

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH MOST GRACIOUS MOST COMPASSIONATE

THE IMPACT OF SHURA (CONSULTATION) ON THE COMMUNITY

Praise be to God, who made from Shura (consultation) a method to be followed by His believing slaves and made from it a source of cordial feelings between His pious saints. I bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah, has commanded His Prophet (Pbuh) to seek the advice of his companions and consider other's advice correspond to the teachings of His Holy Book. I also bear witness that Muhammad (Pbuh), His chosen Servant and beloved Messenger, the best advocate of righteousness and piety. May Allah grant peace and honor on him, his family, companions followers and party to the Day of Judgment.

O servants of God!

Fear Allah and try to meet his satisfaction in whatever you do [O you who have believed, fear Allah as He should be feared and do not die except as Muslims [in submission to Him]¹. You should know –May Allah bless you– that Shura (consultation) is a fundamental element in communities building. It is a basic principle for the prospering of the nations and civilizations. Actually God has ordered his Messenger (Pbuh) to consult his companions .Therefore, despite he was supported by his God he never hesitated to ask their advice in a way that makes them feel that they occupy a high status and esteemed position .So they in return never stop loving him, faithfully obey his commands and follow his orders. Almighty God says:[So by mercy from Allah , [O Muhammad], you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude [in speech] and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you. So pardon them and ask

¹ Surat 'Āli `Imrān-102

forgiveness for them and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him]]².

Commanding people to consult each other is indicated in this verse to clearly demonstrate that Shura (consultation) is an element that brings people together for righteous matters and leads to the meeting of minds. This is actually achieved through tackling the general problems, discussing and exchanging different opinions related to it.

In effect Shura (consultation) is one of the best methods for nations in matter of education as well as the best means for instilling and promoting citizenship, accustoming individuals to benevolence, taking duties and bearing responsibilities.

O Muslims

Two examples of community attitudes are reported to us in the Holy Quran along with two cases of the consequence of civilizations. These examples make obvious the big difference lying between a community which makes from Shura (consultation) a basic practice for its people and another one which ignores it. Here comes the example of pharaoh who ruled over Egypt for so many years and made a great deal of money and profits. Allah has reported his boasting and vanity for the great wealth he had in hands saying [And Pharaoh called out among his people; he said, "O my people, does not the kingdom of Egypt belong to me, and these rivers flowing beneath me; then do you not see?]"³. Subsequently, Allah had sent Moses and Aaron – peace be upon them – to guide Pharaoh and his people. Nevertheless, this latter stick to his attitude and strictly refused to change his mind or listen to any different opinion. Then someone from those who are sincere in his community tried to show him clear proofs and guide him to the right path. Yet he equally refused and was arrogant [And a believing man from the family of Pharaoh who concealed his faith said, "Do you kill a man [merely] because he says, 'My Lord is Allah ' while he has brought you clear proofs from your Lord? And if he should be lying, then upon him is [the consequence of] his lie; but if he should be truthful, there will strike you some of what he promises you. Indeed, Allah does not guide one who is a transgressor and a liar. O my people, sovereignty is yours today, [your being] dominant in the land. But who would protect us from the punishment of Allah if it came to us?" Pharaoh said, "I do not show you except what I see, and I do not guide you except to the way of right conduct"]⁴.

² Surat 'Āli 'Imrān-159

³ Surat Az-Zukhruf-51

⁴ Surat Ghāfir-28-29

Actually turning a blind eye on that Shura (consultation) delivered to that community was the main reason of its decline. However, in contrast to this dark image, the Holy Quran states the example of a community who made the principle of Shura (consultation) one of its basic foundations and proceeded according to its method in a way that increased its power and prosperity. It is the civilization of Sheba that was ruled by a woman who used to open her mouth in wisdom and who maintained the lesson of kindness in her opinions. When Sulaiman, the Prophet of God (Pbuh) delivered her the message of his Lord advocating her and her people to convert to Islam, she addressed the matter with her people and sought for their advice on the issue [She said, "O eminent ones, indeed, to me has been delivered a noble letter. Indeed, it is from Solomon, and indeed, it reads: 'In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful, Be not haughty with me but come to me in submission [as Muslims].' She said, "O eminent ones, advise me in my affair. I would not decide a matter until you witness [for] me." They said, "We are men of strength and of great military might, but the command is yours, so see what you will command"]⁵. Actually this is the right wisdom in community building as Shura (consultation) is the key of success in the establishment of civilizations as this woman had been rewarded in her life. Her kingdom remained steadfast over history and was she was honored in the Hereafter thanks to her eventual belief in Allah [" She said, "My Lord, indeed I have wronged myself, and I submit with Solomon to Allah, Lord of the world"]⁶

O Muslims

Since the Holy Quran has reported to us the stories of those old nations and the deemed consequences among those who paid attention to Shura (consultation) and those who ignored it, it has also demonstrated the method of Shura (consultation) to believers and advocated them to adopt it in all matters they endeavor. Almighty God says in describing His believing servants and praising His righteous saints [And those who have responded to their lord and established prayer and whose affair is [determined by] Shura (consultation) among themselves, and from what We have provided them, they spend]⁷. Shura (consultation) is the advantage of whoever believed in Allah and has purified his inner self with it and whoever maintained his prayers and straightened his line of conduct for the sake of the society and nation to which he belongs. Thus, he demonstrates by that the Hadith of the Prophet (Pbuh) (Whosoever does not concern himself in taking care of the matters of Muslims is not one of them). Actually common life between people makes it imperative for them to communicate with each other for the sake of

⁵ Surat An-Naml-29-33

⁶ Surat An-Naml-44

⁷ Surat Ash-Shūraá-38

what straightens up their affairs, preserves their rights and protects their interests. The most important commands of God is to advise each other to truth which can only achieved with making common decisions and consulting each other in what concerns the community affairs.

I say this saying of mine, and I seek forgiveness from Allah for me and for you, and to the rest of the Muslims, so ask Him for forgiveness, He is the forgiver, the Merciful and call upon Him, He will respond to you, as Allah is the most generous.

Praise be to Allah , the lord of the Worlds who commanded his believing slaves to seek advice among each other in a way that brings them together , creates cordial feelings within their hearts and pushes them towards corporation in the pursuit of their interests. We bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad, his Prophet and Messenger, the light-giving torch in whatever he said or did, was the best example in this concern as he used to ask the opinion of this companions in all matters. May Allah grant peace and honor on him, his family and companions and whoever followed his teachings and adhered to his message to the Day of Judgment.

O brothers in faith

The rules of Shura (consultation) require that whoever finds himself competent in terms of education and knowledge along with reasoning and experience should take the initiative to represent the “group”. He should be someone honest and free from any characteristics which stand against Shura (consultation) and do not serve its purposes including material temptations and irresistible Promises. The qualified candidate is whoever presents to the people his competence and experience because positions and functions are heavy tasks that nobody should be tempted to occupy them except in case they have good will to perfectly assume the responsibility and serve the community. Here comes the example of the Prophet Yusuf Al Siddiq (Pbuh) who asked his Lord to assume the responsibility of taking charge of the storehouses of the land, to control and manage their affairs .He declared that he enjoys the required competence to do that. Almighty God says [And the king said, "Bring him to me; I will appoint him exclusively for myself." And when he spoke to him, he said, "Indeed, you are today established [in position] and trusted." [Joseph] said, "Appoint me over the storehouses of the land. Indeed, I will be a knowing guardian".]⁸

⁸ Surat Yūstuf-54-55

In effect responsibility requires from us to be highly committed, make good achievements, be honest and sincere. It is pursued by whoever eligible and sought by whoever capable to meet its obligations. Thus, it should be aspired not for the sake of it as an attractive position but rather as a means to serve all people.

O servants of Allah fear Him, and try always to share advice among you to truth. Seek for whatever good for the community and beneficial for the community lest Allah guides you to the straight path and grants success to your endeavors.

So, send your blessings upon the leader of Messengers, as Allah has ordered you in the Holy book by saying: [Indeed, Allah and His Angels send blessings upon the Prophet. O you who believe! Send blessings on him and greet him (with) greetings]⁹.

O Allah! Send your mercy on Muhammad and on the family of Muhammad, as You sent Your mercy on Abraham and on the family of Abraham. And send Your blessings on Muhammad and the family of Muhammad, as You sent your Blessings on Abraham and on the family of Abraham. Verily You are the Most Praise-worthy, the Most Glorious.

O Allah! Be content with his Righteous Caliphs, his wives mothers of believers, his companions all together and the believers, men and women to the Day of Judgment, and be content with us too by Your Mercy, O Most Merciful.

O Allah! Bless our gathering here today and make us disperse in peace and in protection from sin and not to make us deficient in our religion.

O Allah! We ask you guidance, piety, chastity and wealth.

O Allah! We ask you to grant each of us honest tongue, humbled penitent heart, righteous deeds, useful knowledge, firmly belief, pure faith and lawful and blesses sustenance. O Allah you are the most glorious and honourable.

O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! And grant support and unity to Islam and Muslims, O Allah! Let down tyrants and infidels. O Allah! Grant peace and security to all your servants.

O Allah! Grant us security in our homelands! Grant us long-lasting safety and stability in our homeland! Grant glory to our Sultan and support him with the truth and make him a guide to truth.

⁹ Surate Al-Ahazab- 56

O Allah! Send upon us rain from the sky in showers and make us among those who remember you during day and night and who seek your forgiveness during evening and dawn.

O Allah! Bestow us the blessings of the sky and the bounties of the earth and bless our fruits and crops and our entire livelihood. O Allah you are the most glorious and honourable.

O Allah! Give us in this world good and in the Hereafter good and protect us from the punishment of the Fire."

O Allah! Let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower.

O Allah! We have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers."

O Allah! Forgive all the believing men and women, those of them who were living and those of them who were dead, you are the most hearing and respondent.

Slaves of Allah! [Allah commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin, and He forbids all shameful deeds, and injustice and rebellion: He instructs you, that you may remember.]