

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 (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹: This claim, in this generalised formula, is false. Islaam was spread by Da`wah (call to Islaam) to Allaah (عَزَّوَجَلَّ)², yet supported by the sword. The Prophet (peace 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 (سُبْحَانَهُ) says: **[And We brought forth iron wherein is mighty power (in matters of war), as well as many benefits for mankind]**³ Allaah (سُبْحَانَهُ)⁴ 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].]**⁵ 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 (سُبْحَانَهُ)? 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 (سُبْحَانَهُ) and the abandonment of associating others with Him. It is a Mercy from Allaah (سُبْحَانَهُ) 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 (سُبْحَانَهُ) 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.

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (عَزَّوَجَلَّ) (Azza wa Jaal) Glorified and Exalted be He

³ سورة الحديد – Soorah al-Hadeed [57:25]

⁴ (سُبْحَانَهُ) (Subhanahu) Exalted be He

⁵ سورة الأنفال – Soorah al-Anfaal [8:39]