

The Muslim is a human too, Or is He?

It is narrated from the reliable traditions that the messenger of Allah, Muhammad (saws), once stood up to pay respect when a Jewish person was being carried to cemetery to be buried.

Rarely a week passes by without us hearing news of a bomb blast in this or that Shiite or Sunni neighborhood in a Muslim land. Rarely a day goes by that we do not hear a Palestinian or Rohingya being murdered in cold blood.

We hear of explosions even inside mosques during mass gatherings including Friday prayers so the number of fatalities is high indeed. We hear of desecration of buildings Muslims gather in, both in Europe and in the Muslim world. Nobody even counts the number of Muslims killed, wounded or otherwise humiliated, nor does anyone seem to bother about Muslim victims of terrorism (irhab).

On Friday, 13th of November, we witnessed a heinous terrorist attack in Paris. The number of innocent people killed or wounded is huge, and the consequence of this criminal act is indeed incalculable. The images from crime scenes in Paris are viewed across the world instantaneously. It rightfully provoked outrage, anger, fear and anxiety.

It alarms us all and calls upon us to react in condemnation and search for ways to stop this evil and madness. From tribute to the victims, to painting our Facebook pages in colors of the French flag, to declaring days of mourning.

We indeed must express our sympathy and pay our condolences to families of the victims. We also need to comfort them

and offer them all the help they might stand in need, in time of grief and mourning.

Having said all of this, we cannot but wonder, when we witness similar scenes of Muslims being massacred, “Whether the Muslims are humans too”? Is there anyone left in this world to say loudly that the Palestinian killed is also a human. Many of them are expelled from their homes or prevented from going to school. Is there any one prepared to say that every Syrian, every Iraqi, every Rohingya is human too. Every Kurdish, or a Bosniak or Philipino is a human too. They are all humans. They are all God’s creatures.

Unless we say and scream this loudly, no one else will do it. But in order to make our voice heard, that we are equally worth, it is mandatory upon us to change our mindsets we operate around. We ought to cease our internal quarrels, get rid of our hatreds, and overcome our animosities.

Our religion teaches us that believers are brothers, that murder is a mortal sin, that killing innocent human being is equal to murdering entire humanity. We teach and learn that Muslims must not hate other Muslim, or turn his back on him when he needs him most.

How can we expect others to respect a community of people who are in constant conflict within its own ranks. How can we expect others to respect those who incite its members towards hatred of others, even those from within our own ranks, or who turn one group against the other. Who will respect the community of people that does not live what it preaches and that too distant from the principles of our perfect faith and the ultimate word of Allah.

In order for others to hear our voice and show us respect and trust, we ought to change ourselves fundamentally. No Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese or Iraqi important site will be lit in colors of their respective flags until we stop hating, insulting and murdering one another and until we stop living in hatred for one another.

Yes, every Palestinians, and Bosniak, and Iraqi and Rohingya are humans created by God, but every one of them have to - through his own effort and struggle - walk his way into gaining respect he or she deserves. There is no greater enemy to a human being from his own ignorance (jahiliyya). Ignorance is what humiliates us and what destroys us. We must not allow this to happen, for we are people of the Book and the word of Iqra...(learn, read, study, research)....We are of the umma, which taught even the prisoners of Badr how to read and write. We have the Prophet who taught us that education is fard (mandatory).

How can we accept being ignorant when we, for many centuries, taught others in our academies of knowledge, from Baghdad and Kufa, to Basra or Samarkand, Cairo or Cordoba, Damascus or Grenada. How can we accept ignorance when we were the people who transmitted knowledge of classical Greek philosophy and literature, founded algebra and mathematics?

How on earth can we accept our image as ignorant when we had al Gazali, Farabi, Ibn Rush, Ibn Khaldun, al-Khawarizmi or Idrisi. Yet, nobody will hear us as long as our universities lag behind world universities. Nobody will listen to us as long as we continue debating the length of beard, or fight to prove that we are right and others are wrong.

In order for people to show us respect and sympathize with our situation as we do with theirs, we ought to start competing in doing good to each other. If we claim to be Muslims we must not behave as if we are not, for we weaken our lines and allow fitna and chaos to spread within our ranks.

We ought to compete in excelling in maths, sciences, chemistry or physics. Or whose front yard will be neater, who will better raise children or who will be first to offer help to his brother or sister in need, who will better protect orphans, or who will be more beneficial to our community, neighborhood, city or home country. Instead, many Muslims nowadays compete in futile debates.

Every day dozens of children are being killed in the Muslim world and nobody illuminates our buildings in national flags. Nobody even notices our victims. We should ask ourselves why? May we say, this is because all those perished were killed in the name of the same God, same religion and accompanied by the same takbeer.

Sadly, our umma today has become a symbol for corruption, bribes and nepotism, while its leaders compete in unlimited power and avarice. Many of us are astonished at how others abide by the law, respect principles of justice and fairness, in countries that are not nominally Islamic, but rather western and Christian.

The umma is today running away from Muslim countries to the Christian world, for it is sick of tyranny and oppression. It is yearning not for food, but for freedom and a decent life in countries that respect the rule of law, and where you get your rights as citizen, and not because you know someone who is powerful.

O Allah, let the screams of those refugees be heard on the streets of Muslim capital of Damascus, Cairo, Riyadh, Islamabad,

Kabul....equally as on the streets of Paris, Budapest, Brussels, New York, Rome or Vienna. O Allah, make us understand that we are all brothers and sisters, we all are your creatures, who follow the same Prophet and who read the same Book. Make us, o Allah, understand a true meaning of your words "that those who kill innocent human being is as though he had killed the whole of humanity.

Amin