



In the Name of
'Love...'

In the Name of 'Love'...

Allah SWT has revealed Islam as a complete and perfect religion. Thus accordingly, it has its own unique traditions as well as its very own celebrations. Islam's festivals are so sublime and fulfilling that not only do they consider human temperament but also assure a Muslim's advancement in the Afterlife. If they are a means to derive pleasure, these festivals also pave ways for us to gather happiness in the Hereafter. We have Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha, in which it is not only allowed to wear good clothes but rather it has been recommended to do so, as a part of our Deen. To eat good is encouraged, to have fun is desirable, but with all that it is also expected that we prostrate in front of our Lord, to thank Him, so as we rejoice today in this world, in the next too we be blessed with all possible pleasures. Eat well here, wear good here but also present oneself in Allah's Palace for a while, invoking Him by Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar. Hence we derive bliss here, as well as in the eternal life to come.

Weakness of the Muslims

So my friends, Muslims have their own celebrations but because our education is not ours anymore, our media is not ours and as a result of the environments of which our children are now becoming a part, their thinking is not theirs any longer, and parents too do not give them that atmosphere at homes where their roots of Emaan would have strengthened, they would acquire a sense of religious honour and they would be able to discern as to what are our traditions, what really are our festivals, and what are our celebrations. Since this Muslim got deprived of all such things, so today he has started celebrating pagan festivals. Look at the society around you and notice how non-Islamic and polytheistic customs are flourishing away. Valentine's Day, basant, Friendship Day, birthdays etc. are few such examples.

The History of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day dates back to the Roman idol worshippers. Legends contend that it has its origin in honouring the Roman idols. Like most Christian festivals, the Valentine's Day too has its roots in the Roman polytheism. In ancient Rome, there used to be a

festival for the young men and women. The Roman girls would write love letters and put them in a vase. Then the Roman bachelors would draw out the letters at random and select the girl whose letter had been drawn. Thereafter, these couples used to have courtships, meeting each other before marriage to develop understanding. However, when Christians came to Rome, they sought to Christianise everything prevalent at the time. So instead of putting an end to this pagan festival, they replaced it with Valentine's day.

According to the Webster Encyclopaedia, Saint Valentine's life has no concern with this day or all that happens on it. In Islamic perception whoever celebrates this day or attends gatherings of such kind is, in reality, celebrating a festival of the disbelievers and he who follows the disbelievers, all his A'maal and good deeds are rendered unacceptable.

Allah SWT says in the Holy Quran: "Had they committed Shirk, all they did would have been nullified for them (meaning the good deeds that they had performed)." (Al-Inaam 6:88)

For one, this day of so-called love is primarily rooted in polytheism. With the passage of time the Christians changed its basis and instead of attributing it to its actual background, they made up filthy stories in its name, mere narration of which disgusts one.

Today it is this very propaganda of the Christians to make this festival so widespread amongst the Muslims that it drowns away their Islamic culture, Aqaeed, Education etc., so the Muslims forget their Fariaz, obligations, A'maal and responsibilities and lose themselves in this debris of shamelessness.

The Prominence of the Islamic Culture

One of the most eminent features of the Islamic culture is 'Haya' (bashfulness). Holy Prophet SAW said, "There is an Akhlaaq for every Deen and the Akhlaaq of Islam is Haya."

The root word for Haya is 'Hayaat' which means 'life'. So the life of Ummat-e-Muslima is "Haya" and the opposite of it (shamelessness) is death for the Muslim world. That is the main reason why it is being tried to the highest degree from all sides to root out our very sense of honour (haya).

Valentine's Day Today

Today young Muslims, both boys and girls participate in these celebrations. These celebrations are popularised at homes, colleges, universities, offices through TV, radio, dramas, musical shows, films and dirty literature and so the lustful desires in these young Muslims are not only inflamed but they are also taught new modes of shamelessness. Also becoming common are restaurants promoting Valentine's Day dinners, hotels offering balls, and stores advertising flowers, chocolates, and other gifts. It is a pity that the male-female relation is given a very shameless image in all this 'love' fever. These illicit couples are seen imitating love scenes from movies, going out on romantic dates and attending valentine parties. Schools too hold such parties for their students. Thus even young children are fed with ideas of growing lusty feelings and expressing them boldly. On this day, in our country (an Islamic country) musical concerts are held which become a source of disgrace, and the girls and boys attending them are convinced into wearing red coloured clothes. By the way, Jewish art attributes the red colour to the Devil. And certainly the devil teaches such immodesty which is displayed by the youth wearing red clothes in the celebration of this event. Allah SWT says: "Satan frightens you with poverty, and bids you to commit indecency." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:268)

Let us reflect upon the fact that this is all against the Islamic traditions. Or else if we, blindfolded keep on treading the footsteps of the disbelievers, the matter would exceed to such an extent that we will be unable to control it. **Then, it won't be surprising that a time may come where we won't be able to save our children even if we want to; even if we want to draw back from this path, we will fail to find a way back.**

The enthusiasts of the western civilisation's pseudo intellectuals proclaim that this is only a means to express our love. So what is wrong in that?

Islam's Ideology of Love is Very Vast

My friends, the first thing is that the idea of love in Islam has its own confines and precincts. Islam is not a religion which has no regard for human temperament; love is after

all the need of the human nature. Islam has not restricted us away from love but instead it has itself blessed us with the means of how to do it the right way.

Islam preaches us to love your Lord, to love your Prophet (P.B.U.H), and then by submitting to them and staying in the confines of their teachings, love your father, love your mother, love your wife, love your children, love the virtuous and the pious. Wife has been asked to love her husband. So where does Islam refrain us from love? In fact, it commands us to love at all stages. Assigning one day for love is only for those people who don't even know the meaning of love, where true love does not even exist. It is for those who visit their parents in old age homes only once a year to express made-up love for them. The spouses are so busy with their routines; she goes to office here, he goes for work there, so well, let there be some exchange of gifts once a year.

Or it is for those societies where there is no boundary for love. No differentiation between Halal and Haram love. Such a love pushes the heart to punishment and ache, thus instead it is disgrace, illegal and sinful.

Whereas in Islam, husband adopts a certain way, everyday, which becomes a means of increasing his wife's love for him. Islam teaches a wife to espouse such a way each day which enhances her husband's love for her. Islam's guidelines for the son commands him to obey his father that the father's love for his son reaches to such an extent that his hands raise in Dua for the son. Islam guides us at every instance of our lives, but it guides us by telling us ways to do things.

In favour of the celebration of the Valentine's Day, it is said that it is a way of expressing love and it is thus a productive activity. Such things are absolutely incorrect. We instead need to see the value of love in societies where this foul (western) culture is celebrated at all levels. How much love is found in their houses? What percentage of people actually live with each other lovingly?

Account of the Present Conditions

It is mostly said that if love builds up before marriage, than the marital life gets to be successful. However, all the surveys of the world conducted in this regard have yielded results entirely contrary to this belief. I received a survey done in Cairo conducted

throughout the world. Its report said that 88% of marriages based on pre-marriage love are unsuccessful, while only 12 % of such couples end up living together as husband and wife. In comparison to this, marriages that are conducted according to the traditions of the Islamic principle, their success rate is 78%.

A matter of concern is that these very societies that celebrate this festival have horrific rates of crimes and atrocities against women. According to the report of one of the surveys conducted in France, around 10 million women are subject to severe abuse from their husbands or from the men living with them and out of these, four thousand women lose their lives due to such brutal violence.

We need to observe that we are being shown a completely false picture. A filthy tradition (which, in reality, is based on Shaytaan's ploy) is being portrayed in front of us as something attractive. Like Allah SWT says in the Holy Quran : "And the Satan has beautified their deeds for them." (An-Naml 27:24)

Evil Disguised in Goodness

Evil is being presented before us as a thing of marvel and delight. Indecency is presented in a striking manner and we are told that it is freedom, it is entertainment, it is happiness. Love flourishes due to this and comfort is found in it.

Alas! Nothing of this is true! In fact it is due to this only that homes are broken, children get ruined, Haya goes away, youth gets strained by fulfilment of the lustful desires, chastity of daughters gets lost, sons cuts off relations from the fathers, and daughters do not remain loyal to their own mothers. The family system gets broken into pieces.

In a country where there is no accountability to law, where there is no justice anymore and God forbidding, the natives of this nation also become characterless, then who can protect such a country. Then there won't be any limit to the rate of crimes. There won't be any such thing as peace and tranquillity. There will be no security of life, dignity and honour in such a state.

Detestation for Western Traditions

My dear friends, Alhamdulillah we are Muslims. We have our own traditions, our own festivals, our own celebrations, thus it is necessary for us to detest these western

traditions. Remember that those who themselves do not execute such actions but just attend gatherings where these celebrations are being held, they too can't escape the menace of such filth as a narration of our Beloved Prophet SAW tells: "Whoever acquires resemblance to any group of people will be one of them." (Mishkaat)

Wishing Valentine's Day

Thus wishing greetings on such festivals too is as bad as being involved in them. It is Haram to wish Valentine to others. Somebody is drinking wine and you are applauding him, *Mubarak ho!* Someone is committing adultery and you are congratulating him! Just like that somebody being involved in the festival of the kuffars and you congratulate them passing on greetings to them. As faith escapes a person who drinks alcohol, Emaan goes away by getting involved in adultery, **the same case applies to celebrating western traditions which become a source of completely whisking away the Emaan from a believer.** So it is necessary for us to be concerned about improving our surroundings and society; guiding our children to the straight path, improving the environment of our homes and worrying about its betterment.

Unfortunately, we have put down our weapons saying, "What can we do, since the conditions of the society are so dire. What can we do, we are helpless in this matter."

My friends, our responsibility won't go away just by saying so. We cannot avoid it just by saying all this. We will have to put up our struggles; will have to make use of all our energies. Yes! Otherwise the matter will keep on getting worse.

When the faith of children is lost, won't their fathers be asked what sinful places did they send them to? And moreover never even bothered to check the state of their faith. Is faith such a substandard thing (Allah Forbid)? Is faith such an ordinary thing that for a few bucks we deprive our children of this wealth of Emaan. Unfortunately, it is not a thing that can't go away. It is not that we live among Muslims and recite Kalma once and then be satisfied that our faith is firm. It is certainly not like this. Instead, faith is a thing which comes but goes away too.

Muhammad (s.a.w.w) said that a time will come when some people from this Ummah will follow the earlier nations so exactly, that if they would have behaved immorally with their mothers then these Muslims too will behave immorally with their own mothers. If they would enter the hole of the lizard, then these Muslims too would do the same. Sahabah inquired: "O Prophet SAW! Are the Jews and Christians meant by this? Prophet SAW said, "Who else can it be besides them."(Mishkaat)

This implies that the Muslims will follow each and every footsteps of theirs. In the light of this Hadeeth, today we can clearly see that whatever they do, we follow suit. **And we refer to this as 'development'**. Whoever does this is regarded as liberal and enlightened, for he knows how to adjust as per circumstances. All such things are false, all this talk is nothing but bogus.

Islam is Broad-minded

No religion is as broadminded and tolerant as Islam. The hearts of Muslims are very liberal but this does not mean they are deprived of their sense of honour. Their Haya is everything for them. So it can never mean that we adopt the ways of the infidels and start celebrating their festivals. Today this deluge of following the west witnessed in our society is utterly damaging for our faith. It is our obligation to set dikes before this flood, build up our courage, and dishearten those who are helping these waves to cross all bounds.

Supporting Evil

Allah SWT says: "And do not help each other in sin and aggression. Fear Allah. Surely, Allah is severe at punishment. (Al-Maida 5:2)

If some shopkeepers design something special for this occasion, red dresses, arranging red roses, selling red and white things of all sorts, then this act of his is also assisting the evils of Valentine's Day. But alas, today's Muslim does this all just to earn a few more bucks. Money is important to him, but not his faith. For him progress of this world is significant, the Emaan of Muslims is not of any significance to him.

Holy Prophet SAW once said, "A Mumin is simple, but yet he does not get bitten twice from the same place." Don't know how many times have we Muslims already been bitten from

www.fahmedeen.org
www.practiseislam.org

the evils of the west. It is about time that we start realising our mistakes and appreciate the blessing that Allah SWT has bestowed upon us in the form of our Deen. Let us be thankful to Allah and weep in front of Him for our past life. Prophet SAW said, "Being regretful is repentance." (Ibn Majah)

Shedding tears over our past sins is the truth of repentance. Ask forgiveness from your Lord that, 'Allah, I seek forgiveness from you over my past life, but now Insha'Allah will spend it according to the beautiful teachings of my Deen.'

To whatever degree possible, we should strive to spread Islamic culture in our societies. All else is upto Allah SWT, He will make it easier; however, each one of us has to fulfil our responsibilities first.

May Allah SWT help all of us in traversing the *sirat-e-mustaqeem*. May we stop doing something just because all others are doing it. May we be Muslims in entirety. Aameen ya Rubbula'lameen.