

*Qhutbah, Insha Allah, Friday, February 3, 2006*

*Alhamdu lillah, wa ash hadu ala ila ha ill lallah*

*Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim*

The Quranic term for religion is “Deen” which is not just a religion but *a way of life*. One may think that this is just a seemingly minor change in semantics but it is actually suggestive of a vital deterioration in our thought as well as behaviour.

Most people are under the impression that Islam is the religion of Prophet Mohammed in the sense in which Buddhism is the religion of Buddha and Christianity the religion of Christ. It is because of this misconception that Mohammedanism has been frequently used by Western historians and scholars. This is a great misnomer and a deceptive term.

The word *religion* is commonly used in a rather narrow sense; its scope is limited to a set of tenets, some practices for worship and a number of social customs to celebrate “significant life events”. *A way of life* is a system in which humans consciously surrender to the sovereignty of a higher authority and live a life of total and unquestioning obedience to that higher authority. This is not the case of a king who at times is elected by his subjects or a Prime Minister or President who is elected by the people sometimes through force, horse trading or by the flimsiest of majorities. A king may only be in title with no absolute power. When submission is understood as a way of life Almighty God is worshipped and obeyed not just in a restricted religious sense but in a manner that includes all aspects of human life.

Obligatory and fundamental parts of submission include Faith, Salat, Zakat, Fasting, Hajj pilgrimage and meditation. Belief in Submission and adherence to it not only necessitates profession of faith in God and the personal religious duties required by it but also following the entire Quran both in letter and spirit. There are also social customs and ceremonies like how one should greet people and the sacrifice at Haj. Additionally, God through His Quran guides us with all the relevant instructions regarding our social, economic and political existence. This is what really distinguishes submission from other religions such as Judaism, Christianity and Buddhism. Our soul can, Insha Allah, grow to be as large as the earth if it is inspired by Quranic teaching. No devil can hold us back once we have God’s approval and protection.

What makes submission distinct from other religions is its simplicity. Its teachings are not masked in myths and legends and have nothing mysterious, impractical, irrational and unattainable in it. It appeals to our intellect and natural sentiment. It is in perfect harmony with science and nature from the brightness of the sun to the tiniest blade of grass. Every subatomic particle while fulfilling its own mission is continuously proclaiming submission to the Will of God. [10:61] You do not get into any situation, nor do you recite any Quran, nor do you do anything, without us being witnesses thereof as you do it. Not even an atom's weight is out of your Lord's control, be it in the heavens or the earth.

Nor is there anything smaller than an atom, or larger, that is not recorded in a profound record.

According to Submission, we are all responsible for our own actions. We are not responsible for the sins of others (provided we are not the ones that lead them astray in the first place) and there can be no expiation by others of what we do. The Most Merciful in our third and final chance has allowed us to be born sinless and not accountable for the sins of our ancestors. Submission produces in all of its believers a sense of personal responsibility and does not recognize any mediator between us and God.

We are all directly accountable to our *Master of the Day of Judgment* for all what we think, say or do. We have to work out our own salvation without the intervention of any intercessor. Submission recognizes no clergy. No intermediary can grant a submitter a free passport to heaven. The claim of the Hindu Brahmin, the Buddhist Phungi (Fungi), the Jewish Rabbi and the Christian Padre to stand between humans and God is the height of arrogance.

Unfortunately, our *so called Muslims* are happily unaware of what it means to be a *Muslim* in the real sense of the word. Their concept of religious duties is usually very narrow and limited. The moment we recognize the tremendous responsibility that comes with being a submitter, the fear of accountability would come in and we would literally begin to shudder and shake.

The profound Quran too is not a collection of dogma but a code of life. It is not a huge thesis on theism but a social, commercial, civil, military, judicial, penal, international and yet a religious code which regulates everything we have to do for our welfare the birth to death. It gives solutions to all important problems of human affairs and yet it is wonderfully concise. It is a masterpiece of the Arabic language and is extolled throughout the world for the simple grandeur of its diction, the pure elegance of its style and the variety and magnificence of its imageries.

Unlike the scriptures of other religions, the Quran has come down to us in its pristine purity, authentic, untarnished and unchallenged. God in His Infinite Wisdom allowed us to expunge two false verses which were satanically inspired. Its teaching is wholly rational and instills the noblest ideals of monotheism, unity, democracy, liberty, equality, fraternity and accountability.

People wrongly believe that the task of communicating and explaining the teachings of submission is the “profession” of the *mullah*, the *moulvi* and the *maulana*. Preaching and delivering the message of God to the whole of humanity was primarily the responsibility of Prophet Muhammad. Since he was the last prophet and no more scriptures will ever arrive, this sacred responsibility rests on our shoulders. Since the Quran is a message to the whole world it follows that submission should dominate as a way of life over all other man made systems. This is what God requires of submitters and the Quran mentions most emphatically - *The Best Community* [3:110] You are the best community ever raised among the people: you advocate righteousness and forbid evil, and you believe in GOD.

If the followers of the scripture believed, it would be better for them. Some of them do believe, but the majority of them are wicked.

After the death of Prophet Mohammed, the deterioration set in. Lands belonging to “*Muslims*” were directly dominated by Western countries. Even after the independence of these lands, people naively believed that since political authority now belongs to the *Muslims*, the next step would be the implementation of *Islamic* values which would not be difficult. However, this proved to be wishful thinking as the basic foundation of Submission was wrong. Since no short cuts are available, we have to start at the very beginning. The renewal of true submission will only be possible by the efforts of those who have a clear conception of their responsibilities as submitters.

This subject is very momentous. We cannot hope to achieve salvation in the Hereafter without fulfilling all our obligations. The renaissance and resurgence of Submission cannot be accomplished without first reprogramming the true concept of our obligations.

Our primary obligation as a submitter is to live a life of total obedience to Almighty God alone. This duty is described in the Quran as “*ibadat*” or worship. However, the true meaning of this term can only be understood if we combine two different concepts - “submission, surrender and obedience and couple them with respect, love and devotion”. Obviously, absolute compliance is required to all Divine Injunctions and simultaneously, this observance ought to be with a conviction of wholehearted devotion for our Creator.

We all need someone or something to admire and love. Usually, our lack of knowledge of our Maker – the only Being worthy of our love, admiration and adoration – leads us towards other imperfect standards. We start loving various ideologies like humanism or liberalism; we make idols of our family, property, pets our race or nation. We believe this to be our ultimate ideal. The Holy Quran teaches us that true believers are those who love Almighty God over everything else. If we truly love our Lord, we will find it easy to obey his prescriptions and prohibitions. We, of course, slip and forget, commit sins but the Most Merciful allows us to turn towards Him in genuine remorse, repent and reform. When we do this, Insha Allah, Divine forgiveness is guaranteed. The Submission that is required by God has to be total and unconditional.

The Most Gracious requires us to submit without reservations our whole self and entire life to His Will. We cannot split up our life into separate cubicles, some governed by the Quran and others by our own desires. This is against the spirit of worship.

We have a second obligation which is to advocate and disseminate the word of God – the Glorious Quran to the whole of humanity in the best way we can. What will this involve? Insha Allah - we have to invite people to true faith in the light of submission. We have to enjoin and encourage all that is good, just and moral. We have to forbid all that is evil, unjust and sinful. [3:114] They believe in GOD and the Last Day, they advocate righteousness and forbid evil, (*Nahi unil Munkar* and *Amr bil Maruf*) and they hasten to do righteous works. These are the righteous. We have explain the philosophy and wisdom of submission to the educated and intelligent, we have to debate in the best possible

manner with the stubborn and the rigid, we have to urge our family to believe. We have to testify to the truthfulness of the message with our behaviour and conduct, our character and morals.

Our third obligation is to try our utmost to establish the *true Islamic* system of cooperative justice initially within our own group and then ultimately all over the world when submission will triumph, God willing. This obligation requires submitters to bring about fundamental changes in the politico-socio-economic system to make it conform to the teachings of the Holy Quran. There will be changes in society, law, economics and politics. This, of course, cannot be implemented without a true Submitter nation. We cannot just pay lip service to the *true Islamic* way of life; our faith requires us to apply that way of life in its totality as well.

Thus, we submitters have three main duties amongst many others. There is a simple analogy to take a comprehensive view of the three main duties. Consider a three storied building which is supported by four pillars. The underground foundation represents faith or “Iman” which remains hidden from view, the plinth of the building represents our Shahada –*Laa Elaaha Ella Allah [There is no other god beside GOD]* – which is our testimony of faith and the four pillars of the building are obviously Salat, Zakat, Fasting and Hajj. As for the three stories of the building: the first floor represents our first level of obligation as a submitter i.e. to live a life of total and unquestioning obedience to God alone, the second floor is a symbol of our second level of obligation i.e. to preach and disseminate the wisdom of submission and finally the third floor represents our third level of obligation – to try our very best to establish *the way of life* explained to us in the Quran. The roof, by the Grace of God, could be our meditation.

We have to Insha Allah, establish the “Deen” of Submission, the domination of Submission, create the kingdom of God on earth and bring about a Submission revolution. Unless we ourselves behave in a manner most pleasing to God and be role models of what God really wants, all our acclaiming and praise of Submission would continue to be dismissed by the world as mere utopian claims.

These are very ambitious ideals but it is significant to note that we are accountable and God will reward us if we try our level best in bringing about a change and He alone knows our true intentions.

*PRAISE BE TO GOD!*