Editorial

Islam is the religion of mercy. The Almighty God chose two Names from all His Names, two chosen Names, two Names asserting the blessing and Mercy of Him, to start the chapters of Quran with. In Islam, it has been highly advised to say "In the Name of God, the beneficent, the merciful" not only at the beginning of the Surah of Quran but also at the beginning of each activity to remind of the mercy of God and be merciful to others.

It should be pointed out that God also is an Avenger but this Anger and Revenge is for special cases when a person ignores or ridicules God's apparent and hidden signs and His warnings, violates people's rights, and oppresses them. At this time, that person deserves to be surrounded by God's Rage and Punishment.

God states in holy Quran,

وَمَا كَانَ رَبُّكَ مُهْلِكَ الْقُرَى حَتَّى يَبْعَثَ فِي أُمِّهَا رَسُولًا يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِنَا وَمَا كُنَّا مُهْلِكِي الْقُرَى إِلَّا وَأَهْلُهَا ظَالِمُونَ

"Nor did your Lord destroy the villages until He had sent a Messenger to its mother village reciting to them Our verses. We never destroyed villages unless their inhabitants were harmdoers."

I.e. it means God never punish anyone unless He warns them of what they should avoid.

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Imam Baqir explaining this very fact told,

أن الله تبارك و تعالى الحليم العليم إنما غضبه على من لم يقبل منه رضاه و إنما يمنع من لم يقبل منه عطاه .... ثم أمكن أهل السيئات من التوبة بتبديل الحسنات دعا عباده في الكتاب إلى ذلك بصوت رفيع لم ينقطع و لم يمنع دعاء عباده- فلعن الله الذين يكتمون ما أنزل الله و كتب على نفسه الرحمة فسبقت قبل الغضب فتمت □دقا و عدلا فليس يبتدئ العباد بالغضب قبل أن يغضبوه

God the Almighty is Patient and Wise, His Anger will surround anyone who does not desire His Satisfaction and He blocks out His forgiveness to anyone who does not accept,…. He gives the opportunity to sinful ones to repent [and if they do, He would] turn their sins to Hasanah (good deeds). He announces people to this in His book openly, this invitation will not interrupted, and His prayers will not exclude His servants.

God sends His curse to anyone who hides whatever He has sent down. God is committed Himself to be merciful and kind. His Mercy outspeeds His Rage, which ends up in justice. God does not start harshness with His servants unless His servants start being harsh.[١]

Imam Mahdi (p.b.u.h.) said in Iftitah Prayer which is advised to be recited in the nights of Ramadan that

أيقنت أنك أرحم الراحمين في موضع العفو و الرحمة و أشد المعاقبين في موضع النكال و النقمة

I am certain that You are the Most benevolent of all benevolent Ones when it is the time for forgiving and blessing and you are the most strict one of all strict ones when it is the time for being strict and punish.[٢]

God the Almighty points out to these two aspects in holy Quran but He limits His Anger to specific groups and knows His mercy widespread:

قال عذابى أ□يب به من أشاء و رحمتى وسعت كل شيئ

"God states, my Punishment is for those whom I decide but my Mercy surrounds everything."

(the holy Quran, V: ١٥٦)

And Imam Sajjad , in his 'Arafah prayer, mentioned God's mercy is before God's Anger:

سبقت رحمته غضبه

The one Whose Mercy is prior to His Anger.[٣]

Unfortunately, these days we are dealing with those who neglect this massage of mercy of God and do not regard religion as a comprehensive charter. They judge their tendencies to be the base and to justify themselves abuse religious teachings.

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Quran says about these unjust behavior:

أفكلّما جائكم رسول بما لا تهوى أنفسكم استكبرتم؟

"Will you then become proud whenever any Messenger comes to you with that which does not suit your fancies" (۹۲:۸۷)

The reason of this harsh remark can be the ones who wanted to unquestioningly behead those who came to Prophet from a far to know about Islam. As history recorded, the holy Prophet continuously stopped them and ordered people to respect such truth-seekers.

God does not know the faith of these attackers the true Faith and reports them as such:

أ فتؤمنون ببعض الكتاب و تكفرون ببعض؟

"Do you believe in one part of the Book and not in the other?" (۲:۸۵)

The war-trigger groups who are abusing the word Jihad to justify their brutal actions, in fact, are not interested in Jihad. Their lack of interest in humanitarian affairs shows that they not only are not interested in Islam but also do not believe in any other religious principle; otherwise, they would not teach brutality to their kids.

In summary, this violent and anti-humanistic behavior should not be regarded as Islam. Each logical just person should look up the true faith in the authentic sources and life styles of true leaders of that belief, not those who claim to be of a faith. Especially Islam which its leaders are all innocent and sin doesn't have any entry in them therefore their words and actions are a clear proof.

This journal is honored to publish articles which are based on research and reasoning to introduce true Islam. We ask God do not let theoretical and practical distortions find their ways to the minds of truth seekers.

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[۱] Rudah al-Kafi, vol.۸,p.۵۲
[۲] Misbah al-Mutihajjid, vol.۲,p.۵۷۸
[۳] Al-Mazar, Shaykh Mufid, p.۱۶۱

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