



WESTERN CULTURE

Allah Ta'ala declares in His Glorious Qur'an: **"It is He (Allah) who reveals upon His slave (Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wasallam) clear verses so that He may remove you from darkness to light"** (Surah 57, Aayah 9). The clear message from this *aayah* is that Rasulallah (*sallallahu alaihi wasallam*) was sent with "Light." Every aspect that he delivered to mankind pertaining to any aspect of life is "Light." EVERYTHING ELSE IS "DARKNESS." There is no "middle path." It is either "Light" — otherwise "Darkness." The distinction of either "Darkness" or "Light" is not only restricted to acts of worship. Rather the manner of conducting our various day to day activities and all aspects of life fall in one of the two categories. "Light" is the way of Rasulallah (*sallallahu alaihi wasallam*). The ways of the Jews, Christians, the West and everybody else falls in the category of "Darkness." More than anybody else, the ways of the West are most opposed to the "Light" that Rasulallah (*sallallahu alaihi wasallam*) brought. It is, and especially in the present world scenario, the greatest darkness. It is godless culture, utterly immoral, callous and ruthless and in short — decayed to the core. If one sheds away the indoctrination of the media and considers the realities, one would regard the above judgement as mild. Let us take a few basic examples:

ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Islam provided an economic system that is neither capitalistic nor socialistic. (The details are beyond the scope of this pamphlet.) While the Islamic system allows the wealthy to prosper in a lawful way, it caters for the need of the less privileged. The bedrock of the Islamic economic system is that interest and usury in all its forms is taboo. In direct opposition to this system is the capitalistic system of the West. The bedrock of the Western system is interest. By means of this system, some get richer at the expense of millions of others. It is a ruthless and callous system, the evil of which has been expounded by even many Western writers.

VALUE SYSTEM

One of the most distinguishing aspects of Islam is the level of *Hayaa* (modesty/morality) that it teaches. Rasulallah (*sallallahu alaihi wasallam*) is reported to have said: "*Hayaa* is a branch of faith." Thus Islam forbids the intermingling of the sexes. A man may not look at any woman besides his wife or *mahram* (one with whom marriage is impermissible). The Qur'an has commanded both males and females to lower the gaze and not to look at the opposite sex. These and other such directives ensure a morally upright society. In a society where the Islamic moral code is upheld, illicit activities are virtually non-existent. Marriages by and

large last a lifetime.

In the West these noble values are despised and mocked. What else can be expected from those who have no values at all. In Western culture intermingling and shaking hands with all and sundry is a trivial matter. In fact a woman in the presence of her smiling husband may hug another man who is a "family friend" without any hesitation. Not only is it "culturally acceptable," it would be "rude" not to do so. *What an utterly value-less and filthy system!* It is compounded darkness. It is as Allah Ta'ala describes in the Qur'an: **"Darkness upon darkness. If he brings out his hand (in front of him) he will not be able to see it. And the one for whom Allah Ta'ala does not provide any light, he (certainly) has no light at all"** (Surah 24, Aayah 40). As a result of being without any light from Allah Ta'ala, absolutely filthy practices seem cultured and one completely fails to see the utter immorality in it.

In Western culture, pornography is "art," marrying someone of the same gender is acceptable, living together without marriage is fine while drinking, gambling and fornicating is amusement. Western culture has sunken to a level way below animals.

CLOTHING

The primary purpose of clothing is to cover the body. Thus Islam advocates that clothing must truly cover the body. The clothing must be thick enough to ensure that the *satr* (part of the body which is necessary to cover) is not visible through it. It must be loose enough to ensure that the shape of the *satr* is not distinguished. Islam advocates simplicity in attire. The garments of the West are made tighter and more revealing by the day. Due to the type of clothing worn, a father can easily distinguish most parts of the anatomy of his daughter and a son of his mother and sister — and no one even bats an eyelid! *What an immoral and sickening culture!!!*

The pivotal focus of Western garments is pride and show. The great obsession with designer labels is proof of this. Even a fake designer label will do — one can show off with it! This entire culture is fake, hollow and decayed. It directly contradicts the teachings of Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) who declared: "He who will dress in garments of show (i.e. he wears garments in order to show-off among people), Allah Ta'ala will clothe him in garments of disgrace on the day of Qiyamah" (*Mishkaat*).

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WESTERN CULTURE

(from page one)

OPPOSITION

Western culture is in direct opposition to the Sunnah. Islam teaches us to wash our hands before eating and to sit and eat. The West teaches that standing around and eating is cultured. Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has emphasised upon men to LENGTHEN their beards (to at least a fist length). The West teaches shaving it off (or at the most sporting a short “fashionable” beard). Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has warned men from wearing any garment in such a way that it hangs below the ankles. The West and its slaves insist on opposing this command. Islam teaches the husband and wife to be conscious of their duties to one another and to fulfil the same, thus creating harmony and peace. The West emphasises upon each one to demand their rights, thus creating strife and animosity.

Most of all Islam focuses towards the Hereafter and reminds us to prepare for the everlasting life to come. The West focuses solely on this world — make the most money, have the best mansion and car, buy the best luxuries, enjoy the best holidays and just keep chasing fun. If you have not been able to achieve that yet, just keep toiling to get there — until you suddenly drop dead! This is the sum total of this alien culture.

PRACTICE

Every Muslim claims to love the Sunnah and to hate the opposing Western culture — the way of life of the Yahood and Nasaara (Jews and Christians). However, in practice we have aped their rotten culture to a great extent — and paid the price. How many dozens of major Muslim businesses have shut down mainly due to becoming entangled in the accursed interest system? While the reasons for the rocketing divorce rate in the Muslim community may be many, most of it can be traced back to the abandoning of the Sunnah way of life and adopting the ways of the Jews and Christians. Likewise, how much of illicit activity has crept in among Muslims due to the adoption of the immorality of the West? The entire family is constantly bombarded with immorality by means of the television, magazines, newspapers (especially weekend newspapers) and other media. Are we even conscious of this? Are we prepared to sacrifice our “entertainment” in order to protect the *haya* of our families? The clothing worn by Muslim sisters and daughters is becoming tighter, shorter and more shameless — as if all shame and modesty has bid farewell to them ... and to their parents also. Who do they resemble in their body-hugging garments and Western styles? Do they resemble Hazrath Fathima (R.A.), or the loose, immoral women of the West? Western culture wishes to drag us to the gutters. The quicker we abandon it the better.

SINCERE IN HATRED

We have cursed the Christians and Jews enough. If we are sincere in our hatred for them, let us shun their “Darkness.” Let us shun the Western culture that they are promoting. Let us come back to the “Light” of Rasulallah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) in every aspect of life, be it in business, attire, eating and drinking, marriage or funeral. Let every action display our love and admiration for the way of life of Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). Do not become an advertiser for Western culture by your attire or anything else. Take the time daily to learn the Sunnats of Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) and implement the same in one’s life. Only by adopting the Sunnah in our lives will we be able to appreciate its excellence, simplicity, ease and practicality. When the Sunnah will brighten up our lives, only then will we be able to discern and recognise the evil and darkness of the Western culture. Only then will we want to wash off the ways of the Yahood and Nasaara like washing away impurities from our bodies. Otherwise we will continue wallowing in the “Darkness,” believing ourselves to be “enlightened and liberated,” until we trip into our graves. May Allah Ta’ala save us.

SHIA BELIEFS

Allah Ta’ala has promised in the Qur’an that He will protect the Qur’an in its pristine purity till eternity. The Shia believe this has not happened. Rather, according to Shia belief, the Qur’an was changed by the Sahaaba (R.A.) (Allah Forbid!). This fundamental belief is, however, not openly expressed as part of the policy of *taqiyya* (holy hypocrisy). *Taqiyya* according to the Shia means to lie in order to hide one’s true beliefs.

MOST AUTHENTIC BOOK

Usoole Kaafi is the most important book of the Shia, similar to the status of Bukhari Shareef among Muslims. It is stated in Usoole Kaafi that Imaam Ja’far said to a person: *“Continue to recite (the Qur’an) as the people are reciting, until Imaam Mahdi appears. When he appears, the Qur’an will be recited in its original form and that Qur’an will be brought out which was recorded by Hazrath Ali (R.A.)”* (Vol.2, pg.632). This clearly implies that nobody today has the “original” Qur’an!!!

MAN-MADE CHANGES

Elsewhere in the same Shia book, examples of the “man-made changes” and “interpolations” are given. Pertaining to the verse of the Qur’an: *“And indeed we had given Aadam (A.S.) a command from before but he forgot, but we did not find him to be persistent”* (Sura Taha, V:115), Imam Ja’far Saadiq is reported to have said: *“By Allah, the verse was originally revealed in the words “And indeed we had given Aadam a command from before regarding Muhammad, Ali, Fathima, Hassan, Husain and their progeny ...”* (Vol.1, pg.416). What is meant is that the original verse was changed by the Sahaaba (R.A.) and the abovementioned names were removed.

DISTORTED!

Likewise, the Sahaaba (R.A.) are clearly accused of “dropping off” the words *“the family of Muhammad”* from verse 33 of Sura A’le Imraan. The sum total of these *baatil* narrations is that the Qur’an is not preserved but rather distorted — Allah forbid!

Thus the *baatil* Shia belief of the distortion of the Qur’an is found in their most authentic book, even though by means of *taqiyya* they may try to convince others that they hold

Questions

ZUHR SALAAH & BUSINESS

Q My business is within walking-distance from the Masjid. Among the staff there are several Muslims as well. While staff are given off for lunch in shifts, the business operates continuously for the entire day. It often happens that some Muslim staff cannot make it to the Masjid for Zuhr. Almost daily some management staff have to perform their Zuhr alone after the Jamaat Salaah is over in the Masjid. Is this procedure acceptable?

A In order to understand the answer to this question in its proper perspective, there are several aspects to bear in mind. These aspects are first listed as questions hereunder, to provide some food for thought:

1. Who created you?
2. Who provides rizq (sustenance) for you?
3. Who made the business an apparent means for your sustenance? Does He also have the power to take it away?
4. How important is it to perform Salaah in the Masjid?

The answers to these questions are well known by every true Mu'min (Believer). Allah Ta'ala has created us and He alone grants us rizq. Allah Ta'ala has out of His sheer grace and bounty granted whatever apparent means of livelihood we may have. Indeed, He has complete power to take it away whenever He wishes to do so. May Allah Ta'ala save us from trials and tribulations and grant us safety from all calamities and hardships. Aameen.

DIMINISHED REWARD

Nevertheless, while Allah Ta'ala has showered His countless blessings upon us, He has created us for a purpose — to recognise and worship Him. Among the most important acts of worship is Salaah. It is also waajib for males to perform their fardh Salaah with Jama'ah. If the Masjid is not far away, it is necessary to perform the Fardh Salaah with Jama'ah **in the Masjid**. Consider the following Hadith of Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam): **“There is no Salaah for the neighbour of the Masjid except in the Masjid”** (Mishkaat). “Neighbour” here means one who lives in the neighbourhood of the Masjid. While the Fuqahaa (jurists) have declared that such a person who performed his Salaah without the Jama'ah of the Masjid is absolved of the obligation, however, in the light of the above Hadith he will receive a very diminished reward. In another Hadith Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is reported to have expressed his desire to burn down the homes of those who refrain from coming to perform Salaah in the Masjid without any valid reason.

Hazrath Abdullah bin Masood (R.A.) once declared that among the acts of guidance taught by Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is to perform the Salaah in the Masjid. He then declared: “If you leave the way of your Nabi (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), you will go astray.”

Thus it is clear that to perform Salaah with Jama'ah in the Masjid for those who are not very far away is extremely important. Thus all necessary arrangements must be made so that you and your Muslim staff can all perform Salaah with Jama'ah in the Masjid.

Making the necessary arrangements may entail making some sacrifices. However, these sacrifices do not go in vain. Allah Ta'ala is most appreciative of the sacrifices that are made to establish His command. As a result of these sacrifices Allah Ta'ala protects one from losses through theft, pilferage, damages, etc. Even if comparatively less is earned, there will be greater barakah in it. If one has to close the business for a while so that Salaah could be performed with Jama'ah in the Masjid, Allah Ta'ala will grant barakah in one's time due to which one will complete more work in less time. The customers that are decreed to buy from your store can never go anywhere else.

The bottom line is that one resorts to business as a means of acquiring sustenance. Allah Ta'ala has promised sustenance upon the establishing of Salaah i.e. performing it regularly, on time, with Jama'ah (for males) and observing all the Sunnats and etiquettes. If the business becomes an obstacle to establishing Salaah, it is in reality becoming an obstacle to gain rizq from Allah Ta'ala. Thus one's earnings are devoid of any barakah and rather than bringing happiness and enjoyment, it becomes a means of torment and grief.

HAVE A HEART

The heart is a most fascinating organ of the body. It is indeed the king of the body. The following excerpt gives us a brief idea of what a wonderful creation of Allah Ta'ala the heart is:

“The heart is a small organ, about the size of the fist (4 inches long and 2½ inches broad), weighing not much more than eight ounces, yet this small pump works remarkably. It keeps on pumping day and night for a whole life-time without the least pause, rating some 100,000 strokes a day and sending about a gallon of blood circulating through the body once every 13 seconds. In a single day the heart pumps enough blood to fill a good-sized oil truck; in a single year it could fill a train of 65 large oil wagons” (Islam and Modern Challenges—pg. 73).

SPIRITUAL HEART

The proper function of the heart is vital for the good health of the body. Likewise, one's spiritual well-being is also dependent upon the spiritual condition of the heart being in order. If the heart is filled with the love of Allah Ta'ala and His beloved Rasul (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) and is kept clean of malice, jealousy, pride, suspicions and other evils, one's spiritual state will also be “healthy.” Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) has explained this most concisely in a Hadith which states: **“Verily in the body is an organ which, if it is in order, the entire body will be in order. And if it is corrupt, the rest of the body will be corrupt. Behold, that organ is the heart.”**

Thus a constant effort must be made to keep the heart clean. The most effective way of cleansing the heart and filling it with the love of Allah Ta'ala is to sincerely associate with those who have true hearts — hearts that are brimming with the love of Allah Ta'ala. The effect of their piety and love for Allah Ta'ala is bound to rub off onto those in their company. It is also important to protect the eyes, ears and tongue from all evil as these are the pathways to the heart.

BILLIONS OF REWARDS

Ubada bin Thamit (R.A.) reports that Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) said: ***“The one who seeks forgiveness on behalf of the Believing men and women will be given rewards equivalent to the number of Believing men and women”*** (Tabrani).

Present estimates put the number of Muslims in the world at more than one billion. Thus the door to earning numerous rewards is open to us. We will only realise the true value of these rewards on the day of Qiyamah when people will be in great difficulty as a result of their evil deeds being heavier on the scales. It should also be remembered that fulfilment of all the fundamentals of Deen is vitally important. One cannot expect to gain salvation by merely reciting some wazifas, while at the same time the fardh actions are being omitted and major sins are being perpetrated.

REASONS FOR CORRUPTION

Once Hazrath Mufti Mahmoodul Hassan Gangohi (*rahmatullah alaihi*) was asked as to what is the reason for the corruption and anarchy that is prevalent throughout the world. Hazrath (*rahmatullah alaihi*) replied: ***“The type of food that is consumed, that is the type of effect that will become apparent. Generally the attention of people does not go towards the type of food that is being consumed, whether it is *halaal* or a mixture of *halaal* and *haram*. If the food is from *halaal* sources, *insha-Allah* there will be no problems”*** (*Malfoozaat* - vol.3, pg.42).

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From the pen of ...



FAQIHUL UMMAH

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

HUSBAND & WIFE PROBLEMS

SUMMARY OF LETTER: *Bismih Ta'ala*

Respected Mufti Saheb

As Salaamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatuh

I have a serious problem. I am often very harsh and severe upon my wife to the extent that I sometimes even assault her. Please help me to overcome this malady.

SUMMARY OF REPLY: *Bismih Ta'ala*

Respected Brother

As Salaamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatuh

The cure for your malady is very clear and evident. Simply, do not treat your wife in a harsh manner. Rather adopt a soft and affectionate manner with her. Whenever you are angered, ponder for a moment that you have also defaulted greatly with regard to the commands of Allah Ta'ala. If Allah Ta'ala becomes angry with you over your faults, what will be your condition? If you forgive this weak servant of Allah Ta'ala (your wife), Allah Ta'ala will also insha-Allah forgive you. If you refuse to forgive her, on what basis can you hope for the forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala? Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is reported to have said: ***“Be merciful upon the people of the earth, the One above (Allah Ta'ala) will be merciful upon you”*** (*Nasai*). (*Tarbiyatut Taalibeen*, pg.203)

SUMMARY OF LETTER: *Bismih Ta'ala*

Respected Mufti Saheb

As Salaamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatuh

My wife is extremely disobedient and is forever quarrelling and fighting with my family members. I have tried much to reason with her, but to no avail. Hence I am in a severe predicament. Please advise me of how to overcome this problem.

SUMMARY OF REPLY: *Bismih Ta'ala*

Respected Brother

As Salaamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatuh

I was very perturbed by your predicament. Habits which have become embedded are difficult to forsake. You will have to exercise patience and tolerance. Since you are not happy about her utterances and deeds and continue to advise her to mend her ways, the sin of her actions is not upon you. Nevertheless, daily after Esha Salaah recite the following 200 times:

Recite Durood Shareef 11 times before and after. Insha-Allah, Allah Ta'ala will ease your predicament.

(Note: The effect of the above prescription will become evident if, together with fulfilling it, one is punctual upon all the injunctions of Deen and one refrains from sins — Translator.)