Findings on Islamophobia with Nazia Erum's Mothering a Muslim

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CHAPTER 1

The question of what is Islamophobia is making waves in many fields. Studying in the religious context of Indian society, a nation where followers of many communities live, the religious crisis does make its appearance. In the article *Religion in India: Tolerance and Segragation*, points out that; religious tolerance as a central part of who they are as a nation. Across the major religious groups, most people say it is very important to respect all religions to be „truly Indian'. And tolerance is a religious as well as civic value: Indians are united in the view that respecting other religions is very important part of what it means to be a member of their ownreligious community. (Evans., et al)

Fixing that to this context, there is a visible discrimination towards Islam, justifying on the fact that Islam being the major religion of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. This condition derives from the fear or hatred against the religion of Islam, called as Islamophobia, and can be seen as a source or force of terrorism. It can be correlated to xenophobia, an alienation and racism, to that the problem is a great subject of debate. The difference represents in the society is; Yet, despite sharing certain values and religious beliefs- as well as living in the same country, under the same constitutionmembers of religious communities often they have much in common with one another. The majority of Hindus see themselves as very different from Muslims, and most Muslims return the sentiment, saying they are very different from Hindus. There are a few exceptions: Two- thirds of Jains and about half of Sikhs say they have a lot in common with Hindus. But generally, people in India‟s major religious communities tend to see themselves as very different from others. (Evans., et al)

The condition makes its own mark in the society, with or without the conscious state of one‟s mind. Numerous statements and norms that have been spread in the society, makes more controversial statements and questions. Culture leads to defining and developing one‟s identity and norms. It can also define in the positive outcomes and can be the negative. It affects in both parts, determining them as the identical figures of the system, becomes a poisonous weapon to create an upside-down society where life becomes the extreme depiction of destruction.

By defining ones‟s personal developments, society deals an important role. And in a system where Islamophobia takes its adavantage, makes an highly impact. From childhood to adulthood and to his or her last day of earth and maybe after, the phobia takes a huge part. To this extensive idea; marks a remark on depicting the book *Mothering a Muslim* by NaziaErum, where one finds out how people try to hide and even to survive from the chaotic system. It may be affected by several influences but it always takes its hand right on the stereotypical states of mind. A person absorbs their ideologies from the beginnings of their cultural identity. She makes her statements on featuring the children who were bullying only because of their religious identity and how they are seen as a force of object towards the society.

Eighty five percent of the hundred plus children I spoke to told me that they had been bullied, hit or ostracized at school because of their religion (Erum, xiv).

The situation connects to communal bullying and strangely it starts in the minds and hearts of children. The obsession of questioning one‟s religious identity is itself making its crisis within the society. The changes challenge to determine the condition and system of the society that to which an extent makes a considerable outcome. To a person‟s developmental stages, each part of his or her life determined, to where they face to overcome from all of the cultural values and ideas. Causes of trouble that occurred in the life of Muslim community does not only happens in India, it‟s the struggle of all the community which traces back into threatful events. David Tyrer in his book *Politics of Islamophobia: Race, Power and Fantasy* says that;

We all tell our stories using certain vocabularies that are organized through grammars that establish rules to structure our narrations (Laclau 2000: 283). Most of the time this serves us well in putting into words, and integrating into memories, the events that occur as we go through life. But on rare occasions events can rise up on us as though they somehow burst through from beyond language itself, and can seem difficult to organize or express through language. The atrocities that took place on 11 September 2001 were such an example, and the

mantra of the time that „everything changed" on 9/11 seems to summarize not only the seismic geopolitical shifts that seemed to be set in train by the atrocities, but also emergence of new ways of being able to incorporate certain types of unthinkable acts and events into the symbolic, or at least to find new ways of reorganizing the old ways in which we tended to tell our tales. (Tyrer 15)

To this context the concern towards the community became more conscious in a way that lead into communal riots. There has been an notion on questioning and determining several minority communities on the basis of their style of living, or cultural background, race, gender and religion. To this destructing notion arriving at the society, makes more religious concern in the minds of people. In India it has been living inside the soul of the society over a long time, which can be traced back into the formation of empires, colonial and postcolonial, and to independent and pre-independent era. It has been driving in a way that can be risen or suppressed, but the sociological and moreover the political patterns ranged among the country and the whole world made on judging the Muslim Community as whole.

Studies cannot be centralized into one particular idea, the more communal and religious attacks been placed, will demonstrate on coming up into a behavioral change towards the Muslims. There are several different ideologies within the community itself, and that may count on to less in number, but as in the whole society that comes up into judging the community completely. All of this does not only depict in the air and land of politics or any transactions between countries, it also takes its huge part in the discussions of each families" and to where it leads to public gatherings and to the minds of innocents. And it always come to the numerous incidents occurred in every workplace and academic fields, that always come into the crisis of religious concern or to be more clearly Islamophobia.

Society has been evolving so rapidly in recent times. People become more aware of the possibilities of education and artistic fields. The ranging amount of students passing out in each institutions, and their contribution to the country in every way makes the whole nation into maintaining and obtaining several possibilities in the future. But, there also question arise, were the students or the academic disciplined personalities find their true belonging? Or does they make use of their abilities in a way that will fill their family and the whole nation in a nutritious way? Counting on such questions, the answers might be loose up into something that can"t be valued. Valuating the incidents and events that has been triggered in the society does

clearly makes an answer. Questioning and judging towards one‴s way of living and to which religion, race and gender they belong are taken in part in this evolving culture. All of this placed in every part of the society, but what is most striking is that, it also taken its deep roots in the academic fields. Communal bullying and traumatic attacks have reported and most of the cases vanished from the light into darkness. NaziaErum quotes that;

Nor the schools to blame. In most instances the school administration is not even aware of this problem because the children or their parents rarely complain to the authorities. While some schools remained indifferent when complaints were registered, some others made efforts to sensitize their students to accepting and embracing the „other‴. (Erum xv)

This is in the case of schools, but still don‴t know about other institutions. How things are going on in a place where religious concerns hails as much as it can is so much triggering and upsetting at the same time. People tends to believe on what good for them, and that time they may also cause damages in the minds of every age. And that is why, academic institutions become the stage of religion and that‴s why the thriving blood of every child, teenager and adults turned to dark.

The religious concern stands on one‴s life and thus end up with being an outcast. Knowing and attacking one‴s weakness makes anyone to live afterwards; by questioning and mocking only by one‴s religion does also makes them unable to survive. There has been incidents, not in the rural parts of India, but in the cities where knowledge makes its stand, that when a terrorist attack occur in any part of the world, people or children asks people who belongs to Muslim community as like they are the who put efforts in operating such accidents or attacks. This kind of stereotype runs everywhere, people asks and questions them, they may be their family friend, colleague, best friend, neighbor or anyone. Even asking in a way of joke also causes them to stay out of the way and be alone in suffering with the Islamophobic situation.

The issue of Islamophobia been driving somewhere for a time and suddenly it became captured. Numerous issues took place in the country are examples. People being murdered in the center of one whole society, and it was not happened once, but in countless times. In each community does takes in with the worse and good sides, but for the minority it always been worse. This judgmental view was the main problem of Islamophobia. Issues of the way in which the eat, what they wear and the name that they carry are always living under judgments. All of these stereotypes make everyone‴s life miserable both majority and minority. Children or teenagers take advantage of communal bullying not knowing or thinking in a more matured way, they learn

and adapt from where they live and come from, but what‟s more striking is that the people who belong to use the resources and power for the upliftment of people in the society are misusing their valuable power only in the understandings of their own ideologies.

This context always been in the highlight of the society and that‟sone of the main reason which most of the problems that arisen in the culture. When man become vulnerable and weak, he struggle to find a solution towards the light, the one who holds the power shut his door right in front of them. They become hopeless and thereafter they may lead into much worse stage than the previous and that may cause to make the judgments to come true. In a way, the whole culture and society are the responsible ones for such cause, but everyone is too busy in chasing to hunt others down. This hunt starts even from the school playground, Erum says about it;

As the brothers have grown older, they have become pricklier.

Even though they still get bullied, they don‟t want to appear like sissies and carry tales to their mother, preferring to "fight it out". The verbal abuses often turn into physical scuffles and fights in the playground or school buses. (Erum 19)

This driving existence of Islamophobia is dangerous in every way. If it is not found and managed in to make the peace come into that existence only make many others to live on. Bullying has been taken its place, and it is turning also into religious norms in every part, not can‟t only count on schools but also in every part and structure of the society. Like the cases of sexual that has taken its rise and being placed in the front power for a long time, this Islamophobic situation has risen and placed at the same power. But what‟s more interesting is that, most of the people does makes to makes to open about what they are faced and being caught. Several writings about the concern of Islamophobia also makes a new way to get the eyes and mind of people to understand the deep rooted issues. Many upcoming concerns and performance towards protecting one‟s own beliefs have been outranged into greater flames, and still there is no response to make it in a way that every single human being in the society can live with. In *Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All,* make statement on Islamophobia that;

The term Islamophobia refers to unfounded hostility towards Islam. It refers also to the practical consequences of such hostility in unfair discrimination against Muslim individuals and communities; and to the exclusion of Muslims from mainstream political and social affairs. The term is not, admittedly, ideal. Critics of it consider

that it‟s use panders to what they call political correctness, that it stifles legitimate criticism of Islam, and that it demonizes and stigmatizes anyone who wishes to engage in such criticism. (Conway 4)

In this time, there are many studies and discourses, taking place to take Islamophobia into much more deepest concern. Starting from public talks and to the assembly of UN, are significant, that to wake up the whole world from bitter darkness of religion. Everyone have their own freedom to perform on whatever they believe or relay upon. But when it‟s coming to religion, there is more difference in the heart of society. Most of the people still live in a way that to which concrete developments are greatly appreciated and social improvement is decreased. And it is not always about religion, it is also a place where studies about gender and sexuality are also restricted. The stereotypical states of minds are not been vanished or reduced, it is still flowing or injecting in many lives. All these are in concern in each way to make a better world where understanding and freedom may flows through each person.

Current issues on Islam, occurring in India and also whole over the world are in analysis that to which come to the rise of Islamophobia in the society. It is visible in every way. For example, when a tournament between Indian cricket team and Pakistan cricket team takes, it always come into the fighting of both countries rather than a game. Cheering or supporting talented players may triggers to something to cause a violence. Each system of the society teaches many difference of human; like difference between religion, caste, race and others. All these are the secondary elements of defining one soul and what is more definite is the difference between good and evil. But that is not acceptable to make a valuable society and to a valuable world. Always what‟s important is difference with race, class, caste andreligion.

The text *Mothering a* Muslim depicts life of many Muslim children; how they have been struggled to make their life better and how they have been bullied. In each society children are most priority, but that is not also an option to ignore others. Children takes their time to bully minorities by whatever they hear from their surroundings. So what is there to change is the ideas that many elders have been keeping in their bodies. That darkest notions are not always belong to whoever holds, it always makes its way to cross it‟s limit and make worse appearance in others.Because of communal bullying and harassment many children, teenagers and adults have taken their chance to end up their precious life. Islamophobia takes a huge entry in the lives of every part

of the world and region. People became conscious about this disaster but majority of them are not very much into make a change into this crisis, but rather interested into make it to fire high.