

Mission of Muslim Ummah and Our Priorities

Introduction

This is the month of Ibrahim AS.

Our Friends and Relatives are completing their Hajj.

This is the month of commemoration of sacrifice offered by Ibrahim AS.

We link our faith back to Ibrahim AS who represents the fountainhead of all the revealed/ monotheistic religions of modern times.

So let us start with Ibrahim AS and see what we learn from him for our times.

There are many facets but we are going to focus on speaking out against social evils.

Struggles of Ibrahim AS

Looking at stars, moon, and sun and rejecting them as divine. [Al-An'am \(The Cattle\) - 6:74-78](#)

Arguments with the King. [Al-Baqara \(The Cow\) - 2:258](#)

Asking Allah to show him how he will bring life from Death. [Al-Baqara \(The Cow\) - 2:260](#)

Destroying Idols. [Al-Anbiya \(The Prophets\) - 21:58](#)

Being thrown in the fire, and fire cooling down. [Al-Anbiya \(The Prophets\) - 21:69](#) [

Leaving son and wife in Makkah desert. [Ibrahim \(Abraham\) - 14:37](#)

Asked to sacrifice his son. [As-Saffat \(The Rangers\) - 37:102](#)

Old vs young. Don't dwell in the past. Learn from the past to plan the present and the future,

Mission of Muslim Ummah

Al-Hajj (The Pilgrimage) - 22:78

وَجَاهِدُوا فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَادِهِ هُوَ اجْتَبَاكُمْ وَمَا جَعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ مِنْ حَرَجٍ مِّلَّةَ أَبِيكُمْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
هُوَ سَمَّاكُمُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَفِي هَذَا لِيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْكُمْ وَتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ
فَأَقِمْوَا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِاللَّهِ هُوَ مَوْلَاكُمْ فَنِعْمَ الْمَوْلَى وَنِعْمَ النَّصِيرُ
(22:78)

78. And strive for Allah, with the striving due to Him. He has chosen you, and has not burdened you in religion—the faith of your father Abraham. It is he who named you Muslims before, and in this. So that the Messenger may be a witness over you, and you may be witnesses over the people. So pray regularly, and give regular charity, and hold fast to Allah. He is your Protector. What an excellent Protector, and what an excellent Helper.

Allah says that He has given this name 'so that you become witnesses to humankind.'

Witnesses by words and deeds.

Witnesses to Allah, not to any nationality or culture, witnesses not to any race or color, witness not for any worldly gains, but witnesses only to Allah for the good of everyone.

We are reminded, 'So pray regularly, give regular charity.'

Our prayer and charity is not occasional or whenever we feel and whatever way we like.

We should make Salat the way Allah wants us to make Salat and we should give Zakat the way Allah wants us to give Zakat, according to the Sunnah of His Prophet.

Finally, we are told, 'Hold to Allah;

'Holding on to the rope of Allah' and 'Holding on to Allah.' Both of them are important and there is a fine difference between them.

'Holding on to the rope of Allah' is holding on to the guidance of Allah, strictly following and obeying His commands. This is related to method, to approach and to learning.

'Holding to Allah' is trusting Allah, His help, His power, His closeness and His love. 'Holding to Allah' is personal, experiential. It is not just intellectual learning but it is spiritual living. As believers we should do both: hold to the guidance of Allah and hold to the love of Allah.

He is your Protector, the excellent Protector and the excellent Helper.' Allah is our 'mawla.' He is our Protector, our Guardian, our Master and our Friend. He is the most excellent 'Mawla' and the most excellent 'Nasir.'

We pray to Allah that we follow this mission of faith and goodness in our lives and bring goodness to the world. Ameen.

What's our Mission in Modern Times.

It is Time for Action.

Living in strange times. Everything America stands for is going down the drain. There is open racism, immorality, injustice, and so on. What we as Muslim to do.

Learn from the life of Ibrahim AS.

There is both amr bil Maroof and Nahi anil Munkar. We sometimes only concentrate on calling to good as it is easier to do and ignore the second part. Which is forbidding evil. That's the point we are going to cover today.

Not Forbidding Evil

Al-Anfal (The Spoils of War) - 8:25

وَاتَّقُوا فِتْنَةً لَّا تُصِيبَنَّ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْكُمْ خَاصَّةً وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ (8:25)

And be afraid of a trial which if it were to fall upon you would certainly not fall exclusively upon the evildoers among you but would encompass them and others and the way to guard against it is to renounce that evil which necessarily results in precipitating it; and know that Allah is severe in retribution against those who oppose Him.

So, if we stay silent, the punishment falls on all. If we do not preach advise, enjoin good, forbid evil, the curse of Allah can fall upon us.

Best of Nations

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) - 3:110

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ
وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَوْ آمَنَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ مِنْهُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمْ
الْفَاسِقُونَ

You are the best community brought forth for men according to Allah's knowledge, enjoining good and and forbidding evil, and believing in Allah. Had the People of the Scripture believed it, their belief would have been better for them; some of them are believers but most of them the disbelievers and are wicked

Allah's Challenge to Rise

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) - 3:104

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ
الْمُفْلِحُونَ (3:10)

Let there be a community among you calling to good and enjoining decency and forbidding indecency; those that call .are the successful victorious ones

what is mentioned is a collective obligation fard kifāya and is not incumbent upon every individual of the community.

But everyone should use their skills and capacity to speak out

Muslims are Protectors of Each Other

As long as we stay on this mission, we will protect each other.

At-Tauba (The Repentance) - 9:71

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ
الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيُطِيعُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ
(9:71)

And the believers both men and women are allies of one another; they enjoin decency and forbid indecency; they observe prayer and pay the alms and they obey Allah and His Messenger. Those Allah will have mercy on them. Truly Allah is Mighty nothing can prevent Him from fulfilling His promise and His threat; Wise He puts everything in its proper place.

This is one approach to take. At least work among ourselves and save us, our families and those around us.

Don't Be Silent

All these ayahs are telling us to speak out when evil is spreading.

Famous Hadith

Abu Saeed Al-Khudri reported that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:

“Anyone of you who sees a vice must change it with his hand, and if he cannot, then with his tongue, but if we cannot, then with his heart, and that is the weakest of Iman.” (Muslim)

Let us not resort to the lowest level of Adh'afu Iman.

If you want to enjoy the bounties of this nation, take part in the democratic process. Some don't want to, they should not be living here.

Doing good deeds. Shifa Clinics. Harvey. Need to do more.

One way to follow Ibrahim AS. He was thankful for his blessing.

An-Nahl 121 . شاکر الانعمه

The current administration is giving us plenty of opportunities to speakout. The most recent being the inhuman practice of separating children from their families.

Let us not speak only when Muslims are involved. Many communities supported us against the infamous Muslim Ban. Let us join hands on causes we agree with to support the disadvantaged. Because what afflicts another community, can reach you tomorrow and vice versa.

No Justice Without Being Just

The Prophet exemplified that one cannot practice justice and dispense equity if one is unable to respect the dignity of others. Not being able to stand up or not being willing to stand up to defend the rights of others when they are violated only brings danger to our survival.

Listen to a poem written by a **Christian pastor** at the time of Nazi Germany:
"First they came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up, because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up, because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one left to speak up for me" (**Pastor Niemoller**).

Bani Israel

Let us not become like Bani Israel, whose behavior Prophet (PBUH) warned us against.

It was narrated by Ibn Mas'ood that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: "The first deficiency noticed in the children of Israel was that the person used to meet his fellow being and say to him, O you! Fear Allah and shun from doing bad deeds because they have been prohibited onto you. Then he would see him the other day but does not tell him to stop evil and immortality. He would rather be his close friend in eating, drinking, and sitting. As a consequence of this, Allah has scattered them in the land and cursed them." (Dawud and Tirmidhi)

Think about it for a moment. Aren't we doing the same. What was abhorrent yesterday, has become the norm.

The Prophet's Mission and Ours: Justice for All

The Prophet's call was for the religious, social and political liberation for all people not just Muslims, not just people of his own tribe, not just for rich and powerful but for all people. The Prophet said, "The best among you is the best toward people." When we remain silent in the face of justice, we are far removed from the one who is The Just (Al-Adl) i.e. Allah.

How to Save Yourself

Al-A'raf (The Heights) - 7:164-5

وَإِذْ قَالَتْ أُمَّةٌ مِّنْهُمْ لِمَ تَعِظُونَ قَوْمًا اللَّهُ مُهْلِكُهُمْ أَوْ مُعَذِّبُهُمْ عَذَابًا شَدِيدًا قَالُوا مَعذِرَةٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ
وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ ^(7:164) فَلَمَّا نَسُوا مَا ذُكِّرُوا بِهِ أَنجَيْنَا الَّذِينَ يَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ السُّوءِ وَأَخَذْنَا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا
بِعَذَابٍ بَّيْسٍ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْسُقُونَ ^(7:165)

Regarding Bani Israel fishing on prohibited days, A community among them who neither fished nor prohibited it said to those who prohibited it 'Why do you preach to the folks whom Allah is about to destroy, or chastise with a severe punishment?' They said, our preaching to them is an excuse ourselves before our Lord, lest we are made responsible for failing to prohibit them in any way; And when they overlooked that which they had been reminded, We delivered those who forbade evil, and seized those who did wrong through transgression with a grievous terrible punishment for their wickedness.

So if you want to be saved, we need to keep raising our voices against societal evils, whatever they may be.

Don't Stay Quiet

Al-Baqara (The Cow) - 2:143

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا
2:143

We appointed you a balanced nation that you might be witnesses to the people on the Day of Resurrection, that their messengers delivered the Message to them; and that the Messenger might be a witness to you that he delivered the Message to you.

We can not be quiet just to keep peace. We are a moderate nation.

Evils Could be Among Us

Sometimes the vices are not outside, these are among us.

Rumors, backbiting, derogatory nicknames, accusation, jealousy and so on.

Always offer your advice, suggestions, comments, and help.

Take the initiative but with mercy, love and compassion.

What Happens When Calamity Falls

If you experience this, then:

Al-Mu'minun (The Believers) - 23:93-94

قُلْ رَبِّ إِمَّا تُرِيِّي مَا يُوعَدُونَ (23:93) رَبِّ فَلَا تَجْعَلْنِي فِي الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ (23:94)

(Say) O Muhammad: (My Lord!) O my Lord! (If You should show me that which they are promised) of punishment, (My Lord! then set me not among the wrong-doing folk), do not place me with the disbelieving people

The Need for a Social Ethic

People who claim to be God Conscious are themselves staying quiet in the face of immorality.

Religious consciousness is not possible without a social ethic. To be a person of faith requires that we be immersed to working for social justice and social good. Prophet Ibrahim/Muhammad did not just immerse himself in dhikr. To the contrary he served Allah by serving his fellow human beings.

Speaking out in Political Arena is an Example of Speaking for Justice

If we perceive that our faith, our way of life, our ability to worship freely or gather without any fear is under threat then we have the right, rather the obligation to raise our voices and explore peaceful means of overcoming this difficulty. If these problems are the result of government policies, then also we have the right, rather the obligation, to go out and engage ourselves in the process to address the situation.

Extra Slides

Dialogue with Allah and Observation

Al-Baqara (The Cow) - 2:260

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ أَرِنِي كَيْفَ تُحْيِي الْمَوْتَى قَالَ أُولِمُ تُوْمِنَ قَالَ بَلَىٰ وَلَكِن لِّيَطْمَئِنَّ قَلْبِي قَالَ
فَخَذَ أَرْبَعَةً مِّنَ الطَّيْرِ فَصُرَهُنَّ إِلَيْكَ ثُمَّ اجْعَلْ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ جَبَلٍ مِّنْهُنَّ جُزْءًا ثُمَّ ادْعُهُنَّ يَأْتِيَنَّكَ سَعْيًا
وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ (2:260)

260. And when Abraham said, “My Lord, show me how You give life to the dead.” He said, “Have you not believed?” He said, “Yes, but to put my heart at ease.” He said, “Take four birds, and incline them to yourself, then place a part on each hill, then call to them; and they will come rushing to you. And know that Allah is Powerful and Wise.”

Ibrahim's Observation

Al-An'am (The Cattle) - 6:75-78

وَكَذَلِكَ نُرِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ مَلَكُوتَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلِيَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُوقِنِينَ (6:75)

فَلَمَّا جَنَّ عَلَيْهِ اللَّيْلُ رَأَى كَوْكَبًا قَالَ هَذَا رَبِّي فَلَمَّا أَفَلَ قَالَ لَا أُحِبُّ الْآفِلِينَ (6:76)

فَلَمَّا رَأَى الْقَمَرَ بَازِعًا قَالَ هَذَا رَبِّي فَلَمَّا أَفَلَ قَالَ لئن لم يَهْدِنِي رَبِّي لَأَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الضَّالِّينَ (6:77)

فَلَمَّا رَأَى الشَّمْسَ بَازِعَةً قَالَ هَذَا رَبِّي هَذَا أَكْبَرُ فَلَمَّا أَفَلَتْ قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ إِنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِّمَّا تُشْرِكُونَ (6:78)

إِنِّي وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِي فَطَرَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ (6:79)

75. Thus We showed Abraham the empire of the heavens and the earth, that he might be one of those with certainty.

76. When the night fell over him, he saw a planet. He said, “This is my lord.” But when it set, he said, “I do not love those that set.”

77. Then, when he saw the moon rising, he said, “This is my lord.” But when it set, he said, “If my Lord does not guide me, I will be one of the erring people.”

78. Then, when he saw the sun rising, he said, “This is my lord, this is bigger.” But when it set, he said, “O my people, I am innocent of your idolatry.

79. I have directed my attention towards Him Who created the heavens and the earth—a monotheist—and I am not of the idolaters.”

Construction of Ka'aba

Al-Baqara (The Cow) - 2:127-128

وَإِذْ يَرْفَعُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ الْقَوَاعِدَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ وَإِسْمَاعِيلُ رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا ۖ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ (١٢٧) رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمَيْنِ لَكَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُسْلِمَةً لَكَ وَأَرِنَا مَنَاسِكَنَا وَتُبْ عَلَيْنَا ۖ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ (١٢٨)

127. As Abraham raises the foundations of the House, together with Ishmael, “Our Lord, accept it from us, You are the Hearer, the Knower.

128. Our Lord, and make us submissive to You, and from our descendants a community submissive to You. And s

Arguments with the King

Al-Baqara (The Cow) - 2:258

أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِي حَاجَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ فِي رَبِّهِ أَنْ آتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ إِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّيَ الَّذِي يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ قَالَ أَنَا أَحْيِي وَأُمِيتُ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْتِي بِالشَّمْسِ مِنَ الْمَشْرِقِ فَأْتِ بِهَا مِنَ الْمَغْرِبِ فَبُهِتَ الَّذِي كَفَرَ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ

258. Have you not considered him who argued with Abraham about his Lord, because Allah had given him sovereignty? Abraham said, “My Lord is He who gives life and causes death.” He said, “I give life and cause death.” Abraham said, “Allah brings the sun from the East, so bring it from the West,” so the blasphemer was confounded. Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people.