

The Overlooked Reality

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We are supposedly living in the ‘information age’, where nothing escapes the microscopic eye of the media. Trivial news that hardly matters to anyone in the world often makes it way to the headlines in newspapers and television channels. Each and every incident, no matter how insignificant, gets its share of discussion, debate and analysis. Yet, amidst this flood of information... the most obvious ‘reality’ –I repeat: ‘reality’ and not mere information- remains hidden from the eyes of the vast majority! The world has just witnessed one of the most astonishing events of all times; one with possibly far-reaching implications for the future of mankind. The dilemma is that very few people actually seem to realize its significance. In retrospect, history may look at it differently; but for now this momentous occurrence has passed largely unnoticed.

The defeat of America and NATO in Afghanistan is a moment of truth for those who claim that ‘man is the master of this universe and the creator of his own destiny’.

The West has for long considered itself the pinnacle of human advancement. The Western world believes that it has reached the zenith of enlightenment and knowledge. In fact, some western intellectuals have gone to the extent of claiming that the Western civilization represents the ‘end of history’! This claim, needless to say, is obviously implausible; however, it is true that the Western world is unique in certain ways. For example, nowhere in history can one find anything comparable to the discovery of America, an entire continent with seemingly limitless untapped natural wealth. The discovery and subsequent colonization of America had an almost disproportionate influence on the course of not just Western history, but also the history of the rest of the world. The Western world- specifically America during the last century- has enjoyed global dominance on a scale perhaps unparalleled since the Roman Empire at the height of its power. In fact, most historians agree that during the last century, America surpassed all previous imperial powers in the extent of its global domination.

By the grace of Allah alone, this civilization, despite everything we have just mentioned above, has faced a historic defeat that may signal its ultimate demise!

Yes, this happened by the grace of Allah alone... because the army facing the Western world had practically nothing to stand a chance in this visibly uneven contest! To begin with, even the rudimentary conditions necessary for waging a successful guerrilla war were unavailable. Initially, there were no safe havens. No neighbouring country was willing to shelter this force. No political space was available to propagate the movement’s message. There was absolutely no comparison between the military strength of both sides. This army, in material terms, had literally

nothing to begin with.

Yet, after 13 years of war, this poorly equipped force has managed to defeat a materially superior foe on all fronts. So should any news be more widely aired than this? Does any other issue deserve to be more thoroughly debated than this? Shouldn't all western think-tanks and intellectuals focus their energies on finding the secret beyond this humiliating defeat suffered by one of the most powerful imperial powers the world has ever known? If unmatched military prowess, unsurpassed economic progress and unparalleled scientific advancement could not save America from defeat at the hands of a few thousand Mujahideen, shouldn't this be a cause of concern for those who believe in secular materialistic ideals? The defeat of America and NATO in Afghanistan is a moment of truth for those who claim that 'man is the master of this universe and the creator of his own destiny'. It invites some serious reflection from secular intellectuals who reject the unseen and insist –in the words of Darwin– that 'interpreting life in the context of God's control over the universe is no different from inserting a foreign body into a purely mechanical process'¹ It would be interesting to find out how the proponents of secularism and rationalism will explain this truly historic event in a purely material paradigm...if it can be so explained! Or is there more to the universe than what the 'enlightened' advocates of secular/rationalist ideals have understood so far?

The truth is that there is surely more to it than their myopic eyes can perceive...and this is exactly what the western media and western governments are trying to hide. They know that they have been defeated not only in military terms, but even in the realm of ideas and values! They can afford to retreat militarily from Iraq and Afghanistan, but it is at the level of beliefs and ideals that they are unwilling to accept their defeat at any cost! They don't want to accept that the American dream lies shattered! The ideals worshipped by the West have been proven false! The philosophical speculation of western thinkers like Bentham, Hobbes, Rousseau, Voltaire, Hegel, Kant, Adam Smith and Clausewitz was just that: vain speculation!

No doubt that 'man' is the most elevated of all creatures, but when the West revolted against the oppression of the Church and the fallacies in Christian teachings, it chose to ignore some profound truths about man's nature. Unfortunately, the revolt against the Church turned –consciously or otherwise– into a revolt against all divine guidance. In short, it severed the relationship of the western man with his Creator!

The Western civilization overlooked the fact that man is not the result of any spontaneous automated process of evolution triggered accidentally; rather he is a humble and weak creation of his Almighty Lord, and lives within a world designed and controlled by Him. It is the Creator alone Who is Supreme and Sovereign; Who has created man and sent a long chain of Prophets to guide him –the last of whom was the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It is He Who elevates whom He wishes and lowers whom He wills. It is He alone who is free of all flaws and cannot be weakened, outwitted or defeated.

¹ Quotation of Darwin taken from the book of Shaykh Ayman al Zawahiri (may Allah protect him) "Fursaan Tahta Rayatul Nabi" (Knights under the Banner of the Prophet, peace be upon him), Chapter 4, Page: 337, "Asnaam al Taghout al Arba'a" (The fouridols worshipped by Western thought).

The most obvious truth being concealed today is that it is He –Allah the Almighty–Who has defeated the most powerful nation to have existed in history, just as He defeated deviant nations in previous ages. And it is He alone to whom all of us should submit, instead of submitting to the oppression of the United States or any other false god for that matter!

This reality is called ‘Tauheed’², the Oneness of Allah. This is the ultimate truth that has been overlooked by western thought. It is the crux of Islam, the message of this blessed Jihadi movement, and the call of this magazine!

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² Belief in the Oneness of Allah