

KHUTBA

Friday 05.08.11

English

All thanks are due to Allah

All thanks are due to Allah, the Most-Generous. I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Him. He has no partners. May Allah send peace and blessings upon His final messenger.

When Allah sent Mohammed (saws) to be the final messenger, Allah sent him in the midst of the laws and religions that prevailed before his mission. With a closer and fast glance on the prevalent religions and rituals at that time, we can say that it is basically divided into two major groups:

The first group: They are the owners of the previous divine religions; Jews and Christians and some believers who were on the way of Prophet Ibrahim, peace be upon him.

The second group: They were pagans who do not believe in Allah like Magi who are fire worshipers in the country of Iraq or the idolaters in the Arabian Peninsula.

It was logical that Islam came biased towards the first group of people of the book, because the Islamic message is a complementary of the heavenly messages and moving the same way in calling for the worship of one God the Creator, while this community was the least in number at that time.

The Prophet Mohammed (saws) said: **“When Allah sent his messenger Mohammed; he had looked to the people of the earth and then Allah disapproved of them both Arabs and Persians except only remnants of the People of the Book.”** (Muslim)

As Christianity was the religion near to Islam and the closest at the time, the Quran describes them as been closest to Islam, Allah says in Quran: ***You will find the nearest in love to the believers those who say: “We are Christians.”*** (5:82)

During the earliest time of Islam’s call, there was a decisive battle between Christian Romans and the Magi in Iraq, and Magi won. The Quran is speaking about the incident, promising Christians by coming victory in a few years, and the believers rejoice with Allah's victory. Almighty Allah says in Quran: ***Alif Lam Mim. The romans have been defeated, in the nearest land and they after their defeat will be victorious within three to nine years. The decision of the matter, before and after is only with Allah. And on that day, the believers will rejoice...*** (30:1-4) It came then as mentioned in Quran.

Whereas Islam forbids his followers to marry pagans, Islam does not forbid his followers to marry women of the book (Jews and Christians).

As well as Islam permits the food and meat of the people of the book and forbids that of pagans. Allah says in Quran: ***Made lawful to you this day are At-Tayyibat. The food of the people of Scripture is lawful to you and yours is lawful to them. Lawful to you in marriage are chaste women from the believers and chaste women from those who were given the Scripture before your time when you have given their due Mahr, desiring chastity not committing illegal sexual intercourse, nor taking them as girlfriends. And whosoever disbelievers in faith, then fruitless is his work; and in the hereafter he will be among the losers.*** (5:5)

Conclusion:

Islam shows a pattern of advanced cooperation and reverence among the people of heavenly religions. For example, **when Amr ibn Alaas took a part of the church in Egypt, to expand his mosque, Umar ibn al-Khattab sent him to return that part of the Church, and destroy what**

was built from the mosque on that area, telling him: "we are not allowed to do this."