

RESPECT FOR HUMANITY-THE MUSLIM ROAD MAP AT GLOBAL LEVEL

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Abstract

"Islam is a religion of peace and security. Unfortunately, non-Muslims have misunderstandings about its values. Furthermore, many Muslims have also given very poor impression about Islam. Teachings of the Holy Qur'an and Holy Prophet (SAWS) have emphasized on the security and safety of human beings irrespective of their cast, colour and creed. Holy Prophet (SAWS) never betrayed anybody. His activities were always on the ground. He loved humanity and never enforced anyone to embrace Islam. Rightly guided caliphs also followed the footsteps of Hazrat Muhammad(SAWS).This paper attempts to highlight the importance of human life and property in the light of Islamic teachings. Moreover ,a line of action is suggested for Islamic Ummah to regain her lost status."

Keywords: Holy Qur'an, Humanity, Respect, Sunnah, Moderation, Security.

There live 7 billion people on earth⁽¹⁾ and among them the Muslims are more than 2 billions⁽²⁾. In spite of being so large in number the Muslims are being inflicted. They have been deprived of world's leadership. The appeal of time is to ponder on this issue. The Almighty Allah has appointed them to lead this world and enlighten its dark paths of ignorance. The Almighty Himself says,

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ
الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ⁽³⁾

“Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in God”.

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Today the Muslims are hopelessly drowned in the ocean of illiteracy and ignorance. First of all we have to understand the spirit of Islam to be acted upon and then have to create a global cognizance for the betterment of the humanity.

Holy Prophet(SAWS) said,

“The parable of myself and that of my Ummah is that of a man who kindled a fire, and the flies and moths began flying into it and I am trying to prevent you from diving into it.”⁽⁴⁾

Those who keep in mind this example of the Holy Prophet (SAWS) can witness various nations of this world falling in the foundry of fire. This duty has been assigned to Muslim Ummah to save the people from the impending doom and damnation. Therefore the Almighty Allah has called this nation as '*Ukhrijat Lilnnāsi* which means it has been created for people's benefits.

The world today has misunderstandings and doubts against the Muslims. The Muslims seem to have failed to counter these misunderstandings and suspicions and hence 7 billion people have been ensnared in the box of humiliation. Consequently “Respect for Humanity” has become a burning issue rather a challenge. It is the dire need to perceive the teachings of Islam regarding reverence of humanity so that peace may dwell in this world. Islam is a religion of peacefulness and impunity and it preaches others to live in peace and moderation. Allah Himself has chosen the word ‘Islam’ for this revealed religion ensuring it a religion of peace and security. Almighty Allah says:

” *وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمْ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا*،⁽⁵⁾

“And have chosen for you Islam as your religion.”

In fact literal meaning of Islam is peace and thus peace and moderation is embedded in Islam.

According to Qur'an and hadith of the Holy Prophet(SAWS) the true Muslim is defined as the one who stands the embodiment of peace and safety for the whole humanity irrespective of caste, colour and creed and who stands a role model of tolerance, patience, respect for everyone, honour for the humanity and love for each and every human being. In other words a Muslim ensures peace and safety right from the personal

level to national level. Islam teaches the lesson of love for humanity and preaches its followers to cater the honour, prosperity and life of all the human beings. Allah Almighty says in Surah Al-Maidah,

”مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا“⁽⁶⁾

“If any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people”.

In this verse the importance of a human life has been stressed without any discrimination of Muslim and Non-Muslim.

Syed Abu'al A'ala Moududi (d:1979A.D/1399A.H) explains this verse: “The survival of human life in the world depends on the fact that every person has respect for the lives of other human beings and every one has the will to become helpful for protection and survival of other's life.”⁽⁷⁾

Ensuring the security of life, honour and property of the whole humanity in his last sermon the Holy Prophet(SAWS) said, “No doubt; your blood, your properties and your honour are sacred to one another like the sanctity of this day of yours, in this town (Makkah) of yours, in this month of yours”⁽⁸⁾.

So killing a human being for no fault of his own, looting his property, ravishing his honour or to spot and stain his reputation is strictly forbidden. Islam imparts the message of peace and brotherhood in the national and international affairs.

The delegates from the Non-Muslim community came to the Holy Prophet (SAWS) at various occasions. He (SAWS) himself treated them with utter kindness and instructed his followers to treat them with love and care. Even the delegate from Musailma Kazaab who was a false prophet visited him. Those were the ones who got transgressed from Islam but the Holy Prophet (SAWS) treated them with kindness as they were the ambassadors.

Hazrat Abdullah bin Mas'ud (RA) says,

When this person (Abdullah bin Nowaahah) accompanied with another came as ambassadors of Musailmah, I (Abdullah bin Mas'ud) was sitting with Holy Prophet (SAWS). Holy Prophet (SAWS) said, “Do you both bear witness that I am apostle of Allah?” They replied in negative and said, “We bear witness that Musailmah is the apostle of Allah”. Holy Prophet (SAWS) said, “I believe in Allah and His apostles. If I had been the killer of ambassadors, I would have killed you.”⁽⁹⁾

This is the point to be pondered upon. Those people changed their religion, even inspite of their infidelity they were neither imprisoned nor murdered, neither they were punished nor tortured, just because they were the ambassadors. Thus Islam strictly forbids to murder the leaders of other religions.

Hazrat Abdullah bin Abbas (RA) quotes the words of the prophet(SAWS) that he uttered while sending his army to the battlefield:

“Do not be traitor, do not deceive, do not mutilate the corpses and do not kill the children and priests.”⁽¹⁰⁾

Islam forbids looting property of the other people. The Almighty Allah says,

”وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ“⁽¹¹⁾

“And do not eat up your property among yourselves for vanities, nor use it as bait for the judges, with intent that ye may eat up wrongfully and knowingly a little of (other) people's property”.

The Holy Prophet (SAWS) has also condemned to robe others.

“No doubt, your blood and your properties are sacred to one another.”⁽¹²⁾

It is considered the foremost duty of an Islamic state to guard the life and property of its Non-Muslim citizens. Imam Abu Yousaf has narrated the following clause of the Holy Prophet (SAWS)’s pact with the Christians of Najran:

“For Ahl-e-Najraan and their alies, Allah and His apostle Muhammad (SAWS) are responsible and protector of the properties, lives, lands, religion, present and absent people, family members, worshipping places and more or less whatever is in their possession.”⁽¹³⁾

In an Islamic State the safety of the Non-Muslim citizens’ life and property has been prioritised in such a way that it has been considered equally vital as that of the Muslims of the state. Even if some Muslim destroys their ‘beer’ or ‘pork’ he should be inflicted fine. Ibn-e-Abideen Shaami (d:1836A.D/1252A.H) writes:

“Then if someone wastes his(Non-Muslim’s) beer or kills his pig, he will pay indemnity.”⁽¹⁴⁾

Imam Ibn-e-Qodama Hanmbli (d:1223A.D/620A.H) says that the looters of the Muslim’s property and the Non-Muslim’s property will get the same kind of punishment. His words are:

“A Muslim’s hand will be cut on stealing property of Muslim and Dhimmi.”⁽¹⁵⁾

Allama Ibn-e-Hazam (d:1064A.D/456A.H) says:

“The person who steals the property of some Dhimmi (a Non-Muslim living under the protection of Islamic government), the negation of cutting his hand has nowhere been ordained.”⁽¹⁶⁾

In Islam ravishing a Muslim’s honour is forbidden. In the same way ravishing a Non-Muslim’s honour is also forbidden. The level of the strictness is the same. Once the son of the Governor of Egypt Hazrat Amr bin Al-Aas (RA) punished an Egyptian citizen for no fault of him. Its complaint was forwarded to Hazrat Umar bin Al-Khatib (RA).He arranged the punishment of Egyptian Governor’s son in public by that Egyptian citizen. He (RA) uttered these golden words:

“Since when you have started thinking people your own slave while their mothers had given birth to them free?”⁽¹⁷⁾

The statement of Hazrat Umar (RA) has set the basic principle of Islamic law of justice that there is no discrimination between ruler and the ruled. Islamic justice is for everyone irrespective of his/her social status in society.

In the light of Qur’an, Hadith, sayings of the Prophet’s followers and the quotes of the sages and scholars of the Muslim nation any Muslim has no right to kill a Non-Muslim citizen just because of being a Non-Muslim or to loot his property and honour or destroy his place of worship. The Holy Prophet(SAWS) said,

“Almighty Allah has banned the entry in paradise of the one who kills a person having a treaty with the Muslims, without any reason.”⁽¹⁸⁾

Islam has stressed on the respect of a Non-Muslim. In the same way a Muslim’s respect has also been considered vital. The Holy Prophet(SAWS) has declared that the respect of a Muslim is more sacred than the sanctity of the Holy K’abah. Imam Ibn-e-

Majah(d:887A.D/273A.H) has narrated one hadith of Holy Prophet(SAWS).

It was narrated that Abdullah bin Amr (RA) said: "I saw the messenger (SAWS) of Allah circumambulating the K'abah and saying: 'How good you are and how good is your fragrance; how great you are and how great is your sanctity. By the One in Whose Hand is the soul of Muhammad (SAWS), the sanctity of the believer is greater before Allah than your sanctity, his blood and his wealth, and to think anything but good of him.'"⁽¹⁹⁾

The above Hadith enlightens the fact that Islam stands for safety and security of the Muslims. Killing people with deadly weapons is out of question. The Prophet has strictly forbidden to point towards the Muslim brother with weapons. He(SAWS) condemned such a man. He(SAWS) said,

"Whoever points at his brother with a piece of iron, the angels will curse him until he stops it, even if it is his brother through his father and mother".⁽²⁰⁾

Torture with the tongue has been forbidden. The Almighty Allah says,

وَلَا يَغْتَاب بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا⁽²¹⁾

"And do not backbite one another."

Backbiting creates misunderstandings among the people. The Holy Prophet (SAWS) said,

"A Muslim is the one who avoids harming Muslims with his tongue and hands".⁽²²⁾

If there goes on a battle between the Muslims and Non-Muslims and meanwhile a person accepts Islam he must not be murdered. The Muslims are instructed to root out the doubts from their hearts that only to save himself he has accepted Islam. Hazrat Usama bin Zaid bin Haritha(RA) narrates in one hadith of Holy Prophet(SAWS),

"Allah's Messenger(SAWS) sent us towards Al-Huraqa, and in the morning we attacked them and defeated them. I, and an Ansaari man followed a man from among them and when we took him over, he said, Laa ilaaha illallaah(none has the right to be worshipped but Allah).On hearing that, the Ansaari man stopped, but I killed him by stabbing him with my spear. When we returned, the Prophet(SAWS)

came to know about that and he said, "O Usaama; Did you kill him after he had said, Laa ilaaha illallaah?" I said, "But he said so only to save himself". The Prophet (SAWS) kept on repeating that so often that I wished I had not embraced Islam before that day."⁽²³⁾

If we observe conditions of different Islamic countries we can imagine how much away we are from Islamic teachings. Unfortunately millions of people are killed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other Muslim countries. No doubt Non-Muslims have also played role in destruction of Muslim societies but we cannot blame them alone. Recently the crises of Yemen and Saudi Arabia is eye opening for all of us. People feel insecure even at worshipping places.

The above mentioned hadith is a message for Muslims of today. Those who are killing today the peaceful and innocent Muslim fellows should think about this saying of the Holy Prophet (SAWS). When Islam forbids to kill a person who accepts Islam just because of fear of being killed then what about the killing the true Muslims? No doubt it is the most heinous sin on earth. About those who help the killers of the Muslims in any respect, the Holy Prophet (SAWS) said,

"Whoever helps to kill a believer, even with half a word, he will meet Allah with (the words) written between his eyes, 'He has no hope of the mercy of Allah.'"⁽²⁴⁾

From the above facts it is vividly clear that Islam gives great importance to the property, honour and life of all human beings. This property, honour and life may be of the Muslims or of Non-Muslims. Unfortunately the Muslim Ummah has stumbled away from the true spirit and the real teachings of Islam. Terrorism and Massacre are taking place among the so called Muslims. It is misfacing Islam at international level and its respect is being mutilated day by day. If Muslim Ummah aspires to regain respect and restore its credibility then it has to prioritise the security of human life and honour first. Moreover the following points to be addressed.

1. Islam is our identification and a source of recognition for us. We must not hesitate to declare in the world that we have completely submitted ourselves before our God in utter

obedience. This inferiority complex should come to an end now.

2. The Muslim Ummah is suffering a horrible degeneration and decline in the field of education and research. The daily Jang Lahore reports on 24th April, 2012:

“The universities of America and England were declared ten best universities but no Muslim country is included in them. Cambridge was declared the first standard university. By slight difference Harvard is on No.2.No institution of Pakistan is included among four hundred best universities. Islamic countries have 580 and Bharat alone has 583 universities. China, India and Korea invest on universities the most in Asia. American journal U.S NEWS AND WORLD REPORT has made QUICK CURELY SAMOINTING,an international organization meant for research on education and career, prepare this report.”⁽²⁵⁾

It is povital to bring vital amendments in education system so that the individuals of an Islamic State should be furnished with the most modern higher education and these individuals must harbinger their entry with the new inventions in the field of science.

3. The Islamic World is filled with natural resources. These treasures are hidden in mountains, plains, valleys, deserts, jungles, oceans and the rivers of the Muslim areas. Moreover our geographical importance is self speaking. The call of the time is to discover and utilize them in a proper way.
4. The first condition of progress and prosperity is to exterminate injustice, cruelty and terrorism from our society.
5. Considering the importance of the women in the society they must be given a proper place that they rightly deserve. One aspect of their importance is that they are half population of our society. They affect positively or negatively on a house and on a society. Men should cooperate and help them perform their core duty which is “home, husband and children”. There is no second opinion in this respect. Women’s role is central. Their duties cannot be performed by any one else. We must cooperate with them so that they are groomed to be good wives, goodmothers and good citizens. We must accept their right of ‘jobs’. If the family requires

their financial help they must go out and work. We have a glorious example of the prophet Hazrat Shoaib(AS) who was old and could not work. At his place his daughters took his goats out for grass and water. Moreover in the field of education and medicine their role can be beneficial for their excellent and meritorious services. This is a fact that if the women will be given a proper place the prosperity and happiness will rule in the society.

6. Unity and fraternity are very important to be prevail in a Muslim society. Divided and scattered Ummah stands nowhere. This Ummah once used to be just one but now it is divided in groups who remain on battle with one another. They are being destroyed by one an other for nothing. On the other hand the other nations of the world have ended their external disputes, religious differences and territorial roits. After that they have joined their hands against us. We cannot combat the international conspiracies being fabricated against us. The only way is our unity which is our strength.

Thus it is evident that we can progress as one Muslim Ummah. We are blessed with spiritual, material, cultural and social treasures. If we get united then within this 21st century we may rise to hights of our glory. The best preaching of Islam is that we ourselves must act upon Islam. We must love Islam. As far as the conspiracies of our enemies are concerned The Holy Qur'an guides us:

أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَادِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ
أَحْسَنُ (26)

“Invite (all) to the Way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious”.

The heads of the Islamic countries and the individuals of the Ummah are required to save themselves from contradictions of words and deeds. The Holy Prophet(SAWS) never deceived anyone. He never hatched a conspiracy. He always kept his promises and taught his followers to do so. The World's leadership is bestowed upon the ones who exhibit excellent character, who seek knowledge and excell others in research. We must act upon this verse of Surah Al-Ahzab:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ (27)

“Ye have indeed in the Apostle of God a beautiful pattern (of conduct)”

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