



*Assalato Wasallaamo 'Alaika Yaa Rasool Allah*

صلى الله عليه وسلم

*Wa 'Alaa Aalika Wa As Haabika Yaa Noor Allah*

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# Islam and Globalisation

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**Published by:**

**Maktab e Taibah**

Markaz Ismail Habib Masjid

126, Kambekar St, Mumbai 3.



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صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَكَفَى وَ سَلَامٌ عَلَىٰ عِبَادِهِ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَىٰ ۚ أَمَا بَعْدُ  
فَاعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ ۚ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ۚ  
قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُنذِرٌ وَلِكُلِّ قَوْمٍ هَادٍ ۚ صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

Beloved friend Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Shakir Noorie Razvi, Ameer Sunni Dawat e Islami, respected brother Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Qasim Sahib, former member Bihar Assembly, special host, respected Faruq Darvaish Sahib, respected attendees, esteemed elders! Let us all, with utmost devotion and reverence, send blessings upon the focal point of our respect, the master of both worlds, mercy to all, King of Madinah, Muhammad Rasoolullah صلى الله عليه وسلم:

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَمَوْلَانَا مُحَمَّدٍ مَعْدِنِ الْجُودِ وَالْكَرَمِ وَإِلِهِ الْكِرَامِ أَجْمَعِينَ

Respected brothers! The topic of my speech today is 'Islam and globalisation.' This subject is present in some corner of the mind of all intelligent people due to the fact the claim is being made very vigorously nowadays that the world has become a global village, and therefore, everyone's thinking, economics, culture etc should be the same all over the world. Where does Islam stand in relation to this claim being made by the world? Where do Muslim's stand? It is essential for us to know this.

I could have chosen a topic that was more relevant to our daily lives but this is a special quality of Sunni Dawat e Islami in that where on the one hand it invites towards Sunnahs, it also undertakes the admirable task of enlightening us on the state of the world. It is a Grace of Allah Almighty that through this claim of globalisation, branches of Sunni Dawat e Islami are working in many different countries carrying out its

duties and if we all dutifully fulfil our obligations in this era of globalisation, our future can be very bright.

The state of the world today is such that all the different nations, tribes, groups etc are doing everything possible to spread their ideals, philosophies, morals, values and historical narrations all over the world. Those who aim to control the economy of the world, whether by lawful or unlawful means, do everything they can possibly do in order to control the economies of all the nations of the world. In this day and age, the battlefield has changed. In the past, lands and natural resources were occupied whereas nowadays the race is on to control financial and business markets. Each nation, each group, each community, especially those who consider themselves to be First World members, desire that the control of the global economy should be in their hands, the control of financial markets should be in their hands; there should be no aspect of life that is not in our control.

Nowadays, many companies are setting up locations in many different areas and reaping the benefits of that. Those who have the capabilities are trying to get as far ahead as possible. Who benefits from this? In this war, in this race, those who can prove their economic superiority will win. What will happen is that the wealth of the world will go into the hands of the powerful and they will rule the world as they please. In this manner, it is the attempt of different ideologies and different governments, especially the so called 'developed' nations, that there should be no other system in the world except for our system. Any governments that are formed in the world, any kingdom or territory that is set up should be set up according to our system – regardless of how many shortcomings and faults there are in that system. In order to reach their goal, if they have to raze communities, bulldoze cities or reduce buildings to debris, they will. Their aim is that their system of democracy and governance should be established and they will do whatever it takes to ensure that that happens. In this manner, the whole world will be under one universal system of government – no other system of governance or ideology is acceptable to them.

It is the same situation with culture. Great efforts are being made in order to colour everyone with the same culture, morals, clothing and same system of living and the media has, to a large extent, fulfilled this duty. Up until yesterday, it was only people in the west that were

scantily clad and now people in the east are also almost naked. Up until yesterday they had their own culture and now the culture here is the same as theirs. The things that were happening over there which we were turning away from and rejecting are also happening over here now. So one culture, one way of living, one system of government, one economic system, one society, and an attempt is also quietly being made to ensure that there is only one religion for all.

Most of the religions in the world are not living religions. However, there is one religion that is a living religion. It is the most powerful in terms of its point of view and its ideals. It has its own way of life, its own morals and values, its own civilisation, its own economic system, its own system of conducting business. All the power and influence of the media is being used to discredit this religion so that this religion cannot play any role in this era of globalisation, and that only one religion remains in the world, one system, one economy, one way of life, and this will benefit the group which today claims to control the world. This is the state of the world today which I have briefly described. This is a very lengthy subject and it is clear that it cannot be explained fully in a short gathering.

My respected companions! Islam has its own concept of globalisation and has had this concept since its inception. Let us first of all present this concept to the world. First of all let me say that if we understand the psychology and aim of movements and organisations, and undertake to work with Islamic ideals then we will have a bright role to play in the coming era. We will be seen, heard and noticed on the globalisation platform. There are many roadblocks and the situation is very difficult but through the generations Allah Ta'ala has granted Islam the opportunity to shine in even more difficult situations when Muslims were sincere and had the passion to carry out the work.

Let us first of all look at our economy and see where we stand in terms of economy. We make up 22% of the world population. Every fourth or fifth person is a Muslim. Our population is 22% and Allah Ta'ala has granted us 24% of the mineral resources in the world. Even though they may not be under our control but they are our resources, are the resources of our lands and our countries. This means that Allah Ta'ala has granted us more than our population needs ahead of time. The Almighty has not treated us unfairly. He cannot be unfair; He is the

Supreme embodiment of justice and fairness. Our population is 22% and our resources, which are not in our control, are 24%. The greatest and most powerful resource is oil and we have approximately 75% of the world's oil resources, just imagine. However, you will be saddened to learn and will cry tears of blood when you realise that we only control about 5% of the world's wealth. This is the economic state in which we are living. 22% of the population is living on 5% of the wealth. This is our state in spite of having 24% of the natural resources and owning almost 75% of the oil reserves. You are all aware that oil is such a great commodity that no equipment, no factory, no car, no aeroplane can operate without oil and that is the reason all these efforts are being made to control our oil and our resources.

Those are our resources. It is our bad fortune that we have not appreciated our resources, our minerals or our lands. Neither have we appreciated our tools nor the strength of our labour and workforce. The result has been that our resources are controlled by others and we stand apologetically in front of those who are powerful like beggars. This is our economic state that I have presented in front of you.

As far as our religious values are concerned it is thanks to the efforts of religious scholars and preachers and envoys that we are known and recognised as followers of a living religion. Without doubt, in terms of numbers, Christianity is the largest religion in the world. However, in terms of practising and acting upon the teachings of the religion, Muslims are the largest group. Christians either do not believe in God or are atheist. They have no connection with the church anymore. Religion has become a plaything for them and the church has lost its strength and power. Modern secular governments declare lawful all those things which are declared as unlawful in the Bible, Old Testament and the Psalms, and the church supports them in their decisions. Just as adultery, sodomy, homosexuality, etc are unlawful in the Qur'an, they are also unlawful in the Old Testament and the Bible. Drinking alcohol is also unlawful in the Bible and Old Testament. Not covering oneself is also unlawful in the Old Testament. The Old Testament goes as far as to say that if a woman does not cover her head her hair should be shaved off so that she is shamed into covering her head. However, the uproar created by the whole world today to try and get Islam to change its stand on Hijab is in front of your eyes, it needs no explanation. The

church has surrendered as it does not have the strength to implement its values and ideals on a global religious scale. The only religion that has not surrendered and Insha Allah will never surrender is the religion of Islam. This is a living force and power and the world is sensing that if we do not stop the path and rise of Islam, then in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, if not on an economical or cultural level, it will definitely lead the world on a religious level. All the propaganda that is aimed at Islam is an attempt to stop the rapid spread of Islam.

As far as our culture is concerned, if we do not present and display our culture to the world in a positive manner with reasoning then the tidal wave of the media will drown our culture. Our homes will be filled with the kind of nudity that is found in the homes of the rest of the world and will have no identity, no individuality and no distinctive characteristics. We will become faceless; will lose our individuality and our identity. Our culture is our identity, our culture is our face, our culture is our recognition, our culture is our introduction. Our culture is our identity and if we do not attempt to safeguard our culture and let it drown in the flood of the world then we will not be able to recognise ourselves. We will be standing on the road looking at our child tomorrow and thinking 'Which alley and gutter is he passing through and where is he going?' This will be the situation we will find ourselves in. This is the state of our culture.

You must sense and realise quite clearly that propagating Islam, inviting to Islam, spreading Islam has been a great responsibility of Muslims in all generations. However, in this generation, this is not merely the responsibility of one group, rather in this generation it has become the greatest struggle (Jihad). We are in a state of war, not the kind that is fought with swords and weapons. This is a war of viewpoints, theories, knowledge, culture, civilisation, economies and livelihood. We are in a state of war and those that are in a state of war cannot afford to be lavish, carefree, cannot afford to spend time amusing oneself, cannot afford to sleep, cannot be heedless or unaware, and cannot afford to waste his time. The nation that is in a state of war will always remain alert and awake and in a state of readiness to face the might of the enemy. If we realise this feeling and fulfil our obligations then we have complete faith that we will not be at a loss.

Allah Ta'ala has granted us a very powerful way of life and routine. It is a living strength, a living faith, the point of view and perspective of a living God. The way of life of a living Prophet, a living book – we are living, our book is living, our Prophet is living and our Lord is living. We have to remain alive and understand the value of life ourselves and make others aware of it also. If we are deficient in this, if we remain sleeping, if we are neglectful, if we do not feel like we are in the midst of a battle and are in the battlefield then undoubtedly the flood will overwhelm us and will eventually drown us.

This is a cursory outline that I have presented before you which can be expanded on in great detail. You know better than me as I am speaking to an educated and chosen group of people today. Let us take a brief look at the Islamic concept of globalisation. I can say with full faith and conviction that when the world had not even thought of globalisation, when the world had no idea that this world will be reduced to a global village, when there was no concept of globalisation, at that time it was only Islam that gave the world the concept of globalisation; a comprehensive, far reaching, and complete theory of globalisation.

Today, the world is trying to bring together all nations, but only after separating them. The reality is that first of all they separate nations and people and then tries to bring them together. These are Eastern people, these are Western, these are British, these are German, these are French, these are Indian, these are African, these are American. First they separate them on the basis of geography, language, economic strength etc and then they try and bring them together. Sometimes through the European Union, United Nations and other times through globalisation; first they are separated and then they try and bring them together. Islam declared this kind of separation to be false and wrong a long time ago as there is no such separation in Islam. When the first conference was held in Geneva to discuss human rights, someone said,

**Makkah gave the soil of Geneva the message...**

**League of Nations or league of humans**

Are you trying to unite nations or humans? If you are trying to unite nations then remove the walls of nations as humans are all the same. The Holy Qur'an is the first book that gave people the concept and mindset that all humans are the same, there is no difference amongst them. The difference in geography, languages and colour is merely for

identification. As far as their values, rights, morals and passions are concerned they are all the same – “You are all children of Adam and Adam was created from the earth.”

When the Bible addresses people it says, “O Children of Israel!” When the Qur'an addresses people it says, “O People!” – It addresses all people. The Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam is being told, “O Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam! Tell them that I am a warner and have come as the Prophet for the whole universe.” When he is being mentioned he is not referred to as mercy for the world, rather he is referred to as mercy for all the worlds. He is mercy for all regardless of whether they live in the west or the east. When he is referred to as a warner he is referred to as a warner to all the worlds and he is guidance for all the worlds. This concept of all the worlds is a superior and more elevated concept than globalisation. You are trying to bring all the people of this world together but Islam has brought the whole universe together. Islam brings together the entire universe and presents the life of the Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam as an example and role model for the whole universe.

The concept of globalisation or one world order was given first of all by the Qur'an and 1400 years ago the Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam said, “O People! Unite on one creed (Kalimah). You believe in Allah and so do we; therefore unite on what we share in common and destroy the differences and the disagreements.” Remember! In that era, the identity of people was on the basis on their religion. There were three communities living in Madinah – Jews, Christians and the Muslims who had just entered Madinah. Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam gave the first concept of globalisation in the first agreement made in Madinah between the three communities when he said, “We are all one and if the honour, prestige, moral values and traditions of any one of us is attacked, we will unite and defend them together. You are Christians and Jews, you remain Christians and Jews with your identities but come and we will unite and stand as one under the banner of humanity and human rights.”

The basis of economics initiated by the Beloved Prophet, Sovereign of the Worlds Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam was solely based on humanity and that is why all things that were obstacles in the path of economic prosperity and well-being were negated and removed. Through interest the rich

have always oppressed the poor. Even here the situation today is that a person buys a home and then spends his whole life trying to pay for it. He has to pay an amount which is three or four times greater than his purchase price. A person's working life is about 25-30 years and he spends it all trying to repay his debt. We realise that these interest hungry nations give one roof and steal the strength, energy and efforts of a person's whole life. A person is left with nothing. All he gains is one roof but he gives up everything else. He strives and works hard, earns money and then has to give it all away. This is the reason that Islam outlawed interest and stated that if you want to help a person then do it in such a way that you do not control all his resources and do not take all his earnings from him; do not steal his comfort and strength. Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam removed and destroyed the class system. The most damaging part of globalisation is the class system. It is amazing that the nations of today talk about globalisation but readily accept a class system.

This person is middle class, this person is lower class, and this person is upper class. First they separate based on economics, then based on geography, then based on language etc. Even after all these separations they talk about globalisation. This is nothing but a pipe dream. The real reason and motive behind their talk of globalisation is that they desire that all the resources of the world should be controlled by a very few select nations. Their aim and desire is that people conduct business, markets are vibrant and healthy, wealth is abundant – but that this wealth should only be distributed amongst a chosen few hands and nations. Their ambition is that only their viewpoint, ideals and morals should be propagated. The Holy Qur'an has stated that you are all children of Adam. By calling us all the children of Adam, the Qur'an has removed all the barriers and walls and separations that humans put up. Christians, Jews, Hindus, Muslims etc are all children of Adam. We can safely say, without any fear of reproach, that on the basis of humanity they are all our brothers. The daughter of each nation is our daughter; the sister of each nation is our sister because she is the daughter of Adam. No one can deny the fact that she is the daughter of Adam and Hawwa. This is the reason that you cannot find any incident in 1400 years of history where Muslims occupied any nation and attempted to damage the honour or prestige of that nation. This never happened because they understood her to be a daughter or a sister. Her respect is

our respect, her honour is our honour. Her reputation and her dignity were considered their own. So, first of all, the barriers of creed and colour were demolished. The class system was abolished. The foundations given by Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam at the farewell sermon are concrete and strong fundamentals for globalisation. The Beloved Prophet Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam said, "I have crushed all forms of discrimination based on race, creed, colour etc under his feet. You are all children of Adam and Adam was created from earth. An Arab does not have superiority over a non Arab; a non Arab does not have superiority over an Arab, except in terms of piety. Look! Be gentle with and fulfil the rights of women and slaves because this group has always suffered tyranny and oppression through the generations. Do not be unjust with them. Be kind and gentle with them."

I would like to state, and ask you to ponder and think, that the notion of unifying the nations after separating the people is a dream that can never come true. It is a distant dream that cannot be fulfilled until all nations are considered and believed to be equal as humans. The foundation and concept of globalisation that Islam has given is based on unity amongst humanity. Humans are one and if there is unity amongst humans one nation will not oppress or intimidate another nation. The companies of the Western nations will not take all the wealth of the Eastern nations, will not control their financial markets, will not pillage and plunder their lands. Their natural resources will not be controlled by others because they will realise that they are also humans like us and they have the same status and rights as us. They have as much right to live with prestige and dignity as we do. If the Qur'anic concept of globalisation spreads the world will become smaller, will become united and organised, as opposed to trampling on the rights of each other. They will not seize each other's economies and people will not commit injustices on each other. They will not be unfair in their dealings with each other and will not turn away from each other. Rather, they will have complete respect and will value each other's rights.

Without doubt, let the world present whatever concept of globalisation it wishes, but as Muslims, our responsibility is to correctly and accurately present the Islamic concept of globalisation to the world. If we do this faithfully with full strength and vigour, with our system of propagation then one day the world will be forced to believe and accept

as true that it is only Islam that can unite the whole world. No other religion, except for Islam, can unite the whole world. As far as religions are concerned, the separate religions are before you. However, is there any other religion, except for Islam, that can unify and unite the world? Islam has within itself the ability and capability to unite the whole world.

Let us for a moment presume that Judaism is the religion for the whole world. The Jews do not believe Hazrat 'Isa 'Alaihis Salaam to be a Prophet. They attack his purity and level accusations at his beloved and respected mother. If you take Christianity to be the religion for the whole world or try and make that the only religion for all humans, they do not accept or believe in Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam. How is it possible for one fifth of the population to accept a religion that does not believe in its Prophet? However, if Islam is to be the religion for all, the dignity of Hazrat 'Isa 'Alaihis Salaam is safeguarded and the faith of Hazrat Moosa 'Alaihis Salaam is also accepted and protected. It is only Islam that can unite the whole world in the name of religion.

Just imagine! Two chapters of the Holy Qur'an are revealed in relation to Hazrat 'Isa 'Alaihis Salaam. Whatever they (the Christians) are doing with us is their politics and strategies. However, when they read the Qur'an they will be forced to have affection for us. Either we have not presented the Qur'an to them properly or they have not gone near it. Those people who have not tried to understand the Holy Qur'an try to put it into the background forever by claiming it is a book about fundamentalism and terrorism. Two chapters, Surah Maryam, and Surah Aal e Imran, are about the family, status and rank of Hazrat 'Isa 'Alaihis Salaam as the Spirit of Allah. It is a great favour of the Holy Qur'an that there are specific verses regarding Christianity and its rules otherwise Christians would have a difficult time proving their history and the historical significance of Hazrat 'Isa 'Alaihis Salaam. It is the blessed Qur'an which safeguarded their history and the rank and status of Hazrat 'Isa 'Alaihis Salaam.

It is the same with Hazrat Moosa 'Alaihis Salaam and the other Prophets. If the laws of the Holy Qur'an are implemented then undoubtedly mutual understanding will be created, even though people can still be followers of different religions, but this is only possible if the laws and rules of the Qur'an are kept in mind and followed. No other

opinion, other than the Qur'an, can unite and unify. Surah Maryam and Surah Aal e Imran are two chapters which mention in detail about the life of Hazrat 'Isa 'Alaihis Salaam and the family of Hazrat 'Isa 'Alaihis Salaam.

Respected colleagues in Islam! As far as economy and livelihood is concerned, I have already mentioned to you that you make up 22% of the world's population and your resources and assets, which are in the ground or in vaults, make up 24% of the world's wealth. Due to the fact that you control over 70% of the oil resources, if the nation can learn how to manage and use all the resources that they have, then the economic leadership will be yours also as no-one else has the resources or assets.

Respected colleagues in Islam! Business and trade is the basis for the strongest push for globalisation – etiquettes, civilisation, religion etc are all a distant second. At this time, business people only want to unite the world for business and trade purposes. Let us look at it from the viewpoint of the Holy Qur'an. No religion in the world has classified business and trade as a form of worship, and I say this with full conviction and challenge anyone to prove me wrong. Many religions of the world have declared as unlawful the earning of worldly wealth. The words of Hazrat 'Isa 'Alaihis Salaam are present in the Bible where he said that if you want to enter into the heavenly kingdom then cut your ties with this world. It is the same situation with other religions. It is only Islam that has classified conducting trade and business as a form of worship. Allah Ta'ala's Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam could have spent his life without conducting business but he made it a goal for himself to conduct business. By adopting this practice even before inviting to Islam, before announcing his Prophethood, is an indication that each aspect of the Prophet's life is worthy of copying and emulating.

Those people are very misguided who say that his life after the age of forty should be copied and not his life before that age. So does that mean that there are no laws and no examples in the Prophet's life for children to follow? Is there nothing for teenagers and youth to follow? Are only 23 years of his blessed life worthy of respect and admiration? Maybe the people who say these things have not understood Islam. I would like to say to those people that if your claim is that only his life after forty is worthy of following, then show me any aspect of his life

from the time he was born until he turned forty that goes against the teachings of the Holy Qur'an. Is there anything in his blessed life up to the age of forty that is contrary to the Qur'an? The Qur'an is revealed after the age of forty but each second of the blessed life of the Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam is according to the teachings of the Qur'an. It was the wish of Allah Ta'ala that "O Beloved! For forty years live like the Qur'an and after the age of forty, recite to them the Qur'an so that your life becomes the proof of your claim."

Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam even said to them, "Why do you falsify and contradict me? Why do you deny me? I have spent a large part of my life amongst you. Look at my past and investigate the validity of my claim fully." Every second and every part of the life of Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam is worthy of following and emulating and this includes business. The first journey undertaken by Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam was for business, when he travelled to conduct business. I would like to state that Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam conducted business and gave it the status of being a Sunnah and being worship. Maulana Shakir Noorie is present; if every Sunnah is worship then conducting business is also a form of worship.

Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam gave business and trade a very important status when he stated that, "A trustworthy and honest businessman will be with the Prophets, the truthful and the righteous." At one point in the Qur'an, regarding pious people it states, "**...he will get the company of those who have been blessed by, Allah, viz. the Prophets, and the truthful, and martyrs and the righteous, and what good companions are they.**" These are the words of the Qur'an and here Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam is saying that an honest and trustworthy businessman will be raised with Prophets, the truthful and the righteous – a truthful, trustworthy and honest businessman.

Do you know why Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam stipulated this condition? An honest and truthful businessman will never abuse or torment anyone, will never defraud anyone or take their money unlawfully and will not implement his own business policy in order to seize the rights of others. He will respect the rights of all people. He will respect the rights of all individuals and all nations.

Today's businessmen do not care about this at all. No matter what state you are in, his vault should be full. No matter what your markets are

doing, no matter what state your economic graph is in, there should be no reduction in his wealth and in his profit – this is the view and mindset of today’s businessmen. However, by stipulating the condition of honesty and trustworthiness, Rasoolullah Sallallahu ‘Alaihi Wasallam announced that even if you conduct business on a global scale, you must respect the rights of others. This is probably the reason why the most prominent role played in propagating the inviting towards the religion of Allah Ta’ala’s Beloved Sallallahu ‘Alaihi Wasallam was played by businessmen. Muslim’s left Madinah and the Arabian Peninsula in order to conduct business. In one hand they had their business assets and in the other hand they had the Glorious Qur’an. The result was that upon seeing their honesty, truthfulness and integrity, nations bowed down before them. Why is Islam present on all the islands and shores of Africa? Did a victorious warrior like Muhammad bin Qasim go there? Did someone like Tariq ibn Ziyad go there? No! Only businessmen went there. Why is the whole of Indonesia Muslim today?

Did you know that a group of Arab businessmen boarded a ship and were travelling to conduct business. Before they reached Indonesia their ship collided with some rocks. People began to drown and the ship began to sink. They collected their possessions and got onto smaller boats and reached the shores of Indonesia. They sold their goods and planted the seed of faith in the hearts of the people of Indonesia and today it is the largest Islamic state in the world. The role played by businessmen in the spread of Islam has not been matched by any other group. The reason for this is that business is mobile and requires constant movement. Just think! People travel today and establish worldwide contacts. People travel all over the world in the name of import and export. However, may we be sacrificed that Arab business dealings spread from the shores of Indonesia all the way to Spain – and they were Muslim businessmen. Just imagine! Let me give you a big example. We all know about insurance and we see that companies and organisations are insured. Do you know who laid the foundation of insurance?

During the time of Hazrat Amir Mu’awiya the seas were conquered and goods were transported simultaneously to India on the one side and on the other side all the way to Spain. Sometimes the ships would sink and the goods would be lost. What they did was that they built homes on

the shores of many islands. When ships would pass these islands, they would unload some of their goods and store them in those houses. If any ship would sink, they would take the goods that were in those homes to cover their losses. This is an early and raw form of today's organised insurance. It was on the basis of trade that Islam spread all over the continents of Asia and Africa. Long before the arrival of Muhammad bin Qasim, Muslim businessmen had reached the shores of Malabar (south India) and Islam had arrived there. Similarly, Hajjaj sent Muhammad bin Qasim to India to take revenge against a group of businessmen on the shores of Sindh. There was a time when Sayyidina Amir Mu'awiya was the first to establish ships and shipping channels and as a result of business dealings Muslims ruled the seas. Very few people know or realise that Columbus was trained by a Muslim businessman by the name of Amir ul Behr, who was of Spanish descent and was the leader of a group of Muslim businessmen. 1492 was the year which saw the fall of Spain and 1492 is the year in which America was discovered. If Spain would not have been lost by Muslims then America would have been introduced to the wealth of Islam and Muslims would have been ruling America today. This is one of the losses, amongst many losses, as a result of the fall of our political empire and superiority.

I would like to add that our rule over the seas lasted a long time. Due to the fact that Muslims ruled the seas, when they were confronted by European nations, they (the European nations) were not able to defeat the Muslims. Whether it was the shores of Sicily, the towns of Italy, or the valleys of Vienna, they were all under the control of Muslims because Muslims controlled the seas. Today we do not have this power or control, they have it. The Holy Qur'an that was revealed to the Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam declared 1400 years ago that travelling on the seas was very beneficial and profitable. It states, **"...ride in the land and sea and provided them with clean things..."** In that era when there was only small wooden boats, the Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam laid the foundation of economics on the seas. Today, only those countries are successful that are close to seas and only those cities are progressing that are close to seas and oceans. Today, in order to control the seas it is also necessary to occupy Afghanistan so that no one else can control the waters that are sweet and drinkable. The importance of the seas was described by the Qur'an

1400 years ago. When Muslims used to read the Qur'an, used to understand the soul of the Qur'an, they also acted upon the teachings of the Qur'an. What need was there for Amir Mu'awiya to build and prepare boats and ships? What need was there for Amir ul Behr and Muslims to ride the oceans and take business convoys on the seas and face the attacks of enemies and respond to them? It was because they knew that there was a lot of benefit on the seas. However, along with the decline and loss of our political influence, we also lost control of the seas. As a result of this we no longer have control of global trade.

My respected colleagues! Similarly, look at other things in the world and you will see. Farming is purely a worldly matter. Allah Ta'ala's Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam also made that a part of religion. My Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam said, "A farmer who sows seeds in a field, even if one bird eats some of those seeds, he is rewarded for that." Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam said, "If I were to tell you how much reward there is for making barren lands suitable for farming and agriculture, not one inch of the earth would remain barren." Today the world is trying to make barren lands fertile and capable of being farmed whereas Rasool Allah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam stated 1400 years ago that if I were to tell you how much reward there is for making barren lands suitable for farming and agriculture, not one inch of the earth would remain barren. Reward meaning other than the worldly benefit and profit they will get from it. If they knew how much reward there was for it, not a single inch would remain barren or unfarmed. Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam said, "The person who brings to life any part of the earth, that part of the earth will be made his property" – meaning that if it is barren and made worthy of farming and agriculture then it will be under Islamic rule and therefore it will be declared as his property and possession.

Respected Islamic brothers! Time and again the Qur'an asks, "Do you think that you obtain corn through your efforts and hard work? It is I who creates corn." In other words, by assigning the responsibility upon Himself, Allah Ta'ala raises the rank of farmers to a great level. What a great status is presented to the world for farmers. This is the state of farming that is before you and as far as the hard working are concerned, Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam said, "The one who works hard with his hands is loved by Allah Ta'ala." No matter what the world calls him,

whether it calls him a blacksmith or a farmer or one who works with leather. The world can call him what it likes but those who work hard with their hands are loved by Allah Ta'ala. The work of all groups has been made a part of worship by Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam – business is worship, farming is worship, working hard with your hands is worship.

You may have heard that a person came to Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam and said, "Please give me something." Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam asked, "Do you not have anything?" He replied, "I have one bowl and one blanket." The Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam told him to go and get them. When he arrived with them Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam began to auction them. One person offered three Dinars and another offered four Dinars. They were sold for four Dinars and Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam gave that money to the beggar and said, "Go and buy an axe and bring it back to me, I will show you some work to do." He left to buy an axe and returned. Whilst he was gone Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam prepared a wooden handle for the axe with his own hands. He attached the handle to the axe and told the person, "Go and cut wood from the jungle and sell it in the market." He left and returned after a week with some money and his face was much brighter and happier. Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam asked him, "How are you?" He replied, "I have ten Dinars with me, I have earned a lot of money. I am very happy." Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam asked, "Did you have any problems?" He replied, "Not really. It's just that I was not used to working hard, I was used to begging. Because I was not used to working look my hands are blistered." According to one narration, Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam kissed his hands that had become blistered due to hard work. Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam showed affection for and indicated that he loved hands that worked hard.

Just imagine! What part of life has Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam not provided guidance and direction for? He stated, "This is much better for you because otherwise you would have no meat left on your body tomorrow on the Day of Judgement." Meaning that if you beg then the meat that you have on your body is given by others and will be removed on the Day of Judgement. All that will be left are bones and if you work hard and earn for yourself then on the Day of Judgement your face will be bright and will have meat on it also.

Ponder on the fact that those who work hard are classed as adhering to the religion. Business is classed as religion and so is farming. If we can control these three areas then we will control the economy of the world. But for that to happen my companions we need to work very hard in the world as well as for the religion – we are very far behind.

It so happens sometimes that one generation does the work and many generations reap the benefit of that work. In relation to farming, my Beloved Prophet Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam said, "If you know for sure that you will die soon and only have a little time to live, if you can plant one tree then plant it before dying." Why did Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam choose this deed at this crucial stage of life? Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam knows that this person will not benefit from this deed personally, he is about to die. The person himself also knows that his time is almost up. However, he also knows that at least someone will benefit from it. Someone will sit in its shade; someone will eat its fruit. What Rasoolullah Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam is saying is that do not look at yourself when making efforts and striving, rather look at those who will come after you, look at future generations. If you make efforts and strive today in business, in farming, in trades then Allah willing future generations will reap the benefits and be respected and honoured. This is why in this era of globalisation our religion is very powerful. All you have to do is help the preachers and envoys of the religion. You have to offer support to the preachers and envoys. If they can understand the era, can understand the situation and environment, then Allah willing no force can defeat Islam.

As far as our civilisation and culture is concerned, if Islam is present civilisation will also be present. However, we are very much lacking and trailing the rest of the world in terms of economics and worldly knowledge, and these two things are very closely tied together in this era. In terms of wealth, we only have 5% of the wealth and in terms of education and knowledge we are 15% lower than the backward, lower class. At one time I used to say it was 7-8% but the current report is that we are 15% behind the lowest class in terms of knowledge and education. This country is heading towards an industrial revolution, and there are always two groups of people in an industrial revolution, the owners and the labourers. If we remain like this then all we will have left amongst our community are labourers and we will be left with nothing.

That is why we need to move our community forward in terms of education as well as economics. Whatever business or work you do, think of it as a Sunnah when performing it. Think of it as worship and perform it with vigour and strength. Allah Ta'ala will grant you reward and will give you an elevated status in society.

***Wa Maa 'Alayna Illal Balaag***



## **Obtain Religious Knowledge**

It is compulsory for all Muslim men and women to obtain religious knowledge. Studying and reading books, newsletters, magazines etc. is a way of increasing knowledge. If you want to increase your knowledge, you should study the books and writings of the Scholars of Ahle Sunnat and the writings of Ameer e Sunni Dawat e Islami, Hazrat Maulana Shakir 'Ali Razvi Noorie. Specifically reading and studying "**Barkaat e Shariat Parts 1 & 2**" will be very beneficial, which cover the topics listed below and are both now available.

### **Barkaat e Shariat Part 1**

- \* Faith
- \* Salaah
- \* Benefits of Congregation
- \* Warnings for Missing Salaah
- \* Fasting
- \* Poor-due (Zakat)
- \* Pilgrimage (Hajj)
- \* Remembrance of Allah
- \* Rights of Parents
- \* Good Relations
- \* Rights of Neighbours
- \* Condemnation of Backbiting
- \* Pride & Arrogance
- \* Jealousy
- \* Lying

### **Barkaat e Shariat Part 2**

- \* Blessings of the Qur'an
- \* Benefits of Duood
- \* Inviting to Good
- \* Knowledge & Scholars
- \* Repentance & Forgiveness
- \* Respects of the Mosque

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# سُنِّي دَاوَاتِ اِيسْلَامِي

## *Sunni Dawat e Islami*

Sunni Dawat e Islami Quarterly is a publication of the worldwide Ahle Sunnat Wal Jama'at organisation, Sunni Dawat e Islami. It has been published punctually since January 2005. It is filled with the writings of the brightest, most luminous Scholars nationally and internationally. Sunni Dawat e Islami Quarterly is a means to bring the teaching of the Qur'an and Ahadith, along with the correct teachings of our pious predecessors.

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صلى الله عليه وسلم.
- Reformation of faith and deeds.
- Strive & struggle to act upon the teachings of the Qur'an and the Blessed Sunnahs of Sayyedina Rasoolullah  
صلى الله عليه وسلم.
- Populate and keep the Mosques full through Salaah.
- Tackling and finding a solution for the increasing non-performance of religious duties.
- Creating awareness of the requirements of the religion of Islam
- Loving the young, respecting the elders, and serving humanity.
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