

## **Our dealing with the Qur'an**

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### **1. Qur'an, Muslims & Current Era:**

*Muslims are the truly blessed people to have the Qur'an, pure from any distortion, even after fifteen hundred years. But the Muslims of the current era are unfortunate who even after having the final divine Scripture, "Qur'an", remain away from its blessings. Qur'an has been sent for the guidance of the people, to understand and establish the society according to its directions. This divine code was bestowed upon the Ummah for their guidance, and history is witness that as long as they followed its teachings they ruled the world. They were men of character, who have full faith on Allah and His Rasul. They were true follower of the Qur'an. That's why they defeated the giant Roman and Zoroastrian Empires. History is a witness acted according to the Qur'an; they were the masters of their destiny. Today, when Muslims have lost their commitment with the Qur'an, they have lost their power and synonymous with contempt. The Muslims of today treat Quran as only a sacred relic; its Ayaat are used by them as an amulet. It is read and memorized without understanding. People never bother to think in the commandments, nor do they try to find solutions of their problems from it. All matters concerning human life are discussed at length in this Book, which basically is the need of every person in his life. Instead Muslims look up to their western masters for solution of their problems and like beggars follow them everywhere, the result is nothing but humiliation. What previous nations faced in disobeying Allah, today Muslims at large are facing the same.*

### **2. Qur'an; an amazing miracle:**

*Many Ayaat of the Qur'an contains facts which the modern science has uncovered only now. This explains why the clash that took place in Europe during the Middle Ages between faith and reason, religion and science, never occurred in the Islamic faith. The Qur'an frequently exhorts its reader to use their brains that is how Muslims scholars and scientist have also been committed believers.*

*The Qur'an was never destined to be a science manual; whether highlighting the marvels of life or the teachings of history, its Ayaat guide us to reflect on the magnificence of Allah. This is one of the Qur'an's qualities; that makes it a convincing Book. Qur'an is the spring of intellect. As much as you try to find wonders, the vistas of understanding start opening before you. If you study Qur'an deeply you can find solutions of the problems of the present era from where you can take guidance. It is up to you whether you take two drops of water or want to be blessed with an ocean.*

*If a doctor diagnoses a disease and writes a prescription and the patient instead of using the medicine prescribed, dissolve that prescription in water and drinks it, what would be your opinion about that person? If a patient instead of taking drugs reads a book of medicine, where the disease is discussed, can he get cured of the disease he suffers from? Will any body consider him to be a sane person? Only a competent doctor can help the patient and cure the disease. Likewise, on the same level, the Muslim society suffering from problems today, due to its neglect the lessons of the Qur'an.*

*Learned Commentator of the Qur'an, Syedna al Moayyed al Shirazi says: [1]*

*"He who tries to understand the Qur'an through its ordinary commentators will never get through its minutiae details and he who tries to interpret like those who read according to their own whims will also be lost and will not know how to get out of it."*

*Rasulullah(S) said: [2]*

*"I am leaving two substantial possessions. The one is the Book of Allah and the second is my 'Ahl al Bait'. If you attach to them you will never lose the way. They are inseparable. They cannot part with each other until they return to Me and meet Me at the 'Hawz-e-Kausar'."*

*Another Hadith say: [3]*

*"Learn from the learned of 'Ahl al Bait' and from those who have learned from them. If you do so you will be secure from Hell-fire".*

*To understand Qur'an, it is advisable to study literature of Ahl al Bait, which can cure the problem of the Ummah as a proper and powerful medicine. I cherish a Hadith at this moment which every Muslim remembers: [4]*

*"I am City of 'ilm & Ali is its Gate, whosoever wishes to learn can come through the Gate".*

*This point was discussed by famous Muslim thinker and intellect Syedna Nasir Khasraw , around a thousand years ago. He says: [5]*

*Har Chi Juz Az Khazin Khudai Sitani*

*Jumla Suwal Ast u Khawariastu Gadaee*

*(Whatever one can achieve in form of ilm other then this assigned treasurer that is nothing but offering with humiliation to a beggar)*

*We will discuss the above point some other time, but it must be submitted that it is a cumulative misfortune of Ummah that they ignore the 'Friends of Allah', to study the divine manual, Qur'an. When one buys any sophisticated equipment, beside the manual, an expert person demonstrates to the buyer how to use it. It is matter of regret that people have ignored the 'Quruna al Qur'an' (Friends of the Qur'an), who are expert of the Qur'an. At a number of places Rasulallah(S) has guided the Ummah from whom they can learn and who is the Right Source? Aalim-e-Rabbani, Syedna Nasir Khasraw questioned rightly: [6]*

*Gar Sui Aali Mard Shawad Maali u Chira*

*Zi A'li u Na Shud Ze Payambar Shariatash*

*(If [according to the law of Qur'an] wealth can be transferred to one's children; then why not children of Rasulallah(S) inherited Shariah[Ulum al Qur'an & Sunnah])?*

### **3. Awliya can interpret the Qur'an as per need of the time:**

No doubt, in Muslim World except for the bigoted, no one can deny the exalted position of Ahl al Bait for dissemination of Knowledge. They trained a team of Awliya in the early era of Islam who in turn transmitted Ulum al Qur'an to group of able pupils. They spread the Sciences of Qur'an amongst the seekers, who came from across the earth. These Scholars gifted to the world numerous inventions. Contribution of Ahl al Bait & Awliya towards spreading Sciences of Qur'an is superb. Not only Muslims but Orientals have also admitted this fact. A treasure is always kept under lock and key. As without a key the locker can not be opened, likewise Qur'an is also a wealth under lock, where treasures of amazing Gems are secure. Awliya have its key and code to open it. Each word of Nabi carries a deep esoteric meaning and Hikmah behind its apparent meaning. The Ruby of Badakhshan, Syedna Nasir Khusraw presented a beautiful expression which was the result of his deep devotion, in the following verse: [7]

*Juz Ki Quran Nist Khazinahi Ulum*

*Majmai ilamast u Baru Khazinast*

(Other than Qura'n there is no further treasure of Knowledge; for that (Qur'an) treasure of wisdom and sciences, there is an appointed treasurer).

### **4. Demand of the Qur'an, Understanding or Blind Following?**

People are very much influenced about what is in practice around them, and less concerned with what Qur'an instructs. They have lost the spirit of a real Muslim and an alien thought has taken place. Therefore, divine help has been withdrawn from them. As a blind person cannot claim to see through his eyes, equally, that person cannot address himself as a Muslim who ignores the Qur'an & Sunnah and follows alien practices. Islam does not force anyone to follow, but invites one to first study and then decide what is best for oneself. A simple definition of a Muslim is, he who never crosses the limit fixed by the Qur'an and Shariah in their practical life. Difference between Islam and Kufur is thinner than a hair.

The Meaning of Islam is to follow the injunctions of Qur'an in each matter, and condemn all issues repugnant to the Qur'an and Sunnah. This matter is discussed in Qur'an as follow:

*".....And those who do not judge by what Allah has sent down are the unjust" [8]*

Qur'an creates revolutionary spirit if try to understand. Qur'an discussed the sign of the true believers as follow:

*"Whose hearts, when Allah is mentioned, are filled with awe and reverence, who endure with patience what befalls them, establish Salaat and spend out of what We have provided them" [9]*

*"Allah has sent down the very best discourse, a book consistent in parts yet repeating(its teachings in various aspects), and make the skins of those who fear their Lord shiver; then their skins and their hearts incline to the remembrance of Allah. This is Allah's guidance. He guides with it whomsoever He wills; and whomsoever Allah leaves to stray, for him there is no guide." [10]*

If we spend only five minutes, out of 24 hours sincerely to learn and follow one Ayah daily, then inshallah within five years we will understand lesson of Qur'an, which will switch our life to the Right Direction. The second important point is that we spend another five minutes only for self accountability, in that time, we only recollect our thoughts and try to realize our misdeeds, self consciousness is very powerful medium to help, it can operate like a surgeon who cuts the part of the body to let the puss out for cure. Consider profoundly! Can the one who spend his day and night only in collecting money, building properties, running industries, enjoying feast as a daily routine, and managing expensive estates in different parts of the world have guarantee for liberation in A'akhirah? Till continuation of breath, ones relation with worldly things persists; as soon as it stops no one shall help him. On the other side, Qur'an provides us perpetual benefits and guarantee, which help in this world as well as in the A'akhirah. It is only Qur'an, which provide assurance of Naimah. Is it not misfortune of Muslims of present day that they are neglecting the Qur'an, nor have they time to comprehend what blunder they are committing?

##### **5. Problem diagnosed, Remedy & Cure:**

Roots of all diseases are in hearts. Qur'an says: [11]

*"Disease is in their hearts"*

Blind means not only the one who have no vision, but it means blind by heart. Today every one understands well what is good and what is evil, but people commits sins openly and take pleasure in that, because their heart have become blind. When the situation turns to worst like this then cure is only in the hands of One about whom Ali ibn Abi Talib says in Dua al Kumail:

*"O the One! Whose Name is Medicine and Whose Discussion is Remedy" [12]*

Let's decide what you like, either to follow Qur'an or rituals, customs and traditions of your forefathers. If we study deeply, we find three misleading factors hinder in following the Qur'an, which surround our life as follows:

i). **Desire & Lust:** The one who becomes a slave of desire would never become a true believer of Allah. He always considers, through which act he can gain more money, in matters where people praise him. How can he achieve a luxurious life? To fulfill his inner wishes he will neglect divine commandments, and become a slave of his desires. Qur'an has discussed this kind of person as follow: [13]

*"Have you then seen him who takes for his good his vain desire? Allah has, despite (His) knowledge, left him astray, sealed his ears and heart, and veiled his eyes. Who can then guide him after Allah (has left him astray)? Will you not then reflect?"*

ii). **Customs, Rituals & Traditions of Forefathers:** The second factor is related to customs, rituals and traditions of forefathers, which are inherited from them, which are alien to the teachings of Qur'an and Shariah. The slaves of such rituals can not recover from spiritual disease until they kick away these customs.

iii). **Blind Following & Brain-washing:** The third factor is brain-washing, Qur'an has never taught us to brain wash people, and produce mass production of blind followers, like a

herd, instead it has condemned it in a number of Ayah. The curse of brain-washing is the work of those of the present day seminaries, which are run by short sighted fanatics. It is but natural that intolerant fanatics will only produce likeminded pupils. They are busy in brain washing their pupils rather than grooming them. Religious intolerance is a core issue of the current era, which can not be ignored. Proliferation of Madaris with teachers of questionable credentials has become a big problem in the Muslim world, which cannot be overlooked. They receive generous funding, for which they are not accountable to any government institution including the Tax authorities. The contribution of the Madaris in the production of fanatics is superb. The pupils of these Madaris as well as other blind followers are ready to die at the command of the clerics. People believing in the teachings of this ignorant group who do not have the capacity of understanding the Qur'an in current scenario. They are also instructed with distorted and prejudiced ideas about what the Qur'an says. Most of the teachers of divinity handle those who argue with them with harshness and would even order the illiterate followers to beat them. Sectarian killings and lack of interest of the people in Qur'an Studies is the result of such malicious approach of so-called 'Teachers of Uluum al Qur'an'.

It is a ripe time to check and control this misguided flourishing trend in the Muslim world, in the name of Qur'an Studies. It is necessary to first break above mentioned three symbolic idols. Until we do not break these nasty base; our Ibadah remain spiritless and we will not achieve the fruits through our dealing with the Qur'an. In truth there are a few Ulama who are Allah fearing and have command on numerous Sciences of Islam, but they are not in light nor they are greedy of name and fame, therefore common people can not take full benefits from them, as needed. Otherwise you'd be amazed to learn how much more learned and intellectual they are than you, or ever will be. It is time that people pay them due respect and listen them.

Although no translation of the Qur'an can authentically cover its intellectual meaning so all Muslims are expectant to learn Arabi. Masjid can play a leading role to disseminate the understanding of Qur'an and its language, as it played in past. I cherish the glorious era of Muslim history, when in Jame Anwar [14], Qahera and in Jame Arwa [15], Dhu Jiblah, Yemen, scholars of high repute trained team of post graduates, who in turn trained others in their respective cities. Majority of the subjects were taught under the guidance of the Qur'an, which was a unique feature of above mentioned Masjid Madrasah. This open mindedness and intellectual atmosphere inspired non Muslims who visited Qahera and Yemen to translate classical Muslim Literature from Arabi into European languages, which brought the 'European Renaissance'.

### **References & Notes:**

- [1] "Al Majalis al Muayaddiyyah", Syedna al Moayyed al Shirazi, vol. 1
- [2] Hadith
- [3] Hadith
- [4] Hadith
- [5] "Dew'an", Syedna Nasir Khusraw [a famous intellectual of Central Asian origin], Tehran, Iran
- [6] Ibid
- [7] Ibid
- [8] Ayah 45, Surah Al Maidah-5
- [9] Ayah 35, Surah Al Haj-22
- [10] Ayah 23, Surah Az-Zumr-39
- [11] Ayah 10, Surah Al Baqara-2
- [12] Dua al Kumail, as Surah Yasin is heart of Qur'an, Dua al Kumail is heart of the "Sahifah Alaviyyah" of Amir al Muminin Ali Ibn Abi Talib.
- [13] Ayah 23: Surah Al Jasiyyah-45
- [14] "Jame Anwar": this Masjid Madrasah was built by Fatemi Imam al Hakim, in Qahera in 393 A.H. 1140 years old; this Masjid played a significant role to broadcast the message of Qur'an interpreted by Ahl al Bait, in numerous faculties of learning. Through this Masjid Madrasah, knowledge of Qur'an reached across the Mediterranean Sea. Tyranny of the time turned it in a deplorable condition, hence UNESCO declared its restoration & renovation impossible. It was 52<sup>nd</sup> al Dai al Fatemi of Ismaili Musta'alavi Dawoodi School, Dr. Syedna Mohammad Burhanuddin who took this task to restore it to its glorious originality. In short period of 28 months, it returned to its glory and the Fatemi Dai gifted this wonderful Masjid to the world of Islam.
- [15] "Jame Arwa", adjacent to this Masjid, grave of Queen Syedah Arwa Suleyhi is located. She built this Masjid Madrasah in her capital Dhu Jiblah, Yemen, which played a remarkable role to disseminate Knowledge of Islam in 11<sup>th</sup> century.

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