

## Living in Falsehood

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Excerpt:

*In his talk, the Maulana explains how the present-day Muslims live in a sense of falsehood. Being in their degenerative phase, Muslims only harp on their past and have lost the ability to adopt a rational view on matters concerning them.*

*Maulana through various references from the Quran and Hadith explains the loss suffered by Muslims as a result of losing rational thinking and of confining the meaning of Ilm to Ilm-e-Deen; an idea which did not allow development of Muslim minds.*

*Advising Muslims to free their minds of negative approach, the Maulana remarks that a believer is one who adheres to the laws of nature. A true believer has a strong conviction that the Creator has created the world such that no one can overpower or snatch another person's success or cause them to fail. This belief is the starting point of all kinds of positivity.*

The lesson:

*The gravest problem of present-day Muslims is lack of objective thinking which does not allow them to question or condemn irrational actions. Having confined themselves to Ilm-e-Deen, Muslims have become completely conditioned in the psyche of falsehood and lost their ability to think rationally.*

## Introduction

The present-day Muslims live in a sense of falsehood and it is our mission to enable them to live in reality. This topic came to my mind after reading the following news item in today's newspaper, 'Ten killed in Bangladesh clashes'. This news triggered my mind and it recollected events that shaped last five hundred years of Muslim history in the Indian subcontinent and the history of Muslims in the modern age.

The news reported a violent clash that took place between the Bangladesh Government and Muslims, resulting in the death of ten. Other instances of houses being burnt down and armed confrontation have also been reported. While analysing the situation, I realised that this event is not a sudden occurrence but a history of violent events preceded it. Let us take a look at the last five hundred year history of Muslims in the subcontinent. Mughals battled with kings in India and caused bloodshed, then on suggestion of some Muslim ulema, Afghan rulers waged a war against the Marathas and Sikhs, then Muslim ulema gave another fatwa and Muslims fought against the British Empire. Then, partition movement began and Muslims confronted Hindus and eventually the country was partitioned. Subsequently, Bangladesh and Pakistan (both Muslim countries) waged war against each other. In both these countries today, the so-called Islamists and liberal Muslims are engaging in violent confrontations and causing people's death. Similar is the case of Egypt and other Muslim countries. These events led me to question the reason because of which this violence has persisted for so many years and in vain. No positive outcome has emerged as a result of these violent confrontations.

My mind led me to think about the various other instances of violence that have taken place in different parts of the world during this time. Germany for example, waged a war under the leadership of Hitler as they believed that Germany had the right to rule over Europe. But when this war came to an end, they abandoned violence and chose peace. Similar was the case of France, which considered Africa its colony but later France relinquished this mindset and paved its way to become a peaceful country. Japan likewise was involved in violence during WWII but today it is a prosperous and peaceful nation. While other countries and communities also faced violence, they eventually came to tread the peaceful path but the case of Muslims has not been the same. They have continued to follow the path of violence. Why this difference?

The reason for this difference is that when revelation-based communities reach their degenerative phase, they develop the psychology of living in falsehood. The following Hadith illustrates what the later-day Muslims would do in their degenerative phase

**You will surely follow in the ways of those before you, span by span and cubit by cubit, so much so that if they were to enter an iguana's hole, you would follow after them. (Al Bukhari)**

This Hadith predicts that practices of later-day Muslims would become similar to what the Jews did when they were in their degenerative phase. Another illustrative incident in the Talmud explain what happens to a community when they are in their degenerative phase.

**Once Prophet Moses prayed to God: O God! Take away anything from my people but their wisdom! God replied: O Moses! When we have to take something away, it is wisdom we take away first!**

The above does not mean that God literally takes away wisdom. It means that during its degenerative phase, a community develops a sense of pride for their past and consequently loses wisdom. They consider their religion supreme, their prophet superior, their history magnificent, their revealed books as most important and their community as a group of chosen people! Pride is the only asset a community possesses in its degenerative phase!

Jews, during the course of their degenerative phase, developed ideas like Jewish Supremacism but later as they reached out to Europe and America, increased interaction and acquired modern knowledge, they were able to shed the influence of these ideas. Muslims are presently in their degenerative phase where their religion is not Islam but Muslim Supremacism. This is what is meant by living in falsehood and when this happens, wisdom is lost. No longer is such a community able to apply reason or withstand criticism. Any critique appears to be demolishing the very edifice of falsehood erected by them.

## **Importance of Criticism**

Present-day Muslims are not aware of the importance of criticism; they only follow the policy of allegation. They are not aware that criticism is in fact nothing but application of reason. In case any criticism is meted out to the leaders Muslims extol and eulogise, they get provoked because these men are considered to be above all criticism and held as infallible.

When reason is applied and falsehood becomes evident, Muslims are not able to tolerate it! Contrary to Muslims, secular-minded people consider reason as absolute and apply it in the same spirit as in the case of Germany, France and Japan.

In modern times, for the first time, the Muslim mentality has become so distorted that fruitless action is considered desirable. Suicide bombing, which shows a preference for death over life, falls into this category. While in the early history of Islam this was an alien concept, in modern times, for Muslims, it has acquired the position of a superior course of action. Muslims justify their violent activities as Jihad and have invented ideas like,

*Jiye to Ghazi, Mare toh Shaheed (Live as a Warrior, Die a Martyr)*

Such ideas have deluded Muslim minds to think that violent activism is beneficial whether one lives or dies. While a warrior lives proudly, a martyr too would gain entry into paradise and would then be surrounded by beautiful maidens! Those who die while committing violent acts are extolled as martyrs and referring to them as 'killed' is considered disrespectful. Any action contrary to these notions is not acceptable as it demolishes the false edifice on which the present-day Muslim notions rest!

## **Ilm in Quran and Hadith**

I would like to draw your attention to the discipline of knowledge. Muslims conduct numerous debates on topics pertaining to jurisprudence but they are unaware of the importance of wisdom in acquiring knowledge.

In modern times, Muslims haven't authored a single book that could meet the standard set by modern science and reason. From the earlier times, I am reminded of only one book, *Muqadimma* of Ibn Khaldun, which dealt with wisdom but not of advanced level. This lack on part of Muslims to produce a work of scientific standing is because they have been living in a sense of falsehood and form-based rituals. They presume that acts like drinking water from right hand, recitation of *Kalimah* and waging and dying in warfare would suffice to lead them to paradise! Our aim is to extricate Muslims minds from the prevailing sense of falsehood and make them face reality.

Quran and Hadith give a lot of importance to *Ilm* but the connotation Muslims assigned to *Ilm* was that of *Ilm-e-Deen*. The biggest lacking amongst the present-day Muslims is their inability to think rationally: a result of being raised in a society immersed in falsehood.

According to a Hadith, Prophet of Islam said,

**Ilm ko haasil karna har musalman par farz hai**

*Every believer must acquire knowledge (Ibn Maja)*

In the above Hadith, clerics interpreted *Ilm* to refer to *Ilm-e-Deen* (knowledge about religious practices), consequently eliminating the scope of acquiring wisdom through reflection or rational thinking and limiting *Ilm* to debates pertaining to Jurisprudence. Some clerics classified knowledge into two categories: *Ilm-e-deen* (religion) and *Ilm-e-tibb* (medicine). All these classifications limited the scope of *Ilm* whereas God had kept for man an unlimited sphere of *Ilm*, as is alluded to in the following verse of the Quran,

**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)**

The above verse points out to another branch of *Ilm* - *Ilm-ul-Afaq* or modern science. *Afaq* refers to universe, cosmos or nature, study of which is undertaken by the scientific branch of knowledge. Devoid of intellectual brainstorming, Muslims failed to understand that Quran was pointing towards the study of modern science!

It is absence of an atmosphere of rational thinking in general among Muslims which does not allow them to evaluate actions on the basis of result. If Muslim leaders would have taken a considerate view, they would have realised that wars are counter-productive and lead to nothing! The issue of Palestine for example receives support from all over Arabia. In 1948, according to Balfour verdict, Palestine was partitioned: approximately half given to both Jews and Arabs. Arabs however did not accept the verdict and reacted and this reaction became the basis of creation of *Ikhwan ul Muslimun*. If Muslims would have taken a rational view taking Quran and Hadith as the basis, they would not have acted against the verse of the Quran which says,

**Enter the holy land which God has assigned for you. (5:21)**

As Quran refers to Palestine as the 'assigned' land for Jews, Bible refers to it as the 'Promised' land. If Muslims ruled it for 800 years, and only half has been given to Jews and half is with them, it was more than just. But they did not deter from engaging in violence.

Let me take another example. The case of abrogation of the Suez Canal Treaty by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser eleven years before the date of end of lease was a result of emotional thinking. The nationalization announcement was greeted throughout the Arab world and garnered strong support for the President despite there being a clear verse in the Quran which states

**(Believer is the one) who keep their pledges when they make them. (2:177)**

Because of this irrational act of Muslims, the Suez Canal Company lent its support to Israel and they attacked Egypt and captured most of Palestine. If earlier Israel had only half of the land, now they left only Ariha and Gaza strip for the Arabs.

Similar was the case of Arakan, a city in Burma, which had Muslim majority. Owing to their conditioning in falsehood, a group of leaders arose who propagated the idea of creation of a separate state for Muslims in Arakan. These so-called leaders failed to realise that their actions would invite the wrath of the existing government and this is what happened.

Unfortunately, lack of objective thinking prevails to such a grave extent within the Muslim world that no one is able to question and condemn the irrationality of such actions! Having confined themselves to *Ilm-e-Deen*, Muslims became completely conditioned in the psyche of falsehood and lost their ability to think rationally.

Throughout the world, Muslims lament on how the world is conspiring against them. If instead of complaining, Muslims would have given a thoughtful view to this allegation they would have realised that conspiracy has always existed; no country has been free from it but conspiracy has a limit. This would have made them recall the following verse of the Quran,

**If you persevere and fear God, their designs will never harm you in the least; God encompasses all that they do. (3:120)**

This verse does not refer to an article of Muslim pride; it demonstrates a law of nature according to which a living community that has a realistic view and is able to plan on rational basis would not suffer any harm due to conspiracies. However, it is unfortunate that no Muslim leader could guide the Muslim community to understand this principle. Present-day Muslims believe that the world - West, Hindus, Jews – is conspiring against them and as a result of this conspiracy, they are unable to make any progress and are incurring losses.

Such ideas galore even though Quran clearly states that if believers have a realistic approach and plan wisely, no conspiracy shall harm them. Overwhelmed by emotions and falsehood, Muslims are unable to discern the reality and it is our mission to lift this veil of falsehood surrounding them.

## Conclusion

According to a Hadith, Prophet of Islam said,

**Musalman ki wisdom se bacho kyunki woh Allah ki roshni se dekhta hai**

*Be wary of a believer's wisdom, he sees through the light of God. (Tirmidhi)*

This Hadith does not describe the greatness of Muslims. It simply means that one who has objective thinking, a rational approach and the ability to analyse would develop such a keen sense of understanding that no one would be able to harm him. In other words, the Creator has bestowed man with a mind so that he can adopt a wise and rational approach. Living in complaints in such a world is not justified and by doing so, Muslims are passing the blame to none other than the law of nature, Creation Plan and God Himself. I am reminded of a Conference where a Muslim said, "We are under siege." This is clear falsehood. The Quran states in respect of Satan

**Surely, you shall have no power over My true servants. (15:42)**

This verse does not only pertain to Satan alone; it means that in this world, no one has power over another. Each individual receives in due measure of the wisdom he applies. No one has the power to make another a victim, except the person himself and by claiming to be at the receiving end of conspiracies, all present-day Muslim movements are putting the blame on God because there is a clear verse in the Quran, which states,

**You will have the upper hand, if you are believers. (3:139)**

A believer is one who adheres to the laws of nature and such an approach guarantees success. Creator has made the world such that no one can overpower or snatch another person's success or cause them to fail; if only the law of nature is adhered to. For instance, no stone has the power to hit my head and break it. But if I provoke a person, he sure can hold a stone and hit me. Calling oneself a victim is living in falsehood and this is what present-day Muslims are engaged in. The only way out is to eliminate the veil of falsehood and inculcate a realistic approach in them.

I pray that God enables us to understand this and help others come out of this jungle of falsehood!

**Question – Answer**

*Q1: How should the Hadith be read and understood?*

A: Hadith books can be organised in different ways: by topic (*Jami'*) which is the way of *Sihah Sitta* and by narrator, which is the way of *Musnad Ahmad*. As per my study, the organisation done in *Musnad Ahmad* is more scientific. In organising the Hadith basis topics (*Tarjuma-e-Baab*), *Muhaditheen* developed such titles that greatly limit the scope of Hadith and can be misleading. Let me give an example. According to books of Hadith, a Chapter pertaining to women (*Ba'ab e Hazun Nifas*) has the following Hadith,

**Man and women are two equal halves of a single unit**

This is a very illustrative expression to convey the equality of status between man and woman but this has been compiled in a chapter, the title of which can be misleading.

*Q2: Muslims often say that all Muslims will enter into paradise irrespective of their deeds in this world and non-Muslims will never enter into paradise. Please explain.*

A: Such notions are examples of living in falsehood. According to the Quran

**It is not your desires, nor the desires of the People of the Book, that shall prevail. Anyone who commits evil will be rewarded accordingly.(4:123)**

Muslims have concocted a jungle of false ideas and till they discard them in totality, their affairs would not change and they would live and perish in negativity.

*Q3: What role does rational thinking play in adopting an approach to non-violence?*

A: I think non violence and peace is basic to all kinds of thinking. Without a peaceful mind, nothing can be understood because peaceful thinking makes you a sincere well-wisher of all and when you are objective, you can think rationally. I am a great advocate of peaceful thinking and according to my analysis peace is the *summum bonum* in Islam. Without peace, there is no development at all. All those things that Islam wants to promote: dawah work, worship (*ibadah*), knowledge (*ilm*) cannot be carried out without peace. The method of greeting in Islam is 'Assalaam waleikum' (Peace be upon you) and this greeting is not for Muslims alone; it is for all human beings. It means that Islam tries to promote peace culture, without which there can be no development or progress. Peace is necessary for dawah work because peace normalises the situation. Without normalcy, nothing can be done!

*Q4: Many Muslims are very rational in secular matters but they do not want to use reasoning in matters of religion. Why?*

A: This is because Muslims held *ilm* to be *ilm-e-deen* where they did not see any need to apply reason. Reason was applicable to all other disciplines except religion. This notion of Muslims was contrary to the following teaching of the Quran

**Only those of his servants who possess knowledge, fear God. (35: 28)**

According to this verse, if man gathers the knowledge about natural phenomenon, he would develop fear of God and piety! Knowledge therefore is beyond the confines of Muslim beliefs. Present-day Muslims apply *ilm* only in matters of worldly affairs and not religion. In matters of religion, they resort to fatwa activism, which is a completely erroneous approach.

*Q5: What is the difference between reaction and criticism?*

A: I will explain the difference by citing a Hadith. Prophet Muhammad said to a companion, “Do not be angry”. Here anger is a reaction which is caused due to provocation.

My approach draws analysis from Quran and Hadith; calling it reaction is wrong. In order to put forth an argument, a reference from Quran and Hadith should be produced instead of succumbing to reaction. According to a Hadith, Prophet of Islam said

**Islam ki khubi ye hai ki aadmi us cheez ko chor de jis se koi fayda nahin**

*A believer of Islam is one who foregoes that which is not beneficial to him (Ibn Majah: 3976)*

This means that in every situation result must be kept in mind. A course should be pursued only if it is due to yield result, else not. For instance, the fight in Palestine or now in Bangladesh is futile, with no result. Muslims should produce a verse imploring believers to fight irrespective of the result. Simply refusing to agree to a course of action is Unislamic. According to another Hadith,

**Jo aadmi Allah aur akhirat par imaan rakhta to usko chahiye ki ya toh woh khair baat kae ya chup rahe**

*A believer, who has faith in God and Day of Judgement, should either speak in the language of well-wishing or remain silent (Al Bukhari: 6018, 6019)*

Refuting the reason-based arguments by calling it a ‘reaction’ is an unislamic act!

*Q6: Kindly explain the following Hadith*

**Ek momin dusre momin ka aaina hai**

*A believer is the mirror of another believer (Abu Dawud: 4918)*

A: What does a mirror do? If you see yourself in a mirror and there is dirt, it would show that so that you remove it and cleanse yourself. Mirror does what we know as criticism and points out the mistake. A believer should point out the mistake rightfully and he who is at the receiving end must take it on himself to correct it. This Hadith points to both: one who tells and one who listens – former should show true picture and not under influence of any negative thinking and the one who listens must admit it instantly and get on to correction thereafter.

*Q7: What is the role of positively living in realities? Can a negative person live in reality?*

A: When you have a realistic approach, you would learn to live in positivity. If you have unrealistic approach, it would make you negative.

*Q8: During a recent tour, I met a person whom I had given the Prophet of Peace a few years back. He said that he and his family members read the book. He mentioned if instead of the book, the author had spoken to him, he would have argued with him but now what the author wanted to say has been communicated fully. This helped me discover the importance of distributing literature in our mission.*

A: It happens often during discussions that when a point is raised which goes against the prevailing mindset of those at the listening end, it leads to an ego clash and defensive psychology kicks in. In case of literature or book however, the reader has nobody to do an ego clash with. Distributing literature (Quran and its supporting literature) therefore becomes a basic task and that is why I announced 'Operation Flood' so that this powerful way of dawah work can be leveraged.

*Q9: What is the difference between a planning based on tawakkul and one based on wisdom?*

A: A Hadith clearly explains the concept of *tawakkul*. A person asked the Prophet if he should trust God before tying his camel or after it. The Prophet said, tie it and place your trust in God. *Tawakkul* refers to using your thinking and resources as much as you are capable of. You should plan most realistically but there are limitations that man has. If you have exerted yourself as much as you could, then what is your shortfall, God would take care of it! This is what is meant by *tawakkul*. So, effectively, fifty percent is your share in an action and when you have completed your fifty percent, remainder is taken care of by God. According to a verse of the Quran

**Good words ascend to Him and righteous deeds are exalted by Him. (35:10)**

*Kalma-e-tayyab* refers to a positive target. You should put your utmost towards this positive planning and positive target and remaining would be completed by God!

*Q10: We discover the fault of others immediately but are unable to pin-point our own even after thinking. Why does this happen?*

A: Man's mind is filled with the concept of "I am right." He has no concept of "I am wrong!" Till you do not develop the mindset of anti-self thinking, you would not be able to identify your faults. The other quality one must possess is that when the other person criticises you, you should take it positively. Another person is able to perceive you indifferently and consequently can pin-point your areas of development. Therefore, *Muhasba* (anti-self thinking) and taking criticism without being provoked are two qualities that can guide man to truth.

*Q11: Why are we living in falsehood? Is it because we have forgotten the Quran?*

A: This is not a correct explanation. Every person recites the Quran and every Muslim household has a copy of the Quran.

Living in falsehood is a phenomenon of degeneration. The Hadith that Muslims would follow in the footsteps of earlier communities was not understood by Muslim ulema. It meant that just as degeneration befell other communities; it would become the lot of Muslims as well. Degeneration is a law of nature. Ulema have ingrained in minds of people that they are *Khair-e-ummat*. This mindset made the community oblivious of the fact that degeneration happens in every community and it would happen to them too. This is what Muslims are experiencing today: they are in their degenerative phase. Simply reciting the Quran doesn't help; Muslims will have to be de-conditioned and their mistakes would have to be pointed out. Simply making them read the translation of the Quran is not enough, supporting literature is equally important.