

The Age of Deceiving Philosophies
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Introduction

There are several Hadith which predict that in later times, many deceptions shall emerge. Describing how one these would become very trying and in fact one of the greatest, a Hadith states,

Before the Doomsday, there will come an age marred by many deceptions. (Abu Dawud)

This age has been referred to as *fitna-e-dohema* (*fitna* means trial and *dohema* means darkness), that is, the **Age of Total Darkness**. According to the above Hadith this age would shroud all humanity. Every person without any exception will be affected by it, including *Ummah-e-Islamia*. This means that the impact of the age of deception will be so great that even those who have found the truth will not be spared of its effect.

According to my understanding, this would be the '*age of deceiving philosophies*'. Although in all ages there have been people who have deceived others, but in the age of *fitna-e-dohema*, deception will be philosophised to such an extent that man would not be able to analyze it.

Let me cite an example to differentiate between simple deception and philosophized deception. Three thousand and five hundred years ago, when Moses went to the Pharaoh with the message of God, he performed a miracle to prove to the Pharaoh that he was sent by God. On seeing this miracle, the Pharaoh said to Moses,

This is indeed a plot which you have devised in this city in order to drive its people out.
(7:123).

By saying so, the Pharaoh created this impression in the minds of his courtiers that Moses wishes to remove them from their land and become its ruler. This was a clear deception because Moses was not saying so but the Pharaoh created a negative impression by giving an incorrect interpretation of Moses' message. This is an example of how deception was simplistic in earlier times. However, in today's world of civilizational development, wholesome ideologies are presented to back deception and it therefore becomes very difficult for individuals to analyze it and come out of the prevalent jungle of thoughts and confusion.

What caused *Fitna-e-dohema*?

My study has brought me to the conclusion that symbolically, the following four personalities (and the consequent four periods) contributed greatly to the coming of the age of complete darkness or *fitna-e-dohema*. These four personalities are *Charles Darwin* (d. 1882), *Karl Marx* (d. 1883), *Sigmund Freud* (d. 1939) and *Abul Ala Maududi* (d.1979). Let me present before you the case of each one of them individually.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

Charles Darwin was an English naturalist who undertook a prolonged research and travelled to several places to study the origin of species. He eventually proposed the theory of biological evolution and wrote several books on the topic. In his two books, *The Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man*, Darwin says that origin of man was a result of an evolutionary process called natural selection. According to his theory, the first living creature to come into existence was similar to amoeba and it subsequently led to the origin of several other species of plants and animals through the on-going processes of natural selection and survival of the fittest.

In his book, *The Decent of Man*, Darwin mentions God, but only as a Prime Mover. God to Him was the Originator of the first creature *only* and all other creatures including man came into being due to a process of evolution. God therefore had *no* role to play in the origin of subsequent creations.

Despite being totally ridiculous, this theory overwhelmed minds all over the world. While studying about it, I undertook a visit to the Natural History Museum in Chandigarh, the only museum which depicted evolution at that time in India. In this museum, evolution was depicted using skeletons of horse and man. The skeleton of horse was made to stand on its hind or rear legs with its fore legs in the air. The skeleton of man was placed next to that of the horse. Through the structural comparison, they attempted to prove that a human, a creature with two legs evolved from a horse, an animal with four legs. All animals are quadruples and the depiction illustrated that as a four-legged animal began to stand, it eventually evolved into man.

An article on evolution was recently published in *The Times of India* dated June 15, '09. The article attributed the vulnerability of the back bone in humans to their *evolutionary adaptation*. According to this theory, as man developed from four legged animals, such as horse, the entire weight of their body got transferred to the back bone. So the support which was upon four legs prior to his evolution, now entirely rested on the back bone of man. This was a ludicrous explanation. The phenomenon of increase in back problems is a recent one, direct outcome of the push button culture of today. Earlier people did not face such problems. People used to do their own work and hence underwent physical exercise compulsorily. But today's comfort culture has reduced the physical activity of man to almost nil.

Thus the greatest disadvantage of the theory of evolution was that it broke off man's relation with God. In Darwin's theory, God was only an Originator who created first form of life. The rest happened on its own through natural processes. Hence, man came into existence without God's involvement and therefore, God's acknowledgement as the Creator and Sustainer of man was eliminated. The concepts of accountability, love of God, prayer to God etc. were rendered futile. As a result, no one needed to feel helpless in front of God. Darwin's theory changed the thinking and culture of man. He conjectured after observing structural similarities between creatures that one evolved from the other.

However, the term 'evolutionary adaptation' is a mere word play. They are like a dud cheque that has no real value. This was the deception presented by Charles Darwin.

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Karl Marx, a German philosopher proposed the *theory of dialectical materialism* which was strongly influenced by the philosophy of Hegel. He wrote the book *Das Capital* in which he explained that history is a process of continuous strife. Dividing mankind into two groups: *exploiter* and *exploited*, Marx argued that in society there will always be a thesis (exploiters) and a corresponding anti-thesis (exploited); it is the clash between the two that leads to the emergence of a synthesis or a better society.

This philosophy made conflict a universal phenomenon. Everywhere men can be seen indulging in conflict in some form or the other way. Marxists divided the world into leftists and rightists who continuously remain at loggerheads with one another. Due to the justification provided by the philosophy of Marx, millions of people were killed in Russia and worldwide a conflict culture came into existence.

In the heydays of the Marxist philosophy when Russia ruled powerfully, I had written a book in Urdu whose title translated into English would be "Marxism: a theory which has been rejected by history." At that time people jeered at me because the communist philosophy of Marx was very influential and any damage to it was almost unimaginable. It was so dominant that the renowned American scholar, Galbraith, remarked that *Marx's influence in history was greater than even that of Muhammad*. Today the communist theory has been rejected, but because people fail to analyze it they have still retained its residues.

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)

Sigmund Freud was an Austrian psychoanalyst. According to him, the fulfilment of man's desires must happen unchecked. Any check or halt in this process of fulfilment of desires would hamper growth of the individual. This meant that man must do anything that he wishes.

This theory destroyed the culture of the society. An example of its effect can be seen in articles with caption, "Virginity on sale." A woman had let go her virginity and given a description of it to the interviewer. This is debasing morality to the lowest ebb. According to a Hadith,

"If one has no shame he'll do anything." (Al-Bukhari)

All this is a result of unrestricted fulfilment of desires. Now no one has shame and therefore people go to any end.

Therefore, Darwin, Marx and Freud gave scholarly explanations of their deceptions. They presented a full-fledged ideology and since the intelligentsia reconciled to it, the common man accepted it with ease. This served as a big boost and led to the sharp rise in the age of deception. Let me now move to the description of the works of the fourth personality.

Abul ala Maududi (1903-1979) and Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966)

Syed Qutub and Abul Ala Mawdudi can be held as being directly responsible for the violence (*tashaddud*) as seen in Muslims today. These two wrongly gave Quran a political interpretation. Let me take an example of how the commentary of the Quran was distorted by them and converted into a political commentary.

A verse in the Quran describes the dialogue between Pharaoh and Moses as the latter presented before him the message of *tauhid* (Oneness of God),

This is indeed a plot which you have devised in this city in order to drive its people out.
(7:123).

Pharaoh had said so only to provoke his people and to make them angry with Moses, though he knew that Moses' message was not political. However, Sayyid Qutb failed to realize this and from the same verse he derived that the purpose of Moses was to drive people out from their land. He failed to understand that had this been Prophet Moses' mission so when Pharaoh was drowned and Egypt was emptied, he could have easily captured it. However, Moses did not do so, he rather went to Saraseiena.

It is also important to note that it was highly illogical to extract the message of Moses from what Pharaoh said. That is, if Pharaoh said to his people that Moses sought to drive them out then one cannot start believing that this indeed was Moses' purpose. What Moses came for has to be understood from what Moses said and not what Pharaoh says. In this way Qutb failed to understand the true meaning of Moosa's message and politicised the entire explanation.

According to another verse in the Quran, God says,

"Be strict in upholding justice." (4:135)

While interpreting the above verse, Qutb explained it to mean striving to establish justice when actually it was meant in passive (of maintaining) and not in active sense (of establishing). Such an interpretation made Islam a subject of forceful implementation (*and flogging*) whereas the Islam which Prophet Muhammad brought was a subject of following. Such political thinking led to fundamentalism as people began to think that Islam had to be forcefully established on earth. When this failed to materialise at the level of slogans, Muslims resorted to militancy and when this too failed, they took to suicide bombing.

The following example will explain how Maulana Maududi's idea of establishing Islam forcefully made it a religion of flogging. In his book *Purdah*, he says that it is essential for women to wear a veil to cover their face. Women, he continues can take off their veil only when the society is so 'developed' that if a man stares at a woman then fifty other men are ready to pull out his eyes!

If Muslims are taught that Islam has to be established then they would become violent and fight those who are in power at present. This is how this erroneous political interpretation of Islam inevitably made Muslims stoop to violence.

Putting an end to *Fitna-e-dohema*

This the age of *fitna-e-dohema*, (or intellectual darkness) and it has rendered man absolutely bewildered. Deception at such a large scale was possible only in the age of printing press and media which enabled the spread of these philosophies far and wide.

The mission of CPS standing as it is on God's succour aims to expose this age of darkness and bring forth the truth to people. A wide range of literature has been developed for this purpose. One does not need be a writer or a speaker; all one needs to do is spread the literature. This was the method of *Sahab-e-karam* (Companions of Prophet). The Sahabas were called *mukri* because they used to recite the Quran to people wherever they found them. Today, we have to become distributors of the Quran; wherever we go we should possess *dawah* literature to distribute it to people. What the Sahabas did as *mukri*, the same we have to do today as distributors. Predicting the emergence of such people, the Prophet said,

"In the later times some people will emerge who will be my brothers (Ikhwan-e-rasul)."
(Al-Muslim)

Hence in this *Ummah* two historical groups will emerge. One was that of Companions of the Prophet and the other was that of the Brothers of the Prophet. The former were Prophet's contemporaries who became *mukri* and spread the truth so they got the title of *Ashab-e-rasul* (Companions of the Prophet). Now those who spread or distribute the message or *dawah* literature in the age of printing press will become *Ikhwan-e-rasul*. According to a tradition, Hazarat Omar said,

"Those who want to enter this group (ummat) should fulfil its prerequisites." (Ibn Jareer)

In an attempt to reduce the importance of *dawah* work, people often say that there was *jamiyyat* or comprehensiveness in Prophet's life as it included family, business, community everything so why should one focus solely on *dawah*?

This is not the right approach. What they fail to realise is that this was a matter of priority. Prophet gave top priority to *dawah* work. Consider the life of Prophet Muhammad. They used to starve most of the time. According to a tradition in Al-Bukhari, Hazarat Ayesha said, *"For nine years we lived in masjid-e-nabvi in darkness, without any light."* The place where they lived was a hut with no light. Then somebody asked as to why was there no oil that was available to light the lamp. Ayesha replied, *"Had oil been available, we would have drunk it."*

Who would be willing to run a family in this way? If they say that the Prophet was a family man then they must also be ready to run their family in the way in which he did, otherwise they cannot say that Prophet was a family man. The Prophet got his daughter Fatima married to Hazarat Ali. There was literally nothing in Ali's house. Fatima used to grind a mill and bruise her hands. After facing the hardship for long, one day she went to the Prophet to ask for a servant. At this, the Prophet said, *"O! Fatima fear God."* (Al-Bukhari) and the Prophet said that he'll give her something better than a slave and asked her to do a prayer (*tasbeeh-fatima*). The words of this prayer are recited

many times over but who actually goes through the life which Hazarat Fatima went through? Who would be willing to marry their daughter to a man who has literally nothing in his house?

Prophet's wives did not even get food to eat twice a day. Once Prophet's wives demanded that food should be given to them at least twice a day. At this, the following verse was revealed in the Quran,

"O Prophet! Say to your wives, if you seek the life of this world and all its finery then come, I will make provision for you and release you honourably."(33:28)

Who is ready today to run such family where people don't even have food to eat twice a day? Hence, for the Prophet family held no priority, it was only dawah that mattered. All emphasis was on *dawah*. Thus, the only mission we must undertake is to become candidates to the title of *Ikhwan-e-rasul* by relentlessly striving to do *dawah* work.

May God count us among His righteous men!