

## **Study of Islamic Revolution**

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## Introduction

The proponents of political interpretation of Islam rely on erroneous interpretation of the Quranic verses to prove that Islam aims at creating a political dominion. Let us consider the following verse:

**He is the One who has sent His messenger with guidance and the true religion, so that He may have it prevail over all [other] religions. (48:28)**

This verse is interpreted to mean that the religion of God will grow to such proportions as will come to have political domination upon the world. To my understanding, this is a reduced interpretation of this verse. It is a fact that the Prophet Muhammad and his Companions established a political empire but this aspect of their work is relative and not real because an empire was also established by various other powers in the world such as the Romans, Iranians, Ottomans etc.

The word '*prevail*' in the above verse pertains to the 'ideological domination' of Islam which was initiated by the Prophet and his companions. This ideological domination did not take place overnight but occurred through a series of events.

## A Study of the Muslim Revolution

The account given by the Muslim historians unfortunately lacks an understanding of the process that led to the Islamic revolution. Their understanding was restricted to the establishment of political rule, which was merely a relative aspect of the revolution.

It was the writings of Orientalist thinkers that clearly illustrate the factors that culminated into this revolution. A Belgian historian, Henri Pirenne explaining the effects of the revolution brought about by the Prophet and his Companions, writes,

*"Islam changed the face of the globe. The traditional order of history was overthrown."*

This remark allows us to appreciate the push that the Prophet and his companions gave to history. As a result of this push, a process ensued the culmination of which, took place in the next thousand years. The Quran and Hadith provide cues to discern the important aspects of the revolution which came through this process, but only to those who deliberate over the verses of the Quran. Highlighting this, the Quran says,

**This is a blessed Book which We sent down to you [Muhammad], for people to ponder over its messages, and for those with understanding to take heed. (38:29)**

## Putting an end to Nature Worship

Islamic revolution put an end to *shirk* or nature worship. Nature was the world which hid all evidences that proved the existence of God. A verse in the Quran says,

Is there any doubt about God, the Originator of the heavens and Earth? (14:10)

The above verse was not the announcement of the situation that prevailed at the time when the verse was revealed, but was a prediction that man would find the proof of existence of God in nature.

This idea strengthened the Islamic revolution and led to the development of the spirit of '*free enquiry*'. The journey of discovering nature began and from being the object of divinity, it became an object of exploration. This process started in Mecca and through Damascus, Cairo, Spain, Europe it finally reached America. Today, this process has reached its culmination.

Along with *shirk*, Islam put an end to kingship which was a big obstacle in the process of free enquiry. Unlike the nineteenth and the twentieth century, the question today does not pertain to the existence of God. This is because evidences which were hidden in nature have been discovered by exploration. Today, the question pertains to the existence of man. As man discovered the cause-effect relationship, it was said that *if events are due to natural cause, they are not due to supernatural causes*. But this did not continue for long. The idea of matter being the building block of life was soon discarded. At the time of Einstein, energy came to be regarded as the building block of life. Post-David Bohm, consciousness was discovered to be the building block of life. And this 'Consciousness' was just another name for God.

## Issue facing man

Man today, has to be made aware of the word of God and not of the proof of His existence. A verse in the Quran states:

**It is We who have sent down the Reminder and We will, most surely safeguard it. (15:9)**

This verse has two aspects – one that the Quran is the revealed word of God and second that God Himself undertook to preserve it. The process of preservation was long drawn, made so to ensure robust preservation of the Quranic text. At the time of its revelation, Quran was both written and memorized to ensure double check. From the collation of the first manuscript to the later-day published copies, the text of the Quran has remained preserved in entirety.

It is important to note here that the preservation of its text alone would not have sufficed. It was equally crucial that the language of the Quran remained a living language. Surprisingly and unlike any other language, Arabic which is almost fifteen hundred years' old in origin has remained intact till date. An Orientalist thinker has written that it is a miracle in the history of languages that Arabic is understood in much the same way even today as it originally were. English for instance has witnessed several phases of change. The English of Chaucer or Shakespeare is no longer comprehensible to the present-day English speaking population.

## The coming of the new age

A verse in the Quran states:

**We shall show them Our signs in the Universe and within themselves, until it becomes clear to them that this is the Truth. (41:53)**

This verse was revealed fourteen hundred years ago. In the twentieth century A.D., John Clover Monsma compiled a book entitled *Evidence of God in an Expanding Universe*, in which forty American scientists declared their affirmative views on religion. This is the new era that has been ushered in as a culmination of the revolution initiated by the Prophet and his Companions. The question pertaining to the existence of God was decided at an intellectual level. The unanswered question was how to familiarize humankind with the word of God? Modern mind is factual and realistic and today's man is yearning to understand the creation plan of his Creator.

### **The blunder committed by Ulama**

As promised, God ensured the complete preservation of the text of the Quran. He intervened in history and brought together factors that were conducive for accomplishment of this unprecedented task. All this was done so that once it is established that God exists, man can be told the message of His Creator.

But ulama committed a great blunder. They issued a fatwa which claimed that it was unislamic to print the translation of the Quran without its text. Yet another fatwa disallowed giving of the Quran to non-Muslims as it might be disrespected. The Quran which was revealed for entire humanity was made into a book of Muslims. Such a doing defied the Quranic injunction which has been copied below:

**Blessed be He who has revealed the criterion [the Quran] to His servant  
that he may warn the nations. (25:1)**

These fatwas had such negative repercussions that for years and years Quran was printed only to be at Muslim homes. The Quran which was preserved by God after intervening in the course of history did not reach humanity. In the past, man always misused his freedom to interpolate the text of revealed Books. A study of comparative religions revealed that not even one book [with an exception of the Quran] can be said to have remained free of distortion. Scholars agree that the Quran has not had an iota of a difference since the time it was revealed. This was a major accomplishment but the Quran still remained out of the reach of people!

### **Quran gives us courage.**

Quran gives us courage because its fourteen hundred years of history make it a Book known to man. The importance of the Quran is already there in the mind of man and this gives courage to a dayee as his madu is already yearning to receive his message.

Our ulama on the other hand, snatched this courage from Muslims, by disallowing them to spread the Quran. Had it not been so, the courage could have made each Muslim, who at present lives in a besieged mentality, a hero. The Quran which was meant to give courage was left to be a book of respect alone.

Courage is the biggest strength of man. With courage, he can accomplish any feat. It was this courage of possessing the Book of God that made the Companions of the Prophet achieve extraordinary feats.

Today, Muslims have Quran Plus (that is, Quran alongwith its history). But because the source of courage was taken away from the Muslims, they live in the feeling of despair and hopelessness. Here am reminded of an instance which succinctly illustrates what courage makes men do. An American scientist discovered a physical law during the course of his rigorous research. He was so thrilled that he wanted to share his discovery with his townsmen. As he got to know that all of them were in the theatre, he rushed there and upon reaching snatched the microphone and shouted:

*"Stop everything. I have to tell you my discovery. I have discovered a law of the Universe."*

A courage far greater than this can come into man if he realizes the importance of the preserved word of God. The instances of the Companions of Prophet exemplify great courage. They fearlessly reached out to their contemporary kings and presented the message of God.

### **Towards the end**

Most Muslims read the Quran to receive blessings and not many if asked, will be in a position to share its gist. This is the consequence of reducing the Quran to being a book of *fazilat* (blessings).

We at CPS must therefore immensely thank God for involving us in this great mission. Spreading the word of God necessarily entails the blessings of God and the only factor which can adversely affect the team is internal differences. According to a Hadith,

**Team work gets special blessing of God. (Al-Bukhari)**

It is therefore extremely important that differences are ignored so that the opportunities can be availed. This mission has it all –the literature, team spirit and the resources. All it needs is to save itself from differences which may arise on account of non-issues. The only way to end any such deadlock or argument will be to recede. This too would amounts to worship because in order to do such a sacrifice (of opinion), one would go against his ego and establish one's modesty before God.

May God guide us and save us from succumbing to differences!