

Press Release

Renewal of Islamic Rulings can only be through Shar'i Ijtihad based on Revelation

(Translated)

Turkey's President Erdogan said in the International Women's Day program organized by the Ministry of Family and Social Policy: "As you can see, recently, religious men have come up with very different statements about women and they have made ijthihad that has no basis in our religion, and they can not be understood. They either don't live in this time or they live in a very different time and world, because they are unable to recognize the Islamic religion's need to modernize. There is the so-called renewal of Islamic rulings. today you can not revive by implementing the same Islamic rulings that were implemented 14-15 centuries ago, and there is no such thing, therefore the implementation of Islam today changes with the change of place, time and circumstances." [Agencies]

After this unfortunate statement, some circles worked to interpret this statement by saying: "He was talking about Ijtihad, and the rules of the Islamic religion can change with the change of time and place." Here, it must be pointed out that changing the rules of the Islamic Deen, which are valid to the Day of Resurrection, with human rulings based on secular foundations - as stated in the above statement - is not Shar'i Ijtihad at all. He transgressed against the Deen of Allah and this is absolutely unacceptable! Allah (swt) says: ﴿وَمَا كَانَ لِمُؤْمِنٍ وَلَا لِمُؤْمِنَةٍ إِذَا قَضَىٰ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَمْرًا أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُمُ الْخِيَرَةُ مِنْ أَمْرِهِمْ﴾ **"It is not for a believing man or a believing woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decided a matter, that they should [thereafter] have any choice about their affair"** [Al-Ahzab: 36]

The only thing that will not change in this constantly changing world is Allah (swt)'s Laws. It is not possible to change His rulings with time and place, because Allah (swt) is independent of time and space, and the nature of people He created will not change with time and place, Allah is All Knowing and is the Expert on man's nature. Hence, we believe that the Deen of Islam is the only correct system that is fit for every time and place.

We must not forget here that the renewal, updating or derivative of anything can not contradict its origin. Thus, the renewal in the Deen can not be contrary to its source, the Revelation. Otherwise it is mere whims, and the interpretation of the ignorant or distortion of the scholars of the Sultan (government scholars). In Islam, any new opinion or judgment must be based on the Qur'an or Sunnah or the consensus of the Companions or the Shariah Qiyas. If the intention of the "renewal" in the above statement is ijthihad, this ijthihad should be based on Shariah evidence. The work of those Mujtahids is to explain the Shar'i rulings on the new realities, by deducing them from their detailed evidences.

Islam is a universal system fit for solving all human problems in all times and places. And because man's instincts and needs existed before 14 centuries, it is the same now, man has not changed and will not change; the Shariah rulings that deal with his actions also did not change and will not change.

The rulings of Allah (swt) will remain valid until the Day of Resurrection. Zina will not be permissible because someone thinks so, and Riba will not be permissible under the pretext of the false economic necessity. Haram will remain Haram and Halal will remain Halal until the Day of Resurrection. The Muslim must be active and not reactionary, because Islam is a system that works to change corrupt and declined societies and their leadership, it is not a system subject to the change of societies and their influence. Muslims must seek in their worldly interests Allah's pleasure not the pleasure of secularism.

﴿فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ﴾

"But no, by your Lord, they will not [truly] believe until they make you, [O Muhammad], judge concerning that over which they dispute among themselves" [An-Nisa': 65]

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