

# Good News

...And give good news to those who do good (to others) - HQ22:37

November/December 2017

A Publication of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement for the Propagation of Islam South Africa

Vol. 008 Nos. 11&12

## A Critical Look at Extremist Ideology Through the Microscope of the Holy Quran

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The current generation of Muslims have been plagued by incessant waves of extremism over the last decades, which have caused much mayhem and confusion in its ranks. The endearing landscape of Islam, a religion of peace based entirely on absolute Monotheism and the unity of humankind, have been invaded by the weeds of sectarian division spawned by archaic, debilitating ideologies opposed to the spirit and letter of the Holy Quran and the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s<sup>1</sup>). In the late 19<sup>th</sup>, early 20<sup>th</sup> century the Founder of the revivalist Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad addressing the situation, called Muslims: **‘Back to the Quran!’**

In an environment where the general practice of Muslims is to give precedence

to the exegeses of legists (*fiqh*)<sup>2</sup> and *Hadith*<sup>3</sup> over the Holy Quran, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad’s call: **‘Back to the Quran!’** was indeed timely and well-founded. These ideologies, when viewed through the lens of the Holy Quran, the unsightly picture of extremism emerges. The Holy Book, we will see, indeed refutes the ideologies of misguided extremists such as ISIS we have been exposed to so much recently and still today albeit on the decline.

The following Quranic teachings are therefore indispensable for all ‘Peace Lovers’ especially all Muslims trapped in the middle of the ideological torrent of extremism and the flotsam of fanaticism, bigotry, prejudices, intolerances etc. that go with it.

### 1. Freedom of Religion

One often hears the tedious rhetoric of delusional fanatics about the merits of forced conversions as if such deplorable

<sup>1</sup> *Sallal lahu alayhi wassalaam* –peace and blessings of God be upon him

<sup>2</sup> Reference to law-makers

<sup>3</sup> Reports of the Prophet (s)

behaviour is God-ordained. On the contrary, it is universally known that the Holy Quran teaches **absolute freedom of religion with such force and clarity not to be found in any other religious scripture of the world.** Tolerance and respect for other faiths are teachings that permeate the Holy Quran. To illustrate, these are but some references from the Holy Quran which are self-explanatory: *(please note that all highlights for emphasis are that of the author)*

There is **no compulsion** in religion. - 2:256

This verse serves as a *magna carta* for universal religious freedom that ought to be intrinsic to the constitutions of every country across the world. This is especially so for those Muslim-ruled countries such as Pakistan for example with its deplorable human rights record. Here is a Muslim nation that finds pride in oppressive blasphemy laws much abused by the majority - with the blessing of the authorities who choose to turn a blind eye to the frequent injustices and worst kind of religious persecutions that are inflicted on minority groups, in the name of the 'law of the land.' This is the only country of note in the world where you will still come across situations where the perpetrators of the worst kind of human rights abuses are

applauded as heroes in a frenzy of vulgar patriotism. Here, the rare voices of justice are often summarily silenced by the assassin's bullet to the sinister glee of fanatical clerics who hold sway over millions of blind, sheep-like followers, who in turn, through their sheer numbers, force politicians to comply to their whims and fancies. Often these fanatical extremists are under a delusion that it is their pious duty to bring the whole world to a state of 'belief'.

We will show that this self-imposed authority has no basis in the Holy Quran. In fact the Holy Quran is full of statements showing that belief in this or that religion is a person's own concern, and that he is given the free choice of adopting one way or another. If he accepts the truth, it is for his own good; if he sticks to error, it is to his own detriment. The following statements are self-explanatory:

And if thy Lord had pleased, all those who are in the earth would have believed, all of them. **Will you then force people** till they are believers? -10:99

The Truth is from your Lord; so **let him who please believe and let him who please disbelieve.** - 18:29

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (s), the divinely appointed Messenger of God, was made clear by Almighty God what his role was, and indeed coercion, compulsion, force etc. was not part of it; so how can it be assumed that such behaviour is fine for his weak followers to resort to? The Holy Quran is clear on the limited role of the Holy Prophet (s):

Your duty (O Prophet) is **only the delivery of the message**, and Ours (God's) is to call (people) to account. -13:40

And you (O Prophet) **are not one to compel them**. So remind by means of the Quran him who fears My warning. - 50:45

And obey Allah and obey the Messenger; but if you turn away, the duty of **Our Messenger is only to deliver the message**. - 64:12  
see also 5:92

It is quite clear from these statements that God alone comes between man and his conscience and He alone stands in judgment of man. Even the great prophet of Islam, was limited to deliver the message only and to lead by example and not by force.

## 2. Islam recognizes all religions:

Addressing the whole of humankind, the Holy Quran states:

...For every one of you We appointed a law and a way. And if Allah had pleased He would have made you one religious community, but **He wishes to try you in what He has given you. So vie with one another in virtuous deeds**. To Allah you will all return, and He will then tell you about your differences. - 5:48

It is taught here that all religions preach the doing of good according to their revealed laws, and their followers should therefore try to outdo each other in virtuous deeds. Differences in doctrine will always be there as long as we are on this earth; the consequences of our beliefs and actions, whether good or bad, will be manifested in the after-life. There is therefore no need for religious disputes; the only thing that Muslims are taught to say to people of other faiths, are:

Allah is our Lord and your Lord. For us are our deeds and for you your deeds. There is no contention between us and you. Allah will gather us together, and to Him is the eventual coming. - 42:15

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (s) lived by the word of the Holy Quran and illustrated by way of personal example how to implement and practice religious tolerance and not merely pay lip-service to it.

### **Christians pray in the Holy Prophet's mosque:**

There is a well-known event that took place a year or so before the death of the Holy Prophet (s), that illustrates his strong commitment to the freedom of religion. A large contingent of Christians from Najran, near Yemen, headed by their religious leaders, came to meet him and discussed with him the doctrinal differences between Islam and Christianity, especially whether Jesus was mortal or divine.

Upon their arrival, the Holy Prophet lodged them in rooms connected with his mosque. Before the discussion began, the time came for the Christians to hold their prayer and they enquired from him where they could pray. The Prophet invited them to say their prayers inside his mosque. This incident is recorded in the biographies of the Prophet and serves as an example to all generations of Muslims on the high level of hospitality expected of a Muslim host.

### **3. Invite to Islam peacefully**

Call to the way of your Lord with **wisdom and goodly exhortation, and argue with them in the best manner**. Surely your Lord knows best him who strays from His path, and He knows best those who go aright. – 16:125

**'Wisdom'** here means to appeal to reason and knowledge, and not to exploit people's prejudices and ignorance. **'Goodly exhortation'** is to give good advice and to inspire goodness in others. If differences do arise, Muslims are cautioned and advised to argue in the **'best manner'**. This means you are to present the truth backed by solid evidence and facts in a manner that is becoming and polite, with due consideration for the sensitivities of others.

### **4. Tolerance towards 'idol worship'**

Every Muslim is called upon to exercise tolerance and respect even for the idols of others to avoid unnecessary conflict:

And if Allah had pleased, they would not have worshipped others (besides God). But We have not appointed you (O Prophet) as a keeper over them, and you are not placed in charge of them. **And**

**abuse not those whom they call upon besides Allah,** lest, exceeding the limits, they abuse Allah through ignorance. Thus to every people have **We made their deeds fair-seeming;** then to their Lord is their return so He will inform them of what they did. - 6:107-108

And if Allah did not repel some people by others, **cloisters, and churches, and synagogues, and mosques** in which Allah's name is much remembered, would have been pulled down. And surely Allah will help him who helps Him. Surely Allah is Strong, Mighty - 22:40

The Holy Prophet (s) is clearly told that he has not been appointed to be the 'keeper' over such idolatrous communities and that he has not been placed 'in charge' of them. This applies equally to all Muslims especially those fanatical self-appointed 'defenders of the faith.' Again, God alone is the judge and eventually it is He Who will 'inform them of what they did.'

#### 5. **All places of worship should be protected**

The shameless violation by Muslim 'extremists' of the Quranic injunction to protect all places of worship, is a disgrace to the proud legacy of justice, fairness and religious tolerance of Muslim governance throughout history. By desecrating churches and mosques extremists have placed themselves in the position of the much loathed '**perpetrators**' that the Holy Quran warns against and calls on all right-minded people to repel.

This verse is unique in the realm of religious scripture. Not only is it incumbent on all Muslims to show tolerance and respect for all other faiths, but they should be in the forefront to protect all places of worship when it comes under attack by irreligious forces. Here the places of worship of all Abrahamic faiths are mentioned by name which goes to show Islam makes no distinction when it comes to the preservation of all places of worship. A similar injunction is not to be found in the Torah or the Gospels. So Muslims are expected to lead by example when it comes to religious tolerance because that is what the Holy Quran demands of them.

#### 6. **Unprovoked, aggressive wars and murder prohibited**

Unprovoked, aggressive wars and murder are prohibited and a clear warning is sounded for all terrorists who commit

atrocities in the name of Islam. There is no ambiguity about these very clear commandments of the Holy Quran and Muslim educators would do a great service to Islam if they prioritised these teachings in their syllabuses:

And fight in the way of Allah against those **who fight against you but be not aggressive**. Surely Allah **loves not the aggressors**. 2:190

And if **they incline to peace, incline thou also to it**, and trust in Allah. Surely He is the Hearer, the Knower. - 8:61

And help one another in **righteousness and piety and help not one another in sin and aggression**, and keep your duty to Allah. Surely Allah is Severe in requiting (evil) - 5:2

O you who believe, **devour not your property among yourselves by illegal methods** except that it be through trading **by your mutual consent**. **And kill not your people**. Surely Allah is ever Merciful to you. - 4:29

And who so does this **aggressively and unjustly, We shall soon cast him into fire**. And this is ever easy for Allah. - 4:30

Whilst defensive wars are permitted for good reasons, all forms of aggression, killings and murder are prohibited. If the enemy stops hostilities and raises the flag of peace, Muslims are told to stop all fighting and resort to peaceful means of resolving disputes even if the enemy might be insincere.

#### 7. ‘Rebellion’, ‘tyranny’, and ‘acts of terror’ are expressly prohibited:

Islam prohibits all acts of ‘rebellion’, ‘tyrannical rule’, and all acts of ‘terror’ that cause upheavals and undue disruption in society. The Arabic word used in the Holy Quran to describe these acts is ***bahgyi***<sup>4</sup>:

Say: My Lord **forbids** only indecencies, such of them as are apparent and such as are concealed, and sin and **unjust rebellion (*bahgyi*)**. - 7:33

Surely Allah **enjoins justice and the doing of good (to others)** and the

<sup>4</sup> Root word meanings- Acting wrongfully, injuriously or tyrannically, corruptly, unjustly, insolent, disobedient, exceeding limits

giving to the kindred, and He forbids **indecent and evil and rebellion**. He admonishes you that you may be mindful. - 16:90

Hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children have died and became misplaced as a result of the ‘uncalled-for’ rebellion that took place in Libya and Syria and the mayhem created in Iraq by ISIS supported by foreign nations with their own selfish agendas. The Libyans and Syrians, prior to the wars, had a fairly safe and high standard of living, enjoyed many social benefits that Westerners merely dream of. Christians and Yazidis were living in peace with Muslims. So what was the reason to rebel? Rebels emerged from factional extremist groups with military and financial support from the Saudis and the West using them for their proxy wars to gain power in the region. The rebellion was the work of minority mischief-makers of which the majority of peaceful ‘law abiding’ citizens were not part of.

These Muslim factions who brazenly disobeyed the command of Almighty Allah **NOT TO REBEL** (*bahgyi*) – must now take most of the blame for the ruin and suffering that followed. The Holy Quran is replete with narratives highlighting the woeful end of those who chose to defy the will and guidance of the

All-Wise, Lord of the worlds in pursuit of their own misguided, selfish ends. If regime change was indeed a pressing need, **shura** – i.e bilateral consultations is prescribed in Islam as the primary mode of action and not ‘aping’ western style aggression and unbridled violence that lead to a state of anarchy. This applies to both the ‘ruler’ and ‘ruled’:

And their rule is **by counsel** among themselves -42:38

Pardon them and ask protection for them, and **take counsel with them in affairs of state.** – 3:159

When faced with a tyrant, non-violent protestation or some form of passive resistance is allowed. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (s) is reported to have said:

The most excellent *jihad* is the uttering of truth in the presence of an unjust ruler. – (Tirmidhi, Mishkat)

If the desired change is beyond reach then as a last resort it is recommended to migrate and seek refuge in another country:

Have We not made the earth an expanse -78:6

The taking up of arms and resorting to violent rebellion is prohibited in Islam and should be avoided at all costs especially so in a country where you are free to worship and do not face religious oppression and persecution. ‘Rebellion’ is classed with acts that are regarded as **‘evil and indecent’** in the Holy Quran to show the severity of its disapproval in the sight of God. And we can see why. The Holy Prophet (s) said:

He who dislikes an order of his Amir (Ruler) should withhold himself from opposition, for he who rebels against the king by a span dies the death of ignorance – (Bukhari 93:2)

Have we not witnessed sufficiently the meaningless horrors that such upheavals create in the world? In the end, it is always the innocent women and children that suffer whilst greedy ‘warmongers’ with its thriving arms industries laugh all the way to the bank.

Syrians who were interviewed by journalist, Mona Mahmood, of the *Guardian* in March 2015, expressed mixed reactions that consisted of much confusion and bewilderment about the rebellion. Although there were those who supported the rebellion (not really knowing why?)

many were against it. **Um Naji**, 45, a mother of three was one of many. She gave a good insight of what was really happening on the ground:

The truth is that [before the uprising] we all had a good life, even middle-class families. They could go on holiday, eat well and buy medicine. Those who were demonstrating were bribed; people were paid to buy weapons and kill their brothers. Other protesters were disillusioned and were given promises they would be leaders in a new government. Those who protested and claimed that they wanted freedom had personal interests, not a national goal. They were the first people to send their families abroad and then they joined them. The government provided people with coupons for basic food items, which the FSA (rebels) confiscated for themselves. Their commanders became rich from hijacking trucks loaded with goods heading to Damascus...

Today, large parts of Libya and Syria are lying in ruins. Syria will have to go through many, many years of healing. With Assad still in control, we ask with utter despondency, so what has this



misplaced rebellion achieved? – Except untold misery and destruction? Did it bring about stability and a higher standard of living or more freedom? After the death of approximately 500,000 people, Syrians, nay all Muslims, should ask themselves, would it not have been better to have rather obeyed Allah’s command NOT to engage in **rebellion** which He has strictly forbidden? After all, Muslims are reminded of this Divine decree every Friday from the pulpits of every mosque around the world. Let this be a lesson to all Muslims not to ignore the commandments of Almighty God.

### **8 All kinds of ‘suicidal acts’ are prohibited**

The lowest form of indoctrination that evil-minded extremists with malevolent political agendas often resort to is to persuade vulnerable youths to commit atrocities with the false belief that they will enter heaven as martyrs. The Holy Quran prohibits all forms of suicidal acts and destruction of human life. The verse below clearly warns against such ‘suicidal acts’ and immediately follows up with a command to do **‘good to others’ instead**. This is NOT what suicide bombers are doing when large numbers of innocent people are killed in open public places

even in the sanctity of places of worship. The Holy Quran clearly commands:

And **do not cast yourself to destruction** with your own hands and **do good (to others)**. Surely Allah loves the doers of good. - 2:195

And help one another in **righteousness and piety and help not one another in sin and aggression**, and keep your duty to Allah. Surely Allah is Severe in requiting (evil) - 5:2

Whoever kills a person, unless it be for murder or for mischief in the land, **it is as though he had killed all men**. And **whoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved the lives of all men**. – 5:32

These verses underscore the importance placed on the sanctity of human life in Islam. Any form of unjust killing is a grave sin the severity of which is equal to killing ‘all men’. In fact, the clear commandments of the Holy Quran which blinded extremists conveniently ignore are to engage in the **‘doing of good’** and to partake in acts of **‘righteousness and piety.’** This means we have to go out of

our way to save **human lives** and preserve the environment; fight diseases and illiteracy; work for the uplifting of the living standards of humanity; take care of the needy and disadvantaged, etc. **Self-destruction** and the mass destruction of human lives therefore, have no place in Islam.

### 9. It is unlawful to keep ‘sex slaves’

Unfair, ‘blinkered’ critics of Islam like to portray Islam as a religion that advocates female gender abuse. Unfortunately the behaviour of Muslim subscribers of the ideologies of the likes of ISIS and other extremists, do not help much to eradicate this misconception. These warped ideologies, it has been adequately proven, has absolutely no basis in the Holy Quran, the ultimate primary source of obedience of a Muslim. Anything that contradicts the Holy Quran including spurious reports attributed to the Prophet Muhammad (s) should be summarily rejected. Nothing can supersede the ‘Word of God.’

If we now turn our attention to the Holy Quran, we will find that it is unlawful for a Muslim to force women into marriage:

O you who believe it **is not lawful to take women as heritage against (their) will.** - 4:19

Moreover, taking women as ‘sex slaves’, was expressly prohibited. This was ground-breaking reform brought about by Islam at a time when slavery was still very much entrenched in the Arabian society. We therefore find that although Islam abolished slavery completely, it could unfortunately not ‘wish it away’ overnight much like the remnants of ‘racism’ here and everywhere else in the world, cannot be wished away. Thus Islam made provision for the rights of slaves as we see here in the Holy Quran:

And marry those among you who are single, and those who are fit among your male slaves **and your female slaves** - 24:32

So **marry them** with the permission of their masters and **give them their dowries justly**, they being chaste **not fornicating nor take them as paramours.** (I.e. mistresses, concubines, sex slaves etc.) - 4:25

Thus we find that only ‘**legal marriages**’ entered into ‘**without force**’, and with due consequential rights and obligations for both spouses, are allowed in Islam. The Holy Quran absolutely prohibits taking women as ‘mistresses’ or ‘concubines’ for sex purposes only, a practice more

common in the 'free sex' culture of Western societies now on the increase with the introduction of the internet.

#### 10. **There are lessons in ancient history and relics**

Another tragic act of idiocy and cowardice of extremists such as ISIS is the wanton destruction of ancient artefacts. This is typical *Wahabi*-style 'cleansing' rituals - a form of extremism which has seen even much prized relics of our Holy Prophet (s), his family, and companions, destroyed. The Holy Quran nowhere advocates the destruction of ancient relics and the eradication of the historical records of past generations. On the contrary, it views it as a source of knowledge for future generations to build on. The Holy Quran clearly states:

**In their histories** there is certainly a **lesson for men of understanding** -12:111

Do they not **travel in the land and see** what the end of those before them was? They were more numerous than these and **greater in strength and fortifications in the land** - 40:82

There are indeed intellectual and moral lessons in archaeological findings that adorn our museums and libraries. The Greeks, we know, contributed much to modern civilization, but their knowledge was buried and lost to the world for centuries until Muslim scholars unearthed much of it, translated it into Arabic and made it accessible to the world. The maniacs who now deem it fit to run around destroying these treasures of knowledge belong in an institution for the mentally sick.

#### **Conclusion:**

Ideologies that lead to religious intolerance; that stir up rebellion; the carrying out of mass destruction of innocent, men, women and children; the engagement in forced conversions; the desecration and destruction of places of worship regardless of whose religion it belongs to; the ill-treatment of women, and the suppression of knowledge, have no home in the **HOLY QURAN**, which is the only '**True Guide**' for all **MUSLIMS - GENERATION NOW and NEXT!**



**We strongly condemn all acts  
of aggression and terror  
including all violations of  
basic human rights  
specifically those carried out  
in the name of Religion or  
State!**

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