

ALLAH'S PROMISE

The Promise:

"Allah has promised such of you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them succeed (as a super power) in the earth, even as He caused those who were before them to succeed (others); and that He will surely establish for them their deen (al-Islam) which He has approved for them, and He will give them in exchange safety (peace with security) after their fear. They worship Me. They ascribe nothing as partner unto Me. Those who disbelieve henceforth, they are the wrong doers (miscreants)." The Qur'an 24:55

The above-quoted ayah of the Qur'an conveys to us Allah's promise and His conditions for its fulfillment. The promise has three parts, (1) that Allah will give the promised people the "super-power position" on the earth, (2) that Allah will establish *deen (al-Islam)*, with which He is pleased, as the system of life for the promised people, and (3) that He will give safety, peace and security to the promised people. But Allah will not fulfill His promise until three conditions are met, (a) that such people are believers, (b) that such people do good deeds, and (c) that such people serve Allah only and do not commit shirk in beliefs and deeds. Those who do not accept Allah's offer are miscreants, wrong doers. The punishment for such miscreants is disgrace in this life and in the life hereafter. The choice given by Allah is to accept the challenge and reach the top or reject it and fall to the bottom of disgrace in this life and hereafter. Allah opens this Surah (An-Noor #24) with the following strong words, ***"A Surah which We have sent down and which We have ordained. In it have We sent down Clear Signs, in order that you may receive admonition."*** This verse conveys the message that the whole Surah is an ordinance from Allah, which the Muslims must obey, and its rejection will deserve His displeasure and disgrace for the rejecters.

Allah Keeps His Promise:

Allah says in the Qur'an in a variety of contexts: ***"...And fulfill your (part of the) covenant, I shall fulfill My (part of the) covenant..." 2:40***

"Never does Allah fail in (His) promise." 39:20, 30:6, 22:47, 13:31, 3:9, 2:80

Present Situation and Questions

When any one of over one billion (over one thousand million) Muslims is asked if he/she is a believer the answer will surely be an emphatic "yes." When asked if he/she does good deeds, the answer will be "yes." When asked if he/she worships anyone other than Allah, the answer will be an emphatic "no!" And asked if he/she is a *Mushrik / mushrikah*, the emphatic answer will be "no!" If these answers are true, why aren't Muslims a super power? Why is the *deen al-Islam* not established as the order of our time? Why do Muslims not have peace and security in the world, even in their own countries with an overwhelming Muslim majority? Isn't it punishment in this world from Allah to Muslims that they are the most disgraced people in the world? One of the signs of disgrace of the Muslim *Ummah* is that, among the world population of refugees, almost 80% are Muslims! Why are Muslims not able to have their own rule in their own majority countries but are ruled by their enemies, the Western powers, through puppet "Muslim rulers"? Why do Muslims not have peace and security anywhere, but even live in fear of their own tyrannical rulers, common criminals and murderers? This is clearly a disgraceful situation for the Muslim *Ummah*.

The ultimate question every Muslim must ask himself/herself, is whether Allah is a liar (may Allah protect us from such a blasphemous belief) who has made false promises, or am I a liar who makes big claims but does not fulfill them? The natural conclusion is that Allah fulfills His promises as

soon as His conditions are fulfilled. Those who do not know the real meaning of beliefs, good deeds, and avoiding *shirk* will not know how to fulfill them. If we look at Islam as understood and practiced in Arab countries, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia and other Muslim majority countries, we find this Islam has not given Muslims a "super-power position" in the world as is promised by Allah. The Islam as understood and practiced in the Muslim world in our times, or for the last one thousand years for that matter, has given Muslims disgrace, backwardness, mediocrity, ignorance, cowardice, selfishness, poor morality, poverty despite love of wealth, crass materialism, fear of death, blind following of hearsay, political and military weakness and imitation of powerful non-Muslim nations.

The Promise Was Once Fulfilled

Prophet Muhammad^(S) and his companions fulfilled Allah's conditions and Allah fulfilled His promise, with the result that the early Muslims became the world's super power. The Islamic system was implemented in the land and there was peace and security. Islam given by the Prophet Muhammad^(S), understood and practiced by his companions, was a system that gave them respect, the position of a super power in the world, enlightenment, progress, an urge for excellence, adventurism, an urge and ability to discover and expand knowledge, bravery, selflessness, excellence in morals, riches despite aversion to wealth, love of death for the cause of their Lord, Allah, and qualities of leadership which non-Muslim nations followed and imitated.

The Promise Is In Effect

The promise of succession to the super-power position on the earth is made to all those who fulfill Allah's conditions and it was not confined to the early generations of Muslims. It is worthwhile to note the wording of the ayah, "*even as He caused those who were before them to succeed (others).*" These words describe the promise to the first generation, which He did fulfill, and it continues to be His promise to any generation. Allah will give them what He gave to the first generation of Muslims when they fulfill His conditions.

Obey the Messenger^(S):

The clue to the answer of these questions may be found in the verses preceding and following the above-quoted verse (24:55):

"Say: Obey Allah and obey the Messenger. But if you turn away, then (it is) for him (to do) only that wherewith he has been charged, and for you (to do) only that wherewith you have been charged. If you obey him, you will be aright. But the Messenger has no other charge than to convey (the message) plainly." 24:54

"Establish Salah (prescribed daily prayers) and pay the Zakah (poor-due) and obey the Messenger, that haply you may find mercy." 24:56

In both the ayahs, 24:54 and 24:56, there is a common command, underlined for emphasis, obey the Messenger, which is worth your attention. Every Muslim must ask himself, do I obey the Messenger or do I obey other people ('ulama, perceived scholars and Imams, awlia and others in power) who give the impression that they are passing on the commands of the Messenger? In fact, an overwhelming majority is blindly following those who give us the impression that they are 'ulama but in truth they are pseudo-'ulama (fake 'ulama and fake muftis). Indeed, there are a few true 'ulama among us who should be our consultants and our guides but the overwhelming majority are only pseudo-'ulama. The true-'ulama desire no authority to impose their opinions, but give verifiable Islamic knowledge with references from the Qur'an and the Sunnah. Whereas, pseudo-'ulama demand blind obedience to themselves.

Perfection of the Deen:

Allah perfected the *deen* when He said: "***This day have I perfected your deen for you and completed my favor unto you...***" 5:3 And the Prophet Muhammad^(S), said, "**I have left nothing concerning which Allah has given you an order, without giving you that order; nor have I left anything concerning which Allah has given you a prohibition, without giving you that prohibition...**" Reported by Imam Al-Shafe'i in his **Ar-Risalah** with authenticity.

After such declarations of Allah and His Messenger^(S) it is clear that Allah's orders with respect to formal rites of worship, *haram* and *Halal*, whatever constitutes crime and its punishment, definitions of decency and indecency and necessary aspects of the civil law have been given, clearly and completely. In any area, if Allah and His Messenger^(S) are silent, it is with their wisdom which no scholar or Imam or any of their groups is authorized to issue their opinion (*Fatwa*) and impose it on the *Ummah* for all time to come. As the Imams in the early centuries did not have such authority, the *'ulama* of our time or those of the future do not have such authority. The *deen* as left by the Prophet^(S), has no need for additions, alterations, modifications or subtractions.

Corruption and Degeneration

Four or five centuries after the death of Prophet Muhammad^(S), Muslims drifted away from true Islamic teachings and Allah took away their position of power on the earth. Muslims became weaker and weaker, they suffered a series of defeats until their enemies became their rulers during the colonial days and they continue to be ruled by the puppets of their enemies into our age.

What did the Muslims do, from the fifth to fifteenth century of Islam, which was so wrong that Allah would remove them from the highest position among nations and push them down to the lowest in our time? Allah says in the Qur'an, "***Surely We created man of the best stature. Then We reduced him to the lowest of the low, except those who believe and do good works...***" 95:4-6 How is it possible to have the opposite effect of the same "Islam"? Obviously, there are two Islams, one being the real Islam of the early Islamic era and the other being a pseudo-Islam of later centuries through our time.

The Muslim *Ummah* of our time lives under the slavery of pseudo-'ulama who have become colonial masters which is in addition to the Western colonial powers. The Muslim *Ummah* today is living under double slavery, not one. There will be no progress until the Muslim *Ummah* frees itself from the colonial masters, one external (colonial powers and their local agents) and the other internal (pseudo-'ulama). Allah said in the Qur'an, "***They have taken as lords besides Allah their scholars and monks (Sufi sheikhs)...***" 9:31. Clearly, blindly obeying scholars is the same as taking them as lords in place of Allah.

The Muslims must rediscover the Qur'an and the Sunnah and attach themselves to these two sources of Islamic guidance. The Muslims need specialists in these two fields, true 'ulama who will not enslave Muslims. Instead, they will free them and lead them into the path of true Islam. Unfortunately, we live in a time where many fake "Shaikhul-Hadith," fake "*Muftis*," fake Mawlanas and fake Shaikhs will copy weak and fake Ahadith and stories in their books and use as quotes in their speeches, material from non-authentic sources, which provides more opinions than imparts true knowledge. Obviously, opinion is not knowledge. There are some who even fabricate or write hearsay as Hadith in their writings or speeches to prove their points. Some pseudo-'ulama go as far as bringing dreams, personal experiences and personal observations of "*shaikhs*", "*imams*", "*mauwlanas*", "*peers*", "*murshads*", "*mullas*", "*sufis*", "*majzoobs*", and "*auwlia-Allah*" to invent new beliefs and practices for Muslims in the name of "Islam". When criticized for innovations, they try

to find justification and support in the Qur'an and the Sunnah. When they fail, they fabricate material in the name of Hadith or at best, bring quotes from the Qur'an and Hadith, out of context and misinterpret. Unfortunately, there is plenty of ignorance among the Muslim masses who believe such spurious material.

Naturally, the *status quo* of understanding and the practice of Islam of our time is not going to benefit us, but will continue to cause humiliation (which is a worldly punishment), and there is the doom of the life hereafter, besides.

Apparent Causes of Decline

Let us look at these Ahadith:

(a) Narrated Abu Hurayrah, the Prophet^(S) said, **"Leave me as I leave you for the people who were before you were ruined because of their questions and differences over their prophets. So, if I forbid you to do something, then keep away from it. And if I order you to do something, then do it as much as you can."** Bukhari, Tr. M.M. Khan Vol 9, #391.

(b) Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri states that the Messenger^(S) of Allah said, **"You will surely follow the practices of your predecessors span by span and cubit by cubit, so that if they were to enter a lizard's hole you would follow them."** We (the companions) asked, **"O Messenger of Allah, the Jews and the Christians?"** He said, **"Who else!"** (Agreed)

(c) Thauban states that the Messenger^(S) said **"The nations (of peoples) will soon summon one another to attack you as people when eating invite others to share their dish."** A man asked, **"would that be because of our small number at that time?"** He (the Prophet) said, **"No, you will be numerous at that time; but you will be scum like that carried down by a torrent, and Allah will surely take away fear of you from the hearts of your enemy, and will surely cast the *wahan* in your hearts."** A man asked, **"O Messenger of Allah, and what is *wahan*?"** He (the Prophet) said, **"Love of the world and hate of death!"** Abu Dawood #4297, Musnad Ahmad, #5/278.

One way to understand the above-quoted *Ahadith* is that the Muslim's decline from the pinnacle of power was natural for the following reasons:

1. The Muslims have asked unnecessary questions of their scholars and the Muslim scholars gave their opinions (*fatawa*), right or wrong, which many Muslims took too seriously, thus causing schisms within the *Ummah*. Muslims followed Bani Israel in hair-splitting issues and making the deen so difficult that it became discouraging to practice Islam. Jews are leaving their religion and becoming cultural Jews; so are Muslims.
2. In the above process the Muslims, scholars and their followers alike, have trodden the path taken by the Christians and the Jews, thus corrupting beliefs and practices. In fact, the Muslims have followed the ways of Greek philosophers, Roman-Greek paganism, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Manicheism, Buddhism and every other -ism and culture they encountered. All these signs are in their local cultures.
3. Jewish scholars developed the Talmud, divided themselves into various denominations and made it obligatory for the masses to live by one or the other. The Torah was to be read only for blessings. Fiqh compilations were developed by the Muslim scholars belonging to various schools of thought, *madhahibs* (equivalent of denominations) and

- made it obligatory for the masses to follow one school of Fiqh or the other. The Qur'an and the Hadith were to be read for blessings only. The Jew were detached from the Torah and the Muslims have been detached from the Qur'an and the Hadith. This fact is particularly evident in the non-Arab Muslim world, which is over 80% of the Muslims.
4. The Catholic religion denied the masses access to the Bible. It became a major crime, punishable by death, for anyone of the laity to own a copy of the Bible. Muslim scholars could not promulgate such a law, but they discouraged the masses from attempting to understand the Qur'an and Hadith by their own effort. The impression was given that the Qur'an was a difficult book for ordinary people to understand. Such an opinion contradicted the declaration of Allah in the Qur'an, "***All praise be to Allah Who has revealed the Book unto His slave, and has not placed therein any crookedness.***" 18:1; "***And in truth We have made the Qur'an easy to (learn and) remember, but is there any that (learns and) remember?***" 54:17, 22, 32 & 40.
 5. The Christian church developed the system of ordination for the clergy to keep control over who teaches and what is taught. The Muslim scholars developed the requirement that every scholar must be certified by a previously certified "scholar" to maintain control. Independent learning was not recognized in Christianity and Judaism. It is the same situation among the Muslim "scholars" of later centuries, since they refuse to recognize independently educated Muslims. This situation is nothing more than imitation of the Christian ordination and Hindu Brahmanism. Whereas Allah declares in the Qur'an, "***Read (recite): And your Lord is the Most bounteous, Who taught man by the pen; taught man that which he knew not.***" 96:3-5. In these verses Allah talks about reading and writing as a source of knowledge for those who have learned to read and write. Naturally, unlettered people have to depend upon those who are lettered.
 6. The Christians invented asceticism in the form of monks who shun worldly life in favor of "purification" through the worship of God, which still included music, dancing and drinking wine. The Muslims invented Sufism, which shuns worldly life in favor of "purification" through Salah, Sawm and Dhikr, which, in some cases, includes music and dancing. Sufis invented many types of "*Salah*" and "*dhikr*" which have no precedence in the life of the Prophet^(S), all in the name of *tazkiyah* or purification. In view of the verse 5:3 and ahadith quoted above any innovation is an allegation against the Prophet^(S) that he hid some good information from his followers which the Sufis of later centuries discovered and continue to discover. In addition, any innovation in Islam is an accusation against Allah that He lied (may Allah protect us) when He revealed in the Qur'an that He perfected *deen al-Islam*. In Islam, the real process of *tazkiyah* purification is to spend one's entire life making the effort to live more and more by the Qur'an and the Sunnah. There is no asceticism or sufism in Islam and all innovations are to be rejected. Prophet Muhammad^(S) and his companions did not isolate themselves from "worldly" life.
 7. The Christians and Jews divided themselves into many denominations and accepted schism. The Muslims went one step further. They not only divided themselves into many sects and madhahib, but called it a "mercy of Allah". It is beyond reason to believe schism and division to be from the mercy of Allah! In fact, schism and dissensions is a curse and a sign of punishment from Allah! Allah dislikes and condemns sectarianism and dissensions in the deen, as we read in the Qur'an, "***And hold fast, all of you***

together, to the rope of Allah, and do not separate...” 3:103. And specifically condemns sectarianism, “Of those who split up their deen and became sectarian, each sect taking pride in its tenets” 30:32.

8. The Christians and Jews succumbed to the onslaught of godless secularism and made religion a private choice of the individual. The Muslims made Islam a *de facto* matter of private choice and detached it from the overall life of the *Ummah*. For centuries, Muslims accepted a life under monarchs who ruled by their own laws while giving lip service and tokenism to Islamic politics and economics. In our time, secularism has become a prevailing way of life rather than Islam in the Muslim majority countries. In the affairs of the Muslim *Ummah*, Allah has been dethroned from His sovereignty, even in the Muslim countries.
9. The Christian powers of Europe divided Muslim lands among themselves through war during 17th to 19th centuries and finally, after the World War One they divided the Muslim lands on the peace table which fulfilled the prophecy of the Messenger^(S) of Allah that the Muslims were suffering from *wahan*, that is, love of the wealth and hate of death.
10. Subsequent dilution and corruption of beliefs and practices of the Muslims caused their weakness, so much so that they became subjects of their enemies and continue to be so in our time. The Muslims not only became subjects of their obvious foreign enemies but became subjects, rather slaves of their internal enemies, opportunist, power hungry, sometimes ignorant, pseudo-'ulama and their cohort political leaders are the slaves of the Western mentality.
11. Towards the dawn of 21st century the enemies of Islam once again trying to subdue and destroy Islam in the name of “war on terrorism”. Muslims are not fighting any war against the West but a war of freedom in their countries from western influences so that they can freely implement the rule of Allah in its entirety. Certainly, Muslims want to throw out dictators and puppets appointed and protected by the West. However, Muslims living in the West have the challenge of educating the people about Islam and Muslims and bring them closer to Islam.

The Solution

(a) How to get out of this mess? A simple answer is to relearn the basics of belief (Iman), good works ('amalus salihat), worship and service to Allah ('ibadah), and shun shirk. These are the four key concepts we must relearn in the light of the Qur'an and Hadith, directly. "*Amino wa 'amilus-saalihat*", believe and do good works, appears over ninety (90) times in the Qur'an which shows the significance of learning these two concepts from the Qur'an and the Sunnah and not believe in hearsay. An overwhelming majority of Muslims believe that they know Islam enough to practice it correctly, whereas they have not studied the Qur'an with understanding nor have they studied even simple collections of Hadith covering matters of daily life. The Muslims are living under hearsay Islam without direct verification from the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

b) Collectively, the Muslim *Ummah* must return to Islam as understood and practiced by the Prophet Muhammad^(S) and his companions which Allah accepted, giving them keys to world power and assured paradise. The Muslims must discard all beliefs and practices learned from non-Muslim sources during the second century Hijrah onward. The Islam which was good enough and adequate

for the Prophet^(S) and his companions, is good enough and adequate for Muslims of the fifteenth century Hijrah. Here we are talking about throwing away all innovations learned during the later period except the knowledge of the sciences and scientific inventions.

c) It is time for all educated Muslims, particularly those with college degrees in any field, to spend some time learning the elements of Hadith and Qur'an sciences and learning to verify or disprove claims, so that we may differentiate between true 'ulama and pseudo-'ulama. It is time for the Muslims to learn the difference between blind following, hearsay following, following conjecture, following opinion and living by the knowledge of both the Qur'an and the Sunnah. The Muslims need to learn to obey, in reality, Allah and His Messenger and not to give blind obedience to any scholars, whether real or pseudo-'ulama.

d) The Muslims should take real 'ulama as consultants without giving authority to them to impose their opinions upon the people. The only real authority in Islam, among humans, rests with the Messenger^(S) who left his teachings under the protection of Allah Himself. It is the mercy of Allah that He has His ordinances well preserved for all time to come and available to those who like to learn and follow.

e) The Muslims must spread the message of Islam to the non-Muslim people of the world. Prophet Muhammad^(S) spent entire twenty-three years of his prophetic life spreading the message of Islam, so did prominent *Sahaba* who spread Islam to half of the then-known world. Unfortunately, the Muslims of later generations forgot the lesson of spreading Islam, which resulted in the loss of Spain, India, East Europe and all of the Mediterranean Sea islands. The dear price the Muslims are paying is that, once rulers of the world, the Muslims have become subjects of insignificant powers like Israel. How disgraceful!

Prior Warning:

Allah pre-warned the Muslims of forthcoming disgrace, which began in the fifth century of the Islamic era. We read in the Qur'an:

"Do you believe in a part of the Book and disbelieve in a part thereof? And what is the reward of those who do so except disgrace in the life of the world, and on the Day of Resurrection they will be consigned to the most grievous doom. For Allah is not unaware of what you do." 2:85