

Changing attitude : A way for protection of the environment

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Abstract :

The environment belongs to everybody, but as a result of incorrect use of natural resources by a minority and selfish groups, the environment has been polluted. The environmental specialists have stated the danger and suggested some solutions. The writer believes that besides of all solutions, there is another way which suggests the change of mans attitude towards the world and himself. In this way which all religions especially Islam support, it says that man should not consider himself as the center of the world to exploit all resources for his benefit, but man is a creature who should act wisely to protect all living resources for himself, other creatures and coming generations. Ten basic principles, taken from Holly Qoran, are mentioned.

Key Words:

Pollution, Environmental protection. Natural resources exploitation, Qoranic principles.

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INTRODUCTION

The environment belongs to everybody, not for now but for ever. Everybody could have a share in environmental protection. The story of protection of the environment by all people is the story of a man who puts fire in his room, but when others object him, he replies that it belonged to him. It is obvious that nobody would sympathise him and all would blame him. Because when fire broke off, everybody would be perished. Today nobody can be indifferent toward the problems of world's environment. More than twenty five years ago I read the Persian translation of a book written by an American agriculturalist, about the environmental protection. The author, Rene Daman, called his book, "Utopie ou Illusion". He discussed that because of bad and incorrect use of natural resources, which belonged to all human beings the nature could not recover itself. He showed in the book that man has polluted the earth, the sea and the sky. The writer discussed that this destruction is serious and is spreading out. He said that the corruption of the environment is because of men's selfishness and exaltness and it specially refers to the actions of a small minority of the whole world community who expect everything to be to their own benefit and all others must serve them. The french writer pointed out that because of the wrong way and thinking of those mentioned minority his solution in the book seemed to be "utopia or illusion".

It is a long time that the environmental specialists and other related subjects have mentioned the dangers threaten the life of human beings and many of them have written books, essays, and pamphlets as well as organized seminars and conferences on the subject. Among the most serious problems have been mentioned are : the appearance of the hole in ozone layer, the over-polluted air, the warming of the earth, the erosion of the soil, and the appearing of many new diseases.

The subject specialists and those who are anxious about the future of world and human beings have advised people and especially the ruling states to consider new way of conducting the life. For example the authors of the book "the State Of The World" have pointed out that the men should overcome his serious problem by promoting the national cultural and understanding about the environmental pollutions, implementation of an effective change in the way of industrial production, forcing the industrial polluters to pay more for their actions, finding new energy resources replacing the polluted ones, encouraging people to consume less and finally a serious change should be done in the present national and international strategy for conducting the life (Lester Brown, 1990).

The importance of protection of the environment and caring for all things in the world is the only way for man's and his continuation of the life. All strategists and

scientists are aware of the problem. They have alarmed the danger and given solutions and have asked for implementation of serious decisions. No doubt seeking the rational and scientific solutions are very important, and any instruction is of great value, but it must be known that the benefit - seeking of above mentioned minority who seek their own benefits do not permit any serious solution to be implemented.

It is believed that besides all rational and scientific solutions which are very important in their own places, the general attitude toward the world, human beings, and nature is of great importance in using and consuming the natural resources. While in western humanistic philosophy, man is everything and considered to be in the center of the world, and humanism is believed as the only philosophy of life, therefore, everybody seeks his own benefit and tries to get it, ignoring anything else.

It is believed that, on the other hand, there is a divine philosophy of life which looks at men as a responsible and effective beings in the world, whose direction of life should always be towards God, that is men should be obedient to the rules of Allah. In this philosophy, all natural resources are considered to belong to all human beings, for now and ever.

In this article, the basic questions are as follows:

1 - Is current way of western philosophy able to protect the environmental resources?.

2 - Do the general attitudes and opinions essentially affect the way of consuming of the natural resources? Taking into consideration the specialists' alarms about the pollution and by observing the exploitation of all resources by some great powers and industrialized countries, especially in late decades, there is no guarantee to stop unexpected great dangerous events in the near future in the world. Today, the man with his high sophisticated technology, being under the hands of the tyrants and aggressors of political and superpowers, is not only unable to find good will of life but would face many unsolved difficulties.

In a story about Pharoah, The Holy Qoran illustrates that all disasters of Man is because of his selfishness and this selfishness causes him to call others to obey him and collects everything for himself like pharoah and wastes everything especially natural resources. Some verses of the Holy Qoran are as follows:

* Lo! Pharoah exalted himself in the earth and made its people castes. (28/4)

* Lo! Pharoah was verily a tyrant in the land Lo! he was of wanton. (43/31).

So in divine philosophy of all religions especially Islam, any disaster and disorder caused by man is because of his selfishness and his exaltness, that in turn leads him to wastefulness. Psychologically, when somebody wastes things, he feels some sort of superiority over others. In this philosophy everybody should begin from himself and first of all

consider himself as an obedient to God and that he is allowed to make use of anything but not to waste them and he should think that after him many other generations will come and they are human beings as well.

To explain more : all religions recommend people to obey God, and that all people are God's creature and all prophets believe that obedience of God is necessary. As the environmentalists mentioned, the exaltness of man is the main factor of all his disasters in the world (Rene,Duman),it seems that the protection of the environmental resources mostly depends on the state of man being wise and to think more about the philosophy which says everything in the world is for man and for his benefit and he must try his best to enjoy his life. In other words, the pure humanism as a modern philosophy is considered to be the base of mans exaltness.In other words when man sees himself in the center of the world and feels that he should enjoy himself by all possible means of the world and feels that he should enjoy himself by all possible means, it is evident that he makes benefit from all thing and even make other human beings as his servants.

In this philosophy, instead of thinking of conflict among civilizations expressed by Huntington, all people should try to understand, think of and sympatize with one another. In this philosophy of life, man should believe himself as the viceroy of God on the earth and that he is not the only owner of

everything, and he should not forget that all human beings for now and ever, are the partners in using and benefiting the world resources. He is not allowed to destroy the resources but he should use them in a legal and logical way.

The writer of this essay tries to point out that if the teachings taken from Holy Qoran be understood and implemented, man can highly benefit from all scientific and technological investigations. These teachings are characterized in ten following principles:

1- Full communication by understanding one another.

In the Holy Qoran God says: Ó mankind! Lo! we have created you, male and female, and have made you nations and tribes, that ye may know one another. Lo! the noblest of you, in the sight of Allah, is the best in conduct. (49/5)

2- Belief in God, not in Satan.

In the Holy Qoran God says: Surve Allah and shun false gods. (16/36)

3- Man's viceroy of God on earth.

God says in the Holy Qoran: When thy Lord said unto angels: Lo! I am about to place a viceroy in the earth ... (16/14)

... He it is who hath placed you as viceroys of the earth ... (6/165)

4- Wasting is forbidden

The principle of avoidance of prodigy is shown in following verses:

Lo! the squanderers were ever brothers of the devils (17/27)

... and eat and drink, but do not prodigal.

* Lo! He loveth not the prodigals. (saying) Eat of the good things where with we have provided you; and transgress not in respect there of lest My Wrath come upon you; and he on whom My Wrath cometh, he is lost indeed.(20/81)

5- Earth should be developed by man.

here is a verse in the Holy Qoran which says: He brought you forth from the earth and hath made you husband it. (11/62)

6 - Corroption on earth is made by man:

God says in the Holy Qoran : Corruption doth appear on land and because of (the evil) which men's hands done, that he may make them taste a part of that which they have done. in order that they may return.

7 - Selfishness causes transgression:

Man is a transgression when he feels himself phisically mentally so rich that he does not need to anybody, the Holy Qoran says while describing the story of Moses and Pharoah:

Go both of you (Moses and his brother) unto Pharoah, Lo! he hath transgressed (the bounds) (20/43).

Teacheth man that which he knew not, Nay, but verily man is rebellious (96/5,6) Who (all) were rebellious (to Allah) in these lands and multiplied in equity there in?

8 - The abasement and obedience of people to transgressors.

God says in the Holy Qoran : Thus he (Pharoah) persuaded his people to make light (to Moses), and they obeyed him (43/54) .

9 - Threaten your enemy:

The principle of using force by gathering all possibilities to threaten the enemy of God and man is shown in following verses:

Make ready for them all thou canst of(armed) force and of horses totterd, that thereby ye may dismay the enemy of Allah and your enemy.

10 - Make peace among brothers :

When two groups of believers quarrels, fight with one who agreses until everything stand according to Divine law. God says in the Holy Qoran:

And if two parties of believers fall fighting, then make peace between them. And if two parties of believers fall fighting, then make peace between them. And if one party of them doeth wrong to the other, fight ye that which doeth wrong till it return unto the ordinance of Allah; if it return make peace between them justly and act equitably. Lo! Allah loveth the equitable.

Conclusion :

As mentioned before, the environmental crisis is near, and the life of whole human beings is in danger, and man is the only creature who is responsible to this serious problem. As discussed in this essay, it is considered that way of thinking or the philosophy of life is the main factor of this situation. It is believed that changing from pure humanism to the Divine philosophy of Qoran change many things.

Now that the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed the "motto" of dialogue of civilizations and the United Nations has approved it and the year of 2001 is marked as the year of dialogue of civilizations, therefore, it is a good chance to propose the Holy Qoran's view as an infrastructure of decision making in global level and for everybody as well.

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تغییر نگرش به جهان و انسان راهی مطمئن به سوی حفاظت محیط زیست

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کلمات کلیدی:

محیط زیست، آلودگی، حفاظت، انسان محوری، فرعون، اسرافکار، برتری جویی، امانت‌داری، قرآن، اومانیسیم.

چکیده:

در این مقاله ضمن تأکید بر اهمیت حفاظت محیط زیست و لزوم توجه همه انسان‌ها به این امر مهم، مشکل عمده و اساسی در ناموفق ماندن تصمیم‌های گرفته شده توسط متخصصان و محیط‌شناسان، را نگرش انسان محوری (اومانستی) بشر امروز به جهان می‌داند که در نتیجه این نوع تفکر، بشر امروز همه چیز را از آن خود می‌پندارد و بدون هیچگونه ملاحظه به بهره‌کشی از منابع می‌پردازد و نتیجه این نوع اقدامات، آلودگی روزافزون محیط زیست و نابودی منابع آن است. در این مقاله پیشنهاد شده که بازگشت به قرآن و فروگذاشتن تفکر انسان محوری می‌تواند راهی به سوی حفظ منابع طبیعی باشد. با استفاده از آیات قرآن و ارتباط اسرافکاری با برتری طلبی انسان، اصولی دهگانه را از قرآن پیشنهاد می‌کند.