

## Democracy: Enslavement of Man by Man

### Part I

It is not strange that Muslims have adopted democracy as if it were a divine law from Allah, for they know not the reality of it or the great injustice that lies in it. In addition, Muslims, due to their great ignorance of Islam, have been an easy prey to the Western thought propagated through many ways. In this article, I will attempt to explain how West adopted democracy and how it actually has failed to solve the problem it was adopted for and how it is truly the enslavement of man by man.

It is natural for man to live in a society, for man by nature cannot live in isolation from the rest of human beings. This is due to the fact that man has certain biological needs and instincts which cannot be properly satisfied without co-operating with other human beings. This in turn will necessitate the existence of mutual interests that will lead to the establishment of relationships among the people. These relationships must be organised through rules and regulations in order to create tranquillity and security in the society. These rules and regulations must come from somewhere or someone, and they must be enforced on the society in order to achieve the desired tranquillity. While those who make the rules and regulations differ from time to time and place to place (excluding the Islamic society), they are always the ones who possess power and have an influence, such as exploitation of the weaker by the stronger in a tribal set-up, or exploitation of the clergy of its followers etc.

Looking at societies in history, one sees that while the systems existing in them established some sort of tranquillity, members of these societies were not pleased with those rules and regulations for they were designed to serve the interests of those in power who were a minority on the account of the rest who were the majority. It is a fact that majority of these rules were to severely and unjustly limit the good of the individual for the benefit of the ruling group. This led to great discomfort and misery for the people living in the society. Life became one of suppression and enslavement practised by the strong few on the weak majority. This kind of life led, through the

ages, the people to look forward to a better life, break away from the chains of enslavement of the strong few, and the call for freedom. The call to freedom would not have existed if there were no enslavement. This was the natural reaction to the situation that existed. Thus, the call to freedom was not intended as a call to live in a lawless society but rather as a call for liberation from the enslavement by the unjust ruling few.

The problem then is that a small group controlled the society and forced the system that guaranteed its interest which caused great misery to many members of the society, and that in turn

led to the feeling of enslavement. It should be noted, however, that injustice and enslavement is not caused by the individuals who carry out the system as much as it is from the system itself and from its sources. In other words, the making of laws (legislation) by the few for the rest of the society leads to the enslavement of the majority by the few.

It was natural for people to stand against this kind of enslavement and resist it in various ways. This resistance, being mostly unorganised was doomed to its failure until the age of "enlightenment", the end of the 17th century and all the 18th century. Also, many thinkers and philosophers started thinking how to end such great injustice practised by the kings, concluded that the only way to end this injustice and enslavement was to make the majority (the people) make and chose the laws and regulations i.e., the majority should be the source of legislation for the society. This solution is what is called Democracy in Greek.

Thus, it was natural for the idea of democracy to be widely accepted by people, for it appeared to make them masters after being slaves. So the question arises: Does democracy truly take man out of slavery and put him in master ship? Does it truly free man from injustice and tyranny?

**The Answer:** Those intellectuals who called for democracy in reality merely shifted the source of legislation in society from the hands of the few to the hands of many (from the minority to the majority). In other words, they exchanged situations between both groups by making the few

subject to the rules of the majority, and consequently enslaved by the majority. Therefore, democracy has not removed enslavement from society but rather shifted it to a smaller circle. The best to be attributed to democracy is to say that it is the enslavement by the majority of the minority. Meaning that the majority chooses and enforces rules on the minority. (This is true regarding the idea of democracy. Implementation of democracy is a separate topic and it will be discussed later Inshallah Allah.)

Looking closely at democracy, one finds that it is established on a false premise which is considering the majority (the people) to be one entity with a unified view. The reality is that the majority does not have one common interest. On the contrary, it might very well have contradicting interests according to the individual and groups who compose the minority. This leads to the conclusion that democracy will definitely fail in achieving true tranquillity in the society.

The most outstanding features in democracy are:

1. Its establishment on a wrong premise which considers people to be a unified group.
2. Its idea of approving the enslavement of man by man by giving the majority the right to rule and legislate for the society.

This is the reality of the democratic idea, it is based on a wrong premise, and unable to end the enslavement of man by man. This came as a result of the misunderstanding of the reality of the society since this conclusion was not reached through a deep and enlightened thought but a result of a mere reaction.

*Ar-Raya Magazine, April 1992*