

Some facts about my School of Thought

by **Zia Ul Rehman Zafar**

My religion is Islam, and I particularly follow the Ahle Sunnah school of thought. This is not about sectarianism but rather the methodology and interpretation of faith that I align with. It does not mean I lack respect for other sects. On the contrary, I believe in respecting all viewpoints within Islam, as differences of opinion are natural and should be approached with understanding and humility. My perspective is simply a personal preference and not a declaration of being absolutely correct. I am constantly striving to enhance my understanding of Islam through daily learning and reflection.

If someone wishes to discuss my religion, I am more interested in addressing common misconceptions or allegations raised by atheists and disbelievers about Islam. A common claim from atheists is the denial of God's existence. However, scientific advancements increasingly point to the improbability of the universe and life being products of mere coincidence. There must be an intelligent force or personality behind the creation and order of everything around us, which aligns with the Islamic belief in one Creator.

Another common misunderstanding comes from critics who misinterpret verses in the Qur'an, such as the claim that Islam advocates for the murder of disbelievers. This is a misrepresentation, as such verses must be understood within their historical and textual context. These references often pertain to specific situations, such as defensive warfare during times of conflict, and do not promote unprovoked violence. Islam fundamentally teaches kindness, peace, and justice.

I am not someone who is Muslim simply by birth; I chose Islam after deep investigation and reflection. This conscious decision has strengthened my faith and inspired me to continuously seek knowledge. Islam, for me, is not just a religion but a complete way of life that emphasizes compassion, morality, and personal growth.