

ON ISLAM

WITH THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL.

The term **Islam** means **peace** which can only be achieved through a life of submission to Allah (S.W.T.).

Islam is not a religion in the ordinary, conventional sense of the word.

Islam is a revolutionary movement aimed at toppling the negative and unproductive oppressive forces of the world.

Islam aims at restoring the divine and positive values which go to form a higher humanity in order that true peace and harmony may prevail.

Listen carefully to Sura Tauba (ch. 9): verse 33:-

"It is He who has sent His Rasool with guidance and the Deen of truth, to proclaim it over all religion, even though the pagans may detest (it)."

Islam, in the terminology of the Holy Quraan, is the **Deen** which offers humanity a code of life in accordance with natural law.

Now focus on Sura Al-Rum (ch. 30): verse 30:-

"So set your face steadily and truly to the faith: (establish) Allah's handiwork according to the pattern on which he has made humanity: no change (let there be) in the work (wrought) by Allah: that is the standard Deen: but most among humanity understand not."

Hence Islam fits into the very nature of the human being.

In other words, the commandments prescribed in Al-Quraan do not run contrary to human nature.

Islam is thus not a private or individual affair but a collective system, not a vehicle of personal salvation but of universal welfare, not a breeder of superstition but a radical challenge to all superstition, not an adversary to reason but a liberator of human reason.

If ever there is a social order that fulfils the needs of humanity -- which meets the demand of both the stomach and the soul, it is Islam!

Islam possesses the courage, vitality and jurisprudential insight to march shoulder to shoulder with evolving times.

The comprehensive guidance of the Noble Quraan and the Sunnah of our beloved Nabie (S.A.W.) have all the necessary elements to meet the demands of humanity for every age and clime.

What is our responsibility?

We read in Sura Al-Imran (ch. 3): verse 104:-

“Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong: they are the ones to attain felicity.”

Remember, evil flourishes when good folk do nothing.

The present and future well-being of the Ummah rests on the fulfilment of the responsibility.

We are of no value to Allah (S.W.T.) if we do not rise to this task. When we neglect this responsibility, Allah (S.W.T.) will leave us to our enemies.

Other nations will be set over us.

The most positive way of eliminating a corrupt regime is by way of moral and spiritual reformation.

We read in Sura Al-Ra’d (ch. 13): verse 11:-

“...Verily never will Allah change the condition of a people until they change that which is in their hearts. ...”

Islam is not satisfied with mere acknowledgement of faith.

Islam expects Muslims to leave no stone unturned in establishing the Quraanic value system.

This is the touchstone on which can be tested one’s faith and truthfulness.

It is sad but true to say that the present thugs at the helm in Muslim lands mirror the moral and spiritual decadence of the Muslim masses.

Does our corrupt condition the world over entitle us to wise and righteous leaders?

Were we not told by our beloved Nabie (S.A.W.) that we will have the kind of leaders we deserve?

Our beloved Nabie (S.A.W.) also said:-

“Islam consists in cherishing the profoundest respect for the commandments of Allah (S.W.T.) and extending sympathy to his creatures.”

One manifest object of our Nabie (S.A.W.)’s mission was that we cherish a way of life of sincerity and deeds rather than of profession and form; that our life, domestic and social, business and public, must be steeped in and permeated with a deep religious fervour --- a spirit of honesty and service, of truth and justice, of compassion and self-sacrifice, honour and trust in our Rabb.

What about Iman (faith)?

In Sura Al-Baqara (ch. 2): verse 165 we read:-

“... but those of faith are overflowing in their love for Allah. ...”

Our faith in our Rabb must not be static. It must be like the movement of an electric current running through a circuit, giving light where there is darkness.

Like the electric current, our faith must have an impact on society. As Muslims, we must strive to be like cells overflowing with current from the poles of faith and reason for society, in order that there can be light for a community engulfed in darkness.

Our faith in Allah (S.W.T.) should also make us sensitive to the suffering of the poor, the needy, the widows, the orphans, and the injured and insulted of this earth.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) said:-

“Allah (S.W.T.) does not accept belief, if it is not expressed in deed; and he does not accept deed, if it does not conform to belief.”

In truth, Islam offers us courage, self-reliance and hope.

Islam is not a call for renunciation of the concrete and the real but an invitation to control and harness the world of matter.

Islam is not a supporter of the status quo and vested interests but a beacon light pointing to a revolt against all forms of tyranny and exploitation.

Worksheet

- 1) The truth of the matter is that Deen-Al-Islam promotes social justice and harmony. However, in most Muslim lands we do not find these great elements being promoted. Why?

- 2) In the lesson, part of Sura Al-Ra'd (ch. 13): verse 11 has been quoted. Offer comments on it.

- 3) It is stated in the lesson that Islam possesses the courage, vitality and jurisprudential insight to march shoulder to shoulder with evolving times. Do you agree? Offer a reason for your answer.
