

Did Islaam spread by the sword?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

**Question:** For additional information, what do you think about the claim that Islaam was spread by the sword? We would like to have a logical reply to this.

**Shaykh Bin Baaz** (*May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him*): This claim, in this generalised formula, is false. Islaam was spread by Da`wah (call to Islaam) to Allaah (*Glorified and Exalted be He*), yet supported by the sword. The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) conveyed it by means of Da`wah in Makkah for thirteen years, then continued doing this in Al-Madeenah before he was commanded to fight. Moreover, the Sahabah along with many Muslims had spread all over the earth and called to Allaah, and had striven in His cause against whoever opposed them, for the sword is just a way. Allaah (Exalted be He) says:

**[And We brought forth iron wherein is mighty power (in matters of war), as well as many benefits for mankind]<sup>1</sup>**

Allaah (Exalted be He) also says:

**[And fight them until there is no more Fitnah (disbelief and polytheism, i.e. worshipping others besides Allaah) and the religion (worship) will all be for Allaah Alone [in the whole of the world].]<sup>2</sup>**

They fought those who refused for their own sake and safety. In general, whoever is indebted with any right to another should be obliged to fulfil this right either by jailing or beating, yet this person is unjustly treated. If this is the case, how can a person condemn or find it queer to oblige whoever is indebted to Allaah to fulfil His Rights (Exalted be He)? Accordingly, with greater reason, the most important right and the worthiest of being fulfilled is the observance of Tawheed (belief in the Oneness of Allaah/ monotheism) to Allaah (Exalted be He) and the abandonment of associating others with Him. It is a Mercy from Allaah (Exalted be He) to prescribe fighting and observance of Jihaad (fighting/striving in the Cause of Allaah) against Mushrikoon (those who associate others in worship with Allaah) so as to enforce them to single out Allaah (Exalted be He) with worship and quit worshipping anything other than Him. This leads to their happiness and safety in the worldly life and the Hereafter. Allaah is the One Who grants success.

<sup>1</sup> سورة الحديد – Soorah al-Hadeed [57:25]

<sup>2</sup> سورة الأنفال – Soorah al-Anfaal [8:39]

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