Chapter VIII
THE TENETS, MEANING AND RELEVANCE
OF 'JIHAD' IN CONTEMPORARY SCENARIO
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A) The Tenets and meaning of Jihad

Jihad which means spent the energy. The following need some clarification concerning the Islamic concept of Jihad: The acts of Jihad is unlimited in Islam. The Jihad is fighting the enemy of Muslims and Islam. Defending your family, Money, land, country etc. by all means including the armed are also considered Jihad.

Jihad means historically a Holy War. Muslims understood the meaning of Jihad as Islamic Holy war. It is war against non-Muslims and war against hypocrites. In the beginning Islam was spread in the Arabia by Jihad. Islam was propagated as a religion by war both defensive as well as offensive. Jihad is mentioned in the Quran with meaning of warfare in the way of Allah.
"And slay them wherever ye catch them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out... such is the reward of those who suppress faith."  

"Fight those who believe not the Allah nor the last day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and his apostle, nor acknowledge the religion of truth even if they are the people of the book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselve subdued."  

"The day will come when every soul will serve as its own advocate, and every soul will be paid fully for whatever it had done, without the least injustice."  

"The day will come when each soul will find all the good works it had done brought forth. As for the evil works, it will wish that they were far, for removed. God alerts you that you shall reverence him alone God is compassionate towards the people."

The above Quranic verses, God ordered the believers that all acts will reflect the soul of their authors. Jihad would be to exceed in the act of good deeds, to frequent in mosques that worship God alone more often, to study the scripture in
detail, to help the poor and the orphans, to stand for right of freedom, be equitable, do not witness false, frequent and stay in good terms with friends and neighbors etc.

Jihad for the cause of Allah was permitted in sahi hadiths. Sahi Bukhari who was the Islam's one of the famous collector of Hadiths, he points out on Jihad as physical war. There are so many of Sahi hadiths that simply talk about Jihad the holy war in Islam. I mention some of them in this chapter.

Prophet Mohammad said "He who is out at war Allah becomes the protector for him. Because, he only joins the fight when he put his solid belief upon Allah and his Apostle. Allah provides him wealth and much booty with which he returns home, or, place him in the paradise by making him a Martyrdom". 5

Narrated Abu Huraira: The Prophet said "By Him Whose Hands my life is! Were it not for some men amongst the believers who dislike to be, left behind me and whom I cannot provide with means of conveyance, I would certainly never remain behind any Sariya' (army-unit) setting out in
Allah's cause. By Him in Whose Hands my life is! I would love to be martyred in Allah's cause and then get resurrected and then get martyred, and then get resurrected again and then get martyred and then get resurrected again and then get martyred.\(^6\) Narrated Anas bin Malik: Prophet Mohammad said "Zaid took the flag and was martyred, and then Jafar took the flag and was martyred, and then Abdullah bin Rawaha took the flag and was martyred too, and then Khalid bin Al-Walid took the flag though he was not appointed as a commander and Allah made him victorious".\(^7\)

Narrated Anas: The Prophet Mohammad said "A Single endeavor (of fighting) in Allah's cause in the afternoon or in the forenoon is better than all the world and whatever is in it. A place in Paradise as small as the bow or lash of one of you is better than all the world and whatever is in it. And if houri from Paradise appeared to the people of the earth, she would fill the space between Heaven and the Earth with light and pleasant scent and her head cover is better than the world and whatever is in it".\(^8\)
Islamic concept of Jihad, can be on a personal level inner struggle against Evil within oneself, struggle for decency and goodness on the social level, and struggle on the battle field, if and when necessary. Islam permits fighting in self-defense, in defense of religion, or on the part of those who have been expelled forcibly from their homes. It lays down strict rules of combat that include prohibitions against harming civilians and against destroying crops, trees and livestock.

In the beginning of Islam, opponents of Islam have killed many Muslims and they made plot for Prophet's murder, and continuously harassing Muslims, and newly converted. Muslims, and many Muslims expelled from the Arabian territories, even they made problems for survival of Muslims. These circumstances rise the importance of Jihad and it is imposed on Muslims.

B) The Relevance of Jihad in Contemporary Scenario

The Modern world's countries are facing so many crises, whether rich or poor countries, these countries are facing either Religious crisis or crisis of separatism. Islam permit Jihad against, those who, enemy of Islam and Muslims,
defending land, country and Muslims, and who supporting to war against Muslims and killing Muslims. The Islamic fundamentalists group justifies Jihad.

Here are some summaries of Islamic fundamentalists activities in America or against Americans.

Osma bin Laden one of the Islamic fundamentalist leader of world, was behind the bombing of World Trade Centre in New York City of America. Osma Bin Laden has declared open season on American civilians, women and children included. He says Islamic scholars have allowed the targeting of civilians, because their taxes support the American Military therefore, they too are at war with Bin Laden's Islamic goals.

Bin Laden was interviewed by Muslim Journalist, and the interview appears in the Jan 11, 1999 issue of News week. Here are some excerpts:

**Question**: "Why have you asked Muslims to target civilian Americans all over the world? Islam prohibits its followers from killing civilians in war?"
BIN LADEN: "If the Israelis are killing small children in Palestine and Americans are killing the innocent people in Iraq, and if the majority of the American people support their dissolute president, this means the American people are fighting us and we have the right to target them".

Question: "All Americans?"

BIN LADEN: "Muslim scholars have issued a Fatwa (a religious order) against any American who pays taxes to his government. He is our target, because he is helping the American war machine against the Muslim nation."

In case of Murder, Murder, Murderer and circumstances which made murderer to make Murder, these all are responsible for the Murder, here same question rise, in the Modern world's crisis. The Violence and Peace are not expected from one side, it is necessary of both sides, sacrifice of power, dignity and wealth. One who kills thousands of innocent people and saying 'War for preserve peace' and in the name of the 'War against Terrorism' or 'War for defence of particular state or people' it is considerable point that 'To
protect some one we are killing every one' and 'to earn something we are losing everything'.

The Government authorities and Fundamentalist groups justify themselves, they are doing right, here both Government authorities and Fundamentalists groups should ask their inner soul whether they are doing right or wrong, and world's wealth, power and dignities are not only property of individual state or Powerful State, it is the right of earning of every human being as well as State or Society according to their need. The Modern World need peace and harmony, it is every human's, Society's and State's moral duty to protect peace and harmony in the world, to establish peace and harmony they all must make some sacrifice of wealth, power and dignity, then only peace and harmony exists in the world.
References:

1) *The Quran* (2:191)

2) *The Quran* (9:29)

3) *The Quran* (16:111)

4) *The Quran* (3:30)

5) Sahi Bukhari 35, Page 102:

6) Sahi Bukhari Volume 4, Book 52 Number 54

7) Ibid, pp. 55

8) Ibid, pp. 48

9) Interview with Osama Bin Laden Newsweek (Issue Jan 11, 1999)