

## Does liberalism mean following one's desires?

Nabeel Al-Awadhi

Liberalism is one of the most serious theories that has spread in this era. It is a serious theory because some of those who believe in it think that they can adopt liberal thoughts and remain true Muslims at the same time. Liberals deceive young men who have usually not read about their religion and Sharia by telling them: "It's better to be Muslim liberals than to be extremists." Unfortunately, some poor young men and women believe these co-called liberal leaders simply because they are unaware of an important fact - which is Islam directly contradicts with liberalism. Liberalism basically means freedom. It means freedom of belief and worship, freedom of behavior and social relations as well as various other types of beliefs. In other words; it is based on absolute freedom. Liberals force lawmakers in every country not to enact any laws that restrict freedoms. They do not want freedoms to be controlled by religion, norms, values, customs or traditions as long as those freedoms do not hurt others. The provisions of a religion that are agreed upon as part of morals and values are not recognized by the liberals.

To make the point clearer, a liberal man doesn't mind getting married to his sister, mother or even his daughter as long as the two parties agree. They want the law to permit this notion; arguing the fact that people are free in their sexual relations. When one of our writers insists that he is against such thoughts, he aims at maintaining the values and traditions of our society and protecting it from such horrendous crimes.

Liberals do not even mind if a man marries another man, or that a woman marries another woman; again arguing the fact that people are free to choose their life partners. So, it wasn't surprising at all to hear a liberal academic woman declaring that she is defending a man in court who wants to marry another man or woman who in turn would someday want to marry another woman. The funny thing is that the woman said that she prevents her children from doing so simply because she is a mother but she cannot not prevent others because she is a law practitioner. She should have been bold and said that she prevents this from happening in her own house simply because she is afraid of the reactions of her husband and relatives. She however, permits that in the case of others simply because she defends her principles and thoughts.

Liberals also do not have any problem if a true Muslim who believes in one Almighty God can convert to Hinduism and worship a cow. People like these; then reconvert to Islam and perform Haj and Umrah with other fellow Muslims and later on convert to Judaism and believe in the distorted version of the Torah. Finally, they turn into atheists who do not believe in Almighty God. They do not differentiate between conversion to Islam or worshipping the Buddha or prostrating before idols or even denying the existence of Almighty God. They claim that man is free to make his own personal choices and this shouldn't affect human relations. They perceive religion as nothing more important than clothes which man can change whenever or whenever he wants.

Liberals believe that people are free to choose what to eat, drink or wear. So, they justify their view that drinking juice is similar to drinking alcohol as long as it doesn't cause damage to third parties. They see that wearing hijab is in no way more valuable than wearing bikinis in front of strange people and perhaps nudity (in many cases) is unobjectionable. They believe that clerics, scholars, educators, propagators or any other entities do not have the right to tell people that eating certain food is also impermissible. Liberals view: 'The Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice' as the most stringent law because it collides with the basis of their beliefs and ideas. They believe that virtue is what people like and want even if it happened to be evil, and that vice is what people do not want if it clashed with their wishes and desires. According to their schools of thought, they promote vice and prevent virtue.

Sometimes we hear some liberal writers raise calls to allow the consumption of alcohol in public, kissing women in public, or even in favor of opening mixed-gender swimming pools. They are ecstatic when they hear a female academic call for permitting the marriage between homosexuals. Despite their outright rudeness and wickedness, these people are considered to be outspoken liberals who do not contradict with their principles and do not want to hide their schools of thought. On the other hand, we see some true liberals read the Holy Quran and perform prayers in mosques, but they do not promote immorality or homosexuality. God Almighty says in the Holy Quran: "Then see'st thou such a one as he takes his God, as his own vain desire? Allah has, knowing (him as such), left him astray, and sealed his hearing and his heart (and understanding), and put a cover on his sight. Who, then, will guide him after Allah (has withdrawn Guidance)? Will ye not then receive admonition?"

## When will Palestine ever enjoy peace?

Dr. Fahad Saleh Al-Khinah

The Arab League had earlier approved indirect peace talks between the Palestinian Liberation Authority (PLO) and Israel in order not to embarrass the PLO; which had earlier rejected negotiations against Israel's postponement of the settlements' issue. The Israeli prime minister ignored the Palestinian rejection and continued building settlements and began oppressing the Palestinians even more - because he was confident that Palestinians in particular and Arabs in general would have no other option than to accept the talks. He embarked on this policy especially after all Arab countries declared that they sought peace and dragged Hamas into the world of general politics away from the field of armed resistance. Hamas had also been warned against being involved in politics and jeopardizing negotiations which were based on the Oslo Agreement.

The agreement recognized the existence of Israel

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and approved its rights over lands occupied in 1948 with a faint glimmer of hope that the Palestinian State would soon be established in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Till then, however, nothing was achieved. Only Israel benefited from the Oslo Agreement in the sense that it won the acceptance of the owners of the lands which it occupied. The Palestinian State was, however never recognized. For as long as the Palestinians negotiators are not supported by jihadi activities, Israel will never give the Palestinians any of their rights but will instead

make things worse and more complicated in future.

Through all their pain and suffering, the Palestinian people rejected the idea of recognizing Israel which occupied their lands and places of worship. The Palestinian people are, however, helpless and can do nothing about it because the PLO has now surrendered its weapons while the Hamas Movement has given up on its resistance. All have forgotten that the main task of both the PLO and Hamas was to mainly prevent any attacks or the launch of any missiles against Israel from the lands that were under their authority.



## The destitute children of Sinbad

Dr. Ahmad Yousef Al-Deji

Yemeni people from all segments and walks of life; regardless of their social or educational status have been plagued with this disgusting and nauseating habit of chewing qat which is a very serious social habit that weakens the Yemeni economy. Not to mention the dangerous health concerns that are associated along with. This bad habit has serious consequences which result in the wastage of precious long hours of work. Productivity and concentration of workers too seem to be deteriorating through the passage of every single day through this sickening habit of chewing qat. More than three years ago, specifically on Feb. 17, 2007, I wrote an article for Al Watan in which I spoke about a book published by the Ministry of Information titled: 'Children of Sinbad' by the Australian voyager

Alan Villiers who wrote memoirs about his voyage with Kuwaiti sailors led by Captain Ali Bin Nasser Al-Najdi. Villiers was impressed by the skills of Kuwaiti sailors who went about executing their duties diligently, efficiently and faithfully. In the past, Kuwaitis deserved the title: 'Children of Sinbad' as Villiers had always called them fondly.

The meager economy and severe weather conditions urged Kuwaitis to work harder to earn their livelihood and spend on their families. Nowadays, the situation is different as the government provides citizens with almost everything that they need and hence they have become lazy and unproductive, except for some of course. These scavengers have become totally dependent on the government which provides them with salaries and untold privileges. Instead of working hard and spending precious time doing something useful,

Kuwaitis are currently addicted to wasting their time in diwanias, indulging in loose talk and hence, can no longer be proudly called the 'Children of Sinbad.'

It is a healthy social habit to meet in diwanias once a week and during social events. But what is happening in Kuwait is a kind of an addiction that is dangerously becoming a waste of time - instead of making good use of our fortunate and fruitful times. Even if the owners of each and every diwaniya started small businesses, they would earn extra income that could help them improve their living conditions and standard among the Kuwaiti society which has one of the highest ratios of consumerism in the world.

These lazy people have given up on several good and golden opportunities in favor of useless social habits and unwarranted traditions.

## Sinking with the housing problem

Fuad Al-Hashem

One of the sheikhs who taught us religious studies at the Religious Institute had once told us that: "All animals and birds will eventually go to paradise just like humans." We, in turn, asked him: "Which of the animals will go to heaven?" He replied: "The animals mentioned in the Holy Quran, such as the dog that stood by the people of the cave, the camel of Saleh, the whale of Yunis, the hoopoe of Solomon and the elephant of Abraham, among many other animals."

I'm not going to talk about heaven and things that were prepared for the righteous people by God Almighty, May God Almighty forgive us and send us all to paradise. But I'm definitely going to speak about the housing problems and the government's housing programs and plans.

The last batch of citizens who received

government housing were those who submitted their applications way back in March 1994. This means that the ones who applied in April 1994 will probably have to wait for some more years before they can take possession of their government houses. The ones who applied in May 1994 will have to wait even longer and so on.

The private sector, including banks and companies, has participated in solving this crisis after the liberation of Kuwait through offering loans and real estate offers. It managed to reduce the number of applicants awaiting government housing. But because the population increases by 3.5 percent every year, (which is the highest percentage in the world, by the way) the number of applicants has rapidly increased as their children too who have now grown up apply for government housing.

Laws 8 and 9 prevents banks and com-

panies from offering loans and real estate mortgages and this in turn has returned us to square one because only those who have cash, or are entitled to take loans offered by the Credit and Savings Bank, are the ones who can buy private houses.

Because of the global financial crisis which has hit the world severely in 2008, hard cash has become rare and people have to wait for several long years before getting their dreams, of owning a house, materialized.

I earnestly appeal to any government official who can abolish this unjust law in order to revive the real estate market and restore the smiles on the citizens' faces.

People from the West usually say: "Look who's talking" when they hear some people offer advice to other people, but they themselves do not abide by their own advices. Last Monday, the Islamic Constitutional Movement issued a strange statement on the oc-

casation of the International Women's Day in which it said: "There is no real progress without the participation of women."

I would like to ask an innocent question, which is: "Where was this spirit when the former Head of the Reform Society, the late Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Mutawa issued a strongly worded statement in 1999, rejecting the desire of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to grant women their political rights."

He daringly declared that the ICM would organize demonstrations from Ahmadi to Jahra to voice the rejection of women's rights." At that time, none of the members of the ICM objected or rejected the statement.

MP Hayef once said: "Even in the United States of America, they hold primary elections; which is the most advanced in parliamentary life." I had then expected Hayef to speak about primary elections held by the

Taliban or Al-Qaeda, but not about the democracy of the 'infidels in the US.' However, the primary elections in 'the Emirate of Texas' are usually held in a tent that is set up in front of a petrol station that is usually located behind fire station and attended by the elders of the 'Texan Tribes' under the supervision of 'The Elders of Houston.' Then people eat Alhashi with ketchup and mayonnaise. In the 'Emirate of California,' primary elections are held in the presence of "The Elders of the Tribes of California, San Francisco and Los Angeles." The 'Texans,' however, are forbidden to participate simply because they are not original Americans. While in the 'Emirate of Las Vegas,' primary elections are usually held inside bustling casinos.

I'd also like to offer our most sincere congratulations to the 'Wisest Arab Man' President Hosni Mubarak on the successful surgery that he recently underwent.

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