

SAID NURSI: LIFE, WORKS AND IDEAS

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CONVENTION ON MUSLIM THINKERS

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الجامعة الإسلامية العالمية ماليزيا
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA
يُونَيْتِ بَرَسِيَّتِي إِسْلَامًا، إِنْتَارَا بِخُسْبَا مِلْدِيَسِيَا



BACKGROUND

- WHO IS BEDIUZZAMAN SAID NURSI?
- HIS LIFE

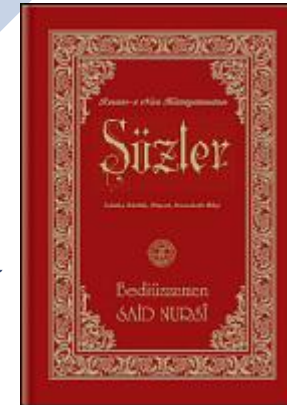
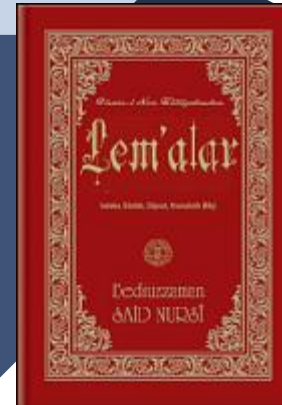
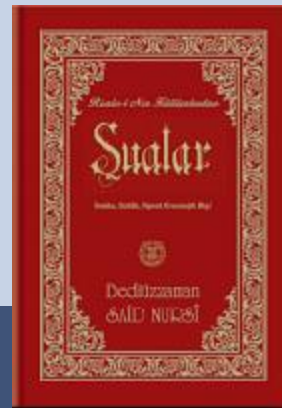
• IDEAS :

- ❖ EDUCATIONAL REFORM
- ❖ EXTREMISM
- ❖ MODERATION AS AN ISLAMIC WAY OF LIFE
- ❖ UNITY
- ❖ RELATIONS WITH OTHER MUSLIMS & NON-MUSLIMS



LIFE AND WORKS

Let's discuss this topic





SAID NURSI (1877-1960)





LIFE

EDUCATION

Traditional madrasah programme

Learned secular sciences by his own

Was a self-educated person

1907: came to Istanbul

❖ Educational reforms

❖ Integration of religious and secular sciences

❖ Madrasah al-Zehra

OLD SAID

Welcomed Constitutional System

1911- “The Damascus Sermon”

1st World War (1914-1918) –Kostroma

1922-4 – abolishment of the Sultanate and the Caliphate

NEW SAID

In exile for 25 years (1926-1950)

Total withdrawal from public and political life

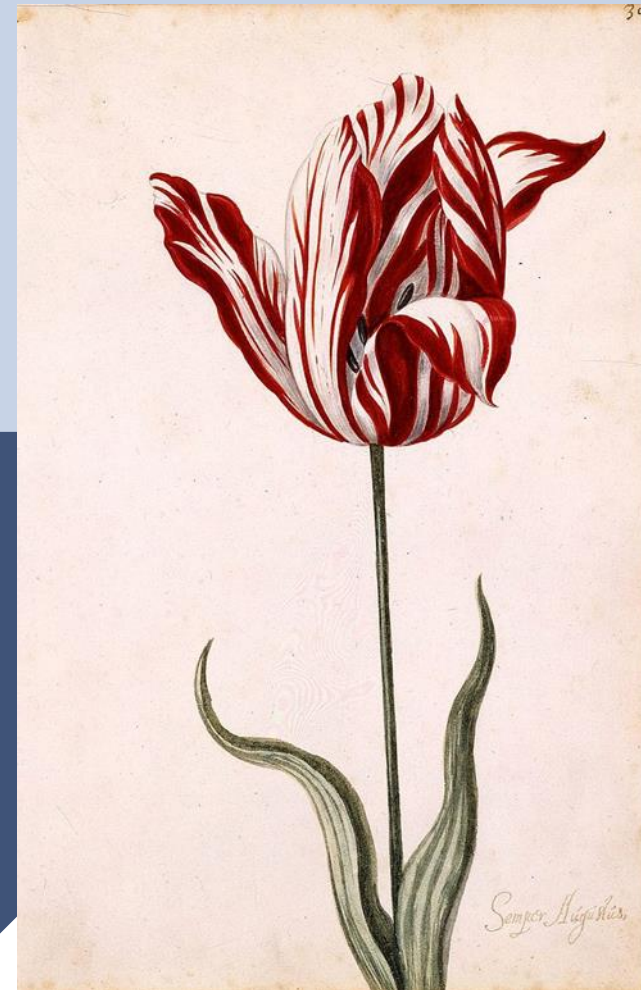
“Risale-i-Nur” – jihad ma’nawi

1950-1960- THE THIRD SAID

The Nur Community

MAIN IDEAS

Let's discover more





THE WORLD IN HIS TIME & TODAY

What is the solution?

CIVIL WARS

Refugees

Hunger/ famines

Human suffering



GENOCIDE

Ethnic cleansing

Mass killing

Mass deportation



RADICALISM

Hatred

Racism

Islamophobia



MODERATION (WASATIYYAH)



ISLAMIC WAY OF LIFE, NATURE OF ISLAM

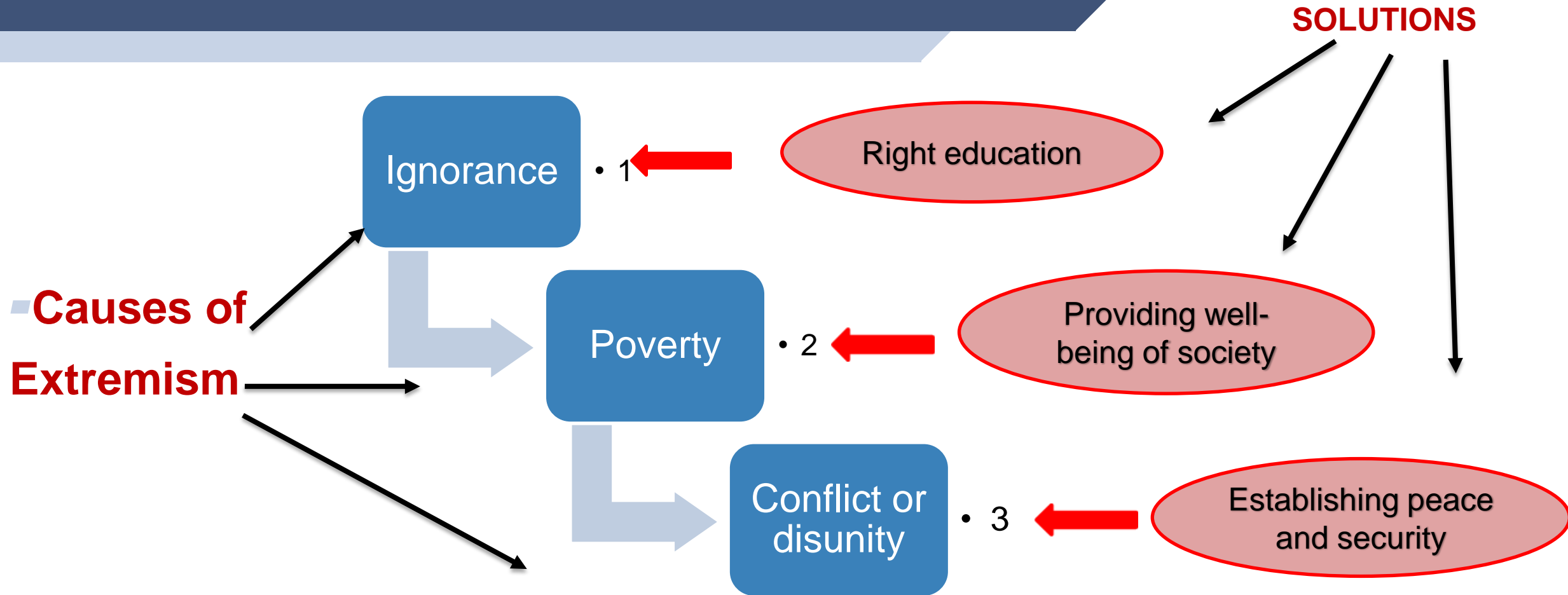
WAY OF ACHIEVING HAPPINESS, PLEASURE AND
BALANCE

KEY TO SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STABILITY,
SUCCESS AND TRUE CIVILIZATION

“ Since the Noble Prophet (Upon whom be blessings and peace) was created with a **most moderate character** and in the **most perfect form**, his actions and rest all proceeded on moderation and equanimity. His biography shows clearly that in all his actions he proceeded with moderation and equanimity, avoiding excess and negligence.”

(Said Nursi, The Flashes Collection, 92-93)

CAUSES OF EXTREMISM and SOLUTIONS





NATIONALISM AS THE MAIN REASON FOR EXTREMISM



2 TYPES:

Positive

Based on moderation and serves the ideal of Islam

Cause of mutual recognition and assistance

Negative

Causes extremism, violence and enmity

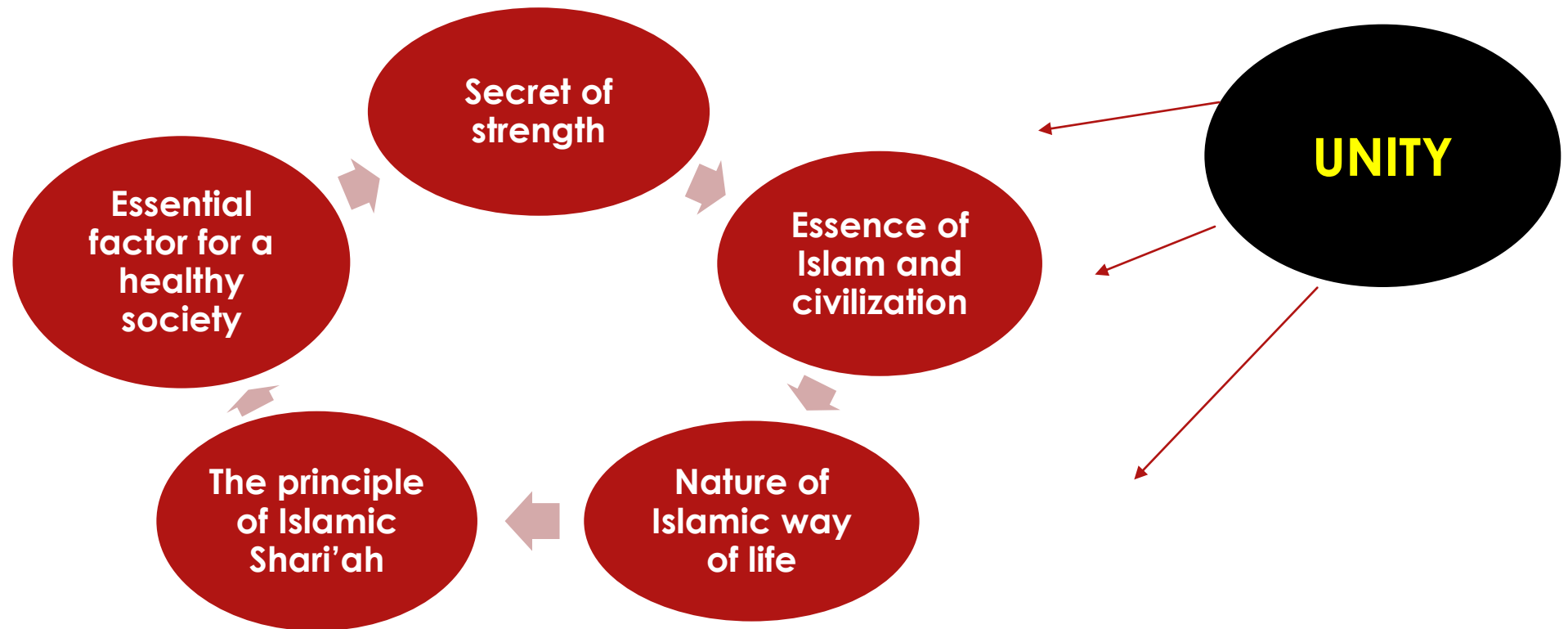
According to Nursi

negative nationalism, which considers a particular race to be superior, or gives priority to race over religion is

“inauspicious, and **harmful**; it is nourished by devouring others, persisting through hostility to others, and is aware of what is going. It is the case of **enmity** and **disturbance**.”

(*Mektubat*)

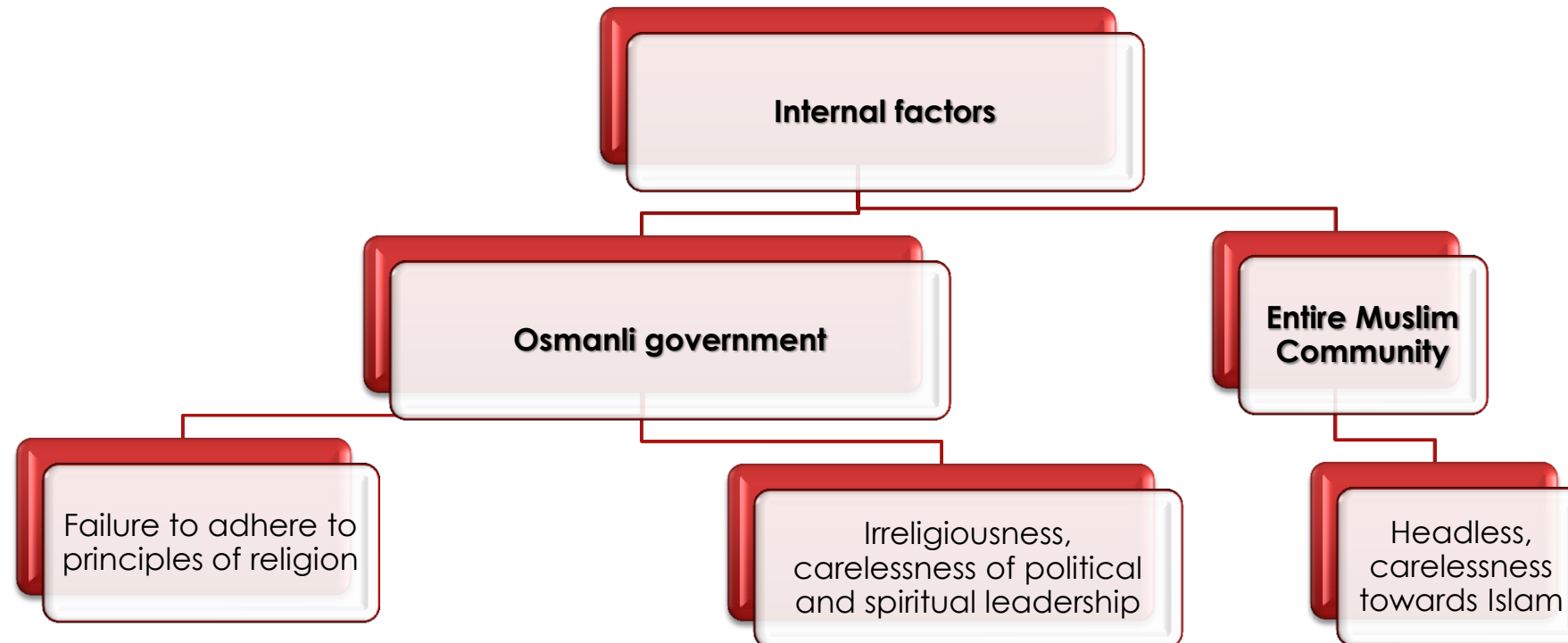
Unity as a Nature of Exemplary Society



Unity as a Nature of Healthy Society

- ▶ Nursi illustrated Muslims as members of a collective personality and compared this community with different organs of one body:
- ▶ “Each of his members completes the deficiencies of the others, veils their faults, assists their needs, and helps them out in their duties. Otherwise man’s life would be extinguished, his spirit flee, and his body be dispersed”
 - ▶ (Nursi, *The Flashes Collection*: 214)

Reasons for Disunity





REASONS FOR/WISDOM BEHIND DIFFERENCES

humanity being divided into ethnic groups and tribes should lead to mutual **acquaintance** and **assistance** but not to antipathy and mutual hostility

- Examples: World War I; disunity among Muslims

Thus he called for a **healthy unity** of the **ummah** and **entire humanity** and follow the **path of moderation** as a principle in dealing with **OTHERS**





MODERATION IN DEALING WITH OTHERS AS AN ISLAMIC PRINCIPLE

Let's discuss this topic



RELATIONS AMONG MUSLIMS – BASED ON MODERATION



UNITY

All Muslims are united around one religious identity – **uniting force**

Union includes all ethnic and religious groups of Muslims

Factual Unity – (like parts in factory or human body)

EQUALITY

Interrelation among various Muslim groups is based on **equality** and **respect**

“The most fearing is the best. But the most fearing is the most humble” (The Damascus Sermon, 87)

MODERATION

Against any type of **extremism**

Aims at establishing good **morals** and mutual healthy support

Unity and moderation are essential for the **happiness** and **success** in this life and hereafter

“The struggle you are embarking on will cause brother to kill brother and will be fruitless. For the Kurds and Turks are brothers. The Turkish nation has acted as the standard-bearer of Islam for centuries. It has produced millions of saints and given millions of martyrs. The sword may not be drawn against the sons of Islam’s heroic defenders, and I shall not draw mine!”

(Said Nursi’s response to Shaykh Said of Palu)

RELATIONS WITH NON-MUSLIMS

■ ACT TOLERANTLY AND PEACEFULLY

- Attitude of Muslims should be based on **moderation**, **friendship** and **sympathy**
- The way of the Islamic Union is **love**; its enmity is only for **ignorance**, **poverty**, and **strife**
- Thus he invited all religious people of the world to be united against **secularism** and **atheism**

■ COLONIAL POWERS

- ...The Europeans are crushing Muslims under their tyranny with the weapons of science and industry. We, said Nursi, shall therefore wage *jihad* with the **weapons of science** and **industry** on ignorance, poverty, and conflicting ideas, the **worst enemies** of upholding the Word of God
- (Said Nursi)



Aims of Unity

**Goal: progress and
exemplary society/true
civilization**

**Way: is to wage the 'greater jihad' with one's soul,
and to guide others**

Moral objectives

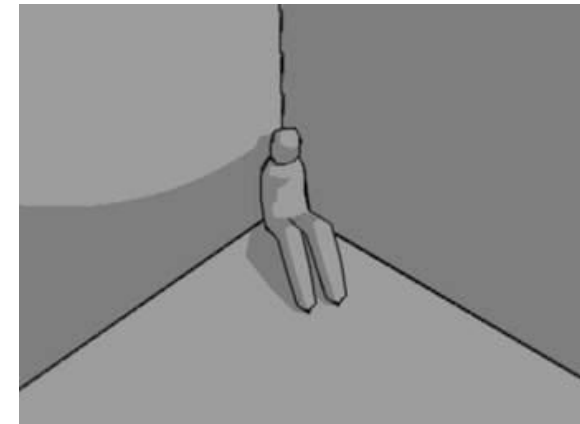
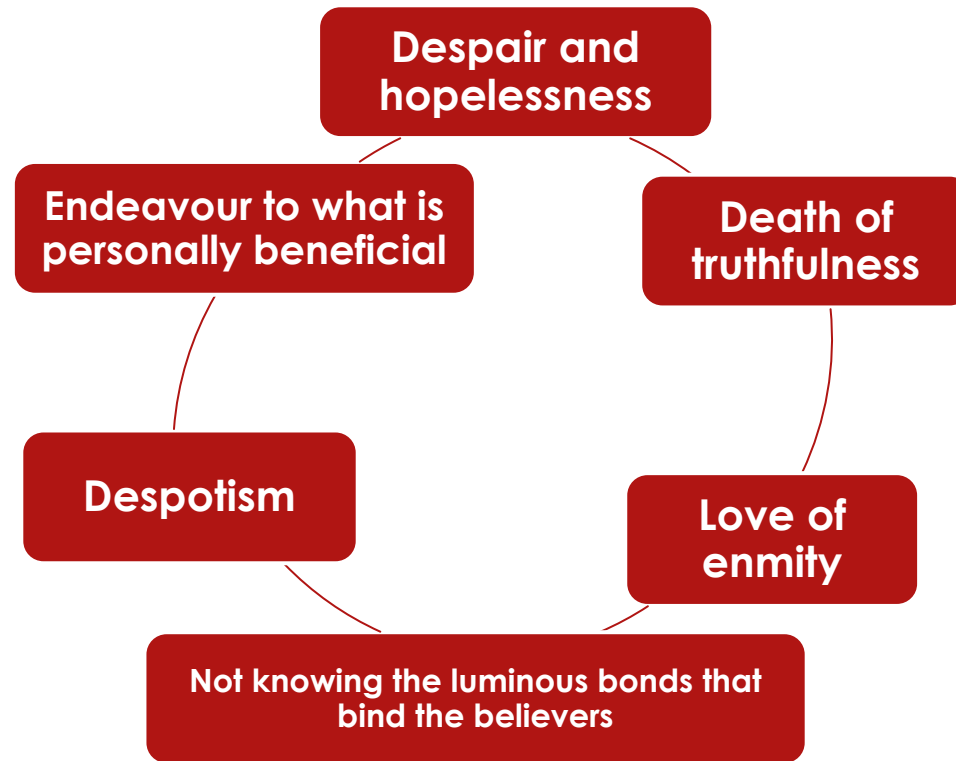
PROSPECTS OF ISLAMIC UNITY

- ▶ Present disunity is temporary obstacle
- ▶ Islam is the eternal power and the only force, capable to unite world-wide Muslims and entire mankind against the demolishing powers of nationalism, communism and secularism
- ▶ Unity will bring justice, peace and prosperity to the entire mankind
- ▶ “Mankind in this century has perceived that their greatest need is for moral and spiritual strength, comfort and resolution”
- ▶ Only the power of Islam and truths of belief are able to support and secure such strength, comfort and happiness for entire mankind
 - ▶ (The Damascus Sermon, 57)

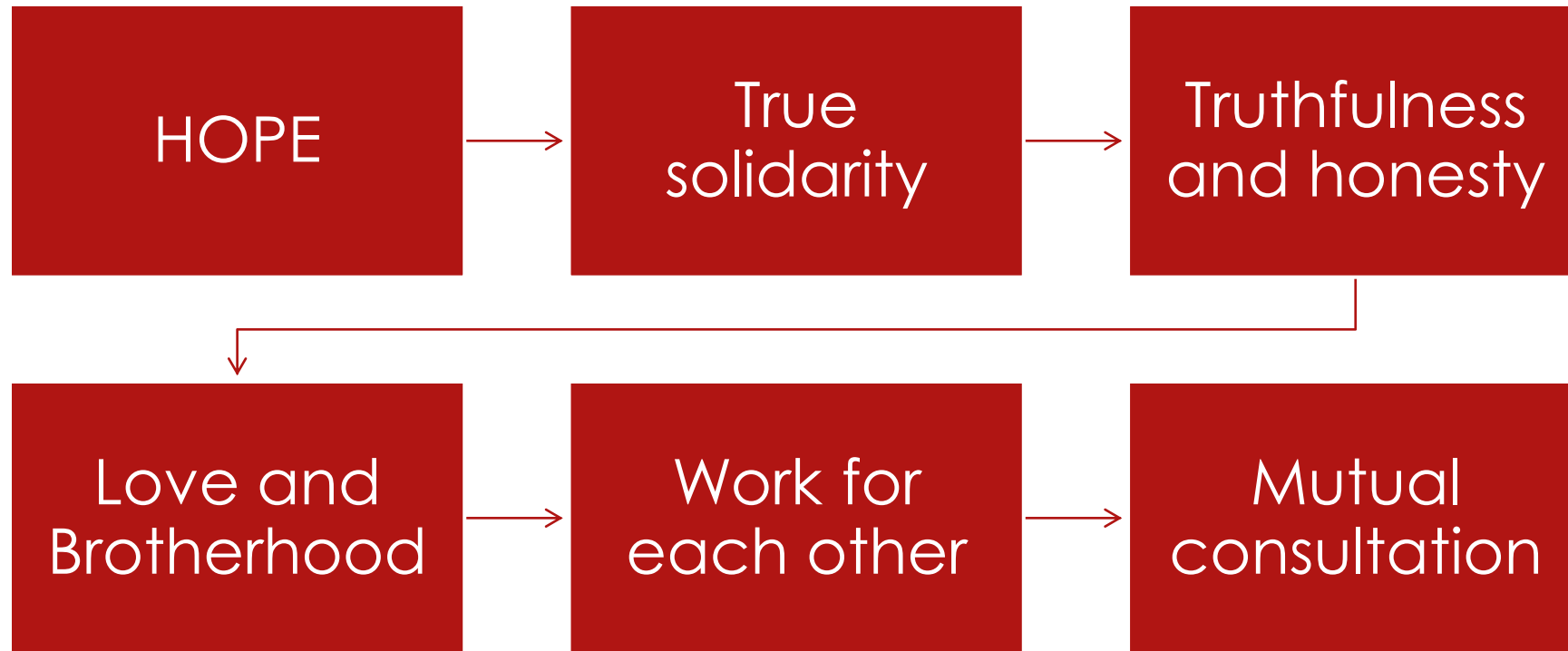
Six Remedies in Achieving Unity



Six Sicknesses



Six Remedies in Achieving Unity





THANKS!

Any questions?

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