

Qhutbah, Insha Allah, Friday, May 20, 2005

Alhamdu lillah, wa ash hadu ala ila ha ill lallah

Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim

Insha Allah, today's Qhutbah is on "The conviction of Submission". Most major religions of the world are named after their founders. Judaism after the tribe of Judah son of Jacob, Christianity after Christ, Buddhism after Buddha, Zoroastrianism after Zoroaster and so on. Hindus are named after the River Hind - River Indus / River Sindhu. Submission has no implicational description attached to it. The theme of Submission – Monotheism - Worship God alone is the same to all the true Prophets and Messengers. [30:30] Therefore, you shall devote yourself to the religion of strict monotheism. Such is the natural instinct placed into the people by GOD. Such creation of GOD will never change. This is the perfect religion, but most people do not know. [16:36] We have sent a messenger to every community, saying, "You shall worship GOD, and avoid idolatry." Subsequently, some were guided by GOD, while others were committed to straying. Roam the earth and note the consequences for the rejectors.

This is the religion of humanity from the dawn of time to its very end. Prophets were sent with scriptures for particular civilization and at chosen times whereas the Quran was commissioned as the World Scripture for entire humankind and for all ages. [17:89] We have cited for the people in this Quran all kinds of examples, but most people insist upon disbelieving. *God Himself means the Universal Creative and Preservative Will of Existence*. God implies unity and harmony and anything that breeds conflict and inconsistency is anti-God.

Submission (Islam in Arabic) literally means peace and stands for universal love, harmony and mutual co-existence. Islam means total submission, complete resignation, unquestioning obedience and abject surrender to the Will of God – the Creator, the Nourisher and the Evolver of all things. No one can be at peace with himself, with others or with humanity at large unless we voluntarily capitulate our will to the Cosmic Will. Submission shows the most straight and practical way to achieve peace within and peace without. Since God alone is our Sovereign, then according to the religion of Submission we have the concept of human equality. It negates the concept of kingship, dictatorship, imperialism, priesthood, nepotism and bigotry. Any unjust disagreement with fellow beings in any part of the world would be considered as a breach of peace and would constitute a great sin. Thus Submission is a binding force which brings all of us to a common brotherhood.

Submitters cannot believe in a part of the Quran and disregard another part. [2:208] O you who believe, you shall embrace total submission; do not follow the steps of Satan, for he is your most ardent enemy. This would bring disgrace to him in this world and a most grievous penalty on the Day of Judgment.

An ideology however attractive remains lifeless and unappealing until it is unified with practice. By the Grace of God, we submitters have the best philosophy in Submission. [3:19] The only religion approved by GOD is "Submission." What is now needed is action incorporated with that belief. Submission is not just the name for certain values and rituals – it is a complete way of life. Religion, politics, economy and different aspects of life may appear distinct from one another but they are not only inter linked but also inter dependant. We can tread on the path of economic development without compromising on our principles.

We are given, Masha Allah, a complete system of thought and practice which is subservient to the commandments, dictates and guidelines in terms of rites, customs, morality, social behaviour, economy,

politics, education etc. But what is most significant is that it makes all humans accountable in the Hereafter.

Submission does not limit the concept of human life to this world but always stresses more importantly to the life Hereafter. Our life is based on 5 understandings:

1. Humans and all creatures owe their existence to God alone. [36:36] Glory be to the One who created all kinds of plants from the earth, as well as themselves, and other creations that they do not even know.
2. This whole universe is administered and run in accordance with the rules and regulations set by our Creator which is known in modern terminology as “The Laws of Nature”. [7:54] Your Lord is the one GOD, who created the heavens and the earth in six days, then assumed all authority. The night overtakes the day, as it pursues it persistently, and the sun, the moon, and the stars are committed to serve by His command. Absolutely, He controls all creation and all commands. Most Exalted is GOD, Lord of the universe.
3. The whole universe has been made subservient to us for our use and benefit. [2:164] In the creation of the heavens and the earth, the alternation of night and day, the ships that roam the ocean for the benefit of the people, the water that GOD sends down from the sky to revive dead land and to spread in it all kinds of creatures, the manipulation of the winds, and the clouds that are placed between the sky and the earth, there are sufficient proofs for people who understand.
4. This life is a trial and we have to be patient. [2:155] We will surely test you through some fear, hunger, and loss of money, lives, and crops. Give good news to the steadfast.
5. We are all individually answerable on the Day of Judgment. A Day when no one can help another. [82:17] Awesome is the Day of Judgment. [82:18] What a day; the Day of Judgment! [2:48] Beware of the day when no soul can avail another soul, no intercession will be accepted, no ransom can be paid, nor can anyone be helped.

With Submission, we understand that this universe is not the product of an accident. It has its own Initiator, Almighty God who is the One who has sent us down to earth to redeem ourselves by giving us a third and final chance. [90:4] We created the human being to work hard (to redeem himself). As submitters we have to enforce His Commandments. Some believe in a mechanical concept of life – you are born, you die and become fertilizer. The existence of non-material things is not recognized. They have no concept of the life hereafter. Some consider humans to be absolutely free in our thought and action and regard this worldly life alone to be the sole target. Here the view is that what counts in quick material gain.

This concept of life is very dangerous because it disregards the soul and its requirements of nurtured growth and gives exclusive attention to the body and its demands. In consequence, moral values, which prove to be an impediment to worldly objectives are either rejected or repudiated; or regarded as merely relative subject to the needs of time and space.

In the creed of Submission, we base our knowledge on “*wahi*” or revelation from God – the Quran. [32:2] The book is, without a doubt, a revelation from the Lord of the universe. We understand, by the Grace of God, the balance between the requirements of the body and the soul and how to operate it in our best interest both now and in the Next World. The larger interest of human good is explained. We are taught eternal moral values by which empires have been known to rise and fall in this world.

All human made innovations like Hadis and Sunna are condemned as there is no proof of these concepts from the basic source i.e. The Glorious Quran. The doctrine is not static but dynamic and we understand the practice of mutual consensus. This is only after we understand that we cannot alter or amend the rules for which clear and final mandates are given in the Quran. Our knowledge and comprehension can increase God willing, provided they are not against or repugnant to the text, spirit, purpose and objective of the Quran.

The canon of unity and solidarity is repeatedly protected in the Quran. [49:13] O people, we created you from the same male and female, and rendered you distinct peoples and tribes, that you may recognize one another. The best among you in the sight of GOD is the most righteous. GOD is Omniscient, Cognizant.

The Quran places unprecedented adherence on the observance of pacts of peace. [9:4] If the idol worshipers sign a peace treaty with you, and do not violate it, nor band together with others against you, you shall fulfill your treaty with them until the expiration date. GOD loves the righteous. [9:6] If one of the idol worshipers sought safe passage with you, you shall grant him safe passage, so that he can hear the word of GOD, then send him back to his place of security. That is because they are people who do not know.

All possible attempts should be made to secure peace. While we must always be prepared for a solemn struggle if forced upon us, even in the midst of hostilities we must be ready for peace if there is an indication of relentment from the other side. This is irrespective of the fact that we may have every reason to distrust their word and to fear treachery on their part because there is no merit in the fight by itself. War should be a sacred duty only to establish peace on earth. The Quran stresses reconciliation in all relationships – war, divorce, differences of opinion, unpaid loans etc. [2:193] You may also fight them to eliminate oppression, and to worship GOD freely. If they refrain, you shall not aggress; aggression is permitted only against the aggressors.

As far as Submission is concerned, everyone is equal and has equal rights and can seek redressal if wronged through law. [7:26] O children of Adam, we have provided you with garments to cover your bodies, as well as for luxury. But the best garment is the garment of righteousness. These are some of GOD's signs, that they may take heed. It makes us secure - our life, honour and property is respected and protected. Submission claims equal treatment in law irrespective of one's status or rank in life. [2:179] Equivalence is a life saving law for you, O you who possess intelligence, that you may be righteous.

As Submitters, we learn to be true to our covenants. [5:1] O you who believe, you shall fulfill your covenants. ...Covenants are of two types – a covenant between humans and God and a covenant between humans themselves where God has been made a witness. For a believer to go back on his words and not to fulfill his promise is a sin which is at times not realised. People should not take their promises lightly. When making a promise, one should do so in all seriousness and with the full intention of fulfilling it, and in case of a situation beyond our control to comply, we must ask for forgiveness from God and explain it to whom the promise was made and asked to be excused. God has reminded people that the covenants will be questioned about and hence people should not take them lightly. [17:34] You shall not touch the orphans' money except for their own good, until they reach maturity. You shall fulfill your covenants, for a covenant is a great responsibility.

*"Where God is, a spider's web is as a stone wall. Where
God is not, a stone wall is as a spider's web."*

God be glorified, thank you God!