

# PEARLS OF WISDOM

Maulana Wahiduddin Khan



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*Translated by:*  
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“

1

People often take up reading  
the book of life without  
learning its language.

”

“

2

One who has a book  
with him is never alone.

”

“

3

Life is a long tiring tale;  
only he can study it successfully  
whose attention always stays focused  
on the tale's next paragraph.

”

“

4

One who can conquer oneself can  
easily find victory over others.

”

“

5

What is maturity?  
Maturity is the ability to live  
with things we cannot change.

”



“

6

Wishing to have more than  
what you deserve is as good  
as disqualifying yourself from  
what you rightfully deserve.

”

“

7

If you are strong from within  
even after losing everything,  
rest assured that you have not  
yet lost anything.

”

“

8

A new morning follows every evening, but only he can find it who waits until it comes.

”

“

9

Despite being of any magnitude,  
a defeat always happens to be  
temporary. It can always be turned  
into success by better planning.

”

“

10

One person says, “night has fallen”,  
whereas another would say,  
“morning is yet to come”.

”

“

||

Chasing after the impossible,  
you lose what is possible.

”

“

12

Children's sandcastles collapse in less time than it takes for their making.

”

“

13

Everyone has lost his yesterday;  
success is destined for one  
who does not lose his today.

”



“

14

What is sympathy?  
Sympathy is your pain in my heart.

”

“

15

Our past and present may lie in ruins, but our future is still secure.

”

“

16

In this world, no sunset is final,  
for every sunset is destined to be  
followed by a new sunrise,  
provided man dares to turn  
his evening into morning again.

”

“

17

Success knocks at the door,  
but only once.

”

“

18

To concede defeat is the expression  
of one's determination to try again  
to win what one has lost.

”

“

19

There is no greater sacrifice than  
that of one's own opinion.

”

“

20

If you have found your beginning,  
you can find your end;  
another name for the right ending  
is the right beginning.

”

“

21

Opportunities do slip away,  
but they never vanish.

”



“

22

Defeat is a delay,  
but not failure.

”

“

23

The fool said:

“I have wasted my past and present.”

The wise man replied:

“But your future is still safe.”

”

“

24

Not to fall is not a miracle;  
the miracle is that you fall  
and stand up again.

”

“

25

Do not make haste;  
hastening doubles the delay.

”

“

26

If you do not sow in time,  
you cannot harvest  
at the harvesting time.

”

“

27

A wise man thinks  
before taking action;  
a stupid man thinks afterwards.

”

“

28

If you wish to raise your dream palace  
from top to the ground, in the end,  
you will not find anything except  
a pile of debris.

”

“

29

Strategic retreat is the first phase  
of planned action.

”



“

30

Nothing can make the sun rise early,  
but everyone wishes his life's  
morning to dawn early.

”

“

31

Wise is he who forgets  
the faults and wrongs of others  
and keeps his faults in mind.

”

“

32

If you arrive at the station late,  
you cannot complain about the train  
that departed without picking  
you up.

”

“

33

A small container cannot hold much water. Similarly, a small heart cannot achieve great success.

”

“

34

A single push cannot ground a wall.  
An effort to do so may, however,  
hit your head.

”

“

35

A step taken with insufficient preparation further complicates the problem.

”

“

36

Experience is what we learn from others, for our expertise always comes at the cost of loss.

”

“

37

Today's sunset must rise the next day,  
but most people do not wait until  
the upcoming day.

”



“

38

The most successful war is when  
the enemy is disarmed and left  
with no fighting power.

”

“

39

The road is closed only for one  
who does not know how to walk;  
the pleasant breeze gives  
this message every day.

”

“

40

People engrossed in petty issues  
only prove they cannot achieve  
anything significant in their lives.

”

“

41

If you want to hide your secret from  
your enemy, do not talk about it,  
even with your friend.

”

“

42

**Ships are safe in the harbour,  
but they are not meant for  
that purpose.**

”

“

43

The secret of life is that man must  
know that with every flower,  
there is a thorn and with every thorn,  
a flower.

”

“

44

If man could learn a lesson from  
others' mistakes, he would never  
commit a mistake himself.

”

“

45

For a man to achieve anything worthwhile in life, he has to work towards it in a planned and methodical manner.

”



“

46

To have a flower, you must know  
how to handle the thorns.

”

“

47

How beautiful is the Taj Mahal of words, the storm of facts washes it away like a pile of straws blown away by the wind.

”

“

48

One who cooks his food  
in a wooden pot will never be able  
to fill his belly.

”

“

49

Holding others responsible for  
your disaster proves that you were  
unaware of your vulnerability.

”

“

50

To appeal to a powerful enemy  
for justice is like asking the rock  
to give you water.

”

“

51

Anger is a negative response  
to any given situation.

”

“

52

Think, think, think;  
there must be a better way.

”

“

53

If one has missed a train,  
one can always take another,  
but people often forget this  
when they lose one chance  
in their life's race.

”



“

54

A wise man is one whose competitor  
comes to know about his plan only  
after it is accomplished.

”

“

55

Wise is he who agrees to accept less than what he rightfully deserves and stays ready to give others more than what they justly deserve.

”

“

56

Only that person arrives at his  
destination who is willing to tackle  
the obstacles in one's path  
successfully.

”

“

57

The formula for de-stressing:  
forget the past and re-plan the future.

”

“

58

If two people quarrel, both are at fault; had the innocent one withdrawn himself from the spot, the brawl itself would not have taken place.

”

“

59

Man himself is supposed to pay the price of his mistake, but after committing a mistake, he tries to find someone else to pay for his fault.

”

“

60

Forget  
whatever you have lost  
so that  
you may avail of what is left  
with you.

”

“

61

What is loss?  
To miss an opportunity!

What is gain?  
To avail of the opportunity!

”



“

62

You can, in a moment, raise your dream palace, but raising a building, in reality, is not possible without a long strenuous effort.

”

“

63

Life's problems are solved by  
employing a rational strategy,  
not by making complaints.

”

“

64

Misfortune always enters through  
the door which we have left open.

”

“

65

People know what to speak,  
but a wise man also knows  
not to speak.

”

“

66

The silence of an elephant is a thousand times stronger than the barking of a dog.

”

“

67

Petrol and water are alike,  
but petrol ignites a fire  
while water extinguishes it.

”

“

68

What is loss?  
It is a failure to act on time!

”

“

69

A wise man expects everything  
from himself, and a fool expects  
everything from others.

”



“

70

Excessive words cannot compensate  
for your lack of practical ability.

”

“

71

One who does not listen to others'  
difference of opinion is not to be  
counted as a learned man.

”

“

72

Everything can be earned  
through sheer hard work,  
not simply through wishing.

”

“

73

If you do not know how to speak,  
then learn to keep quiet because  
keeping quiet is as important as  
speaking.

”

“

74

Deprivation can lead you to progress  
if it awakens your latent potential.

”

“

75

Fragrance does not need to prove  
its presence by a proclamation.

”

“

76

This world is a world of competition;  
if you do not get ahead of others,  
others will get ahead of you.

”

“

77

Think before taking revenge;  
revenge too will be avenged.

”



“

78

If you speed up your vehicle  
where you must apply brakes,  
it would be driven towards  
the graveyard instead of  
the destination.

”

“

79

Wise is the man who can live in peace  
with things he cannot change.

”

“

80

If you wish to be successful in  
this world, first develop the courage  
to welcome failures.

”

“

81

Nothing is impossible in this world of God. The only thing impossible is striving to achieve the possible by using impossible means.

”

“

82

Recognition always comes  
after rejection.

”

“

83

The secret of success for a person is that he does not lose his rationality even at the height of his emotional moments.

”

“

84

When you face darkness, do not  
curse it. Instead, light the candle,  
and the darkness will disappear.

”

“

85

No seed can suddenly become a whole tree; similarly, it is not possible for someone to suddenly reach his destination.

”



“

86

Question: How long will the big fish continue to swallow the small fish?

Answer: Till the time the small fish makes itself large enough not to fit into the mouth of the big fish.

”

“

87

‘Difficult’ is an excuse  
that history never accepts.

”

“

88

The harsh truth of life is that  
you cannot ask someone else to pay  
the price for your wrongdoing.

”

“

89

Do not be afraid of difficulties,  
for it is the difficulties that go into  
the making of a man.

”

“

90

Progress is the result of man's hard work, but many consider others' destruction the nearest step to their progress.

”

“

91

Patience is not inaction;  
patience is another name  
for planned action.

”

“

92

A foolish man often starts waiting  
for the end of a journey that  
he has not yet begun.

”

“

93

To find something, you shall always have to lose something. However, people are never ready to lose. That is why most people cannot even become finders.

”



“

94

Holding others responsible for all your woes results in hatred and frustration while holding yourself accountable for them inspires you to act and achieve your goal.

”

“

95

Tolerance is not cowardice;  
it is a principle of life.

”

“

96

People generally do not utilise themselves a hundred per cent, which is why they fail in their plans.

”

“

97

Success lies on the other side of  
patience, but generally, people search  
for it on this side of patience.

”

“

98

The secret of success is that man  
learns the art of failure management.

”

“

99

To be successful, a man has to exert himself; while for failure, he has to do nothing; it is itself running towards him.

”

“

100

The cause of man's failure always lies within himself, but he often searches for that in others.

”

“

101

Change yourself; your luck will  
change on its own.

”



“

102

The most straightforward way to  
keep yourself safe from others'  
evil design is to keep others safe  
from your ill will.

”

“

103

Complaining against others generally  
turns out to be an admission of one's  
incompetence.

”

“

104

Man's impatience is his enemy's  
greatest weapon; stupid is he who  
himself would provide this weapon  
to his enemy.

”

“

105

There is only one plan to survive in this world: every man should have a large graveyard wherein he would keep on burying the faults of others.

”

“

106

The greatest secret of success is  
patience, and the greatest secret of  
failure is impatience.

”

“

107

The most unimportant word in collective social life is “I”, and the most important is “We”.

”

“

108

To say “I was wrong”  
is the way to success.

”

“

109

The most successful way of avenging  
one's enemy is to forgive them.  
However, very few people know  
this secret of success.

”



“

110

**Always consult others in all matters;  
consultation protects against loss.**

”

“

111

The only way to save yourself  
from the mischief of others is not to  
get provoked despite provocation.

”

“

112

If your roof is weak, you cannot prevent it from being hit by a flood, no matter how much hue and cry you may raise.

”

“

113

Not fighting is the most successful war, but only a few people know how to fight such a war.

”

“

114

High status is always achieved  
by elevating yourself, not by  
shouting slogans.

”

“

115

Good luck asks: Is prudence present  
inside the house by knocking on  
everyone's door?

”

“

116

In their silent language, flowers  
proclaim: stay amongst men  
like flowers.

”

“

117

The art of rejection is easy,  
but only a great mind can accept it.  
Acceptance is a phenomenon  
of maturity.

”



“

118

Envy eats up one's good deeds  
as the fire eats up wood.

”

“

119

Seeing a problem as a problem is  
a problem. However, if you see  
a problem as a normal event,  
there is no problem.

”

“

120

The cost of great work is to humble yourself; generally, people do not agree to humble themselves; which is why they cannot do any significant work.

”

“

121

When envy and arrogance enter  
into man, wisdom goes out.

”

“

122

The essence of religion is to fear God  
and to like for others what you want  
for yourself.

”

“

123

What is unity?  
To live unitedly despite having  
differences.

”

“

124

Your critic is your best adviser.

”

“

125

Impatience is reflected in a hasty response to a situation, while a well-considered, well-thought-out response is what patience is all about.

”



“

126

The cost of disrespecting others  
is to be held disrespectful  
in the eyes of God.

”

“

127

A significant sign of a man being  
flawless is that he does not search  
for flaws in others.

”

“

128

Peace means normalcy,  
and normalcy provides such  
opportunities as favour  
the growth of a healthy  
environment.

”

“

129

If the bricks are scattered,  
they are a pile of debris,  
but when bricks mutually unite,  
they become a building assuming  
the shape of a strong fort wherein  
nations seek refuge.

”

“

130

The truthful beginning always ends  
on truth, and the false beginning  
always ends on falsehood.

”

“

131

Everyone has excuses,  
but the living does not use excuses.

”

“

132

The way to escape thorns is not to get entangled with them; instead, one should cautiously move away from the place of thorns.

”

“

133

Only those who prove to be giver  
members of society can establish  
themselves in life.

”



“

134

To conquer an enemy by force is half a victory, but to conquer him by love is a complete victory.

”

“

135

Only he knows how to speak  
who knows how to keep silent.

”

“

136

Everyone wants to grow his tree separately. That is why humanity's garden does not grow.

”

“

137

Life is more precious for it to be  
used for a lesser purpose than  
for some great one.

”

“

138

Most stupid is he who would lose something great for something small.

”

“

139

You cannot separate the thorns  
from the flowers, even if you run  
a bulldozer over them.

”

“

140

Man has been created to succeed,  
but he fails due to negligence.

”

“

141

Discontent is the first step in  
the progress of a man or a nation.

”



“

142

A man should give out fragrance like  
the flowers and shine like the sun.  
This is the world's daily message  
in silent language.

”

“

143

Self-knowledge is the beginning  
of self-improvement.

”

“

144

If you want to move mountains,  
you must, first of all, learn  
to move particles.

”

“

145

A defeatist mentality  
is shaped by history.

A positive mentality  
shapes history.

”

“

146

It is easier to blame others than  
to accept responsibility for oneself.

”

“

147

If man could but know the hopeful  
circumstances of tomorrow,  
he would never lose heart over  
the unfortunate events of today.

”

“

148

No one is so powerful that  
he can harm others without  
harming himself.

”

“

149

Error is the discipline through  
which we advance.

”



“

150

The day will, in any case, end in twelve hours, whether you make good use of it or waste it.

”

“

151

Crisis is part of life. But you cannot deal with crisis without patience.

”

“

152

Many people fail to recognise  
opportunity because it comes  
disguised as hard work.

”

“

153

The hopeful man sees success in  
failure, sunshine in the storm.

”

“

154

**It is not difficult for one who can  
conquer himself to conquer others.**

”

“

155

In prosperity, caution;  
in adversity, patience.

”

“

156

Life is an ongoing trial.  
After falling ten times, rising  
the eleventh time is success.

”

“

157

No one puts out other people's lamps. It is the lack of oil that puts them out.

”



“

158

Man has a hidden treasure  
within him.  
Difficulties and setbacks  
bring it forth.

”

“

159

The false man bows  
before power.  
The true man bows  
to the argument.

”

“

160

Success depends on the ability to  
convert unfavourable circumstances  
into favourable ones.

”

“

161

No one fights for another: everyone  
has to fight life's battles himself.

”

“

162

Complaint is the origin of every evil.  
Complaint leads to hate; hate leads to  
enmity, and enmity leads to violence.

”

“

163

When a piece of wood breaks up, it breaks into two or many parts. However, there is no question of defeat and destruction for a living being. When a live amoeba breaks up, it becomes two living amoebae.

”

“

164

It is a wise man who learns  
from his own mistakes.

”

“

165

The world is a testing ground for  
wisdom. It is not a political platform  
for protests and clamour.

”



“

166

It is possible to usurp something,  
but keeping a possession that is not  
rightfully yours is impossible.

”

“

167

It is bad to do evil. However, it is worse to hate the evil-doer.

”

“

168

Man has to pay the price for his faults, however much he tries to find someone who will pay the price for his mistakes.

”

“

169

The wind carries away the scattered particles of sand, causing them to float all around.

However, when these particles of sand join together to make a mountain, no tempest is strong enough to shake them.

”

“

170

Be large of heart and succeed.  
Be small of heart and fail.

”

“

171

The ordinary person lives in his  
greatness. The believer lives in  
the greatness of God.

”

“

172

Man is born to succeed,  
but he makes himself a failure  
due to his negligence.

”

“

173

The world is full of friends.  
Someone is your actual friend;  
another is your potential friend.

”



“

174

Accept the status quo in  
controversial matters and  
divert your activities to the  
non-confrontational field.

”

“

175

People are equal as regards respect,  
but they are different in the roles  
they play in life.

”

“

176

The secret to success in life is to plan  
one's time and energy wisely and  
to avail of the opportunities  
within one's reach.

”

“

177

If you want to succeed in this world,  
the first thing you have to do is  
display enough courage  
to welcome failures.

”

“

178

Tolerance is one of the greatest  
factors in stabilising human  
relationships.

”

“

179

To live in a state of happiness,  
you must learn the difference  
between need and desire.

”

“

180

No seed turns into a tree by leaps and bounds. Similarly, a person cannot reach his destination without travelling for the requisite period.

”

“

181

The secret of success lies in man's  
learning the secret of failure.

”



“

182

If your building is weak, you cannot prevent it from being washed away by the flood.

”

“

183

When two different ideas clash,  
a third idea emerges. So take  
the difference as an intellectual  
challenge, and it will certainly  
be a blessing for you.

”

“

184

Do not rail at the darkness.  
Light a candle, and the darkness will  
itself disappear.

”

“

185

Wisdom lies in knowing what is possible and what is not possible in terms of the circumstances.

”

“

186

A two-word success story—  
work works.

”

“

187

If someone pelts you with stones,  
do not quarrel with him. Instead,  
raise yourself to such a height that  
the stones cannot reach you.

”

“

188

If you have a good excuse,  
don't use it.

”

“

189

With peace, one can achieve what  
one cannot achieve with violence.

”



“

190

Evil can have no beginning but from  
pride nor any end but in humility.

”

“

191

Whoever seeks to obtain small benefits at the risk of great dangers is like a fisherman using a hook of gold; should it come off, no catch would compensate for the loss.

”

“

192

He who has no mission in life  
is the poorest of all.

”

“

193

The only initiative worth taking is one which will yield positive results.

”

“

194

It is not because things are difficult  
that we do not dare; they are difficult  
because we do not dare.

”

“

195

Success is never final,  
and failure is never fatal.  
It is courage that counts.

”

“

196

**Maturity is perseverance, sweating  
out a project despite setbacks.**

”

“

197

Tension is another name  
for taking a wrong choice.

”



“

198

You have removed most of  
the roadblocks to success when  
you have known the difference  
between motion and direction.

”

“

199

The word “shortcut” may apply to  
the world of roads and footpaths.  
However, there are no shortcuts  
in the struggle of life.

”

“

200

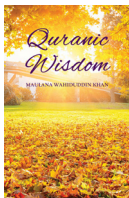
Starve the problems,  
feed the opportunities.

”

## BOOKS, BOOKLETS AND LEAFLETS OF MAULANA WAHIDUDDIN KHAN

### BOOKS

#### Quranic Wisdom



The book helps readers derive wisdom from the Quranic verses by extracting universal principles and applying them to effectively manage life's problems and concentrate on higher goals.

[Click Here to Read Now](#)

#### Religion and Science

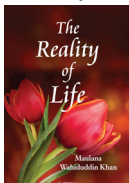


In the book, the author, using the scientifically accepted inferential argument, proves religious truths like the existence of God, prophethood and life after death.

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### BOOKLETS

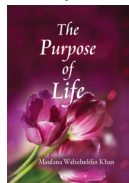
#### The Reality of Life



The book explains that man harbours unlimited desires in his heart, but these desires remain unfulfilled. Desires can only be fulfilled in eternal Paradise if one lives one's life as per the creation plan of God in this world.

[Click Here to Read Now](#)

#### The Purpose of Life



The book explains the creation plan of God, told by God through His prophets throughout human history, that this life is a test. After death, God will mete out rewards or punishments commensurate with the record of human beings on earth.

[Click Here to Read Now](#)

### LEAFLETS

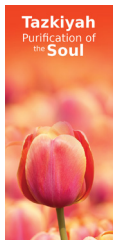
#### God-Oriented Life



The leaflet explains that the concept of God provides man with an ideology in which loss is turned to gain and in which adversity brings with it good tidings. Submission to God and living a God-oriented life is the only way of life for both man and the universe.

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#### Tazkiyah: Purification of the Soul



Tazkiyah, to a modern man refers to reform or deconditioning and reengineering his mind to make him capable of seeing reality 'as it is' and thus become a positive, intellectually developed personality.

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## BOOKS, BOOKLETS AND LEAFLETS OF MAULANA WAHIDUDDIN KHAN

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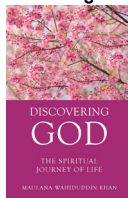
#### Principles of Islam



The book gives an introduction to Islam to address the modern mind, giving the teachings of Islam as principles explained in the Quran and the Hadith, the sayings and deeds of the Prophet of Islam.

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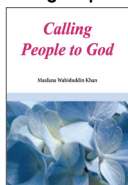


The theme of the book is *maarifah*, i.e., the realization of God. The journey of realization begins with a questing spirit and only the one who is sincere in this journey can find God.

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### BOOKLETS

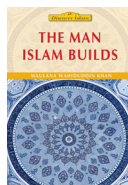
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The book collects the pearls of wisdom from the pen of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, guiding people toward right thinking. The greatness of humanity lies in our ability to think. We believe first, then act. We will decide on the right course of action if we have the right review. Life is a series of experiences. The readiness to learn lessons from our experiences, and those of others, help us to develop intellectually and succeed. It is our level of thinking which determines our success or failure. Success is the result of right thinking. Think right, do right, and succeed.



Maulana Wahiduddin Khan (1925-2021) was an Islamic scholar, spiritual guide, and an Ambassador of Peace. He authored over 200 books and recorded thousands of lectures giving the rational interpretation of Islam in the modern idiom. His English translation, *The Quran* is widely appreciated as simple, clear and in contemporary style. He founded Centre for Peace and Spirituality—CPS International in 2001 to re-engineer minds toward God-oriented living and present Islam as it is based on peace, spirituality, and co-existence. Maulana breathed his last on 21 April 2021 in New Delhi, India. His legacy is being carried forward through the CPS International Network.

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