

No Title: Political Awareness

There is one aspect of Mohammed's (saaw) dawah that the Muslim Ummah repeatedly fails to realize and thereby assess its significance. In fact, some would think that this issue has nothing to do with Islam. The decade of humiliation and suffering is mainly through neglecting this critical issue. The issue is of Political Awareness.

At times we do not realize the dimension of the struggle that the Prophet (saaw) led in Mecca. The struggle was not just a struggle against exploitation, poverty, or human rights alone. The struggle of Muhammad (saaw) was to uproot the entire order of Quraysh and replace it with the order of Islam. Replacing the existing order meant replacing the foundation of the system along with the laws and regulations.

The vitality of the political sphere was required from the Prophet (saaw) to achieve the task of bringing the world order based on Islam. Political awareness amounts to realizing the traps that obstruct one's agenda and to avoid being manipulated by others. The necessity of this awareness is crucial due to the task itself.

Replacing a current order with another is a colossal task and no system tolerates such an objective to be planned against it. It was for such an objective that the heads of Quraysh planned an assassination attempt against the Prophet (saaw).

The heads of Quraysh realized the ambitious objective of Islam. To impede this objective they spread rumors against the Messenger of Allah (swt). When these tactics failed they tried to lure the Prophet (saaw) into compromising his (saaw) objective by offering position of ruler in the Meccan society. The Prophet (saaw) refused such a proposal. It led the Quraysh to present a more attractive compromise, it being that the deen of Islam rule for one year then the deen of Kufr rule the other year. Surah al Kafirun was revealed to negate this concept of coexistence between Islam and Kufr.

Notice that the Prophet (saaw) adhered to his objective by not compromising the Message and not falling for their traps of joining power with them. Such a trap was laid to deviate the Prophet (saaw) from his objective of establishing Islam. Unfortunately, many movements are sidetracked from their objective by a position of ruling in the cabinet. An illustration of this kind of trap is mentioned in a newspaper article:

" But while gradual democratisation is the avowed aim of King Hussein, he has been careful to keep a tight rein on the process to ensure that the country does not fall into the hands of the Islamists or... "They have no way to convert Jordan into an Islamic State, " say Dr. Jamal Sha'er, a prominent physician-politician. " I don't believe that they are a threat to the parliamentary system. They can be contained within it."...(Because) In the Jordanian parliament, 18 lower house seats are reserved for the Christians, Circasians, and Bedouins. The 40 seat upper house, the senate, is appointed by the King. Any change in the constitution requires a two-thirds majority of both houses together..."¹

Muslims and the Islamic movements should have the political awareness of realizing that a system cannot be destroyed through its own mechanisms ? The few who uphold the system will prevent this act as happened to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria. It is easy for those who uphold the system to destroy the momentum because they are the ones controlling it.

Due to the lack of political awareness the Muslim Ummah sacrificed many lives for the issue in Afghanistan. Without having an agenda and the political awareness Muslims ended up wining the war for the Capitalists. The United States used Muslim soldiers for its own cause of spreading and colonizing the region. Through military aid by CIA and the well-played role by the puppet rulers in the Muslim World, the U.S. was able to use Muslims in Afghanistan.

Zbigniew Brezezinski, National Security Adviser to President Carter, states three factors employed by U.S. to destroy U.S.S.R. in an article in Foreign Affairs. He states, " The Carter Administration not only undertook immediately to support the Mujahideen, but it also quietly put together a coalition embracing Pakistan, China, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Britain on behalf of the Afghan

resistance. Equally important was the American public guarantee of Pakistan's security against any major Soviet military attack, thereby creating a sanctuary for guerrillas. The scale and quality of U.S. support steadily expanded during the 1980s under the subsequent Reagan administration. America-along with Pakistan, which played a courageous and decisive role in the effort-thus succeeded in bogging down the Soviet Union in its own equivalent of Vietnam."2

One would be amazed by how naive some Muslims are who after Salaat Jummah hand out letters or postcards addressed to President Clinton begging him to respond to the aid of Muslims. One such postcard mentioned a plea to President Clinton in the following words: ..."If these helpless people of Balkan remain neglected it will blemish the fair name of America which has a history of helping distressed people."

The U.N., Arab League, Muslim World League, and the so called "International Law" are all smoke screen that allow for political maneuvering to take place. These organizations and laws are designed to facilitate and not hinder the objectives of the Super Powers such as the intervention in Somalia. Muslims and Islamic movements should realize what they are calling for when they use International Law or U.N. to support their cause. One would be surprised by the call of HAMAS and other movements who are calling for United Nations resolutions in relation to the deportation of Muslims from Israel.

Contrast all of the pitfalls that the Muslims are falling into, due to their attitude of compromise, to the uncompromising attitude of the Prophet (saaw), when he (saaw) sought the Nusrah (material support) from the tribes. Many tribes offered to support Islam on the condition that they would rule after him. The Prophet (saaw) never gave into their compromise even during the times which were very harsh on the Muslims in Mecca. Had the Prophet (saaw) compromised with any of the tribes, the Qurasysh could then have given the tribe a more attractive offer and the Prophet (saaw) would have been used.

The Prophet (saaw) describes the political awareness of a Muslim in his hadith that says:

A Mumin does not get stung by the same hole twice.

You are a guard on one of the guarding spots of Islam so do not let Islam be attacked successively from your guarding spot.

These hadiths signify the level of attention and awareness a Muslim has towards the enemy. As Islam places a major importance in being truthful and honest it places the same level of importance of not being used by others. There are many incidents in the Seerah that underscore the importance on this subject.

Sadly enough, for the most part Muslims have overlooked the main essence of Allah (swt) sending Muhammad (saaw) to this Ummah. Our remembrance of Muhammad (saaw) is rekindled during special occasions such as Ramadan. Even the perception of our Messenger (saaw) is limited to that of a "holy" person, who was constantly engaged in the personal acts of Ibadat (worship). Whereas, we should look at the Prophet (saaw) by the job description given to him (saaw) by Allah: Messenger.

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