

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Q What are the contemporary challenges of muslim ummah and their solutions in modern world?

Ans: There are many internal and external contemporary challenges of muslim ummah, and their solutions in the modern world are rooted in addressing and referring back to Islamic principles.

The internal challenges include a weakening of true belief and good conduct of muslim ummah. Lack of unity, both individually and collectively as a society. And the failure to integrate religious values with political and economic systems, resulting in diminished Islamic governance and socio-economic well being.

Moreover there are many external factors which contribute in the challenges faced by muslim ummah. As the rise of non-Islamic systems of governance and philosophy, such as materialism and secularism which contradict Islamic teachings. Such ideologies challenge the cultural and religious identity of Muslims. As Turkey has adopted secular form of government since early 20th century, which continue to effect the role of Islam in Public life.

Westernization in many muslim countries has led to cultural shift where material success is prioritized over spiritual and religious adherence, creating clash with traditional Islamic teachings and values. As the Quran says,

"Do not follow (your own) desire, as it will lead you astray from the path of Allah" (38:26)

However, on the other hand, Quran says in Surah AL-Anfal  
"And Allah would not punish them while they seek forgiveness"

Therefore there are many solutions for these internal and external challenges faced by the muslim ummah.

As these solutions begin with return to true faith and good deeds. As both worldly success and spiritual well-being come from genuine belief and ethical conduct, ~~stating~~ And this genuine belief is also known as faith in Allah, which is the utmost important factor of Islam, without which our religion is incomplete, as is the first Aqeeda of muslims.

As Allah says in Quran, "And whoever has faith in Allah. He will rightly guide their hearts through Adversity. And Allah has perfect knowledge of all things."

In modern days Malaysia is an example of a country where efforts to strengthen Islamic conduct and ethical governance are visible. Islamic teachings are integrated into education, banking system. Therefore it is essential for establishment of Islamic government that governs by Islamic law and seeks justice and welfare of all.

Harat Umar Ibn Al-Khattab says and I Quote,

"I fear of the day when the disbelievers are proud of their falsehood and muslims are shy of their faith."

Furthermore, in dealing the contemporary challenges of muslim ummah, the solution include unity and collective action.

As unity is necessary to achieve both worldly power and the spiritual mission of Islam. Also without collective

organization, Muslims will struggle to fulfill their roles as the bearers of divine truth. In the modern world/times, the formation of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) which includes 57 member states, is a concrete step towards fostering unity and collective action among the muslim ummah. OIC aims to safeguard and protect the interests of Muslims globally, promote peace, and resolve conflicts, as seen in their support for the palestinian cause and efforts to mediate in disputes between member states.

Allah says in Quran,

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided."

In addition, one of the most pressing issue faced by the muslim ummah in modern world is the issue of Islamophobia. It feeds prejudice, discrimination and hostility towards Islam and muslims, in non-Muslim majority societies.

The rise of Islamophobia can be due to media's misrepresentation, where in western world media associates muslims with violence, extremism and terrorism which foster fear and hostility. And this has led to widespread misconception about Islam as a religion and Muslim as people.

Moreover, politicians in countries like U.S, parts of Europe and India have used Islamophobia as a political tool, fueling public fear. Examples includes travel bans targeting Muslim majority countries and discriminatory laws against muslims.

On top of all, the spread of Islamophobia has led to increased hate crimes against muslims, such as

attacks on mosques, physical assaults, and verbal abuse.

Muslims in western countries often face workplace discrimination, challenges in education and social exclusion.

The prophet P.B.U.H said:

Do not back-bite Muslims, and do not search for their faults, for if anyone searches for their faults, Allah will search for his faults, and if Allah search for the faults of anyone, He humiliates him (even if he hides) in his house.

Therefore, the solutions to islamophobia includes education.

Muslim communities, along with interfaith organizations, should work together to educate non-Muslims about Islam's true teachings, focusing on its messages of peace, justice and compassion. Initiatives like "Open mosque Days" and interfaith dialogues have proven effective in countries like US, UK and Canada, and this initiative builds bridge and dispel myths about Islam.

Allah said, "O believers! Avoid many suspicions, for indeed, some suspicions are sinful. And do not spy, nor backbite one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of their dead brother? You would despise that! And fear Allah. Surely Allah is the Acceptor of repentance, Most Merciful." (49:12)

Furthermore, forming alliance with non-Muslim groups who are also targeted by prejudice can help build a broader coalition against all forms of hatred, including Islamophobia.

Muslims should join hands with other minority groups to advocate for equal treatment. In US, muslims, Jews, Christians have formed alliances to counter hate crimes & discrimination, e.g anti-Muslim hate crimes,

Finally Islamophobia is a global challenge that requires multi-faceted response. By promoting better understanding of Islam and fostering strong relationships with other communities, Muslims can combat the negative stereotypes that fuel Islamophobia and work towards a more inclusive society.

Therefore, all these solutions require Muslims to engage in both internal and external spiritual reforms and address political, social and economic issues through the lens of Islamic values. And these strategies will help Muslims to return to core principle of Islam, integrating them into every aspect of life, ~~spiritual~~ be it trading in form of buying, selling, marriage, behaviour towards neighbours, family or servants. As Islam is the complete code of life, Plus, a believer in any worldly challenge does not need to look further than Islam.

"And indeed this, your religion, is one religion, and I am your Lord, so keep your duty unto me." (23:52)