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A Brief Survey of al-Muhajiroun: The Other Face of Hizb ut-Tahrir

Introduction

All praise is due to Allaah and prayers and peace upon His Messenger. To proceed: This is a brief paper that outlines the broad concepts of the sect known as al-Muhajiroun. This sect is fronted by Omar Bakri, the Mu'tazilite, who set it up after breaking away from Hizb ut-Tahrir. In reality, there is no differences between Hizb ut-Tahrir and al-Muhajiroun except in relation to a few subsidiary matters of detail, which are of insignificance when one notes that their aqidah and manhaj and their source works and referent points are the one and the same. Everything that is said in this paper applies equally to Hizb ut-Tahrir.

It is important to note that in the first half of the twentieth-century, the particular climate and socio-politic environment in the Muslim lands led to the creation of many movements and ideologies which were geared towards re-establishing the Islamic Authority, by political methods and activism. The root of most activism in the last century was the Bannaa's Bankrupt Brotherhood and the writings of Sayyid Qutb, from which all-subsequent movements, parties and groups were merely offshoots or replicas, albeit in different parts of the world. A common theme amongst all these groups is "collective work", "takfir", "jihad", "khilaafah", "rulership", "legislation", "membership" and so on. Most of present day activism is strongly built upon these concepts.

Objective of al-Muhajiroun

To re-establish the Khilafah. This is the sole concern and the main aim. This is the beginning point of their call and all of their other concerns are subsidiary to this, until even Tawheed, Aqidah, Sunnah and Ibaadah. As they clearly state, their method and concern is purely political and nothing else.

Underlying Assumptions

- Khilafah was destroyed in 1924 and was dismantled by the forces of kufr.
- Khilafah is the most important obligation.
- Whoever does not work for the Khilaafah is sinful.
- The cause of every evil is the absence of the Khilafah.

Brief Survey of Their Method

Their methodology is purely political in nature. In other words, their objective can only be realised through political means.

They give importance to "ideology", i.e. ideas and concepts and they believe that they have to first educate the masses and bring them into line with the way and thinking of this group. In other words they have bring about intellectual change first. Their ideology is contained in the books that they recommend and which every member of their party has to study. By associating oneself with these books, one gets used to their intellectual way of thinking. Each member has to then strive to push these concepts and ideas into the minds of people. They have a very systematic way of achieving this and have local and national bodies that are co-ordinated by the leader(s), to whom obedience and pledge of allegiance is due.

Once they have the common masses, the next stage is to create civil disobedience and rallies, demonstrations and other forms of insurrection and disturbances. They believe that is the only way that change can be achieved, by direct confrontations, such that eventually there is a fight between the

forces of “kufr” and forces of “Islam”. They believe that Islam will eventually gain the upper hand. Therefore, their overall objective is to bring about a bloody confrontation that will result in the forces of kufr being demolished.

To recruit people, they try to push the ideas that everyone who does not work for the Khilafah is sinful and will be punished. They use emotional arguments such as look at the tyranny of the Muslims, oppression etc. all over the world, that this is because there is no Khilafah. They also try to make people feel guilty by quoting the hadeeths, “Whoever does not give bayah to an amir, he will die the death of Jahiliyyah”. Thus trying to reinforce in the minds of the people that they must work in a group and give pledge of allegiance to a leader (which of course is their own leader in this country). As is clear from their manifesto, they have a national hierarchy which consists of well-defined positions and responsibilities. Potential recruits are watched and monitored for attendance, loyalty and interest.

They say it is essential to work for the Khilafah as a party. To justify this they quote Aali Imraan (3):104 (Let there arise from amongst you a band who enjoy the good and forbid the evil...) and say that this is a proof that you have to work in a party. They also claim that their methodology is actually a divine methodology and is in fact the only methodology.

The very first talk that is delivered is usually “The Seerah of Rasulullaah”. The purpose behind this standard talk is that they make it appear as if the call of the Prophet (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) was political in nature and they claim that he set up a political party. That he sought leadership and that he asked the various tribal leaders to transfer power over to him and over to Islam. Often the life history of the Messenger (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) is summarised in around 15 minutes and is broken down in three stages: The intellectual or ideological stage, the open preaching stage (confrontations etc.) and the final battle. This talk is often coupled with a talk on “Jihad” and the suffering of the Ummah and so on. The second talk is used to captivate the audience and to capture their emotions.

Once they have portrayed the call of the Messenger (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) in this manner, they then proceed to outline their own methodology which now to the listeners appears to be the same as that of the Messenger (sallallaahu alaihi wasallam) whereas it is far from it.

Membership

The call to their ideology is a call to their partisanship and membership. You must be a member and must affiliate with them. There is a national hierarchy and they have different levels of affiliation, based upon loyalty and experience within the group. You rise in rank on account of your excelling in understanding their ideology, your study of their books and their doctrine and your efforts in recruiting and co-ordinating for the group.

Conditions of this Group

- You have to read only the books they recommend
- You have to give obedience to their leadership

And it is clear that all of this is indoctrination and is far from the Book and the Sunnah.

Summary

This paper was intended as a brief introduction to al-Muhajiroun, a stray sect which has no concern with Tawheed and Sunnah, and which merely rouses the sentiments of the people and gathers them together in one lump without any real achievements or progress. It is necessary for Muslims to take caution and to avoid this sect by taking a firm stance and avoiding any contact with them, since they are persistent in their efforts, and have a devised programme of action for luring in unsuspecting Muslims into their party. They are synonymous with Hizb ut-Tahrir, though they have only slight differences that relate to the particular details of how to achieve their overall objective.