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An Overview of the Qu'rānīc Concept of "Jahī'liyyah" and Various  
Trends of the Present Age

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**Abstract**

The system of this universe has been running under the divine commands of Allah Almighty on fixed and unchangeable principles for centuries. These laws of Nature are the sunnah of Allah Almighty or the religion of this Universe. If man violates these natural laws, doing so is to one's own detriment. Ethical laws as the religion of mankind are also made for the benefit of human beings. These rules are indispensable for the accuracy of human interactions to build society on the right foundations protect it from harms and to create a good society in it. Violation of these laws is more harmful than violation of natural laws. Loss of breaking moral rules is not only limited to his own self, but it also affects the other person or more human lives. Ignoring all these principles of the universe man thinks that he can make rules for himself by building his intellect and can run his life as he pleases and can be successful. This baseless thinking of man is due to the interests of the transient life and this is the starting point of his ignorance. Ignorance is actually the name of deviating from the guidance of Allah and rejecting His command. The word used for his condition is "Jahī'liyyah" at every stage of humanity, if the guidance revealed by Allah is turned away, man will suffer ignorance. Allah Almighty has mentioned four different tendencies of ignorance (Jahī'liyyah) in his last book Qu'rān. These are the general tendencies that man has been suffering from in every age when he puts aside the divine guidance. The forms of ignorance described in the Qu'rān are common in our society today. Modern ignorance is a scientific ignorance which is proving to be more dangerous for humanity than the ancient ignorance. The religion of Islam is all knowledge which removes the darkness of ignorance in every age.

**Keywords:** Qu'rān, Jahī'liyyah, Ignorance, Modern age, Doctrine.

**Introduction**

Allah Almighty has used certain terms in the Holy Qu'rān which have a specific meaning and purpose. These include terms that are fundamentally important, such as God, Lord, religion, worship, knowledge, ignorance and many more. To understand these terms, it is important

to look at the context in which the term is used in the Qu'rān. This word should be understood in terms of Arabic language and literature and Arabic proverbs and also see where on more places this word is used in the Qu'rān.

The word "Jahiliyyah" is a specific terminology used in Qu'rān which is commonly considered as ignorance. But the Holy Qu'rān has used this word in four different context thus we found four types of Jahiliyyah. There is an Arabic proverb that things are known by their contradictions or antonyms. So we can understand the Qu'rānic concept of Jahiliyyah with the help of its antonym, "Knowledge".

Knowledge is an attribute of Allah Almighty. His infinite knowledge encompasses everything in the universe. This great knowledge of Allah Almighty is a manifestation of His supreme sovereignty as His every command comes into effect in the blink of an eye.<sup>i</sup> This is because Allah Almighty is the Supreme Ruler of the entire universe without the participation of any other.<sup>ii</sup> Based on His tremendous knowledge, Allah Almighty gave an open challenge to the people of the whole world to find out the flaws in its creation.<sup>iii</sup> Allah has given as much knowledge to human beings as He wants under His particular strategies. Due to the knowledge bestowed upon human being, man has brought the world to the pinnacle of progress, but today man has made science an opponent and a competitor of God. It is the beginning of man's scientific ignorance. While the real knowledge is the identity of creator because it is the basic need of man. In the Holy Qu'rān, Allah Almighty has interpreted His religion as light.<sup>iv</sup> This is the light of an extremely accurate revealed knowledge which Allah has sent as the religion of Islam to guide mankind in every age.

Qu'rān urges the mankind to think and acquire knowledge that would bring them closer to Allah Almighty. If knowledge does not provide cognition of God, it will never be able to find the answers to the basic questions of man's life in spite of extreme material progress. In response to these basic questions, man develops certain moral theories that shape his individual and collective life. Whenever man tries to solve the problems of the world through his own intellect, he gets lost in the darkness, which in fact is the darkness of "Jahiliyyah". Just as knowledge and faith are inseparable, so are ignorance and disbelief.

### **Literal Meaning of the word "Aljahal"**

Commonly meaning of "Aljahal" is "ignorance". Allama Raghīb Asfahani has explained three types of ignorance; the word "Jahiliyyah" is used in Qu'rān in three positions:

1. The emptiness of the human mind with knowledge. (Some theologians have said that the actions of man which go against the natural system)
2. To establish the confidence and trust of anything.
3. To do something against the way it should be done.<sup>v</sup>

The word "Jahiliyyah" is also used in the Qu'rān as condemnation. (Al-Baqarah:2/67, Al-Hujurat:49/6) and sometimes for the person who is unaware of the fact. (Al-Baqarah: 2/273) "Almajhal" means any matter, habit, or land that causes a belief to be established against something fixed. "استجهلت الريح الغصن" means that the wind shook the branch as if it were forcing it into ignorance.<sup>vi</sup>

### **Islamic concept of "Jahiliyyah"**

To the Qu'rānic terminology, "Jahiliyyah" is the name of a conflict in which people do not

believe in the commands revealed by Allah and do not accept His guidance. Because of this, human society suffers from a degeneration that encompasses all of humanity.

According to Maulana Maududi, the word Jahi'liyyah has been used against Islam because Islam is totally knowledge. Every method that is different from Islam is a method of Jahi'liyyah. Therefore, any system of life that is adopted with partial knowledge of the world without the need for God-given knowledge falls into the category of ignorance.<sup>vii</sup>

According to Syed Qutb, Jahi'liyyah is the name of deviating from the guidance of Allah and disobeying His command, no matter how high they are in politics and economy in terms of science and art, civilization and material progress.<sup>viii</sup>

The thinking of the ignorant people is the same in every age, even if they are advanced people of their time. The ignorant people in every age have rejected the teachings of the messengers of Allah. That is why it has been said in the Holy Qu'rān:

"ولو اننا نزلنا اليهم الملائكة وكلمهم الموتى وحشرنا عليهم كل شيء قبلا ما كانوا ليؤمنوا الا ان يشاء الله ولكن اكثرهم يجهلون"<sup>ix</sup>

"And though we should send down the angels unto them, and the dead should speak unto them, and we should gather against them all things in array, they would not believe unless Allah so willed. Howbeit, most of them are ignorant".

According to the Qu'rān, ignorance is worse than disbelief. The Qu'rān exhorts not to argue with them and to avoid them.

"خذ العفو و امر بالعرف و اعرض عن الجاهلین"<sup>x</sup>

## 1. History of "Jahiliyyah"

Human history has never been free of two conditions; guidance and aberrance. Whenever Allah sent a messenger, some people accepted His divine guidance and adapted their way of life according to the commands revealed by Allah. On the other hand, there have always been some people who turned away from this guidance and disobeyed the commands of Allah. This series of guidance and misguidance started from Adam and will continue till the Day of Judgment. Ignoring divine guidance, Cain killed Abel out of sheer lust and this was the first example of ignorance in human history. The center of guidance and error is man's heart that these two paths have been made clear to him whether he adopts the way of guidance or error. The Qu'rān thus explains both the paths of obedience and disobedience:

"وهديناه التّجدين"<sup>xi</sup>

"We showed man both ways."

"انا هديناه السبيل اما شاكرا و اما كفورا"<sup>xii</sup>

"Surely we have shown him the way, (now) he is either grateful or ungrateful."

Regarding the history of Jahi'liyyah, Sayyad Qutb states that Jahi'liyyah is not just the name of Arab Jahi'liyyah and Jahi'liyyah is not the name of a particular period, but it is a condition that can happen anytime and anywhere. This can take place in spite of the evolution of civilization, material progress and progress in intellectual, political, and social sciences.<sup>xiii</sup>

The conflict between the two groups is continue to this era and will continue till the Day of Judgment. The history of Jahi'liyyah is not formally known anywhere. Various historians have mentioned it in their writings. This is how the history of the age of ignorance is mentioned in the book "History of Arabic Literature". This period begins in the middle of the fifth century AD when the Adnanis gained sovereignty from the Yemenis and in 5 AH, this period ends with

the beginning of Islam. Similarly, in the book "History of Arabic Literature", the age of Jahī'liyyah has been divided into two periods.

1. First period: The period before the fifth century AD
2. Second Period: From the 5th Century AD to the 5th Century AD. That is, the advent of Islam began about one and a half hundred years ago and ends on the migration of the Prophet, (peace be upon him).

Qu'rān does not call a nation "ignorant" that they were not familiar with astronomy, physics, chemistry and health, that is why he did not point out any such shortcomings in Arab society, nor did he provide any alternative system to address these weaknesses. The reason for the decline of these nations was that they abandoned the straight path of guidance.

#### **Four Qu'rānic terminologies of "Jahī'liyyah"**

Qu'rān uses the word "Jahī'liyyah" as a term in the context of four human attitudes.

1. In the Qu'rān, the tendencies of the scholars have been interpreted as "ظن الجاهلية"
2. Another term "حكم الجاهلية" is used to qualify the trends of the people of God.
3. The word "تبرج الجاهلية" is used to describe the tendencies of women.
4. And the tendencies of the common people have been called "حمية الجاهلية"

It is important to know the circumstances and background under which the Qu'rān uses these four terms in order to understand the true nature of these terms. Here is a brief overview of how the four terms mentioned in the Qu'rān apply to ignorant society. These are the four tendencies that generally affect societies.

#### **1. Zan al-Jahī'liyyah (ظن الجاهلية), thoughts of ignorance in Qu'rānic perspective:**

The concept of one God is an integral part of human nature. There has never been a time in human history when the majority of human beings have remained detached from the consciousness of God. Although man is overwhelmed by his materialistic views and abandons the concept of God in ordinary circumstances, yet this consciousness of man awakens in the most critical situations of life, and he denies all material support and invokes his one Lord from the unseen world.

All such concepts in the Holy Qu'rān which in any way contradict the basic tenets of Islam, Tawhīd, will be called "Zan al-Jahī'liyyah".

This is how the word is used in Surah Al-Imran of the Qu'rān:

"ثم انزل عليكم من بعد الغم امانة نعاسا يغشى طائفة منكم وطائفة قد اهمتهم انفسهم يظنون بالله غير الحق ظن الجاهلية"<sup>xiv</sup>

"Then after the distress, He sent down security for you. Slumber overtook a party of you, while another party was thinking about themselves (as how to save their own selves, ignoring the others and the Prophet) and thought wrongly of Allah – the thought of ignorance"

After the embarrassment of the battle of Uhud, Allah Almighty again bestowed His grace on the Muslims and put the remaining Muslims on the battlefield to sleep. This sleep was a proof of solace and help from Allah. In this verse Allah describes that hypocrites ascribe to Allah what the polytheists ascribed to Him regarding the doubts in his decree and denying His messenger's call. So two descriptions of this verse are; wrong thoughts and thought of ignorance. According to this every wrong thought, doctrine and perspective is considered Zan al-Jahī'liyyah.

Maulana Maududi writes in his book *Tafsir-ul-Qu'rān* explaining its contradictions:

"That is to say, these things are not based on the truth. The fact is that no one can evade the retribution of Allah, but people do not believe in Allah and consider everything to be dependent on their own means. And they keep shaking hands I wish it was like this and it would happen."<sup>xv</sup>

Maulana Amīn Āhsan has further explained the "ظن الجاهلية" in "Tadabbar ul Qu'rān" that although they are Muslims, their ideas, thoughts and way of thinking are still the same as they were before Islam that is, if such thoughts and ideas are hidden in the heart, then it is also a sign of ignorance because Allah Almighty is aware of all the states of the heart.<sup>xvi</sup>

Any evil thought about Allah Almighty distort the belief in Him for all good and bad deeds.

"بل ظننتم أن لن ينقلب الرسول والمؤمنون إلى أهلهم أبداً وزين ذلك في قلوبكم وظننتم ظن السوء وكنتم قوماً بوراً"<sup>xvii</sup>

"The truth is: you thought that the Messenger and the believers would never return to their families again. And that was made appealing in your hearts. You harbored evil thoughts 'about Allah', and 'so' became a doomed people."

Distortion in the concept of Allah is a great intellectual distortion that not only distorts the concept of creation of the universe and the creation of man, but also distorts man's relationship with other human beings.

#### **Zan al-Jahī'liyyah (ظن الجاهلية) in pre-Islamic societies:**

The doctrine of "Tauheed" was severely distorted among the Greeks. Here the works of different aspects of life was entrusted to different gods. Zeus was the father of gods and men, supreme ruler of Mt. Olympus, and the lord of the sky, lightening, thunder, law, order and justice. Poseidon is the lord of seas, earth quakes, and tidal waves. Demeter is the Goddess of fertility, agriculture, nature, and seasons. Athena was the protector of Athens, the goddess of handicrafts, and agriculture. Apollo is the god of light and inspiration, which does the soul which light, does for the world. Artemis is the goddess of hunting while Ares is the god of war. Aphrodite is the goddess of love and desire.<sup>xviii</sup> Religious festivals were held in honor of these deities. Huge offerings were made to these deities, and sometimes human lives were offered. The Iranians introduced the concept of many gods, two of them were most famous with martial traits similar to those of Vedic Indra, these were Mithra and Vithraghna. The most prominent female deities were Spanta Aramati, the deity of earth, and Ardivi Sura, the deity of sacred river. Ahura Mazda (Wise Lord) was probably worshiped the Supreme god, creator of the Universe. He appears to have a connection to the sun, in the western Iranian tradition Mithra was thoroughly associated with the sun and his name became the common word for "sun". Mithra was the god of covenant, having 1000 ears and 10,000 eyes, overseeing all solemn agreements made between people. Anahita was the goddess of fertility, water, health and healing.<sup>xix</sup>

In Roman religion there are 20 principal gods to fulfill different functions corresponding to various aspects of life. Among them most famous are Jupiter the king of gods, Neptune the god of sea, Pluto the god of underworld, Apollo, the god of sun, music and prophecy. Mars is considered the god of war, Cupid, the god of love, Saturn the god of time, wealth and agriculture, Vulcan the god of fire, Mercury the god of financial gain, poetry and Eloquence, Bacchus, the god of wine and fertility as well.<sup>xx</sup>

In Egypt "Osiris", one of the largest important deities, was god of the underworld. He also symbolized death, resurrection, and the cycle of Nile floods that Egypt relied on for agricultural fertility. "Isis" is also the most important goddess in the Egyptian pantheon. "Horus" was a sky god associated with war and hunting, Seth was the god of chaos, violence, deserts and storms. In Egyptian civilization, the number of gods gradually increased even the most trivial, harmless and insignificant things were made gods.<sup>xxi</sup>

The Hindus have a long list of deities, including some that resemble Greek deities. The god of sky Diavs, is the other name of Greek god Zeus. Varuna is the ruler of sky realm and the upholder of cosmic and moral law. With his thousand eyes, Varuna watched over human over human conduct, judging good and evil deeds and punishing evildoers.<sup>xxii</sup> Apart from these, there are three other gods which are very important to the Hindus; Vishnu, Shiva and Brahma. All the above beliefs are contrary to the Islamic doctrine of "Tawhīd" and fall into the category of "Zan al-Jahī'liyyah".

### **Zan al-Jahī'liyyah in our modern times:**

The impacts of "Zan al-Jahī'liyyah" in ancient civilizations can be clearly found in today's modern and well-developed culture. Ignorance of modern era is more dangerous than an ancient ignorance because it is scientific ignorance. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, many ideological, political, cultural, and social movements arose in Europe against traditionalism and ecclesiastical tyranny, whose narrow-minded clergy had allied them with the imperial system. Initially, these movements were not based on the idea of total detachment from religion, but on the elimination of the system of oppression and tyranny. These movements gradually became unbalanced and began to deny the very basic tenets of religion. The most prominent figures in this trend of aversion to religion were thinkers who denied the existence of God, who pushed the people of the West towards atheism. From the womb of this movement arose many ideas and movements. These ideas are called rationalism which is the basis of modernity. Advancing the idea of John Locke's (1632-1704) (Absolute Sovereign), Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) called the people the source of supreme power. Voltaire (1694-1778) introduced the concept of human freedom. Montesquieu (1689-1755) and Rousseau (1712-1778), among others, envisioned a state in which the powers of the rulers were limited and human freedoms and rights were respected.

After this the idea of utilitarianism was made the basis of morality instead of eternal moral values, which also challenged the old sexual morality and the usefulness of the traditional institution of the family. It led to the emergence of the Permissiveness Movement. Today, these ideologies of religious aversion have engulfed the whole of Europe, with inevitable effects spreading throughout the world. Now the failure of modernity was also a reaction which was not to return to the Creator out of remorse, but in response to the denial of the unseen, in the form of another post-modernism movement. It is an approach that rejects all theories that truth does not really exist. It is as if postmodernism is the name of complete despair.

"Tawhīd" is the basic tenet of Islam that makes one's practical life easier and saves one from bowing down to millions of gods. This belief enlightens man to his higher status in this universe. If this basic belief is corrupted, then the whole practical life is corrupted and its devastating effects go far.

## 2. Hukm ul Jahi'liyyah (حكم الجاهلية), Laws of ignorance in Qu'rānic perspective:

The Qu'rān has termed the tendencies of the people of God as the rule of ignorance which is mentioned in Surah Al-Ma'ida of the Qu'rān:

"افحكم الجاهلية يبعون ومن احسن من الله حكما لقوم يوقنون" <sup>xxiii</sup>

"Do they then seek the judgement of (the Days of) Ignorance? And who is better in judgement than Allah for a people who have firm faith."

The background of this verse is that some of the great leaders and scholars of the Jews held a meeting and came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and said, 'You know, if we believe in him then all the Jews will acknowledge the Prophet's prophecy and we are ready to believe in you, you only have to do is that there is a dispute between us and our people, decide it according to us.'

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) refused and these verses were revealed to him. [Tafsir Ibn Jarir al-Tabari: 12156: Da'eef]

People who do not judge according to what Allah has revealed, the Qu'rān calls them transgressors, oppressors and disbelievers, as said:

"ومن لم يحكم بما أنزل الله فأولئك هم الكافرون ومن لم يحكم بما أنزل الله فأولئك هم الظالمون ومن لم يحكم بما أنزل الله فأولئك هم الفاسقون" <sup>xxiv</sup>

This actually refers to all the concepts in which man denies sovereignty of Allah Almighty and wants to legislate for his life with his own intellect this is because man surrenders to his unlimited desires and greed. According to Maulana Amīn Āhsan Islahi, every law that is against the laws of Allah is the law of ignorance, whether it is the law of ancient civilizations or the law of the present age.

Peer Karam Shah Al-Azhari says that Ignorance is a system of life where the Creator of the universe does not have the full power to legislate but in the hands of human motives and desires, and where the seat of power and government is occupied by the imperfect and incomplete knowledge of man instead of divine revelation. <sup>xxv</sup>

### Hukmul Jahi'liyyah in pre Islamic societies:

In the pre-Islamic era, there were pure dictatorial and authoritarian regimes that were considered the inherited right of certain families. Sometimes this kingdom was based on the greatness of emperors as the Chinese called their king the son of heaven because they believed that heaven is male and earth is female.

To the Iranians, the god of goodness was AhurMazda or Armozd and the god of evil was Ahraman. They made their own laws as killing snakes, flies and insects was considered a good deed. Fire was so scared to them that when they performed religious rites, they would cover their faces with a cloth so that the fire would not contaminate their breath. Even among the Greeks, everything was attributed to some deity; therefore, in every field of life, different laws of the same gods were followed. These laws were made by human beings and attributed to them.

In Arabia, each type of business was considered a sin during Hajj days and to circumambulate the Ka'bah naked, killing one's children as sacrifices to idols, and burying one's daughters alive at an early age to preserve the honor of one's tribe, and forbidding certain things that Allah has made lawful. These societies had accepted their evil customs as rules, and they were proud of these actions instead of being ashamed of them.

In the Byzantine Empire, power was in the hands of numerous and ignorant monks who had complete control over the common people, women and the rich of the empire. At the expense of the people and the insane support of women, the monks openly contested the power and authority of the government.<sup>xxvi</sup>

### **Hukmul Jahi'liyyah in present time:**

Deviating from divine guidance, there are now three major state systems in the world:

1) Monarchy, 2) Aristocracy, 3) Democracy

Nikolo Machiavelli: 1469-1527) presents the idea of a kingdom free from religion and morality which is called "Absolute Monarchy". According to his book "The Prince", an authoritarian king who uses evil only to suppress evil, does not adhere to any morals or religion, does all kinds of tricks and conspiracies and in every way manipulates his power, is the best ruler."<sup>xxvii</sup>

In this absolute monarchy, every word that the king utters has its own legal status itself, his will, his discretion and his every decision is the final.

Another type of monarchy is called "Religious Kingdom" in which religion is the main source of authority for the king, he is nominated religiously, and clergy confirms his nomination. The king was largely bound by the pope's decisions that are why the issue of the rights and powers of the pope and the king has been a problem in Roman history.<sup>xxviii</sup>

Constitutional monarchy is the third type, in which the king is bound by a constitution and has no authority to deviate from it. In the history of Greece and Rome, this kingdom has existed in few times when the king was bound by some constitution.<sup>xxix</sup>

Aristocracy is another type or governance, which meant the rule of the best citizens in the interest of all.<sup>xxx</sup> "Aristos" is a fabricated word that was coined for the respectable people of the society. In ancient Greece, it meant "The rule of the Best".<sup>xxxi</sup> The idea behind this system of politics was that it was the right of people with certain lineages and specific attributes. "Racial Aristocracy" is another type, according to which people of a single race or tribe have the right to rule. In the past, this type of government was prevalent where the caste system lasted for a long time as in Hindu civilizations.<sup>xxxii</sup> The third type is called theocracy, also called papacy; the religious leaders of Christianity had the power of absolute sovereignty and established his deity over the people. These scholars and leaders had unconditional authority over what was halal and what was haraam, and everything they said was considered obligatory.<sup>xxxiii</sup> The doctrine of this theory was that the real ruler is Allah Almighty and everyone should obey His command, but who will determine these commands? The Jews gave this authority to their religious leaders, and the Christians gave this authority to the pope to set orders and tell the king.

Democracy also originated in the Greek city-states. Keith Graham writes in this regard:

"Democracy, we must remember was the name of type of political regime first durably established in Greek City-State of Athens".<sup>xxxiv</sup>

Thus democracy means a government established by the independent opinion and will of the people. In all these forms of government, legislation is made with one's own interests in mind and the commands revealed by Allah are put aside.

Today our global society is running under the preconceived notions of old ignorance. Modern democracy is, in fact, a reaction to monarchy and papacy of old times. It is a political system



based on the principles of people's sovereignty, secularism, nationalism and liberalism. The parliamentary system of Britain and France and the presidential system of the United States are manifestations of practical democracy in the present era.

Karl Marx (German philosopher, 1818-1883) presented the theory of "Dialectical Materialism". The idea of this theory is that in the world always the two classes "Bourgeois" (The rich people) and "proletariat" (The common people) are at war with each other. The first class always oppresses the second and deprives the proletariat of its rights. In order to substantiate his claim, he presented the theory of "Surplus Value" that means the raw material in the factories is used by the workers through their labor, which increases the value of the commodity. The laborer does not get the reward for this labor but the capitalist gets the benefit of it. The solution was for workers around the world to rise up in revolt and unite. It was called Manifesto Communist. According to his theory, Lenin overthrew Vladimir Tsarus in France, the first communist government. Joseph Stallion (1878-1953) formalized these ideas as Marxism-Leninism while his own policies are known as Stalinism. This form of government was also the worst form of dictatorship. Stalin's era is the darkest period of political atrocities in Russian history. In which mass persecution, ethnic cleansing, widespread deportation, hundreds of thousands were executed on a large scale. Due to Stalin's wrong policies of becoming an absolute ruler, his country also suffered from the worst droughts.

The purpose of all these man-made systems is to benefit only a certain class while the majority of human beings suffer. Every such system would certainly be unbalanced because it would be unable to establish universal justice in a global society today. No human institution, no powerful ruler or human society has the right to legislate. This right belongs only to Allah Almighty.

"إن الحكم إلا لله يقص الحق فهو خير الافاضلين" xxxv

"The decision is for Allah only. He telleth the truth and He is the Best of Deciders."

"وأن احكم بينهم بما أنزل الله ولا تبع أهواءهم وحذرهم أن يفتنوك عن بعض ما أنزل الله إليك" xxxvi

"So judge between them by that which Allah hath revealed, and follow not their desires, but beware of them lest they seduce thee from some part of that which Allah hath revealed unto thee."

Man is reluctant to acknowledge his Lord as the Absolute Lord because of the existence of a world of evil concepts within man. Man's worldly interests stand in the way of fulfilling God's practical requirements after accepting God as Sovereign. The "Hukam al-Jahi'liyyah" includes all the laws that contradict the divine law revealed by Allah.

### **3. Tabarrujal Jahi'liyyah (تبرج الجاهلية), the behavior of ignorance, in Qu'rānic perspective:**

The word tabarrujal Jahi'liyyah is used in surah Alahzab:

"وقرن في بيوتكن ولا تبرجن تبرج الجاهلية الأولى" xxxvii

"And stay in your houses, do not display (your embellishments) yourselves like the time of Ignorance."

In this verse Muslim woman is being directed to the virtues and moral values. Women before Islam (in the age of ignorance) used to do of displaying themselves, and exposing their beauties and hidden adornments to the non-mehram men. Islam considers all these cheap

acts as ignorance of old times (الجاهلية الأولى). A Muslim woman is disciplined, mindful and chaste she shouldn't do any act of Jahi'liyyah. This type of Jahi'liyyah relates to the moral values of society.

Ibn Manzoor, while researching this word, writes that:

"In Arabic language every prominent and lofty thing is called a BURJ. وكل ظاهر مرتفع وقد برج"

Maulana Maududi explains the word "Tabarruj" and says when this word is used for a woman that it has three meanings; 1) A woman who distinguishes herself by her flickering gait shield. 2) To prominent her necklace, her earrings and to open her neck etc. 3) to highlight the beauty of her body and clothes so that men are attracted to her.

It is clear from all this that Islam forbids women to be a cause of tribulation and moral depravity in society. If a woman lives with dignity in her sphere, then it is very pleasing to Allah Almighty. When a woman goes out of her house, she should not show off her beauty like the women of ignorance, because if a woman does this, it can ruin her family life as well.

### **Tabarruj in pre-Islamic societies:**

Allama Qurtabi writes:

"In the pre-Islamic era, women used to walk around the bazaar in a relaxed and flexible manner."<sup>xxxviii</sup>

In the pre-Islamic era, some women wore a shirt with pearls on it and it was open on both sides of the armpits. In the time of the Holy Prophet, a very narrow garment was worn, which was called a Coptic garment. He forbade such a garment and explained the reason: "I'm afraid that such a dress might not reflect the size of the body." Strict promises were made in the hadiths to those women who attract men with flashy clothes and shields, the words used for such women are "مائلات مميلات" who are seduced (to wrong paths), and seduce others with their hair, high like humps.<sup>xxxix</sup>

### **Tabarrujal Jahi'liyyah in the present time:**

A family is the basic unit of society and the women are the guarantors of family dignity and strong relationships. The blind imitation of the West has dragged Muslim women into the mire of immorality today. The desire to show off one's beauty and then to compete it with others has violated the sanctity that Islam has given to women in society. In the name of art and culture and development, the dignity, femininity and natural modesty of a woman is being violated. Allah Almighty has forbidden a woman to go outside with Tbarrujal Jahi'liyyah which shows the adornment and beauty of a woman's head, face, neck, chest, arms and shin. But today women spend a lot of money on expensive European cosmetics; their passion to show off their beauty also intensifies. In most Islamic countries, hundreds of tons of women's cosmetics and beauty products are imported annually. This not only strengthens the European fashion industry, but also serves the West's nefarious goal of spreading pornography in Islamic countries. Beauty contests are held around the world to showcase fashion and beauty, in which women's "Tabarruj" reaches its peak. This show of beauty has made the less beautiful girls feel inferior and they spend a lot of money in this race despite their limited resources.

The essence of Islam is modesty, while maintaining this natural modesty; Islam has strongly

encouraged women's aesthetic tastes such as good dress, good appearance, cleanliness and beauty. But Islam guides the women to don't prominent their body parts, jewelry and other ornaments in an ignorant manner so that no kind of sedition and immorality can spread in the society. Islam has made woman very respectable. Allah Almighty has revealed some special commands for women which are the only way to honor a woman. For example, she has been ordered to wear hijab to be recognized as a noble woman.<sup>xi</sup> "Hijab" is a barrier between the Muslim woman and tribulation. It is her protector of identity, dignity and infallibility. It is the moral decay that actually causes the weakness of governments and nations, and the foundation of this moral decay lies when the spirit of modesty and purity in society begins to die down.

#### **Hamiyyatal Jahiliyyah (حمية الجاهلية) (the false pride of ignorance) in Qu'rānic perspective:**

Allah says that means in surah Alfath:

"إذ جعل الذين كفروا في قلوبهم الحمية الجاهلية فأنزل الله سكينته على رسوله وعلى المؤمنين وألزمهم كلمة التقوى وكانوا أحق بها وأهلها وكان الله بكل شيء عليماً"

"When those who disbelieve had set up in their hearts zealotry, the zealotry of the Age of Ignorance, then Allah sent down His peace of reassurance upon His messenger and upon the believers and imposed on them the word of self-restraint, for they were worthy of it and meet for it. And Allah is Aware of all things."<sup>xii</sup>

When the Muslims were coming to Makkah with the intention of Umrah, the Quraysh of Makkah prevented them from coming to Makkah. They did so due to their false pride of "Jahiliyyah" because the Muslims from whom they had been defeated in wars and expeditions were now entering their city. The pride of one's caste and the superiority of one's community fall into this category of Jahiliyyah. We can say this is the national and political type of Jahiliyyah where God's sovereignty is not accepted. The death of the man who killed in bigotry war has been declared un-Islamic.<sup>xiii</sup>

"ليس منا من دعا إلى عصبية، وليس منا من قاتل على عصبية، وليس منا من مات على عصبية"

"Not one of us who calls for prejudice, not one of us who fights on the basis of prejudice, and not one of us who dies thinking of prejudice."<sup>xiii</sup>

#### **Hamiyyatal Jahiliyyah in pre Islamic Societies:**

In pre-Islamic societies, human beings were divided into several segments. Hindu society was divided into four different castes, which are made up of different parts of Brahma's body.. Each group had a function in sustaining the life of society--the social body. Brahmins, or priests, were created from the mouth. They were to provide for the intellectual and spiritual needs of the community. Kshatriyas, warriors and rulers, were derived from the arms. Their role was to rule and to protect others. Vaishyas..Landowners and merchants. Sprang from the thighs, and were entrusted with the care of commerce and agriculture. Shudras..artisans and servants..came from the feet. Their task was to perform all manual labor.<sup>xiv</sup>

Judaism is a racial religion altogether that is why it is not preached to any Gentile. The concept of racial superiority is fundamental to this nation. Jews and non-Jews can never be equal. The biblical exception is:

"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people

of his own possession, out of all the nations that are on the face of the earth".<sup>xlv</sup>

Among the Egyptians, feudal class was considered the highest of all the classes. All lands and estates were named after him.

In ancient Rome, stealing from one's own tribe was considered a crime, but stealing outside the tribe was out of the realm of crime. Butler says in this regard that:

"There is no doubt that the taxes levied by the Romans were too high and too unfair. They exempted upper class people from paying all kinds of taxes. Port tax was not collected from the inhabitants of Alexandria."<sup>xlvi</sup>

Inside Rome, the government enslaved industrialists, landowners and peasants. Those who raised their voices against oppression were severely punished.

The Greeks had the system of Sparta (An ancient Greek city famous for its military power; the dominant city of Peloponnese before the 20th century BC). The society of Ancient Spartan society contained three main social classes. The Spartiate were those who could trace back their ancestry to the original inhabitants of Sparta. Therefore, they were at the top. Next, were the perioeci. They divided the Spartiate from the helots and were granted many rights lastly, were the helots. They were slaves and at the bottom of society.<sup>xlvii</sup>

#### **Hamiyyatal Jahi'liyyah in present era:**

Europe has for centuries considered the concept of nationhood to be the pinnacle of its intellect and skill. Two elements are essential for the survival of a nationalist life; hate and fear. Through these two elements, national leaders continue to inflame and frighten the emotions of their nation. The center of this anger, hatred and fear is their real or an imaginary enemy.

Professor Jude writes, reviewing the ignorant psychology of nationalism:

"The common sentiments that can be easily aroused and which can mobilize the major parties of the people are not feelings of compassion, generosity, and love, but feelings of hatred and fear. Those who want to rule a nation for a purpose cannot succeed unless they find something for it that they hate and create a personality for it that they are scared."<sup>xlviii</sup>

The inevitable result of mutual hatred is war. Look at the history of wars, behind the scenes, there will be the spirit of nationalism or patriotism. In ancient times many gods were worshiped and human lives were offered to them, today human lives are being massacred for the sake of this god of "patriotism". This concept of nationality has wreaked havoc on the world has caused great mental anguish to the intellectuals and thinkers there.

J.M. Murray, (1957) in his book (Adam and Eve) has presented the concept of a modern society for humanity. In this regard he writes:

"Since the faith of God has left the heart of man, this empty house has been taken over by the devil of nationalism. Now human beings need a religion that can overcome the spirit of nationalism".<sup>xlix</sup>

Under these same notions of racial superiority, the United States, Britain, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, etc. enslaved the weaker nations of Africa and Asia for centuries. Culturally rich nations were divided into small countries so that their resources could be plundered at the appropriate time. Their borders were demarcated; passports and visas were handcuffed on the free movement of human beings. Even before the Greeks, Iranians, and Romans ruled the world, there were no such boundaries.

"United Nations" and its partial bodies have established their complete control over all the international institutions. Among the countries that were initially made members of the Security Council was Russia, which represented the Orthodox Church, Britain, which represented the Protestant Church, and the United States, which was a Catholic, and as a representative of the Church, made a permanent member, who was also given veto power. The victorious countries of World War II created these institutions to perpetuate their victories and used them well for their national supremacy.

Today's European civilization claims to be the most advanced, universal, sophisticated and complete civilization and there is no need for further evolution in it, so this is called "The end of History". When we take an in-depth look at this civilization, we come to know in fact, it is the same old "Jahiliyyah" that the Prophet of Islam trampled underfoot on the occasion of his last sermon "Hijjatul Wida". The essence of this civilization has been presented to the society only with new make-up. On the contrary, Islam is accused of trying to take the modern world back to the old days, although Islam is the most modern and viable religion of today, its inspired book has the distinction of being the last book revealed by Allah Almighty. The last and latest addition of an author is always most authentic and complete, as Qu'rān says:

"اليوم اكملت لكم دينكم واتممت عليكم نعمتي ورضيت لكم الاسلام ديناً"

"Today I have perfected your religion for you, and have bestowed on you my favor, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion."

### **Conclusion**

The term "Jahiliyyah" is used in the Quran for four different pre-Islamic concepts. The first type of ignorance is called "Zan al-Jahiliyyah" in which intellectual corruption has been highlighted. Under these concepts, the essence of God was denied or the concept of the oneness of God was tainted with polytheism. Examples of dreadful and bad ideas about God the concept of God is found in ignorant civilizations. Islam, in the face of all these ignorant conceptions, presented a very clear and distinct concept of monotheism which is the glory of Islam and its distinguishing feature. The second type of Jahiliyyah has been termed as "Hukam-ul-Jahiliyyah" which has been interpreted as the practical mischief of Jahiliyyah under which God is acknowledged but decisions are not made according to the divine law given by Him and the sovereignty of God is denied. A third type of Jahiliyyah has been mentioned under the name of "Hamiyata Al-Jahiliyyah", under which pre-Islamic Jahiliyyah would be proud, based on lineage, race and caste, and would be proud of it and then despise other human beings. The fourth type of ignorance is referred to in the Qur'an as "Tabaraj ul-Jahiliyyah" which was the cause of the deterioration of human family and domestic life. In this regard, women are prohibited from going out of the house wearing make-up and jewelry and showing off their beauty in front of *non-mahrams*. If considered, all these forms of ignorance have returned to a new paradigm in the present age and are attacking Islamic civilization as essential elements of modernity.

The first manifestation of Jahiliyyah is trying to encircle Islamic civilization in the form of polytheism and atheism by denying the holiness of God Almighty. "Hukam al-Jahiliyyah" is also the old Jahiliyyah in the present age wearing a new cloak. Examples of this Qur'anic concept of ignorance are to change the divine rules and regulations by following the desires of the self or not to consider them viable under any pretext, to make one's own decisions on

one's own accord, to set one's own standards of morals and character. The third type of "Hamiyat-e-Jahiliyyah" is the current ideology of racism, patriotism and nationalism which has ruined the peace of the world. These are the four Qur'anic concepts of Jahiliyyah which were found in the ancient Jahiliyyah civilizations and about which the Prophet of Allah (sws) said that all the rules of Jahiliyyah are trampled under my feet.

### Recommendations:

1. Islamic civilization is a unique in its essence which is free from all ignorant influences and has its own distinct identity. Positive steps must be taken at the governmental level to keep it prominent and pure from the effects of modern ignorance.
2. Islam is all knowledge and *jahiliyyah* is the antithesis of knowledge. Therefore, in order to counter ignorance with knowledge, the education system should be adorned with Islamic teachings. The "*Zannai jahiliyyah*" should be rejected in such a way as to create a strong belief in the existence of God through the curriculum. Only the prayers and supplications to Allah Almighty and the methods based on His sincere worship and His blessings should be promoted,
3. Be aware of the conspiracies of the media movement because the media is second to none in influencing the minds of the people by reshaping the culture of ignorance. The electronic media has established itself as a very powerful medium for propagating the "*Tabarj al-Jahiliyyah*". Every media program revolves around the women. In order to eradicate obscenity and pornography from the society, electronic media, especially in accordance with the high traditions of Islamic civilization, should be persuaded to present programs. Using this medium, all aspects of *Sirat-un-Nabi* should be beautifully presented. The media should be made the spokesman of Islamic civilization and culture and the protector of Islamic ideology.
4. It is imperative for Muslim intellectuals to reasonably criticize all the negative aspects of modern ignorance and to present Islamic thought to the world in an organized manner. So that the gap created by the intellectual decline of the present age can be filled. In order to get rid of the practical tendency of "*Hukam-ul-Jahiliyyah*", the scholars need to make the youth aware of the absolute usefulness of Islamic law and its successful results. It is imperative that all possible resources be utilized for this purpose
5. In Islam, there is a unity of religion and world therefore; Islamic values and traditions should be promoted among the youth by making full use of modern technology. Introduce the Islamic method of taking advantage of the virtues of other civilizations. The acquisition and use of modern technology should also be bound by ethical limits and recreational activities should be restricted to the realm of modesty.
6. Today's regional, ethnic and national prejudices are always a source of violence. The fact that Islam has categorized all such ideologies as "*Hamiyyatul jahiliyyah*" should be clarified. In contrast, the golden Islamic principles of unity and respect for humanity should be highlighted.

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