

THE MESSENGER MUHAMMAD (SAW) IS OUR EXAMPLE – DID HE EVER VOTE?

If we consider the nature and reality of voting in the current elections and then look at what Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an we will realise that ayat like Qul yaa ayuhal kaafiroon have no meaning if you vote for the kuffar and support their parties, such as the Labour, Conservatives, Liberals, Respect or Independent parties. Rather if you vote for them you will be granting all the deeds that they subsequently do to yourself under the Islamic principle of Wilaayah i.e. representation. Hence Muslims must not vote for anyone in the present election, even if they say that they are going to get you some schools or other benefits for the Muslim community.

Moreover the fact that some people go to Parliament or local councils and legislate and others vote for them to go there and do so, is clear-cut Shirk in Islam and a matter, in fact, which is known from Islam by necessity and over which there is no difference of opinion. How can a Muslim say that there is no legislator except Allah (SWT) (which is incorporated in the part of the kalima Laa Ilaaha Illallah) and then vote for someone else to legislate Kufur law and order? Rather every Muslim's Tawheed dictates that he keeps Allah (SWT)'s sanctity exclusive i.e. to obey, worship and follow him exclusively. As every Muslim knows Allah (SWT) has 99 names, hence there are 99 ways for someone to become kaafir if he associates with any of Allah (SWT)'s name another. One of those names is Al-Hakam i.e. that Allah (SWT) is the only legislator – therefore if you consent to another to do what is Allah (SWT)'s attribute and right - you will become Mushrik.

Further Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an:

'So whosoever does good (Khairann) equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant), shall see it. And whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant), shall see it.' [EMQ 99: 7-8]

In the Tafseer ul-Qurtubi on the above – the word Kahirann in this ayah is what is based on the shari'ah, as stated by Abdullah Ibn Abbas (ra) on the ayah, therefore if you vote it will never be accepted from you because, quite simply, it is not based on the shari'ah. Rather only actions based upon the Shari'ah are accepted by Allah (SWT) and certainly the Messenger Muhammad (saw) never voted for anyone in the Quraish parliament in his time - such as Abu Lahab or Abu Jah!

Insha'allah, if Muslims read and understand the verse Qul Huwallahu Ahad maybe Allah (SWT) will spark the correct understanding in their hearts – that Allah (SWT) is indeed the only legislator. What is As-Shirk if not for the creation to worship, follow or obey another creation. Rather the only one we worship, follow or obey exclusively, is Allah (SWT) and to take a partner with Allah (SWT) in his Ruboobiyyah, Uluhiyyah or his functions is Shirk. Shirk has

also been defined as *'To offer any ritual act to different than Allah (SWT).'* One of these ritual acts (apart from salat, Siyyam and Hajj etc...) is Tahaakum i.e. for us to arbitrate in any dispute to Allah (SWT) alone. Hence At-Tahaakum ila taghout i.e. to refer in legislation or to arbitrate to the British court or laws is considered a matter of Shirk. Ibn Taymiyyah – in his Majmou' Al-Fataawa defined at-Tahakum as one of the ritual acts and said that whoever arbitrates to different than Allah (SWT)'s Deen is a Mushrik. If someone argues that they did not know that voting for the kuffar is that serious then let us take a lesson from Abdullah Ibn Abbas (ra) – who said that *'and the people will become kaafir without to know'* so this is seen not to be an excuse for Shirk Akbar such as this – otherwise we could say that the Hindus are not Mushriks because they do not know that they are committing Shirk as well!

In addition Ibn Taymiyyah (ra) stated that shirk is not only to make someone equal to Allah (SWT) but for a man to do some of the actions which Allah (SWT) says are only for him (SWT). Further, for those who try to bring spurious arguments to get people to vote today, we must remind them that none of the four Imams (Imam Abu Hanifah, Imam Malik, Imam Shaafi or Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal (ra)) said that we can vote for the Kuffar in this regard.

There are many ayat negating this action of voting for the Kuffar and declaring those who partake in them Mushriks, which are too numerous to mention here, for example:

'Or have they partners with Allâh (false gods), who have instituted for them a religion which Allâh has not allowed. And had it not been for a decisive Word (gone forth already), the matter would have been judged between them. And verily, for the Zâlimûn (polytheists and wrong-doers), there is a painful torment.' [EMQ 42:21]

For a surety those who go to parliament legislate law and order and refer in their disputes to their own whims and desires. In regard to this Allah (SWT) says:

'If you dispute in any matter refer it to Allah (SWT) and his the Messenger if you are indeed believers' [EMQ 4: 59]

'Allah (SWT) is the only one who judges and no one should dare to comment over his commands' [EMQ 13: 41]

Even if the rule (that Parliament legislates) agrees with the Islamic rule, for example if tomorrow Tony Blair says that we should cut the hand of the thief – because it was not made in submission to Allah (SWT) it is still considered to be a kufr law. This is in line with the established principle in Islam that *'whatever agrees with Islam is kufr and whatever disagrees with Islam is kufr'*.

Finally the British parliament is taghout without doubt and Allah (SWT) says:

‘Declare Kufr on Taghout and then believe in Allah (SWT)’ [EMQ 2: 256]

this declaration includes believing it to be Taghout, keeping our distance from and hating the taghout, rejecting it and having animosity towards it. After all this how can any Muslim go to the Parliament and sit with the Tawagheet (MP’s and Lords) or ask or vote for another person to do so? NB. Taghout is anything you arbitrate to, obey or worship different to Allah (SWT).

O Muslims, We have begun to follow behind the Jews and Christians into the ‘Lizard hole’, as foretold by the Messenger Muhammad (saw). In the time of Ibraheem (as) - he said of those who used to make Idols and then followed them ‘Do you worship what you make with your hands?’ by analogy today - the people worship the law and order that they make with their own hands in parliament.