

# Racism

The black people in the USA were considered savage wild people who have no history.

Everything you are, we hate you, the Africans had knowledge of themselves, you can suffocate that knowledge with any false suffocation of knowledge you decide once you can stop me from acknowledging myself, then you can tell me those lies.

I'm not black!

In the early years of the 20th century is recorded that there were churches that they could put pieces of pinewood at the entrance to the church and they had fine combs and they said, if your skin is not lighter than this wood and the comb cannot pass easily through your hair then, you are not eligible to enter this church for communing with the lord.

It's also recorded that there are religions that say that there are people are born into a cast of untouchables and they are considered the lowest and most despicable of society and there's no way for them to elevate from that level within their lifetime.

It's recorded that there are religions that say that there's a race of people that are the chosen ones and others cannot be the chosen people of God if they were not born into that race.

Races, as we can see, past and present, it's something that was institutionalized and became systemic and it's epidemic, that unfortunately we are still affected by it today.

We consider ourselves advanced societies and civilized people and then we find that there's strong resurgence of this disease in our modern times.

We find that hate crimes are on the rise in a number of developed nations and this is something which is unacceptable.

Today I will share with you the Islamic solution to this ugly disease and the Islamic perspective on Racism.

Throughout history, people illogically tried to persuade themselves that they are superior to others, sometimes claiming that they were physically stronger or that they were more intelligent or that they were superior due to their lineage and family. Often this was made based on color or race and this blatant Racism.

Now, when you talk about race you have the 'ism' word, Racism, socialism, capitalism, liberalism; this 'ism' actually is just a feeling.

Now, let me share what God Almighty said about race: in the Holy Quran, the final revelation, that was revealed by Allah to confirm what was revealed in the Old and New Testament, the Torah and Injil.

Allah said: "Oh mankind, we created you from male and female and made you nations and tribes so you know each other"

Now, Allah is telling us and reminding us that we are all mankind, you and me whether we are Muslims or not, as long as we are human beings.

Allah is talking to us. "Oh people, oh mankind, indeed We (Allah) created who had created all of you from one male and one female, Adam and Eve Then, Allah said: "And We made you into nations and tribes (race)..."

Allah again remind us that in the beginning of the creation there was no race there was only Adam and Eve and the children of Adam we are all a big family, we are all children of Adam.

The Prophet (pbuh) said: "People are from Adam and Adam was made from dirt" he continued saying, 'there is no superiority of an Arab over non-Arab person, there is no superiority of a white person over black person and vice versa, except for Taqwa except if you look at the level of piety, God consciousness, So, in Islam the only virtue of a person over another, that the Prophet (pbuh) described and also that Allah Almighty had described within the Book (Quran), is the measure of Taqwa, God consciousness.

Allah then, give us the correct criteria, what is that we should use to determine that someone is greater than someone else, what we should use to determine that someone is superior to someone else?

Allah says: "Indeed, the most honorable amongst you is the one that has the most God consciousness (piety, righteousness)" and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), said, pointing to his heart, "Piety (taqwa) is here" piety is in the heart, it's not something that people can see.

And in another narration, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), informed us that Allah indeed doesn't look at our physical form and He doesn't look at the wealth that we possess, it's not about what race we are. It's not about our economic status, but rather, Allah will look at our hearts what intentions do we have, what beliefs, and He we look at our actions and deeds as a result of those intentions and those beliefs.

This is the true criteria, the criteria that people cannot use to judge one another cause no one knows what is in other person's heart, Why Allah created so many races and colors and languages? Allah Almighty knows what humans will be demanding. Imagine Allah created in the ocean only tuna fish I don't think anyone of us would enjoy eating only tuna fish and Allah created so many different types of fishes so that we can have a choice to look at the creation of Allah, to appreciate and understand the creation of Allah, these differences are not for you to compete but these differences are for you to be thankful to Allah, so Allah says, "I've made you into tribes and races..." for what? To fight against each other? To say, I'm white better than the black? And Arab better than a non-Arab? No!!

Allah Almighty said: "To know each other" the reason I made you different, you complement each other".

Islam is here to provide equality, so everybody has equal rights, just a few decades earlier, not too far from the death of the Messenger (pbuh) after the Prophet (pbuh) inculcated these meanings within the society.

We have the example of Attaa' ibn Abi Rabah, he was a person black in color, he got one eye, and he was also partially paralyzed, and later on in his life, Attaa' also lost his other eye, so he became fully blind, he also was a poor person, he didn't have money, he slept in the mosque for 20 years, cause he was very poor, he was a person that during the time of Al-Hejjaj who attacked Makkah, his hand got cut off as well. All of these things that bring a social stigma to a person.

The skin color, the blindness, the hand cut, and also poverty; all these things did not stop him in a society that was nurtured within the prophetic culture that did not stop him from becoming a person of value in the society. Because Prophet Muhammad, pbuh, said no to discrimination and taught us to do the same thing (Attaa') became the mufti of the Haaram (Makkah).

He became the one who gave the religious verdicts in Makkah, he became a scholar, giving fatwa and guidance, in the time which the largest gatherings of Muslims occurred in Makkah there would be a caller who announced aloud, he would said:

'No one should give fatwa to the people except for Attaa', despite he was blind, poor and his skin color was black and he was also cripple a caller calls all the Muslims that gathers for Hajj and says, nobody is to give fatwa to the people excepts for Attaa'.

This was the culture that the Prophet (pbuh) brought and that was the clear change that the Prophet (pbuh) brought, We have an example in the life of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) where we find that when one of the companions wanted to disagree when there was an argument with one of the fellow Muslim.

He tried to insult him based on his mother and the race he was from and that man went and complain to the Prophet (pbuh) and the Prophet (pbuh) ask him if he was an Arab and had noble lineage and he was asked 'did you insult him cause of his mother and based on who his mother is? He said, 'yes, I did, oh Messenger of Allah' He said, ' then you are a person that still has traits of the people of pre-Islamic ignorance' meaning: sometimes we are victims of our upbringing unfortunately human beings love to segregate and divide and love to say is 'us' and 'them' and love to hate one another; and we end up raising people on that weather is our own children or the society around us or the education system and a person becomes tinted with that filth of racism and discrimination.

So, the Prophet (pbuh) told him, you are not fully purified from that, so that means that you have to take steps to re-educate yourself and to change your beliefs and your words and your actions, to reflect the proper behavior, and that is the behavior of a person that does not hate others based on their race or nationality or based on their tribes, lineage or their origins.

We should love each other and share things together and try our best and make this life in this world very peaceful ideal for us to live and grow, and if, we, Muslims believe that Islam is the best.

Islam is for everybody. So, we must not discriminate other person because of his race When the Quran speaks about race, speaks about one race, the human race, Allah says, "And We did honored mankind" over any other race and that includes all the colors, races, ethnicities, languages, and tribes that there are amongst mankind and Allah Almighty's Messenger (pbuh) addressed his followers and companions in the farewell pilgrimage, and he said. "Oh Mankind, your God is One! And your father is one (Adam), there's no distinction for an Arab over a non-Arab nor for a white person over a black person, nor for a black person over a white person except through piety" and piety, again, is something that is internal and related to the person's faith to Allah.

Islam came to eradicate Racism, Yet we must admit that racisms is a problem within many Muslim societies but it's perhaps the reminiscences and evil

that colonialism brought with it because Allah's Messenger (pbuh) came to eradicate racism and discrimination.

The Prophet (pbuh) said, "And the most honorable amongst you are the ones that are most pious"