

Analysis of Westernized Minds by Dr. Muhammad Iqbal

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Published: Daily News, Pakistan, 24-04-2009

Revised: 2021

Abstract: *This paper attempts to weigh the ideology from the perspective of the great poet and philosopher, Dr. Mohammad Iqbal. Glamour of the west or so-called progress is in fact a culture of destruction but the Muslim world is suffering from this hysteria. Inspired by the white skins, Muslims have forgotten their own ideology and adopted liberal ideas which are cancerous. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, an ideal poet of Muslim renaissance, unveiled the face of the western ideology through his poems. Isn't it regrettable that younger Muslims, especially those living in the West, do not know much about the intellectual-philosopher and poet of the East, Dr. Allamah Muhammad Iqbal? Isn't it a shame that we have not been introduced to him properly? Today his work is easily accessible as a result of the many translations available on the internet. He is an interpreter of Muslim ideology who perfectly defended the Islamic culture and civilization and warned the Muslim youth to not blindly follow the West since they have lost religious as well as moral values.*

It is a fact that non-Muslims have not injured Islam as much as the so-called moderate-Muslims who are completely ignorant of their own religious & cultural values. These pretenders have crossed all limits of heresy, and some have followed the orders of their patrons to achieve what they couldn't directly. We often hear their stereo-song that the Islamic Code needs reformation, as it is a fifteen hundred years old outdated system. About Fiqh their opinion is ambiguous as they believe it to be rules of some moral teachings and instructions, while others consider it as a manual of family life. The intellectual of the East, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, has addressed such so-called reformists in one of his Urdu poems as follows:

*“Shoor Hay Huga'i Duniya Se Musalm'an N'abud
Ham Yeh Kaht'e Hayn Kay Thay Bhi Kah'in Muslim Mawjud?
Wazay Me Tum Hu Nasar'a, Tu Tamaddun Me Hunud
Ye Musalm'an Hayn! Jinhay Dekh Ke Sharma'i Yahud
Yun Tu Sayed Bhi Hu, Mirza Bhi Hu, Afghan Bhi Hu
Tum Sabhi Khch Hu, Batau Tu Musalm'an Bhi Hu?”*

*There is vigorous talk that Muslims have disappeared from the world;
We ask; did true Muslims ever exist anywhere?
Outwardly you are Christian, and your culture that of the Hindu;
A Jew would be ashamed if he saw a Muslim such as you.
You are Sayed as well as Mirza, and you are Afghan;
You are all these, but tell us, are you also Muslim?*

It is necessary that we find out the root cause of this tumour in Muslim society which requires its immediate surgical removal if Muslims are to truly survive. The cause of this tumour in Muslim society is due to the neglect of the Shariah in daily life. The fountainheads of real progress – the Qur'an and Sunnah – have been ignored deliberately altogether. So far as material progress and development is concerned, the first world has gained tremendously. Today, a thousand miles of travel can be covered in a pleasurable journey of some hours. Communication has become very easy, and one can view events in real time on the television and internet. Computers alone perform functions that even a large number of people cannot do combined. Technology has spread so quickly that we now realize our backwardness due to our poor literacy rate.

People have become virtual slaves and abandoned moral values. This has almost finished the habit of reading books and spending time with family, especially with the elders, who are a source of guidance. Each and everything is not available on the net, nor is it an alternative to books. The opportunities brought about by the use of technology and scientific progress have changed moral and ethical values. Unfortunately, these changes were not made keeping human nature in mind and consequently, its influence caused harm to humanity. Not only the mindset, but manners and priorities of being a Muslim have also changed. An example of this is the viewing of crude entertainment programs instead of Azk'ar and Dua.

Moreover, the majority of the educational institutions being run by greedy industrialists are in fact slaughterhouses for the young souls. These educational institutions, instead of research and scholarship, promote corruption, western culture and nasty habits among the young generations. In fact, these academic institutions are a cemetery of moral values. Westernized minds are happy to observe this phenomenon, which is helpful in supporting and promoting the society towards corruption. Our people are highly influenced psychologically with this modern world ignoring the civilized norms given by the "True Light of Islam". The shameless lifestyle of this modern age creates many problems in our society. Moral corruption in private life is very common, and it takes its toll. Moreover, slavish minds are worse than bodily slaves. There are those that consider the West as being ideal in every way. The Philosopher of the East, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, diagnosed this disease and addressed the future generations in one of his Urdu poems:

*"Ye Europe Ye Paccham, Chakuroon Ki Duniya
Tera Nilgoon Asm'an Be Karanah"
The East and West are Pheasant of the worlds;
For you, there is a blue and limitless sky.*

It is quite difficult to reform those who have adopted the alien culture. Throughout history, one cannot find a single nation which indulged in extravagance and evils and still continued to progress. It is against the "Sunnat Allah" (divine-strategy) to ignore. Forces inimical to Islam know well that it is only Islam which has dealt a deathly blow to the "Free-culture". That is why crooks, usurpers and representatives of the Shait'an have always tried to manipulate the realities of Islam by interpreting it according to their evil designs. For these purposes, the tyrannical powers have used this age-old weapon because the basis of stability of any society is due to the strength of its culture. In other words, it might be said that stability and perpetuity of any nation are subordinate to its civilization.

Through the electronic media free culture is promoted where there is no value of the husband and wife relationship and Nikah. All this is going on with the ultimate aim to destroy the culture of Islam and promote profligacy in Muslim society. Furthermore, they continue to beat the drum for revision of the Divine Laws, while it is they who need to reform themselves. The great poet Dr. Iqbal tried to shame this class in the following Urdu couplet:

*"Kaun Hay Tarik'i Aa'yn'i Rasul'i Mukht'ar?
Maslehat Waqt Ki Hay Kis Kay Amal Ka Miy'ar?
Kis Ki Ankhoon Me Samaya Hay Shi'ar'i Aghy'ar?
Huga'i Kis Ki Nigah Tarz'i Salaf Se Bayz'ar?
Qalab Me Sauz Nahee, Ruh Me Ahs'as Nahee
Kuch Bhi Paigh'am'i Mohammad Ka Tumhi Pass Nahee?"*

*Who abandoned our Chosen Rasul's code and its sanctions?
Who made time serving the measure of your actions?
Whose eyes have been blinded by alien ways and civilizations?
Who has turned their gaze away from the traditions of forefathers?
Your hearts have no passion; your souls are of spirit bereft,
Of Mohammad's Message, nothing with you is left.*

The poisonous effects of the so-called modern society and the influence of free culture and satanic liberalism has polluted our society. Glamour and glitter have dazzled the eyes and influenced minds. From the filthy eggs of the Western civilization, only crows and vultures are born, but not the birds of high feathers. Iqbal explained the status of them in the following Urdu verse:

*"Hui Na Zagh Me Payda Bulandi'i Parwaz
Kharab Kar Ga'i Shaheen Bachch'i Ku Suhbat'i Zaagh"
The crow cannot achieve the heights of flight;
And its company did young falcon spoil!*

Muslim "progressives" are unable to respond regarding moral degradation, and whether those nurtured in the free society of West have any sentimental relations with their own family members. Is there any kind of relationship between children and parents, or do they realize the value of devotion and affection? In fact, the civilization of the West is a true reflection of the cursed society where new born children are nurtured in the laps of governesses, brought up or

groomed in the nursery, and the period from puberty to youth spent in hostels. Neither the parents love them, nor do they love their parents. They are unaware of the philosophy of the word love and cannot understand its true interpretation as for them it only holds meaning sexually.

It is noteworthy to discuss that prior to his return to India, Dr. Iqbal, fed up with the materialism of the Western civilization sounded his note of warning to the European countries:

Diy'ar'i Maghrib Ke Rahne Walu, Khuda Ki Basti Duk'an Nahi Hay

Khara Ji se Tum Samajh Rahe Hu Wo Aab Zar Kam, Ayy'ar Huga

Tumhari Tahzib Apne Khanjar Se Aap Hi Khudkashi Karegi

Ju Shakhi Nazuk Pe Ashyana Baniga Na Paiyd'ar Huga

O dwellers of the West, Almighty's earth is not a shop;

The gold you take as pure is just a metal base.

With its own dagger your culture will commit suicide;

A nest built on a frail bough cannot last long.

"Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you may die". This is the motto of today's world where there is widespread addiction which often leads to becoming recluse in youth or physically handicapped in old age and spending the remaining period in old age homes. Many people who suffer from psychological diseases commit suicide as a way out of their misery. Can a wise person aspire for such a useless life? Is this civilization entitled to be called enlightened? In this society, materialism is at its zenith, while spirituality is at its lowest point. These intellects of the West are bereft of morality as their souls are not alive, and ideas low. This problem was visualized earlier by the thinker of the Islam, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal; therefore, he questioned through one of his famous verses as follows in "Zarb e Kalim":

"Ko'i Puchay Hakim'i Europe Say

Hindo Un'an Hayn Jiskay Halqah Baghush

Kiya Ye Hi Hay Maashrat Ka Kam'al?

Mard'i Beyk'ar wa Zan Tahi Aghush!"

Somebody should ask from the intellectuals of Europe;

Their ring in the nose of Greece and Indian Subcontinent

Whether your society is so perfect for which you tempted to follow?

Men without purpose and women without offspring

After all, what is modernism in today's world?

Is it the fashion of half-naked women to attract men?

Is it premarital sex in the name of enjoyment, irrespective of the West or the East?

Or is it the consumption of alcohol and narcotics?

The harboring of ambition to get more and more wealth.

Abandonment of Divine Law, death and the hereafter.

If this is modernism, then I am very happy to be an orthodox Muslim. Today, unfortunately, touts of the West interpret Islam in a quite dubious manner, and the electronic media promotes them as Muslim Scholars. The Islam which is explained by these charlatans, and especially tailored to their particular audience, are the worst enemies of Islam in reality.

It is, therefore, the responsibility of the Ulama to draw the attention of the masses in every congregation, and never spare an opportunity to persuade them towards the Right Path. The solution to the crisis of the Ummah should not be confined to conferences, seminars, functions, or agitation against the West or their agents. The simplest step towards progress is following the Commandment of the Qur'an correctly, and to not justify any ill-conceived actions as being Islamic. The younger generation of Muslims should not be hypnotized by the inventions and technology of the first world; rather, they should redefine their efforts even with their limited resources for development and progress.

The great scholar and poet of the East Dr. Muhammad Iqbal addresses the coming Muslim generations as Eagles because it has a number of merits. Eagles were the symbol of almost all conquerors, be it Caesar or Hitler, the reason being:

1. Only Eagles fly at a very high altitude and do not mix with other birds. Even when Musa (as) (Old Testament) went to converse with Allah on the mountain, he left the crowd at the foothills. Hence, stay away from sparrows and ravens. Eagles only fly with eagles.

2. Eagles have a strong vision, which focuses up to 5 KM in air. When an eagle sites its prey from a distance, it narrows its focus on it, and no matter what the obstacle, the eagle will not move its focus from the prey until it grabs it. Have a vision and remain focused no matter what the obstacle and you will succeed.

3. Eagles do not eat dead things but feed on fresh prey. Vultures eat dead animals, but not eagles. Steer clear of outdated and old information. Always do your research well.

4. The Eagle is the only bird that loves the storm. When clouds gather, it uses the air currents emanating from the storm to rise and the pressure of the raging storm to soar above the clouds and glide. This gives the eagle an opportunity to rest its wings, while all the other birds hide in the leaves and branches of the trees. We can use the storms of our lives (obstacles and troubles) to rise to greater heights. Achievers relish challenges and use them profitably.

5. The Eagle tests before it trusts. When a female eagle meets with a male to mate, she flies down to the ground with the male pursuing her and picks a twig. She flies back into the air with the male still pursuing her. Once she has reached a sufficient height, she lets the twig fall to the ground and watches it as it falls. The male chases after the twig and before it falls to the ground catches it and brings it back to the female eagle, who repeats this routine and keeps on flying to a much higher altitude pursued by the male. This goes on for hours, with the height increasing until the female eagle is assured that the male eagle has mastered the art of picking the twig which shows commitment. Then, and only then, does she allow him to mate with her! Whether in private life or in business, one should test the commitment of people intended for partnership.

6. Eagles prepare for training. When they are about to lay eggs, the female and male eagle identify a place very high on a cliff where no predators can reach and make a nest made from thorny objects and grass, and the male plucks his feathers to cover the inner chamber to make it soft. The thorns on the outside of the nest protect it from possible intruders. Both the male and female eagles participate in raising the eagle family. The people who love us do not let us languish in sloth but push us hard to grow and prosper. Even in their seemingly harsh actions, they have good intentions for us.

7. When the Eagle grows old, its feathers become weak and it cannot travel as it should. When it feels weak and is about to die, it retires to a place far away in the rocks. While there, it plucks out every feather from its body until nothing is left. It stays in this hiding place until it has grown new feathers and then comes out. We occasionally need to shed off old habits and items that burden us and add no value to our lives. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal educates:

“Nahee Tera Nashiman Qasr’i Sultani Kay Gunbad Par;
Tu Shaheen Hay Basera Kar Paharoon Ki Chatanoo May”

Your place is not on domes of royal palaces

You are a royal falcon – make the rocks of mountains your abode.

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