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Editorial

ISLAM ENCOURAGES CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

India is a vast country comprising many ethnic groups, with great number of spoken languages, dialects and regional diversities. Its people profess and practice different faiths and religions which is reflected in their customs, rituals, norms, dresses and festivals. In spite of the regional diversities, the citizens remain united.

The Indian Constitution gave paramount importance to secularism. The Constitution guarantees each individual the freedom to profess and propagate religion and ensures strict impartiality towards all religions. The Constitution also provides the freedom of religion and protection of cultural and educational rights of minorities.

However in recent days, we have been passing turbulent times. Certain antinational forces, are trying to disrupt the unity of the country. It has led to increasing intolerance, disharmony and lawlessness among the masses.

As far as Islam is concerned, it engages with other cultural practices and coexists with them. India has already accepted and acknowledged multiple identities as we have different communities in India.

In this regard Prophet Muhammad's Constitution of Madinah is an example of tolerance, integration and pluralism in Islam. Islam encourages cultural diversity and religious pluralism.

There should be tireless attempt to help in strengthening the common bond of unity that ties the people together in spite of the diversity in their belief and religions.

However in matters of truth we can make no compromise. But there is no need to persecute or abuse anyone for his faith or belief. *"For your ways the responsibility is yours and for my ways the responsibility is mine."*

Lastly, as regards Indian Muslims, whose contribution for this country has been very valuable and great, they must turn their attention to self-help and self-development so that they may protect themselves and be able to play a constructive role to serve the land of their birth.



TURN TO THE TRUE PATH

“(O Prophet and his followers), turn your face single-mindedly to the True Faith and adhere to the true nature on which Allah has Created human beings. No Change (there is) in the work of (wrought) by Allah: that is the True Religion: but most among mankind know not” (Surah Al-Rum, 30:30)

This is the faith that requires man to voluntarily commit himself to follow God’s guidance and law in all aspects of his life.

“Turning one’s face single-mindedly to Allah implies that after one decides to submit to God, one may not turn one’s face in any other direction. Once a person decided to follow this course in his life, he should not pay even scant attention to any other way of life. Once a person has opted for Islam, it should guide his thinking, his likes and dislikes. His values and standards should be derived from Islam, his character and conduct too should bear Islam’s stamp, and both his individual and collective life should be subservient to it.

All human beings have been created with that true innate nature which prompts them to believe that the One True God alone is the Creator, the Lord and only object of

worship and obedience, requiring them to adhere to that attitude. Should they decide to submit to the authority of any other than the One True God, they would be deviating from the true nature with which they were born. This Truth has been elucidated in several traditions narrated from the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.). According to both *Bukhari and Muslim*, the Holy Prophet said: There is no child but is born on his true nature, and then his parents either make him into a Christian or a Jew or a Magian. This is like what happens with an animal who begets an animal with a whole and sound body (and subsequently people slit their ears). Do you see any born with slit ears?"

Abdullah Yusuf Ali writes: “Deen Qaiyim here includes the whole life, thoughts and desires of man. The “standard Religion,” or the Straight Way is thus contrasted with the various human system that conflict with each other and call themselves separate “religions” or “sects” .Allah’s standard Religion is one, as Allah is One.



CONDITIONS FOR PARADISE

1) Sahal bin Sa'd (may Allah be pleased with him) says that the Messenger (S.A.W.) said: "A person who gives surety to (safeguard) the thing between the two jaws (viz. tongue) and the thing between the two legs (viz. private organs), I guarantee his entrance into Paradise". (*Saheeh Bukhari and Saheeh Muslim*)

2) Abdullah bin Masud (may Allah be pleased with him) relates that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) said: A Muslim never taunts or curses or abuses or resorts to vulgar talking." (*Tirmizi and said it is sound*)

3) Jabir bin Abdullah (may Allah be happy with them) relates that the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) said: Dearest of you to me and the closest of you to me on the Day of Judgement will be those of you who have best morals and the most hated to me and farthest from me on the Day of Judgement will be the most talkative, harsh in their tone and those persons who are haughty in talking" (*Tirmizi*)

4) The Holy Prophet said: "A person who when talks, speaks untrue; when makes a promise, doesn't keep it; and when given something in trust, commits dishonesty-this person is a hypocrite, even if this person

observes the fast, offers prayers, performs pilgrimage and Umara and claims to be a Muslim (*Saheeh Muslim*)

In the stated Ahadith the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) guarantees the believer's entrance into the Paradise provided he fulfils the two conditions. That he would safeguard his tongue and private organs from any misuse. A close study of the hot bed of evils and corruption spread all over the human society reveals the fact that evils and crimes emanate from the misuse of the tongue or and the private parts.

As Islam is the complete code of life, it has been given directives about the use of these two vital organs of human body. Following the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah, if the believer keeps from calling names, backbiting, expressing venom of sorts against its fellow being and above all telling lies etc., he would fulfil at least one condition of entering the Paradise. Similarly, if he is extra cautious in the use of the private parts, he fulfils the other condition thereof. Thus, with fulfilling only these two conditions one is guaranteed to enter the paradise where he will enjoy/blissful life for all the times to come. This Prophetic guidance is a soothing balm to the ailing society more of to-day than ever before.

SHAPING LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF HOLY QURA'N AND SUNNAH

By Abu Bakar

Islam provides humanity with the right guidance for its journey and right answers to its persistent questions. Thus, assured, man is enabled to set out to achieve his objectives with complete harmony of thought and feeling. Man in Islam is simply man. He is neither God nor animal. These words of N.K. Singh in *Social Justice and Human Rights in Islam* denotes a correct opinion regarding Islam. He makes it more clear when he writes: "Islam provides us with guidance throughout life from cradle to grave, answering our innate questions that consciously or unconsciously press on man in his journey through this world."

Human life is a mixture of a number of characteristics and habits. It starts with a single culture. But with the passing of time human culture spread throughout the world. Human life was noble and intentions were clear in the beginning. However, complication in human life gave birth to many branches of knowledge. Human psychology and philosophy is interpreted in different ways. It, in turn, gave birth to various "isms" like Socialism, Communism, Capitalism, Fascism, Nazism and so on.

Everything in this world is interlocked, and everything is interdependent. Life needs energy supplied by the sun and the earth. Plants, animals and other living and non-living things help to keep the balance of the earth. It is stated in the Holy Quran that God has created everything in a balanced way, and all things are beneficial to man in one way or other. The mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, oceans, etc. keep a balance in the environmental system.

SCIENCE IN ISLAM

According to Islam everything is created by God and everything acts and moves only with His permission. The Holy Qura'n reveals the secret of the Creator, (God) in these words: "*Allah! (None has the right to be worshipped but He), the Ever living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists*" (Surah Al-Baqrah:255)

In another place Holy Quran states that *He it is Who created the heavens and the earth in six-day (57:4)*

"His is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth, And to Allah returns all the matters (for decision). (Surah Al-Hadeed, 57:5)

The basic process of creation of the universe and the consequent composition of world is described in the Holy Quran:

“Then He rose over (Istawa) towards the heavens when it was smoke, and said to it and to the earth: “Come both of you willingly or unwillingly” They both said: “We come willingly. Then He completed and finished from creation (as) seven heavens in two Days and He made in each heaven its affairs. And We adorned the nearest (lowest) heaven with lamps (stars) to be an adornment as well as to guard (from the devils by using them as missiles against the devils). Such is the Decree of Him the All-Mighty, the All-Knower!! (Surah Fussilat, 41:11-12)

GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCE:

Knowledge of earth and other systems of the Universe is inevitable for human development. The Holy Quran supplies abundant materials for geographical knowledge of human beings. It mentions about mountains, rivers, springs, nature of earth etc. There is mention about different nations of the world in the Holy Quran. The routes to different places are also mentioned. Early Muslim scientists conducted many research studies in this regard. The Holy Quran asks *“Have they not travelled in the land and seen what was the end of those who were them? Surah Yusuf:12,109)*

In Surah Al-Hajj we read: *“Have they not travelled through the land, and have they hearts wherewith to understand and ears wherewith to hear? Verily, it is the hearts*

which are in the breasts that grow blind (Surah Al-Hajj, 22:46)

Referring to the story of Zul-Qarnain, the Holy Quran reveals, *“So he followed a way: Until, when he reached the setting place of the sun, he found it setting in a spring of black muddy (or hot) water. And he found near it a people. We (Allah) said by inspiration): “O Dhul-Qarnain! Either you punish them, or treat them with kindness. (Surah Al-Kahaf,18:85-86).*

Another of his journeys took him to a place *“a tract between two mountains. He found, beneath them, a people who scarcely understood a word. (Surah Al-Kahaf, 18:93).* The story of Moses and Pharaoh, the story of Noah and the Ark, the story of people of the Cave, the story of Solomon (Sulaiman) and Sheeba (Bilqees), the story of Luqman and so on give adequate geographical knowledge. These references create excitement and promote spirit of enquiry in human minds.

In geography, Muslims made enormous progress because of clear indication of it in the Holy Quran. Muslims made maps of the world. Different kinds of maps were made. They studied geological aspects of the earth from it. Through geography they possessed geological knowledge. The importance of mountains, rivers, springs, rocks etc. were mentioned in the Holy Quran.

In Surah Luqman, we read: *“And has set on the earth from mountains lest it should shake with you” (Surah Luqman:31:10)* Referring

to navigation, the Holy Quran mentions; *“And marks and signpoles, and by the stars (men) guide themselves: (16:16)*

Early Muslim scientists and geographers noted down the distance of earth from the sun and moon. They calculated the diameter of the earth. Caliph Al-Mamon (813-33 AC.) headed a team of geographical scientists to study the secrets of earth.

GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE:

The Holy Quran draws our attention to geological facts of the earth. There is sufficient information regarding marine science. The lives in the water, the materials hidden inside the earth, the nature and purpose of different kinds of soil and water etc. are mentioned in the Holy Quran. The Holy Quran says: *“It is He Who has made the sea subject, that you may eat thereof flesh that is fresh and tender, and that you may extract there ornaments to wear, and you seest the ships therein that plough the waves, that you may seek (thus) of the bounty of Allah and that you may be graceful. (Surah An-Nahl,16:14).*

The Holy Quran refers to the ocean water currents and other benefits of the sea. *“He has let free the two bodies of flowing water, meeting together. Between them is a barrier which they don't transgress out of them come pearls and coral. Surah Ar-Rahman, 55:19-22).*

BIOLOGY:

Proper treatment of animals, trees, plants, and other living things is recommended in Islam.

Muslim scientists of earlier times have shown great interest in natural history which helped them to dominate the medical field also. The nature and quality of almost all plants were studied. Planting trees (afforestation) is encouraged and destroying it (deforestation) is discouraged. Islam also teaches that when a person plants a tree and later on it gives fruits, leaves, wood, etc. The reward goes to the planter. Whether the fruits are consumed by men, animals or birds the planter gets his reward on the Day of Judgement. So one is bound to safeguard the natural resources. The Holy Quran says: *“He has sent down water from the sky, thereby we have brought forth diverse kinds of vegetation. (Surah, 20:53)*

ZOOLOGY:

Science of animals life also got due attention in Islam. Names of some of the animals and birds are mentioned in the Holy Quran. *“And Allah has created every animal from water; of them there are some that creep on their bellies; some that walk on two legs; and some that walk on four. Allah creates what He wills for verily Allah has power over all things” (24:45)* The purpose of creation of animals and birds is also explained. The Holy Quran says: *“That He (Allah) has created pairs in all things, and has made for you ship and cattle on which you ride, in order that you may sit firm and square on their backs. Glory to Him who has subjected these to our (use), for we could never be able to do it (43:12).* The nature and formation of animal kingdom is defined in the following words: *“There is not*

an animal (that lives) on earth, not a being that flies on its wings, but (forms part of) Communities like you” (6:38) The Holy Quran also mentions how animal and birds are useful to human beings (16:68-69)

ASTRONOMY:

Since the Holy Quran contains beautiful verses on science of astronomy, the Muslims excelled in this branch of knowledge in the early days of Islam. The Holy Quran mentions the set-up of the universe and the system of working of heavenly bodies. It states; *“Do they not look at the sky above them? How we have made it and adorned it, and there are no flaws in it? (50:6) “And the sun and the moon follow courses (exactly) computed” (55:5)*

ECOLOGY:

The science of ecology also gets the attention of the Holy Quran. In Surah An-Nur, we read: *“See you not that God makes the clouds move gently, into a heap? Then will you see rain issue forth from their midst. And He sends down from the Sky mountain masses (of clouds) wherein is hail; He strikes therewith whom He pleases and He turns it away from whom He pleases (24:43).*

Many countries have passed several preservation and conservation Acts to protect vegetation, animals and birds. Lakhs of rupees are spent on protecting nature and environment. The need for environmental protection and conservation of nature is clearly stated in many verses in the Holy Quran.

The rights of other people are to be respected. The Holy Quran says. *“And do no mischief (the creating disorder) on the earth after it has been set in order; that will be best for you if you are believers” (7:85)*

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Stressing the need for creating a peaceful social setup, the Holy Quran says: *And worship God and don't associate anything with Him. Show kindness to parents, and to your near relatives, and orphans, and the needy and to the neighbour who is related to you and neighbour who is not related to you, and the fellow traveller and the wayfarer and the slaves whom your right hand possesses. Truly God loves not such as are proud and boastful” (4:36). In another place it is said: “And verily this brotherhood of yours is a single brotherhood, and I am your Lord and Cherisher, therefore fear me and no other” (23:52)*

MARRIED LIFE:

Islam lays great importance on dignity of the family and its members. Since Social life is inevitable for human existence, marriage becomes a compulsory institution. Islam recognizes matrimonial relationship only, and prohibits adultery and illegal relationship. *“Do not come near to adultery; for it is a shameful (deed) and an evil way” (17:32).* While prohibiting adultery Islam promotes the practice of matrimony. The Messenger of God said: *“When a man marries, he has fulfilled half the religion”* After marriage, both husband and

wife should be loyal to each other and should have mutual understanding in safeguarding the relationship and preserving chastity.

Even though a matured girl has the right to select her husband it should be done in a fair manner. It should be on social grounds, and not an individual affair. The Holy Quran says: *“So marry them with their marriage portions (Mehr) decently (so that they live) a protected life (in marriage) not indulging in illicit affairs, nor having secret lovers! (4:25)*. It is further stated: *“Since you have thereby sought contentment with them, give them their marriage portions (Mehr) as is stipulated” (4:24)*. Regarding position of women in society, the Holy Quran states: *“And women shall have rights similar to the rights (enjoyed by men) against them, according to what is equitable and just, but men have a degree of advantage over them. (2:228)*. The advantage is about the responsibilities to the family as the head. Regarding the wives, the Holy Quran orders; *“Treat them politely; even if you dislike them, perhaps you dislike something in which God has placed much good” (4:19)*

In Islam, divorce is permitted on certain grounds. The Holy Quran says: *“If you fear a split between a man and his wife, send for an arbiter from her family. If both want to be reconciled, God will adjust things between them. God is aware, informed (of everything). (4:35)*

Responsible sexual behaviour has an important place in Islamic order. Theodore Hitz, a famous psychologist, reveals that: Sexuality and

aggression are crucial forces in human motivation and personality development, not because they are the most fundamental drives but because they are modifiable and subject to socializing influences and also because both sex and aggression must be controlled and channelled lest they become disruptive of the family and the community upon which people depend so greatly for their survival and wellbeing. “Islamic concept of sexual life is widely accepted nowadays. Regarding sexual diseases, Islam has warned people many centuries ago, the incurable diseases like AIDS could be checked only through responsible sexual behavior within the bonds of marriage.

INDIVIDUALITY IN SOCIAL LIFE:

Personality development is one of the most discussed subjects today. As social life gets a new dimension, and people are turning more selfish, the significance of responsible social life is increased. The belief in one Supreme God is inevitable responsible behaviour and justice. A nation would survive and prosper only when its citizens are righteous and merciful those who believe firmly in Almighty God would not be freak or capricious. He would not be a brute; he cannot be a liar; he can't be a coward. He would forgive human shortcomings and rectify his own defects in the light of Divine principles.

In His description of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.), the Almighty declares, *“And Lo! You are of sublime morals” (68:4)*. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) said: *I was sent in order to complete, the virtues of character.*

PROPHET MUHAMMAD IN INDIAN SCRIPTURES

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad

Truth is always explicit and needs no argument. We may be unable to understand it or certain people make vain attempts to ward it off us. But, now it is no secret that the Vedas, Upanishads and Puranas prophesied the advent of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) as the last Prophet. Scholars advocating humanism have put forward such cogent testimonies as have brought the truth to lime light.

The great man prophesied in the Vedas as the camel – rider is no other than Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.). According to the Vedas, he would be named Narashans. Narashans means Muhammad in Arabic. All the action and deeds of Narashans as mentioned in the Vedas stand in miraculous resemblance to those of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.). The Puranas and Upanishads talk of incarnation in the present era (Kalki Avatar), which testifies to Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.). His personality and characteristic features reflect upon Prophet Muhammad's life. In addition, the Upanishads have mentioned in no ambiguous term the name of Muhammad (S.A.W.) as the Messenger of Allah. The Puranas and Upanishads also repeatedly aver that God is One and has no partner. In the light of these truths, sincere efforts can be

made to unite the humanfolk and strengthen unity and integrity among them. It is also need of the hour. These truths can prove milestone in this era of racial discrimination and communalism. It can crop up brotherhood and create such a moral and civilised society as does not smack of violence, exploitation, destruction and disgust. Dr. Ved Prakash Upadhyay of Allahabad University has also presented his research papers on "*Narashans and the Last Sage*" and "*Kalki Avatar and Muhammad.*"

It is no wonder that there is a prophecy about Narashans or Muhammad in the Vedas; for, scriptures had been giving prior information about the arrival of God's Messengers. It is however certainly miraculous that Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) has been prophesied in more scriptures than any other Prophet. This is why we find the mention of Prophet Muhammad as the last messenger in Christian, Jewish and Buddhist scriptures also.

The term "Narashan" is made of two words – *Nara* and *Ashans*. *Nara* means "man" and *Ashan* means "one who is praised." Sayan has said that Narashans means one praised by men. Dr. Ved Prakash Upadhyay says that this word does not relate to any god. *Narashans* itself

makes it explicit that one whose adjective is “praised” is a man. If one assumes that “Nara” belongs to some god, it is necessary to clarify for them that the word *Nara* is neither a synonym of “god” nor does it stand for any species of “gods.”

Nara means a man as it is one of the synonyms of man. *Muhammad* like *Narashans* also means “praised”. *Muhammad* is a derivative from *hamd* which means “to praise”. In the Rig Veda there is a word “kiri” which means God praiser. “Ahmad” also has the same meaning and is Muhammad’s name.

The Rig Veda is the oldest of all the Vedas. It has eight verses, beginning with the word “Narashans” (part 1, chapter 13, verse 3; C18, V.9; C100, V.4; P.2, C3, V.2; P.5, C5, V.10; P7, C2, V.2 P.10, C64, V.3; P.10, C142, V2). “Narashans” is mentioned in the 1319th verse of the Sam Veda Sanhita and in the 27th verse of chapter 28 in Vajsnayee Sanhita. Besides *Taittiriya Aranyakand Shatpath Barahmin* epics Yajur Veda, Sam Veda and Arthav Veda have a mention of *Narashans*.

Narashans is mentioned to have been worshiped in the Vedas, while during the *Rigved* or *Krit* era. Narashans was invoked while performing *yagans*. For the purpose the word *priya* was used.

Narashans characteristic features can be likened to those of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) as follows:

Narashans is mentioned to have “Sweet tongue” in the Rig Veda; i.e. Sweet language would be a

salient feature of his personality. Everyone knows that Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was sweet towards others.

AWARE OF MYSTERY

Narashans is mentioned to have knowledge of the unknown. One having this kind of knowledge is also called a poet. Narashans has been called a poet in the Rig Veda. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was aware of the future events through the revelation. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) had already prophesied about the defeat of Romans in their war against Iranians and about their victory the next year. The Romans carried the day in the battle of Nainva in 657 A.c. *Sura Rum* throws light on it. After their defeat, the Romans are mentioned to have won the battle again. In addition, the Muslims are predicted to emerge victorious over the unbelievers in the near future.

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was an apple of God’s eye and knew Him most. He was a *Nabi*: *Nabi* is a derivative of *Naba* meaning messenger. He was a Messenger of God. According to Acharya Rajneesh, he was like a flute (a link) to reach God, which is played upon by somebody else.

RICH IN GOOD GRACE

Narashans is mentioned to be rich in good grace. In the Rig Veda the word *Swarchi* is used while characterising him. *Swarchi* is made of two words *shobhna* and *ayiruvaryasya* i.e. (one) replete with beautiful grace. This word means such a beautiful person whose face lights up with grace. The Rig Veda says that he will enlighten

each and every house with his grace. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) made everyone see the light. He put an end to ignorance and showed those groping in the darkness the way to salvation.

The Rig Veda says, *Ahmidhi pituspari medhamratsya jagram*” (8, 6, 8 – 90) meaning Ahmed (Muhammad) performed first and foremost sacrifice and became sunlike. The Sam Veda says, *Ahmidhi, pitu parimedhamratsya jagrah. Aham surya ivajani.*” (2, 6, 8) that is, “Ahmad (Muhammad) received a lifestyle full of wisdom from God, I am lightening like the Sun.”

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had so handsome grace that people could not stop themselves by his attraction. In this connection Rev. Word Worth Smith writes in *Muhammad and Muhammadanism.*, “Even Muhammad’s antagonists felt compelled to respect him, being impressed upon by his attraction and Glory. In spite of all obstacles and opposition Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) lit the lamp of knowledge in every house.”

SOCIAL REFORMER

According to the Rig Veda, Narashans is a social reformer. Needless to say that the entire gamut of Prophet Muhammad’s teachings as well as the Quran revealed upon him can help a sinner wash his sins. It is a mirror of fair path. By seeing this mirror and treading this path, a person can seek forgiveness from God. His worldly life and life after death can be successful. Islam prohibits gambling and consumption of liquor and other alcoholic stuff and disallows

use of illegal earnings interest and taking away rights of fellow beings. It establishes an unoppressed, non-destructive and exploitation – free society.

That Narashans would have 12 wives is proved by a verse contained in the Arthava Veda, which has a mention of his riding a camel. “He who has two beautiful she-camels for riding or he who rides on camels along with his 12 wives, - the height of his praise and reverence touches the skies and then comes down with wind – like speed.” (Arthava Veda, Kuntap, Chapter 20/ 127/2)

As per this verse Prophet Muhammad had 12 wives. It is noteworthy that no religious innovator, save and except Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.), had 12 wives. According to Hindu scriptures some sages had hundreds of wives.

SIMILIRITY ABOUT BIRTHPLACE

The above mentioned verse of the Atharva Veda also gives vent to the place of his birth as well. The reference to camel – riding means that the last messenger would be born in such a place as abounds in camels. In deserts camels are found in abundance and Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was born in a desert land.

Not only the Vedas, but the Puranas also have a mention of Muhammad’s link with deserts. The Bhavishya Puran (chapter 323, verse 5) says, “an instructor would migrate along with his companions. His name would be Muhammad. He would come to the desert.” The verse 6, 7 and 8 of this chapter are also related to Prophet Muhammad (S.W.A.).

It would not be out of place to mention here that the Bhavishya Puran recounts about a number of Prophets. It has also a long chapter on Islam. This Puran makes everything about Prophet Muhammad abundantly clear. As Muhammad has much proximity with Prophet Muhammad also came true. They do not need any explanation. Bhavishay Puran says: He would be born circumcised; he would have no long hair; he would be bearded; he would eat Halal meat; he would propagate his message vehemently and in unequivocal words; he would call his followers “Mooslie” owing to their fight against those bent upon spoiling the religion. He would be the creator of the religion of this meateating community. (part 3, chapter3, verses 25-27)

These predictions of the Bhavishya Puran are so vivid that they can well be attributed to Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.). There is no doubt that the Vedas and some other Purans were composed much before the advent of Islam.

OTHER SIMILARITIES

In the Arthava Veda there are a few mentions about *Narashansa*, in an allusive way though. “God would give the sage Mamhe hundred golds, ten thousand cows, three hundred Arabian horses and garlands.” (Arthava Veda 20, 127, 3)

Here “Mamhe” refers to Muhammad. “Hundred golds” means hundred excellent people, whom Prophet Muhammad used to teach, and who used to instruct people and safeguard them; they are called *Ashabe – Suffa*. Furthermore “ten

thousand cows” means noble persons. “Cow” is a figurative word which is generally used for noble persons. Prophet Muhammad’s followers numbered ten thousand at his eleventh hour. His companions also numbered ten thousand at the time of the Conquest of Makkah, they neither waged hanging to his neck. He had nine swords.

ELIMINATION OF THE WICKED

Kalki Avatar is characterised to have eliminated the wicked. “For the propagation of religion and elimination of the wicked gods will come to the aid, “says kalki Puran. (Chapter 2, verse 7)

Prophet Muhammad destroyed the wicked. He reformed, bandits, and other anti – social elements, taught them humanity and showed them the right path. He made uncultured people cultured. He helped women regain their rights. He demolished the edifice of idolatry and declared that Islam is not a new religion but an ancient religion. Angels also came to his help for elimination of the wicked. Allah says in the Holy Quran, “God had helped you at Badr, when you were a contemptible little force. Then fear God; Thus may you show your gratitude. Remember (that) you said to the faithful.” Is it no enough for you that God should help you with three thousand angels (specially) sent down.” Yes; if you remain firm and act all right even if the enemy should rush here on you in hot haste, your Lord would help you with five thousand angels, making a terrific onslaught.” (3:123-125)

“O believers! Remember the Grace of Allah on you when there came down on you hosts (to overwhelm you). But We sent against them a

hurricane and forces that you did not see, but Allah sees all that you do”. (33:9)

JAGATPATI

The word *Jagat* means “world” in Hindi and *pati* is a derivative of *pa* meaning “to *safe-guard*.” Kalki Avatar has also been called Jagatpati in the Bhagawat Puran (part 2, Chapter 2, verse 19). Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) is a Jagatpati, as he reformed it and showed it the right path. He spread divine message for the human beings. The Holy Quran says: “Say O men! I am sent unto you all as the messenger.” (7:150)

“Blessed is He Who sent down the criterion to His servant so that it may be an admonition to all creatures.” (25:1)

According to Kalki Puran, Kalki Avatar would kill “Satan” with the help of four brothers. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) did so with four companions – Abu Bakr (R), ‘Umar bin Khattab (R), ‘Usman bin Affan (R), and ‘Ali bin Abi Talib (R).

LAST PROPHET

The Bhagwat Puran says that Kalki Avatar would be the final Prophet (Part 1, chapter 3, verse 25). Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) announced that he was the last Prophet.

Kalki means one who eats pomegranates and one who guides others to repentance. Prophet Muhammad (S.W.A.) used to eat pomegranates and dates and at that time he uprooted idolatry and atheism.

DEPARTURE TO NORTH

The Kalki Puran says that Kalki would make

for the hill and receive knowledge from Parshuram there. Later, he would go to the north and return from there. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) also went to the hills and received divine knowledge from Gabriel. Later, he had to go to Madina and return to the South, and recaptured the lost areas.

DIVINE POWER AND ATTRIBUTES

The Bhagwat Puran says that Kalki Avatar would be virtuous (part 12, chapter 2). The Mahabharata has also mentioned his salient attributes – He would be a great scholar, he would belong to high caste, he would be self – controller, brave, less spoken; samaritans and grateful. Prophet Muhammad (S.W.A.) was in possession of all these attributes. He was a man of profound scholarship. He disclosed many mysteries and made predictions which eventually came true. There are various instances to bear testimony to his high knowledge.

He was born of a Hashim family in Quraish dynasty, which was a respectable family and traditional guardian of K‘aaba. He also had the divine attribute of self – control. “He has modesty, and kindness, patience, and riveted the affections of all around him,” said Sir William Muir in *Life of Muhammad*.

He also received revelation from God through the angel Gabriel. Lainpool writes in his book *Introduction: Speeches of Muhammad* that there is no doubt that divine message was sent upon Muhammad (S.A.W.). Sir William Muir observes “He was now the servant, the Prophet, the vicegerent of God.” Prophet Muhammad was also very brave. Dr. Ved Prakash Upadhyay

relates an incident. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) asked a wrestler Rukhana in a cave the reason why he did not fear God and believe in Him. At this the wrestler asked for the clarification. Prophet Muhammad then asked him whether he would believe in God if he was defeated in a wrestle by him (Prophet). The wrestler replied in the affirmative. Then Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) defeated him in the wrestle. Allama Qazi Salman writes in *Rahmatul – lil – Almeen* that the Prophet dumped him thrice, but the wrestler did not admit him to be a Prophet and nor did he believe in God.

He was also less – spoken. What he spoke was so impressive that people were unable to forget. (*Life of Muhammad* by W. Muir). Philanthropy is a significant attribute possessed by a sage. He was always forward in helping the beggars. That was why the poor would throng his home and never returned dejected.

He had also the quality of gratefulness. His remarks to Ansars bear testimony to his gratefulness. In this way it is clear that Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) had all the attributes unravelled in the Indian scriptures.

FRAGRANT BODY

The Bhagwat Puran has predicted that Alkali Avatar's body would throw such fragrance as it would please others. (part 12, chapter 2, verse 21). History has it that one who shook hands with the Prophet had a fragrant hand the whole day. Once Umme Saulat collected the sweat covering the Prophet's body. Asked, she replied that she mixed it with perfumes as it was better than all other perfumes.

GRACEFUL

The Kalki Purans says that he would be graceful. According to Hadith, Muhammad (S.A.W.) was the most graceful most ideal and bravest of all. Sir William Muir says that he was the most handsome, bravest, light faced and most generous of men.

PREACHER

Dr. Ved Prakash Upadhyay writes in *Kalki Avatar Aur Muhammad Sahib* (p. 50-51): It is famous in India about Kalki Avatar that the religion he would establish would be Vedic and his teachings would be divine; It is clear that the Holy Quran is a Divine Word; The Holy Quran contains the same, Suras for policy, righteousness and love as the Vedas do. The Quran prohibits idolatry and stresses upon oneness of God and mutual love. The Vedas promulgate *Ekam Satya* and cosmopolitanism. They ordain for devotion to God. The Muslims offer prayers five times a day, following the Quranic teachings, while only a few Brahmins worship three times a day.

It is necessary to clarify here that Vedic and Quranic teachings have similarity to a large extent. For instance, the Vedas, Geeta and Smirities ordain to worship one God and seek pardon from Him for the sins.

Dr. Upadhyay says that he was taken aback at the similarities between Kalki Avatar and Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.). The incarnation the Indians are waiting for already took birth and it was Muhammad: (page: 57)

UPANISHADS ABOUT MUHAMMAD

Islam and Muhammad (S.A.W.) are mentioned at many places in Upanishads. Nagedranath Basu has included in second part of Vishwa Kaush those verses of the Upanishads that have something to do with Islam and Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.).

God is Allah. He is One. Sun and water are (created) by Him. Indeed, Allah... is King of all creations. (say) Friends! Accept Allah as your God... He helps all the people like a Friend... Allah is the Greatest, Best, Most Perfect and Most Sacred. Muhammad is the best Prophet of Allah. Allah, the Eternal, Absolute is the Cherisher and Sustainer of the whole world. All the good deeds are for Allah. In fact, Allah has created sun, moon, and stars. Allah sent all sages (Prophets) and created moon, sun and stars. He sent all the sages and created the sky. Allah created space (earth and sky). Allah is best. There is no God but Him. O Worshipper! Say: There is no God but Allah. Allah is eternal. He sustains the whole world. He removes all the evils and distresses. Muhammad is Allah's messenger. He is a sustainer of this world. Hence, announce that Allah is One and there is no God but Him." (Aupnished: 1-7)

LAST BUDDHA AND MUHAMMAD (S.A.W.)

One who was predicted as the last Buddha in the Buddhist scriptures is Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.). Goutam Budha said to his loving disciple Nanda at his eleventh hour, "Nanda! I am neither the first Buddha nor the last one in this world. Another Buddha will come to instruct

truth and philanthropy. He will have holy conscience, pure heart. He will lead the human beings with knowledge and wisdom. He will enlighten the world as I taught people the immortal truth. He will show the world a path, pure and perfect. Nanda! His name will be Maitreya." (Gospel of Buddha, by Carus, page 217). It is only a human being that it can be Buddha, not a deity. Maitreya means merciful."

It is natural for the last Buddha to possess all the attributes held by Gautam Buddha. Buddha is characterised as follows: He is a respectable and well – off; He has off – springs; He is a married person as well as ruler. He lives a complete life; He himself does his work. He is only a propagator of religion; When he lives in solitude he is surrounded by gods and demons; There is only one Buddha at a time in the world; He has firm followers who cannot deviate from the right path; He will need no teacher; Every Buddha reminds others of his predecessor and warns to them to salvage themselves from the "Mir i.e. Satan; He has a more solid neckbone than others. While turning his neck round, he used to turn his whole body round.

Maitreya is mentioned to be merciful and have organised gatherings, under Bo – tree. Under this tree Buddha gets knowledge. Dr. Ved Prakahs Upadhyay has verified that Buddha is similar in characteristics to Prophet Muhammad. He says, "There is Quranic revelation about Prophet Muhammad's dignity and richness that he was poor, God made him rich. He became rich much before attaining Prophethood. He had many horses. He had a camel "Alaqsaw" which he rode to Madina from Makkah. He had 20

camels whose milk was sufficient for him and his offsprings and for all the guests together. Camel – milk was a significant diet for them. He had seven goats for milk. He did not have any buffalo as there is no buffalo in Saudi Arabia. He had seven gardens of dates, which were donated for religious purposes.

He had three immovable properties stretching around several *bighas* of land. He was in possession of many wells. Well is considered a very precious possession in Saudi Arabia. He had twelve wives, four daughters and three sons. India's earlier Budhas had smack of this attribute – to have wife and children. (Life of Muhammad by Sir William Muir, pp. 545-546)

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) did rule over the country. He also established his superiority over some of the great kings of the time. He lived a complete life. He did not pass away at young age nor was he killed.

He himself used to perform his works. He propagated the religion throughout his life. Many historians have verified this. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) lent credence to his predecessors. The Holy Quran says, "say ye: we believe in Allah and the revelation given to us, and to Ibrahim, Ismail, Ishaq, Yaqub and the Tribes, and that given to Musa and Isa, and that given to (all) prophets from the Lord. We make no difference between one and another of them and we submit to Allah."

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) again and again warned his followers to ward off Satan. The Holy Quran says "About whom (Satan) it is decreed that whoever turns to him for friendship, he will

lead him astray and he will guide him to the chastisement of the Fire." (22:4) His followers never deviated from the right path and never parted with his company throughout his life. There was no Buddha any where in the world during the life time of Muhammad. When he attained Prophethood the whole world was steeped deep in social and religious chaos. He had no teacher. He did not learn how to read and write. Hence he is called *Ummi*. The Holy Quran is a collection of verses revealed upon him by God. Bo – tree is a sine qua non for each and every Buddha. Parker, banyan and gooler trees are often used by Buddha. According to some of the modern Buddhist scholars, the Bo – tree of the Buddha Maitereya is the iron wood tree. (Muhammad in the Buddhist Scriptures, page 64).

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) had organised gatherings under a tree in Hudaibiya. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was merciful, hence called *Rahmatullil Aalameen* meaning mercy to all worlds." (*Narashans Aur Antim Rishi* page 54-58)

The Bo – tree covers a vast area. It is said that Buddha used to stare at the Bo – tree, Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) saw a tree in heaven, which stands on the right side of God's throne. A rider cannot cross its shadow even in hundred years.

It is said that while turning, Maitreya would turn his whole body round. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) used to turn his body round when ever he saw his friend. It is palpably clear that one who is prophesied as Maitreya in Buddhist scriptures is no other than Prophet Muhammad.

SAYYADNA HAMZA

(Leader of the Martyrs)

Sayyadna Hamza was related to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) in several ways. He was the Holy Prophet's uncle on the one hand and, on the other, he was the son of his maternal aunt. (Sayyadna Hamza's mother Hala bint Wahab, was the cousin of Sayyadah Amina, mother of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)).

Sayyadna Hamza loved wrestling and hunting. He took great interest in swordsmanship and archery.

The call of Tawheed (Islamic montheism) was though given in his family first and spread fast throught the city and 38 persons embraced Islam but Sayyadna Hamza did not pay any attention to it in the beginning. He was so attached to his pastimes that he hardly got anytime to take notice of the new developments in his town. However, Allah truned him towards Islam in a peculiar way.

One day he was returning from hunting. As he entered the city he met a slave-girl, she said, "Had you come a bit earlier, you would have seen the condition of your nephew, Muhammad (S.A.W.). He was preaching his religion in the

Ka'aba when Abu Jahl wildly abused and teased him. But Muhammad (S.A.W.) did not retaliate and went away with a broken heart." Sayyadna Hamza (Allah be pleased with him) was enraged. He rushed towards the Holy Ka'aba. He was so excited that he did not even pay heed to his friends whom he met in the way. He went to the Kaaba and found Abu Jahl sitting there with his companions. He pounced upto Abu Jahl and struck him with his bow on the head with such force that his skull cracked. His companions ran to his rescue and skull said: "Hamza! It seems you, too, have forsaken your religion."

Hamza said: "If truth dawns upon me, who is there to hold me back? Well I declare now and here that Muhammad (S.A.W.) is a Prophet of Allah, and whatever he says is true. By Allah, I cannot go against Islam. If you can, try to stop me."

When Abu Jahl saw Hamza (Allah be pleased with him) in such a furious temper he asked his companions to leave Hamza alone. Those were the days when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had taken refuge in the house of Arqam bin Abi Arqam to protect the poor and weak Muslims

from the torture and torments of the non-believers in Makkah. People could not dare to talk about Islam. But fearless as was, Sayyadna Hamza proclaimed the truth of Islam openly. This shows that no one among the people of Arabia had the courage to challenge Hamza. The fact is that with the acceptance of Islam by Sayyadna Hamza, the whole situation suddenly changed. Now the non-believers had to think twice before inflicting any injury on the Muslims. Thus Sayyadna Hamza showed his courage and valour for the first time in the cause of Allah.

The acceptance of Islam by Sayyadna Hamza did upset the enemies of Islam. They held meetings to decide new course of action. They considered several suggestions to suppress Islam. In their frustration they decided to put an end to the life of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) by any means.

They offered a big reward for the purpose. Another man of great courage and spirit in Makkah rose with a sword in his hand and marched towards the house of Arqam bin Arqam. He was 'Umar, who was later known as 'Umar the Great, and second Caliph of Islam. Many companions of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) were present there. When they came to know that 'Umar was coming they were perturbed. But Sayyadna Hamza said: "We do'nt care. Let him come. If he is coming in sincerity, well and good, otherwise, I shall strike off his head with his own sword."

Such was the courage and bravery of Sayyadna Hamza and his confidence in the strength bestowed upon him by Allah.

The Arabs were very proud of their superior race and blood. This vanity proved hurdle in embracing Islam for many a sensible persons. On the battlefield of Badr, Abul Bakhtari, pointed towards the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and said to Abu Jahl, "Tell me the truth and say what do you think of him?" Abu Jahl said, "No doubt he is a truthful person. But, we cannot afford to sit at par with persons like Bilal!" Bilal (Allah be pleased with him) was a slave and had embraced Islam. In those days the slaves were regarded so low and mean that they could not claim any respect. The manner in which they were treated stands no comparison with the treatment shown to the Indian untouchables and the African Negroes, these days. But the teachings of Islam had changed the devoted companions, so much so that they never made any discrimination between man and man on the basis of race, colour, wealth or caste. Sayyadna Hamza was a very good example of it. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) declared his notable slave, Zaid bin Harith (Allah be pleased with him) as the brother in Islam of his uncle Sayyadna Hamza and they became so dear to each other that whenever one of them went out, he appointed the other as his heir and gave him instructions, by way of his will, in every matter. Thus, Sayyadna Hamza preferred Islam to everything else. He passed his life in total submission to

Allah only. He gave up hurting and wrestling and devoted his whole time and energies to the cause of Islam.

In the thirteenth year of the Prophethood, Sayyadna Hamza migrated along with the other companions of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) to Madina. Here he got ample opportunities of displaying his strength and courage in the service of Islam. In the first instance the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) deputed thirty persons to check the caravan of the non-believers of Makkah under the command of Sayyadna Hamza and, for the first time in the history of Islam, Sayyadna Hamza was entrusted the banner of Islam.

As this small detachment moved ahead it met a caravan of Quraish under the leadership of Abu Jahl. The caravan consisted of three hundred horsemen. Sayyadna Hamza decided to confront the three hundred persons with his handful of companions. Finding Sayyadna Hamza, Majid bin 'Amar, a person from Makkah intervened and prevented an encounter. Both the parties withdrew to their positions. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) sent him on various military expeditions with very few persons at his command but he always succeeded in his assignments.

A little later the battle of Badr was fought. 'Utbah the most experienced and brave man of the Makkah Quraish came forward along with his brother and son. From the side of Muslims, some Ansari youngmen advanced to meet them.

But 'Utba was proud of his descent and bravery that he took it as an insult to face persons below his standard and status. He cried out, "O Muhammad we do not want to fight against persons below our level. Send our equals to us." The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) then sent Sayyadna Hamza, Sayyadna 'Ali and Sayyadna 'Ubaidah (may Allah be pleased with them) to meet the challenge. Sayyadna Hamza attacked 'Utbah and killed him with the first blow. Next came Taema bin Adi, another renowned warrior to take revenge. But he met the same fate at the first stroke. The infidels infuriated by their loss made a full fledged attack on the Muslims. A fierce battle took place. Sayyadna Hamza wore a turban with an ostrich plume over it and thus looked very prominent among the Muslim warriors. He held swords in both of his hands and killed a number of infidels including their great warriors. The enemy could not face the fierce onslaught and took to heels. The Muslims captured a number of infidels including some nobles of Makkah. Some of the prisoners asked, "Who was the man with the ostrich plume?"

"Hamza" was the answer.

"He inflicted great losses on us," they said.

The infidels of Makkah suffered heavily in this battle. They did not forget their defeat and raised a big army next year to avenge the defeat and capture Madinah. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) along with his devoted companions, met the

enemy at Uhad. A wrestler, Saba, came forward and challenged the Muslim warriors. Sayyadna Hamza accepted his challenge and said, "Do you dare to fight against Allah and His Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)?" Then he struck Saba with a fatal blow and killed him.

Soon a fierce battle started. Sayyadna Hamza had killed many a prominent persons of the Quraish in the battle of Badr. So the Quraish were after his blood. They made many a concerted attacks on Sayyadna Hamza but every time he repelled their attack and killed about thirty infidels.

Jubair bin Mut'im had specially deputed a slave named Wahshi to take revenge for his uncle Taeema bin Adi. The slave was promised a handsome reward in addition to his freedom. Wahshi hid himself behind a rock in the battle field and waited for an opportunity to attack Sayyadna Hamza. As soon as Sayyadna Hamza came within range, Wahshi threw his poisoned sharp weapon with full force to hit Sayyadna Hamza. It was such a deadly weapon that Sayyadna Hamza succumbed to his injury.

Men and women of the infidels rejoiced at the martyrdom of Sayyadna Hamza. They sang and danced. Abu Sufyan's wife, Hinda's father, 'Utbah, was killed in the battle of Badr by Sayyadna Hamza. She was so revengeful that she brought out the liver of Sayyadna Hamza from his dead body and tried to munch and devour it, but she could not swallow and spat it

out. Then she cut off the nose and ears of the dead body and made a necklace of them. When the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) heard of it he said:

"Did she eat any part of the body?"

"No," was the reply.

"He (S.A.W.) said: "Allah will not let any part of Hamza's body go to hell."

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) then came to the dead body of his uncle. Hinda had mutilated the corpse and made it a horrible sight. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) saw the body and his heart was moved. He said: "Allah bless you, for you looked after your relations and surpassed others in noble deeds. But for the grief of Safia, I would have left you here in this condition for animals and birds to eat. Then you could be raised from their stomachs on the day of Destiny."

Hazrat Safia was the sister of Sayyadna Hamza (Allah be pleased with him). When she heard the news of her brother's martyrdom, she went to see the face of her departed brother. But the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) did not allow her to go near the corpse and sent her back with words of consolation. Before her departure, Hazrat Safia gave two sheets of cloth to her son Sayyadna Zubair (Allah be pleased with him) to make the shroud. By chance the dead body of an Ansari was also lying nearby. So he gave one sheet of cloth to cover the body of the Ansari martyr. A single sheet was, however, insufficient to cover the body of Sayyadna Hamza. If the head was covered, the feet were left uncovered,

and when the feet were covered, the head was left bare. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) therefore advised to cover the head and place grass and leaves over the feet. It was in this pathetic manner that the shroud of “the leader of Martyres” was prepared. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) himself led the funeral prayers. Then the coffins of all the martyres of Uhad were placed, one by one, in a line. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) led the funeral prayers for each martyr individually. Thus after seventy prayers, the martyres were laid to rest.

The extent of love the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) had for Sayyadna Hamza can be judged from the following incident.

Sayyadna Wahshi, the assassin of Sayyadna Hamza embraced Islam after sometime and presented himself to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) who said:

“Are you Wahshi?”

“Yes Sir, was the answer.

“Did you kill Hamza?” said the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).

“Whatever you know is correct, Sir,” the man said.

“Can you hide your face from me for ever?” Looking at you will always remind me of what you did to my dear uncle.” Said the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).

Sayyadna Wahshi left the place at once and did not show his face during the life time of Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).

This was the great martyr of Islam, who devoted all his God-gifted qualities to the service of Islam, from the day he embraced it.

Sayyadna Hamza (Allah be pleased with him) had a number of children but they all died during their childhood. Only one, a girl named Amama, survived, who was left in Makkah at the time of migration.

After the conquest of Makkah, when the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) and his companions were returning to Madinah, Amama ran after them crying: O my brother, O my brother". Several people made claim over to take care of her. The Holy Prophet gave his decision in favour of Sayyadna Ja'far Tayyar: who pressed his claim saying: "She is my cousin and her maternal aunt is my wife." A maternal aunt is equal to the mother in relation.

Sayyadna Wahshi sorely repented his misdeed. He thought of making amends for the great harm he had done to the cause of Islam and the severe pain he had caused to the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) so, after the time of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) during the Khilafah of Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) when an army was despatched to crush Musailmah Kazzab. Sayyadna Wahshi also took part in the crusade. He killed the wicked enemy, Musailmah Kazzab, and thus made amends for the wrong done by him to the cause of Islam.



IMPACT OF ISLAMIC REVOLUTION ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHES

Dr. Ibrahim B. Syed

The modern age which is the age of science and industry, of freedom and equality is the direct consequence of the Islamic revolution rooted in the Qur'an.

The *Tawheed*, which Muhammad (S.A.W.) propagated, was distinct from all other ideas because it was based on two principles:

Tawheed Rububiyyah, which means that Allah is One, without any partners or associates.

Tawheed 'Ulluhiyyah, which means that Allah must be worshipped alone in everything, and total slavery must be to Allah alone in everything ranging from the spiritual to the political ones.

It was this call for *Tawheed*, which provoked the anger of the Makkan political authority because they realized that Muhammad (S.A.W.) posed a threat to their societal set-up with this call. The response of Ja'far ibn Abi Talib also illustrates this understanding which the Makkan authorities feared:

“He summoned us to worship the One True God and reject the stones and idols we and our fathers had been worshipping in addition to Allah.

He ordered us to be trustful in speech, fulfil all the duties that were entrusted to us, care for our relatives, be kind to our neighbours, and refrain from unlawful food and consumption of blood. He forbade us to engage in lewdness and lying, the devouring of the money of the orphan and the defamation of married women. He commanded us to worship the One God and assign no partners unto Him, pray, pay the purifying tax and fast. We deemed him truthful and we believed him, and we accepted the Message he brought from Allah.”

This understanding of the spiritual-political nature of the Message of Islam can also be found in many Ayats of the Qur'an.

Neal Armstrong walked on the surface of the moon on July 20, 1969. Why did it take thousands of years for man to land on the moon? Non-Muslims ask, “If Islam had never come into existence, would there have been anything seriously lacking in world history?” The answer is yes.

Polytheism and superstition looked upon things and creatures as deities, and encouraged their

worship. Before the advent of Islam polytheism dominated the entire world. Man considered the moon, the sun, other planets, wind, river, snake, cow, fire, mountain, etc. as deities. These natural objects inspired man to bow before it rather than try to conquer it. Holding the moon to be sacred was a major obstacle to even thinking of conquering it. The supremacy of polytheism was brought to an end by the Islamic revolution, which replaced it with monotheism, making it the dominant creed of the times.

What Is Revolution?

Revolution is defined as a sudden, radical or complete change; especially the overthrow or renunciation of one ruler or government and substitution of another by the governed. To change fundamentally or completely. To turn over in the mind: reflect upon: ponder.

In the Muslim world this revolution was brought about through the influence of religion. The Western world began its revolution by separating the secular sciences from religion, culminating in the landing of man on the moon. Modern science is a part of the polytheistic view, natural sciences had become forbidden territory and natural phenomena were given sanctity. The Islamic revolution of monotheism opened the doors of research and investigation by displacing nature from its sacred pedestal. Modern science is wholly the gift of the Islamic revolution—directly in its later stages. Modern scientific revolution was set in motion by Islam, which was sent by the Almighty for the guidance of all

mankind for all eternity. Henry Pirenne, author of *History of Western Europe*, says, “Islam changed the face of the globe. The traditional order of history was overthrown.” Islam is complete truth. All-pervasiveness of superstition served as a hurdle to all kinds of human development. The kings or rulers exploited the masses through polytheism and superstition. The kings represented God on earth. Some kings like Nimrod, Pharaoh claimed as gods. George Sarton:

It was God’s decree that Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) to be a *da’i* (missionary) as well as a *mahi* (eradicator).

The Qur’an says: “*We have revealed to you this Book so that, by the will of their Lord, you may lead men from darkness to light.*” (14:1)

The Nile Goddess:

In Egypt, it was an ancient and pagan custom that sometime in July a virgin decorated with bridal clothes was thrown in the Nile river as an offering to propitiate (or to do something to get favours) the Goddess of the river Nile. After the advent of Christianity, the Egyptians became Christians, however they continued to follow the ancient custom of sacrificing a virgin to the Goddess of river Nile.

During the time of Hazrat Omar, Egypt came under the Muslim rule and Amr bin Al-Aas was appointed Governor of Egypt. The Egyptian elders waited on the Governor in July, and wanted his permission for continuing the old custom of

throwing a virgin in the river to seek the pleasure and favours of the Nile Goddess.

The Governor said that such a practice was offensive and revolting to Islam and hence he disallowed such practice in an Islamic State. He further argued that Islam recognized no Goddess of the Nile and the question any propitiation did not arise. Islam recognizes only One God-Allah and Allah does not stand in need of any propitiation.

After listening to this argument the Egyptian elders were not satisfied. They warned the Governor Amr bin Al-Aas that unless the sacrifice was made, the Nile River would not rise in flood and the entire countryside would get arid. Governor Amr was, however, unyielding and inflexible that floods or no floods; human sacrifice could not be permitted. The Egyptian leaders returned home in a gloomily mood.

The month of July came and passed away. No sacrifice was offered, and there was also no rise in the level of the river Nile. The month of August came and still the river did not rise. The Egyptians were trembling at what would happen if the river did not rise. The month of August passed away and still there was no flood in the river. The Egyptian leaders grieved and said, "That is all due to Islam. The Muslim have brought this fate on us".

The month of August was gone and September came, and still there was no sign of any rise in the level of the river Nile. The Egyptians lost

hope and most of them were thinking of migration elsewhere. That made Amr bin al-Aas worried. He reported the facts of the case to Hazrat Umar and wanted his instruction. Hazrat Umar approved of the action of Amr in not permitting the human sacrifice. Along with the letter, Hazrat Umar sent a card on which it was written:

"In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. From the slave of Allah, Umar, the Commander of the faithful to the Nile of Egypt.

Everything in the Universe is subject to the will of Allah. The rise in your level is subject to the will of Allah, and we pray to Allah to command you to rise in level".

Hazrat Umar asked Amr that the card should be thrown in the middle of the river. On the eve of the Feast of the Christian Day of the Cross, Amr had the Christians assemble on the river bank and after reciting some verses from the Noble Quran and taking the name of Allah, he threw the card of Hazrat Umar in the middle of the river. Then the Muslims assembled on the riverbank, lifted their hands in prayers seeking the blessings of Allah, in making the river rise in level. The card of Hazrat Umar floated on the surface of the Nile for some distance and then it disappeared.

The next morning the river rose to its full flood height. Verily Allah had commanded the river to flow, and that was the end of the evil custom of sacrificing a virgin to secure a rise in the level of the river. That was the vindication of Islam. Many

Egyptians now came to believe that Islam was a blessing and true religion. They hastened to the Muslim camp and were converted to Islam.

Islamic Revolution:

Before the time of the Prophet of Islam, the ancient civilizations such as Greek, Egyptian, Roman and Persian all were polytheistic (*Shirk*) in their beliefs. That is, they worshipped natural phenomena such as the earth (Goddess Gaiga now in the West), rivers, mountains, sun, moon or stars. Only Islam was able to displace them from the pedestal of worship and created the intellectual frame of mind, which is known as the scientific revolution.

The polytheists believed the river to possess divine attributes. They believed the goddess of river caused the water to move and made it useful or harmful. In Islam the river is a creation of Allah and not a creator and it was a servant of Allah and not the Lord. Thus the Muslims found ways and means to exploit the rivers on a large scale. The history books disclose that there is no precedent in any nation to the large-scale irrigation system developed by the Spanish Muslims. The Spanish Muslims developed agriculture and created departments of agriculture science irrigation in the universities. They studied trees and carried out research on the properties of soil. The infertile lands were converted into orchards and lush green fields, in today's terms a green revolution. Before this people treated rivers, springs and sea as gods. But the

Muslims brought the green revolution because of their monotheistic thinking.

Polytheism (*shirk*) was prevalent until the 7th century. It was replaced with monotheism (*Tawhid*) by the Islamic Revolution. This in turn opened the doors of research and investigation by abolishing the practice of worshipping the natural phenomena. Modern industrial progress owes its existence to the Arab Muslims due to their creed of monotheism, which instilled them a mental and practical revolution. Islam changed the thinking of the Muslims and contributed to the modern scientific revolution. Historians acknowledge that Islam changed the face of the globe. Polytheism and superstition blocked the progress and advancement of human development. Islam encouraged the investigation of nature and destroyed the sanctity of nature.

God & Man:

Islam also destroyed the concept of intermediaries between God and man, such as the kings and priests who claimed as God's representatives on earth or even the incarnations of God on earth. Polytheism (*shirk*) curbed freedom of thought. Polytheism and superstition were the major obstacles to all kinds of progress. Superstitious beliefs were an obstruction in the path of free enquiry. The search for new truths and discovery of nature's secrets remained forbidden areas for them for centuries. Before the Islamic revolution, the world had been swept by superstitious beliefs and idolatry. The revolution based on monotheism of Islam put an almost

complete end to polytheism (shirk). The Greeks excelled in the fields of art and philosophy. Their contribution to the field of science (except Archimedes' hydrostatics) was actually quite never worshipped the pagan gods which were worshipped by the Athenians in Greece and instilled free enquiry among the youth of Athens and for that he was forced to drink hemlock as a punishment in 399 BC. Archimedes was killed by a Roman soldier in 212 BC. The atmosphere for scientific progress did not exist in ancient Greece. Similarly, the mighty Roman Empire never produced a single scientist.

In Islam with its foundation of monotheism created an atmosphere and environment, which stimulated scientific research that lead to the conquest of natural phenomena. The modern age which is the age of science and industry, of freedom and equality is the direct consequence of the Islamic revolution rooted in the Quran.

From the sixth to the 10th century Europe was in dark ages while the Islamic civilization attained the pinnacles of science and technology. After the crusades, the Europeans came in contact with the Islamic civilization. They went to Muslim universities in Spain, Sicily, Cairo, and Baghdad. They translated the Arabic works into Latin for over two hundred years. The European Renaissance started in the 15th century and culminated in the emergence of the modern industrial civilization. Islamic revolution is responsible for the emancipating the human thought.

During the Abbaside era, paper was being manufactured on a large scale and so books could be

produced without the dearth of paper. There were more than 4,00,000 books in the library of Cordovan (Spain) in the 10th century, whereas in Europe at that time, the library of Canterbury the top of the list of the Christian libraries contained only 1800 books in the 13th century.

In many countries scholars were born with creative minds who could think independently of their fellow citizens. But due to the unfavourable atmosphere and hostile environment of times, their efforts could be brought to fruition. Their knowledge withered away before they could flourish. On the other hand, Islamic revolution produced favourable atmosphere, it unleashed a mighty flood of knowledge which had been kept pent up for thousands of years by the dam of polytheism (shirk) and superstition. For progress of Science and Technology an atmosphere of free investigation is essential. One may be surprised to know that even today there are some people and societies who believe that the earth is flat. Even today the Hindus with M.D. and Ph.D. degrees worship the sun as god and believe that the lunar and solar eclipse are caused when the snakes Rahu and Ketu swallow them. One thousand yeas ago Abu Rayhan Al-Biruni explained how the solar and lunar eclipses are caused by the shadows of moon and earth falling on the sun and moon respectively. The Hindus believe in 330 million gods and goddesses. Even if one spends one minute in reciting the name of a god, the whole life is not enough to recite the names of 330 million gods and goddesses.



OBITUARIES

1. Maulana Muhammad Haroon Sanabili, General Secretary Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadeeth's elder brother Abdur Raheem's daughter expired on August 22, 2019 at Meerut and buried there with tears and unbearable sorrow. It should be noted that Maulana Muhammad Haroon Sanabili's elder brother Abdur Raheem sb too has passed away two months earlier. May Almighty Allah shower His Mercy and Blessings on the said souls and award them Jannatul Firdaus and forgive their short comings. Maulana Asghar Ali Imam Mahadi Salafi, Ameer Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadeeth Hind, Finance Secretary Janab Wakeel Parvez and other office bearers as well as well-wishers extend their condolences to Maulana Muhammad Haroon Sanabli with prayers for their heavenly abode.

2. Janab Anwar Ahmad, a close relative of Maulana Aziz Ahmad Madani, teacher at Al-Maahad al-A'lee lil-Takhasus lil-Darasatil Islamiyya, Delhi passed away on August 25, 2019 at the age of 80. He is survived by his widow, two sons and five daughters. May Allah forgive his sins and award him Jannatul Firdaus

and give courage to family members to bear the great loss.

3. Maulana Imtiaz Alam Khan Muhammadi, uncle and father-in-law of Maulana Muhammad Shafeeq Alam Khan Jamei, (Ameer Jamiat Ahle Hadeeth, Hyderabad and Secndrabad twons) died on August 21, 2019.

May Allah accept all his excellent deeds and forgive his short-comings, award him Jannatul Firdaus as well as give courage to his family members to bear the pain of his death. Ameen.



DON'T MAKE MISCHIEF IN THE EARTH

Call upon your Lord with humility and in secret. Surely He does not love transgressors. And do not make mischief in the earth after it has been set in order, and call upon Him with fear and longing. Surely, Allah's mercy is close to those who do good" (Surah Al-Ar'af, 7:55-6)

