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# Modern Tabligh

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MODERN TABLIGH

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The Holy Qur'aan says in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sura, *ali-Imraan* [The Family of Imraan]:

Verse 110:

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

You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind.  
Enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong,  
and believing in Allah ﷻ.

Tabligh means "propagation of Islam". Propagation of Islam means propagation of the whole of Islam and not of a part of Islam. Anybody, who stands as a missionary, can only be a missionary, not in his own right, but as a representative of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. No one has the right to stand up among us as a missionary of Islam except as a representative of the Holy Prophet ﷺ as a soldier of his. The Holy Prophet ﷺ presented and preached the whole of Islam to the people and not a part of Islam. The Holy Prophet ﷺ taught and preached Islam to the people according to their intellectual and moral and social caliber and needs. He did not teach everyone on the same level and that stands to reason. Now, in this age, one simple problem is that we have got to teach our children what is 'prayer' (*salaah*) and how to perform it, what is 'fasting' (*siyaam*) and how to perform it. These are obligations to teach the simple principles which they can understand. But groups are emerging in our communities everywhere who don't know what Islam is. They know very well what other ideologies are and they are enticed and fascinated by them. The cause of Islam suffers because of their lack of interest in Islam or even hostility towards Islam.

This group is the "western educated intelligentsia" in all Muslim communities. This western educated intelligentsia is the most powerful group in every Muslim community; in Muslim countries it holds the reign of government. Every government department is in the hands of western educated Muslims. If these western educated Muslims cannot by any means

be reformed and transformed into real, pious, inspired Muslims, then there is there any future for Muslims and Islam. Consequently, the entire community of South Africa is a westernized community. South Africa is a part of western civilization, it is not an oriental country and here this country is going to be more and more westernized and not oriental. Education must progress in the Muslim community so larger and larger number of Muslims, young men and ladies with modern education of a high order must continue. Now unless we capture this young western educated intelligentsia for Islam, we are doomed. Now when we go to propagate Islam to them, they have doubts. Is Darwinism<sup>1</sup> true? They are taught this theory of evolution in biology. Is Karl Marx<sup>2</sup> philosophy of dialectic materialism<sup>3</sup> true? Is Bertrand Russell's<sup>4</sup> agnostic theory<sup>5</sup> true? All these questions arise, who is going to answer it? Now if we carry on in this village level that we teach the people only the *Kalimah* and *Namaaz*, which they should be taught of course, we are doing a very good job there. But if we confine our activity right there, then who is going to take care of this growing mass of Doubting Muslims and for no fault of theirs, they have not

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<sup>1</sup> the theory, first developed by the 19th-century British naturalist Charles Darwin, that species of living things originate, evolve, and survive through natural selection in response to environmental forces.

<sup>2</sup> Karl Heinrich Marx (May 5, 1818 – March 14, 1883) was a German, philosopher, political economist, historian, political theorist, sociologist, communist and revolutionary, whose ideas are credited as the foundation of modern communism. Marx summarized his approach in the first line of the first chapter of *The Communist Manifesto*, published in 1848: "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles." Marx argued that capitalism, like previous socioeconomic systems, will inevitably produce internal tensions which will lead to its destruction. Just as capitalism replaced feudalism, he believed socialism will, in its turn, replace capitalism, and lead to a stateless, classless society called pure communism. This would emerge after a transitional period called the "dictatorship of the proletariat": a period sometimes referred to as the "workers state" or "workers' democracy"

<sup>3</sup> Dialectical materialism is the philosophy of Karl Marx, which he formulated by taking the dialectic of Hegel and joining it to the Materialism of Feuerbach. According to many followers of Karl Marx's thinking, it is the philosophical basis of Marxism. it refers to the combination of dialectics and materialism in Marx's thinking as material forces causing social and economic changes. It is sometimes seen as complementary to historical materialism which is the name given to Marx's methodology in the study of society, economics and history.

<sup>4</sup> Bertrand Arthur William Russell, 3rd Earl Russell, OM, FRS (18 May 1872 – 2 February 1970) was an English philosopher, logician, mathematician, historian, and social critic. Although he spent the majority of his life in England, he was born in Wales, where he also died. Russell led the British "revolt against idealism" in the early 1900s. He is considered one of the founders of analytic philosophy along with his protégé Wittgenstein and his elder Frege, and is widely held to be one of the 20th century's premier logicians.

<sup>5</sup> Agnosticism is the philosophical view that the truth value of certain claims – particularly metaphysical claims regarding theology, afterlife or the existence of deities, spiritual beings, or even ultimate reality – are unknown or, in some forms of agnosticism, unknowable. It is not a religious declaration in itself, and an agnostic may also be a theist or an atheist..Demographic research services normally list agnostics in the same category as atheists and/or non-religious people, using agnostic in the sense of noncommittal. However, this can be misleading given the existence of agnostic theists, who identify themselves as both agnostics in the original sense and followers of a particular religion.

been taught what Islam is. But they have been told what Darwinism is. Now they want to know the stand of Islam in that connection.

So when I speak of the modern style of Tabligh, the work of teaching the *Kalimah* and *Namaaz*, work which the Village *Molvi*'s have done for centuries and centuries. I have to use this term because he is not of a high caliber, because the Higher *Molvi*'s always live in the urban area. They do it in the *Madaris*, then why do we need an international movement for a job that the village *Molvi* can do and we are leaving out completely this poison that is infiltrating into this community. What does it mean? Is it a cult, which we have adopted? What rights have we! But as a humble scholar of Islam, I see the portrait of Islam crumbling into ruins. Whilst we waste our time in sophistication that is what hurts me and I feel that just as in the human personality the mind is most important, similarly in the community, the brain of the community is most important. A man may be very healthy but if his mentality is deranged he is useless for himself and for others. He may be seen even as a source of trouble. If the brain of the community, the intelligentsia of the community does not stand for those ideals for which that community has been built up, then what is the present, the future, and the destiny of that community - finally, annihilation.

So I have not seen people, not one man among the so called missionaries, who have even studied these problems which have emerged in this modern age and who can talk to a young Muslim man and young lady and remove their doubts. The whole world of Islam consists of one billion soldiers. It is so divided, so what is your future and why take the name of Tabligh? Tabligh! What is this Tabligh? Where will it lead us? Tabligh is to be done on the battlefield and the battlefield is not among the poor masses, the simpletons, the battlefield is there where modern, western, atheistic, and materialistic, civilization has made inroads. Who are those people who can fight on that battlefield? They will not come from heaven; they must emerge from among us. It is the duty of our Pious, Religious, educated Muslims whether young or old to organize themselves for this purpose, so that not a single person, a single western educated person in our community remains without the inspiration of Islam. He should be an asset towards the cause of Islam and then alone can we make progress. When Muslims do not behave

in a proper manner then the enemy has come with the Atom Bomb and the Muslims say that my great, great grandfather used the sword only and he is going to fight the Atom Bomb with the sword. I can only weep for him. The Holy Prophet ﷺ has said in Hadith<sup>6</sup>

**‘Utlub il ‘ilma wa law fis-Sin.**

**Acquire all knowledge (*al-ilm*) even if you have to acquire it from a pagan community like that of China**

In the age of degeneration, I have heard, the sign of Orthodoxy,

**Ilm Sey Ast Fiqh-o-Tafseer-o-Hadith**

**Halq Gayrazi Gardas Kabees**

**Knowledge is of 3 types or under 3 headings: i.e. the knowledge of Fiqh, Tafsir & Hadith - Whoever studies anything beyond these 3 branches, becomes a devil.**

The so-called pious ignorant Muslims read it and get an ecstasy from it. Yet they follow the inaugurator of the modern scientific era.

Zafar Ali Khan has said in Urdu

**Joh falsafiyo seh khul na saka, aur nukhthawaro seh hal na huwa, woh raaz kamliwaleh neh, batladiya chand isharo meh**

**Those fundamental base of wisdom which it took the scientist and philosophers centuries and centuries of labour to find, the great man, standing in the unlettered community of Arabia, taught those great pieces of wisdom just by the way.**

To acquire the knowledge of basic Islam is the duty of every individual. To teach the highest philosophy of life needs an individual with a multidimensional intellect of a high order and a high spiritual caliber. Not only intellectuals but also an intellectual who possesses moral refinement

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<sup>6</sup> [1] Narrated from Anas by al-Bayhaqi in *Shu`ab al-Iman* and *al-Madkhal*, Ibn `Abd al-Barr in *Jami` Bayan al-`Ilm*, and al-Khatib through three chains at the opening of his *al-Rihla fi Talab al-Hadith* (p. 71-76 #1-3) where our shaykh Dr. Nur al-Din `Itr declares it weak (*da`if*). Glory to You, we know nothing except what You taught us.

(*Adab*) and can imitate the Prophet ﷺ as his humble follower. To act, as torchbearers of that message the community should build up such persons.

The Holy Qur'aan says in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sura *ali-Imraan* [The Family of Imraan]:  
Verse 104

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ  
وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to  
all that is good, enjoining what is right and  
forbidding what is wrong: They are the ones to attain  
felicity

The group that dedicates itself solely to the cause of understanding Islam at the highest level and counteracting anti- Islamic, spiritual, moral and intellectual forces at the highest level. Their function is to be guides for the community. To guide the community by thought, word and deed by their personal example as well as preaching and teaching all that is good.

The character of our community is influenced by environmental factors. Traits of character are borrowed from the environment. We have to counteract these alien influences; therefore an enlightened type of reformism and Tabligh movement is needed. Mosques should have youth clubs and the Mosque should serve as an Islamic center that attracts the youth. Facilities should be made available to present Islam to the youth in its dynamic, progressive form so that the youngsters realize its possible to be a good Muslim and also be a member of the 21st century. The Internet and media should be used and made available to members of the congregation to expand their knowledge. To facilitate this also a reform in the thinking pattern of those that fund Masjids is needed. At the beginning of the 19th century, western colonialism overthrew us and made us uneducated slaves. America and the exploitive economics that it represents, today wants to destroy Islam. Have we not learnt our lesson that one has to cut iron with iron? The only media that is available to us is the *Zionist-Christian* press that deliberately wants to confuse Muslims. Decent Islamic publications should be made accessible at Mosques and the Friday *Khutbas* should at least twice

a month deal with contemporary Muslim problem and offer guidance as to its solution. We have to learn to, "Catch the bull by its horns" and not be afraid. May Allah ﷻ guide us all!

Adapted From a lecture by Maulana Fazl ur-Rahman Ansari ﷺ  
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