

*hate ops*

WHY HATE AND DISASSOCIATE  
WITH OPPRESSORS AND THEIR ASSOCIATES ?



By: Ahmed H. Sheriff

Islam attaches significant value to the display of proper emotions, be they out of love or hatred. The instincts of love and hatred are both in keeping with the created nature of mankind. But what is important is the choice of right occasions when one needs to display either of them. In the personality of man, there has to be a combination of both to maintain a balance and safeguard Islamic principles and tenets.

In order to guide mankind the right moments and the types of people for whom one needs to cherish both, Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala has in the holy Qura'n declared His own love and hatred for certain sections of people. The following from a number of ayats of the holy Qura'n bear witness :

"Verily Allah loves those  
who judge equitably, justly" (Maidah: 42)

"Now surely the curse of Allah  
is on the unjust" (Hud: 18)

On indepth study of the holy Qura'n, one is likely to notice an oft-repeated love and preference of Allah for the just and fairminded whilst His condemnation, hatred and curse for the oppressors and the unjust.

Given proper occasion, a Muslim should be capable of demonstrating and pouring out his anger. In particular when he is faced with or comes to know of oppressive elements in the society. A society lacking hatred and demonstration of proper anguish can be said to resemble a bunch of animals.



Looked at more closely, the concepts of love and hatred appear to converge at a point. Hatred aimed at the oppressors and tyrants emerge as sheer love, because what in fact, gives rise to hatred, the way Islam perceives it, is love for the oppressed. Hatred is meant to punish the oppressors and reward the oppressed. Word of protest, whether written or spoken, disassociation with oppressors and their agents is essential and meant to check oppression from spreading. The holy Qura'n warns us against association with oppressors in strict terms when it says :

"And incline not to those who act unjustly  
(oppressors) lest the fire (of hell)  
touches you" (Hud: v.113)

And Ali b. Abi Talib (A.S) advises in clear terms against friendly relationship with oppressors;

"Be unfriendly towards the oppressors  
but be supporters of the oppressed" (Nahjul Balgha)

In the eyes of Ali (A.S.) inequity and oppression of any sort is so abhorrent that he expresses his strong feelings in these words :

"I swear by Allah that if all the continents of the earth and all that is under the sun were offered to me in sinning towards Allah even by stealing a grain of barley from an ant, truly I should never do such a thing".

Ali (A.S.) would not wrong a smallest creature even though all the lands of the earth were offered to him, so hateful is an unjust action in his eyes.



The holy Imams always endeavoured to prevent their companions and relatives from cooperating with oppressors. Imam Zainul Abedeen (A.S.) wrote to Az-Zuhari warning him against association with oppressors in these words :

"The reason they (the Omayyads) ask for you is only to use you as a grinding stone, a bridge whereby they can progress to their evil aims, or ladder to their deviations, so that you may be an agent and a propagandist for their crimes. Through you, they can hide their affairs from wise men and attract the ignorant to themselves. Neither their own ministers nor their followers can disguise their faults as you can; what little will they give to you compared with what they take away. Take care of yourself, examine yourself and reckon with your actions as a responsible person".

The last sentence of these words of strong advice by Imam Zainul Abedeen (A.S.) to Al-Zuhari is indeed full of meaning. It extorts us to develop a sense of responsibility. The responsibility not only of refraining from oppressive and unjust actions but also to refrain from friendly relationship with oppressors and their agents.

The foregoing advice and warning of the Imam is applicable in our present surroundings today as it was during the Omayyad oppressive rule 1300 years ago.