

September 16, 2020

Life in the Cayman Islands is not necessarily the same as it was a couple of years ago. We have had the fright of a severe earthquake, the mass impact of COVID 19, the mosquito uprising, and now we are dealing with the debate about LGBTQ rights.

The intent here is not to support or negate this agenda. This can be cared for another time. Rather, I desire to shed some light on Islam's issue advocating the killing of such people, as quoted in a previous compass article.

As a Muslim living on Island, it frightens me to see some people alleging that Islam, my religion, advocates for the 'God forbid' execution of such people(LGBTQ). Islam in fact, itself means PEACE, so how can this religion advocate any such action in the name of PEACE?

Sadly, despite not being the abiding followers of either Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, many claim that they are the ambassadors of their faith. Therefore, to study any religious group, the criteria is to challenge the scriptures that claim to be from God. Therefore, if a person wants to develop any conclusion to a faith, he/she must read the scriptures that give life to such teachings.

Muslims derive their doctrine from The Holy Quran; therefore, in order to see what the teaching prescribed for any matter, we must read and educate ourselves before making any assumptions. It is extremely easy to google search and find ISIS and their associates giving such barbaric verdicts. The reality is, they are far from the truth of what The Holy Quran states; in fact, it is difficult even to associate them with Islam.

The Holy Quran categorically states:

**"Whosoever killed a person it shall be as if he had killed all mankind" –
Chapter 5 Verse 33**

The dilemma we face as Muslims today is that there is no visible leadership amongst the Muslims, except for, in one community. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is established in over 200 nations and lead by a single Khalif (leader). For the past 100 years, this Khalifat has been establishing the true teachings brought by Prophet Muhammad ^{PBUH} some 1400 years ago. These teachings are governed by the slogan Love For All Hatred For None - inclusive of non-Muslims and LGBTQ communities.

I want to highlight some direct Islamic quotations in relation to the LGBTQ community who choose this path at their own will. The fifth and current Khalifa or the head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community; Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{AA}, has stated the following while being interviewed by a Swedish reporter in 2016:

"It was not only the Quran that taught that homosexuality was wrong but also the Bible did. Muslims should never hold any ill-will towards homosexual people and to persecute, attack or discriminate against them is completely wrong and contrary to Islam's teachings."

On another occasion, His Holiness had stated:

"When I was in Sweden earlier in the year, I was asked by the media about homosexuality, and I told them that we bore no hate or grudge towards homosexuals, and we condemned the persecution of any group."

Again I would like to emphasize that as a Muslim, I may not adhere to or concur with the ideologies of the LGBTQ community, but as a human being living together with such people, it is my responsibility as someone who loves the creator to also love his creation. If such people find a need in our community, Muslims are always here to show compassion towards all of humanity.

We must remember we claim to be a civil society, a society that has upheld high standards taught to us from our God given scripture; it is only our actions that give witness to what we adhere to. Therefore, we must indulge in such debates showing compassion and not hatred. Everyone has a right to speak, it is with the manner we chose to speak, our voices hold weight.

I would like to leave you with a quote of the fourth Khalif of The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hadrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad ^{RA} who states:

"Swords can win territories but not hearts, forces can bend heads but not minds"

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