

## Principles of Islam – Maulana Shah Abdul Aleem Siddiqui RA

The beautiful panorama of the heavens and the earth which we see around us carries in its bosom the testimony that it is the creation of a Great Artist. The existence of teaches us, leads us to the belief in the existence of a Supreme Power and a Supreme Intelligence who is responsible for this complex but orderly design, of a Supreme Being who brought it into existence and supplied it with all that it needed for its life and growth, in the language of the Holy Quran, of the Rabbul Alameen.

The universe, as we know it in Science, is an organic whole, all of whose parts are beautifully and harmoniously inter related. It is, further a Domain of Law, in which every particle exists and moves in subjection to a prescribed and immutable course of law. Neither the huge planets that swim in space, nor the tiny particles of sand that lie scattered on the sea shore, can deviate even slightly from that course. Their life is a life of complete submission to the Laws of Nature, in the Language of Science and to the Laws of God, in the Language of Religion. Their life is the life of Islam, which means submission to Divine Commands, in other words they are Muslims. The Holy Quran refers to this truth in the following words:

***“And to Him submits whatever is in the heavens and the earth, willingly or unwillingly, and to Him do they return” (3:83)***

The sole exception to this general rule is man. He is unique in the whole Domain of creation, inasmuch as he possesses not only the faculty of reasoning, but also a free will. This makes his course of action and the pattern of his behavior undetermined. You can predict the action of the sun, because it functions under immutable law and possesses no freedom to deviate from it. But you cannot do the same things in the case of man. The activity of all the things in the universe is mechanical, but not so that of man. He can choose his ends and he can prescribe his means. For that purpose, he relies on his reason. But in that way, he commits mistakes side by side with achieving great things and ultimately lands himself in confusion. The same faculty, which is his asset, becomes the instrument of his undoing, solely because of its wrong use. The human intellect can guide him only to certain limits, because it works on the basis of known facts to discover the unknown. It can serve efficiently to some extent in the domain of the physical reality. But when it enters the realm of fundamental truths, where the first requirement is the possession of comprehensive knowledge of the past, the present and the future, it can give us only conjectures and inferences. In its very nature it is incapable of discovering ultimate truths of life.

The human soul is, however in dead earnest to know those ultimate truths, because without them the real meaning of life remains unexplained and the true code of human endeavor remains unfixed. Science cannot supply that, because it deals with the immediate physical reality. Philosophy cannot give it, because it works on postulates and inferences.

It is at this stage the human soul cries for guidance from the Great Beyond or the Great Unseen. It yearns to have a torch which might illumine its path and a Guide who might supply the guidance based on sure certain knowledge. Humanity needs such a sure, positive and comprehensive guidance and the same Loving Creator who sustains us and the universe in the matter of physical needs has also taken it upon himself to supply this vital need.

There is a widespread notion that there are only two ideologies in the world, between which mankind has to make a choice, namely Communism and Capitalism. But both of these ideologies suffer from extremism and the salvation of humanity lies in the adoption of a balanced ideology. Such an ideology is found in Islam, which allows initiative and private property, but limits the means of income and the ways of expenditure, which harmonizes the interest of the society and the individual on a free moral basis, and which in its state constitution, guarantees to all individuals the provision of their basic needs.

The one great difference between Islam and the modern ideologies is that Islam bases all its teachings on moral foundations and lays full emphasis on the moral reform of the individual. Absolute moral values like

Truthfulness, Justice, Charity, etc, are its very life blood. The Interests of the Individual and the Society exists as concentric realities. The Islamic Society is a cooperative commonwealth of free individuals hedged in with restraints or harmony, even as the human body is one.

Equality of all human beings in essential humanity is one of the basic principles of Islam. And this conception stands, not only in respect of relations between man and man but also in connection with the relation between man and woman. In fact, Islam ennobled and established the status of woman at a time when she was being regarded as a chattel and at best as a plaything for man and it was being debated whether she was a human being at all, at a time when she possessed no legal personality of her own and was deprived even of the right of owning property. According to the Islamic Ideology as a daughter, women is more beloved than a son as a wife she is "The Queen of her house" and as a mother, her status is superior to that of a father.

Islam wiped off all distinctions of race and colour and taught in the most unambiguous terms and most practical and truest form of human brotherhood. The Holy Quran says:

***"O Mankind! We created you from one male and one female made you into nations and tribes that ye may know each other. Lo! The noblest of you in the sight of God is he who is best in Conduct."(49:13)***

This brotherhood is made up of individuals who are to be respected without attaching importance to any physical distinctions. In fact, Islam regards the individual as a world by himself, as representing the whole of humanity in his person. Thus says the Holy Quran

***"He who kills anyone except for murder or mischief in the land, it is as if he killed all mankind and he who saves the life of anyone is as if he saved the life of all mankind" (5:35)***

The one great source of strife between human beings is the existence of egotism culminating in self interest. Islam takes a determined stand against it when it preaches the ideal of Muslim Life in the following words:

***"They sacrifice their own interests even though it causes them hardship."***

The Islamic conception of sacrifice is a natural corollary of the ideal unbounded love for fellow beings. That, in its turn, is rooted in the idea of the love of God, which is the central idea to which all the teaching of Islam are directed. The first principle of Islam is true faith in the Existence and the Unity of God. The goal of Muslim life is the attainment of nearness and proximity to God. The Muslim lives not for himself but for God, and all his actions must lead to that goal, as the Holy Quran says:

***"Say verily, my prayer and my sacrifice, my life and my death are all for Allah, Lord of the worlds, who has no partner (in His Kingdom) (6:162)***

Even in the field of scientific quest, the ideal of a Muslim is to know God and his Plan. For we read in the Holy Quran:

***"Verily, in the creation of the Heavens and the earth and in the alternation of the night and the day, are signs for persons of understanding, who remember God standing, sitting and reclining on their sides and***

***ponder over the creation of the heavens and the earth (and say O our lord! Thou not created all this in vain. Glory be to thee! Preserve us from the doom of Fire". (3:188)***

This is a very brief outline of the Islamic principles of life. In this teaching we have neither mystery nor dogma. On the other hand it is the religion of broad daylight. It is based on the natural laws appointed by God and consequently every one of its principles is capable of rational proof and demonstration.

It is the obligation of every rational human being to employ his reason and to consider whether he should follow the man made imperfect "isms" or the Perfect Guidance given by the All Knowing God. Islam is not the product of any human brain. It is a Divine Teaching revealed to a man who knew neither to read nor to write, who had received no schooling in science or philosophy and whose very environment was averse to the possibilities of the cultivation of any higher attributes. That man, that orphan child of Lady Amina, that illiterate son of the desert, stood in the wilds of Arabia, fourteen centuries ago and proclaimed about himself in the following words of God:

***"And he does not speak of his own desire. It is naught but an inspiration inspired." (53:3-4)***

He stood up as an illiterate Teacher, but on the basis of the revelation he received from God, he astounded the world by expounding the highest principles of wisdom and knowledge. He gave to humanity that revealed

and perfect Code of Life which transformed Bedouins of the desert into the most advanced nation of the world and revolutionized the whole human outlook. Those who were sunk in Barbarism and moral degradation became the torch bearers of morals and the teachers of the world in all the arts of peace and war. They stood at the cradle of modern science and they remained the master people of the earth for centuries.

The same inspiration, the same message the same system exists even today in its original an authentic form in the Holy Quran. The life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as the practical commentary of the Holy Quran and as the most comprehensive model of human perfection is still preserved in the authentic record of history, and stands out as the Beacon Light for all time.

Let those who honor the demand of rationality and who wish to tread the path of true human perfection come to the Holy Quran and God's Last Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and receive perfect guidance in all walks of life- spiritual , moral, political, economical, individual and collective. May the Beneficent God guide the whole of mankind to the Straight Path. Ameen.

The beautiful panorama of the heavens and the earth which we see around us carries in its bosom the testimony that it is the creation of a Great Artist. The existence of teaches us, leads us to the belief in the existence of a Supreme Power and a Supreme Intelligence who is responsible for this complex but orderly design, of a Supreme Being who brought it into existence and supplied it with all that it needed for its life and growth, in the language of the Holy Quran, of the Rabbul Alameen.

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Ameen.

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