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The Significance of Enjoining What is Right and Warning Against What is Wrong

Yakubu Isa
Islamic University of Madina, Saudi Arabia
jatauiniative@gmail.com

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Abstract

Islam was built with the mission to enjoin what is right and want against what is wrong, so that the mankind problems will be drastically solved. The objective of this paper was to identify significance of calling people to right things and warning against wrong doings. A Muslim is by his right enjoined to do the right and exhort others. For him to be able to achieve this great objective he has to be behaving well according to tenets and etiquettes of Islam. Major things to call people to are: Taqwa (conscious to God), brotherhood among Muslims, commanding the right thing, believe in Qadr, believe in Angels, believe in unity of Almighty Allah, believe in Prophets, and believe in Hereafter among others.

Keywords; Islam, Exhortation, Muslim, Prophets, Revelations

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Introduction

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. All praise is due to Allah the Lord of the worlds. May peace and blessings of Allah be upon the leader of the Apostles Muhammad AS, members of his household as well as his friends. Islam is a great religion that consists of styles, planning, and great opportunities for human ability. A Muslim shall be having certain values and features that make him better and differ from non-Muslims. A Muslim shall be guided by the fear of God Almighty as the major treasure (Lemu, 2005). Fear of Allah is seen in following the commands of Allah Almighty in the hidden and in the manifest, which included the following of teachings of Prophet Muhammad AS. A Muslim should be able to agree with trials and be patient with hardship posed on him, so that he can appreciate the Almighty Allah. He should agree that whatsoever comes to him is from the decree of Allah and additionally have trust in Allah, fear Allah, seek His forgiveness, and love Allah Almighty (Lemu, 2005). A Muslim is supposed to love his Muslim brotherhood according to the exhortation of Allah Almighty with sincerity of purpose, and most shun hatred. Muslim should not love the unbelievers, and should guard his soul against all sins and evils. No Muslim is allowed to harm a fellow Muslim, and should avoid immodesty, jealousy, fornication, murder, backbiting, cheating, misery, intoxication, fraud, unforgiving attitude, defamation of character, as well as all other negative tendencies. Similarly, a Muslim should educate the public regarding the unity of Allah, and Apostleship of Muhammad AS, practice of prayers (especially the mandatory ones), fasting, Zakat, Hajj, and other Islamic etiquettes. Nevertheless, there are some discernable and desirable acts or features of a scholar or student (Da'i) as enumerated below:

- Scholar or student should invest majority of his time to learning, search for knowledge, and writing in order to be of great advantage to the society
- He should prayer Subh, and during the day invest in daily engagements
- He should be always on the course of learning and teaching except in rare cases
- He should devote much time for Qur'an and Hadiths
- He should seek for Almighty Allah's forgiveness always
- He should divide his night according to Shariah. (Lemu, 2005).

Enjoining About Taqwa (Consciousness to God)

Taqwa can be regarded as "God-consciousness." It is on another cases be translated as fear of God Almighty or piety. Taqwa is deliberately celebrated in righteous actions. The Qu'ran describes Taqwa as follows " Righteousness does not consist in turning your faces towards the East or West, it is demonstrated as believe in Allah, and the Last Day, and the Angels, and Revelation, and the Prophets; and spends his wealth while he much cherish it-upon his near kin, and the orphans, and then needy, and the wayfarer, and those who seek, and for the sake of freeing of slaves; and is constant in prayer, and renders the Zakat; and they are who keep their promises whenever they promised, and are patient in misfortune and hardship and in time of danger: it is they that have proved themselves true, and it is they who are conscious of Allah." (Qu'ran 2:177) (Abba et al., 2017). It is in the said verse that people who are having the virtue of Taqwa are those who have the following features:

- They believe in God Almighty and the Last Day of Judgement, Angels, Prophets and Revelations.
- They are in the habit of utilizing wealth to give to the needy, and as well pay the mandatory alms (Zakat).
- They regularly pray
- They are keeping to promises
- They have patience during misfortunes, danger and forms of hardships.

Nevertheless, to be able to attain the virtue of Taqwa, fasting and following the dos and donts of Islamic are crucial. A person who is Taqi has improved virtues, attitudes, qualities, habits, and behaviors. He should be firm in faith, kind to all (especially the family and kind), generous. Patience during hardship and following of commands of the Almighty God are other features of a Muslim Taqi (Abdullah et al., 2020).

Islam enjoins brotherhood among Muslims

In the early days of Islamic mission of Prophet Muhammad AS, Muslim were fee and weak politically, but they are bonded and augmented by the faith in Allah Almighty. They were joined with love and brotherhood sired by Islamic religion. Parable, when Muslims migrated to Madina, Islam was able to dissolve the olden enmity between Aws and Khazraj, and Muslims become brothers and sisters in Islam (Ali, 2014; Alim, 2018).

" And hold fast, all together, into the bond of Allah, and do not draw apart from one another. And remember the blessings which Allah has given you: How, when you were enemies, He brought your heats together, so that through His blessings you became brethren...." (Qu'ran 3:103).

"And pay heed into Allah and His Apostle, and do not be at variance with one another, lest you lose heart and your moral strength desert you...." (Qu'ran 8;46).

Certainly, the Apostle aided in unifying the Muslims by enjoining all to be brothers keepers, that is why then during his days the Ansar and Muhajirun were responsible for each other; therewith, Muhajirun were helped with accommodations and relations so that they have means of livelihood.

Nowadays, unity and brotherhood is highly recommended considering the modern days. Muslims are living in almost all parts of the world. However, the Muslims were divided by political boundaries of nations and many several groups and associations. Therefore, Muslims need to be unified in all terms irrespective of differences in nations and political associations (Aydar & Atalay, 2014; Bala, 2020).

Commanding the right thing and warning against the wrong

Qu'ran revealed that " In this way Allah makes clear His messages to you so that you might find guidance, and that there might growth out of you a community (of people) who invite into all that is good, and enjoin the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong: and it is they, they who shall attain to a happy state." (Qu'ran 3:103-104).

" You are certainly, the best Community that has ever been brought forth for mankind: you exhort the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong, and you believe in Allah...." (Qu'ran 3:110).

The first Qur'anic verses make it abundantly clear that the Message of Allah is a guidance and a moral tool that changes society to good and erase bad practices. A Muslim is responsible to reform his behaviors, that of his responsibilities, and help in reforming the society at large. A Muslim is expected to bring about changes according to his status in the society based on whether he is a leader or follower, everyone is entitled to his specific responsibilities (Bawa, 2019; Batagarawa & Yahaya, 2020).

The Exhortation of Humans to believe in the Unity of Allah

" Allah is He save whom there is no dirty: the One Who knows all that is beyond the reach of a created beings perception, as well as all that can be witnessed by a creatures senses or mind: He, the most Gracious, the Most Merciful."

" Allah is He save whom there is no deity: the Sovereign Supreme, the Holy, The One with whom all salvations rest, the Giver of Faith, the Guardian, the Almighty, the One Who subdues wrong and restores right, the One to whom all greatness belongs! Utterly remote is Allah, in His Limitless glory, from anything to which men may ascribe a share in His divinity"

(Quran 59:22-24.)

"He is Allah, the Creator, the Market Who shapes all forms and appearances. His (alone) are the attributes of perfection. All that is in the heavens and on earth extols His Limitless glory: for He alone is Almighty, Truly Wise"

The above Qur'anic verses enjoin the mankind to comprehend that humans are powerless and limited in all things, it is He Allah the Almighty Who is Powerful and Limitless, therefore Allah alone should be worshiped (Bawa, 2019; Bena, 2019).

Muslim Believes in Angels

A Muslim is always exhorted to believe in Allah, Angels, Prophets, revelations, and the Last Day of Judgement. The Angle are creations made by Allah in a different manner from humankind. Man was from clay, while Angels were from light. However, on many occasions Angels are sent to humans to deliver revelations while Angels appear in human shape. Angels are always obedient to Allah Almighty and are very powerful. Angels brings Allah's message to humans, they record human deeds, the guard hell and punish offenders, they pray for forgiveness for mankind, and they strengthen prophets (Chafe, 1992; Bala & Saidu, 2021).

Humans are exhorted to believe in revelations sent by Allah

There are many things that are learnt in revelations sent to humans to guide them to the right path. Revelations is important to help man know Allah, know the purpose of life, know the truth against the falsehood, and be guided divinely on how to conduct life as well as worship Allah Almighty. Therefore, a Muslim most believe in all revelations including Taurat, Zabur, Injil and famously the Quran. The Qur'an is the final and latest form of

revelation that was sent to human. Allah Almighty said " Today I have perfected your religion for you, and have bestowed upon you the full measure of My blessings, and willed that self-surrender unto Me(Islam) shall be your religion." (Quran 5:3).

"This book -let there be no doubt about it-is (meant to be) a guidance for all those who are conscious of Allah." (Quran 2:2) (Yero, 2015; Sule, 2020).

Exhortation for Humans to Believe in the Prophets

Prophets are humans chosen by Allah Almighty to deliver His message to humans and to show them guide on exemplary life (Lemu, 2005). Qur'an says " Now every community has had an Apostle; and only after their apostle had appeared (and delivered his message) is judgement passed on them in all equity; and never they are wronged." (Qur'an 10:47)

"...For there never was any community but a warner has (lived and) passed away in their midst." (Qur'an 35:24).

Islam reaffirm the stand that, Prophets are sent by God Almighty to guide His servants. In this vein Prophet Muhammad AS was the last Apostle sent by Almighty Allah for His bidding. "And (thus, O Prophet) We have sent thee as a mercy towards all the worlds." (Qur'an 25:1).

"Hallowed is He who from on high, step by step, has bestowed upon His servant the standard by which to discern the true from the false, so that to all the world it might be a warning." (Qur'an 25:1).

Indeed, in the Qur'an 25 Prophets were identified with their names, but, it is duly certain therein that there are many Prophets, some of them are more highly placed than other. A Muslim most believe in all Prophets, and it is very repugnant for a Muslim to disrespect any Prophet " And as (We inspired other) Apostles whom We have mentioned to the you before this, as well as Apostles whom We have not mentioned to you...."(Qur'an 4:164).

A Muslim has to recognize that all Prophets were true and have worked to deliver Islam and the believe in the messenger hood of the Muhammad AS is a most thing. Muhammad AS is the latest Prophet " The Apostle, and the believers with him, believe in what has been bestowed upon him from in high by his Sustainer: they all believe in God, and His Angels, and his revelations and His Apostle, making no distinction between any of His Apostles...." (Qur'an 2:285) (Shareef, 2005; Sheriff & Altine, 2018).

Implications for Believing in Hereafter

Belief in Hereafter is a central attribute of every Muslim. It is an attribute that shape how humans think and work all their lives. Belief in Hereafter taught that Allah is the only permanent, living here on earth is temporary therefore a humankind should work in the path of Islam for the betterment of his Hereafter because the world should be regarded as a trial or examination that one should strive to pass by following the commandments of Almighty Allah in all dealing. For a Muslim he has to believe that every soul will taste death and requite of deeds will be ensured in the Last day of Judgement (Hereafter). When people properly believe in Hereafter they try to be accountable in all deeds knowing that a day will come when they stand in front of Allah Almighty to see the outcome of their deeds (either Hellfire or Garden of Eden) " Indeed we belong to Allah and indeed to Him is the(final) return " (Qur'an 2:156) (Lemu, 2005; Fahm, 2017).

The Belief in Qadar

Qadar means the decree made by Allah, that is His complete final control over the events and destiny of His servants. A Muslim who believe in Qadr is believing in a pillar of Iman(Lemu, 2005). Qur'an says " By the soul and Him who inspired it with consciousness of what is wrong for it and what is right for it! Indeed he shall succeed who causes this (soil) to grow in purity and truly he is lost who buries it in darkness." Albeit, a Muslim most believe in Qadr, he most also strive to do good and abstain from wrongdoings. This is complete believe in Qadr, therefore redundancy is not encourage in Islam in any way. Quran stressed " Do men think that in their (mere) saying, 'We have believed ' they will be left to themselves, and will not be out to a test?" (Qur'an 29:2).

" ....man can have nothing but what he strives for..." (Qur'an 53:39).

"Verily, Allah does not change men's condition until they change their inner selves...." (Qur'an 13:11).

"Hence, whoever strives hard(in Allah's cause) does so only for his own good..." (Qur'an 29:2).

A Muslim is bound to be free and do good things and as well avoid bad things as ably as possible. Qur'an says" Sometimes you may see a thing is good for you while it is bad for you; and sometimes you may see a thing is bad for you. Allah knows while you do not know." (Qur'an 2:216) (Lemu, 2005).

Conclusion

Islam is a total and complete religion seeking to call humans to God Almighty. A Muslim despite his status in Islamic knowledge most believe in Allah Almighty, Qadr, Prophets, Angels, etc. He is also duty bound to call on others to believe in these principles in heart and practices. This will go a long way in ensuring a sanitized world peaceful for all, as well as serving as path to the greatness in the Hereafter.

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