The Role of Honesty in the Establishment of Peaceful Society(In the Light of Islamic Tradition)

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Abstract

Honesty is a good attribute and a blessing of Almighty Allah. Almighty Allah gives this attribute to whomever He wills. Honesty and integrity are the best qualities. Islam is the religion of peace and security, so it wants a peaceful society. Islam dislikes dishonesty, betrayal, deception, corruption, lies, and deception. Islam has pointed out the right and wrong paths and now it is the responsibility of a person to choose one of these paths, whether he adopts the good path or the bad path. But it is a fact that the people of a society who become virtuous and honest, spend their lives with prosperity and peace in society. If we talk about contemporary society, it is a fact that we are going to downfall with time. Because we have ignored the teachings of Islam due to which we see everywhere in society unethical values, i.e., dishonesty, robbery, lies, betrayal, kidnapping, murder, violence, corruption, etc. The progress and prosperity of a society depend upon people's honesty and integrity, when people will be honest then the environment of society will be peaceful. This research work aims to explain that honesty plays an important role in the establishment of a peaceful society.
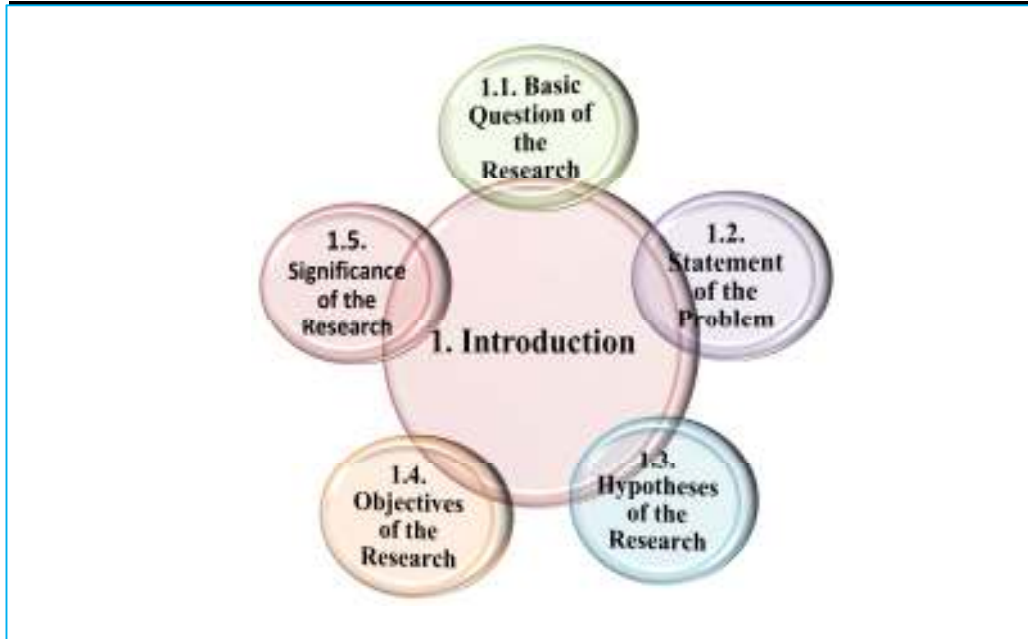
Keywords: Role of Honesty, Islamic teachings, Contemporary society, Establishment of a peaceful society

Introduction

Honesty has been described as the source of satisfaction of the heart, the means of salvation, the cause of attaining heaven, the cause of pleasing Almighty Allah, and the source of blessing in wealth. Peace and tranquility of human society and its construction and development are based on honesty. That is why Islam emphasis to adopt honesty. Honesty is one of the greatest virtues found in human morality. Due to this attribute human being is considered an honest person in society and without it, he is known as an untrustworthy person. An honest or trustworthy person is one, who does not deceive others and he takes care of his paying words and he tries to fulfill his

all promises which he does with others. Such a person is an honest person in real meanings. The Holy Qurān says that "If you trust one another, then ˈthereˈ is no need for security, butˈ the debtor should honor this trust ˈby repaying the debtˈ—and let them fear Allah, their Lord. And do not conceal the testimony, for whoever conceals it, their hearts are indeed sinful. And Allah ˈfullyˈ knows what you do".[1] At another place, it is instructed to human beings that "Indeed, Allah commands you to return trusts to their rightful owners".[2] Honesty is an attribute that makes a person successful in both this world and the hereafter. But as time moves towards, we see corruption in the society which is mainly due to dishonesty, which is causing many evils in the society such as theft, robbery, kidnapping, murder, lying, deception, fraud, fights, and numerous similar evils are visible in society. A dishonest person does not only commit dishonesty but also spreads evils in society and it plays an important role in creating the problems in society. Unfortunately, today's man has forgotten the Islamic teachings, due to which he is suffering from numerous problems and is on the verge of moral decline. Although honesty plays an important role in the development of a society, the people of a society that become honest and trustworthy, the society becomes not only on the path of development but also peace, equality, tolerance, sincerity, and justice are on the rise. Due to which the members of the society lead a peaceful and prosperous life. The role of honesty in the establishment of society is a very significant topic of the present arena. We aimed to write on this theme because it is a dire need of the time and we should think about this matter that we are going to which direction, either right or wrong. If we do not think about it, so that time is very near when we would be destroyed morally and we would lose our identity as a good Muslim. Therefore, we should follow Islamic teachings and should spend our lives according to them. Then we could be able to make ourselves a good person in society. This research consists few sections such as the first section explains the introduction, basic question of research, statement of the problem, hypotheses of the research, objectives of the research, and significance of the research, whereas the second section elucidates literature review, the third section describes the research methodology, the fourth sections highlight the analysis of the problem, similarly, the fifth section justifies to the conclusion of this research and in last section suggestions and recommendations have given to highlight the aim of this research.

Basic Question of the Research

The basic question of this research is the role of honesty in the establishment of a peaceful society and in the light of Islamic tradition.

Statement of the Problem

Few statements of the problem are being described below as;

➢ What is the meaning of honesty?
➢ What does history explain concerning honesty?
➢ What do Islamic teachings elucidate about honesty?
➢ What is the condition of honesty in contemporary society?
➢ What is the role of honesty in the establishment of a peaceful society?

Hypotheses of the Research

Few hypotheses are aimed to describe the result of this research work as follows;

➢ People of society have ignored the meaning of honesty.
➢ The environment of society is disappointing concerning honesty.
➢ The establishment of a peaceful society is not possible without honesty.
➢ It is a fact that people have ignored the Islamic teachings about honesty and therefore dishonesty can be seen everywhere in society.

Objectives of the Research

Some objectives are given under, such as;

- To explain the meaning of honesty briefly.
- To give examples from history concerning honesty.
- To describe the teachings of Islam regarding honesty.
- To highlight the situation of contemporary society about honesty.
- To explicate the role of honesty in the establishment of a peaceful society.

Significance of the Research

This research work can be very useful and interesting concerning its specific field because honesty is explained with its meaning, some examples are taken from history about honesty, the Islamic information regarding honesty is elucidated, moreover, the situation of honesty in contemporary society is highlighted, and lastly, the role of honesty in the establishment of a peaceful society is explicated in detail.
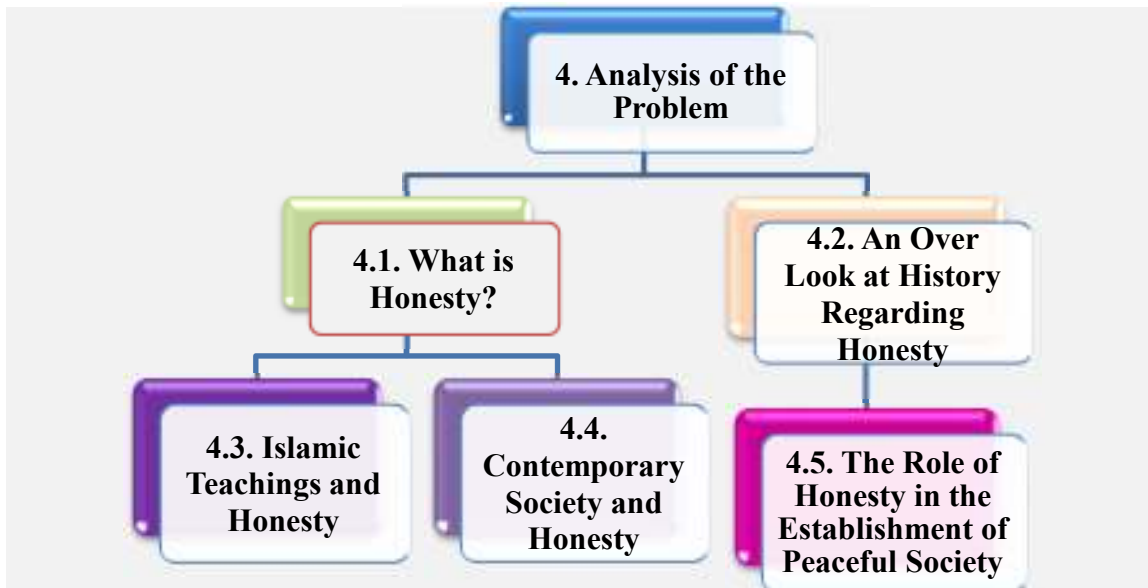
Literature Review

The role of honesty in the establishment of a peaceful society is a very significant theme of contemporary society. Therefore, for this purpose, we searched many sources in which some are discussing here as, "factors of honesty in performing duties" is an article its writers are Ibadur Rehman and Muhammad Zahor. In this article, writers have discussed all the matters of performing duties with honesty in the light of verses and Seerah in detail.[3] "Hamara Ikhlaq (Qurān-o-Sūnnāh) " is a book on ethical values, its writer is Hadrat Mulana Alhaaj Abdul Qayyum. He has written this book with easy words and he explained every matter along with the Qurānic verses and hādiths. This is an informative book for readers and scholars.

Research Methodology

This is library research-based work. We have gathered data from four libraries such as Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Library, University of Peshawar library, Archive library Peshawar and University of Gujrat library. We collected the relevant materials in the forms of different books, articles, newspapers, magazines, and web links, and as well as attended seminars, workshops, and conferences on the said theme. We used both primary and secondary sources in this research work.

Analysis of the Problem

This research is very important to research for its specific field. We used the method of theoretical research and every related point of this research has been described in detail and an easy way of language. The details of this research work as follows:

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                        4. Analysis of the
                            Problem


        4.1. What is                      4.2. An Over
          Honesty?                       Look at History
                                           Regarding
                                            Honesty


   4.3. Islamic        4.4.            4.5. The Role of
   Teachings and    Contemporary       Honesty in the
     Honesty        Society and       Establishment of
                      Honesty         Peaceful Society
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What is Honesty?

There are many rules for living a successful life in this world. One of them is honesty. An honest person is always considered a successful person. Because this principle guides him to the right path and protects him from the problems of the world. And in the same way, it gives him comfort and ease in the hereafter. A man indeed chooses a safe path by adopting honesty. Because if we look at everyday life, we know that honesty always plays a good role in society. An honest person is always considered a valuable person and it is viewed with respect. People around like him and always stay in touch with him. Because an honest person is like a beacon of light that guides in the darkness and loneliness of life. People share their problems and worries with him. Because they think that only such a person can solve their problems. And he is in a position to suggest the right solution to their problems and worries. Honesty is a good habit, therefore an honest person is successful in both this world and the hereafter. This is a fact that an honest person does not cheat in any matter. Because in his heart there is a fear of Almighty Allah and the hereafter. An honest person protects himself from worldly superstitions, practice honesty in affairs, transactions, and other matters, and lives according to Islamic principles. It does not hurt others. Rather, he works for the good of others as far as he can. If someone keeps a trust upon him, he becomes a trustee of his trust. And if someone tells his secret to him, he takes care of that secret. When the transaction of things done by an honest person, he does not deceive others in it. Such a person is called honest and keeping secrets of

others is called honesty. We should accept this fact that honesty is the best policy not only for living in this world but also in the hereafter.[4]

An Over Look at History Regarding Honesty

Islam commands every good deed and forbids every evil deed. Good deeds are honest, which is commanded by Allah Almighty and His Messenger, and there is treachery in bad deeds, which is forbidden by the *Shāri'ah*. The Prophet (PBUH) did not only enjoin fidelity, but acted on it in such a way that even his worst enemies the polytheists of Mākkāh testified the honesty of Muhammad (PBUH). This was the reason that not only the Companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) but also the disbelievers of Mākkāh used to have their trust with the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Hādrat Muhammad (PBUH) used to perform this duty very well. Therefore, seeing the fidelity and honesty of the Prophet (PBUH), even before the proclamation of Prophethood, he was awarded the titles of *Amīn and Sādīq* by the Mākkāns. When the Holy Prophet (PBUH) intended to migrate from Makkah to Mādīnah, he had the trusts of the people with him. Before the migration, Hāzrat Ali (RA) was given the responsibility of conveying the trusts to the people and then he migrated to Mādīnah. Hādrat Ali (RA) slept on the bed of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), as per the direction of Muhammad (PBUH). So that in the morning he would return all the trusts to the people on behalf of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and no one would have any doubt concerning his trusts.[5] Here it is explained that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) took great care of honesty and integrity. That is why Islam emphasizes honesty and integrity. For the trustworthy, there is a success not only in this world, but also in the hereafter. We should follow the path prescribed by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and produce the attributes of honesty and integrity in ourselves because this world is mortal and the life of the hereafter is a never-ending life. Everyone will deserve Paradise and Hell due to his deeds. Honesty and trust are such a virtue that promotes interaction between people, creates love in the gathering of human beings, and builds trust among people, which leads to the existence of a good and a perfect society.[6]

Islamic Teachings and Honesty

Islam is a religion of peace and harmony. It advises adopting ethical values. The meaning of honesty is that whatever thing is entrusted to anyone, it should be protected and supervised with utmost honesty. And when the trustee asks for his thing, then it should be handed over to him immediately. The Qur'ān has given a very broad concept of honesty. It includes all kinds of responsibilities, obligations, and rights, including wealth, means and goods, etc. It is an honesty to fulfill them responsibly. The Holy Qur'ān says that "Indeed, Allah commands you to return trusts to their rightful owners; and when you judge between people, judge with fairness. What a noble commandment from Allah to you! Surely Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing".[7]

On an occasion, Hādrat Muhammad (PBUH) said that "A person who does not have honesty does not have faith and a person who does not abide by the agreement does not have a religion".[8] However, a person betrays his honesty by giving up his trust to gain wealth. The fact is that wealth is also a test and children are also a test. The real reward and the greatest reward are with Allah Almighty alone. No believer can dare to imagine a betrayal after believing. In Surāh Al-Anfāl, it is instructed to human beings that "And know that your wealth and your children are only a test and that with Allah is a great reward".[9] At another place, the Prophet (PBUH) said: "The believer has dominion over every other virtue except betray and lying".[10] It is stated in Surāh Al Ma'arij that " The faithful are ˮ also those who are true to their trusts and covenants; and who are honest in their testimony; and who are ˮproperlyˮ observant of their prayers. These will be in Gardens, held in honor". [11] Honesty is one of the best qualities of a Muslim. A good and honest person is one who takes care of people's trust and does not betray. Because this world is mortal and human will be responsible for his every action, so he will adopt whatever way to live in this world, he will be responsible for that in the hereafter. It is narrated on the authority of Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (PBUH) said: "There are three signs of a hypocrite: when he speaks, he lies, when he promises, he breaks his promise, and when he is considered trustworthy, he resigns".[12]

Contemporary Society and Honesty

Honesty is an excellent and admirable attribute, a person who is adorned with the essence of trust and honesty, people love and regard him. Honesty is the precious essence due to which the atmosphere of love and trust prevails. Honesty creates a good spirit of brotherhood, justice, and equality in society. The people of a nation who are trustees and honest in their matters, they have to become successful in society and their name is written with the golden words in history. Such a nation deserves honor and fame in society, and those people who are deprived of this precious attribute, they are made a symbol of humiliation and disgrace in society. This is a fact that honesty is an excellent and commendable quality of humanity. Islam encourages good deeds and forbids evil deeds. One of the good deeds is that if a person wants to keep his property or belongings as a trust, then the trustee, if he can protect that property or goods, according to *Shāriah*, he should help his brother by keeping that wealth or property as a trust. Islam instructs us to keep the trust and return it at the behest of the trustee because it creates mutual harmony, love, justice, equality, and trust which leads to the existence of a good society.[13] It is a fact that contemporary society is on the verge of destruction due to the ignorance of Islamic teachings. When we look around us, many moral evils can easily be seen in society such as; betrayal, lying, stealing, robbery, adultery, backbiting, murder, violence, and business of usury, etc. This is proof that we have ignored the Islamic teachings due to which society

is moving towards destruction and we are seeing oppression and violence everywhere. When honesty and integrity are lost from society, then society comes on the verge of destruction. The same case is with the present society. If the situation is not controlled, society would be ruined. Therefore, there is an urgent need to follow Islamic teachings and live according to Islamic principles and rules in society. If we succeed in doing so, then we can save our society from destruction.[14]

The Role of Honesty in the Establishment of Peaceful Society

Honesty is one of the few important values, attributes, and teachings that the Qur'ān and Sunnah have strongly emphasized over and over again in various aspects and in many styles, which is deeply related to all spheres of human life. It is usually translated in English as trust and it is seen in modern social and political sciences as a necessary condition and necessary basis for social harmony, political stability, and a peaceful society. According to "John Locke, a famous person in modern philosophy and political science, trust is the most important foundation of successful politics and a peaceful society".[15] Almighty Allah says that "O believers! Do not betray Almighty Allah and the Messenger, nor betray your trusts knowingly".[16] The establishing of a trusting and honest relationship between people is essential for the prosperity, peace, and tranquility of any society. In modern sociology, it is called social trust and honesty. According to the famous sociologist George Zamal, trust and honesty are the most important factors of unity any society.[17] Another sociologist says that the most important element of social assets is trust and honesty. Whereas, having social assets is the first condition for the social welfare, economic development, and political stability of any society.[18] The Holy Qur'ān has presented this aspect of trust and honesty very clearly, which Ibn Ashur writes in his commentary that "Trust and honesty have an extraordinary role in settling all matters of Muslim society. All societies rely on trust and honesty in their affairs and actions. The existence of trust and honesty is the greatest proof of the progress of a society, the elevation of its nature, and the moderation in its actions. Allah's apostle has warned us that lack of trust and honesty will bring our entire society towards destruction. Sisi LaBook, a well-known twentieth-century sociologist says that "Trust and honesty are a social asset and if it is destroyed, then societies will be destroyed and their systems are shattered".[19] The Holy Qurān says that; "the believers are also˺ those who are true to their trusts and covenants".[20] At another place, it is instructed to human beings that "And those who guard their trusts and their positions and those who stand firm in their testimonies and those who guard their prayers - these are the ones who will be in Paradise with honor".[21] There is no denying the fact that honesty plays an important role in establishing a peaceful society. Without it, society is like a jūngle where there is no law, and no one's life and property are safe. The prosperity and peace of every society depend on honesty. The members of a society who are honest

and adhere to Islamic teachings are the ones who are on the path of progress. The people of such society live a prosperous and peaceful life, so it is not unreasonable to say that honesty plays an important role in the development of society and the well-being of the people. But in a society where honesty is lacking, people live in fear and anxiety because the lives, property, and honor of the people in such a society are not safe. Therefore, there is no denying that honesty plays an important role in the development of a peaceful society.

Conclusion

We see dishonesty, lies, robbery, betrayal, deception, and many other immoral activities in today's society. It is all due to dishonesty because we have forgotten the teachings of Islam because of which we have fallen from the moral standard and society is moving towards destruction. There is unrest environment everywhere, which is affecting the life of every person. Here is a dire need to spread Islamic teachings in society as well as also to follow them so that peace can be restored in society and people of society could live with prosperity and peace.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Some suggestions and recommendations are as follows;

➢ Honesty is a great blessing of Almighty Allah; therefore, this is our duty that we should make ourselves honest.
➢ We should follow Islamic teachings and we should advise our children and family members to adopt the best qualities concerning honesty.
➢ We should keep it in our mind that worldly life is temporary, therefore, we should perform our duties and responsibilities in a better way, then we would be able to better life in the hereafter.
➢ The government should pay attention to build moral ethics in public and should strictly instruct all the educational departments as, schools, colleges, and universities to produce honesty in students.

The government should arrange different educational activities concerning honesty, such as workshops, seminars, and conferences, so people would get awareness regarding ethical qualities.

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