

Aqeeda Corner: The Validity Of Islam For All Times And Places

The validity of Islam for all times and places is an issue that is part of the Aqeedah of a Muslim. Since Islam is the final Deen prescribed by Allah (swt) for all mankind, therefore not believing in its validity for any period in time after the Prophet Muhammad (saaws) implies the denial of Allah (swt) as the legislator. This denial for any reason takes one out of the folds of Islam because not only is it a defiance of the essence of Islam, which is to worship Allah (swt) in entirety but also a limitation on Allah (swt) as the only legislator for all times and places. Many people hold the view that the modern societies are too sophisticated for the implementation of Islam. I will briefly address this issue in the following paragraphs.

Islam is a complete way of life and solves all problems of mankind. These problems deal with the satisfaction of man's instincts and organic needs and therefore stem from the nature of man. Since human nature has remained the same from the beginning of man's creation and will remain so until the day of judgment, Islam will always remain applicable. The change in the society has to be understood clearly before we reach a conclusion with regard to the applicability of Islam in the contemporary world. In this respect, we should differentiate between the outward aspects of a society and its basis. Societies fundamentally differ on the systems implemented and the major ideas people believe in. The material progress of a society depends on the advancement in science and technology. That in turn, is only a manifestation of the system that the society chooses to implement upon itself.

The compatibility of Islam with contemporary societies is therefore not the issue, because Islam does not aim at adapting to the status quo, rather it aims to revolutionize any society that is established on non-Islamic ideals. Moreover Islam provides us with a comprehensive system and does not rely on any other political, economic, and social order for its implementation. Judging Islam by the prevailing ideologies indicates a lack of understanding of Islam and the revolutionary change it calls for.

What defines a society is imbedded in its constitution and the system that governs it. The outward aspects of a society are the results of its scientific and technological achievements, and do not determine how people will be ruled. Therefore the notion that technological advancement has fundamentally changed the status of societies is absolutely false. The issue at hand is the difference between an Islamic society and the non-Islamic societies. This difference is strictly an ideological one. Hence Islam will always appear to be strange when viewed from a different ideological perspective, and that should not surprise us for indeed Islam is unique.

In conclusion Islam is an ideology that constitutes a set of beliefs (Aqeedah) and a system regulating life affairs. This system deals with man's relationship with his Creator, with himself and with other human beings. Since Islam is the final Deen from Allah (swt), the Creator, it will remain applicable and capable of regulating the society wherever and whenever it is fully implemented.

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