



ISLAM & SOCIETY

The Society of Dependence

IS BEING MUSLIM IN AMERICA AN **OXYMORON**?

Last time we asked the question. How do we feel about it now?

REALITY & BEING 'REAL'

“Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand.”

Margery Williams, *The Velveteen Rabbit*.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE RELIGIOUS?

~~What are the perceived
pitfalls to being “religious”~~
**benefits can/should religion
bring to society?**

THE **BENEFITS** OF RELIGION

Religion is a great motivator for human beings.

Religion has the power to simultaneously **enforce and challenge social norms.**

How is this a benefit?

Can you think of one example in which Islam challenged social norms to bring benefit?

AL-TAKWĪR (التكوير)

“And when the baby girl, buried alive, is asked, “for what crime she was killed”?

وَإِذَا الْمَوْءُودَةُ سُئِلَتْ
بِأَيِّ ذَنْبٍ قُتِلَتْ

Qur'an, 81: 8-9

AL-ISRĀ' (الإِسْرَاءُ)

“Do not kill your children out of fear of being poor. We will provide for them and you. Killing them is a terrible mistake.”?

وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ خَشْيَةَ إِمْلَاقٍ ^{صَلِّ} نَحْنُ
بَنزُرُهُمْ وَأَبَاؤُكُمْ إِنِ قَتَلْتَهُمْ كَانَتْ خِطْبَةً كَبِيرًا

Qur'an, 17: 31

DEPENDENCE ON THINGS – THE WAKE UP CALL

How can we call people to God if they are not dependent on Him? If they are wholly dependent on **Things**?

THE NEED FOR **SPIRITUALITY** IN ALL MATTERS

Epidemiologists (the branch of medical science concerned with the occurrence, transmission, and control of epidemic diseases) have found that **drug use** in and of itself is a **limited way of describing and measuring drug consumption and related problems**. As a result, they often distinguish between **drug use** and **drug abuse**. “**Drug use**” is used to refer to **experimentation** or low frequency, typically irregular, use of illicit drugs. It can be considered somewhat analogous to the term “**alcohol use.**” In contrast, “drug abuse” refers to regular and/or compulsive use of illicit drugs. The purpose of the two terms is to distinguish people on the basis of whether their illicit drug use has or has not become a significant feature of their lifestyle and whether it is likely to have a psychopathological character.

PROVIDING **ALTERNATIVE** NARRATIVES

“Drinking too much can harm your health. Excessive alcohol use led to approximately **88,000 deaths** and **2.5 million years of potential life lost (YPLL)** **EACH YEAR!!** in the United States from 2006 – 2010, **shortening the lives** of those who died **by an average of 30 years.**”

From the CDC.

PROVIDING **OUR** ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ إِنَّ الْعَبْدَ إِذَا
أَخْطَأَ خَطِيئَةً نَكِثَتْ فِي قَلْبِهِ نُكُتَةٌ سَوْدَاءٌ فَإِذَا هُوَ نَزَعَ وَاسْتَغْفَرَ وَتَابَ
قَلْبُهُ وَإِنْ عَادَ زِيدَ فِيهَا حَتَّى تَعْلُوَ قَلْبَهُ وَهُوَ الرَّانُ الَّذِي ذَكَرَ اللَّهُ - *سُقِلَ
(كَلَامًا صَلَّ بَلَّ رَانَ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ). قَالَ هَذَا حَدِيثٌ حَسَنٌ
صَحِيحٌ

* Sometimes the grammarians list “سقل” as “صقل”. See Lisan al-Arab (وَسَيْفٌ سَقِيلٌ وَصَقِيلٌ؛ الأزهري: والصاد في جميع ذلك) (أفصح).

PROVIDING **OUR** ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

Abu Hurairah narrated that:

The Messenger of Allah said: “Verily, when the slave commits a sin, a black spot **appears** on his heart. **When he refrains from it, seeks forgiveness and repents**, his heart is polished clean. But **if he returns**, it increased **until it cover his entire heart**. And that is the **‘Ran’** which Allah mentioned: Nay, but on their hearts is the Ran which they used to earn.

Sunnah al-Tirmidhi: #3334.

PROVIDING **OUR** ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

نكت *nakata* *u* (*nakt*) to scratch up (▲ the ground) || to crack jokes (على about s.o.), poke fun (على at), ridicule (على s.o.)

نكتة *nukta* pl. نكات *nukat*, نكات *nikāt*
jot, tittle, speck, spot; witty remark, witticism, wisecrack, joke; anecdote; pun, play on words; the point of a joke | حاضر النكتة quick-witted, quick at rep-
artee

PROVIDING **OUR** ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

It seems like nothing; **trivial** (نُكْتَةٌ). But that's what people do: trivialize.

One of our main roles, socially speaking, should be to **stop trivializing life**. To encourage people to come back to serious contemplation.

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تَذْبَحُوا بَقَرَةً ۗ قَالُوا أَتَتَّخِذُنَا هُزُؤًا ۗ قَالَ أَعُوذُ
بِاللَّهِ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ

Qur'an, 2: 67.

DE-TRIVIALIZATION OF SOCIETY

قُلْ هَلْ مِنْ شُرَكَائِكُمْ مَنْ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ ۚ قُلِ اللَّهُ يَهْدِي لِلْحَقِّ ۗ أَفَمَنْ يَهْدِي
إِلَى الْحَقِّ أَحَقُّ أَنْ يُتَّبَعَ أَمْ مَنْ لَا يَهْدِي إِلَّا أَنْ يَهْدَىٰ ۗ فَمَا لَكُمْ كَيْفَ تَحْكُمُونَ

“Say: ‘Can any of your partner-gods guide to the truth?’ Say: ‘Allah guides to the truth. Who has more right to be followed – He who guides to the truth, or he who cannot guide unless he is guided? What is the matter with you? How do you reach your judgment?’”

Qur’an, 10: 35.

THE BALL IS IN OUR COURT

What's the next step from here, to take it from the theoretical to the production/action stage?