

Islamophobia Khutbah

PART ONE:

إن الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستغفره ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا ومن سيئات أعمالنا من يهده الله فلا مضل له ومن يضلل فلا هادي له وأشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له وأشهد أن محمدا عبده ورسوله

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً، وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا.
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا، يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

One of the real tragedies of our time is that we definitely *know* of a problem clearly, *hear* about it regularly, *see* it sometimes, and even *experience* it ourselves every so often too, yet we actively do very little about it!

Islamophobia *is* that problem – i.e. where people give Muslims a real hard time whether by ridiculing them, inciting people against them, or even attacking them, just because that person identifies themselves as a Muslim – and it is on the rise. And it's getting **worse**.

This is not a khutbah where we give you examples of the threat, or tell some of the horrific stories reported. If you don't know this already, you have a bigger problem: keeping yourself so ignorant of your very own community's difficulties is very irresponsible and also against the Sunnah. The Prophet (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) said in Sahih Muslim (2586):

مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادِهِمْ، وَتَرَاحِمِهِمْ، وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ مَثَلُ الْجَسَدِ إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهَرِ وَالْحُمَّى

“The believers, in their mutual mercy, love and compassion, are like a (single) body; if one part of it feels pain, the rest of the body will join it in staying awake and suffering fever.”

This is a reminder to us all, that if we just sit back and remain in our apathetic states thinking we can ride out the storm, and that we should only protect ourselves and our individual iman, then we will fail. Spectacularly fail.

Practising this form of secular Islam is not permissible. **Firstly**, Islam is bigger than just you, and your actions alone. **Secondly**, keeping yourself to yourself and nothing else is anti-Islamic, because part of Islam is to be established for the benefit of others as well. **Thirdly**, such an approach of sticking your head in the sand or hoping that others will step up and sort it out – when actually, they are also just thinking the exact same as you - is disingenuous and will lead to the fitnah increasing and then lead to an even bigger threat and problem.

There's a very interesting hadith, authentically narrated by Ibn Majah (304), that Sayyidina Abu Bakr al-Siddique (radhyAllahu 'anhu) came to some of the Sahabah and recited this verse to them:

{ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْفُسَكُمْ لَا يَضُرُّكُمْ مَنْ ضَلَّ إِذَا اهْتَدَيْتُمْ }

“O You who believe, you are responsible for your own souls; if anyone else goes astray it will not harm you so long as you follow the guidance.” (al-Ma'idah, 105)

Then he turned to them and said, “The people are taking this verse and not applying it properly.”

What he wanted to say is that some of the Companions were understanding this verse in a very restricted sense, i.e. that if there are problems affecting the community, affecting others, well, as long as you look after yourself, then that's all that matters. Which is completely wrong, because Sayyidina Abu Bakr then said:

أَلَا وَإِنِّي سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ: «إِنَّ الْقَوْمَ إِذَا رَأَوْا الظَّالِمَ فَلَمْ يَأْخُذُوا عَلَى يَدَيْهِ،
وَالْمُنْكَرَ فَلَمْ يُغَيِّرُوهُ، عَمَّهُمُ اللَّهُ بِعِقَابِهِ»

“But verily, I heard the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) said, “When a people see an Oppressor and do not hold him accountable, or they see an evil and they do not change it, Allah will punish them all.”” (Ibn Majah, 304, authentic)

So the ruling is clear. Yes we concentrate on ourselves. And yes we know that our enemies cannot harm us as long as we stay upon Divine Guidance.

But when there is harm and evil and oppression and injustice in front of us, and when our brothers and sisters need our help, then we must ACT! Immediately!

The Prophet (sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) said in Sahih Muslim:

مَنْ رَأَى مِنْكُمْ مُنْكَرًا فَلْيُغَيِّرْهُ بِيَدِهِ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَبِلِسَانِهِ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَبِقَلْبِهِ، وَذَلِكَ أَضْعَفُ الْإِيمَانِ

“Whoever among you sees an evil action, let him change it with his hand [by taking action]; if he cannot, then with his tongue [by speaking out]; and if he cannot, then with his heart – and that is the weakest of faith”

So *whatever* one does, but you have to do SOMETHING. Doing nothing is NOT an option.

And what you do is based on your ability, things which you really CAN do. No-one is going to ask you to do the impossible, and heal the world in a week. But what you WILL be told is to come out of your comfort zone and work together to make sure that the threat of Islamophobia doesn't reach a state where neighbours start murdering one another, such as what we saw around the corner in Bosnia, or even in the Central African Republic today.

These are not scare tactics. If we don't all do something to change the status quo, if we don't get out there and create our own narrative as per the Book of Allah, then those who hate us will create that narrative for us!

Those who sacrifice their time, strategize, plan, protest, engage, all in the hope of doing what is right and forbidding wrong, are truly the best of people and what we should all aim to be:

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

You are the best community singled out for people: you order what is right, forbid what is wrong, and believe in Allah. (Ale-'Imran, 110)

And if we keep thinking there are enough activists out there doing what's needed, then **there isn't**. We need far more people, doing far more for themselves and the Ummah. And if it's not going to be **you** helping out, then WHO is going to be helping out? And what were you created for anyway? Just to pray in the Masjid? And so what happens where we get to a situation where all the applications for Masajid are refused, and whatever Masajid left are under attack all the time from the EDL and Britain First other hooligans?

Brothers and sisters, these are NOT fairy tales. This could really happen if we don't take control right now.

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي وللمؤمنين والمؤمنات

PART TWO:

الحمد لله وليّ المتقين، وأشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له، وأشهد أن نبينا محمداً عبداً لله ورسوله، صلى الله وسلم وبارك عليه، وعلى آله وصحبه والتابعين ومن تبعهم بإحسانٍ إلى يوم الدين.

So what CAN you do in order to fulfil your obligation of preventing evil, and working for the sake of your community when it comes to a problem like Islamophobia?

Here is a three-pronged plan:

Number 1. Educate yourself and other Muslims on hate crime in particular Islamophobia and encourage people to report every crime to the Police

You MUST report these to the police. Groups like MEND have worked very hard to get many Police Forces to even recognise this category of hate crime. Why is that important? Because then we have the cold hard facts to show to the authorities and prove that there is a real quantifiable problem that fluctuates here and there and can be traced back to certain events, political statements, policy decisions, and other factors by which we can hold our leaders accountable, in a court of a law even if necessary.

Number 2. We need to initiate Public Awareness Campaign to help non-Muslims understand the impact of anti-Muslim prejudice and hate crime on Muslim communities.

We *must* disseminate better the fact that Islamophobia is a problem for society to tackle as a whole, not just Muslims. That this is a blight on ALL our society and reflects on all of us, and not just the criminals. Your non-Muslim friends, neighbours and colleagues can present a case or argue our side far more effectively than Muslims can, and it's a more impassioned appeal when they really FEEL the problem themselves. You have to educate them.

Finally, Number 3. Getting involved - we want to get the message out there that until we fully engage as citizens of this country and realise our duties we will not make progress on stemming this form of hate crime.

This means we must comment, challenge and even commend – yes, thank and appreciate - the media appropriately. We will not be silent voices on the side and remain ignored.

This means we must engage our politicians whether councillors or MPs on taking a robust stand against Islamophobia

This means we must as Muslims not only portray our deen correctly and positively but reach out to non-Muslims by organising informal meetings with your friends and family, and then more formal open days and events, and you need to speak, engage, educate etc.

Dear elders, respected brothers and sisters:

We have to learn quickly that just because a certain act of 'ibadah – and yes it IS 'ibadah, this work IS 'ibadah and that's what our 'Ulema have 100% confirmed! – that just because this act of worship doesn't have a label saying *Namaz*, or *Zakah*, or *Hajj*, or *Charity*, that this is somehow a lesser act of worship.

Tell that to the Hijabi sister getting beaten on the streets. Or the brother rejected at his job-interview because of his beard. Or to the Muslims who have to read that we are the scum of the Earth every single day on the cover of every newspaper, and in the first five top stories of every TV News broadcast.

No. This is blessed work, the work of defending the Deen, defending the Believers, defending the Honour of Allah. And once we act and get busy, Allah will help us as well as He promises:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَنْصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ

“O you who believe, If you help aid (the Deen) of Allah, Allah will aid you, and make you stand firm.” (Muhammad, 9)

Please see the posters outside and get involved with the campaigns organised by MEND and others to ensure we make a difference.

Ya Allah, make us from the guided, guide others through us, and make us a reason that others are also guided.

Ya Allah, bless us all with tawfeeq, and give us success over those who wish to harm us and weaken us.

Ya Allah, strengthen this Deen, and its Believers, in our country here and in all parts of the world.