

Series of knowing True Islam !

By

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**ARAB & MUSLIM
ETHICS - 1**

Introduction

(In this series the writer gives some explanation for Islamic ethics for the purpose of enhancing understanding Islam by its followers and non-followers.)

After 9/11, many people began to ask for information about Islam, Arabs and Muslims. They want to know how and why these groups were formulated and what motive behind their terrible actions. In this book, I tried to collect certain ethics for non-Arabic speakers from Arabic and Muslim cultures for the purpose of cultural understanding. While no one can understand answers for what, how, and why questions we are apt to know in order to understand. These ethics explain how Muslims think in terms of their ethics where nothing is different from other religions. It is believed though that Islam completes other past religions and not contradict their teachings, they also believe that there is ONLY One God Who sent all messengers and Apostles.

Where logic and reasoning cannot be applied for religions, and no one can be defeated in their beliefs, Islam like all religions have dogmatic followers in the basics of Islamic teachings. Life for Muslims, and other religions as well, is so cheep when it comes to obey God. But who performs God's role in this matter? Usually I guess, ignorant dogmatic people perform that role in the absence of law in theory and practice.

One time several years ago, in Lebanon, two armed Muslim were arguing, one of them began to call Allah with bad names, One of them, posing himself as protecting God killed the other person on the spot defending Allah's grace. Does God needs someone to defend HIM. He's God, it is above apprehension to grasp the opposite. Dogmatic people, however, may judge anyone immediately by their appearance and may call them Kuffar (disbelievers). I think that in the lack of law and absence of freedom and human rights besides illiteracy in some countries are helping those fanatics and anyone like them to take the law of God in their hands (which was never by killing). The Prophet of Islam have suffered from many people in his life, when he was asked to revenge, he always according to the traditions and Sunna was forgiving those who do not know the facts about Islam and him. Because the Prophet did not practice acts of violence in his life. Qur'an itself was clear enough in this matter, it reads: "la ikraha fiddin "No compulsion in Religion" And reads as saying to the disbelievers to reason what they were saying: "If you say there is no God, bring your proof." (more can be found in my book: "Crescentology, Theory C. of Conflict Management." Published recently about this matter).

That was then in the anecdote, in the early seventies, but changes happened in the last forty years, and these actions become more less and less.

So whatever misunderstanding happen between East and West in terms of ethics, both ethics spring from religious beliefs. In America, for example, in the seventies and eighties, objecting medical doctors of operating abortion, did not give someone the right to bomb offices or clinics performing abortion. No one has the right to play God on those who have a difference in their beliefs or opinions. The Pope in Europe in 11th century issued certificates to Paradise for Christians to die in Palestine the place of Jesus Christ. Exactly like what Khomeini did in the 1989

in the Iraqi-Iran war. In conclusion, ignorance and dogmatic beliefs in addition to wealth and power if they were all together, then Terror will occur anytime anyplace, even though it should be curbed by those who have reasoning. All of us have to learn from the animals in the following anecdote introduction to live in peace and harmony.

I

Definitions of Islamic Terms

Allah Akbar: God is the greatest above all.

Qur'an: The collection of the laws revealed by God (SWT) to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through the angel Gabriel Al-Rouh Al-Amin (the Honest Spirit, PBUH). It explain everything (Q 12:111), and everything is clear in it (Q 44:3); it overlooks nothing (Q 6:38).

Sunnah: The way of the Prophet (PBUH), his sayings, his practices, and his approved acts.

Halal: Legal activities as fixed in the Qur'an and the Sunnah, to be practiced by Muslims in their everyday lives.

Haram: Illegal activities as fixed in the Qur'an and the Sunnah, to be avoided by Muslims in their everyday lives.

Salah: Muslim prayer performed five times a day, individually or collectively.

Friday prayer: A weekly noon prayer, its condition to be performed collectively with traditional steps; otherwise it is performed as Thuhur (noon) prayer.

Hajj: Pilgrimage, performed once in a lifetime of every physiologically, psychologically, and financially able

Muslim. The Hajj is performed by visiting the Holy Ka'abah in Makkah, with special arrangements of dress and acts.

Seyam: Fasting (29 or 30 days) in the month of Ramadhan, when Muslims avoid food and drink from before dawn to sunset.

Rebaa: Charging interest without sharing profits and losses; it is prohibited by Islamic law.

Bida'h: Innovation in the religious sense is bida'h (heresy) and something generally bad. It is the opposite of the sunnah, or path, which is the way of the Prophet (PBUH) or his community of Muslims.

SWT: Acronym for Allah usually used after the name of Allah (SWT). Literally "Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala," meaning "Praise the Lord."

PBUH: Acronym usually used after the mention of any of the Prophets (uhammad, Moses, Jesus, etc.,[PBUH]. PBUH reads in Arabic, Salla Allahu Alayhi Wasallam," which means "Peace Be Upon Him".RAA:

Eman: The belief in GOD, his messengers, the Day of Judgement, and al-Qadar, (the fate), whither it was good or bad.

Taqwa: the highest stage of Eman

Surah: One condensed group of Ayat in one surah. The total of Sura's in Qur'an is 114.

Ayat: Verses of the holy Qur'an spread in the Sura's. Some are short as one letter, others extended to many lines.

RAA: An acronym that follows the mention of the Prophet's companions and family; it literally reads "Radhia Allah Anhum," meaning "Allah is pleased with them."

Islamic Beliefs and Practices

Some fundamentals of the Islamic belief are explained in this section to help understand the group under investigation in this study. Islam means the act of submitting or resigning oneself to God. A Muslim is one who submits himself to one God, Allah. The basic belief of Muslims is to witness Allah as only God and Muhammad as the apostle of Allah.

The six articles of faith, as revealed in the Qur'an, are as follows: belief in Allah, His angels, His apostles, the Day of Judgement, and His predestination of good and evil. Five obligatory practices are mentioned generally in the Qur'an and explained specifically in the Sunnah, the written words and actions of Muhammad. These practices are:

1. Shahadah (recital of the creed): "There is no God but (one) God (Allah), and Muhammad is the messenger of God." This linguistic symbol is used in each of the five prayer calls by Mu'athen (who call the believers to prayer) before prayer time. The place of prayer is usually the mosque or any other dry place considered legal by the Sunnah for performing prayers.
2. Salah (prayer): The Muslim must pray at five specific times: before sunrise, at noon, early afternoon, sunset, and before bedtime. In praying, the Muslim faces the Holy Ka'abah in Makkah. While prayer in the mosque is encouraged, the Muslim can pray wherever he is. An exception is the Friday prayer, which is usually performed in a group, with special arrangements of religious speech and prayer. Prayer and alms are mentioned together several times in the Qur'an as good deeds to obtain God's approval.
3. Zakah (paying alms): Each Muslim contributes (according to Islamic law) to help other Muslims.

Almsgiving is usually devoted to the poor, the needy, the debtor, the traveler, and the official alms collectors. Nowadays, with the absence of an Islamic state, alms are left to the conscience of individual Muslims.

4. Seyam or Sawm (fasting): During Ramadhan, 29 or 30 days of the ninth Arabic month, adult Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. At this time no food or drink may be taken. The fast usually ends with Eid al-Fitr, one of the two major Muslim festivals.
5. Hajj (pilgrimage) to Makka: Every Muslim , circumstances permitting, is obliged to perform the Hajj once in a lifetime. The pilgrimage begins two months After Ramadan and lasts three days.

An individual is considered a “true Muslim” or believer if he/she follows the above practices in everyday life and follows the rules of Allah and His Prophet, as written in the Qur’an and Sunnah.

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