

International Islam Hadhari Da'wah Center Australia

PRESENTS

**Fiqh Al-Awlawiyyat And
Its Role In Civilisation Building Of The Ummah**



Talk Delivered by

Imam Abdul Quddoos al-Azhari,
Founder of Darul Uloom Islamic Academy of Brisbane,
Chairman of the board Brisbane Muslim School.
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

“In the Name of Allah the beneficent the Merciful”.

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

“Peace be to Allah the Lord of the universe peace and blessing of Allah upon our beloved Nabi Muhammad s.a.w.”

Respected brothers and sisters

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Fiqh Al Awlawiyyat and its role in civilization building of the Ummah.

Fiqh translated is Jurisprudence, it is the understanding of how, that which we know as fact occurs and why. This is the difference between Fiqh and ‘Ilm, ‘Ilm is the knowledge that something is fact, Fiqh is the operation of what we know. It is the complete comprehension, and the intricate and methodical understanding of why and how things are the way they are and operates the way they do.

Al-Awlawiyyat, plural for Awla, is a reference to priorities, today, as Muslims, it is crucial for us to understand what our priorities are, we must understand our condition and prescribe a solution and prioritise the application of the solution so that we can improve this condition. Awlawiyyat or priorities are drawn from both the Qur`an and Hadith.

Allah, Subhānahu wa ta’āla, tells us: *“Do you make the giving of water to the pilgrims and the attendance to prayer at the sacred mosque the same as those who believed in Allah, the final day and strived in the path of Allah, they are not equal with Allah.”* (Al Qur’an Toubah: 19)

Our noble prophet Muhammad, (peace and blessings upon him), told us: *“Faith has seventy something branches, the highest of these is, there is no god except Allah (La Ilaha illallah), and the lowest is to remove harmful objects from the road.”* (BUKHARI & MUSLIM)

In this sense, Allah Most High, and His messenger, (peace and blessings upon him), have stressed to us that not all actions are equal, some actions are more significant and of higher priority than others.

My dear friend and Islamic Scholar Dr. Ibrahim Abu Muhammad from Sydney, Australia provides the following categories:

- 1) The priority of knowledge over actions.
- 2) The priority of understanding over memorization.
- 3) The priority of comprehension over utterance.
- 4) The priority of the intention behind a statute over the literal or superficial meaning.
- 5) The priority of research over blind mimicry.
- 6) The priority of study and planning in worldly matters over working haphazardly.
- 7) The priority of making things easy and light over rigidity and creating difficulties.
- 8) The priority of obligations over the supererogatory.

(Dr. Ibrahim Abu Muhammad is an Al-Azhar graduate, explained in Radio Islam Sydney on 18th June 2006, after discussing The FIQHUL AL-AWLAWIYYAT BY Dr. YUSUF AL-QARDAWI)

“It is the fundamentals over the branches and the intentions over the actions because intentions are based on creed whilst actions are only superficial.”

When we look at our condition in the world today in comparison with time gone by, we understand one very important fact, the power balance has always been crucial for any nation to maintain its integrity, independence and sovereignty.

This balance may shift between technology, human resources, material wealth, agriculture, information or luxuries and the arts. One thing that seems to be a non negotiable constantly present priority and this is the need for a nation to be able to defend itself against external threats.

If any nation falls short, it will invariably become at risk of losing its independence because it will become dependent on other nations which in turn will be able to supply its needs on their own terms.

What I mean by this is that when a nation is surrounded by powerful neighbours, it is crucial for this nation to have the ability to mobilize an army to defend itself should it face an attack.

If the demand for food outstrips the supply, again, nations may find themselves at the mercy of the suppliers and in great need of developing self-sufficiency to feed their people, in such cases, the priority will become one where a nation must pursue the means to insure that it has a viable agriculture industry.

When it comes to food, the military, medicine and other necessity of life, there is always a minimum standard that each and every nation must be able to supply for itself, in this sense, Fiqh al Awlawiyyat dictates that it allocates sufficient resources to ensure that these needs are always met and that there is adequate research in these areas so that it does not lag behind other nations and it does not become dependent on them. Our human experience shows that when nations become pioneers, their people become welcome everywhere and are treated as valuable citizens, but when they stagnate or fall behind, their people are treated as undesirable intruders when they live as minorities or migrants in other nations. We find these other nations persecuting them and using them as scapegoats through blaming all their woes on them.

A great priority today is in the field of information and the power of words. Today, we have found that our world community has moved in an alarming rate in this post industrial world to super multinational corporations, global information sharing which includes traditional media following global direction through multi-national media conglomerations.

In this regard, we can see that whilst our world has become more open, this same world has also exposed itself to more control and the propensity to have its views polarized through the global media industry.

For example, today's Western media is clearly dominant in our world, it is global, it is ultra-conservative and it appears to be in collusion with neo-con politics throughout the world. We have a situation today where one person controls media empires in the US, Britain and Australia, not through total ownership, but rather through owning a controlling share, this control has given a great influence in all these countries and placed him in a prime position to, if he chooses, expand into any industry he chooses and engage in expedient business practices if he so chooses and the media empire that backs him cannot in any way shape or form become critical of his activities, neither are the governments in those nations in any position to oppose his vision for these countries because he holds the reigns of the popular commercial media in these nations and is in a position of shaping public opinion in these same nations. This in essence puts democracy in these nations in a completely different position, we have seen these nations, rather than legislating for diversity in media ownership so that they can protect their independence, they have in fact legislated to further concentrate the media into fewer hands, thus in essence threatening the very fabric of democracy and independence. This concentration in the long term will stagnate freedom of thought and only broadcast opinions that are supported by this enterprise; it is a downward direction for those societies.

There are great challenges facing our Ummah, these challenges are multiplied through international media. When we see the magnitude of the challenge, we realize that we likewise must rise to the challenge, knowing as Allah has told us: La Yukallifullahu Nafsan Illa Wus'aha. (Qur'an Al- Baqarah:286)

That is, Allah does not impose on a person anything except that it is within this person's ability.

As we face today's challenges, we must realize that we have the capacity to overcome them and we must learn from Fiqh al Awlawiyyat how to prioritise the allocation of our intellectual and material resources to face these challenges.

When we think about the global media challenge, what comes to mind as my colleague the well known Australian Muslim spokesman and founder of the Islamic Friendship Association of Australia, Br. Keyser Trad often remarks, what comes to mind is the court of Pharaoh and his magicians.

Pharaoh and his court used illusion to bewitch the eyes of their people; today's global media has weaved its own magic to create a completely false illusion about Islam.

Pharaoh wanted to suppress the community of believers and keep them enslaved, today's global empire through its mass media which is funded by the advertising dollar of the corporations and the Western governments is in the position of again bewitching the perceptions of people, not just the eyes, but their entire perceptions making people throughout the globe think that the great faith of Islam which alone holds the solutions to a prosperous more egalitarian future is being misrepresented through the actions of remote individuals.

The global media empire has focused on the actions of Al Qaeda and Bin Laden whilst continuing to neglect to emphasise that the US recruited and trained Al Qaeda and Bin Laden for its fight against the Russians. If Al Qaeda had come back to the US, we have an old Arabic saying: Hazehe Bid'atukum Ruddat Ilaykum. This is your product returning to you. No Muslim nation had participated in the recruitment or training of Al Qaeda, yet, the global media empire has succeeded in influencing the perceptions of the world into believing that Al Qaeda's alleged actions are a product of Islam.

This indicates that (THE FIQHUL AWLAWIYYAT) it is a priority for us to ensure a strong media presence to create a balance and counter the false impressions that the global media is perpetuating about Islam.

The global media has created for us some terrible word conjunctions, it uses the words Islam, Muslim and Islamic in the same deceptive context as the words extremism, militancy, terrorist/m(s) and violence. Whilst they had done this, some Muslim leaders decided to take advantage of these tags to tarnish political opponents rather than stand up and defend the name of Islam.

On the other hand, we have a very interesting development both in Australia and in Malaysia. In Malaysia, His Excellency the Honourable Dato 'Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi introduced a great concept, one that aptly fits into the Hadith of our beloved prophet peace and blessings upon him, he focused on a very important aspect of Islam's contribution to the world. An aspect that many Muslims take pride in as the golden age of Islam, the civilization that Islam created, the pioneering role it enjoyed, the advances it made that Europe kept learning from for several centuries, our honourable prime minister introduced the adjective that brings to the memory of every pundit, the contributions that Islam made to the world, to the human family, to the global community.

By saying the word Islam Hadhari, our honorable prime minister is telling the world that Islam has the potential of bringing the best out of the human being, not just for the service of Islam, but rather as our past has proved; Islam brings out the best for the service of the human family, for the benefit of human civilization.

The word Islam must always be preceded or succeeded by positive adjectives, "civilisational" or "Hadhari" is an excellent choice that rises to the challenge that has been presented to us by the global media and reminds all people, that Islam as a faith is here to advance humanity. Islam is here to take all of us out of the darkness into the light.

In Australia, my colleague Br. Keysar Trad who is a trustee with me at the Australian Islamic Educational Trust founded an organization called the Islamic Friendship Association of Australia Inc in late 2003. Being regularly interviewed by the media, this naming has meant that more often than not, the interview is concluded with the words "Islamic Friendship".

(I am very pleased to inform you that Br. Keyser Trad is the secretary general of international Islam Hadhari Center in Australia).

My dear respected brothers and sisters, Fiqh Al Awlawiyyat dictates that we enter the arena of the global media, present our case in the best manner and at the same time, and work on creating our own strong media. In doing so, in creating the concept of Islam Hadhari, our honourable prime minister Dato 'Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi was able to tell the world as he did in a recent

speech: “In the case of the West, I do not regard them as defenders of Western civilization those who invade and occupy someone else’s land; those who systematically cause innocent children, women and men to be killed; those who oppress other people and exploit their resources for their own selfish ends; or those who are racist in outlook and bigoted in their religious beliefs. Anyone who seeks to dominate and control, who attempts to establish global hegemony, cannot claim to be spreading freedom and equality at the same time.”

These most appropriate comments could not be said by any other world leader, these comments, coming from a leader who also said: “in the case of Islam, those who deliberately kill non-combatants and the innocent; those who oppress and exploit others; those who are corrupt and greedy; those who are chauvinistic and communal, do not speak on behalf of Islam.”

Both statements set a standard for the “civilized” world, the solution for world happiness is Islam, and for those who wonder about Islam’s position in the so called “post modern” world, Islam is Hadhari.

Who speaks on behalf of Islam today?

Our honourable prime minister clarifies this very beautifully:

“It is those who uphold justice, who fight tyranny, who seek liberation from oppression, who are honest and upright, who are universal and inclusive in word and deed, are the ones who represent the real message of Islam.

“Those who protect the rights of the human being, those who treasure the dignity of women and the welfare of children, those who preserve the integrity of the family, those who help the poor and feed the hungry, those who live in harmony with the environment, are also speaking on behalf of Islam.”

For the brothers and sisters in this hall, you can see how every word in this quote from the honourable prime minister mirrors an advice from the Hadith of our noble prophet or a verse from the Qur`an. As our prime minister summed it, Islam Hadhari is: “a comprehensive approach to the development of mankind, society and country based on the perspective of Islamic civilization.” This Islam Hadhari which treasures “the dignity of women and the welfare of children, those who preserve the integrity of the family, those who help the poor and feed the hungry,, those who live in harmony with the environment, are also speaking on behalf of Islam.”ⁱ And is inclusive in word and deed, upholds justice, fights tyranny, seeks liberation from oppression, at the hands of honest and upright people is based on ten principles:

- I - Faith and piety in Allah;
- Ii - A just and trustworthy government;
- iii - A free and independent people;
- iv - A vigorous pursuit and mastery of knowledge;
- v - A balanced and comprehensive economic development;
- vi - A good quality of life for the people;
- vii - The protection of the rights of minority groups and women;
- viii - Cultural and moral integrity;
- ix - The safeguarding of natural resources and the environment;
- x - Strong defense capabilities.”

Courageously and in the face of the overwhelming might of today’s belligerent neo-cons who have pushed Huntington’s “Clash of Civilisations”, our honourable Prime Minister Dato ‘Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi responds with: “We treat our diversity as an asset to be nurtured.”

Our honourable Prime Minister Dato ‘Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi is a prime minister of whom every Muslim around the world must be proud, he has earned the respect of every sincere Muslim and has placed Malaysia as a role model for other Muslim nations. His vision of Islam Hadhari is presented with all the realism that our world demands, it is not just a theory, it is a dynamic approach which whilst admitting our obligations to the human family, also demands: “We must be brave enough, and we must be honest enough, to admit that as long as there is hegemony, as long as one side attempts to control and dominate the other, the animosity and antagonism between the two civilizations will continue. This is why hegemony must end. Mutual respect for one another should replace hegemony. Reciprocity should become the ethical principle that conditions relations between the West and Islam. The West must treat Islam the way it wants Islam to treat the West and vice Versa.”

After emphasising the crucial role of bridge builders in today’s world, our honourable Prime Minister Dato ‘Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi raises a very important issue for the global Muslim community. For centuries, various artists or writers in the West have demonized Islam, this time, our honourable prime minister tells them: “Let us start now by curbing the extremists in our midst. We must put a stop to the mockery of any religion or the sacrilege of any symbol held sacred by the faithful. Let us not underestimate the power of religion as an imperative for people to act. In the face of fanaticism and hysteria, we must take action to counsel moderation and rationality.”

(From Keynote address by the Hon. Dato’ Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, at the International Convention; Who speaks for Islam; who speaks for the west. 10th Feb. 2006, Shangri La, Kuala Lumpur)

My dear brothers and sisters, today, Malaysia is a beacon of strong Islam and a model, not just for the Muslim world, but for the human family, it is a model of harmonious co-existence, a model of progress and a model of what Islam can provide the world, it is competing in the most important fields even producing computer components and peripherals. We must stand with our prime minister and support him

Fiqh Al-Awlawiyyat dictates that first and foremost, we must find unity and rally behind a good leader whose faith and reason is sound, one who is concerned for the Ummah and its well-being. We cannot go forward without a leader; we cannot even defend ourselves as scattered communities throughout the world.

Allah Subhānahu wa ta'āla reminds us time and again that this community of ours is one community, yet we are unfortunately divided, we have lost our sense of Ummah. Our highest priority is to find this rudder which today, the great nation of Malaysia is providing under the expert guidance of our honorable Prime Minister.

FIQHUL AL-AWLAWIYYAT the Hon. Prime Minister Dato 'Seri Abdullah Hj Ahmad Badawi elaborates and priorities the need of the Ummah in the following points:

- Undoubtedly, the Ummah must also solve its own internal problem. Extremism must be renounced, Radicalism eradicated and all sectarian violence must be put to a stop. Islam can certainly tap into its own rich intellectual tradition and challenge directly the extremist unjustifiably, to Islam. Muslim leaders and Muslim scholars must succeed in reviving fully the true spirit and the true teachings of Islam. The truth must prevail that Islam abhors extremism and condemns terrorism.
- Islam Hadhari places a very high premium on the ability of the government to provide educational opportunities and on the capability of the people to have access to education. This is because the acquisition of knowledge is key to elevating the poor from poverty. Furthermore, science and technology, research and development are also key to uplifting countries and nation states to become develop and modern entities. Education and the power of knowledge is the greatest equalizer among individuals in a society and the greatest leveler which can bridge the prosperity gap among the nation states in this globalized world.
- The eradication of poverty is definitely high in the priorities of Islam Hadhari. In order to rid the Muslim communities of poverty and underdevelopment and to enable them to take the high road to progress, it

is quite clear that the more prosperous among the Muslim countries must get together and help the others. I have called upon the Muslim countries to take the lead because I believe in the dictum of leadership by example. The reality check furthermore dictates that we can only expect others to help us if we start by helping ourselves.

- The non Muslim world, especially the west, must be prepared to discard their prejudices against Islam and be willing to engage in genuine dialogue. At the same time, Muslims too must be prepared to begin a process of reform and renewal in their respective Muslim countries.

(From the speech delivered by the Hon. Prime Minister Dato 'Seri Abdullah Ahmad Hj. Badawi at the Asia society Sydney, Australia on 8th April 2005.)

Our next priority is to find self sufficiency as an Ummah, to improve Muslim industry and give priority to goods produced by fellow Muslim nations and to find a common currency to liberate us from the yoke of the dollar in international trade. Whilst doing so, we must make sure that those who continue to approach us with enmity are informed that we are here to improve the world and that we will continue to exert every effort to do so. We must monitor their words and speak out to correct their misconceptions.

Next, comes the most in Awlawiyyat that is the promotion of the great message of Islam Da'wah Illallah at every level, to our children first and foremost and then to the world at large.

Thank you very much,

Wa akhir da'wana, Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Alameen

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu.
