

2024

(7) How is it possible to eliminate the religious and political extremism in Pakistan in the light of the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)? Explain. (20)

### Introduction

Extremism is marked by intolerance towards varying beliefs and it has the tendency to use violence. It is a reactionary attitude resulting from socio-economic, political and religious causes. Islam in its essence combines religion and politics. Western secularism, in contrast, believes in separation of church and state.

### Religious and Political Extremism in Pakistan

Pakistan is drowned in numerous problems, from ethnic issues and national integration to inflation. All the unresolved tensions frustrate the masses. Rising corruption and lack of accountability makes the masses lose confidence in the governance institutions. The spread of this state of hopelessness cultivates an environment conducive to articulation, propagation and popularity of extremist ideas in

Pakistan. Other major reasons of extremist tendencies in Pakistan are internal divisions based on differing sects and schools of thought, western colonialism and unresolved political disputes.

~~ways to the origin of extremism in Pakistan~~  
The teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH)

Islam is a religion of that preaches peace, justice, tolerance, good will and equality among human beings. Allah says in Surah Yasin, 'Peace, a word from a Merciful Lord.' The Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the personification of these teachings and commandments of Allah. He has been titled in the Quran as 'AL-Rahmah' (the mercy for all the worlds).

Islam neither favours extremism or violence, nor does it sanction the use of force in taking its message across as it is said in the Quran: 'Let there be no compulsion in religion...' But Islam emphasizes on the adherence to the principles of moderation in all spheres of life and activities. Quran emphasizes on the importance of knowledge and encourages that people should be invited to the way of Allah with wisdom and through the extensive use of reasoning: 'Invite to the way

of my Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching...' (Surah Nahl)

The Holy Prophet's (PBUH) life as a peacemaker is a perfect example to take lessons from, infor elimination of extremism. He adopted a policy of tolerance and avoidance of confrontation. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) faced bitter opposition from the Makkans. When he would stand to pray, his detractors would come near him and whistle and clap in order to disturb him but the Holy Prophet (PBUH) did not even once show his anger at such acts. Once when he went to Taif, he was so badly stoned by his enemies that his blood began to spurt from all over his body. Even at that point, all he said was: 'O my Lord, guide my people along the true path as they are ignorant of the truth.'

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) made efforts to promote a sense of brotherhood as opposed to the ideology of extremism that is based on hatred. In his mission to establish peace, he told all his men and women (from different regions, colours and race) that they were all blood sisters and brothers. To inculcate a relation of love and

respect, He would preach to His followers: 'You are all Adam's offsprings and Adam was made of clay.' And in His prayers to His creator, He said: 'O Lord, all your servants are brothers.' In Madina, the Holy Prophet laid the foundations of the first city-state of Islam. Since a large number of Jews and idolaters were living in Madina at that time, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) concluded the 'Charter of Madina' (a written agreement) with them. It was a great effort for promoting peace and co-existence among the people of Madina from different religious beliefs. Another example is the signing of a written agreement between the Muslims and the Quraysh, known as 'the treaty of Hudaibiya.' Even though many clauses of this treaty were not favourable to Muslims, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) signed it with an aim to prevent bloodshed. At another instance, when the Muslim army conquered Makkah, some companions of the Holy Prophet started chanting slogans: 'Today is the day of ~~revenge~~ revenge, today is the day of revenge,' the Holy Prophet (PBUH) called upon the companions to avoid such slogans. He strongly instructed the Muslims to raise slogans of peace and said: 'Today is the day of mercy,

## Elimination of Extremism in Pakistan

The teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) emphasize on the policy of tolerance, avoidance of confrontation and establishment and maintenance of peace. Strictly following the teachings of the Holy Prophet can help in the elimination of Extremism in Pakistan. Pakistan is a Muslim country but its population comprises of Christians, Hindus, Sikhs and people from other beliefs as well.

The concept of co-existence can be must be

learnt from the Prophet. He promised the security to the Christians of Najran and gave standing orders:

'No cross or image shall be destroyed, they shall not be oppressed.' Just how the Prophet derived

The Charter of Madinah and signed the treaty of Hudaibiyyah, the government governance institutions in

Pakistan must take inspiration from the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and ~~res~~ resort to peaceful dialogue instead of violence. Pakistan must recognize

basic human rights to promote a sense of brotherhood.

## Conclusion

Islam is a religion of moderation and it lays

great emphasis on maintaining balance. Allah says in the Quran: 'The sun must not catch up the moon, nor does the night outstrip the day. Each one is travelling in an orbit with its own motion.'

It is because of this balance and the resultant harmony that the system has survived for ~~trillion~~ billions of years. Similarly, it is necessary to maintain harmony ~~for~~ if we want a nation to survive. The Quran very clearly exhorts us to avoid excesses which means extremism: 'But commit no excess: for Allah loveth not those given to excess.' At another instance, ~~The~~ Allah says in the Quran: 'We made you an Ummah justly balanced, that ye might be witnesses over the nations...' It is crystal clear that Islamic teachings do not support extremism at any cost.

Therefore, by adhering to the principles of Islam, ~~do~~ presented in the Quran and displayed through the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), Pakistan can eliminate extremism.