



Population Explosion

Once again the myth of population explosion is being expounded. It is being claimed that if the population growth is not stemmed, soon the world will not be able to produce enough food for its inhabitants. All types of horror pictures are painted regarding wide scale famine. Hence the United Nations recently resolved to take drastic steps in order to prevent the 'population explosion'. Wide scale family planning and even allowing the heinous crime of abortion are among the drastic steps that have been adopted. This 'prophecy' of population explosion was first made in 1798 by the British economist, Robert Malthus. In his book, *An Essay on the Principle of Population as it Affects the Future Improvements of Society*, he set forth his famous theory on the growth of population. The crux of his theory was that mankind must control its birth-rate or else the number of people on earth would become greater than the amount of sustenance available. As a result, countless people would starve to death. This theory made a powerful impression on people, leading to the launching of birth control and family planning schemes. However, in a short time this theory proved to be a fallacy. Gwynne Dwyer briefly explained this fallacy in the *Hindustan Times* (New Delhi) on December 28, 1984. Under the heading of 'Malthus : The False Prophet' he writes:

'It is the 150th anniversary of Malthus' death, and his grim predictions have not yet come true. The world's population has doubled and redoubled in a geometric progression as he foresaw, only slightly checked by wars and other catastrophes, and now stands at about eight times the total when he wrote. But food production has more than kept pace, and the present generation of humanity, is on average the best fed in history.' (see *God Arises* p.162)

Mu'mineen (Believers) are not in the least affected by these fallacious theories which have reared their ugly heads again. *Mu'mins* have firm conviction that only Allah Ta'ala provides sustenance. Allah Ta'ala sustained Ibrahim (A.S.) in the fire that he was thrown into for forty days. He can provide for a thousand billion people with His Power. **ALLAH ALONE IS THE PROVIDER.G**

TOLERANCE

The cry for Muslims to be 'tolerant' are constantly heard from the West. Tragically, Western minds among the Muslims have also lent their voices to the din. This brief article examines the reality of this call.

Tolerance is the willingness to be patient towards people whose ways and opinions differ from one's own. In this regard, Islam has practically demonstrated tolerance to the world. Let alone being tolerant towards the ways of those who do not accept Islam, Islam has even prescribed that the non-Muslim citizens of an Islamic State should be given the same protection that the Muslims are given. They would only be charged the nominal *jizya* (tax). This was the lesson of tolerance taught and practiced fourteen centuries ago.

On the contrary, the West practiced the greatest amount of intolerance. Until the 1800's there was absolutely no religious freedom in England. Even up to this day Islam is severely suppressed in Europe and other Western countries. One recent glaring example is the banning of Muslim girls in France from wearing scarves to school. Bosnia's "ethnic cleansing," with its unprecedented savagery and barbarism, shows just how 'tolerant' the West is with Islam. So much for Western tolerance!

Why then are the Muslims being accused of intolerance? What is being demanded from Muslims in the name of 'tolerance'? The answer to these questions is simply this: Upright Muslims blankly refuse to shift a hair's breadth from any aspect of Deen. They totally reject the suggestion that they should adopt the culture of the West and abandon the Sunnah way of life, be it even in just one aspect. Hence in the name of 'tolerance' it is now being demanded of them to COMPROMISE. Muslims are being called upon to compromise fundamental aspects of Deen so that "Islam may be *compatible* with the West."

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

In the name of freedom of speech, the West wants Muslims to sit back and "tolerate" the filthy language of Rushdie and his likes against the chaste wives of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). Muslims must "tolerate" statements of infidels that the Qur'an should be revised (Allah forbid!).

The tragedy is that Westernised Muslims have also joined the chorus and are exploring prospects for 'tolerance.' What tolerance? Islam's tolerance has been clearly defined above. Are we then exploring ways of compromising the Deen? The calls for "rethinking" and "reinterpreting" Islam are nothing but a call for compromising the Deen for which Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) shed his blood. Muslims want to make Islam more 'palatable' and acceptable to the West. Hence fundamental aspects of the Deen of Allah Ta'ala are being sacrificed to appease those who are the avowed enemies of Islam. What is the attitude of the Qur'an towards compromising Deen?

In *Surah Kafiroon* we find clear guidance with regards to this matter. The disbelievers had come to Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) with a proposal of compromise. According to one narration, when all their proposals were flatly refused, they asked Rasulullah (Sallallahu

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Alaihi Wasallam) to come and merely touch their idols once. They in turn will worship Allah Ta'ala. Upon this Allah Ta'ala revealed *Surah Kafiroon* wherein a clear proclamation was made: "Unto you is your Deen and for me is my Deen" (*Ma'ariful Qur'an*). The clear-cut guidance of the Quran has brightly illuminated the path for us to follow.

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) also practically demonstrated that Deen can never be compromised. It is reported that a woman called Fatima Makhzumia was caught stealing. After having established that she had committed the crime, Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) ordered that her hand should be cut. Her clan asked Zaid (R.A.), the adopted son of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), to intercede on their behalf to Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). When Zaid (R.A.) mentioned it to Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), the Nabi of Allah Ta'ala was extremely angered and he exclaimed: "Are you interceding with regards to what Allah has decreed? If Fatima, the daughter of Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), had to steal, I would most certainly cut off even her hand." (*Mishkaat p.314*) This is the guidance from the life of the Leader of Mankind.

It has also been narrated that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) would tolerate the worst afflictions upon his personal self. He patiently bore all the verbal abuse and physical hardships that were inflicted upon him by his enemies. However when the bounds of Allah Ta'ala were transgressed, Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) would be most angry. (*Shama'il p.15*) Let alone being so deeply affected by others transgressing the bounds of Allah Ta'ala, Muslims themselves are compromising the Deen of Allah! Just how far away have we drifted?

Our salvation lies in holding fast to the Deen. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "I have left with you TWO things. You will never go astray as long as you remain **firmly** upon them. The Qur'an of Allah and my Sunnah." (*Mishkaat V.1 p.31*)

Compromising the Deen in the name of tolerance is something no true Believer would ever tolerate. Let the West say and do as they please. Provided that we are firmly practising on COMPLETE DEEN, they cannot harm us in the least. May Allah Ta'ala guide

Peace is the product of mutual love, honour and respect. When people love one another and respect and honour their lives and possessions, the natural outcome is peace. Sincere love and honour come from the recesses of the heart. Mere symbolic gestures and lip-service cannot achieve this. Hence earmarking one day in the year for the tying of "blue ribbons" and calling it Peace Day does not achieve any peace. While blue ribbons were being tied on 2 September, red blood of fellow humans continued to flow in KZN (Kwa-Zulu Natal), the murder capital of the world. With one person being killed every TWO HOURS, KZN even beats New York City where one person is killed every four hours. (Natal Mercury - 31/9)

FORMULA

Islam, however, has the formula for peace. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "You will not enter Jannah until you Believe, and you will not be true Believers until you love one another. Should I not show you a deed which, if you adopt, will cause you to love one another? Make Salaam common among yourselves."

DIFFUSE ANIMOSITY

Salaam is the embodiment of many meritorious acts. It condenses all the prayers for the welfare and peace of the person being addressed. The very meaning of *Ṣā'āṭā Uáíḃā* is "Peace be upon you!" Sentiments of love and affection are exchanged. Mutual sympathy and good wishes are expressed. Indeed, a sincere Salaam in the true sense of the word has the potential to diffuse decades of animosity.

BLESSINGS

This divinely inspired greeting is a means of *barakah* (blessings) in one's home. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam)

is reported to have said to Anas (R.A.): "O my son! When you enter upon family, greet them with salaam. This will be a means of barakah for you and for them as well." (*Mishkaat V.2 pg.399*)

It is also one of the rights of a Muslim that he should be greeted with Salaam when he is met. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "The rights of one Muslim upon another are six; (among the six is) he should greet his Muslim brother when he meets him." It is also important to note that it is *wajib* to reply to the Salaam.

BEST ACTION

Salaam is among the best of actions. It is narrated that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was once asked: "What are the best of actions?" The Rasul of Allah Ta'ala replied: "Feeding others and greeting the one you know as well as the one you do not know with Salaam."

Being first to greet is a remedy for cleansing the heart of pride. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "The one who greets first is free from pride."

Can we imagine how much of reward a Muslim could earn each day of his life from greeting with Salaam. By means of his sincere Salaam how much of peace and unity he brings!! Therefore let us totally shun the western invented 'Good Morning', 'Hi', 'Hello' and 'Howzit.' Let us adopt the most beautiful and meaningful *Ṣā'āṭā Uáíḃā*.

NEARNESS

Furthermore let us gain the nearness of Allah Ta'ala by greeting first for verily it has been reported in the Hadith of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) thus: "The one who makes Salaam first is closest to (the mercy of) Allah." (*Mishkaat V.2 pg.398*)

LIKE THE BIRDS...

Placing one's total trust in Allah Ta'ala is a means of attaining the direct assistance of Allah Ta'ala. While one should adopt Halaal means, one's trust should always be in the One Sustainer. Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "Surely if you trust Allah **as you really ought to**, He will provide for you in the same way that He provides for the birds. They rise in the morning with hungry stomachs and return home in the evening fully

NOT IN QUR'AN??

"THIS is not prohibited by the Qur'an!" "There is no mention of this in the Qur'an!" Does this sound familiar? Indeed, such words are being heard more frequently these days. Apparently these statements seem innocent enough. However the fact of the matter is that such statements are used in order to justify our lax attitude towards Deen. We will use every means in order to disregard basic and fundamental aspects of Deen and thereafter appease our conscience by saying such things.

HADITH

The fact that something is not explicitly mentioned in the Qur'an does not exclude from Shariah. Together with the Qur'an the Hadith (sayings, practices and teachings of Nabi (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam)) is also a primary source of Islamic law. Both are fundamentally important. The Qur'an in fact verifies the Sunnah of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) when it says: "And what the Rasool gives you, hold onto it. And what he prohibits you from, refrain from it." (S.7 V.59) This ayat makes it impossible to practice on the Qur'an without complete adherence to the Sunnah, since the Qur'an orders us to abide by the Sunnah.

PROPHECY

Disregarding the Sunnah is so grave a crime that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) prophesied such an evil attitude when he said: "Know well! I have been given the Qur'an and its likeness as well (which is called the Sunnah). Remember! Soon a satiated person (a person whose belly is filled to the brim due to having the favours of Allah Ta'ala in abundance) will recline on his couch and (in a proud manner) say: 'Hold firmly upon this Qur'an only. Whatever you find Halaal therein, regard that alone as Halaal. Whatever you find Haraam therein, regard that alone as Haraam (ie do not refer to the Sunnah for guidance).' However whatever the Rasul of Allah Ta'ala declares as Haraam is equal (with regards to prohibition) to what Allah Ta'ala has made Haraam (since he only does so with the order of Allah Ta'ala)." (Abu Dawood)

The above mentioned Hadith highlights many important facts. Firstly we have been informed with utmost stress that together with the Qur'an Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has been granted the Sunnah. Therefore to disregard the Sunnah will lead one to ignore fundamental aspects of the Shariah. Secondly, the Hadith warns us that a time will come when some people, who have plenty of this world, will utter such fallacious statements with which they intend misleading people into ignoring the Sunnah.

There are those who clearly refute the Hadith outright and plod the path of doom and damnation. Others have adopted an equally destructive attitude: "Only those Ahadith are acceptable which conform totally to the Qur'an" they authoritatively claim. The fact of the matter is that every authentic Hadith fully conforms to the Qur'an, even if our feeble minds cannot understand it.

AWKWARD

There is yet a third group that simply disregards those aspects which are to be found in authentic narrations but are 'awkward' for their westernised minds to accept. Hence they delude the masses by boldly exclaiming: "This is not in the Qur'an." Yet ample guidance with regard to such aspects is to be found in the Ahadith of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). Such people are no less dangerous than the first two groups. While they do not reject the Hadith openly, their attempt to dismiss clear aspects of the Shariah by claiming it is not in the Qur'an betrays the rejection of Hadith that hides behind these statements. Salvation lies in following the Qur'an and the Sunnah. The Sunnah is after all the most authentic Tafseer (explanation) of the Qur'an. Ignore the Hadith and one may just as well dispense with the rest of Deen.

SALAAH

The most important *Ibadah* is Salaah. The Qur'an has given the basic injunction of Salaah. Nevertheless it is impossible to perform even two rakaats of Salaah if one ignores the Hadith. It is the Hadith that has explained the details of Salaah. The same applies to Zakaah, Fasting and Haj. Without the Hadith all these fundamental acts of Ibadah cannot be fulfilled. Thus the fundamental importance of the Hadith is absolutely clear.

May Allah Ta'ala save us from the deception of the Shayateen, from among the jinn and **mankind**. Aameen. ©

BUSINESS AROUND THE

THE calico-covered corpse is gently lowered into the grave. Loving hands of sons and brothers receive the body of their loved one and place it in the narrow pit. The strips of plank are placed firmly next to each other. The last plank is placed leaving a dark and lonely grave under it. Spades are grabbed and heaps of sand come crashing down from all directions. However, all around the grave, business goes on as usual.

While the most stark reminder of death is right in front of the eyes, the latest car on the market, the rand/dollar exchange and other gossip continues among many of those present. While they patiently wait for the '*fatihah*' to commence, the time is passed by idle gossip. Carrying the janaza on our shoulders and witnessing the deceased being lowered into the grave also does not remind us of our own death. What then will remind us of that moment (which could be extremely soon) when we will breathe our last?

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "Remember excessively that which severs all pleasures — **DEATH**." The best reminder of death is the graveyard itself. Hence Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has greatly encouraged that one should regularly visit the graveyard. While this Sunnah of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is unfortunately rarely practised, at least we get an opportunity to visit the graveyard when attending a funeral. However, this occasion of remembering death is also wasted gossiping.

The condition of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) when attending a funeral is clearly described in the following Hadith of Bara' (R.A.). He says: "Once we went with Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) to attend the funeral and burial of a person. When we reached there, Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) sat by the side of a grave and wept so profusely that the ground became wet with his tears. He then said: "Prepare yourself for (your entry in) the grave." (Targheeb)

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has also instructed us as to what we should be doing when attending a **BUSINESS ...** (cont. from pg.3)

(cont. on pg. 4)



FAQIHUL UMMAH

The sterling advice of Faqihul Ummah Hazrath Mufti Mahmood Saheb (*Daamat Barakaatuhum*) has helped thousands of people to overcome many problems and difficulties — especially in the line of *Islahun Nafs* (self-reformation). Hereunder is a reply to a letter seeking guidance.

The letter below was a request for advice with regards to a personal problem. Due to the great number of such letters received, this letter is being published for general benefit.

LETTER:

Respected Mufti Saheb

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... I am now living with my in-laws and life has become very difficult. My husband is very unfair to me. He cares more for his mother and sisters while I get the ‘back seat’ for everything. I am treated like dirt while he thinks the world of them. My husband has now decided to go for Umrah and intends to take his mother and sisters along but does not intend taking me with him....

REPLY:

Respected Sister

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A wife generally has such intense love for her husband that she always tends to regard her husband’s love for her as deficient and lacking. She remains under the misconception that the husband has no feelings for her whereas in reality the husband has great love for his wife. However, the wife’s intense love demands that the husband’s affection and love for his mother, sisters, friends, etc. should also be directed towards her. Nevertheless I make Dua to Allah Ta’ala that He make your husband most loving towards you and enable him to fulfil your rights.

Whatever difficulties you experience from your husband, regard it as a means of the forgiveness of your sins. By exercising patience you will gain the nearness of Allah Ta’ala.

Whoever your husband wishes to take for Umrah, he will also receive the full reward of their Umrah. Despite having the desire to accompany him, by adopting *sabr* (if he does not take you along) you will also receive the full reward of your husbands *Ibadah* as well as a separate reward for exercising patience.

May Allah Ta’ala instill complete love between you and your husband.

janazah. Rasulullāh (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) once said to the Sahaba (R.A.) when they had buried a person: “Seek forgiveness for your brother and beseech Allah Ta’ala to keep him firm for verily he will be questioned now” (*Mishkaat p.26*)

Thus the rare occasions when we visit the graveyard should serve as a reminder of our own death. Those few moments among the graves should not be wasted in idle gossip and worldly talk. While the burial is in progress, one should engage oneself in silently reciting whatever one is able to of the Qur’an with the intention of passing the rewards to the deceased. This would be of immense benefit to oneself as well as the deceased. May Allah Ta’ala enable us to remember our death often, **especially while in the graveyard**. Aameen.☪

FASHION

Fashion is indeed a very strange thing. What at one time is regarded as ridiculous by every ‘fashion conscious’ person, suddenly becomes very stylish and fashionable the next day, simply because some ridiculous pop star has adopted that silly ‘style’. Those who adopt those silly styles would have themselves laughed hysterically at any person who adopted that appearance before it suddenly became ‘fashion’. With the bombardment of the despicable Western culture, what is ridiculous has appeared to be desirable to some. After all, a **sick** person does find bitter things to be sweet (and vice versa).

Among the silly types of ‘fashion’ is the cutting of the hair in such a manner that part of the head is almost shaven and part of it is not, known as the “wedge.” Besides being ridiculous, this has also been forbidden in the Hadith. It is reported that Rasulullāh (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) saw a child whose head had been partly shaven and the rest of the head un-shaven. Rasulullāh (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) prohibited them from that practice and said: “Either shave the head completely or do not shave any part of it (*cutting the hair in such a manner that the hair of part of the head is much shorter than the rest, though not actually shaven off, also falls within the purview of this Hadith*).” (*Abu Dawood*)

Western culture seems to be at pains to oppose every aspect of Rasulullāh (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). May Allah Ta’ala save us from following those who OPPOSE Rasulullāh (Sallallahu Alaihi

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