

Speaking Out

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. Just finished Ramadan. Great time to retune but that's not enough.

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

يَا اللَّهُ وَلَوْ آمَنَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ مِّنْهُمْ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

and You are the best community brought forth for men according to Allah's knowledge, enjoining good 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.

Societal Evils

Shifa Clinics.

The current administration is giving us plenty of opportunities to speak out. 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

وَادَّ 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 بِعَدَابِ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ 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 [\[read in context\]](#)

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

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 تُرِيئِي 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 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.