

Dilemma of a Muslim Youth

Fao time pass or Islam

Today's youth are constantly bombarded and enticed to a world of fake glamour where *Kothin* free mixing, *bhab*, short term *prem*, *chorom unmadona* are predominant. We are pushed, instigated, and provoked to spend our own pocket money and our most valuable time in just *fao* time pass issues which result in more harm than any good.

Due to the effect of such brainwash and false hope the Muslim youth are *Chorom bhabe Chintito* - how to be a cool guy, how to be hit and fit, how to participate in every thing so that he or she can become boss among the *dosto's* and not remain a *modon*. Along with this many Muslim youths quickly find themselves in the first dilemma and begin to wrestle with their consciousness. He is under *kothin* pressure to do certain things that he actually hates or doesn't want to do. He thinks: "If I want to be popular, impress others, become talk of the town then I will have to go to parties, drink, dance, wear clothes that I may not like to wear, try to manage a few girls friends...". Girls are no different, they are faced with the same pressure and thinking. Eventually we decide not to think much about it and just go with the flow be it good or bad.

However, the sad reality is that if we accept the first invitation to the late night parties, fashion shows or discos, we create new problems for ourselves as the pressure doesn't stop there. Now the questions are: "So, why don't you drink?", "Why don't you try a little bit? It won't make you drunk", "I won't tell anyone". Others invite you to be like them in order to remove their own guilty feelings. They hate to see that they are the only ones busy with drinking and boyfriend girlfriend relationships.

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This leaves the Muslim youth with a real dilemma: should we go with the flow or stick to our principles and risk being called "anti-social". **So how do Muslim youths face this dilemma?**

DIFFERING RESPONSES

Some people will accept everything from the western *kufir* culture wholeheartedly and totally forget Islam. So, they may not pray all year and when some so called '*Ate*' attacks Islam they may even agree. This is seen as extreme; more commonly people choose to take the 'middle ground'. So, they may enjoy the dance, occasionally drink & smoke pot (*ganja*) but still pray on Fridays and occasionally try to show their sympathy towards the Muslim *ummah* and defend their own belief, vowing not to get too deep into this matter as it may lead them into a world they are quite scared of.

As time passes, small compromises lead to big ones and then they turn into the *Ate*'s of our society. This is the natural consequence of compromise. Surely, the one who drinks but doesn't get drunk has compromised with Islam, the one who smokes pot but doesn't get high has compromised with Islam and the one who misses his daily prayers has also compromised with Islam.

Compromise is the basic reason behind the 'Identity Crisis' within the Muslim youth. Compromise is what leads people to 'relax' some parts of Islam that don't seem to fit in to their new lifestyle. This is why many youth limit Islam to something they do every Friday.

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Many see nothing wrong with the ideas of “*Jibon ta mosto boro khaw daow furti koro*” or “*Jibon to Aktai*”, dreaming that after student life they will settle down and then think about Islam. Others may fully engage with their study, greeting fellow Muslims with complementary *Assalaamu 'Alaykum*, but leave Islam on the Shelf.

Some youth may even lose their emotions for Islam, becoming numb to the problems the Muslims are facing around the world, justifying themselves that it doesn't directly affect them or that they are only problems for the people of that nationality.

AN INVITATION TO THINK

As Muslim youth we are always in danger of falling into the trap of our society which abandons our belief or reduces Islam to a few 'rituals'. In fact we must question ourselves and ensure that we understand our life. We are taught not to question the basic yet fundamental questions in life; “Why am I a Muslim?”, “What is my purpose in Life”, “Is there anything after death?”

These questions, although basic, may be sidelined or ignored by us and often remain confused in our minds. Some of us maybe dumbstruck with the question of “Why are you a Muslim?” others may answer, “Because my Parents are” yet if posed with the same question about their choice of career or degree course they would reply with an elaborate answer.

Some of us posed with these questions may say, “Islam is the truth” but when questioned further as to how to prove the truth of Islam they would give a vague reply.

We need to realize that Islam is the definite truth. Islam is not a belief like those of other religions and creeds, which resort to notions like, “I can feel Jesus in my heart that's why I'm Christian”, or “Man is free to do as he pleases because he is good in nature”. Rather we know for sure that Allah (SWT) exists and that the Qur'an is the word of Allah (SWT). The Proof of Allah's (SWT) existence is found in our surroundings, which leads to the fact that everything in the universe couldn't have resulted out of nothing as some may have us believe. Allah (SWT) has emphasised this in many places in the Qur'an. He (SWT) says:

“Verily, in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the difference between night and day are signs for those who have minds”

[TMQ Al-Imran: 190]

STICKING TO ISLAM

We as Muslim youth must take care to stay away from environments that are dominated by drinks, drugs and pre-marital sex. We believe in Allah (SWT), love our Prophet (saw), feel great about the sahaba's (ra), and the history of Muslim youths.

The Prophet (saw) has encouraged us to control our lust and our speech. Sahl Ibn sa'd (ra) narrated that the Prophet (saw) said:

“Whoever can guarantee what is between his two jaw-bones and what is between his two legs I guarantee Paradise for him”

[Bukhari]

If we are tempted by intoxicants such as alcohol or drugs whether in large or small quantities, we should take heed of the words of Muhammad (saw) who said:

“All intoxicants are unlawful, of whatever thing a large quantity intoxicates, even a small quantity in prohibited”

[An-Nawawi]

SO WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Do I ignore my friends? Am I not allowed to go out with them at all?

These are very important questions when trying to understand our relationship with our friends, we shouldn't become the little 'Modon' sitting on his own never talking to anyone nor should we go with the flow doing everything everyone else does. Rather we should be those who discuss with our friends in order to show them the strength of Islam.

We should ask our friends, how he or she feels about his girlfriend or boyfriend? Can they be sure that they are not being cheated on or vice versa? Why not? Isn't Uni life meant to be a place where you have as many partners as possible? We should ask them how they feel about 'Prem-Protarona', deceiving and making vulgar CD's a practice that is common in the west. Our aim should not be to preach to them so that they run away each time they see us; rather we want to engage in discussion with them in the best manner possible.

As for going out with them, we should make them clear about where our limits are, but we should also let them know what we can do. We should take them out to places where no alcohol, no drugs or free fixing takes place. We should hang around with them as long as we are not involved in their lewdness. Overall our relationship with them should be on the basis that we are the ambassadors of Islam to them gaining their trust and helping them with their problems.

Fao time pass doing worthless things will not give us anything in this world nor in the hereafter. Whilst at university, individuals spend hours of thought upon the topics of their courses and even their lives. It would be hypocritical not to think about their belief and their real objective of life. The most definite thing in life is death, it would be irrational for us to ignore the inevitable and attempt to escape thinking about it as so many do.

The Messenger of Allah (saw) said,

“The clever one is he who disciplined himself and worked for what is after death, and the feeble one is he who followed his desires, then made (vain) prayers to Allah.”

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