

## **The Responsible Man: Some Limits**

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### **Introduction**

Allah has created all living and nonliving beings in the universe. Among them human being is His greatest creation. All other beings except human being are created for the welfare of human being. Human being is created for the worship of Him. Allah has taught human being how to worship, how to live in this world, how to prepare oneself for here after life. Concerned with good as it is, Islam gives this tremendous social force a purpose. It must be used for promoting good, truth and justice and checking evil and injustice. That is the essence of amr-bil-marooif-wa-nahi-anil-munkar. And Quran declares it as the defining mission for this ummah: “You are the best community that has been raised for mankind. You enjoin good and forbid evil and you believe in Allah.” [Aal-e-Imran,3:110].

At another place Qur'an declares promoting good as an attribute of believers and promoting evil as an attribute of hypocrites:

“The believers, men and women, are protectors of each other: they enjoin what is right and forbid what is evil.” [ Tauba, 9: 71] On the other hand, “The hypocrites, both men and women, proceed one from another. They enjoin the wrong and forbid the right...” [Tauba, 9: 67].

This training is made by His revelation carried by more than hundred thousand messengers known as prophets. Among them four prophets are very significant such as Hazrat Dawood (AS), Hazrat Musa (AS), Hazrat Isa (AS) and Hazrat Muhammad ((PBH). Hazrat Muammad (PBH) is the greatest and the last prophet. Prophet (PBH) is the greatest responsible man in the earth who carried out his duties successfully. Muslims have not come in this world only for eating, drinking and sleeping. He has a mission, mission of a responsible man what our prophet (PBH) taught us to do through sahabis, tabeyeens, tabe tabeyeens and at present ulemas. Ordering right and forbidding wrong is an individual obligation upon one who personally witnesses or is in the presence of

wrongdoing. This is based on the statement of the Prophet (PBH): “Whoever among you sees wrongdoing (*munkar*), let him correct it with his hand. If he is unable to do that, then let him correct it with his tongue. If he is unable to do that, then let him correct it with his heart and there is not a single grain of faith beyond that.”

We as muslims must abide by these duties. Apparently it seems to us that to be a responsible man is very easy but we can find there are some limitations. The purpose of the paper is to identify some limits of responsible man. The limits of responsible man are as follows:

### **Limits in Acquiring Traits**

In order to carry out ordering what is right and forbidding what is wrong, an individual must develop various traits within themselves:

Knowledge: It has been said: “Whoever worships Allah without knowledge corrupts more than he sets right.” Especially in this area it is critical to have sufficient knowledge in order to be sure that one is calling to what is right and also prioritizing correctly for example not criticizing another on some small details or ritual (possibly even issues where there is significant difference of opinion) while neglecting other much more serious issues such as associating others with Allah in worship or in legislation.

True Intention: This act of worship of being responsible man must be done solely out of desire for Allah's pleasure. Any other intentions or motivations will corrupt the act and cause it to bear no fruit or to have negative consequences.

Justice: In doing mission of responsible man there is possibility of mistreatment. There is no place of exploitation in Islam. Allah says, “There is no compulsion in religion.” [Al Baqarah, 256]. However, one must maintain justice in every sphere of life. Allah declares, “Verily! Allah commands that you should render back the trusts to those to whom they are due; and that when you judge between men, you judge with justice. Verily, how excellent is the teaching which He (Allah) gives you! Truly, Allah is Ever All-Hearer, All-Seer.” [An-Nisa, 58].

Patience: It is a great quality of a muslim. If one wants to be a responsible person, he must have patience. We know that our prophet (SM) along with other prophets have given their serious tests of patience to Allah in carrying out their duties for amr-bil-maroofoo-wa-nahi-anil-munkar.

The caller must begin with himself and beware of falling into being two-faced - calling to things which he himself does not fulfill. Allah described those who do this as being “senseless” or without intelligence.

### **Confined to Muslims**

The responsible man here is not the man other than muslims. The question arises why Allah says to muslims, why He did not deliver the duties to non-muslims. It has several implications: i) Allah knows that only muslims can carry out this responsibility. ii) Allah does not want non muslims get this kind of prestigious responsibility. iii) Without being a muslim other cannot be eligible for this responsible work as Islam is the only valid religion at present.

Moreover, after arrival of Islam other religious principles and values are suspended. The messengers and prophets of other religions have arrived in this world only for particular dynasty, period, or region. However, our prophet’s mission of making responsible man will continue through his followers until the resurrection comes.

### **Defining Good and Bad Deeds**

What actually we mean by good deeds and wrong deeds. It is a burning question as there are also different views about this. This also varies from society to society and culture to culture. In Islamic perspective, good deeds are those kinds of human actions which are compatible with Islamic shariah. In other words, one’s action is considered good if one acquires knowledge of Allah and prophet (PBH) and acts thereby.

It is easy to do the first part of a responsible man's work. But it is very difficult to be a second part i.e., protector of wrong actions. It is not an easy duty and anyone who fulfills it will be met with rejection, mistreatment and abuse. Luqman said to his son:

“Dear son: establish the prayer, order what is good and forbid what is wrong and be patient with what befalls you - this is among the firmly commanded issues.” [Luqman: 17].

### **Contradiction with the Human rights**

It contradicts with the human rights, a slogan presently practised and assumed in the context of Western system. There may have a contradiction with the present day so called civilization process and as there is a system of underlining freedom of speech even if it goes against fundamental beliefs of Islam. Yet we see a growing attitude in the Muslims in the West under the influence of this slogan of freedom. It effectively says: “This is my life, leave me alone.” But we must remember that the Islamic society is the only society with a declared mission of promoting good and forbidding evil. Its definition of good and evil is not subject to the whims and desires of every generation or the perceived interests of a nation-state either. They are permanent concepts as defined in its unalterable sources: Qur'an and Sunnah. We know that the Qur'an approves the policies as for example, the murder for murder policy and even cutting one's hand for stealing. However, these Qur'anic policies are criticized by the West as the violations of human rights. This is why they label muslims the titles of fundamentalist and terrorist etc. But we as muslims must have conviction that Allah knows better than us. Apart from this in a world of moral relativism these permanent values revealed by Allah are the hope for the whole mankind.

### **Conclusion**

Although there are limits of being responsible man, there should have a continuous attempt to overcome these limits. And it is possible for human being as Allah does not give any responsibility to us beyond our capacity. To achieve this goal we all muslims ought to have true motive and sacrificing tendency.