

Assignment:

Contemporary challenges of Muslim ummah and their solution according to the teachings of Islam

Challenges to Muslim Ummah: Straying from Din

The contemporary challenges faced by the muslim ummah can be broadly categorized into two dimensions: Individual and Collective. Islam is a universal religion that encompasses every aspect of life and is not limited to a specific time or geographical location, so the teachings of islam can be used as a guide on how an individual or a society should live/act. In the 21st century, with the rise of globalization and interconnectivity there has been a rise and creation of new challenges that are plaguing the muslim ummah of the world, in broad sense the muslims have lost their identity, lost their morals and values, are being influenced by materialism and western ideologies, living very hedonistic lives and have reduced the pursuit of knowledge as a result lack critical thinking. From a collective perspective there is disunity between the muslim ummah, corruption at every class of society and extremism in various sects.

From the individual perspective, many problems that are faced by the muslim ummah can be attributed to the separation from the teachings of islam. The loss of their identity, now there are multiple reasons for this, one we can attribute this issue to the type of history or education the person has been exposed to. For example, a lot of history or pop culture usually shows western figures and historical characters with little mention of islamic culture. The general population has slowly lost the rich history and culture of Islam. According to 49:13, the quran mentions that the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Similarly, the loss of morals and values can also be attributed to the decreased knowledge of Islam, Successful indeed are the believers those who guard their prayers. 23:1-9. Materialism and hedonistic tendencies brought upon by the popularization of western ideologies are discouraged in islam. In 6:32, the Quran mentions that the world is nothing but for amusement and the hereafter is better. Even in 23:115, it is put at a question that there is a greater purpose of a man than to play without purpose, and that he will be brought back to us. Implying the pleasures of this world are temporary and often without purpose stray a person from good. Finally, the root problem that has caused the straying of the muslim ummah from Din is the lack of pursuit of knowledge, Even 47:24 and 39:9, mention the reflection on the Quran and those who pursue knowledge as being better of the believers that choose not too.

Since islam is not merely a religion but a Din that encompasses every aspect of life, it becomes a guide to not just an individual but a collective as well. The problems faced by the individual, when it becomes widespread. can result in suffering of the collective. The muslims of the world hold the same Imaan, however due to the pluralism of man has resulted in the disunity of the muslim ummah, in 3:103, it is stated that the muslims should hold firm to the 'rope' of Allah and should not be divided. Meaning that they should view the similarities rather than the differences as the diversity of man was a part of Allah's design 49:13. The source of corruption can often be attributed to the abuse of power for the pursuit of worldly gain, in 4:58, Allah has commanded to render trusts to whom they are due and judge with justice and finally the extremist groups that often misuse and abuse the values of Jihad and the teaching of islam, this can be attributed to

multiple factors such as the lack of critical thinking to evaluate the statements of individuals according to teachings of Islam and even in 2:143 'thus We have made you a just (moderate) community'. The polarizing of beliefs is discussed as a negative in Islam.

To conclude, Islam is a religion that influences all aspects of both individual and collective life. It is a simple rule that Islam is a perfect religion, but the muslim ummah is not perfect. There should be a continuous pursuit to follow the teachings of islam as closely as possible. It is when we stray away from the teachings of islam that the issues that plague individuals and societies start to manifest.