

JAHILLIYAH

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

The Arabic word 'Jahilliyah' means 'ignorance'. It opposes Islam. Islam makes us aware of the total reality -- Jahilliyah does not as it is narrow in its world-view !

A Jahilli community is a society that does very little or nothing to root out evil in its environment.

From Sura An'am (ch. 6): verses 110 & 111 we learn that a Jahilli society is one that does not want to commit itself to the great and noble cause of our Rabb.

Hence a Jahilli community is one that disbelieves in Allah (S.W.T.) or has a nominal belief in him.

The Noble Quraan portrays the characteristics of a Jahilli society:-

- 1) They base their decisions on other than revelation --- 5: 53
- 2) Sexual lusts are not under control --- 12: 33
- 3) The presence of frequent vain talks and activities --- 28: 55
- 4) The flourishing of un-Islamic dress --- 33: 33
- 5) The unwillingness to make sacrifices for Allah (S.W.T.)'s cause --- 2:67-71

Remember, Islam does not measure progress purely on technical equipment and scientific discoveries. Such a society may still be in a state of Jahilliyah.

Listen to Sura al-Ankabut (ch. 29): verse 38:-

"Remember (also) the 'Ad and the Thamud (people) : clearly will appear to you from (the traces) of their buildings (their fate) : the evil one made their deeds alluring to them, and kept them back from the path, though they were gifted with intelligence and skill."

As concerned Muslims, we can only remove Jahilli traits in ourselves and the environment by heeding Allah (S.W.T.)'s guidance!

"Therefore, listen not to the unbelievers, but strive against them with the utmost strenuousness, with the (Quraan)."

Sura al-Furqan (ch. 25): verse 52

Worksheet

- 1) Give the difference between Islam and Jahilliyah?