

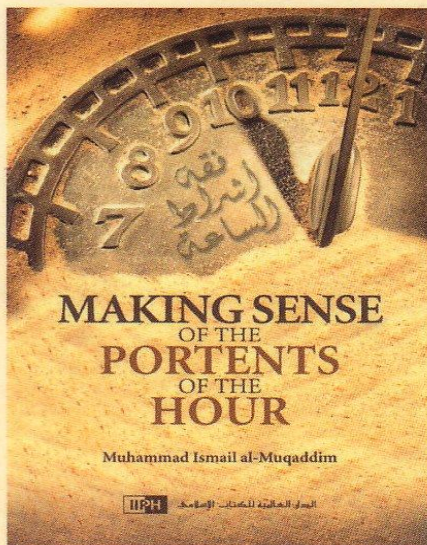
# MAKING SENSE OF THE PORTENTS OF THE HOUR

Muhammad Ismail al-Muqaddim



الدار العالمية للكتاب الإسلامي





- Are things inevitably getting worse and worse, year after year, century after century, with no way to alter the course of events?
- Is the Muslim Ummah doomed to experience failure and humiliation until the Mahdi arrives? Will he restore its former glory and bring victory over all its enemies?
- Are all our efforts to support Islam destined to end in failure? Instead of taking action, should we simply wait for the return of Jesus (peace be upon him) towards the end of time?

- Is the *Dajjâl* (Antichrist) alive today? Does he have secret connections with some prominent world figures?
- Is the hour very close? Could it come upon us at any moment, on any day? If so, what is the point of striving to improve our situation?

Using evidence from the Qur'an and the Sunnah, the author explains the true Islamic teachings on the portents of the hour, clearing up some of the misconceptions about them and giving advice on how Muslims should respond to them. The book is an interesting and informative read that will leave the reader empowered with knowledge.

### About the author

Dr. Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Ismail al-Muqaddim is a distinguished scholar and psychiatrist from Egypt whose résumé in Islamic work speaks for itself. He is the author of over twenty pioneering books in Arabic and has delivered more than two thousand lectures, which are available online. The founder of the Salafi Dawah of Alexandria in 1977, his role in educating and reviving authentic Islamic thought has been profound. Among Dr. al-Muqaddim's works that IIPH has translated into English and other languages are: *Hayâ': Understanding the Islamic Concept of Modesty* and *Fitnah: The Concept of Discord and Conflict among Muslims*.



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# ***MAKING SENSE OF THE PORTENTS OF THE HOUR***

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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All praises and thanks belong to Allah alone, the One, the Almighty, and the All-Merciful. Blessings and peace be upon Prophet Muhammad, the last of His messengers and prophets, and upon his family, his Companions, and all those who follow in his footsteps until the end of time.

It is interesting to observe that there are a multitude of books, audio tapes, and videos covering various topics related to the signs of the Day of Judgement. Topics such as Armageddon, a final nuclear war, and the end of the world in 2012 are discussed at great length as are the characteristics of the Mahdi, the attributes of the Dajjâl, the identity of Gog and Magog, and the second coming of Jesus. With such a plethora of information, it is vital for the Muslims to sift through the various facts and figures and accept only what is corroborated with proper references from the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

In this book, the author has presented an eye-opening analysis of some of the popular literature on the portents of the hour. He has convincingly presented arguments to refute the tall claims of some of the authors; he has also quoted detailed opinions of contemporary scholars. All his points are supported with Qur'anic verses and authentic hadiths. It is hoped that this book will prove to be a useful resource on this topic.



May Allah accept the efforts of all those who contributed to the production of this book, and may it be acceptable to Him. *Âmeen.*

**Muhammad Abdul Mohsin Al-Tuwaijri**

Managing Director

International Islamic Publishing House

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



# IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL

---

It was narrated that Abu Qatâdah said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (*ṣalla Allâhu ‘alayhi wa sallam* — blessings and peace be upon him) saying from this pulpit:

«Beware of narrating too many hadiths from me. Whoever attributes something to me, let him speak the truth. Whoever attributes something to me that I did not say, let him take his place in hell.» (A reliable hadith recorded by Aḥmad, ad-Dârimi, Ibn Mâjah, and al-Ḥâkim)



Almost all people, regardless of who they are, partake in discussions on the portents of the hour — which is a matter of the unseen. This has resulted in a lot of far-fetched ideas that make one's flesh crawl. Nevertheless, as real life events unfold, these events completely demolish all these far-fetched ideas and expose, to anyone who is paying attention, how false they are.

In this study, we will shed light upon this phenomenon of 'tampering with the facts about the portents of the hour' by describing and analysing it. Furthermore, we will endeavour to derive guidelines for dealing with the texts that speak of the portents of the hour, while connecting them to the real life situation of today's Ummah. We thereby seek the pleasure of Allah; He is sufficient for us and is the best settler of affairs.

May Allah send blessings and peace upon His slave and Messenger Muhammad (ﷺ) and upon his entire family and all his Companions. All praise is for Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

Muhammad ibn Ahmad Ismail al-Muqaddim

Alexandria, Egypt



there are no guidelines and no control over these publicized issues, with everyone stating his or her own view.

Major issues are dealt with in a very casual manner, to the point that even ignorant people have started to express their opinions about them. Similarly, some who are not qualified to speak about such issues — and should therefore avoid speaking — have started to talk a great deal about them.

Perhaps the latest of these fads is what we may call ‘tampering with the facts about the portents of the hour’. In addition to sermons and lectures given, presses churn out dozens of books and articles that follow an innovated, alien methodology and a very peculiar style in discussing in detail the portents of the hour. People rush to buy this material like moths to a flame and totally trust their contents; this indicates how far religious illiteracy has spread among the educated, let alone the less educated.

One of the most distinguishing features of the leaders of this phenomenon, and their followers, is that it is common among them to pretend to have knowledge; they speak about Allah (ﷻ) without any authority. They have the audacity to speculate about future events; for proof, they rely upon odd reports that have been forgotten and forsaken. In addition, they rely upon weak and fabricated hadiths, along with stories from the *Isrâ'eeliyât* (Judeo-Christian narrations).

The following words, narrated by Abu Hurayrah (*radīya Allāhu 'anhu* — may Allah be pleased with him) from the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), ring true about such people:

«Towards the end of time, there will be liars and charlatans who will relate hadiths that neither you nor your forefathers have ever heard. Beware of them and stay away from them, and do not let them mislead you or confuse you.» (Muslim)



# INTRODUCTION

---

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

All praise is for Allah, Lord of the Worlds, Who foils the plots of the treacherous. I bear witness that there is no God but Allah alone, Who has no partner or associates; indeed, He is the destroyer of those who plot.

Furthermore, I bear witness that Muhammad (ﷺ) is His slave and His Messenger, and that he is the leader of the offspring of Adam. O Allah, send blessings and peace upon him and upon his family and Companions as well as upon those who follow them until the Day of Judgement.

In this materialistic world — as in the world of fashion — trends and fads are being deliberately imposed to divert people's attention from the real danger (the Judgement Day); they are being used to attract the youth (who are known to be the most active and energetic), making them focus upon facts and activities that are far astray from the issues upon which they should focus and with which they should fill their time. Elsewhere, these ideas are imposed in the intellectual arena.

In many countries, this has resulted in a vacuum that has been filled with nothing but toxic articles and publications, which have not been subjected to censorship that is based on Sharia (Islamic law) or *fiqh* (Islamic jurisprudence). Concerning specific issues, they create exaggerated publicity, which people in all strata of society eagerly follow and with which they become preoccupied. With the absence or enforced disappearance of Islamic scholars,



collective level, to serve Allah (*Subhânahu wa Ta'âlâ* — Glorified and Exalted is He) and practice the teachings of Islam.

## Nasiruddin al-Khattab



from dubious sources, with even stranger interpretations. Some classical scholars adopted ideas from Judeo-Christian sources; later writers incorporated ideas from modern non-Muslim sources, following popular interest in such strange and exciting phenomena as the Bermuda Triangle, and tried to connect them to the Islamic teachings on the portents of the hour.

In this book, the author has challenged these mistaken notions. He has explained, on the basis of evidence from the Qur'an and the Sunnah, where these writers have gone wrong; furthermore, he has presented true Islamic teachings on the portents of the hour and has described how Muslims should respond to them. He has also pointed out that humankind will face more than one 'hour': one's own death is the 'hour' that may come at any moment and for which one should strive to be ready, whether or not the portents of the greater 'hour' occur during one's lifetime.

The muddled approach to the issue of the hour and its portents has led to such negative consequences as passivity, apathy, and helplessness because some Muslims are convinced that things will inevitably get worse and that it is not worth striving for anything until the Mahdi arrives and sets everything straight. This approach is contrary to the spirit and teachings of Islam, which require Muslims to strive on a constant basis, bearing in mind that their own 'hour' (death) will most certainly come to them.

Far from being passive and apathetic, Muslims should be hopeful about the future, as the texts indicate that the Rightly-Guided Caliphate will be restored; indeed, Muslims will prevail over their enemies before the Mahdi appears and Jesus (ﷺ) returns. Moreover, they should bear in mind that the closeness of the hour is relative and that it may still be far off in human terms; at the same time, they should not give up striving, on either the individual or



## TRANSLATOR'S FOREWORD

---

Is it true that things are inevitably getting worse and worse, year after year, century after century, with no way to alter the course of events?

- Is it correct that the Ummah (the Muslim nation) is doomed to failure and humiliation until the Mahdi arrives? Will he restore its former glory and make it victorious over all its enemies?
- Is it confirmed that all our efforts to support Islam will end in failure and that we should instead wait for the return of Jesus (*'alayhi as-salâm* — peace be upon him) towards the end of time?
- Is it true that the *Dajjâl*<sup>1</sup> (Antichrist) is alive today and has secret connections with some prominent world figures?
- Is it correct that the hour is very close and could come upon us at any moment, on any day? If so, what is the point of striving to improve our situation?

The coming of the Mahdi, the return of Jesus (ﷺ), the emergence of the *Dajjâl*, and other signs that will signal the onset of the end of time are referred to in the Qur'an and the Sunnah (the practice and collected sayings of Prophet Muhammad [ﷺ] that together with the Qur'an forms the basis of Islamic law). These matters are an unending source of fascination for many people; the debate about whether or not some of the portents of the hour have already occurred is ongoing.

It is indeed an interesting topic, but unless we are careful, we may find ourselves swept away in a tide of strange accounts taken