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The Causes for the Decline of the Muslim Ummah and Its Remedy, In The Light Of the Holy Quran and Hadith.

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Abstract

Muslims themselves were responsible for the decline of the Muslim Ummah, the fragility of such a distinctive civilization that first emerged in the early 13th to 15th centuries. This decline can be attributed to a variety of factors, including division within the Ummah, moral decadence, a decline in intellectual and scientific activity, and a loss of dynamism in Islam. There are many reasons for the downfall of Muslims but a few of the major is One of the main reasons for the decline of the Muslim Ummah is the manipulation or interpretation of Quranic verses because the Muslim Ummah is now so busy with their jobs that they don't have time to open the Quran or Tafseer on their own so they could look or read the Quran by themselves and understand it. The second most likely cause of the Muslim Ummah's demise is brotherhood. In the Muslim Ummah, a brotherhood is defined as a group of people who are not related by blood, geographically, or even politically. It is a heart and Iman relationship. The fall of the Muslim Ummah has begun if corruption has risen in the Muslim world because it is one of the main reasons for this decline. The Muslim Ummah fell apart as soon as they started acting dishonestly. The extent to which vulgarity has become accepted inside the Ummah is astonishing. It is also surprising



to see that Muslims are accepting LGBTQ people by saying that they are also humans, humanity comes first, and every person has a right to life no, this should not be normalized this is the same reason why the people Hazrat Lut was sent among were punished because instead of seeking pleasure in women, they used to seek pleasure in the men, and those people were punished. Another reason for this could be Western influence or western cultural influence on us. These things are still necessary for humanity today if we pay attentive attention. Though knowledge has advanced humanity today, it has only done so in a single field. The natural sciences, which deal with the materialistic side of life, have seen advancements made by humanity. However, people must study spiritual lessons that extend their perspectives on the origins of creation and monotheism and direct their hearts toward the meaning for which they were formed. Islam makes a universal appeal for knowledge acquisition. The importance of morality, moral purity, and spiritual purity now transcends this. Humanity's issues are the result of ignoring the moral purity issue.

Keywords: *Decline, Muslim Ummah, Quran, Hadith*

Introduction:

Islam means submission to God. The word "**Islam**" is an Arabic word derived from the root word "salaam", which means peace. Therefore, the word Islam implies submitting to God, living in peace with oneself as well as others and with the environment. *Islam teaches that all people are responsible for their own actions.*

The decline of the Muslim Ummah, the weakness of such a unique civilization which started to appear in the early 13th to 15th centuries was caused by Muslims themselves, that decline can be attributed to many factors such as disunity among the Ummah, moral decadence, the decline in intellectual and scientific activity, loss of dynamism in Islam.

When it opted to divorce ethics from administration and religion from government, the Islamic Ummah began to experience major issues. The day that certain rulers proclaimed themselves "caliphs" in Baghdad, the Levant, and various other regions of the world, the foundation was laid for the fall of the

Islamic world. When these self-declared caliphs raised the Islamic flag while preoccupied with their own human feelings, carnal appetites, ulterior purposes, arrogance, kingly pride, and love of wealth accumulation, the stage was set for the decline of the Muslim world.

What are the reasons behind the downfall or decline of Muslim Ummah? We can see that in the times of Prophet Muhammad, when Makah was conquered it is considered as the golden time period of Muslim Ummah and now we are facing the downfall but it is as how it was predicted by Prophet himself and at the time when Hazrat Esa will come and defeat Dajjal, He will lead Muslim Ummah for 40 years those 40 years will be the last time when Muslim Ummah will see its peak that it is also predicted that at that time there will be so many people to pay Zakat but there will be no body to accept it.

What are the reasons behind the downfall of Muslim Ummah?

The major reasons behind the downfall of Muslim Ummah are as follow:

Wrong Interpretation or Manipulation Quranic verses:

Manipulating or interpreting Quranic verses is one of the biggest causes for the decline of Muslim Ummah cause Muslim Ummah is now so busy with their work, and they don't have time to open Quran or Tafseer on their own so they could look or read themselves Quran by their own selves and understand it.

But instead, we go to Imam's of the Mosque and most of the time we are misguided by them. We should be doing our own research through Quran and Hadith or ask queries to Muslim Scholars. We spent so much money and want our kids to be in the best school in the area, but we don't pay attention to the person who will teach our children Islam.

When we won't look at ayahs from the perspective of the sender this also creates some distances between person and Allah. Whereas The Holy Quran is our direct communication to Allah because these are his words.

What I consider the cause of downfall because when we look at history this is the same thing that Christians did to the Bible. After the 5th century when the Roman republic declined Western Europe came under the control of the clergy and that was the time when Christianity started gaining power at that time clergy manipulated bible to prevent their influence in society. Common masses were not allowed to read the bible only priests could read or interpret Bible and they only interpreted it for their cause. They used to sell indulgence; common masses were not educated enough to question what the wrong church

was doing. At that time the church was more powerful than the king. As the result in 1517, Protestantism started and it was the time when the church's monopoly and peak ended and people started questioning priests and the church, wrong interpretation of the Bible led to the downfall of Christianity and now it is exactly what Muslim Ummah is doing that's why I consider it one of the causes of downfall of Ummah cause history has witnessed it.

Interpretation:

Some Ayah's that are interpreted wrong are as follow:

In Surah Al-Ma'idah:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا الْيَهُودَ وَالنَّصَارَىٰ أَوْلِيَاءَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ (51)

“O you who believe! Do not take the Jews and the Christians for the friends, they are friends of each other, and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely, he is one of them, surely Allah do not guide the unjust people” (5:51)

In this verse, the word “Awliya” has been translated as a friend however the more appropriate translation would be Guardian, protector, or advocate. Muslims are to be advocates and protectors for each other. And friends with everyone. Even Prophet Muhammad used to treat Pagans and Christians of Medina very nicely and used to make treaties with them. Some translate this verse to mean that Muslims should not take the Jews and the Christians for friends, here what I think is when we become friends with non-Muslims there are high chance that non-Muslim could understand Islam and become Muslim so for interpreting this ayah as Muslims are not allowed to be friends with non-Muslim is just to build hate among Muslims and non-Muslims.

In Surah Al-Fath:

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ— وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أَشِدَّاءُ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ رُحَمَاءُ بَيْنَهُمْ

“Muhammad is the messenger of Allah, and those who are with him are severe against disbelievers, and merciful among themselves” (48:29)

Once again, the disbelievers in this verse refer to those who persecuted and attacked the Muslims. This is not a verse directing Muslims to just go out and just be awful to non-Muslims. There is so many Quran's and Hadith

collection that command Muslims and are kind to all of God's creation. One such hadith says:

“Whoever is deprived of gentleness is deprived of all good” (Muslim, Book 32, Number 6270 & Abu Dawood, Book 41, Number 4791)

It is also reported by Abu Dawood that the Prophet said:

“Beware whoever is cruel and hard on a non-Muslim minority, or curtails their rights, or burden them with more than they can bear, or takes anything from them against their free will I (Prophet Muhammad) will complain against the person on the Day of Judgment.”

Manipulating:

These were the Ayahs which are interpreted wrong and some of the ayahs which are manipulated wrong to please one's interest. One ayah that which feminist world manipulates for their interest is:

In surah An-Nur:

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَعْضُوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَ يَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ-ذَلِكَ أَزْكَى لَهُمْ-إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ(30)

“O Prophet! Tell the believing men to lower their gaze and guard their chastity. That is purer for them. Surely Allah is All-Aware of what they do.” (24:30)

Here comes the point that you cannot use any Ayah from Quran, from between and manipulate it according to your need so when we look ahead into this ayah, we will figure out that Allah is demanding more from a woman to do, than a women will be respected, and men will lower their gaze.

و قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَعْضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِنَّ وَ يَحْفَظْنَ فُرُوجَهُنَّ وَ لَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَ لِيَضْرِبْنَ بِخُمُرِهِنَّ عَلَى خُبُورِهِنَّ-وَ لَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا لِبُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ آبَائِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَاءِهِنَّ أَوْ إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ بَنِي إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ بَنِي أَخَوَاتِهِنَّ أَوْ نِسَابِهِنَّ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُنَّ أَوْ التَّبِيعِينَ غَيْرِ أُولِي الْأَرْبَابَةِ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ أَوْ الطِّفْلِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يَظْهَرُوا عَلَى عَوْرَاتِ النِّسَاءِ-وَ لَا يَضْرِبْنَ بِأَرْجُلِهِنَّ لِيُعْلَمَ مَا يُخْفِينَ مِنْ زِينَتِهِنَّ-وَ تَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ(31)

“And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and guard their chastity, and not to reveal their adornments¹ except what normally appears.² Let them draw their veils over their chests, and not reveal their 'hidden' adornments³ except to their husbands, their fathers, their fathers-in-law, their sons, their stepsons, their brothers, their brothers' sons or sisters' sons, their fellow women, those 'bondwomen' in their possession, male attendants with no desire, or children who are still unaware of women's nakedness. Let them not stomp their feet, drawing attention to their hidden

adornments. Turn to Allah in repentance all together, O believers, so that you may be successful.” (24:31)

But first she must follow the instructions given to her, those are the terms and conditions in which she will be respected. Feminist world demand men to lower his gaze but do not want to follow the instructions given to them.

Brotherhood:

Brotherhood is the second most possible reason for the downfall of Muslim Ummah. The definition of Brotherhood in Muslim Ummah is not about blood-related relations, or people living in a specific region or even it has nothing to do with nations. It is the relation of heart and Iman. Whoever is on Iman is part of the Ummah no matter where he belongs or where he lives, what is his skin color or the native language they speak also regardless of their origin, or what they were in the past, whoever is on Iman is part of the Ummah and they all are brothers. This brotherhood is a very important aspect of Islam because it gives strength to the Ummah and unites it. As it has stated in Quran:

In Surah Al-Hujurat:

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ وَ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ(10)

“The believers are but one brotherhood, so make peace between your brothers. And be mindful of Allah so you may be shown mercy.” (49:10)

Why I consider it a reason for downfall is that the Muslim Ummah has now been disunities and scattered into so many pieces that are the reason the strength of the Ummah is currently 1.97 billion, the second largest religious group, making up about 25% of the world population. Even though we are so many of us, we are still not the strongest Ummah in the world because we are not united and divided we fall. Tracing from history, the ottoman empire was one of the most powerful empires that the whole of Europe was once the enemy of the empire but was not able to be defeated, the only thing that defeated the ottomans was disunity, and the empire started to depart when brothers started killing their brothers to become sultan and end the challenge to succeed the position of the sultan, the only thing that defeated the ottomans was unequal treatment with the European converts because ottomans considered themselves much better Muslims because they were born Muslims and never considered them as equal, that’s why they always remained a loop.

The only thing that defeated the ottomans was disintegration because Arabs and Syrians never became part of the Turks. The only thing that defeated the ottomans was the Balkans, Syrians, and people in Asia Minor felt a lack of

sense of nationalism because they were not treated equally. Summarizing these causes, we came to conclude that the only thing that defeated the ottomans was the disunity among Muslims and that's exactly what is happening today we have made our boundaries even in the 20th century we don't respect each other as Muslims.

Corruption:

If corruption has increased in Muslim world, Muslim Ummah's decline has started because it is one of the major causes of decline of Muslim Ummah. As soon as Muslim Ummah became dishonest in their conduct, it led to downfall of Ummah. Looking at the people to whom Hazrat Shoaib AS was sent (Madiyan) and what Quran says about them:

In Surah Al-A'raf:

وَ إِلَىٰ مَدْيَنَ أَخَاهُمْ شُعَيْبًا قَالَ يَوْمَ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُمْ مِن إِلَهٍ غَيْرُهُ قَدْ جَاءتْكُمْ بَيِّنَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ فَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ وَالْمِيزَانَ وَلَا تَبْخَسُوا النَّاسَ أَشْيَاءَهُمْ وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ (85)
(وَ لَا تَفْعُدُوا بِكُلِّ صِرَاطٍ تُوعِدُونَ وَ تَصُدُّونَ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ مَن آمَنَ بِهِ وَ تَبْغُونَهَا عِوَجًا وَ اذْكُرُوا إِذْ كُنتُمْ قَلِيلًا فَكَتَرْتُمْ-وَ انظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُفْسِدِينَ (86)) وَ إِن كَانَ طَافَةٌ مِّنْكُمْ آمَنُوا بِالَّذِي أُرْسِلْتُ بِهِ وَ طَافَةٌ لَّمْ يُؤْمِنُوا فَاصْبِرُوا حَتَّىٰ يَحْكُمَ اللَّهُ بَيْنَنَا-وَ هُوَ خَيْرُ الْحَاكِمِينَ (87)

“My people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. There has come to you clear evidence from your Lord. So, fulfill the measure and weight and do not deprive people of their dues and cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation. That is better for you, if you should be believers. And do not sit on every path, threatening and averting from the way of Allah those who believe in Him, seeking to make it [seem] deviant. And remember when you were few and He increased you. And see how the end of the corrupters was. And if there should be a group among you who have believed in that with which I have been sent and a group that has not believed, then be patient until Allah judges between us. And He is the best of judges” (7:85-87)

.From this passage, the people of Madiyan were unfair in many conducts. Prophet Shoaib commanded them to fulfill the measures and weights which means they used to cheat in measures, and gave unequal weights, or maybe in business and transactions. He told them to worship Allah and leave their evil deeds. Otherwise, they will be punished. He also told them not to cause mischief and corruption on land. Looking at the present condition of the Muslim Ummah we can see that all of the misconducts mentioned above are now present in the Ummah that's why we are successful in the world, we are not strong and are suppressed because we also have become corrupted, surprisingly Ummah has started to think of money and collecting money another cause of this could be weakening of faith, cause time after time our faith on Allah is weakening and we care more about the world now then akhirah (end).

Vulgarity:

It is very surprising to see how vulgarity has been normalized among Ummah. One reason for this could be Western influence or western cultural influence on us and it is also surprising to see that Muslim people are accepting LGBTQ by saying that they are also humans, humanity comes first and every person has a right to live no, this should not be normalized this is the same reason why the people Hazrat Lut was sent among were punished cause instead of seeking pleasure in women they used to seek pleasure in the men, and those people were punished. This is what Quran says about it:

و لوطًا إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَتَأْتُونَ الْفَاحِشَةَ وَأَنْتُمْ تُبْصِرُونَ (54) أَبِئْتَكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الرَّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِنْ دُونِ النِّسَاءِ-
بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ تَجْهَلُونَ (55) فَمَا كَانَ جَوَابَ قَوْمِهِ إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا أَخْرِجُوا آلَ لُوطٍ مِنْ قَرْيَتِكُمْ-إِنَّهُمْ أَنْوَاسٌ
يُنْتَظَرُونَ (56) فَأَنْجَيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ-فَقَدَرْنَاهَا مِنَ الْغَابِرِينَ (57)

‘And to Lut, when he said to his people, 'do you come to indecency while you are seeing? Do you approach men lustfully leaving women? Rather you are a people ignorant. Then there was no answer from his people but that they said expel the family of Lut from your city; they are they who want cleanliness. Then we delivered him and his family but his wife. We destroyed her that she is among those who stayed behind’ (27:54-57)

This is what happened with Hazrat Lut (A.S) we cannot accept what is not accepted by religion. We can now see in the wedding that dancing with namahram cousins and playing music and drinking have been normalized, which is strictly prohibited. In schools and colleges where students are supposed to learn manners and be better people, all the basic norms and values are being taught in the school so also in these places partying and dancing, concerts are being normalized. In summary, the Muslim Ummah is becoming vulgar from time to time.

How will we supposed to impress other non-Muslims with our behavior? When we will look at our religion as a cage which prohibits most of the things that are normal to the rest of the world, how could we be able to work on; Islam is the religion of norms and values, and it talks about respect among relations but unfortunately these vulgar activities are breaking the norms and ending the respect among relations.

Jabir ibn Samurah reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said,

“Verily, obscenity and vulgarity are not part of Islam. Verily, the best people in Islam are those with the best character.” (Musnad Ahmad 20320)

Other Causes:

There are many other causes for the downfall of the Muslim Ummah the above four were the major but there are many other reasons like weakness in the faith, the faith of the Ummah weakened Quran is just a religious book us we don't look at this book as the source of knowledge or guidance, Islam is the religion of logic and it is based on science, it tells about many scientific theories which later approved by the scientists and they also accepted Islam Jews know that this book is from Allah and they do research in the guidance of Quran that's why they are successful in many terms, while we are so busy in gaining mundane glamour. And for this, a reason could be that we idealize the west so much right now what is happening in Iran is also the result of the west influence on women in Iran demanding not to wear hijab. We idealize them because they are successful but rather than applying their tactics to also be successful in trade and world politics, we are absorbing their culture and mentality. Another cause is we have stopped raising our kids according to Islamic values. Along with interpretation and manipulation, we are also innovating our religion like eating the food on which Allah's name is not taken, lighting the houses on Rabiul Awwal, etc. and innovations are strictly prohibited.

Ali ibn Abi Talib, of the *Rashidun* (rightly guided Caliphs), said; "He who innovates or gives protection to an innovator, there is a curse of Allah and that of His angels and that of the whole humanity upon him."

Another reason could be a lack of understanding, and that is because we don't spend time on understanding our religion, that's why it has become so difficult for us to get the religion. We usually go to Imams who confuse us more, but it is possible to understand it by yourself just with a little help from a teacher, a teacher is mandatory no knowledge could be gained without the help of the teacher. Islam is not a very complex or complicated religion it is most simple one it talks about simplicity and commands us to live simply, it is we who made our lives difficult for us and we take so much time to understand it that doesn't burden a soul, it is us who burden ourselves.

"Our Lord, and burden us not with that which we have no ability to bear." (2:28)

Conclusion:

In conclusion, there was a time in the history of Islamic civilization that is affectionately called the Islamic Golden Age by Muslims and historians of all persuasions alike. Scholars would argue about the exact dates that constitute the Islamic golden age, but the consensus is that it started shortly after the rise of the Islamic empire - early 7th century - or after the birth of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and lasted until sometime between the 13th and the 15th

century. Muslim Ummah had its peek for a long time, but everything has an ending. Muslims ruled the world for centuries but then the downfall of Muslim Ummah began.

Today, the divine religion of Islam is viewed differently in Muslim countries all around the Islamic world. The Muslim nations that make up the Islamic Ummah have now opened their eyes to Islamic teachings and precepts after long stretches of ignorance and a lack of proper attention to pure Islamic truth over many centuries, as man-made philosophies have already demonstrated their failure and inadequacy in practice.

There are many other causes for the downfall of the Muslim Ummah the above four were the major but there are many other reasons like weakness in the faith, the faith of the Ummah weakened Quran is just a religious book us we don't look at this book as the source of knowledge or guidance, Islam is the religion of logic and it is based on science, it tells about many scientific theories which later approved by the scientists and they also accepted Islam Jews know that this book is from Allah and they do research in the guidance of Quran that's why they are successful in many terms, while we are so busy in gaining mundane glamour.

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