

Islamia

الإسلامية

EVERY FRIDAY

Time for Muslim Unity is Now

Islam is a religion of unity, in its most paramount, positive manifestations. Its message was revealed to humanity to bring the best in them.

It was neither meant to fracture nor disjoin, but to strengthen ties between individuals, families, communities, peoples, the Muslim Ummah as a whole, in fact humanity at large. Yet despite its communal nature, it's still very much personal, very much private, as in that special relationship between the faithful and Allah (SWT), between the poor, the orphan, the widow, the oppressed and whomever seeks guidance and salvation and their Creator.

It's partly here that the beauty of Islam shines. How could a religion be so personal, yet so collective; so exclusive, yet all-encompassing?

The concept of unity in Islam is, of course not coincidental. Emphasis on the notion of unity is plenty, in al-Quran and the Hadith, and was demonstrated throughout Muslim history via words, but especially via deeds. Without unity there is no strong Ummah, there is no common fate and shared responsibilities, that of a Muslim towards his brethren or humankind.

Allah (SWT) said in the Holy Quran: "The Believers are but a single Brotherhood: So make peace and reconciliation between your two (contending) brothers; and fear God, that ye may receive Mercy." (49:10)

In order for unity to take hold, equality, in principle, is a prerequisite.

Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings be upon him) declared in his Farewell Sermon: "All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black, nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action. Know that



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every Muslim is the brother of another Muslim, and that Muslims constitute one brotherhood."

No wonder why Islam continues to grow and flourish despite the formidable challenges Muslims face, whether within their specific polities, or outside.

The relationship between unity and equality cannot be understated, and is best demonstrated by no better example than the Haj. "Pilgrims standing shoulder to shoulder, of all shades and races, dressed in simple white, stripped of all kinds of worldly barriers, be they of wealth, profession, geogra-

phy, class, education or other," wrote a Muslim commentator. "This enduring image of Haj has become a hallmark of this Ummah's unity in its diversity."

After all it was in Mekah during the Haj that American Muslim civil rights leader Malcolm X embraced true Islam. It was there he disavowed racism in all of its forms.

In his letter from Mekah, reproduced in his autobiography as told to Alex Haley, El-Haj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcom X) wrote: "Never have I witnessed such sincere hospitality and the overwhelming spirit of true brotherhood as practiced by people of all colours and races

here in this Ancient Holy Land, the home of Abraham, Muhammad and all other prophets of the Holy Scriptures. For the past week, I have been utterly speechless and spellbound by the graciousness I see displayed all around me by people of all colours.

"There were tens of thousands of pilgrims, from all over the world. They were of all colours, from blue eyed blonds to black skin Africans. But we were all participating in the same rituals, displaying a spirit of unity and brotherhood that my experiences in America had lead me to believe never could exist between the white and non-white."

The gutsy leader returned to the US declaring his new faith, at a high cost, as he was assassinated only a year later.

Today represents, for Muslim and humanity at large, a time of adversity; much hardship is experienced by many Muslim nations, many obstacles are facing Muslim communities in Europe as in elsewhere, all compounded with this prevailing sense of discord that seems to govern our world today. It's because of this and more that Muslims must indeed be untied, today more than any other time in the past; their unity should be that of the solid wall, as prescribed by the Prophet (PBUH). They must rise to the challenges of the Ummah and the world. They must serve the role with which they were entrusted, as faithful with a real and consistent sense of purpose, as nations, as leaders, as parents, as individuals. Their unity within and without shall bring with it a promise for resilient individuals, strong nations, a resolved Ummah and a better world, Insha-Allah.

Prophet's Guidance



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Abu Bakr (RA), the Truthful



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Kenya's Muslim Minority faces huge challenge



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To be Covered, To be Private



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Building Islamic Home



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