

T H E

R E V I V A L

SHAMIM A SIDDIQI

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL

THE

REVIVAL OF

THE MUSLIM UMMAH

SHAMIM A SIDDIQI

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DEDICATION

I

Dedicate

this book to those

brothers and sisters

who

dedicate their lives

in

building the Jamm'ah

of

Ibadus - Salihin

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ALLAH'S TRADITION / CONDITION TOWARDS CHANGE

* “ ... Lo! Allah changes not the condition of folk until they (first) change what is in their hearts (themselves)”.

(Al-Raa'd 12 : 11)

* “... Fulfil your (part of the) covenant; and I shall fulfill my (part of the) covenant , and fear Me “.

(Al-Baqara 2 : 40)

* “... Faint not nor grief, for ye will overcome them (the Batil forces) if you are (indeed) Muminen (believers)”.

(Al-Imran 3 : 139)

* “ ...Those who believe and have not obscured their faith (Iman) by wrong doings; it is they who shall be secured (be in peace) and it is they who are guided to right path”.

(Al-Ana'm 6 : 82)

* “... Lo! All the earth is Allah's. He gives it as a heritage to such as He will of His servants; and the future belongs (only) to Allah-conscious (people) “.

(Al-A'raf 7 : 128)

* “Allah has promised those of you who have attained to faith and do righteous deeds that, of a certainty, He will cause them to accede to power on earth, even as He caused [some of] those who lived before them to accede to it: and that, of a certainty, He will firmly establish for them the Deen which He has been pleased to bestow on them; and that, of a certainty, He will cause their erstwhile state of fear to be replaced by a sense of security (peace) - [seeing that] they worship Me [alone], not ascribing divine powers to ought beside Me. But all who, [having understood] this, chose to deny the truth - it is they, who are really iniquitous! “.

(Al-NUR 24 : 55)

* “ The later part of this Ummah will be revived or reformed except by resorting to what molded its shape in the beginning “.

(An adage of Abu Bakr Siddiq (R), reported by Imam Ma'lik)

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL**PREFACE**

To draw a true picture of the Muslim Ummah, it is desirable that first I must present a bird's eye view of what this Ummah appears today internally, within its own bounds and on its own accord. I will then try to depict a picture of what is going on in the Muslim world on account of internal interference by the West and the nefarious game which the secular world is playing within the Ummah. It is essential for the understanding of the cure and solution which I will, Insha Allah, elaborate subsequently to get the Ummah out of its existing mess.

INTERNALLY - THE UMMAH BY ITSELF :

The Muslim Ummah is passing through the greatest crisis of its existence. Its problems are centuries old and are deep-rooted in its deteriorating socio-economic-political condition. Conceptionally, the Muslims are extremely confused. Morally, they are at their lowest ebb. From the point of character, they are no longer as trustworthy as they used to be. In the field of education and technology, they stand nowhere in comparison to the West. They are behind, perhaps, by an era. At the most, they occasionally feel inspired momentarily by reading or listening to the glories of their past. When the emotions subside, they look like a waste or the refuse of the receding waves. Their entire life spectrum is far and far away from the Qur'an and the Sunnah. Only some glimpses of Islam can be seen in personal Ibadah, deep rooted customs or traditions at the time of birth, death and marriage ceremonies. Thus the life of the Muslim Ummah totally lies in shambles, far from the message of the Qur'an and the traditions left behind by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S).

The condition of Muslim women is perhaps the worst, With a few exceptions, here and there, the lives of Muslim women, especially in the urban areas, mostly appears to be modeled after Western society. Their fashion, their dress-style, their make-up, all have become the symbol of

“modern ignorance.” They live a life of total violation of the limits prescribed by Allah in Surah Al-Noor, Al-Ahzab, and An-Nissa. Their Zeenah (adornment and charm) appears not to be for their husbands and home, for which they are meant, but for the society, to attract others (sometimes out of ignorance and sometimes willfully) to their beauty. In no way do they appear to be the modest mothers and daughters of a respectable Muslim family, the Muhsinat. They are mostly chauvinistic in their exposure, extravagant in their expenditures, and luxurious in their life-style. Their appearance contradicts what Allah and His Prophet (S) ordained for their life-pattern as models and inspiring mothers of the Muslim Ummah. The Muslim women are thus very much instrumental in bringing their Muslim societies to the verge of moral bankruptcy for which the Muslim men are to be blamed equally in neglecting their obligations towards the maintenance of the family values, upliftment of the social and ethical standards as cherished by Islam. They should have directed their women with love and persuasion to observe the limits ordained by Allah to maintain a balanced social and family life. They failed and the Ummah is suffering its consequences.

The Ummah is, thus, infested with innumerable problems created by its own neglect of Islam as a way of life. Islam has become only a private affair between man and God. The entire socio-economic-political domain is controlled by a secular and materialistic concept of life. No- where is Islam visible in these spheres of life. In consequence, we have rendered Islam into a religion of a few rituals and formalities of some worship (Ibadah). In the rest of their lives, Muslims follow their own whims and desires, or the directives from the secular masters of the West, sometimes openly and sometimes in disguise.

THE INTERNAL INTERFERENCE :

The tragedy of the Muslim Ummah does not end here. The Western powers who dominated the Muslim world under their colonial rules for centuries together granted freedom to these countries only when they were sure that they had been able to pollute and control practically every branch of their individual and collective life - social, cultural, economic and political. They enforced their educational, economic as well as political system deep into Muslim societies. It made the Muslim masses, especially the educated and intelligentsia class, very much fascinated by the material values and charms of the Western culture and life-style. Exploiting our own weaknesses as pinpointed above, most of the

educated class became slaves to Western culture and materialistic cults of life. Thus, before they left the Muslim lands, they were able to create a very influential class of their own liking who came to power either through election or military coups in each and every Muslim country which was under the subjugation of European colonial powers.

This vested class may be Asian or African in color and shape, but is totally Western in approach and life-style. This class has become instrumental in serving the interest of their old colonial masters in each country. The European masters are long gone but their most loyal and obedient native slaves or servants are serving the old game better than their masters. Through this vested class, the Western powers are perpetuating their control over their old colonies through a remote-control system. This game of internal interference in Muslim countries has a far reaching effect. In nature, the people at the helm of the affairs of the Muslim world are secular and very much allergic to Islam and the concept of the Islamic state. As such, they have become impediments in the way of Islam and the Islamic movements everywhere in the Muslim world. The dirty game of internal interference by the Western powers is being played out in every Muslim country through the connivance of the secular forces and the vested interests left behind by the colonial powers. They are all allergic to Islam. This state of affairs is just intolerable. .

POSITION OF THE MUSLIM WORLD - SOME EXAMPLES :

Let us briefly survey the position of the Muslim world and see what is going on in different countries and regions in the continents of Europe, Asia, Africa and elsewhere in the world. It will help us to understand the colossal challenge which the Ummah is facing in its efforts towards the revival of its fate. I will just deal with the current situation of some Muslim countries as it appears today without going deep into its history and causes.

* **BOSNIA - HERZEGOVINA** : It is experiencing an uneasy peace under the Dayton Agreement. First the Bosnians were coerced to form a federation with their adversary, the Croats. Then they were forced to accept the peace agreement under pressure from the US or face total annihilation. The role of America and that of Europe has been dubious throughout this tragedy. They could have stopped the genocide at the

very outset, but they did not. They have rewarded the criminal Serbs with 49 % of the territory for their atrocities committed against innocent

Muslim men, women and children. History will never forget this conspiracy. It appears that both Croats and Serbs have accepted the so-called Peace Agreement for the time being only. Soon, at the appropriate time, they will be ready to go for another Balkan war to usurp the existing state of Bosnia and share half and half to quench their thirst of cleansing of Muslims from the heart of Europe. At that time, America and Europe will most likely repeat the same game of silence. They want to wash out the remnant of Ottoman Khalifate from the soil of Europe and the existence of Muslims from their midst along with it. But the Muslim world will never forget this tragic episode and wait for its opportune moments to do justice with the oppressed.

* **PALESTINE - THE MIDDLE EAST** : US is bent upon forcing all the states of the region to negotiate peace (what is termed as peace, actually it is surrender) and get the existence of the belligerent state of Israel accepted as a lawful entity in the same manner as Egypt and Jordan have succumbed to her pressures - military might, diplomatic maneuverings and economic enticing. The Sheikdoms of Middle East are just as eager to jump into this trap, which is nothing but to establish the superiority of Israel in the heart of the Muslim world, both militarily and economically. It appears that in future, Israel will serve as the protector of these Sheikhs and their unlawful, undemocratic, unislamic kingdoms and regimes that are palatable to the Western world. In its wake, the state piracy and state terrorism of Israel will increase all around the region. America will use Israel for her own game of keeping her grip tight on the Middle East and on the flow of oil from the region. Meanwhile, the oppressive regime of Saddam Hussain in Iraq is being maintained to perpetuate the environment of terror in the hearts of Gulf Sheiks, including Saudi Arabia. In consequence, America will continue to get ransom and cheap oil from the area. Syria, sooner or later, is likely to fall into this trap and the secular state of Turkey has been posing as the most obedient servant of America and EEC countries. This is the greatest mishap of history. One day it is going to backfire. This hegemony is ill founded and ill-fated. It is nothing but the climax of a crusade being relentlessly thrust upon the Muslim world as it is weak and cannot produce any Salahuddin in its ranks at present. But history will preserve the hegemonies of today and the Zionists will have to pay a dear price for their conspiracies in due course of time.

* **IRAN** : Iran is being dubbed as a terrorist nation, especially due to her so-called support of Hizbullah in Lebanon. It appears that America

can accept and co-exist with communism, dictatorships, oppressive monarchies and different tyrant regimes around the world, but in no way can it tolerate an Islamic state anywhere in the world. Iran is no exception to it. Iran has been declared by America as a terrorist state along with Syria, Libya and Sudan. But Iran is increasing its influence in the Muslim states of Central Asia, Russia, India and China as alternative sources to fall back on. America cannot do much harm to Iran except hurling negative rhetorics, causing some irritation to its political will which is inevitable when a nation follows its own independent foreign policy and ignores the political maneuverings of a superpower. But America is not going to spare Iran as it is. The game of arching eyebrows will continue, may be, for a decade or more when the realities of the world may change and demand something other than what is going on today.

* **SUDAN** : With the emergence of an Islamic system in Sudan as a joint collaboration of the military man General Bashir, the idealism of Br. Hassan Turabi and the willingness of the common people of the land, America is feeling very much alarmed. Its surrogate, Husni Mubarak of Egypt, it appears, staged a drama of an attempted attack on his person on 26 June 1995 while on a visit to Ethiopia to attend a conference of OAU at Addis Ababa. He directly blamed Sudan without any verification. A clumsy story was concocted to support this malicious game. It is now demanded that the three so-called Egyptian culprits who are in hiding in Sudan, as they claim, be handed over to Egypt/Ethiopia for criminal trial. Sudan is willing to cooperate even with this false story and requested to tell their whereabouts. Whatever has been provided as their identity is just ridiculous. America, with the collaboration of the Security Council, demanded the return of these men. The Security Council has imposed sanctions against Sudan in its session on 10 May 1996, if Sudan fails to comply with SC's unjustified, baseless and concocted demand. It is very much clear that Sudan cannot meet the frivolous demand of the USA/Security Council/Egypt. As such, it must face the consequences and the wrath of the Superpower, simply because it cannot tolerate the emergence of an Islamic state anywhere in this world. In its wake, on the instigation of America, the states of Uganda, Ethiopia, Egypt and Eritrea are jointly pressing Sudan to bear the

consequences. One day, they may pounce upon Sudan from all sides and snatch away the benefits of an Islamic state from the poor people of Sudan. The south of Sudan is already bleeding. The war of rebellion is

rampant. The rebels have been stuffed with arms and ammunition upto their necks. Unfortunately, Saudi Arabia has also become a part of this game. The entire Christian world is at its back. To these adversaries, perhaps, the days of the Islamic state of Sudan are numbered. But they forget the Supermost power of Allah whose Deen the people of Sudan are determined to establish as a way of life in their body-politics. If Allah is willing, all the conspiracies will fail and fail bitterly. With the Nusra from Allah, Sudan one day may emerge as a true Islamic state, "howsoever the idolaters may be averse to it" (The Qur'an. 61 : 9)

* **AFGHANISTAN** : The war of the people of Afghanistan against Communist Russia was to free the country and establish an Islamic state in their homeland. They won it at a colossal loss of human life and material resources. All the fighting factions were unanimous in their declared objective, but the attempt was thwarted by America which maneuvered to get Pakistan to sign the Interim Peace Agreement at Geneva, which derailed the entire process of Islamisation. The country is deeply engaged in factional skirmishes. Conditions like a civil war now exists in Afghanistan. A new organization in the name of Taliban was introduced to finish the war of attrition and bring the country under one banner. But it was a fraud perpetuated by Western diplomacy and Taliban has become a party to the strife. They have prolonged the factional war between groups and have usurped quite a big chunk (about 2/3) of the country, including Kabul, under their control. America coerced Pakistan to play a negative role in Afghanistan. As a result, it has lost its goodwill with many of the Mujahedeen.. Afghanistan is still bleeding and there is no peace in sight. Through negotiations between Burhanuddin Rabbani and Hizbe Islami of Hikmatyar, an interim government in Kabul was established but now it is no where. Both have gone in hide out with the fall of Kabul to Taliban. The country practically stands divided into North and South. Hindukush draws the line of demarcation. The possibility of establishing a true Islamic state in a united Afghanistan has receded for the time being into the background. Apparently the will of America has prevailed but the people of Afghanistan are different than any other nation in the world. They know no compromise on Islam and for the protection of their

honor. If they can defeat the Soviet bear, they equally have the tenacity to defeat the evil designs of Uncle Sam and his henchmen. One day, Insha Allah, Afghanistan will be the cradle of Islam. When? For its attainment, now the Ummah has to go a long way to defeat the Anglo-American-French-Russian-Indian hegemony at the threshold of Kabul.

Over and above, the uncertainties about Taliban and their motives, their policies of Islamisation and strategies to that effect are making the future somewhat unclear. We, however, hope that only something good will come out of the present confused and conflicting situation.

* **PAKISTAN** : Pakistan which was carved out of the sub-continent of India as a laboratory for Islam is fast heading towards secularism. The influence and interference of America and the world bodies in her socio-economic-political affairs has increased immensely. It has crossed all the limits of moral decency, economic pressures and political intimidation. Pakistan has been forced and coerced to cap her nuclear program, antagonize the friendly regime of Afghanistan, drift away from her old and trusted friends like China and Iran and brought at the verge of giving up her rightful claim over Kashmir by agreeing in principle to accept the partition of the state or to make it a protectorate of the UN for a decade or so. In every case America will get her influence increased in the region for the containment of China in the future. Under the constant interference from America in the internal affairs, Pakistan looks like it is a satellite state with no gain but losses and set-backs at every front. Its economy stands ruined. Morally, it is fast becoming bankrupt. Politically, its sovereignty is dwindling at an accelerated pace and Islamically, the people of Pakistan are being befooled in the name of American liberalism. It appears that the regime of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto has no justification to stay in power any more.

This is the state of one Muslim country. The reader can well imagine the state of other Muslim countries, from Casablanca to Jakarta, where the socio-economic-political influence of America is very much visible all around. Virtually, they are the satellites of America and seek her pleasure at every step. The newly born six Muslim countries of Central Asia are also no exception to this rule. America would prefer to see them as maintaining their communist-style rules, but in no way can she tolerate seeing these countries marching towards Islam and an Islamic way of life in any way. The matter is very serious. America claims and

maintains values like human rights, democracy, family traditions, rights of women and children for her own people and the rest of the world, except the Muslim countries. This is a every serious anomalous situation.

VARIED NATURE OF INTERFERENCE AND SOME FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS THERETO :

Taking the overall picture of the state of the Muslim Ummah, it can be categorized that the game of internal interference in the affairs of the Muslim world is being played by the USA and its allies in the following ways.

1. By making every effort to get the Islamic movements curbed, or annihilated altogether as in Indonesia, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Nigeria and elsewhere in Asia and Africa.
2. By removing the promising Muslim leadership around the world from the surface of the earth, if they cannot be won over to her side. The best examples, in this respect, can be cited are that of Hassan Al-Banna of Egypt, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia and President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan. The assassination of Muhammad Salahuddin of Takbeer, Karachi in December 1994 can also be put in the same category as he was bitterly opposing the interference of America in the affairs of Pakistan. There was a conspiracy to kill Engineer Gulbadeen Hikmatyar of Hizbe Islami who is determined to establish an Islamic state in Afghanistan.
3. By promoting the life span of the self-imposed dictators and supporting the tyrants, the un-Islamic regimes and fascist political parties throughout the Muslim world. Somewhere, it is done openly and somewhere in disguise. The best examples in this respect that can be sighted are that of Saddam Hussain of Iraq, Col. Ghadafi of Libya, Suharto of Indonesia, Asad of Syria, Husni Mubarak of Egypt, the two Hassans of Jordan and Morocco, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, the Sheikdoms of the Middle East and the secular system of Turkey.
4. By intimidating the established governments of the Muslim world and manipulating through Security Council resolutions as in the case of Palestine, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Sudan.
5. By keeping silent where the basic human and political rights of the Muslims are being usurped or denied as in the case of Algeria, Egypt, Central Asian countries and India where Muslims are butchered every year in thousands in the name of communal and religious riots.

* Why is it so?

- * Why have the enlightened America and Europe turned a deaf ear to the call of humanity?
- * Why are they callous to the cries of Muslims and their inhuman condition in different parts of the world?
- * Why are they scared of Islam and Muslims?

These are very big questions, and for their answer I have to dig into history to locate the causes and find out why America and its allies have adopted this lamentable attitude and double standard. They show a different face when they deal with the Muslim world and do just the opposite when they come in contact with a secular or a Christian country.

A PROBE IN HISTORY : The regions of the Persian and Roman empires that came in contact with Islam in the first century of Hijrah faced people who were men of character, honesty and integrity. They were trustworthy and men of their word. As such, wherever they went they demonstrated those human values of Islam and an Islamic way of life to the people of the land, and won over their hearts and minds within a very short period of contact. As a result, they conquered people into the fold of Islam in multitudes. Regions after regions became Muslim. They accepted the authority of Islam willingly and with full devotion. Those countries became Muslim as a whole and today they are predominantly Muslim. This was the first phase of the conquest of Islam.

The wars of Ummayyah's and Abbasid's dynasties were the wars of conquests for the sake of conquest, except with a few exceptions here and there. These wars were limited mostly into Africa and Central Asia. They had little or no impact on Europe or the Christian world. However, the Crusade Wars are the only exception to it. In this case, the Crusaders

came to attack the Muslim world and tried to snatch away Palestine. In a few cases they succeeded, but very often they were repulsed with heavy losses. They observed the character of Muslims and had praise and admiration for Salahuddin, his character and his human qualities. But unfortunately, the false propaganda campaign carried out by missionaries and the church during, before and after the Crusades still persists and finds its echo in the pages of history and in the minds of the people of Europe and America. It does not create a good picture of Islam

and Muslims. It created a very distorted and concocted picture of Islam and Muslims. Unfortunately, it is continued even to this day through the prejudiced media and missionary zealots.

During the same period, Spain was conquered by Muslims in 92 Hijri. The Muslims ruled Spain for 800 years. The domination of Muslims over Spain for about eight centuries presents another event of sorrow and regret. Through Spain, Europe came in real contact with Muslims, but they only saw the grandeur of art and craft, palaces and monuments, display of luxuries and worldly pomps and shows, and the splendor of the court of the Sultan. These were the outward manifestations of a dominant culture and not of Islam. The Dynasty of Khalifa Abdur Rahman failed to use its name, fame and power to win over the hearts of Europe and its people for Islam. Had they done their job sincerely and devotedly for the spread of Allah's Deen as the Muslims of the first century did in Asia and Africa, the history of Europe, North and South America would have been quite different today. Muslims have paid and are paying the costly price of this negligence, and only Allah knows how much more and how long?

The real confrontation of Europe with Muslims and Islam came with the fall of Constantinople in 1453 A.D. to the Turks. The wars of the Turks were for the expansion of Ottoman Empire. It was the quest for more land than the spread of Islam that brought them up to the gates of Vienna. The entire Balkan region was at the mercy of the Turks. They forgot their job of Dawah Ilallah, and repeated the same blunders which were committed by the Moors in Spain. As such, Europe witnessed and experienced only the so-called militant part of Islam, bent upon expanding and promoting the borders of the Empire. From the Christian Prisoners of Wars who became Muslims, the Turks made a new army and carried out their conquest in Europe. They were called Janassarites. They became the backbone of the kingdom. They fought many battles on

their own lands and against their own people. Later on, they became very powerful and played the role of king-makers and hence were smashed in 1241 Hijri. The conquest of the Balkan created the sentiments of nationalism in the people of that region and inspired the other powers of Europe to oust the Turks from their land. This moved them to join hands against the Ottoman Khalafate and gave birth to conspiracies after conspiracies to smash the might of the Muslim Caliphate. Gradually the hate and conspiracies against the Turks changed into hate against Islam, Muslims and the Caliphate.

It is a matter of great tragedy that Europe was never introduced to Islam and its message as Rasulullah (S) introduced it to the ignorant idolaters of the Arabian peninsula:

- * They were, perhaps, never introduced to the fundamentals of Islam as a way of life;
- * What benedictions Islam gives to the individuals and societies who enter into the fold of Allah was never put before them with love and affection;
- * They never learned how Islam raises the lot of the have-nots and eradicates human sufferings;
- * They were, perhaps, never told how Islam establishes justice, equality and fair play in social, economical and political spheres of life; and
- * How Islam offers Salvation and gives the best of both the worlds.

The truthful preaching of Islam might have been done sometime and somewhere sporadically but never in an organized form in a continuous process. In fact, the general masses always remain ignorant about Islam, the Qur'an and the life-model of Prophet Muhammad (S). The missionaries were prejudiced. The atmosphere of constant wars between Europe and the Ottoman Empire on land and on sea surcharged their anti-Islam and anti-Muslim feelings with hate and revenge. The culminating point of the fall of the Moors in Spain coincided with the march of the Turks in Europe. In this atmosphere of animosity, hate and revenge, those who got the chance to study Islam were only trying to find fault with it. They never tried to learn Islam in-depth to understand

it as a continuous process of Allah's commitment to humanity to send guidance for its redemption. As such, the research works and writings of almost all the oriental writers, thinkers and philosophers are full of concocted, distorted and out of context information about Islam, its teachings and the Prophet's (S) life. These writings only added fuel to the fire of hate, contempt and revenge against Islam and Muslims in Europe in the sixteen, the seventeen and the eighteen century. The same prejudiced people from Europe migrated to America and inhabited its virgin land. They carried all the prejudices both of oriental writings and

in hearsay along with them. These immigrants were the forefathers of today's leadership in America.

In their enmity against the Ottoman Caliphate, the European powers, through constant conspiracies, destroyed the institution of Khilafa itself in May, 1924, and helped in getting Turkey reestablished as a secular state. Their enmity did not stop there. They manipulated the development of world events and created the illegitimate state of Israel in the heart of the Muslim world with the result that the Muslims never feel at ease and always are agitated about its existence as an anomaly in their midst. It happened as the enemies of Islam planned. The agitation against the state of Israel took the shape of the war of resistance which Europe and America cleverly and conveniently have called "terrorist activities". It is totally a misnomer. It gives the opportunity to Western media to let loose a propaganda campaign against Islam, Muslims and the Islamic movements of the Muslim world. The prejudices of the past were already there. The so-called "terrorism" in the Middle East gives them an opportunity to prove to the world that Islam is a religion of terror and hence it should not be given any chance to come to power anywhere in the world. The so-called terrorist acts in the Muslim world have served no purpose. They are serving only the cause of anti-Islam forces of Europe and America. President Clinton got a false plea to get his Anti Terrorist Act passed through Congress, sponsored a summit in Cairo to fight the terrorism against Israel at any cost, and is intimidating the Muslim states of Sudan, Iran and Libya by all possible means to surrender to his will or face economic and political boycott and untold sufferings.

THE SOLUTION : In my considered opinion, the people of Europe and America are mostly ignorant of Islam. They are afraid of it for the historical reasons stated above.. Centuries old prejudices are rampant.

The Christian missionaries, the Jewish lobbies and ignorant or deliberately vicious media are bent upon accelerating the pace of anti-Islam propaganda day in and day out. The opportunist leadership of the Muslim world is siding with this global propaganda against Islam for its own nefarious ends. The Zionist lobby is augmenting this propaganda to condemn the Islamic movements of the Muslim world so that they get the chance to foster secularism in the body-politics of the Muslim countries, especially in the Middle East. This will pave the way for the ultimate leadership of Israel in the region for which strenuous efforts are already on the way. America is an open champion of this game. But this tragedy must come to an end. It has to be counteracted by the Muslims

of America and Europe. It seems to be their prime responsibility in the present context of the world as depicted above.

The fault of the present day mess lies on the shoulders of our forefathers. They failed to do their job as ordained by Allah and demonstrated by Rasulullah (S), I have tried to depict the same picture above in the briefest possible manner. These are the undeniable hard facts of our history and we have to bear all the consequences around the world.

Equally, it is not the time to repent but to see how we can get the situation redressed. How can we introduce Islam to the West **afresh?** This is the theme of this humble effort. The Muslims of America owe a great deal to the Ummah. Allah has brought before them a situation which they have to accept as the greatest challenge of time. They have no choice but rise to the occasion. They have only one choice: to be the true torch bearers of Islam in their life-pattern, carry Islam to the people of the land with love, sincerity, affection and utmost care and concern for the people of the land with no prejudice or animosity at all. They can win the hearts and minds of the people of the land through exemplary character, ennobling manners, and nurturing great concern at heart for the welfare of the people. The Part which our forefathers forgot in the fury of their conquest, we have to unfurl through our zeal to deliver good to mankind and salvage it from the slavery of dogmas and man-made notions to the universal blessings of their Creator and Sustainer, Allah (SWT).

If the Muslim Ummah of America gets this message outright from my humble efforts, joins hands to work together as a team, I am more than sure, the fate of the Ummah will stand revived soon. Here in America

the prejudices should be removed by good deeds, to be accompanied with soft-spoken words. I have presented only the broader spectrum towards the revival of the Muslim Ummah. The finer points can be worked out by the Muslim leadership of America. They are to think, act and plan as a team. The success lies in the hands of Allah Who paves the way for those who struggle for His Deen in His way.

NOW ABOUT THIS BOOK : During the last two years, I wrote some articles at different times with the view to augment the revival of the Muslim Ummah at an accelerated pace. Two of them were published in a foreign journal and one in an abridged form in the monthly Message,

NY. The rest are the latest, original, and unpublished. They are as follows :

1. Revival of the Muslim Ummah - How?
2. The Crux of Our Problems.
3. What is an Islamic Movement?
4. Islamic Movement in America - Why?
5. Strategies of Iqamatuddeen in America.
6. Muslims and the Modern Age.

The central theme of all these papers is one and only one, as stated above. As such, the reader may find a bit of repetition here and there but the perspective in which it occurs will be different at every place. It may unfold a new spectrum for the reader to think and ponder over. It may also be there from the point of emphasis on the peculiar circumstances through which the Ummah is passing.

The sum total effect of these efforts presents a scenario for the leadership of the Muslim Ummah and sets before them the following questions as a challenge to grapple with the situation forthwith:

- * What is an Islamic movement?
- * Why is an Islamic movement essential to attain the objective as discussed above?
- * How can a nucleus and the desired team be formulated?
- * What is to be done to introduce Islam as a way of life to the people of the land?
- * What are the priorities to accomplish the goal? and
- * What are Muslims to learn from the West and what they are to deliver and how?

I have elaborated on the method, the process and strategies to build the Islamic movement in America as a prelude to revive the condition of the Ummah. These are the basic ingredients to set the ball of revival in motion. If these primary steps are not taken in the right direction and in time, the revival may not be feasible as the conditions may change tomorrow. On the proposed steps, the fate of the Ummah hinges. As such, we have to work and work together now and resolutely.

If our learned readers come across with some alternate methodology, other than what I have discussed in these papers, to introduce the Deen of Allah in this country and revive the condition of the Muslim Ummah elsewhere in the world, I will feel obliged to share it. It is not a challenge at all but a humble request for each of us to think and exert his or her talents to the very issue which is a matter of life and death for the Muslims of America and abroad. **If we do not act and act fast , Allah forbid, by the turn of the next century, the Muslim world will exist totally on the dictates of Anglo-American-French-Zionist hegemonies. The Muslims of America will also have to pay a dear price for their negligence. The “security-belt” against the so-called terrorism will be tightened not only around the neck of the Muslim world but we will also be entrapped with it.**

May Allah save us from the evil consequences of our indolence, inactivity and the concocted concept of Deen which many of us nurture, carry, promote and struggle for, sometimes out of ignorance and very often out of ease, comfort and fear of hardship which a resolute action demands . May Allah open our hearts and minds to understand the Deen

of Allah and give us Tawfeeq (favor) to champion its cause in right earnest. May Allah shower His blessings on those brothers and sisters who are determined to be the effective Da'ee Ilallah, who have resolved to work for Iqamatuddeen in this country and work globally for the revival of the Muslim Ummah. O Allah! we look to You and You only for guidance and Nusrah in our struggle for the establishment of Your Deen on this earth and only to get Your pleasure in both the worlds. Ameen !

Before I conclude, I must express my heartfelt gratitude to my Sister Lydia Griffin (Tasleem), Br Shamsheer Ali Baig and Dr. Erdogan Gurmen, who took pains to give useful advise. May Allah bless all of them. I am equally thankful to my sons Javed Shamim Siddiqi, Tariq Adeel Siddiqi and my nephew Anwar Adil for their useful assistance and computer work. May Allah bless all of them. Ameen !

New York
October 20, 1996

Shamim A Siddiqi

CHAPTER - I**“REVIVAL OF UMMAH - THE ONLY WAY”**

The Ummah which was raised by Allah (SWT) to guide the destiny of mankind is practically lost in the midst of doldrums created by its own negligence of Al-Deen Al-Islam. Every Muslim who has the mind to think and heart to feel is worried about how to take the Ummah out of its existing precipitation. The atrocities and oppression which are being let loose on the Muslim Ummah in all the three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa are unprecedented in human history. It has rendered the Muslim's blood as the cheapest commodity of the world.

- * Is there any way out of this disgraceful quagmire?
- * Can we rebuild the Muslim Ummah?
- * Can we restore its spectacular past and the lost glory?
- * Can we replenish blood to its arteries that has been and is being sucked away by its enemies around the world?
- * Will we now ever be able to get Allah's Deen again established anywhere on this earth?

These and many other relevant questions have become a nightmare for Muslims. We have to find answers to these fundamental questions.

But to get these issues resolved, another big question arises : how can the condition of this Ummah be revived? In the revival of the Ummah lies the solution to its problems. Let us examine the different alternatives and options which are possible as well as feasible or attainable in the present context of the world, keeping the Islam and its teachings upper- most in mind.

1. UNITY - It is advocated that through unity the Muslim Ummah can be united, and once united, it would be in a position to play its role as

ordained by Allah(SWT). In this respect, the following verse from the Qur'an is always quoted:

“---And hold fast, all of you together, to the cable of Allah (The Qur'an), and do not separate---”

(The Qur'an, 3:103)

and the model of Aus and Khazraj, the two tribes of Madinah, is cited to meet the desired unity.

The example is no doubt a model, but one has to see the process through which the two tribes were united and how. Unity is not an end by itself. It is the sum total effect of the common faith, the common struggle for a common cause and sustaining the onslaught jointly and collectively when it comes in its wake. The tribes of Aus and Khazraj entered into the fold of Allah (SWT), became champion of His cause, struggled hard for the establishment of His Deen and sustained innumerable sacrifices for its sake. It galvanized them into a people, living and dying for Allah and His Deen. In turn, Allah cemented their hearts with love for each other. They were struggling for the Deen of Allah in a Jama'ah like a disciplined team, and in turn, He showered His mercy on them. Their tribal enmity was transformed into a paramount love for each other as declared by Allah in the Qur'an.

“And (as for the believers) has attuned their hearts. If thou had spent all that is in the earth, thou could not have attuned their hearts, but Allah had attuned them. Lo! He is Mighty, Wise.”

(The Qur'an, 8:63)

Thus, unity will not be attained by this Ummah only by wishing for it. It will come when the Ummah as a whole will struggle for the establishment of Allah's Deen on this earth. Unity will come as a blessing from Allah when we will make a determined effort in that direction with an enormous amount of sacrifice of time and resources at our disposal. One may cry for unity for a thousand years more, but it will never come and the Ummah will remain divided and down-trodden as it is today. Hence the answer to the revival of this Ummah lies in doing something greater than only a wishful thinking of unity for the sake of unity.

THE CURSE OF NATIONALISM

It may further be added in this respect that the greatest impediment in getting the Muslim Ummah united is the growth of nationalism and racism in the body-politics of the Muslim world. Nationalism is the product of the Italian philosopher Michiaville who advocated through his famous work *The Prince* that the protection of the nation and the national interests is the greatest objective of the life of a citizen.

European nations upheld this philosophy in their fight against the church and became its die-hard advocates. Britain, France, Italy and others established nation states in their respective homelands in Europe and established their colonial powers in Asia, Africa and America on the same pattern. Britain and France used the concept of nationalism amongst Arabs against Turks as a tool to dismantle the Ottoman Khalifate. Later on, it degenerated into national geographical bounds. Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco Kuwait, UAE, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, the newly born six states of Central Asia and others emerged as national Muslim states within the body-politics of the Ummah. President Nasir, in order to serve his own dictatorial interests, introduced the concept of Arab Nationalism and further degenerated the unity of the Muslim Ummah. Now every Muslim state on this earth is looking after its national interests only. Thus the curse of nationalism and the idol of nation-state has become the greatest stumbling block in the process of unification of the Muslim Ummah and its revival.

2. AUTOMATION - There are people who advocate that the revival of this Ummah will be automatic. If we, Muslims, individually become pious, God-fearing and carry out the Dawah work on a larger scale, Allah will pave the way for the establishment of Allah's Deen as a reward. They quote the struggle of Prophet Muhammad(S) as an example by pinpointing that Rasulullah(S) and his companions carried out Dawah and Dawah alone for 13 years in Makkah. With the signing of the Covenant of Madinah with the Jews, after migration, Islamic state was automatically established. Madinah became its capital and Rasulullah(S) became the head of the Islamic state. The establishment or the development of the Islamic society came afterward in its wake. Hence it is advocated by the protagonists of the theory of 'Automation'

that the Ummah should carry out the Dawah and the state of Ummah will automatically revive with the establishment of the Islamic state as a

culminating point of Dawah efforts. This concept and the process of the revival of Ummah is totally foreign to the Qur'an and its teachings. It ignores the need for a disciplined Jamaah; the team of dedicated and devoted Da'ees'; the struggle and the trial which is inevitable in the process of Dawah; the quantum of sacrifice which this task demands from each of its adherents; and the legacy of eventual hardship and persecution which is an integral and inevitable part of Dawah Ilallah as ordained by Allah.

“Do men imagine that they will be left (at ease) because they say, we believe, and will not be tested with affliction?

Lo! We tested those who were before you. Thus Allah knoweth those who are sincere, and knoweth those who feign.”

(The Qur'an 39:2-3)

Dawah, no doubt, is the first step in the right direction. Those who respond to the call must organize themselves into a disciplined Jamaah. This is the second step of Dawah Ilallah. Their training and Tazkiyah (purification) is the third next step which the Jamaah has to accomplish. Thus the Dawah, the formation of Jamaah (the team of disciplined, devoted and dedicated workers), Tarbiyah and Tazkiyah (training and purification) of the workers go together in a continuous process. The prevalent Batil system of the time then takes notice of the growth of the Islamic movement and starts putting stumbling blocks in its way to prevent its progress. The tussle between Haq and Batil starts with this opposition. Thus the persecution of the followers of Allah's Deen at the hand of the vested interests (the Batil) who oppose the movement becomes an integral part of Dawah Ilallah.

There is nothing automatic in this world. To remove the Batil and evil forces from power, Dawah, a disciplined organization and a determined effort to change the society are essential features for the revival of the Muslim Ummah. Rasulallah(S) passed through these stages prior to migration to Madinah. In Madinah he used the organized force of Muslim Jamaah in augmenting the march of Islam through 27 Ghazwah (the battles in which he himself participated) and 38 Sariyah (battles in which he was not present) and made the Deen of Allah dominant in the

Arabian peninsula within a period of 10 years (Ibn-e-Hisham Vol. II Page 749 - Urdu Edition). Dawah or Tabligh alone could not and will not bring

the desired revolutionary change in the society. Hence the condition of the Ummah cannot be revived automatically as it is wishfully thought over by many Muslims at the end of the 20th century.

3. THROUGH COMMUNITY WORK - The Muslim Ummah is beset with innumerable problems in educational, socio-religious and political fields, both in America and elsewhere in the world.

The needs and problems of the Ummah are severe, urgent and demand prompt attention. No one can deny the urgency, but the scope and impact of these needs are limited and do not cover the entire spectrum of human life. These needs and problems can be spelled out as follows:

- i. A Masjid for every community or locality where Muslims reside;
- ii. A Hafiz of the Qur'an or a qualified Imam;
- iii. A school or Madrasa and educational institutions (Sunday/weekend or weekdays regular schools) to meet the educational needs upto high school or beyond where possible;
- iv. Arrangement for family get-togethers on important occasions or social get-togethers at weekends;
- v. Celebrating important religious festivals;
- vi. Commemorating Prophet's (S) birthday and other religious days;
- vii. A cemetery and facilities to arrange funerals;
- viii. Problems of Wadhu, Taharah, Nikah, Divorce, Hijab, questions about Halal and Haram, collection and distribution of Zakah and Sadaqah Al-Fitr, etc.;
- ix. A Radio and a TV station; a periodical - community news letter;
- x. Securing rights to live peacefully within the framework of the prevalent secular system, i.e., security of life, property and honor;
- xi. Providing medical facilities where possible.

To resolve these problems and meet the needs as stated above, the existing Muslim leadership which is available to the Muslim Ummah in America and elsewhere in the Muslim World is sufficient to lead the destiny of the Muslim masses, provided they are honest, sincere and do not fight among themselves for leadership. It does not need any special knowledge and training to grapple with the situation. Those brothers and sisters who are the integral part of their respective systems have the expertise to do the aforesaid jobs efficiently. They are not to make any extra effort to beg for favor and facilities from the custodians of the secular governments which dominate in America and in their respective countries. They are not required to fight against Munkar and invite persecution from the vested interests of the society in its wake. The “Community Approach” advocates the principle of non-interference in the affairs and system of the land, presents an attitude of co-existence and prefers an easy-going life in the midst of liberalism and all kinds of permissiveness.

To achieve the aforesaid program and objectives, the Muslim community needs not to launch upon a Dawah campaign, carry out a workers training program, aspire to change the system of the land, organize meet-the-people campaigns to fight against Munkar or evil forces prevailing in their respective societies and make efforts to get the Deen of Allah dominant. They are to strive only to resolve the community problems and cater its socio-religious-educational needs. The protagonists of “community theory” must think and ask to themselves that does their Iman permit these compromises and negligence of their Deen in an enslaved position, surrounded by Batil all around?

The nature of the community work, as stated above, and the restricted program which it envisages, suggest by itself that in no way can it bring Islam to the position of dominance in the respective societies where the Muslims live. They have to remain content with the freedom of religion and worship which they are enjoying in abundance both in the Muslim and non-Muslim societies. Those brothers and sisters who think and advocate that working through community projects, they can stage an Islamic revolution in the body-politic of any country are not correct.

They are being deceived by some disillusion and passing their life under some false hopes.

The community program seeks some favors within the existing system to make life easy and comfortable.. It does not give any challenge to the existing system of the land for a change. It advocates a state of co-existence and a compromise with Batil. Hence the conception that the obligation towards establishing Allah's Deen can be fulfilled through community work is far from the truth. It is very misleading. We must get rid of the concept of revival through community works.. Non-Muslim societies have similar, infact more organized, activities. What will they distinguish and learn about Islam with such activities. Let the community work be handled at community level and not be mixed up with the onerous task to change the existing secular cum transgressed societies into Islamic states. This revolutionary task should and must be taken up by the Islamic movements of the respective countries as a challenge to our Iman - a commitment to our Creator, Allah (SWT)). This task is totally different from that of the community work in concept, scope and technique.

In fact, the "community approach" represents an evasive attitude to avoid the responsibilities and the state of confrontation with the secular system which is inevitable when the movement for the establishment of Allah's Deen gets momentum in liberal as well as closed societies. The revival of the Muslim Ummah is neither possible nor feasible, depending upon or through community work.. Muslims have been rendering community services for centuries together, but Allah's Deen could not emerge as a force anywhere in the Muslim world, what to say of the Western countries where religion is already restricted to sermons and prayers in churches, synagogues, temples and mosques.

From the above discussion what I want to emphasize is this, that the community work is necessary but should not be taken as an alternate to what is to be accomplished by the Islamic movement. This should be clearly understood by all the Muslims who are involved in community work anywhere on the surface of the earth. This should equally be understood by Dawah-oriented organizations and the political leadership of America and the Muslim world that through community work they cannot transform the existing order with that of the Islamic system. They all have full liberty to carry out the community work but should not

nurture the notion that through community involvement they will be able to establish the Deen of Allah anywhere in this world.

4. THROUGH ELECTION PROCESS : This is another approach to revive the condition of the Muslim Ummah. The protagonists of this concept are eager to become an integral part of the democratic process prevalent within and outside Muslim countries. Within the existing democratic systems, elections are held which are controlled by a secular constitution and supervised by a government which is committed to it. Those who are elected are allowed to form the government for a fixed number of years. They pledge to uphold and protect the constitution of the land. In every country, there are power bases of vested interests like business or capitalistic class, feudal lords, civil/military technocrats/bureaucrats, landlords or absentee landlords, the gays and many other anti-Islamic and anti-social groups. These vested interests and their representatives are elected time and again to the legislative assemblies of their respective countries, form the government and protect their hierarchy from any kind of encroachment of their power or dominance over the socio-economic-political structure of the society. Governments or the ruling coteries can be changed through elections but not the system which inherits power base to the vested interests through this process.

If at all a change is possible through the election process, it would be extremely slow, partial and basically be a patchwork to the prevalent system. Even small changes through the election process are always vulnerable. The changes may be reversed by any future government, if it does not suit its policies and program. People at the helm of affairs in the Muslim world are clinging to power by hook or by crook. They negate any effort which intends to change the system. The best example, in this respect, can be sighted is that of the Amendment Eight to the Constitution of Pakistan. All the vested interests in and outside Pakistan are making every effort to turn all stones upside down to get it deleted or at least get rid of its Islamic provisions. The political turmoil in Pakistan, the dismissal of the democratically elected government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, all centered round this amendment. The present government of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto is hankering after the same game of how to get rid of this amendment, or at least its Islamic provisions.

Revival of the Muslim Ummah, through the election process, could not succeed anywhere in the world.. Jamate-Islami of Pakistan and Bangladesh have been trying for the last 30 years to establish an Islamic state through elections but so far failed because the secular and vested interests control the power bases in each country not the general masses. Algeria is another Muslim country where there was a possibility to stage

an Islamic revolution through the election process, but the anti-Islamic forces used the military and nullified the election results as well as the process itself. The so-called democratic countries of the world remain silent spectators of this tragic episode. In the recent elections in Turkey, the Rafah Party emerged as the single majority party but it could not form the government for long as the other two secular parties joined hands against the Islamic Rafah party. The Refah Party has ultimately been allowed to form the government, but with the most unimportant portfolios. The hanging sword of military interference is always there at its head, if it surpasses the normal day-to-day business of the government. The Refah Party cannot even dare to think to change the system which is secular and pro-West. **This proves, beyond any shadow of doubt, that the prevalent secular and un-Islamic systems in the Muslim countries and elsewhere in the world cannot be changed or transformed into Islamic system through the election process.** Muslims got the upper hand in Tajikistan through elections but the vested interests of the old communist hierarchy, with the help of Russia, overthrew the government with great bloodbath in its wake. Thousands of Muslims took refuge in neighboring Afghanistan out of fear and persecution.

The election process can succeed as a means only where there is a mass uprising for Islam and there is a strong urge, as it was in the case of Iran, among the people of the land to lead their lives according to Islam and change the system in terms of the Qur'an and Sunnah. The election process is not Haram or prohibited in Islam, but the condition of the Muslim world is such that it would not be allowed to succeed both by the internal and outside secular and vested interests. Apparent success, if any, would be very minimal and superficial. As such, the Islamic parties around the world who have resolved to advance the cause of Islam through participation in the election process of their respective countries are wasting time, resources of their workers and supporters, exhausting the patience of the Muslim masses and creating causes to envelope a blanket of sever despondency over the rank and file of the Ummah

by demonstrating extremely poor results each and every time they participate in elections. (Turkey is the only exception to it but its limitations, as mentioned above, are very much discouraging). The last election results both in Pakistan and Bangladesh should be an eye-opener for the advocates of the election process. The position of Islamic parties, in both the countries, has gone from bad to worst.

In the present context of the world, and the unprepared condition of the Islamic movements throughout the Muslim world, election is not their field but a quagmire to destroy and belittle their hard earned status and dignity. Therefore, they should resort to the revolutionary process of Prophet (S) as discussed earlier. The sooner they realize their fallacy, the better it would be for the Ummah and the movements. Through evolutionary process, if they are able to build a strong footing of mass support, have remodeled the people's character as Islam envisages, have fought well against Munkar and establish Ma'roof, they will soon be able to snatch the power from the clutches of the secular regimes. They will then be able to form an Islamic government in the country with the willing consent of the people of the land. They will then be able to encounter the interference of vested interests from outside and keep the opposition to Islam from inside annihilated at ease. In turn, they may succeed in getting the Islam established in the body-politics of the country. Their present efforts to come to power through the election process is nothing but an exercise in futility.

5. THROUGH MILITARY COUP : When the possibility to revive the condition of the Muslim Ummah on Islamic lines appears to be unattainable through the election process, the alternative which is very often presented is that of a military coup. The protagonists of this theory should study the history of over-throwing of the established governments by military junta which is taking place every now and then in and around the Muslim world. They are staged to change the government and the ruling coterie and not the prevalent system of life. The Communist Revolution of 1917 was a climax of the capitalistic system. It fostered only one entrepreneur, the government, which controlled the production, the distribution, the finances and all other public interests. It failed miserably. It introduced changes by force in the masses from top and ruthlessly tried to indoctrinate its people, resulting only in oppression, bloodshed and hate against the system. Mere change of hands or the

government, without changing hearts, minds and the character of the people, will not bring Islam to power.

Change from the top through a conspiracy or coup will not succeed without remodeling the society as envisaged by Islam and practiced by Prophet (S). That is a time consuming job and a long drawn out process. Sudan is the best example in this respect. General Omer Hassan Al-Bashir staged a military coup in Sudan in 1989. Fortunately, he appears

to be a practicing Muslim. He invited the political parties to remodel the socio-political and economic system of the land on Islamic lines. Six years have passed but efforts are still going on. The country has yet to go a long way to turn Sudan into a true Islamic state. It is facing stiff opposition at every step from foreign secular forces, especially the USA. They are trying to choke the development process continuously. Further, the internal opposition against Islam has torn upon the country in the conflict of the North and the South due to massive help from the secular world and the so-called Muslim countries of the Middle East who cannot tolerate the emergence of an Islamic state anywhere, either in their own countries or elsewhere in the Muslim world. A new drama has been staged by Hasni Mubarak of Egypt against Sudan. I have given its glimpses in the Preface which must serve as an eye-opening illustration for the brothers who believe in military coup or in some “scissaron-process” by military Janta to stage an Islamic revolution somewhere in the Muslim world for the revival of the Muslim Ummah or the establishment of Allah’s Deen. This short-cut method does not apply to Islam.

The recent conquest of Kabul by Taliban may be cited as an example towards establishing the Deen of Allah through a military revolution or coup. Let us think over the inconsistencies in that respect. There are a lot of misgivings about their intents and purposes. The chemistry of Taliban, their formation and the support-powers behind them are yet to be ascertain. It is reported in Pakistani papers that they are the militia of General Babar, the home minister of Pakistan. If the case is so, then their slogan for an Islamic state is only a camouflage. They may be working or playing the game of America (or somebody’s else) whose well known surrogate is Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan. The process through which they are trying to enforce Islamic Shariah is also questionable. I have earlier discussed the conditions of Iqamatuddin and the prerequisites. They are missing in this case too. The people of the land are showing opposition, specially the educated class. Even if I ignore the outside pressure which

will always be there against the emergence of Islam as a power, Taliban or any other Islamic faction in Afghanistan has not yet prepared the nation to accept Islam as a governing force in their body-politic. As such, there is every possibility that the efforts of Taliban, God forbid, may meet the same fate as that of the Movement of Sayed Ahmad Shaheed and Shah Ismail Shaheed ® in the Frontier Province of India early in the Nineteenth century. More or less the same conditions are prevailing now in Afghanistan today. Efforts are going on to impose or promulgate Islam

from top, irrespective of the fact whether people accept it or revolt against it. This is anomalous situation and it must be removed .

Taliban have first to give up the gun battle with the Islamic forces/factions in the North, resort to peaceful negotiations, get the country consolidated through that process and mutual consent, prepare and educate the masses for an Islamic society, create an urge among the people for an Islamic order of life, rebuild the character of the people on grass root/mass level, establish cordial relations, to the extent possible, with the neighboring countries that they are not going to “export the revolution” outside their borders and adopt the policy of gradual implementation of the laws of Shariah along with the lines the people are educated and reformed , if they are really sincere and interested to establish the Deen of Allah in Afghanistan in the context of the Twentieth century. This are the essential steps towards the attainment of their cherished goal. This is a long drawn out process. It may take years and there are so many slips between the cup and the lips. That is the reason, I have every doubt that the military revolutions or coups from top are likely to succeed. Islam cannot be established in vacuum. It is first to be established in peoples’ hearts and minds and it needs strenuous efforts.

So is the case with the military coup in Sudan. It may or may not succeed. This is a wide open subject. But Sudan is one out of the 52 Muslim countries. Everywhere the conditions are different. Military coups like that of Sudan may not be possible at every place. Equally, the military hierarchy in the Muslim countries is secular as it is mostly trained by Britishers or French or other European colonists. Hence, the revolution through military coup is not tenable. We have, therefore, to work out some other method akin to Islam and the methodology propounded by Prophet (S).

6. THE ONLY WAY - The methods of reviving the condition of Muslim Ummah, so far discussed above, are not sure. They are evasive. All of these methods do not contemplate changing the society, and its prevailing system, remodeling the character of individual Muslims and Muslimah and building the Jamaah of righteous people (Ibadus-Salihin) without which the revival will not be possible. There is no shortcut in Islam to establish Allah’s Deen on this earth. It would be possible only when the Ummah as a whole is reconstructed, rearranged or reset as ordained in the Qur’an and the Sunnah. We have to resort to this

method and the process through which this goal can be achieved. This is essential at the time when the sufferings of the Muslims throughout the world are multiplying by leaps and bounds. They stand nowhere in the decision making process in the community of nations.

Muslims are the Ummah of Rasulullah (S). He is the ideal leader, the most perfect model and the most practical guide for the Muslims in every walk of life. The conduct of the Ummah is deep rooted in the Qur'an and the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (S). It claims that it lives and dies for its Creator, Allah (SWT). It has its glorious past and a vivid description of the process through which it was raised as the righteous Jamaah. The model is before us, intact and well documented, to follow. But the Ummah left it and hence lost its unity, cohesive power and effective role in the affairs of this world.

Now if the Ummah is to revive its position, as everyone of us so desires, it has to go back to the beginning and adopt the method and process which built it originally. The same ingredients are now required to give it a new lease on life, working on the pattern prescribed and practiced by Prophet Muhammad (S). The undernoted adage of Abu Bakr Siddiq (R), as reported by Imam Malik, pin-points towards the same 're-treat':

“The later part of this Ummah will not be revived or reformed except by resorting to what molded its shape in the beginning.”

Let us see how Prophet Muhammad (S) raised this Ummah in his life time to make the Deen of Allah (SWT) dominant in the Arabian Peninsula. To this effect, he (S) needed two basic things:

I. The Guidance which was to come from Allah (SWT);

2. A disciplined team of dedicated, devoted and committed workers referred to the Qur'an as Jamaah of Ibadus - Salihin. This team was to be built up by Rasulullah(S) through his Dawah efforts.

The Guidance, as promised, came from Allah (SWT) in bits and pieces as and when it was needed. With the help of the Guidance and the team of the trusted and the disciplined workers which Rasulullah (S) collected through strenuous Dawah efforts, he built up the Jamaah of the righteous people to whom Allah (SWT) promised to inherit the world.

“And verily we have written in the Scripture, after the Reminder My righteous slaves (Ibadus-Salihin) will inherit the earth.”

(The Qur'an 21:105)

Rasulullah (S) built the team and the Jamaah of righteous people. On the one hand, he and his companions carried out the Dawah both intensively and extensively in their society, adding to the numerical strength of the movement gradually in ones and twos. On the other hand, Batil - the vested interests of the time tried their best to check the growth of the Islamic movement through a prolonged period of oppression and persecution, but failed to stop its spread. In the midst of this stiff opposition, the Jamaah of righteous people was getting strength day by day. The Dawah, the struggle between Islam and idolaters and the development of the team or Jamaah went on along with ever-increasing tempo in the persecution of the believers for about 13 years in Makkah. Through this process, Haq became very distinct from Batil. The Batil, the Mushrekin of Makkah, made the life of Prophet Muhammad (S) and his companions extremely difficult. In the midst of the persecution, the Second Covenant of Aqaba took place, which was an open invitation to Rasulullah (S) to come to Madinah.

Rasulullah(S) had to migrate to Madinah where another group of Muslim Ummah was already in the making through the magnificent Dawah efforts of Masab Bin Umair (R). Reaching Madinah, Rasulullah(S) consolidated his position by neutralizing the Jews by getting them to join the Covenant of Madinah as its signatory and strengthening the relations of Ansar and Muhajareen through Muwakhat (brotherhood). Simultaneously, Allah (SWT) exhorted the Muslims to migrate to Madinah from wherever they were through forceful revelation in Ayahs

72 to 74 of Surah Al-Anfal and Ayahs 97 to 100 of Surah Al-Nisa. This consolidation process helped in building that Jamaah of Ibad Al-Salihin which was and is an essential instrument to get the Deen of Allah established on this earth as ordained in verse 105 of Surah Al-Anbiyah quoted above.

The migration and the consolidation of the Islamic Jamaah at Madinah was a turning point in the history of the Islamic Movement. It expedited the emergence of the Islamic state as envisaged by Allah and His Prophet (S). Rasulullah (S) and his companions struggled and fought against the

onslaughts of Kufr over Madinah with a great amount of sacrifice of life and resources. Allah (SWT) in His turn paved the way till Makkah was conquered in the eighth year of Hijra. Within the next two years the Deen of Allah was totally established in the Arabian Peninsula. The struggle which Rasulullah (S) made in this respect, the process through which the Islamic Movement passed, and the amount of sacrifice of time and resources which he and his beloved companions rendered in accomplishing the mission of Rasulullah (S) are available to us in the minutest details. That is the only model for us now to follow till eternity.

The Muslims of today, in order to get the condition of Ummah revived, have no alternative but to undertake the task which was propounded, undertaken and demonstrated by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S) and his companions in building the “Ummatun Wasatun” and “Khaira Ummatun” (the middle and the best of the nations). The required team of dedicated and devoted workers (Da’ees) is to be built up in every Muslim society from among the Muslim brothers and sisters who are determined to come forward to accomplish the task of revival. The Islamic movement will emerge through the joint, concerted and determined efforts of these brothers and sisters of respective Muslim countries. The movement will make serious efforts to build the character of individual Muslims and Muslimahs, multiply the number of Da’ees through the process laid down earlier, transform itself into the desired Jamaah of Ibadus-Salihin as ordained by Allah, remodel the Muslim societies in their respective countries on the lines I will discuss later in this book.

The culminating point will be a consolidated Islamic movement, a global effort to counteract the interference from the secular West in the affairs of the Muslim countries, present Islam as an alternate way of life to Europe and America, and develop strategies towards the establishment of Allah’s Deen somewhere in this world as priority

number one of this Ummah. **This is the only way open to Muslims to get their condition revived and resurrected.** If they do not resolve to act accordingly, only Allah (SWT) knows the amount of disgrace and humiliation waiting for them in the womb of the future to come.

CHAPTER - II

WHAT IS AN ISLAMIC MOVEMENT ?

From what I have discussed in the previous Chapter, it is essential to elaborate on the concept of the Islamic Movement, so that it becomes crystal clear as what is to be developed, what is to be achieved, and what is to be struggled for in the American perspective and elsewhere in the Muslim world.

The concept of an Islamic movement is very often found confused, even amongst the highly educated class of the Muslim Ummah. They take Ummah as a whole, and what is going on in and around the Ummah is taken as a movement. They think there is no need for a separate movement for the revival of the Ummah. Some movement-oriented brothers and sisters take community work as that of a movement. They think that the community organizations are the desired Islamic Movements. Some of the brothers and sisters are serious about the need of an Islamic movement but they carry the loose format of an organization with no discipline and no commitment either for the organization or for the goal. Some feel the need and urgency for Dawah in this country, but they take Dawah as an end by itself. They forget to evaluate all the subsequent follow-up steps of Dawah Ilallah. Thus the Muslim Ummah is under the siege of a confused state of mind. Its stalwarts do not know what they are required to do and how to attain the objective of their life and how much discipline and dedication it demands from each of its adherents.

It is, therefore, desirable that before I proceed further, I must lay down a clear definition of an Islamic movement and describe its fundamental characteristics so that there is no confusion in the mind of the reader. It must be clearly known to him or her what is at stake and what he/she wants to achieve? What is an Islamic movement and what are its features? What I will produce under this heading is nothing of my own. What I will present here has been ordained by Allah and demonstrated by Rasulullah (S) in his life-time.

I. THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT :

It is an organized, a determined and a continuous effort to establish the Deen of Allah on this earth - in the USA or anywhere in the world, as a priority Number One for the sole objective to attain the pleasure of Allah. In other words, it is an organized effort and struggle towards Iqamatuddin (the establishment of Allah's Deen) in this world.

EXPLANATION :

i. ORGANIZED EFFORT - a team of dedicated and devoted brothers and sisters striving on a regular basis for the attainment of the objective with set targets towards the fulfillment of the goal and evaluating their efforts at frequent intervals towards improvement;

ii. DETERMINED EFFORT- carrying out the struggle against all odds, opposition, trials and tribulations with Azimah (determination), putting everything at stake in that pursuit;

iii. CONTINUOUS EFFORT- constantly struggling, through a long drawn-out process, for the attainment of the objective with no deviation, no slackness, no sluggishness, no compromise, and no fear but with fervor;

iv. ESTABLISHING THE DEEN OF ALLAH IN THE USA: propagating, introducing and familiarizing the people of the land with the Deen of Allah to the extent that they accept it as their way of life and come forward to implement it in both their individual and collective spheres of life.

It is essential to point out that the process may take years or decades but the efforts must continue in that direction till Allah's Deen becomes dominant in the body-politics of the country.

v. PRIORITY NUMBER ONE : Those who are determined to fight for the establishment of Allah's Deen in this country or elsewhere in the

world, are to make it the mission of their lives as top most priority. It means everything else becomes its subservient. The needs and require-

ments of the movement are above everything and anything - personal, family, society, national or international, save and except where Allah Himself gives some Rukhsat (permission).

vi. FOR THE PLEASURE OF ALLAH - Whatever the team of Da'ees or its members do, plan, sacrifice, undertake, individually or collectively, they do it not for fame, name, position or worldly gains but to earn and get the pleasure of Allah in the life hereafter. They do not expect or accept any reward from anyone on this earth.

“And I ask of you no wage therefor, my wage is the concern only of the Lord of the world”.

(The Qur’an Al-Shura : 109, 127, 145, 164, 180)

All the prophets of Allah expressed the same conviction to the people of their time. This should, therefore, serve as guiding principle for the Islamic movements of the time and their workers - the Da’ees Ilallah.

IMPORTANT REMINDER : Establishing the Deen of Allah in this country is the lifelong mission of each and every Muslim of America. We all have to carry it out with utmost care, concern, sacrifice, dedication and devotion in an organized and planned manner in a continuous process till either we succeed or give up our lives in that pursuit. In reward, they will get peace and contentment in this life and will find paradise in waiting for them in the life Hereafter, Insha Allah. That is what an organized movement and its adherents should and must do and struggle for to get its objective accomplished..

II. WHAT ARE ITS NEEDS: While it is essential that we must be clear in understanding both the urgencies and needs of the Islamic movement, especially in the American perspective, here I will discuss only the “Needs” in brief at this stage as the “Urgencies” have been elaborated in detail subsequently in Chapter IV. It is just to give an idea to the reader, at the very outset, what is needed to develop a true and

comprehensive movement in this country and what we are required to do to begin with.

- i. A team of Dawah-oriented brothers and sisters (Da’ees);
- ii. A comprehensive Dawah program for the people of the land - exhortations to the Muslims of America to be true to their faith, extensive and intensive program of Dawah Ilallah to the non-Muslims of the land;
- iii. A comprehensive program to publish basic literature on Tawheed (monotheism), Akhirah (accountability in the life Hereafter), Amanah (trust), prophethood and the Islamic solution to the issues and problems of the land both for the intelligentsia and general masses;

iv. A comprehensive program of Tarbiyah and Tazkiyah (training and purification) for the present and the forthcoming Da'ees (Islamic Workers) on a continuous basis;

v. Developing technique for Dawah work among different classes, sectors, linguistic groups, ethnic minorities of different racial and cultural affiliations;

vi. Developing ways and means to raise funds which are needed for all these projects within the geographical bounds of this country with no string attached to it.

Keeping the above in view, it can be categorically said that the Islamic movement in America is a must. It is urgently needed. The reader can envision on his or her own accord with what he or she can muster, advance, produce and present to augment the building of the movement. The strategies and the process to build the Movement, discussed in Chapter - V, will, Insha Allah, incline him or her to move more vigorously in that direction. Those who desire and cherish for it, must come forward and help in formulating the nucleus. Once the formation of the nucleus takes place and the movement proceeds, it will pick up momentum gradually. If we do not take the initiative, posterity will not forgive us. But if we do make a determined effort, without any hesitation, Allah's help will come both openly and in disguise.

CHAPTER - III**THE CRUX OF OUR PROBLEM**

THE ANOMALOUS SITUATION: The status of the Muslim Ummah is very paradoxical in the present context of the world. On the one hand, it is the fastest growing Millah (civilization) of the time. It is spread over the vast tract of Asia, Africa and some parts of Europe, constituting over 52 independent countries. Its population is soon going to approach 1.5 billion. The Ummah is rich both in manpower and natural resources, holding many strategic geo-political nerve centers and significant straits of the world. By all standards, it is a supranation or a megenation with an enormous market of its own.

On the other hand, unfortunately, as discussed in the previous chapters the Ummah has no voice in the decision-making process of the world. It has no political will of its own. It is treated like an unwanted orphan. The Western powers, sometimes by themselves and sometimes through the world bodies, dominate and control its destiny. In its wake, the Ummah itself stands disunited, humiliated and begging for help, guidance and technical know-how from its own die-hard adversaries. What a great tragedy it is!

AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE MUSLIM WORLD: Currently, genuine efforts towards the revival of the Muslim Ummah are going on in different Muslim countries in different names and style. That is a good sign. The revival was and is possible only through the Islamic movements of different countries. But unfortunately, wherever efforts towards Iqamatuddin (the establishment of Allah's Deen) were in progress, the Islamic movements have deviated from the marked process of Islamic revolution as demonstrated, practiced and established by Rasulullah (S). They have plunged deep into the election process and are seeking power through democracy and the secular system of their respective countries. As a result, they have lost ground to secular forces and blurred much of their hard-earned credibility in the doldrums of political bickerings.

Most of the talents and resources of the Islamic movements are being earmarked to win a few seats in elections. As such, efforts towards calling humanity to the fold of Allah (SWT) have been reduced to the marginal level. Little consideration is given to Tarbiyah (training) and Tazkiyah (purification) of the Da'ees, Islamic workers and the general Muslim masses. Consequently, nowhere could the movements succeed in getting the very objective of their existence fulfilled. Decades have passed, but apparently they are nowhere near the accomplishment of their goal.

In this precarious situation, the secular West, especially the Anglo-American-French hegemony, has increased its interference in the affairs of the Muslim world everywhere at an accelerated pace in collaboration with the ruling regimes, who are mostly Muslims in name only. They have conspired to the effect that Islam is not allowed anywhere to emerge as a power in the body-politics of the Muslim world and run its socio-economic-political affairs under the rightful guidance of the Qur'an and Sunnah. The entire Ummah has practically been entrapped and strangulated by the vested interests, both at home and abroad. As such, the Ummah is neglecting the attainment of its very objective on which hinges the fate of its revival, survival and resurrection. The entire scenario, from the perspective of Islam, looks disgusting.

THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEMS: The more you think about the state of the Ummah the more you will feel perplexed. The causes of its decay and decadence maybe be many: they may be attributed to economic depression, political turmoil, foreign interference, industrial backlash, lack of technical know-how, dearth of trusted leadership, wanting in creative vision or non-existence of an encompassing will to come out of the existing quagmire.

The condition of the Ummah demands that we should make some strenuous efforts to find out and locate the pre-dominant cause of this frustration. In my considered opinion, the crux of our problems can be summarized in one sentence. **THE UMMAH IS NOT ORGANIZED AND DISCIPLINED TO ATTAIN ITS OBJECTIVE.** Let us see what is the objective of the Ummah and what efforts are going on to achieve it in this country.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE MUSLIM UMMAH: The Ummah is based on believing and obeying: one and only one Creator and Sustainer,

Allah (SWT); one and only one Guide, the life of Prophet Mohammad (s); one and only Guidance, the Qur'an and one day of Accountability, the last day of Judgment. By virtue of these beliefs and concepts, the Ummah has, therefore, one and only one OBJECTIVE, i.e., to invite mankind to the fold of Allah, the Creator and Sustainer, and establish His Deen on this earth as Prophet Muhammad (S) and his beloved companions accomplished in their life-time. Its fulfillment demands a united, an organized and a determined effort, with maximum sacrifice of time, talents and resources. It is a life-long struggle. In its wake, either a Mumin succeeds in getting the object of his or her life fulfilled, or he or she gives up his or her life in that pursuit. The objective is nothing but to struggle for the pleasure of Allah (SWT) for the whole of one's life. There is no deviation from this path. Equally there is no short-cut in Islam for the fulfillment of the Objective.

The Objective of the Muslim Ummah has been clearly laid down by Allah (SWT) in the Qur'an in the following verses:

“ In matters of faith , He has ordained for you that which He had enjoined upon Noah -and unto which We gave thee (O Muhammad) insight through revelation as well as that which We had enjoined upon Abraham, and Moses, and Jesus saying : Establish the Al-Deen and be not be divided therein...”

(The Qur'an 42 : 13)

“He it is Who had sent His messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth (Al-Deen), that He may make it dominant over all the religion, howsoever the idolaters may be averse to it.”

(The Qur'an 61 : 9)

“ We verily sent our messengers with clear proofs and revealed with them the Scripture and the Balance that mankind (the followers of Islam) may establish justice and equity.....”

(The Qur'an 57 : 25)

“ Thus We have appointed you a Middle Nation, that ye may witnesses against mankind, and that the messengers may be a witness against you....”

(The Qur'an 2 : 143)

“ And strive for Allah with the endeavor which is His right. He had chosen you and had not laid upon you in Deen any hardship; The faith of your father Abraham (is yours). He had named you Muslims of old time and in this (Scripture), that the messenger may be a witness against you and that ye may be witnesses against mankind.”

(The Qur'an 22 : 78)

“You are the Best of the Nations that has been raised up for mankind. Ye enjoin right conduct and forbid indecency and ye believe in Allah....”

(The Qur'an 3 : 110)

“ And let there be from you a nation who invites to goodness (Deen Al-Islam), and enjoin right conduct and forbid indecency. Such are they who are successful”.

(The Qur'an 3 :104)

O Messenger! You communicate that which has been revealed unto thee from thy Lord, for if thou do it not, you will not have fulfilled the (responsibility) to convey His message. Allah will protect thee from (the onslaught of) mankind....”.

(The Qur'an 5 : 67)

“ Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and fair exhortation and reason with them in the better way”....

(The Qur'an 16 : 125)

“ Lo! Allah had bought from the believers their lives and their wealth because the paradise will be theirs : they shall fight in the way of Allah and shall slay and be slain. It is a promise which is binding on Him in the Torah and the Gospel and the Qur'an. Who fulfills his covenant better

than Allah? Rejoice then in your bargain that ye have made, for that is the supreme triumph”.

(The Qur’an 9 : 111)

I have quoted the above verses from the Qur’an which present not only a scenario of our obligation towards establishing the Deen of Allah on this earth but clearly tell us how to do that job, what is the set program which Allah ordains for the Da’ees to accomplish and what a magnificent reward he or she will get when a Muslim or Muslimah struggles for the whole of his or her life in fulfilling the commitment of his or her Iman for the establishment of His Deen and in Jihad Fi-Sabil-Allah. These Verses categorically pinpoint the objective of a Muslim and Muslimah to cultivate on this earth and for the whole of his or her life. There should be no misgiving in any mind. We have no choice but to struggle for this onerous task with all what we possess. If this is the Objective of a Muslim and Muslimah then Dawah Ilallah is the obligation of each of us. We have to fulfill its demands both through our individual and collective efforts. We are accountable to Allah for the negligence, if any, in this respect.

DAWAH EFFORTS TO FULFILL THE OBJECTIVE: No doubt, to fulfill the obligation of Dawah Ilallah as advocated above, Dawah efforts are going on in this country, in some places casually and in some places very haphazardly, in different mosques, Muslim centers and communities, in jails, in the African-American community. Very little Dawah activities are visible in the country to call the Caucasian-Americans to the fold of their Creator, Allah (SWT). But what we generally see that at most of the places, Dawah efforts have no follow-up agenda or any system of evaluation of Dawah activities. Dawah is the beginning and Shahadah is the end of it at the most. Proper Tarbiyah (training) and Tazkiyah (purification) of both old and new Muslims are ignored or practiced in a very limited sense. The proper process of absorbing the newcomers in Islam is hardly visible in communities. Utilizing the talents and the new-born spirit and enthusiasm of the new

Muslims for the spread of Islam in their respective affiliated circles or community remains practically almost untapped.

Unfortunately, the immigrant Muslims have also been left to live, act, behave and practice their traditional Islam, interwoven with the respective culture from the places of their origin. It appears that they have no

intention or there is no urge among them to give up their traditionalism, enter into Islam in its totality, absorb the new Muslims in their respective communities and present Islam to native Americans in its purest form. Mostly, they are found to be involved or pre-occupied in community-oriented programs, issues, problems and services.

THE SHORTCOMINGS: The shortcomings of the Muslims inaction together with haphazard, half-hearted, disorganized and unimaginative Dawah efforts are innumerable. They can be enumerated as follows:

1. No clear-cut objective of Dawah. Mostly Dawah for the sake of Dawah, earning some Barakah (blessings) or increasing the number of Muslims to strengthen their respective communities appear to be the motivational forces;
2. Overlapping of efforts and squandering away of meager resources of the Ummah to cater to the agenda of each competing unit in the Dawah field are visible everywhere;
3. Coordinated planning and synchronization of Dawah efforts even to the city level are hardly traceable throughout the country;
4. Cohesive programming, planning, training and Tarbiyah of the existing and the forthcoming Da'ees is perhaps the greatest casualty of our disorganized-casual-Dawah efforts. The character-building process is lost in the oblivion of Dawah enthusiasm, whereas the very revival of the Ummah depends on it;
5. The vision to present Islam as an alternate way of life to the people of the land in an organized form cannot even be thought over at a community level, or at the level of a Masjid or a Muslim center or a local organization. It needs a "Marshall Plan" of its own to dismantle the edifice of modern Jahiliyah and erect the magnificent fort of Islam on

the foundation of Tawheed, Risalah (prophethood), Amanah (trust) and accountability in Akhirah;

6. The very basic needs of Dawah : Effective literature in American English and Spanish, a thought-provoking journal for the intelligentsia of the country, motivational books and fliers on the fundamentals of Islam for the masses, a comprehensive program of Tarbiyah and Tazkiyah and

an effective technique of Dawah for different sectors of the society and ethnic groups are yet to be encountered or initiated at different levels of this society;

7. Planning and programming to fight against Munkar and human sufferings could not be taken up by the Muslims as Allah ordains. It needs an Islamic movement to develop, implement and coordinate such plans at local, national and global levels;

8. In short, our unfortunate failures are our inabilities:

- * to build a central command - a united trusted leadership;
- * to develop a national cohesive program of Dawah Ilallah;
- * to unify the Ummah under one-banner-one-platform;
- * to produce essential Dawah literature in the American perspective;
- * to build a nucleus - a team of dedicated and devoted Da'ees as a prelude to establish the Islamic Movement of America;
- * to undertake and meet the pre-requisites of Iqamatudden for spreading and introducing Islam in America and Europe as priority Number One of our existence.

This is the prevailing condition of the Muslim Ummah in America. The lamentable situation of the Muslim world has already been depicted earlier in brief. The Ummah stands too DISORGANIZED and DISUNITED to get its objective achieved. **That is the crux of our problems.** The Ummah is to be united behind its objective of Iqamatudden. Any other objective or agenda, irrespective of whether it is religious, social, economic or political expediency will lead us nowhere.

This Ummah is different in its formation, character and essentials of Deen than any other people of the world. Its prime need and urgency is a joint and concerted effort in the shape of an Islamic Movement to struggle for the achievement of the OBJECTIVE. The earlier the Muslims of America realize the gravity of the situation, the better it will be for the Muslims and humanity at large.

WHAT TO DO: The above discussion clarifies that Dawah Ilallah is a means, not an end. Dawah is the first step to call the people to the fold of Allah. The culminating point is to fulfill the obligation of Iqamatuddeen in the body-politics of the land. It was the mission of Rasulullah (S) and equally it must be the mission of every Muslim. The Qur'an confirms it. The life of our beloved Prophet (S) stands as a witness to this reality. None of us can afford to ignore it even for a moment.

Let the Dawah-oriented brothers and sisters, organizations and the Muslim leadership feel this paramount obligation of their life, meet, discuss, plan and struggle in an ORGANIZED manner like a team with all the resources of men and material at their disposal in order to achieve the OBJECTIVE for which the Ummah is raised as "Ummatun Wasatan" and the "Best of the Nations". Dawah Ilallah is a collective responsibility as stated by Allah in Verse 104 of Al-Imran to attain the objective. The Ummah will succeed only when the obligation of Iqamatuddeen is undertaken as its only OBJECTIVE under a national-cum-global strategy, planning and programming.

The Muslims of America have to share a greater responsibility in this struggle. Their position and placement in America, the sole superpower of the world, demand it. Individual and casual Dawah efforts at the community or Masjid level or sporadic efforts by national institutions are not going to revive the condition of the Ummah. **A well-organized Islamic Movement in America, synchronizing the Dawah efforts at local, national and global levels with the rest of the Muslim world, is the answer to the Crux of our problems.**

Both the OBJECTIVE and the STRATEGIES to achieve it demand this global phenomenon. The Muslims of America owe this debt to the Ummah. If they don't play this historical role which time and the

development of world events have placed on their shoulders, posterity will not forgive them. If they accept this challenge of enormous responsibility, their reward is with Allah (SWT) who never neglects those who fight in His way for His Deen.

"As for those who strive in Us. We surely guide them to Our paths, and Lo! Allah (SWT) is with the Mohseneen (the good)".

(The Qur'an. 29: 69)

CHAPTER - IV**ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN AMERICA - WHY
[The Urgencies]**

The world has reached the stage where international communism is dead. The demise of the Soviet Union has rewarded the United States of America with the claim to be the only superpower of the world. America is championing the cause of freedom, free market economy, democracy and human rights mixed with liberalism in every sphere to establish a “New World Order”. But her pursuit is half-hearted, full of compromises with a double standard - strong against weaker nations like Iran, Iraq, Haiti, Cuba and Sudan, but timid against the giants with huge foreign markets like China, India or where other Western interests take precedence. America has thus become hypocritical in the manifestation of her ideals which are fit for symbolic gestures only. As such, there is a big gap in improvement both on the ideological side and in the exercise of her political will to carry out her goal and vision to a successful end around the world.

On the other hand, Islam, which stands for justice, equality and peace, possesses a superb ideology (a profound, benevolent and all-encompassing concept of life), advocates a comprehensive guidance for human society, both in the individual and collective spheres, presents the perfect model of Rasulullah (S) for mankind to follow in every walk of life, is being ignored, bypassed and neglected even by the so-called Muslim countries themselves. They have so far failed to produce a practical model of Islam and its teachings in the present context of the world anywhere on the surface of the earth.

Humanity is thus standing today in gloom and totally frustrated. Neither could the lone superpower and its European allies could deliver the good to mankind nor could the Muslims present a model of a modern Islamic state in accordance to Allah’s Deen anywhere in the world.

In the present situation of the world, when both, the superpower and the Islamic movements around the world, are trying to produce and present a model of their respective ideologies, and when none could succeed so far, it is desirable to find out what is the best place where

both the ideologies can be implemented, applied or brought into practice in a suitable and homogenous way.

What America professes to advocate is security of life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, democratic process, human rights, family values and a free market economy. Islam emphasizes these and many more values of its own concept of life in a very refined manner with all its checks and balances so that only the good of each remains and flourishes and the evil is eliminated, curbed or cured altogether. To attain the values which Islam advocates, an Islamic society creates an environment of Allah consciousness (Taqwah), a sense of accountability after death and the concept of Amanah (trust). These are the dominating concepts of the Islamic way of life. They go a long way in producing the character which can guarantee the implementation of the values that are only cherished by America but refined, implemented and accomplished by Islam. Islam provides the loving model of Prophet Muhammad (S) to follow and get inspiration from his life-pattern. Islam, if embraced and followed properly, will produce that responsible character in American men and women that may transform America into a model society for mankind to aspire to. **In other words, America provides the appropriate place where its values can be welded into predominant Islamic values to produce the best model of Islam through democratic or a true representative process. America may turn out to be the laboratory of Islam for the 21st century.**

It is, therefore, in a positive response to the urgent call of the time that a genuine effort should be made to introduce Islam to the people of America, interwoven with the values which are equally cherished in this country, in a palatable manner. It requires long-time planning, a devoted and dedicated team of Da'ees, a determined and an organized effort. It will become possible only by building an Islamic movement in America. It will undertake this onerous task of presenting Islam with all the values it possesses and advocates. Islam will polish the American values in its own way and make them more attractive and appealing to the people of the land and that of the world at large.

But here is the great tragedy. There are Muslims who live in America. They are a part of the socio-cultural-educational and economic process of this country. They have their home and hearth in this land. They are enjoying the luxuries and benefits of the

system, as part and parcel of it. They want to have all the gains from this free society but give or do nothing for this country to mitigate her problems. They are an integral part of the sick environment of this country, whether they accept it or not, but they want to keep aloof and do nothing to change it.

They are adding fuel to the fire by being silent spectators and doing nothing to redress the sufferings of the American people. They are dreaming to bring revolution in some distant lands of Asia, the Middle East or Africa, whereas they are not interested to do the same here. They do nothing except condemn America as a “Kuffar society” (while enjoying its material benefits) and nurture only hate and contempt in their attitude while they talk in the cozy atmosphere of their living rooms or sitting in mosques. It is nothing but a mockery of their existence on earth to claim that they are fighting for the Deen of Allah (SWT) or struggling for the restoration of Khilafah but doing nothing in the land where they live for good. They all are accountable to Allah (SWT) and to their progenies for their negative thinking, unsympathetic attitude and inactivity to do good to the land which is providing them bread, butter and all kinds of luxuries day in and day out.

It is, therefore, desirable that the issue of building the Islamic Movement of America (IMOA) be discussed in detail. I will pinpoint the inherent logic behind this urgency and bring forward the reasons why the building of the Islamic movement in America is essential. I will elaborate on the different aspects of the issue so that the hesitant minds give up their attitude of indifference and resolve to work hard in building an indigenous Islamic movement in America as soon as possible.

OUR OBLIGATION AS MUSLIMS:

At present there are about six to seven million Muslims living in America. Out of these a million or more are indigenous Muslims and the rest are immigrants from different parts of the world. Their number is increasing at an accelerated pace by the influx of new immigrants, high birth rates and conversions to Islam.

It is the obligation of the Muslims of America to introduce Islam to the people with whom they come in contact and with whom they are closely associated. This obligation has been ordained directly by Allah (SWT) in

Verse 33 of Surah 41 and vide Verse 67 of Surah Al-Maidah. Every Muslim is to fulfill the responsibility of SHAHADAH ALANNAS (witness to mankind) which is incumbent upon all of us. It will also be in conformity with the call given by Rasulullah (S) on the day of Hujjatul-Wida (farewell pilgrimage) when Prophet (S) directed those who were present before him at that time to carry out the message to those who were absent. This directive of Rasulullah (S) was for all times to come.

There is a self-contradictory situation for Muslims of America to think about. If a Muslim does not call the people of the land to the fold of Allah (SWT) through his or her organized Dawah efforts and does not help in building the Islamic Jamaah (the Movement), he or she actually is supporting the Batil structure of the American society. He or she becomes a part of this system, and helps in its growth and sustenance. Due to his or her indolence, inactivity or indifferent attitude towards Dawah Ilallah in this country, he or she stands as collaborator with the forces of Kufr and Shirk which he or she condemns every now and then. What a great tragedy it is! The only way to come out of this quagmire is to become involved in the Dawah process of this country and build the Islamic movement of America (IMOA). Only then his or her stay in America will save his or her skin from the wrath of Allah (SWT) on the Day of Judgment. May Allah (SWT) save all of us.

OUR OBLIGATION AS CITIZENS:

Most of the Muslims living in the USA are citizens of this country. We are in the same boat in which this nation is sailing. If the boat sinks, Muslims will sink with it. If the boat survives, Muslims will keep floating along with it. But the tragedy is this: The boat is sinking slowly - morally, economically and politically, but the Muslims are unmindful of the forthcoming tragedy. Can the Muslims play an important role in getting the boat salvaged at the primary stage, before it is submerged into the troubled waters? This is the crux of the problem. The Muslims of America have to face it with courage and fortitude with the ideology of Islam as their safety anchor. Muslims as citizens have pledged under oath to do good for this country. The only good which a Muslim can

desire is to see the entire country coming into the fold of Allah (SWT). This will not be possible without a joint and concerted effort by all the Muslims of the land, both immigrants and indigenou. That is an onerous task. To accomplish this goal, they are to live like conscientious Muslims,

be active Da'ees and help together in building a strong Islamic movement in America.

America is beset with innumerable problems in its socio-economic-political system. Muslims claim that Islam is the panacea for all. It is their moral as well as religious obligation to come forward with the Islamic solution in each case, propound it to the people of the land with love and sympathy, demonstrate a life of moderation, setting examples of a responsible, trustworthy and dependable character.

It is the constitutional right and obligation of the Muslims of America to advocate, propagate and demonstrate openly to fellow citizens what they deem proper to mitigate moral and spiritual sickness. As citizens of America, Muslims have every right to take Islam to the door-step of each American brother and sister and introduce it with love and extreme care and the concern which a benevolent person shows for depressed and sick persons. Muslims have every right to disseminate and launch upon a campaign for the propagation of Islam as an alternate way of life to the people of the land. If the Muslims don't do this job, they will be accountable to Allah (SWT) for this negligence and on the Day of Judgment will be charged with the serious crime of the concealment of Truth (Kitmanul-Haq). Muslims have, therefore, no choice but to carry out the onerous task of calling the people of America to the fold of their Creator, Allah (SWT). This can be accomplished only through an organized effort that requires an indigenous movement to undertake this responsibility in great earnest, as the mission demands.

COMPARATIVELY BETTER OPPORTUNITIES:

Efforts towards the establishment of Allah's Deen or Khilafah Ala Minhaje-Nabuwah [establishing Khilafa on the pattern of Rasulullah (S)] are going on in different Muslim countries under different names and styles. In spite of the fact that the majority of the population everywhere is Muslim and it desires an Islamic system, the environment is not congenial for the emergence of Islam as a power anywhere in the Muslim

world. In every Muslim country the power bases are not the masses but vested interests who are bent upon perpetuating the power in their hands through intrigue and conspiracies. Both the vested interests and their pro-Western or secular-minded supportive governments are allergic to Islam

and an Islamic state. Everywhere in the Muslim world, the democratic process is limited and in most countries it does not exist at all.

Simultaneously, interference of the Western powers in the internal affairs of the Muslim countries is rampant, with devastating effects on the social, economic and political aspects of life. Human rights are violated everywhere. In short, most of the Muslim countries today stand socially Westernized, morally corrupt, politically exploited and economically ruined with no will or vision of their own. Muslim masses have no say in the affairs of their own countries. They stand as silent spectators. They are no longer the decisive factor in deciding their own future and fate in terms of the ideology they love most.

Thus the possibilities for the emergence of an Islamic state anywhere in the Muslim world are remote in the near future. I am a realistic Muslim. I have constantly been studying the Islamic movements around the world. They lack talents (Hikmah), strategies, well formulated approaches, solution of the problems, inspiring models, manpower, resources, smooth sailing at home, political will and that team (in respectable numbers) of dedicated and devoted brothers and sisters (the Jamaah of Ibadus Salehin) which is prepared to give up all that they possess for the Deen of Allah (SWT). The condition of Islamic movements from Jakarta to Casablanca is the same, more or less.

Keeping the above hindrances and the prospects of Islamic movements of the Muslim world in view, when I consider the conditions prevailing in America, I feel encouraged. Here the circumstances are much better and more suitable for building a strong Islamic movement to establish the Deen of Allah (SWT) in America than those of the Muslim world.

Here in America, there is a government of law. Democratic processes are deep-rooted in the body-politic of the country. Human rights are guaranteed through its Constitution. The Judiciary is independent and strongly defends and protects human rights against all kinds of

encroachments and violations. Freedom of speech is, perhaps, limitless and unfettered. Right of movement, mobilization of faith and conviction, all are well guaranteed and protected. **America, thus, provides the environment for the spread of Islam in this country which the Muslim world has failed to offer so far to its adherents.**

These are the basic fundamental rights (the ingredients) for the start of the Islamic movement in right earnest. Muslims can plan and go ahead with their Dawah activities till the vested interests of the land create impediments in the growth of the movement which is always inevitable, irrespective of the fact whether it is a so-called Muslim or a predominantly Christian country. That is the well-defined process/stage ordained by Allah in the Qur'an (Verses 2 and 3 of Surah Al-Ankabut and verses 155 and 156 of Surah Al Baqara) and sustained by Rasulullah (S) and his beloved companions in Makkah. The Islamic movement of America will be no exception to it. When the Islamic movement of Rasulullah (S) had to face it, we have to encounter it too. That stage of trial and tribulation comes to polish the commitment of a Muslim/Da'ee, strengthen his or her character and create sterling qualities of hearts and minds in the Da'ee Ilallah. By that time, the Muslims of America (both indigenous and immigrants) will, Insha Allah, be able to build a solid foundation to fight out the evil forces through democratic and constitutional process, with Sabr (patience), Hikmah (wisdom) and the Nusrah (help) of Allah (SWT) which comes both openly and in disguise. In the present circumstances of the world, America is, thus, the most suitable country for making serious efforts towards Iqamatuddeen. To achieve this goal, it is incumbent upon the Muslims of America to concentrate wholly and solely in building the Islamic movement of America with little or no deviation of efforts towards Asia, Africa or Europe. Let them concentrate on putting their own house in order where they and their children are going to live and die.

From what I have propounded above, it does not mean that the Islamic movements around the Muslim world should cease to exist . No . The adherents of the movements in their respective countries must carry out their efforts to its logical conclusion to the extent that either they succeed, get the Deen of Allah established, or give up their lives in that pursuit . The Islamic movement of America will be another front which in the long run will pave the way towards the success of the movements of the Muslim world . (I will further deal with this point at a later stage.)

It is , therefore, in the best interests of the Islamic movements of the Muslim world to make serious efforts in removing the obstructions in the emergence of the Islamic movement of America. They should free their respective adherents in America to champion this move, direct them to find like-minded brothers and sisters and meet together to form the

genesis/nucleus of the desired movement. They should then expect nothing from the Islamic movement of America except moral support when the movements of the Muslim world are in distress, want some technical help when they are in need of it, urge coordination in building global strategies, seek cooperation in defeating the forces who interfere in the affairs of the Muslim world both at home and abroad and augment their efforts to fight out the conspiracies against Islam and the Muslims. Thus, the Islamic Movement of America will soon become a boon for the Muslim Ummah.

The success of the Muslim world and Islamic forces now depends on how soon the Muslims of America are able to build up their own indigenous movement for the spread and introduction of Islam in the body-politic of this country. The sooner the Islamic movements of the world and the Dawah-oriented brothers and sisters of this country realize the expressed demand of time, the gravity of the situation and the immense benefits which this Ummah will reap in its wake, the better it will be for their own cherished cause.

AMERICA - A HETEROGENEOUS COUNTRY:

America has a unique position in the community of nations. It is a heterogeneous country. People from almost all the nations of the world now comprise the nation of America. It depicts a rainbow of nationalities and different cultures. As such, it is different from the mono-nation states of Britain, France, Germany and other states of Europe, Asia and Africa. Most of them are racist in nature and not the least prepared to tolerate Islam or the presence of other ethnic groups or people of different origins. Muslims face great hardship even to survive in European countries. They live there like the untouchables of India.

America is a country of immigrants. Its gates are still open. However, there are now some visible signs that restrictions are likely to be imposed on immigrants, specially from Latin America and Asia/Africa. Currently, every year more than a million people migrate to this land of opportunities. Everyone contributes to its diversity wherein lies its strength. They contribute to its economy, enjoy the benefits of constitutional guarantees and materialistic bounties along with the curses of liberalism in every walk of life. **Here the Muslims can carry out the mission of their life to a great extent unhindered, as discussed earlier, through its democratic process and constitutional safeties, available**

under law, to each and every citizen irrespective of race, color, faith and ethnic background. This country is, thus, better set to build the Islamic movement, in comparison to the rest of the world.

Here in America the Muslims are well off - many are financially affluent, and educationally excel with the superb ideology of Islam at hand. They should realize their unique position where Allah (SWT) in His infinite mercy has placed them. They will have to realize their destiny and the assignment which has been given to them by Allah (SWT). It is He, Who managed the affairs of each and every Muslim who migrated to America. It is Allah (SWT), Who paved their way to come over here. None could have come to America on his own accord. They have to realize this disguised blessing of Allah (SWT) and in return be obedient to Him. It is the job of the Muslim leadership, the task of the Dawah-oriented brothers and sisters, to remind the Muslim masses of the position which they now hold after coming and settling down in this country. The Muslims of America are in a unique position to strive for the attainment of their ideology, if they become conscious Muslims and Muslimahs. They will reap the benefits of living in America but at the same time will get the best reward from Allah (SW) for struggling for His Deen. Under the circumstances discussed above, the emergence of the Islamic Movement of America is essential. Muslims must strive for it. The IMOA will undertake the job of organizing the Muslim Ummah of America and gear them up to be its active supporters in all respects.

AMERICA - MATURED FOR CHANGE:

America is the citadel of capitalism. Capitalism has already reached its zenith in America and now it is slowly drifting down the hill.

The material progress which we see in this country is not necessarily due to capitalism or liberalism but due to extraordinary research and development programs carried out both in the private and public sectors of the US economy as well as organizations. In the government sector alone, President Clinton earmarked 70 billion dollars for research & development for five years.

Both capitalism and liberalism have created hordes of problems for this country which must be resolved. Some of the problems can be enumerated as follows:

- * Growth of a lopsided economy;
- * Unbalanced budgeting;
- * A huge amount of accumulated burden of loan and interest on national debts servicing;
- * Frequent cycles of recession and constant fear of inflation;
- * Ever-increasing gaps in the economy of the haves and have-nots;
- * Accelerated pace of growth in the corruption of government hierarchy and political system of the country through the growing menace of Political Action Committees;
- * Moral decadence;
- * Dismantling of the family system and loss of family values;
- * Battered wives/husbands and battered children;
- * Tolerance of the gay culture;
- * Sexual anarchy; Lewdness and pornography;
- * Alcoholism and drug addiction;
- * Child delinquency;
- * Youth runaways;
- * Teenage pregnancy;
- * Surrogate motherhood;
- * Misuse of gene and cyberspace technology;
- * Materialism and Ever-growing craze to increase the standard of living;
- * American global interests and their growing complexities;
- * Growth of rivalry among her trade partners, etc.;

..... **The list of problems is endless.**

In the midst of these growing problems the echo of the last Presidential election of 1992 was “change.” Mr. Clinton came to power uniquely through raising the slogan of change. But what he has done so far is for

the worst. No one knows where the country is heading. Everything is getting worse. It is clear that President Clinton could not resolve any of America’s frustrating problems. If the Republicans succeed in 1996, they are likely to produce an even worse scenario than what is seen today.

In fact, America is fast developing “character crisis” in her ranks and file. Republicans made it an election issue against the incumbent President Clinton. They are hitting it hard to win the Elections 96. But the tragedy is this that none of the political parties has the program to build and change the character of the people. They all are crying but doing nothing to remove the very cause of decadence in American social, economical and political aspects of life. Though the moral decay and decadence is eating

away the vitals of this supra-nation but they are beating about the bush by crying to protect the family values simply as slogans. They are rather, promoting the very causes which are accelerating the pace of moral decadence by augmenting and supporting gay's rights, the movement of "free-choice", liberalism with no check on alcoholism, pornography, free and unfettered right to maximize personal pleasure, come what may. The state of affairs is very lamentable right from the President of the country down to a lay man on the street. God forbid, the entire nation is heading towards some catastrophic end.

In such circumstances, the slogan for change will be very effective. But the question arises: "change for what?" Mere change of hands is not going to make any difference. It makes little difference who comes to power, Democrats or the Republicans. The social, economic and political condition of America has gone beyond repair. No band-aid treatment is going to work. The main cause of this decadence and frustration lies somewhere else. In the simplest way, it is due to:

1. Denying the authority of the Creator while living on His earth and enjoying His bounties from heaven to earth, and replacing the concept of God and His rules/laws regulating this cosmos with "mother nature" and man-made laws;
2. Believing and behaving as if this is the only life and there is no life after death. It has made human behavior irresponsible, reckless and unreliable in both individual and collective life;

The denial of the Supreme authority of the Creator, and the negligence of the concept of accountability in the Hereafter have resulted in an unbalanced society and in an economy which is uncertain, lopsided and has little Barakah (Blessings). This is the direct result of the denial of guidance from Allah (SWT). The verdict of the Qur'an is very clear in this respect.

"But he who turns away from remembrance of Me (His Guidance), he (or she) will face a narrow (tight or depressed) economy and I will bring him (or her) blind to the assembly on the Day of Resurrection."

(The Qur'an. 20:124)

So, America today stands consciously or unconsciously at a cross-road. Its economy is uncertain. Its political institutions have gone corrupt. Its moral values are withering away. Its resources are thinning out. Both home and foreign fronts are staggering. America needs a change. People are desperate for change. They need solutions to their die-hard problems. These moments offer immense opportunities to the Muslims of America to come forward and present Islam to the inhabitants of this great country as an alternate way of life in an eloquent but organized and disciplined manner. It will be possible only when this responsibility will be undertaken, not by individuals, or sporadic Masajid and their Imams, or scattered Muslim communities, but by an organized, disciplined and indigenious Islamic Movement of America.

Socialism never made any headway in America. It was never akin to the taste of the American people. Capitalism and its evil effects are being harvested by the American society as a whole. At this juncture, if an Islamic Movement is built up in America which pinpoints the short-comings of capitalism, elaborates the fallacies of democracy with vivid illustrations from its own system, exposes the devastating consequences of the liberal life-style, there is every possibility that the American people may think of changing over to some other system, some better ideology.

[Here, it may be observed that the Christian Church has been and is condemning the system too, but it could not and cannot produce an alternate to capitalism. Hence, it could not succeed. Islam presents

an alternate to the prevailing system. There is, thus, every possibility, that the people of the land will be attracted to the Islamic system of life].

It is, therefore, essential that Islam should and must be brought to the attention of the American intelligentsia and masses as an alternate way of life with Islamic solutions to the problems which the people and the country are facing today. This requires extraordinary effort, which only an Islamic movement can muster and foster. An Islamic movement is now the need and urgency of the Muslims of America and that of the Muslim world. Through the movement, we can make Islam the prime need of the American people. That depends on the attitude of Muslim leadership, both in America and in the Muslim world. It is a challenge to their ingenuity, sagacity, wisdom,

analyzing of the world situation in its true perspective and understanding the Deen of Allah (SWT) and what it demands from them in the present context of the world.

A GAME OF REBOUND - FROM THE MUSLIM WORLD PERSPECTIVE:

War strategies in the present context of the world have changed and been given new dimensions. It is now mostly fought on enemy land by propaganda campaign and attractive propaganda literature. Muslims have to take the issue of the restoration of Khilafah, or Iqamatuddeen, or establishing the Kingdom of Allah (SWT) on the earth on the same pattern and counteract the forces of Batil with the wisdom of a Mumin. This is the Hikmah of the Deen and the Muslims have to resolve how to get the campaign expedited at all fronts. What the Muslim world should do in the lands of their adversaries to attain the aforesaid objective is a matter of strategy and the same has been elaborated under the captioned heading.

On one hand, Muslims have to organize and mobilize all resources of men and material that they can muster and produce in their respective countries to get the Deen of Allah established in this world. On the other hand, they will have to plan a global strategy as how to fight the conspiracies of the combined opposition of Kufr and Shirk around the world and their might. This is a big challenge. In

today's world, an Islamic state cannot emerge anywhere without encountering this situation. The Muslim leadership of the world has to realize the gravity of the situation. They should not brood or indulge in wishful thinking, or be carried away by lofty slogans, or be lost in mere inspirations based on sentiments. The secular world is not going to give way to Islam in its onward march easily. Muslims have to fight for it on every front, for every inch and in every land in all the four corners of the world, including the lands of their adversaries, where they are now living and breathing.

In this context, Allah (SWT) appears to have His own planning. It is a long-drawn out process and quite meaningful. It is spread over a period of 50 to 60 years. During the World War II, millions of working hand were killed. As such, Europe and America felt a shortage of labor. It was Allah's strategy. They had to open their countries to import labor, both skilled and unskilled, from the under-developed countries of Asia, Africa

and Latin America. In its wake hundreds and thousands of Muslims along with other nationalities came to Europe and America.

They settled down in these lands of opportunities. Later on their families and their near relatives joined them. Their number went on increasing at an accelerated pace. The majority of the Muslims who migrated to the West are living in America in a comparatively better environment as discussed above.

Thus, the credit of the migration policy of the West goes to Allah (SWT). It was the will of Allah (SWT) and He is the best of all planners - "Wallahu Khairul Makerin.."

It appears that the Muslims of America will now have to play an epoch making role as destined by Allah (SWT). The Muslim world is surrounded by America and her close allied countries through intrigues and global conspiracies. **Now the Muslims of America have to plan, envision and work together for the deliverance of the Muslim world from the greedy clutches of the West. It is the obligation of their Deen and Iman in Allah (SWT). The Muslims have to struggle for their cause on the soil of Euro-American countries through an organized effort. This appears to be the will of Allah (SWT) and that is why He arranged their migration in a long drawn out process. It is the Muslims of America and Europe who will have to counteract the**

conspiracies and interference of the West in the internal affairs of the Muslim countries. The leadership of the Muslim world, especially those who are movement-oriented, should take the lead and help the Dawah-oriented brothers and sisters of the land in building the Islamic movement of America for introducing Islam in the body-politic of the country without any further delay.

The Muslim leadership, especially of the Islamic movements of the world, has to concentrate more on the Muslims of America with global planning, better strategies and ideological support so that the IMO can take its formation on solid grounds as soon as possible. The Islamic movements of the Muslim world should take it as their own game which they are to play on the foreign soil of America and Europe. If the task of organizing the Muslim Ummah of America is well planned and well articulated, the result will soon be harvested in the Muslim world. The IMO will become a deterring force within the country to check, retard and negate the process of interference of America in the affairs of the Muslim countries.

In fact, it is the strategy of rebound, playing the game in America/Europe and reaping the harvest in the Muslim world. The heinous games of the Western diplomacy and the conspiracies which are being hatched against the Muslim countries time and again, must be checked in their own land by their own people. It will be possible only when a strong movement is build up in America and Europe. The Ummah as a whole has to play this game of rebound as the only way to check and eliminate the interference of the Anglo-American - French-Zionists hegemonies in the affairs of the Muslim world. Only then will they get a free hand to work for the Muslim world. Only then, will they get a free hand to work for the emergence of Islam as a force somewhere in the Muslim world early in the next century. The sooner the leadership of the Islamic movements of the Muslim world realizes this vital strategy of Dawah Ilallah, profess it as a component part of their planning and make serious efforts at both the fronts, home and abroad, for the establishment of Allah's Deen, the better it will be for the Ummah.

In other words, the struggle of the Islamic movements of the Muslim world to establish Allah's Deen in their respective countries is also to be fought in the lands of those who are bent upon opposing its emergence in

the Muslim world. Their adversaries are allergic to the very idea of an Islamic state or the restoration of Khilafah. **But Allah (SWT), through His aforesaid strategy, wills to deliver the greatest surprise of human history by building the Islamic Movement in America, echoing the demand for an Islamic society and state, not only in the Muslim world but in their own countries by their own people and for their own salvation and benefits.**

This is the turning point of human history. It is coming as a challenge to the Islamic leadership. They will have to rise to the occasion, grasp the opportunity which Allah (SWT) is offering to this Ummah. They should work together industriously in building the desired movement in America, if they are really interested in seeing Islam play its dominant role in the body-politic of the Muslim world. If they fail, posterity will never forgive them. By doing so, they will also miss the opportunity which is being offered by Allah (SWT) Himself to fight against the forces of Batil. It is an Allah-gifted opportunity. Let the Muslim world, especially its ideologically-oriented leadership, grasp it, lest the Ummah miss the bus again, as it missed at the fall of Communism in 1991.

[The Muslim Ummah failed to provide and present to Russian people Islam as an alternate way of life or an Islamic society as an alternate to communism and capitalism anywhere in the world to attract them and serve as model for humanity to follow. As such, they fall back on capitalism and liberal democracy. There was no other choice before them. In its wake, Muslims lost a great opportunity to guide the destiny of mankind. We have missed the bus. Let us not do it again.

The development of events at the global level suggest that a turmoil is likely to erupt within the geo-political condition of Asia, Africa and Europe within the next 20 to 25 years. It may be clash of civilizations or a burst-up against the socio-economic-political slavery being imposed by Euro-American axis/hegemonies against China, Japan and the Muslim block. The duration and the time-gap between now and then is the opportune time for the Muslim Ummah to establish the Deen of Allah somewhere in its body-politic to provide a model for humanity to fall back and adopt Islam as a system of life when it comes across with the impending world crisis. If we do not set out a global strategy to meet the challenges yet lying

in the womb of the future, there is every possibility that we will miss the occasion again. The Islamic movement of America along with the Movements rampant in the Muslim world has a great role to play in this respect]

ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

The history of the Islamic movement on earth is as old as human history. The very first couple who descended on this earth came with proper Guidance from their Creator on how to live, act and behave while living on earth.

From the known history of the world and from the study of the Qur'an, it appears that the Islamic movement was launched in Iraq by Prophet Abraham, in Egypt by Prophet Moses and in Makkah by Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon all of them) in their respective times. These were the best known messengers of Allah (SWT). They started their respective movements in the extreme environment of Kufr and Shirk (paganism and idolatry). All the three places were the citadels of idolatry. When the Prophets of Allah (SWT) set out on their mission to call the people of their respective land to the fold of their Creator, their ratio at the

very outset was only one : mankind. Each started the movement of their respective time all alone. Each was opposed by the forces of Batil tooth and nail. The opposition was bitter, harsh and very challenging. The life of each Prophet of Allah (SWT) was in danger. The forces of Kufr and Shirk were bent upon destroying them and their movements. Each had to migrate with their followers and leave their birth place for the sake of Allah (SWT). But they or their followers ultimately succeeded in getting the Deen of Allah (SWT) established.

It shows that all the Islamic movements in the past originated in the lands where Fasad (transgression) was rampant; Jahiliyah (ignorance) was the life-style; idolatry was at its zenith; the life of the vested interests and the affluent class was prosperous and based on worldly gains and objectives; secularism and atheism was the creed of the day; belief in the Creator and Sustainer was adulterated with Shirk and the concept of life after death was denied. They took this worldly life as the only life. They had no concept of any life after death. This was the site of the old Jahiliyah (ignorance) where the Islamic movements of the past originated

through the Prophets of the time. Every page of the Qur'an and the life of every Prophet of Allah (SWT) bears testimony to these facts.

Of the three Islamic movements mentioned above, the latest was that of Rasulullah (S). He (S) had to meet the same situation in Makkah, the citadel of old Jahiliyah. He and his beloved companions had to struggle and fight against all eventualities. Ultimately, they succeeded in establishing the Deen of Allah (SWT) in the Arabian Peninsula and later on in the rest of the then-known world. Arabs soon lost the leadership to Iranians, and then to the Tartars of Central Asia. Centuries passed in this process. The transitional period of change in world leadership from Muslims to European countries is extended over many centuries. However, by the turn of the last century, Muslims lost the leadership of the world in its totality. The very institution of Khilafah was itself terminated in 1924.

With the abolition of the Caliphate, there was no Islamic state in the world. Today, Muslims have no place, no position, or say in any form in the modern world of the twentieth century. They have lost their identity altogether in terms of the Qur'an and Sunnah. Now they have to start AFRESH. Now Islam has to find some new blood and the most modern environment to demonstrate to the world the

truth that it carries, the salvation that it offers, the moderation that its teachings ordain and the spiritual and moral uplift that it creates in its followers.

America is a country which has reached the zenith of secularism, capitalism, liberalism, epicureanism, affluence, economic pride, military and technical superiority. Above all, it has emerged as a true symbol of modern Jahiliyah (ignorance), as the old Jahiliyah which had dominated the time of Abraham, Moses and Muhammad (Peace be upon all of them). America is now the citadel of modern idolatry, along with its superiority in material progress and technical know-how. **America is now the Ur (Iraq) or Makkah of the 20th century. It needs a Prophet to challenge the prevalent system of modern idolatry, but no Prophet is to come. It is now the responsibility of the followers of Prophet Muhammad (S) who are living in millions in this country to stand up and be the messengers of the time, deliver the good which they hold in the shape of the Qur'an and in the model life of Rasulullah (S). It**

is the planning of Allah (SWT), and the Muslims have to realize it as the truth of the day.

America needs an ideological movement like Islam. Islam is now the only ideology so far not tested by a modern society in its quest for a balanced and a moderate life. The question arises in how to introduce Islam to the people of the land in a manner that they will accept its message. To begin with, all the Dawah or movement-oriented brothers and sisters around the world should help the Muslims of America without any delay. The best way for the outside Islamic movements would be to direct their supporters in America to concentrate wholeheartedly within their geographical bounds, meet like-minded indigenous Muslim brothers and sisters, form a group and start a three-pronged effort:

1. Exhorting the Muslim Ummah of America to be conscientious good Muslims and Muslimahs;
2. Preparing to introduce Islam to non-Muslims of the country as an alternate way of life and calling them to enter into the fold of Allah (SWT) through active Dawah efforts;
3. Transforming themselves into a nucleus of the Jamaah of **Ibadus Salehin.**

If the IMOA succeeds in making headway in this country, which rightly claims leadership of the world due to her military supremacy, material advancement and technical skill, it will definitely attract the world at large. After the conquest of Makkah, the headquarters of Kufr and Shirk (paganism/idolatry), Islam spread in the whole of the Arabian Peninsula within two years. Similarly, if Islam conquers America, the citadel of modern Jahiliyah, the future leadership of the world will be that of Islam and the Muslims of America. But if America remains adamant or inimical to Islam, as it is today, the prospects for the emergence of an Islamic State in the context of the modern world are remote in the near future, **excluding the will of Allah (SWT) which is known to Him alone.**

Here I would like to add that for the last fifty or sixty years the Islamic movements of the world have been struggling for the establishment of Allah's Deen, but their goal is still unattained. Numerous reasons may be advanced to explain the failure of different movements of the Muslim world (collectively, as Jamaah, not individually), but the main cause was and is that they ignored and could not envision the basic need : to start a strong Islamic movement in the citadel of modern Jahiliyah, i.e. America, which has now become a stumbling block in their way. This is now the key point to the success of Islamic movements anywhere in this world.

A word of caution : However, this solemn effort of launching the movement in America does not need any fanfare or any publicity. Muslims would realize the urgency of this paramount issue and set out at first with an extremely low profile on a person to person basis along the lines suggested above till the team of devoted brothers and sisters has come into existence. This team will launch upon a true Dawah campaign of calling the people of America to the fold of Allah (SWT) and build up the desired Islamic movement as envisaged in this paper.

FUTURE PROSPECTS:

1. A successful Islamic movement in America will muster public opinion against her interference in the internal affairs of the Muslim world. When the Muslim leadership of Caucasian-American, African-American and

Native-American origin together with the immigrant American Muslims campaign jointly as a team and as a movement for the spread and introduction of Islam in the body-politic of America, it will have its echo in the Senate, in the Congress, in the media, and in every nook and corner of the country. The political leadership of America will then have no choice but to refrain and give up the game of interference. America will then have to withdraw her support from her henchmen controlling the power bases in the Muslim world. The Muslim world will then have a free hand to go ahead and shape its affairs and destiny in terms of the ideology which they love and cherish. This will pave the way for the emergence of an Islamic state somewhere on the surface of this earth, early in the next century.

2. A successful Islamic movement in America will herald an era of introducing and spreading of Islam in the Caribbean Islands, South America and elsewhere in the Northern Hemisphere. The circumstances are well set in various regions. Countries are big but the population is small. Problems are manifold everywhere. An organized Dawah effort can bring the desired change anywhere. This point needs not to be discussed further at this stage. I have just indicated it for the future planning of the Islamic movement around the world and for the development of a global strategy in that respect.

3. Emergence of Islam as a movement in America and termination of her interference in the affairs of the Muslim world as envisaged above will change the attitude of the Muslims of the Muslim world towards Islam. It will incline most of them to rush toward Islam and be good and practicing Muslims and Muslimahs. It will be a death knell to anti-Islam forces as well, both in the Muslim and the non-Muslim world.

4. The growing Islamic influence in America and the rest of the Western hemisphere will change the attitude of the media in the West. They will stop propagating blatant lies against Islam and Muslims. The organized Muslim community will counter the misinformation and propaganda of the secular press and TV at every step. The resurrecting Muslim world will also impose its will and will effectively ban their entry into its geographical bounds, if the Western media persists in its nefarious designs.

5. The Muslims of America, when organized, will be in a better position to subscribe to the material, educational and moral needs of the Ummah. They will form an important link in the overall strategy of the resurgence of Islam as a force in this world. Muslims of America will be in a position to play a reconciliatory role in getting the disputes of the Ummah settled, arbitrate over the unsettled issues and offer enlightened leadership to the Muslim world in times of distress. In short, the Islamic Movement of America and its leadership will be a boon for the American people, the Muslim world and mankind at large.

AN OPEN CHALLENGE:

I have tried to present the greatest need of the Muslim Ummah in the present context of the world. Equally, I have tried to put forward some of

the most realistic arguments advocating the cause of the IMO. I have put them as I have been thinking for many years with respect to the tragic plight of the Muslim Ummah, the Islamic movements of the Muslim world and their deteriorating condition, the growing menace of American interference in the affairs of the Muslim world - from Indonesia to Morocco and from Somalia to Kazakhstan. At the same time, I have been keenly observing the avenues and opportunities which America offers at hand through its present state of affairs as an open invitation to Islam, to come and give redress to her malaise and sufferings.

This has brought us to the conclusion that the open interference of America in the affairs of the Muslim world along with the prevailing condition of this great country **must be accepted as a challenge by the Muslims of America themselves**. It requires a determined effort which will not be possible without a disciplined and an organized Islamic movement to galvanize the Muslims of America into a Jamaah. It will generate strength, uniformity of thoughts and action, mobilization of resources, an objectivity to our existence and the spirit of sacrifice for the undertaking. This will be possible only when we all together make a joint and concerted effort to build the Movement.

When I thought over the “why” of this fundamental need of the Muslim Ummah, I concluded that I must share it with the Muslim leadership and the intelligentsia of this Ummah. It enabled me, Alhamdulillah, to produce this paper. Now it is essential that I must discuss the “How” of this paramount issue. How can it be attended and attained in the

American perspective and in the present context of the world? This is a practical and serious problem and all the saner elements of the Ummah would definitely like to know how to get this paramount concept accomplished.

To meet this genuine demand and urge, I have developed the strategies and process towards Iqamatuddeen in America, which is nothing but the ultimate goal of IMOA. This whole project has been elaborated in the following chapter. The reader is requested to go through it minutely.

Here, I would like to add, from the point of clarification, that I have mentioned both the terms, “democracy” and “democratic process” in this chapter. Democracy is “Haram,” whereas the democratic process is

essential for any form of government, including Khilafah. Hence, it cannot be termed as “Haram.” The Muslim Ummah has to draw a fine line of demarcation in between the two. It cannot reject the democratic process out-right. However, the Ummah can coin some other terminology, if it is averse to the word “democratic.”

CHAPTER - V**STRATEGIES OF IQAMATUDDIN IN AMERICA****[Establishing the Kingdom of Allah]****OUR OBLIGATION:**

The quantum of strategies stems out of the objective to be achieved. The clearer the objective to struggle for is, the more well-calculated and definite will be its planning and strategies. Strategies can thus be earmarked as well-defined steps to advance towards the attainment of the goal. It is, therefore, desirable at the very outset that I must discuss in brief the objective and the mission of a Mumin and a Mumina for which he or she is to live and die for throughout his and her life.

Islam is a Deen, a way of life. It offers a clear-cut and a comprehensive system of life to run human affairs both in individual and collective spheres. It would be possible to manage life accordingly in its totality only when Deen becomes the dominant system of the day in the socio-economic-political set-up of the country. Allah (SWT) made it obligatory on all his Prophets, without exception (Peace Be Upon All Of Them) to establish His Deen as pinpointed in Verse 13 of Al-Shurah,

“.....AN AQEEMUDDEEN WA LA TATAFARRAQU FIH”

“Establish the Deen (of Allah (SWT)) and be not divided therein....”

It was the mission of Rasulullah (S) right from the very inception of his Prophethood. He (S) was ordained by Allah (SWT) to establish His authority in very clear words:

“O! thou enveloped in thy cloak,
Arise and Warn !
and magnify thy Lord”

(The Qur'an: 74:1-3)

The very Kalimah through which Rasulallah (S) invited his fellow-countrymen and women to the fold of Allah (SWT) is dynamic and revolutionary. It negates each and every kind of worldly authorities and demands total surrender to the authority of Allah (SWT) in every walk of life. Allah (SWT) directed Rasulallah (S) to proclaim the message vociferously and without fear of the idolaters:

“Hence proclaim openly all that thou art commanded [to say] and leave alone all those who ascribe partners to Divinity”

(The Qur’an: 15:94)

Allah (SWT) also directed Rasulallah (S) how to call his addressees to His fold:

“Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and fair exhortations, and reason with them in the better way....”

(The Qur’an: 16:125)

Equally, after Rasulallah (S), the Muslim Ummah, both individually and collectively, is responsible to carry out his mission of Dawah Ilallah to every nook and every corner of the world till eternity. His mission is to be accomplished the way Rasulallah (S) demonstrated in his life-time. The Qur’an ordains it:

“And thus have We willed you to be a community of the middle way, so that (with your lives) you might bear witness to the truth before all mankind, and that the Apostle might have bear witness to it before you....”

(The Qur’an: 2:143)

“You are the best community that has ever been brought forth for [the good of] mankind: you enjoin the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong, and you believe in Allah (SWT)”

(The Qur’an: 3:110)

Rasulullah (S), along with his beloved companions, struggled for the whole of his life to get the Deen of Allah (SWT) dominant in Arabian Peninsula. With the Nusrah from Allah (SWT), he succeeded in his lifetime. It is now our obligation to follow his footsteps and struggle in the same way for Iqamatuddeen (Establishment of Allah's (SWT) Deen). It is now the obligation of every Muslim and Muslimah to work devotedly and in an organized manner to fulfill the responsibilities lying on his or her shoulders.

Let us examine how can we accomplish this obligation in the present context of the world. Keeping the obligation in view, I have developed the strategies to attain our objective of Iqamatuddeen in the country where the Muslims have come from all over the world and settled down for good.

At the very outset, I want to summarize the Objective and the contents of our addressees as follows so that no anomaly is left in anybody's mind about the scope and the purposefulness of this effort.

*** THE OBJECTIVE : TO CALL HUMANITY TO THE FOLD OF ALLAH, THE CREATOR AND THE SUSTAINER : DAWAH ILALLAH IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS IQAMATUDDIN AND THE CULMINATING POINT COMES WHEN THE DEEN OF ALLAH PREVAILS OR BECOMES DOMINANT ALL AROUND. ONLY THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE FIRST PHASE IS THE TARGET OF THIS PAPER. THE REST RESTS WITH ALLAH AND THE INGENUITY OF THE FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT OF AMERICA.**

*** THE ADDRESSEES : HUMANITY AND THE HUMAN SOCIETIES OF THE WEST, ESPECIALLY OF AMERICA AND EUROPE, WHICH MOSTLY CONSTITUTE CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS AND JEWS. THEY ARE, IN FACT, THE DEFORMED, THE DECOMPOSED AND THE DEGENERATED SHAPES OF THE FOLLOWERS OF ISLAM WITH VARIATIONS IN DEGREES ONLY.**

STRATEGIES:

A. WHAT TO PRESENT OR ADVOCATE :

1. WESTERN CIVILIZATION - ITS CRITICAL EVALUATION:

The message of Islam is contained in the Kalimah:

“LA ILAHA ILLALLAH MUHAMMADUN RASULULLAH.”

Naturally, this is the key point of “Dawah Ilallah.”

The Kalimah starts from the Arabic words “**LA ILAHA,**” which outrightly negates the existing system of Kufr, Shirk, materialism or any other system which is secular in nature and approach. As such, the existing system must first be condemned and proved to be wrong. Only then the concept of “**ILLALLAH**” will and can be supplanted or established in the socio-economic-political system of the country through the willing consent of the people of the land. The role model of Rasulullah (S) will be invoked in its wake.

As pinpointed earlier, America is the cradle of modern Jahiliyah. It has reached the zenith of capitalism. It is the mightiest power of the time. Its people feel that they are to champion their liberal values. Accordingly, America is pursuing the concept of liberal democracy and promoting the materialistic cult of capitalism all around the world with all its might and resources menacingly. The genesis of liberal democracy, the fundamentals of capitalism and the idol of nationalism are, therefore, the prime challenges to the concept of “**LA ILAHA.**” These are the stumbling blocks to the concept of “**DAWAH ILALLAH.**”

It is, therefore, essential for the advocates of Islam to pinpoint the shortcomings and the fallacies of the Western culture, civilization, ideals, approach, concepts and philosophies which form its edifice with convincing arguments, facts and figures from their own life-style. They are to be proved wrong, baseless, damaging and extremely frivolous to the growth of human society along balanced, constructive and

homogeneous lines. Secular myths and the edifice of the modern civilization are, therefore, first to be shattered and demolished ideologically and proved to be baseless and wrong.

To begin with, the frontal attack on the edifice of the prevalent secular-modern civilization is the foremost obligation towards the establishment of Allah's Deen. If the edifice of the existing society is not shaken or proved wrong by convincing arguments and constructive criticism, an urgent need is not created in the people of the land to seek an alternate way of life, **Islam will not get its way to penetrate deep into the body-politic of the system by a free choice and conviction.** All the Prophets of Allah (SWT) had to do this job in their respective times against the prevalent idolatries. We have to do the same job against the modern idolatry of our time.

The Islamic movements of the Sub-continent of India and the Middle East did this prime-most job to a great extent in the forties and fifties of this century. Now we are to do this job **AFRESH** in the context of America and Europe when the world, its situation and the complexities of its affairs have dramatically changed since then. Liberalism has grown beyond proportion and has surmounted practically every aspect of human life.

Similarly, it is to be analyzed how and from where Fasad (transgression) entered into the life of individuals and nations of Europe and America and with what consequences, giving glaring examples from the Western culture, history and their own life-style. How can it now be transformed into Falah (redemption) and Khair (benevolent) for mankind.

2. ISLAM - AS AN ALTERNATE WAY OF LIFE:

In the wake of the critical and analytical presentation of the secular West, Islam is to be presented as a Deen, a way of life, and not as a religion as it is understood in America and Europe. To begin with, the fundamentals of Deen - the concept of Tawheed, Risalah, Amanah and Akhirah be presented with thought-provoking arguments in different styles, orientations and emphasis as advocated and elaborated in the Qur'an and explained by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S). These fundamentals can be presented as follows:

I. This cosmos and its every object is controlled by Physical Laws which cannot be altered or changed. They are eternal. They are controlled, managed and enforced by the Creator Himself in a continuous process since their very inception or coming into existence. Hence, there is no confusion, chaos or disturbance anywhere in the universe. The job of a

scientist, an explorer or a discoverer is to find out the laws, trajectories and the governing principles of the animate and inanimate objects of nature and put them to the use and service of man. The Creator had created and harnessed them for the benefit of mankind. The Qur'an confirms it:

“See ye not how Allah (SWT) has made serviceable unto you whatsoever is in the skies and whatsoever is in the earth and had loaded you with His favors both without and within...”

(The Qur'an: 31:20)

It needs to be advocated to modern man that it is the Creator who is the Master, Sustainer and Controller of this cosmos and not so-called, “Mother Nature.” His authority is supreme, indivisible and inalienable. Hence, only obedience to the Creator will invoke His favor. He will then bless our life with peace and harmony at every step.

ii. Similarly, the affairs of the man and human society inhabiting the earth - the abode of man - are controlled, managed and governed by the Creator by another set of laws and principles which are called Moral Laws. These laws have also been set by the Creator. They govern the destiny of people and nations. Whosoever violates these laws will meet eventual destruction, decay and annihilation. So far 35 civilizations have reached to the death-bed of history and many more are now in the dying process because they violated the Moral Laws set by the Creator. They neglected and ignored the dictum dominating the destinies of the people and nations. These laws favor nobody. Nobody can avoid the consequences if these laws are not complied with in their true letters and spirit. This earth and what it contains is nobody's property. The will of the Lord is Supreme here too. This all is to be advocated and presented in very clear words to the West with definite warnings that its death-knell is at hand, if they continue to ignore and violate them.

iii. Whatever man possesses - time, talents, capabilities and resources - do not belong to him or her. He or she is not the master

or the owner but only their trustees. As such, they are to be used in the manner the Creator ordains. Every human being is **ACCOUNTABLE** to his or her Creator for the manner they are used. If these resources are used the way Allah (SWT) ordains, they will be rewarded with contentment, peace and a balanced life on earth and eternal bliss in the

Hereafter; but if these resources are used as per our desires and caprices, we will make our life a hell on earth, as we see around us, and meet eternal pain and sorrow in the Hereafter. **THE CHOICE IS IN OUR HANDS.** The consequences of both the ways of life are to be substantiated with facts, figures and illustrations from the socio-economic-political life-pattern of the advanced societies of America and Europe.

iv. The concept of Accountability in the life Hereafter is the basic guiding principle to live with on this earth. One who feels that he or she is an accountable creature on earth, he or she behaves like a responsible human being in every walk of life. He or she becomes a boon to the human society. One who feels that he or she is not an accountable being and that this is the only life (on earth) or there is no life after death, he or she becomes irresponsible, reckless and behaves like an arrogant creature. Both the characters are visible before us. The consequences of both the attitudes of life are enormous in both the worlds. It needs presentation in a very articulate manner.

v. The greatest need of man is Guidance on how to live, act and behave on this earth. If man lives by himself, by man-made laws, he creates problems, chaos, bloodshed, destruction and unbalances in every walk of life, as we see through the ages and around us. Man is ignorant of much of his past and future altogether. He is not the least competent to deliver good or guidance to himself, to human society or to mankind at large. The only competent authority is the Creator. He has been sending the Guidance through His appointed Messengers. But man had lost all the Guidance except the last and the final one revealed through Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Guidance is now available to mankind intact and in its original form in the shape of the Qur'an, with no innovation, perversion or any change at all. The need and urgency of the Divine Guidance is to be emphasized and its blessings in the individual and collective life should be ventilated distinctly. **In its wake, the life of Prophet Muhammad (S) is to be presented to the people**

of the land as the Guide and the only Role Model for humanity to follow and live in peace and harmony till eternity.

vi. When man-made laws have filled the earth with disorder and bloodshed; when this cosmos is controlled and commanded not by so-called, "Mother Nature," but by two different sets of laws ordained by the Creator Himself; when we are not the master of anything what we see and

possess but trustees only; when we are accountable for all what we use, act and behave on this earth; and when our need for a Guidance on how to live, behave and act on this earth is supreme; **ISLAM SHOULD THEN BE THE NATURAL AND THE ONLY CHOICE OF MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MODERN AGE TO FOLLOW AND LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY, BOTH IN INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE SPHERES.** The entire scenario as presented above should, therefore, be advocated and propounded with total commitment without any hesitation, compromising attitude, defeated or apologetic mentality. **In this context, it must be clearly understood and advocated that:**

* Humanity has so far tried all the man-made laws which failed and could not deliver good to mankind. The latest casualty was communism, which was propounded as a cure against the evils of capitalism. But it failed and succumbed to its own inherent short-comings. Since man has no other man-made laws to try, the Russian people reverted back to capitalism based on market economy. That is why persons like Francis Fukuyama wrongly concluded that history has come to an end and the future is only for the capitalistic liberal democracy which created only imperialism, oppression, exploitation, class struggle and bloodshed throughout its history for the last 500 years. It could not deliver peace, equality, justice and build a society free from all kinds of exploitation.

* Mr. Fukuyama, maybe due to prejudice or ignorance, could not envision Islam as an alternate way of life to socialism and capitalism. Neither has he bothered to study Islam as a system of life nor is there any society in today's world based on the tenets of Islam to serve as a model for the suffering humanity to follow as its savior. He grappled with the gloomy shadows of communism and concluded that history has come to an end with it. Now, out of his own ignorance, he acclaims that the future of humanity lies only in liberal democracy. What a

great tragedy for mankind. The stick of Moses in the shape of Islam is at hand, but humanity is running after the false magic wands of the magicians of the court of Pharaoh.

* Islam meets all the challenges of time. It is the only way of life left-over for the human society to try, test and live by it. It should be advocated accordingly and be presented to the stalwarts of the modern age as the only alternate way of life to liberal democracy. Islam offers and guarantees everything to the suffering humanity: a solution to its

problems, Salvation in the life Hereafter, and what humans could not get for centuries together - justice, equality, fairplay and a society free of exploitation and prejudices.

* However, it must be crystal clear to the advocates of Islam as an important and integral part of Dawah strategy in the West that Islam is not what is being displayed or practiced by the traditional or the re-born Muslims but what is ordained in the Qur'an and demonstrated or practiced by Prophet Muhammad (S) in his life-pattern.

*. Equally, it should also be accepted as a fact that at present Islam is nowhere in a dominant position. As such, the Muslim countries are not Islamic in character or shape. Hence, they do not represent Islam nor can any of them be cited as its model at all.

3. OBLIGATIONS OF THE AMERICAN MUSLIMS:

i. It will be an integral part of Dawah strategy that along with presenting Islam to the people of the land, it would be equally essential to prepare and educate the American Muslims to accept the obligation of Iqamatuddeen (ID) as a part of their Iman. They should be exhorted to be the conscientious Muslims. They should behave like responsible citizens, work like an integrated team and should always be prepared and eager to sacrifice time and resources for this onerous task.

ii. Simultaneously, the advocates of Islam in America need to present true models of Islam with the exemplary Islamic character of Da'ee Ilallah and try their utmost to build, as early as possible, somewhere in America an Islamic community based on Islamic social justice, morality

and ethical standards to serve as a working model of an Islamic life and environment in the midst of modern Jahilyah.

iii. The Muslims of America will have to involve themselves actively and consciously in Dawah efforts on individual, family and neighborhood levels. Through individual efforts, if each family becomes a model Muslim house, the revival of the Ummah will become easy and within reach.

B. HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THE OBJECTIVES - THE PRIORITIES :

The first and the foremost thing to meet our obligation of Iqamatuddeen, through Dawah Ilallah, is to build the nucleus of the Islamic Movement in America. This is essential and should be the priority Number One of those who are determined to introduce the Deen of Allah (SWT) as an alternate way of life in this country. Half-hearted, casual and sporadic Dawah efforts, as are going on here and there in America, will lead us nowhere.

The Dawah-oriented brothers and sisters in America have a great responsibility in this respect. Some of us have to take the initiative, invite like-minded individuals and organizations to a conference, discuss the need and urgency of the Islamic movement in this country, **resolve to form the desired nucleus and undertake the tasks elaborated above as strategies of Iqamatuddeen in America.**

With the formation of the nucleus, the Muslim leadership, individual Da'ees and Dawah oriented organizations must be invited or persuaded to join hands with it (the nucleus) to make a disciplined and determined effort to form the Islamic Movement of America for the attainment of the program as envisaged and ordained by Allah (SWT) in Verse 104 of Al-Imran and Verse 77 of Al-Hajj:

“And let there be from you a community of people (a Jamma'h) who invites the people towards Deen and enjoin the doing of what is right and forbid the doing of what is wrong: Such are the people who are successful”.

(Al-Imran: 104)

“O! You who believe! Bow down and prostrate yourselves, and worship your Sustainer [alone], and do good (service to mankind), so that you might attain to a happy state !”

(Al-Hajj: 77)

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT OF AMERICA:

At this stage, it is desirable that I must discuss some salient features of the IMO, which will go a long way in getting the objective clarified and its fulfillment becoming possible in the American perspective:

i. The IMO will be an indigenous movement and will have its American name and style so that the people of the land understand its meanings, concepts, and get inspiration from it;

ii It will have its elected Amir, a Majlis Al-Shurah, a constitution and a well-defined oath of membership with total commitment to the Amir, to the objective, to strategies, policy, program and methodology on the basis of the Qur'anic principle of "Sama'na wa A'tana," [listening and obeying]. The entire organizational set-up will be based on the spirit of Shura (consultation), Akhuwa (brotherhood), total commitment, sacrifice for the cause, mutual trust and consultation, Jihade-fi-sabil-Allah, expecting reward only from Allah (SWT);

iii. The IMO will be a true replica of a "rainbow coalition" of Caucasian-Americans, African-Americans, Immigrants, Latino-Americans and Native Americans, with no cultural background of any constituting element but totally integrated within the ideological perception of Islam as was the case of the Sahaba at Makkah and Madinah. Unity of thoughts and action will be the only identity of this group. The model set-up by Rasulallah (S) will be followed in letter and spirit as presented by his beloved Companions;

iv. The IMO will raise its funds from its members, sympathizers and well-wishers within the geographical bonds of America with no strings attached to it. Each member will be committed to contribute to his or her

maximum with no percentage point fixed, depending on the quantum of the spirit of Infaq which the movement would create in each.

v. The IMO will take the Islamic movements of the Muslim world as sister organizations working for the same cause. They will constitute its case study. It will learn lessons from their successes and failures, come to their help only at times of distress and cooperate in formulating global strategies for the spread of Allah's (SWT) Deen on this earth.

**THE PROCESS OF FORMATION AND THE FEATS TO
PERFORM :**

i. The existing organizations which claim to be the Islamic movements should re-assess their position and re-set their agenda, program and strategies, develop the desired nucleus in their own body/set-up and transform themselves into the real IMO, or work together with the aforesaid nucleus for the same cause. Working together, they are to form the desired consolidated IMO, as suggested earlier. The sincerity of purpose, the unanimity of the objective, the deteriorating condition of the Muslim Ummah and the state of the world in which International Zionism is totally determined to control its affairs in the garb of American dominance, demand this “Tawheedi action” from the Muslims of America and their national organizations.

ii. It should be crystal clear to the Islamic national organizations of America that their jumbled-up undertakings - community cum political cum Dawah oriented efforts - will only end in frustration. They will never be able to consolidate the condition of Muslims as the Ummah and attain the sanctity of an Islamic movement as that of the Indo-Pak sub-continent or the Middle East or Africa, if they do not transform themselves into an effective Islamic movement of the land.

iii. Immediately after the formation of the nucleus, the group will divide itself into five working departments based on knowledge, understanding and expertise of individual members for:

1. Publishing a Journal and Dawah literature;
2. Dawah planning and its implementation;
3. Undertaking issues and problems of America, modern civilization, Muslim Ummah and humanity at large;
4. Tarbiyah and Tazkiyah (training and building character of individual Da’ees and Islamic workers);
5. Coordination and Evaluation: Movement’s activities within America and cooperation at the global level.

iv. The proposed nucleus of the IMO, after coming into existence, will start **publishing a Journal of highly academic standards** as its first venture to ventilate, propagate and present all that has been discussed above **as the strategies of Iqamatuddeen and Dawah Ilallah in America**. We are to present Islam as **THE ONLY WAY OF LIFE** to the people of the land, which can deliver good to their individual and collective lives and save their skin from the wrath of the Creator after death. The **journal** will serve as a vehicle to communicate and penetrate deep into the intelligentsia of this country. The **Journal** will be a paramount source of producing Dawah literature in this country. It will produce effective literature based on Tawheed, Risalah, Amanah, Akhirah and allied topics and themes as mentioned earlier in this paper. Along with presenting the basic concepts of Deen, the Journal will undertake to publish Islamic solutions to the problems and issues which this country, the Muslim Ummah, and the humanity at large are facing.

v. The IMO will develop a comprehensive Dawah program for intelligentsia, common people and different sectors of the society and coordinate Dawah efforts at local, state, national and global levels with all possible peaceful, constitutional and technical ways and means available to human ingenuity. It will develop a system of follow-up of each program and its frequent evaluation so that the natural pace of the growth of the movement is maintained even under different and difficult situations.

vi. The IMO will simultaneously, develop a realistic program of Tarbiyah an Tazkiyah (training and character building) to develop a better understanding of Islam by the American people, the spirit of the age in the light of the Qur'an and Sunnah, the problems of Dawah

Ilallah and individual Da'ees, and the Muslim masses. It will undertake to produce a dependable and trustworthy character in Da'ees, Islamic workers and general Muslims in a continuous process and go on multiplying its numerical strength and support qualitatively.

vii. The Da'ees will not be restricted only to Dawah work but the movement will involve the Islamic workers increasingly in fighting against Munkar, establishing the Ma'roof and mitigating the human sufferings at an accelerated pace in proportion to the number of workers, resources available and the response of the people of the land to the call of Dawah

Ilallah as ordained by Allah (SWT) in Verse 104 of Al-Imran and Verse 77 of Al-Hajj referred to above.

viii. The IMOA will continue its efforts in developing cordial relations through extensive and intensive personal contacts with Dawah-oriented individuals, organizations and the Muslim leadership in order to convince them about the need and urgency of Iqamatuddeen in this country and to take a joint, concerted and an organized effort in that direction in order to form a greater consolidated Islamic movement as mentioned above.

ix. The IMOA will focus on national and international issues and present a critical and analytical study of the world events on the principles of justice, equality, non-discrimination, human rights, fairplay and no-compromise attitude with Batil or the vested interests. It will also ventilate any other issue, problem or event which is of paramount importance to the American people, the Muslim Ummah, the humanity at large or the world order.

x. The IMOA will help the Muslims to develop a correct understanding of the modern age, differentiate what is good to be adopted from the West and what is bad to be ignored. To meet this important aspect of our approach to the Western civilization vis- a - vise our Dawah efforts, I have tried to present, in the next Chapter, a panoramic view of the modern age and how the Muslims should deal with it? How can they make the best use of it? What are their responsibilities to meet the growing challenges of time? What should the Muslim world do at this juncture and what part do the Muslims of America have to play in this respect? It is extremely important for Muslims to understand this world, its progress and complexities and the contribution which Western

societies have made to the modern age so far. We cannot afford to forget the spirit of the age in its true perspective.

The IMOA will help the Ummah enormously in multiplying its efforts in the right direction and come to the rescue of mankind on how to lead a balanced and peaceful life on this earth and maximize their personal comforts and pleasure in the life Hereafter. This is the prime-most job of the Muslims and we have to do it. The matter discussed in the following Chapter, “ Muslims and the Modern age”, will incline us to play a dominant role for the betterment of Muslims here in America, the Muslim world and the humanity both at home and abroad.

xi. The IMOA will make serious efforts to develop global strategies to introduce and spread the Deen of Allah (SWT) in the West as an alternate way of life to its people in the continents of North and South America and Europe to think an enter into its fold, if they really desire a peaceful and balanced life here on this earth and an eternal bliss in the life Hereafter.

xii. For the IMOA the entire continent from Canada to Chile is a vacant land to plough and sow the seeds of Islam in this virgin land. It is the most provocative challenge which the Dawah-oriented brothers and sisters of America have to accept and struggle for their entire life. It is the will of Allah (SWT) that they are here in the land of opportunities to fulfill the future destiny of mankind. **There is every possibility that Islam may emerge as the savior of mankind somewhere in the courtyard of the great power. It appears to be the planning of Allah (SWT) and He is the Best Planner, (Wal Ilmu Indallah - Knowledge is only with Allah (SWT)).**

A WORD OF CAUTION:

1. The above discussed strategies and its inherent program should be carried out with extreme love for humanity in soft-spoken/written words with utmost care and concern for the protection and preservation of human values and the well being of the human society;

2. All that is to be written or said will bear no animosity, ill-feelings or hatred of any kind against any people, religion, country, sect or ethnicity;

3. The entire program of Iqamatuddeen is to be carried out in a low profile style with no fanfare, in a polite and humble manner, always praying to Allah (SWT) for His pardon, mercy and Nusrah (help) at every step and with every move. Allah's (SWT) help comes for those who seek His help. The Qur'an confirms it:

“As for those who strive in Us, We surely guide them to Our path and Lo! Allah (SWT) is with the good”.

(The Qur'an: 29:69)

CHAPTER - 6**MUSLIMS AND THE MODERN AGE**

The age through which the Muslims are passing is the climax of the modern age. It has reached its zenith. It is fast heading towards an era of mega-nations or supranations with an abundance of economic resources, political power and military might in each group of nations and in the name of developing common markets. It will generate some very far-reaching effects on the underdeveloped nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America. It may open an era of neo-colonialism early in the 21st century. It does not augur well for the Muslims who predominantly inhabit these areas and have sustained the onslaughts of the developed nations of Europe and America for the last 200 years.

In fact, Muslims are facing a great civilization which is based on a solid edifice and values different from their own. Its upholders are fostering it as their cherished goal and trying to engulf this earth, every country and every people, with the so-called “blessings of modernism.” Let us examine the edifice, the characteristics and the structure of the modern age, or the Western civilization. This will enable us to grasp the gravity of the situation, understand the depth of the enormous challenges which Muslims are facing and envision the way to confront, counter-act, overcome and defeat nefarious designs. This exercise will also enable us to understand the good and bad of it, to pinpoint what to take as a gift of the modern age, what to reject and what its predominant inherent vices are. We have to make a judicious examination of what this age contains for mankind in both directions.

THE EDIFICE OF THE MODERN AGE :

The following constitute the edifice of the Modern Age:

1. KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW : Accumulated knowledge of the universe and of man himself through constant investigation, research, experiments, discoveries and understanding of the laws, the principles and the trajectories on which this cosmos, including our little earth, is thriving and humans are pulsating. Through

constant endeavors man has been able to discover many underlying secrets of nature.

[However, there are still innumerable objects lying unseen and unknown high above the sky, deep under the sea and within the fragile human frame, challenging the dauntless ingenuity of man to come forward and explore them].

2. DISCOVERIES - The West achieved this feat of performance through scientific research and experiments, studies and developments in every field of knowledge - space, astronomy, physics, chemistry, botany, cultural, educational, industrial, economic, political, human relations, international trade, and geographical phenomena, etc. Constant discoveries in different fields are the back-bone of the Modern Age.

3. INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION - Constant developments in the field of technology, means of industrial production, transportation and communication have brought the world from the stage of home manufacturing to the stage of large scale factory production, from the age of transportation by camel to the supersonic and space-shuttle era, squeezing the world practically into 196+ nations' apartment building.

4. SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF PHYSICAL LAWS AND THEIR EFFECT - Discovering and establishing the laws which regulate the universe with mathematical accuracy. When, through ages, the regulatory laws of nature explained the physical phenomena that affect the world in terms of mathematical calculations and formulas, modern man replaced God with natural laws or so-called "mother nature."

This approach gradually fractured the world of beliefs and conviction and shattered the myth of Christianity as religion of God. Christianity failed to meet the challenges of the Industrial Era and the growing demands of nation states. It had only some doctrines and dogmas to offer and not a perfect code of life which could guide one's destiny in every walk of life. In the wake of the failure of Christianity and Judaism to meet the genuine needs and challenges to humans and societies and understanding the scientific reasoning of the age, modern man started thinking and believing that events occur due to natural causes and material setbacks and not due to supernatural causes. Hence there was no need of God or any metaphysical world.

5. MATERIAL AND SECULAR APPROACH - The scientific interpretation of the physical laws of nature makes man secular and

materialistic in his approach to life and its problems. This turns religion into a personal affair between God and an individual, which very often leads to no religion at all. Thus, secularism became the order and fashion of the day. Everything was interpreted and judged in terms of material gains and worldly interest alone. The entire pattern of life of modern man in Western society changed. He became the symbol of self-centered epicurism, striving only to maximize his personal pleasure, gains and comfort. Nations, constituted of such individuals, started the game of exploitation all around the world for the benefit of their people in order to raise their standard of living on a continuous basis. As a result, they filled the earth with bloodshed, oppression and tyranny.

6. THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION - The materialistic and secular attitude of life was further strengthened by Darwin (1842-1882) and his theory of evolution. He explored the biological world and its natural laws and concluded that man came to his present shape and form through an evolutionary process. He was the descendent of an ape and as such he was not the creation of God. He introduced the concept of the survival of the fittest which he observed in the biological world and placed an explanation and justification of oppression in the hands of the Western colonial powers to subjugate the poor countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, one after the other. This produced the worst type of human exploitation. The era of colonialism might have come to an end but the game of exploitation is still going on unabated in one form or the other in various guises.

7. THE RESULT - These scientific researches, discoveries and conclusions changed the very genesis of power of the Western nations. The criteria of power and stability were now scientific inventions, pursuit of knowledge, continuing research and development, industrial large scale production, control over sea routes through shipping power, automatic and long range weapons on land, sea and air with accurate shooting along with developed market based economy, democratic framework, human rights, security and political stability at home.

Steady progress in these fields brought prosperity to the people of the West and stability to their governments through industrial development

at home and economic exploitation of their colonies abroad. But it was at the cost of discarding their Creator, God, and making worldly life the end of all human struggle. The secular West advocates that there is no life Hereafter. It has rendered the people of the West, modern man, selfish, irresponsible and reckless. As such, they have filled the earth, the abode of man, with disorder, exploitation, bloodshed, chaos and confusion. They feel that they are accountable to none and hence both individuals and nations are very often found behaving in a reckless and irresponsible manner.

THE ROLE OF MUSLIMS BEFORE AND AFTER THE MODERN AGE:

A. BEFORE THE ADVENT OF THE MODERN AGE -

The Modern Age started with the Renaissance in Europe. Certain important events took place between the year 1450 and 1500 AD which changed the course of history. They were as follows:

1. The fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453;
2. The fall of Muslims in Spain in 1492 and migration of scholars to Europe;
3. The discovery of America by Columbus by the end of the 15th century which brought an immense amount of prosperity to the West;
4. The discovery of a new trade route to India in 1499 via the Cape of Good Hope;
5. The invention of the printing press in 1455 by Gothenburg;
6. The publication of 'The Prince' by Machiavelli in 1493. It promoted the concept of Nation States and nationalism in its most brutal form. Nationalism became the greatest curse for human society. It is the mother of many vices and tyrannies which are attributed as the evils of the modern age. Its effects are ever-increasing. The process of fragmentation of human society on the basis of race, color, culture and

language is causing untold damage to the unity of mankind - one God, one nation and one system of life.

The sum total effect of these events and discoveries generated the Renaissance in Europe. It augmented the pursuit of knowledge, scientific discoveries and inventions in Europe based on the accumulated knowledge, the scientific method of experiments and the contributions which Muslims made in different fields - math, physics, chemistry, astrology, geography, medicine, etc., in their prime in Spain and elsewhere in the Muslim world. Europe got the ready-made base, the method of scientific investigation and the team of scholars from the Muslim world and launched upon its campaign towards the pursuit of knowledge and scientific experiments and stunned the world with its inventions and discoveries in subsequent centuries. The Western countries reaped the harvest of their scientific efforts in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries as pointed out earlier.

Historically, it was the Muslims who were the pioneers in these fields and should, therefore, have continued development in each field of knowledge. By virtue of that they should have been the bonafide recipients to reap this crop, since they have been the ones who did the basic work of very fundamental nature in the field of knowledge and science through constant experiments and research.

CONTRIBUTION OF ISLAM TO THE MODERN AGE -

Before the advent of Islam, the inanimate objects of nature, the sun, the moon, the wind, the river, the mountains, the rain, the trees and so on were worshipped by man and hence he could not dare to look towards them from a probing perspective and think about their chemistry. Islam declares that the entire universe and what it contains is the creation of God and He has harnessed them for man to explore and utilize. He invites every individual human being to think over every object of nature. They are not the objects of worship but the manifestation of Allah's (SWT) bounties that have been harnessed for the service of man. Allah (SWT) declares:

“See ye not how Allah (SWT) had made serviceable (harnessed) unto you whatsoever is in the skies and whatsoever is in the earth and had loaded you with his favors both without and within? Yet of mankind is he who disputes concerning Allah (SWT), without knowledge or guidance or a Scripture giving light.”

(The Qur’an: 31:20)

Similarly, Verses 190 and 191 of Al-Imran invite every one of us to ponder over the skies and earth and the change of night and day.

“Lo! In the creation of the heavens and the earth and (in) the difference of night and day are tokens (of His sovereignty) for men of understanding.”

“Those who remember Allah (SWT), standing, sitting and reclining and consider the creation of the heavens and the earth, (and say): Our Lord! Thou created not this in vain. Glory be to Thee! Preserve us from the doom of fire.”

(The Qur’an 3:190-191)

In Surah Al-Ghashia, Allah (SWT) is inviting the attention of humans to think over the chemistry of the objects created by Him,

“Will they not regard the camels, how they are created ?
And the heaven, how it is raised?
And the hills, how they are set up?
And the earth, how it is spread?”

(The Qur’an: 88:17-20)

Whoever responds to this call from the Creator and contemplates, will conclude that Allah (SWT) has not created this universe in vain. This is an open invitation to men and women to think over the objects of nature and find out their contents, analyze the build up of their nature and discover the regulatory rules which control each of them.

CONTRIBUTION OF MUSLIMS TO KNOWLEDGE :

This repeated invitation by Allah (SWT) in the Qur'an exhorted Muslims to make nature and its manifestation topics of their study and contemplation. It is the blessing of Allah (SWT) that He made this cosmos for us and invited mankind to discover the secrets of each and every object that it contains. Muslims undertook this onerous task and made very important contributions to human civilization from the seventh to the fifteenth century AD in different fields of life through scientific probes and experiments. Muslims provided the edifice on which Europe made its glorious scientific inventions and discoveries later on.

THE FAILURE OF MUSLIMS :

Muslim kings, rulers, scholars and men of literature should have continued the pursuit of knowledge and discoveries, but they neglected this task altogether. As a result, they lost ground to the rising European powers. At the very best, Muslims could have studied the reasons and the secrets of European progress and their conquest after conquest of the Muslim world but they obviously failed. The cause of Europe's dominance in Asia and Africa was nothing but the educational, scientific, technical and military superiority which Muslims failed to realize and achieve in their best interest. The Ottomans did realize but restricted themselves in just copying from Europe which proved disastrous. Muslim leadership everywhere in the world failed to grasp the root causes of their downfall. They can be enumerated as follows:

- 1. The neglect of scientific research, educational and industrial development on a continuous basis;**
- 2. The neglect of Islam as a way of life in the body politic throughout the Muslim world;**
- 3. The neglect of Dawah Ilallah in an organized form both at the individual and state levels as an obligation ordained by Allah and demonstrated by Rasulallah (S) in his life pattern.**

Imam Shamil in Russia was still fighting with swords and spears when Peter learned the technique of automatic weapons from Europe, established armament factories in his country and totally defeated and

annihilated the movement of Imam Shamil in Central Asia, Caucasia and Eastern Europe within a few years time. In the earlier part, the Ottoman Khilafat had a strong navy in the Mediterranean Sea. That dominated the sea routes for about two hundred years. Later on the tempo to build large ships subsided. The European powers took the upper hand and controlled the sea routes everywhere. The Ottoman Caliphate refused to build big ships for the safety of the Gulf coast. As a result, the Britishers came and captured Iraq, Yemen and other areas of the region in the South. The European navy dominated the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, thereby surrounding the Caliphates from all sea approaches. No one could forestall the downfall of the Ottoman Caliphate. It was inevitable. The ultimate fall came in 1924.

Muslims did little or nothing to obtain the knowledge of science and technology from Europe as the lost wisdom of their ancestors and add glorious chapters to it by dint of their labor, struggle, researches, and discoveries as Europe did in the four centuries following the Renaissance. Muslims simply became camp-followers of Europe and lost everything they once had - land, honor, prestige, resources and , perhaps, the future too.

B. WHAT THE MUSLIMS SHOULD DO NOW?

The Muslims of today have a great responsibility on their shoulders. The world is not going to wait for them. Industrial progress, scientific inventions and far-reaching discoveries will ever continue to stun the world. In the midst of strong competition and ever-increasing interference in the internal affairs of the Muslim world by the Euro-American Powers, we have to carve a way out of this difficult and tense situation. We have to take some strong and firm steps and change our thinking process with open mindedness. The Modern Age is neither all bad nor all good. So we have to pick up what is good - not repugnant to the Qur'an and Sunnah - and discard what is bad - not permitted by Allah and His Prophet (S). We must be very selective. The Modern Age

is a reality. Let us have a realistic approach in accepting what it offers to us. Muslims in fact are going to face a Post-Modern Age era by the end of this or early next century. We must take the following steps to rejuvenate the condition of the Muslim Ummah in the shortest possible time.

1. Muslims have neglected the pursuit of knowledge and scientific investigation for the last 500 years. They should pursue it now without further delay in right earnest. They should add the outcome of their own research to the edifice of Europe and America as these civilizations did on the foundation laid down by Muslims. Islam permits, rather exhorts, Muslims to do this as an obligation from Allah (SWT). Whatever the West has added in the fields knowledge and technology is an asset for mankind and the Muslims have every right to inherit it by all means.

2. To augment this move, it is essential that Muslims try to establish the Deen of Allah in the body-politic of their respective countries within the shortest possible time and inspire their youth with missionary zeal to be the leaders of mankind with exemplary character and excel in science and technology by exercising Himalayan-size efforts in that direction. This effort will bring forth the opportunity to mobilize all the available human and material resources within the Muslim world for the emancipation of the Ummah as a whole. This will invoke special blessings from Allah. The Muslims will then be able to achieve what would look humanly impossible, within a short time. The revived spirit of Muslims will bring forth the Nusrah of Allah at their side, the only key to attain sure success in both the worlds.

3. To attain the objective, Muslims have to view the universe as the Creation of Allah (SWT) and start thinking over its chemistry with trust in Him. If the Muslims start probing nature and its manifestation, Allah (SWT) may pave the way for discoveries which even the West could not dream of so far. This is Allah's (SWT) world. He may reward the Muslims in a way He likes best for them. Allah (SWT) loves the Allah-conscious Muslims (Muttaqeen) and Muhsenin, who struggle for His Deen (Al-Ankabut : 69). Only then will Muslims excel in the art of science and technology. The Muslims have to create their own post-

Modern age with stunning discoveries and inventions and it will be very easy for Allah (SWT) to let us accomplish it.

4. The Muslims must, simultaneously, launch upon a campaign to pinpoint the fallacies of the thinking process of Europe and America, that what they

have discovered so far as the laws of nature are the Taqdeer (design) of the objects, along which they were created by Allah (SWT) and that they can only discover those laws but not make them. The entire credit must go to the Supreme authority of Allah (SWT) Who created the objects and destined or harnessed them to do or follow what they are meticulously doing to the service of human beings.

“(Moses) said, (to Pharaoh): Our Lord is He Who gave unto everything its nature, then guided it aright.”

(The Qur’an: 20:50)

Furthermore, whatever the West has discovered so far, was through the infinite mercy of Allah (SWT), without which people may try the whole of their lives and get nothing from their efforts. It was the blessing of Allah (SWT) that some scientists, some discoverers, some explorers achieved what they were trying, whereas there were many who did not succeed despite their best efforts. It should be made clear that Allah (SWT) reveals the secrets that fit in the overall planning and control of this cosmos and reveals only what He wants to reveal.

“----while they encompass nothing of His knowledge save what He will----”

(The Qur’an: 2:255)

The Muslims must understand clearly that the campaign of learning science and technology and removing the fallacies of the thinking process of the West must go together. There is every possibility that Islam may turn many contemporary scientists to the fold of Allah (SWT), if they are convinced of their shortcomings, which are based on arrogance and ignorance of man’s position on earth. This could have been accomplished by Christianity, but it failed to deliver a perfect code of life to the European societies when they were transforming themselves into nation states and developing a secular attitude of life, which has nothing to offer. Now the Muslims should do this job. Winning over the scientists from the secular world will be a great boon to the Muslim

Ummah. The role of the journal mentioned in the last Chapter will be predominant in this respect.

5. To achieve the desired objective, the Muslims have to inspire their youth, especially those who are living and studying in Europe and America, to undertake this as the paramount mission of their life. They will have to become prominent in the societies where they are living as effective Da'ees and brilliant students on their campuses, in their respective fields. Only then will they command respect wherever they go and be able to do the aforesaid jobs with ease and with blessings from Allah (SWT) whose favor will always be with them. The Muslim leadership and the political activists in the West, especially in America, should and must undertake this onerous task as a mission of their life, if they are really sincere to serve the Muslim Ummah, revive its condition and take it out of its present quagmire.

6. This gigantic task requires a tremendous amount of manpower and financial resources. As regards manpower, the Muslim world has it even today. It is scattered all over the Muslim and non-Muslim world of Europe and America. That will never be a problem. The only thing we need are financial resources. Muslims must give equal emphasis, if not more than what is invested by the West in Research and Development. Muslims must allocate at least 20 to 25 percent of their national income for R & D and the spread of education on a mass level, if they are to secure the position as the "Best of the Nations" which Allah (SWT) has assigned to them. It may appear to be too much, but compared to the back-log, it is nothing if we can make it.

7. Securing such a huge fund will be a problem for Muslim countries in the present context of the world, when they are divided and not seeing eye to eye with each other. The position of securing foreign loans is equally tight and conditional. It would be available only with many disgusting and humiliating strings attached to it. As such, it would be no good for the Muslim Ummah. **Therefore, the only way through which such huge funds can be arranged or raised would be by cutting their defense budgets to the bare minimum, i.e. only one percent or less of the GNP This would be possible only:**

i. If the Muslim world solemnly declares that they will resolve their interstate issues and problems through arbitration among themselves.

ii. Secondly, if the Muslims cannot establish Islam in their body-politic, at least they must establish democratic institutions in their respective countries and end the confrontation with their own people.

If the Muslim Ummah acts upon these two proposals, it can easily spare and allocate the required funds for R & D and the education of the Muslim masses within a few years time. If we can achieve this, only then will the 21st century be the century of Islam. The Muslims will then be the leaders of the post-modern and post-Bosnian world. They themselves will then emerge as the supranation (Millah) with a consolidated force and the resources of more than 52 Muslim countries, a population of about 1.5 billion people (by the turn of this century) and a giant common market of their own.

CONCLUSION :

In fact, the Modern Age is a blessing in disguise and a challenge to our ingenuity. It is the Muslim's lost heritage. We have to take it back and share its bounties with love and affection for those who now hold it. The Muslims must appreciate the enormous contribution which Europe and America have made to our common heritage during the last 400 years. Simultaneously, it is our obligation to tell them where and how they deviated from the path of righteousness. This was through no fault of their own but due to the incompetence of the Church to inspire and encourage the scientists and appreciate their efforts, rather than condemn them as blasphemists. This caused them to run away from religion, revolt against the Church, and opened the road to secularism.

Now what Christianity could not provide, the Muslims have to bring to America and Europe. The Muslims in general and particularly those living in the continents of America and Europe have to meet this challenge of the modern age with the Qur'an in their right hand, the banner of love and affection in the left, the thirst of knowledge and the good of mankind at heart and in their mind. With these immensely valuable assets the Muslims should march ahead with the

eloquent character of a Da'ee Ilallah and share the common heritage of science and technology from the seats of learning of Europe and America. The role of the IMO will be immense to get the objective

achieved through its ceaseless campaign of Dawah Ilallah and exhorting the Muslims to accomplish the goal in the most perfect order, expecting reward only from Allah (SWT).

The Muslims have to work in both directions - learning what they are missing and transferring what they possess, the Guidance from our common Creator, Allah (SWT), the Merciful, the Sustainer. Our forefathers failed to do this job. Let us do it with utmost devotion and dedication which this cause demands and present a true model of Islam to the scientific and highly industrialized world of America and Europe, through our constant and organized campaign of Dawah Ilallah.

This is the only way through which we can obtain the benefits of the Modern Age and get rid of its vices. This is the only way to make Islam acceptable to the West as an alternate way of life and encounter the anti-Islam and the anti-Muslim propaganda which is currently echoing in the Western media day in and day out. This is the only way to get the condition of the Muslim Ummah revived within the shortest possible time of a decade or so. This is the only way to protect our present as well the forthcoming generations from the vices of liberal societies. This is the only way to fight against Munkar and establish Ma'roof. It will be possible only when the Haq is organized in the form of a movement. In short, this is the only way to get the future of the Muslims secured from the onslaughts of liberalism and the growing menaces of the so-called New World Order. If Muslims of America fail to take this giant step to struggle for Iqamatuddin in the Western hemisphere in a wider spectrum, then only Allah (SWT) knows the quantum of ignominy still lying ahead for them.

May Allah give Tawfeeque to the Muslims of America, especially their leadership, to rise to the occasion, the will to work together jointly and consertedly, the courage and foresight to build the Islamic Movement of America , lest it becomes too late. Time waits for nobody. Today it looks feasible to work on the dotted lines, determined by Allah (SWT) and demonstrated by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S) as envisaged in this paper. Tomorrow it may be too late. Muslims can no longer afford

the luxury of missing the available chance of revival in the present context of the world, since by the turn of the century the development of events may take another shape, not favorable to the Muslims of the world. If the hegemonies of the anti-Islam forces continue to advance in the same direction to which they are heading today, the world may

become too difficult for Muslims to deal with by the turn of the next century.

Muslims have, therefore, no alternative but to accept the challenge boldly and courageously, expecting the Nusrah (help) from Allah (SWT) at every step and from all around. Allah's commitment is very clear and certain in this respect.

“..and fulfill your (part of the) covenant, I shall fulfill My (part of the) covenant, and fear Me (alone)....”

(The Qur'an, 2 :40)

“ And for those who strive in Us (struggle in the way of Allah), We surely guide them to Our paths, and Lo! Allah is with the Muhsenin (the Good).”

(The Qur'an 29: 69)

NOTE: At the end, I would request my learned readers to acquaint me with their views, comments and concerns which they have and nurture to revive the fate of the Muslim Ummah. If they favor me with their express opinions along with their addresses, it will give me an opportunity to respond to their valued opinions. In addition to that, if proper response does not come from any quarter, I will pray to Allah to give me the courage and Tawfeeq to take the initiative in that respect. In that case, I will keep all the brothers and sisters informed.

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* Shipping cost will be about 10% of the value.

* Dawah fliers are available on request at cost price.