

2.2 Contemporary challenges faced by Muslims Ummah and their solutions according to the teachings of Islam?

وَإِنَّكُمْ بِرَبِّكُمْ لَأَلْفِرْقَوُ

(ال عمران 103)

"And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves."

Introduction:-

Allah has endowed the Muslims with countless blessings and resources to satisfy their material as well as spiritual needs. He provided the Muslims with the Holy Quran and the Sunnah to fulfill their

spiritual needs. Muslims Ummah is currently facing a number of challenges which can be categorized into external and internal challenges.

Internal challenges:-

1- Law and Order issues

At present, the whole Muslim Ummah in general, and Pakistan in particular, is tangled in an intricate web of law and order issues. There is no letup in heinous and barbaric acts like killing the innocent people, robberies, thefts, terrorism, bomb blasts and violence against women. The state of affairs is aggravating day by day. It's like a grievous punishment from Allah.

قل هو القادر ان يبث عليكم ذنبا

(Surah - Al-An'am 65)

"Says, 'He hath power to send calamities on you, from above and below."

2 Rich in Resources but poor in management:

Though many muslims countries are blessed with rich resources; yet they are unable to put such resources to the optimal use, to serve and defend Islam and muslims against those who conspicuously conspire against the muslims.

3 Deprivation from personal Freedom

According to human rights, Muslim states cannot be ranked higher. Save some countries where democratic system is in place, many countries are those where speaking against the king, Sultan, Khalifa, Sheikh or the

incumbent ruler is next to impossible.

The recent uprisings in form of Arab Spring pretend that the situation has somewhat changed.

4 Violence against and restraints on Women

It is unfortunate that muslim countries have not implemented the rules and laws laid down by Islam in the realm of women rights. Women's right to inheritance looks only meretriciously in papers and the ground reality is entirely opposite to it. Many women have been (death) burnt to death as they could not bring a huge dowry with them.

5. Sectarianism

Muslim world is being consumed by unprecedented sectarianism nowadays. The evil, satanic forces have been

Creating the **shia bloc** against the **Sunnis** and the **Sunni bloc** against the **Shias** since long. The decade-old **Iran-Iraq** war was the outcome of these forces' conspiracies.

6. Lack of Education, Science and Technology

It is unfortunate the muslim world is badly lacking in **scientific** and **technological** advancement. For technological, military and IT requirements the muslim world is dependent on the US, China, Germany, Japan etc. Only Turkey is showing some sort of progress in this regards.

7 Regional and linguistic prejudices

Even in the present epoch in history, there are many sort of prejudices and bias in muslim countries. For instance,

2. The quest of the west to seize resources

Historically, the west has been perpetually following the policies to get hold of the resources owned by the muslims to save those for their future use. It is elaborately manifest that the Americans and the Europeans have been indulged into wars only to control the oil resources of the muslim world.

3. West's role in internally destabilizing Muslim states

The west has been following a multi-pronged strategy to destabilize muslim countries internally so that any muslim country may not be strong enough to pose a threat to them. They believe that if it

happens, then their ascendancy may be in jeopardy.

4. Creation of Israel: a Jewish state

The great Britain contributed hugely to establish a Jewish state, i.e.,

Israel, and today the **US** is patronizing this illegitimate state.

The West does not pay heed to the cries of innocent Palestinians:

When they are brutally bombed and annihilated by the savage

Israelis who are at liberty to ~~extremism~~ exterminate as many of

Palestinian Muslims as they wish.

This has also contributed to further aggravating the problems of Muslims Ummah.

5. Suspicious Activities regarding Pakistan's nukes

Pakistan is the only muslim country that is a nuclear power. The western media often publishes or broadcasts reports which present an impression that pakistan's nukes may fall into the hands of terrorists. They also sent their spies who work on the possibilities that how these weapons can be destroyed.

Ways to solve problems

To solve the problems of Muslim Ummah, following suggestions are presented.

i) Unity of Ummah

There are explicit teachings in the Holy Quran regarding unity, the violation of which may invite severe punishments. Allah says in

Surah Al Imran (103):

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا

And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah, and be not divided among yourselves:-

The importance of unity has been mentioned in the Quran and sunnah along with the severe consequential punishment owing to disunity. Despite this, the muslim countries are mired in this crisis. Some suggestions in this regard are as follows:-

2) Restructuring the World Muslim Congress and the Muslim World League:

Both these organizations should be reinvigorated and their offices be established in all muslim states.

A separate task force should also be formed to actuate them.

b) Organization of Islamic cooperation

To reinvigorate this organization, Dr Muhammad Amin suggests the following steps.

- 1- Organize the countries which seriously support the unity of ummah and fully comprehend the conspiracies of the anti-muslim forces. These countries should form a group to work for this noble purpose.
- 2 The organization must be freed from the claws of saudi financial and management dominance.
3. It should be purged of the west and its influences.

c) Views of Saibal and Jamaluddin Afghani on the unity of Ummah

To Syed Jamaluddin Afghani and Allama Iqbal, the basis of unity of Muslims is only Islam, not region, languages, colour or race. That's why both of them have a consistent opinion regarding Pan-Islamism as both yearned for an Islamic state free of such prejudices.

Iqbal says in this regard:

"If the Muslims start preferring race or nationality to religion, they will disappear from the world."

i) Joint Defence

Some proposals in defence field are as under:

a) Muslim countries should have a joint defence mechanism as the Europe has in form of Nato.

- b) A joint force whose successive chiefs may come from different countries.
- c) Military training in schools and colleges.

ii) Education

- a) Make arrangements for religious education along with the worldly knowledge.
- b) Establishment of universities of science and technology with shared investments.

iii) Common Economy

Here are few propositions in the realm of economy.

- a) Make a common currency like euro in Europe.
- b) Establish joint multinational companies.
- c) Eliminate usury and make economies Zakat- and Ushr-based.
- d) Remove restrictions on trade among muslim states.