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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatahu,*

While the world speculates the belligerent response of both the US and UK to Blix's February 14th report, most have already forgotten that these nations have been waging an aggressive policy against Iraq for the past twelve years. Since 1991, Britain and America have carried out relentless aggression against the Muslims of Iraq, which includes regular bombing raids, imposition of brutal UN sanctions and the division of Iraq's territory into three segments as well as numerous military confrontations such as the malicious attacks in 1993 and 1998. Indeed, the present military manoeuvres are part of an Anglo-American initiative to prepare for the 'final battle', which is intended to facilitate the physical occupation of Iraq and the seizure of her unexploited oil fields.

In this edition of Khilafah magazine we shall highlight the correct work, which the Muslims must undertake, with full effort and zeal, to answer the call of their brothers and sisters in Iraq.

Muslim's must not waste this positive feeling by working for Western inspired solutions aimed at stopping the war on Iraq or prosecuting the war on Islam under the guise of fighting terror. Western solutions such as referring to the UN or lobbying MPs to stop the war will only accelerate Western efforts to colonise the Muslim Ummah and delay her true liberation.

Aggression against Iraq is unlawful whether sanctioned by the UN or not. Aggression against Iraq is unlawful whether sanctioned by the USA or not. Aggression against Iraq is unlawful whether it is authorised by the British Parliament or not. Aggression against Iraq is unlawful whether the rulers of the Muslim world acquiesce in it or not. Aggression against Iraq is unlawful whether the government scholars issue fatawa legitimising it or not. Aggression against Iraq is unlawful, period.

O Muslims! These are indeed dark days that the Muslim Ummah endures in the Khilafah's absence. But do not despair, since despair is not a characteristic of the believers. No matter how much the power of the Kuffar or the treachery of the rulers of the Muslim World, do any of you believe that the Ummah stands alone in this life? No! Allah (swt) witnesses the suffering of this Ummah, and he witnesses your work and your sacrifice.

Islamic politics requires the removal of the rulers of the Muslim world who spare no effort in aiding the West by handing over the resources of the Muslim world like her oil, military bases, ports, waterways and intelligence which enable America and Britain to freely wage war on the Muslims.

وَأِنْ اسْتَضَرُّوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ فَعَلَيْكُمْ النَّصْرُ

"...if they seek your help in religion, it is your duty to help them..." [TMQ Al-Anfal: 72]

*Asif Khan*

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Khilafah Magazine is a monthly magazine published in London with a wide distribution across the Muslim and non-Muslim world. The magazine is dedicated to articulating the case for Islam as an ideology that deals with all human problems, whether individual or societal. Islam must be understood ideologically and has a defined political and ruling system – the Khilafah System. We maintain that the 'Clash of Civilisations' is not only inevitable but imperative. As the Capitalist ideology dominates the world today, the only challenge to it must come from Islam.

We write to inform, inspire and create a movement for true intellectual revival.

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## Translation of the Qur'an

It should be perfectly clear that the Qur'an is only authentic in its original language, Arabic. Since perfect translation of the Qur'an is impossible, the term 'Translation of the Meaning of the Qur'an (TMQ)' has been used, as the result is only a crude meaning of the Arabic text.

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# IRAQ:

## REPRESENTING ISLAM IN THE MEDIA

Islamic politics requires us to challenge the distorted representation of Islam in the media by writing letters to newspapers, calling television and radio stations and developing audio, visual and print media which will produce serious news material, trustworthy reports and carry Islamic Da'wa.

These are some of the important issues you should discuss when you address the media:

- z The real motives of the impending action on Iraq are the strategic, economic and political interests at stake for Western colonialist governments.
- z Britain and America are colonialist leopards that never change their spots.
- z The use of weapons of mass destruction by the West, the West's support for a variety of unsavoury dictators and tyrants and the disregard of the UN and international law by Western states.
- z Muslims in Britain do not accept Western inspired solutions for Iraq such as the intervention of the UN or the British Government.
- z Muslims will never support war on Iraq - even if there is a vote in the UN Security Council or the Houses of Parliament.
- z Calling on the UN, British political parties or the British government to solve the problem of Iraq is futile since it further entrenches colonialism in the Islamic world.
- z Islam has its own politics, which is characterised by decency, integrity, honour, nobility, uprightness, sincerity, virtue and the highest of values.
- z Muslims are strongly opposed to the acquiescence of corrupt Muslim rulers in the butchery of Iraqi Muslims by granting Western forces access to their waterways, intelligence, airspace and military bases.
- z Muslims should pressure the rulers of Muslim countries by picketing their embassies using letters, phone calls, faxes, email and demanding that they do not co-operate with America and Britain.
- z Western colonialist states must stop their interference in the political destiny of the Muslims.
- z The true solution to the problems the people of the world face, Muslims and non-Muslims, is to re-establish the Islamic State [Khilafah], which will be ideologically and politically independent of the West and her agents.

**Remember, you are ambassadors of Islam. Always address any discussion intellectually, with the clarity of argument. Never pander to any un-Islamic call. May Allah (swt) give you the ability to speak the truth and with confidence.**

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا (الأحزاب):

*"O you who believe, fear Allah and always speak the truth" (TMQ Al-Ahzab:70)*

## A LITTLE IMMORALITY

Ministers last month suspended certain cable TV centres in Afghanistan following complaints that their channels were broadcasting immoral and un-Islamic programmes. In addition to the recent explosion of television sales and adoption of aspects of western culture since the 'liberation' of Afghanistan by the Americans, un-Islamic videos have been on sale in the video centres in Kabul. In recent months video shops have been closed down by security officials following complaints from the populous. In the latest attempt at curbing immorality, seven cable TV centres have been closed in Kabul and Jalalabad following the decision by the Chief of Justice of Afghanistan. Nonetheless, his meagre act falls short of making any change as immoral videos are still imported into the country and the same material viewed on cable will continue to be beamed via satellite.

Western corporations gaining access to this new market have not only brought with them their goods but also their culture. Different products and lifestyles are promoted amongst the Afghani people, carrying with them images that have been built worldwide over many decades and not surprisingly their slogans, if not explicit, carry overtones of the concepts upon which the capitalist creed is based.

Strangely enough, somewhere along the line, the link has been lost between the corruption infiltrating the country via its market places and television sets and other more prominent aspects of life. Not only has kufr been placed in the shops but also in the constitution and the seat of government. The primary American export to Afghanistan has been a purposefully weak government, which rather than implementing Islam insists on implementing Capitalism. Since this system contradicts Islam is it really that surprising to find kufr infiltrating the county?

The solution is clearly to stop chasing individual problems which are merely the results of a more fundamental problem, but rather to solve the source from which these problems emanate. If the Muslims are inflamed by immorality then it must be realised that rejection of the Shari'ah and allowing man to legislate is an insult aimed at the Creator. And surely it is man's legislation, based on man's desires, which allowed corruption to become widespread in the first instance.

*Dr Samiul Muqit*

## A UNITY BASED ON VESTED INTERESTS



The leaders of France and Germany met in the Palace of Versailles on 22nd January to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Elysee Treaty. This Treaty was signed by the former French president Charles de Gaulle and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and was intended to increase co-operation between these two states and also to reconcile their historic enmity especially during the two world wars.

This Franco-German 'axis' was intended to consolidate the mutual 'friendship' between the two countries and make it the 'centre of gravity' in the forthcoming enlarged European Union. They announced measures that will allow them to act in a range of areas; economy, diplomacy, sports and so on. Ministers from both countries will co-operate closely on many bilateral issues, even attending each other's cabinet meetings. Some senior politicians also talked about their vision to unify the two countries that will in future make it a "union of 140 million people". In brief, the vision is to create a powerful state with a unified voice that will be the driving force in the EU, setting the agenda in their interest not that of Britain or any other competing country.

However, as Muslims we need to examine whether such 'unity' is a real unity and whether we as an Ummah should aim for such union. One undeniable fact is that these are

capitalist nations that evaluate actions from a criteria of benefit. So when they talk of such artificial unity mutual benefit and interest unquestionably motivate them. This form of unity is incorrect because true unity comes from the ideological bonding not one based on vested interests.

This Franco-German meeting highlights the hypocrisy of the West. On the one hand they push to the Muslims the concept of nationalism and patriotism and even directly assist the treacherous rulers to enforce borders between the Islamic lands, but on the other hand, they talk of unity amongst themselves because they know that this provides all manner of strength, whether political, military or economic. Indeed it is about time the Ummah starts thinking of true unity based upon Islam and organise her affairs accordingly.

*Wakil Ahmed*

## TWISTED FACE OF A TWISTED SOCIETY

Described by some as the television event of the year, the recent interview with Michael Jackson was watched by millions riveted to their T.V. screens. The interview displayed the bizarre behaviour of the so-called 'King of Pop' and was described by many as 'disturbing'. However society's reflections on Michael Jackson were even more disturbing than his reflections on society. Whilst many condemned his behaviour, passing judgement quickly and harshly, others sought to make excuses for his obvious lies and self-deceptions. Astonishingly many people in the free-thinking western societies are so besotted with their idol that rational thought is completely absent from their behaviour. The fans shown on the programme seemed to have lost grip of reality as much as the star himself.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg; the reality of western society is that the vast numbers of people live in the fantasy world of Hollywood, soap operas or sporting events. These 'entertainments' so consume their time and lives that they are not capable of dealing with the real issues of life. The tragedy is that they feel their lifestyle is one to be envied and the only lifestyle that supersedes it is that of the stars themselves. So we come full circle to the tragedy that is the life of

Michael Jackson. He is the 'King of Pop' and has therefore achieved the ultimate 'lifestyle' in western popular culture.

It is therefore not surprising that questions about the purpose of life cannot even be asked in a society that is more obsessed with Michael Jackson's face than the myriad of problems generated by the corrupt western concepts of materialism and freedom. Greed and scandal is part of daily life and the ultimate reflections of greed and scandal portrayed in the documentary is simply the pinnacle of the decadence of the west.

*Farah Ahmed*

## THE ASYLUM GAME



Ever since the fatal stabbing of the special branch police officer in Manchester by an Algerian immigrant, the issue of asylum has re-emerged but this time with more venom and hate. Tony Blair, has stated, his ambition to cut the number of asylum seekers by half, by the end of the year. Terms such as Britain being "swamped" by asylum seekers, and the argument that Britain has been "too generous" to the refugees is a complete fallacy. According to the UK Refugee Council, the UK takes less than two per cent of the world's refugees. Developing countries - such as Iran and Pakistan taking 4m Afghan refugees between them - have far more of a refugee burden.

Instead of addressing the root problem and causes, the Western nations seek to portray asylum seekers with disdain, and vent their anger at them. They become easy scapegoats for the self inflicted problems that Western Capitalists states suffer from. As a result, these Western Capitalist governments hide the real reason why people seek asylum, which is a result of the colonialist foreign policies they pursue.

If we examine the issue of asylum, we will find that in Britain, many asylum seekers have come from the following

countries: Algeria, Iraq, Somalia, the Balkan states and Afghanistan. The recent history of each these states has not been a pleasant one. In Iraq, the previous Gulf war led to the displacement of many thousands of people from its different regions. In Algeria, the French backed government's overthrow of the Islamic group that won the elections in 1992 led to internal turmoil. In Somalia in 1993, the US attack to restore Said Barre, who had agreed oil deals with the American oil firms, caused much strife. In the Balkans, the "ethnic cleansing" followed by the clumsy attempt to restore to peace also led to many refugees fleeing. In Afghanistan, the war against the Russians, followed by the US declaring war on the Taliban in 2001, led to a continuous flow of refugees.

All these wars, which led to so many people becoming refugees, were caused by the foreign policies of Capitalist states where the Western states have benefited hugely from these terrible events. The Gulf War established US control of the Gulf and its oil. The war in Afghanistan secured US access to the countries of Central Asia and their oil fields.

As for the economic migrants, they have emerged from every single third world country, from the Islamic lands and beyond. People who flee the developing countries only do so out of need caused by political or economic problems which in most cases have been caused by the Colonialist foreign policies of Western powers

Turning them away at the gates of Western states is not going to solve the problem; the real solution to this problem will come from blocking the impact of the colonialist policies of the Western states. For this change to happen, necessitates the existence of a truly independent state which has a separate political and ideological thought, like that of the Khilafah.

*Asif Khan*

#### WORLD CUP FEVER

The cricket world cup will no doubt ignite nationalist passions amongst the Pakistani community. To some cricket is more than just sport, the national dignity will be considered to be on the line. Clearly the bribery and betting scandals of the late 1990's has not changed people's attitudes towards the game which is still the national sport.

Such people though would be foolish to put all their hopes on the cricket team. For in reality the performance of the cricket squad has no impact on the nation's status. Rather only the government's performance has been responsible for the loss of dignity, as ruling by kufr and being subservient to America has not yielded any positive result. However, it will not be surprising to see that if the cricket team does well the government will bolster the importance of their success, thus diverting the people's attention from the real problems back at home.

Adding insult to injury, Pakistan will be playing against countries that commit aggression against it and also against other Muslim countries as well. Ironically Pakistan will be up against both India and England, countries which rely on the tour to divert the Muslims attention from the brutality they inflict upon them in other parts of the world.

*Asim Khan*

#### DESPERATE TIMES, DESPERATE MEASURES



As the crisis in Iraq unfolds, the Arab rulers have stepped up their efforts to persuade Saddam Hussain to step down voluntarily and to go quietly in what would be described as a bloodless coup.

The Turkish foreign minister Yasar Yakis stated on Turkish television, "There are countries among the Arab nations that would fervently support such a way out." These words were echoed by Prince Saud al-Faisal the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister during a state visit to Sudan, "Even if the Security Council issues a unanimous decision to attack Iraq, we hope a chance will be given to the Arab states to find a political solution to this issue." One Arab diplomat was far less diplomatic in his speech. He stated that if Saddam agreed to leave, we'll find a place for him, that wouldn't be a problem."

The Bush administration on the other hand has been lukewarm to the proposal and has continued to voice concerns about the so called "weapons of mass destruction." A simple exile would not favour the America's intention to enter and occupy Iraq and cement their interests by leaving troops to patrol the state after invasion. Furthermore, a simple exile may allow a non - American endorsed government to come to power. Therefore State Department spokesman Richard Boucher stated that he was "not aware of any active efforts to promote such proposals."

Yousef Ibrahim, group editor of the Energy International Group, highlighted the Saudi dilemma. "There is probably a significant dialogue within the Saudi ruling family; do we stick with America, which seems to be kicking us all the time, or redefine our strategic interest?"

Far from being motivated by altruism or sincerity towards the Ummah, the current Arab rulers fear for their own safety. They are left in a perpetual state of anxiety as America seeks to reshape the entire region. The Muslims should deliver a stern message to their spineless rulers; indeed Saddam is a tyrant, but they too are tyrants. Inshallah all of them will be in exile soon, expelled from our lands by the sincere sons of this Ummah.

*Faisal Chaudhary*

#### PICTURED ROGUE STATE



In a speech to diplomats in London on Monday 06/01/03, Mr Straw said al-Qaida, Iraq and North Korea were "part of the same picture." He also suggested that countries like Iraq provided the most likely potential source of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) for terror organisations such as al-Qaida. The foreign secretary cited 11 September as an example of what al-Qaida could do with WMD. And so-called rogue states such as Iraq and North Korea provide terrorists with "the most likely sources

of technology and know-how." He concluded, "This is why terrorism and rogue regimes are part of the same picture."

America was the first nation to develop an atomic bomb and remains the only nation to date to have used nuclear weapons, as she did on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War Two. Even at that time the weapons were considered illegal under the Geneva Convention, yet they were still used in the killing of thousands of innocent civilians.

It is a known fact that America and Britain supplied Iraq with arms during its eight year conflict with neighbouring Iran. After the Khmer Rouge was ousted from Cambodia by the Vietnamese in the late 1970's America supported it with aid. The Khmer Rouge was part of Pol Pot's forces, which were responsible for killing over a million civilians in Cambodia. By the late 1980's official aid figures reached \$5 million dollars. The money was used for food and weapons purchasing, all to aid American interests.

The world should know that the most likely source of nuclear technology and know-how stems from the true rogue state, America.

*Amin Rashid*



# HAJJ - THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE

by Zahid-Ivan Salam

In the hadith collected by Imam Ahmed in his Musnad;

((لننقضن عرى الإسلام عروة عروة فكلما انتقضت عروة تشبث الناس بالتي تليها، فأولهن نقضاً الحكم وآخرهن الصلاة))

**"The knots of Islam will be untied one after another. The first of these knots (to be untied) will be the ruling (by what Allah (swt) had revealed), and the last will be the salah"**

Accordingly, the 'knots' of Islam will be dismantled one after another. The first occurred at the beginning of the last century at the hands of Mustafa Kamal and the British and French colonialists resulting in the destruction of the entity that executed the entire rules and laws of Islam, ie the Khilafah State. The disappearance of such an entity meant the termination of the comprehensive implementation of the ruling system of Islam. What was more of a danger to the Muslims however, was not its mere termination, but along with it the loss of the urgency to re-establish it and the loss of clarity of its re-establishment.

As a result of the disappearance of the Islamic Shar'ah from practical life and the replacing it with man-made rules and laws, it led to a contradiction within the thoughts and emotions of the Muslims. That is, the man-made systems imposed upon the Muslims, would only tolerate the Islam of the people so long as that Islam did not call for the destruction and the termination from practical life of the very man-made systems imposed upon them. Thus, Islam had to be distorted in order to accept the ruling of man-made law, and this appeared in the type of Islam that we see today with its political and ruling aspects taken out giving it a secular form so that no contradiction between the clash of ruling systems is perceived. Thus, the Islam that exists within the people exists side by side with the systems of kufr to the extent that the Muslims did not perceive that contradiction.

Therefore, it was inevitable that once the first 'knot' had been untied, and if it were allowed to remain as such, then the rest would follow, ending at the prayer. Thus anything in between would also be untied. A manifest example of this reality is that of the Islamic ruling system, the Khilafah. For although it is present in the pages of books, it remains, and continues to remain absent from practical life.

It is in this fashion that the Hajj has been dismantled and remains that way, although it is being performed by millions of Hujjaj. Although the Hajj is being performed, it is being performed as a ceremony or as a ritual that one performs as a series of rites to be remembered and then to be forgotten. But, what has been missed today is the essence of the Hajj, the essence of worship, and the essence of Islam as an ideology, that will lead the Hajji and the masses of Hujjaj to realise the greatness of such a message and the need and obligation for it to brought back comprehensively in life.

Such awareness and momentum can only be generated today if certain aspects of the Hajj are considered and revitalised. What is meant here is not those

aspects of the Hajj that are well known and where the rulers and tyrants give their permission and consent, but rather those aspects of Hajj that are forbidden from being mentioned today. If these issues were allowed to be discussed they would generate certain concepts that would lead to the revival of the Islamic Ummah, the shaking of the thrones of the rulers who betray her, the termination of the disastrous influence of the foreign states. This situation is all too clear to see today by looking to the gathering storm that is about to hit the people of Iraq and the unification of all her resources, such that she is transformed from a state of weakness and humiliation to a status of power. Thus the present rulers, kings, presidents, and superpowers do not allow any trace of such ideas to be circulated lest they wish power and dominance to taken from them and to be rightfully transferred to the Islamic Ummah through such an awareness.

This explains why the Hajj is made be understood and performed in a detached way, while the critical, vital and life-giving aspect is not only neglected but is forcibly prevented from ever finding its way into the minds of the Muslims. Also these are the political aspects of the Hajj, and we shall consider merely two of them to demonstrate this point and to demonstrate this deceitful treachery by those who pose as supervisors and custodians of the Hajj, that is the rulers in the Muslim lands.

## 1. The visitation to the Sacred House

Of the many ayat revealed by Allah (swt) regarding the Hajj, and of the many ayath taught to the Hujjaj is the following;

وَأُذِّنْ فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ ارْجِعُوا لِرَبِّكُمْ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَارْجِعُوا لِي وَأَذِّنْ فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ ارْجِعُوا لِرَبِّكُمْ وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَارْجِعُوا لِي  
كُلُّ فَجٍّ عَمِيقٍ

*"And proclaim (openly announce) to the whole of mankind the Hajj (pilgrimage). They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel, they will come from every deep and distant (wide) mountain highway (in order to perform Hajj)." [TMQ Al Hajj: 27]*

When Allah (swt) revealed this ayah He (swt) used a specific address which appeared at the beginning. When He (swt) said, "Wa ath-thin fin-naasi bil Hajj" (trans. "And proclaim (openly announce) to the whole of mankind the Hajj (pilgrimage)"), this literally means Allah (swt) wants the announcement or proclamation of the Hajj to take place, as to say make the athan (proclamation) to them. And who are they that are being addressed in this athan? Allah (swt) indicated that in what follows. In contrast to what in numerous places Allah (swt) revealed specifying the addressee in the form of "Ya ay-yu halathina aamanoo" which means "O you who believe", this is specifically referring to Muslims only. But, what occurred in this ayah is the word "naas" which means all people, every human, every Muslim and every non-Muslim, male and female; "Wa ath-thin fin-naasi bil Hajj". Thus, it is an invitation and proclamation by the Muslims to the whole of mankind to perform the Hajj in Makka al Mukarramah.

It should be noted however, that from a study of the rules of Hajj (ahkam ul Hajj), it is well known that the rules of Hajj prohibit the one who is not Muslim to perform it.

So how is it that in one instance Allah (swt) is requesting the Muslims to make the announcement to the whole of mankind (Muslim and non-Muslim) to perform the Hajj and in another instance limits the performance only to the Muslims, ie prohibits a section of mankind (non-Muslims) to perform it? This at first seems rather inconsistent, but Allah (swt) is free of such things.

In actual fact, there is something by way of an implicit indication here. It is that implicitly Allah (swt) the Lord of the Universe, wants all Mankind to perform the Hajj and fulfil its rules, and the only way in which this can be done is if they became Muslim. Thus, it is an implicit indication that Allah (swt) wanted the people to embrace Islam, such that they would come from every far and wide place to perform it, and indeed as the Islamic Ideology spread to the rest of the world this is what happened;

يَأْتُونَكَ رِجَالًا وَعَلَىٰ كُلِّ ضَامِرٍ يَأْتِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيقٍ

*"They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel, they will come from every deep and distant (wide) mountain highway (in order to perform Hajj)."* [TMQ Al Hajj: 27]

This ayah of Hajj therefore indicates that the people of the world should be called to the Hajj, and that those same people should travel there for worship as Muslims. Thus, the question appears; Who is responsible for the conveying of Islam to them such that they become Muslims? How is it to be executed? Is it being practically performed today according to its shar'i method?

It is well known that the message of Islam was spread to the whole world by invitation and jihad, and the vehicle in doing so was the Khilafah state that dispatched her armies.

Thus, Islam took the whole world by storm and the Islamic state became the number one state in the world. Those who lived under the Islamic rule and wished to remain as non-Muslims, that was accepted from them, while the masses embraced it after witnessing its justice and being presented with its intellectual creed. The Islamic ummah achieved this lofty position by adhering to the rules of d'awa and jihad, and it was the Khilafah State that executed that the rules of Islam such that it was carried to the people so as to actually achieve the latter aspect of the first ayah, "They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel, they will come from every deep and distant (wide) mountain highway (in order to perform Hajj)."

Indeed, if the one who made the Hajj was taught the Hajj from this angle, or if this was explained and given this essence, it would certainly generate within his mind a reminder as to what the Hajj is about and how he and his forefathers came to perform it. Also what would make the adoption of the concept more potent and form around his heart powerfully is the fact that he would witness all those marvellous variations of mankind when he performed the Hajj, and thus he would witness in real terms the result of the conveyance of Islam, and the meaning that Allah (swt) conveyed in the revealed ayath. Indeed this is the case for everyone who has performed the Hajj. Indeed, he would come right up to the point where practically he would see for himself that this very essence of Hajj and the conveyance of Islam to the whole of mankind according to the Islamic method is today being forgotten, neglected and rejected by the current leaderships that exist throughout the Muslim world. It is the leadership of the Muslims that will place her in either a position of superiority, or inferiority, by surrendering the Muslims over to the ambitions of the western states, just as we are seeing today with the threat of the slaughter of Muslims in Iraq.

Naturally, from this awareness he would call into question the validity of such (present) leaderships and ultimately seek their replacement through the resumption of the Islamic way of life. In addition, through being taught this

aspect of the Hajj he would see for himself the corruption that exists at the leadership level. For he would have been educated with the fact that the past leaderships (custodians) implemented Islam in the Hajj season by ensuring that those that are invited from amongst mankind indeed perform the Hajj as Muslims. He could then directly measure this against what occurs today in that the present leaderships (custodians) instead invite the disbelieving westerners with their weapons in the Hajj season to spill the blood of Muslims in their crusade against Iraq, just as they had done previously in Afghanistan, thus perverting and making a sheer mockery of the meaning of Hajj. This political awareness would not only drive the individual, but also the millions of Hujjaj if they were but fed these political concepts of the Hajj that would effectively lead them to cancel the current leaderships and call and yearn for the Islamic leadership, that executed by the Islamic state.

Thus, it is not difficult to understand why this aspect of the Hajj is not propagated, (although they are most capable and able in doing so), by the government schools, the government Hajj guides, the government scholars, the government khatibs and all other paid or supported officials. What is that the government fears of these mere spoken ideas? Why is it that the da'wah carriers who disseminate these political concepts of the Hajj publicly and openly to the Muslims are banned from doing so? Surely it is because these mere would uncover the deceit of the Muslim rulers and will instil in the Ummah the realisation of her responsibility in implementing, protecting and conveying the Islamic message by appointing a single Khalifah who would discharge that duty, thus producing a resounding call for the elimination of the present rulers and reducing their thrones to rubble. Indeed, such ideas are a manifest danger to those who currently hold the power due to the potential momentum of change that can be produced from such an understanding and explanation of the Hajj and thus this provides the explanation as to why such a viewpoint is hidden.

## 2. Political Awareness of the Hajj

It is in these times that the very essence and reminder of the Hajj has disappeared from the minds of the Muslims, especially from the ones who perform the Hajj. When the Hujjaj perform the Hajj they ought to be reminded that it is the precinct of Baitullah - the House of Allah - the Ka'ba, and its surroundings, where the great message of Islam itself was revealed. This is something that would naturally connect with the Hujjaj due to the awe and submission that is felt by all who visit that place.

It was the place where the message was taught, where it was opposed, the place where it struggled, the place from which it became to dominate the entire world for more than thirteen centuries, it was the birth of the greatest ideology, and a starting point of the message of mercy through which our forefathers came to be Muslim. Indeed that precinct and its surrounds have preserved emotions and grounds of those early Muslims, such that the most dormant mind would reawaken and contemplate the nature and essence of his creed and all that emanates from it. It is as if the books of seerah and the volumes of tafsir are alive in that place.

Indeed the Hajji should be shown the place where Bilal (ra) the Abyssinian slave was thrown onto the scorching ground and massive boulders heated by the scorching sun placed on his chest. If one is familiar with the area, just as every Hajji is, he cannot help notice the sheer intensity of the desert heat and the forbidding nature of its climate. The desert floor is heated so much that not even the desert lizard can stand still without alternating its feet! One is able to appreciate what it meant to be pressed against this desert floor and have boulders heated by the desert placed on their chest. If the Hajji were shown this site would he not witness and humble himself to the type of struggle that took place in those early days? Would he not investigate the nature of the ideological struggle that that took place? Would he not think of the nature of the Islamic creed and the foundation of its correctness and comprehensiveness for the whole of mankind? Would he not find that the very creed he has embraced is in fact the everlasting message to mankind and the only valid system for mankind? Would he not perceive that it was from the very early

days that Islam was viewed as a threat to the prevailing systems and tyrants of the day? Would this not lead him to think that while he is performing the Hajj, he is part of a great message that was being revealed as a whole? However, he would not be shown this spot today since the regimes or 'custodians' of that holy place eliminated its existence. When the expansions and the constructions took place in and around that precinct, those regimes carelessly (in actual fact deliberately) chose to obliterate them altogether.

He should also be shown the place where Khabab ibn al Arrat (ra) had the armour heated by the desert sun placed on his bare skin in order to rip the meaning and message of Islam from his soul. Would this not push someone to investigate and question why there was such persecution and why there was such resistance to such a perfect message, and the fact that this message was and continues to be a challenge to all other false systems of life? Would it not remind him and cause him to be drawn in awe to the nature of intellectual and political struggle? Indeed, if he were shown the spot where Abu Jahl rebuked the Prophet (saw) and where the ayah in surah Al 'Alaq was revealed and where Allah (swt) gave permission to Jibreel (as) to kill Abu Jahl right there, whereupon Abu Jahl said that he saw a hideous camel-like creature just as he attempted to strangle the Prophet (saw). Indeed if he were shown this spot and these circumstances were explained to him, his heart would be filled with awe, and his mind would quickly realise that what was taking place was the revelation and struggle for a great message. Furthermore, he would realise that an ideology was established which dominated the world and changed its course forever. Indeed his mind would be drawn to question and defy the absence of such a system today, and to identify the real and true reasons behind the weakness of the Muslims in front of those who wish to loot her. And this would lead the millions and millions of Hujjaj to the very doorsteps of the criminal rulers of the present era.

Likewise, if he were shown Dar al Arqam where the Islamic culturing took place at night, or if he were shown the house outside where Abu Bakr used to recite Qur'an loudly and cry even though his protector renounced his protection, or the place where the Prophet (saw) sat just outside Makka where blood flowed from his body and he raised his arms to the heavens and made that moving du'a, or the place where they attempted to kill the Prophet (saw) just before he made the Hijra. These places would serve the Hujjaj with strong reminders of what took place and indeed it would evoke them to ask what the struggle meant and how the Muslims established their deen. They would begin to realise what the revelation meant as a whole, and what has been handed down to them, and what they must in turn hand down. Indeed they would be able to see striking similarities today of how there is persecution and torture that takes place in the Muslim lands where similar tyrants preside. They would realise that the same intellectual and political struggle is being waged today against the Quraysh-like rulers. They would also realise that the sincere carriers of the Da'wah and those that call for the resumption for the Islamic way of life in any shape or form are being tortured and cast into the dungeons just like those before them. They too would see that those enemies of the Muslims have reappeared. And they would also realise that the Islamic message will prevail and win at the end of the day, and tyranny and oppression will fail. Imagine if the Hujjaj were shown these places and their attention were drawn to these facts? Imagine too, if the Hujjaj were shown the places of the shaheed who engaged in the battles in order to establish a regional and global world order. Would this not remind him that Islam came to establish itself as a world power rather than a mere belief buried in the desert? Would this not provide proof of the foreign policy of Islam and the might of the Khilafah State in international politics? Would his mind not be opened to that especially since the feeling and emotion the Hujjaj experience when they perform the Hajj? Would not the millions of Hujjaj year upon year, season upon season, generate this desire and yearn for this vision? Would it not generate an awareness and even a momentum to resume the Islamic way of life and to support those sincere da'wa carriers? Would it not awaken even the lethargic of people to the fact that what he has embraced is a great ideology as a complete whole? Rather, such battle sites and places of the shaheed (including their graves) have been either demolished or unrecognisably changed, and thus go unnoticed.

He should also be shown the areas where the Messenger (saw) made the contacts from amongst the powerful tribes, and where he (saw) would ask Abu Bakr (ra) to show him those particular people, whereupon the first thing Abu Bakr (ra) said to them was, "Take me to your amir of war", and where he asked, "How do you fight in battle?" And where the Messenger of Allah (saw) took the first pledge from the influential officers of the ansar. Indeed this is would be no difficult thing to show the Hujjaj since the search for these tribes not only took place in and around Makka, but also took place during the Hajj.



If the Hujjaj were shown these places then they would become aware of the manner in which the Messenger (saw) sought power and attained the nusra (support) in order to take the authority and implement the Islamic ruling system. They thus would become aware of how exactly the Islamic ruling system would return, and would be able to distinguish the correct methodology to achieve the re-establishment of the mighty Khilafah state.

Such awareness of these political realities of the past would bring a powerful realisation into their minds that the states and rulers that are over them are nothing but a facade and that success in this life and the next does not lie at the foot of their thrones. Thus, the desire to bring the great Islamic message back into life would be present in multitudes.

This explains the reason and attempts by the foreign powers and their agents to give the people the type of Islam that realises none of this, and indeed these political concepts have been carefully stripped. One such treacherous example came recently in the form of preventing the Muslims in the recent Hajj from speaking about the affairs of the Muslims as a whole, whereby the rulers gave assurances to the western disbelieving powers that in the aftermath of September 11th the Hujjaj are to be monitored, and any 'political' discussions are to be banned. This resulted in preventing the sincere emotions and the searching minds from identifying the real cause of misery throughout the Muslim world, and the real source of strength of the western states in their aggression in Iraq - the treacherous rulers.

The preservation of such places should be a duty of anyone who claims to protect Islam and to protect Muslims, for they serve as reminder to keep the fire of Islam burning in the hearts, and indeed even provide the spark to generate the momentum of revival.

However, the present rulers since the destruction of the Khilafah, have not preserved these areas, rather they sought to demolish them or cover them up. They sold this lie and treachery to the Muslims by saying that it is a shirk to keep and preserve such places. Thus, these areas, places and spots which once existed were demolished or covered in concrete by those impostor rulers when they were handed over the direct power to them by the colonialists, namely Britain and France. In actual fact, the masses in general never made any such shirk at these places, due to what was permitted in the Islamic evidences (shar'i daleel) to preserve and visit such places such as the graves.

So, the shirk that these rulers talk about never took place. Indeed, if they claim such a thing due to ignorance, then how is it that they explain the preservation of those places, sites and spots that serve as a reminder of the "greatness" of their nation state and all that represents the decline and downfall of the Muslims? So while they demolished a site near Uhud called Baqiyah (the graves of Uhud) where the Messenger (saw) would visit and make du'a, and



which serves as an ideological reminder of the battle of Uhud, they demolished that ideological reminder only to preserve the reminder of the establishment of the corrupt House of al Saud. If one travels to Riyadh, he would find the Masmak Palace - which was the proxy British base from which the British plan of destroying the Khilafah state was executed and resulted in the British severing Arabia from the body of the Khilafah state and where the 'Kingdom of Saudi Arabia' was handed over to the Saudi king as a reward - this Palace is a protected and preserved monument, vis-à-vis shrine, that no one is allowed to demolish nor build over!

This to preserve the reminder within the people of the national emotion and national pride, so as to bind the people around it, even though that very nationalism is one of the rotten concepts that violate Islam, was implanted by the disbelieving western states to weaken the Muslims and led to the forbidden division of Muslim land. Indeed, they have gone to great lengths in preserving these types of heinous and un-Islamic reminders which can be found at a residence near or in Riyadh that preserves the walls of a particular house as a protected monument. It is said that a hole resides in one of the walls and this hole represents damage from artillery fire of some sort that represents the struggle and the establishment of the House of al Saud. Not only is this house protected, but the very hole is preserved and protected! So how is it that they demolish the ideological reminders but preserve and protect the reminders of jahiliyyah? In the same way you can find a hotel in or very near Dhahran where they have preserved and encased a diffused US bomb from the Gulf War to serve as a (shameful) reminder of the Gulf War and the struggle in which the Saudi regime was part of, even though those bombs took the lives of their Muslim brothers in Iraq then, and only Allah knows what damage these bombs will inflict in the present crisis. These to remind the people of their recent history and the rotten nationalistic concepts, and to bind them firmly to what brings weakness and disunity. But, the regime does not show the same feeling and desire for the preservation of the those things that remind the Muslims of their ideological past, the reminder that they possess the greatest ideological message, and the reminder that, the Islamic message and its implementation happened, continued to happen, and must continue to happen, and is the only answer to the danger that presently confronts humanity as a whole.

This therefore exposes the fact that while they claimed shirk on the one hand, yet the shirk they speak of appears in their preserved national monuments. This exposes the fact that there were heinous political objectives behind such a decision and not 'religious' ones as they claimed.

Suffice to say, such ideological reminders found in the vicinity of the Hajj have been demolished or covered up in an attempt by the rulers to shake the Muslims from the correct understanding of their deen.

It is however quite clear to see, why such reminders would be obliterated by the enemies of Islam and their agents, and to prevent the ideological discussions about such things, or anything that draws any attention to the corruption of their ruling and the reality of the absence of the Islamic Ideology as a practical way of life. And this led to those distortions in the manner in which the Hajj is taught, and the prevention in the open display and ideological discussion of such sites. This to prevent the correct and true meaning and experience of the Hajj. Indeed one will further sense how the 'knots' of Islam are untied, especially when he is told that, "there is no politics or worldly matters in Hajj, and such worldly matters should be discarded for it will invalidate one's Hajj". This false and treacherous education is the handiwork of such desperate regimes since the general affairs and situation of the Muslims and their subjugation is a more important matter in Islam than the centrepiece of the Hajj itself! Actually, the political aspect is the vital issue (life and death issue). For Muhammad (saw) said;

((لأن تقدم الكعبة حجراً حجراً أهون على الله من أن يراق دم مسلم))

**"Should the Ka'bah be destroyed stone by stone, this is less (important) in the sight of Allah than the spilling of the blood of a Muslim."**

And when he (saw) said;

((لزال الدنيا أهون على الله من قتل رجل مسلم))

**"The killing of a Muslim is worse than the destruction of the whole Earth in the eyes of Allah (swt)."**

Therefore, to neglect thought, discussion, and practical action towards the impending attack upon Iraq, the spilling of their blood by western bombs, and refraining from criticizing these false regimes, will in fact assist the criminals who set out to untie these 'knots' of Islam. And to make sure that such 'knots' of Islam remain untied, the rulers and the ignorant ones teach the Hajj in such a deficient and incomplete way so as to omit a basic right of it that would definitely call into question the validity of such impostor rulers.

Thus, the present regimes are content with the teaching of Hajj from its spiritual angle, alone. Every effort is made to deliberately break this political link with the performance of Hajj, so as to preserve and maintain the current situation that the Muslims find themselves in, where the rulers, commit acts which are unjustifiable.

Neglecting the political angle of Hajj, is done in order to prevent the sincere Muslim who undertakes the Hajj with this political awareness, and realises his link with Allah (swt) his Creator, the link with the ideology and his forefathers, who were once the dominant nation in the world. This would consequently lead him to understand and discharge the obligation set by Allah (swt), from his shoulders to remove those factors that prevent the resumption of the Islamic way of life, namely the present rulers in the Islamic lands.

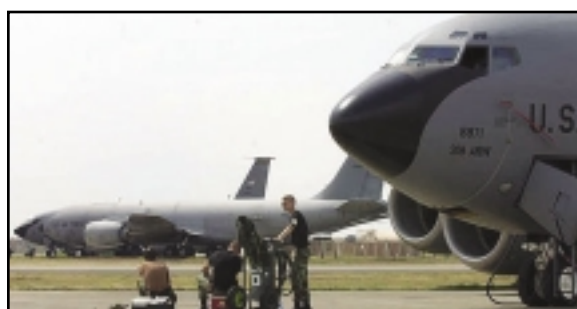
Then indeed the return of what once was lost would be re-established quickly, such that the re-establishment of the mighty Khilafah State that would gather all her resources, unite all her lands, her intellectual and material resources, her armies and resume the conveying of the message to the whole world. This would mean that the tyranny and hegemony of America is replaced by the Khilafah State that will show the world the true meaning of justice, peace, and mercy, even though the disbelievers and their agents hate that!

يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَيَأْبَى اللَّهُ إِلَّا أَنْ يُنِيرَ  
نُورَهُ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ

*"The disbelievers want to extinguish the light of Allah with their mouths, but Allah will not allow that except that His light should prevail, even though the disbelievers hate it" [TMQ Al Tauba: 32] z*

# WESTERN BASES IN THE MUSLIM WORLD

by Yusuf Patel



As the Hujjaj prepare to travel from all parts of the Muslim world to perform the Hajj, an uncertainty pervades our consciousness. The question is no longer 'will they or won't they?' But rather when? The subject matter of speculation is undoubtedly the sabre rattling over Iraq. As the planes of the Hujjaj touch down and they prepare to disembark in order to perform the duty ordained by Allah, they should bare in mind a reality which should engender anger in every Muslim. This stark reality is the pollution caused by the existence of a large American contingent force dotted around this land by numerous bases. Although this is not unique to Saudi-as US bases encircle the entire Muslim world-Saudi Arabia has been at the centre of speculation with regards to whether she will allow the US to use bases in the kingdom.

This whole issue of whether any Muslim country from Saudi to Turkey allows America to use their lands as launching bases for aiding the occupation of Iraq and the murder of its inhabitants is a very pertinent issue. Although this cannot be the sole line of inquiry, what needs to be questioned is what American troops are doing in the Islamic lands in the first place.

Foreign bases have existed in the Muslim world for over a century, whether this was reflected through direct colonialism such as the British East India Company which opened the way for Britain's

colonial presence or more recently such as the proliferation of bases following 'The Second Gulf War'. The Second Gulf War enabled the American presence to dramatically increase in readiness for any future threats against its interests. As to how it managed to enter the region and establish permanent bases, this was done through nefarious means. With regards to Saudi Arabia, it manufactured a lie to justify its 'temporary' presence in the kingdom. It presented to the world supposed satellite photos which seemed to prove that Iraqi aims were not restricted to Kuwait, but there was a wider objective which included the 'invasion' of Saudi Arabia. These Satellite photos were alleged to have captured Iraqi troop movements across the Saudi border. The US was not alleging that a few hundred or even a few thousand troops were poised to attack, rather this 'invasion' was to involve 265,000 troops. When a US journalist paid for private Satellite pictures from a Russian satellite, she found the claims to be untrue at best and a truer depiction of the reality would be to label them fabricated. Nonetheless America got her temporary bases, which became permanent shortly after despite assurances to the contrary prior to deployment.

## They speaketh with forked tongues

Many Muslim countries have pledged America support in the forthcoming war. Yet there are conflicting reports regarding the help

which the rulers have offered America. Recent statements suggest that there are two versions being spread regarding these bases. They speak with a forked tongue, one official stance for public consumption and one backdoor reality which assures America of 'unstinting support'.

The 'New York Times', which is well noted for being fed information by successive US administrations reported towards the end of December 2002, that American commanders had been assured of use of a number of bases to coordinate the air campaign. According to the same reports the sophisticated command centre at Prince Sultan airbase was offered, this was vehemently denied by Saudi Arabia, and although it is hard to determine whether this denial was as a result of fear of exacerbating Muslim sentiment especially in the kingdom itself; the rulers of Saudi Arabia publicly denied America the use of any bases in its Afghanistan invasion campaign, it was later revealed the command centre at the Prince Sultan airbase had been used. Another change that coincided with this apparent assurance is the allowance of America in the past few months to use positions in Saudi to strike 'violations' of the No-fly zone in Southern Iraq.

Joseph Lieberman, the failed vice-presidential candidate in the last presidential campaign visited Saudi Arabia towards the end of a 10-day tour of the Middle-East. He commented favourably following his meeting with the Saudi rulers, he said; "If they do give us that support it will go a long way toward repairing any breaches that may have occurred in the last year ... I left feeling that the Saudis will not disappoint us."

This impression was also felt by General John Jumper, the Air Force chief of staff, who said; "I firmly believe the Saudis will give us all the cooperation we need, and every indication I have is we're getting pretty much what we've asked for."

Either Saudi's rulers are promising the Americans something they have no intention of delivering, or they are deceiving the Ummah. The former would require that they are politically independent whilst the latter would more closely follow their past record.

The same can be said of Turkey. Yasar Yakis, the foreign minister, told the 'New York Times' newspaper in an interview that his government had decided to open up Turkey for the future conflict. He warned that the contingent would have to be small in order to take into account the overwhelming opposition there was against the impending war. The Incirlik airbase is the consistent staging ground for American attacks against Iraq and this would be the most likely option.

As for Jordan, it is widely understood that American troops are already there, this is acknowledged by everyone but King Abdullah II, he has gone to great lengths to deny this. When Journalists asked locals about the presence of American troops, they received a terse response, the locals were tight lipped and fearful of the wrath of the despotic regime were they to talk.

"We're not allowed to admit the Americans are here. It will get us into big trouble. It's a secret to Iraq, so you can't talk about it," says Khalid, 30, from the town of Al-Azraq, 250 kilometres from the Iraqi border, and home to Muafaq al-Salti airbase.

Qatar has been more open about its shameless help to America. It has

guaranteed the US Camp As Sayliyyah, which houses the U.S. Central Command and Al Udeid air base, important for refueling F15 fighters and where hangars for maintaining fighters are located.

### Back to bases

The question that ought to be asked and must both puzzle and anger Muslims is, what is the purpose of these bases in the Muslim world? Apart from outposts to control and kill the Muslims, what real value do they provide the Muslims.

A British Foreign Office policy memo following World War Two provides a pertinent reason behind the establishment of foreign bases, "Our strategic and security interests throughout the world will be best safeguarded by the establishment in suitable spots of 'Police Stations', fully equipped to deal with emergencies within a large radius. Kuwait is one such spot from which Iraq, South Persia, Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf could be controlled. It will be worthwhile to go to considerable trouble and expense to establish and man a 'Police Station' there." [British Foreign Office policy memo 1947]

At that time Britain still considered itself a colonial power, therefore the establishment of foreign bases were perceived to be an effective means by which to consolidate her power and ably challenge threats to her dominance. Even though Britain is no longer a considerable force in the world, the reasoning still stands. America is the world's sole superpower and it wants this to be the case forever. It has therefore to ensure it is able to exert itself throughout the world according to a set of standards determined by national interest. This role is not determined by altruism, but a keen desire to dominate. It's bases in the Muslim world provide it with the ability to:

- (1) Curtail up and coming nations which affect its interests or hamper its objectives.
- (2) Prevent the rise of Islam as a political force by those working to re-establish the Khilafah.

All in all they are nothing more than a colonial tool to secure its hegemonic agenda, September 11 merely provided it with a pretext to accelerate what it has done for decades.

How can the Muslims therefore benefit from this pervasive presence? The answer is they cannot, simply because it is a deal conducted over the heads of the Muslims. The only sure fire winner in this equation is America, the rulers may benefit by being given a few pieces more aptly described as blood money, or even showered with flattery, or a firm commitment to secure the rulers position; but this is reliant upon American patronage which can be given or taken away dependent upon her interest, just ask Nawaz Sharif!

### Rulers devoid of measure

The next question should ultimately be, whose interest do the rulers secure? Are they custodians of the Ummah in safeguarding their interests, or watchmen under the paid employ of the colonialist nations. A recent report from Egypt recounted how a Khateeb praised the stance of North Korea in his khutbah, he shared the sense of hope found in the removal of IAEA inspectors from North Korea and the

*The Shar'a does not allow anyone to obey America in what she tries to impose upon us. It is also forbidden to submit to Americas' orders or give her any form of assistance whether it is security information or facilities for passage through land, air or regional waters. It is not allowed to give America fixed bases. It is not allowed to co-ordinate or cooperate with her in any military issue.*

challenging of the bully, America. Although North Korea should not be looked up to as a paragon of propriety from the criteria of Islam, nonetheless it introduces a question about the impotence of the rulers over the Muslim countries. Their surrender of will to America continuously is a sign of great shame and its impact upon the Muslims is grave. Do you think that America could attack the Muslim countries if it was refused bases by the rulers? There is no way this could happen, this is because oceans separate her from her targets. Could America have invaded and occupied Afghanistan without the subservience of Parvez Musharraf? Can America launch a full scale war upon Iraq with any/all of the countries which surround it? There is no conceivable way by which this is achievable. Where could she re-fuel her bombers, maintain her F-16's or re-supply her armed forces? How could she enable a ground attack, which is so vital to

occupying a country? All of these matters could not be enacted without ground bases, and this is not possible without the acquiescence of the rulers. This equation should direct our loathing not at America alone-because she is Capitalist, therefore colonialist and opportunistic-but at the rulers who are charged with looking after the affairs of the Muslims, but fall short every time.

It is not 'wisdom' which prevents the rulers from removing their shackles to America and the colonialists, they have become so accustomed to subservience they cannot envision independence.

The Shar'a does not allow anyone to obey America in what she tries to impose upon us. It is also forbidden to submit to Americas' orders or give her any form of assistance whether it is security information or facilities for passage through land, air or regional waters. It is not allowed to give America fixed bases. It is not allowed to co-ordinate or cooperate with her in any military issue. It is not allowed to enter her alliance or seek her friendship because America is an enemy to Islam and the Muslims. He (swt) said;

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا عَدُوِّي وَعَدُوَّكُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ تُلْقُونَ  
إِلَيْهِمُ بِالْمَوْدَّةِ وَقَدْ كَفَرُوا بِمَا جَاءَكُمْ مِنَ الْحَقِّ

"O you who believe! Take not My enemies and your enemies as friends, showing affection towards them, while they have disbelieved in what has come to you of the truth." [TMQ Al-Mumtahinah: 1]

Allah (swt) has alerted us to what they conceal (in their hearts) for Islam and the Muslims.

He (swt) said;

قَدْ بَدَتِ الْبَغْضَاءُ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَمَا تُخْفِي صُدُورُهُمْ أَكْبَرُ

"Hatred has already appeared from their mouths, but what their breasts conceal is far worse.... Lo! You are the ones who love them but they love you not, and you believe in all the scriptures." [TMQ Al-Imran: 118]

We witness daily America mobilising her forces, forging her alliances, making her preparations, and issuing her ultimatum to Iraq wishing unjustly and aggressively to humiliate her. She threatens all the Muslim lands and warns that her war will continue for many years. Your rulers, O Muslims, are agents and cowards who have neglected their Deen, lost their dignity and begun to behave like slaves before the haughty America. There is no hope left in them. So





will you allow these rulers to enter the American alliance and take you with them, to kill your Muslim brothers? Will you leave your rulers to permit America to use your airports, seaports, land and airspace so that they can occupy Muslim land? Do you allow them to turn your armies into slaves used by America to kill your believing brothers? By Allah, the action of those rulers is indeed an abominable crime which is one of the greatest crimes. It is by Allah a great shame and a great sin upon you if you allow them to execute for America whatever she wishes. The immediate and rapid action, which you are obliged to do, is to prevent the rulers from opening the doors to America and forcing them to expel America from the Muslim lands. You must place pressure upon them by showing your disapproval towards their acquiescence. You mustn't allow them to rest without them tripping over the opposition they will face if they support America and Britain in any way.

As for the radical work which will solve the problems of the Islamic Ummah, it is the establishment of the righteous Khilafah which will unite the Islamic lands and peoples in one state and convey the Message of Islam to the rest of the world.

He (swt) said;

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا

"And hold fast, all of you together, to the rope of Allah, and do not be divided." [TMQ Al-Imran:103]

So if you, O Muslims, were one Ummah under the banner of one Khaleefah, holding onto the Book of Allah and Sunnah of His Messenger (saw), would then America or any other kufr states have ambitions over you? Would they have the courage to do anything against you or enslave your rulers without taking any account of you? By Allah, no! So rise up towards the radical work which will save your Ummah and the whole world.

He (swt) said;

وَاللَّهُ مَعَكُمْ وَلَنْ يَرَكَمُ أَغْمَالِكُمْ

"Allah is with you, and will never decrease the reward of your good deeds." [TMQ Muhammed: 35] 2

US Air Force



US Navy



US Navy





# A LETTER FROM MEMBERS OF HIZB UT-TAHRIR BRITAIN TO YUSUF AL-QARADHAWI ON HIS VISIT

*We advise you to desist from your activity, work for the haq and speak out against the Muslim governments, starting with the Kufr government residing in Qatar. Do not worry about your television contracts, your positions and your livelihood, for Allah (Subhanahu wa Ta'aala) will be happy with you and will reward you more than the Qatari Government.*

**W**e write this letter today while the drums of war are beating in the Middle East. We do not need to accentuate the dire state that the Muslim Ummah finds itself in, as this is obvious to everyone. We are aware that in a matter of weeks the Muslims of Iraq will most probably face a bombardment of a severe magnitude. In the light of this we would like to make and highlight some points with respect to your recent visit. We make these points from the point of mutual compassion and brotherhood knowing that though we have strong love for all our brothers, our love for Allah (Subhanahu wa Ta'aala) is infinitely more. This drives us to ensure that when the Ummah's affairs are concerned, that we attempt to address every erroneous thought with a deeper thought, every flawed concept with a stronger concept and every incomplete judgement with a comprehensive judgement.

1. The first point we would like to highlight is your absolute failure to make any kind of statement in Britain against the very state you have just departed from. The Qatari state has not only signed a military security treaty with America but will be the epicentre and headquarters of the American war effort. It will be where General Tommy Franks and his central planners within CENTCOM will conduct and orchestrate the upcoming war. In addition Qatar will also let America exclusively use the \$1 billion Al-Udeid airbase, which houses the biggest runway in the Middle East. It is clear that Qatar will not simply be providing a helping hand to America but will be an integral and vital link in the American war machine. In the light of this clear political reality we find it absolutely amazing that you found time to address many topics, including calling the Muslims of Britain to lobby the British government and support the march to Taghoot on the 15th of February, yet did not feel it important enough to even comment on this vital matter. Your position as a Dean of the Faculty of Shari'ah in Qatar and your numerous TV appearances on Al Jazeera Television clearly gives you an excellent platform from which to

condemn the Qatari rulers for their treachery, in accordance with the noble words of our beloved Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wasallam) who was most truthful when he said;

«أعظم الجهاد كلمة حق عند سلطان جائر»

“The best jihad is the word of truth uttered against a tyrant ruler”.

2. In addition another important concept was missing from your speeches and interviews during your visit to Britain. It is clear from any study of political reality that without the help of the Muslim countries in their provision of waterways, military bases, logistics and airspace that America and Britain could not possibly prosecute this war. It is therefore obvious that rather than Bush and Blair making the decision to start war, that the Muslim leaders have the real veto of whether this war will start or not. Yet despite this clear political reality, you have failed miserably to even mention the crime committed by the leaders in the Muslim world. By your failure to even mention the rulers in the Muslim world and their inextricable link to this war, you sought to effectively neutralise and pacify the sincere sentiments of the Muslims of Britain by calling for Muslims to lobby the British government. How can any pious scholar stay silent when crimes of this nature are being committed? How can any pious scholar prefer to please these rulers when their treachery is so clear? How can any pious scholar not use the high profile platforms he has at his disposal to address the vital issues of the Muslim Ummah?

3. Even in your comments about the upcoming war on Iraq, you have tried to articulate a position that attempts to state that Britain is somehow a force of moderation in the world as compared to America. This is not only a factually incorrect argument but contained within it is a dangerous concept. This is because Britain is a colonialist nation, which is no

different from France, Russia or America when it comes to oppressing the peoples of the world. Do we have to remind you that it was Britain that created Israel, that it was Britain that divided the Islamic world on maps in Whitehall, that it was Britain who gassed the Kurds in the 1920s and that it was Britain who destroyed the Islamic Khilafah in 1924? If Britain disagrees with America over war in Iraq it is only because she competes with her in seeking the material interests in Iraq and not because she has love for the Muslims or has some concept of an 'ethical foreign policy'. This was made clear recently when the Chief Executive of the British oil giant BP, Lord Browne, complained bitterly that American oil companies were already signing post war Iraqi oil contracts. Also do we not remember when certain Muslims ill advisedly visited 10 Downing Street, after the events of September 11th 2001, and that shortly after that meeting Britain was engaging with America in a brutal bombing campaign against the innocent Muslims of Afghanistan? Yet despite this, some Muslims like yourself still have the naïve hope that Britain will somehow be a moderating influence on America. It is clear that we should avoid referring to the British Government, the UN, the Arab league, OIC or any other entity in trying to resolve this issue as these are illegitimate entities in the eyes of the Shari'ah, Allah (Subhanahu wa Ta'aala) said;

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يَزْعُمُونَ أَنَّهُمْ آمَنُوا بِمَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا نُزِّلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ  
يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُتَحَاكَمُوا إِلَى الطَّاغُوتِ وَقَدْ أُمِرُوا أَنْ يَكْفُرُوا بِهِ وَيُرِيدُ الشَّيْطَانُ  
أَنْ يُضِلَّهُمْ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا (النساء):

"Have you seen those who claim to believe in the revelation revealed to you and the revelation revealed earlier. They seek the ruling of taghoot (non-Islam) although they have been ordered to disbelieve in it" [TMQ An-Nisa: 60].

4. This is not the first time that you have failed in passing the right judgement – in your numerous fatawa under the European Council for Fatwa and Research, which you chair, your opinions have been affected by a concept called European Fiqh. This concept is a twentieth century innovation as in Islam there is Fiqh, period. There is no such thing as Asian Fiqh, American Fiqh or European Fiqh. As Muslims living in different parts of the world we are all subject to the same sources of Shari'ah, regardless of where we live. Fatawa from yourself such as saying it is allowed to take interest (Riba) in moderation, as you did in 1998, are clearly influenced by pragmatism and compromise since they were issued despite the clear evidence to the contrary in Surah Al-Baqarah that;

وَأَحَلَّ اللَّهُ الْبَيْعَ وَحَرَّمَ الرِّبَا ۚ فَمَنْ جَاءَكُمْ مِنْ أَهْلِ الذِّمَّةِ فَمَا يُبَدِّلْ بَيْعَاتِهِمْ فَيُحْزِنِمْ إِلَى اللَّهِ فَيُكْفِرُوا بِهِ ۗ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ (البقرة: 275)

"Allah has permitted trade but forbidden usury" [TMQ Al-Baqarah: 275].

Regardless of sincerity, the mistakes of scholars like yourself is one of the factors that can destroy Islam. How can it be that you can issue a statement that contradicts Qat'i (certain) evidences, which are decisive and not unclear. Abu Shamah had narrated, via the Sanad of Abi Ziyad bin Hudayr, saying; "Omar said to me: Do you know what destroys Islam? I said, No! He said: A mistake made by a scholar, the argument of a hypocrite in writing and the ruling of leaders who wish for people to stray".

It is clear that the role of a scholar in Islam is a vital and noble responsibility. When we review the golden age of the scholars of old such as Abu Hanifah, Imam Malik and Ahmed bin Hanbal we see bravery, strength of purpose and refreshing wisdom. What we see was that these

scholars did not stay silent while this Ummah burned, that they did not keep quiet while corruption prevailed and that their lives were characterised by their constant challenging of the rulers of their times. Ahmed bin Hanbal was imprisoned because he refused to compromise over his beliefs; this is similar today to the many scholars who for their beliefs are housed in the dungeons and prisons throughout the Muslim world. Abu Hanifah refused to even take a government position in the Islamic State during his life as he thought it would jeopardise his independence. Today the world has been turned upside down! We have on the one hand many sincere scholars who refuse to take positions in the Kufr states as they realise it would involve them in promoting the Haram and forbidding the Halal, and as a result they are chased, tortured and killed. And on the other hand we have scholars who succumb to the thoughts of Kufr, who carry the message of the Kuffar and who work to further their stranglehold upon us. We have scholars, like you, who stay silent against the Kufr regimes littering the Muslim world, yet you prefer to lobby the Western states that are the source of our problems.

We advise you to desist from your activity, work for the haq and speak out against the Muslim governments, starting with the Kufr government residing in Qatar. Do not worry about your television contracts, your positions and your livelihood, for Allah (Subhanahu wa Ta'aala) will be happy with you and will reward you more than the Qatari Government. Take your example from the scholars of old, and indeed the scholars of today, who studied where you studied but have used their knowledge for the carrying of good; scholars who cannot be promoted, like you are, due to their valiant stand against the tyrannical governments!

The job of the scholar is indeed noble but it also carries immense responsibility as Allah (Subhanahu wa Ta'aala) will indeed ask him as to how he used his knowledge. Today, we remind you and ourselves of that immense responsibility.

Allah (Subhanahu wa Ta'aala) says;

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّنَّكُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّنَّكُم بِاللَّهِ  
الْفُرُورُ (فاطر)

"O Mankind! Verily the promise of Allah is true. So let not this present life deceive you and let not the chief deceiver (Shaytan) deceive you about Allah" [TMQ Fاطر: 5] z

Members of Hizb ut-Tahrir – Britain  
27 January 2003 / 24 Dhul Qadah 1423 Hijri

# EXPOSITION OF CAPITALISM - THE CORRUPTED CREED

[PART 2]

by Asif Khan

*Little did the children of the Muslim Ummah know the ugly face of Capitalism that the West had disguised behind a thin veil. The true nature of the Capitalist Ideology can be seen from the philosophers who promoted, and formulated what we have today.*

Capitalism is the ideology and system that emerged from the secular doctrine that the Europeans adopted after the fall of the Church from the political arena. One of the fundamental concepts that emerge from secularism is the need to preserve for each human being the freedom of religion, freedom of opinion, freedom of ownership, and personal freedom. From the principle of freedom of ownership stems the capitalist economic system. Democracy, or the concept of "people sovereignty", is the political system that stems from the secular creed, but the political system is far less prominent than the economic system among the secular nations. Although democracy delegates the power to legislate to the people in theory, those who hold the economic wealth are the ones who have the real power. The capitalist system in the West subjugates the government, and the policy-making of the West is almost purely driven by economic factors. From the capitalist economic thought stems the concept of benefit and interest, and the need to maximize the benefits and interests of the individual and the society. Such a concept provides the driving force of the West's political system as well as its foreign policy. Thus, the capitalists, those who hold the most capital and wealth, are the real rulers of the society. In addition, democracy is not limited to the secular creed; the communists also claim to be democratic and claim that the government belongs to the people. As a result, it is more accurate to call the system which emanates from the West as Capitalism, with secularism comprising its foundation.

## **The Failure of Capitalism**

When President Bush Senior announced in his State of the Union Address of 1991 that he wishes to establish a new world order with America at its helm, the world was captivated by the idea. After all, Communism had failed, and Capitalism had won, or so it seemed to the world, and what appeared to be the stunning victory of the West in the

Persian Gulf reiterated for many that Capitalism was a fact of life that bestrode the world like a giant. From day one, Muslims under the Western - sponsored educational curricula, were brainwashed to believe that it was that giant called Capitalism which lifted Europe from the oppression, stagnation, and darkness of Christian rule into the glory of the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution, and that this same giant would lift the Muslim world from the "tyranny and oppression" of Islamic rule into the light of progress.

Little did the children of the Muslim Ummah know the ugly face of Capitalism that the West had disguised behind a thin veil. The true nature of the capitalist ideology can be seen from the philosophers who promoted, and formulated what we have today.

The English philosopher Herbert Spencer formulated a concept he called the "survival of the fittest" (a phrase that Darwin eventually borrowed to use in his explanations of Evolution). Spencer believed that it was the duty of the economically strong to drive the economically weak into extinction. That drive was in fact the secret of Capitalism's strength; it eliminated the weak.

Spencer created the eugenics movement to stop the unfit from reproducing because he believed that the most humane way was to do what the economy would do in a more brutal way if left to itself. In Spencer's view, all remedial social welfare measures simply prolonged and expanded human agony by increasing the population who would eventually die of starvation.

Such thinking shows that Capitalism is an ideology based on exploitation, competition and ruthlessness. Such bases featured strongly amongst other founders of western capitalistic thought such as Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527CE) and his philosophy of "might is

right".

Scratching the surface of the apparent glamour of Western civilisation reveals nothing but a sick giant struggling internally from exploding crime rates, uncontrollable social deviation, moral degradation, economic exploitation, and political hypocrisy, all covered up by the facade called Capitalism. Those nations who carry the banner of Capitalism themselves have a legacy of brutal exploitation and colonisation that has created a situation where the Third World is drowning under economic slavery to the West. Such a miserable track record emphasises one fact; Capitalism has failed.

Because Capitalism made everything into private property, it left human beings to fight for the resources of the world in a fashion similar to the animals who compete in the jungle. According to the capitalist doctrine, anybody can acquire ownership of anything, be it luxury items or natural resources. The concept of free enterprise, or freedom of the individual to acquire ownership of anything in any manner, emerged from this thinking, and the capitalists hailed this concept, among many others, as the secret formula behind the success of their economic system. What the capitalist doctrine overlooks is that, in any society, human beings have different capabilities and resources, and those who possess more and acquire greater strength may prevent others from accessing these resources.

Throughout the history of the capitalist nations, a few elite who held the wealth of the nations were the only ones who enjoyed that wealth while the rest of the nation remained either close to or below the poverty line. In America, the implementation of Capitalism resulted in a situation where a few untouchables, such as the Carnegies and the Rockefellers, held the resources of the nation. While those few individuals enjoyed a life of exuberance, the working class majority lived near or below the poverty line. This gross inequality in wealth has remained, between the nations as well as within the people themselves and today the vast majority struggle with the little crumbs of the cake that the major corporations, banks and businesses leave for them to compete over.

Today, it is a well known fact that Capitalism is at the root of the major discrepancies in wealth distribution, among the nations as well as within them. Although America has less than 4% of the total population of the world, it consumes over 35% of the world's resources. The capitalist economic system has created a situation in which a few nations control the wealth and financial markets of the world and exploit the rest of the nations for their resources. Because the vital resources are at the hands of a few, then those few elite influence the governments and policies to function according to their interests at the expense of others. Within America, the wealthiest 10% own over 90% of the nation's wealth while the majority of the people live near or below poverty. Such a vast discrepancy in wealth distribution does not exist in Islam because the Islamic system categorises property into private property, public property which includes natural and vital resources and state property. Through this unique categorisation, Islam ensures that the people will have access to the natural and vital resources of the world while maintaining a state powerful enough to supervise the distribution of wealth in the society. At the same time, Islam allows the individuals to pursue their luxurious needs while safeguarding against economic exploitation and corrupt practices by prohibiting monopolies, hoarding of wealth and usury.

Also, the capitalists defined the human being as having unlimited needs, and that the resources of the society will never be enough to satisfy the needs of every individual. The concept of scarcity emerged from this thought and because of this concept poverty, famine and social deprivation are integral components of Capitalism. Even though the resources are abundant, the capitalists would create scarcity in order to maintain their economic system which is based on price fixing. The capitalists know that if everyone was free to produce to his maximum and utilise his skills, and the resources of the world were freely accessible, then the abundance of resources would be so tremendous that prices would virtually drop to zero, and access to the resources and services would be well within everyone's reach.

Just to keep the prices high, the capitalists would maintain scarcity of jobs and resources, even if half the population would die of starvation. It is well known that the food produced by the Great Plains of America alone is enough to feed the entire world three times, but to maintain the prices for the sake of the corporations and the wealthy, the surplus food is burned. Adding to the list, surplus milk is dumped into the ocean, the oil companies restrict the distribution of oil and gas in order to keep the prices high, and the drug and biotech companies further restrict access to health care by blocking production and distribution of needed medication. In Islam, the satisfaction of the needs of every individual is the basic economic problem. Thus, the Islamic economic system is built upon the full utilisation of the human being's capabilities and does not put any restrictions on the production of wealth or the output of human beings in the name of "price fixing". As a result, the Islamic system inherently creates wealth and abundance in the society in order to ensure that individual's needs is satisfied, whereas in Capitalism poverty and scarcity are created in order to keep prices high so that the interests of the wealthy are met.

Furthermore, the capitalists failed to classify the needs of the human being and made the mistake of considering all the needs as the same. According to Capitalism, the need for medicine or food would be the same as the need for an extra yacht or jewellery. As a result, one finds in capitalist nations millions of people unable to feed themselves and simultaneously a few people feeding their pets million-dollar meals. The axiom in Capitalism is, "If you can afford it, good for you; if you can't afford it, tough luck because it is Survival of the Fittest". Islam deals with this issue through its unique categorisation of the human requirements into basic needs, luxury items, and prohibited items. Under the Islamic system, the state would ensure that everyone's basic needs are fulfilled to maintain and preserve the dignity of the human being, and those with additional wealth would be free to acquire luxury items within the Islamic rules.

Also, Islam recognises that some things, while they may provide a certain benefit are actually deemed as providing incorrect satisfactions. Islam prohibits adultery, the exploitation of women as sexual objects, pornography, alcohol as well as other intoxicants and gambling. Because Capitalism is based on benefit and interest, then such a mechanism does not exist in a capitalist society. For example there is no limit to how much the woman's body can be used if the exploitation of women will generate profit or provide a "service". The economic solution of Capitalism is to ensure the maximum fulfilment of everyone's material benefits by any means possible, without any regard to whether they are incorrect or correct. As one commentator said in response to the Gulf War, "War brings business, and business is good", which means that, according to capitalist thought, whatever brings

benefit is considered correct regardless of the moral, ethical, or social consequences. This profit-driven thinking has led to exploding crime rates, the never-ending spiral of economic and social problems and the ever-increasing deterioration of the social and moral fabric that characterises the capitalist nations.

Under Capitalism, the correctness or incorrectness of anything is subjected to the human mind, which is incapable of determining what is correct or incorrect. Since human beings suffer from contradiction, disparity and the influence of the environment, then the standard itself would be subject to contradiction and continuous change. During the early 20th century, homosexuality was considered an abominable manifestation of the devil and today it is not only accepted as normal, but the entire culture of homosexuality is being enforced in the school curriculum. In Islam, the standard is set by Allah (swt) and does not change. The rights and obligations of every individual as well as the state are fixed by the Ahkam Shar'iyah. The sources of Islamic laws, the Qur'an and the Sunnah, are very specific and well-defined, and not subject to the whims and desires of a few elite as in the capitalist System. Also, the methods for interpreting the Islamic texts as well as deriving rules in Islam through ijihad and tafseer are very specific and well-defined processes with fixed rules. By clearly defining the source of rules as well as the methodology for deriving rules and interpreting the sources, Islam guarantees the rights and obligations of every individual. In Capitalism, the source of rules depends upon the interests of the human beings who control the decision making, and such a standard is haphazard and subject to change. Because Capitalism did not establish any fixed source of rules or any clear methodology of deriving rules, but left these processes up to the whims and desires of the elite, then nothing is guaranteed in Capitalism and, instead the rights and privileges of the people are tossed in the air between the conflicting interests of major interest groups.

In the international sphere, the West, under the capitalist ideology has proclaimed itself as the leader of the world and has assumed upon itself the responsibility of taking care of the affairs of humanity. At the same time, the capitalist West has produced behind its slogans a legacy of ceaseless conflicts, bloodshed, exploitation and occupation under the banner of acquiring raw materials, securing jobs and wealth for their citizens or maintaining national status. Because Capitalism revolves around benefit, then the relationship of capitalist nations to other nations are based on imperialism where conquered nations serve as colonies to be exploited for the benefit of the conqueror. When the European capitalist nations conquered new lands, their motives were purely imperialistic. At times they would send missionaries to paint a facade that they were going "in the name of God", in the same manner that the Western nations today, driven by the same imperialistic motives intervene under the guise of "humanitarianism" or "human rights". They exploited the inhabitants, subjugated them to the level of slaves, and robbed their wealth in order to fuel their own economies. Under the dominance of the European nations, such countries were treated as satellite entities whose wealth and resources would return to the capital to satisfy the interests of a few elite. In order to keep such nations at a level of subservience, the Europeans would use political manoeuvring to create fires or install puppets who would maintain their loyalty to them and safeguard their interests, in much the same manner as the capitalist nations do today.

Today, the same scenario exists in which the Western nations maintain an iron fist over the wealth and the resources of the world through

institutions like the IMF, the World Bank and the United Nations (UN). What commonly occurs is that multinational corporations and other major institutions which represent the capitalist nations target a nation if it possesses a benefit or interest. In order to legitimise its intervention, the capitalist nation would initiate a crisis or ignite turmoil through political manoeuvring. After bringing the country into ruin, the "reconstruction" phase would follow in which the victimised nation has no other choice but to seek the help of the capitalist nation, and the media is quick to justify to the eyes of the naive masses that a country like the United States is intervening in the world in the name of "democracy" and "freedom". In reality such nations seek nothing more than raping the world of its resources and leaving the country with barely enough to feed its own people. As a result, the colony would ask for loans from the capitalist nations or from financial institutions under their control, and the loans would be barely sufficient to maintain production of their resources. Eventually, interest accumulates and the situation of the country becomes one of ever-increasing dependence upon the capitalist nation.

The current Iraq crisis is an apt example, but there are many other examples of this and they can be seen throughout the world today.

When Islam was implemented, the foreign policy of the Islamic State was motivated by only one purpose; to carry the Islamic ideology to the world. The Islamic State never fought for the sake of nationalism or tribalism or for pride or glory. Never did the Islamic State conquer a people or a nation in order to exploit it or reap its resources. Those nations that were conquered by the Islamic State were annexed to the body of the State and became part of the State, and the people who were conquered were not looked at as colonised people but as citizens of the State. The Islamic laws were applied universally upon all people without any discrimination given to any group or nation. In fact, even the capital city of the Islamic State moved four times. From Medina, it moved to al-Kufa, then to Damascus and later to Baghdad, all of which were lands that the Islamic State conquered. The conquered people thus took the banner of Islam and carried the Islamic message to the rest of the world. After the fall of Baghdad, the capital moved to Istanbul which was totally populated by non-Arabs. Nobody could imagine the British would move their capital to Zimbabwe or New Delhi, nor could anyone imagine the capital of the United States moving to Seoul or Taipei all of which are colonies of America. This is because as a capitalist nation, America looks to other nations as colonies for the purpose of exploitation and not as lands to be annexed as additional states. The people living in the colonised lands have no access to the wealth or the system of the capitalist nations, and whenever they flee to the capital city or country in order to enjoy the wealth and prosperity, the immigration policy kicks them back into the sewer where they can live a life as colonised people. When the Islamic state conquered new lands, it would apply the Islamic System upon them and the wealth of all the Muslim lands would be distributed throughout the entire state and not concentrated in the capital. Under the Islamic system the conquered lands flourished to the extent that during the time of the Khalifah Harun al-Rashid, the capital of the Islamic State was experiencing a shortage while the conquered provinces were prospering.

From this perspective, Capitalism has failed to bring unity or prosperity to humanity on the basis of benefit. By its very nature benefit and interest create division, conflict and disunity, exploitation of people and their lands. The capitalist economic system creates inequalities in



wealth in which a few nations exploit other nations and dictate the policies of the world in order to secure their own benefit. Furthermore, within each nation a few elite control the policies of that nation and exploit the masses in order to maintain the status quo and secure their own interests. The foreign policy of the capitalist nations is established purely upon imperialistic motives, and the sole purpose of capitalist nations in forming a relationship with another nation is not for any ideological aim but to exploit other nations and people in order to secure their own worldly interests. Based on such a policy, the world suffers from conflicts sponsored by a few nations who fuel them in order to secure jobs and consolidate their grip on the world.

Because the capitalist nations revolve around benefit they consider the maximization of the interests of the people and the fulfilment of their desires as the driving force of any action and such a policy has led to the decaying societies that the capitalist nations are ailing from.

Alcohol, rape, crime, domestic violence and other social ills are tearing the capitalist nations apart. Yet since drug counselling, rape counselling, and other businesses that thrive on these social problems collectively constitute a multibillion dollar industry, then the capitalist notion of benefit and interest maintains that such problems will remain to keep the industry of "crime prevention" alive. The woman has been reduced from an object of honour and dignity to an exhibit to be displayed on the strip bars, night clubs, cinema screens and magazines of the world in the name of profit or satisfying the sexual needs of the consumer (what the economists refer to as "maximizing the benefits of society"). In the name of benefit, the capitalists maintain the degraded status of women and indoctrinate this culture into the entire population. All of these facts illustrate that Capitalism has failed, and nothing else can be expected from a system whose creed and fundamental doctrine, secularism, is incorrect and invalid. z

# VALENTINES DAY

by Nazia Jalali

In many of the Capitalist states, the expression "Let the season of love begin" is being heard again. It's that time of the year again, when roses abound, trinkets are exchanged and confessions of love and promises (which are rarely kept) are declared - February 14th known as St. Valentine's Day. It is the time that for centuries has been dedicated to honour lovers.

On this day the postal services will be inundated with the responsibility of playing "cupid", forwarding messages of "true love". Our children will be making Valentines cards or, if they're in Wales, love spoons which they will be encouraged to give to their valentine in the playground.

So what's the harm in all this, you may well ask? After all it's only a day to remind your spouse of how much you love them, or for the children it's just a bit of fun. But have you ever stopped to wonder who St Valentine was and where this archaic tradition of St. Valentine's Day came from?

During the fifth century the Catholic Church wanted to end a pagan fertility rite that the Romans practised every year since the 4th century BC.

During the month of February a lottery was held to celebrate a young man's rite of passage to the "god" Lupericus. Young teenage girls participated in this lottery where their names were placed in a box and drawn at random by young men. Through the lottery these young men would be assigned to the chosen girl, for 'mutual pleasure', for the duration of a year until the next year's lottery.

The Church was unhappy with the promiscuous nature of this ritual and tried to end it by selecting a "Lover's Saint", who would be honoured in replacement of the ritual of Lupericus. They chose a bishop by the name of Valentine, who was executed in the 3rd century AD, for defying the Emperor Claudius who banned marriages saying married men made poor soldiers who did not want to leave their families during battles. Valentine invited lovers to come to him to be married in secret, for which he was killed. However before he died he supposedly sent a farewell message, to the jailer's daughter whom he had fallen in love with while in prison, that read "From your Valentine."

Many things may be said about this "tradition", but there is one important

concept that Muslims should draw from it. It is essential for Muslims to realise that Islam is a comprehensive way of life whose source of reference is exclusively the hukm shar'i (divine legislative rule). This is the only source of all rites, traditions and practices that Muslims are permitted to follow. From this source it is clear that Islam prohibits the celebration of kufr festivals. St. Valentines Day is, from its very origin, a pagan festival continuously redefined during various periods of ignorance.

Islam, through the hukm shar'i, clearly recognises what the festivals of the Muslims are and how the festivals of the kuffar should be seen.

It is reported that Anas Bin Malik (ra) said;

((قدمت ولكم يومان تلعبون فيهما من الجاهلية وقد أبدلكم الله بهما خيراً منهما : يوم النحر ويوم الفطر)) [صحيح أخرجه أحمد]

**"When the Prophet (saw) came to Medina, the people had two holidays from the days of Jahiliyyah. He (saw) said, "When I came to you, you had two holidays you used to celebrate in jahiliyyah. Allah has replaced them for you with better days, the days of slaughter (Adha) and the day of Fitr."**

In reality, the imitation of rituals and practices of the Western society are a subtle means of integrating Muslims into the non-Islamic way of life. In contemporary society, the concept of integration is being drummed into the Muslim mindset, which demands that we accept and become part of this "multicultural society". However, the Muslim Ummah must be vigilant and recognise the mechanisms used by the kuffar in order to reshape our understanding of our way of life as revealed in the Qur'an. St. Valentine's day is one such example; where relationships outside of the institution of marriage are not only accepted but also encouraged - a gross violation of the Sharee'ah, which enjoins modesty and chastity.

Throughout the country countless numbers of schools, universities and clubs are in preparation for balls and parties, inviting the unsuspecting Muslim populace into these havens of free-mixing in the name of integration - and love. It is ironic to think that what the Church tried to achieve so long ago was the preservation of the institution of marriage, in the guise of St Valentines Day. Yet today we see the return of promiscuity in the society where St Valentines Day is used as a tool to instigate illicit relationships resulting in fornication, unwanted pregnancies, abortions and all things that lead to the degradation and loss of honour in society. So is this the kind of message we wish to give our children?

In Islam the sexual relations between a man and woman are clearly defined by the Sharee'ah rules through a particular system, which is marriage.

Ibn Mas'ud narrates that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said;

((يا معشر الشباب من استطاع منكم الباءة فليتزوج ومن لم يستطع فعليه بالصوم فإنه له وجاء)) [رواه الجماعة]

**"O you youngsters. Whosoever amongst you can afford to marry should marry, because it will help you to lower his gaze, and guard his modesty (ie private parts from unlawful sex). And whosoever is not able to marry he should fast, because it will be protection for him."**

The hukm shar'i ensures that the society established upon it will be free of promiscuity and will exhibit a high level of moral awareness. This is clearly absent in the current Western societies, and unfortunately we see

*Behind every kufr fairytale, superstition, novel, song, contract, newspaper, dossier, law and ideology, lurks a dangerous concept that contradicts the Hukm Shariah and more importantly has the potential to threaten our understanding of Islam and our resumption of its way of life.*

this being introduced into the Islamic lands too. The Sharee'ah recognises the needs and instincts of both man and woman. The family is protected and strengthened by the prohibition of fornication, adultery, free mixing of the sexes and the regulation of the dress code.

As Muslims living in Britain and the West, we need to realise the implications of integration. Every thought and consequent action of a Muslim should be in reference to the hukm shar'i, as it is the only legitimate source of guidance for us. Whether it is a menial task or a major decision in private or public life, we should only act after referring to what Allah (swt) has revealed. Otherwise we may fall prey to the host of deficient and un-Islamic concepts that surround us in a non-Islamic society, such as freedom, democracy, integration and self-interest. Also if we begin to adopt non-Islamic standards in our lives, for the sake of pleasing those around us, we should be aware that this can only lead us astray, and their pleasure comes only at the expense of our deen.

وَلَنْ تَرْضَىٰ عَنْكَ الْيَهُودُ وَلَا النَّصَارَىٰ حَتَّىٰ تَتَّبِعَ مِلَّتَهُمْ

*"And the Jews and Christians will never be pleased with you until you follow their millah (way of life)." [TMQ Al-Baqarah: 120]*

Behind every kufr fairytale, superstition, novel, song, contract, newspaper, dossier, law and ideology, lurks a dangerous concept that contradicts the hukm shar'i and more importantly has the potential to threaten our understanding of Islam and our resumption of its way of life.

وَإِخْتِيارُ الْيَوْمِ اكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي  
وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمْ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

*"This Day I have perfected your deen, and completed my favour unto you, and chosen Islam as your religion." [TMQ Al- Ma'idah: 3] z*

# MARRIED LIFE IN ISLAM

by Taji Mustafa

*The existence of men and women in society, their attraction to one another and their desire to raise families gives rise to many issues and problems that need to be addressed. Islam has not left these problems unsolved as Islam is a complete way of life (Deen).*

Family life plays a very important role in the life of the Muslim community as a whole. The family unit comes into being when a man and woman decide to get married. Islam recognises man and his instinct and provides answers to the questions that arise as a result of his instincts. How should the furthering of the human race take place? How should the innate attraction between men and women and the need for companionship, love and affection be satisfied? In Islam, marriage is the primary relationship by which many of these issues are addressed.

## **Attack on marriage within the Muslim community**

After the September 11th attacks in America, Muslims have borne the brunt of a military attack on Afghanistan as well as an impending attack on Iraq. There has also been an intensification of the intellectual attack on the values, concepts and the sharee'ah rules of Islam. Islamic marriage is one of the institutions that have been attacked intellectually. Ann Cryer, a British Labour MP, attacked the practice of Muslims in Britain marrying Muslims from the Islamic lands. She said; "It just happens that the Bangladeshi and the Pakistani community are Muslims and they happen to be the people who persist in the practice of bringing in husbands and wives from the subcontinent. The Sikhs and Hindus are doing extremely well both academically and economically and I think that it is due to the fact they don't pursue this practice. It would be better if they selected the partners for their children from the sort of home-grown variety of Muslim Asians - that's what I would prefer to see." (BBC Online, 13/06/02)

Some may see this as a well-intentioned observation, however closer scrutiny reveals many hidden dangers in her statement. She tries pushing the idea of "home grown" ie British Muslims being different from Muslims from the Islamic lands. This is part of an attempt to divide the Muslims in Britain from the global Islamic ummah. Islam says that all Muslims are part of one ummah without differentiation. So Muslims can marry other Muslims regardless of race, or nationality. If Muslims want to marry Muslims brought up in Britain, fine. If they want to marry Muslims from back home, that is also fine. Marrying people from the Islamic lands is one way Muslims here can maintain a link with those lands. Why has this politician focused on the Muslim community? When a non-Muslim from London marries a non-Muslim from Asia, Ann Cryer and others see it as an interesting cultural exchange, not a source of economic and academic backwardness. David Blunkett, the British Home Secretary also recently called on immigrants "... to learn to speak English and adopt 'British norms,'" including the norms regarding marriage. Also, recent discussion in the media about forced marriages has only focussed on Muslim

marriages, often portraying all Muslim marriages as ones in which all women are oppressed.

Having portrayed Muslims marriages as problematic and leading to the abuse of women, the same western politicians, journalists and commentators have also offered us their solutions in order for us to leave the Islamic values for western values. These are some of the manifestations of the intellectual attack on marriage amongst Muslims.

## **How the West regulates relations between men and women**

What are the norms the capitalist West invites us to adopt? Looking at Britain or any other western society, you do not have to go far to see the state of relations between men and women. The relationship is generally reduced to one where the focus is on sex and enjoyment. The evaluation of partners comes down to how 'sexy' he/she is. The demand for sexual gratification is a constant and absorbing pursuit. Coupled with this is their belief that variety is indeed the spice of life, so whilst with one girlfriend or wife, they are always on the look out for other partners with whom they hope to have better sex and enjoyment. So people have countless affairs, and multiple sexual partners. Indeed, tabloid newspapers provide a daily diet of the latest man/woman found cheating on a partner, whether these are politicians, celebrities or common people. Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, John Major and Edwina Currie are classic examples of this from both sides of the Atlantic. For many westerners, adultery is not a matter to be ashamed of.

Capitalism promotes the idea that people should be free to enter into any type of relationships provided sex and enjoyment is attained. So casual affairs, one night stands, cohabiting, same sex relationships as well as marriage between men and women are all acceptable forms of relationships. Inevitably people look for enjoyment without responsibilities. Many men will desert the woman if she gets pregnant, because after they have had their fun, the burden of rearing children is not on their agenda.

As a consequence, thousands of children in the UK grow up only knowing one of their parents. Many women are left emotionally hurt after being dumped for a woman who wears a shorter skirt. Many men are emotionally hurt when dumped for a man who is better looking. This makes mutual distrust the norm between men and women, leading to the breakdown in social relations in western capitalist societies that we are all witnessing.

When westerners attack the concept of marriage in Islam, we should remind them of the chaos and corruption that has been created by western ideals of freedom and sexual liberation. We must reject these capitalist ideals as they contradict the sharee'ah rules that came to regulate man's relationships.

### Islam is a deen that solves problems between men and women

The fact is that men and women have a natural attraction for each other; this is the nature that Allah (swt) created them with. In this issue, like all other matters, Islam came to regulate this relationship and provide rules for all of the issues that stem from it. Allah says;

وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

"The deen before Allah is Islam." [TMQ Al-Nisa:19]

In Islam, marriage is the stipulated relationship within which the human need for procreation is satisfied. We therefore need to clarify the exact reality of marriage in Islam and the Islamic solutions to the many problems that can occur in marital life. This ensures we protect ourselves from the freedom-inspired solutions of the capitalist way of life. It also enables us to reject the un-Islamic customs and traditions related to marriage within the Muslim community which themselves lead to many family problems.

### What to look for when seeking a marriage partner

With respect to marriage, finding a partner is the first issue we face. For some Muslim brothers, the most important criterion when looking for a wife is that she must be as beautiful as a supermodel. This is the effect of the shallow western popular culture which places great emphasis on looks and beauty. In the West (and in many Muslim countries) women in adverts are beautiful, movie stars are beautiful, and women who are not so beautiful are always being pushed to find ways to be beautiful. For some Muslim sisters, the most important criterion is the partner's wealth and status. So she may reject a teacher or restaurant worker (who has taqwa) because he earns less than £25,000 and is not a lawyer or a doctor. This is because society places great emphasis on wealth and status. For some parents, the most important criterion for a partner for their son or daughter is that he comes from the same tribe or country. So some Pakistanis would refuse a Bengali, some Bengalis would refuse a Pakistani, some Arabs would refuse Africans, some Africans would refuse Arabs and some Mirpuris would refuse Jhelumis. The ideas of nationalism and tribalism rear their ugly heads at these times even though Islam made them haram. Parents who refuse prospective partners on this un-Islamic basis cause immense corruption and frustration in the lives of this noble ummah. More often each year we see young Muslim men and women who are attracted to each other running away from home, or having haram relationships. Facing this form of oppression caused them to stop trusting their parents and respecting their feelings, so they even lost their respect for the Islamic rules about these issues. Such parents should remember the warning of our Prophet (saw). Abu Hatim al-Muzni (ra) narrated;

((إذا جاءكم من ترضون دينه وخلقه فزوجوه إلا تفعلوا  
تكن فتنة في الأرض وفساد عظيم))

**"When someone proposes for your daughter and his character and morals are agreeable to you, then give to him in marriage. If you do not there will be tribulation and immense corruption in the earth."**

Islam made clear what we should look for in a partner. Abu Hurayrah (ra) reported that the Prophet (saw) said;

((تكح المرأة لأربع لماها وجمالها وحسبها ولدينها فاظفر  
بذات الدين تربت يداك))

**"A woman is married for four things; her wealth, lineage, beauty and Islamic character (deen). So gain success with the one who possesses a good character (deen)."** So the most important thing to look for in a partner is their Islamic character, though that is not the only thing one can look for. After all, which man will care for his wife properly except the one who has taqwa? Which woman will raise pious Muslim children except the one who has taqwa? We are allowed to seek beautiful women or men from good family backgrounds who are wealthy, but the most important factor is their deen. What a bonus it is if one finds a partner with good deen, wealth, lineage and beauty?

### Married life in Islam

Once a partner has been found and married life begins, the husband and wife are faced with a whole new set of issues. What is each partner's role and what rights does each one have over the other? To answer these questions, we need to look to the Prophet Muhammad (saw) and how he resolved the issues that arose between him and his wives.

Within a Muslim marriage, both partners should seek to create love, affection and mercy as this leads to tranquillity for both partners.

Allah (swt) said

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَجَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا  
لِيَسْكُنَ إِلَيْهَا

"It is He Who has created you from a single person, and He has created from him his wife, in order that he might enjoy the pleasure of living with her." [TMQ Al-Araf: 189]

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا  
وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ  
يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

"And among his signs is this, that he created for you wives from among yourselves, that you may find repose in them, and he has put between both of you affection and mercy." [TMQ Ar-Rum: 21].

### Rights of husbands and wives

What are the rights due to the wife from the husband? What are the rights due to the husband from the wife? Islam resolves this by stipulating the rights of either partner.

وَلَهُنَّ مِثْلُ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَلِلرِّجَالِ عَلَيْهِنَّ دَرَجَةٌ

"And they (women) have rights (over their husbands) similar (to those of their husbands) over them, in reasonable terms." [TMQ Al-Baqarah: 228]

This means women have marital rights over men and men have rights over women. That is why Ibn 'Abbas said; "Indeed I spruce myself up for my wife and she adorns herself for me, and I love that I should redeem all the rights I have over my wife, so that she should redeem all the rights she has over me."

Women have the financial right to maintenance from their husbands, but they also have the right of good companionship and intimacy as Allah (swt) has ordered;

وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

"And live with them honourably". [TMQ An- Nisa: 19]

On the other hand men have the right to be obeyed by their wives. Bukhari reported that the Prophet said:

((لا يجل للمرأة أن تصوم وزوجها شاهد إلا بإذنه ولا تأذن في بيته إلا بإذنه وما أنفقت من نفقة عن غير أمره فإنه يؤدي إليه شطره))

**"It is not allowed for a woman to fast without the permission of her husband whilst he is present, nor admit someone to his house without his permission and whatever she spends of his wealth (on charitable purposes) without his permission, half the reward will go to him."**

The man also has the right that she does not mix with those of whom he does not approve.

Part of the woman's right to intimacy is that her husband should not frown at her without reason, he must be cheerful when speaking to her and not rude or harsh, nor should he show attraction to other women.

It has been narrated from the Prophet (saw) that he had a close relationship with his wives, he would play with them, be mild-mannered toward them and have fun with them to the extent that he used to race with 'A'isha (ra), the mother of the believers, and with that win her love. She said; "Allah's Messenger (saw) raced me and I beat him, that was before I gained weight. Later I raced him when I had put on some weight, so he beat me and said; **"This was (in return) for that (time when you had beaten me)."** The Prophet (saw) after praying 'Isha would spend a short part of the evening chatting with his wives before sleeping, thereby creating a friendly atmosphere. So a husband should be a friend to his wife, and kind when he requests something from her, to the extent that if he desires her he should choose the best situation and condition suitable for her. Ibn Majah reported that the Prophet (saw) said;

((خيركم، خيركم لنسائه، وأنا خيركم لنسائي))

**"The best amongst you are the ones who are best to their wives."**

Unfortunately, nowadays some men have adopted some non-Islamic traditions with regards to the treatment of their wives. They believe that the fact that they paid a dowry and that they earn money to maintain their wife gives them the right to treat them harshly and rudely. They criticize their wife over any little mistake instead of overlooking it. This leads to a married life devoid of intimacy and affection, which contradicts what we learnt from our Prophet (saw), who had a close relationship with his wives.

Husbands and wives must find time and ways to build and grow a close relationship. They must find time to share their day's experiences. For example, on returning from work the husband should enquire about her day. How did she cope with looking after the children that day? How did she deal with the cleaning, cooking and all other tasks? What do they both need to do in order to develop the Islamic understanding of their children? How can he help with any of her tasks? Wives should also ensure that they take an interest in the issues the husband is facing at work or elsewhere, as she may be able to console or help him. The sharing of each other's joys, anxieties and problems leads to a cementing of the bonds of love between husbands and wives. He should also compliment her often and dress smartly to impress her. She should also keep herself attractive for him so their love for each other is rekindled again and again. They should also make efforts to strengthen each other's Iman by praying tahajjud together,

as well as sharing Islamic articles and books that broaden their understanding of the Islamic culture.

### Leadership has been granted to the husband

Who should have the final say? Who is the leader in this relationship? Since things may happen in married life that may disturb the order, Allah has granted the leadership of the home to the husband over the wife, ie he has been made a guardian over her. He (swt) said;

الرِّجَالُ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ

"Men are the protectors and guardians over women." [TMQ An- Nisa: 34]

Guardianship of the husband over the wife and his leadership of the house does not mean being domineering or being its ruler such that no issue is opposed. Rather the leadership of the husband over the house is the looking after its affairs and administering it and there is no domination or commanding in it. Therefore, the woman has the right to answer back to her husband and debate with him and criticise what he says because they are companions and not a commander and commanded, or a ruler and a ruled. On the contrary they are two companions, one of whom possesses leadership in terms of running the house and looking after its affairs. In his house, the Messenger of Allah (saw) was likewise a companion to his wives, not a domineering ruler over them, in spite of his being the leader of the Islamic state and in spite of being a Prophet. 'Umar ibn al-Khattab said in a Hadith reported by him; "By Allah, during the days of Ignorance we ignored women until Allah the Exalted revealed about them what He has revealed and gave them a share." He said; "It so happened that I was thinking about some matter when my wife said; 'I wish that you had done so and so'. I said to her; "It does not concern you, and you should not interfere in what I intend to do." She said to me; 'How strange is it that you, son of Khattab, do not like anyone to answer you back, whereas your daughter answers back Allah's Messenger (saw) until he spends the day in vexation'. Umar said; "I took hold of my cloak, then came out of my house until I visited Hafsa and said to her; O daughter, (I heard) that you answer back to Allah's Messenger (saw) until he spends the day in vexation." Hafsa said; 'By Allah, we do answer him back'. From this it becomes clear



Father and Child

that the meaning of the man's guardianship over the woman is that the command should rest with him, but it should be a command borne out of companionship and not domination and control. Thus she can answer back



to him and discuss with him.

The fact that Islam grants guardianship to the man over the woman is one of the issues over which Muslims are often attacked. Westerners champion the idea of total equality between men and women in every sense. Some Muslims have been affected by this capitalist idea, so some so-called modernists argue that obedience to the husband is an old-fashioned idea that is not suitable for 2003. So we find that they either seek complete sexual freedom with no regard to marriage, or end up in marriages where the partners constantly quarrel over who has the final say in resolving issues.

### Roles of husbands and wives

What tasks is a husband primarily responsible for? What tasks is a wife primarily responsible for? This is another issue that can be a bone of contention between husband and wife, especially in the west. The Western definition of the roles men and women should have is forever changing. So in the 40s and 50s, the woman was expected to be a housewife and rear children, while the man would have a career at work. In the 80s and 90s we then had the advent of the career woman who has the right to a full-time career, just like the man. This has led to many arguments over the responsibility for rearing children. Some babies are left with nannies two weeks after being born, hardly knowing the warmth of a mother, because she has to return to work to further her career. In Islam, the roles of the husband and wife are not defined, by men, or by women. The rules related to this aspect of life come from Allah. Islam resolved this issue by stipulating that any work that needs to be carried out inside the house the woman must undertake, whatever the type of work. Any work that needs to be carried out outside the house the man must undertake. This is due to what has been narrated from the Prophet (saw) in the story of 'Ali and Fatimah (may Allah be pleased with them); He (saw) imposed on his daughter Fatimah the duty of working in the house and imposed on 'Ali whatever was outside the house in terms of work. Allah's Messenger (saw) used to order his wives to serve him. He said;

((يا عائشة اسقينا يا عائشة أطعمينا يا عائشة هلمي الشفرة  
واشحذيهما بحجر))

*"O 'A'isha, bring us some water. O 'A'isha bring us food to eat. O 'A'isha bring me the razor and sharpen it against a stone."*

It has been reported that Fatimah came to the Prophet (saw) complaining to him about her difficulty in working a hand-mill, and she asked if she could get a servant to save her from that. All of this indicates that serving the husband in the house and looking after the house is one of the obligations of the wife that she must undertake. However, the performance of such work is subject to her ability. If there is a lot of work to be done which would put her in hardship, then it is incumbent on the husband to provide her a servant or any other form of help (e.g. a washing machine) that will enable the work to get done, and she has the right to demand this. However, if the work is not overwhelming and she is capable of doing it, then the husband is not obliged to provide a servant. In this case, she is required to undertake the work by herself as evidenced by what the Messenger of Allah (saw) imposed on his daughter Fatimah in tending to the house. Both partners should fulfil their responsibilities to each other, but this does not mean that the wife cannot work outside the home, or that the husband should not help with housework.

### Relation with in-laws

How should a married couple relate to their in-laws? This is one of the issues that sometimes cause problems in our community. Some mothers-

in-law have the idea that the daughter-in-law is like a slave who must serve the mother-in-law as she sees fit. This is due to un-Islamic customs. Some wives react to this by demanding to have nothing to do with their mother-in-law. So although the newly married couple cannot afford their own accommodation, the wife may insist that she cannot live with her in-laws who may have ample space for them. Some married couples move far away from both of their families, effectively breaking the relationship with them. This type of individualism stems from Capitalism, which leads families to live far apart and only call each other on Christmas day. All of these standpoints are far from Islam. The responsibility of looking after the parents rests primarily with their children, not their children's wives. However, Islam encourages co-operation within the extended family and rewards the helping of other Muslims. So though the daughter-in-law is not a slave to the mother-in-law, she should help out the duties if she lives with her in-laws, the couple must do their best to keep good relations with both sets of in-laws. The in-laws should also avoid interfering in every detail of their children's marriage as this often exacerbates any problems rather than ending them.

The attack on the Islamic view of marriage is part of the attempt to get Muslims to leave the Islamic values and sharee'ah rules, adopting the western concepts about personal relationships in their place. The capitalist ideals of freedom and sexual liberation have resulted in nothing but misery for millions throughout the world. Muslims must understand the Islamic solutions to the issues that arise in marriages, so we have the Islamic marriage and the tranquillity it brings, whilst avoiding the misery caused by Western ideals or non-Islamic traditions. z

## RE: BOYCOTTING WESTERN CULTURE

Dear Editor,

*I was sent an email, regarding "Boycott western culture, not just cola" I agree with all that was stated, apart from what was written;*

*"...Such companies and products exist because of the thoughts and ideas that exist behind them. Muslims should understand that they cannot simply reject the products, without rejecting the culture behind them. Without doing this, the Muslim's opinions on different issues would be full of contradictions. For example ideas such as freedom and democracy have no basis in Islam..."*

*No, this is a wrong notation of basic Islamic spirits. History says an ordinary citizen of Islamic country had the right to question any actions of the Khalifahs and those have been either clarified or corrected then and there. In short the response was not like something could be happened in autocratic or fascist countries. In short Islam permits freedom and respects individual's prestige though we are slaves of Allah and no room of slavery to the rulers. In that context freedom and democracy can be categorically logical but not the current concepts like rallies and slogans which are not in the scope.*

**Wasalaam  
Mohammad, Saudi Arabia.**

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### Reply

Thank you for your email, the section that you have highlighted is in fact correct, and accurate. But there is a misunderstanding of terminology. There is a difference between, "freedom" and "Democracy" as mentioned in the West, and propagated by the Capitalist Colonialist states, and rights to speak the truth and account according to the Quran and Sunnah, and electing a ruler to rule over us by Quran and Sunnah.

So man can buy and sell what he likes, he can believe what he wishes, and if he chooses not to believe and become Murtaad so be it, he can say what he likes and he is free to do what he likes, i.e. become homosexual, commit adultery, rape etc. According to the Capitalists, they themselves will decide when, how, and if they wish to restrict any of these freedoms.

This is what the Capitalists mean by freedom, and this is the culture they wish to push upon the Muslims. This is absolutely in contradiction with what Allah (swt) demands. He (swt) has made the Muslim, the slave to the will of Allah (swt), and we as Muslims regulate our behaviour according to the commands, and prohibitions of Allah (swt), and yes we are free to voice our opinions not because we have chosen to but Allah (swt) has allowed it, and even obliged us to voice our opinion against the corrupt rulers.

With respect to democracy, it is more than just elections. It is a system, which determines who are going to be the representatives of the people to decide the rules which they wish to be governed by. i.e. It is a system to represent the sovereignty of man, so it is the practical means for them in achieving the goals I mentioned above.

Whereas elections is one of the means to determine who the Khaleefah of the Muslims is going to be. In fact it is obligation, for the Khaleefah, to have the consent of all the Muslims by freewill and choice. Unlike our present rulers who are a tool used by the Capitalist West to implement the evil policies in our lands. As can be seen in Iraq today.

## RE: US TROOPS IN KUWAIT

As-salaam 'Aalikum

Brother / Sister

*I refer to your January 2003 (Shawwal - Dhul-Qa'dah 1423) Issue of the Khilafah magazine Vol 16 Issue 1. The last page or back cover - GOD BLESS U.S. TROOPS, Is this image edited? Do the words GOD BLESS U.S. TROOPS really appear on the sign in question? I await your reply*

**Yours sincerely  
Mohamed bin Mohamed**

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### Reply

Jazakallah Khair,

The picture was not altered. The picture, shows a convoy of US Army vehicles driving north of Kuwait City 60 km (37 miles) from the Iraqi border past a sign with the message 'God bless US troops' on Sunday, Jan. 12, 2003. The phrase was recently added to the highway indicator board after attacks by suspected Islamic extremist Kuwaiti citizens against U.S. troops. The photo was taken by a Gustavo Ferrari, and was widely available to newspapers and magazines.

## RE: SADDAM HUSSEIN

Salaam Alaikum , Brothers

*I as a western revert and even before I embraced Islam I had a deep dislike for almost everything coming from the USA from coca cola and hamburgers to their imperialistic politics to the way they import their shallow culture all around the world replacing beauty with love for money and a crooked sort of Christianity that does not care about the poor and the weak! So now I deplore everything about Bush and his mantra " weapons of mass destruction "!*

*But thirteen or some years ago I heard and saw when Saddam was still a friend of the USA and that he killed with poisonous gas thousands of Kurdish Muslim brothers and sisters !!*

*Then the USA didn't utter a word of protest ! And just to say it again , I am against any war that could kill brothers or sisters or even innocent kufar BUT I would like to ask you " How does a devout Muslim deal with above facts , how do I view Saddam Hussain when I know he is not as far as I know a good Muslim ? "*

*Please help me and may Allah bless your messages!*

**Wa-Salaam ,  
Ibrahim from Belgium**

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### Reply

Jazakallah khair for your email.

The feelings that you have about Saddam Hussein are felt by all Muslims around the world. You should be aware that though there are many Muslim countries around the world there is no Islamic State. This is a State where the security is in the hands of the Muslims and all the rules of Islam are implemented.

With regard to disarmament of Iraq, this is a separate issue to the ruler of Iraq. The colonial powers do not want to disarm Iraq for our benefit, but for their own. They also attempt to pressurise many other Muslim countries to give up their strategic assets, like Pakistan. We must keep our countries strong in all respects.

Muslims all over the world are working to replace the current tyrant regimes with a single, unified state, the Khilafah (Caliphate). This is the legitimate ruling system in Islam.

We would urge you to investigate this critical aspect of Islam and realise your responsibility concerning it. We would also urge you to assist in our current campaign 'Don't stop the War Except through Islamic Politics'.

## RE: PRACTICAL ACTIONS TO STOP THE WAR ON IRAQ

*Assalaamu 'alaykum warahmatullahi wabarakaatuh*

*I want to start by saying jazakAllah for the message you sent with regards to why Muslims shouldn't attend the Stop the War march on the 15th of February. I happen to disagree with your reasons for not attending it and there are arguments (from an Islamic viewpoint) which can be used here. However, my interest here is not to debate with you, but rather ask you a question with regards to the alternative you mention. I must say, I think it is a good idea and feel it should be done alongside landing pressure on the Western governments bent on attacking the innocents of Iraq.*

*My question is, as a resident in the West (Britain), what can I, practically do to add to the pressure the leaders of Muslim lands are (quite possibly) already facing from their own people? How can we residents of the Western hemisphere contribute to the replacement of these corrupt rulers (may Allah Guide them, aameen)?*

*May the Mercy and Help of Allah descend on the oppressed and weak of the world and those who strive sincerely in His Way and may He Guide us all.*

*Aameen Fi'amaanillah*  
**Saleha Ali, UK**

### Reply

Jazakallah Khair for your email. We have initiated our campaign based upon what we consider are sound Islamic arguments and the strongest evidences related to the matter. It would be positive for us both that if you consider that there are stronger arguments to put them to us. We are open to discussion and will abandon our call if you convince us otherwise.

As you requested in your email I enclose a list of practical actions that can be undertaken by yourself in order to assist the campaign and work to re-establish the Khilafah

1. First of all actions cannot be carried out by Muslims unless both the reality and the shariah rules are understood. Consequently the reality of a War on Iraq is that it is forbidden for any Muslim to support a 'War on Iraq' whether it has 100% support in an opinion poll or not, whether it has a UN mandate or not, whether the British parliament supports it or not. The Islamic rule in dealing with this reality is that those armies in Muslim lands should join forces with the army of Iraq to defend themselves against any crusader attack. Consequently the shariah defines the practical way to resolve this problem; it clearly states that the correct strategy is to motivate the Islamic armies and to get the rulers in Muslim lands to act decisively, not to go begging through the Whitehall and the UN route. We need to motivate the Islamic armies and challenge the existing corrupt rulers in our lands

to stop this war, as they are certainly in a position to do this. If the rulers did not help America and Britain and the Islamic armies acted, then this war could not happen. The actions we can do in Britain to try and support this are as follows.

2. Organise pickets at every Muslim embassy who are planning to assist America and Britain to prosecute their colonialist war. Put pressure on the Ambassadors, ring them up night and day, send letters, e-mails and faxes, bombard them, challenge them to tell you why they are supporting this war and remind them that it is an obligation to replace any ruler who does not rule by Islam. Convince the embassies of Syria, Jordan and Iran that neutrality is not an Islamic option here, that a unified stand which involved standing shoulder to shoulder with Iraq would almost certainly deter America and Britain from attacking.

3. Inform the Muslim embassies who are members of OPEC, that they should cease from immediate effect providing oil to any country that is going to attack Iraq. Remind them that taking this action would cripple economic and social life in these countries, and would almost certainly deter war. They should also withdraw all investments and unwind all remaining assets from these countries. Remind these embassies that this wealth belongs to the ummah and that taking these actions will show these colonialist nations that this ummah is not weak, impotent or poor.

4. Write specifically to the Qatari, Saudi, Kuwaiti, Turkish, Bahraini, Uzbekistan embassies to challenge them on why they are providing military bases for America and Britain. It is clear that America has no border with Iraq she therefore relies on bases, launch pads, airspace and waterways of Muslim countries to prosecute this war. Send letters to these governments, attacking them for their treachery, contact relatives and friends who are influential in these countries, convince them that without the rulers acquiescence, war would not or could not happen.

5. Inform the Egyptian Ambassador that he should tell his government to close forthwith the Suez Canal a vital and strategic waterway through which American and British ships would have to pass. Also challenge them and others to throw out all companies and multinationals within their borders from countries who are due to attack Iraq.

6. Organise petitions making the case that we do not want Britain and America interfering in our lands, that we are sick to death of their rotten colonialist and terrorist policies, that it is our rulers who allow them to control our lands and precious resources and the only way to salvage our problem is to work to re-establish the Khilafah. Send these petitions worldwide to all the offices of all the Muslim governments, send them to your relatives abroad, send them to people you know in the armed forces in Muslim lands. Send them to everyone you know in Britain, tell them to forward these to everyone they have links with, so that we cover the length and breadth of Britain.

7. Do not keep these views to yourself, entertain debate, ring in to radio discussion programmes, organise stalls, seminars, rallies and lectures in your locality. Ensure you speak to all overseas visitors from Muslim lands; encourage them to take up the call in a feasible way when they return so that public opinion spreads. Keep your community informed about all new developments, alert them to the dangers of the Stop the War campaign and remind them that seeking the help of the British colonialist is no different from seeking the help of the American colonialist. Make them aware that Britain is a colonialist leopard that doesn't change its spots.

8. For those of you who are intending to perform the noble Hajj, you have a unique opportunity to discuss these key issues outside the performance of the obligated acts with Muslims from the entire world. You can also create awareness amongst Muslims about the Saudi Government's support of the American 'War on Iraq'. Do not listen to those who say Hajj is not about worldly affairs because the hadith of the Prophet (saw) made the value of Muslims a life and death.

9. Use the dossier titled 'The West's Weapons of Mass Destruction and Colonialist Foreign Policy' which is a comprehensive refutation of the British Government's own dossier, and pass this to influential people to highlight the absolute contradictions in Western foreign policy.

10. This is the true political work of Islam, and this is how to decisively stop the war. So join with us in following the Prophet's sunnah and engage in Islamic politics, not the Western politics, and liberate this Ummah from the tyranny of capitalism, for Allah (swt) is the knower of all things, and to him we shall have to account for our deeds. z

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