

Chapter – 17

Basic Principles of Islam

(اسلام کے بنیادی اصول)

❖ اِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ -

❖ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

(O Allah!) Guide us on the right path. (01:06)

The path of those upon whom you have blessed (01:07)

❖ The basic principles of Islam are as follows:

- (1) Oneness of God (2) God's Messenger (3) Knowledge
- (4) Love (5) Obligations (6) Moderation (7) Care of living Organism
- (8) Monitory Distribution (9) Maintaining Peace (10) Equality
- (11) Action (12) Fear of God (13) Pray

• **Oneness of God (توحید):**

This is the basic and foremost principle. All religions are based on this norm.

Look! There is one head in every house, who manages the household affairs. Similarly, to run a city an Administrator is required. A country is governed by King or President or Prime Minister and he is the ruler as well. ---- Then, would there not be the necessity of any Absolute Ruler (God) to control the whole System of Universe?

Then Look! There are many gods and all are saying the same thing and have no any opposition then all will be useless. And if it was possible to oppose, then among them one who could not dominate how he could be the god ---?

Therefore, faith on God and His Oneness without any sharing is very much essential.

Muslims have a complete knowledge of Allah, the Eternal, through Surat-ul-Ikhlās of Quran that is as below:

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ - اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ -
لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ - وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ -

(Noble Prophet!) Tell them: He is Allah, the one and unique. Allah is perfect (needs nothing). He neither begets, nor was he begotten. And none is comparable to him. (112:01 to 04)

- **God's Messenger (رسالت):**

The second fundamental principle in Islam is faith on God's Messenger. Before the arrival of Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم, the world was totally mingled in Polytheism (شرك), Blasphemy (كفر), Trinity (سنتیث پرستی), Barbarism, Repression, and Corruption. Oneness of God, Divine Reality, Sincerity and Obedience were all meaningless things. Characters and Etiquettes were at the stage of disaster. There was rule of Ignorance and Gloominess.

But, it is God's habit that He brings greenery after famine, spring after autumn, and glow after dusk. Hence, after such astray, this was the time when Allah تعالیٰ و سبحانه had to provide guidance and a Prophet had to be sent.

Hence, the wisdom of God urged to raise a Prophet from the top-hills of Faran and from the ground of Makkah, so that the existing Ignorance and Darkness from the earth is removed and the Light of Guidance is substituted.

At last, on the arrival of Muhammad Mustafa صلى الله عليه وسلم and his teachings, there was a revolution all over the world. Wrong was replaced with right, darkness was changed in the light, falsehood altered with truth, blasphemy transformed into faith and Polytheism was converted into Oneness of God.

- **Knowledge (علم):**

Another principle of Islam is seeking knowledge. Quran says:

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

{Ask them! Whether those who know are equal to those who do not know? (39:09)}

The living person has knowledge, whereas the dead man has no awareness. Awareness or knowledge is the main reason by which man is considered as the successor (خليفة) of God, and he rules all over the world.

Anas رضى الله عنه narrates that Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم has said that, “Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim”.

Remember! The superiority of knowledge depends on the individual. If the status of individual is high then knowledge would also be superior accordingly. As such, superiority of the knowledge of Allah تعالى و سبحانه is established, if compared with other individual.

You are ignorant with religious knowledge but feeling proud for knowing some diverse information. We are fond of religious knowledge and ignorant from little unimportant material. Tomorrow you will see who will be at loss? ---- You or us!

- **Love (محبت):**

One more important principle of Islam is love. Look! This world is standing on love. Love is natural as well as intentional. Parents have natural love with their children. Common people love for getting some paybacks and profits. Love is for zest too. Love is for God as well. Loving with God is stable and durable. ---- Love other than God is unstable and not lasting. Just gain some benefit, then you look in one direction and we look for another.

- **Obligations (فرض شناسی):**

Look! Human being is bonded with rights and obligations. There are rights of God and His Messenger. The king and the public have rights. Family members have their rights. Friends have rights. And even you have some rights on your own personality. A holy hadith says: “You have rights on your own-self, therefore you cannot suicide, and you cannot even harm to your own body. Your wife has some rights too”.

On one occasion, Salman رضى الله عنه has drawn the attention of his brother Abu Darda رضى الله عنه on this point, ---- “look! Your Lord has rights on you. Your own-self has also rights on you. Your wife has rights on you too. So you must fulfil the rights of everyone”. ---- After that Abu Darda رضى الله عنه approached to the Prophet and described about all about the conversation with Salman رضى الله عنه. Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “Salman has correctly said”.

Therefore, husband and wife, mother and father, children, relative, and people of your town all have their rights and obligations. As such, fulfilling Obligations is the basic component of Islam.

- **Moderation (اعتدال):**

Look! For human being, if thermometer shows 98.4 degree F, it is all right. More than this figure is sickness, and if it is less, then this indicates weakness. The ultimate result of both is death. Quran says:

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

{(O God!) Guide us on the right path. (01:06)}

Irregular lines are many but the straight line is always one. Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم said: “I am more God-Fearing than you. I keep myself away from making Him unhappy. But, I keep fast. I also offer prayers. I sleep too. Moreover, I marry with women. So, the person who refrains from my ways he is not mine”.

- **Care of living Organism: (جاندار کا احترام)**

Another principle of Islam is proper caring of the living organism. You cannot throw any animal into fire. Even snakes, scorpions or bugs cannot be burnt. During war time you cannot kill women and children. You cannot suicide too. Killing of animals is on one side, you cannot even burn the trees without genuine reason.

Contrary to above, in this ‘New Civilization’, by the use of Atom Bomb and Hydrogen Bomb you can destroy everything indistinctly.

- **Monitory Distribution: (تقسیم دولت)**

One more principle of Islam is the distribution of money. In Capitalism, people are free to earn and not to give to any one as well. Whereas in Socialism public do not own anything. Everything belongs to the Nation. In this way, the whole nation is an accumulation of ‘slaves’. In Islam everyone is free to earn, but it is obligatory to pay Zakath (زکوٰۃ) for poor. After death, among the legal heirs, a system of distribution of wealth exists. Here, at Eid al-Fitr, Fitrah (فطرۃ) for the poor is compulsory, and on the occasion of Eid al-Azha, a proper sharing of sacrifice is also required.

- **Maintaining Peace: (قیام امن)**

In Islam, creating unrest and disturbing peace is strictly prohibited. Abusing, Fornicating, drinking, Betting and Gambling all are the tools of creating disturbance therefore Islam suggests to get rid of them. The basic purpose of Islam is to bring Peace of high grade in the society.

Quran says at two places:

وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفَسَادَ

{And Allah is not pleased with turmoil. (02:205)}

وَالْفِتْنَةُ أَشَدُّ مِنَ الْقَتْلِ

{And the turmoil they cause is worse than homicide. (02:191)}

• **Equality:** (مساوات)

A holy Hadith says:

النَّاسُ كَأَسْنَانِ الْمِشْطِ

{People are like a hair-comb}

Muslims offer prayers collectively. During prayers, Rich and poor all stand in one line.

The first one who showed arrogance was Iblis (Shaytan, Devil). Quran says:

خَلَقْتَنِي مِنْ نَّارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِنْ طِينٍ

{(said Iblis), “You made me from fire, and You have created him with clay”! (38:76)}

The controversy of Class and Species has been initiated by Iblis. The difference of color, language, nationality and country do not exist in Islam. The standard of superiority in Islam is in the degree of love and fear of God (تقوى).

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ

{The most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you (49:13)}

• **Action:** (حرکت میں برکت)

Allah سبحانه و تعالیٰ says:

وَأَنْ لَيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ إِلَّا مَا سَعَىٰ

وَأَنْ سَعْيَهُ سَوْفَ يُرَىٰ

{And that man will not obtain anything except what he strives for. And his effort is going to be rewarded. (53: 39 and 40)}

Look! In action, there is a blessing. In doing something, there is honor and dignity. If the work, to be done today, is postponed for tomorrow, then when tomorrow’s work will be taken up ---?

- **Fear of God:** (تخوف خدا)

This is an important principle of Islam. O People! حَشْيَةُ اللَّهِ or Fear of God acts as a “Super Remedy” for all sins. That is why Quran has stated very often for “the Last Day” (قِيَامَةُ) and mentioned its awfulness.

One day everybody has to show himself to Allah سبحانه و تعالی. Everyone has to be present in front of God and give answers to Him. There, everybody will get “Even-Handed Justice”. Wisdom asks! A man who has offended and oppressed but remained prosperous and well to do throughout his life, and another man who spent his time in doing all decent and good but had to face patience and perseverance, would they be equal? No! Never! ---- If no any punishment given here who troubled others, then he will definitely get justice with God.

- **Pray:** (دعا)

Last but not the least, ‘pray or appeal to God’ is among the basic principles of Islam. Man efforts whatsoever, but the success is in the hands of Allah سبحانه و تعالی. On this doctrine we pray to God:

رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِنْ نَسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا ، رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَا إَصْرًا كَمَا
حَمَلْتَهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِنَا ، رَبَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ ،

وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا ، أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ

{Our Lord! do not seize us if we have forgotten or are mistaken --- Our Lord! And do not place on us a burden like that which You laid upon those before us --- Our Lord! And do not impose on us a burden from which we do not have the strength; --- Our Lord! And pardon us; and forgive us; and have mercy upon us, You are the Master so you give us victory over the unbelieving people. (02:286)}
