

**The New Face of the Islamic Caliphate:**  
**“All of us are dictators”**

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***Syria Tomorrow***

The current situation in the Middle East, specifically Syria and Iraq, raise the question of why? How? And who is responsible for this?

I doubt any one knows or knew that what is happening is something we should predict based on our history.

*Lets be clear, that we are not in any way questioning Islam as a religion, we have no doubt that it's the simplest religion to understand, the most clear guided toward rights and wrong, the most respectful to the role of law, the most justice to human being, and the most accurate reflection to the Arabs and Muslim during that stage. So none of our discussion is directed toward Islam, as much trying to analyze and understand Muslim's and why and how they became so bloody during our history, where killing was justified with many reasons, and none of those reasons make any sense. Even though we point to the detailed negatives in the rise of Islam, we are not dismissing the many good things happened during that Era, we are just trying to understand the current negative behaviours adopted by many Muslims, under the same excuses of Islamic guidance.*

The early history of Islam after the death of Muhammad is one of glorious wars and victories on the one hand, and hatred, dissension, jealousy, intrigue and deceit on the other.

**Khalif Umar:** He was the second khalif, like Abu Bakr, a father-in-law of Muhammad, and the most gifted and respected of the Khalifs. An Iraqi slave assassinated him, while at prayer in the mosque.

**Khalif Uthman** By trying to unify the Empire, largely comprising independence-loving Arabs, he fell into disfavour. He was assassinated in a gruesome way and he was not allowed to be buried in the Muslim cemetery. His wife, with some of his friends, buried him by night without the ritual washings, listening to the curses of the Arabs, who also pelted stones at them. He was buried in the Jewish cemetery.

**Khalif Ali** was the last of the 'four rightly guided' Khalifs. Who did Talha and al-Zubair, with the support of Aysha, challenge? The resulting "Battle of the Camel" saw 10 000 Muslims slaughtered. Ali and his troops won. Mu'awiya, the Governor of Syria, who accused Ali, as did Aysha, of complicity in the assassination of Uthman. Another battle resulted with tremendous loss of life but without a decisive victory. Mu'awiya and Ali agreed to appoint arbiters and to abide by their solution. This

strongly undermined the authority of Ali, who eventually was assassinated by one of his disillusioned followers.

**Al-Hassan**, Ali's son, renounced his khalifship in favour of Mu'awiya, who from then on ruled not only Syria and Egypt, but the whole Islamic empire. Al-Hussein, Ali's other son, together with most of his family, was slain under the reign of Mu'awayia's son, the Khalifah Yazid I. at the battle of Kerbela, which actually was rather an assassination than a battle.

This triggered off a split in Islam. Those who sided with Ali and his sons, whom they declared the only true Khalifs, because they were relatives of Muhammad, are now known as the **Shiáh** Muslims. The much bigger part (today about 80%) are known as **Sunni** Muslims.

The expansion of Islam led to defeat Byzantine Empire, then Persian Empire, and soon expansionist zeal led the Muslims as far as the Chinese border, India, Spain and even Southern France. The superior motivation and enthusiasm of an up-and-coming Arab nation, made the victories over decadent systems of ageing nations inevitable.

**"Freedom of religion" was granted by the Muslim conquerors. Conversions from Christianity and Judaism to Islam were allowed and encouraged. Conversion from Islam to Christianity, however, was subject to the death penalty. This is to this day the practice in some Islamic countries.**

**The Ummayyad Dynasty** ruled the Arab world from **Damascus** for 90 years. In 749 AD all the members of the Ummayyad family were murdered, except abd-al-Rahman, who fled to Spain and founded an independent Ummayyad Khalifat there. By 711 AD Islam had spread all over North Africa and Spain, and in 717-718 it began to overrun France. Luxurious palaces were built, and it is said of the Khalifs, Yazi I and II, that they were "passionate friends of sport, music and lady singers". A general spiritual and moral decline had begun.

**The Abbaside Dynasty** succeeded the Ummayyad, and lasted from 750 to 1258. Abdul Abbas was a descendant of an uncle of Muhammad. He became Khalif in Kufa after the Ummayyad Khalif, Marwan, was defeated. Under the Abbaside Dynasty, **Baghdad** had become the new capital of Islam. The Khalifs, and then later the Sultans, were autocratic rulers. Baghdad, initially a small village, was built by forced labour into a great city, with palaces, mosques and impressive government buildings. The Persian tradition of court ceremony was adopted. After his death, Abdul-Abbas was succeeded by his brother, and he, in turn, by his sons, al-Mahdi and al-Hadi, and thereafter by the famous Harun-al-Rashid. Under these rulers the greatest heights of power, economy and culture were experienced. Then a decline set in, which led to the total destruction of this empire under Dzhingis Khan in the 13th century.

**The Ottoman Empire:** was founded by Emir Osman I in 1301. After the massacre of the last Abbaside Khalif and all his relatives, Turks from near the Caspian Sea began to build a new Islamic Empire on the ruins of the declining Byzantine Empire. The new Sultans assumed the Khalifat and eventually controlled almost the whole of North Africa, the Near East and the Balkans. India was overrun and a peaceful penetration of the East Indies and the Philippines took place, bringing Islam to all these countries.

In 1453 **Constantinople**, formerly Byzantium (now Istanbul), fell to the Muslims. In 1529 the Turks (Muslims) besieged Vienna, at the very gateway to central Europe. The military power bases of the strong armies of the autocratic Sultans were supplemented by Janitshas (every fifth Christian boy child had to be given to the Islamic state to be indoctrinated as fanatical Muslim soldiers), and 20 000 Russian and African slaves. ("dtv Atlas zur Weltgeschichte", p. 209)

Heavy taxes supplied the necessary finance for such an army. Nevertheless, decline set in as a result of corruption, revolts and schisms (Persia and the Balkan states regained their independence; Egypt fell under Napoleonic domination etc.).

As early as the years 1071 - 1076, Seljuk Turks had committed atrocities against Christian pilgrims in the "Holy Land". They had conquered Armenia, Byzantium and the whole of Asia Minor, where the descendants still live, and also Jerusalem. In response to this, the Crusades were planned. In 1095 the first Crusade was proclaimed by Pope Urban II.

**The Crusades:** This era is a very sensitive chapter in the history of relationships between Muslims and Christians. They were, of course, variously interpreted. Present day Christians feel very much convicted and condemn these as completely against the spirit of Christ, and surely not without reason. However, one has to consider the contemporary historical and socio-anthropological situation in order to form a balanced opinion. After first conquering Antioch, the Crusaders urged on to conquer Jerusalem in 1099. As customary in those times, unbelievable atrocities were committed. When a town called Ma'arrat Nu'man was conquered, over 100,000 people were killed and the town burnt to the ground. Jerusalem fared no better. 65 - 70,000 were slaughtered at the al-Aqsa mosque. "Heaps of heads and hands and feet were to be seen throughout the streets and squares of the City" (Agiles p. 259 according to *HISTORY OF THE ARABS* by P.K. Hitti)

At that time a young Kurdish man who had advanced to leadership in Egypt, helped overthrow the Fatimid dynasty. He became a powerful leader who united under his rule Egypt and the Northern Arab lands. His name was Salah-al-Din, better known as **Saladin**. He wrestled Jerusalem and many of the coastal fortifications from the Crusaders (1187 - 1189), and proved to be a man of stature. He freed practically all of the crusader prisoners of war, who were poor and could not provide a ransom. After this a period of peace secured free access by Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem and other 'holy' places. After his death the country was divided among his mediocre leaders who lost its fortresses again (1229), but jealousy and dissention corroded the strength and unity of the Crusaders. 1244 Jerusalem fell again to the Muslims.

A senseless venture, costing hundreds of thousands of lives and inflicting untold misery to millions, all in the name of religion.

As we have seen earlier it did not take long before Muslims took up arms against fellow-Muslims, slaughtering and poisoning them in the name of Islam. In one such battle, the hard-pressed Muslim soldiers decided to stick pages from the Qur'an to the points of their swords and thus forced the opposing Muslim army to a ceasefire. It actually worked, for who would dare to fight against "the very word of Allah"!

**The 21<sup>st</sup> Century:** Muslims were divided in many sects, not only Sunni and Shiite, but also the Wahhabi, the Ahmadiyyas, the Bahai, The Sufism. These division were hidden, not felt that much by the average people, all thought that they are living in peace, it does not matter what sect of Islam you are following, if you are christian and even Jews. But the detailed of what happened in many conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Yemen and Libya, allowed the discocery that this loving peaceful relationship between all fraction is just an illusion, easy to sell or buy by few dollars, easy to kill for few dollars, easy to slaughter for few dollars. Many buyers were avilable, but the problem that many sellers were more ready and available to start their business.

**The Syrian Current Crisis:** This Islamic division along with Islam misunderstanding changed the face of democratic demands in Syria and the rest of the Arab world, what is called "Arab Spring" changed to become the most fundaminatlist face of Shariia law, where using Islam to kill and massacre, to gain power and changing the political dictators to religious dictators. What is considered at the beginning democratic changes supported by the West, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and others, was the surface for a deeper strategy and planning led to influential financial incentive to brain wash people thinking where Jihadism became the most successful propagannda in the Middle east, where kids and volunteer to die for god, and people pushed in refugees camp to die from hunger. These unfortunate elements led the democracy revolution to become Al-Qaeda mission, or ISIS army, where uncertainty becomes the new face of changes.

As much as we discussed those fundaminatlist and understood some of their rationals, we have to discuss those leaders, presidents and kings, who became dictators by difinition and not necessarily by acceptance. They are some one who never lived the people life to feel their pain, they never suffered the hunger to understand their hunger, who never ride in the bus to realize disastisfactions, never walked on the street to see the dirt people living in, never fought in the army to know the suffering of our soldiers, never heard the word "NO" because the people around them gave them the illusion of how good and right they are, and they are far from being clost to the rightness. This lack of understanding, lack of willingness to understand, willingness to accept that fact that they are just a human like others, should admit mistakes, admit wrong doing, fix the bad and allow the good, was the feul for ISIS and Al. Nusra and many others.

The bottom line, we lost our path, and became divided between the people who are willing to die for their wrong beliefs under the name of god "Allah". The groups of people who are dying because they have no better choice, hungry, cold, depressed, deserve no life. And finally the group who defend their existence, defend their illusion of people love, illusion of they are fair and right and they are far from that.

**Syria Tomorrow:** when we review the videotape of what is happening in the Arab and Muslim worlds, we see clerks issuing ruling to Muslim's allowing them to kill each other, considering brothers to become enemies, justifying crimes with the word of Allah (God), and continue into the dark path of our history as a Muslims.

Can we blame any one else for what is happening to us? Can we say it's the west; USA and Israel are the reason for what is happening to us? Is it the Christianity retaliating against Islam as some claims by saying that the Crusade is back? Can we find an answer for the behaviour of Saudi and Qatari's in supporting these fundamentalist?

The answer is very simple: No and No. We should put the blame on ourselves, our weakness in understanding Islam as a peaceful religion, and justice religion. The dictatorship, corruptions, killing, destructions, bloody massacres, using the word of Allah to cover up our sin, to achieve the glory of power, and become the next dictators, all of that is part of our reality, personality and beliefs. And unless we accept that reality we will never recover and start a new chapter in our life.

We should be ashamed of what we are doing in the Arab world under the cover up of different names, leading to hate, division, animosity, and religious fundamentalism. With what we are committing, no matter who we are, leaders, clerks, and finally followers, have to realize that our problems are ourselves, the corruption in us, the violence is part of us, our dictators are one of us, our clerks are not. Let's face the reality that we are far away from the real Islam, and we are going to continue these massacres, destruction, catastrophes under many excuses, until we go back to our prophet message, simple Islam of justice and love, the Islam of respect to each other, the Islam of loving each other, the Islam where leaders believe in justice as the role not self serving is the role.

We have to send a peaceful message to our dictator's, leader's, that it's about time to realize that suppression will never make you hero's, iron hands will not make you loved by your people, and a chair you hold on forever is just a chair and will never make your kids live in peace. It's about time to think that you are remembered when you do good, when you help all people not your families, when you help the poor not necessarily hurting the rich, and when you help your country not the enemies.

**The final note: we are so far from the real Islam. If prophet Mohammed will visit us today, he is going to give up on all of us as Muslim's. This division between Muslim's and Arab's, is a continuous process for our history as Muslim's, let's not fool ourselves, that killing and destruction is not part of us,**

**lets admit the fact that to change we have to change ourselves first, change our believes, change our convictions, change our practices, by becoming an example ourselves to our kids, so they learn the real Islam, the real believes, and the real democracy.**

**Our future is not and will not be going the right direction until our kids basic knowledge are pure from all of our crimes, our destruction, and that will take many years to achieve, the illusion of Facebook or Twitter bringing peace and democracvy is just an illusion, based on our lack of education and lack of understanding the principle of democracy.**

**I remind all of us, that dictatorship is living in each one of us, all of us see ourselves better that the others, and even put down from every one other than ourselves, and until we get to that point of respecting others, respecting opinions, respecting the role of law, respecting the freedom of speech, respecting all religions, and finally respecting all men, women, black and white, we will never achieve success or democracy, because all of us are dictators.**

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