

Righteousness: The Straight Path

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Having righteousness is believing in the one who created the heavens, earth, and everything that exists in them including all human beings, and living by the laws that have been commanded by God. In today's secular and capitalistic world I do not hear the word righteousness or righteous except when I am in the circle of practicing Muslims. In this secular, capitalistic, and liberalistic world religion and God is not important; the problem in this is ethics cannot exist without religion.

All human cultures recognize the virtues of good such as being kind, loving, caring, and honesty as long as it is convenient to one. Unless we have a firm belief in the divine revelation just recognizing the virtue of good can have horrific historical corruptions in humanity as human history has been showing these events. How can an individual be honest and ethical when they deny the One that created them, their parents and forefathers? The universe and human beings are not random mutations; thus human beings have been created with a purpose. People who do not believe in God and His divine revelation do not think about the purpose of life and they say why they need God. People with these mindsets live their life as they please and in these lifestyles, they do follow secular laws like paying taxes and not stealing to avoid some worldly punishment and penalty. Since they do not believe in God they do not think about being accountable to God on the Day of Judgment; they think about just worldly happiness, they certainly do not think about God or the purpose of life or the life after death.

Whether one believes in God or life after death they both are true like COVID has been true whether one believes or not. "To be good, then, requires us not merely to make an intellectual choice, but a commitment to and struggle for what is true and good" Ovamir Anjum. In other words, one can say Islam logically makes sense but if they do not practice what they say then what is the point? "Serving one's parents was a universal good virtue from Europe to Islamic World to China

and India but today this secular world has dropped this virtue if not turned it into a vice” Ovamir Anjum. In other words, Ovamir Anjum is saying that ethics and philosophies will come and go as people come and go but the divine Truth is forever. The Hitler Nazi party once controlled every aspect of human life in Germany but their power does not exist anymore. Under the Nazi party Holocaust, some six million Jews were murdered in many German-occupied European countries. Hitler and his associates did not believe in God and the divine revelation but they did believe in some principles of universal ethics and this is what enabled him to come into power in the first place.

Similarly today there is ethnocide of Muslims in China against the Uighur Muslims by the government authorities. Ethnocide means they want to kill the identity of a certain group so they put the Muslims in China in concentration camps and they say they are doing ethnic cleansing. These same leaders also do not believe in God and in divine revelation. If these authorities thought about being accountable to God for their actions they will not be doing this. The Muslims in China are forced to abandon their religion; what type of ethics are these authorities who are enforcing the ethnocentric action practice?; unfortunately none. The United Nations ( UN) is not doing anything about it either and journalists are not allowed to provide coverage of these ethnocides against these Muslims. I think these Chinese authorities have support from other powerful countries for doing what they are doing.

In India, there is a BJP group like the Nazi group and like the Nazi group they have some point system causing genocides against Muslims in India and getting away with this. The country's supreme court is supporting the BJP group's actions. Anyone who says anything against the group is being punished in jail and their home is being demolished and journalists are not allowed to provide coverage of these mass genocides. These groups are

doing murders and getting away with this. Similarly, the Israeli Military is getting away with terrorizing and killing Palestinian civilians and children every day. All these leaders who are causing mass genocides, terrorism, and ethnocides do not believe in God and divine revelation, they lie and cheat for worldly benefits.

I think the virtue of righteousness is so important to one's life because having faith in God and the divine revelation helps me to be responsible for my actions and I know I am accountable for my actions with God who is All-seeing and All-hearing even if I get away with this in this world. The world promotes secularism, liberalism, and capitalism. There were many discussions when Russia was at War with Ukraine but where were the world people when the United States killed millions of people in the Islamic world such as in Iraq and Yemen with the support of Europe and left the countries' remaining people in extreme poverty and their countries in devastating situations?

“Every person is born with God-given conscience and this is why they naturally recognize the moral truths manifesting from the Attributes of God such as love, compassion, justice, and so forth” Justin Parrott. In other words, we generally see children have these characteristics until they are exposed to greed, and hate which corrupts the mind and heart of a person. Every person Muslim and none Muslim struggles with this and it is a challenge in life. For a believer this is an opportunity to prove their faith in God and strengthen it. However, “when a person is simply doing good on the personal conscience and philosophy and it lacks metaphysical understanding of reality to ground its ethics and hold in place when our moral values are put in test” Justin Parrott. In other words, without

the belief in God and divine revelation, ethics are just preferences. Not all people who believe in the Oneness of God are good people because they have to be God-conscious and God-fearing people who practice what God prescribed for them to be Good people.

Real Ethics cannot exist without the belief in one God. Believing in the oneness of God and the divine revelation builds in characters that include everlasting ethics that cannot be dropped by challenging situations or any tests. The tragedies that Muslims are facing around the world do affect me to some degree and their situations can be my situation if this is not stopped.

#### References

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