

Date: 14th Jun' 23Islamic Studies Page 1

Q) Contemporary challenges of Muslim Ummah and their solution according to the teaching of Islam.

Ans)Introduction

At present, Muslims are facing numerous challenges that caused a serious damage to their overall development. Unless these major issues are solved, the Ummah would continue to move towards darkness.

The Holy Quran clearly states that the aim and purpose of Muslim State, built on the foundation of Tauheed, Risalat and Khilafat, is the establishment, maintenance and development of those virtues which the Creator of the Universe wishes human life to be ~~enriched~~ ^{enriched} by, and the prevention and eradication of those evils which are abhorrent to Allah Almighty.

* Contemporary Challenges of Muslim Ummah1) Islamophobia:

The concerns of Muslim world over the rise of Islamophobia have become one of the major challenges of today's world.

This phenomenon is voiced ^{very} strongly in global and regional politics troubling the relationship between Islam and Western countries. Due to this, Muslims are discriminated against and mistreated in the West. The shattered Muslim community and insensitive media are the most significant factors causing Islamophobia.

(a) Terminology (Definition of Islamophobia)

The ~~oxford~~ Oxford Dictionary defines Islamophobia as, 'intense dislike or fear of Islam; especially as a political force; or hostility or prejudice towards the Muslims'

Some scholars call Islamophobia a form of racism. For example, Allen Johnson, a British politician, said that Islamophobia is nothing more than xenophobia or racism wrapped in religious terms

(b) Examples of Islamophobia

There are numerous ~~other~~ examples or instances of Islamophobia like making blasphemous cartoons or caricatures of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to hurt the sentiments of Muslims.

Such cartoons or caricatures of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) are made under the grab of freedom of speech. Other examples are like in 2010, France banned face coverings for women.

Many physical assaults on women wearing hijabs were reported.

On November 3, 2011, the ~~French~~ French satirical magazine, featured controversial cartoons.

The newspaper was firebombed and the website was hacked. On October 21, 2020, two

Muslim women were stabbed in Paris in reaction to Samuel Paty's murder.

On October 16, 2020, Samuel Paty, a French secondary school teacher was killed in Paris as he had shown the controversial

Charlie Hebdo cartoons of 2012 on the pretext of freedom of expression.

Vladimir Putin, "Insulting Holy Prophet (PBUH) does not count as freedom of expression, but a violation of religious freedom and the violation of the sacred feelings of people who profess Islam."

"Nor can goodness and Evil be equal. Repel (Evil) with what is better: Then will he between whom and thee was hatred become as it were thy friend and intimate." (Fussilat: Verse 34)

"So when they tasted of the tree, their nakedness became exposed to them, and they began to stitch over themselves with the leaves of Paradise." (Al-Araf: Verse 22)

Media

(c) Causes of Islamophobia linked with Terrorism

~~Islam~~ Runnymede Trust report states

that there are certain misconceptions about Islam at the foundation of Islamophobia which are that Islam is monolithic, static, and unresponsive to change. It has no values in common with other cultures and remains unaffected by other cultures and has no influence on others. Islam is a political ideology used for political and military advantage. The Western media is leaving no stone unturned in blaming Islam for all the terrorism, bloodshed, blasts around the world. It leaves little or no

space for the Muslim view point. Hence, Muslims' view point is always underrepresented. Various terrorist and extremist organizations such as Al Qaida, ISIS etc. are pursuing their terrorist agenda in the name of Islam.

Although they have no connection to Islam (the religion of peace), the people who know nothing or very little about Islam start fearing them about Islam.

They take Islam as a religion that promotes violence and bloodshed.

"We shall cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve (all non-Muslims)."
(Surah 3: Verse 151)

"Mankind were one community and Allah sent Prophets with glad tidings and warnings."
(Surah -Al-Baqrah: Verse 213)

"And fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but transgress not the limits."
(Surah Al-Baqrah Verse 191, 192)

2) Disunity among Muslims

The immediate and most serious challenge faced by Muslim Ummah is disunity among them. It is contrary to the teaching of Islam. Islam, in order to unite Muslims, has established a bond of brotherhood and equality. The Muslim world is ridden with

internal conflicts. Divided themselves into different sects, most commonly Sunni Shia, their internal rifts present a negative image of Islam to the world.

Muslims fighting and killing each other, and lobbying against each other as in the case of KSA and Iran. Ultimately, the western world finds nothing interesting about Islam and Muslims; thus, they become xenophobic about Islam and Muslims.

Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran,

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided. And remember the favor of Allah upon you - when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers. And you were on the edge of a pit of the Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah make clear to you His verses that you may be guided." (Al-Imran 3:103)

Abdullah ibn Umar reported: The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "The Muslim is a brother to another Muslim..." In his last sermon, our Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black, nor a black has any superiority over a white - except by piety and good action..."

Our Holy Prophet (PBUH) clarifies that how much emphasis does Islam lay for the unity of Muslims.

3) Lack of Peace and Stability in Muslim Society

Our first prerequisite will have to be peace and stability. Unfortunately, Muslim Ummah cannot prosper or live in dignity without peace. The peace and stability they seek cannot be imposed by the barrel of a gun. And peace that is obtained by denying our citizens a legitimate voice is illusory and will not last. Such a peace will eventually breed a violent reaction.

* "Allah doth command you to render back your Trusts to those to whom they are due; And when ye judge between man and man, that ye judge with justice." (Surah-An-Nisa: Verse 58)

* "O believers! Stand firm for Allah and bear true testimony. Do not let the hatred of a people lead you to injustice. Be just! That is closer to righteousness. And be mindful of Allah. Surely Allah is All-Aware of what you do."

* "Invite 'all' to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and kind advice, and only debate with them in the best manner. Surely your Lord 'alone' knows best who has strayed from His Way and who is 'rightly' guided (Surah Al-Nahl - ayah 125)

* "God does not love evil talk in public unless it is by someone who has been injured thereby" (An-Nissa: Verse 148)

* Solution in the Light of Islam1) Islamophobia linked with Terrorism

Endeavor to spread the correct ideas about Islam as a religion of moderation and tolerance and to safeguard Islamic values, beliefs and principles in order to fortify Muslims against extremism and narrow-mindedness.

Affirm the need to counter Islamophobia, through the establishment of an observatory at the OIC General Secretariat to monitor all forms of Islamophobia and counter its issue.

2) Unity among Muslims

Unity cannot occur if Muslims remain isolated and distant from each other in separate groupings. Practical ways and means must be found in which Muslims across countries can become more connected to each other

locally as well as internationally. Spread positivity regarding culture and good values of Islam

and Muslims. Muslims should start helping each other. ^{The Holy Prophet} (PBUH) said:

"A believer ought to open the gate of good and close the door of evil."

"Behave with others as you would like them to behave towards you" (Al-Bukhari)

Hadiths: "Do good to others, even if they are not doing good to you."

3) Establish Peace and Stability in Muslim Society

Islam clearly states the desired virtues and the undesired evils. The constant demand made by Islam is that the principles of morality must be observed at all costs and in all walks of life. It aims to encourage the qualities of purity, goodness, virtue, success and prosperity which Allah wants to flourish in the life of His people and to suppress all kinds of exploitation and injustice.

- Legislation

In Islamic State, it should be within the limits prescribed by the Shari'ah. The injunctions of Allah and His Prophet (PBUH) are to be accepted and obeyed.

- Judiciary

In Islam, it derives its authority directly from the Shari'ah and is answerable to Allah.

The judges have to administer justice impartially according to the law of Allah.

The essence of Islam is the very essence of humanity. It brings civilization and happiness to man as it leads to a balanced way of life.

* "And whoever saves a life it is as though he had saved the lives of all mankind." (Surah-Al-Maidah Verse 32)

* "Whoever kills a human being without (any reason like) man slaughter, or corruption on earth, it is as though he had killed all mankind." (Surah-Al-Maidah verse 32)

Date: _____

Page 9
Islamic Studies

Islam tells us the principles of equality that all men created by One and the Same Eternal Creator, the Supreme Lord of all. All the mankind belong to the human race and share equally in the common lineage of ^{Hzrat} Adam (AS). Allah judges every person on the basis of his own merits and according to his own deeds.

The Quran urges without commanding, kindness to the slave and recommends their liberation by purchase or manumission. This is equality in Islam.

"We sent our Messengers with clear signs and sent down with them the Book and the balance." (Surah-Al-Hadid: verse 25)

Quran Say: "Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know?" (Surah-Az-Zumar: Verse 9)

x ————— x