

Submission is the name of an Attitude

Mirza Yawar Baig

Children are taught in kindergarten that A is for apple. If they go to Islamic school they are taught that it doesn't stand for apple but for Allahﷻ. I submit to you that it stands neither for apple nor Allahﷻ but for Attitude and Aakhira. This is not a lesson in semantics or the English alphabet but in underlining the fact that Attitude drives action and actions yield results.

I remind myself and you about the importance of the attitude of submission. Submission to Allahﷻ. Submission which is called Islam. Submission about which Allahﷻ said:

لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ الشَّيْطَانِ خُطُواتِ تَتَّبِعُوا وَلَا كَافَّةَ السِّلْمِ فِي ادْخُلُوا آمَنُوا الَّذِينَ لِيَّهَا
مُيِّنٌ عَدُوٌّ

Baqara 2: 208. *O you who believe! Enter completely into Islam (obey all the orders of Allahﷻ and the Sunnah of Rasoolullah) and follow not the footsteps of Shaytân (Satan). Verily! He is to you a plain enemy.*

Today we are gathered for Eid ul Adha, a reminder to the end of time about a man who epitomized submission to Allahﷻ. A man who was the father of prophets and who Allahﷻ called His Khaleel. A man about whom Allahﷻ said:

الْعَالَمِينَ رَبِّ أَسْلَمْتُ قَالَ أَسْلِمَ رَبُّهُ لَهُ قَالَ إِذْ

Baqara 2: 131. *When his Rabb said to him, "Submit (be a Muslim)!" He said, "I have submitted myself (as a Muslim) to the Rabb of the 'Alameen (all that exists)."*

What can I say about the one whose witness is Allahﷻ Himself? I remind myself and you that Islam means submission and submission means obedience; unquestioning obedience. Not blind obedience but unquestioning obedience. Why unquestioning? Because we have already done our questioning and reasoning and now believe with knowledge. We recognize Allahﷻ, acknowledge Him as our Creator, Sustainer and to Whom is our return and so it is to Him that we submit. We submit to him in the sure knowledge that He will take care of us;

that all that He ordered us to do is for our benefit and we are thankful for His guidance and care. We submit willingly, joyfully and proudly. This is our differentiator. This is our brand.

Today this is our single point of contention which continually trips us up. The fact that we give precedence to our Nafs; our desires over the orders of Allah ﷻ. So, in effect, we don't submit, we obey selectively. Selective obedience is disobedience. Taqwa is to leave selective obedience and to have only one criterion for all speech and action; 'Does it please Allah ﷻ?' It is only when we do that, do we become eligible for the help of Allah ﷻ where He promised:

مُخْرَجًا لَهُ يَجْعَلُ السَّيِّئَاتِ وَمَنْ

حَسْبُهُ فَهُوَ اِ عَلَى يَتَوَكَّلْ وَمَنْ يَحْتَسِبْ لَا حَيْثُ مِنْ وَيَرْزُقُهُ

Talaq 65: 2 And whosoever fears Allah and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty). **3.** And He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine. And whosoever puts his trust in Allah, then He will suffice him.

Why must we bring ourselves into a state of submission?

Allah ﷻ reminded us of a Day which every single one of us will see. It is not a matter of belief. It is an absolute certainty. If we exist, we will see that day. Allah ﷻ said:

وَلَا حُلَّةٌ وَلَا فِيهِبِيعُ لَأَيُّومٍ نَبِيَّ أَنْفَبِلِ مِّن رَّوْفَنَّاكُمْ مِمَّا أَنْفَقُوا آمَنُوا الَّذِينَ لِيُهَا
الظَّالِمُونَ هُمْ وَالْكَافِرُونَ شَفَاعَةٌ

Baqara 2: 254. O you who believe! Spend of that with which We have provided for you, before a Day comes when there will be no bargaining, nor friendship, nor intercession. And it is the disbelievers who are the Zalimun (wrong-doers).

So, let us ask what our preparation for that Day is. It makes no sense to remain

oblivious of a day about which we have been informed and warned. We must choose

When the Banu Nadhir were expelled from Madina, those Arabs who had given their children to the Banu Nadhir to be raised, came to Rasoolullah ﷺ and asked him if they should force their children to remain behind in Madina. It was at that time that the following Ayaat were revealed.

فَقَدْ رَوَىٰ مِنْ لَطَاغُوتٍ يَكْفُرُ فَمَنْ أَلْمَنَ مِنَ الرُّشُلِيِّينَ قَدْ دَانَ فِي إِكْرَاهٍ لَا
عَلَيْهِمْ سَمِيعٌ وَاسْمٌ لَهَا انْفِصَامٌ لَا الْمُتَّقَىٰ لَعُرْوَةٌ اسْتَمْسَكَ

Baqara 2: 256. There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower.

There is no compulsion for the one who has not entered Islam yet. Let him make his choice. The two paths of guidance and misguidance have been clearly distinguished and demarcated. Let him choose. There is no forced conversion in Islam. Or in anything else for that matter including which football club you wish to support. All conversion is in the heart. How can anyone force you to change your heart?

Allah ﷻ told us about the consequence of making the right choice; of choosing Allah ﷻ over everyone and everything else – that thereby we would have grasped a powerful handhold that will never break. Who is ready to do that? Let us get serious with our lives. Let us choose. Let us stop making excuses pretending that these will save us. They won't. Let us grasp a handhold that will take us into Jannah without Hisaab. As Allah ﷻ said, there is no compulsion about the choice but choose we must because the clock is ticking. When it stops, so will our chance to choose.

We are free to choose. But each choice has consequences. Allah ﷻ clearly

الْعَظِيمُ الْعَلِيُّ وَهُوَ حَفِظُهُمَا

Baqara 2: 255. Allah! La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on earth. Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? He knows what happens to them (His creatures) in this world, and what will happen to them in the Hereafter. And they will never compass anything of His Knowledge except that which He wills. His Kursi extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them. And He is the Most High, the Most Great.

Today epitomizes the choice that Ibrahim^{عليه السلام} and his family made. A choice to submit to Allah^ﷻ without reservation, question or hesitation. It also epitomizes the result of making that choice. Honor in this world and remembrance until the Day of Judgement and the Grace, Mercy and Honor of their Rabb when we all meet Him.

Eid ul Adha comes to remind us to make our choice. To choose Allah^ﷻ and submission and obedience to His orders. To teach us how these orders are to be obeyed Allah^ﷻ sent his Messenger Muhammad^ﷺ and told us to follow him without question. He said:

الْعِقَابِ شَدِيدٌ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَشَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ فَلَنْتَقُوا عَنْهُ نَهْيَكُمْ وَمَا فَخَذُوهُ الرَّسُولُ آتَاكُمْ وَمَا

Hashr 59: 7 And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad^ﷺ) gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it) , and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is Severe in punishment.

And He said:

حَفِظًا عَلَيْهِمْ أَرْسَلْنَاكَ فَمَلَّتْ أَوَّلَىٰ وَمَنْ أَطَاعَ فَقَدْ الرَّسُولَ يُطِيعُ مَنْ

Nisa 4: 80. He who obeys the Messenger (Muhammad^ﷺ), has indeed obeyed Allah, but

he who turns away, then we have not sent you (O Muhammadﷺ) as a watcher over them.

The orders are from Allahﷻ. The method is from Rasoolullahﷺ who was taught that method by Allahﷻ Himself through what we know as Wahi Ghair Matloo or Sunnah. This is the connection between the Qur'an and Sunnah between Allahﷻ and His Messengerﷺ. That is why the path to Allahﷻ is through Muhammadﷺ. The one who wants to seek Allahﷻ without Rasoolullahﷺ is doomed to fail.

I remind myself and you that the time to choose is now. Because no matter where we are, now is what we all have. So, let us make the intelligent choice and choose Allahﷻ. Let us resolve here and now that we will never disobey Allahﷻ and that we will never go against the Sunnah of Rasoolullahﷺ. This is the real sign of our intelligence or the lack of it. Let us choose wisely. Because we will have to live with our choice forever.

I ask Allahﷻ to accept the Hajj of those who did Hajj this year. To make it possible for those who have not done Hajj yet, to do so. To invite those who have done Hajj, again and again to His House and to accept all your duas, ease your difficulties, cure your ailments, give you Halaal Rizq, take you out of all Haraam and give you the Tawfeeq to live your lives in such a way that you will be honored when you meet Him.