THE NECESSITY OF PEACE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY (FROM ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE)

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Abstract: Peace is the name of that condition where all the matters run smoothly without any violent differences. The concept of peace is defined as the absence of violence in any society or a healthy, positive international or inter-human relationship. In this situation, all members of society enjoy social, economic, equality, political rights, and protection. A peaceful society is where violent elements are not present and peace is considered an essential component for the well-being of society. Without peace, society is like a jungle where we can easily see immoral activities, i.e., injustice, theft, robbery, murder and looting, a difference of poor and rich, and other severe immoral deeds.If we look at history, before Islam, there was chaos everywhere. The concept of law and order was not present in that ignorant society. After the advent of Islam, an atmosphere of peace and order was established in the society and entire humanity was protected. But unfortunately, with time we have forgotten the teachings of Islam, so now we see the same conditions in the society as it was before Islam. There is a dire need to follow the teachings of Islam so that a peaceful society can be established. This research work can be a unique work in terms of its research which can benefit newcomers in the field of research.

Keywords: Peace, Society, Islamic teachings, Pagan Arabia, Humanity, Inhumanity

1. **Introduction**

Allah Almighty has created human beings and divided them into different tribes and families. Then these people started living together. This common collective life came to be called society and the people living in it came to be called members of society, i.e., Individuals are the components for the formation of society and society as a whole. The word society means to live together, but the term society refers to the human collective life that runs on a particular system of thought and action. If some people gather in one place and live aimlessly. So it will not be called a society. But it will be just an unorganized mob of human beings and instead of dominating the dignity of humanity, the social values of this society will be dominated by behemoths. Society is a group of individuals whose basic needs of life are interconnected with each other-And according to the definition of society, they do not have to belong to the same tribe, nation, or religion.[1]

Similarly, peace means harmony, contentment, tranquility, and as well as reconciliation and prosperity. In the same way. The word peace is included in Islam, which means the religion of never-ending peace and lasting security. For the first time, Islam gave the world formal teaching of peace and love and presented it with a never-ending code of conduct, which was called "Islam", the religion of lasting peace and security. This distinction does not attain to any religion of the world.Islam started a new chapter of peace and tranquility on a solid foundation and sought to expand it with full intellectual and moral strength and intellectual height. The trend of peace and order in the world today and every section of the society in search of deep peace on its own.

Whereas Islam is only a religion of peace and tranquility for humanity.[2] Islam dislike brutality, injustice, and oppression.The oppression cannot be imagined in Islam, but on the contrary, it would be more accurate to say that Islam has come into the world to eradicate oppression and cruelty.Compassion, benevolence, and peace are the basic elements of Islam. Therefore, it can be said that peace is the fortress of Islam, and Muslims live in this fortress. This fortress protects the Muslims from the enemies, and the Muslims protect this fortress from the evil elements. Peace is the four walls of Islam, within these four walls the Muslims consider themselves safe, as well as protecting themselves from evildoers and insurgents. Muslims protect this wall from falling and do not allow any kind of crack to come with it.Because Allah Almighty has preserved in it all the activities of life, including religion, wealth and life, honor, transactions, free movement, in the presence of this siege. People have a chance to fulfill their economic and other needs. They move easily from one area to another area. Quran Says:"And they say, "If we were to follow the guidance with you, we would be swept from our land." Have we

not established for them a safe sanctuary to which are brought the fruits of all things as provision from Us? But most of them do not know".[3]

The fact of peace is that man should be satisfied with his religion, life, honor, wealth, property, and respect for everything, and man should not be in any danger about them. In the same way, he was completely satisfied with the literary and spiritual rights of human beings which have been protected by Islam.Peace is possible only with Islam. Islamic teachings are the guarantor of peace and purity in both the life and death of a Muslim.[4]It is stated in sûrăh An-Nahl:

"Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do".[5]An occasion the Holy Prophet said that "A Muslim is one who reconciles with his tongue".[6]But this is an alarming situation that mayhem and chaos are seen everywhere in society. Due to which every person of society is in confusion and his life is involved in hard conditions. This is a fact that with the time we are moving towards ruin this is a cause of ignorance of Islamic teachings. We can save our beloved and our society too, if we follow the teachings of Islam and spend our lives accordingly. This research work aimed to highlight the need for peace in developing society in the light of Islamic teachings. This research work consists on some basic points such as the first section encompasses introduction,statement of the problem, hypotheses of the research, objective of the research, significance of the research, the second section explains the literature review, the third section elucidates research methodology, the fourth section explicates analysis of the problem, the fifth and sixth sections explain conclusion, suggestions, and recommendations.

1.1.   Statement of the Problem

Some statement of the problems is given below, such as;

- What is the meaning of peace and society?
- What is the history of the dark ages concerning peace?
- What are the teachings of Islam about peace?
- What is the situation of contemporary society?
- Is there a need for peace in the development of society?

1.2.   Hypotheses of the Research

Some hypotheses are aimed to explain the result of this research work as follows;

- People have ignored the Islamic teachings.
- The environment of society is unsatisfactory concerning peace.
- The development of society is not possible without peace.

1.3.   Objectives of the Research

Few objectives are explicated for this research work as;

- To explain the meaning of peace and society.
- To go through the light on the dark ages of history.
- To elucidate the teachings of Islam concerning peace.
- To describe the situation of contemporary society regarding peace.
- To highlight the need for peace to develop society.

1.4.   Significance of the Research

In this research work, the meaning of peace and society are explained and tried to elucidate the dark ages of history. As well as Islamic teachings are explained about peace, further, the environment of contemporary society is described briefly. As the dire need for peace is explicated to develop the environment of the society. This research work can be informative concerning its specific theme for the reader and researcher.

2.   Research Methodology

This research work is based on library research work, for which we have approached different sources i.e., Books, articles, magazines, newspapers, and web links, etc. We aimed to collect all the material from SBBWU, Peshawar's library, Peshawar University's library, and archive library, Peshawar.

3.   Analysis of the problem

This research work is very significant work in its specific field. We used the theoretical method for this research work and gathered data from different sources. We explained in detail some important points of this research work i.e., a glimpse of the dark ages of history, Islamic teachings regarding peace, the situation of contemporary society, and the need for peace in developing society.

3.1.A Glimpse of the Dark Ages of History

If we have a look at history, we found unbearable examples of brutality. Before the rising of the sun of Islam, the Arab world was surrounded by black darkness. Everywhere the darkness was spread. Nowhere a lamp was not burned in the name of peace in society. There was an era of oppression and barbarism on all sides. Humanity was divided into so many pieces that sometimes in the name of color and race, sometimes in the name of language and civilization, and sometimes under the guise of rationality. Humanity was annihilated in such a way that humanity itself was screaming. Even they buried their daughters alive with their own hands, which is a clear example of cruelty in history.Women were considered less than insects, they were deprived of their basic rights. They could not take inheritance from their father, brother, or husband's assets. Women were spending their lives in the worst condition. The condition of poor people was not satisfied in the dark ages. They were considered worse than animals, richer considered the poor

people as their slaves. Slaves were sold and bought like animals in markets. It was a sign of all over the world of inhumanity.The deserts of Arabia were famous for cruelty, people of Arab and all the world includes was very brutal. They were so ignorant that they did not care about blood relations. They did not have the fear of Allah Almighty and humanity in their hearts.People had entirely involved in sinful activities and they wanted to find satisfaction in such activities.[7]When the flag of Islam began to high and Prophet (PBUH) preached the teaching of the true religion to the world and he presented a complete code of conduct, as well a complete system of life and eternal religion of nature which was called Islam. Thisis a peaceful and secure religion for humanity. After the teachings of the religion of Islam, the sobs of humanity have subsided and everyone was considered respectable in the shade of Islam.Islam has opened a new chapter of peace and security on a strong and practical basis. It is a fact that peace and security, love, and respect are not found in any other religion except Islam in the world.The virtues of all religions are included in Islam.It is a complete religion of this world. Islam is a religion of peace and harmony. It promotes love and goodwill in which there is no room for oppression and violence, no concept of terror and fear. There is no justification for discrimination based on race and caste. Islam is a religion of justice and peace. Islam taught the lesson of peace to human beings and preached to practice it. If we follow the teachings of Islam and adopt the true path which Islam teaches us, then all the hate would be removed from society. This is our responsibility that we should follow the teachings of Islam and This is a dire need to produce peace in the environment.[8]

3.2. Islamic Teachings Regarding Peace

Before Islam, the world was dark and the oppression was everywhere, there was no such thing as peace. Such a virtue of peace and tranquility has been mentioned in Islam and such clear instructions have been given to cleansing this earth from the oppression that other world religions are unable to give an example. Qurăn says: "And Allah does not like corruption.[9]At another place, it is stated that "whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or corruption [done] in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one- it is as if he had saved mankind entirely".[10] It is further stated that "And cause not corruption upon the earth after its reformation". [11]Islam is a religion of peace, therefore it does not have any door for hate, oppression, and cruelty, it teaches about peace, harmony, brotherhood, equality, justice, and love.If we talk about the history of Islam, then it is cleared before us that the entire life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) spent in producing a peaceful environment among human beings, the charter of the Medina is the best example of peace. Hadrat Muhammad (PBUH) made this agreement with the Jews to restore peace, the main points of which were as follows.

- The ancient method of bloodshed and redemption will continue.

- Jews will have all kinds of religious freedom.
- Muslim-Jewish relations will be friendly and will help each other in case of war.
- In the event of an attack on Medina, both sides will defend and both will participate in the peace process too.
- Neither side will give peace to the Quraysh.
- The Holy Prophet will be recognized as a mediator in disputes.[12]

The above-mentioned discussion proved that peace has a significant role in developing a nonviolent environment in society. Here one more example is concerning peace i.e., In the event of the conquest of Makkah Hadrat Muhammad (PBUH) had given protection to all in the shade of peace without the difference of caste, color, and creed.Although in front ofHadrat Muhammad (PBUH) was his mortal enemies and the killers of his uncle Hamza (RA), but he forgave them all, there is no greater example of peace in history.[13]Similarly, when Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) was sending Hazrat Usama (RA) to the boundaries of Syria for taking revenge of martyrs of Mutha, Abu Bakr (RA) advised to Usama's army before the departure that people stop!I advise you concerning ten things to remember them, do not betray, do not hide wealth, do not be unfaithful with your army, do not cut off anyone's limbs, do not kill old men, children, and women, do not cut down palm and fruit trees. Do not slaughter animals for any purpose other than eating. You will find people who have left the worldly life and are sitting in monasteries in worship. Do not harm them.[14]Likewise, many instances are present in history about to create peace in society. On an occasion,HadratMuhmmad (PBUH) advises to human beings that "He who does not have mercy on people, Allah will not be kind to him". [15]

Qurān says that; "Do good and kindness to others as Allah does good to you".[16]

Islam is a religion of mercy; its love encompasses all humanity. Islam has strongly urged its followers to deal with other nations and religions with equality, compassion, and tolerance.

3.3. The Situation of Contemporary Society

If we talk about the contemporary society we can see violence everywhere, it is a cause of unbalance. Due to which immoral activities have spread in society i.e., hate, oppression, theft, killing, injustice, and inequality, etc. Each person in this society is affected bya non-peaceful environment. This is an annoying situation for us that our morals are destroying with time. The power of tolerating is finished in people. We get ready to kill each other for the little things. We are seeing insecurity in every aspect of life, as individual or collective. The biggest reason why every human being looks disgusted with

others is the forgetfulness of Islamic teachings. We have entangled ourselves in worldly affairs and have forgotten the thought about the Hereafter. We have thought that this worldly life will not end. Therefore, evils like lust and dishonesty have started coming into us which have finished peace from this society. The only way to improve society is to follow Islamic teachings. If we follow Islamic teachings and live according to them, an atmosphere of peace can be established in society.[17]

3.4. Need of Peace in Developing Society

There is a severe moral decline in our society today. People are adopting misguide attitudes and hurting others. People have lost their understanding of good and evil, *Halaal, and haraam.* After all, what is the cause of this social degradation? Some points are arising here,i.e, we have to consider whether we are doing our duty as Muslims in a good way. Are we considering ourselves accountable for our mistakes?Are we on the right path? Are we giving protection to our subordinates, and our people? Are we fulfilling our rights and duties in a good way? Now in our society, instead of hatred and oppression, we need to promote tolerance, peace, and forgiveness to maintain the environment in balance level.We can foster an atmosphere of tolerance, religious harmony only when we connect people through love.The first requirement of today's society is that we share our happiness with other human beings and share the sorrows of others. We should play a positive role in extracting happiness for others and solving other people's social problems. - We should embrace goodwill with each other, and resolve the issues with mutual consent and unity we face in society. Undoubtedly, unity and solidarity is the greatest strength of human beings and we observe it at every stage of life.The social system of human life is one of the means to achieve this unity and solidarity. This is how civilizations come into being and new social systems grow.There is an urgent need for human solidarity in our society and circle of friends. There is an urgent need to awaken the spirit of benevolence with others. We need to be supportive of each other, sharing the pain of others, abandoning hatred and apathy. One of the most important needs of society is the reform of the society on which we do not take any practical steps. We are the best judges for others and the best lawyers for ourselves. On others, we immediately decide to be infidels, miscreants, and try our best to defend ourselves by presenting thousands of interpretations and arguments for our every small and big mistake.The only thing we do to improve society is to advise others. We consider every good deed by advising others that our duty has been fulfilled. We forget to follow this advice ourselves. Action is more effective than words. Reform of society begins with our caste. The correction will come from our actions, not our words. People don't see what we are saying. People pay more attention to what we are doing.First of all, try to improve ourselves. Unless we are good yourself, we cannot be good to others.

If each of us is only engaged in improving our caste, then our entire society will be better. In a society where justice becomes expensive, there crime and unrest become common. Justice is needed by every individual who must be met indiscriminately. Allah Almighty says that:"Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice. Excellent is that which Allah instructs you. Indeed, Allah is ever Hearing and Seeing".[18]The greater purpose of the revelation of the prophets and messengers is to establish justice peace in the lives of the people. It is a fact that only through justice can a society become a completely peaceful society. For the establishment of an ideal society, every person must be true to his morals and character. Unless a person establishes justice in his character and morals, he will not be able to establish justice in society. Justice and peace are the greatest sources of prosperity and survival of humanity. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) is a great model for all humanity concerning the creation of peace and justice in society. The Companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) have left indelible imprints in history regarding character and speech. Justice is the beauty of any civilized society and its basis.Different nations of the world, due to their civilization and culture, in one way or another, they seem to be convinced and claimants of equality and justice in society. The establishment of justice is peace and the end of oppression and tyranny is injustice. Injustice produces unrest and justice brings peace, brotherhood, equality, and harmony.On an occasion, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) says that:And they prayed for the virtues of honorable manners and deeds, and they believe in his words, may Allah have mercy on him and grant him peace. And they represent him until you reach them. Reach out to those who cut you off, give to those who have deprived you, and forgive you for your wrongdoings.".[19]The Righteous Caliphs who got guidance from Hadrat Muhammad (PBUH) also maintained justice and peace due to which peace and order prevailed in their times. Their justice is a model for all human beings living in the world today.We should follow the teachings of Islam, then we can be able to produce peace in society.[20]

4.   Conclusion

Islam is a religion of peace and security, so it emphasizes the establishment of peace. A society without peace is like a jungle in which there becomes an atmosphere of chaos everywhere, in which no one's life and property be safe. A society without peace suffers from various immoral evils such as theft, robbery, murder and looting, kidnapping, dishonor, injustice, etc. It is necessary to follow Islamic teachings to maintain balance. It is a sad fact that by the time we are declining and we are witnessing the same kind of conditions that existed before Islam. A peaceful environment in society can only be established if we follow the teachings of Islam.

5. Suggestions and Recommendations
Some suggestions and recommendations are given below;

1. We should follow the teachings of Islam to maintain a peaceful environment in society.
2. We should produce patience in ourselves.
3. We should live together with love in society to create an atmosphere of peace.
4. We should work together in a terrible situation so that a healthy society can be established.
5. The government should focus on building a peaceful society.
6. Seminars, workshops, and similar activities on peace building should be organized in educational institutions. So that the tendency of the people can move towards peace.

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