# THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND AL-WASAŢIYYAH AS PART OF IIUM'S MISSION OF ISLAMISATION



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### THE TERM AL-WASATIYYAH

- The term *al-Wasaṭiyyah*, in the context of the Qur'ānic expression "*ummatan wasaṭan*", refers to the Islamic Community or Nation having the attributes of JUSTICE, EXCELLENCE and BALANCE in order to serve as Allah's trustworthy "witnesses over mankind" ("*shuhadā' 'alā alnās*") in this world and in the Hereafter (Q. 2: 143). It can also be translated as "Justly Balanced Quality" or "JUSTLY BALANCED NATURE" of Islam and the Islamic community. The more popular translation of the term, however, is "moderation."
- Without a sound and proper explanation based on authoritative and scholarly sources, more confusion may also ensue as to what is really meant by "JUSTLY BALANCED QUALITY", "moderation" and al-Wasaţiyyah.

### THE EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS OF IIUM

 This educational effort of enlightening the public, through the medium of research and publication written in English – and IIUM is one of the few Islamic universities capable of producing good quality research products in English – is a very important part of the mission of Islamisation and social responsibility of IIUM. The non-Muslim public in Malaysia and overseas will get a better understanding of Islam and related issues if IIUM academics can produce more Islam-related works in English.

### MISSION OF ISLAMISATION

 It may be useful to recollect that the mission of Islamisation in IIUM, which is her raison d'etre and intellectual niche, is divided into two major interrelated categories: 1. ACADEMIC, namely Islamisation of Human Knowledge (I.O.H.K.) and 2. NON-ACADEMIC, namely Islamisation of the Self (I.O.S) (or Human Character). Our efforts at educating or enlightening the public comes under the first category of the Islamisation of Human Knowledge, while our attempt to live in accordance with the teachings, principles, ethical values and norms of Islam comes under the second category: Islamisation of the Self. As for our endeavour to provide a scholarly exposition and objective explanation and/or correction regarding the concept of *al-Wasatiyyah*, it comes under both categories.

### WHY WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF AL-WASATIYYAH IN THE CURRENT WORLD SITUATION

 The world has entered into an "Era of Turbulence and Turmoil". Islam and Muslims have become the primary targets of demonisation, islamophobia, and ethnic prejudice in the West after 9/11 and "WAR ON TERROR". Muslims are perceived as violent-prone and the Qur'an is seen as the source of violence and militancy worldwide. Muslim immigrants in Western countries are viewed as a threat to Western stability and those in Europe are seen as scheming towards "Eurabia". The new phenomenon of "Arab Awakening" or "Revolution" raises doubts about the role of Islam vis-à-vis secularism and democracy in the new regimes. New labels have been manufactured by Western media and academia to frame Islam and Muslims according to Western perspectives or interests: "Political Islam" "Spiritual Islam", "Transnational Islam", "Moderate Islam", "Liberal Islam" and "Progressive Islam", "Feminist Islam", "Secular Islam", etc.

Meanwhile the emergence of Muslim militant or sectarian (such as Shī`ah) groups, in the last three decades, in Sunni-dominant countries – such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Southern Thailand, Mindanaowhich tend to ignore mainstream religious doctrines or viewpoints, or are bent upon bringing about socioreligious changes based upon their own visions of Islamic society, culture or state, has made it necessary for religious authorities and concerned Islamic scholars to promote the correct and balanced understanding of Islamic teachings. To make matters worse, a countervailing social force consisting of liberalized and secularised elites has also appeared in some Muslim countries to popularise their own startling and antiorthodox views of Islam in the name of democracy, basic human rights, individual freedom, freedom of expression, moderation and rationalism.

### WESTERN POWERS' STRATEGIC INTEREST

 Western political and religious leaders, think-tanks and strategic thinkers and power elites in Washington and European capitals intellectuals began to urge that the silent majority of "Muslim Moderates" should be mobilised to speak up and present a counter-current against Muslim extremists or "terrorists". In Pakistan, a country beset by the centrifugal forces of deep political strife, intra-religious tensions and sectarian violence, coupled with political and military pressures from USA administration pursuing the "War on Terror" in this Muslim country, the then President, Gen. Parvez Musharraf, became the first Muslim political leader to trumpet the slogan of "Enlightened Moderation" (officially translated in Pakistan as "al-Wasatiyyah al-*Mustanīrah*" in Arabic) in his country and overseas.

# MODERATION IS NOT THE WHOLE OF WASAŢIYYAH

• In Indonesia, a new organisation focusing on "Moslem [sic.] Moderates" was formed several years ago. In recent years several institutes or foundations on *al-Wasatiyyah* have been established in the world today, the most wellknown being in Kuwait, Jordan and Qatar. It should be made clear, however, that religious or cultural "moderation" is one important dimension of Qur'anic Wasatiyyah, not the whole of it.

Therefore we should be careful when we use the term *al-Wasatiyyah*, not to confuse the part with the whole. Intellectual integrity and objective scholarship require that in the discourse on al-Wasatiyyah, one should not forget to relate the qualities, attributes or values of "balance" or "moderation" to the basic qualities of Justice (al-`Adl) and Excellence/Best (al-Khiyār), as explained by the well-established classical commentators of the Qur'ān such as al-Ṭabarī, al-Rāzī, al-Qurtubī or Ibn Kathīr.

# THE QUR'ĀNIC MEANING AND CONNOTATIONS OF *WASAŢIYYAH*

### 1. JUSTICE (al-'Adl)

The term *Wasaṭiyyah* is a verbal noun (*maṣdar*) from the word *wasaṭ* in the following *āyah* or verse of the Qur'ān:

"And thus we have made you a JUST COMMUNITY that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you." (Q. 2: 143)

# JUSTICE AS BASIC MEANING OF WASAŢIYYAH

• From the above verse it is clear that the most important meaning of *al-Wasaṭiyyah* which makes the *Ummah* suitable to become "witnesses over mankind" is justice; which includes justice to Allah (S.W.T.), justice to the religion of Tauḥīd (affirmation of the absolute and uncompromising oneness of Allah, His Dominion, Lordship, Knowledge and Power over the whole of existence), justice to human beings and all creatures, justice to nature, and justice to oneself. Without this quality of comprehensive justice and fairness, the *Ummah* cannot be the witnesses against those peoples or human beings who have failed to fulfil the Divine Trusts placed upon their shoulders.

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 It is reported by Imām Aḥmad on the authority of Abū Sa`īd al-Khuḍarī that the Prophet (Ṣ.ʿA.W.) interpreted the word "wasat" in verse 143 of Sūrah *Al-Bagarah* (Q.2) to mean justice (*al-'adl*). Justice requires being in the middle-most position between two or more opposing sides, without inclining to or favouring any of the sides, and not swayed by emotions, biases or prejudice in making judgements, decisions or solving disputes. Hence the connotations of "balance", "equilibrium" or "moderation."

The noun "al-wast" (literally, meaning the middle, the middlemost, the centre), according to the commentator, Abū Su`ūd, is "originally a name for something whereby the connection of all sides to it is of equal distance, such as the centre of a circle. Then the word is borrowed in order to describe the praiseworthy human qualities, by virtue of those qualities being in the middle of blameworthy qualities which surround it in the modes of excessiveness (*ifrāt*) and laxity (*tafrīt*)." (Al-Qaraḍāwī, al-Khaṣā'iṣ al-'Āmmah li- al-Islām, 1977)

One of the wise sayings of the Arabs is "Khairu al-umūr al-wasat" (The best of affairs is the middle position). Therefore when it was said that the Quraish tribe is "awsat al-'Arab" in terms of genealogy and locality, it means that it was the best tribe, just as when it was said that the Prophet (Ṣ.ʿA.W.) was "wasaṭan fi qawmihi" it means that the Prophet (Ş.'A.W.) the noblest among his people genealogically. (al-Qaraḍāwī, 1977)

 Hence the word "awsaţuhum" in verse 28 of Surah al-Qalam (Q.68) has been interpreted by the Qur'an commentators to mean "the most just of them" (a'daluhum). This interpretation is confirmed by al-Imām al-Rāzī in his *Tafsīr* in which he says, "The most just place for deciding something is to be in the middle, because its judgement with regard to all its sides is the same and is equal." (al-Rāzī, *Tafsīr*)

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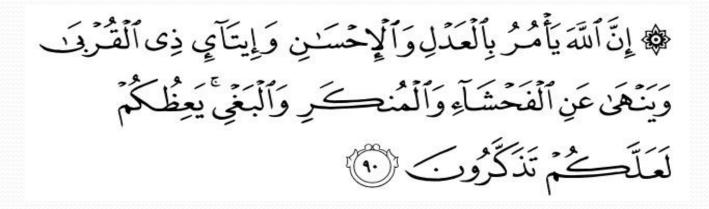
 The absolute commitment of this "Just Community" is to uphold and preserve the pristine purity of the religion of *Tauḥīd*, and execute the commandments and Plan of Allah (S.W.T.), accompanied by a Godfearing mindset ( $taqw\bar{a}$ ), thereby becoming the most suitable witnesses over mankind regarding the integrity and purity of Allah's religion, Truth versus Falsehood, Good versus Evil, and the practice of true Balance and Moderation in this world and in the Hereafter. Therefore when we discuss the topic of al-Wasatiyyah or Islamic moderation, we should not lose sight of the obligation upon Muslims to become religious, moral and civilisational witnesses over mankind.

### SOME QUR'ĀNIC PRINCIPLES

Believers are Commanded by Allah (S.W.T.) to uphold Justice even if It is Against Self-Interest

﴿ يَكَأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ كُونُواْ قَوَّمِينَ بِٱلْقِسْطِ شُهَدَآءَ لِلَّهِ وَلَوَ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَوِ ٱلْوَلِدَيْنِ وَٱلْأَقْرَبِينَ إِن يَكُنُ غَنِيًّا أَوْ فَقِيرًا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَوِ ٱلْوَلِدَيْنِ وَٱلْأَقْرَبِينَ إِن يَكُنُ غَنِيًّا أَوْ فَقِيرًا فَاللَّهُ أَوْلَى بَهِمَا فَلَا تَتَبِعُواْ ٱلْهُوَىٰ أَن تَعَدِلُواْ وَإِن تَلُوء الْوَ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَوْلَى بَهِمَا فَلَا تَتَبِعُواْ ٱلْهُوَىٰ أَن تَعَدِلُواْ وَإِن تَلُوء اللَّهُ اللَّهُ مَا لَا تَتَبِعُوا اللَّهُ كَانَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرًا النَّ

## JUSTICE AND BENEFICENCE ARE ALLAH'S MAJOR COMMANDMENTS



"Indeed, Allah commands justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded." (Source: http://quran.com/16)

### 2.EXCELLENCE, BEST AND GOODNESS (AL-Khairiyyah)

The Muslim Community is entrusted by Allah (S.W.T.) to represent all that is good (*al-Khair*), enjoin the right (*al-Ma'rūf*) and prohibit the bad/wrong/evil (*al-Munkar*)

كُنتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتَ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِوتَنْهَوْنَ عِلَا اللَّهِ عَنِ الْمُعْرُوفِوتَنْهَوْنَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَوْءَامَنَ اَهْلُ الْحِتَبِ عَنِ الْمُنكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَوْءَامَنَ آهَلُ الْحِتَبِ كَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ مِنْهُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَكَثَرُهُمُ اللَّهُ مِنْهُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَكَثَرُهُمُ اللَّهُ مِنْهُمُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَكَثَرُهُمُ اللَّهُ وَمِنُونَ وَأَكَثَرُهُمُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللللْمُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللللْمُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللللْمُ

"You are the BEST COMMUNITY brought fourth [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah. If only the People of the Scripture had believed, it would have been better for them. Among them are believers, but most of them are defiantly disobedient." (Q. 3: 110)

### **BALANCED**

#### 3.BALANCED (al-Tawāzun, al-I`tidāl)

 Muhammad Asad explains that the Muslim Community is MANDATED by Allah (S.W.T.) to be "...a Community that keeps an equitable balance between extremes and is realistic in its appreciation of man's nature and possibilities, rejecting both licentiousness and exaggerated asceticism." (Muhammad Asad, The Message of the Qur'an, p.30). It is a Community that avoids the extremes of negligence or laxity (tafrīt) as well as the extremes of exaggeration or excessiveness (ifrāt) in religious or moral behaviour. Hence the concept of "moderation" is derived from the quality of "balance".

### SOME QUR'ĀNIC PRINCIPLES BALANCE OR MODERATION

وَلَا تُصَعِّرَ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي ٱلْأَرْضِ مَرَعًا ۚ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُغَنَالٍ فَخُورٍ (اللهِ عَلَيْ اللهُ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلِي اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عِلْمُ اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عَلَيْ عِلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلَّا عِلَيْ اللّهُ عَلَيْ عَلْ

"And do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people and do not walk through the earth exultantly. Indeed, Allah does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful" (Q. 31: 18)

"And be moderate in your pace and lower your voice; indeed, the most disagreeable of sounds is the voice of donkeys." (Q. 31: 19)

#### BALANCE BETWEEN OTHER-WORLDLY GOALS AND THIS-WORLDLY RESPONSIBILITY

وَٱبۡتَغِ فِيمَآءَاتَىٰكَ ٱللَّهُ ٱلدَّارَ ٱلْآخِرَةَ ۗ وَلَا تَسَى نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ ۗ وَلَا تَسْكَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ اللَّمُ اللَّهُ اللللْمُ اللَّهُ الللللْمُ الل

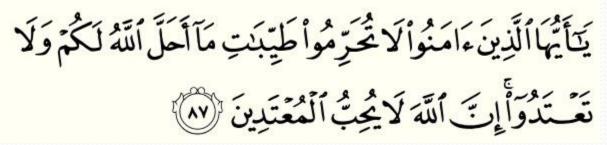
"But seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter; and [yet], do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to you. And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, Allah does not like corrupters." (Q. 28: 77)

## PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE ARE THE NORM TO BE OBSERVED BY THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

لَاينَهُ كُوُ اللَّهُ عَنِ ٱلَّذِينَ لَمْ يُقَانِلُوكُمْ فِي ٱلدِّينِ وَلَمْ يُحَرِّجُوكُمْ مِن دِينَرِكُمْ أَن تَبَرُّوهُمْ وَتُقَسِطُوۤ الْإِلَيْمِمْ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يُحِبُ ٱلْمُقْسِطِينَ ﴿ ﴾

"Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly." (Q. 60: 8)

### **Balance In Economic Consumption**



"O you who have believed, do not prohibit the good things which Allah has made lawful to you and do not transgress. Indeed, Allah does not like transgressors." (Q.

"And eat of what Allah has provided for you [which is] lawful and good. And fear Allah, in whom you are believers". (Q. 5: 88)

## Balance and Moderation Required In the Propagation of Islam

أَدْعُ إِلَىٰ سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِأَلْحِكُمَةِ وَٱلْمَوْعِظَةِ ٱلْحَسَنَةِ وَجَدِلْهُم بِأَلَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُو أَعْلَمُ بِمَن ضَلَّعَن سَبِيلِهِ وَهُو أَعْلَمُ بِأَلْمُهُ تَدِينَ أَنْ

"Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided." (Q. 16: 125)

### IMPORTANT OBSERVATION

• It should be pointed out that it is this aspect of *al*-Wasatiyyah, i.e. the quality of "balance" or "moderation" which, understandably, receives the most attention today. As a consequence the qualities of "justice" and "goodness" or "excellence" as fundamental criteria of WITNESSING OVER MANKIND are being neglected, sidelined or forgotten. "Balance" or "moderation", must not be misunderstood as justification for indulgence (tasāhul), carelessness or an excuse to be negligent in performance of religious obligations. It is the duty of objective and qualified Muslim scholars to make the necessary corrections or clarifications.

### OTHER CONNOTATIONS OF WASATIYYAH

#### STRAIGHTNESS (al-Istiqāmah)

The Muslims and the Islamic *Ummah* on the Straight Path implies the avoidance of the excessiveness or the negligence of earlier religious communities, throughout human history, which have earned the wrath of Allah (S.W.T.) or which strayed away from the right path. (al-Qaraḍāwī, 1977)

#### STRENGTH (al-Quwwah)

"Being in the middle is a point of strength as well, just as strength is represented by the youths who occupy the intermediate position between the weakness of childhood and the weakness of old age. Likewise the sun at noon time is at the hottest position when compared to the beginning and the end of the day!". (al-Qaraḍāwī, 1977)

### AL-WASAŢIYYAH AS OPPOSITE OF EXTREMISM

### Extremism (al-Ghuluww) in Religion is Strictly Prohibited by the Prophet (Ş.'A.W.)

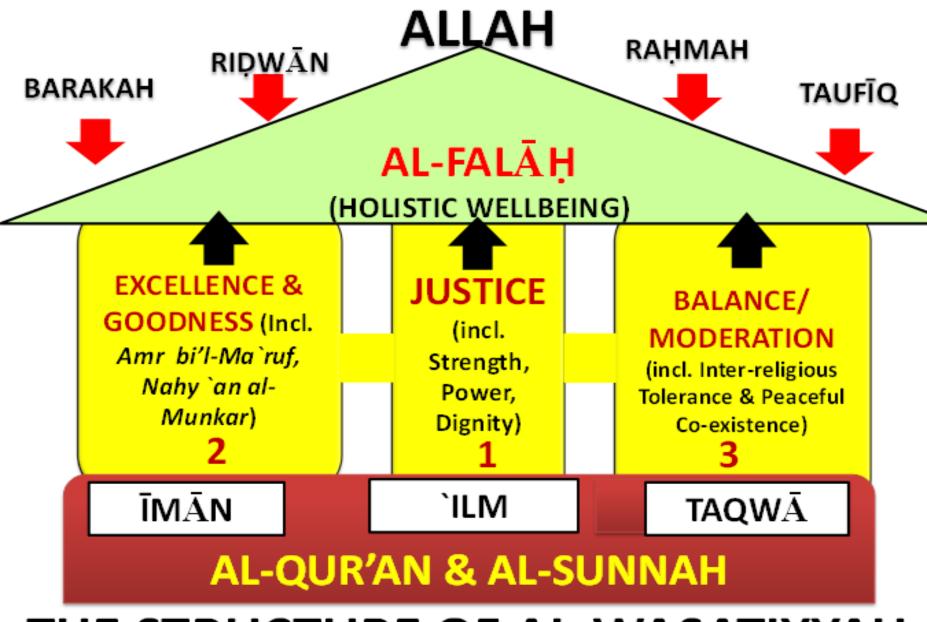
• The Prophet (Ṣ.ʿA.W.) did not prohibit the good things (altayyibāt) in this world for human consumption and
physical wellbeing, but those good things were never a part
of his primary concern as he preferred to live a life of
simplicity, frugality, humility and moral restraint. In one of
his famous supplications, the Prophet (Ṣ.ʿA.W.) showed his
holistic and comprehensive vision of life, and proper
attitude towards his religion (al-dīn), the world (al-dunyā),
the Hereafter (al-ākhirah), life (al-ḥayāh) and death (almawt):

#### Cont.

• The Prophet (Ṣ.ʿA.W.) used to urge his Companions to strike the proper balance between their religiosity and their worldly affairs, and between the legitimate pleasure of the body and the felicity of the spirit. Whenever he came to know that some of them were showing excessiveness in one direction, he would, with his wisdom, put them back on the evenly balanced path. Once he saw a Companion who was preoccupied with prayer, fasting and nightly vigils at the expense of his physical wellbeing, his wife and community. He said to him:

### GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THE CONCEPT

 From a comprehensive understanding of the concept of *al-Wasatiyyah* as constitutive of the core qualities of JUSTICE, EXCELLENCE and BALANCE, it is possible to present the comprehensive and holistic meaning of the Qur'anic concept in the following illustration, on the next page. It is my humble attempt to simplify the intellectual discourse on the concept and to convey its holistic and inter-related nature.



THE STRUCTURE OF AL-WASATIYYAH

### LESSONS FROM THE STRUCTURE

 In understanding and explaining the important concept of Wasatiyyah, we should be careful not to emphasise one quality while neglecting other qualities, because those 3 qualities of JUSTICE, EXCELLENCE and BALANCE are in fact organically intertwined and inter-related. We are not doing justice to the Divine principle of *Wasatiyyah* if we choose to highlight only one aspect of its holistic meaning, namely "moderation" or "tolerance" to the detriment of other qualities, although the issue of moderation is highly relevant to the present global threats from religious extremism, xenophobia, exaggerated human freedom, ideological dogmatism, capitalistic consumerism or ethnic fundamentalism, in the West and in the East, or in the North and in the South.

### THE MEANING OF MODERATION VARIES

• It is important to bear in mind that the meaning of the term "MODERATION" varies from people to people, government to government, or from community to community. What Islam considers proper, appropriate or religiously correct behavior or action of its adherents may be perceived by others as "IMMODERATE" or "FANATICAL" or "EXTREME". Consider the quotation below:

To be accepted by civilised society, Muslims must declare their peaceful intentions, their integratedness, and their moderation. "Moderate Muslims", as it were, must wear on their arms the badge of a yellow crescent....And so, at the very least, if Muslims accept a Western-defined "moderation" for themselves, perhaps they should examine more carefully the credentials of their definers."

### CENTRALITY OF COMMANDING THE GOOD ANG PROHIBITING THE BAD

- In explaining or elaborating the concept of *Wasatiyyah* we should not forget the issue of fulfilling the role of being A) "witnesses unto mankind" and B) "enjoining all that is good/ right and prohibiting all that is bad /wrong" which are made obligatory upon the Muslim community, being Divinely designated as "The Just and Best Community brought forth for mankind."
- It should be remembered that the Prophet (Ṣ:A.W.) had warned that dire consequences would befall Muslim communities who fail to fulfil or neglect the obligation of "enjoining all that is good/right and prohibiting all that is bad/evil".

### **30 IMPORTANT MILESTONES**

- 1. Possessing sound knowledge comprehensive and balanced understanding of Islam
- 2.Having the Q. & the Sunnah of the Prophet (Ş.'A.W.) as the highest source of Islamic legislation and life direction.
- 3.Basing one's creed on the basis of sound faith in *al-Tauḥīd* (uncompromising affirmation of the absolute oneness of Allah (S.W.T.), His sovereignty, authority, knowledge and power).

- 4. Nearness to Allah (S.W.T.) solely in accordance with the Divinely prescribed norms of worship.
- 5. Purification of the soul with the virtues of good conduct.
- 6. Propagation of Islam and Commanding that which is good/right and prohibiting that which is bad/wrong/evil.
- 7. Strengthening social and humanistic values.
- 8. Respect for reason in addition to Divine revelation.
- 9. Renewal of religious commitment and the practice of *Ijtihād* (responsible and authoritative independent reasoning and analysis of new issues) by those who are qualified.

CONT

- 10. Propagating the necessity for New Jurisprudence.
- 11. Treating women with justice, fairness and respect.
- 12. Caring for the institution of the family and reinforcing it.
- 13. Formation of the virtuous and mutually caring society.
- 14. Having faith in the existence of the Islamic *Ummah*, its unity and loyalty to it.
- 15. Establishment of the just state that carries the responsibility of Islamic propagation.

- 16. Restraining from the act of accusing other Muslims of being unbelievers or evil-doers.
- 17. Strengthening the economy of the *Ummah* and establishing it on Islamic foundations.
- 18. Faith in the necessity of religious plurality and cultural diversities, knowing one another across ethnic barriers, and mutual tolerance among peoples.
- 19. Constructing the civilization of knowledge and faith.

- 19. Positively developing the arts and using them in the service of spreading the mission of Islam.
- 20. Cultivating the earth, actualizing integrated development and caring for the environment.
- 21. Peace with the people who love peace, and striving against those who commit transgression.
- 22. Painstaking concern with Muslim minorities in the world.
- 23. Proper attention to the rights of religious minorities in our Islamic societies.

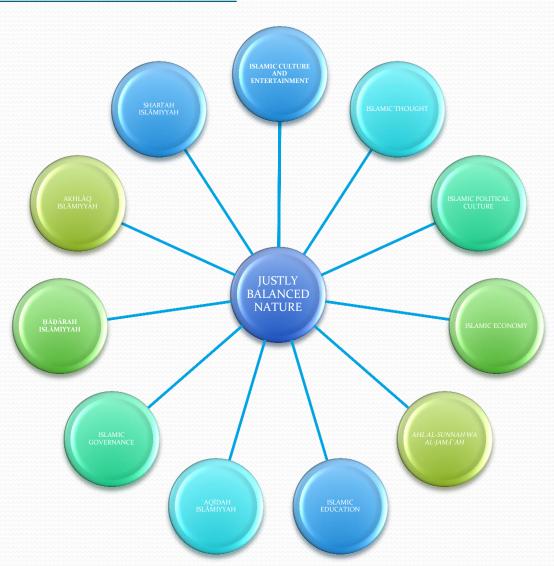
- 24. Adopting the approach of making things easy in giving authoritative legal opinions, and giving of glad tidings in the propagation of Islam.
- 25. Proper attention to the tradition of gradualism, and with due regard to all the conventions or ways of Allah SWT in nature and in society.
- 26. Proper balancing between things which are firmly established and things which are subject to change.
- 27. Putting the religious obligations in accordance with their Divinely prescribed hierarchy.
- 28. The necessity of comprehensive reform and change.
- 29. Making good use of, or benefitting from, our rich heritage of sciences, arts and literatures.

## PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION: GENERAL (SOCIETY)

To enlighten the Muslim as well as the non-Muslim public, there is a great need for more scholarly publications in English on several aspects of *al-Wasaṭiyyah* as illustrated in the next page:

## **GENERAL**: society

PROPOSED RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ON ASPECTS OF THE JUSTLY BALANCED NATURE OF ISLAMIC SOCIETY & CIVILISATION: <u>EXAMINING IDEALS AND REALITIES</u>





## IIUM's 2013 Agenda on WASAŢIYYAH (W)

- Talk by M. Kamal Hassan on W in January's al-Liqā' al-Shahrī
- 2. Production of booklet by CENTRIS on **W** as Part of IIUM's Mission of Islamisation.
- 3. Translation of a Major Reference work on W by Dr. Yūsuf al-Qaraḍāwi **Fiqh al-Wasatiyyah wa al-Tajdīd**: "Maʻālim wa Manārat"(2010) by Prof.Dr.Hassan al-Nagar,Prof.Dr. Hassan Ibrahim, Assoc.Prof.Dr.Idris Salim, to be completed and published in 2 months' time, in shā Allah taʻālā. This is to be funded by AKEPT, M.O.H.E.

- 4. A book on **W** to be published by **IIUM** in 6 months' time. This book will be based on some Kulliyyahs' contributions on:
  - 4.1 The W of Islamic 'Aqidah and the Ahl al- Sunnah wa al-Jamā'ah: *Ideals and Realities*.
  - 4.2 The W of Islamic Sharīʿah and Law: *Ideals and Realities*.
  - 4.3 The W of Islamic Akhlāq: *Ideals and Realities*.
  - 4.4 The W of Islamic Political Culture and Government: *Ideals and Realities*.

- 4.5 The W of Islamic Economy: *Ideals and Realities*.
- 4.6 The W of Islamic Environmental Design and Architecture : *Ideals and Realities*.
- 4.7 The W of Islamic Management : *Ideals and Realities*.
- 4.8 The W of Islamic Education : *Ideals and Realities*.
- 4.9 The W of Islamic Art and Entertainment: Ideals and Realities: *Ideals and realities*.

- Booklets on W to be published by the International Institute of Wasatiyyah.
- 6. An International Conference on **W** before the end of the year to be organized by International Institute of Wasatiyyah.
- 7. I.S.L.A.H.I -2 (Intellectual, Spiritual, Ledership, and Human Knowledge Islamisation Colloquium: No. 2) on the need for balanced human reform and development will be organized by Centre for Islamisation (CENTRIS) in March 2013.

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