

Q. Contemporary challenges of Muslim Ummah and their solutions according to the Teaching of Islam.

1. Introduction

Muslims, who once ruled the world through justice and equality, were the creators of the 'Golden age'. Through advancements in governance and technology, the Muslim Ummah had gained a lot of respect and glory. However, over the years, Muslims have lost their glory due to circumstances that the Ummah is to be blamed. It is important to understand that every generation of Muslims had their own challenges but they overcame them through the teaching and guidance from the Quran and Sunnah. Similarly, the Muslim Ummah of this generation face several challenges like the fragmentation of the Muslims, the influence of the West, terrorism and extremism, and Islamophobia. This essay delves into these challenges and offers solutions in light of the Quran and Sunnah.

2. Contemporary Challenges of Muslim Ummah (a) Fragmentation of the Ummah

Muslims were once a unified force that

was not to be reckoned with, but after the creation of nation states, the muslims have prioritised their national interests over the interests of the ummah. Countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran have given a new dimension to this divide by adding fuel to the shia and sunni divide.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are not in good terms, which highlights the most important issue faced by the muslim ummah in the contemporary world.

(b) Influence of the west

Another contemporary issue that the muslim ummah is facing is the Westernisation of their culture. For example, Mustafa kamal of Turkey moved away from Sharia that once defined the empire and swapped it with western ideals. This damaged the very fabric of the culture that once dominated Turkey. Similarly, under Muhammad Bin Salman vision of 2030, the Saudi government has allowed events like concerts to take place in the kingdom, which starkly opposes the Islamic culture that once brought harmony to the land.

(c) Terrorism and extremism joined with Islam

Another contemporary issue that the

the Ummah faces is how terrorism and extremism is joined to Islam. Many radical Islamists have misinterpreted the true meaning of Islam. For example, the term 'Jihad' has been given a very negative meaning. Contextual Jihad means 'to struggle' in the name of Allah. Allah says in the Quran in Surah Maidah that whoever kills an individual, it is as if he has killed humanity and whoever saves an individual has saved humanity. When Islam preaches peace then why is the Muslims moving towards a message that is opposite of ^{message in the} the Quran.

(d) Islamophobia and Propaganda

Islamophobia and propaganda related to Islam is another contemporary issue that the Muslim Ummah faces. After 9/11, the west has portrayed the Muslims in a manner that resulted in wrongful imprisonment of innocent Muslims. An example of such an imprisonment is Dr Aafia who has been wrongfully imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay by the US. This imprisonment is unlawful and highlights the story of several other innocent Muslims. The propaganda used against the Muslims is evident in this year as well. As Zohar ^{ran} Mamdani

won the primary Mayoral election in the US, congressman Randy Fine insisted without evidence that Mr Mamdani would bring 'caliphate' to New York. This is the reality for many Muslims and an important issue that the Muslim Ummah face.

3. **Solutions in the Light of Quran and Sunnah**

(a) Promotion of Muslim Unity

"United we stand, divided we fall" is a quote that is used to often to describe the importance of unity. In a complex world with different security challenges the Muslim Ummah should unite and face challenges as a unit. Allah says in the holy Quran:

"The believers are but one brotherhood,
So make peace between your brothers"
(Surah Hujurat)

The Muslim Ummah must understand that the enemies of Islam want the Ummah to be divided, as the past has proven that a united Muslim Ummah is a force not to be reckoned with.

(b) Strengthening the foundations of OIC

The OIC was created so that the challenges that the Ummah faces must be addressed collectively. But, unfortunately, with the recent events in Gaza tell otherwise.

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The foundations of the OIC must be made stronger so that the Muslim Ummah stands together. If OIC was strong, they would have taken a stronger stance against Israel by collectively boycotting trade and the allies of Israel. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"Surely Allah loves those who fight in His cause in 'solid' ranks as if they were one concrete structure".

(Surah As Saif)

(c) Promotion of True Islamic Principles

It is very important for Muslim Ummah to lead by example. For this to be done, Muslim Ummah should work in unity to promote the true principles of Islam to not only others but also to the Ummah themselves. Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

"The best amongst you are those who are best in manners and character."

By understanding the Quran and Sunnah the Muslim Ummah can first inculcate the qualities within themselves and simultaneously through international mediums promote the true principles of Islam.

(d) Embracing Islamic Culture and Identity

The Muslim Ummah for centuries has been defined by their distinct culture and identity. Unfortunately due to globalization the Muslim Ummah has turned their heads towards the west. The ummah should embrace the Islamic Identity because without it the Ummah would drift far away from Islam. So for that one must remember Allah, as Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"Those who believe and whose hearts find comfort in the remembrance of Allah. Surely, ~~do heart~~ in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find comfort"

(Surah ar-rad)

4. Conclusion

The muslim Ummah faces alot of contemporary challenges, however, these are temporary challenges that can be solved by Muslim Unity, strengthening the foundations of the OIC, promoting true Islamic principles, and embracing Islamic culture and identity. The Muslim Ummah must retreat towards the Quran and Sunnah as ~~they have~~ ^{it contains} the solution to every problem. As Allah says

"So, surely with hardship comes ease (Al Quran)"