

Chapter – 16

Islam - A religion of Peace

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❖ لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ
وَيُؤْمِن بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ
عَلِيمٌ -

❖ اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا
أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ -

There is no compulsion at all in religion; undoubtedly the right path has become very distinct from immoral; and whoever rejects trust in the devil and believes in Allah has grasped a very firm handhold; it will never be loosen; and Allah is all hearing, all knowing. (02:256).

Allah is the guardian of the believers (Muslims); He removes them from realm of darkness towards light; and the supporters of disbelievers (كفار) are the devils; they are removed from light towards the realm of darkness; it is they who are the persons of fire; they will remain in it forever. (02:257)

O People! A misconception, initiated by anti-Islam segment, is prevalent all over, that Islam has been spread by force. These people are habitual of doing propaganda. They never hesitate to say lies and create fabricated info. Their conscience is covered by the clouds of prejudice. They do not have any distinction between right and wrong. Just think over at the two verses of Quran; these say:

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ

{There is no compulsion at all in religion. (02:256)}

أَفَأَنْتَ تُكْرِهُ النَّاسَ حَتَّىٰ يَكُونُوا مُؤْمِنِينَ

{(O Prophet!) So will you force the people until they become Muslims? (10:99)}

No! Never! ---- Compulsion for religion is far apart, here even those persons who adopt peace and seek the shelter of Muslims, then despite their Polytheism and Blasphemy (شرك و كفر) Muslims are bound to take care of them. It becomes duty of Muslims to watch out their rights. Even, those soldiers who were earlier fighting during war if they adopt peace and come to a Muslim country God has ordered Muslims to give peace to them. God Says:

وَإِنْ أَحَدٌ مِّنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ اسْتَجَارَكَ فَأَجِرْهُ

{And (O Prophet!) if a polytheist seeks your protection, give him protection. (09:06)}

And Allah سبحانه و تعالی says:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

{And (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) we did not send you except as a mercy for the entire world. (21:107)}

Think over on it! How it could be so that رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ had used force for the expansion of this religion, who says;

“Whoever has taken the shelter in the house of Abu Sufyan, he is in peace”, “Whoever has taken shelter in Masjid-Al-Haram, he is in peace”, “and whoever has closed the doors of their homes, they are also in peace”.

Whether such رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ had used power for the expansion of this religion whose total Muslim martyrs of all fights were only 250 and Non-Muslim victims were only 300 or 400--?

The رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ has ordered: ---- “Do not kill women. Do not kill children. Do not kill old. Do not kill to those who live in churches and temples. Do mercy on them who do not fight and kill people, just leave them”.

Now, look at the present day environment as well ---! Millions of innocent citizens are being affected by direct bombing. Varied types of burning weapons are being used. No mercy at all, no matter they are children, women or old. They have no sympathy for any one. These days, there is no respect for mosques, churches or temples. Cities after cities are being destroyed.

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ

{Chaos appeared in the land and the sea (30:41)}

And this is not a new thing. --- Turn out the pages of history. In Crusade wars Muslims were suffered by their extreme brutality. In these wars, Non-Muslims who used to proclaim themselves as “Mujahid”, their horses were swimming in the blood of Muslims. --- But, contrary to this, how nicely these brutal people were dealt with by our famous Sultan Salahuddin; this is known to the world. History tells this truth. These propaganda oriented people, if they had a little realization, then they would never have dared to go for such false blames. Alas! When they do not have any truth in them, how can they come out with right words?

الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ يُخْرِجُونَهُمْ مِّنَ النُّورِ إِلَى الظُّلُمَاتِ

{And the supporters of disbelievers are the devils;
they are removed from light towards
the realm of darkness (02:257)}

These people have also made the word “Jihad” (جهادًا) as a “fearful thought”. جهادًا، يَجْهَدُ، جَهْدًا (strive), مجاهدة، جهادًا، (collective strives). Striving for National Education is Jihad. Struggle for Character Building is Jihad. Keeping away from sins and Self-refinement is also Jihad; rather it is Jihad-e-Akbar (Big Endeavor). In Islam, war is permitted only to remove disorders & disruptions from earth and ultimately bring peace. If this would not have been the case, and had not been removed the troublemakers and subversive people by these peace lovers, till now this earth would have been totally devastated. God says:

وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَّهُدَمَتْ صَوَامِعُ وَبِيَعٌ وَصَلَوَاتٌ وَمَسَاجِدُ يُذَكَّرُ فِيهَا اسْمُ اللَّهِ كَثِيرًا

{And had Allah not repelled some men by means of other men,
there would have been demolished monasteries, churches,
synagogues, and mosques, in which the name of Allah
is profusely mentioned. (22:40)}

Look! With this verse of Quran we come to know that war or jihad is done only for maintaining peace. Rather, on the other side, it clearly appears that Islam wants to keep other religions alive and their praying places safe.

These non-believers have one more objection than that, why Capitation or house tax (جزية) is imposed on Non-Muslims and it is not on Muslim inhabitants? The clear answer to this is Muslims pay Zakath and Non-Muslims pay Capitation or house tax.

What is this Capitation tax? Actually it is war fund. Those residents who do not participate in war, and do not bother to bring order and peace, they are supposed to pay this tax. ---- Abu Ubaidah ibn Jarrah رضى الله عنه had returned this tax to those Non-Muslims to whom his government could not give proper protection. ---- Somebody ask these people why they are so much unhappy with “Capitation Tax” and happily accept to pay “War Fund”, whereas technically both are one and the same.

These people are also having some confusion with the word “slavery”. With this, they think that these slaves are like slaves of Rome and Africa. But, Islam is far away from such ruthlessness. In fact, in Islam, uneducated and unskillful people are given under the proficient and trained persons. Besides, these skilled people are ordered to give them the same food which they eat and give them the same clothes which they themselves wear. When the work is taken from these slaves, share with them. According to a will of Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم, he has specifically told that all the bondmen and bondwomen must be treated properly.

It is an order of Islam that:

فَكَاتِبُوهُمْ إِنْ عَلِمْتُمْ فِيهِمْ خَيْرًا وَأَتَوْهُمْ مِّنْ مَّالِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي آتَاكُمْ

{Then write it for them if you consider some goodness in them;
and help them in their cause with Allah’s wealth
that He has given to you (24:33)}

Actually, common people get confused with the word “slave”. Bondman in Islam is different and slavery of Non-Muslims is different. In Islamic history bondman became King as well. Whereas, at present, with Non-Muslims even the declared free slaves are practically still “Slave”.

Those who insistently claim that Islam is spread forcefully they should honestly tell that in Islamic Slavery, whether Muslim bondman and Non-Muslim bondmen both did not exist? In Islam, if any compulsion would be there, no Non-Muslim would have alive or could not have retained his belief. ---- Must realize that fact is different thing, and propaganda is different element.
