

# UNITY is a Command of Allah (swt) with a Clear Method of Implementation

## an Nizaamul Imaarah - [The System of Authority]

Many people in the Muslim world call for unity but they adopt a method which is in contradiction to its own objectives. They call for unity but adopt a divisive methodology. Allah (swt) does not allow such contradictions in the deen, Allah (swt) says **"....establish the deen and do not make divisions in it..."** (ash Shura 42:13) and Allah (swt) says **"Do they not then consider the Qur'an? Had it been from other than Allah they would surely have found therein many contradictions."** (an Nisaa' 4:82) So if we find clear contradiction between the method and the objective, then we know this method is not from Islam. We can tell the Muslims 'Let us unite as one, let us unite as one' and at the same time say 'We will do this by being many groups, so come and join my group'. This a contradiction. Islam accepts differences when the Divine Texts allow for differing interpretation but to divide into hundreds or thousands of separate entities, each an authority unto themselves.....then this is far from the Islamic system of unity and it has no basis in the Qur'an, the Sunnah and it contradicts the intellect. In fact Allah (swt) associated division with the stupidity of the unbelievers so we should not imitate them in that, Allah (swt) says **"....Their enmity among themselves is very severe. You would think they are united but their hearts are divided that is because they are a people who do not use their intellects."** (al Hashr 59:14)

Allah (swt) in the Qur'an and the messenger in the Sunnah commanded us to unity and prohibited us from disunity and no-one can deny that this command stands for all times. If Allah (swt) gives us a command then He (swt) also commands us with the method of how to implement that command just as the ayah says **"....for each of you we gave a shari'ah [law] and a minhaaj [clear method]..."** (al Maai'dah 5:48) Therefore every Muslim must seek to understand how we will unite upon the Qur'an and Sunnah according to the method of Nabi (saw) and the indications of the evidence of Ayaat and Ahadeeth.

When we survey the texts of Qur'an and Hadeeth we see very clearly that Islam gave us two pillars of unity. Those pillars of unity are 1) Unifying upon the correct beliefs (imaan) this is clear from the ayah **"Verily only the believers are a brotherhood"** (al Hujuraat 49:10) and the ayah **"And be not like those who divided and differed among themselves after the clear proofs had come to them. It is they for whom there is an awful torment."** (aali Imraan 3:105) and **"Verily, this ummah of yours is one ummah and I am your Lord so worship me"** (al Anbiyaa' 21:92) There are many other clear evidences to prove this point. 2) The unification under one Imaam. This is proven by many evidences e.g. Allah (swt) says **"And hold fast to the rope of Allah all of you together and be not divided..."** (aali Imraan 3:103) The 'rope of Allah' was described by Ibn Masood to be the 'Jama'ah' [Tafseer of TABARI] and the jama'ah are those who are gathered under the Imaam. Also the meaning of jama'ah [the unified group] and the meaning of tafarruq [prohibited division] is explained in the hadeeth of Ibn Abbaas who reported that Nabi (saw) said **"Whoever of you sees in his ameer [leader] something which he dislikes should remain patient for whoever divides from the Jama'ah by a handspan then he dies, he dies the death of jaahileeyah."** (BUKHAARI, MUSLIM) Therefore the Jama'ah is to be united under the obedience to one man, i.e. The Khaleefah, Imaam, Ameerul Mu'mineen and Tafarruq is to separate from this. This is also proven by the following hadeeths..... A'rafah reported that the Prophet (saw) said **"Whoever comes to you while your affair has been united under one man intending to dissolve your strength or divide your jama'ah then kill him."** (MUSLIM kitaabul Imaarah) and Abu Sa'eedul Khudri reported that the Prophet (saw) said **"If the bayah [oath of obedience] has been taken for two khaleefahs then kill the latter of them."** (MUSLIM kitaabul Imaarah)

The Salaf were also clear on the meaning of Jama'ah and Disunity. They knew from Qur'an and Sunnah and from their association with the Prophet (saw) that unity did not consist of numbers but the gathering upon the truth of the Islamic beliefs and the obedience to the one leader, the Imaam. It is reported that U'mar ibn al Khattab said **"There is no Islam without Jama'ah and there is no Jama'ah without Imaarah [authority, leadership] and there is no Imaarah without Taa'ah [obedience]"** (DAARIMI). The early Muslims were always united under the two pillars of IMAAN (Belief) and IMAAMAH (leadership). This was at all times including before they took power in Madeenah.

We should not talk about unity in an emotional way. Rather we should understand what Islamic unity is and we should then implement it. We should not call for something only to provide people with a false methodology. We must unite according to the clear command of Allah (swt) even if the majority of people reject this Islamic unity. This is because we only unite in order to obey Allah (swt) and save ourselves from Hellfire. This is proven by the hadeeth of Abu Hurayrah who reported that the Prophet (saw) said **"Whoever obeys me obeys Allah and whoever disobeys me disobeys Allah and whoever obeys the Imaam he obeys me and whoever disobeys the Imaam then he disobeys me"** (IBN MAAJAH) and in the version of BUKHAARI and MUSLIM **"....whoever obeys the ameer he obeys me and whoever disobeys the ameer then he disobeys me."** Therefore we do not unite under the Imaam for material benefit nor due to the result, but we do it because it is a Divine command and if we fail to unite behind the Imaam then we are sinful. We must have an Imaam just as the hadeeth says **"Whoever dies without an Imaam then he dies the death of jaahileeyah"** (AHMAD, AL HINDI) and Ibn U'mar reported that Nabi (saw) said **"....whoever dies without a baya'ah upon his neck then he dies the death of jaahileeyah"** (MUSLIM)

So let us not be emotional about unity but let us be obedient to Allah (swt) about unity. Let us understand it according to evidence and then we must submit to it. We must unite upon imaan and under one imaam and it does not matter if people mock that and abandon it. We must unify according to the truth even if there are only three of us just as the hadeeth of A'bdullah ibn A'mru ibn al A'ss makes clear, he reported that Nabi (saw) said **"It is not halaal for any three of you to be in a deserted place without appointing one ameer"** (AHMAD) So the ummah must always be united even if they were small. We should not seek to be in the majority but seek to be upon the truth. It is reported that A'bdullah ibn Masood said **"The Jama'ah is what accords with the truth even if you are one person"** (AL LAALIKAA'EE, IBN A'SAAKEER) And let us remember that the true deen will return not as a well known majority but rather as strangers who follow the way of the Prophet (saw), it is reported that the Prophet (saw) said **"Islam started as a stranger and will return as a stranger just as it was in the beginning so Tuba [Tree in paradise, blessings, reward] to the strangers"** (MUSLIM, IBN MAAJAH and others)

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