

# ISLAMIC STUDIES

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## Assignment #2

Q) Contemporary Challenges of Muslim Ummah in present times and their solutions according to Islamic teachings?

Ans) Islam is a deen which was sent for all mankind and for all times to come, if ~~held~~ held firmly to the rope of Islam and its laws, there is no ~~bad~~ issue or challenge which can't be resolved. Islam is religion of peace and harmony and has solutions to all the problem. There are many things which are in this world which are being regulated in recent times where as Islam has already ~~given~~ declared them ~~1400~~ 1400 years ago, such as Islam declared human rights since its advent whereas UNO declared it some 70 years ago; Islam has given woman equal rights whereas in modern times woman are still protesting for equal rights.

Despite Islam being a complete code of life, individually and collectively, Muslim Ummah around the globe are facing serious challenges in the form of misconception, terrorism, negativity, extremism, ~~both~~ botched interpretations of noble concept of Jihad and many others.

1) Lack of good leadership :- After the death of Holy Prophet (PBUH) the Muslim Ummah came under the Command of Hazrat Abu Bakr, Umar, Usman and Ali (RA), the 4 Caliphs of Islam, who were brilliant leaders and administrators of all time. ~~And~~ But the quality of Muslim leaders started deteriorating till the present time where we are facing a severe dearth of quality leaders.

The wealthy Muslim countries are being governed by dynastic rulers, who ~~have~~ are filled with riches while the weak are facing political turmoil, ~~with~~ military coups, protests, war, ~~to~~ oppression. In recent times no one can question the source of the money, where spent, there is no accountability of rulers and most of the leaders are corrupt and stooges of big powers.

According to the Holy Prophet (PBUH), A ruler who, having obtained control over the affairs of Muslims, does not strive for their betterment and does not serve them sincerely shall not enter paradise with them.

2) Economic challenges :- <sup>Many</sup> Muslim countries are facing major economic challenges <sup>and</sup> are lacking behind in this fast emerging world. These countries do not follow the Islamic economic system and follow ~~the~~ the system which is set by the western countries based on interest. ~~at~~ In Quran Allah says in Surah Baqrah that whosoever ~~is~~ takes interest, then he is on war against Allah and His messenger.

This western system has severed the Muslim countries economies and has put them on huge dependence on west and under huge debt, ~~with~~

3) Lack of ~~education~~ Education:- There has been a lack<sup>3</sup> of quality education and educated people for quite some time now. The Muslim scholars and scientists who were once the epitome of success are nowhere to be found now. Islam is a religion based upon knowledge, even the first word of the first Ayah revealed had the on the Prophet (PBUH) started with the word 'Iqra' which means to Read. But Muslims have foregone this word and have involved in other worldly activities rather than to gain knowledge, so that they could make an impact in the society and be literate enough to spread the real message of Islam. According to Prophet (PBUH), acquiring knowledge is a duty upon every Muslim.

~~Misperception of Islam~~ Even though Quran and Sunnah are so open about education, ~~we~~ <sup>Muslims</sup> are stuck in present times where everything is so visible and apparent, ~~we~~ are stuck in banning women education, giving an extreme misperception of Islam in the current world.

4) Misperception of Islam:- The misperception of Islam is a political challenge that the contemporary Muslim world continues to face, irrespective of the diverse strategies that the contemporary Muslim world has implemented. One aspect is that Islam is perceived as a threat to world peace, especially after the 9/11 incident. Another aspect is that Islam is perceived as a medieval religion that restricts its women from education, job or being part of the practical world.

Another major and most important misperception is how the western world has related Islam to global terrorism, Islamic Jihadification, fanatic Islamism all that ~~had~~ has lead to the creation of an Islamophobia environment, which has created an irrational image of Muslims among westerners.

5) Western Domination and Atheism :- Islam is a complete code of life and it guides us about each and everything whether it's on personal level or level of the state. On the other hand, the western concept of secularism teaches us that religion has no role to play in the formation or in the administration of the state, this has promoted materialism and <sup>they</sup> have adopted quest for money almost as their religion, ~~thus~~ So people ~~have~~ in the west have either accepted ~~ei~~ Atheism or become non-practicing. ~~This~~

With the western dominance in the contemporary world, many Muslims have adopted the same secular trends and teachings resulting in severe moral degradation.

6) Muslim Disunity :- There are about ~~50~~ 50 countries with a majority of muslim population and 1.3 billion muslims in the world, and one thing ~~they~~ lacking is unity. The division of interest between Muslims have further allowed the west to drive a wedge among Muslims. ~~improper~~ Lack of leadership, inequality and hatred between Islamic countries, sheer nepotism, sectarianism and corruption all prevails in the Islamic states. For example the Saudi-Iran rivalry is a supreme factor for disunity only on basis of self-made religious difference and political issues.

The dominance of west and the Muslim countries dependence on west, have ~~made~~ also separated the Muslims and made them silent on ~~their~~ <sup>the</sup> oppression being done on the Muslim community, for example the Uyghur Muslims or the war in Syria.

The hatred which prevails in the western media is ~~an~~ also a major reason for disunity in the Islamic world. The western media has always shown a negative picture of Islamic world, which has badly affected culture, education and language.

7) Sectarianism :- One of the major drawbacks in the growth and development of Islamic communities is Sectarianism. ~~The~~ This has created rivalries amongst ~~themselves~~ themselves to a point that they refuse to acknowledge each other, practises, tradition and thoughts and even these rivalries have led to massive killings too. Sectarianism is not just among Muslim communities but even the Muslim countries despise each other because of that. A prime example is of the Saudi-Iran dispute, where Saudi Arabia follows the Sunnism school of thought, while Iran, Iraq follow the Shia school of thought. Each stressing on the notion that their view is the right way of Islam, and the west world is taking advantage of this conflict between Muslims. ~~and~~ ~~is~~ ~~affected~~

In conclusion, the contemporary Muslim is facing diverse challenges from political to social to economic and religious challenges. And the Muslims are in dire need of great minds and leaders to tackle these challenge, but most importantly they need to hold on to the teachings of Quran and Sunnah first, and implement them in their lives, communities and countries.

Now what can be done by the Muslim Ummah to address these challenges :-

The contemporary Muslim world needs a new 'Golden age' just like the ~~Islam~~ past Islamic golden age where Muslims were rulers, they had a good image, were major contributors to science, education and betterment of society.

The ~~Muslim~~ contemporary Muslims needs to ~~change~~ <sup>addresses</sup> all the issues immediately, if they want to ~~have~~ prosper in this emerging world as an Ummah.

1) The need for ethical and just rulers / leaders :- The Muslim world is in dire need for new leaders, who are just, ethical, chosen by the people, literate <sup>and have</sup> understanding of both the Deen and the world. As Muslims, our highest and ultimate source of guidance must be Quran and Sunnah, and ~~who~~ prophet (PBUH) is the ~~perfect~~ best amongst the leaders. Inspired by the Prophet (PBUH) model of leadership, a leader should have high moral integrity, piety, learnings, and deep spiritual and moral awareness. of both the Deen and the society.

A leader in Islam is a person who is honest, open, trustworthy and responsible for ~~his~~ actions taken. The leader should be someone who is chosen by the people themselves and should be able to serve the people responsibly.

2) The need for Quality Education :- At a time when the Muslim world is facing unprecedented challenges, the importance of creating a healthy academic environment cannot be overstated.

The importance of seeking knowledge can be justified with the fact that the first word, of the first verse revealed to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) had the

Commandment, Iqra!, meaning Read!. From its inception, Islam (1) gives the teaching to seek knowledge whether it be man or woman, both have equal rights to seek knowledge.

~~Explain~~ Just glimpsing the lives and works of prominent thinkers who lived during the time when Muslim civilization flourished, one can find many instances that demonstrate how Muslim societies were established on an integrative approach to knowledge that combined religion, reason, science, ethics and metaphysics. ~~Ibn-e-Sina~~ For example Ibn Sina who is regarded as the most significant physician, astronomer, philosopher, writer and father of early modern medicine.

3) Muslim Unity :- The fact that all Muslim believe in <sup>unity of</sup> ~~the~~ Allah and Prophet (PBUH) as the last messenger, should be enough to keep the Muslims ~~but~~ united ~~by~~ but the division of interest has divided the Muslims. Muslims across the world should come together and become allies of each other as required by the Quran. Organizations like OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) must play its role to unite the Muslim world and should not be biased.

Muslims countries should promote political, diplomatic, trade, economic ~~and~~ commercial and social relations amongst themselves rather than relying on western world. The Muslims should establish an economy of brotherhood, where the aim should be to able to produce everything the Muslim world needs within Muslim majority countries, and to be able to help the poor economic countries -

The best bond of Unity can be explained with the example of Ansar and Muhajirin. Ansars took in the Muhajirin who had nothing and helped them and together they worked hard and lead to prosperity.

4) Intrafaith more than Inter-faith. :- There is currently interests by Muslims to get involved in interfaith dialogue. This is mainly pushed by Western countries - However, despite deep-rooted sectarianism, there is no push to develop intra-faith understanding. Muslims need to engage in intrafaith dialogue within themselves and build understanding across cultural and race divides within the community. The issues of sectarianism can be solved when people will be well informed on what the Quran and Sunnah actually states that creating any form of sectarianism is not acceptable.

Every religious group should have equal right and freedom to practice their religion and it is <sup>the</sup> a duty of a Muslim to accept respect the views and believes of different school of thoughts in Islam and also different religions too. All Muslims are brothers and they should remember that they should all be united under the banner of Islam and that they are all equal before Allah.

5) ~~Remove~~ Eliminating misperception about Islam and Muslims. :- Islam is a religion of peace and harmony, and it is a complete Deen guiding us in all aspects of life. But it is wrongfully being portrayed as a religion of violence in the western world. If you one really want to know what Islam is that they must look at the original sources, The Quran and The Sunnah, rather than the Islam as represented by later Muslim generations both in theory and in practice. Islam is not a religion of violence but a religion of



Peace and harmony and supports peaceful activism rather than violent activism. Islam ~~next~~ also does not support extremism, rather it promotes the virtue of moderation. According to Holy Prophet (PBUH), The moderate action is the best of all actions.

Islam is a religion of equal rights and does not hold women to be inferior to men, and ~~does~~ does not degrade women or stop them ~~for~~ from seeking knowledge.

The Quran and Sunnah states that one should invite other people to Islam through good behavior, actions and wisdom, and not to argue with them in any harsh way. It is the responsibility of ~~govern~~ Muslims governments, leaders and Muslim Ummah to improve the image of Islam through their actions and words ~~th~~ by holding steadfast to the rope of Allah and following the life style of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) eradicating the concept of Islamophobia in the contemporary world.

Islamic countries should establish Islamic media ~~to~~ to portray the real image of Islam ~~to~~ rather than following the image conveyed by the western media.

According to Holy Quran,

"Peace, a word from a Merciful Lord." (36:58).

To ~~to~~ conclude, Muslims should not forget the teachings of Quran and Sunnah and must implement these teachings in their lives to show the world that Islam is a religion of peace, harmony and equality. Islam is a religion that promotes brotherhood, ~~and~~ ~~to~~ regardless of any discrimination.

The Muslim Ummah need some great minars and leaders to spread the real meaning of Islam and to tackle the rising anger and spread of Islamophobia. (10)