

Better, Try to See the Light

Khalid Baig

Modern day Christianity and Judaism have been through a series of "reformation" processes. Over the centuries tens of thousands of "reformed churches" and "reformed synagogues" have been established throughout Europe and America. Many see this revision and update as a continuous process. So, why not Islam?

This question is a perplexing one for those looking at Islam from the outside. Unfortunately for many, it brings rage rather than reflection. Some are driven to do whatever it takes to make it happen.

It is a measure of the intensity of such desire that, today, any ignoramus with a Muslim sounding name can become instant celebrity by declaring that Quran needs to be updated or *Syariah* needs to be rethought.

In fact during the *Satanic Verses* affairs, when the entire Muslim world had been outraged by the support for pure filth shown by all sorts of pundits, many of these "experts" were secretly thrilled that the moment had arrived.

A professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Southern California informed the *Los Angeles Times* readers at that time that the big question the Muslim world was debating was: "Who had really authored the Quran."

Such psychotic scholarship has

also been enlisted in all kinds of research projects as well as in secret plans by the United Nations (UN) and big powers to find ways of bringing "reform" to Islam. Some come disguised as friends. They appear to applaud Islam's teachings on tolerance and compassion.

Islam does preach tolerance for those outside its boundaries. At the same time it is also very sensitive about its own boundaries and would not allow them to be blurred in a haze of tolerance. Some point to the principles of *Ijtihad* in Islam. But they fail to realize that *Ijtihad* does not mean second-guessing the Quran, Sunnah or consensus of the companions.

Then there are those who resort to ridiculing Muslims for lagging behind the times. When all else fails, they may simply try to order an abrogation of *Syariah*, as the UN is trying to do now under the banner of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Wasted efforts, all!

Their fight is with the Quran and they only need to turn to the Quran to get a response. Here it is, loud and clear, "But when Our clear revelations are recited unto them, they who look not for the meeting with Us, say: 'Bring us a Quran other than this, or change it.' Say (O Muhammad): It is not for me to change it of my own accord. I can only follow that which is revealed unto me. Lo! If I disobey my Lord I fear the retribution of an awful Day." (translation of Allah's Words in Al-Quran surah Yunus: 15)



Reuters

If Quran could have been changed by worldly powers, it would have been changed a long time ago. If it could be made controversial by secretly publishing and distributing corrupt versions, that would have been already done. But not an iota has changed in the Book that was revealed 1400 years ago.

It is the only revealed book in the world that exists in the original language of its revelation. And if all the printed copies of it were to be destroyed today, the Book would remain for it is the only Book in the world that is memorised from cover to cover by millions upon millions of people.

And it is the only revealed book that begins with this claim, "This is

the Scripture whereof there is no doubt, a guidance unto those who ward off evil." (surah Al-Baqarah: 2)

There is no doubt that it is the Word of Allah. No doubt that it contains the ultimate truth. No doubt that it was sent through the last Messenger, may peace and blessing of Allah be upon him (*Sall-Allahu alayhi wa sallam*), of Allah who also explained what it means. No doubt that all success and happiness and bliss lies in faithfully following its commands and all failure and sorrow and misery lies in rejecting it.

You either believe in this statement or you do not. There is no third option.

A Muslim, by definition, is the person who attests to the truth of this statement. He has received Allah's Word through Allah's messenger and he, by force of conviction, submits to this revealed truth. In fact, he stands as a witness to the mankind to the truth of this message.

This witnessing is not meant to convert others, but only to deliver the Message, as a trust from Allah. The Message has been preserved precisely because no one is allowed to change it to make it attractive to the would be believers.

Muslims do not do in Rome as the Romans do, because then they will have Islam no more. They rise above their surroundings by submitting to the Word of Allah and invite the whole world to the same. Those who accept it do it for their own

good; those who reject it do so at their own peril.

So, why is there no "reform" movement in Islam ala Christianity or Judaism? Because the latter lost their scriptures, Islam did not. Words of man replaced the words of God in their scriptures making the whole thing fallible.

One can find hundreds of statements in the Bible that can be tested and found untrue. Or statements that contradict each other. There is not a single such instance in the Quran, and there will never be. Islam was never deformed that it should need reform. It is not dated that it should need to be updated.

Its message is as true today as it was yesterday. All of its commands are as life giving today as they were yesterday and they will be tomorrow. It remains as the eternal beacon of light as humanity jumps from one extreme to the other in its ignorance.

Right and wrong are eternal. Definitions of good and evil have to be constant. Otherwise, they will lose all meaning. In a world of shifting standards of good, there is no good. It is a great blessing for humanity that Islam provides that constant.

If the entire world agrees that homosexuality is OK, Islam will still call it a great abomination. If the entire world agrees to destroy the institution of family, Islam will still be there to uphold it. If the entire world agrees that sickness is health and health is sickness, Islam will still be there to remove the confusion and safeguard health. You cannot ban light and legislate darkness. Better, try to see the light yourself.

Albalagh

Scholars

Abu Hanifah, No Single Book

Abu Hanifah's respect of individual freedom is also manifested in his verdict that does not allow withdrawing a person's rights of dispensing with his money or property on account of his being stupid or irrational.

As long as his actions do not cause harm to others, then Abu Hanifah feels that society or ruling authorities have no right to restrict his freedom of action.

If he squanders his money, he will reap the results himself.

Society will not be harmed, as the money will still be there, in other people's hands. Restricting a person's freedom is much more harmful to society than that person's loss of his money or property.

Similarly Abu Hanifah does not consider it permissible to restrict a person's freedom of dispensing with his property as a result of being in debt, even if his debts exceed all his property.

A debtor may be forced to repay his debts, but not through restriction of his freedom of action.

Abu Hanifah did not write any book, but some pamphlets are said to be authored by him. It is his students who recorded his views.

Abu Yussuf, his best known student, wrote several books in which he recorded Abu Hanifah's views and rulings.

However, his other student, Muhammad ibn Al-Hassan, was the main scholar who collected, related and published Abu Hanifah's *fiqh* in six books representing the first systematic collection of a particular method of *fiqh*.

It should be mentioned that Muhammad ibn Al-Hassan did not study under Abu Hanifah for long, as he was 18 when the great scholar died, but he was one of his best students and he read much under Abu Yussuf.

The other main scholar of the Hanafi school of thought was Zufar ibn Al-Huthail.

The Hanafi school of thought spread far and wide, particularly because of the very large number of scholars who followed it in successive generations.

It is the main school of thought in central Asian countries, as well as Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Turkey.

It is widely followed in Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Palestine, but not in African countries.

May God reward Abu Hanifah handsomely and bless his soul.

Adil Salahi/IMPACT

Islampaedia

The All-Aware

Allah introduces Himself as *Al-Khabir*, the All-Aware, "O you who believe! Have fear [and awareness] of Allah, and let each self look to what it has sent forward for tomorrow. Have fear [and awareness] of Allah. Allah is aware of what you do." (translation of Allah's Words in Al-Quran surah Al-Hasyr: 18)

Humanity, bounded by time and space, can be aware of only what is visible. Our inability to step outside of these boundaries is one of our greatest weaknesses.

Allah, Who created humanity as well as space and time, is not bound by these concepts. Allah, Who is exalted above anything, naturally is aware of all that takes place in the universe, regardless of time or location. He knows how many stars are in a galaxy located millions of light years away, each celestial body's orbit as well as the information hidden inside a seed lying underground.

Allah also knows everything about people's lives: their actions, where they were born and where they will die, and for what purpose they strove. He even knows such small details as when they cried or laughed, as well as their most secret thoughts, for He created them. The Quran states, "Those who are tight-fisted with the bounty Allah has given them should not suppose that that is better for them. No indeed, it is worse for them! What they were tight-fisted with will be hung around their necks on the Day of Rising. Allah is the inheritor of the heavens and Earth, and is aware of what you do." (surah Ali-Imran: 180)

"Eyesight cannot perceive Him, but He perceives eyesight. He is the All-Penetrating, the All-Aware." (surah Al-An'am:103) Harun Yahya