

Dajjal and Dajjalism

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Introduction

The term '*Dajjal*' is very commonly known but the understanding of the concept eludes the majority. The literal meaning of Dajjal is '*Great Deceiver*.' Deception is a satanic work and according to a Hadith,

"Leaders who misguide, deceive their men."

The phenomenon of deception is not a new one. In every age, there have existed men who deceived their fellow men in one or other way.

Forms of Deception

Basis my understanding, I would classify deception into two forms – simple deception and cunning deception. The beginning of the process of deception can be traced back to the first man – Prophet Adam. Explained in the following verse of the Quran, this instance had a crucial lesson for man:

We said, O Adam! Live with your wife in paradise and eat freely from it anywhere you may wish. Yet do not approach this tree lest you become wrongdoers. (2:35)

God created the first pair of humans - Adam and Eve and settled them in paradise. There was however one condition for their stay that they must not go near the *forbidden tree*. Satan presented the Tree as the '*Tree of Eternity*' and Adam and Eve could not resist his continuous incitements. They eventually ate the fruit of *the forbidden tree* and were ousted from paradise. This was a case of simple deception. In the modern age however, everything is done in an articulate way and the common man is unable to understand that he is being cunningly deceived.

Who is a Dajjal?

All the prophets who came warned their people about Dajjal. A Hadith says,

"When the signs of Dajjal are told and a sincere person will undoubtedly understand."

(Mishkhat)

The books of Hadith provide us with many a clue about the Dajjal. According to a Hadith,

"Dajjal will be one-eyed." (Al-Bukhari)

Reflecting over this Hadith, I understood it to mean that the *Dajjal* would be the phenomenon of one-sided interpretation of things. That is, *Dajjal* will give only one-sided description to the world - it would interpret only the worldly things but not the life after death.

The beginning

As I deliberated further, I realised that this process of giving one-sided interpretation started 400 years back at the time of Galileo. Galileo, born in Italy was the founder of modern science. His work gave way to the philosophy of *dualism*. Galileo divided things into two. Study of science was restricted only to things which were measurable and those which could not be measured were excluded from the domain of science. Therefore, quality and quantity were separated from each other. For example, flower has fragrance which is its qualitative aspect while its chemistry is its quantitative aspect. Science restricts its study to the latter (chemistry) while the former (fragrance), remains beyond the scope of study of science.

Such separation led to the elimination of values from the life of man. Qualities such as value-consciousness were ignored. *Dajjalism* started from this point. Today, no one has time for listening to things such as fear of God, or arrival of Doomsday. Dualism is a flourishing ideology – which considers the material aspect alone to be worthy of consideration and leaves aside the spirit or value based aspects of life.

Some other examples of Dajjalism

Marx's philosophy

Karl Marx (1818-1883) gave paramount importance to the means of production. This reduced man to the status of being a materialistic animal. Today the value system has no importance; people are concerned only with their material interests.

Darwinism

Charles Darwin (1809-1882) gave the theory of the origin of man by separating the physical structure of man from his soul, emotions, thoughts etc. His theory took into account only the development of the physical structure of man. However, the questions pertaining to the development of his personality and thinking were not answered. This was yet another example of one-sided interpretation.

Freudian Philosophy

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) presented the view that fulfilment of man's desires must happen unchecked. Any check or halt in this process of fulfilment of desires would hamper growth of the individual. This meant that man must do anything that he wishes. Therefore, man's consciousness and his desires were differentiated. Irrespective of what his conscience allowed, man was to fulfil his desires unlimitedly. It was under the influence of such a view that the culture of 'Right here, right now' emerged. Few days back, I read the interview of a lady who said that her aim was to enjoy the world at any cost and if her husband becomes a hurdle in this enjoyment, she would dump him.

Political interpretation of Islam

The political interpretation of Islam made fear of God a secondary aspect of Islam. It was such *Dajjalism* that shrouded man in the veil of an ideological evil. The concept of accountability and paradise no longer hold meaning for them. Referring to such loss of righteousness, Quran says,

"The time of reckoning has drawn near for mankind, yet they are heedless and run away."(21:1)

Today, mosques are aplenty but none is a training centre for *taqwa* (introspection). People read *Namaz* but nobody thinks on it. In fact it seems as though people come to mosques for socialising and *Namaz* has been reduced to being a culture. The same was predicted in a Hadith as follows:

"A time will become when mosques will be full but people would be devoid of guidance."(Al-Baihaqi)

The end has drawn near

Predicting the approach of the doomsday, the Prophet said,

"There will be three periods of drought - in the first period, one-third water will get over and resources would start depleting, in the next period two-third water will be finished and in the third phase all the water from earth will get over." (Musnad Ahmad)

The survival of human life depends upon water. Life cannot be imagined without water. It was for this reason that large reservoirs of water were created in the form of oceans and seas and salt was

mixed as preservative. Then as a part of the universal desalination process, water of the oceans got evaporated by the sun's heat. This water formed clouds which then precipitated in the form of rain. This was fresh, desalinated and edible water. This fresh water was stored in the form of snow atop the mountains and as glaciers. But due to global warming, the glaciers started melting and the snow on the mountains started to melt and flow away into the sea. Hence, fresh water reservoirs started getting mixed with the salty water of the seas. Many rivers like the Ganges are drying and there is great concern about water all over the world.

The prediction of the Prophet of the age in which one-third water of the earth will dry has come true. Now we are approaching the second age when two-third water of the world will get over. This situation is similar to that of the sailor in the poem, *Ancient Mariner* written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The mariner is very thirsty and reaches the middle of an ocean, but because of the salty water he remarks,

Water, water everywhere, not a drop to drink!

Appearance of Dajjal & Mahdi

The time of accountability has come but people are not ready to listen. It is this age that would mark the coming of the *Mahdi* and the exposure of the deception of the *Dajjal*. Explaining that the *Mahdi* and the *Messiah* would be the same person, a Hadith states,

"Mahdi is none but the son of Mary." (Ibn Maja)

According to a tradition, *Mahdi* will kill *Dajjal*. This will not be physical killing. It is pertinent to clarify here that *Dajjal* will be a leader and will have the following of a crowd. If a leader is killed then he becomes martyred. Hence, *Mahdi* or the *Messiah* will expose the ideological deception of *Dajjal*; this would be ideological killing and not physically killing.

Priority of the hour: Dawah Work

Islamic dawah has to be done in the present scientific age. This is being done in India as there are ample opportunities and freedom which can be availed for the purpose.

According to a Hadith, Prophet Muhammad said

"I can sense cool breeze (of knowledge) blowing from India."

I have observed that the members of CPS are doing dawah work on their own, without my having to give them any directions. Once an Arab told me that he was convinced with my mission but what was my programme, that is, how was I to execute it? I said that my programme is to make programme makers. That is, programme makers who work out things on their own and do not wait for a plan. The following Hadith conveys the aim of the dawah mission:

"No house on Earth – big or small – will remain but God's Word shall enter into it."
(Musnad Ahmad)

Now a simple translation of the Quran has been prepared for distribution. I prayed to God saying that if He doesn't help the members of CPS in the distribution of this Quran then He will have to cause to Domsday to come before the above words of the Prophet come true. CPS is the only team whose sole focus is dawah. Therefore, so that God does not have to go against His scheme of bringing about Domsday before God's word reaches every house on earth, He will help the members of CPS as the are doing dawah work. Expressing how God's succour reaches those who get up to help Him, a Hadith states,

"If a believer takes one step in His direction, God shall take several steps. If a believer approaches in slow steps, God approaches him in quick leaps." (Al-Bukhari)

The end is nearing fast and we should now engage ourselves entirely in dawah work. We must now reset our priorities because the time for excuses is over!

May God guide us and help us perform dawah work!