



ISLAM TODAY:

IS BECOMING A
MUSLIM WORTH IT?

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1. INTRODUCTION

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين، والصلاة والسلام على
سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

As per worldometer.com, the world population stands at around 7.8 billion this year (2020). Out of this, 2.3 billion identify themselves as Christian, 1.9 billion as Muslims, 1.1 billion as Hindus and 550 million as Buddhists. Around 1.1 billion identify themselves as Atheist, Agnostic or non-religious.

When we look at the above figures, we realize that these are all complex and diverse societies in which, people belonging to all regions, ethnic backgrounds and dialects are included. Within each community, the culture and practices of people are diverse depending upon their geographical locations.

Each population is subdivided into hundreds of subdivisions and thousands of subgroups. In spite of this diversity, people's needs are common. They need to have a shelter/home, they need to eat, feed their children, educate themselves and cover themselves in clothing.

No one in the world can deny the above facts.

It is also a fact that, most of these people in the world want to do what is good for them. They want to do good for themselves and their children physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually. This is the absolute majority in this world. This majority is the target of the politicians, businessmen, fraudulent spiritual gurus and paid news media that serves vested interests.

The news media is a business. The objective of any business is to make money. To make money, they must gain viewer's attention. And they know that nothing gets a person's attention like a news which is portrayed in a sensational way. This the reason that the masses are surrounded by this news 24/7.

The news media forces people to paint a black and white picture of a situation in their minds. As per this media, a group, a religion, or a race of people is either all good or all bad. This type of thinking leads to generalization, a cognitive bias in the human brain. But that is not how the real-world functions. The real world is extremely diverse and exceptionally complex, and it can never happen that all the followers of a religion, region or race are bad.

There are people among all the societies of the world who are aware of these facts. Some use this awareness and intelligence to bring positive change in the world.

Others use it to manipulate people and create hatred and turbulence. By doing it, they seem to gain some advantages, like leadership, political office, money, etc. To achieve their objective, they use media to mislead people. The strategies of these people are similar across all segments/groups/religions in the world. They create a climate of fear among people and make laws that suite them and their followers. They hire people, often goons, for this purpose. They create a strong following among the people and amass wealth and often resort to persecution, torture and exploitation of people who do not submit to their desire.

As has been described above, some people use their intelligence to bring positive change in the world. These are the voices of sanity, sincerity, and wisdom. In every society these people keep on cautioning people to watch, and do not fall victim to the hate carried out by the evil and opportunistic people within their ranks. Many a time, they are subjected to suppression in the hands of hate mongers. But these are brave people. History of mankind is a witness that these are the people who keep this world peaceful.

2. PRESENT DAY WORLD SCENARIO

Late 20th century gave rise to some militant and violent groups who use the name of Islam to spread terror in the world, especially in Muslim dominated countries. The most recent such group to come into fame is ISIS. Such groups believe that God has given them license to kill innocent people, particularly, Muslims. They interpret Islamic laws to suit their power mongering and spread hatred and divide amongst Muslims. Most of these militant groups get their ideological arsenal from Salafi and Deobandi believes. A small portion of them also belongs to Shias. These groups are funded and armed by various countries in the West and the middle east to create terror and mayhem in the world. With the help of these terrorists, they create fear in their own countries and attempt to destroy and disintegrate other countries for selfish reasons. They spend money, create trouble for people and blame Muslims for all that happens in their own lands and outside.

Taking advantage of this scenario, politicians and religious extremist groups in the world compete with each other to get a piece of the pie. They blame the entire Muslim community for the destruction which is often orchestrated by their own people. By running hate campaigns, they create fear among populations and portray themselves as their saviors and get elected to big offices. Once in office, they create further terror with the help of their hired mercenaries drawn from Muslim militant groups and blame the Muslim community for these acts. Sometimes they use their own agents to create terror and as an eye wash and arrest some innocent people (mostly Muslims) by blaming them for the terror. They concoct stories and often it is observed that their

stories do not stand trial in the courts, and the innocent people are released by the courts after a prolonged battle. But by that time, people forget about those episodes as their attention is drawn towards new incidents. This heinous cycle of atrocities goes on and on. The politicians and extremist groups work overtime to increase the fear among people to keep their attention away from the corruption they are involved in.

3. HATE GROUPS IN THE WORLD

A brief account of the hate mongering groups in the world are as follows.

(i) Right wing Christian Evangelical groups

They preach hatred against Muslims and Islam in their places of worship to create fear among their community. They often claim Islam as evil religion and Muslims as pagans who are there to destroy the Western Civilization.

(ii) Jewish supremacists

They promote hatred against Muslims, particularly Arabs and claim that Muslims are anti-Jewish and anti-Semitic.

(iii) White supremacists

They regard Muslims as part of dark races and even those who are born in Caucasian region cannot claim to be white. They believe that God is on the side of White race.

(iv) Hindutva supremacists

They believe that God is only for them and others are untouchables and consider Muslims in India as invaders who must be converted back into Hinduism.

(v) Buddhist supremacists

They believe that they can claim peace while killing others and want to cleanse their countries from Muslim presence.

(vi) Democratic and Republican demagogues

They serve multinational corporations in the West as well as the interests of the State of Israel to earn their livelihood. They have least regard to human rights.

(vii) Right wing-controlled Mainstream Media

Right wing and multinational corporation-controlled media are involved in yellow journalism and love to see the trouble and killings go on in the society so that by its reporting they get high TRP and advertisements. They often incite masses and help the extremists in power to brainwash more and more people and convert them into their followers.

(viii) The Atheist Supremacists

Those in power, particularly in Communist countries like China feel Muslims and their established religion Islam as a threat to their power. Thus, they suppress and persecute them to convert them as their followers.

We pray God that these groups understand what they are doing is wrong for themselves and their people. Hatred and destruction for momentary gains is extremely destructive in the long run. Spilling the blood of people cannot be justified by any religious discourse because the ultimate end of hate is division and destruction of generations of people in the long run. The history of mankind is a witness to this phenomenon.

4. PROPHET MOHAMMAD (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) AN EXEMPLARY MODEL FOR MANKIND

Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) preached Islam for a total of 23 years. The first 13 years were spent in Makka. During this time, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) faced extreme persecution in the hands of Makkan Pagans which includes a 3-year boycott in which his family and followers were forced to live in open, in a far away valley, away from their homes, not being able to earn for their living. It is reported that the valley used to echo from the crying children who did not have anything to eat.

After his immigration to Medina, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) had to deal with many plots and machinations devised against him by the Jewish elite and the Makkan pagans. They were often attacked and forced to battle for their survival. Many such battles were fought by Muslims during this period. Gradually people realized the virtue in converting to Islam.

When Makka came under Islamic rule in 8 AH, not even a single person was killed by the Muslim Army. The people who had tortured the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) and his people for 13 long years, were all forgiven. They were allowed to carry on with their normal lives. Even the

caretaker of Ka'ba was not replaced. Looking at this generosity of Islam, all Makkans accepted Islam.

By 10 AH (632 AD), practically the whole of Arabia (over 3 million square kilometers) had adopted Islam as their religion. When the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) did Hajj in 10 AH (March 632 AD), over 1,20,000 Muslims accompanied him.

If one were to meditate over the statistics, he would realize that for such magnitude of acceptance of Islam, the use of arms and bloodshed was practically nonexistent. People prospered more under the areas that came under Muslim rule. Anarchy was removed and the rule of law was established.

Can the history of mankind provide such an example?

The Islam presented by Salafis, Wahhabis, Shias and the likeminded sects with their militant rhetoric cannot be Islam. In the name of Islam, followers of these sects vie for leadership of Muslims and portray a bad image of Muslims in the world.

5. TRUE MUSLIMS

The true Muslims, people of Sahih Iman, stay away from all kinds of extremism, individual or institutional. They believe in changing people's hearts by love and affection because this is the only way to succeed in this life. This is the way of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم), Sahabah, Awliya Allah and Sufi Shuyookh of Ihsan. They preach every Muslim to be loyal to their country of his residence and become a model citizen of virtue and honesty. A virtuous and honest Muslim is an asset to the country of his residence. He preaches peaceful coexistence of people belonging to all faiths and sects.

The following Hadith, mentioned in **Bukhari, Muslim** and other Ahadith books, clarifies that there are three distinct states of Muslims.

It is in Hadith - Abu Huraira (رضي الله تعالى عنه) narrated - One day while the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) was sitting in the company of some people, (angel) Jibreel (عليه السلام) came and sat, folding his knees and asked, "What is Iman?" Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) replied, 'Iman is to believe in Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ), His angels, (the) meeting with Him (on the day of judgment), His Apostles, and to believe in Resurrection.' Then he asked, "What is Islam?" Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) replied, "To pray Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) alone and no one else, to offer prayers perfectly, to pay the compulsory charity 'Zakat' and to observe fasts during the month of

Ramadan." Then he asked, "What is Ihsan?" Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) replied, "To pray as if you see Him, and if you cannot see Him then you must consider that Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) is seeing you." (**Bukhari - part of the Hadith**).

As per the above Hadith, there are three categories of people in Muslim Ummah, (i) People of Iman, (ii) People of Islam, and (iii) People of Ihsan.

5.1 THE PEOPLE OF IMAN

People of Iman truthfully believe in Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ), His Apostle Mohammad (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) and all the tenets of Iman. The people of Sahih Iman will eventually get salvation.

5.2 THE PEOPLE OF ISLAM

There are two types of people under this category, (a) Who have Sahih Iman, and (b) Who do not have Sahih Iman.

The people who do not follow Sahih Iman and their believes come under the purview of apostasy / polytheism / hypocrisy / blasphemy, are faithless Muslims even though they recite Kalima Tayyiba verbally, claim themselves to be Muslims, and act upon certain Islamic deeds.

It is in Hadith - Abu Said Al-Khudri (رضي الله تعالى عنه) narrated - Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و آله وسلم) said 'there will appear some people among you whose prayer will make you look down upon yours, and whose fasting will make you look down upon yours, and they will recite Qur'an (in melodious voices and memorize it) but Quran will not go down their throats (they will misinterpret the meanings of Quran and mislead people) and will go out of Islam as the arrow goes out of the bow. (**Bukhari**)

Some people consider that people belonging to all Sects will get salvation on the day of Judgment. Some will get instant salvation and the others will get salvation after they are punished for wrong

Iman. This is not a correct understanding because the first and foremost requirement for salvation is Sahih Iman. A person who dies without the light of Iman in his heart, lived in darkness in this world, will remain in darkness in Hereafter as well. His Islamic deeds will not be useful for him for his salvation.

It is in Hadith - Abu Hurairah (رضى الله تعالى عنه) narrated that the Apostle of Allah (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) said, 'Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) does not look at your figures, nor at your attire but He looks at your hearts. **(Muslim)**

The meaning of the above Hadith is, Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) looks at your Iman and intentions because all your outward deeds are dependent upon your Sahih Iman. If you do not have Sahih Iman (correct Islamic faith) in your heart, all your good deeds go in vain.

It is in Hadith - Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) drew a line with his hand and said, 'this is the straight path of Allah'. He then drew lines to its right and to its left and said, 'these are the other paths, which represent misguidance and at the head of each path sits a devil inviting people to it.' He then recited this verse - وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ ذَلِكُمْ وَصَّاكُمْ بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ [And verily, this is My straight path, so follow it, and follow not, other paths, for they will separate you away from His path.] (Al-An'aam - 153). **(Musnad Ahmad, narrated by Abdullah Ibn Masud)**

It is in Hadith - Prophet Mohammad (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) said that out of 73 sects of Muslims, only one will be on the right path and the rest will be thrown into Hell Fire on the Day of Judgment. **(Tirmidhi)**

It is in Hadith - Abu Umana Bahili (رضى الله تعالى عنه) narrated that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) said 'Before Qiyamah, they (the misguided sects and their sub groups) will spread and attack bitterly like the small and large insects and whosoever witnesses this period must seek refuge in Allah (عَزَّ وَجَلَّ) **(Huliya, by Abu Naim).**

Some people, like [Ammanis](#), consider that oral recitation of Kalima Tayyiba is sufficient for a person to get salvation and people belonging to all Sects will get salvation on the day of Judgment. Some will get instant salvation; the others will get salvation after they are punished for wrong Iman. This is not a correct understanding because the first and foremost requirement for salvation is Sahih Iman. A person who dies without the light of Iman in his heart, lived in darkness in this world, will remain in darkness in Hereafter as well. His Islamic deeds will not be useful for him for his salvation.

6. ISLAM IS THE RELIGION OF GOD CHOSEN FOR HIS SERVANTS

Islam is the religion of God which He has chosen for us. It is a sanctuary of peace for mankind in both the worlds. All 124000 prophets preached the same message of Islam.

It is in Quran - وَإِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاتَّقُونِ ['Indeed, this religion of yours (Islam) is (only) one (all the way), and I am your Lord, so fear Me (alone).] (**Al-Mominoon - 52**)

It is in Quran - أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ مِنْ ذُرِّيَةِ آدَمَ وَمِمَّنْ حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَأُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ مِنْ ذُرِّيَةِ آدَمَ وَمِمَّنْ حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْرَائِيلَ وَمِمَّنْ هَدَيْنَا وَاجْتَبَيْنَا إِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُ الرَّحْمَنِ خَرُّوا سُجَّدًا وَبُكِيًّا [Those were the ones upon whom Allah bestowed favor from among the prophets of the descendants of Adam and of those We carried (in the ship) with Nooh, and of the descendants of Ibrahim and Israel (Yaqub) (عليهم السلام), and of those whom We guided and chose. When the verses of the Most Merciful were recited to them, they fell in prostration and weeping.] (**Maryam - 58**)

It is in Quran قُولُوا آمَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَمَا أُوتِيَ النَّبِيُّونَ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ [Say (O' Prophet ﷺ) We believe in Allah and that which has been sent down on us (Quran), and sent down on Abraham (Ibrahim - عليه السلام) and Ishmael (Isma'eel - عليه السلام) , Isaac (Is-haq - عليه السلام) and Jacob (Ya'qub - عليه السلام) , and the Tribes, and in that which was given to Moses (Musa - عليه السلام) and Jesus (Isa - عليه السلام), and (among) the prophets of their Lord; we make no division between any of them.] (**Al-Baqara - 136**)

The following books are important read in this context.

- (i) [The Cure to Islamophobia](#)
- (ii) [How to be a Muslim](#)
- (iii) [Basic Islamic Beliefs](#)
- (iv) [Tenets of Islam](#)