

Wake-up Call



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Wake-up Call

Introduction:

Presently the society is in a state of ideological confusion and flux. Materialism, terrorism, ignorance and intolerance have threatened the peace, tarnishing the image of religion. These circumstances demand special response from the people who are deeply concerned about wellbeing of society. Objective of this wakeup call is to draw the attention towards pressing issues which need urgent resolution. With some interest and effort an endeavor can be made to point out the means to help taking the society out of this quagmire.



Generally the Ulema (Islamic Scholars) are blamed for inciting hatred and religious intolerance, which is difficult to disagree. However it will be unfair to undermine and ignore the services rendered by the Ulema during last 1400 years. Presently there are over 1.6 Billion Muslims, which besides natural process of population growth is also due to persistent efforts of Ulema in preaching Islam. Allah has given the responsibility of religious education to the Ulema and made the Muslims as inheritors of Quran collectively. (١) (9:122 ٢٢ القوية 3:104 (32:35)

وَمَا كَانَ الْمُوْمِنُونَ لِيَنْفِرُوا كَافَّةً ۚ فَلَوْلَا نَفَرَ مِن كُلِّ فِرْقَةٍ مِنْهُمْ طَائِفَةٌ لِّيَتَفَقَّهُوا فِي الدِّينِ وَلِيُنْذِرُوا قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُوا إِلَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذُرُونَ (<u>9:122</u>)

"And it is not possible for all the Muslims to set out (together). So, why should a party from within every group (or tribe) not go forth

in order that they may acquire deeper knowledge (i.e., thorough understanding and insight) of the Din (Religion), and warn their people when they return to them so that they may guard themselves (against a life of sins and disobedience)?"(Quran;9:122)

"Call to the way of your Lord with wisdom and fair exhortation and reason with them in a way that is best. Your Lord knows best those who have strayed away from His path, and He knows best those who are rightly guided." (Quran;16:125).

The Islamic religious scholars (Ulema) has been protecting the religion like the anchor of a ship. They did not allow the ship of Islam to deviate during last 1400 years, but they also did not allow it to move ahead at the same says Dr.Isral Ahmed. Due to stagnation in the religious thought, the Muslims are lagging behind in the race of development and progress, though Islam is the source of guidance for the humanity for all times. Problem is not with Islam but with its followers. The main cause of Muslim quagmire is lack in practice of tenants of Islam, though we confess with tongue:

There is no one worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger of Allah

We claim to be followers of Deen Islam, but lack in practice. Gradually the Muslims have fallen in to the deep trench of ignorance, though Islam emphasizes learning. They is dire need to educate the Muslims about Islam, which is primarily the responsibility of Ulema (the Islamic scholars, theologians and doctors of law, Shariah) as entrusted by Quran (9:122). Many Ulema are quietly busy in their job, while some are embroiled in side issues and wasting their energies. Under these circumstances it is important that one should:

 Take stock of the situation, deeply review and identify the errors.

- Point out the areas where we need to change the strategy.
- Start the journey towards progress.

The bitter facts are unpleasant to confront but the aim here is not criticism for sake of criticism or to create heartburns, but to just draw attention towards common issues which need urgent resolution. With your attention and guidance we can make an effort to move out of this state of predicament.

Historic Perspective:

During last six centuries Muslim world got subjected to political turmoil, intellectual decline and colonialism. The decline of Muslims started with the fall of Muslim Spain & destruction of Baghdad after Mongol invasion. The Renaissance started in West was instrumented through treasures of knowledge from Muslim Spain and Middle East. The Europeans picked up the concepts of system of learning, universities and libraries form Muslim Spain, Cairo and Baghdad. The word 'alumni' [graduates, old pupils, former students- derivates form Arabic 'Alim' (scholar)] and the robes still worn by Alims, the formal dress of graduates at graduation ceremonies of Western institutions are reminder of same legacy.

The scientific developments and the resulting Industrial revolution in the West started its golden age and colonization world wide. Most of Muslim world became victim. Thus Western civilization affected their, culture, society and other fields. The Muslim Ulema (religious scholars) jealously guarded the fundamentals of their faith and basic values. They kept alight the candle of faith in the hearts of Muslims. The Ulema fulfilled the sacred responsibility entrusted to them by God (Quran;9:122/3:104)

Role of Indian Ulema in the struggle for independence:

Most of Ulema from <u>Deobandi schoo</u>l supported <u>Indian National Congress</u>, a predominantly Hindu political party (Except Molana Ashraf Thanvi, Shibbir Usmani and few more) opposed creation of Pakistan Majlis Ahrar ul Islam was on the lead. The time

proved that it was their biggest political mistake, reflecting their lack of political insight. However despite this political error of judgement, the great services of Deoband School rendered to Islam cannot be ignored. The negative fallout of blunders adversely the credibility of Ulema, so vital for their real job of preaching & teaching Islamic faith and values.

During colonial period the <u>Ulema rendered great sacrifices</u> for the cause of freedom which must be appreciated. Coincidently the terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Taliban) belong to Deoband school of thought. Darul Aloom Deoband issued a <u>religious edict (Fatwa)</u> against terrorism in 2008. There is need to ponder as to why people from this particular thought are involved in terrorism?

The Muslim leaders seeking separate home land for the Muslims of India, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Dr.Muhammad Igbal were declared Kaffir by opponent Ulema but they declined to budge and vigorously struggled for Pakistan on the basis of Two Nation Theory. Pakistan was founded because the Muslims of this subcontinent wanted to build up their lives in accordance with the teachings and traditions of Islam, because they wanted to demonstrate to the world that Islam provides a panacea to the many diseases which have crept into the life of humanity today. Islam does not recognize either priesthood or any sacerdotal authority; and, therefore, the question of a theocracy simply does not arise Islam. Muslims from all sects and groups supported cause of Pakistan, especially Sunni Barelvi, Sufi Ulema. After independence they formed Pakistan Jameyat Ulema which was split in to many factions. [JUI of Molana Fazal ur Rehman is different]. Majority Muslims of India trusted the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinah (Qaude Azim). He was not a religious man, clean shaved, dressed in Western suit, spoke difficulty in Urdu. (Ismaili Shia, later Twelver). An honest and sincerer person who did not fit in to the strict standards of orthodox Ulema. Even 90% common

Muslims do not fit in to their harsh standards of Muslimhood. 80% do not offer five times prayers, few sport beard, join in only Friday congregations, some once a year on Eid. Women, the 50% of population are not very religious, some wear veil more due to cultural reasons than religious. In markets, on call for prayer (Azaan) women continue shopping as if they are exempted, more over there hardly any arrangement for them in mosques to offer prayers. The Ulema need to ponder.

Muslims are categorized in to 3 groups according to Quran:

Then we caused to inherit the Book those We have chosen of Our servants; and among them is he who wrongs himself, and among them is he who is moderate, and among them is he who is foremost in good deeds by permission of Allah. That [inheritance] is what is the great bounty. (Quran;35:32)

As inheritor, A Muslim has five obligations to Quran:

- 1. Believe in the Qur'an.
- 2. Read it.
- 3. Understand it.
- 4. Act upon its teachings.
- 5. Convey its message and teachings to others.

Let's us ask ourselves; Are we fulfilling these obligations? Sadly, majority answer is in negative. We Muslims must endeavor to fulfill our obligations, we cannot absolve ourselves of responsibility by totally blaming the Ulema. Learning, practicing and spreading the message is obligation of every Muslim.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his supporters created Pakistan, an independent country for the Muslims, where all Muslims without any discrimination to sect could live peacefully according to the

principles laid down by Quran and Sunnah. The minorities are to be given complete religious freedom. The Quaid had "Charter of Madina" in mind, there was no theocracy model (mullayet) because Islam does not have concept of pope or alike. They never used the terminologies like Liberalism or Secularism, since they were well aware that Islam embodies all good tenants of any other political system.

The Objectives Resolution:

It was adopted in 1949 by the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. It combines features of both Western and Islamic democracy, is one of the most important documents in the constitutional history of Pakistan. It is a framework that provides mechanism to achieve goals for a better life of the people of Pakistan. The Objectives Resolution proclaimed the following principles:

- 1. Sovereignty belongs to Allah alone but He has delegated it to the State of Pakistan through its people for being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him as a sacred trust.
- 2. The State shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people.
- 3. The principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as enunciated by Islam, shall be fully observed.
- 4. Muslims shall be enabled to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accordance with the teachings of Islam as set out in the Qur'an and Sunnah.
- 5. Adequate provision shall be made for the minorities to freely profess and practice their religions and develop their cultures.
- 6. Pakistan shall be a federation.
- 7. Fundamental rights shall be guaranteed.
- 8. The judiciary shall be independent.

The real problem is the implementation of Objective Resolution in later and spirit.

In moral and political philosophy, the <u>Social Contract</u> or political contract is a theory or model, originating during the Age of Enlightenment, that typically addresses the questions of the origin of society and the legitimacy of the authority of the state over the individual. Social contract arguments typically posit that individuals have consented, either explicitly or tacitly, to surrender some of their freedoms and submit to the authority of the ruler or magistrate (or to the decision of a majority), in exchange for protection of their remaining rights. The question of the relation between natural and legal rights, therefore, is often an aspect of social contract theory.

The Covenant:

In early period of Islam, among the tribal society of Arabs there existed the tradition of taking oath of allegiance with the ruler by tribal heads and notable, known as Bayet, which still exists. The Prophet and four rightly guided caliphs were given Bayet. In democracy ruler is elected by people. This Bayet or election is a form of collective legal covenant by the majority on behalf of all the citizens.

When Pakistan came in to existence, the first constituent assembly was to work under existing law. Different rulers came in to power through election or dictatorship, legal cover was provided by Supreme Court. The constitutions were made in 1956, 1962 and 1973. The constitution is the social contract, no individual or group has right to abrogate it but through democratic process.

Unite Nations is an other international body, all the countries including Pakistan are signatory to its charter. All nations adhere to the covenant; the violators are subjected to international condemnations, economic sanctions or even military action.

After the peace treaty of Hudabia, a Muslim convert Abu Jandal escaped from the captivity of polytheists of Makkah, but the

Prophet * returned him according to the terms of treaty, verbally agreed but not signed. Thus the Prophet set the example of honoring covenants.

And fulfill the covenant; surely the covenant shall be questioned of. (Quran;17:34, 7:32, 23:28)

The Social Contract is the covenant by the citizens to the ruler for the allegiance. Islam commands obedience to God, Messenger ruler. (Quran;4:59). Ruler is to be obeyed till he offers prayer, however any command for disobedience to God, or open denial of God is not to be obeyed. in Pakistan and all Muslim majority countries such a situation is not likely to exist. Pakistan has Islamic constitution, no law can be made repugnant to Quran and Sunnah, hence any rebellion on pretext of enforcement of Islamic law (Shariah) is mutiny, un Islamic to create turmoil (Fisad) which has capital punishment (Quran:5:33).

The real issue is not the law but enforcement in a society which is not yet ready for it. As mentioned earlier, the majority is non practicing Muslims. What the Ulema has done so far to make them practicing Muslims? Ridiculing them being sinners is not the solution, all out efforts should be made to become practicing Muslims through Dawah. Sincere effort can be made, leaving the results to Allah, as the guidance is by Him alone (14:4). If people do not mend their ways, should they be killed or terrorised? This is the reason the early Khwarij were called dogs of hell. Insisting on appearance like keeping beard or on particular dress is not Islam, it is part of Sunnah and Muslims culture but there are other practical aspects like good works, good noble deeds المُعْلَقُونُ المَعْلَقُونُ المَا الْحَاسِ عَمَالُ المَا الْحَاسِ عَمَالُ السَّالِكَ اللَّهِ عَمَالُ مَا الْحَاسِ عَمَالُ المَا الْحَاسِ عَمَالُ الْحَاسِ عَمْلُ الْحَاسِ عَمَالُ الْحَاسِ عَمَالْحَاسِ عَمَالُ الْحَاسِ عَمَالُ الْحَاسِ عَمَالُ الْحَاسِ عَمَالْحَاسِ عَمَالُ الْحَاسِ عَمَالُ الْحَاسِ عَمَالُ الْحَاسِ عَمَال

The Muslim who confess and believe in <u>six articles</u> of faith (Eyman) and <u>five pillars</u> of Islam but fail in practice due to slackness is to be kept in the folds of Islam for ultimately making him practical Muslim through preaching rather than expulsion (<u>Takfeer</u>), declaring apostate and be killed?

The harsh attitude of Ulema towards common Muslim isn't against the spirit of Quran(3:159)?

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنِتَ لَهُمْ ۖ وَلَوْ كُنتَ فَظًّا عَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ ۖ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ ۖ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ (١٥٩.٣ آل عمران)

It is by God's grace that you were gentle with them -- for if you had been harsh and hard-hearted, they would surely have deserted you -- so bear with them and pray for forgiveness for them. Take counsel with them in the conduct of affairs; then, when you have decided upon a course of action, place your trust in God: for God loves those who place their trust in Him. (3:159)

While considering implementation of Islamic code in Pakistan or elsewhere, these aspects must be kept in view.

Despite opposition of many Ulema, Pakistan was created and most of the Ulema who were opposing it came to Pakistan. They launched the struggle for Islamization. Ultimately <u>Objective Resolution</u> was included as preamble to the Constitution to ensure Islamic character to it, The <u>Ahmadiya</u> community was declared non Muslims in 1974. Mufti Taqi Usmani has done great work and efforts to introduce <u>Islamic Banking and finance</u>.

Militancy:

The religious militancy was introduced in 80's during Afghan invasion by USSR and US-West-Saudi sponsored Jihad against the communist rivals. The Iranian revolution and efforts to export it caused the sectarian militant organizations to came in to existence. The non state actors gained strength. In 90's these outfits changed their direction from west to east. The post 911

era proved to be catastrophic when splinter groups were created among these Jihadi groups and started to attack the state of Pakistan and its institutions. (15)

Ulema & Power Politics:

Political views and thinking is right of every citizen of state, the Ulema are not an exception. The Ulema can be broadly grouped in to five main categories:

1. Non Political Uema:

Many Ulema are not in favour of taking par tin active power politics, they prefer to concentrate towards their main job i.e guiding, teaching, preaching the religion entrusted by Quran (3:104). They do have political views but they maintain the decorum of the pulpit and only remain committed to their primary job. There are Ulema from all groups/sects in this category. Tablighi Jmaat which is closer to Deoband School is doing good job in the this field of preaching, Islah (correction, retrieval), it has been target of terrorists for its peacefulness. Some radical elements may get in to their ranks for recruitment ant to promote their heinous agenda.

2. Ulema from Political Religious Organizations:

There are many Political Religious Organizations, which do not take part in elections but work to promote their political agenda. Dr, Israr Ahmad (late) had made his own "Tanzeme Islami". They consider the use of pulpit as justified to promote their political of "Universal Caliphate" views like establishment and implementation of Shariah. They consider democracy present system as un Islamic. Hizb ut Tahreer is another organization which claims peaceful means to achieve same objectives, mostly not accepted hence banned in Pakistan. The radicalisation of its members or inclusion of extremist elements cannot be ruled out. They may act as recruitment base for organizations extremist and groups.

3. Ulema of Islamic Political Parties:

This includes the leaders and members of religious based political parties, who take active part in power politics, elections and other dirty political activities, deceit & intrigues. Obviously this is at done at the cost of their primary responsibility entrusted through Quran (9:122). The militant and extremist elements also join their ranks, they can be used to deter their opponents and show some muscle.

4.Fundamentalists, Sectarian Militant Organizations: This includes terrorist organization, <u>Takfiri Taliban</u>, <u>(TTP)</u> who are involved in terrorist attacks, suicide bombing to kill innocent citizens in mosques, schools, churches and other public places, also attack military installations. They are also involved in other crimes like, bank robberies, target killing, extortion and abduction for ransom. Army has launched operation <u>Zarb e Azb</u> against them and they are on the run.

5. Radical Æxtremist Sectarian, Ulema:

The do not belong to any particular group or organization but have tilt towards extremism. They are the sympathizers and helpers of extremists who use the pulpit to pollute the minds of people to create sympathy and support. They consider the present democratic system as tool of West and believe in establishment of international Caliphate. They are directly or indirectly propaganda tool of extremists. Although the "1973 Democratic Islamic Constitution" was unanimously approved by all the prominent Ulema representing all sects, groups and political parties , this is called "Ijma" (الجماع) in Figh terminology (consensus). If the political aspects are kept aside purely on religious level i.e Shariah law the "Ijma" (الجماع) is un questionable. Prophet Muhammad said that: "My ummah will never agree upon an error" (Narrated by al-Tirmidhi (4:2167), ibn

Majah (2:1303), Abu Dawood, and others). Ijmā' is the third fundamental source of Sharia law, just after the divine revelation of the Qur'an, and the prophetic practice known as Sunnah.

The government did not took any notice, the terrorists have killed over 60,000 innocent people. When they killed children at Army Public School the nation was shocked. Pak Army under the dynamic leadership of General Raheel Sharif launched operation Zarb e Azb. The Mullah sympathizers of terrorists continue with their propaganda by just using twist of language.

One should ask them that by supporting the <u>Takfiri</u> <u>Terrorists</u> what good service are they rendering to the nation?

These people are much more dangerous than any other category because they want to destabilize the country and society by creating anarchy (فساد) using fascist tactics on the pretext of religious obligation. This is no service to Islam, rather cause of destruction of peace. The situation at the Middle East is proof, how these elements have destroyed the countries and peace. Although the state has made strict laws to check the terrorists and their helpers but until the people check them the will continue to misguide the people.

Those Muslims who really want to see progressing Pakistan and want to spread Islam with the intention to make it a dominant religion of the world, they must check the radical militant Ulema who are leading this society to self destruction. The should advise them to concentrate towards their real Quranic mission (٩:١٢٢).

The Ulema must ensure that in the Madaris (religious institutions) modern sciences and modern thought should also be taught to the students to make them relevant to the modern era.

Mindset:

The Political Ulema have to correct their mindset that: only they could save the country from the clutches of corrupt politicians!

The political ulema think that its their responsibility to stop the evil and promote good, hence the must be part of ruling elite. however they forget that the Islamic history proves that the Ulema refrained form becoming par of ruling hierarchy. They even suffered persecution for refusing to be part of ruling system. They guided the rulers independently while remaining outside the folds of governance. Islam has no concept of priesthood, the West progressed by getting out of folds of priesthood. The great Imams like Abu Hanifah, Ahmad bin Hambil, Shafie, Malik set example to define the role of ulema, they are highly respected due to their independent approach.

Islam is a "Not a Religion but Deen" a system, which encompasses all spheres of life, the politics cannot be separated hence the ulema should take part in politics.

In the Islamic history one can hardly find any religious scholar to be a ruler as well, except the Rightly Guided Caliphs. However history if full of God fearing pious Muslim rulers. It is correct that Islam provides guideline to lead a successful life here and hereafter. The human life has many aspects and fields i.e. Engineering, Medical, Social Sciences, Business, Physics, Chemistry etc etc. Islamic does provide fundamentals principles of guidance and ethics but there are experts who spend their life time in study and practice in specialised fields. No religious scholar can become expert in those special fields by just studying religious sciences. However if some religious scholar also joins studies medical institution to become practicing doctor or vice versa its possible. The ulema do not accept many medical doctors who studied Islam as Ulema of Islam like Dr.Israr Ahmad or Dr.Zakir Naik. The ulema can guide people to become good Muslims, hence consequently the society can get good politicians, rulers, bureaucrats, doctors, engineers, scientists etc. Hence the society will get reformed with the combination of good people in every walk of life.

Prophet Muhammad <u>advised against pollination</u> of date palm trees, the crop delivered low yield, he then asked the people to follow their expertise in such fields for benefits in worldly non religious matters. There are lessons for the people with common sense and understanding.

Revelation is clear on Sharia and matters of Deen: "Whatever the Messenger gives you, take it; and whatever he forbids you, abstain from it. Fear God; surely, God is severe in retribution." (Quran;59:7).

If some one likes to participate in politics, he can do it without any restrictions but not under the garb of religion. They should not beg for votes being an Alim Deen (religious scholar or Mullah). Political field is open to all citizens no one monopolise on Islam, every Muslim is inheritor of Quran (35:32). is prohibited to use the religion or holy scripture for petty gains (Quran 2:41). It is unfair for a religious scholar asking to vote for him being a religious obligation. Pakistan has over 95% Muslim population. According to the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, laws have to conform to Quran and Sunnah, non Muslim can not become prime minister or president; Is there any justification for religious political parties? Are other political parties are Islamic? The Ulema un concentrate towards their main job entrusted by Quran (9:122, 3:104).

Two Theocratic Models:

After 1979 revolution Shia Theocracy was established in Iran, thousands were killed, persecuted, war with Iraq provided blood to the revolution. Presently Iran is deeply involved in sectarian war in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and even Lebanon. The international economic sanctions isolated Iran, crippled their economy, while poor people suffered. Present 'moderate' leadership has reduced their miseries to some extent. The reformers are returning despite resistance by theocratic ruling elite.

The Saudi monarchy is drawing its legitimacy and strength with alliance with Ulema. This is marriage of convenience.

The ulema used Deen Islam as a shield to gain political advantage but become target of sharp criticism, which affects their credibility and respect. Consequently people stop paying attention to their religious sermons, which is highly damaging.

The religious based political parties failed to draw appropriate response, though they forcefully used the religious card. They were able to form governments in two provinces but were thrown out due to corruption and incompetency in next elections. They failed to present acceptable model Islamic governance. Implementation of Sharia remains their repeated slogan.

They claim to resolve every issue through implementation of Sharia, Taliban (Takfiri, Khawarij) are involved in armed rebellion against state and kill innocent people in terrorist attacks. They try to justify these heinous unslamic crimes against humanity through twisted arguments form Quran and Hadith. They claim their rebellion against state to be justified, which is not permitted by Islam. This disease of terrorism has spread out form Afghanistan to FATA Pakistan Iraq, Syria, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria and other African countries. The US and West not only participated in this destruction but has been instrumental in providing fuel to this fire. The heat is being felt now in Europe.

Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya have been destabilized. Pakistan Army is restoring peace. Situation in Egypt and Turkey is deteriorating, while Israel is busy in oppression of Palestinians, trying to grant access to Jews in Al Aqsa mosque. The hostile forces are taking full advantage of pathetic situation among the Muslims.

No reputed Muslim scholar favours the terrorists ideology and arguments, rather many have issued Fatwas (religious

<u>edicts)</u> against terrorism. Even <u>Deoband Darul Aloom</u> (Taliban follow them) and <u>Saudi Scholars</u> have declared suicide bombing and terrorism as un-Islamic. However it hardly has any effect on the terrorists because terrorists only follow their own semi literate self declared Mullah with no scholarly credentials.

Many scholars, common Mullahs (Molvi, Imams, prayer leaders) and citizens out of ignorance and hatred for the corrupt system and bad governance are sympathetic towards terrorists. They are not aware about <u>Islamic response</u>, if the ruler is oppressor (Zalim, Fasiq) not rebellion and killing of innocent people. It is great fallacy to use evil means for attainment of any objective.

All those who are overtly or covertly sympathizing and supporting the Terrorists are participation in the murder of hundreds and thousands of innocent people, Allah says:

"Whoever rallies to a good cause shall have a share in its blessing; and whoever rallies to an evil cause shall be answerable for his part in it: for, indeed, God watches over everything" (Quran 4:85)

The terrorism has been introduced among Muslims under a well thought out plan to use Muslims against Muslims (<u>Oded Yinon Plans</u> & <u>Bernard Lewis Plan</u>). The Muslims are being destroyed, disintegrated while Israel and allies are celebrating.

Regrettably responsible person like Syed Munawar Hasan, ex chief of Jamati Islami called the killed terrorists as Shaheed (martyrs) while decline to bestow this honour to actual defenders of people and state, the Pak Army.

The great philosopher poet Igbal said:

[The religion of non believer, thinking and struggling to implement his thoughts, while the religion of Mullah (Muslim clergy) is to create Fisad (turmoil) on the name of God.]

The ulema through their action should prove this couplet to be wrong, so that the confidence of people could be restored. They avoid even trusting the ulema for their rightful sermons.

Global Caliphate:

The Muslims have indoctrinated to believe that through warfare and terrorism a global Caliphate can be established to regain the glories of past Muslim rule. This is erroneous mindset, which needs to be changed to the realities of time. In the present era of nationalism this is not feasible. The super power like USA with all its military, economic and technology might had to leave Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. Earlier the USSR had to pack up from Afghanistan unceremoniously and disintegrated later to exist as Russia.

After USA, West, China is using the power of knowledge, economy, industrial power and technological supremacy to dominate other nations. Through history it is known that the Muslims maintained their powerful empires with the superiority in thought, knowledge, military and technology. 21st century is the era of knowledge, science and technology, if integrated with the Islamic system of justice, morality, ethics and spirituality can meet the spiritual and material needs of humanity.

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ (9:33)

"It is He who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of Truth, so that He may make it prevail [ideologically] over every other religion, however much the polytheists may hate this" (Quran;9:33)

"God would never withdraw a favour that He had conferred upon a people unless they change what is in their hearts. God is all hearing and all-knowing." (8:53)

Muslims are prohibited to fight with non Muslims unless they fight with you or expel them from their homes. Normal relations are advocated, they are to be treated fairly with justice. (60:7-91)

"... had God so willed, He would have made you all a single community, but He did not so will, in order that He might try you by what He has given you. Vie, then, with one another in doing good works; to God you shall all return; then He will make clear to you about what you have been disputing." (Quran;5:48)

Global Ideological Empire:

They should make it their objective to establish international ideological empire, as there are business & media empires.

For the world domination they need to do following:

- Elect good rulers, remove the bad rulers through peaceful means, exert pressure for good governance. Muslim seek goodness in this world and hereafter while the non believer is rewarded for his good works in this world. So good life here is also objective of a Muslim.
- 2. The governments should be strengthened for stability and peace. They should acquire modern knowledge, expertise in technology and fully participate in development and progress.

- 3. Play their role as member of in the United Nations for peace and prosperity of humanity and reject terrorism.
- Remain peaceful with non Muslims (9-60:7) and excel in good works (5:48). Muslim history has plenty of examples of multi religious, multicultural coexistence. [Medina, Spain, Ottomans, Mughals]
- 5. Use of modern media to convey the message of Islam and to educate and reform Muslims.

Power of Faith & History:

History proves that where Islam was spread with the power of faith and preaching it stayed, but the conquered lands only keep some monuments.

- Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in population, no Muslim invasion took place here including Malaysia, Brunei and other parts of Far East. It was the power of preachers businessmen who inspired locals to convert to Islam with their good moral conduct, humility and knowledge.
- 2. Islam reached China 1400 years ago, the Saad bin Abi Waqas, the companion of Prophet Muhammad did not go there with army but just an expedition of peaceful people.
- 3. Africa has 33% share of world Muslim population. Except North, rest of Africa received the businessmen and preachers to learn and accept Islam.
- 4. Spain was ruled by Muslims for 800 years but there is no trace except buildings and monuments.

Presently despite hostile propaganda against Islam due to terrorism, Islam is the <u>fastest growing religion</u> in the world including Europe and USA. Islam is spreading due to its ideological, spiritual and intellectual superiority. The opponents having failed in ideological front, in desperation have resorted to inciting and encouraging violence, extremism and terrorism among Muslims to check the spread of Islam. The Ulema and Muslims should not fall in to this trap, they must not unwittingly

become the tool in the hands of enemies of Islam & Muslims. They should continue to practice and preach Islam peacefully. They should appear as the messengers of peace through their acts and words.

Pakistan is an Islamic state, no law can be made against Quran and Sunnah by the parliament. The federal Sharia court, Supreme Court are protectors of constitution. The rulers are not found to be enthusiastic in implementation of Sharia due to there selfish desires. The people like to resolve their problems through the system based upon Islamic social, economic justice, free of exploitation not mere change of name of law.

Shariah:

If government, religious political parties and the people want to implement Shariah, what's the problem?

The problem is that neither the people nor the leadership is mentally prepared to implement Shria. The Quranic commandments for prohibition of intoxicants were implemented gradually. Initially the society was reformed, then prepared to accept the commandments. Same is the case about prohibition of usury (Riba).

In 1827 Syed Ahmad Brelvi established an Islamic rule in Peshawar area. He was mad Commander of the Faithful (Ameer ul Momineen). Sooner the people killed the ulema thus the Islamic rule ended. In Sudan Akhwan ul Muslimeen [Muslim Brotherhood] got an opportunity to form government with Jafar al Numeri, but this experiment failed. Recently the tragic end of President Morsy of [MB] in Egypt is regrettable. To form a government while keeping political opponents engaged is difficult which is beyond the capabilities of ulema.

In Pakistan the religious political parties join the governments to draw political and financial benefits, their corruption stories are wide spread. In KPK Province [then NWFP] Mufti Mehmood (1970-71) established his coalition government of MMA, later his son Molan Fazal ur Rehman and Jmat e Islami ruled KPK and Balochistan for 5 years. Except women face painting in billboards there was nothing noticeable in their rule which could be called Islamic. The religious political parties could not launch any significant project which could improve the life of common man or society. They were rejected in next election and people choose ANP, with secular tilt, but ANP also proved to be equally incompetent. General Zia ul Haq remained in power form 1977-1988, he also used Islamic card, this was again a failure.

The young workers of religious parties note that during last 67 years their parties could not get a chance to form a government at the federal level, in desperation they are attracted towards extremism and violence, which is a negative trend.

Intolerance and rigidity quickly develops among the religious people due to their conviction that; "Only they are on the right path, and acting according to the Holy Text and others are on evil path". This non flexible attitude isolates them from the complex mainstream politics, full of intrigue, deceit and compromises. They find themselves in a state of dilemma, if they continue with the religious ethics and morality they are not likely to woe the voters tuned to false promises and fancy claims, on the other hand if they also resort to the conventional practices of politics, their religious credentials become questionable, which is not damaging to their own self but for the society as well.

Credibility of Ulema:

If Ulema loose their credibility, then who will teach the religion to the people? Even if only few Ulema are in politics their credentials effect the whole community of Ulema.

"Do you enjoin righteousness upon others while you ignore your own selves, although you keep reciting the Book? Have you then no sense?"(Quran;2:44)

People expect the religious people with religious appearance to be honest, straightforward, trustworthy and role model for society. Let's again remind the commandment of Allah:

"And it is not possible for all the Muslims to set out (together). So, why should a party from within every group (or tribe) not go forth in order that they may acquire deeper knowledge (i.e., thorough understanding and insight) of the Din (Religion), and warn their people when they return to them so that they may guard themselves (against a life of sins and disobedience)?"(Quran;9:122)

The problems faced by Muslims today are not simple that by just implementation of Sharia, they will get resolved. The laws exist but there is lack of will to implement due to corruption and bad governance.

Does Sharia mean some laws and harsh punishments?

The Muslim society is governed by Sharia, some laws are to be enforced by the Islamic state through legislations while the other part of Sharia is applicable to the each individual [Muslim self (Nafs)] which is to implemented voluntarily by him/herself. It is the job of Ulema to prepare the Muslims through religious education and preaching, strengthen their Faith (Ayman), belief accountability in Hereafter that thev in SO avoid committing (7) grave major sins and become good peaceful citizens:

"If you shun the great sins you have been forbidden, We shall cancel out your minor misdeeds and admit you to a place of honour". (Quran;4:31)

If in a Muslim society, the religious education is conducted properly, it will make good citizens. Hence there will be good politicians, good rulers, good businessmen, good doctors, good engineers, good bureaucrats, good policemen, good people in every segment of society. Islam, Sharia will get implemented at individual and collective level.

No Theocracy in Islam:

The history is witness that a political system run by Ulema has never survived, Syed Ahmad Brailvi Shaheed, Akhwan in Sudan and Egypt, in Pakistan Zia ul Haq, Mufti Mahmood, political alliance of Fazar ur Rehman and Jamaat Islami are stories of failures of these people not Islam. The Ulema abandoned their Quranic responsibility (9:122) to gain nothing but disappointment. A loo at the life of Prophet reveals that he preached islam at Makkah for 13 years, then he conquered Madina, not with force but through the power of preaching. After violating the peace treaty of Hudabia, Makka fell without shedding blood, general amnesty was declared.

Faith (Ayman):

The level of Faith (Ayman) was so high that the sinner of adultery would themselves confess and ask for Sharia punishment, because the punishment in this world is batter than the punishment in Hereafter. On his persistent confession Propeht had to issue orders for punishment. A multi religious, multicultural city state was established at Madina, unprecedented 1400 years ago.

There are over 95% Muslims in Pakistan but majority is Muslims as far as confession of faith (kalima) is concerned, however they are ready to lay down their lives for the cause of Islam (exploited by terrorists). Most are totally ignorant about their religious, moral and social obligations and practice. Till majority become true faithful (Momin), practicing Muslim, we need such a system

which is accommodative, with atmosphere of peace and tolerance people can be invited to learn and practice Deen Islam to lay down the foundations of solid Islamic society.

Faith (Ayman) is the most important factor. When people will have strong faith in their hearts things will start improving. The system based upon equitable justice, Islamic Sharia will be implemented at individual and collective level. The implementers of system will be people of strong faith not the corrupt.

There could be numerous good laws, but until there are faithful, sincere people to implement it, the society cannot have peace and justice.

Allah has bestowed this honour and responsibility upon ulema, its their sacred responsibility to honour it by educating the people about Islam. Although many ulema are trying their best to fulfill their obligations but the methodology needs review due to lack of its effectiveness.

Modernization:

Niddwatul Ulema Lucknow (India) (the premier Islamic education institution) appointed an Ulema committee in 1884 to revise the syllabus of 'Darse Nizami' to include the response to the modern philosophy by taking help of translations by English literate Muslims. This would have been beneficial to the students of Islamic studies. Even after over 100 years nothing happened. There is now even more need to do much more to revised and modernize the syllabus at Midaris. In the enthusiasm to revise, the cosmetics like use of computers and English language would not suffice.

Mindset:

While Midaris syllabus is modernized there is strong need to change the "Mindset". The classification of "We" (religious people) and "They" (ordinary Muslims) be eliminated. The

graduates of Midaris should look like part of society not aliens at least in the mental approach if not in physical outlook.

After end of their education they should be able to get absorbed in the society apart from some taking up jobs at mosques.

The base of education should be strong enough that, if some one like to continue education in some other field, after matriculation able he should he to do SO. The medieval Madaris were integrated part of society and produced great scholars in religious sciences and other fields like mathematics. physics. chemistry. algebra. astronomy, agriculture, philosophy etc. etc. They married with in the other segments of society being part of it. There is need to do a lot in this field. There is dearth of quality women Islamic scholars.

Who shall implement Islamic system, Shariah?

- The terrorist groups like <u>TTP (Taliban)</u> or similar banned terrorist organizations involved in massive killings, terrorism and suicide bombing, supported by RAW, they are nowhere near the basic concepts and spirit of Islam.
- 2. Corrupt politicians who gain power through allegedly rigged elections and foreign guarantees?
- 3. Religious political figures with dubious credentials.
- 4. Peaceful Ulema, Imams, Khateebs who religiously educate the people, lead prayers, deliver sermons, and perform rituals on birth, marriage and death?
- 5. Civil, military bureaucracy which is part of present system and work under the government?
- 6. Well educated Westernized modern secular Muslims who consider religion as private matter of individual, they don't have much know how of deen?

- 7. Well educated Muslims who have specialised in respective fields, they have some know how of Deen, strong in faith, consider Islam as a way out to problems?
- 8. Oppressed ordinary people having high hopes form leaders who use them to their own advantage?
- 9. Any one else left out?

A critical analysis of prevailing environment reveals that practically one group position fully no is in а independently implement the Islamic system based upon Shariah. If someone has knowledge, expertise and desire but lack legal and political power. Those who have legal and political power they lack in political will.

Possible Solutions:

- 1. Pakistan is a an Islamic Republic with Islamic Constitution, a political party which is against the constitution cannot exist, therefore there is no justification for religious based political parties which gives an impression as if others are un Islamic.
- The religious Islamic political parties should abandon electoral politics and form organizations or pressure groups to struggle for reforming the corrupt system and implementation of true Islamic order.
- 3. Ulema should concentrate to educate the people on Islam (Quran 9:122), its teachings, practices, ethics, morality, obligations towards humanity (haqooq ul ibad), good behaviour to make them good Muslim and earn pleasure of Allah in this world and hereafter.
- 4. The issue of Islamisation, law, Islamic democratic system, Jihad (qital) only by state, rejection of private jihad being terrorism (fisad) has been settled through <u>Ijma</u> (consensus of jurists and scholars), the third source of Shariah after Quran and Sunnah. Hence any one renouncing them should

- be treated as rebel, <u>spreading mischief on land (Fisad fil</u> <u>ardh)</u> and be treated according to <u>Quran 5:33</u> in the courts.
- 5. It should be mandatory for the political parties to include Ulema in their hierarchy for advice and consultation on religious matters. Quota seats for Ulema can be introduced like technocrat and women seats. Ulema be kept away form election politics to maintain their respectable status.
- Ulema should broaden their knowledge base to include modern subjects of humanities and modern sciences. This should enable them to educate and guide the people progressively.
- 7. The Midaris should send some brilliant students to get higher education in other disciplines in regular education institutions, so that they join bureaucracy, private business enterprises, banking, medicine, engineering, police, military etc. this will provide a balance in society. Similarly Madaris should accept students from other institutions to reciprocate similar effects.
- 8. People should be educated and guided to change their behavior gradually from easy to difficult. With patience and tolerance they should be made to strengthen their faith and start offering prayers regularly.
- 9. Women are 50% of population and responsible to prepare the next generation, there should be special arrangement for them in the mosques for prayers. The acute shortage of women Islamic scholars is to overcome.
- 10. Society be prepared to provide the rights to women granted by Islam.
- 11. Mass awareness should be created in society against; Ignorance and other cultural taboos like dowry, Vani, honour killing and corruption etc to eradicate them.
- 12. Ulema should work for rehabilitation of radicalized youth to become good peaceful Muslims.

- 13. Government should be pressurized to help the Muslims under oppression and occupation according to international law. The Muslims ummah should work to strengthen the OIC like EU.
- 14. Greater Jihad against self (nafs) be encouraged.
- 15. Jihad Kabira (bigger Jihad), preaching with Quran (25:52) to establish Islamic ideological empire using the modern communication tools. Islam will prevail ideologically, if the modern weapons of knowledge and technology are employed effectively. Weapons and military power can be employed for destruction wining but not for the hearts minds. Unfortunately one such mass literacy and social welfare movement [Hizment (Service)] launched by Turkish Imam and religious scholar Fathe Ullah Golan operating in over 150 countries worldwide including Pakistan is being restrained due to political rivalry with the present Turkish rulers who were allies till 2013. They parted away when corruption cases against top rulers were reported. Equating an education social reform movement with terrorism is unfortunate.
- 16. Banking and economic system should be purged of the menace of Riba (usury). Ulema educated in modern economic system should suggest practical steps in this regards. They can encourage the people to prefer Islamic banking.
- 17. Juma Sermon (Khutba) should be used judiciously by carefully selecting relevant topics. This opportunity with great potentials remains underutilized.
- 18. Extensive work is required to help to fulfill the five obligations a Muslim owe to Quran i,e faith, read, understand, act and preach.
- 19. Ulema and people keep a close watch on their leaders to keep them on right track.
- 20. When society will reform gradually with persistent efforts, there will be more good Muslims, good honest people, they

will elect good people to rule. Thus society will be reformed through silent Islamic revolution in evolutionary process.

Conclusion:

A possible set of solutions to the complex problems faced by Muslims has been presented here. This should serve as a wake-up call to take the situation seriously. This can be further improved with collective efforts:

"You cannot give guidance to whomsoever you wish, but Allah gives guidance to whomsoever He wills, and He best knows the ones who are on the right path." (Quran;28:56) (see also 2:272,4:88,10:99-100)

Remember:

"Verily, God does not change men's condition unless they change their inner selves; and when God wills people to suffer evil [in consequence of their own evil deeds], there is none who could avert it: for they have none h protect them from Him."(Quran;13:11)

"This, because God would never change the blessings with which He has graced a people unless they change their inner selves and [know] that God is all-hearing, all-seeing." [Qur'an;8:53]

"Verily, the vilest of all creatures in the sight of God are those deaf, those dumb ones who do not use their intellect." (Quran; 8:22)



Links:

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عُلْماء لسلام يرمسلمانون كيتعليم و تربيت كي نمم داري

وَمَا كَانَ لْمُؤْمِنُونَ لِيَنْفِرُو ا كَاقَةً ۚ فَلَوْ لَا نَفَرَ مِن كُلِّ فِرْقَةٍ مِّنْهُمْ طَائِفَةٌ لِيَتَفَقَّهُو ا فِي لَيِّين وَلِيُدْذِرُو ا قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُو ا (فاطر <u>32:35)</u> مسلمان قرآن کے وارث التوبة، ۱۲۲: ٩) الَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذَرُّونَ

اور یہ تو نہیں ہو سکتا کہ تمام آلِ لیمان نکل کھڑے ہوں تو لیسا کیوں نہیں ہو سکتا۔ کہ ہر جماعت میں سر کچھ لوگ نکل آئیں تاکہ وہ دین میں تفقہ (دین کی سمجھ بوجھ) حاصل کریں اور جب (تعلیم و تربیت کے بعد) لبنی قوم کے پاس لوٹ کر آئیں۔ تو اسے (جہالت بے لیمانی اور بد عملی کے نتائج سے) ڈرائیں

لتُوبَة، ٢٢ أَ ٢٠) تَلكَم وه تُرين. آل ع<u>مران</u> وَلْتَكُن مَنِكُمْ أُمَّةً يَدْعُونَ إِلَى لْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِلْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ لْمُنكَرِ ۚ وَأُولَـٰئِكَ هُمُ لْمُفْلِحُونَ

اور تم میں سے لیک گروہ کو لیسا ہونا چاہئے جو خیر کی دعوت دے, نیکیوں کا حکم دے برائیوں سے آل عمران <u>3:104 م</u>نع کرے اور یہی لوگ نجات یافتہ ہیں : : لتویة) کی تفسی ۲۲ ۱: ۹) تفہیم لقرآن میں

http://www.tafheemulquran.net/1_Tafheem/Suraes/009/120.html

: دعوت اور تبليغ اسلام كا طريقه (٢)

ادْعُ إِلَّىٰ سَبِيْلٌ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَ لُمَّوْعِظُةٍ لْحَسَنَةٍ ۖ وَجَائِلُهُم بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ ۚ إِنَّ رَبِّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَن ضَلَّ عَن سَبِيلِةٍ ۖ (النَّحَلُ 125:16) وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ

آپ لنے رب کے راستے کی طرف حکمت اور اچھی نصیحت کے ذریعہ دعوت دیں اور ان سے اس طُریقہ سے بحث کریں جو بہترین طریقہ ہے کہ آپ کا پرورنگار بہتر جلتا ہے کہ کون اس کے راستے (النحل 16:125) سے بہک گیا ہے اور کون لوگ ہدایت پانے والے ہیں

علماء اور دور جدید (۳)

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ملک میں فساد (٤)

إِنَّمَا جَزَاءُ لَنِينَ يُحَارِيُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَسْعُوْنَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَسَادًا أَن يُقَتَلُوا أَوْ يُصَلَّبُوا أَوْ تُقَطَّعَ أَيُبِيهِمْ وَأَرْجُلُهُمْ مِنْ خِلَافٍ أَوْ يُنْقِوا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ ۚ الْكَلُهُمْ خِرْيٌ فِي الْنُثِيَا ۗ وَلَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ عَذَابٌ عَلِيمٌ (٣٣) جو لوگ خدا اور اس كے رسول سے لڑئي كريں اور ملک ميں فساد كرنے كو دوڑتے پهريں ان كى يہى سزا ہے كہ قتل كر ييئے جاتيں يا سولى چڑھا ييئے جاتيں يا ان كے ليک ليک طرف كے ہاتھ اور ليک ليک طرف كے ہاتھ اور ليک ليک طرف كے پاؤں كاٹ ييئے جاتيں يا ملک سے نكال ييئے جاتيں يہ تو ننيا ميں ان كى رسوئى ہے اور لذت ميں ان كے ليے بڑا (بهارى) عذاب تيار ہے (لمدنة 3:3)

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