

Friday Sermons by Sheikh al-Qaradawi at the Central London Mosque

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“The definition of Muslim in the Hadith of the Prophet (peace be upon him) is that Muslim is he from whose hands other Muslims or human beings are saved and protected. So we do not abuse other people’s life, wealth or property. Muslim is a positive human being. He is the source of peace to others. Muslims should not terrorise anybody; must not terrorise other people,” said the Egyptian-born Qatar-based Islamic scholar, Dr. Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, the President of the European Council for Fatwa and Research and one of the respectable academic and scholastic figures throughout the Muslim world, during his 25-minute Friday sermon to more than 3,500 worshippers at the Central London Mosque, Britain’s largest mosque.

Dr. Qaradawi also said, "The Prophet (pbuh) said – on the basis of another Hadith, it is not permissible for Muslims to terrorise other human beings. That’s why, whether we live as Muslim minority in Europe or in some other places, we need to be constructive. We need to build, not to destroy; we need to be active and not crazy; we need to support justice and serve humanity.

"Do not wage war against those who are not with us in our faith, so long as they are in peace with us. We will have no problem with them at all. Allah the Almighty tells us in the Qur’an, “Those people who do not initiate aggression against us, we treat them in the best possible way – *Ihsan* and with true justice. This is how Muslims behave with others,” said Dr. Qaradawi.

"Islam has come to establish basic foundations without which life of an individual, of the community and of the entire humanity will not be sound. The first basic foundation is monotheism, believing in the Oneness of Allah the Almighty, His worship Alone and no other deities as partner with Him."

Dr. Qaradawi said, "Human beings, irrespective of their race, colour, nationality, language, class, rich or poor, are honoured in the eyes of Allah, because they are human beings. Allah the Almighty told us that the children of Adam will be honoured and Adam is the father of all of us and we are honoured because we are his progeny. That’s why, in Islam, it is not permissible to despise any person because of his colour, creed, his nation or his race, i.e. that is not acceptable at all."

Dr. Qaradawi said, "We are told that the Prophet (pbuh) once saw a funeral passing-by; he stood up in respect but he was told by some one, “O Prophet of Allah, this is a funeral not of a Muslim, it is a funeral of a Jew. The Prophet (pbuh) said, is he not a human being? So humanity is honoured irrespective of what religion he followed."

Speaking about Islamic civilization, Dr. Qaradawi said, "When Muslims were the masters of the human civilization and the superpower of this world; they did not go ahead and kill those who do not convert to Islam or those who do not conform to Islam. Religion and believing is the natural instinct. It is part of their faith. So they have no right to exterminate, annihilate or finish those who disagree with them in faith."

Example was given by the Sheikh, "When the son of the Governor of Egypt, Amr ibn Aas, abused the son of a Coptic, an Egyptian Christian, the father of the young man who was abused traveled for one month all the way to Madinah to complain to the Caliph Omar ibn al-Khattab (RA). We are reminded that this time Islam was not in Egypt when the Coptic was abused. He did not bother to complain to anybody; he knew that nobody was going to listen or serve justice. But he knew that Islam would do justice. So, he went to Madinah and complained to the Caliph Omar ibn al-Khattab and Caliph Omar immediately summoned the governor of Egypt and his son. The son of Amr ibn Aas said, 'I am the son of the respected noble.' Caliph Omar turned to the son of the Coptic and said, 'Beat the son of the noble,' – this is what he deserves."

He also continued, "Islam has come to establish a civilization; a civilization that stayed for many centuries under which all communities and all religions co-existed and lived peacefully. Islam wants its followers to be interactive, to work hard, not to be lazy and isolated."

Dr. Qaradawi also said, "According to our scholars, there are three main objectives: Why Allah the Almighty has created humanity? First is to worship Him Alone, Allah has given freedom even to those who refused to Worship Him. Secondly, his vicegerency, deputizing on behalf of Allah the Almighty. As a deputy of Allah, we support truth and justice and forbade oppression. Thirdly, we establish a civilization that we cultivate the land, produce and live. These are the things Muslims are told to do, whether they are in the East or in the West, whether they are in a minority situation or in a majority situation, and called the Muslims, "You observe the sanctity of other human beings."

It is not conducive, the Sheikh said, for a Muslim to rely on income support when he has already having income from other sources. Some people said, well, it is not Muslim country. The Sheikh said, what is Haraam in a land of Islam, it is also Haraam in any other lands; if it is Haraam to commit *zinna* with a Muslim woman, it is also Haraam to commit a *zinna* with a non-Muslim woman; if it is Haraam to steal from a Muslim, it is also Haraam to steal from a non-Muslim," said the Shaikh.

The Shaikh urged Muslims in every society to be role models giving the right image, the true image about their Islam. But the Sheikh emphasized, "Yes, we said, we are proud of Islam, we are proud of being worshipper of Allah Alone, and we are proud of being the follower of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). We are proud of being the follower of the Qur'an; but that pride does not mean arrogance. It does not mean we transgress against others. Thus, it again balances between the pride of our *Deen*, on the one hand and on the other hand being compassionate and merciful to others.

The Sheikh said, “That’s why, Allah the Almighty describes Muslim in the Qur’an the Middle community – middle here means a position that is best. You are always sensitive to justice; always for justice and always act as a minaret guiding other human beings.”

The Shaikh also said, "We call the Muslims in this country as well as across Europe and wherever they are to hold fast to their religion and to understand and seek knowledge from scholars of the Holy Qur’an and the Sunnah of the Prophet (pbuh).”

Dr. Sheikh al-Qaradawi, 77-year-old Islamic scholar, who had written more than 140 books, was invited by the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB) to promote a more positive image of British Muslims. Dr. al-Qaradawi, who has been widely acknowledged as the catalyst behind the most successful attempts to initiate a constructive dialogue between faiths and between Islam and the West, came to London on 5 July for a whole week to chair the annual meeting of the European Council of Fatwa and Research (ECFR), which was opened under the auspices of Mayor Ken Livingstone at the GLA in London, to preside over the founding conference of the International Union of Muslim Scholars on Sunday 11 July and address Muslim Association of Britain (MAB) annual conference on Saturday, 10th July and the Hijab Conference on Monday 12 July, hosted by the Mayor of London.