The Quran & reason

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Most people assume that Islam teaches blind faith like all other religions. But that is not the case if you read the Quran with an unbiased mind. The Quran emphasizes the importance of rational thinking to the extent that it considers reasoning capacity as the distinguishing factor between humans and animals. The Quran even goes on to call them cattle who do not use reason for their beliefs.

> ... And (O Mankind) He gave you '(the faculties of) hearing, sight, and reasoning (mind)'. Yet, how seldom are you grateful (by making the best use of your perceptual and conceptual faculties!) [Quran 32:7-9]

> Have you seen the one who takes as his god his own desire? [meaning, the one who follows emotions instead of intellect] ... Or do you think that most of them hear or reason [عقل]? Nay! They are but like cattle. Rather, they are (even) more astray on (their) path. [You cannot blame a sheep for blindly following a herd.] [Quran 25:43-44]

> Indeed, the worst of living creatures in the Sight of God are the deaf and dumb, (meaning) those who do not use reason [عقل] ... [Quran 8:22]

Note that Quran uses the faculties of seeing, listening, and talking as the metaphor for intellectual capacity as these faculties are the primary sources of learning.

Blind faith drags its followers to hell

Faith is supposed to save the believers from the torment of hell, but the Quran states the opposite. (Blind) faith misleads people to hell.

> And they will say, 'If only we had been listening (to warners) or reasoning [عقل], we would not be among the companions of the Blaze.' [A warner is anyone who honestly conveys the Divine Message] [Quran 67:10]

> And We have certainly committed to Hell many of the jinn and men (who are living a life of Hell) ... they have eyes with which they do not see, and they have ears with which they do not hear. They

are like cattle. Rather, they are more astray. They are the ones who let the life pass by unaware of its potentials. [Cattle are at least guided by their natural instincts. 'Ghaafiloon' = Neglectful = Unaware of their self worth] [Quran 7:179]

Blind faith is an act of Satan

Blind followers think that faith is above and beyond reasoning. According to the Quran, it is the Satan who stops blind followers from using their reason.

> Did I not enjoin upon you, O children of Adam, that you not worship Satan - [for] indeed, he is to you a clear enemy? ... Yet he led astray a great many of you. Did you not, then, use reason? [عقل]? [Quran 36:60-62]

The messenger and the reason

The messenger never asked his audience for a blind obedience. The Messenger preached the message based on one principle only – reflective reasoning (as opposed to herd mentality).

> Say, 'I ask you to do just one thing: For the sake of God! Stand up in pairs or singly, and then think! ...' [Quran 34:46]

Following into the footsteps of the messenger, the followers of Muhammad [S] are also required to follow the path of reasoning and reflection in all modes of practice and preaching.

> Say (O Prophet), 'This is my way. Resting my call upon reason-based insight, I am calling you all to God, I and those who follow me (do the same) ...' [We do not invite through blind faith, vague dogmas or by stunning your intellect with miracles] [Quran 12:108]

The Quran expects honest believers to be rational

You will not hear the following Quranic verse in any religious sermon:

> And those who, when reminded of the verses [Aayaat] of their Lord, do not fall upon them with deaf and blind acceptance. (Instead Muslims try to understand the Word of God with reason-based insight.) [Quran 25:73]

The blind followers among Muslims

There are some who pretend to be listening but all rational arguments fall on their deaf ears.

> Among them are those who apparently listen to you. (But their thoughts are wandering.) Can you make hear those deaf who do not use reason [عقل]? [Quran 10:42]

> Will they not then reflect on the Quran, or is it that they have locks on their hearts (a mental box which stops them from rational thinking?) [Also, 4:82] [Quran 47:24]

> Will they not then, try to reflect on this Quran? If it were from other than God they would have found in it much contradiction and inconsistencies. [2:23, 10:38, 11:13-14, 17:88] (Quranic rule of interpretation: If a translation leads to contradiction, the problem is with the translator and not the Quran.) [Quran 4:82]

Conclusion

What "excuse" is left for Muslims "to not use reasoning and reflection" then?

> … Thus God makes His Messages plain for you, that you may give thoughts (reflect). [Quran 2:219]

> In what *Hadith* (message) after this (Quran) are they going to believe then? [Quran 7:185]