

Welcome to

ALI 455: Topical Tafsir of Quran

Social Relationships

Check the following verses in your copy of the Quran

Verses for today's session

- 1) Sura Nahl, no.16, verse 36
- 2) Sura Baqarah, no.2, verse 141
- 3) Sura Baqarah, no.2, verse 143
- 4) Sura Baqarah, no.2, verse 128

Topics for the course

- ◆ Understanding Society
- ◆ Duties in Society
- ◆ Qualities of a good society

Agenda

- ◆ Role of the Quran
- ◆ Defining a society
- ◆ Verses of the Quran on Ummah
- ◆ An Example of a society in the Quran

The Holy Quran

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَشِفَاءٌ لِمَا فِي
الصُّدُورِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ

O mankind! there has come to you indeed an advice from your Lord and a healing for what is in the chests and a guidance and a mercy for the believers.

What is society

Society represents a group of human beings, who, under the compulsion of a series of requirements and under the influence of a set of beliefs, ideals and goals, are amalgamated with one another and are immersed in a continuum of collective life.

Ayatollah Mutahhari, *Sociology of the Quran*

The Ummah

- ◆ The Ummah refers to a group of people who share a common religion, or a common time or place
- ◆ The Quran talks about the Ummah as a group of people with a collective life. (6:108, 7:34, 10:47, 45:28)
- ◆ The Qur'an puts forward the idea of a common history, a common destiny, a common record of deeds, a common consciousness, understanding, sensibility and a common conduct for the ummahs. (Ayatullah Mutahhari, Sociology of the Quran)

In the Qur'anic exegesis, al-Mizan, it is argued that if a society has a single soul and the same social thinking, it is as if a single individual. In this case, members of society are like the bodily organs and faculties of one organism, intrinsically and physically united, and are amalgamated in the form of a single human personality in thought and action. Their pleasures and pains are like the pleasures and pains of one person and their bliss and adversities are like the bliss and adversities of one person.

(Ayatullah Mutahhari, *Sociology of the Quran*, quoting from al Mizan Vol.4)

Sura Nahl, verse 36

وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ^ص
فَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِ الضَّلَالَةُ^ج فَسِيرُوا فِي
الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكذِبِينَ

And certainly We raised in every nation a messenger saying: Serve Allah and shun the Shaitan. So there were some of them whom Allah guided and there were others against whom error was due; therefore travel in the land, then see what was the end of the rejecters.

Sura Baqarah verse 141

تِلْكَ أُمَّةٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ لَهَا مَا كَسَبَتْ وَلَكُمْ مَا كَسَبْتُمْ وَلَا
تُسْأَلُونَ عَمَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

That was a nation that has passed: for it there will be what it has earned, and for you there will be what you have earned, and you will not be questioned about what they used to do

Sura Baqarah verse 143

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ
وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا

Thus We have made you a middle nation that you may be witnesses to the people, and that the Apostle may be a witness to you

Sura Baqarah verse 128

رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمِينَ لَكَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِنَا أُمَّةً مُسْلِمَةً لَكَ وَأَرِنَا
مَنَاسِكَكَ وَتُبْ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ

Our Lord, make us submissive to You, and raise from our progeny a nation submissive to You, and show us our rites of worship, and turn to us mercifully. Indeed You are the Oft-returning, the Merciful.'

The story of the people of Nabí Nuh (a)

Sura Hud, #11

Verses 25-34