

## Understanding Ecology Issues and Finding their Islamic Solution

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Everything in the Universe has a unique purpose and nature of work. A universe is a community of living organisms (plants, animals, and microbes) in conjunction with the nonliving components of their environment (things like air, water and mineral, soil), interacting as a system. Many components of the environment combine together to make this earth live for other organisms. Our earth is composed of four types of layers; air, water, soil and rock. Different types of gases are also the main source of organisms to live. Oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen and carbon dioxide are also present in different proportion in air. All the things regulate in their proper and balance manner. It is important to recognize that all the living and nonliving component of an eco-system interact with each other.(1) The way in which human beings animals and plants are related to one another and to their surroundings is known as environment.(2) In the Light of Islam the word "ecology" or "environment" has been used in different meanings. In Arabic language, the root word used for ecology is "علمالتبؤ" which lexically mean surroundings.(3) Islam teaches us the basic and important lesson that we should be moderate in our every action. It is the man who needs to manage and understand the nature of creatures and things which are created in the world by Allah as the vicegerent of Allah and being superior to all the creatures. Allah has subjected everything to man present in the nature as it is narrated in the Quran:

﴿الْم تَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ سَخَّرَ لَكُمْ مَّا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ﴾ (4)

Do ye not see that Allah has subjected to your (use) all things in the heavens and on earth?

In the context of this verse, man would interrupt environment by using different technologies, but it is his duty to look after the things in the world. For this, he is required to understand the balance lying among the things. The disruption of this balance due to any negligence, and harmful activities will lead to disastrous situation. Pollution is becoming one of the basics and major problem now a day due to the continuous interruption of man's in his surroundings. Pollution can be described as any substance in the environment which has adverse effects on human health, quality of life

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and natural functioning of ecosystem. It is an unwanted change in the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of our air water and land that may harmfully affect human life, industrial progress, living conditions and cultural assets.(5) The environmental issue had never received as much attention throughout the history of mankind as it has in the past couple of decades. Some problems are discussed here with their solution in Quran and hadith.

### **Water pollution and its Islamic perceptive:**

Water is a necessary part of life because without water, life is nothing. Human being animals, plants, birds and every type of other organisms cannot survive without water. Water Pollution is one of the major issues of ecology due to which all livings organisms, human beings animals, plants, birds are directly and badly affected. The Quran also states the importance of water:

﴿وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ﴾<sup>(6)</sup>

And we made from water every living thing

Water is the precious blessing of Allah Almighty for all living creatures. It is used as local application as well as oral administration. It is also used in laboratories, factories and industries for producing different medicines, detergents, chemicals. Contrary to it, we are polluting this reservoir by dumping different kinds of elements, detergents, chemicals, rappers, papers, etc. Beside this, industrial, agricultural and domestic wastes, sewerage and oil spill are the main cause of water pollution. They used to dump into the lakes, rivers, oceans and canals. When human beings, animals and birds use this water, they are infected by many infectious diseases. In one of the Hadith, it was evidently revealed that to pollute the water is not only a mere mistake but it's a sin also. Because it might cause diseases in living beings and make water unhygienic for the human consumption. Water should be used with great care and should not be contaminated or wasted.

It is the precious blessing of Allah and we should not waste it instead we should use it according to our requirement. Prophet (ﷺ) gave us immaculate tenets to use water in preceding narration:

"حدثنا أبو هريرة عن محمد رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم فذكر أحاديث منها وقال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم لا تبل في الماء الدام الذي لا يجري ثم تغتسل منه" (7)

It was narrated that Hamam bin Munabbih said: "This is what Abu Hurairah narrated to us from Muhammad the Messenger of Allah" and he mentioned a number of hadith including: "The Messenger of Allah said: 'Do not urinate into standing water that does not flow, then wash yourself with it'"

We should implement the Islamic instructions in our daily life to keep water clean and use it with great care and should not pollute or waste it and by doing such, we must save it for next generation by applying different scientific method.

### **Radioactive pollution and concept of Mutilation:**

It is the era of advanced technology. Radioactive pollution is mostly a result of human activity and has its origin in radioactive waste (mostly coming from nuclear power plants). Radioactive element comprises of different particles like Alpha, beta and gamma particles. Alpha particles are relatively heavy. They are dangerous whether they are inhaled or ingested in contaminated food. In the lungs or in the digestive system, they can irradiate cells causing mutations and cancer. Beta particles on the other hand, are lighter than Alpha particles and travel greater distances. They can even penetrate skin to underlying tissues. Gamma particles are potentially the most dangerous form of radiation for they can pass through walls and can easily penetrate the skin, reaching internal organs. A thick concrete or lead shield is needed to block them. The worst example of radioactive pollution in our earth occurred at the end of the World War II, after two atomic bombs were dropped on Japanese cities: Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.(8) The radioactive pollution has extremely harmful effects on human health because of toxic gases. It is entirely a result of human action and leaves its harmful effects on human, animals, plants and birds for decades. The purpose of war by the Islamic point of view is to protect the public rights and discourage the hostile forces without giving harm to the religious, social and moral values. It is also advised to the Muslims troops not to harm the aged people, Children, women and plants. Nuclear components and weapons are used to threaten and attain the dominance to opponents and it causes paralysis among humanity for a long run. We should follow the Islamic principles to avoid war and problems of any kind may be solved in peaceful atmosphere.

In one of the Ohd's war incident the holy prophet (P.B.U.H) order to dig a well and put all the dead bodies of the non-Muslims in a dirty well of water to avoid bad smell and humiliation of mutilated dead bodies. These ensure cleanliness and healthy environment.

### **Air pollution and its protection in Islam:**

Our environment is being polluted by the emergence of different gases from air conditioner at domestic spheres and the release of non-toxic and poisonous gases into the air from industries agriculture and automobiles. It may be controlled by following the instructions of different laws like "Clean Air Act".(9) Intensity of this issue may be mitigated by reduction of private cars and increasing public transportation. The major

and important assignment for protection of air is to cultivate more land and trees as they absorb the poisonous gases which exist in air. The under-going hadith is the immaculate example for protection of air:

"حدثنا قتيبة بن سعيد حدثنا أبو عوانة وحدثني عبد الرحمن بن المبارك حدثنا أبو عوانة عن قتادة عن أنس بن مالك رضي الله عنه قال قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم "ما من مسلم يغرس غرسا أو يزرع زرعاً فيأكل منه طير أو إنسان أو بهيمة إلا كان له به صدقة"<sup>(10)</sup>

Narrated Anas bin Malik: Allah's Apostle said, "There is none amongst the Muslims who plants a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, but is regarded as a charitable gift for him.

There are also many other hadith which emphasis the cultivation of land and also provoke cursing to ease in the shade of the trees as it spread unhealthy and unhygienic conditions.

#### **Terrestrial Pollution and its Safety in Islam:**

Terrestrial is the place to live for every living organism. Man is polluting the earth due to different activities which cause the destruction and mistreatment of Earth's surface and its resources. Land pollution occurs when waste is not disposed off properly. Solid waste is produced also every day by homes, factories and Industries in form of litter garbage, papers, glass, textile and plastic which used to harm natural habitats and polluted the environment, causing diseases in both humans and animals. Additional use of chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides pollute the soil and also enter into ground water and make it undrinkable. Natural disasters like storms, floods and Earth quake are also the major cause of land pollution. This land pollution also occur when the wickedness continuous to device ever mischief by using new weapons. Land pollution is forbidden by Allah as narrated vividly in Quran:

﴿وَابْتَغِ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَأَحْسِنْ كَمَا

أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفُسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ﴾<sup>(11)</sup>

But seek, with the (wealth) which Allah has bestowed on thee the home of the Hereafter; and [yet], do not forget thy share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to thou. And seek out (occasion for) mischief in the land. For Allah loves not those who mischief."

One general meaning of corruption is that man through his evil thoughts, ideas and mutual disputes and conflicts has spread venality in the world. This means that environment is not only polluted through the substances but actually impurity, dishonesty, conflicts and disputes among people have made the environment more vulnerable of corruption. Moreover, improper

and imbalance utilization of the resources of nature has also exploited the environment in many ways.

### **Noise pollution and Islamic Preachings:**

One type of pollution which is not famous among people is called sound pollution. Sound pollution means an unwanted voice which has non jarring effect on ear. This type of pollution comprises of loud music, car alarm, pressure horn, emergency service sirens, office equipment, factory machinery, construction work, electrical appliances, power tools, lighting hum, railway and air traffic, different audio systems, loudspeakers, bomb blast, crash airplane etc. The most common type of artificial noise pollution is transportation's vehicles. Noise pollution affects badly human beings, animals and birds. Numerous diseases can be caused by noise pollution like increase in breathing, blood pressure, pulse rate, and agitation. It can cause pain humming in the ears, feeling of tiredness, thereby affecting the functioning of human system. High level of noise also gives rise to many adverse physiological effects such as physical and mental fatigue and lack of concentration. Loud speakers used in Music concerts can also be the cause of noise pollution(12) because it affects one's emotions, increases arousal in terms of alertness and excitement and also leads to various physiological changes in the person. We can control it by avoid listening loud music especially in the parks and public places. Loudspeakers and amplifiers or gadgets which produce wrong noise once noticed as violating the law, should be accountable to be seized and take away by setting up in the law in that behalf. Divine injunctions in revealed transmissions disgrace noise caused disturbance in human disorders as:

﴿وَاغْضُضْ مِنْ صَوْتِكَ إِنَّ أَنْكَرَ الْأَصْوَاتِ لَصَوْتُ الْحَمِيرِ﴾ (13)

And be lower thy voice; indeed, the most disagreeable of sounds is the braying of ass."

This ayah flows naturally from a true understanding of our relation to Allah and His universe and to fellow creatures, especially man. It is stated that In all things be moderate. Don't be talkative and don't be silent. Don't be loud and don't be timid or half-hearted. If you have humility, it is to save you from unseemly swagger, not to curb your right script and your reasoned determination. Besides these use of head phones is increasing day by day. Head phones are mostly used in road to enjoy music during riding and make remiss from attention and cause severe accident. This sound results in loss of one's life.

### **Azan, Noise Disturbance and Islamic Teachings:**

The Azan is a series of sacred verses, calling the faithful to prayer. Mosques will be allowed to use a loud speaker to spread, five times a day, the beautiful, melodious voice of Islam. The main purpose behind the

multiple loud pronouncements, *Azan* in every mosque, is to make available to everyone an easily intelligible summary of Islamic belief. It is intended to bring to the mind of every believer and non-believer the substance of Islamic beliefs, or its spiritual ideology. In modern times, loudspeakers have been installed on minarets for this purpose and become a continuous part of disturbance mentally, physically and spiritually for all human beings. The major reason seems to be understood, is that a number of mosques are running into the society and become a part of a business. These mosques started amplified *Azan* simultaneously. Different types of announcements are also held through the loud speakers of Mosque. The elder and young are all affected from this constant noise. It interferes in their work and affects them psychologically and physically. It is the need of the day to overcome the excess use of loudspeakers in mosques. The Muezzin (مؤذن) is the most noteworthy person in the mosque; he is chosen for his talent and ability in reciting the *Azan* beautifully, melodiously and loudly for all Muslims to hear. There should be some conditions to electing "Muezzin" as it happened in the period of the Prophet and the Caliphs.

There are some characteristics prescribed by Islam for the selection of a muezzin; he should not be blind so that he would not distinguish between the purity and impurity, he should be Qari (قاري) as he will remain busy in reciting Quran. (14) It is narrated in Quran:

﴿وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا وَقَالَ إِنَّنِي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ﴾<sup>(15)</sup>

"Who is better in words than the one who calls (men) to Allah, and work righteously and says, I am one of those who bow in Islam?"

It is also prohibited in Islam to use loudspeaker of mosque for loss of things because it affects the health and work severely. It is narrated in hadith:

"حدثنا أبو الطاهر أحمد بن عمرو حدثنا ابن وهب عن حيوة عن محمد بن عبد الرحمن عن أبي عبد الله مولى شداد بن الهاد أنه سمع أبا هريرة يقول قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم من سمع رجلا ينشد ضالة في المسجد فليقل لا ردها الله عليك فإن المساجد لم تبن لهذا"<sup>(16)</sup>

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) said: If anyone bears a man crying out in the mosque about something he has lost, he should say: May Allah not restore it to you, for the mosques were not built for this.

Mosques are the holy places, where people come for worship. They should not be disturbed for announcing the loss of things as it is considered a worse deed in Islam.

### **Cremation; Source of Pollution and Islamic injunctions:**

Cremation means to reduce (as a dead body) to ashes. In non-Muslim Religions, it is a custom that they burn their dead one and dump their ashes into the river. For this purpose, cremation is usually performed in a crematorium (17). Some countries prefer different methods; open air cremation that affects the air and water directly. This process is a complete source of pollution as it contaminates the two major necessities of life, air and water. It is noticed that lots of woods are also required to burn the bodies and cause deforestation. Islam has given us the method of purity through burying bodies. It is not prescribed in Islam to burn or cremate the dead; rather this is an act of disrespect and dishonor. The teachings and law of Islam came to honor people.

It is narrated in Quran:

﴿وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ﴾<sup>(18)</sup>

And indeed We have honored the Children of Adam”

Allah has prescribed for us that when a Muslim dies, we should wash him and cleanse him, then shroud him in a white cloth, and then we should offer the funeral prayer for him and pray for mercy. After that we must bury him and cover him with earth. It is narrated in hadith:

"حدثنا عبد الله بن مسلمة قال قرأت على ابن أبي ذئب عن سعيد بن أبي سعيد المقبري عن أبيه أنه سأل أبا هريرة رضي الله عنه فقال سمعت النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم حدثنا أحمد بن شبيب بن سعيد قال حدثني أبي حدثنا يونس قال ابن شهاب وحدثني عبد الرحمن الأعرج أن أبا هريرة رضي الله عنه قال قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم من شهد الجنائز حتى يصلي فله قيراط ومن شهد حتى تدفن كان له قيراطان قيل وما القيراطان قال مثل الجبلين العظيمين"<sup>(19)</sup>

Narrated Abu Huraira: that Allah's Apostle (P.B.U.H) said,

"Whoever attends the funeral procession till he offers the funeral prayer for it, will get a reward equal to one Qirat, and whoever accompanies it till burial, will get a reward equal to two Qirats."

It was said, "What are two Qirats?" He replied, "Like two huge mountains."

In Islam, it is obligatory to bury a dead body in the ground enough deep that its smell does not come out and the beasts do not dig it out and hence do not cause unhygienic condition and pollution. On the other hand, burying a dead is a natural phenomenon. We are made up of soil; we eat things growing up from soil. So, it is pretty natural to bury the dead in soil because it increases fertility of earth.

### **Spitting; Source of Pollution and Islamic guidelines:**

Spitting on ground is simply a convenient way of removing something unpleasant from one's mouth. Spitting was part of everyday life, and at all levels of society it was thought ill-mannered. Spitting had become

seen as something which should be buried, many noticed spitting on the floor or street as vulgar. Spitting on earth is also the source of pollution. The best way to stop spitting is for the good citizens to confront people and say 'excuse me would you mind not doing that please?' Islam has given us the injunctions about spitting that how to keep our place and environment clean. In hadith holy prophet told us the proper guidelines about spitting to avoid unhygienic conditions.

"حدثنا يحيى بن يحيى وأبو بكر بن أبي شيبة وعمرو الناقد جميعا عن سفيان قال يحيى أخبرنا سفيان بن عيينة عن الزهري عن حميد بن عبد الرحمن عن أبي سعيد الخدري أن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم رأى نخامة في قبلة المسجد فحكها بحصاة ثم نهى أن يبزق الرجل عن يمينه أو أمامه ولكن يبزق عن يساره أو تحت قدمه اليسرى" (20)

Abu Sa'id al-Khudri reported: The Apostle of Allah (may peace be upon him) saw sputum sticking to the Qibla of the mosque. He scratched it off with a pebble and then forbade spitting on the right side or in front, but (it is permissible) to spit on the left side or under the left foot.

On the other hand, it must be suggest to the people to bury it in earth as soil has tendency to absorb all the germs and avoid unhealthy environment.

### **Sneezing; the Source of Pollutionand Islamic instructions:**

A sneeze, known technically as a sternutation, is a major deal for the body. It came in tremendous velocities that can cause serious injury, if incorrectly stifled. That's why you should never try to stop a sneeze that is in progress. If you can, sneeze into a tissue and then dispose of the tissue, because tissue can cause great pollution when you left it on the table and throw it on the ground. The germs include into the air and cause different diseases. If a tissue isn't available, sneeze into your sleeve. If you do sneeze, end up sneezing into your hand because scientifically and in the perceptive of hadith it vanish enzyme and no one could be affected from this pollution. Scientifically, many doctors recommend that sneezing inside the garment and hand discourage the spread of germs. It is narrated in hadith

"حدثنا محمد بن وزير الواسطي حدثنا يحيى بن سعيد عن محمد بن عجلان عن سمي عن أبي صالح عن أبي هريرة أن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم كان إذا عطس غطى وجهه بيده أو بثوبه وغض بها صوته قال أبو عيسى هذا حديث حسن صحيح" (21)

Sayyidina Abu Huraira (RA) reported that when the Prophet (SAW) sneezed, he covered his face with his hand or with his garment and thereby suppressed its sound.

Islam gives complete guideline about sneezing that when we cover our mouth and face with the garments, it prevents the spraying germs into the air.



### Islamic guidance for Natural Disasters:

Since man has been intruded the natural environment, he started producing health hazards for living beings and made life difficult for human beings, animals and plant species. It is due to the man's over interference in the environment that many human beings are suffering from strange diseases caused by the pollution which is produced by some natural ways. Climate change is one of the major problems now a day. The term *climate change* means a remarkable change from one climatic condition to another, including changes in temperature, precipitation, wind, and humidity. The climate change is a common link with the diseases and many other threats to humans. The ozone layer is very important as it protects us from different harmful rays but now continuous damage to the ozone layer causes many problems like nausea, skin cancer, dimming of eyesight and chest pains. When continuous different gases such as water vapors, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide releases into the air they increase temperature of air badly. This phenomenon is known as greenhouse effect.(22) We can control the greenhouse effect by reducing the emission of carbon dioxide and other gases and can also play its vital role in minimizing the use of fossil fuels. In this scenario, the Quran wants Muslims to consider nature as the property of God and gift from Him. So it is our responsibility to take care of all these natural resources like land, water, air etc. which are important for the existence of life.

Epidemics such as diabetes, dengue, cholera, influenza, hepatitis are spreading and increasing worldwide due to unavailability of resources and adverse sanitary conditions. Epidemic can be spread from one person to another in the same place and can hit many lives and even it can be spread in animals.(23) Epidemics can be controlled by practicing the teachings of Islam in wearing neat and clean clothes, using washed utensils, performing ablution to keep body and mind fit for the whole day. Besides this the purity of heart, mind and eyes also lead towards healthy, strong and successful life. Diseases like hepatitis, HIV and AIDS are very dangerous.(24) These diseases mostly spread due to the negligence of Islamic injunction. Islam guide believers that they must lower their gazes and guard their private parts so that they must be strong, more healthy, modest and pious. It is stated in Quran.

﴿قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ بَعْضُوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ذَلِكَ أَزْكَى لَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ﴾ (25)

Say to the believing men that they should lower their gazes and guard their modesty; that will make greater purity for them: and Allah is well acquainted with all that they do.

In this verse, the concept of purity of heart, mind eyes, is presented to lead towards healthy life. Islam prohibits men and women from staring each other as it provokes sexual intension.

Pollution can be emerged by many natural disasters like floods, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, ice storms, tsunami, cyclones, hurricanes, earthquakes, heat waves and droughts, wildfires, landslides and blizzards. Floodwater contains oil, dirt, bacteria, human and animal wastes, and industrial chemical. The hurricane and thunder storms leave very bad effect and it takes years to restore the destruction. Earthquake is one of the most powerful natural disasters and every year thousands of people are cause to be homeless, displaced, injured, or even killed all over the world due to earthquakes. Beside this, anthropogenic ways also leave harmful effect on all living organisms.(26)Transportation is said to be one of the major causes of anthropogenic ways. The smoke released to air by automobiles has significantly increased health hazards for all living creatures in recent decades. It cause diseases like asthma, allergies as well as damage respiratory function. Industries and factories used to dump their solid and liquid waste into the streams, canals and rivers. When Human beings, animals and birds drink this polluted water they get seriously ill. It is necessary to take such actions to control over the pollution discharged from industries and factories. Islam also tells precautionary measures in order to fight and combat with the diseases. It is narrated in Hadith by Saad:

"قال سمعت أسامة بن زيد يحدث سعدا عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم أنه قال إذا سمعتم بالطاعون بأرض فلا تدخلوها وإذا وقع بأرض وأنتم بها فلا تخرجوا منها فقلت أنت سمعته يحدث سعدا ولا ينكره قال نعم" (27)

The Prophet said, "If you hear of an outbreak of plague in a land, do not enter it; but if the plague breaks out in a place while you are in it, do not leave that place."

Hence this hadith also guide us that disease can be spread from one place to another so people should stay at their place when they hear of an outbreak of plague.

We know very well that most of the land species live in forests. The importance of forest can never be neglected. It is not only the home land of many organisms but also it plays vital role in cleaning and to purify the environment. Trees release carbon dioxide and it traps heat in the atmosphere, and therefore, trees helps to control global climates. But the terrible thing is that the trees are cut down rapidly. The basic reason of cutting down forest is to clear land for farming, mining, roads, and grazing of cattle. Deforestation results in diverse health, environmental, ecological and socio-economic challenges. In many hadith, it is emphasized to plant more trees as they enhance the beauty of nature, beneficial for all animals

and human beings, provide shelter, vegetables, fruits and healthy environment beside this it is also source of reward for Muslims. It is narrated in hadith:

"حدثنا قتيبة بن سعيد حدثنا أبو عوانة و حدثني عبد الرحمن بن المبارك حدثنا أبو عوانة عن قتادة عن أنس بن مالك رضي الله عنه قال قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم ((ما من مسلم يغرس غرسا أو يزرع زرعاً فيأكل منه طير أو إنسان أو بهيمة إلا كان له به صدقة)) وقال لنا مسلم حدثنا أبان حدثنا قتادة حدثنا أنس عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم" (28)

Narrated Anas bin Malik: Allah's Apostle said, "There is none amongst the Muslims who plants a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, but is regarded as a charitable gift for him."

Hence there are several hadith which emphasis that plants enhance the greenery so we should cultivate more land.

It is also experienced that Poverty increase some type of environmental frightful conditions. Poor people who live from hand to mouth mostly suffer from dangerous diseases due to non-availability of fresh foods, pure water and proper sanitary conditions. It is noted that more than 2.6 billion people, more than 8 times the population of United States have no decent bath room facilities.(29) As a result many of the world's poor people die ahead of time from severe avoidable health problems. If Government implement on budget charter, it will give relief to the poor and everything could be in their access. The act on good proverb "Cut your coat according to your cloth" can also escape us from the poverty and problems.

To overcome this problem it is necessary to follow the commands of Quran and hadith about moderation in every field of life. It will lead us to the worldly success as well as the success hereafter. It is stated in Hadith.

"عن جابر بن عبد الله قال مر رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم على رجل يصلي على صخرة فأتى ناحية مكة فمكث مليا ثم انصرف فوجد الرجل يصلي على حاله فقام فجمع يديه ثم قال يا أيها الناس عليكم بالقصد ثلاثا فإن الله لا يمل حتى تملوا" (30)

It was narrated that Jâbir bin Abdullah said: The Messenger of Allah P.B.U.H passed by a man who was praying on a rock, and he went towards Makkah and stayed a while, then he left and found the man still praying as he had been. He stood up and clasped his hands, then said: "O peoples you should observe moderation," three times, "for Allah does not get tired (of giving reward) but you get tired."

Islamic conduct related to the environment and the person who exhibits it in most perfect fashion was God's Messenger (PBUH) as this, and his commands concerning it, are learnt, our weighty responsibilities become clear. To keep the environment clean and pure we should follow the

environmental reforms in the time of Prophet (P.B.U.H) and Caliph Rashidun.

### **Environmental reforms in the period of Holy Prophet (PBUH):**

The whole life of the Prophet (P.B.U.H) gives the complete code of conduct of life as His life is the true mirror of the Quran. He (P.B.U.H) ordered to grow the trees as many as there could be because it assists in greenery; give shades to other creatures and is also beneficial from the economic point of view. As a result people started cultivating vegetables on the barren lands of the Medina city. Therefore, it enhanced the greenery of the city and proved to be a remarkable environmental protection act. The barren land had no use; therefore a green land having trees is beneficial for all animals and humans. The cultivated land give benefits in the form of shade, as meadows, as forests, give fruit and are a source of vegetables.(31) Along with this it is also helpful in making the beauty of the environment and enhancing its peace. It is narrated in hadith.

"عن ابن عمر رضي الله عنهما أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم أعطى  
خيبر اليهود على أن يعملوها ويزرعوها ولهم شطر ما خرج منها" (32)

Narrated Ibn 'Umar: Allah's Apostle gave the land of Khaibar to the Jew's on the condition that they work on it and cultivate it, and be given half of its yield.

The barren land had no use; therefore green lands having trees is beneficial for all forests, give fruit and are a source of vegetables.(33) Along with this, it is also helpful in making the beauty of the environment and enhancing its peace.

### **The Caliphate and their Environmental Reforms:**

The most of the environmental reforms done in the age periods of the caliphate were with more focus to provide justice in society, enforce the Islamic values and rules, obey the only God and thus to seek mental peace and body security by following the true Islamic values.(34)

In Hazrat Umar Farooq(R.A) reign plague spread as an epidemic in Syria, He (R.A) took many steps to control this epidemic. The preservation and safety of trees was specially the task of his reign. Another environmental reform taken by him was that he made parks, wide and clean roads in the city. Bridges were built on rivers and canals in order to make easy passages for passengers and also to avoid the solid water pollution caused due to tree stems and leather stuff used at that time.(35)

During the age period of Hazart Ali (R.A) steps were taken to increase the area of the forest this was done to enhance the greenery and protect the environment. He (R.A) was the first one to get the monitory gains from the vast area of trees.(36)

Hence the awareness and knowledge about the protection of

environment in early Islamic period made people enlighten their minded. By practiced these Islamic injunctions people might lead a health, prosper, modest and regardful life in the sound and clean environment.

The topic going to be discussed has its own significance. It is important to elaborate some major problems caused by pollution. The above description is about the physical and environment elaboration of pollution. The first process in godliness is to cleanse ourselves in body, mind and soul. Then we shall be in a fit state to see and proclaim the glory of Allah that leads us to actual absorption in praise and prayers.

Contrary to this, Pollution is not only a subject to surrounding and environmental pollution rather there is some other types of pollutions that are associated and implemented in practical life. People implement these pollutions practically on daily basis.

### **Imitation of west, Origin of ethical evils, and their Islamic solutions:**

Westernization means the adoption of western culture. It is not only limited to any one sector of our society but every sector of our society. Whether rich or poor, high or low in every field (social, economic and educational) are following the western techniques, pattern and civilization too.

### **Imitation of Western culture:**

In west women are degraded and used as objects of lust. In west miniskirts, shorts are the status symbol, the more she wears them the more modern she looks. She wears short dresses and has no respect at all. Western culture has totally made the women naked and raped its self-respect and character. These all evils create sexual, spiritual and physical pollution which are harmful for everyone. In west, a woman is still regarded as a second-class citizen and deprived of various basic rights enjoyed by the male population. Contrary to this, Islam uplifts the status of women and granted them their just rights and expects them to maintain their status. It is said that only those things are covered which are precious and Islam has given this honor to woman as she can save her from every bad actions. Islam was the first religion formally to grant the women a status never known before. The Holy Quran, the sacred scripture of Islam, contains hundreds of teachings, which apply both to men and women alike. The moral, spiritual and economic equality of men and women as propagated by Islam is unquestionable. The specific verses of the Holy Quran, says that the hijab has been prescribed for the women so that they are recognized as modest women and this will also prevent them from being harmed.(37) Islam has closed all the doors which lead towards evil. The glorious Quran mentioned for believing men to lower gauze their eyes and save guard their

modesty as it save them from vulgarity. Quran also prescribed hijab for women so that it can save him from the prostitution. As narrated in Quran:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِمَ أَرَأَيْتُمْ أَن يُعْرَفَ فَلَئِمَّا يَدِينُ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا﴾ (38)

"O prophet, tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believing that they should cast their outer garments over. There persons (when aboard): That is most convenient, that they should be known (as such), and not molested. And Allah is oft-Forgiving, most merciful."

This is for all Muslim women, Those of the Prophet's household, as well as the others. They were asked to cover themselves with outer garments when walking around. Here the object was not to restrict the liberty of woman but to protect them from harm and molestation. In the east and west a distinctive public dress of some sort or another has always been a badge of honor or distinction, both among men and women. There are also other verses in which the *Hijab* has been prescribed for the women so that they are recognized as modest women and this will also prevent them from being molested.

Beside this, Muslims are also copycatting the salutations;hy, hello, instead of saying Assalam-o-Alaikum. Discos, pubs, clubs are the favorite hangout places of the youngster but holy places like Mosques are like graveyard for them. The food habits of people have also changed. Instead of having food at home, they survive on burgers, coals, pizzas and all at junk. These junk foods are unhealthy and cause food poisoning. Late night studies have turned into late night parties and create disturbance for others. Actually they all are meant for health and cleanliness. That is why Islam forbade imitation of western culture as it leads us unhygienic and unlawful actions.

#### **Vulgar literature and nude pictures in magazines – Source of pollution:**

In Islamic countries print media has also adopted the vulgar literature and naked pictures in magazines from west. There are unlimited magazines which are running with the help of naked pictures and vulgar people. They have made them a source of trade and business. This vulgar, rude, ill-mannered and loutish literature and naked pictures of women cause physical and spiritual change in the life and hence leads towards sexual intercourses. It is necessary that we should meet to the editors of the newspapers, Writers of the books and novels and convince them they should complete boycott with the immoral values, naked pictures and vulgar literature to overcome this problem. Islam is a complete code of life and provides us necessary information to keep our mind, body and spirit pure. It is stated in the Quran:

﴿وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَشْتَرِي لَهْوَ الْحَدِيثِ لِيُضِلَّ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ  
وَيَتَّخِذَهَا هُزُوًا وَلِئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ﴾<sup>(39)</sup>

There is a man among the people who buys discourses of distracting amusements, so that he may mislead (people) from the Way of Allah, and make a mockery of it. For such people there is a disgraceful punishment

This ayah shows that we should abstain from idle language and gives emphasis on the implication of the modesty which is a way of purification through good literature.

#### **Sign boards and Electronic Media; Source of pollution:**

The sign boards of film advertisement are fixed at every step along the road which leads towards vulgarity are also imitated by western culture. Advertisers have made women a motive to earn money. The advertisement of any film cannot complete without the nude picture of women. Therefore it is difficult for a pious person to avoid his eyes by looking towards there advertisements. Cinema, Television, radio and internet are the basic source to publish these types of vulgarity. In Islamic point of view it should necessary for the people to aware from the defensive sense against vulgarity. For these purpose, Islamic seminars and speeches should be organized. Surah al-Noor also told us about the facts that those who spread evils and Social pollution in the society will be punished excessive in this world and the hereafter. It is narrated in Quran:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ تَشِيعَ الْفَاحِشَةُ فِي الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا  
وَالْآخِرَةِ﴾<sup>(40)</sup>

"Those who love (to see) scandal published broadcast among the believers, will have a grievous penalty in this life and the hereafter: Allah knows, and you do not know."

What mischief can be planned by Evil to delude simple folk who men no harm in the own minds but who by thoughtlessness are deluded step by step to become the instruments of evil, may not be known to the most instructed of men, but it is all known to Allah, Man should always be on his guard against the traps of Evil, and it is only Allah's grace that can save him. There are also other verses and Hadith which emphases that vulgarity should be controlled as otherwise it effect badly the environment and it leads towards the penal in the world and here after.

#### **Prostitution; Source of Pollution:**

Prostitution becomes a regular practice in western civilization. It happened mostly due to the unmarried status. Due to sexual intercourse epidemic like HIV aids is increasing day by day. More than ten lack peoples are the victim of HIV aids from which 90% people don't know this reality.

The concept of marriage is also the source of purity for the Muslims as it save them from the sexual intercourse. Islam has many reasons to encourage marriage such as its advantages in safeguarding one's faith and also becoming an essential element in the proper upbringing of children. This is because children without one of their parents are much more likely to commit crimes etc.; and in short become an anxiety to the environment they live in. Marriage plays a large part in saving one from the sins of fornication, homosexuality and masturbation. It takes away the possibility of these things because after marriage a man is supposed to occupy himself with a woman he has married and vice versa.(41) Hence Islam abolished sexual intercourse through the Sunnah of Nikkah. It also announced punishments which should be implemented so that the people should abstain from prostitution. Essentially the couple continues to live separately from each other, as before their contract, and see each other to fulfill their needs in a permissible manner when they please.

It is narrated in Surah Al-Nisa:

﴿وَأَجَلَ لَكُمْ مَا وَرَاءَ ذَلِكَ أَنْ تَبْتَغُوا بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ مُحْصِنِينَ غَيْرَ مُسْفِحِينَ﴾<sup>(42)</sup>

All (women), except these, have been permitted for you to seek (to marry) through your wealth, binding yourself, (in marriage) and not only for lust.

The verse proceeds to say that women other than those specified may be sought in marriage, but even so, not from motives of lust, but in order to promote chastity between the sexes. Marriage in the original Arabic is here described by a word which suggests a fortress (hisn): marriage is therefore, the fortress of Chastity. Islam emphasized on marriage in several verses and hadith as it safeguard one's eye and modesty.

### **Nails fashion and pollution:**

Currently we observe that the matter of western culture imitation reached its worth peak. Especially Muslim women's are adopting different worse, unhygienic and sluggish activities from west. As far imitating non-Muslims, it has many harmful effects that are witnessed by reality. West has been addicted women to keep long nails that are actually the signs of an underlying disease that you might be suffering from. Contrary to this, Islamic civilization is based on the value of education, which both the Qur'an and the Prophet stressed. Islam dislikes and forbade addicting long nails. Islam gives not only the honor and respect to the woman but also the healthy tips to live healthy and successful life. Islam laid stress on ten practices that are characteristics of the nature and it is very much important for us to keep them clean. One of them is "*Qass al afar*"<sup>(43)</sup> meaning "trimming nails".

It is narrated in hadith:



"عن عائشة قالت قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم عشر من الفطرة قص الشارب وإعفاء اللحية والسواك واستنشاق الماء وقص الأظفار وغسل البراجم ونتف الإبط وحلق العانة وانتقاص الماء" (44)

'A'isha reported: The Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) said: Ten are the acts according to fitra: clipping the moustache, letting the beard grow, using the tooth-stick, snuffing water in the nose, cutting the nails, washing the finger joints, plucking the hair under the armpits, shaving the pubes and cleaning one's private parts with water. The narrator said: I have forgotten the tenth, but it may have been rinsing the mouth with water.

Trimming of nail is a serious matter in cooking. The tendency of growing nail is increasing in girls and it is a fact they have to engage in cooking. It is necessary for the chefs to trim their nails otherwise it may involve some type of health hazards. Hence, this Hadith emphasis that on every Friday trimming nails not only saves us from different diseases, help to live a healthy life in healthy environment also become the source of reward as it is the Sunnah of our Holy Prophet (SAW).

### Conclusion:

A recent debate in worldwide is to protect the environment from the destruction, and make earth a peaceful abode to live. Environment is not limited to the natural environment! It's also the social, moral, economic and political environment that needs to be clean and free of corruption. As in the case of natural environment, Islam provides guidance and shows the way in all spheres of human life. We can protect our environment by planting more trees or cultivating more lands, keep close the gates of house (at night), keep utensils neat and covered with lid, forbidding mutilation (or maiming) of bodies, avoid extravagant in all activities and observe moderation in all actions as emphasis in Quran and hadith. We can also reduce the hazard of pollution by recycling paper, constructing factories outside the residential area; put the garbage basin in front of every home, by reducing traffic volume, constructing more reservoirs so that the availability of water may be possible in every city and spending a reasonable budget for the environmental reforms. Islamic teachings are meant to take protective care of the Inner self through Basic Beliefs and pillar of Islam, abstaining from the pollution of the idols and vain words, lowering voices and lowering gazes and guarding private parts, wearing clean dresses, performing ablution, using "maswak" and taking bath on Friday. By practicing these Islamic values, Muslims would lead a healthy, modest and regardful life. It is narrated in Quran:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ﴾ (45)

Surely Allah loves those who are most repenting, and loves those who keep themselves pure.

These are all the precautionary measures for living being so that they would protect them from every kind of pollution and unhygienic conditions. For the Muslim, humankind's role on earth is that of a vicegerent or trustee of Allah. We are Allah's stewards and agent on Earth. We are not master of this earth; it does not belong to us to do what we wish. It belongs to Allah and he has entrusted us with its safe keeping. As it is narrated in Quran:

﴿فَاقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا ۖ فِطْرَتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا ۚ لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ ۗ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾<sup>(46)</sup>

"So, set your face to the Faith uprightly, this (faith) being the nature designed by Allah on which He has created the mankind. There is no change in Allah's creation. That is the straight faith, but most of the people do not know."

There are also many other hadith in which human being is clearly told that he will be held accountable for his actions at the Day of Judgment and also instructed to look after the environment and not to damage it as his little deeds of mortality may reduce the ecological issues.

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