

The Need and Significance of Islamic Unity

Teaching Assistant Khairullah Shinwari (1)

Assistant Professor Atiqullah Atiq (2)

Lecturer of Sharia Faculty, Sayed Jamaluddin Afghani University, Kunar

Lecturer of Sharia Faculty, Nangarhar University.

Abstract

This academic research is about “The Need and Significance of Islamic Unity”. In this article we have tried to fixate the importance and need of Islamic unity according to Holy Quran, and hadiths of the Prophet of (PBUH). Moreover we have discussed the principle of Islamic unity, and explained the advantages of Islamic unity for Muslims and Islamic Society. Objectives of the Study: The purpose of this research is to states the significance and need of Islamic unity. Methodology: The methodology of this research is descriptive, analytical, and library. Many studies have been used as the main source of references for the study. As Result we can say that Islam intense over the unity of muslim ummah, and unity is the cause of mercy and way to paradise.

Keywords: Muslim, Unity, Paradise, Mercy, Holy Quran, Hadiths.

Introduction

Without doubt, Islamic oneness has a major importance in Muslims’ life, especially in the current situation in which Islamic followers is facing with various problems and aggressions and has been divided into different types, tribes, classes, sects, thoughts, and governments. On large scale, there is dissension and distrust among them.

Historical study and Islamic evidences clearly show that the divine prophets have considered Muslims’ unity as a principle of their invitation and preach. Similarly, prophet Mohammad (PBUH) also has followed this path and ordered to his followers to keep the unity among themselves. Practically, He himself performed plenty of works for the unity. For instance, at the beginning of Islam when the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) migrated to Medina Manawora, his first work was that he united intellectually and physically different tribes and thinkers and created a sincere-Islamic community.

Currently, Islamic society needs very much to the oneness than everything. This is very significant matter because the honour and success of Muslims are in the unity, not in the disunity and conflict which cause humiliation and dishonour in this life and afterlife. Nowadays Muslims are weakening day by day and suffering various major problems, hardships, failures and destruction in their life owing to the disunity and conflict. If Muslims implement the sayings of prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in their life and desist from mutual conflicts, they will become successful and honourable in their life and afterlife.

Almighty Allah has explained the topic “unity” in the Holy Quran and tells Muslims if you want to follow such a way which keeps your unity and prevents you from the disunity, then choose the way of prophet Mohammad (PBUH). The Almighty Allah says:

“Certainly, the Messenger of Allah is an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day”. (Al-Ahzab:21)

Significance of the Study

The Importance of this research is that this is the era of science and technology. People of different countries can easily contact among themselves. Unfortunately, I should say that people of Islamic world have ended their relations with each other and live under the shadow of disunity, and Particularly, Afghans who are following various ways and has ignored their real Islamic unity on which all Muslims believe. In the field of practice, they do not pay attention to this precious gift and Islamic principle owing to petty problems. Because of this reason, this research is very needful and significant.

The Meaning of Unity

Raghib Asphani defined unity as following:

Unity means aloneness, and unit is indeed a thing which does not have any part.²

Johari defined unity as following:

Unity means aloneness, and it is antonym of plenty ³

The word unity also has been used in the Holy Quran which means aloneness, the Almighty Allah says:

“And when Allah is mentioned alone, the hearts of those who do not believe in the Hereafter shrink with aversion”. (Az-Zumar:45)

We can say that unity is the union of Islamic followers. We can say that Islamic unity is the accepting of mutual beliefs like Allah is one, Prophet Mohammad is real messenger, Paradise and Hell have real existence, and some other general issues which are acceptable to Islamic followers in general without sub-conflicts.

The Importance of Unity according to the Holy Quran

All Muslims are brother and have equal rights. Nobody has any privilege and excellence on others, but all of them must live in light of Islamic religion and will not pose factions among themselves and will not separate from each other. The Almighty Allah says:

“Without doubt, the believers are brothers, so make settlement between your brothers.” (Al-Hujuraat:10)

In another verse of the Holy Quran, The Almighty God ordered to Muslims to implement the Holy Quran (the book of Allah) in their life and refrain from conflicts. The Almighty Allah says:

“And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided.” (Aal-Imraan:103).

It clearly states in above-mentioned verse that Muslim were ordered to keep their unity and refrain from conflict because unity causes reward, and conflict causes torment. The Almighty God says:

“And do not be like the ones who became divided and differed.” (Aal-imraan:105).

Because in the case of conflict, everybody claims their right and rejects the talks of others and does not accept the right. The Almighty God says:

“Of those who have divided their religion and become sects, every faction rejoicing in what it has.” (Ar-Room:32)

The result of conflict is failure in this world because it turns into detestation and enmity and has bad results and punishments in afterlife. Therefore, the Almighty God has prevented Muslims from conflict and disunity and has given them an example of the conflict and disunity between Jews and Christians which will continue until doomsday. In the other part of Holy Quran, Almighty God says:

“And we have cast among them animosity and hatred until the Day of Resurrection.” (Al-Maaida:64).

In the other part of the Holy Quran, the Almighty Allah says:

“And they did not become divided until after knowledge had come to them - out of jealous animosity between themselves. And if not for a word that preceded from your Lord [postponing the penalty] until a specified time, it would have been concluded between them.” (Ash-Shura: 14)

Namely, they used to prepare the ground for the conflict and encourage people to do it, although they have knowledge, but the Almighty Allah used to give them time. If it had been not so, they would have been punished. This state is for Jews and other disbelievers, but the Almighty God promises with Muslims that if you become sincere believers, you are greater and better. The Almighty God says:

“Do not weaken and do not grieve, and you will be superior if you are true believers.” (Aal-Imraan:139)

Inciting people to conflict and posing conflict in a society has a long record, but the Holy Quran called to it a Pharaonic feature and habit because this was the habit of Pharaoh. He used to pose conflict among people and then used to rule on them. The Almighty Allah says:

“Indeed, Pharaoh exalted himself in the land and made its people into factions, oppressing a sector among them, slaughtering their new-born sons and keeping their females alive. Indeed, he was of the corrupters.” (Al-Qassa:4)

In many verses of the Holy Quran, the Almighty God has emphasized on the unity and has said that this nation is one nation because their god, prophet, religion and, nation are same. Conflict and disunity are a misdeed. Therefore, refrain yourselves from them. The Almighty Allah says: “Indeed this, your religion, is one religion, and I am your Lord, so worship me.” (Al-Anbiyaa:92)

The Great Way to Reach Islamic Unity

It is necessary to implement the rules which are acceptable to everyone for Islamic unity, and everyone accepts these mutual rules and do it. These are not only among Muslims, but the Holy Quran has also invited the people who believe in other religions, let's come to accept the things which are mutual between you and us, accept and submit to them. For example, the Holy Quran tells to the people of Scripture. Believe the word which is equitable between us and you that is called the monotheism accept this and we will too. As Allah SWT says,

“O People of the Scripture, come to a word that is equitable between us and you – that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of Allah.” But if they turn away, then say, “Bear witness that we are Muslims [submitting to Him]”. (Aal-imraan:64).

Although this verse has been sent for the people of Scripture, but it is not only for them. Its order is general, and it is a method and guide for Muslims that how they can bring unity among themselves.

The Need and Significance of Islamic Unity According to Hadiths

The messenger of Allah (SWA) has worked hard for the unity of Muslims. In the result of these hard work, he brought unity among Arabians (Aws and khazraj) tribes and he has gotten success in his activities that Islamic book and history are their witness too. For instance, the tribe who has been in civil war for hundreds of years and were going on, that war have been finished in the result of his hard work by grace of Allah (SWT). Those rebellion and stubborn tribes were turned into the best slaves of Allah (SWT). Prophet Muhammad (PBU H) has tried his best for the unity of believers and he has guided in so many narrations about that matter.

As he says:

”أيها الناس عليكم بالجماعة وأياكم ولفرقة ”

O People be in union and keep yourself from separation and parties.

In other Hadith, Anas bin Malik narrates from the messenger of Allah SWA that he says:

”لاتباغظوا، ولا تحاسدوا، ولا تظاهروا وكونوا عباد الله إخوانا، ولا يحل لمسلم أن يهجر أخاه فوق ثلاثة أيام”

(do not hate each other, do not be envious to each other, and do not leave each other more than three days).

The Cause of Mercy

The community which is united is more successful in its daily activities and works than the community in which there is no unity, so it is necessary for Muslims to give importance to unity and follow the guidance of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as he said: “the things which seems to you worse in the unity of Muslims, it will be better than the things which sounds good in the separation, there is mercy in unity and punishment in separation.

Abo Sha Sha said” once upon a time, we went out along with Abe Masood Ansari and we asked him” give us advice. He told us that “Fear from Allah and join with Muhammad’s group, indeed Allah does not mislead the group of Muhammad (PBUH) and without any doubt, the religion of Allah is one.”

Protection from Destruction

Another advantage of Islamic unity is that when Muslims care about it and give importance to it in their life, without any doubt, Allah will protect them from destruction. It is narrated from Abdullah ibn Masood and from a group of prophet’s companions that disunity can cause destruction, and unity is the only way of success and safety. They say about the disunity that:

”الان الاختلاف والفرقة هلكة والجماعة نجاة ”

Living in the unions of Muslims can cause of safety and going away from it can brings about destruction. So, it is important for Muslims to be united.”

Unity Causes to Go Paradise

Abdullah ibn Zubeer narrates that once Umar (SWT) was sermonising, and he said,

”فمن سره بحبوة الجنة فعليه بالجماعة فأن الشيطان مع الفذ)

Those who are eager to be in paradise they should be in group; without any doubt the Satan is with those who are alone.

In another narration, Muhammad (PBUH) said,

”يد الله على الجماعة فاتبعوا السواد الأعظم، فإنه من شذ شذ في النار”

(Allah’s SWT hand (help) is with the crowd. Obey the large group, indeed if someone separates (from Muslims’ group) he will be remain alone in fire.

Prophet Muhammad (SWA) said:

”يد الله على الجماعة، فإذا شذ الشاذ منهم اختطفه الشيطان كما يختطف الذئب الشاة من النعم”

The help of Allah is with union (Muslims community) when someone separates from them (Muslims community) Satan escapes him/her as wolf escapes the alone sheep (the sheep which has separated from the folk).

Conclusion

It has been proved in the result of this article that Islamic unity is very valuable in Muslims’ society according to the Holy Quran and Hadiths (narrations). Those societies which are united they are successful, although they are non-Muslims (disbelievers) because unity is the grantor of development and uplift. Especially, it plays key role in Islamic societies. If a Muslim leaves the other Muslims, he/she will be out from the circle of Islam and from the mercy and blessing as well which are upon Muslims. Disunity causes disadvantage both in this life and in the life hereafter. In order to bring Islamic unity and know Muslims about the value of unity and brotherhood among them,

Suggestion:

Regarding to the Islamic unity this research paper provide the the following suggestions:

- 1- Islamic scholars must give advice and teach Islamic unity through pulpit of mosque.
- 2- Those who use print media, video media, and voice media should present good information concerning Islamic unity.
- 3- The government should act and work hard to encourage Islamic unity.

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