

# **EXTREMISM: AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE**

**Imam: Shaker Elsayed  
Dar Alhijrah Islamic Center  
Washington**

# ISLAM IS COMPLETED

حُرِّمَتْ عَلَيْكُمُ الْمَيْتَةُ وَالدَّمُ وَلَحْمُ الْخَنزِيرِ وَمَا أُهْلَ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ بِهِ وَالْمُنْخَنِقَةُ وَالْمَوْقُوذَةُ وَالْمُتَرَدِّيَةُ وَالنَّطِيحَةُ وَمَا أَكَلَ السَّبُعُ إِلَّا مَا ذَكَّيْتُمْ وَمَا ذُبِحَ عَلَى النُّصُبِ وَأَنْ تَسْتَقْسِمُوا بِالْأَزْلَامِ ۚ ذَٰلِكُمْ فِسْقٌ ۚ الْيَوْمَ يَمُنُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ دِينِكُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَاخْشَوْنَ ۚ الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا ۚ فَمَنِ اضْطُرَّ فِي مَخْمَصَةٍ غَيْرِ مُتَجَانِفٍ لِإِثْمٍ ۚ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Forbidden to you (for food) are: Al-Maytatah (the dead animals - cattle-beast not slaughtered), blood, the flesh of swine, and the meat of that which has been slaughtered as a sacrifice for others than Allah, or has been slaughtered for idols, etc., or on which Allah's Name has not been mentioned while slaughtering, and that which has been killed by strangling, or by a violent blow, or by a headlong fall, or by the goring of horns - and that which has been (partly) eaten by a wild animal - unless you are able to slaughter it (before its death) - and that which is sacrificed (slaughtered) on An-Nusub (stone altars). (Forbidden) also is to use arrows seeking luck or decision, (all) that is Fisqun (disobedience of Allah and sin). This day, those who disbelieved have given up all hope of your religion, so fear them not, but fear Me. This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion. But as for him who is forced by severe hunger, with no inclination to sin (such can eat these above-mentioned meats), then surely, Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

# BEING A MUSLIM = MODERATE

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا ۚ وَمَا جَعَلْنَا الْقِبْلَةَ الَّتِي كُنْتَ عَلَيْهَا إِلَّا لِنَعْلَمَ مَنْ يَتَّبِعُ الرَّسُولَ مِمَّنْ يَنْقَلِبُ عَلَىٰ عَقْبَيْهِ ۚ وَإِنْ كَانَتْ لَكَبِيرَةً إِلَّا عَلَى الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ ۚ وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيُضِلَّ إِيْمَانَكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِالنَّاسِ لَرَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ

Thus We have made you [true Muslims - real believers of Islamic Monotheism, true followers of Prophet Muhammad SAW and his Sunnah (legal ways)], a Wasat (just) (and the best) nation, that you be witnesses over mankind and the Messenger (Muhammad SAW) be a witness over you. And We made the Qiblah (prayer direction towards Jerusalem) which you used to face, only to test those who followed the Messenger (Muhammad SAW) from those who would turn on their heels (i.e. disobey the Messenger). Indeed it was great (heavy) except for those whom Allah guided. And Allah would never make your faith (prayers) to be lost (i.e. your prayers offered towards Jerusalem). Truly, Allah is full of kindness, the Most Merciful towards mankind. 2:143

# MODERATION

وَلَا تَجْعَلْ يَدَكَ مَغْلُولَةً إِلَىٰ عُنُقِكَ وَلَا تَبْسُطْهَا كُلَّ الْبَسْطِ فَتَقْعُدَ مَلُومًا مَّحْسُورًا

And let not your hand be tied (like a miser) to your neck, nor stretch it forth to its utmost reach (like a spendthrift), so that you become blameworthy and in severe poverty.

17:29

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِندَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَكُلُوا وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا ۚ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ

O Children of Adam! Take your adornment (by wearing your clean clothes), while praying and going round (the Tawaf of) the Ka'bah, and eat and drink but waste not by extravagance, certainly He (Allah) likes not Al-Musrifun (those who waste by extravagance). 7:31

# EXAGGERATION

- يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لَا تَغْلُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ وَلَا تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْحَقَّ ۚ إِنَّمَا الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتُهُ أَلْقَاهَا إِلَى مَرْيَمَ وَرُوحٌ مِنْهُ ۚ فَآمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ ۚ وَلَا تَقُولُوا ثَلَاثَةً ۚ انتَهُوا خَيْرًا لَكُمْ ۚ إِنَّمَا اللَّهُ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ ۚ سُبْحَانَهُ أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُ وَلَدٌ ۚ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ ۚ وَكَفَى بِاللَّهِ وَكِيلًا

O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Do not exceed the limits in your religion, nor say of Allah aught but the truth. The Messiah 'Iesa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary), was (no more than) a Messenger of Allah and His Word, ("Be!" - and he was) which He bestowed on Maryam (Mary) and a spirit (Ruh) created by Him; so believe in Allah and His Messengers. Say not: "Three (trinity)!" Cease! (it is) better for you. For Allah is (the only) One Ilah (God), Glory be to Him (Far Exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And Allah is All-Sufficient as a Disposer of affairs. 4:171

# CROSSING BOUNDARIES

إِنَّا لَمَّا طَغَى الْمَاءُ حَمَلْنَاكُمْ فِي الْجَارِيَةِ

**Verily! When the water rose beyond its limits [Nuh's (Noah) Flood], We carried you (mankind) in the floating [ship that was constructed by Nuh (Noah)]. 69:11**

اذهبْ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ طَغَىٰ

**"Go to Fir'aun (Pharaoh)! Verily, he has transgressed (all bounds in disbelief and disobedience, and has behaved as an arrogant, and as a tyrant)." 20:24**

# تعريف الإرهاب حسب مجمع الفقه الإسلامي في رابطة العالم الإسلامي بمكة

(( الإرهاب هو العدوان الذي يمارسه أفراد أو جماعات أو دول بغيا على الإنسان في دينه ، ودمه ، وعقله ، وماله ، وعرضه ، ويشمل صنوف التخويف والأذى والتهديد والقتل بغير حق ، وما يتصل بصور الحراية وإخافة السبيل وقطع الطريق ، وكل فعل من أفعال العنف أو التهديد يقع تنفيذا لمشروع إجرامي فردي أو جماعي ، ويهدف إلى إلقاء الرعب بين الناس ، أو ترويعهم بإيذائهم ، أو تعريض حياتهم ، أو حریتهم ، أو أمنهم، أو أقوالهم للخطر ، ومن صنوفه إلحاق الضرر بالبيئة أو بأحد مرافق أو الأملاك العامة أو الخاصة ، أو تعريض أحد الموارد الوطنية ، أو الطبيعية للخطر .

فكل هذا من صور الفساد في الأرض التي نهى الله - سبحانه تعالى - المسلمين عنها قال تعالى : ( وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفَسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ ) (سورة القصص الآية 77) .

## والإرهاب في المصطلح المعاصر

لا يفرق بين المحقق والمبطل – فمقاومة المحتل والرد عليه تسمى إرهابا عندهم والاستسلام له يسمى سلاما وتعاوننا . بل ولو طال بهم زمان لسموا كل مسلم إرهابيا .

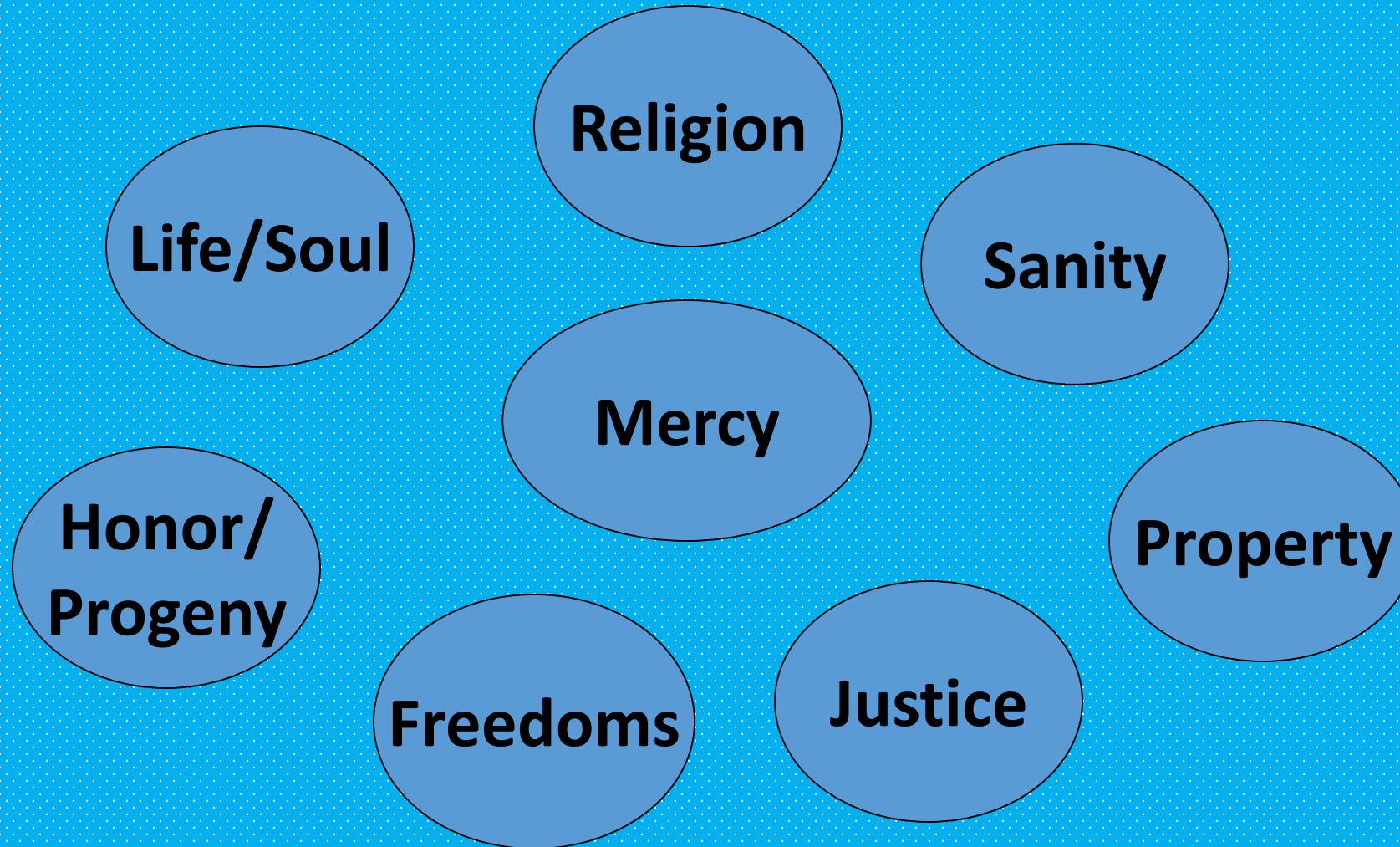


التطرف والغلو والعنف والإرهاب

# **Extremism, Exaggeration, Violence & Terrorism**

- **Extremism:** To hold a view/position far right/left from the middle ground
- **Exaggeration** Overestimating or Inflating facts far from reality
- **Violence:** Applying force, damaging force, causing destruction or damage to people or things, like in fights war, etc
- **Terrorism:** Causing extreme fear by employing violence and/or aggression to harm or coerce individuals, properties or institution to meet certain demands.

# Fundamental Islamic Values



# Reasons For the Extremism Phenomenon

- **Ignorance or lack of understanding**
- **Absence of free scholars**
- **Lack of good Islamic education**
- **Un-educated Freelance Muslim preachers**
- **Misreading and misinterpreting the text of Quran or Sunnah**
- **Partial knowledge and partial quotations**
- **Exaggerating minor issues**
- **Political oppression, occupation, economic injustice, etc.**

# **The Impact of Violent Extremism On Muslims**

- **Confusion and misunderstanding**
- **Disagreements and disputes**
- **Misapplication of Islam**
- **Chaos and disarray in public opinions**
- **Fragmentation of families and the society**
- **Ideological distrust and disintegration**
- **Forming fringe groups**
- **Growing potential for violence and terrorism**

# **The Impact of Violent Extremism On Non-Muslims**

- **Misunderstanding Islam and Muslims**
- **Distrusting Islam and Muslims**
- **Fearing the existence of Islam and Muslims in the West**
- **Hatred and resentment towards Islam and Muslims**
- **Maligning Islam and Muslims**
- **Forming Groups to resist and fight Islam and Muslims**
- **Enacting anti-Islam and anti-Muslim Policies**
- **Making the life in the West Miserable for Muslims**

# Understanding Extremism



**Religion**

**Education**

**School**

**Family**

**Injustice**

**Public  
Policies**

**Oppression**

**Unaddressed  
Grievances**

# Q & A

*Imam: Shaker Elsayed*

*Dar Alhijrah Islamic Center  
Washington*

# Facing Extremism

**Main Actors: (Youth-Family-Schools-Mosques-Government-Media)**

- Accuracy, authenticity and honesty in Islamic Education and public policies
- Wise and nice Preaching and open dialogues especially with youth
- Social and Political transparency
- Addressing misunderstanding
- Addressing related topics (grievances-violence-Jihad-rules of war in Islam)
- Muslim-non-Muslims relations (Individuals, policy-makers, educators, religious leaders, academics, sociologists, psychologists, etc)
- Taking measures to stem extremism in its roots
- Monitoring vulnerable groups in society
- Educating and developing expertise in extremism treatment



# Jihad: Meanings & Purposes

- **Striving for Excellence: “..We will guide them”**
- **Jihad With the Qur'an: “Strive with it (Qur'an)”**
- **Jihad With Wealth & Self: “With Their Money...”**
- **In the Path of Allah: “Jihad in His (Allah) Path (following His rules)”**
- **For Oneself: “He who strives, he strives Only for Himself”**
- **For The Protection of Basic values: “why don't you fight in the path of Allah and for the oppressed men, women and children?”**
- **Against Tyranny: “So that there will be no Tribulation/tyranny /oppression”**
- **Quit when they do: “If they quit, there shall be no aggression except on the aggressors.”**
- **Reconciliation Is Virtuous: “Reconciliation Is Good”**

# Jihad/War Rules & Regulations

- **Permission to fight back:** “permission is granted” Q
- **Self defense:** “fight (back) ...those who fight you” Q
- **Against oppression:** “. and the oppressed ones“ Q
- **Save non-combatants:** ”don’t kill a child,....” H
- **Save the environment:** “don’t cut a tree..” H
- **Save animals:** “except for food” H
- **Save properties:** “don’t destroy houses” H
- **Warning before action:** “warn them clearly” Q
- **Answer in-kind:** “If you punish...punish in kind” Q
- **Patience is better:** “If you exercise patience, this is better.” Q

# Jihad/War

- **Waged by a state**
- **Carried by an army**
- **Governed by Int'l laws**
- **Controllable to a degree**
- **Massive miseries**
- **Relative time & place**
- **Targets military assets**
- **Conditionally allowed**

# Terrorism

- **By a state, a group, or | Individual**
- **By a state or a group**
- **No laws to govern**
- **Uncontrollable**
- **Horrific fears/havoc**
- **No time/place limits**
- **Targets civilians**
- **Prohibited**

# When is War/Jihad Justified?

- **Responding to Aggression (fight the aggressor)**
- **Protecting the Weak (oppressed)**
- **Fighting Occupation (drive you out of your homes)**
- **Fighting Injustices (committed by any)**
- **Defending Freedoms (religion, thought, business, travel, association, etc)**
- **Protecting the fundamental values**

# **Who Declares War/Jihad and How?**

- **State's Elected Muslim Ruler with Authority**
- **Conditions for the Decisions:**
  - War is only the last resort
  - Advice and Consent of People's Representatives
  - Utilizing all avenues of a peaceful resolution
  - Giving Sufficient Warning
  - Preparing
  - Fulfilling Islamic conditions for war/Jihad

# Sources of Terrorism

- **Ideological: motivated by an idea or ideology**
  - Religious & political strives (domestic/international)
  - Nationalist, religious & political fanaticism
- **Circumstantial: Motivated by circumstances**
  - Oppression & Tyranny                      - Injustices
  - Military Rules                              - Violent Dictatorship
  - Torture of Prisoners   - Occupation
  - Military Courts for Civilians
  - Lack of Political and Other Freedoms
- **Drug Trafficking: motivated by money & power**

# Forms of Terrorism

- **State Terrorism:** Inflicted by a state
  - Domestic (against its own people)
  - International (against neighbors/other states)
  - Military Occupation (against the occupied people)
  - Military Coups, Military Regimes (against oppositions)
- **Group Terrorism:** Inflicted by a group
  - Violent Political, Militant, Religious & Nationalist Groups
  - Drug Traffickers
  - Against individuals, groups or states

# **Islamic Protections Against Terrorism-1**

- **All people are from one father and one mother**
- **Preference of dialogue, forgiveness, and peaceful resolutions to all conflicts**
- **The means must be as honorable as the End**
- **Prohibition of Extremism in Faith**
- **Prohibition of Conspiracy**
- **Prohibition of Treason and Betrayal**
- **Prohibition of Forced Conversion**



# **Islamic Protections Against Terrorism-2**

- **Prohibition of killing civilians even during war**
- **Prohibition of drugs**
- **Prohibition of suppression and deprivation of freedoms**
- **Prohibition of aggression**
- **Prohibition of occupying another land or imposing rule**

# **Islamic Protections Against Terrorism-3**

- **Prohibition of silence about or support for transgression**
- **Rights of POW's**
- **Rights of prisoners**
- **Prohibition of torture**
- **Rights of ambassadors**
- **Rights of non-Muslim minorities**

# Islamic Solution-1

- **Ideological**
  - **Teaching Islam in its comprehensive understanding**
  - **Freedoms for Muslim scholars and thinkers**
  - **Addressing the roots of terrorism in the media**
  - **Dialogue between the East and the West**
  - **Focusing on conflict resolutions in troubled areas**
  - **Replacing Ideological Imposition with Ideological Exchange**

# Islamic Solution-2

- **Political**

- **Freedom of the press, publication, and assembly**
- **Freeing political prisoners**
- **Increasing punishment for torture of prisoners**
- **Ending support of dictatorships**
- **Requiring countries to abide by international law**
- **Supporting the right to self determination**
- **Denying any country or group illegitimate gains**
- **Supporting the International Court**

# Islamic Solution-3

- **Political**
  - Political freedoms for peoples
  - Supporting educational and health programs and institutions in the third world
  - De-politicizing foreign aid
  - Ending the veto era
  - Addressing Political Grievances
  - Establishing principled foreign policy
  - Economic justice