PERCEPTION OF PEACE AND CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM IN ISLAM

SOCIAL SCIENCES

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ABSTRACT

It is a proven fact that all the known religions of the world invite humanity towards peace, tolerance, love, freedom of belief. Like other religions of God, Islam promotes Peace, Love and Harmony among the people. According to the Islamic teachings for a peaceful and healthy society justice and fair play are the pre requisites. In view of that Islam emphasis on holding of justice and fair play irrespective of distinction of creed and community. According to Islamic teachings for regard, respect and kind consideration all human beings are equal. Islam is supposed to provide an environment of peace and protection for all human beings either they are Muslims or non-Muslims. Islam is supposed to protect everyone from external or internal threats and dangers. Therefore, religious tolerance and respect for other religions, faiths are among the basic teachings of Islam.

The relations of Muslims with the persons of other religions are mainly on mutual respect and peace. The theme in the Quran is peace as long as there is no oppression or injustice that can't be solved by all the peaceful means. Islam not allow the killing of innocent people irrespective of the cause, be it religious, political, social or for any belief.

INTRODUCTION

Islam as a religion is totally committed to peace and security. It does not concern with, violation of peace, anarchy, and terrorism. Muslims as *Ummah* are a peace-loving community. It is a complete way of life, catering

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for all the fields of human existence. Islam provides guidance for all walks of life- individual and social, material and moral, economic and political, legal and cultural, national and international.(**K. Ahmed: 1976:37**)

Islam is not a new religion whose foundation was laid by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) about fourteen centuries ago. It is the same religion and way of life which was given to men when he was first sent to this earth. Thereafter, Allah's Messengers came one after another to different people in different parts of the world for the guidance of man and their Message and that to which they invited people was undoubtedly Al-Islam, the same truth to which the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) finally invited all mankind. **(Rehman:1982:103)**

SPREAD OF ISLAM

Islam the second big religions of the world, has spread from the locality in which it originated almost fourteen hundred years ago. Though born in Arabia and at first carried by Arabs, but very soon it accepted masses of converts of widely different racial and cultural backgrounds and origins.

Islam did not spread throw sword, but by noble character of its followers, its teachings for human being based on truth and exemplary behaviour of its followers with other mankind. The prominent Pakistani philosopher and lawyer A.K.Brohi in his book "Islam in the modern world" says that "The decisive step towards the spread of Islam, as the history of our faith shows, was taken when the *Musalmans* came to be regarded as the models of human excellence, it was more by their honest, upright conduct than by the superior might of their arms, that they were able to transform the heart and soul of the people they came in contact with. History has preserved the record of the profound influence, which the personal example a *Musalman* {Muslim} provided in his being had upon the lives of those he came to inform and instruct.(**Brohi:1975:134-35**)

CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM IN ISLAM.

It is a matter of great concern for the world and unfortunate for the Muslims that today Islam has been linked with terrorism and Muslim scholars and intellectuals are engage to defend and prove it a religion of peace and tolerance. As for as the term 'Terrorism' is concerned, this term is a product of contemporary age dominated by the West, particularly Europe. It has

flourished on their soil. The intellectuals, writers and politicians of the West introduced it in the East. With help from the power of the media, this term has also been linked with Islam that is big injustice with this particular term and Islam both.

Terrorist activities are mostly caused by cruelty, violent behavior, injustice and dishonesty. But the western media projected it as rooted in the teachings of Islam. In that context, the following three allegations which breed terrorism are made by the critics of Islam that:-.

(a) The teaching of Islam about killing a Non-Muslim is Jihad. (b) Islam teaches hat and fight against other religions and their followers. (c) Islam encourages intolerance towards the followers of other religions.

But all the three allegations are misconceived and motivated by cruelty and ignorance. This is a fact that Jihad has its place in the teachings of Islam, but not for killing of Non-Muslims. There is no provision for encouraging perpetual hat and fight against the followers of other religions.

Every day a large number of innocent people all around the world particularly in Muslim world are being killed, injured and forced to leave their homes due to terrorist attacks, but unfortunately the word "terrorism" has not so far been defined in a specific, proper, comprehensive and satisfactory manner. There is no unanimity about this concept. The truth is that no serious attempts have been made to clarify the concept of terrorism. However, there is hardly any hesitation in applying the label on Islam and Muslims. The major principle of the world is that 'might is right'. The powerful make destruction and brutality mass murder of the innocent people, although claim to be champion of peace, human rights, defender of freedom, mankind, justice and civilization. As per their point of view the struggle or resistance of the weak nations or persons for their security, their legitimate rights, against violence behavior is known as terrorism. Moreover, many of the terrorist acts are committed in this world by the people who consider themselves religious.

Here we should also remember that terrorist acts are not carried out by individuals or small groups. Even governments commit state terror, when armed forces are deployed to enforce their will on unarmed or poorly defended populations who were raising voice for their rights.

RESPECT OF HUMAN LIFE & IMPORTANCE OF PEACE IN ISLAM:

According to Islamic believes life is much sacred; it is a gift from God and only God has the right to take it back. Murder, suicide and the killing of innocent people in warfare, is strictly prohibited in the Islam. Terrorism has no place in Islamic Shariah. The Holy Quran makes it clear that killing an innocent person is equivalent to killing the whole humankind.

CONCEPT OF TOLERANCE IN ISLAM:

If we look at the all faiths in the world we find that Islam is the only religion to present the best practical model of tolerance. It is a baseless and false argument that Islam did not tolerate people belonging to the other religions, creeds and ideologies. The Islamic history provides best models of religious tolerance and best treatment of persons belonging to different religion and faiths. Islam definitely claims itself to be the right religion, but never teaches that the persons holding different creeds and different ideas should be eliminated by force. It aims to create suitable atmosphere for the principle "live and let live." and also stress and preach truth. The Quran makes it very clear, *by saying "To you be your Way, and to me mine." "Let there be no compulsion in religion."* (**Al-Quran:Baqarah:verse- 256**) The life of Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is a best example of tolerance in the human history.

In modern times after 9/11 the world scenario changed and the Muslim countries rethinking about a new vision of Islamic perception of peace and condemnation of terrorism. Jordan is the country which first time presented a historical message known as "Amman Message". Amman Message is a very comprehensive and loud voice of the Muslim World about peace and security not only in the Muslim but entire world. Amman Message is a historical documents which was delivered in Jordanian capital Amman on 9th Nov,2004 in presence of His Majesty King Abdullah-ll in the Hashemite Masque Amman on occasion of the night of laylet ul Qadar. Later on next year in July 2005 His Majesty King Abdullah II again gathered more than 170 Muslim religious scholars and intellectuals from 40 countries. Many of these outstanding figures to take an uncompromising stand against extremist interpretations of Islam, and to go over on the offensive. By the closing session all the scholars and intellectuals had signed on a document based on

fatwas gathered by King Abdullah from both the leading scholars at the conference and those not able to be present. **(The Amman Initiative)**

The Amman Message seeks to make known a real message of peace and tolerance for entire humanity, The message rejects extremism as a deviation from Islamic beliefs, and stress the real values of Islam and promoting a proper understanding of the faith which honours all human beings and provides common ground among different religions, faiths; creeds and people of different regions.

The famous Amman Message declares that:- "We denounce extremism today, just as our forefathers relentlessly {relent-less-ly} did throughout Islamic history. Time after time, they insisted on the importance of one clear truth: the ends do not justify the means. We speak this truth again today. Islam is a religion of ethics that seeks what is good for people in the entire world. Its principles are those of honour. The means for spreading Islam are ethical means. And Islam can only be defended through ethical means".(**The Amman Message)**

CONCLUSION

Islamic teachings strictly forbid to threat peace-lovers. Islam desires peace and social harmony. Terrorist acts destroy the moral principles, for the welfare of human beings. Terrorism is a crime and has no place in a religion like Islam, which is deeply committed to peace and security in the society. Unluckily; Islam has mostly been misunderstood in the western society and media. The Western media can also be blamed which is portrait Islam as a Religion of Terrorists. It is also a tragedy in the modern era that in pursuance of dishonesty and intentionally the concept of Jehad is being always misrepresented and misinterpreted in the western media and west. They link Islam and Muslims with terrorism. They are being presented as intolerant and narrow minded. To plant this misinformation in the minds of the people, a powerful and widespread campaign is being conducted through the print and electronic media through out the world, particularly in the West.

Allegations about Islam are based on lack of knowledge; undoubtedly, Jehad exists in the teachings of Islam, but not for killing innocent people and Non-Muslims. In Islam, there is no provision for encouraging continuous dis-liking and fighting against the followers of other religions. Hence, it can be said that linking Islam, the religion of peace with terrorism itself is an act of

terrorism. The global spread of Islam was achieved by the noble character and the personal example set by remarkable human beings. Our noble ancestors were men of courage, honesty and personal integrity. As teachers and traders, soldiers and administrators, they took Islam to the far corners of the world.

"We have had a glorious past. Islam exploded on the world scene as the flag-bearer of a just, law-tolerant and value-oriented society. We are taught to have faith in human exaltation through knowledge and enlightenment. In fact we were the fountainhead of learning in the middle ages. We exemplified tolerance within ourselves and for people of other faiths. Our religion places great emphasis on resolution of problems through dialogue and has always stood for peace, justice and-co-existence. Despite what some historians of the West say, the armies of Islam did not march out to convert people with the sword but to deliver them from darkness through the visible example of the Muslim own character and virtues. They reflected their noble values in all their actions and not through their devotional practices alone.(**DAWN: 02-06- 2004)**

In the end I will repeat word of, Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi a prominent Muslim scholar in the subcontinent mentions in his book "Islam and the World" some fifty years back. He had said that "Because of its character-is-tics, its situation, and its political importance the Arab World has the right and the necessary competence to shoulder the responsibilities of the mission of Islam. It can easily take up the leadership of the entire Muslim World , strengthen itself to look at the Europe in the face, and, by the grace of God and the strength of its faith, acquire supremacy over it, and lead the world once again from darkness to light, from wretchedness to grace from destruction and ruins to peace and prosperity" **(Nadwi:1967:210)** the same thoughts were presented by Allama Muhammad Iqbal {the great Muslim philosopher and National Poet of Pakistan} he also, believed that the hands that built the Ka'ba can built humanity again.
The world has became dissolute by the despoliation {destruction} of Europe
O' thou builders of the Ka'ba arise and build a new world again."
(Nadwi:1967:210)

In the end Let us pray to Almighty Allah, to help us clear the good name of Islam, the right path towards Peace, which has no room for terrorist activities.

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