

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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# THE SEVENTEENTH CONTENTIONS

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The ‘Contentions’ are little sparks, some luminous, others merely hot, which fly from the point where Islam’s sword is resharpened by its encounter with the anvil of modernity. They are not credal articles, or mystical aphorisms; they avoid dull linearity or affiliation to a system. Instead they test the power of speech to point out the paradoxes of our world, and to suggest the transcendence to which those paradoxes point. Like Traherne’s *Centuries of Meditation*, they are arranged in hundreds, each of which may very loosely centre on a theme.

## The Seventeenth Contentions

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1. If you open the door to a small vice, a large one may enter before you close it.
2. True art is within earth and heart. Modern art is either Eh! or He.
3. You will only discover what you truly wish for when you wish for what is best for other human beings.
4. Islam is humanity's Isha prayer; a pure crescent in the night.
5. Incarnation? To be creature is to be entirely not a Creator. To be Creator is to be entirely not a creature.
6. It is wisdom to see that all you see is His wisdom; and to see that you do not see it all as His wisdom.
7. Because it both receives and generates, compassion is a mediatrix
8. *Tawbeed* is to heed the 'Tao.
9. Life is a dress rehearsal.
10. Christology: the '*abd*' is the *ma'bud*.
11. Modernism: Islam is ease, and nothing but ease.
12. We still raise virgins to be innocent; but do we still protect them from the hazards of innocence?
13. Qarunomics tend to be pyramid-shaped. Qur'anomics know the bounds.
14. Zion should remember that no building raised on treachery will stand forever.
15. Until you have seen the king of the world you will only know how to *feign* happiness.
16. Perichoresis: the first of the three is God; the second of the three is God; 'God is the third of three.'
17. Since your self is so near a neighbour to unreality, how easy its removal ought to be!
18. In a world glowing with the Divine Totality, what is the nature of your freedom?

19. Most polygamists are unbelievers, since they have no Qur'an for their Qiran.
20. Every Muslim is either a good Sufi or a bad Sufi.
21. How may 'equality' not reduce the Other to a version of the Same?
22. *Le vice anglais* was *outré* but now it is *passé*.
23. Feminism has failed in its ambition to abolish women.
24. The False Salafism is Islam's *rigor mortis*.
25. Fight to impose God's justice, not His truth.
26. In Sufism, it is not only men who can enjoy being lion-tamers.
27. Only *I'tizal* can so underestimate God's power as to deliver a tragic view of history.
28. Once we had jurists, now we have purists.
29. Et in Arcadia, the ego.
30. Joining Islam is not to join the path of truth, it is to progress along it.
31. The Manu Mission – *niyyati*. The Liber Asian: *niyyati*.
32. For the *kafir*, the world is packed with empty things.
33. The world is merely representation.
34. Sufism is for anyone, except a *kafir* or a bourgeois.
35. Works? Art? Metaphysics? Islam is one thing alone: give your heart to God.
36. Muslims in Europe: we heal or we obey.
37. You cannot love the Twelve unless you love the Four, for our love is the love of the Messenger himself.
38. The rejection of God gives us an outwardness that can only give us pain.
39. The Law shows us that our choices are truly ours.

40. Aristotle: things are. Abraham: things are found.
41. Political science is sacred, because it is deduced entirely from the womb.
42. There is no initiation without the Law.
43. Healing the monoculture is more important than pleasing it.
44. Salvation is submission to the Universal.
45. Islamism makes the authoritative authoritarian.
46. Modernity says that it is not a prison.
47. If you seek the joy of compassion, crush the joy of the ego.
48. The saint is a reverse prism.
49. Your weakness is in proportion to the number of things you crave.
50. After Derrida, history will be won by whoever is first past the post-.
51. Rejoice! Your *hijab* will prevent monoculturalists from patting you on the head.
52. The precondition for being a man is *futumma*. The precondition for *futumma* is loving other people
53. Through the *fard* you become present to God. Through the *nawafil* He becomes present to you.
54. Fat is not fate; slender is not slander.
55. When you are for giving He is forgiving.
56. The False Salafis have made Mecca the Mechanical.
57. The Messenger came to Medina as arbiter, we come to Europe as *arbeiters*.
58. The solution is the love of God.
59. We are only ourselves when we do not love ourselves.

60. Islam is not Islamic fundamentalism, it is human fundamentalism (Mustafa Ceric).
61. If you can't be a man, don't desire women.
62. Without the self-hood she will not uncover selfhood.
63. Before you can be fully convinced by a proof of Islam, you must be yourself a proof of Islam.
64. When Palin and Netanyahu shake hands at the opening of the Third Temple, the victory of Islam will be assured.
65. The prayer-carpet is most of the world.
66. The right objective of war is justice, not victory.
67. You are either a worshipper or an idol.
68. Without Sufism, Islam is not Islamic.
69. Hospitality? You cannot serve both Abraham and Israel.
70. The secret of marriage: as soon as you look at the clock, she gets angry.
71. Under the Blue Baroness, the polytechnics did not become universities, the universities became polytechnics.
72. Facebook will unfriend Israel.
73. History is nothing other than the triumph of Providence.
74. 'The end of the human race will be that it will eventually die of civilization.'  
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)
75. Are the false Salafis powerful enough to secularise the world?
76. Inculturation is included in the command of '*Amr bi'l-Ma'ruf*'.
77. Your children should make you feel younger, not older.
78. Learn to distinguish true from false hunger.

79. 'Moderate Islam' exists for the sake of the monopoly.
80. Human action is always a response to the Divine.
81. Outside the self, evil has no reality. Understand evil, and you will see that the self has no reality.
82. Being angry for the sake of God is not the same as being angry with other religions.
83. The disbeliever only disbelieves in the god he has created.
84. If only we were filled with faith and modesty!
85. If you luxuriate in your humility, it is pride.
86. The Sunna is a wineglass; so maintain it with great care.
87. A diminution of faith is also a proof of God's existence.
88. The Yawning Gulf is a Procrustean bed.
89. How you say the *Fatiba* says it all.
90. The crisis of the Umma is not that the ulema are too traditional; it is that they are not traditional enough.
91. When you are frivolous, be so only for earnestness' sake.
92. Carey was to charism what Newman was to numen.
93. Most people do not want to know God; just to cut a deal with Him.
94. The Monoculture has found a place where there is no God, which is why it finds itself nowhere.
95. An 'abrogated' religion is one having no capacity to discern the truth of Islam.
96. 'If only ...' takes the *law* road, Sufism takes the *hagy* road.
97. Only the gendered ego is not always wrong.
98. Only the exhausted believe that they have exhausted the sense of Scripture.

99. The fallen yearn for God, and wish for the abolition of history; the saved know God in history.

100. The *nakba* ended the *Nabda*.