

# Islamic Studies

## Assignment # 2

### Question:

What are the contemporary challenges of muslim world? Suggest its solution in the light of Quran and Sunnah.

Ans:

### Introduction:

Muslims were once very powerful and successful. They ruled large empires with justice and wisdom. They made great achievements in many fields such as science, culture, art, architecture and government etc. So Muslims left strong and proud history. But with the passage of time Muslims lost their past glory for many reasons. Today they are facing many serious problems and these problems affect both individual Muslims and the whole Muslim community. These challenges did not suddenly appear. Even during the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Caliphs Muslims faced difficulties. However Muslims are not becoming hopeless even they are more strong and successful by following the teaching of the Quran and Sunnah.

# Contemporary Challenges faced by the muslim world

These are :

- Lack of unity among the muslim ummah
- Influence of the west on muslim countries
- False perception about islam and muslims
- Islamophobia and external propaganda
- Leadership crisis
- weak role of OIC

## 1- Lack of unity among muslim ummah:

Lack of unity among the muslim ummah is one of the contemporary challenge that is faced by the muslim world. Muslims are divided into because of sects, cultural differences and personal opinions. This division creates hatred, conflict and weakness in the ummah.

For example the ongoing conflict between sunni and shia has given rise to multiple sectarian issues. It include Saudi Arabia - Iran Sectarian base conflict in which Saudi Arabia remain the Sunni leader to dominate the islamic world and counter Iran's growing post war influence.

In Quran Allah warn muslims against  
dissunity

ولا تنازعوا فتفصلوا وتذهب ريبكم

"And do not dispute and [thus] lose  
courage and your strength would  
depart". (Surah Al-Anfal 8:46)

## 2. Influence of the west on muslim countries:

Today one major challenge for muslim countries is the strong influence of western culture, ideas and systems. In some cases muslims copy western lifestyles, education system, laws and values without checking whether they match islamic teachings or not. Because of this influence, some people think Islamic laws are old fashioned and that western ways are always better.

For example in the 20th century turkey replaced many islamic laws with secular laws.

In Quran Allah says to remain committed to islam. In surah Al-baqarah we interpreted that

"And hold firmly to what we  
have given you". (Al Baqarah 2:63)

### 3- False perception about Islam and Muslim:

The other challenge that muslim face is the misconception of terrorism and extremism linked to muslims. This create discrimination and hatred against muslims in society.

For example, in the wake of the 9/11 attack in the USA, the west equated all muslims with terrorist spread violence, where as in reality the majority of muslims condemned the attacks and stood with the casualties America faced. Extremist groups like Al Qaeda do not represent Islam but media often portrayed muslims as violent. Islam teaches peace, Justice and protection of innocent lives, so such attacks are completely against Islamic teachings.

### 4- Islamophobia and external Propaganda:

This is also the significant issues faced by muslims in today's time. Islamophobia create the negative impact of muslims as a result the muslim community is seen as reserved extremist and vicious people with rigid mindsets. For example

Media often portrayals muslims as a terrorist which perpetuate harmful

Stereotypes that create fear and misunderstanding in the society.

Islamophobia has several negative consequences for Muslims. Such as

- Stigmatization
- Psychological impact
- Social exclusion
- Hate crimes
- Impact on children and youth...

So it is essential to recognize that Islamophobia is a global issue affecting Muslims in various parts of the world.

In Surah Al-Baqarah 2:80

"And they say, the fire will not touch us except for a few days. 'Say, Have you taken a covenant with Allah, so He will not break His covenant? or do you say about Allah what you do not know?"

This shows that people sometimes spread lies or false claims about Allah's religion or his followers.

### 5- Leadership crisis:

Islam is at its core a religion of peace and justice. Crisis of leadership is a huge drawback for Muslim growth in the contemporary world. Muslim societies have been paralyzed by social inequalities,

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Injustice, sectarian conflict and violence. Muslim leadership hardly resembles the Islamic leadership criteria and their is dysfunction at best (Pakistan) and chaos at worst (Yemen). On the surface, there is a puzzling variety of leaderships such as autocrats, military dictator, Kings, Mullahs and inexperienced tribesmen such as the case of taliban in Afghanistan running country. Such leaders profess faith in Islam but do not reflect in their leadership practice and often detached from the interest and dreams of umma.

In Surah Al-Hajj 22:69

ان الله بيحكم بينهم بما كانوا فيه يختلفون

"Indeed Allah will Judge between them concerning that over which they used to differ"

On this ayat Allah says about the accountability of leader.

6. Weak role of OIC:

**OIC** means organization of Islamic countries. is meant to unite Muslims and solve their problems, but its role is often weak. Political differences, lack of strong leadership, limited resources and slow

decision making stop it from acting effectively. As a result conflict in Palestine, Syria, and Yemen continue and challenges like poverty and extremism remain. Islam teaches unity.

9n Surah Aal-e-Imran 3:103

واعتصموا بحبل الله جميعا ولا تفرقوا

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

If muslim countries cooperate sincerely the OIC can become stronger and help overcome these challenges.

## Solution:

There are the solutions to overcome these challenges.

- unity among muslim ummah
- Good System of OIC
- Promoting peaceful message of islam
- Strengthening islamic culture
- Strong leadership.

### unity among muslim ummah:

muslim should follow the rules of Allah in the Quran and Sunnah in order to strengthen themselves as

the united muslim ummah. They should ignore differences like sects, ethnic groups or regions and work together as a community. when they are unite they are politically, econo- mically strong and support each other better. Allah in the Quran's Surah Al-Ambab 8: 46 says

وَاتَّبِعُوا اللَّهَ وَاتَّبِعُوا رَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَتَاذَنُوا فَتَنًا  
وَلَا تَدْبُرُوا بَيْنَكُمْ

"obey Allah and his messenger, and do not dispute, or else you will lose courage and your strength will depart"

This verse teaches obedience and avoiding disputes to stay strong.

## 2. Global System of OIC:

It is very important for muslims to make organizations like OIC stronger. It help all the muslim countries work together on common problems muslims need to bring reforms in such organization so they can solve conflict between different countries. They provide help in disasters or humanitarian crises and also represent muslim countries in politics and international matters. For example, in the israel-gaza conflict, if all muslim countries in the OIC work together take actions like boycotts or apply pressure, it could help protect palestin- ions and stop violence.

### 3- Promoting Peaceful message of islam:

Another solution is promoting the peaceful message of islam through education and exemplary conduct to eliminate the misconception of terrorism and extremism.

The peaceful message of islam highlights the true essence of islam as it is deeply rooted in peace, justice, and love.

According to Sahih Bukhari, the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says

"The best among you are those who have the best manners and character"

By embodying these teachings and engaging in educational initiatives that accurately convey the message of islam.

### 4- Strengthening islamic culture:

Strengthening islamic culture means preserving and promoting the values, traditions and teachings of islam so they remain an important part of society and daily life. It involves practicing moral principles such as honesty, justice, respect, compassion and helping others while also maintaining islamic heritage, knowledge and historical contributions. We can seek and share knowledge of islam. The first word that revealed in the Quran was "iqra" means read. It shows the value

of education is islam. In Surah Al Nisa (4:135) Allah say about the Justice that

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives."

So in this ayat it is clearly evident that Justice play important role to shape our islamic culture.

### Strong leadership:

It is one of the solution of challenges faced by muslim world because islam teaches us that leader must be just, trustworthy and responsible to word each other. There are four qualities that muslim leader must posses. These are trust, knowledge, interaction and deligence. A strong leader sets a clear long term vision for political, economic growth and educational reform. Many muslim countries lack consistent polices because leadership changes goal frequently. visionary leadership ensure continuity and national direction. In Surah Al-Zumar (39:9)

"Say Are those who know equal to those who do not know?"

This verse highlights the importance of knowledge. A leader must posses knowledge

to guide society properly.

In Surah Ash-shura (42:38)

"And whose affairs are conducted by mutual consultation (Shura) among themselves."

It shows that strong leadership involve consultation not dictatorship.

### Conclusion:

It is clear from the above discussion that muslim world face alot of challenges in the contemporary world. These challenges are man made and we overcome these challenges for their appropriate use of solution through Quran and Sunnah.

It is only possible through faith, unity and follow the principles of islam the ummah will be able to rise above these difficulties and work to word a future that is peaceful, Prograssive and in harmony with all.