

## Chapter – 01

## Modernism

(جدیدیت)

What is modernism ---? Before going in to the details of this subject, it is essential to know what does “*Modern*” mean. In English this word is used in many connotations.

The word ‘modern’ is sometimes used as “new”, “fresh” and “up-to-date”. Sometimes it is used for those who do “fashion”. But, this word is more often used in the meanings of “advanced”, “progressive”, “broad minded”, enlightened” and “liberal”. As a result, it becomes the utmost desire of most of the people to become prominent and come up with these expressions in the society. Once their efforts are achieved then they start thinking themselves as “*Special*” and “*Superior*”.

Now, if we do analysis of the opposite word of modern, i.e. “Orthodox”, we come to know that it also carries multiple meanings, for example; “conventional” or “traditional”. Sometime it is considered as “old styled”, “outdated” and “backward”. At the same time some positive meanings are also there for this word, for example; Established and Deep Rooted. As a result, whoever false in this category he is considered as “*dependable*”, “*sincere*” and “*respectable*”.

Among all the terminologies mentioned above, every term has its importance and impact. Who will not wish to advance and achieve updated things! But maintaining the well-known and established principles of social, communal and religious values are equally important. Therefore, there must a ‘*Balance*’ in all such affairs.

As far as the matter of change and variation is concerned, in fact, for us every next moment is ‘new’ and ‘modern’. If we consider about the man of some five hundred years back, he must probably be considering himself as a “Modern Man” of that time. Today we consider ourselves living in the modern age. But, taking into account the fast advancement in ‘Technology’, the present time will also and definitely be considered as ‘Orthodox’.

In the scientific language man is called as “Multi-cellular”. The ‘Cell’ is considered as structural and functional unit for all the Human bodies. The important property of cell’s system that new cells are constantly generated each and every time and the old cells persistently die out at the same time. In this way, the processes of cellular changes are continued all the time. Consequently, Scientists say that Man’s bodies totally become new in a span between seven and twelve years. Allah (SWT) says for Himself that:

كُلَّ يَوْمٍ هُوَ فِي شَأْنٍ

{Every day is an enterprise for Him. (55:29)}

This way, for the innovations or modernism it may be said that it is a demand of nature.

Now we discuss some historical facts related with the word ‘Modernism’. In Nineteenth Century, after Russia’s revolution in 1917, a philosophical movement of Modernism started. In order to introduce and expand “Communism”, this movement initially started with the name “Progressive Movement” in twentieth century. Here we are not concerned to go into the details of it because that Russia, the so called “*Super Power*”, is now no more existing with supremacy. Rather, we are more interested to discuss on the natural inclination of mankind towards modernism.

Major factors involved in bringing modernism and new variety in the society are many, for example; political circumstances, economy, technological advancement, media, language influence, religion, and geographical situation. Keeping all these things in mind if we look at the present circumstances of the world, various countries have now become so involved in each other and this interaction has become so fast that today’s world is being called as “Global World”.

Just simply look at the factor of ‘Language’. Till middle of 20<sup>th</sup> Century none of the developed countries of Europe, like France, Germany and Russia were not ready to leave their native languages. Similar was the case with the Far East countries like, China, Korea and Japan. But now it has become their necessity to adopt a common language which could link each other for the economic progress. Therefore now ‘*English*’ has been accepted and is being used as ‘International Language’ all over the world.

Modernism and variation is the call of time. Leaning towards a change in life is also a natural desire. Modernism in the society may more likely be in our dress, language, culture, luxuries, constructions, designs and shapes etc. but the established fundamentals and elementary guidelines should not be affected. For instance, if man is to be considered as a civilized person, his wearing full cloths are vital, no matter there is variations in design and shape. But, presently, the world is losing its balance for maintaining the '*moral and ethical values*' of individual societies.



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