Islam

Between

Conformity and Modernity

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Symptoms of Conformity

- Muslims equate modernity with Westernization and end up resenting one because of the other

- In an attempt to be un-Western they retreat to past glories of the East and become detached from the present REALITY

SYSTEMIC OBSOLESCENCE

The Holy Qur'an

Time-sensitive, time-constraint interpretive studies based on Qur'an *(Fiqh, Kalam, Madhahib)*

Imitative replaces the creative in the course of time

The missing link (directly from Qur'an for here and now)

Now

The Inauthentic

The Prophet

Authentic *Hadith*

The *Hadith* of the period of *Fitna* فتنه Great Catastrophe

Hadith of Fiqiyun

The *Ahl Hadith* of Wahabism

Now

Political Perspective

- The dominant culture expands and grows and in times intrudes.

- The dominated culture recoils in regression and xenophobia

- **Result: Regional marginalization / Global irrelevance**

Sociological Perspective

⊙ Bundled entities entangled identities:

⊙ (Western) European culture - Christian religion - Modernity

⊙ Islamic East – Islam - Tradition (*Hadith*)

⊙ **Result: Traditional Muslims versus Modern Christians**

Historical perspective

- In 'past glory' they see the glory and not the past.

- They are absent in the present and from the present.

- **Result: Neither dream nor reality**

Psychological perspective

◉   Selective modernity: Technophile with retarded perspective (hadith on iPhone) arranged marriage in the West

◉   Wholesale acculturation (pop music blue jeans, Christian names the whole 9 yards)

◉   **Result: Muslim youth: lost in the past irrelevant to the present**

◉   **Muslim adults: Obsessively religious / radically political**

Muslims in the East

- doubly suppressed

- see Islam more as a cultural identity than a

religious identity.

- between nostalgia and dream they gaze at a present that doesn't mirror reality

Muslims in the West

- live in self-imposed alienation

- transcultural icons living in two worlds but detach from both

- consider any deviation from cultural norms as a deviation from religious principles

Conclusion

- Muslims must define modernity in its own right
- Muslims must own modernity

For further reading on relevance topics visit
Stanizai.org