

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



August 08, 2017

True Religion Promulgates Peace

Modern human society is a complex outcome of thousand years of evolution. Complex cultures, economic systems, religions, philosophies and sciences have been interwoven through the web of politics, which has shaped the so-called civilized human states, which are managed by the political governments. These governments practice economic systems and religious ideologies through the tool of politics and only and only politics can be credited and blamed for all the virtues and evils that are present in today's human society.

One of the most dominating evils of the contemporary human civilization is war. War has been just like shadow with different forms of social and political setups of human history, and it still threatens human peace and security to a large extent, and again only and only politics can be blamed for it, because it is politics that has invigorated it and nourished it into a monster that is ready to swallow the whole human civilization in no time. The present nature of this monster is very horrible because it is highly equipped with modern scientific and technical capabilities and today international peace is ambiguous because of the threat of the same monster.

Currently, there have been many blames on religions and they are thought to be promulgating conflicts and wars but it is a misconception if they are blamed as it is their political interpretations that make them spread hatred and give birth to conflicts. It is difficult to understand how the ones who oppose religion can fill the heinous figure of politics with the colors of innocence and incorruptibility? How can they find violence in the guiltless and demonstrative teachings of religion? How can they talk of peace through a system, which has its footings on the principles of hatred, egocentricity and greed? They fail to understand that in the contemporary world of ours politics is nothing except greed and intense quest for power and popularity. Every politician or political group strives to dominate others in order to gain strength and superiority. Politics in its nature is corrupt. It can never guarantee peace because it has to welcome war. Every political group rises with the downfall of others. Every political group flourishes with the extinction of others. Today, peace is impossible through politics. Politics has to be cunning, self-centered, egoistic, and violent in case of ideological differences. Otherwise, it would cease to exist. For its existence it has to generate issues and on certain occasions even disorder and instability. In words of Groucho Marx, "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies."

On the other hand, religion, in its true form, starts with love and ends in peace. It demands virtue from man and makes him capable of doing so. The very essence of religion is affection. It has to hate war, because its rudimentary teachings are based on welfare of entire humanity. Calvin Coolidge had claimed, "Our government rests upon religion. It is from that source that we derive our reverence for truth and justice, for equality and liberality, and for the rights of mankind. Unless the people believe in these principles they cannot believe in our government. There are only two main theories of government in our world. One rests on righteousness and the other on force. One appeals to reason, and the other appeals to the sword. One is exemplified in the republic, the other is represented by despotism."

A person enters the kingdom of religion when he washes away his ego, selfishness, and hatred through the ablation of his spirit. Religion performs virtue; otherwise, it does nothing. Religion is determined to strengthen tranquility.

The present form of religion that we find around us is the political demonstration of religion. It is religion in the frame of politics. It is one of the manifestations of political hypocrisy. It is religion caught in the webs of politics, suffocating and striving to make its last breaths possible and history has witnessed that whenever and wherever politicians have raised the slogans of religion in their ideologies they have always wanted to dodge the people through sanctity and honor of the religious beliefs. This is not religion. This is politics, changing forms and means to discriminate innocent masses. If we want to experience religion we have to apply it without any political intentions. Religion itself is a self-perpetuating system. Pure religion is destined to guarantee peace and it will because it starts with love and ends in peace. Anna Sewall puts it beautifully, "There is no religion without love, and people may talk as much as they like about their religion, but if it does not teach them to be good and kind to man and beast, it is all a shame."



The Need for National Unity in Afghanistan

By Abdul Hamid Arifi

Afghanistan is a multi-national country where several beliefs, mentalities and mindsets are cherished and individuals live a peaceful life with the spirit of brotherhood. In this society, living a quiet social life will be impossible without national integrity. Therefore, struggles should be multiplied to strengthen national unity and all ethnic groups need to support it as a principle.

They have to take effective step with bona fide intention for solidarity, unity and coexistence.

We need to realize that national unity is a crying need in Afghanistan and is considered a criteria and a significant element in bonding the nation and living a peaceful life.

Campaigning against discrimination and monopoly, creating stability, ensuring peace, economic growth and cultural development and political participation will pave the ground for this issue.

On the other hand, gaining access to democracy and social justice, maintaining human rights and ensuring public and fundamental rights and freedoms in the society will necessitate adhering national unity. In other words, harmony and integrity of Afghan nation, mutual respect, tolerance and respect towards the rights and beliefs of one another, lack of tendency towards sensational behavior will be the deciding factors behind national unity. Maintaining these standards will lead to forming a single national identity and state-building.

In such a case, all will show tendency towards this land and will devote wholeheartedly for upholding their freedoms and independence. Hence, cherishing the spirit of tolerance, converging to a common point, feeling empathy and sympathy will smooth the way for being released from the clutch of enemy and spread peace across the country. This way, each and every individuals will be entitled equally and enjoy equal privileges, equal economic, social, cultural and political opportunities.

Afghan constitution has also stressed on maintaining national unity in the country as it is stated in the preamble that this constitution is approved to "form a civil society void of oppression, atrocity, discrimination as well as violence, based on rule of law, social justice, protecting integrity and human rights, and attaining peoples' freedoms and fundamental rights." It is further said in article 4 for recognizing and intr

oducing all tribe as, "National sovereignty in Afghanistan shall belong to the nation, manifested directly and through its elected representatives. The nation of Afghanistan is composed of all individuals who possess the citizenship of Afghanistan."

The nation of Afghanistan shall be comprised of Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Turkman, Baluch, Pachaie, Nuristani, Aymaq, Arab, Qirghiz, Qizilbash, Gujur, Brahwi, and other tribes. The word Afghan shall apply to every citizen of Afghanistan." Based on the emphasis made in the constitution, despite sectarian, religious, ethnic, linguistic and racial varieties, Afghanistan belongs to all tribes who are considered brethren and equal.

Hence, all are responsible to make effort in developing and advancing for the construction of this country and resist against any kinds of invasion and aggression. They also should avoid claiming monopoly, discrimination, racial or ethnic superiority which will result in disregard of citizens' equal rights. And national resources and opportunities will be monopolized by a certain tribe.

Since Afghanistan's law-makers legislated equal rights for all tribes in the country, it will never be logical to disregard the tribes and ethnicities and view every issues from the narrow lens of race and faction.

Implementing national sovereignty, protecting national unity and human dignity, maintaining equality in rights and responsibilities, utilizing national assets, etc. are in need of collective view rather than personal or factional one. So, all tribes and ethnic groups are respectable and should not be treated in a way that will jeopardize national unity.

Furthermore, national unity necessitates that all honor and pride acquired by the brave individuals of this land in any social, cultural, economic, athletic or military arenas, should belong to all tribes and must not be viewed from ethnic perspective. That is to say, monopolizing the mentioned issues will also threaten national unity and will be a strong blow to the nation.

Getting first position in entry test in university, or in educational Olympia such as math, physics, sport match, etc. will be an honor for the entire ethnic groups and all citizens of this land. Celebrating such issues and paying tribute to them are worthwhile; however, coloring them with the brush of ethnicity or using them as tools for humiliating other ethnic groups will be never acceptable since these are against national unity and will be considered violating national integrity and solidarity.

Thus, the officials and nation's attention in this regard is significant for they will trigger a sense of ethnic tendency among the public in our society. It is hoped that the aforementioned issues be held seriously so as to support national integrity.

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Gulf Media Wars Produce Losers, no Winners

By James M. Dorsey

Continued from previous day

Last month, a random online YouGov poll suggested that of those asked whose side they were on in the Gulf crisis, 23 percent opted for Qatar and only nine percent for Saudi Arabia. Two thirds of the respondents said they did not know enough to choose sides.

The results of the survey of US public opinion, notwithstanding, Qatar appeared to be faring better than the poll results suggested. A majority of Arab and Muslim states have refrained from joining the UAE-Saudi-led campaign, which is backed by less than a score of African and Asian nations, who are dependent on the oil-rich Gulf states in financial and/or political terms.

The international community almost unanimously has refused to endorse the UAE-Saudi-led alliance's conditions for resolving the Gulf crisis. The United States, the European Union, China and Russia have effectively backed Qatar's call for direct talks between the Gulf states and its detractors, a proposal rejected by the alliance.

The alliance's "problem with (their) display of political bravado is that nobody else buys it, and they are awkwardly isolated in their tent woven of threads of bravado.

This is mainly because their accusations are wildly exaggerated, and also hypocritical on core complaints like funding Islamist movements, having relations with Iran, or interfering in other states' affairs. The Saudi-Emirati media propaganda pushing such accusations has been embarrassing in its ultrathin doses of truth, and wildly counter-productive, serving only to further damage the credibility that some GCC media did enjoy in recent years," noted prominent journalist and pundit Rami G. Khouri.

Mr. Khouri argued further that "in the court of global public opinion, the Qataris appear to be much more sensible, consistent, focused, and precise,

while the Saudi-Emirati-led states seem to express genuine anger and fear accompanied by unrealistic and unreasonable demands, but without convincing evidence for their accusations."

The UAE-Saudi-led alliance has demanded that Qatar shutter Al Jazeera and other media outlets; reduce its relations with Iran with whom it shares the world's largest gas field; expel Turkish troops from the emirate; and cut ties to militant and Islamist groups irrespective of whether they have been proscribed by the United Nations or the United States. Qatar has rejected the demands as an infringement on its sovereignty.

To many, the dispute in the Gulf amounts to the pot blaming the kettle and twisting the truth to serve rival narratives that fuel their public relations and media wars. Literally all parties to the dispute are suspected of having had, at least at some points in time, links to militant groups. All, apart from Saudi Arabia, maintain often flourishing economic relations with Iran and many have foreign military bases on their soil.

Said hard-hitting, investigative journalist Glenn Greenwald in an article detailing the Gulf rivals' investment in Washington public relations and lobby firms some four years prior to the current Gulf crisis: "The point here is not that Qatar is innocent of supporting extremists..."

The point is that this coordinated media attack on Qatar - using highly paid former U.S. officials and their media allies - is simply a weapon used by the Emirates, Israel, the Saudis and others to advance their agendas...

What's misleading isn't the claim that Qatar funds extremists but that they do so more than other U.S. allies in the region... Indeed, some of Qatar's accusers here do the same to at least the same extent, and in the case of the Saudis, far more so."

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