Title: **The Islamic State of Iraq and Levant**

Lower heading: **The Trade of Jihad**

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In the name of Allah, most Compassionate, the most Merciful

**THE COMMERCE OF JIHAD**

All thanks be to Allah. We thank Him, are grateful to Him, ask His forgiveness and in Him seek succor from the evils within our souls and the offenses of our deeds; whomsoever Allah guides none can lead astray and whomsoever He leads astray, none can guide. I bear witness that there is no God but Allah the One God, no partner has He and I bear witness that Mohamed is His servant and messenger.

Prayers upon our lord Mohamed and upon his household and companions and upon all who have been guided by him, until the day of reckoning.

Our most Blessed and exalted Lord says: ***“O ye who believe! Shall I lead you to a bargain (trade) that will save you from a grievous penalty? That ye believe in Allah and His messenger, and that ye fight in the cause of Allah, with your property and your persons: That will be best for you, if ye but knew! He will forgive you your sins, and admit you to gardens beneath which rivers flow, and to beautiful mansions in gardens of eternity. That is indeed the supreme achievement.”***

Honorable brothers,

Allah has mandated for us certain commands that we are ordered to keep. Some of these commands we have long neglected and been turned from, namely, Jihad in the name of Allah.

Jihad in the name of Allah is the highest pillar of Islam. Islam strongly encourages the implementation of this command, and equally strongly warns against disregarding it.

The Quran urges us to Jihad as does the Sunna (Prophetic Traditions). The verses in our beloved Holy Book show us that the greatest trade a Muslim can advocate is Jihad in the name of Allah; it is the Lord of all existence who reveals this to us, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, He who created all souls and who provides all fortune. He rewards us with paradise for this trade,: ***”Verily, Allah has purchased (rewarded) the souls and monies of the believers, those who fight in the name of Allah, who kill and are killed.”***

This trade is all profit and no loss. It is nothing but advantage and no harm or doom can come of it. Allah reveals it to us in a manner pleasing to the soul, through a call in the name of faith: ***“O ye who believe! Shall I lead you to a bargain (Trade) that will save you from a grievous penalty?”***

The first profit from this trade is the protection from the torments of hellfire, the forgiveness of sins and the entrance into a paradise ***“beneath which rivers flow, and to beautiful mansions in gardens of eternity****”.* Can there be any greater victory and gain? ***“That is indeed the supreme achievement.”***

The creator of all souls knows that these souls are enamored of quick profit and gains that are never delayed, thus Allah has provided us with a means for this quick profit: ***“And an additional reward beloved to you, victory from Allah and great conquest; give tidings to the believers.”***

What trade can be more profitable and advantageous? The belief in Allah and his messenger, and Jihad in the name of Allah with wealth and life! ***“That You believe in Allah and His messenger and wage Jihad in the name of Allah with your wealth and your lives. That is far better for you if you only knew.”***

Our holy prophet showed us that no deed equals Jihad in its recompense. A man who knew the great rewards of Jihad asked him, “Tell me of a deed that equals Jihad.” The Prophet replied, “I know of none!” He then revealed what is even more beautiful and went on explain, “If a Jihadist goes out to war… can you enter your mosque and pray without rest? Can you fast and not break your fast?” The man said, “Who can do such a thing?”

Who can enter a mosque, pray nonstop never feel weak? Who can fast continuously and not eat? Can anyone do that? Even the reward for all of that is not equal to the reward of Jihad.

Our beloved prophet also reveals to us the reward of the Jihadist who returns with two advantages; victory or martyrdom in the name of Allah: ***“Say, will you accept anything but these two great deeds?”***

The Prophet says: ”He who wages Jihad in the name of Allah – and Allah knows best who wages Jihad in His name – is like the faster who spends the night in prayer.” Allah has pledged to whomsoever wages Jihad in His name to either receive him into paradise or return him home safely with gains and booty.”

Our intercessor (Peace be upon him) also reveals to us the different levels in paradise. There are 100 levels in paradise, each two levels separated by an expanse as wide as that between sky and earth, which Allah has prepared for those who wage Jihad in His name. When you pray to God, ask Him for the highest level of paradise, from which all the rivers off heaven gush forth, and above which sits he throne of Allah.

These levels are for the Jihadist, so when you pray to God, ask for the highest level – but do not ask this while you sit around lazily, neglecting Jihad! Ask him this as you set out for Jihad with no turning back. “A man who goes out to fight, should he be killed in faith and resolve, pressing forward and not looking back, he will enter paradise.” Ask this of Allah as you set forth for Jihad or as you are fighting in the battlefield.

As much as Islam encourages Jihad, it warns in the same measure against forsaking it. Painful torment and grave punishment has been prepared for the corrupt who forsake Jihad. These punishments were revealed to the nation when it abandoned the command to Jihad and became distant from it. “No people who forsake Jihad but that Allah will make them inheritors of degradation which will not be lifted until they return to Jihad in the name of Allah,” as our noble prophet has informed us.

This degradation has fallen upon our nations. They are surrounded by enemies who advance upon them and drag them down, as ravenous men fall upon a platter. The people asked the prophet, “Will we then be a minority, O messenger of Allah?” He replied, “No! In that time you will be many, as numerous as the drops in a downpour.”

Today, We are a thousand million and more, as numerous as the drops in a downpour. If we were insects we would have wiped out our enemies. If we were flies, we would have ruined our enemies’ lives.

The terror of making enemies of Muslims, once cast in the hearts of infidels has faded. Terror used to fill the hearts of the infidels as the Most Exalted says: “***I shall cast terror***…”, “***I shall cast terror in the hearts of the disbelievers for they have taken other Gods besides Allah. Their abode shall be hellfire, the most grievous abode for the unjust.”*** This terror has been wrenched from the disbelievers’ hearts and they no longer fear us.

The prophet said: “That God should wrench fear of you from the hearts of your enemies and put weakness in your hearts.” The people asked, “What is meant by weakness, O messenger of Allah?” He replied, “Love of life and loathing of death.”

The love of life has taken control of our hearts; attachment to earthly life, following our desires, short-lived pleasures, the love of security and safety, all of these are traits of hypocrites and the Jews that have crept into the hearts of Muslims… the Jews, whose traits the Quran has revealed to us: ***“Long for death if you are truthful. And they shall never long for it according to their deeds.”*** We no longer long for death and loathe encountering Allah. Allah despises receiving whomsoever loathes meeting Him. We have fallen into all of that. We loathe death and love this world. We turn from the hereafter to earthly life: ***“Verily, they love what is fleeting and turn their backs on a day that shall be burdensome.”***

What happened to this nation when it adopted the traits of the Jews and the hypocrites who objected and made excuses? Muslims no longer love Jihad, fearing death. The Quran reveals to us that Jihad in the name of Allah and fighting in the battlefield does not shorten life or reduce the time decreed to you. Nor does indolence, cowardice and fear lengthen life or increase its span: ***“Say: death from which you flee shall encounter you at the time appointed, and you shall return to the unseen world and judgment therein and you shall be confronted with your deeds.”*** ***“Say: escape is fruitless, should you flee death or being killed for Your pleasure shall be but short-lived. Say: Who is it that withholds it (death) from you except Allah, as well as His harm or mercy? They shall have no champion or ally except Allah.”*** The verses show that the time of death is in Allah’s hand and that life – with Allah’s will – is not shortened by going to battle or waging Jihad. ***“No soul meets its death except by God’s will; all is eternally written.”***

Cowardice, weakness and indolence does not lengthen lives. An indolent, weak man may die before entering the arenas of Jihad. He may die in his bed, the death of a weak coward; the eyes of a coward never sleep.

The Jihadist in the name of Allah either dies at his appointed time or is killed as is decreed but his death is one of honor, dignity and righteousness. He is met by the Houris of heaven and paradise is his abode.

Thus the prophet teaches us courage and valor. Ali, may Allah be pleased with him said, ”When eyes grew fiery and the hardship was great, we too courage from the Prophet, for none would be closer to the enemy than he.” Thus was our beloved prophet’s courage, as well as his saying when is friends fled the battlefield: “I am the prophet, not a lie. I am the son of Abdel Muttaleb!” He taught us courage and valor, so why has cowardice, weakness and indolence befallen the nation?!

When they (Muslims) upheld the command of Jihad, the world was at their feet. They conquered the two greatest continents at the time, Africa and Asia and held the keys to the seas. When they forsook Jihad, Allah brought degradation upon them and has not lifted it since. Other nations pounced upon them and colonized them, expelled them from Andalusia and broke up the Abassid caliphate and all that followed… All because they forsook Jihad. The Quran warns, cautions punishes and admonishes us about this with Allah’s words: ***”O ye who believe! When you are commanded to wage Jihad, why do you stand heavy-footed?”*** What’s wrong with you? What’s happened to you? What has befallen you? Why do you lag when commanded to wage jihad and throw yourselves on the ground like a heavy weight than cannot rise from the ground, like a rock or stone that when lifted falls back heavily to the ground? Or ”***Stand heavy-footed…”*** The Quran uses the interrogative a form of admonishment then says: ***“You have preferred earthly life over the hereafter, yet the pleasures of this life are but short-lived.”*** What has driven you to forsake Jihad? Your preference for this life and your enjoyment of it, and forgetfulness the hereafter?! Yet everyone knows that he pleasures of the hereafter are eternal, everlasting, while he pleasures of this world are few and finite. Allah says: ***”Yet they prefer earthly life. Verily, the hereafter is better and lasting.”*** ***“What you possess is finite but what Allah possesses is eternal.”*** And ***”O ye who believe! When you are commanded to wage Jihad, why do you stand heavy-footed?***”

Whomsoever forsakes Jihad is committing a grave sin, and can only repent by upholding this command. Should he die before that, he shall die a hypocrite. Beware for yourselves, fear Allah and obey Him, have fear of dying as hypocrites, have fear of dying in great sin; have fear leaving the legacy of degradation, weakness and contempt upon this nation by forsaking Jihad.

After admonishment and blame, the Quran becomes sterner and turns to threats and denunciation***: “Wage Jihad, or Allah will bring upon you a painful torment and replace you with another people. It is of no significance, for Allah is able to do all things.”*** If y do not wage war in the name of Allah, he will bring upon you painful torment . This This torment is not only in the afterlife; the punishment in this world is rapid and swift. It is the torment which now plagues Muslims: their problems have become numerous and complicated. Problems with food, medicine, clothing, housing and transportation… what remains in their lives that is without problems?

***“He will bring upon you painful torment and replace you with another people***” who will raise the banner of Jihad and set forth to fight in the name of Allah ***“It is of no significance…”*** You have no worth or value as long as you continue to forsake Jihad ***“For Allah is able to do all things.”***

This painful torment which surrounds us, and worse, what we witness today in the Islamic world, where a person’s life, honor and blood is no longer safe, where life is harsh and violent in every aspect… this is the torment that pursues us. So why do you not wage Jihad in the name of Allah?

The battlefields of Jihad are calling you. Rise up and proceed to them with quick steps, wage Jihad in the name of Allah! Do not disappoint your brothers. Do not hand them over to the enemy. Your noble prophet says: A Muslim is a brother to another Muslim. He is not unjust to him nor does he disappoint or betray him.” How can you betray your brothers? How can you hand them over to the enemy?

The Islamic nation, by forsaking Jihad has sunk to the depths. When the Afghans raised the banner of Jihad, as did the Palestinians, Eritreans and other Islamic nations, Muslims began to gain strength, to gain power and begin to rise up again - so why do we forsake them? Why do we choose security and safety? Why do we prefer to cling to this life? Why do we follow our desires? Why do we love earthly life and loathe the hereafter? Why do we hate death when death is inevitable?

My beloved, noble brothers, strive for a paradise that stretches the length of the heavens and the earth. strive for the highest of glories; hurry to Jihad in the name of Allah, rush to the battlefields of Jihad. Raise the banner, spread the word of Allah and do your duty. Do not accept the insult that is a yoke around your necks. Go forth with hurried steps, wage Jihad and fight in the name of Allah. Do not let down your brothers for your enemies lie in wait for you and hope that you delay, so that he Muslims there become easy prey to them. After they take over – God forbid – Afghanistan, they will march to Pakistan then to all the other states, as they have done in Palestine and Eretria. Be warned of the dangers and rush to wage Jihad.

***“O ye who believe, have patience, be forbearing and united and fear Allah that you may be triumphant.”***

These are my words, I ask Allah’s forgiveness for myself and you.