



The Life of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and Pluralism

Introduction

In this lecture, we will discuss the life of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in the perspective of tolerance, which is also known as pluralism. Pluralism is defined as a social organization in which diversity of racial or religious or ethnic or cultural group is tolerated. It shows that we must develop a level of tolerance for those people who have different views and opinions than us. Although Islam talks about such issues in detail and on the other hand, there are some certain fundamental foundations on which it does not compromise.

Propaganda

“Propaganda came in the twentieth century. The development of mass and multi-media offered a fertile ground for propaganda. And global conflict provided the impetus need for its growth”. (Propaganda, power, and persuasion). The propaganda was used to spread different point of views regardless of truth or falsehood to make other people believe in it. In the first and the second world war, Germans and Russians did propaganda against each other effectively. In the modern world, the importance of propaganda has increased greatly due to the emergence of more advanced and easily accessible modes of mass-communication. People start believing in it whatever news is needed to propagate via this modern media regardless of the sanctity of the news.

Muslims in the Media

Muslims are propagated in the media as non-tolerant people in the world. They are the people to destroy you. They are also known by these names like terrorists, fundamentalists, extremists, etc. They are Islamic terrorists as propagated by today’s powerful media. Whereas it is noted that 87.5 million people are war dead for politically motivated reasons in the 20th century. (*Out of Control: Global Turmoil on the eve of 21st century*). These wars were not fought for any religious reasons, but they were for political and local reasons. In the above-mentioned book, they termed the 20th century as the bloodied century full of conflicts and blood.

The Life of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)

Under Islamic rule, it was the most prosperous time for the Jews, which was known as their golden age. Muslims were also very prosperous and advanced in knowledge at that time. Later, Christians came and they killed the Jews and Christians.

Tolerance were an inherent aspect of Islamic Andalusian society. *(Maria Rose Menocal)*. This shows that Islam as a very tolerant society. In the life of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), the Jews were given the equal rights to live in peace. The reason is mentioned in the Quran,

“And We have not sent you (O Mohammad (PBUH) except as a mercy to the worlds.”
[Al-Anbiya:107].

A camel cried and complained Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) of his master for overburdening. The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) called his master and instructed him to remain merciful with animals. The companions made a pulpit for the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) to address on it.

A tree began to cry and He (PBUH) had to make the tree stop crying, Actually, the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) had used to take back support with the tree before the pulpit and later the tree missed the chance to serve the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). Therefore, the tree cried to express its feelings.

After turning from a Ghazwa, the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) saw a restless bird, He (PBUH) directed his companions to put his eggs back to its nest to make him in peace. This shows the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) was how much merciful even with the animals and birds. At the heart of Islam, there is a great mercy, tolerance, and love in it.

The Quran says,

“And verily, you (O Mohammad (PBUH) are on an exalted (standard of) character.”
[Al-Qalam: 4]

In His (PBUH) life, He (PBUH) had never retaliated with someone for personal reasons, but when someone would break the Islamic law, He (PBUH) would have retaliated.

Once Prophet was praying at the Ka'bah while his enemies were watching his every move and action, one of his enemies put on his back the intestine of a slaughtered camel during his prostration. The Prophet Muhammad did not react and stayed in that position. His daughter, Fatimah, rushed to take the filth off his back and cleaned him up.

The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) even forgave the killer of Hazrat Hamza (RA) (the uncle of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)). The killer embraced Islam later on, but the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) addressed him, saying, "Now, Washi, know that Allah has pardoned you." But don't sit in front of me anymore. Always take a seat at the very end of the masjid. You intend to remain here. Sit behind the masjid all the way. in a corner. Lower your head. Keep your eyes off my face. Avoid making direct eye contact with me. Because even if Allah has forgiven you, it's possible that one day I will look at you and get enraged over what you did to Hamza. So, maintain a safe distance and stay behind the pillars.

The Spread of Islam in Java

No warrior reached to Java to embrace them, Islam. There were traders who reached out Indonesia (Java) and they made fair trades with the locals and would pray at the right times and their conduct influenced the locals to embrace Islam. Those Muslims were so upright and honest that the locals followed them without any war and blood. It's very important for every Muslim to adopt such high values and conduct in his own life that other people get influenced by our character and follow us. Similarly, a bad conduct of a Muslim will not only disgrace other Muslims, but also that particular individual Muslim.

If a person wants to see Islam in its true letter and spirit, he must have to examine those people who practice Islam in their life like the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and His Family members, His Companions and people who came after them. Therefore, we should follow Islam in our lives to inspire others towards Islam as role models. The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said, "O people your Lord is One and your father is One. There is no superiority of an Arab over a Non-Arab or of a Non-Arab over an Arab, or of a white man over a black man, or of a black man over a white man, except in terms of taqwa (piety)". **(Masnad Ahmad 23489)**.

There is no gender or tribal discrimination in Islam. Although, if someone is high in ranks near Allah (SWT) is due to his piety. The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said, "Whoever kills a non-Muslim (living under Islamic rule) will never smell the fragrance of paradise, although its fragrance may be detected from a distance of forty years". **(Bukhari)**. In another Hadith, "None of you truly believes until he loves for his brothers what he loves for himself". **(Bukhari and Muslim)**.

This means we should not give cheap and poor things to charity. We should give things with good conditions in charity. Charity is not for those people, but for Allah (SWT). Hazrat Ayesha (RA) usually sprayed perfume on what she used to give as charity. Our main job is to spread the message of Islam very clearly and beautifully. We cannot force anyone to embrace Islam.

Gentleness

Hazrat Ayesha (RA) narrated: The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said, O Ayesha! Allah (SWT) is gentle and He loves gentleness, and He gives due to the gentleness and does not give due to the harshness and He does not give upon anything else besides it. **(Muslim 6601)**.

Once few Jews showed up and said (God forbid) As'sam-o-Alaikum (death be upon you) to the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), to which he replied as same to you. Hazrat Ayesha (RA) infuriatedly cursed the Jews. The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said the above hadith and said that "Allah (SWT) would accept my prayers for them but not their prayers for me".

In Surah Al-Kafiroon, Allah (SWT) mentioned the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) "to say to the disbelievers I would not worship whom you worship". The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) said "the companions to stay different from Jews and Christians".

In order to be tolerant, you must not leave your own religion. You must have to spread the message of Allah (SWT) to them. You stay on your religion and let them stay on theirs. Allah (SWT) said,

“O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul, and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah (SWT), through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed Allah (SWT) is over, over you, an Observer.” [Al-Nisa: 1].

Some Important Points

- There is no compromise on the oneness of Allah (SWT). There is only one higher power that is Allah (SWT).
- Islam is a universal religion, there were a lot of companions who were not only Arabs but from different races and color. Islam is not for a particular set of people, but for all humanity.
- The Islam is a complete picture of ultimate tolerance and patience
- We should propagate tolerance from our own character to the world.