

How can religious institutions manage the diversity?

There is an urgent need and strong sense to reformulate some of the concepts that are frequently traded titles in the society due to excessive damage to these concepts as a result of poor understanding or poor practicing (**Diversity, Coexistence, and Citizenship**) where these addresses encountered highly problematic and a sensation as a result of differences in the view of cultures and religions. Then the most prevalent view in many non-Muslim to Islam in western countries is that Islam does not give legitimacy to any of these categories of the variations, but is supposed to melt all cultures and beliefs inside it. I emphasize that Islamic thought of diversity and coexistence toward other societies is plural positive attitude, which gives legitimacy to all beliefs and does not impose on them to comply without convictions. Then the religious institutions have a role in urging members of the society to move from a time of intolerance to the time of tolerance, despite of the religious view for mutual acceptance and recognition of others but still abomination eating away unity of the societies and prevent them for autism and unity and this dangerous disease (Fanaticism of Religious) then we see in USA different orientations of multiple contradictory of the others , This is a natural phenomenon because of many ethnic groups and communities which maybe due to differences of understanding each others also this subject depending on the positions of people , their emotions, their tempers and their circumstances.

1. We have to emphasize to our societies by following the principles and methods of the prophets and righteous people, how they were seeking an excuse for their own people because of their mistakes, in that eloquent lesson there are no rush to think badly of others, must understand the circumstances that make them familiar the truth.
(Livezey.Lowell) mentioned in his research (communities and enclaves) Our program does not organize lessons yet about religions and ethnic groups that live among us, the thanksgiving holiday in America despite of their interest in coexistence and diversity but still below the required level).
2. Our institutions has to explain profile of these vocabularies through religious texts not through personal attitudes, there are a lot of people who did not have the opportunity to identify the methodology for their religion and see it though, if they had that opportunity to sweep from them all the suspicious and barriers they would respect the opposite view with high honor.
(**Robert Wuthnow** in his book – America and challenges of religious diversity) mentioned the activities undertaken by religious institutions in the area about diversity are not commensurate with its size and magnitude of these institutions.
3. Our institutions has to make deep the concept of the difference in opinion does not entail any hostility.
The opinion of the human is a self-personal characteristics and no one entitled to intervene in this matter by violence or force. Allah denies the possibility of forced religion;

(There is no compulsion in religion) 2/256

As well as Islam educate people in this objective when talking about groups who reject the messages of the prophets and abusing them because of ignorance and lack of knowledge as holy Quran says;

(They are people who do not know) 9/6

The area of USA living a unique experience in respect of religions... US congress has passed on November 2nd 2007 with majority of votes by admitting the month of Ramadan and the sanctity of this month. This resolution was sponsored by Rep. of Texas

Eddie Bernice Johnson and co-sponsored (30 men) including the deputy Muslim Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to congress in America from the state of Minnesota. Keith Ellison had said to American information's center (US information 2004) We have to show the entire world the congress of America is a place for respectful all beliefs, also a place where we embrace our diversity and where we believe the promise of America you may seek the divine belief which fit in your own tradition and your own way. The main sponsor of the resolution (Eddie Bernice Johnson) had addressed the congress before the adoption this resolution "American Muslims strongly contributing for supporting the society and culture also they have a prominent role in the political system, scientific development and religious tolerance of our country".

4. Call for openness and reject isolationism

Since Allah gave His slaves good news who is open minded and who are studying various views to embrace the best view so they can invest their minds and used properly. Holy Quran says:

(Announce the good news to my servants those who listen to the word and follow the best, those are the ones whom Allah has guided and those are the ones endowed with understanding) 39/18

The holy Quran criticize the methodology of obscurantism. People of Prophet Noah (p) did not even want to hear his talk or call as Quran says:

(And every time I have called to them, that you might forgive them, they have only thrust their fingers into their ears, covered themselves up with their garments, grown obstinate and given themselves up to arrogance) 71/7

Our institutions must deal with this closure, through seminars, dialogues and articles writing to explain why the human being imposes a blockade on his mind? And why the human being refuses to be open to the other?

There are 2 main reasons:

1. First reason (Ignorance and Naiveté)

Who recognizes the value of knowledge, science and look forward to the truth would remain in search of aspiring the right to view the best and the fullest. But who lives as ignorant will believe always that sufficient stock of view is the absolute truth and a higher ceiling of knowledge.

2. Second reason (Careless about the others)

It does not find himself concerned about the future of generations and progress of the society, then does not keep his mind busy with thinking, research and comparison. Our Islamic institution must call for openness and rejection of obscurantism, first step the opening to ourselves by recognizing our abilities then look to other abilities so we can see the comparatives of advantages.

We have to understand each others; we must teach our generations who may have different outlook in attitudes and cultural then us through trust, mutual respect, tolerance and coexistence to find the best solutions for all our problems. If we organize our youth for good we will organize the entire world with us. We live in a multiracial society, cultures religions and languages, we will continue as a Muslim community in USA to work hard with sincerity and profound faith with other communities to understand each others, to eliminate the poisons between us, to eliminate the specter of doubt and fear, more we work together more we will improve the quality of the world for our children and our future generation.

Sheikh Mazin Alsahlani
Almakarim Islamic Foundation
malsahlani@hotmail.com