

THE MILESTONE

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The Trojan Horse of LGBTQ+

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in the Indian Sub-Continent



EDITORIAL

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Some sections of Muslims rejoiced over the Congress party's clear majority in the Karnataka state elections so much so that it felt like these results were due to the efforts of Muslims. It was suggested that a Muslim organisation had shown great political insight, otherwise the situation of Muslims would have worsened. Some even think that there is still a hopeful future for the Muslims in India in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections based on these results. Some support the Congress by saying, "We believe that the Congress is not a good party for the Muslims, but since we have been asked to choose the lesser of the two evils, Congress should be our choice." Congress is the oldest political party in this country. It was the largest political party before the partition of India and for many years after that. We are all familiar with the foundation of the Congress, its aspirations, aims, leadership, procedures, and also its concerns. **The deceptions and betrayals of the Congress are not hidden. Be it the important issues of the Muslims in India like the Babri Masjid or triple talaq or the other anti-Muslim activities, the Congress party does not seem to stand in favour of the Muslims, rather it appears to often be in the opposite tent.** In such a case, what is the meaning of this attitude?

Seventy-five years ago, the British gave India independence and transferred power to the natives. In these seventy-five years, the Congress party ruled for almost fifty years. No one hesitates to admit that the credit for the development in these years goes largely to the Congress. However, the Congress and its supporters should have no problem in accepting that the Congress Party and its policies are also responsible for the worsening of the state of affairs, corruption and the current plight of

Muslims. Many reports of the Congress government itself are a clear indication that Muslims have been left behind politically, socially, and educationally in this country. Although the Muslims themselves share the responsibility of their current situation, its undoubtable that the major credit goes to the state and non-state institutions, of which, the biggest responsibility falls on the political party that has been in power for the longest time.

At this stage, we should first take a leap of faith to stop relying on all secular parties. It should also be understood that **we cannot categorize them into "lesser evils", rather all political parties are equally harmful.** Therefore, equal distance from all of them is necessary for us. Then the question arises that even Muslim-led political parties are not doing any good work, so what is the solution? The only reason for not finding a clear solution to these problems is because *we are looking for solutions in electoral politics even though we have tried unsuccessfully in all its alternatives in the period of seventy-five years.* The need is to find new alternatives after announcing our complete absolution from electoral politics. Before proceeding in this direction, we must consider a few points. For example, what is the purpose of our political efforts? Do we want to give the Ummah only academic, economic, and social strength through it? Or without political success we will lose our respect and dignity? If we have these objectives, then these itself are the cause of our retreat and destruction. Some people may think that all the nations of the world have these objectives, and these are the standards of development of nations in today's world, then what is wrong with this thought? **These people should understand that Allah has given this Ummah Muhammad ﷺ as a role model.** It cannot adopt the standards of right and wrong from others. Just as the work of fire is to burn and of water is to extinguish fire, the main work of

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this Ummah is "Amr Bi Al-Ma'roof Wa Nahi An-il-Munkar". If fire, water, air, and other elements exceed their nature, chaos will spread everywhere. *Similarly, if this Ummah stops working to promote good and prevent evil, not only the Ummah but the entire humanity will be doomed to destruction.* In the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ, this task is compared to the sailors of the boat who do not stop their fellow passengers from digging a hole into the boat and as a result, both drown. This hadith makes it clear that only by striving towards the objective that is bestowed upon the Ummah will we be able to achieve success in both the worlds. We are witnesses to history that when the companions of the Prophet ﷺ worked towards this objective, the boundaries of their kingdoms kept on widening and the world was brought to their feet.

koī andāza kar saktā hai us
ke zor-e-bāzū kā

nigāh-e-mard-e-momin se badal
jaatī haiñ taqdīreñ

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Creator's Call



لَقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ فَعَلِمَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَنْزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَثَابَهُمْ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا * وَمَغَانِمَ كَثِيرَةً يَأْخُذُونَهَا وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا

“God was indeed well pleased with the believers when they pledged their allegiance to you under the tree. He knew what was in their hearts and so He sent down tranquility upon them, and rewarded them with a speedy victory, and with many war gains for them to take. God is Almighty and Wise.” [08:41]

Today, fourteen hundred years after the event, I am trying to visualize the great moment when the universe witnessed the divine announcement from on high addressed by God Almighty to His trusted Messenger concerning the Muslim community. I want to see the whole universe at that great moment and its conscience as it responds to this most generous announcement, speaking of a group of people at a particular spot in this universe. I want to feel how those extremely happy people felt when they heard, with their own ears, that God was speaking about them, telling them that He was well pleased with them, defining the place where they were and what they had done in order to earn His pleasure: “when they pledged their allegiance to you under the tree.” (Verse 8) They heard it all from the Prophet who never said anything but the truth, delivering it as a special message from God Almighty.

O my God! How did they - those happy people - receive that divine communication at that ecstatic moment? It is a communication that points to every single one of them and says, “to you in person God is saying that He was well pleased with you as you pledged your allegiance under the tree. He was aware of your inner feelings and He bestowed tranquility on you.”

When we read or hear God’s statement: “God is the Patron of the believers,” (2: 257) or, “God is with those who are patient,” (2: 153) we may feel happy and reassured, hoping that we may be included among such. Those people, however, heard that God was speaking about them personally and individually, telling each of them that He was well pleased with them, knowing what was in their hearts. That is great indeed!

“God was indeed well pleased with the believers when they pledged their allegiance to you under the tree. He knew what was in their hearts and so He sent down tranquility upon them, and rewarded them with a speedy victory.” (Verse 18) He knew that the passion they felt in their hearts was for their faith, not for their ego or for personal glory. He knew that their pledges were sincere, and that they were seriously restraining themselves so that they would stand behind the Prophet in all sincerity, obeying his orders, accepting any adversity with patience. Therefore, “He sent down tranquility upon them.” We almost see this tranquility being lowered calmly and with dignity, pouring an air of peace and reassurance on those hearts

that were full of enthusiasm for direct action.

God also “rewarded them with a speedy victory.” (Verse 18) This peace treaty, coupled with the circumstances leading to it, was indeed a victory, heralding many more. The conquest of Khaybar, which most commentators cite as the one promised here, may indeed have been one of these. “And with many war gains for them to take.” (Verse 19) If the victory meant here is that of Khaybar, then the war gains would be with the victory itself. However, if the victory mentioned refers to the peace treaty itself, then the promised war gains would come later. Indeed, the peace treaty left the Muslims free to achieve victory on several fronts.

“God is Almighty and Wise.” (Verse 19) This comment fits well with the preceding verses. God’s pleasure, the victory, and the promise of war gains all demonstrate His power and wisdom.



The flames of LGBTQ+ are ravaging throughout the West, and it seems that they will destroy it to ashes if not stopped. The way the LGBTQ+ agenda is being pushed in the West through all means, it appears that society has started to approve of this filth on a larger scale. A survey by PEW shows that 5% of young adults in the U.S. identify as Trans or on the spectrum of LGBTQ+. Similar is the case in other western countries. In the west, the idea of LGBTQ is pushed basically through the means of identifying or discovering one's gender, combating xenophobia (hate crimes against LGBTQ+), transgender rights, etc.

But these strategies change when these people want to express their ideas in eastern countries, especially the Indian subcontinent. Before moving further, let us get a brief introduction to this LGBTQ issue.

1. LGBTQ+ and the wiping of gender identity

Since ancient times, the attraction between the same genders has been seen across various cultures. This was clearly against human nature and was never accepted by society. In the modern world, where the idea of liberalism was promoted, it started with liberating oneself from the chains of old customs and rituals, and in this context, it went on to a level where people started to remove gender barriers. When this filth started growing further, it was taken to the next level, which diminished the idea of gender. And the debate stated that the

existing genders, i.e., male and female, are merely ancient customs. So shifting from this, the idea was pushed forward that there are more genders, i.e., male-male attraction is a gender, female-to-female attraction is a gender, etc. This, we can say, was the beginning of the LGBTQ+ idea. The terms LGBTQ referred to various genders (or, more precisely, disorders) found at that time. This didn't end up there. Since liberalism "claims" to respect every idea, each supposed gender that gained popularity was added to the list. That is why we find the + sign written in LGBTQ+. It denotes a spectrum of

gender, which, as of now, counts more than a hundred. It has now reached the point that even research articles on genders (which are supposed to be based on science) give a disclaimer that the gender(s) they are talking about are only biologically male or female, or born with attributes of male and female. This is the level of distortion these perverts are doing in today's world.

2. The Trojan Horse of LGBTQ in the Indian Subcontinent

We have discussed how the filth of the LGBTQ community is being promoted in the West. However, this filth is transported to eastern countries in a different guise. Since the majority of eastern countries are conservative in nature, it wasn't easy to promote such disorders directly. Thus, the LGBTQ+ movement makes an excuse for or bases its argument on a certain community known as hijras or eunuch. Let us discuss how.

The hijras, or enuch, or intersex people are those who are either born with an intermingled sex, i.e., having properties of both male and female, or have been castrated (removed their male organ). These people are typically segregated from the mainstream and have a separate lifestyle.

Now let us differentiate between these and ease our understanding while grasping the propaganda of LGBTQ+ too.

The first kind of eunuch are those who are born

with both male and female characteristics. The Islamic ruling regarding them is that the majority of fuqaha' determine an intersex individual's gender before puberty based on urination. After puberty, gender is determined by physical signs like beard growth, ejaculation, menstruation, and breast development. In fiqh, "khuntha" refers to ambiguous intersex individuals.

The second kind of eunuch are those who are born accurately as male but may behave as women later on. This is a kind of gender disorder, and Islam forbids it explicitly. Islam forbids castration or imitation of the opposite gender in any sense.

The LGBTQ flag bearers in the subcontinent cite the example of this hijraa or eunuch community that has existed for centuries as an example of third gender or transgenderism. They claim that the existence of these people implies that nature has space for a third gender, and people should accept it. But if someone gives even a superficial glance over this issue, he will immediately understand that this is clearly nonsensical.

Firstly, if the hijras are from ancient times, immoral activities such as robbery, deceit, gambling, etc. were also from ancient times, so according to their logic, we should also make these accepted too.

Secondly, if someone is born with a defect, i.e., the first type that we described earlier, it doesn't mean that the particular group should advocate or be made an example for others to follow. You will never see people born with other kinds of bodily defects dictating to others to become like them or calling to others to imitate them in any sense.

Thirdly, both kinds of hijras are not connected with LGBTQ+ people since the former ones are based on male gender being transitioned into female gender only, while the later ones are based on male or female gender being transitioned into more than a hundred genders.

Hence, we must not get confused next time if any LGBTQ+ flag bearer comes to pollute our minds with such a nonsensical claim.

May Allah SWT save us and the Muslim Ummah as a whole from this fitnah.

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MAJOR SIGNS OF QIYAMAH

Referred from the book: "The End of The World: Major and Minor Signs of The Hour" by Shaikh Muhammad Al Areefi

COMPILED BY HASAN UL BANNA KHAN

In Islam, there are various signs of the coming of the Day of Judgment, both major and minor, but all of them show how and when the time will come. **Though only Allah knows the exact day, the Quranic conclusions and various hadiths provide wisdom and guidance to Muslims in advance so that when the time comes, they will be able to distinguish between right and wrong.** The smaller and greater indicators of Qiyamah anticipate the occurrence of true events.

We are taught about the impending judgement day from a young age, and when asked when it will come, we are told that it will happen one day. To verify its legitimacy, we are given Quranic scriptures and Prophet's (PBUH) sayings. *According to Hudhayfah bin Usayd (R.A.), "Allah's Apostle appeared to us unexpectedly when we were engaged in a discussion. 'What do you talk about?' he inquired. 'We're talking about the Last Hour,' the companions said. the smoke, the beast, the rising of the sun from the west, the Anti-Christ, the descent of Jesus, the Gog and Magog, and landslides in three places, one in the east, one in the west, and one in Arabia, at the end of which fire would burn forth from Yemen, driving people to the place of their assembly, were among the ten signs he mentioned."* (Muslim)

1. The Smoke

There are various signs of the Hour: some of them are related to the earth, such as **landslides and famines**; some have to do with people, such as large numbers of women and small numbers of men; some have to do with morals, such as

the spread of Zina; and some have to do with the skies and heavenly bodies, and celestial signs such as the smoke. *Allah says in the Qur'an, "So be on the watch for a day when heaven shall bring a manifest smoke covering the people; this is a painful chastisement."* (Al Qur'an 44: 10-11). Before the day of judgement, obvious and visible smoke will appear in the sky and will be seen by everyone, and it will be a punishing day for the people. *Ibn Mas'ood (R.A.) said: "The smoke, when it happens, will fill the area between heaven and earth, but the believer will not feel anything except something like common cold; as for the disbeliever, it will penetrate his ears."*

2. The Beast

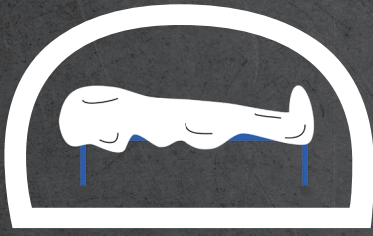
At the end of time, when corruption becomes widespread, evil prevails and people get used to it, everything will be topsy-turvy. The believers will be mixed with hypocrites and the disbelievers. At that time, Allah will give permission for the Beast to appear. *Qur'an says, "And when the word (of torment) is fulfilled against them, We shall bring out from the earth a beast for them, to speak to them because mankind believed not with certainty in Our signs"* (Al Qur'an 27:82). The Beast will be tasked to differentiate the believers from the disbelievers. Abu Hurayra (R.A.) narrates that the Prophet (PBUH) said, **"The Beast of the earth will emerge and have with it the staff of Moses and the ring of Solomon."** (Abu Dawud, Ibn Majah, Musnad Ahmad). It will use these to mark off the believers to differentiate them from the disbelievers. There is no proof or Saheeh Hadith about its place of emergence and its appearance.

Thus, we believe that it will emerge as Allah has informed us, but we do not know from where it will emerge, or how it will look like.

3. Sun Rising from The West

One morning, whilst the people are expecting the sun to rise from its usual place in the east, as it has done since Allah created it, the sun will suddenly rise from the west - i.e., it will rise from its place of setting. **At that time the gate of repentance will close forever.** Abu Hurayrah (R.A.) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: **"The Hour will not begin until the sun rises from its place of setting."** He further continued referring to a verse of the Qur'an, **"when it rises from its place of setting, all people will believe, but on that day 'no good will it do to a person to believe then, if he believed not before nor earned good through his Faith' (Al Qur'an 6:158)"** (Bukhari, Muslim). In another hadith, *the Prophet (PBUH) said to Abu Dharr when the sun set: "Do you know where it goes?" Abu Dharr replied: "Allah and His Messenger know best". He said: "It goes and prostrates beneath the Throne, and it asks for permission, and permission is given to it. But soon it will prostrate, but it will not be accepted from it, and it will ask for permission and permission will not be given to it, and it will be said to it: 'Go back from where you came.' So, it will rise from its place of setting, and that is what Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning): 'And the sun runs on its fixed course for a term (appointed). That is the Decree of the Almighty, the All Knowing.' (Al Qur'an 36:38)"* (Bukhari)

EFFECTS OF CONCEPT OF



DEATH

ON INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE

Death is the inevitable reality of the world. **The reality of death cannot be denied, despite the fact that many people in the world reject the existence of God and the Islamic belief system.**

There are and will be differences in describing what happens to a person when they pass away. One group believes this earthly life will end 'tomorrow', and another group believes that people will continue to experience births and deaths based on their past actions. Still, another group of people believes that after death, the creator of the universe will account for all individuals, and their previous actions will determine their judgement.

In light of the Qur'an and Sunnah, what changes occur in the nation due to the concept of Islam and death? **According to the Qur'an, death is unavoidable with a fixed time span and no room for modification.** For those who fear the reckoning of the Hereafter before their eyes, the world becomes a prison, and in order to escape, they must battle or chase death. And for those who are devoid of final reckoning, this world becomes a paradise in which they not only crave all types of freedom but also put in all kinds of efforts to ensure its existence. They make every effort to maintain their lives and are willing to make any deal.

To compete against the Prophet, the Pharaoh of the time raises an army of sorcerers, who also guarantee the awards beforehand. The competition starts, and the truth is revealed.

If these magicians believe in the Prophet of the time, then the false divinity of Pharaoh is exposed.

Pharaoh said, 'Have you believed in him

before I permit you? He must be your master who has taught you magic. I will cut your hands and feet off on opposite sides and have you crucified on the trunks of palm trees. You shall know whose punishment is more severe and more lasting.' (Ta'ha -71)

It should have happened that these magicians would have gone to Pharaoh's tent in fear of death but see their answer.

They said, 'Never shall we prefer you to all the evidence of the truth that has come to us. Nor to Him who has brought us into being. So, decide whatever you will. Your jurisdiction only covers the life of this world.' (Ta'ha-72)

Historians agree that Hazrat Khansa is one of the greatest Arab female poets. During the Jahiliyyah period, Hazrat Khansa's brother Sakhar was killed in a battle. Her brother's death had left her so shocked that she continued to recite the funeral for a long time, grieving herself and making the Arabs cry with her poetry. **But observe, the sun of Islam rises, and they accepted Islam in the hands of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).**

The Battle of Qadsiyya is considered the most important battle of the Farooqi era. **Hazrat Khansa sent her four sons to fight in this war, and all four sons were martyred.** Muslims were victorious. Look at the scene after the battle when Hazrat Khansa was informed that her four sons had been martyred. The woman who made all the Arabs cry on her brother's death, only this sentence comes out of her tongue. **Thanks to Allah, who has honoured me through their martyrdom.**

A Muslim not only chases death but also wants a great death. The feeling of fulfilling the responsibility and the longing for the death of martyrdom took Hazrat Ayub

Ansari to Constantinople in his old age. **17-year-old youth** [Mohammad-bin-Qasim] travel thousands of kilometres to plant the flag of Islam in India; young **Tariq bin Zeyad** burn ships so that there is no way to escape from death. We have recently witnessed with our own eyes how the determined **Mujahideen of Afghanistan** forced the world's superpowers to escape from the war field, and today the world looks in horror at them because they adore death.

At present, Muslims in the world have the largest number in its history, but their status is felt like that of insects. **The biggest reason for this is that the Islamic concept of death has disappeared from us, resulting in humiliation and disgrace for Muslims worldwide.** The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) warned about this situation 14 hundred years ago.

It is narrated on the authority of Thawbān (R.) that he said: *The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) said: "The people will soon summon one another to attack you as people when eating invite others to share their dish."* Someone asked: Will that be because of our small numbers at that time? He replied: **"No, you will be numerous at that time: but you will be scum and rubbish like that carried down by a torrent, and Allāh will take fear of you from the breasts of your enemy and last enervation (wahn) into your hearts."** Someone asked: *What is wahn?* O Messenger of Allāh (PBUH). He replied: **"Love of the world and dislike of death."**

No hegemonic movement can succeed unless the concept of death is clear. The people of this movement are convinced that they must die one day and give an account of their deeds. **One of the major reasons for our victory over the enemy will be that they will be in fear of death despite all the equipment, while the believers will be chasing death.**

Hazrat Khalid Bin Waleed wrote a letter to the enemy commander. In it, where he was invited to Islam, it was also written that **"I bring the men who desire death as ardently as you desire life."**

TRUTHFULNESS OF ISLAM

HOW THE HISTORY OF RELIGION IS A PROOF FOR THE

MUSLIM SKEPTIC

Islam is the truth, which is another way of saying that the exclusive claims of the religion are attested to by external factors, both supra-rational and rational. The focus of this article, however, will be to establish that there is historical proof for Islam, more precisely one of its most significant and important claims:

ISLAM IS INDEED THE LAST REVEALED RELIGION

There are many authentic ahadith (prophetic narrations) and verses from the Qur'an in this regard, including the following verse on the Prophet ﷺ being the seal of prophethood:

Muhammad is not the [natural] father of any of the men among you. Yet he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets. And ever is Allah all-knowing of all things. (*Qur'an*, 33:40)

But we will suffice here with the bold portion of the following ayah (verse):

This day: Those who disbelieve have despaired of [destroying] your religion. So do not fear them. But fear Me! This day: I have perfected for you your religion! And I have completed My grace upon you! And I am well pleased for you with Islam as your religion! (*Qur'an*, 5:3)

Mufti Muhammad Shafi (may Allah have mercy on him)—the former Grand Mufti of Pakistan who passed away in 1976—is, as usual, extremely eloquent in his tafsir (exegesis), *Ma'arif al-Qur'an*, and he deserves to be quoted at some length:

This verse was revealed to the Holy Prophet ﷺ on the day of 'Arafah of the Last Hajj in the tenth year of Hijrah. This was a time when the conquest of Makkah and almost of all Arabia was complete. Islamic law prevailed all over the Peninsula. The Muslims have been asked to feel secure against them and go on to spend their energy in obeying and worshipping their Lord.

That this verse was revealed in such elegant setting with a very special concern has its secret in the message it conveys, which is a great news, a solemn reward and an abiding hallmark of distinction for Islam and Muslims and for the Ummah at large. **In a nutshell, the message is that the ultimate standard of True Faith and Divine Blessing which was to be bequeathed to human beings in this world has reached its perfection on that great day.** This is, so to say, the climax of the divine blessings in the shape of a True Faith which began with Sayyiduna Adam (عليه السلام) and continued in later times when the children of Adam in every period and every area kept receiving a part of this blessing in proportion to their prevailing conditions.

Islam's status as the final religion was thus established under miraculous circumstances from an Islamic perspective. The alignment of days and occasions fortified this claim and made it even stronger. And it was so strong, in fact, that it leads us to our principal point:

THERE HAS BEEN NO MAJOR RELIGION AFTER ISLAM

Just to clarify, what we mean by a “major” religion here, is a religion that could be said to have defined an entire civilization. But we can go even further than that. In fact, every religion that came after Islam defined itself through Islam or was viewed thusly.

Take Sikhism, in the region of Punjab, South Asia, for example. All historians of religions agree that there would be no Sikhism without Islam. **This is because it is a sort of melting-pot between the mystical tendencies of Islam found within Sufism and the mystical tendencies of medieval Hinduism found in the Bhakti movement.**

Then fast forward a few hundred years to the 19th century, where you have the likes of Babism and its later derivative, Baha'ism. Despite the Baha'is not claiming to represent Islam but to rather be a post-Islamic religion, **the early Babis were initially just a heterodox**

sub-sect of the Shi'ah, influenced mainly by Ahmad Al-Ahsa'i, a Shi'ah cleric who was born and lived in today's Saudi Arabia and who proposed a form of apocalyptic Shi'ah doctrine which was rejected by most of the learned Shi'ah of his time. The point here being that, even if it were to be post-Islamic, Babism and Baha'ism would still be completely impossible to conceptualize without Islam.

The same could also be said about Qadiyanis, also of the 19th century. **Mirza Ghulam Qadiyani was undeniably an apostate and a notorious charlatan.** If Qadiyanism were also to be described as a post-Islamic religion, it too cannot be conceptualized without Islam.

In fact, this applies even beyond just the Islamic world.

For instance, the founder of the LDS movement and Mormonism was Joseph Smith, who was also active in the 19th century. He was frequently being compared to our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ because Smith supposedly mimicked some of His ﷺ blessed characteristics, such as the angelic mode of revelation or his stance about polygamy. In fact, it has been documented that people referred to Mormonism as bearing “in many respects a striking resemblance to Mahometanism” and Joseph Smith was described as a “Yankee Mahomet” and a “backwoods Mahomet.”

THE CONCLUSION IS CLEAR:

Islam strongly asserts that it is the last and final religion from God. (How many other religions even made such a powerful claim to begin with and with such assertiveness?)

And, by examining the “secular” field of the history of religion, we can all bear witness to the fact that no major religion has appeared after Islam; and that all the minor religions that did appear are, in one way or another, defined by Islam or linked to it.

SEALED NECTAR

The polytheists were paralysed by the carefully planned and speedy movement of Muhammad's ﷺ followers towards their new abode in Madinah. They were caught in unprecedented anxiety and got deeply worried over their whole pagan and economic entity. **They already experienced Muhammad ﷺ as an influential leader;** and his followers as determined, decent and always ready to sacrifice all they had for the sake of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ. Al-Aws and Al-Khazraj tribes, they would-be hosts of the Makkan Muslims, were also known in Arabia for their might and power in war, and judicious and sensible approach in peace. They were also averse to rancour and prejudice for they themselves had had bitter days of inter-tribal warfare. Madinah, itself, the prospective headquarters of the ever-growing Islamic Call, enjoyed the most serious strategic position. It commanded the commercial routes leading to Makkah whose people used to deal in about a quarter of a million gold dinar-worth commodities every year. Security of the caravan routes was crucial for the perpetuity of prosperous economic life. All those factors borne in mind, the polytheists felt they were in the grip of a serious threat. They, therefore, began to seek the most effective method that could avert this imminent danger. **They convened a meeting on Thursday, 26th Safar, the year fourteen of Prophethood /12th September 622 A.D i.e. two and a half months after the Great 'Aqabah Pledge.** On that day, *"the Parliament of Makkah"* held the most serious meeting ever, with one item on the agenda: How to take effective measures with a view to stopping that tidal wave. Delegates representing all the Quraishite tribes attended the meeting, the most significant of whom were:

1. **Abu Jahl bin Hisham**, from Bani Makhzum;
2. **Jubair bin Mut'im, Tuaima bin 'Adi, and Al-Harith bin 'Amir** representing Bani Naufal bin 'Abd Munaf;
3. **Rabi'a's two sons Shaibah and 'Utbah** besides

Abu Sufyan bin Harb from Bani 'Abd Shams bin 'Abd Munaf;

4. **An-Nadr bin Al-Harith** (who had besmeared the Prophet ﷺ with animal entrails) to speak for Bani 'Abd Ad-Dar;

5. **Abul Bukhtary bin Hisham, Zama'a bin Al-Aswad and Hakeem bin Hizam** to represent Bani Asad bin 'Abd Al-'Uzza;

6. **Al-Hajjaj's two sons Nabih and Munbih** from Bani Sahn;

7. **Omaiya bin Khalaf** from Bani Jumah.

On their way to An-Nadwah House, Iblis (Satan) in the guise of a venerable elderly man standing at the door interrupted their talk and introduced himself as a man from Najd curious enough to attend the meeting, listen to the debate and wish them success to reach a sound opinion. He was readily admitted in. There was a lengthy debate and several proposals were put forward. Expulsion from Makkah was proposed and debated in turn but finally turned down on grounds that his sweet and heart-touching words could entice the other Arabs to attack them in their own city. Imprisonment for life was also debated but also refused for fear that his followers might increase in number, overpower them and release him by force. **At this point, the arch-criminal of Makkah, Abu Jahl bin Hisham suggested that they assassinate him.** But assassination by one man would have exposed him and his family to the vengeance of blood. The difficulty was at last solved by Abu Jahl himself, who suggested that a band of young men, one from each tribe, should strike Muhammad simultaneously with their swords so that the blood-money would be spread over them all and therefore could not be exacted, and his people would seek a mind-based recourse for settlement. **The sinful proposal was unanimously accepted, and the representatives broke up the meeting and went back home with full determination for immediate implementation.**



RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN Wins Presidential Election in TURKEY

On 28th May, in a much publicised presidential run-off elections in Turkey, incumbent president Recep Tayyip Erdogan emerged as an outright winner with 52.1% votes to further extend his 20 year rule on the country. His rule started in 2003, when he became the 25th Prime Minister. At the time, Turkey was ailing from almost 75 years of forced secular liberalisation efforts started by Mustafa Kemal Pasha, a dictator who had risen to power from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire. He left no stone unturned to make sure that the overwhelming Islamic sentiment was crushed among the people which was a bedrock of the centuries long Ottoman rule. He had transformed the military and bureaucracy to turn them into 'secular liberal value protection forces'. In all these years, there were three coups where military intervened to restore 'normalcy' in the state and to prevent any Islamisation efforts that were made by popular public leaders so as to crush the people's sentiments. And they termed these as efforts to 'restore democratic establishment' (oh the irony!)

Erdogan, having shaped his ideology on Islamic lines, began to stamp his authority slowly, gradually and diplomatically. Initially, he focused on solving the economic issues that ailed the country and over time he continued to bring Islamic reforms like lifting bans on religious symbols and clothing in public places, restoring Hagia Sophia, a mosque that was made into a museum by Kemal Pasha, praising the Ottoman conquests in public rallies and claiming "Jerusalem is ours". All this while taming the military, infamously withstanding and nullifying a coup and subsequently purging the opposition forces who were responsible for it. Even though criticisms still remain on his policies, the recent mandate shows that he's still got people's trust going ahead and that Turkey is in a better place than it was under the dictatorial powers that plagued the country a few decades ago.



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