

# Conquest of Character

The Peaceful Expansion of Islam



# A Historical Reality Distinct From Widespread Myth

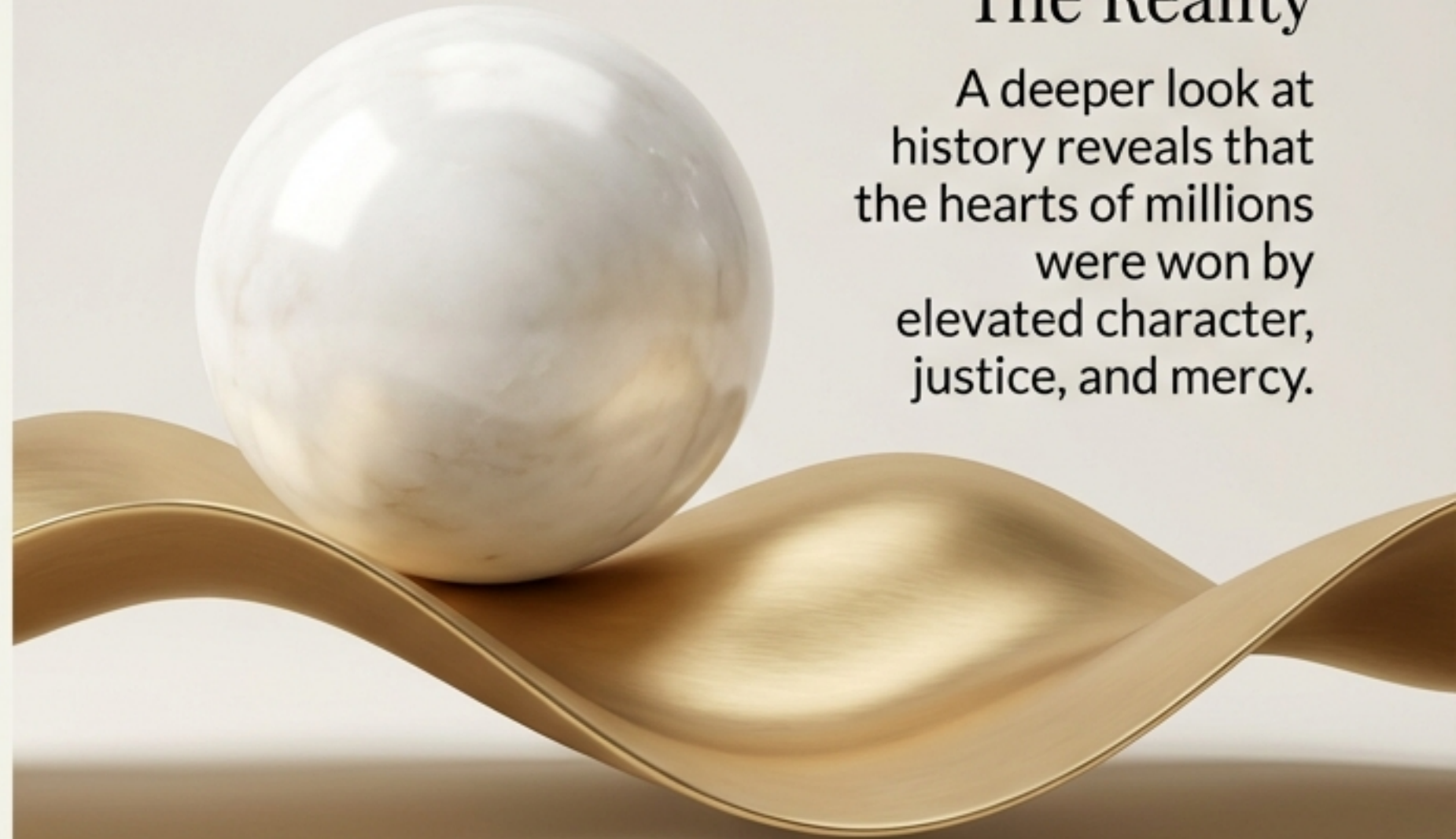
## The Myth

A widespread misconception about Islam is that it was spread through violence and the sword.



## The Reality

A deeper look at history reveals that the hearts of millions were won by elevated character, justice, and mercy.



A Global Witness to the Power of Character

“I became convinced that the sword was not how Islam gained its status, still, rather it was through the **simplicity** of the Messenger with his **accuracy** and **sincerity** in promises, his **dedication**, and loyalty to his friends and followers, along with his **courage** and absolute confidence in his Lord and his message.”

— Mahatma Gandhi, writing in *Young India*



# The True Meaning of Jihad is Striving

The term primarily means striving. While it includes defending one's life, family, and religion, **it manifests most** often in daily, peaceful struggles.



Striving to stop oneself from sin



A student's diligence in studies



A mother bearing the pains of pregnancy

# A Profound Appreciation for Life

Islam places strict, merciful conditions on warfare. During conflicts, it is strictly forbidden to fight peaceful people or civilians.



# Strict Directives to Protect Humanity

The Prophet commanded his followers with absolute restrictions during times of conflict to ensure the protection of civilian life and dignity.



Do not kill  
old men.



Do not kill  
women.



Do not kill  
children.



Mutilating the dead is  
entirely forbidden.

# Protecting the Earth and Civilian Livelihoods

The commands of mercy extend beyond human life to protect the environment and economic stability of the opposition.



Do not demolish  
homes.



Do not destroy  
livelihoods.



Do not cut down fruit-  
bearing trees and palms.

# A Legacy Built on Justice and Mercy

The peaceful expansion of the faith was not an accident of war, but the deliberate result of elevated character. It is a religion that commands good treatment and justice even toward those of different faiths.

