

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Brothers in Islam. To the might and power of Allah (SWT) all creation is subservient. And it is to Allah (SWT) alone, that all thanks and praise is due.

It is Allah (SWT) who has gifted us the opportunity of an education that is holistic and is THE Quran. An education that is so kind and gentle, that one who has awareness (takes heed) will not reject it as an untruth and harmful to the development of the human condition.

O, brethren in truth, by way of the Quran, we discover that the essence of the universal culture of success is in fact Islam. The Message of the Quran invites us to the path of honour. To a life of freedom from corruption. Therefore, to the true believer, continuous development of the holistic self is of utmost importance.

As the Nabi (SAW) says:

“Wisdom is that which the true believer regards as being elusive”

Which means – The striving mu’mien always considers his efforts as not enough or inadequate, whereas in fact, his very striving and attaining of wisdom causes his humbleness and subservience to the laws which aim to assist him to reach his full potential.

Thus, the true believer realizes the true antidote to corruption of the natural human condition. The negation of which will only lead to, as a natural consequence, destruction in its many guises.

Allah (SWT) warns us not to exceed balance.

“And the sun runs on its fixed course for a term appointed ...they all float, each in an orbit.”- 36:38-40

As the pilgrims circumbulate the kaaba they too align themselves with the natural order inherent in all things created. Every creation has a natural disposition or inclination toward Islam. The Nabi (SAW) said:

“Every child is born upon the natural disposition (al-fitrah)” – reported by bukhari 262-467

Do not the planets orbit the sun (as ordained by Allah) in perfect balance? Do we not realize that the balance and peace we seek is in Allah’s mercy?

“Thomas Abercrombie, whilst performing Hajj described the tawaaf as such:

“We orbited Allah’s (SWT)’s house in accord with the atoms, in harmony with the planets.”

The tenuous nature of the atom, the building block of all created things, is a wonder to behold. Electrons within an atom are arranged in orbits around the central nucleus, but contrary to popular belief their paths are not circular but form far more complicated patterns; constant only in its irregularities. There is no doubt that these particles are the product of a design beyond our comprehension. These and other structures rest on delicate balances only kept in check by He who created them – Allah (SWT).

“He to whom the dominion of the heavens and the earth belongs. He created everything and determined it most exactly”.

Al – furqaan: 2

A balanced individual therefore aligns himself with the natural order – the siratal mustaqiem.

It is for this reason that man and woman circumbulate together without distinction. For it is the aim of this hajj rite (and in fact the entire manasik of hajj) to make clear to us our commonality in the eyes of our Illah .A commonality preceded only by our levels of eemaan and taqwa.

But what of our situation today? Brothers in Islam, concerning the current state of affairs, the human condition today is in dire need of the Deen of Islam. Each day it invites humanity to the natural order and each season of Hajj rejuvenates this belief.

This pillar of Hajj, is a serum for the global ummah. That is, a halaqah of sorts to ascertain the level at which we are functioning not only as local communities, but as a global human genus.

The hajj therefore is indicative to our individual and collective functioning as Muslims. It is a yardstick that annually ascertains whether we are functioning at a level of **stagnation** - a torpid and inactive level where we are subjecting ourselves to choices made out of fear. Reacting on instinct and scrambling to survive on a material level. This is a hyper vigilant state that leads to detrimental consequences;

The **dynamic level** – where we are self motivated and in a process of constant renewal and organisation as a global ummah. An essential tilth for effective interaction and communication according to the principles of the Quran and Sunnah;

And the insightful level - where the ummah, both locally and globally, has reached a level of vibrancy and confidence. And has in turn developed a sense of commitment to contribute to the continued growth and development of his brethren. This is a level at which deceit; cruelty and hypocrisy are relegated to the fringe of society.

The Nabi (SAW) said:

“The one true believer, to the other true believer is like a building, the one brick supports the other”

Once again we are drawn to nature to realize the truth and essence of the message of the Quran and Sunnah. Science Magazine relays the following:

“There are 3 million species of animals living in tropical rain forests and one of them, the red fire ant is underground under constant threat of annihilation from flash floods. When the floods come fire ants hold onto each other creating a living raft that can float until the water recedes. For months if necessary.”

So how does a species figure something like that out? Instinct? Trail and error? What if you were the one who knew what needed to be done, but you had no words. How do you make the others understand?

Human beings are not the strongest species on the planet. The one advantage we have is our ability to cooperate, to reason. To help each other out.

We recognize ourselves in each other.

And we are programmed for compassion, for heroism, for love.

And those things make us stronger, faster and smarter.”

Everyday, every moment, every nano second the world changes.

Electrons bump into each other, and react. People collide and alter each others paths.

Change isn't easy.

More often than not it's retching and difficult.

But maybe that's a good thing.

Because its change that makes us grow. Keeps us resilient.

And teaches us to evolve.

Is this not what is communicated in the Nabi (SAW) words? Is it not what the pillar of Hajj is reminding us of? That the ummah has to not only 'hold onto' each other by way of the wuqoof on Arafah, but to sustain that living by continuously evolving and embracing change to a stronger holistic self. To build upon the stagnation level to the level of intuition and perception (insightful level).

It is therefore imperative that we clothe ourselves with this sacred dictum with sincerity in order to really access Allah (SWT) mercy. It is unfortunate that at present the human race prefers to choose a way that is contrary to their natural inclination. It is a way that appeals to emotions and fuels the illusions conjured up within them. On this basis the Rasool (SAW) warns:

“A time will dawn when the ummah, having become unmindful of the truth, will bring a severe oppression upon themselves. Until the trustworthy amongst them will disappear as the hypocrites disappeared in the time when Islam as a way of life really took root amongst the people (in the time of the Nabi (SAW)).”

And Allah (SWT) says in Surah Yunus: 57

“O mankind, there has come to you an insightful directive from your Rabb, a cure for that which you have in your bosoms, and a guidance and mercy for those who endeavour to sincerely place their trust in Allah (SWT)”

Sayidina Hajira ran between the hillocks of Safar and Marwah seven times in sweltering heat, searching for sustenance for baby Ismaeel. When we perform the sa'ee today only the men are required to do the rummal at designated areas within the sa'ee, even though it was initially a woman who hastened.

In Islam the role of the woman is that of teacher and nurturer, a role essential to the proper upbringing of the next generation of Muslims. She is the tilth of the ummah. It is the natural disposition of a woman to nurture and protect (when Allah wills). Were Sayidina Hajira's eeman not strong would she have been content to be left at a desolate place at Allah's mercy?

Ibn Abbas reported that the Prophet said:

“Then she asked him, has Allah commanded you to do this? He replied, yes, and I leave you to his care. She said, I am satisfied then with Allah's decree, and He surely will not neglect us.”

In the time of the jahiliyyah female babies were considered a curse and a hindrance. They were buried alive by their fathers because they were deemed less valuable.

The Quran says:

“ And when one of them is informed of a female (born to him), his face darkens with suppressed anger. He hides himself from the people because of the ill of which he has been informed. Should he keep it in humiliation or bury it in the ground? Unquestionably, evil is what they decide.” – 16:58-59

Without the shahadah the salaah, the fast, and zakah will come to naught. So too a woman/a mother not valued will not be a suitable teacher or nurturer; and the family unit will crumble. And the ripples will be felt in society.

The sa'ee also symbolizes the life of a Muslim amidst temptation and trials. Would we today when faced with a fraction of what Sayidina Hajira faced, and the Nabi (SAW) and his Sahaba faced, respond in the same way, with eemaan and subservience to Allah?

The Nabi said this:

“Dear uncle. If they put the sun in my left hand and the moon in my right, I shall not forsake it (the message)”

Allah says again in surah Al Imran:

“And hold fast altogether to the rope of Allah (which he has stretched out for you) and be not divided among yourselves”. - 3:103

May Allah (SWT) grant us, with our sincere effort and perseverance, the structure and vision needed for the building of this universal raft of humanity on the basis of truth that *is* the Quran and Sunnah.

And may we be granted that vision and goal directed action to realize our true journey on this dhunya is in the way of the siratal mustaqeem. Allah (SWT) knows best.

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