

A time to remove Hindu ethnicity from Muslim marriage

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(1) "Born Again Muslims":

How unfortunate that the religion of Islam has been converted by its followers in to a religion of culture. Some of its followers have aligned Islam to their predecessor's un-Islamic traditions, and perform anti Islam acts, out of habit without any understanding. Allow me permission to say, that such Muslims need to enter in to the fold of Islam fully or to be "Born Again Muslims", to make them "practicing followers". The majority of converted Muslim communities are confused between what is religion and what is culture. They take both as one and the same, and on many occasion practice religion as if it was part of their ethnicity, or adopt some of their old rituals as practices of Islam. Mass conversion of many communities never allowed them opportunities to learn in-depth knowledge of Islam. These communities at that time owed their loyalty to their leadership, and when the leadership converted to Islam, their group, without any consideration, accepted Islam. This blind following allowed converted Muslims communities to continue a number of Hindu rituals. Additionally lack of Shariah knowledge and exploitation by the preachers in the name of religion is also one of the causes. The old customs, culture and traditions were retained and practiced side-by-side with Islam. In fact, you can still see aspects of Hindu ethnicity in South Asian Muslim society; primarily India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives.

(2) Kick Slavery of Rituals:

Many rituals of the Muslims of South Asian have no concern with Islam at all. Actually, some are even contrary to religious beliefs, and can be classified as Bidat or Shirk. These practices are not only sinful but make a mockery of the concept of Tawhid. Many religious scholars, those well learned in Islam dare not speak out. They realize that this is a very sensitive area to venture into. Blind followers treat the clerics as "Sacred Cow", and approach them time and again for blessings. One reason why Muslims are so helpless is that Islam was an imported religion and South Asian Muslims choose Islam only when it suited them, and at the same time retained their old cultures and traditions freely.

"Consider the concept of water and oil; they do not mix. Oil stays on top and does not contaminate the water below it. What we do not realize is that oil chokes life in the water by blocking the flow of oxygen". [1]

In the same manner, such customs kill the spirit of Islam.

Marriage plays an important role in the life of a Muslim. On the occasion of marriage, Islam discourages useless and lavish spending, and recommends enjoying the event in a manner which earns blessing of Allah. Rasulullah(S) advised to establish Marriage tie for a peaceful living. He advised the coming generations to adopt simple living, and enjoy a tension free life. The

exhibition of wealth has been termed by Qur'an and Rasulallah (S) as *Isr'af* and *Tabzir*, an evil act now regarded as fashion, passion, status symbol and as a barometer of respect.[2] People try to impress others through demonstration of their wealth instead of being simple and humble. Wealth is not a matter of pride; even a prostitute has enormous wealth but she is not considered respectful.

"Culture takes precedence over everything else and, if they miss one or two obligations in Islam, like *Sal'at* or *Siy'am*, it does not matter as long as that so called *Aadat* has been safely implemented. For example, people would spend hours dressing up a bride for a wedding ceremony, irrespective of the fact that the bride has to miss her *Maghrib Sal'at* because of this. Allowing her to perform her *Maghrib Sal'at* would mean that the preparations would be interrupted or delayed, not to mention her makeup, which had been carefully set at a great expense of time and money, would get all messed up". [3]

In the wedding ceremonies of South Asian region it is a Hindu practice where the bride and bridegroom sit on a stage so that the audience can see them, and then followed by their numerous ethnic customs. It is a time to repeal Hindu customs and discourage people to celebrate it. Today an important source of exhibition of power and prosperity are wedding ceremonies. The rituals of *Hina* have become a compulsory part of a wedding ceremony. Songs and dances are the basic ingredients of this function. In this ceremony boys and girls participate jointly and quite freely. So called modern people of liberal ideas call this kind of gathering '*Halla Gulla*'. Rasulallah(S) says: [4]

"I prohibit for you dancing and playing flute, drums and Tabla."

(3) Hina Ceremony or Gathering of Shait'an:

It has been observed several times that at a *Hina* ceremony, undesirable, preposterous and filthy songs are also sung. Among such gathering where every age group is present such shameful acts continue without any hesitation. Filthy songs incline a human mind towards lust and licentiousness. Injunctions of *Shariah* for eschewing such bad practice were issued by Rasulallah (S). *Shariah* instructs specifically that one should keep aloof from this weapon of the *Shait'an*. The influence of forces inimical to Islam is so strong that a common person regards music as a source of inner satisfaction, and that is why the people related to this reprehensible profession, such as sex workers, singers, musicians, so called artist etc, utter shamelessly:

"Music is the food of soul", while Qur'an says in very clear words: [5]

"Zikar of Allah is the source of inner- satisfaction".

(4) Music: Medium of Worship in Hindu Mythology:

In short words, it is enough to say that dance and songs are basic components of Hindu worship, while Qur'an declared Music forbidden: [6]

"So abstain from the pollution of the idols and abstain from false vain words".

The Arabi word "*Zoor*" means falsehood which covers music. According to Imam Ja'far Assadiq "*pollution of the idols*" means Chess; and "*Vain words*" means music. Issue of music understands only when study with this Ayah; Qur'an says: [7]

"And of the people there is he who buys a 'vain talk' so that he may lead others astray from the

path of Allah without (real) knowledge and takes it (Wahi) for a mockery; for these shall be a disgracing punishment”.

‘Lahw’ means any thing which switches the attention and make person ignorant from Allah and His commands.

"It includes ‘Music’, intoxicants and all such diversions” [8]

Imam Muhammad al Baqir said: [9]

Music is among the things for which Allah has promised the Fire (of Hell).

Then he recited the above Ayah: [10]

“Indeed successful are the believers those who in their Salaat are humble and those who keep themselves aloof from Vain (words and deeds)”

‘Laghw’ (Vain words and actions): Ali said: [11]

"All that is void of the remembrance of Allah is ‘Laghv’.

According to other authentic traditions of Imams, ‘Laghv’ means all useless entertainment, wasteful of times among which music has been specifically mentioned. Also included in this term are vain games played just to while away the time. Pay attention in the following Ayah: [12]

“And the servants of the Merciful Allah are those..... who bear not witness to what is false, and when they pass by what is vain they pass with dignity”

(5) Talim of Ahl al Bait:

According to the Traditions of Ahl al Bait, the first part may also be translated in this way:

"Who do not onlooker what is vain"!

Therefore, it has been explained in Tafsir as:

"Do not listen to music."

The following two traditions explain the second part:

Imam Ja’far Assadiq asked some of his companions: [13]

"Where are you staying?"

They replied:

"With so and so, who has singing and dancing girls.

Imam said:

"You should maintain dignity."

They thought that Imam had advised them to treat that man generously. But they were not sure; so they returned to the Imam and requested him to explain his meaning to them.

Imam said:

"Haven’t you heard Ayah: [14]

“When they pass by what is vain they pass with dignity”

Imam meant that you should not stay with a man who has singing and dancing girls.

Rasulullah (S) clearly declared: [15]

“Allah has sent me as a mercy to the world to guide the people. And He ordered me to eradicate the playing of flute and other instruments of music, all games of vice, idol (worship) and all practices of the days of ignorance”

The issue of Musiqi is very subtle and sensitive. There are two kinds of Musiqi, one is, by which

means sensations and feelings are attracted towards spirituality and Taqwa, while the other is just the opposite of it. Religion does not declare Har'am for the first kind of Musiqi, which includes Qir'at, Az'an, Munaj'at, N'aat, Manqabat, Marasi, Qasaid, Sal'am etc. All these are recited in rhythmic tones, which incline the attention of human feelings towards spirituality. Similarly Nazam, Rajz, Qawali, Kal'am of saints, Nashiyah, Duhe, Bhajan, Gin'an express high ideas and are sung for creation of pious feelings on different occasions, which do not strike at or clash with the values of Islam. Contrary to this there is another kind of Musiqi, whose words and half verses, the tune, and rhythm invite one to indulge in lustful activity, none other than sex. This kind of Musiqi is totally Har'am (prohibited). Rasulullah (S) says: [16]
"Such music is a precursor or fore-runner of 'Zina'(fornication)"

Abi Ja'far Imam Mohammad al Baqir informs in crystal clear terms: [17]
"Songs and music is one of those wicked acts for which Allah promised Ja'hannam".
He also says:

"If drums and cymbals are played at one's house for forty days, Allah will impose a Shait'an by the name of 'Al Qafandar'. The Shait'an will infiltrate into every cell of the person's body. With the spread of this evil, the person loses all sense of dignity and self-esteem. He will then not care as to what he says or what is said about him. Then, this Shait'an blows into this person. As a result, he becomes utterly shameless. So much so that he is not concerned or affected even if his women are dishonored."

Abi Abdillah Imam Ja'far Assadiq says: [18]

"The house, in which there is song and music, becomes a place of painful misfortunes. The Dua of the inmates of that house and of those who frequently visit them are rejected by Allah and the Malaek of Rahmah leave that house".

He also says:

"The playing of violin promotes the growth of hypocrisy in the heart like water assists the growth of plants."

"Then even learning to sing or play music and teaching it, to sing and play music, to be paid for these things or to be in any way engrossed in these vices is Har'am."

Consider this; how such marriage ceremony can be blessed where there is dance and music? In the Hina ceremony boys and girls sing vulgar songs while sitting closely. All other participants shamelessly enjoy those filthy songs. Very unfortunately still South Asian Muslim civilization, culture, rituals, traditions, thoughts, thinking, ceremonies and customs are greatly influenced Hindu practices.

(6) Alien to Islam Customs:

What connections have these, alien to Islam customs and rituals, with Muslims? No doubt, according to the 'Show Class' there can be no better occasion than a marriage ceremony for demonstration of pomp and show. On such occasions, it is a common practice that boys and girls meet freely and ultimately ignore the limit, fixed by the Shariah. Various communities residing in South Asia, who entered into the fold of Islam even in the first century Hijrah, still, could not purify themselves from Hindu rituals and customs. That is why; even today Hindu

rituals are common among them, and which they practice on different occasions in their ceremonies. Marriage is an important ceremony, an act of Sunnah, which people have converted it in to a sinful ritual, through act of Shirk and Bid'ah. So far as the application of Hina-Mehendi on palms is concerned, it is allowed exclusively for women, and its use on the palms of men is Har'am. On Hina ceremony, sister in-law puts Hina on the palm of her brother in-law, the groom; in return he offers her some token money as a Shagun-reward, which is purely a Hindu custom.

A precedent is always set on the basis of action of the leading class. Not only in the Marriage functions of the elite class, but also in so called religious class, reckless spending are fully demonstrated. Money is spent so lavishly that one becomes convinced that the source of it perhaps be illegal. A large number of the guests are especially of the upper strata invited for the purpose of demonstrating their social contacts with elites. In this way not only millions but billions are wasted, which on the other hand could have been used for constructive purposes. People enjoy wedding as a festival. Majority of the Muslims are not aware with the significance of the Hindu rituals, which still survives among them. The basic cause of it is that we are no longer following the Sunnah. We have adopted the manners of the Christians, Jews and Hindus, and forgotten the Shariah, and thus have become slaves of rituals and undesirable things.

(7) Conclusion of Discussion:

To prevent reckless spending on rituals, and to eliminate such customs and ceremonies, it is indispensable that we should shun participating in useless festivals and programs. Those who advocate Hina function, songs and dances as reflection of common culture and civilization of the region should know that Qur'an condemned these evil practices. It is totally hypocrisy that one, who turns his face for Sal'at towards the Kabah, should at the same time also support these evil deeds. It is a great responsibility of the sincere followers of Islam to discourage such gatherings, and should not participate in them. If we look at the Sunnat we find Talim of simplicity, which invites us to this practice. This is the Jih'ad, which contains the secret for the Naj'at of our Society. It is time that Ulama should pay attention and educate people in a manner that may convince them to repeal these alien to Islam customs fully. Re-construction of the culture of Islam is required, first in the family of Ulama then for the common people. If we want to be a true Muslim, we have to be less of an ethnic, and more of a Muslim.

Seal of fragrance of this discussion is a verse of 51st Al Dai Al Fatemi, Syedna Taher Saifuddin (d.1965, Mumbai). He incorporated Ayah 72 of Surah al Furqan brilliantly in the following couplet as 'Tazmin'. He says:

"Ayyuhal Muminuna Murru iza;

Antum Marartum Bil'laghwe Marral Kiraami" [19]

("O Muminin! Don't pay attention towards 'Laghw discussion. Don't listen Music, and if such programs are organized anywhere, then leave that place like air", as air never stay any place.) In his discourses the Dai warned:" you must know, Husain ibn Ali encountered the demand of Bait of Yazid ibn Mu'awiyah, and argued: How is it possible that I give Bait to a person who is enjoying music and dance? Be remembering! Lahw and Laghw is habit of Yazid and his like minded. It destroys not only spiritual health but also affected physically.

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