

ROLE OF ISLAM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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Abstract

According to the Islamic faith, God is the Lord of the worlds, and His last prophet Muhammad (SAW) is a mercy to the worlds, and His last book, the Qur'an, is a guide to the worlds, and Islam is last divine religion in all the heavenly religions¹. Since Allah Almighty sent Islam as the last divine religion for humanity, He has given it such width, comprehensiveness, and universality that it can guide humanity at every turn till the end of time. Then we see that man's need is not only for the protection of life, property, and honor, but man wants many facilities and comforts in this world and wants the construction and development of the world. So, Islam, for the completion of this natural requirements, has given such instructions so that man can move forward in civilization and live a very civilized life. The development of human civilization requires hard work, struggle, and research, without which the construction and development of the world is impossible. Before Islam, the world was generally indulged in polytheism and superstition, fearing every new discovery and revelation because it was considered against the will of God. Outdated beliefs, customs and traditions of their ancestors were perceived as a divine command and were obeyed. In such case, if a wise person researched, studied, and revealed something new or a new ideology that contradicted their outdated beliefs and ideologies, it would be considered punishable, and he would be tortured in various ways. We have the history of many philosophers and scientists who were convicted or sentenced for their revelations, and many great personalities like Galileo and Socrates went through this ordeal. Consequently, that age was submerged into darkness and no significant progress has been made in human culture and civilization. The main reason for this backwardness was the outdated beliefs and ideologies of the people which were an obstacle to the development of human civilization, so Islam first reformed the beliefs and ideologies of the people, changed their thinking, and

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gave them a new direction. By adopting that way, the world has reached the moon today and even wants to go beyond that. It will be analyzed in this article what were the pre-Islamic beliefs and ideologies that hindered the evolution of human civilization and what reforms did Islam bring because of which the world was on the path of construction and progress and humanity developed in culture and civilization. The content of this article has been collected and conclusions have been drawn by adopting historical and analytical method of research.

Keywords: Islam, culture, civilization, development, beliefs.

Introduction

Before Islam, people generally worshiped anything that they feared or hoped to benefit from. Therefore, the sun, moon and stars were considered effective in human life and were worshiped and considered sacred². If the crops of the people were inhabited due to rivers and streams, then they were also considered to be effective in human life and they were worshiped. And because of their sanctity, their water was prevented from being blocked so that the river king may not be angry or hurt.

Mountains and savage beasts were also worshiped because of their power and due to the benefit received from some animals in the form of milk, they were considered sacred and worshiped. Ancestors or elders who have done any work for the society were also considered sacred and their idols were worshiped. In the birth of man, the genitals of man were worshiped as effective, an example of Phallic worship which is still present in India today³. The traditions and customs of the ancestors were also given the status of sanctity, so any kind of adulteration or sorting of them was considered unlawful. Their color, race, and language were the best, which led to many deadly battles among the people that lasted for decades, and sometimes even to the end of a tribe. Instead of treating diseases as the result of physical causes, they were the cause of the wrath of the gods and goddesses and avoided treating them, which often led to the death of most human beings.⁴

These rotten and stereotypes beliefs were the main hurdle to the evolution of human civilization.

Obviously, when the sun, moon and stars are considered sacred, how can they be researched? No one can commit sin by researching something sacred, when they are not researched, they cannot be reached and cannot be taken advantage of.

When rivers and water were considered gods, and rivers were not even dammed, and when the water was not diverted to fertile lands, there could be no agricultural development.

When the language and traditions of the ancestors were considered sacred, adulteration was not tolerated and as a result, linguistics was not able to develop, and culture was not developing, and scientific development was not taking place.

When one's color, race, nation, and language were considered sacred, others were considered wretched and worthy of enmity. Black and white, Arabic, and non-Arabic, native and non-native were demarcated. As a result, there were wars and conflicts, and humanity was on the verge of destruction⁵. Obviously, in such a situation, where could the evolution of human civilization be possible?

The last Prophet of Islam came and put an end to all these superstitions and taught the correct beliefs that led to the evolution of human civilization and today humanity has passed through the moon and reached Mars. From agriculture, medical science, linguistics, human equality to modern science, economics and trade, man has reached its peak.

Beliefs in Islam and their consequences

The beliefs and ideologies that Islam gave, which changed the map of the world, is the doctrine of Tauḥīd.

Belief in the Oneness of God (Monotheism)

The doctrine of Tauḥīd means: "Believing in the oneness of God Almighty that He is alone in His essence, His attributes and the requirements of His attributes⁶, no one shares with Him⁷. He is the creator of everything⁸. He is the Lord of life and death⁹ and of profit and loss¹⁰. He has created man for His obedience and worship¹¹ and this whole universe has been created for the benefit of humanity¹². And any disease is not due to the wrath of any god but to the physical causes of diseases. And their cure is created by God in this earth¹³. The sun, moon, stars, and other universal objects are created to serve man, so take advantage of them, not worship them.

Belief in the Hereafter

This belief means that one day this world will end, then you will be resurrected, and you will have to give an account of your deeds¹⁴. And only

those who have lived according to the instructions of Allah and His Prophet, will be successful.¹⁵

Human equality

That is, all human beings are brothers. Things like color, race, language and homeland are just for introduction. Therefore, on this basis, there is no superiority and no inferiority. The one who is honorable in the sight of Allah is the one who has piety and high characters¹⁶.

The result of these basic beliefs is that:

1. Man developed self-esteem and self-respect

Because the doctrine of Tauḥīd taught man that the whole universe was created for him¹⁷ and it was also taught that man is the noblest of creatures¹⁸. Therefore, a person who believes in Tauḥīd develops self-esteem and self-respect and realizes his importance, so he never bows his head in front of a creation like himself or weaker than himself and destroys his dignity. -

2. Broad-minded or breadth of ideas

The doctrine of Tauḥīd created depth and breadth in human thought. The believer can never be narrow-minded because he believes in a God who is the Creator of the earth, the heavens, and all creation. So, he does not find anything strange. Rather, he considers all creations to be the property of a Master and a subject of a king. Therefore, his service and compassion are not confined to any circle, but he serves God's creatures without any distinction. In this way, his vision becomes as wide as the creation of Allah. As Allama Iqbal said:

***"Every country is our country because it is the country of our God,
and every language is our language because it is the language of our
God."***

3. Obedience to the law:

This belief binds its followers to the law because a person with this belief knows that Allah knows everything visible and invisible¹⁹. He is closer to man than his aorta²⁰. He can sin by hiding from the world, but he cannot hide from God. It is possible to run away from the people of the world, but it is not possible to run away from God. This belief and faith binds man to the law. Whether he is alone or in the dark of night, he stays away from sin and

lawlessness in the same way as a person stays away from breaking the law in broad daylight in front of law enforcers.

4. Research

No matter how much civilization has developed in today's world, it has applied the laws of nature. This law of nature existed fourteen centuries ago, but why was man not implementing this law of nature at that time? The real reason for this was that at that time the world was suffering from polytheism and superstition. The world had given sanctity to the phenomena of nature and considered it to be the owner of its own good and its own god, so it was engaged in phenomenal worship or Nature worship.

Obviously, those who consider the sun, moon, stars, rivers, forests, mountains, and animals as their gods and consider their good and evil from them and give them a place of sanctity, how can they be so rude to do research in them because where there is sanctity, there can be no research. And according to the constitution of nature, the cultural development of the world is based on research and exploration. No world could be built without research and exploration. And there can be no progress.

When Islam came in the seventh century AD, first it corrected the thinking and beliefs of the people. When humanity received the right guidance and man understood the difference between the Creator and the creatures, monotheism prevailed, polytheism and superstition were overcome, and man began to look at the objects of the universe from the point of view of objects rather than from the point of view of holiness, and began research and exploration in them and began to apply them in their work and understood the place and status of humanity, the correct recognition of each other's rights, then the civilization and cultural development began in the world. Rivers were dammed, which led to the development of agriculture.

The causes and cures of diseases were discovered due to which medical science progressed. Translations of world literature were made and used which led to progress in linguistics and scientific sciences. All human beings were considered equal. All human beings were treated same, difference between Arabic and non-Arabic, white and black was eliminated due to which human equality and brotherhood was established among human beings. That revolution first came to Arabia, then traveled to Asia and Africa, reached Europe, and then crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the United States²¹. As a result, the modern world developed in every sphere of life until man crossed the moon and reached Mars.

So Islamic beliefs and its teachings were the cause of research, and in other words, modern science and inventions and these beliefs led man on the path of progress.

The United Nations approved the Charter, known as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 1948. Its Article 18 states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; It also includes that a person can change his religion and reveal his religion secretly or openly or teach it to others". This UN Charter is not really the work of the United Nations, but it is also a religion of the Islamic Revolution which appeared thirteen hundred years before the United Nations.

For the first time in history, Islam inculcated the doctrine of monotheism in the minds of the people and abolished the system of polytheism which had created a mindset of difference between man and man. The result of this unrealistic division was a society of ups and downs that has been found all the time in all ancient times. Islam, on the one hand, changed the human mind in this matter, on the other hand, and a new era of human respect began.

The result of this unrealistic division there was a social upper and lower system that has been present continuously in all ancient times. On the one hand, Islam changed the human mind in this matter, on the other hand, it started a new era of human freedom and human dignity by carrying out a massive practical revolution. It continued to travel throughout history, until it entered Europe and grew to eventually lead to the modern revolution of freedom and democracy. It took place in Arabic in seventh century.²²

Conclusion

Before Islam, humanity was afflicted with polytheism and superstition, and at the same time, it believed in superiority and inferiority among human beings. He kept clung to the ancient obsolete and rotten traditions as divine instructions. He was lost. Instead of bowing his head in front of the real creator, bowed his forehead in front of the creature. Instead of researching and using this universe, it was considered sacred, which prevented the evolution of human civilization.

Islam taught correct beliefs, clarified the status of the Creator and the creatures. It taught all these things about how man should have a relationship

with God and how he should have a relationship with the creatures and how human beings should have a relationship with each other.

As a result, humanity developed a spirit of self-respect, human equality, intellectual freedom, research and exploration, and human beings began research and exploration in the divine universe, which led to advances in agriculture, trade, medical science, various sciences, and arts. The foundation of the progress that is being seen in human civilization was laid by Islam.

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