

THE QUALITIES AND REFLECTIONS OF ISLAMIC CULTURE

Islamic culture has some rules and regulations on which it is based and it has some qualities on which it differs from other cultures distinctively. Some important ones are:

1. BELIEF

Islam invites to the belief of Tauheed (Oneness of Allah) according to which only Allah has the right to be obeyed and worshipped. Islam has explained all the elements of this belief with clear justifications. It did not consider this enough but also denied all the opponent opinions, reflections and beliefs. Allah Almighty says:

﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ (١) اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ (٢) لَمْ يَكِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ (٣) وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝ (٤)﴾
الإخلاص: ١ - ٤

Translation of Meaning: Say: He is Allah, the One and Only (1); Allah, the Eternal, Absolute (2); He begetteth not, nor is He begotten (3); And there is none like unto Him (4). (Surah Al-Ikhlâs:1-4)

Thus Islam demolished all those discussions which were being held about Oneness of Allah. Islam denied the false allegations of the Jews and the Christians. Therefore, Allah says:

﴿وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ عُزَيْرٌ ابْنُ اللَّهِ وَقَالَتِ النَّصَارَى الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ ذَلِكَ قَوْلُهُمْ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ يُضَاهِئُونَ قَوْلَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ قَالَهُمْ اللَّهُ أَنَّى يُؤْفَكُونَ ۝ (٣٠) اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَارَهُمْ وَرُهْبَانَهُمْ أَرْبَابًا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ وَالْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ سُبْحَانَهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ۝ (٣١)﴾
التوبة: ٣٠ - ٣١

Translation of Meaning: “The Jews call Uzair a son of Allah, and the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah’s curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth! They take their priests and their anchorites to be their lords in derogation of Allah, and (they take as their Lord) Christ the son of Mary; yet they were commanded to worship but One Allah: there is no god but He.

Praise and glory to Him: (Far is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him).” (Surah At-Tauba, Verse 30-31)

Islam clarified with proofs about the Oneness of Allah in front of those people who had associated others with Allah as their lords. Allah says:

﴿أَمْ اتَّخَذُوا آلِهَةً مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ هُمْ يُنشُرُونَ ﴿٢١﴾ لَوْ كَانَ فِيهِمَا آلِهَةٌ إِلَّا اللَّهُ لَفَسَدَتَا فَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَرْشِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ ﴿٢٢﴾﴾ الأنبياء: ٢١ - ٢٢

Translation of Meaning: “Or have they taken (for worship) gods from the earth who can raise (the dead)? If there were, in the heavens and the earth, other gods besides Allah, there would have been confusion in both! But glory to Allah, the Lord of the Throne: (High is He) above what they attribute to Him!” (Surah Al-Anbia, Verse 21-22).

Islam is a complete and comprehensive religion. Its comprehensiveness is shown to its fullest in its culture. It has a deep impact on all the aspects of life, for example, economic, political, collective and intellectual and others. Hence, Islam covers all the spiritual, intellectual and physical requirements of man. Islamic culture consists of matters related to the people living on the earth till the Day of Judgment because it is that culture of the Holy Qur'an, the protection of which is being promised by Allah till the Day of Judgment. It is not a rigid culture like a stone; instead it covers all the intellectuals/thoughts and resources which are supportive in the development and success of humans. There, it is proved that the Islamic culture has its own rules and regulations and it has enough capacity that its rules can be implemented in every era and every area which is beneficial for the public.

2. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT OF EDUCATION

Islamic culture has made special arrangement for education. Seeking knowledge is highly encouraged in the Holy Qur'an and Ahadith. Thus Islam has differentiated between a literate nation and an illiterate nation. Allah Almighty says:

﴿قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٩﴾﴾ الزمر: ٩

Translation of Meaning: “Say: Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know?” (Surah Az-Zumar, Verse 9)

The significance of people of knowledge is described in Holy Qur’an in these words:

﴿يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ ۚ﴾ المجادلة: ١١

Translation of Meaning: “Allah will rise up, to (suitable) ranks (and degrees), those of you who believe and who have been granted knowledge.” (Sura Al-Mujadila, Verse 11)

The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) has described the significance of seeking knowledge in these words:

"مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا، سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ" (الترمذي ، ابن ماجه)

Translation: “Whoever walks on the path of seeking knowledge, Allah eases his way to Paradise because of this.” (Bukhari, Abu Dawood, Tirmizi, Ibn Majah)

The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) also said: " طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ " (ابن ماجه)

Translation: “To seek knowledge is compulsory on every Muslim.” (Ibn Majah)

There are some important things the knowledge of which should be sought by every Muslim male and female and its ignorance can never be tolerated at any time. These are the basic things of the Islamic system like ablution (wuzu), taharat (cleanliness) and prayer etc. Seeking knowledge about these things is important because these are the rules with the help of which a Muslim worships his Lord Allah in the correct manner.

To seek knowledge about some certain things is ‘Farz-e-Kifaya’, for example, Chemistry, Physics and Algebra etc. Similarly, there are some religious studies in which only few people get specialized such as ‘Mustalih-ul-Hadith’ (Hadith terminologies) and ‘Usul-e-Fiqh’ (The Rules of Jurisprudence) etc.

REFLECTIONS OF ISLAMIC CULTURE:

Islamic culture has not ignored both of the aspects of human life i.e. its spiritual and materialistic aspects. That is why we come to know that the role of Islamic culture has remained prominent in different fields in a way that this culture has prospered in all the fields of human life and its reflections are following:

1. Political aspect.
2. Economic aspect.
3. Collective aspect.
4. Scholarly aspect.
5. International Relations.
6. System of Constitution making.
7. Judicial System
8. War aspect
9. Construction aspect

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