West Meets Islam in Contemporary World, Leadership Perspective

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Abstract: Islam is a way of life that merely a religion that covers all facets of Muslim affairs and life. It provides the most comprehensive values, principles and guidance that are based on divine sources in all mankind in all spheres including leadership. Islamic leadership is an encompassing and holistic model of leadership that offers the triadic paradigm, spiritual and ethical (sakikah) dimensions that are absent in the modern conventional leadership theories. Islamic leadership has a glorious history of great success from the era of the Prophet S.A.W, and the following caliphs that had composed almost one-third of the world territory during that time, as their leadership was paragon of excellence that followed to the quips and teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah. As the modern civilization designed by the West takes place, the modern leadership theories have been dominating the world and literature including those in the Muslim countries. However, it is clear that values and principles derived from Islam and the West are distinct, as the Islamic ones are based on divine, whereas the Western ones are based on human rational and judgment. Hence, Islamic leadership in business organizations and literature have seen the tendency towards moral, ethical, spiritual and positive form of leadership such as servant leadership, ethical leadership, authentic leadership and spiritual leadership that found its root in the Islamic model of leadership. This paper aims to draw a comparative discussion and analysis between the modern conventional leadership theories with the Islamic leadership by highlighting the key dimensions that distinguish the two. It is suggested in this paper that the triadic dimensions of Islamic leadership are spiritual, ethical and moral which are absent in the modern conventional leadership theories. Islamic leadership has a glorious history of great success from the era of the Prophet S.A.W, and the following caliphs that had composed almost one-third of the world territory during that time, as their leadership was paragon of excellence that followed to the quips and teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah.