

# I. WHAT IS SHARIAH?

Shariah (Islamic Law), means the legislation prescribed by Allah through our Prophet (ﷺ): the Quran and his way of life, that has to be followed without giving way to individual desires for haram pleasures of this world that Allah has **forbidden**, if we want to live a peaceful and healthy life in this world and receive the pleasure of Allahut'alah and Heavenly bliss, in the Hereafter.

It is best to summarize the words of brother Dr. Sabeel Ahmed, a young American Speaker, in answer to a question asked by the audience about 'What is Shariah Law?'

**1.** 'Best way to explain SHARI'AH: IT IS A 'MANUAL..' Just as anything manufactured has a manual to explain how to use it for its smooth working and long life, OR any school or company staff are given a book containing its rules and regulations for its smooth running, Shari'ah is

'A MANUAL BY ITS MAKER FOR MANKIND, AS TO HOW TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD WITH JUSTICE, HARMONY, UNITY, PEACE, AND TRANQUILITY.'

**2.** IT IS NOT SOMETHING NEW THAT PROPHET (ﷺ) brought. We find that the Shariah was sent in all the previous books sent by Allah for the guidance of mankind. If we go to the Old Testament and the Bible, we find that the Shariah has been formulated as the Ten Commandments. (In Exodus 20.3/ and Deuteronomy 5.6) And the very first commandment is: "Worship only ONE GOD and DO not make any images." All the rest of the commandments say: be good to parents, do not cheat, do not steal, etc.

**3.** Usually, the media depicts Shariah as oppression, stoning cutting of hands. However, out of more than 6000 passages of the Quran, only less than 10 passages speak about this punishment to be meted out to criminals and wrongdoers. This is only 0.5 % of the Shariah that Allah has sent for our Guidance. The remaining part of the Quran speaks about love, justice, respecting others' rights, etc. When we ponder over this, we find that punishment is always important for a civilized society. That is why we have the Police force, army, and navy for the security of the nation and to prevent any evil elements from disturbing its peace. However, the Law cannot be taken into our own hands, but must have a judge and proper witnesses and decide the case according to the Laws given in the Shariah. Crime can be prevented only if the punishment is strict. Otherwise, the criminals will take advantage of the law, and the country will end in chaos and destruction.

**4.** The Quran speaks in Sura Al-Hujurat <sup>49:13</sup>: "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may

know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.”

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا - إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ  
أَتْقَاكُمْ - إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ -

Thus, the unity of Humanity is part of the Shariah. Prophet (ﷺ) has said: If you eat your fill when your neighbor is hungry, you are not one of us.”<sup>1</sup> Therefore, taking care of the poor and hungry is the Shariah law. Respecting your parents and elders is part of the Shariah Law. Saying something good or being silent: Repel evil with good, etc., are part of Shariah Law. Not telling lies, restraining anger, all these are part of Shariah law:

5. And last but not least, most of us do not know that the Shari’ah Law is already present in all the countries where justice prevails.

#### **THUS, IT IS SHARIAH LAW WHEN:**

The constitution says that murderers or spies get Capital punishment: It is Shariah Law

The constitution says you are innocent until proven guilty: it is Shari’ah law

The constitution says men and women would be given equal pay; it is Shariah Law

The constitution says: all are equal in the eyes of Justice: it is Shariah Law.

The constitution says: the Black and white, religion or caste, all are considered Equal: it is Shariah Law. When we pray 5 times a day, give charity to the poor, smile at our friends, and be truthful, trustworthy, and just, then we are practicing the Shariah Law.

However, only if the rapists, drug traffickers, and corrupt people are also punished severely can there be true justice in the land. That is what Islamic Shariah is all about.

Therefore, Shariah law is Allah’s guidance, which will make Humanity peaceful, just, unified, moral, and make the society the best of all societies. That is the Shariah law. However, just as the non-Muslims like the Crusaders, Ku Klux Klan, etc., do acts of terrorism taking the religion as a shield, when some Hypocrites use the name of the Shariah and Islam, to take the Law into their own hands and do acts of Terrorism, we cannot blame the Shariah or Islam, but the individual only for it.

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<sup>1</sup> (Source: Sahi Al-Albani: 112, Book on neighbors, narrated Ibn Abbas).