

How we can ascend again

Progress is an ideological ascent. Economic prosperity does not mean progress. Kuwait, for example, is economically more prosperous than Belgium, Sweden, Holland and many other European countries, yet the latter countries are advanced whilst Kuwait is not. Similarly, morals do not mean progress. The people of Medina today may be considered to have the highest standard of morals, yet Medina is not an advanced city. Paris, on the other hand, is morally corrupt, yet it is an advanced city. Therefore, progress or the ascent of people equates with an ideological ascent.

However, this progress can be correct or false. America, Russia and Europe are advanced countries but the progress they have achieved is false. This is because the ascent they have achieved is devoid of a spiritual basis. The correct ascent is the ideological advancement based on a spiritual foundation. The Islamic ascent is the only correct ascent because it is unique among ideologies, being the only ideology based on a spiritual foundation, on the revelation Of Allah The All Mighty.

The method to achieve progress is to establish the rule on the basis of an ideology. The attempt to establish the rule by the application of laws, codes and systems will never achieve real ascent. In fact it will prevent progress. Ascent can only occur if the rule is built on a doctrine or creed from which the solutions for the problems of life emanate.

Europe and America progressed when they established their rule on the doctrine of Liberty and the detachment of religion from life. Russia ascended when in 1917 it established its intellectual leadership on the doctrine of dialectic materialism. The Arabs ascended when they embraced Islam and established the rule on the creed of Islam. These examples are definite proof that progress can occur only if the rule (or government) is based on an ideology. After the Khilafah was abolished, Mustapha Kamal applied the laws, codes and systems of the West in a bid to revive Turkey; but Turkey did not progress. Indeed Turkey sunk to an all time low. At the same time, however, Lenin was able to transform Russia from a backward state to one of the most advanced nations on earth. The reason for this was that Lenin had established the rule on the communist ideology which provided the solutions for the day to day problems of the people. Whilst Mostapha Kamal established the rule on the basis of western imported codes, systems and laws, hence Turkey could not ascend to the level it sought.

In Egypt Nasser pursued the same course as Mustapha Kamal. When he attained power in 1952 he changed the form of government from a monarchy to a republic. Then he redistributed the land and applied the systems of 'State socialism'. But he failed to revive Egypt. Indeed, Egypt today is worse off than it was before the coup detat that brought the 'free officers' to power. Egypt has taken a regressive step ideologically, economically and politically; the ideological and political abilities of the pre-coup government far outstrip the present government. The situation today in Egypt does not help to bring about the ascent of the nation because the rule is not built upon an ideology.

Establishing the rule on the basis of an ideology is not done simply by taking power through a coup detat. The first step must be to prepare the society in their undertaking of the ideology which is to be established.

This will result in the establishment of the rule through the nation. Naturally when the nation has digested the ideology and responded to it, by assisting its establishment, the ideology will be applied. By this means it will ascend definitely.

Accordingly the ascent of the Ummah (nation) commences when the nation is united on the basis of an ideology which it adopts, and through which it achieves the power and applies it. The attainment of power is not a goal in itself but the method to achieve the ascent and progress of the nation. The correct example for which is the example of the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). When Allah (SWT) sent him with the message of Islam he called upon the people to embrace the creed (Aqeeda) of Islam. He united the people of Medina (al Aws & Khazraj) through this creed, and made them adopt their life according to this creed. Then he took authority in Medina, and established the rule on the basis of this creed. The Prophet of Allah then announced "I have been

ordered to fight the people till they say there is no god but Allah and Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah. If they say this their blood and money is protected from me except by its right".

Then the Prophet (pbuh) commenced calling the people to believe in the creed of Islam. With its embracement by the people of Medina the ascent took place there; followed by the rise of the Arabs and every nation that embraced Islam.

Today the situation of the Muslim Ummah all over the world has declined to an appalling level. The Muslim Ummah has tried to revive itself for over 200 years without success. The reason for this is that the present rule in the Muslim world is based on systems and codes that are devoid of an ideology. The rule, whether it is based by non-Islamic systems (as is the case in most Muslim countries) or on Islamic systems (as is the case in very few countries) is not based on an ideology. The Islamic systems and laws achieve ascent only when the rule is established on the Islamic thought, i.e. the creed (Aqeeda). The ascent of the nation occurs when the state is established on "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah".

If the state is established on sectarianism, such as mazhab of Abu Hanifa or the book of Tahtawi ascent will not occur. Accordingly the Muslim nation must make the creed of Islam the pivot of its life and the basis of its rule and authority. The nation must mould its life according to the laws of Sharia and must adopt the laws as commands and prohibitions from Allah (they must not do so just because they are beneficial). Then the ascent will take place and this progress will be correct and the Muslim nation will return to its natural position, taking the leadership of the world once again.

Al-Fajr Magazine, January 1988