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CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF MUSLIM UMMAH AND THEIR SOLUTIONS IN THE LIGHT OF ISLAM

1. INTRODUCTION:

In the contemporary era, the Muslim Ummah faces various type of challenges that has threatened its unity, stability and global standing. From division; rifts within muslim states, mismanaging of resource, economic insecurity, and rise of extremism, to external threats such as rising Islamophobia, increase in western dominance and interference and Genocide. These issues have erode the collective strength and vision of the global muslim community. While these challenges can be eliminate by creating a comprehensive framework through principles based on the Quran, the sunnah and hadith.

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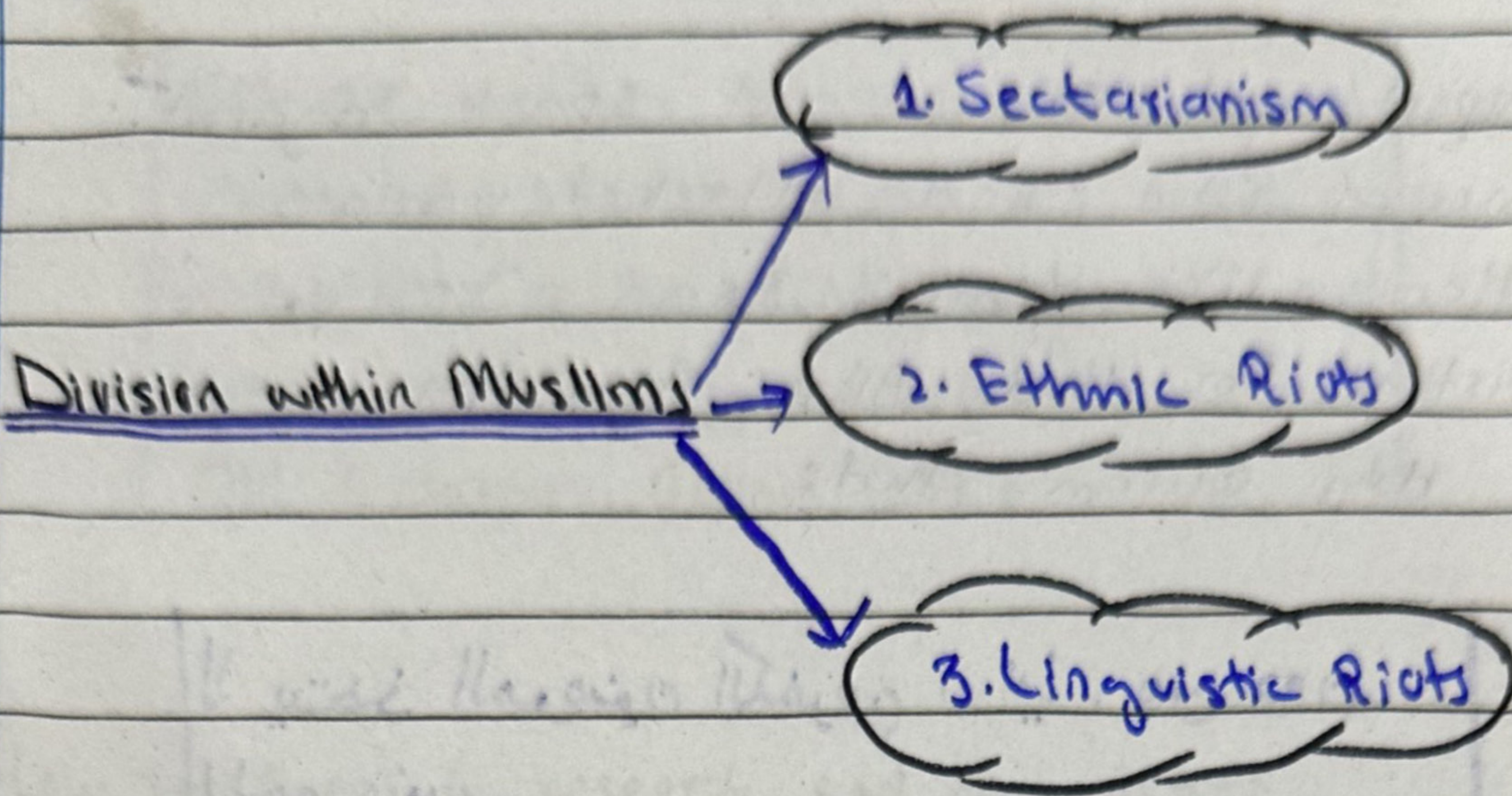
By doing so, the 57-Muslim nation will be able to re-establish themselves as a force for peace, development and moral leadership.

"If any religion had the chance of ruling over England, may England within the next hundred years, it could be Islam."

Sir George Bernard Shaw
-The Genuine Islam

2. INTERNAL PROBLEMS:

One and the most foremost reason for why Muslim nation is encountering threat from the contemporary world is because of lack of unity and division ^{within} of muslim ~~within~~ community. Sectarian division such as Shia and Sunni is the example for rift in the Muslims. Secondly, ethnic riots like conflict among arab and non-arabs. Thirdly, linguistic riots, for example Bengal and Pakistani. These are reasons due to which there is paucity of unity within the Muslim countries.



واعتصموا ببل الله جميعا ولا تفرقوا

And hold firmly together to the rope of Allah and do not be divided.

Surah Al-Imran - 3:103

2.1 Supporting non-Muslims:

Many of Muslim nations have created alliances and trade agreements with non-Muslim states, due to which, there has been low interaction of in between the Muslim states. Such as, Saudi Arabia has joined hands with United America. For which Saudi Arabia has sidelined the Iran and Iraq. United America regardless of doing wrong acts for Muslim nations like Palestine issue. Saudi remained silent in this matter. It means Saudi has joined with United America for every

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Support and choose not speak against America who had attacked various nations like Yemen, Iran, Iraq, and Palestine. For that Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran that:

لا يتخذ المؤمنون الكافرين اولياء من دون المؤمنين -

Believers should not take disbelievers as guardians instead of the believers

Surah Al-Imran - 3:28

2.2 Economically instable nations:

Countless of countries ~~people~~^{do not} have strong economic for which they are sidelined by the fellow muslim nation. Failure to helping those nation is also the reason why non-muslim finds it easy to attack and pressurize ~~with~~ economically vulnerable countries. Muslim Ummah residing in those states are poverty-stricken, having limited access to basic necessities and low GDP per capita. Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Afghanistan are those states that are facing hurdle in economic growth and development.

"517 OIC member countries collectively contribute only 8.5% to global GDP, despite holding 24% of the world's population and 70% of its energy resources"

OIC Economic Outlook 2023

2.3 Low investment in research and technology:

Due to lack of access to modern education and its awareness, countries of Muslim nations do not pay attention to research and technology. Muslim nations need to follow the Ibn Khaldun and old city of Baghdad which was full of knowledge, wisdom and libraries at that time. Disintegration has led to countries to work independently instead of collaborative working. Muslim nations need to focus that acquiring and working on modern and advanced wisdom in the requirement of the time. On which Allah Almighty says in the Quran:

وَمَنْ يُؤْتَ الْحِكْمَةَ فَقَدْ أُوتِيَ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا
And whoever is granted wisdom is certainly blessed with a great privilege.

Surah Al-Baqarah - 2:269

2.4 Rise of extremism:

People of muslim countries forget to create a balanced life in the world. When individuals are focused on Islamic prayers only then they ~~are~~ lack modernisation in them and for that matter, many muslim countries are far behind the world. Quran says:

وَكذلك جعلناكم امة وسطا لتكونوا شهداء

على الناس ويكون الرسول عليكم شهيدا

And so We have made you believers an upright community so that you may be witness over humanity and that the Messenger may be a witness over you

Surah Al-Baqarah - 2:143

2.5 Lack of advance education:

Lack of advance education in science and technology is also the main reason challenge muslim Ummah are facing in the contemporary era. In order to ~~more~~ improve economy and be competent in the global arena, lack of advance education has put muslim nation at the backside. There is no best philosopher who can revive the muslim nation. Pervez Hoodbhoy - "Islam

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and science: Religion Orthodoxy and the battle for Rationality says that Muslim declined due to intellectual stagnation and anti-scientific clerical mindset.

2.6 Middle East Issue:

Never-ending conflict within Middle East Muslim nation also providing gap between the nations. The main causes remain due to political manipulation, foreign interference and lack of sectarianism tolerance. U.S and Russian military involvement in Syria and Saudi-Iran rivalry in Yemen also resulted into destabilizing the region, massive displacement and change of regimes. Holy Prophet once said:

"The Muslim is the brother of another Muslim; he does not oppress him, nor humiliate him"
Sahih Muslim

Moreover, Dr. Israr Ahmed, in his book and lecture "Islamic Renaissance", he warned:

"Muslim rulers have become agents of imperial powers - trading unity and faith for oil money and defense contracts"

21 Deprivation of morality:

Due to dishonesty in trade and politics among muslim Ummah, and social injustice and discrimination against women and minorities, ruling of corrupt leaders and spread of hypocrisy has raised the challenges and fragmentation among Muslim nations. This has for that matter, Muslim community has lost its credibility on the international platforms. On which author said:

Spiritual and moral purification is essential for any real unity in Islam. Without sincerity, humanity and Justice, Muslim Ummah disintegrates.

Imam - Al-Ghazali - Ihya Ulum al-Din

3 EXTERNAL CHALLENGES

3.1 Western Dominance and Interference:

Consistent interference of western countries have cause a rift among the Muslim nations. Whether it is military occupation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Economic dependency through IMF loans and World Bank projects, and political regime change.

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The Muslim world became a playground for imperial powers when it lost its unity and knowledge."

Malcom X

3.2 Rising Islamophobia:

Irrational ^{pers} and hatred against Islam and Muslims, leading to discrimination, marginalization and violence is Islamophobia. On which Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran that:

يُرِيدُونَ لِيُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ مُتِمُّ
نُورِهِ -

They wish to extinguish Allah's light with their mouths, but Allah will certainly perfect His light.

As-Baq - 61:9

3.3 Genocide: A threat to Ummah Unity:

Genocide is a deliberate and extermination of a group based on religion, ethnicity or nationality. Muslims have been the victim of such atrocities across different regions such as Uyghur Muslim in China, Rohingya Muslim in Myanmar and the on-going genocide in Gaza by Israel.

"Genocide Watch has issued "Genocide Emergency" alerts for Muslims in India, Myanmar and Palestine."

3.4 AI: A new threat to Muslim world:

Artificial Intelligence becomes the centerpiece of global strategic rivalry between rest of the world and Muslim community. As it gives threats to the Muslim's human rights, and marginalized the Muslim. AI algorithm, creates biases for the human being. Due to weak law enforcement of data protection laws in Muslim world, it provides a new threat.

UNDP(2024): "More than 75% of OIC countries lack sovereign AI regulations"

4 SOLUTIONS IN THE LIGHT OF ISLAM

4.1 Unity among Muslim Ummah:

It is time for Muslim Ummah to focus on Islamic principles which offers timeless brotherhood, justice, and solidarity. It will help as the fundamental foundation for modern muslim unity.

ان هذه امتكم امة واحدة وان ربكم
فاحد

O prophet! Indeed, this religion of yours
is only one and I am your Lord, so
worship Me alone.

Al-Anbya 21:92

4.2 Adopting Advanced Education:

Adopting advance education is not
a western agenda. It is a divine
command and prophetic tradition. The Muslims
can revive its global standing and solve
contemporary challenges by learning modern
education.

ان الله لا يغير ما بقوم حتى يغيروا ما
بهم

Indeed, Allah would never change a people's
state of favour until they change their
own state of faith.

AR-Ra'd 13:11

4.3 Strengthening Law and Justice:

Muslims must return to transparent
governance system, equality for everyone,
and moral leadership. It will help Muslim

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nations to secure their lost credibility.

The strength of a government lies not in
its armies but in the justice it delivers

Imam Ghazali

4.4 Unified and robust defense System:

The need for a unified and robust defense system is not only strategic but also a religious obligation, mentioned in the Quran, Sunnah and Islamic political thought. Muslim unified system will ensure deterrence, dignity and justice for the Ummah.

"No nation can claim to be Islamic if it cannot protect the lives, land, and honors of fellow Muslims"

Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah

4.5 Countering Islamophobia through Character and Dialogue:

Muslims should promote positive image of Islam through ethics and community service. Also, Muslims can engage in interfaith dialogue based on Quranic principles of mutual respect. It is time for Muslims to

Use platforms like media, academic forums and think tanks to challenge and change stereotypes.

لا تقسوا على الله ولا السيرة

Good and evil cannot be equal. Respond to evil with what is best.

Fussilat - 41: 34

6 CONCLUSION:

Disunity, weak economies, rising Islamophobic tension and external interference are the threats Muslim Ummah face today. This Ummah can reclaim its dignified position and recover its lost credibility in the world. Only through faith, unity, education and proactive engagement, Muslim world overcome its challenges and fulfill its divine role as a just and balanced community.

خودی کو کر بلند اتنا کر پر یقودیر سے پہلے
خدا بندے سے خود پر ہے، بتا تیری رضا کیا ہے؟
Allama Iqbal.