

The Essence of the Idea of "Enlightenment against Ignorance" and its Significance in Preventing Religious Extremism and Terrorism

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Abstract:

The article examines the theoretical and methodological aspects of the principle of "Enlightenment against Ignorance". Aspects are scientifically substantiated. Human development, science and education to light, to darkness that devours ignorance, to the dark pit that leads people to destruction is observed. People have been fighting ignorance with enlightenment since ancient times aspired to struggle.

Keywords: science, enlightenment, ignorance, humanity, beginning, human, time, space.

Today, the Head of State, emphasizing the expediency of implementing a number of tasks to raise to a high level the effectiveness of work on the formation of a new spiritual space and new thinking of our people in our country and further improvement of the system of activities in this area, noted that "effective and systematic organization of work to convey to the general public the priority directions of state policy in the field of spirituality and enlightenment, the essence of large-scale reforms;

systematic organization of activities aimed at studying and improving the socio-spiritual environment in families, mahallas, educational institutions, and labor collectives, formation of a map for optimizing the socio-spiritual environment by region based on the principle of "mahalla - district - region - republic," widespread introduction of modern information and communication technologies into this process;

Development of strategic directions, effective, creative and innovative methods of organizing continuous spiritual and educational upbringing and propaganda work in society based on the idea "Enlightenment against Ignorance" and taking measures for their timely implementation;

development and implementation for each year of specific programs of measures to effectively combat actions aimed at the ideological dependence of the population, especially young people, and the upbringing of a strong-willed, selfless, patriotic, and independent-minded generation;

Implementation of measures aimed at eradicating such vices as disregard for family values and irresponsible attitude towards the upbringing of youth"¹ defined a number of tasks.

Uzbekistan is a state with a blind nation and a blind religious confession. In the past short period, a number of practical measures have been taken to ensure interfaith harmony. Initially, in 1995, an international Christian-Muslim conference "Under One Sky" was held with the participation of Muslim and Christian theologians. The 125th anniversary of the Tashkent and Central Asian hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church and the 100th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran community were celebrated. In addition, consistent political-legal, cultural-educational, and spiritual-ideological work is being carried out to prevent the penetration of various extremist ideas into our Republic.

About the reforms being implemented in the religious and educational sphere in New Uzbekistan In 2022 alone, a series of programs and broadcasts aimed at preventing extremism and terrorism based on the idea of "Enlightenment against Ignorance" were broadcast through mass media. In the "Religious and Educational Reforms in New Uzbekistan" section, "Sevimli" TV channel showed 4 documentary films about "Religious and Educational Reforms being implemented in New Uzbekistan."

Analytical programs in this area were also broadcast on the TV channels "O'zbekiston 24," "O'zbekiston," "Madaniyat va ma'rifat," and "Dunyo bo'ylab."

In order to prevent the spread of extremist ideas among women and prevent superstition in religious ceremonies, meetings and round tables were held in the "Women's Advisory Centers" on the ground, the film "The Women Who Searched for the Moon in the Moonlight" was shown, and a discussion of the film's processes was organized.

Under the motto "Enlightenment against Ignorance," more than 4 interviews were held, aimed at explaining the influence of "Extremism disguised as religion - a threat to the future of youth," "Beware of mass culture and alien vices," "Mass culture" on spiritual and moral education, preventing delinquency among youth, explaining the essence of existing threats to youth, and explaining the reasons for special attention to this group in missionary work.

In protecting and defending our national-religious values from any false evil ideas, using the Holy Quran and Hadiths enlighteningly, the Islamic religion condemns terrorist acts under any circumstances, and according to its teachings, unjustly spilled blood is considered the gravest sin regardless of whose blood it is. The proof of this idea is reflected in verse 32 of Surah Al-Ma'idah in the Quran: "Whoever kills a soul unjustly or without causing corruption on earth, it is as if he had killed all people. Whoever resurrects him, it is as if he has resurrected all people"².

Only when our youth understands how humane, compassionate, progressive, and enlightened Islam is today will they look with hatred at the ideological forces that have entered the path of extremist ignorance under the guise of Islam.

¹ Мирзиёев Ш. Янги Ўзбекистон стратегияси. – Т: Ўзбекистон, 2021. 282-б.

² Шайх Муҳаммад Содиқ Муҳаммад Юсуф. Тавсири Ҳилол тузатилган ва қўшимча қилинган инккинчи нашр 2-Жуз. –Т.: 2008. Б.48.

Looking at the history of our religion, we are convinced that sound reason, sound truth, and ideas have always triumphed over false ideas.

In the scientific heritage of our great ancestor Abu Mansur Motrudi, who contributed to the development of Islam, one can see his struggle against false ideas. In his work "Kitab at-Tawhid," we witness how he provides reliable evidence to prevent following false teachings and clearly shows the cause of all mistakes in this path: "This is blind imitation, which is a very widespread vice, that is, blindness in it shows an irresistible tendency to join any spiritual or religious leader without understanding the essence of their thoughts. As a result of this reason, each party and each direction has had its supporters until now. These followers demonstrate firmness in adherence to the once-accepted false doctrine and again consider themselves the sole owners of truth," - these thoughts seem to be addressed to today's extremist groups. Our ancestor Maturidi revealed the true essence of the false movements and sects within Islam of that time.

In this sense, one of the ways to combat international terrorism, which has entered the path of ignorance under the guise of religion, is to consider the national and religious values of the Uzbek people, based on them, as an inexhaustible source of strength and power that educates the younger generation in the spirit of love for the Motherland, devotion to ancestors, hatred of violence, and calls them to goodness and creativity.

Today, religious tolerance, interfaith mutual respect, and understanding have become fundamental life principles in our country. Currently, significant work is being carried out in the republic in the religious and educational sphere, and anniversaries of world-renowned great thinkers from our country are being celebrated. Muslims of our republic had the opportunity to go on the Hajj pilgrimage and visit holy sites³.

Within the framework of the Action Strategy on five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, the following measures were implemented in the field of ensuring religious tolerance:

At its plenary session on December 12, 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted a special resolution entitled "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance." The draft document developed by Uzbekistan was unanimously supported by all UN member states. The initiative to adopt this resolution was put forward by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2017.

In accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 16.04.2018 No. PP-3668 "On measures to improve the activities of the Committee for Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan," a new composition of the Council for Religious Affairs, which is a public advisory body under the Committee, has been approved. The Council's composition has expanded from 9 to 17 members - representatives of religious denominations operating in Uzbekistan.

Resident of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 16, 2018

According to Decree No. RF-5416 "On Measures for the Fundamental Improvement of Activities in the Religious and Educational Sphere," a mechanism has been established to ensure the continuity of the religious education system in Uzbekistan, that is, from the initial stage (secondary specialized Islamic educational institutions or madrasas) to higher and subsequent religious education.

In accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 4, 2019, No. PP-4436 "On Additional Measures to Improve the Activities of the Religious and Educational Sphere," a new system has been introduced, providing for strong and constant cooperation of the Committee on Religious Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter - the

³ <https://religions.uz/pages/view?id=68>

Committee) with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Youth Policy and Sports, and the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction to ensure guarantees of freedom of conscience and the stability of the religious and educational environment in society.

In addition, a Women's Affairs Department was established within the Committee for Religious Affairs, and the position of Deputy Chairman was introduced to oversee work in this area. A Republican Advocacy Group for the Coordination of Spiritual and Educational Work among Women has been created.

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