



# Losing Identity

Our ideology and action as believers and  
servants of Allah.

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I am explaining in a bit ...



**We live in a  
challenging world!**

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# The Modern World



- ❑ Different and varying ideas, ideologies, mode of thought
- ❑ A certain way of life and a certain condition of your society

What do these things mean for **me** and **my people**?



Some people live a very **CONFUSED** life...

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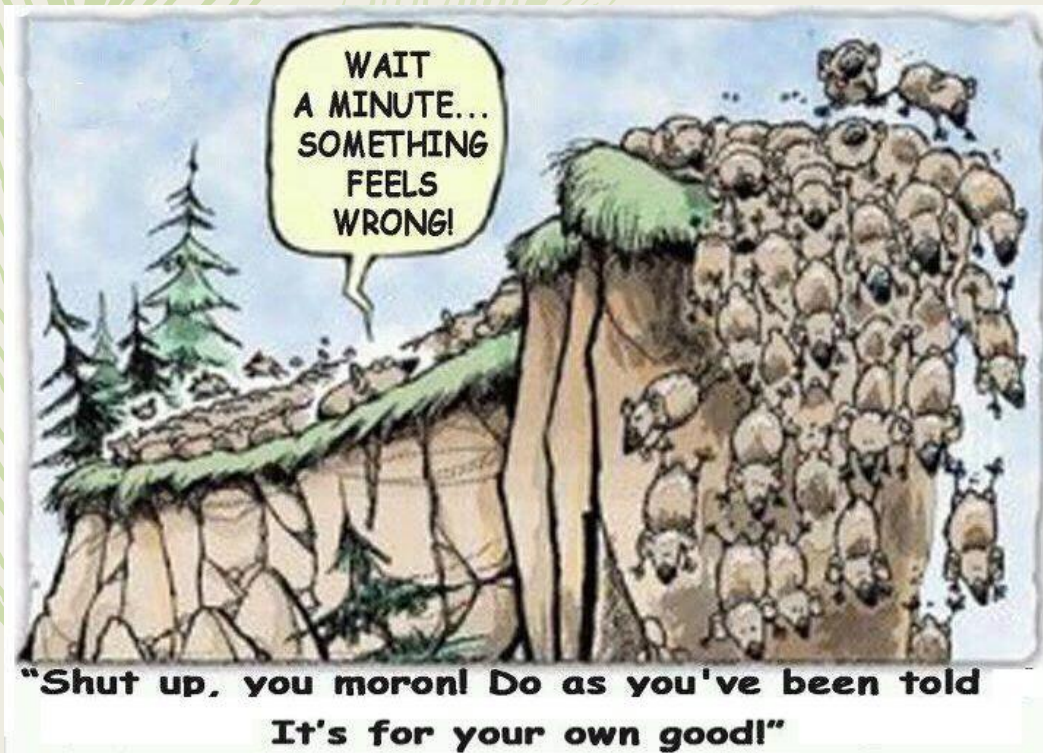


What is going on? Where is  
the modern world headed?  
Where it is taking me!  
Identity crises! Torn apart!

How do I safely maneuver my way through all these and how can I  
help others in this?

And some people are **shaken** to the very core of their existence!

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Identity loss! Getting carried away! Going with the flow!

Why does this happen? What is going on with our children and youth?



# **How do human societies function?**

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I am very sorry, but it is very  
very complicated!



# How social



Human society is a complex web of different human activities

Yes it is much more  
complicated than  
mathematics!

## Especially from Islam's perspective

HE HAS DIFFERENT ASPECTS, DIMENSIONS, FACULTIES & FACETS



دَوَاؤُكَ فِيكَ وَ مَا تَشْعُرُ وَ دَاؤُكَ مِنْكَ وَ مَا تَنْظُرُ  
وَ تَحْسَبُ أَنَّكَ جِرْمٌ صَغِيرٌ وَ فِيكَ انْطَوَى الْعَالَمُ الْأَكْبَرُ  
وَ أَنْتَ الْكِتَابُ الْمُبِينُ الَّذِي بِأَحْرُفِهِ يَظْهَرُ الْمُضْمَرُ

Soul, heart, mind, intellect, desires, anger, fitrah, free will, traits, internal states, etc.



**So let us begin...**



**Let us try to analyze  
things in depth!**



# **Understanding Human Societies!**

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Based on Islamic Anthropology,  
Psychology and Sociology

# 1. Human societies are like trees & worldview is its root



Roots are hidden but Fruits are Apparent

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا  
كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ أَصْلُهَا  
ثَابِتٌ وَفَرْعُهَا فِي السَّمَاءِ

Have you not regarded how Allah has drawn a parable? A good word is like a good tree: its roots are steady and its branches are in the sky. (Ibrahim:24)

Worldview is belief about what is real and what is not!



## 2. Values

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- ❖ Values stem from beliefs
- ❖ Things that are important or unimportant for people
- ❖ Values deeply affect priorities & actions

Belief about what is good and what is bad

## Example – Today's Modern World

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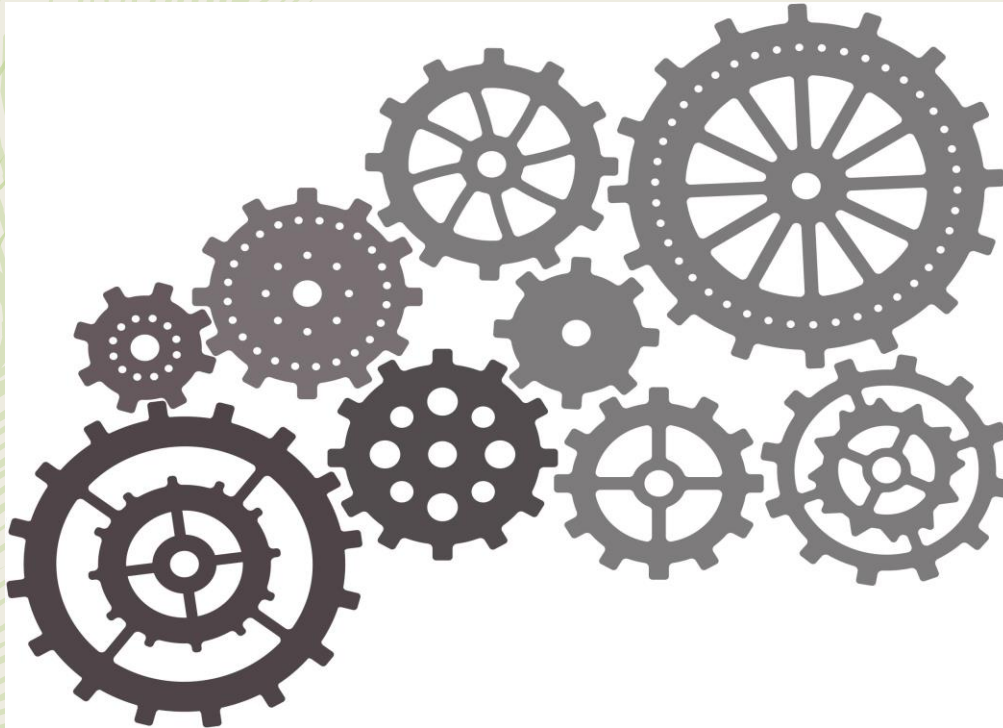


Homosexuality was an anti-value until recently

But recently it is has become one of the very important values

### 3. Social Systems

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Different Systems Required  
to Run a Society

Political System

Economic System

System of Education

Legal System

Values heavily affect the Social Systems





# Example

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Change in Values



Change in Legal System



Decriminalization,  
Marriage, Inheritance, etc.

## 4. Attractions / Symbols

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Outputs & products of a society which have symbolic value & which attract other societies to become like that society.

# Summary – This is how the society functions!

**WORLDVIEW** – What is real and what is not real?

**VALUES** – What is good and what is bad?

**SOCIAL SYSTEMS** – How the society is run?

**ATTRACTIONS / SYMBOLS** – What exemplary output is produced to attract others





# **And now the identity loss begins!**

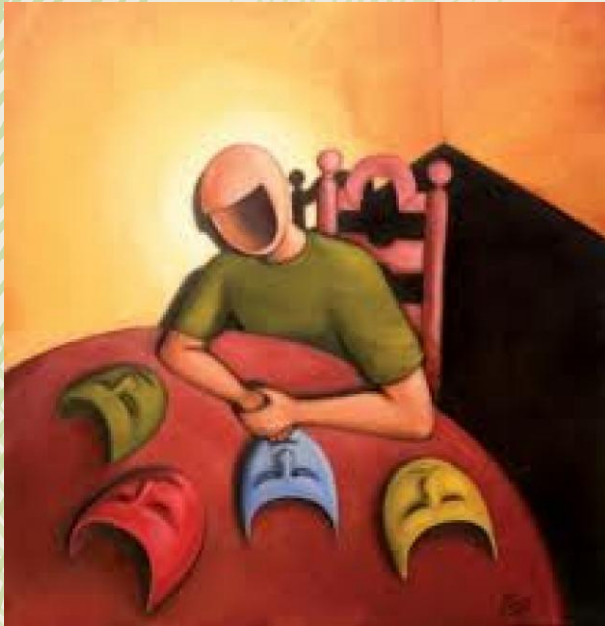
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What do I mean?

Let me explain...

# What is identity?

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Iqbal Lahori

پیکر هستی ز آثار خودی است  
هر چه می بینی ز اسرار خودی است

Real and true role and  
place in scheme of things

# People are affected!

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**Society is very powerful. It can shape our identity!**



The worst form it can take is that it shakes the very foundations and roots of a person's personality : the Worldview & the Ideology!



# How does it happen?

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It is a very strange and subtle process!

How does it work?

It starts from  
one's actions &  
lifestyle

# Let us take help of Qu'ran

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بَلْ يُرِيدُ الْإِنْسَانُ لِيَفْجُرَ أَمَامَهُ يَسْأَلُ  
أَيَّانَ يَوْمُ الْقِيَامَةِ

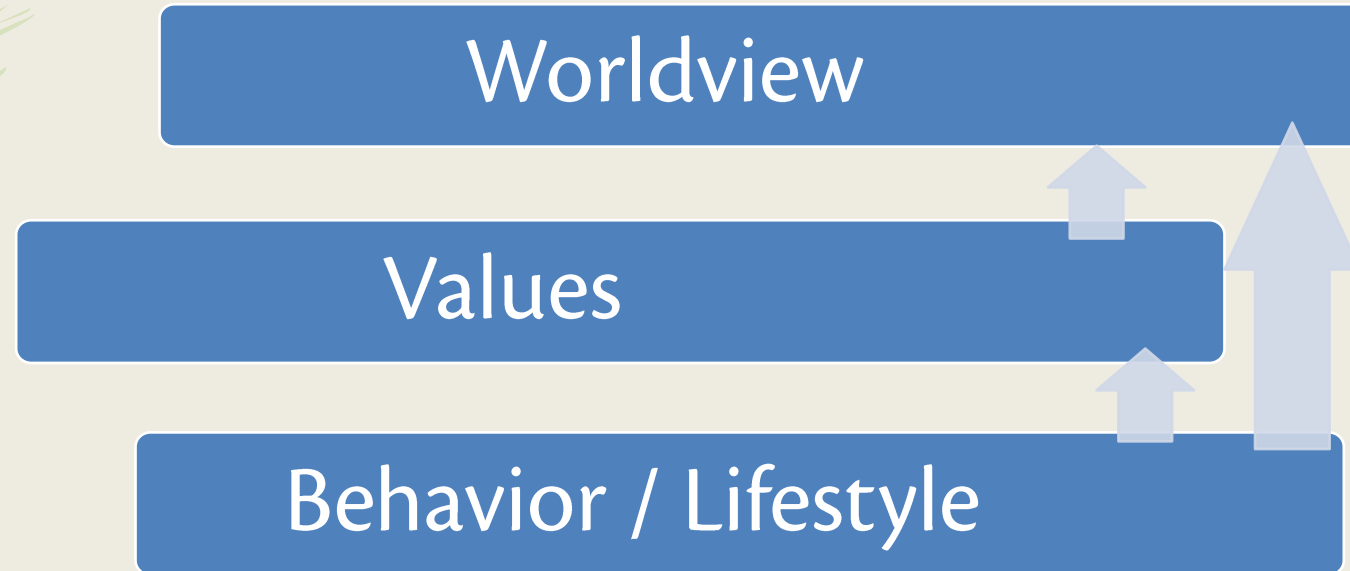
Indeed, man desires to go on living viciously. He asks, 'When will be this "day of resurrection"?!' (Qiyahmah: 5,6)

ثُمَّ كَانَ عَاقِبَةَ الَّذِينَ أَسَاءُوا السُّوءَى أَنْ  
كَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَكَانُوا بِهَا يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ

Then the fate of those who committed misdeeds was that they denied the signs of Allah and they used to deride them. (Rum: 10)

## So this is what happens ...

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It is not necessary that the worldview and values first change resulting in change in behavior and way of life.

# But how do actions/behavior change?

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Behavior / Lifestyle

Attractions: Social  
Systems + Symbols



وَلَا تَمُدَّنَّ عَيْنَيْكَ إِلَىٰ مَا مَتَّعْنَا بِهِ أَزْوَاجًا مِنْهُمْ زَهْرَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا لِنَفْتِنَهُمْ فِيهِ وَرِزْقُ رَبِّكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَبْقَىٰ

Do not extend your glance toward what We have provided certain groups of them as a glitter of the life of this world, so that We may test them thereby. The provision of your Lord is better and more lasting. (Taha:131)





# Example 1 – Money


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Rich people are better human beings

It is good to treat rich people better than poor people

People behave differently with the rich and the poor people

Capitalist System, Media



## Example 2 – Language

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Traditional Azadari is not beneficial



Being Emotional or Crying is not good



The way people talk and communicate – Drop in Emotions



Language – From Native Language (Urdu/Gujrati) to English

## Example 3 – Homosexuality in India

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Media in India changes and then laws change



Attractions and push from Western civilization on Indian society – through media and other means





# There are very many attractions...It is the very air you breathe...

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## Attractions

Actions

Order & Discipline, Management

Personalities

Scientists / Football players /  
Celebrities / Wealthy Capitalists

Social Systems

Democracy / Capitalism &  
Corporations

Others

Technology / Brands / Buildings

Media

Hollywood / TV / News



# Conclusion...

People's lives and ideologies are shaken...



- Is it all deliberate and planned?
- Yes & No
- Part of it maybe and is planned
- A lot of it is just natural consequence of the humanist ideology



# **Ok so what do we do?**

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Enough of analysis and problems.  
Where is the solution?

# But wait a minute...

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Can Islam really do it?

**WORLDVIEW** – What is real and what is not real?

**VALUES** – What is good and what is bad?

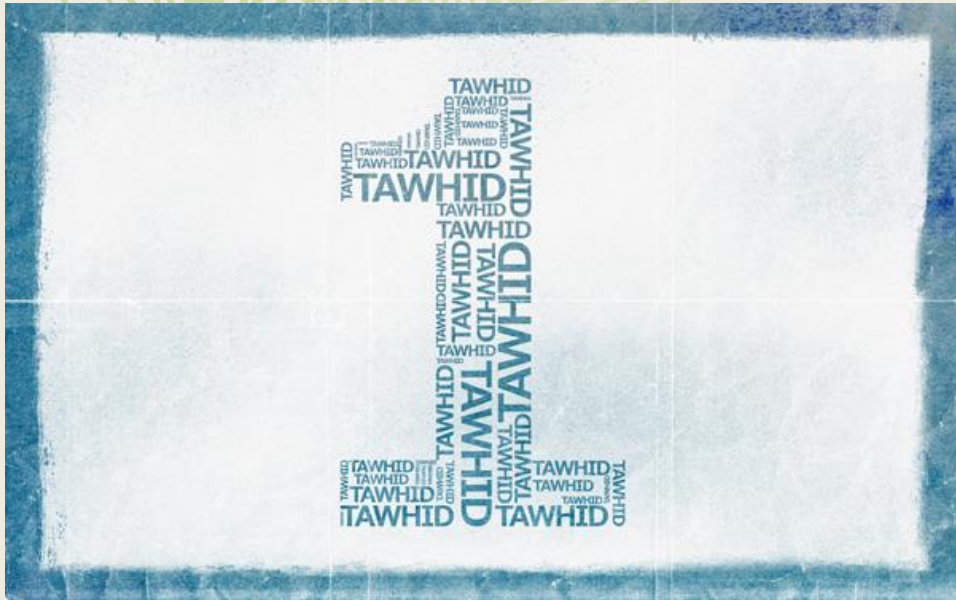
**SOCIAL SYSTEMS** – How the society is run?

**ATTRACTIONS / SYMBOLS** – What exemplary output is produced to attract others

# Islamic Worldview

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Correct & Complete Worldview based on **Tawhid**



- Islam has the most comprehensive worldview
- Quran talks about God, creation, human being, environment, society, afterlife, etc.



# Islamic Values

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- ❖ Spirituality & God-centeredness
- ❖ Aakhirat-centeredness
- ❖ Halal Material Values

# Example - Taqwa

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It is a natural consequence of the **Tawhidi** worldview



- Your true value is based on your connection with Allah
- In a materialistic worldview Taqwa really doesn't make sense!

# Social Systems

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- ❖ System of Governance – Imamate
- ❖ System of Law – Islamic Laws
- ❖ System of Education
- ❖ System of Justice – Remember Imam Ali's justice!

# Link between Islamic values & Islamic social systems

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Values affect all the social systems!

Fair distribution of wealth is good.  
Concentration of wealth in hands  
of few rich is bad



Islamic banking system forbids  
*Riba* (interest) and encourages  
real work & business.





# Islamic Attractions

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## Attractions

Action

Husn al-Khulq, Integrity

Personalities

Imams / Ulama / Shohada

Social Systems

Political System / Economic System  
/ Social Welfare System

Other attractions

Mosque & Architecture / Hijab /  
Quran



**Some very  
practical  
points!**

## **NEXT SESSION**

There is so much untapped potential  
and so much we all can do!