

## 9-11, Islamophobia and Human Rights: Representation of the Western World in the ‘Native Believer’ by Ali Eteraz

Open Access Journal

Qtly. Noor-e-Marfat

eISSN: 2710-3463

pISSN: 2221-1659

[www.nooremarfat.com](http://www.nooremarfat.com)

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### Abstract:

The surge in Islamophobia occurred after September 11 attacks in New York, America. This incident associated the activities by small groups of terrorists with the whole Muslim community. As a result, a phobia gradually developed and Americans started viewing all Muslims with the same lens of terrorism. This sentiment of hatred towards Muslims is basically called Islamophobia. The research has been conducted using the theoretical framework of Islamophobia presented by the Runnymede Trust (1997). The researchers have applied four closed view features of Islamophobia which are inferior, enemy, separate, and Islamophobia. They have obtained the aspects of Islamophobia from the *Native Believer* by Ali Eteraz. They have tried to delineate the concept of Islamophobia which is very much dominant in the United States of America (USA). This paper also represents the experiences and the situations of Muslims who live in the USA. The study has revealed that the Muslim minority of America is facing difficulties owing to the rapid increase of misconceived notions regarding Islamophobia in the country. It highlights how efforts are being made in order to subjugate the Muslim community and wipe their existence from the United States.

**Keywords:** Islamophobia, Prejudice, Enemy, Violent, Sentiment.

## Introduction

The current research deals with the concept of Islamophobia and its aspects. Unfortunately, in the modern society, this phobia is increasing rapidly because of the misconceptions and misunderstandings about Muslims which make people biased towards Islam and result in increasing hate crimes against them. The world has tried to determine the state of spread of Islamic commandments among the public in the world quite differently. Some of the people have found it a positive phenomenon whereas some other have pointed it out rather negatively. Islamophobia has been defined as a form of intolerance and discrimination motivated with fear, mistrust and hatred of Islam and its adherents.<sup>1</sup> It inflated in the Western world especially in America after September 11, 2001 attacks. However, Islamophobia has also been a prevalent sentiment among the Western world long before the September 11 attack, though the attacks resulted in a record increase. People started hating Muslims and labeling them all as terrorists with a biased behavior towards every preacher and believer of the Islamic faith. Runnymede Commission defined Islamophobia as “Anti-Muslim Racism”<sup>2</sup>. It has increased after the September 11 attacks, and people have started thinking of Muslims as violent, inferior, aggressive, backward, and supportive of terrorism. People have started treating Muslims poorly all over the world. It has drastically affected the identities of Muslims who live abroad. The main reason behind this research is that previously researchers have not described the aspects of Islamophobia yet in the analysis of the novel *Native Believer*. Also, Islamophobia is one of the increasing horrors in today’s society. Thus, for this reason, it is necessary to explore it in the field of literature. The writers have portrayed various instances of Islamophobia in their works. This research explores the aspects of Islamophobia, as the researchers have found it with the help of the actions and dialogues of the characters presented in the novel *Native believer* by Ali Eteraz<sup>3</sup>.

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## Research Question

This research paper addresses the following question:

- What are the aspects of Islamophobia as presented in the *Native Believer*?

## Literature Review

The following part of the research addresses different works of literature on Islamophobia, and how it has been treated and conceived in the world of literature by different writers and researchers. As a matter of fact, Islam and Christianity are the most practiced religions in the world. The Runnymede Trust Publication in its report entitled *Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All*, defined Islamophobia as hatred and aggression towards Muslims which is not based on fact<sup>4</sup>. Rather it is based upon practical and social reasons such as discrimination and prejudice towards Muslims, such that that they suspend and ignore the general political and social affairs of the Muslim community and individual<sup>5</sup>. It was first composed in 1980. It was first used in print in 1991 in United States. It is just similar to the terms “Xenophobia” and “Europhobia”<sup>6</sup> and it is a technical term used in academia and media to refer to hatred and fear of Islam and the Muslim community.

Muslims faced discrimination and harassment after the increase of Islamophobia. The people who suffer from internalized Islamophobia try to degrade Muslims and they also try to refuse their rights and agency. Similarly, it has been observed on the connection between Islamophobia and the crisis of Europeanness<sup>7</sup>. Moreover, he defines Islamophobia as “a form of racism”. There can be many cruel actions which collectively constitute towards the oppression faced by the Muslims as a consequence of Islamophobia. These experiences include assault, offense, miss behavior, aggression and criticism. These actions are directed and carried out to refuse the individuality of a Muslim.<sup>8</sup>

As Islamophobia is expanding all over the world, there are many negative consequences on a Muslim’s identity in their article, have explored the consequences on the Muslim community after the

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September 11 attacks when the twin towers collapsed. They have conducted a political discourse analysis of the novel *Home Boy* by critically analyzing the language of the characters. They have studied how stereotypes about Islam and Muslims have been presented in the novel. They have exposed how the American Muslims were prevented from their rights of citizenship after they were claimed as terrorists.<sup>9</sup>

Unfortunately, all Muslims were considered as terrorists after 9/11. Islamophobic people associated terrorism with Islam and Muslims. Riley's study contains an account of how Islamophobia and racism are presented in the novel "*Befocal*" where Toronto 18, a group of young Muslim men, was arrested because they were considered as terrorists. Her work has also examined how the Muslim characters faced racism and Islamophobia at their schools when they were arrested by police officers many times because they were deemed as suspicious and having links with terrorists. Throughout the story they faced Islamophobia and in the end they stood for their rights. She has examined the two elements from the novel, first is the arresting of Muslim boys and second is the decision of one of the boys' sister to wear Abaya, in both situations they faced discrimination and hatred.<sup>10</sup>

The study by Haque explores how global media misrepresents Islam and Muslims, and how media influences the society and makes up the minds of people against Islam and Muslims by representing them as extremists and inherently violent. In another study, it was seen how political parties of India were also prejudiced against Muslims, like the BJP government caused a large-scale identity crisis coupled with religious insecurity among Muslims of the new state of India. By describing social stratification, they have explored how some groups, castes and tribes were considered higher than others, similarly Hindus were considered higher in rank than Muslims. Muslims faced discrimination and hate in their educational institutes as well.<sup>11</sup>

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Usually, the Muslims who live in European countries they always have to be in defensive position, as they always have to face Islamophobia. They have to prove their loyalty to the country. Suleiman, in his study, has presented many qualitative interviews from American Muslims, where the participants were both the youth and Children. It also surveyed how to answer Islamophobic statements and perceptions. He has explored how with the increase in Islamophobia, the American youth has become increasingly defensive, such that they always have to prove their loyalty to the country. He has described the American youth and Children as having internalized the oppression resulting from Islamophobia. Such a situation and mindset render them incapable of constructing their identities, and in the end, they face an identity crisis. He has conducted interviews from Muslim Children where he has concluded that 1 in every 3 children do not want to tell anyone that they were Muslims, and 1 among any 2 Children find themselves in confusion regarding whether they consider themselves firstly as Muslims or Americans. Furthermore, 1 in 6 Children sometimes pretend that they are not Muslims at all. This has been the result of the fear and identity crisis which has been caused by Islamophobia.<sup>12</sup>

However, the Western people have had prejudices against Muslims, as before entering a competition the main character Mohammed Khan who had to win the people talked against him because he was Muslim, so he had to face such discrimination<sup>13</sup>. Pratt has explained four things in his article, firstly he has told how the Western people were ignorant about Islam and that is why they had false perceptions about it, especially since they were mostly shaped by Media and dominant politics. He has analyzed the Islamic identity to overcome the fear of this thought that Islam was a Monolith Religion as he has shared how Islam was a complicated and diverse phenomenon. In the end, he has discussed the major issue faced by Muslims communities which is actually Islamophobia.<sup>14</sup>

Luqiu and Yang have presented a number of important surveys, in which it has been clarified that there was large-scale religious

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discrimination in China. It was based on stereotypes and negative portrayal of Islam and Muslims in the Chinese News Media. As a matter of fact, some of the surveys have expressed that there has been a negative view of Muslims and Islam in China.<sup>15</sup> In one survey Chinese News Media (N=15,427) has exposed that for the last 10 years' news reports demonstrated how the negative image of Islam and Muslims in front of people has created stereotypes, which resulted in the hatred towards Muslims<sup>16</sup>. Dearden<sup>17</sup> has explored how the Muslim majority city of Xinjiang has banned veils, burqas and abnormal beards in the region because they do not want, as Islamophobes, any extremism and terrorism in their country.<sup>18</sup>

Previously the concept of islamophobia was not exquisitely described in the analysis of *Native Believer* hence, the researchers have analyzed the novel *Native Believer* which has the concept of Islamophobia in it, in his novel *Native Believer* has shown the situation of Muslims in America. The researchers have analyzed how the main character of the novel faces Islamophobia. The novel has also portrayed some characters which show how the Muslim community has been living in America and how some of the Muslims have tried to eliminate Islamophobia from the natives and the country, and have tried to educate the people regarding how they are peaceful people. So, the researchers have analyzed this novel to obtain the aspects of Islamophobia.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework of Islamophobia has been applied on the novel "*Native Believer*". This term deals with prejudice and hatred against Muslims. Professor of the Runnymede Trust (1997) Gordon Conway, explored in his report "Islamophobia: a challenge for us all describes, that dislike of Muslims has been increased at the extreme. Phobic dread of Islam is the main characteristic of closed views, whereas appreciation and respect of Islam are main aspects of open views. Those features are:

- Monolithic/ Diverse
- Separate/ Interactive

- Inferior/ Different
- Enemy/ Partner
- Manipulative/ Sincere
- Criticism of West rejected/ Considered
- Discrimination defended/ Criticized
- Islamophobia seen as natural/ Problematic

The researchers have focused on some of the closed views features of Islamophobia to analyze the text. The researchers have taken four closed views features of Islamophobia as follow:

- **Inferior:** West sees Islam and Muslims with the attitude of inferiority. They consider Muslims very uncivilized, violent and cruel.
- **Enemy:** They consider Muslims as their violent, threatening, aggressive and supportive of terrorism and they treat Muslims with the attitude of enmity.
- **Separate:** They consider Muslims as other and separate from themselves.
- In the last feature, they perceive **Islamophobia seen as natural** and a right thing to do.

### **Discussion and Analysis**

M, who is main character from the novel *Native Believer*, is the narrator of the story, and he is the one who introduces himself with this letter M when an old man asks his name. We can conclude here that he does not share his name with everyone because he is a Muslim and he must have a Muslim name. Thus, he believes if he introduces himself to anybody, he might get into trouble as the west has majority of Islamophobes over there; hence, he avoids telling his full name to everybody.

#### **1. Inferior**

In *Native Believer*, Etera has presented this concept of Islamophobia. In the novel, the attitude of superiority and prejudice against Muslims can be seen when M's boss finds the copy of Koran

at the top of the book shelf in M's house. He starts questioning him by saying:

*"You put the collected ... Devil of Bavaria. I'm just asking...."*<sup>19</sup>

He confirms from him if it's an expression of residual supremacism. As a matter of fact, that Koran is the gift from his late mother, he has never touched it, he does not even consider himself Muslim either but he faces such discrimination because of his Muslim name. Islamophobes usually hate everything linked with Muslims let it be a holy scripture of Muslims or the appearances of Muslims. It is clear after this incident that George does not have a problem with putting anything above Nietzsche, rather he has a problem with the Holy book of Muslims and so as he is showing hate towards it indirectly.

Moreover, M is fired from the office later on because of putting the Quran above the books of Nietzsche; although he was expecting a promotion, he got the news of being fired. If we look at the behavior of George here he has just fired M because he contains a copy of Quran in his house, it is illogical to fire anyone who just contains his holy scripture in his house. Let's take an example, there is a Christian man who contains Bible in his house so his boss fires him because of this reason it will offend us and we will think it is injustice towards that man. Similarly, here injustice happens with M. Note that by comparing example of Quran with Bible is not for making any difference or hatred but just to explain an example. When he enters the office and he says;

*"I knew ... George who spoke"*<sup>20</sup>, and *"I deserve ... getting laid off"*<sup>21</sup>

The reason is not logical because it is done by an Islamophobe who hates Muslim without any reason and so as it happens here, he was unable to tell the reason of firing M from the office. Afterwards, one of his co-workers Candace interprets that it is a discrimination and hatred towards Muslims. She reveals that there are some terms he kept using after the party and she believes it may somehow be related to the matter of firing M from the office. She reveals that those terms are *"Arrogate"*, *"Quixotic"*, *"Ataraxia"* and *"Residual*



*Supremacism.*"<sup>22</sup> So, if we examine these terms we can observe George has some serious issues and problems with Muslims as he was unable to forget the Koran which was placed above the poet Nietzsche, as a result, he kept using those terms again and again and at last fired M from the office. Candace also apprises that;

*"He kept pointing to the book shelf and repeating it. I haven't put together what it has to do with him firing you, but deep down I know there's a connection."*<sup>23</sup>

M faces such discrimination in America, while he always considers America more important than anything else. The prejudice and hatred towards Muslims can be seen here when George fires him without any reason but because he has Muslim name and he contains the copy of Koran in his house.

## **2. Separate**

M has internalized Islamophobia as he gets fired from the office because of being Muslim. He feels that everything around him accuses him of being Muslim. He goes to the river side where he sees wood sticks above the surface, he says those sticks are;

*"Like fingers pointed ... a Muslim"*<sup>24</sup>.

The feeling of separateness can be discerned here as M is feeling he is separate from others because he is Muslim. If we notice the other way around this feeling of separateness arises in him because of the biased behavior received by his boss George. So Islamophobes make Muslims realize that they are separate and inferior to them, they usually do it by their harsh behavior towards Muslims. Moreover, when his wife asks what type of prejudice is that, he says that prejudice we hear daily on news the one that goes like:

*"Muslims can't be trusted. ... culture; a pariah"*<sup>25</sup>.

The characteristics of second feature are Western people scrutinize Muslims as others and separate told by Runnymede Trust. Equivalently this research illustrates that it is the society where Muslims are unacceptable, they are being restricted from working with others and from getting immunity. This depicts Islamophobia is seen as natural in the Western world. Even their news channels

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portray Muslims as some separate beings who are violent and supportive of terrorism.

In this scenario his wife suggests him to tell his boss that Koran was just a gift from his late mother or he can say to his boss that he has thrown it in the river. As a matter of fact, everyone must have some respect for the Holy Scriptures it doesn't matter to whose religion it belongs to or is related to. Here, Marie-Anne lacks this respect and behaves so disrespectfully but M somehow has that respect for the Holy Scripture he asks her if she can do the same thing with Bible or not. In response, she says to him that no one would associate the Bible with those things that the Koran is associated with, she says;

*"...it's just ... harmless as these cartoons."*<sup>26</sup>

She says such things about the Muslim's Holy Book and it shows the hatred for Muslims which exists deep down in her heart, which is something natural and they consider it is right to do. They consider Muslims as others and separate, to whom they can insult, hate and banish easily by their words and actions. He says "So the Koran is a horror film that makes men into lying villains, and the Bible is what? A romantic comedy? Disney? It makes princes out of men? (Eteraz 2016, 35). By analyzing this discussion among Marie-Anne and M, we can conclude that Marie-Anne is also possessed by the media and has negative image of Koran and Muslims, she is uttering such statements although she says that she is trying to convey what George Gabriel thinks about Muslims but she indirectly shows that she also hates Muslims and their book. Here, when she says the Bible is not associated with the things that Koran is associated with notifies us that she thinks Koran is a separate kind of book which actually harms people.

Unfortunately, when someone feels insecure about what he is or she is related to, either it is a matter of religion or some nationality, they try not to attach themselves with that specific religion or nationality in front of others. They reject what they are in reality. Similarly, M does the same, he rejects in front of others that he is Muslim. He says;

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*"I didn't do anything to willfully attach myself to Muslims, I had figured I would be secure."*<sup>27</sup>

He knows being attached to Islam can get him into some danger as Islamophobia has increased rapidly in America, so he has decided to get away from the danger by simply telling other people that he is not Muslim. But his name associated with Muslims has brought him danger anyway, he has lost his job. If we see other way around this simply shows that West has some misunderstandings and misconceptions about Muslims, which are creating fear among Muslims who live abroad, such that they feel insecure while living there. They are not even getting their rights and they have this feeling of separateness.

### **3. Enemy**

West has misconceptions and misunderstandings about Islam so they treat Muslims with the attitude of enmity who they think usually kill nonbelievers without any reason. So they are afraid of Islam and Muslims and as a result, they treat them as their enemy. M after being fired from the office goes to different places to pin his business cards and once he goes to Temple University where he sees some students are protesting. Those students disclose that they are trying to eliminate Islamophobia from America. They wear shirts and they have charts in their hands which have some slogans to promote their campaign. The mugs they carry have slogans:

*"Terrorism ... Insult Islam", and "Hug a Muslim."*<sup>28</sup>

This depicts that they are worried about the hatred of people for them, so they start proving themselves peaceful through these campaigns. Runnymede Trust defines third feature of Islamophobia as people treating Muslims with the attitude of enmity, they think Muslims are violent, threatening, backward and aggressive who can poison their country. Likewise this example from the text illustrates that natives get extremely afraid from Muslims as they are trying to mock them at their work places and universities. Because they consider Muslims as their enemy they cannot see them settling in their country as well so they try to tease them and harm them. In

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this way, they think Muslims will go out from their country. Furthermore, these students put these charts on buses and different places to tell people that:

*"Islam is about piety and safety and caution and patience and piece."*<sup>29</sup>

It depicts they have experienced the feeling of separateness from the people of America. Due to increase in their wrath for Muslims, Muslims feel an inferiority complex. Due to this, they always try to prove themselves peaceful, patient and good. One of these students Saba says that they have received these Anti Sharia bills which restrict them from arranging religious weddings and funeral. Unfortunately they are not allowed to build mosques as well<sup>30</sup>. It delineates their wrath for Muslims as one that is extremely and excessively biased, as they have not allowed them to build mosques and to make any religious weddings and funerals. As a result, Muslims always have to appear in defensive position to prove their loyalty to their country.

In addition, one of the students Ali Ansari declares that 20 years ago people saw us with loveable eye. That was the time was without any misconception about Muslims. But now people see Muslims with the attitude of enmity, the one who can poison their countries. He says there is only one way they can do better and that is *"to clarify misconceptions"* about Muslims<sup>31</sup>. It depicts that before 9/11 people were not that much biased towards Islam this is logical that they hated Muslims after this incident but they illogically linked the activity of small group of terrorists with the capacious religion. The main problem is that the West has dragged religion into it and in result not only Muslims who suffered but other people from different religion also suffered.

West's outrage for Muslims has extended so much that they cannot see any Muslim as a hero of nation or as a symbol of bravery. So they usually try to humiliate Muslim who is somehow become famous as in this novel the wrestler Hassan Hussain is. Ali goes to see wrestling along with M and notifies him what he just saw was a fake fighting, and it is just a social drama. He says people come here

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just to get the new story. He also tells him about the wrestler whose name is Martin Mirandella. Whose real name was Hassan Hussian. He had beaten so many wrestles. Once he played as a Muslim in wrestling and the association always denied him a title shot. One day one of the referees *“who cheated Hassan out of a sure win”* was killed by four men<sup>32</sup>. The association called him a terrorist and cancelled their contract with him. From then, he is fighting and wrestling as white. The reason for this as Ali explained it is that;

*“It was as if they couldn’t ... I want to show that to the world.”*<sup>33</sup>

It illustrates how all of this happens to Hassan just to defame him because he was on the cusp of heroism and some aspirants of the Anti-Islam agenda and mindset could not digest it, so they slandered him by labeling him as a terrorist.

#### **4. Islamophobia seen as natural**

The bad experiences of Muslims in America don’t stop here. Many more people have become the victims of Islamophobia and lose their rights. 9/11 incident is the starting point from where the West started abhorring Islam and Muslims. There were many bad incidents which happened after 9/11 around the world which were mostly against Muslims. Islamophobia surged after the fall of the twin towers. Many innocent people were suspected and blamed to be terrorists and went to the jail.

Similarly, in the text one of Ali’s co-workers and friends Farkhunda belongs to a Muslim family. Her father’s name was Mushtaq Hakim who was millionaire physician-turned-philanthropist. He usually gave charities to those Muslims who were victimized in the war against terrorism from different countries like Kashmir, Iraq, Palestine and many more places. Their family was happy but after 9/11, he was suspected to give material support to terrorism because one the families he had given charity produced a suicide bomber. Mushtaq opposed it by saying that how he could have known out of so many families to whom he had given charity that he inclines towards

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terrorism. But no one believed him and he spent rest of his life in jail<sup>34</sup>. The last and fourth closed views feature of Islamophobia is defined by Runnymede Trust as West sees Islamophobia as natural and they believe it is good to hate Muslims.

Equivalently this example from the text depicts how people who blindly hate Muslims can never trust them anyway and declare them as terrorists. It illustrates that no matter what, if anyone who is Muslim can easily be linked with terrorism and suspected to be a terrorist and no one will ask for justice, he will be taken to the jail at any cost. As Islamophobia is seen as natural in the Western world so it is natural to suspect any Muslim as terrorist.

As a matter of fact, when some issues become instinctive, people take it naturally and they do not care if it will harm innocent people. The hatred of Muslims has become natural in Western world, they teach their children to hate Islam and Muslims as well. Same thing happened with the Muslims after 9/11, because in the surge of Islamophobia, Muslims got served with so much hate and animosity. In the text, once M frankly says his friend Ali is he going to tell him or he will kill himself. Ali says to him to be careful saying about killing himself because people already have misconceptions about Muslims. He says;

*"You are someone ... them along with you."*<sup>35</sup>

This delineates that as M is Muslim and even he is joking about killing himself but people would believe in it. Such that they would think he is going to take them along with him as they consider all Muslims as suicide bombers. The fear of being distrusted by other people can be seen here.

9/11 has become the black day in the history of the world and not only for Americans who are not Muslims but for all Muslims as well. Before those towers fell down, everyone had the chance to blame Muslims for everything bad happening in the world and later they came up with an excuse. The Muslims are associated with terrorism. The world becomes a devil for Muslims after that incident. In the text Ali says that if anyone is Indian is worried about

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the complaints of Pakistan about Kashmir, he has the right to call them Muslims and declare them a terrorist state.

It means it is so easy to blame anyone if anyone belongs to the religion Islam. And it is easy to declare them a terrorist or a supporter of terrorism. He elaborates further that if anyone is Israeli and he does not want to give even a little piece of Palestine, he can simply call them Muslims and he will get the right to keep and protect their tanks. If anyone is Russian who is being told by Chechens to stop raping their women, he can just call them a Muslim and then he can do whatever he wants to do. If anyone is Chinese struggling with some poor Uighur who are just asking for some respect, he can just call them Muslims and send their leaders to jail. If anyone is European and in their country they have millions of illiterate Turks, and Moroccans and Algerians and Libyans, whom for so many years they have not allowed any rights nor citizenship, they can just call them Muslims and they can declare them criminals, fascist and lazy. And if anyone is American and some people want to go to different countries to bomb them in order to take their oil and other resources, they can just call them Muslims and they can get the license to get in to the town.

These quotes altogether explain the situation of Muslims around the world. No matter what, if one country has a majority of the Muslim population, it will be considered a terrorist country because Islam is labeled as a terrorist religion and then the West has every right to go there and take all their natural resources.

One of the reasons of growing Islamophobia in the Western world is the fear they have that if Islamic history repeats itself, they will be suppressed. Since in the past Muslims have proved themselves as strong leaders and they ruled the world. They fear from Muslims because Muslims do not fear anyone except Allah because of their strong faith. So they are afraid of a Muslim's strong faith on Allah. From the novel, narrator M goes to the mosque, with his friend Candace, who is recently converted into Islam, where he listens to the speech of Sheikh Shakil. He says in his speech that in the world

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the only religion that is feared is Islam, no other than it. He says that other people fear when they stand before Allah, they actually fear their prayers and their strong faith on Allah. He further says; “They don’t fear Osama. They don’t fear the Taliban. Hezbollah. Qaeda. None of them. They got no reason to fear them. They fear belief in something higher than them.”<sup>36</sup>.

It clearly illustrates the main reason why some people are just blaming Muslims for everything, as it is just their fear about how strong the belief of Muslims on Allah. They actually know the power of a real Muslim that is why they fear from them and always try to prove them as terrorists and make them feel inferior to them. Muslims are facing troubles since they are losing their beloved ones and natural resources just because of this Islamophobia, which has been spread throughout the world by misconceptions and misunderstandings about the Muslims. They behave inadequately with Muslims and consider them as inferior, separate, and enemy. They think it is important to hate a Muslim wherever they come across a Muslim and make them feel separate, weird and inferior to them. These things are making Islamophobia something natural. Consequently, in the Western world people see Muslims with the strange look and treat them harshly.

As a result, the Islamophobic aspects which have been found are hatred towards Muslims, Anti-Muslim prejudice, attitude of enmity, attitude of inferiority, and the consideration of separateness for Muslims, Anti-Muslim discrimination.

### **Conclusion**

Conclusively, the research illustrates that there is a concept of Islamophobia in *Native Believer*. Through the help of the theory of Islamophobia presented by professor Conway Gordon in his report “Islamophobia: A challenge for us all”, the researchers have obtained the aspects of Islamophobia from the novel. It illustrates the situations of the Muslim minority community as to how they are residing the US. One of the characters from the novel *Native Believer*, Shaikh Shakil believes Islamophobes know the real power of Islam. They know that

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if the Muslim community gets a chance to express themselves freely and impartially, they can bring peace in the world.

Muslims can also bring equality by eradicating the disparity between the supposed superior and inferior; or white and black communities of the West. The aspects of Islamophobia that have been learnt through the documentary evidences until present can be as follows: hatred for the Muslims, Anti-Muslim prejudice, enmity, inferiority, Anti-Muslim discrimination and the consideration of separateness for Muslims. The struggle of the Muslim minority that is trying to eliminate this phobia from the country has been observed in this research. As a matter of fact, the reasons behind the upswing in Islamophobia are misconceptions and misrepresentation of Muslims through media, which include brainwashing the minds of the people and instigating hatred in their hearts for Muslims.

As a result, the violence against Muslims is also increasing rapidly in the country. The study also highlights that different characters from *Native Believer* are being portrayed as victims of this phobia in different demeanors; however, they somehow try to settle in the country. In order to do so, they struggle to prove themselves as peaceful residents, generous and wise citizens of the country, who are endeavoring to work hard for the development and progress of the country. While experiencing bad situations everywhere in the country, they have internalized Islamophobia as the main character M fears to reveal to the people that he is a Muslim because he thinks that in this way, he ought to be secure from any harm.

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