife's Night Gown

Muhammad's Critic David Wood:

A Transvestite



Now transvestites mock Prophet Muhammad *!

Aishah 11, Prophet Muhammad's young, beloved wife, reports this about her and her husband 11, "I was with him fee (under) mirt-in wa'hid (one mirt)" (Collected by hadeeth scholar Ahmad Ibn 'Hanbal).

In this narration, Aishah describes how Prophet Muhammad was with her, together, under the same mirt. But evangelicals literally go crazy about this incident, lying in such a shameful way to defy logic. 'Normal men' go under the mirts of their wives. Muhammad was, indeed, a normal man. Prophet Muhammad was visited by his Companions numerous times while he was under

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¹¹ Radhiya Allahu `Anha: 'May Allah be pleased with her'. This statement is recited on mentioning Prophet Muhammad's individual female Companions.

his wife's *mirt*, that being, *thaub*, *shi`ar*, *firash*, *li`haf*, and so forth, various terms describing the same thing. These terms were used in many *hadeeth* narrations, some of them directly related to the narration mentioned here which was collected by *hadeeth* scholar Ahmad Ibn `Hanbal. None of the Prophet's visitors thought there was anything strange or wrong with what he was doing. None of them said, "Was the Prophet wearing a woman's dress?"

Hypocrites Had More Honor

The Prophet's contemporaries from among Arab hypocrites, Arab pagans, Jews, and Christians, those among them who were the most vocal and firm enemies of Islam's Prophet during his lifetime, never reported that Allah's Prophet, Muhammad during, ever wore women's clothing. The incident reported here from Aishah was never a secret. This story is widely found in narrations reported in Islamic books of *hadeeth*, with *hadeeth* being in reference to the Prophet Muhammad's statements and reports of his actions. Yet, evangelical transvestites, David Wood included, mock Muhammad and claim that he was wearing Aishah's 'clothes.' How can such evangelical 'men' understand the behavior of 'normal men' with their 'wives'?

Aishah refuted these evil ones, many centuries before they were born. She narrated this story at various times using variations of the word, 'mirt.' By Allah's help, we refuted these sick evangelical people duly, abundantly, and effectively in our published book, Did Jesus and Muhammad Practice Cross-Dressing (which can be found at our website: https://IslamLife.com).

The Lying Spirit of I Kings 22

That they lie and deceive is understandable in light of what their 'holy' book teaches them, "I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." (I Kings 22)

I Kings 22 narrates a story of intentional deceit and lies allegedly sanctioned by the god of the Old Testament. Allah , the Creator of everything, is free from this terrible slander. So, it is natural for those

who read such false biblical stories and profess to believe in them, to be lying devils in the mouth of Muhammad ****** and his wife Aishah ******.

It is very difficult to believe or imagine that there are people more evil and wicked than David Wood and Cohorts. These people think that Christianity cannot win against Islam on its own merits, without lying and deceiving on behalf of Christianity, so they lie and deceive.

David Wood vs. the Old Testament

David Wood is, somehow, a professional debater. He travels around the United States debating Muslims, and when there are no debates, he still attacks Islam, so Muslims will debate him. When challenged about some parts in the Old Testament, Wood's answer was that he is not as familiar with the Old Testament, as he is with the New Testament! David Wood is a born-again Christian who, we are told, found Jesus in jail. Born-again Christians 'speak with tongues,' even though one cannot imagine how else they can speak. They speak loudly, especially while professing the Bible as the, 'Word of God.'

'The Word of God', is comprised of the Old Testament and the New Testament, according to Christians. Meanwhile, the Jews reject the New Testament, call Jesus, Allah's blessings and honor on him, a bastard, and falsely accuse his honorable, blessed mother Mary of having had sex with multiple men.

David Wood says he is not that familiar with part one of his own, 'Word of God': The Old Testament. Wood's 'knowledge' in Islam is more non-existing and far less exciting than his knowledge in the Old Testament. Yet, David Wood frequently debates 'Muslims' on 'Islam.' He cannot even speak a sentence of Arabi, in which all traditional Islamic literature is written. But he gives definite meanings for Arabi words, terms, sentences, and the types of garments Arabs use.

David Wood: The Un-Pretty Evangelist in His Wife's Night Gown

In a video, that David Wood has since deleted, David Wood looks natural and comfortable in his wife's nightgown while wearing her necklace. The tattoos are appalling, though. Still, and even though Wood would make a notably ugly woman who would be as tall as a giraffe, a sex-change operation may be in order for him. Examine the picture: Wood seems to be half-way there already.

In this, now deleted video, Wood slanders Islam's Prophet # by claiming that he # used to wear his wife's dress. Wood repeats this narration from Bukhari: The Prophet [Muhammad #] said,

"Do not hurt me regarding Aishah, as the Divine Inspirations do not come to me while I am fee the thaub of any woman, except that of Aishah" (Bukhari).

David Wood, who speaks <u>not</u> Arabi, then declares that, 'thaub,' means, a woman's dress, while, 'fee', means, to wear.

Thaubs are sold all over the world today. Many millions of men, women and children cover with *thaubs* every night. *Thaub*, in the *context* of covering, is a garment (a sheet); it is not a woman's dress; it is not a man's dress; it is a garment (a sheet).

To accurately describe a specific use for *thaub*, one must first understand which meaning is derived and desired within the *context* of the sentence wherein is mentioned the term, *thaub*. For instance, using both, the word *thaub* and a synonym of it that only means blanket, one would be able to identify the type of garment under discussion: a cover.

David Wood is a professional liar who thinks he is an intellectual, because he has post graduate degrees. While only repeating Bukhari's narration where they corrupt *thaub* to mean a woman's dress, in order for them to support their claim that the Prophet Muhammad was wearing it, they completely ignored another narration in the same resource book, Bukhari, about the very same story. This also proves that having post graduate degrees does not indicate intelligence.

In this latter narration, Prophet Muhammad & says,

"Do not hurt (annoy) me about Aishah, for by Allah, the Divine Inspirations do not come to me while I am fee the li`haf of any woman among you (meaning among his wives) ... except that of hers (Aishah)."

Here, thaub, is described as, li`haf, a word that is still widely used throughout the Arab world; it exclusively means, blanket. Therefore, Prophet Muhammad ** was with his wife, Aishah **, fee, under, her li'haf, bed-covering. The various narrations merely used variations of the Arabi word for a bedcovering, a blanket. It is the very same hadeeth, the very same incident.

A Journey into the Mind of an Evangelist

The evangelists found another word, *labisan*, a variation of the term, *lubs*, in a *hadeeth* collected by scholar Muslim wherein it means: to wrap oneself, to cover with, to sit on, claiming that it [only] means, to wear. They then concluded that, this means that the Prophet Muhammad ** was wearing Aishah's dress, since Muslim's narration stated that he was *labisun* the *mirt* of Aishah, which they claim only means wearing a woman's dress.

The evangelists were then informed about a woven floor mat. In a hadeeth found in scholar Bukhari's hadeeth collection, a woven-mat is reported to have been *lubisa*, another variation of the word *lubs*, with the implication that, if *labisun* only means to wear, then Arabs also used to wear entire woven floor mats, instead of sitting on them. Still, the evangelists persist and insist.

Evangelists Defame Themselves Instead of Defaming Prophet Muhammad

David Wood wanted to defame Islam's Prophet, Muhammad , who, being a normal man, used to join his wives under the same bedcovering (mirt; li`haf; firash; thaub; Shi`ar). Surely, the stories the evangelicals used reported the same incident, but as is normal in Arab culture, used variations of the Arabi word for bedcovering, blanket. Instead of defaming Allah's Prophet, Muhammad , David Wood exposed his own transvestite tendencies by parading his self by wearing woman's clothing; He does not even look pretty in them.

David Wood wanted to dishonor Islam's Prophet, Muhammad, Allah's blessings, honor and mercy on him, by his lowly demeanor. Instead, Wood ended up dishonoring himself by falling under the curse of the Old Testament against those who wear women's clothes: "A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this" (Deuteronomy 22:5).

Since David Wood seems to contend that, *fee*, only means, to wear, he needs to complete his transvestite act. If, *fee*, only means, to wear, David Wood will have to wear his wife's dress, while she is still in it, both of them, at the same time. This is because in various narrations for the same *hadeeth* statement mentioned above, Aishah said that she and her husband, Prophet Muhammad , were *fee* one *mirt*.

Remember: These evangelical 'geniuses' falsely claim that, *fee*, means, to wear, while, *mirt*, means, a woman's dress. So according to their logic, when Aishah said that she and her husband, Prophet Muhammad, were *fee* one *mirt*, she must have been wearing her *mirt* along with her husband the Prophet, in the same *mirt* at the same time! We, therefore, ask David Wood to reenact the incident, so we can see the full extent of his explanation. Even though we doubt Wood's wife has dresses that can fit an elephant, Wood must wear his wife's *thaub*, while she is still in it; transvestite husband and his female woman-wife, both, *fee* wearing her gown *mirt* at the same time. Hatred of Muhammad made Wood and Cohorts earn dishonor and disrespect. He did it to himself.

All the thanks and praises are due to Allah ﷺ, and may Allah's blessings, honor, and mercy be on all of His Prophets and Messengers, starting with Adam ﷺ, passing through Nu`h (Noah) ﷺ, Ibraheem (Abraham) ﷺ, Musa (Moses) ﷺ, and `Esa (Jesus) ﷺ, and ending with Muhammad ﷺ.

Jalal Abualrub (www.IslamLife.com) March 1, 2025

Selected Books Jalal Abualrub Translated or Authored (Partial)

All Books and Articles Edited by Alaa Mencke

First: for Madinah Publishers and Distributors

Translated by Jalal Abualrub

- **1.** Ibn Al-Qayyim. Volumes: 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the English Translation of the Encyclopedia of Prophetic Tradition, *Zad-ul Ma`ad fi Hadyi Khairi Al-`Ibad*.
- **2.** Abdullah Ibn Baz. Warning Against Riba (Usury) Transactions.
- **3.** Ibn Taimiyyah. *Visiting Graves and Invoking the Dead*.
- **4.** Ibn Taimiyyah. *Kitab Al-Eman* (not published yet).

Translated hundreds of articles for various scholars on aspects of Islam.

Authored by Jalal Abualrub

- **1.** 50 Righteous and Humane Concepts Brought by Muhammad.
- 2. Muhammad's Role in Islam.
- **3.** Holy Wars, Crusades, Jihad, 1^{st} & 2^{nd} Editions.
- **4.** Biography of Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahhab.
- **5.** The Jewish Temple Rebuilt by the Shi`a.
- **6.** Did Jesus and Muhammad Practice Cross-Dressing.
- 7. Did Allah Forget the Wives.
- **8.** Length of a Day with Allah.
- **9.** Christian-Muslim Dialogue.
- **10.** The Bible, by Authors Anonymous.
- **11.** *Discussion with a Coptic Christian.*
- 12. Evangelical Poetry.
- **13.** How Prophet Muhammad Legislated.

- 14. Atheist Prophet.
- **15.** *Crucifixion: The Greatest Delusion.*
- **16.** Three Abrahamic Religions.
- **17.** When the Evangelist becomes a Shaikh.
- **18.** *Holy Wars, Crusades, Jihad, 3rd Edition.*
- **19.** *Interfaith Movement.*
- **20.** *The Miracles of Jesus.*
- **21.** Dr. Deceiver and Mr. Hide.
- **22.** Prophet of Mercy or Prophet of Doom.
- **23.** A Discussion about Islam, the Quran, and Prophet Muhammad.
- **24.** Ru'yatul Hilal (Moon-sighting), Between the Sharee'ah and Astronomical Calculations.
- **25.** *Is Allah the Moon-God?*

Thousands of articles on various aspects of Islam.

Second: Books Jalal Abualrub translated for Darussalam Publishers and Distributors (www.dar-us-salam.com)

- 1. Ibn Katheer. *Tafseer Ibn Katheer*. Chapters (*Juzu*) 1-10, 12, 13, 25-27.
- 2. Abdur-Rahman As-Sa'di. Tafseer As-Sa'di. Volumes 1 & 10.
- 3. Abdur-Rahman As-Sa'di. How to Achieve Happiness.
- **4.** Ibn Qayyim Al-Jauziyyah. Healing With the Medicine of the Prophet.
- **5.** Chapters 1-2 of, *Selected Friday Sermons*. (Chapters 3-4 translated by Ibrahim Ezghair).
- **6.** Abdullah Ibn Jabrin. *Pillars of Islam*.
- 7. Abdul-Malik Al-Qasim. Establish the Prayers & the Prize is Paradise.
- 8. Abdul-Malik Al-Qasim. Silent Moments.
- 9. Abdul-Malik Al-Qasim. Charity even with a Trifle.
- **10.** Abdul-Malik Al-Qasim. *Life is a Shadow*.
- **11.** Abdul-Malik Al-Qasim. *Seeds of Righteousness*.
- 12. Abdul-Malik Al-Qasim. Kindness to Parents.
- 13. Abdul-Malik Al-Qasim. The Road to Good Friendship.
- **14.** Abdul-Malik Al-Qasim. *Hindrances on the Path.*

- **15.** Al-Mubarakpuri. *The Seerah* (Biography) *of the Prophet*. (Not Published Yet).
- **16.** The Devil's Arrow.
- **17.** A series of children's booklets on: *Manners of the Young Muslim*.
- **18.** A series of booklets titled, *To the Pearl of the Society* (for women).
- **19.** Brief booklets on: Tau'heed; Music; Important Lessons; La Ilaha Illa-Allah; Photographic Pictures; Free Mixing between Men and Women; An Advice to the Ummah; Tawassul; Wala and Baraa; Creed of the Salaf in Brief; Az-Zuhd.

Third: Books Jalal Abualrub translated for Dar At-Turath Al-Islami (Dar for Islamic Heritage)

- **1.** Nasirudden Al Albani *The Hadith is Proof Itself in Belief and Laws*.
- **2.** Sali'h Al Fozan. *Innovation, and its Evil Effects*.
- **3.** Muhammad Al Uthaymeen. *Rights Basic to the Natural Human Constitution*.
- **4.** Mohammad Al Uthaymeen. *Explaining the Pillars of Iman*.
- 5. Abdurrahman Abdul-Khaliq. Marriage in Islam.
- **6.** Abdurrahman Abdul-Khaliq. *Priorities of Islamic Work in the West.*
- 7. Abdurrahman Abdul-Khaliq. The Bible's Testimony that Jesus is the Slave-Servant and Messenger of Allah.
- **8.** Abdurrahman Abdul-Khaliq. *The Clear Distinction Between Iman & Kufr.*
- 9. Husain Al Awaysha. Kitab Al Ikhlas (Book of Sincerity).
- **10.** Nathim Sultan. *Basics & Benefits from the Forty Hadith Nawawi*.
- **11.** Saleh Al-Munajjid. The Weakening of Faith: Its Symptoms, Causes, and Cure.
- **12.** Abdullah As-Sabt. *The Ever-Merciful, He Rose Over His Throne*. Hundreds of articles on various Islamic topics.