

ESTABLISHING THE RELIGION WITH EASE

Islam is an easy religion and eases its followers. This is one of its characteristics which differentiate Islam from other religions. One of the wisdom on why the Prophet (PBUH) was sent to human kind is to lift the burden and misfortune of the nations before us. Allah has said .

Difficulty is not a part of Maqasid Shari'ah (objectives of Islamic injunctions), instead easiness is, and it has been mentioned in the Qur'an and the Hadith (Prophetic traditions), amongst them are as follows:

1. Allah says in the issue of the gratitude on the Muslims community.
2. Allah says in the issue of fasting in Islam.
3. Allah also says in the issue of ablution. Abu Bakr Al-Jishash (may Allah be pleased with him) argues "if difficulty is a constraint and Allah has denied it on us, he has then made permissible from the external sense of the verse that one should avoid difficulty and establish convenience in the various divine rulings, thus the owner of this opinion is reasoning with the external sense of the verse" .
4. It is narrated by Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (PBUH) has said "indeed this religion is a religion of ease, it would not be difficult for a person unless he overcome it" .
5. It is narrated by Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased on him and his father) that the Prophet (PBUH) has said "indeed the most beloved religion to Allah is the religion of uprightness and tolerance".

I will mention some of the Hadith that clearly describe Prophet's methods in dealing with the insolent and the rebellious people:

1. It is narrated by Ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) that a person has been kissed by a woman, then the Prophet (PBUH) came and the person told him about this issue, then this verse was revealed to him , then the person asked the Prophet (PBUH) "for whom this verse is referring to?" then the Prophet (PBUH) said "for anyone from my community

who practices it” .

2. It is narrated by Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) “indeed the infidels have killed frequently, they have committed adultery frequently, they came to the Prophet (PBUH) and said “.....” then this verse was revealed , and also this verse .

3. It is narrated by Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) a drunk man came to the Prophet (PBUH), then the Prophet (PBUH) told us to beat him, then we beat him on his hands, then on his foot, then on his body, after he got sobered up, some of us said “may Allah disgrace you”, then the Prophet (PBUH) said to us “do not say that prayer, do not let him go with the Satan” . Al-Bukhari has categorized and commented on this Hadith “this is on the issue of the prohibition on cursing a drunken person, because his act does not make him an infidel”.

4. It is narrated by Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) a Bedouin man came to the mosque and urinated, then people reported the event to the Prophet (PBUH), the Prophet (PBUH) said “call him, and he cleaned up the urine with a pail of water, indeed you have been created as easy people, not as difficult people” . The Prophet (PBUH) explained further that cursing the Bedouin man in this event is an aggravation; it is incompatible with the tolerance and easiness in Islam.

5. It is narrated by Mu’awiyah ibn Al-Hikam Al-Salimi (may Allah be pleased with him) “while I was praying with the Prophet (PBUH), someone was sneezing and I said “may Allah bless you”, people started to look at me, so I asked why are you all looking at me, they started to beat their thighs with their hands, then I saw them to warn me to be quiet, in the name of my father and my mother, when the Prophet (PBUH) was praying, I never found a teacher before him and after him who is best in teaching than him, by God, he did not beat me and he did not curse me and he said “a prayer should not consist human voice, indeed it is a praise and glorification of Allah, and reading the Qur’an” . It is clear from these Hadith above, about the way the Prophet (PBUH) in dealing with the insolent and rebellious people. The religious ruling is a proof for not to declare the disobedient people as infidels, if you need to punish them, there is a guidance for it which are to pay expiation and to clean up, purification for the society, and for those who ask for Allah protection and repent to Him, if He favours it, He will forgive him, if not, He will punish him. It is narrated from Ibadah ibn Shamat (may Allah be pleased with him) “when the Prophet (PBUH) was in a gathering, he said “pledge to me that you will not associate Allah with others, will not commit robbery, will not commit adultery and will read this verse completely who ever loyal to this pledge, Allah will reward him, whoever does the right thing, Allah will protect him, He will forgive him if He likes or punish him if He likes” .

6. It is narrated by Jabir ibn Abd Allah (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) that the Prophet (PBUH) has said “indeed Allah did not send me to be an oppressor nor to be

inflexible, but he sent me to be an educator and to be easy”.

Two points as an addition to what have been mentioned on the easiness of this religion:

1. The ordainment of concession, which is a fixed ruling, and is necessarily known in religion. This is an aspect of the religion that completely shows the lifting of difficulty. If God intends for difficulty in doing His obligation, he would not allow for concession.
2. The consensus that he is not being put under burden, it shows that the God does not intend it for him.

The spirit of easiness and to be easy has been put into the practices of the Prophet (PBUH):

- He has adopted easiness as a method of life “what is more best between two people but for them to choose easiness instead of difficulty”
- The Prophet (PBUH) has conducted himself with gentleness like how he propagates to others. A’ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) has narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) has said “indeed, gentleness does not happen in something but to adorn it, and not to strip from something its honour” and the Prophet (PBUH) has said “Allah is gentle and He likes gentleness, and give to a gentle person what you do not give to a rough person” . The Prophet (PBUH) has been the kindest person in the propagation of Islam, and he was the gentlest person amongst the human kind.
- The Prophet (PBUH) has ordered his preachers and his messengers to be easy and to simplify. The Prophet (PBUH) has said to Muaz and Abi Musa when they were sent to Yemen “make it easy and do not make it difficult, give them the good news and do not frighten them” . This simplification here means it should be in conformity with the religious rulings and justice, and not as pleased.

It is narrated by Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (PBUH) has said “make it easy and do not make it difficult, give them the good news and do not

frighten them”. The wisdom of this easiness that has been mentioned in the religious rulings is that Allah has created this religion as a natural religion. This natural inclination is staying in the human body so as to be easy for them to accept. Violence and hardship are some characteristics of disinclination. Allah wants this religious ruling to be universal and feasible. Thus, he has called for easiness in its implementation, and it would not happen except to refute violence.