

## **S P E E C H**

delivered by

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at the 'Holy Koran' Broadcasting Service

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In the name of Allah,

In the past, the Moslem owned nothing but a platform to stand upon, a wooden sword, and a voice strong enough to reach the couple of hundred Moslems at prayer, who listened to him. Today, through the microphone, his voice can clearly reach a hundred million people. Satellites now allow hundreds of peoples in the various continents and across the oceans to listen to him and view him at the same time. Moreover, and with the same speed and efficiency, the printing press can follow suit, giving his words in print, firmly fixing them into the minds of peoples of different nationalities and tongues.

In addition to the information media, we find the Moslem advocate and artist helping to explain the concepts of Islam through novels, plays, short stories and films whereas, long ago, this was only done through yellow books, slowly printed and published, and often in need of someone to explain and decipher their mysteries and ambiguities.

Today the world has changed. Tremendous means of promoting the call for Islam and spreading its influence are available to the Moslem, yet he, today, is still not up to the responsibility of such

means. The world changes quickly, but he does not develop much ; he is behind his age in science and technology, because of long periods of colonialism, disputes and struggles which consumed a large amount of his energy.

We are coming upon great changes in the balance of power ; the Islamic nations will, in the near future, become the richest nations of the world in terms of material and financial resources. Furthermore, the Moslems outnumber the peoples of the world. When they succeed in assimilating all the new developments in science and technology ; there will be no excuse. But — will the call for Islam keep up with such developments ?

Here lies the responsibility of this broadcasting service, together with the rest of the broadcasting services and contemporary information media. It is up to them to reveal to the people that Islam is not confined to worship, rituals, moral preachings or mechanical recitation of the Qoran. Indeed not, for our Qoran is a full encyclopedia which did not omit to deal with one single aspect of life of the intellect, of politics, of social behaviour, of the secrets of the universe or the mysteries of the psyche. The Qoran also sets out a code of family behaviour and social relations.

The miracle of Qoranic jurisprudence lies in its applicability to every age, and its flexibility in the face of all changes. The miracle of Islam as a religion, is its eternal capacity to interact, contribute and influence. It is the role of the promoters of the Islamic call to convey this vital truth about the Qoran.

The ideal advocate of Islam should understand all what is said by the enemies, regularly monitor all attempts at mental infiltration, and the plots hatched against us by cunning minds in both East and West, the traps laid out in the form of theories, philosophies and ideas. He should answer them and face their challenge with science,

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logic and the methods of the age, devoid of hysterics, fanaticism, rhetoric or empty heroics.

We are a nation with deeply-rooted traditions as to the call for Islam. We say « No compulsion in religion. » We are friends to those who differ with us, ready with love and good advice, unless they fight us or drive us away from our homes. « Allah prevents you not from being charitable and fair to those who did not fight your faith and those who drove you not from your homes. Allah loves those who are just. Yet Allah prevents you from those who fought your faith and drove you out of your homes. » Furthermore, the Almighty Allah says : « Should one of the polytheists seek your help, grant to him so he may bear the words of Allah, then tell him where his and my concept of the Islam call. No fanaticism, no hysterics, no salvation lies. » This is the tolerance of Islam, this is the treatment of Islam of its enemies and opponents, this is the spirit of Islam aggressiveness; a calm dialogue, a scientific spirit and a tolerant view.

In this respect Islam is unique among all other hysteric, fanatic calls, and our great Prophet was also unique in his faithful application of it. Allah said to him : « And We did not send you forth except as a mercy to the worlds ». Mohamed is the mercy granted to all the world.

Today we have information media to reach the whole world. Let our language be one of mercy, compassion, wisdom, good advice, science, logic, calm dialogue and proof irrefutable. Let our word be the good word which Allah set as an example for fruitfulness and fertility. « Have you not seen how Allah likened the good word to the good tree, its roots are fixed and its branches reach the sky, regularly bearing fruit by the will of Allah. Allah gives people examples so that they may remember. »

I see this channel as a free university on the air, with classes for interpreting the word, others for the sayings of the Prophet, the jurisprudence, the history, the science of Islamic philosophy, theology and sufism... I see it as an open-door to every man in quest of knowledge... I can see it as a chance for new talents in the recitation of the Qoran... I can imagine it as a school, setting the best examples to orators and preachers... I can imagine it as a cultural centre, analysing and answering all what occurs in the world of friends and foes alike, not missing an article or a news item for or against Islam... I can imagine it in the future as an Islamic centre, radiating and broadcasting in all languages to the whole world. God willing we shall attain this end by the grace of Allah, if only we allow ourselves to be guided by Him. « Love of religion, homeland and rights is our mean.» May Allah grant us success, and Allah's peace and mercy be upon you.

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