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### IWDM Study Library

# Our Inherent Human Excellence Pts. 1-2

### By Imam W. Deen Mohammed

00:01 Imam W. Deen Mohammed: As-Salaam-Alaikum.

00:03 S?: Wa-Alaikum-Salaam.

00:04 IWDM: We always acknowledge our dependency on the Lord that made everything and provided for us before we were even in existence. The world was here, the world made by the Lord, Creator of the heavens and the earth. In Islam, or for Muslims, His name is Allah, that is G-d, who made or created everything. And it is said that He created everything, whatever is in the skies and whatever is in the earth, all existence that was here before man got involved, that He made all of that for man. All of that for man. And for man means humanity, or the human family; males and females.

01:09 IWDM: We know that most of us, we can't benefit from this great world that G-d has made. We benefit only a very little, or not at all. For many of us, we approach it in the wrong way and get harm rather than benefit. But we believe that man is the only creature, the only living thing that can get great benefit and use or utilize what G-d has made or created in the skies and in the earth.

01:57 IWDM: Both religions, religions we call Christianity and Islam, also the people we call Jews, these three religions share much of what was revealed. We have similar scriptures and we have similar beliefs. And the three religions believe that everybody, all people, that is, everybody has the quality of excellence, the human excellence in them. Something has to bring it out, something has to bring out that excellence. If you put in a bad environment for that excellence, very difficult for it to come out, to present itself. But if you put into a suitable environment for that excellence, then as G-d, as it is revealed that our creation is similar to the creation of plants. And if you have good environment for plants; the season is right, the soil is right, the ground is right, to feed it, and the rain comes, the sun shines, it gets what it needs from the environment, then it comes up well. It matures and give its full potential, or its full capacity to the environment that supports it. And man benefits. Man benefits.

04:05 IWDM: Plants cannot use this world like man can, and animals cannot use this world like man can. So that should be enough to make you believe or to have you believe with the great inspired teachers, messengers, prophets of G-d, believe with them that the matter that exists all about before man was put here for man. Not just for him to consume physically, or for him to benefit from this great system of matter physically or materially, but more importantly, to inspire him, to influence his life to want to understand it better, to want to use it in the correct way, and benefit from it. It should be not only food for the stomach, it should be food for the mind, and it also should be food for the heart.

05:36 IWDM: We see in the great material schemes of matter created by G-d, we see beauty, we see peace. We can look at the sky on a clear day or a clear night, and it inspires peace in our soul. It influences us to want to be peaceful and serious and at our best. It brings out the goodness in us. Our goodness extends its arms, hands and arms to the skies, to the beauty created, and to the treasures that are so many and so great, that are in the material scheme of matter. So we're living now in a time when it's very difficult for people to stick with the best life that they have.

07:07 IWDM: Too many things are taking your attention away from your own good life, and from your ability to keep it good, and realize progress for it. You know, it's believed that our existence as humans began in heaven, and then we were awakened in the earth. But it began in heaven, and we were awakened in the earth. It is also believed that we are put in situations in this earthly existence. We are put in situations to challenge us, to challenge us, to make it not so easy for us to keep the good life, or to realize the growth of that good life in an environment that challenges it. We are challenged like a plant is challenged. Don't think human life is the only life that's challenged. Some plants can't grow in rocky places, some can. Some can even send their roots into the small cracks and crevices of cement or rock and manage to survive; many can't.

09:17 IWDM: When you really think philosophically on human life and the challenges, and how human life is challenged by obstructions, by things, get in the way of us living and keeping the good life, and you consider those things that are in the way, you come to believe that really, the human life is put in conditions and circumstances that hold it back to develop its muscles; not just the physical muscles, to develop its mental muscles, intelligent muscles, and its moral muscles. To develop its muscles more. One who wants to be physically fit, if you never accept to have force work against you; the weight lifter, he has to work against the barbells with the weights on them, and he has to try to manage to push that weight up or to pick it up until he's able to do it or unable to do more of that kind of physical work. It's work. And also, the person who learns a skill on a job or is given difficult work to do for pay. The more you do it, the more you develop strength, muscles, and skills. So this world is not easy, but don't say it's not good.

11:40 IWDM: You can't tell a fighter, "Punching the bag is not good. Skipping the rope is not good. Boxing, training for a fight, and getting hit to be in shape is not good." This is life. Life is the same. And anyone who wants life with no difficulty, a life with no challenge is really not living. A real man wants to be challenged. A real woman doesn't want a man who wants to do nothing. She doesn't want a man who wants to be more feminine than she is. She doesn't want a man who will watch her carry the weights around, take the garbage out to the garbage collector, dig the yard, rake the grass, and he's sitting around and looks like he doesn't exist. She doesn't want that kind of man. She wants a man that wants to rise up and be about something worthwhile. That's life.

13:13 IWDM: We're losing communication, the ability to communicate. And the proof of that is the language that we're hearing from our youngsters. They keep saying, "Like, like, like, like." Yeah. "And you know, like... And you know... And they're saying that, like. Nothing, nothing... Like... How come so many likes? How come you just can't say what you're talking about? Everything has to be "like" something. That's an indication that we're losing the intelligent ability to communicate. I heard a youngster recently say, he was on his cellphone, and I guess he was talking to his girlfriend. Didn't have to be, though, it could have been his sister. This is a female, Sue. He said Sue. He kept saying, "Sue." And he kept saying, "Sue, now what that mean? Sue, what did that mean?" And he kept adding the, "Now, what did that mean?" He'd talk a little bit, and he'd say, "Now, Sue, what did that mean?" He needed translation.

14:26 IWDM: People are talking, and they are understanding themselves what they are saying, but they are not making themselves understood by listeners. They're losing the ability to communicate. There are very popular quality publications coming out, and they are informing us, the public that is, that we are losing the ability to even be educated, losing the ability to be educated. Now it's not just poor boys or African-Americans or black children, but it's boys from all families, from everybody, that are performing very poorly in school. Their performance is getting worse and worse. This is what we are told. This is information given to us by the media, printed media and other media. So what is causing this? Many things, many things are influencing what's going on. One is we're out of touch, and the most important is we're out of touch with the real life and the real challenges that G-d provided when He created the world for man.

16:14 IWDM: So we have to find a way to connect back again, to get back to a relationship for not just our stomachs, but for our minds, with the material world that was here before man. This earth with its abundant resources to be utilized by the human intelligence, by man, and community, of course, 'cause man has no real purpose outside of community. If man is not in community, he has no purpose, he has no role to fulfill. He has a role only because he is a figure belonging to the social, the social body of mankind, the social body of mankind. He belongs to a family, he belongs to a family of people, and a family of people that require that they live together, that people live with people. We couldn't have progress if we did live by ourselves. Only living with others, we learn how to do things together and live together, grow together, multiply together, or increase our population together, and provide for that population growth offered by for the family, the social family, not the private family; the social family.

18:04 IWDM: And today we're experiencing also a challenge that tends to want to bring out the play of a child that is in us. All life, animals, most of them, very few, in fact, I don't know any animal that doesn't grow out of a strong desire or urge to play and just play all the time. The little puppies, they come and they're so playful. They just wanna play, play, play, play, play. But as they get older, they play less and they are more serious. And that's true for life itself.

18:58 IWDM: But we find today, many, many youngsters and some seniors, some older people too, can't find interesting things to engage. Life is not exciting for them. To think is not adventure anymore. Think is a pain. So they wanna drown out or force out thoughts that say, "Give me some attention." And they wanna make room for thoughts that ask for no attention. Ask the intelligence for no attention. Ask the member’s curiosities for no attention. They don't ask for any attention. They're too busy. Why? What are we so busy with? If you don't invite into your mind, intelligent things that make sense, and healthy things that contribute to a good life, the world of today is busy, busy, busy. And it has a lot of trash. Trash that just keeps growing. And there's little trash, mind trash, and there's plenty of it around. And it can make money. So they give your mind that trash. You're not interested in anything serious. You like something that you don't have to think about, something that you don't have to respond to, except as a child. Play, be happy, feel good, have fun.

01:23 S1: So the result is, the intelligence and the... But this is muscles not being used. Human intelligence, the muscles of human intelligence are not being used hardly at all by many of us. So you lose the muscles of human intelligence. You can't communicate clearly, you can't handle your family responsibilities, you can't even carry your own self. You let your own self down and have to be put away in a mental hospital or locked up in prison, or killed on the streets. This is what we're seeing. We're seeing the elimination of waste, human waste, wasted human lives. We're seeing the elimination of those lives.

02:33 S1: It's like the survival of the fittest in the time of the savages. It's the survival of the fittest. Those who can't make it, they're knocked off by the strong. They are starved out by the strong. The strong will take their land. They have nothing to produce their food, so they're eliminated. We are again, seeing the survival of the fittest, where the morally fit, they're going about their work. Their intelligence is still alive in them. They have little curiosities. They're studying new things. They're producing. But that's only a few. The great many are being eliminated. When you don't have any life but a life of a cellphone aside your head, you don't have any life but the life of a rap, rap music. You don't have any life but the hunger for sex. Not for a wife or a husband, for sex. Just a hunger for sex. You're being eliminated. Yes, you're being eliminated.