

WHY ISLAM APPEALS EASILY TO A COMMON MAN ?

By A.H Sheriff

It was the sacred day of Arafat - the ninth of Zilhaj during my last Haj pilgrimage to Mecca. By chance there were two German newly converts with us in the same tent. They had come all the way from Germany specially for the Haj pilgrimage. Whilst we were busy with recitation of the doa's of that day, they engrossed themselves in reciting the Holy Qura'n in German which they had brought with them.

Naturally I became curious of the causes which made these two young Germans to accept Islam and undertake the arduous Haj pilgrimage. When I dared ask one of them, he told me that they were qualified engineers working with a German construction firm. During their assignment in Saudi Arabia, they were deeply impressed by Islam as a natural and perfect way of life and not a religion of mere dogmas like other faiths.

Again from experience in the local educational system wherein Islam along with other religions now has been made a compulsory examinable subject, an officer of the education told me the other day that Muslim students in general are able to score much higher percentage of marks than their classmates who appear in Christianity or other faiths. We agreed that this was because Muslim students took keener interest in Islamic studies as they find the teachings naturally and easily appealing to their minds.

Let us herewith briefly compare the beliefs of other faiths with those of Islam to appreciate which ones easily and logically appeal to the human mind.

Islam is not like Zoroastrians who believe in Dualism i.e. two separate creators for good and evil represented by light and darkness and arguing that the creator of good cannot be one for evil, the two opposites cannot be found together. The Prophet of Islam argued with them that different colours black, red, white, blue, green & blue cannot be found together with another at the same time and place. Hence according to their thinking, they should also believe a separate creator for each colour.

Again the Prophet argued that light and darkness being opposites, how did it happen that both joined hands in creation and their creatures (evil and good) are together in this world ? This meant that there is One Superior Power who has brought these opposites together.

Islam is not like Judaism which having lost its original beliefs, adopted a dogma of God having a son. And as Uzair (Ezra) had re-written Tora after it had been lost for centuries, Jews revered him very much claiming him to be son of God. The Prophet of Islam argued with the Jews that why Uzair was the son of God and not Moses who brought Tora for the first time, bringing it first time is far important than rewriting. Besides Moses showed miracle which Uzair did not. Therefore if Uzair was son of God (say even as an honour not as a child born of the womb of mother) because God gave him honour of re-writing Torah, Moses is far more deserving to be the son of God.

Again Islam is not like Judaism which proclaims the Jews to be the chosen people of God and no other people have the right to enjoy divine blessings. Consequently in order to fulfil their religious and national ambitions, they can be seen resorting to every fraud, deceit, bribery and hoarding possible and to such inhuman acts of exploitation which they commit in many parts of the world today.

Islam is not like Christianity which proclaimed the belief of Trinity as its fundamental doctrine i.e. belief in God the Holy Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit. Refuting this illogic belief, The Holy Qura'n argued that if Jesus were to be acknowledged as the son of God because he was born out of a mother and no father, then what about Adam and Eve who were born without father and mother.

Again the lack of logic behind another fundamental doctrine of Atonement i.e. crucifixion of Jesus Christ for the sake of stoning the sins of sons of Adam provided they believed in him as the Christians are made to believe. This has the effect of prompting the believers of Christ to commit wrongs and crimes when they are told that their salvation is guaranteed. Whereas the Holy Qura'n has presented a logic idea to Muslims that 'A burdened soul cannot bear the burden of another' (35:18).

Islam has put emphasis on the use of intellect and given freedom to understand its fundamentals by reasoning and logic arguments. In view of this and for its teachings easily appealing to anyone with a common sense, the spread of its message has been easier and faster than other faiths.

The doctrine of Tawheed-belief in One God free from any association with any created being is so simple and logic as to easily appeal every mind. Besides the supreme character of the Prophet of Islam had its own impact over the minds of otherwise stubborn and harsh Arabs.