### Introduction

As Muslims, our firm belief is that our religion Islam is the true Deen of Allah and the Quran is the book from God; It's a divine revelations; a guidance to the entire human race and not a man-made book. However if we look around us, today the state of Muslims, who claim to be the recipients, the protector, the true heirs of Quran and the followers of the religion Islam, is at its worst. Muslims are in a state of turmoil and at their worst ethical and moral state at our individual levels. Islamophobia is at its peak. At the country level, either all the Muslim countries are fighting amongst themselves or if not in the state of war, they are economically, financially and ethically left decades behind the Non-Muslim ones on an overall basis. One wonders why. Is this the true gist of Islam that is being portrayed by Muslims?

# Rational Thinking

Rational thinking refers to logical or reasoning being involved in the thought process. Logic is always based on facts rather than preconceived ideas. It is an objective process of thinking and an analytical approach to any problem. Contrary to rational thinking, emotional thinking is based on passions, emotions, knowledge already known, upbringing, experiences, people's opinions and events in life. Unlike rational or logical thinking, Emotional thinking style, most of the times is not based on facts and requires little thinking.

[34:46] Say, "I only advise you of one thing - that you stand for Allah, in pairs and individually, and then give thought/ ponder." There is no madness in your companion. He is only a warner to you before a severe punishment.

[25:73] And those who, when reminded of the verses of their Lord, do not fall upon them deaf and blind.

Here God almighty is talking about those people who do not fall upon, believe or act upon even the God's verses blindly. They are not swayed by emotions and they take every step after a lot of deliberations so much so that even when the Divine Laws are presented to them, they do not submit to these by ignoring their intellect, wisdom, rationale and reason. Since Quran is based upon logic and wisdom, emotional thinking has to be set aside while pondering on Quran.

[10:100] And it is not for a soul to believe except by the will of Allah, and He will place doubt/ obscurity on those who will not use reason.

[8:22] Indeed, the worst of living creatures in the sight of Allah are the deaf and dumb who do not use reason.

[25:44] Or do you think that most of them hear or reason? They are only like cattle;- nay, they are worse astray in Path.

If we refer to above ayahs, God has equated men to animals if he does not use the gift of intellect and reason. Humans are different to animals. While, the latter can be drilled, humans need to be intellectually convinced. That is why Qur'an constantly appeals to reason and talks about pondering and rational based thinking times and times again. There are many verses in Quran that calls for believers to think, to reflect and to ponder. Blindly accepting what our forefathers have taught us through practice or what Muslim scholar have preached us is emotional based thinking and Quran/Islam has no room for emotional thinking. It calls for us to use reason, our gifts of intellect, sight, hear and eyes, otherwise we are more astray than animals.

### The Role of Muslim Scholars

The biggest factor in creating a wrong impression about Islam is the way Islam is practiced by Muslims and the selective Islam taught by most of its scholars. Rather than basing our thoughts on our intellect, being curious about God's revelation- Quran, we as Muslims approach religion purely on emotional basis. The basic thought inculcated in Muslims by the Muslim Scholars is as follows

- It is not in the common man's domain to try and understand Quran and/or what Islam is all about.
- Only the Muslim Scholars have spent years and years studying Arabic language, Quran, Hadith & Sharia
- Only the Muslim Scholars can understand and teach how to live our lives as per Islam & as true muslim
- A normal person/ Muslim is a layman and cannot understand Quran
- A Muslim should be taking the religious concepts as it is without asking any questions or thinking This, emotional based thinking and blind acceptance on what is being preached rather than curious fact based pondering on Islam, is against the very gist of Quran. This is the basic factor behind the state of Muslims all around the world.

[6:116] And if you obey most of those in the earth, they will lead you astray from Allah's way; They follow nothing but opinion, and they do nothing but lie.

[2:109] Many of the followers of the Book wish that they could turn you back into unbelievers after you have believed, out of the envy from themselves, even after the Truth has become evident to them. Have forgiveness and bear with them until God issues His order. God has power over all things.

[33:67] And they will say, "Our Lord, indeed we obeyed our masters and our great ones (imams) and they led us astray from the way

Instead of trying to read and understand the gist of Quran themselves, Muslims are following the Muslim Scholars blindly. Quran clearly warns us against those leaders who even after knowing the truth lead us astray in order to fulfill their own ulterior motives. They preach opinions and they lie.

[33:68] Our Lord, give them double the punishment and curse them with a great curse."

God is talking about the arguments given by Muslims at the time of judgement day, they will say, "O our Rabb! Verily we obeyed our leaders who had assumed a higher role for themselves; and they misled us from the right path so give them double the punishment".

[9:31] They have taken their scholars and monks as lords besides Allah, and the Messiah, the son of Mariam. And they were not commanded except to worship one God; there is no deity except Him. Exalted is He above whatever they associate with Him

We, as Muslims have taken our Muslim leaders as "lords besides Allah". This is pure Shirk, and strongly condemned in Quran. Following our Muslim scholars is the worse type of Shirk.

[2:166] when those who have been followed disassociate themselves from those who followed, and they see the punishment, and cut off from them are the ties,

[2:167] And those who were but followers will say: If a return were possible for us, we would disown them even as they have disowned us. Thus Allah will show them their own deeds as anguish for them, and they will not emerge from the Fire.

Lets analyze these ayahs 2:166, 2:167. If we analyze these ayahs, these basically talk about most of the Muslim Scholars today and those Muslims who follow these Muslim Scholars blindly. 2:166-When the day will arrive when the Muslim scholars could see the result their teachings have caused and the punishment from the Lord that it entails, these Muslim Scholars will then disassociate themselves from their followers. 2:167- When the results of their actions are unveiled before them, they would know that those whom they have considered to be the pillars of Islam have reduced them to such a state of helplessness. Then the followers will cry out "if the hand of time could be turned back, we would turn back upon our leaders as they have turned back upon us". But it's too late by then as one can't turn back the clock of time.

[2:170] And when it is said to them, "Follow what Allah has revealed," they say, "Rather, we will follow that which we found our forefathers practicing." Even though their forefathers understood nothing, nor were they guided?

2:170. As for the followers when it is said to them to try and understand and follow Quran, as it is telling you the true commands of God, their reply is "We will follow only what we found our forefathers practicing". The only defense that these followers will have at that time is that their beliefs and practices have been inherited from their ancestors. "Will they go on following their forefathers even though they did not use common sense and did not find the right way?" Is the response from Quran. A thought provoking Question indeed!

[2:171] The example of those who disbelieve is like that of one who shouts at what hears nothing but calls and cries cattle or sheep - deaf, dumb and blind, so they do not understand.

2:171 Quran further elaborates the condition of those who reject the way of Allah i.e Quran and follow blindly their forefathers and Muslim Scholar. Their situation is that of Blind Imitation and it is similar the herd of Sheep and goats led by shephard who has learnt some particular calls and words from his elders and he uses these to direct the herd. These followers are deaf dumb and blind. How can they be called human beings? As per Quran they are like deaf, dumb and blind therefore they do not understand anything i.e. they are not willing to use reason and pondering when it comes to deen. It's all been emotional thinking based conditioning that Muslims all over the world have gone through for generations after generations after generations hence it explains the state we are in today as a Muslim ummah.

## Quran as the Divine Guidance & Raham

As Muslims, our absolute guidance is Quran and our first and foremost reference point on any topic. The Quran is a clear guidance for all Muslims for all times to come and a "Raham" for all. At most of the places wherever God Almighty mentions the word Raham, its being translated as "Mercy". Please note that the English translation of Raham as "Mercy" does not do justice to the word Raham. Raham with the root word of Rahma means a mother's womb during pregnancy in Arabic language. Because a mother's womb beautifully exemplifies the concept of RAHMA- to a child it's everything- it's a source of life and protection, it a place where one grows and develops and is nurtured in an unparalleled way. Thus wherever Quran mentions Raham, it has all these meanings as in protection, nurture, consideration, care, growth, guidance and nourishment for long term.

[16:89] And the Day when We will resurrect among every nation a witness over them from themselves. And We will bring you, as a witness over your nation. And We have sent down to you the Book as clarification for all things and as guidance and Raham and good tidings for the Muslims.

It's obvious from above mentioned Ayah that Quran is a guidance complete in all aspects as it clarifies every matter. It is also mentioned that Quran is revealed by God Almighty as Guidance and Raham. In another ayah, 6:114 and at many other occasions it's mentioned that Quran is complete, perfect and fully detailed.

[6:114] "Then is it other than Allah I should seek as judge while it is He who has revealed to you the Book explained in detail?" And those to whom We gave the book (Scripture) know that it is sent down from your Lord in truth, so never be among the doubters"

This shows that we should look towards God's guidance as explained in detail in his book- the Quran.

[31:27] "And if whatever trees upon the earth were pens and the sea, replenished thereafter by seven seas, the words of Allah would not be exhausted. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise"

[18:109] Say, "If the sea were ink for the words of my Lord, the sea would be exhausted before the words of my Lord were exhausted, even if We brought the like of it as a supplement."

In these Ayahs, God reminds us that He does not run out of words, and if He so willed He could have given us more than one Quran, if He would have deemed it necessary.

[54:17] We have made the Quran easy to understand, but is there anyone who would pay attention?

In this verse, God almighty is informing us in very clear terms that Quran is easy to understand for those who pay attention. We need to understand it ourselves since it is easy to understand only if we pay attention.

[6:115] "The Word of your Lord has been completed, in truth and justice. There is no changing to His words. He is the Hearer, the Knower."

[02:02] This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allah

[4:174] O mankind, there has come to you conclusive proof from your Lord, and We have sent down to you clear light.

[41:03] A Book whose verses have been detailed, an Arabic Qur'an for a people who know

[11:01] Alif, Lam, Ra. a Book whose verses are perfected and then presented in detail from the one who is Wise and Acquainted.

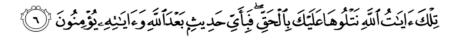
[25:01] Blessed is He who sent down the Criterion (of right and wrong) upon His Servant that he may be to the worlds a warner –

As evident from above ayahs, Quran is an Absolute Guide from God Almighty to the mankind, it is a clear guidance, explained in detail, clear explanation of all things, the ultimate scale, the clear proof and the absolute criteria between right and wrong. It is the embodiment of all rules as prescribed by Allah. Therefore we should refer to Quran first and foremost looking for guidance on any topic. There should not be any doubt in what Quran says or the need for any explanation, only if we ponder.

[6:114] ""Shall I seek a judge other than Allah; it is He Who has sent down to you the Book, explained in detail?" Those to whom We gave the Scripture know that it is revealed from your Lord in truth. So be not you of those who doubt."

### Role of HADITH

The Arabic word hadith means all human sayings, narrations, talk, stories, etc. In a more specific sense, the word 'hadith' refers to sayings of the prophet Muhammad. As per Quran, the word Hadith is actually Quran itself. Quran was revealed to Hazrat Muhammad and through him we all came to know Quran. So Quran was basically the word of God communicated to us through his messenger i.e. spoken by his messenger i.e. a true hadith. The word Hadith has been used several times in the Quran ( about 36 times in different forms, 18 of them with the exact word HADITH such as 7:185, 31:6, 68:44, 77:50 etc.). Out of the 36 times it is used in various grammatical forms, none refers to what is today known as the "Prophetic" hadith (i.e Hadith created by the Prophet or by other people on behalf of the Prophet). In fact, in various statements the word Hadith refers to the Quran and categorically rejects any hadith besides the Quran.



[45:6] These are God's revelations (Quran) that we recite to you truthfully. In which HADITH other than God and His revelations do they believe?

Bbserve the word Hadith in this ayah as in Fabay ayyey hadith.

[39:23] God has revealed herein the BEST HADITH; a book that is consistent and points out both ways (to heaven and hell). The skins of those who worship their Lord jump therefrom, then their skins and their hearts soften up for God's message. Such is God's guidance; he bestows it upon whomever He wills. As for those sent astray by God, nothing can guide them.

Again carefully analyze and observe above Arabic words Allah' Nazal' Ahhsan Al Hadith". i.e. Gad has revealed this Ahsan Hadith. This Quran is the best Hadith.

[52:34] "Let them produce a HADITH like this (Quran) if they are truthful"

Note in all of these ayahs, the word Hadith is mentioned as Quran itself.

[12:111] There was certainly in their stories a lesson for those of understanding. This (Quran) is not fabricated hadith, but a confirmation of what was before it and a detailed explanation of all things and guidance and Raham for people who believe"

[77:50] "So in which Hadith, other than this, do they believe"

If we analyze these ayahs, Quran is not a fabricated Hadith, it's a detailed explanation of all things. Again note the use of the word Hadith, and Raham, i.e. Quran is the Ahsanul Hadith and Guidance and Raham for all.

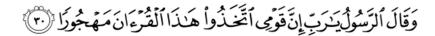
[69:40] It (the Quran) is the speech of a noble messenger.41 And it is not the speech of a poet-little do you believe.42 Nor is it the speech of a fortuneteller -little do you take heed.43 It is a revelation from the Lord of the Worlds.44 Had he made up something else from his own on me 45 We would have seized him by the right arm.46 Then slashed his lifeline.47 And none of you could have restrained Us from him.

In these ayahs, Quran is specifically forbidding Muhammad to say anything other than Quran. Such harsh statement from God Almighty if the noble messenger would have said something else, i.e. from his own on God- i.e. any other Hadith other than Quran. The Quran confirms that Muhammad was commanded not to teach any other teachings, other than Quran, otherwise he would incurred severe punishment from God. Prophet Muhammad himself commanded his people not to write his saying other than Quran. In Quran it's mentioned to people not to look for hadith from prophet

يَكَأَيُّهُا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ لَا نَدْخُلُواْ بُيُوتَ ٱلنَّيِّ إِلَّا أَن يُؤْذَنَ لَكُمْ إِلَى طَعَامِ غَيْرَ نَظِرِينَ إِنَكُ وَلَكِنَ إِذَا دُعِيتُمْ فَأَدْخُلُواْ فَإِذَا طَعِمْتُمْ فَأَنتَشِرُواْ وَلَا مُسْتَعْنِسِينَ لِحَدِيثٍ نَظِرِينَ إِنكُمْ كَانَ يُؤْذِى ٱلنَّيِيّ فَيَسْتَحْي عِنصَكُمْ وَاللّهُ لَا يَسْتَحْي عِن ٱلْحَقِّ وَإِذَا سَا أَلْتُمُوهُنَّ مَتَعًا فَسَعَلُوهُنَّ مِن وَرَآءِ حِابٍ ذَلِكُمْ أَطُهُرُ لِقُلُوبِكُمْ وَقُلُوبِهِنَّ سَا أَلْتُمُوهُنَّ مَتَعًا فَسَعَلُوهُنَّ مِن وَرَآءِ حِابٍ ذَلِكُمْ أَطْهَرُ لِقُلُوبِكُمْ وَقُلُوبِهِنَّ وَمَا كَانَ لَكَ مُ أَن تُوجُوا أَنْ وَبَعُدُوا رَسُولَ اللّهِ وَلَا أَن تَنكِحُواْ أَزُوبَ مَهُ مِن بَعْدِهِ عَلَيمًا اللّهِ وَلَا أَن تَنكِحُواْ أَزُوبَ مَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ عَلَيمًا اللّهِ وَلَا أَن تَنكِحُواْ أَزُوبَ مَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ عَلَيمًا اللّهِ وَلَا أَن تَنكِحُواْ أَزُوبَ مَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ عَلَيمًا اللّهِ وَلَا أَن تَنكِحُواْ أَزُوبَ مَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ عَلَيمًا اللّهِ وَلَا أَن تَنكِحُواْ أَزُوبَ مَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ عَلَيمًا اللّهُ وَلَا أَن تَنكِحُواْ أَزُوبَ مَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ عَلَيمًا اللّهُ وَلَا أَن تَنكِحُواْ أَزُوبَ مَا وَاللّهُ وَلَا أَنْ تَنكُونَهُ وَاللّهُ مُولِكُمْ كَانَ عِندَ ٱللّهِ عَظِيمًا اللّهُ اللّهُ عَلَيمًا اللّهُ وَلَا أَن تَنكِحُواْ أَنْ وَنَعُولِهُ اللّهُ عَلَيمًا اللّهُ عَلَيمًا اللّهُ وَلَا أَنْ تَنكِونَا أَنْ وَلَا أَنْ عَنْ مَا لَا عَنَا مَا مَا اللّهُ عَلَيمًا اللّهُ وَلِهُ اللّهُ عَلَى اللّهُ عَلَيمًا اللّهُ وَلَا أَنْ اللّهُ عَلَيْهُ اللّهُ عَلَا اللّهُ عَلَيمًا اللّهُ عَلَيمًا اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ عَلَيمًا اللّهُ الللّهُ اللّهُ الللّهُ الللّهُ اللّهُ الللّهُ الللّهُ اللللّهُ الللهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ ا

[33:53] "O you who believe, do not enter the prophet's homes except if you are invited to a meal, without you forcing such an invitation. But if you are invited, you may enter. And when you finish eating, you shall leave, without staying to wait for hadith. This used to bother the prophet, and he was shy to tell you. But God does not shy away from the truth"

It is a fact that the large majority of Muslims do not know that the Prophet prohibited the writing of hadith-his sayings other than Quran. These hadiths, other than Quran, have changed the very basic teachings of Islam and altered the word of God. Muslims have forgotten that there is ONLY one SAHIH Hadith, the BEST HADITH, the Quran. May be we now can understand why, on the day of judgment, the messenger will complain to God that the Muslims deserted the QURAN. 25:30



[25:30] "And the Messenger will say, "O my Lord, indeed my people have abandoned this Qur'an"

Also refer to the following Ayah about the Day of Judgment

[39:69] "And the earth will shine with the light of its Lord, and the book will be placed, and the prophets and the witnesses will be brought, and it will be judged between them in truth, and they will not be wronged"

If we analyze this verse, God is saying that on the Day of Judgment, the book will be placed and prophets and witness will be brought. Which book God is talking about here? Its definitely Quran and nothing else, which will be brought on the Day of Judgment as benchmark for right or wrong. Now we should understand why God promised to preserve, protect and safeguard His book, the ahsan-al hadith- the BEST HADITH, the Quran.

#### CONCLUSION

It's abundantly clear that in the Muslim world today, we have selective Islam. Just believing in God and going through the rituals is not enough. One also has to be a good human being at the very basic level. Rather than explaining the philosophy behind the religion, there is an overemphasis on rituals. There are many Western countries with far more Islamic traits than Muslims especially in the way they protect the rights of their citizens, or take care of the poor, the week, the elderly, the women or for that matter their entire social, education, health and justice systems are far more superior in terms of Islamic values than those of the Muslim countries. As soon as the Muslims deserted the Quran, took books other than Quran, blindly followed Muslim Scholars, without using their own intellect or reason, they became worse than animals. The true Islam was corrupted beyond belief and Muslims' practice of Islam today is not the Islam as guided by the God Almighty through Quran but a reflection of the Islam of these Scholars and books other than Quran. We need to understand Quran first in order to know what it is saying to understand our Deen and the true teachings of Islam. We need to focus on Quran and our understanding of Quran. What is it saying, what its guidance is on any topic before looking elsewhere for answers. Once we think we have understood Quran's teachings, then and only then we can see and judge whatever something else or some other source is saying about true teachings of Islam. The word of God and the ahsan-ul Hadith- the Quran should be our absolute guide if we are to live our lives on the true gist of Islam.