Am I a Radical Muslim?

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Islamic Theology of Counter Terrorism

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Believing that the entirety of Muslim society is radicalised is a massive overstatement, but it is worth examining why people think this way and separate out what is mainstream from extreme.

Muslims have strong beliefs and bonds that connect us with the principles of our religion of Islam, such as the "oneness of Allah", Mohammad as a true and last prophet of Islam and the Quran as a divine book. However, there is also a prime belief in Islam, which is to serve humanity regardless of race and religion: Islam teaches Muslims to believe in humanity.

In fact, the Quran addresses human beings as "Ya aiyuhal Nas" (O Humankind) directly 306 times and indirectly more than two thousand times in its over 6,000 verses. But the word "Muslim"? Only mentioned 39 times in the Quran.

Throughout the 19th century, Islam has become politicised by Muslim rulers to advance their own political powers and by religious communities to abuse it for their religious dominance. Both powerful elites corrupted the minds of the general population by inducing political Islam which was spread through mosques and madrasahs. While Sayyid Qutb and Sayyid Abul A'la Mawdudi had built the framework for an Islamist resurgence, it was Dr. Abdullah Azzam, a Palestinian PhD scholar in Islamic jurisprudence from Al-Azhar University, who helped these ideas go viral in the Arab world.

We now see how political Islam has damaged more Muslims than non-Muslims in Islamic states by spreading disinformation that non-Muslims want to hurt Islam, as well as fear of Islamic culture disappearing among their own Ummah. The fake and manmade concept of religious power and Islamic dominance has given an ordinary Muslim a will to conquer other religions by propagating and implementing Sharia or through conducting Jihad (religious violence) across the globe in Muslims and Non-Muslim states.

The concept of Jihad was misused among Muslims to spread religious violence by providing justification from Islamic texts, translating the concept of Jihad as a personal obligation (Fard'Ayn) for all Muslims and thereby inspired scores of Muslims to join the religious cum political Jihad in fighting against Western Powers and Muslims states, from organisational level to individual.

The Western Powers have also misunderstood Jihad, leading to devastating policy failures like backing Islamist fighters in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union in the 1980s. Western powers had unintentionally promoted Islamist ideology to counter the ideology of Communism across the region, giving breath to the monster that is Political Islam.

Islam has been reshaped from tolerant to violent religion. Its followers, who in the past believed in humanity, are now promoting dominance of Islamism throughout the world. The entire religion has been politicised in the way that no one even realises that they are promoting, practicing and believing in the ideology of Political Islam because the ideology has become the part of their religious syllabus and is being taught in most of the Islamic institutions across the Islamic world, especially in Pakistan. The "religious card" is being used in social, political, electoral and religious arenas nationally and internationally.

There are scores of political, social and religious beliefs that trigger an individual to become a potential Islamist and these beliefs are deeply rooted in society. It's important to understand that anyone, religious or secular, can easily be drawn into the fantasy ideology of Islamism by following such ideological beliefs.

These beliefs are divided in different political social and religious categories in a very clever way so that a person can freely and confidently adopt these beliefs without realising their dangers. These ideological tools are not only religious or political, but also connected socially so that the individual can fulfil their dominance according to their personal domain (political, religious or social).
If an individual Muslim is involved in one of the below actions or believe in ideologies or consider them legitimate, they are radicalised and possess extreme religious views.

The Signs of Radicalisation/Religious Extremism:

- Believing Jews and Hindus are enemies of Islam
- Believing Western world is against Islam
- Hate Israel and India (based on religious grounds)
- Hate any Western country (based on religious grounds)
- Convert as many non-Muslims as possible
- Convert Hindu girls into Islam
- Consider blasphemers are liable to harsh punishment (Death)
- Consider apostates are liable to extreme punishment (Death)
- Considering LGBTQ as disbelievers or liable to harsh punishment (Death)
- Believing that all people will go to hell except Muslims
- Believing that Islam will dominate the entire world
- Believing in a worldwide Caliphate
- Believing that Islam is superior/better than any other religion
- Believing in implementation of Blasphemy Law
- Conduct violent protests against Danish Cartoonists
- Believe in implementing Sharia Law (forcefully and against the will of people)
- Calling Muslims Kafir (infidel), Murtad (apostate) or disbeliever
- Considering anyone or any group or any sect as infidel/apostate (based on religious grounds)
- Harming civilians on religious grounds
- Enjoying the pain of non-Muslims
- Using mosques (sermons) or Madrasah (teaching) against particular Muslims or Non-Muslims (particular or all) or against particular countries
- Teaching or promoting or propagating or spreading disinformation against individuals or groups or states (Muslim or Non-Muslim) on religious grounds
- Judging anyone on religious grounds
- Assessing anyone or any group through religious angle
- Stopping Non-Muslims from preaching
- Stopping non-Muslims from practicing their religion
- Stopping to build non-Muslims places of worship

- Teaching Islam to non -Muslims in educational institution (providing knowledge of all religions is permissible)
- Attacking, demolishing or damaging places of worship
- Believing that wearing the burqa (covering women from head to toe) should be compulsory
- Preventing girls from education
- Believing that women are like own property (decide the matters of women)
- Believing that women cannot lead nations (become leader of the state) and should be prevented from doing so
- Harming people because of a difference of religious opinion
- Building religious places on illegal lands
- Hating people based on their "sins"
- Equating a belief in democracy with Kufr (disbelief)
- Conducting violent protests on any religious matters (locally or internationally)
- Considering adherents of other Islamic sects as on wrong path/direction/way of practicing religion
- Considering Muslim democratic leaders as Taghut (the one who does not rule by that which Allah has revealed)
- Violent action against the ruler
- Armed struggle against the ruler
- Supporting or celebrating terrorist attacks against non-Muslims
- Supporting or celebrating terrorist attacks in Muslim or non-Muslim states
- Supporting terrorism (on religious grounds)
- Supporting terrorist organisations
- Damaging, burning or attacking properties/transports/belongings (on religious grounds)
- Attacking army installations and government infrastructure (on religious grounds)
- Collecting Islamic charity in support of terrorism/extremism/Islamist groups, etc.
- Financing extremist/Islamist individuals and/or groups

These are the actions/beliefs/ideologies that promote Islamism and generate religious hate among Muslims against other communities. These false Islamist ideologies should be addressed according to the Islamic teachings, which most ordinary Muslims are unaware of.

For example, there is not a single Islamic text that punishes a person who blasphemes or to a person who leaves Islam and accepts another religion, etc. However, in contemporary times, many Islamic countries have laws that punish such person to death who either leave Islam or blasphemes the dignity of Mohammad, (the prophet of Islam) or the religion of Islam.

Most of the religious, and even some of the secular, Muslims still have hope that the day will come for the Islamic caliphate that will rule the entire world under Sharia law. But the claim that all Muslims are obligated by Islam to work towards establishing a worldwide Islamic caliphate is false and has no basis in any text in the Quran or the Prophetic traditions. This is a modern political ideology which relies upon a distortion of the message of Prophet Mohammad.

The well know Egyptian scholar, Naser Hamid Abu Abu Zayd made the note of the religious roots of Islamist Terrorism:

"if we follow the rule of interpretation developed from the classical 'science of Quranic interpretation', it is not possible to condemn terrorism in religious terms. It remains completely true to the classical rules in its evolution of sanctity for its own justification. This is where the secret of its theological strength lies,"

A Muslim should be a mercy to all, particularly to non-Muslims, and not be burden or danger to them because they represent Islam and their unlawful and extreme actions will generate hate and discomfort against Islam. We should think and act beyond our religious emotions and seek true knowledge of our religion and pay respect unconditionally to other faiths. It is not religion that teaches harm against innocent lives, and we must understand this before it's too late.

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