

# THE BATTLE AHEAD CONFRONTING THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP



## THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN: THE UNIQUE BOOK

To understand the meaning of the Qur'an, the ordinary reader is unable to benefit fully from the most precious treasures contained in the Qur'an.

However; to his going deep into its meaning and spirit; first of all he must free his mind from perceived notions, and get acquainted with the distinctive features of this holy book.

And to be able to learn more and have better understanding the ordinary reader, must go through "the school of fiq'e'hoo – sunnah".

By Ambassador DR.AHMED EL MANSOUR DIOP

## THE BATTLE A HEAD CONFRONTING

### THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

All praise is due to **ALLAH**, the **LORD OF THE WORLD**, and salutation and **PEACE** be on the leader of the **PROPHETS** and **CREAM** of creation, our Master and **PROTECTOR**, **MUHAMMAD**, whom **ALLAH** has sent as a mercy to the entire world, and His family and the companions, the **STARS** in darkness and the **SUN** of enlightenment and knowledge, and on all who follow them until the Day of Judgment.

In the flurry of fast unfolding development, as I remained like my other brothers and sisters, in the most discouraging circumstances, thankfully, much water has passed under the bridge. The holy month of Ramadan of this year (1432 H.) corresponding August 2011 has come. By the end of this Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2011, I was requested firmly by a friend, a very good one, a highly educated human being, a first class, rather a leading scholar and a consummate Diplomat. Besides; he is a symbolically spiritualized "**DOMU - SOKHNA**". He kindly asked me "to write for" him and others who do not belong to the Arabic school but English or French school.

I said okay. I will see what I can do. And I will be in touch with you. After two days my good friend came again saying that you know we are going to give you a very tough time during the Holy month of Ramadan. Do you have a problem? I said. He hesitated a while then said you do not agree to give us a conference in Ramadan. Please do write for us be it a paper or a **NON PAPER**.

My answer being in the affirmative. And, in any case I am going to offer my prayers to Almighty **ALLAH** seeking His guidance and help, I told him that I, firmly believe in leadership by example, and there was all the greater need for patience and perseverance. He was pulling my leg and giving me a list of few points which they wanted me to write in details:

- I. CONFLICT
- II. POLYGAMOUS FAMILY
- III. AL QIBLA (DIRECTION OF THE KAABA)
- IV. THE TIMING OF PRAYERS
- V. PROPHET NOAH'S INTERCESSION FOR HIS SON.

I have to deal with all these points using the Holy Quran and Hadith of the Prophet.

Indeed, try as I might, but I simply cannot address people, especially fellow "DOMU-SOKHNA" without going back to the most authoritative Quranic commentators in ARABIC language (e.g. IMAM IBN KATHIR, IMAM ARAZI, IMAM AT TABBARI, ARUH ALBAYAN A TAFSIR AL KABIR, and IMAM AL HAQANI).

However, analyzing an irrational behavior is extremely difficult; as we all know, an irrational conduct sends misleading signal causing the energy to be allocated in wrong places. Analyzing an irrational behavior is extremely difficult as those who tried to pop bubbles.

Almighty ALLAH in his wise plan, he will especially select teachers to show the way to the humanity and no one who turns to Him will lack guidance. Therefore; Brothers and sisters especially fellow "DOMU-SOKHNAS" what we should strive for is "steadfastness" in DUTY and FAITH, and unity among people.

# **I. PLEASE. DO NOT TOUCH (DESTROY) MY SPIRITUAL HERITAGE**

## **I/1 CONFLICT**

When conflict becomes inevitable, the first thing to do is to clear our surroundings of all evil, for it is only evil that we can rightly fight. To evil we must put a stout and stiff resistance. Mealy-mouthed compromises are not right for soldiers of truth and righteousness.

The office of this Religion (ISLAM) is TO DENOUNCE THE VICIES OF ARROGANCE, LUXURY, SENSUALITY, MONOPOLY OF POWER and PRIVILEGES.

My friends, this should be the battle ground for us. It seems desirable to set down a few notes as to the different views that have been expressed. Personally I have not the least doubt that, followers of our great spiritual leaders, CHEIKH SOULAIMANN BALL, CHEIKH OMAR TALL (AL FOOTEYU), CHEIKH MABA DIAKHU BA, CHEIKH MAME MAASS KA (in the Senegambia), CHEIKH ASEYEED EL HADJ MALICK SY, CHEIKH AHMED BAMBA MBACKE, CHEIKH EL HADJI ABDULLAH NIASS, CHEIKH ABDU CISSE of DIAMMAL, and CHEIKH AL IMAM AL MAHDY ISSA ALLAH (LAYE) and others.

As we should know spiritual motives are revealed and commanded. We need not know or learn any History or Geography, or Science or Psychology, or Ethics to understand them. But more real knowledge we have about them, the more completely shall we understand them and their role in our society. The earthly journeys are treated as a mere symbols to show us the evolution of a great and noble soul which achieved so much in a short earthly life.

GOD's Religion is the same in ESSENCE. Whether given, for example, to Prophet NOAH, Prophet ABRAHAM, Prophet MOSES, or Prophet JESUS, or to our Prophet MUHAMMAD (MAY THE PEACE AND BLESSING OF ALLAH) be all of them. The source of unity is the

revelation from Almighty ALLAH in ISLAM it is established as an “INSTITUTION and does not remain merely a vague suggestion”.

## **1/2 WHO IS “DOMU-SOKHNA”?**

According to the standard laid down by the school of SUNNAH, “DOMU-SOKHNA” is defined in an especial way. A righteous person or spiritual PRINCELY lineage, firm in faith, sound, and justly-balanced. A REASONABLE human being in the narrower as well as the larger sense, who inherent ISLAMIC VERTUE. REASON AND RESTRAINING Fear, Anger, and Desire. Furthermore, what can be a higher reward for patience, perseverance, SELF-RESTRAINT and CONSTANCY than that, Almighty ALLAH should be with us for this promise opens the door to every Kind of Spiritual well-being. All that Man can do is to strive with might and main, with constancy and determination, then the light and Mercy of ALLAH comes to meet him.

They cure his defects and shorts comings. They provide him with the means by which he can raise himself above himself. They point out the way and all the Paths leadings up to it. The way of ALLAH (SIRAT-UL MUSTAQIM) is straight way.

But man has strayed from it in all directions. And there are numerous Paths by which they can get back to the right way; in which the purity of their own nature, and the will and mercy of ALLAH require, them to walk if once they Give their hearts in keeping to ALLAH and work in the Right ENDEVOUR; with all their mind and soul and resources.

Thus will they get out of the spider’s web? This is the only way in this frail world and attain to eternal Bliss in the fulfillment of our true DESTINY. Our manner, and our arguments should not be acrimonious, built modelled on the most courteous and the gracious example so that the hearer may say to himself this “DOMO-SOKHNA” is not dealing merely with dialectics, he is not trying to get a raise out of me; He is sincerely expounding the love of MAN and the love of ALLAH.

Whatever service we render to; the cause of ALLAH, and whatever sufferings, hardships, or injuries we endure; or whatever resources we

spend for the cause; all goes to raise our degree in the spiritual world. Nothing is lost. Our reward is far greater in worth than any little hardship we can suffer, or any little contributions we can make to the cause. “WE PAINFULLY ATTAIN TO JOY” “HOLY QURAN” Sura AN NAHL - verse 125 - invite all to the way of THE LORD WITH WISEDOM”. And beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best. And most gracious; for THE LORD KNOWETH best who have strayed from HIS PATH. My friends, in this wonderful passage are laid down principles of religions. Teaching, which are good for all time.

My Good Friend apparently, thought that, I was experienced enough to do better. But where are the teachers with such qualifications? We must invite all to the way of ALLAH and expound his universal will; we must do it with wisdom and discretion; Meeting people on their own ground and convincing them with illustrations from their own knowledge and experience, which may be narrow or very wide.

Therefore, our preaching must be not dogmatic, not self-regarding, not offensive, but gentle considerate and such as would attract their attention. Beginning from our humble animal needs and dependence on the vegetable world, we are asked to contemplate the interaction of the living and the dead. Here is Mystic teaching, referring not only to physical life but to the collective life of nations. Then we take a peep into the daily miracle of morning, noon and night and pass on to the stars that guide the distant MARINER.

We rise still higher to the mystery of the countless individuals from the one human soul-their sojourn and their DESTINY. So we get back to the heaven: the description of the luscious fruits which the “GENTLE RAIN” from heaven produces; leaves us to contemplate “the spiritual fruits” which faith will provide for us with the aid of the showers of ALLAH’S MERCY.

However; I must confess to my brothers and sisters (**DOMU - SOKHNA**) that, during my studies abroad when I left CAIRO for LONDON in 1965, I learnt a crucial lesson that served me well in later years, when I entered practical life; never add to the RANKS OF YOUR ENEMIES. If you must take on another FOE, do so only after tackling the first successfully. You should speak fair: who are you to judge others?

Judgment belongs to Almighty **ALLAH** alone, for He knows you (**ALL MANKIND**) best, and your personal knowledge is at best imperfect and Satan is always trying to divide mankind.

Among yourselves, also you should not entertain suspicion, but speak politely according to the best standards of human speech. A false or unkind word may destroy all your efforts at building up unity; the forces of disruption are more numerous than the forces of unity.

### **I/3 NO MORE EXCUSES FOR US**

A “**DOMU-SOKHNA**” should at least, see evil as evil, and should not accept it deep at heart. Failing to do so means that is no faith in the heart of a person. Perhaps the lead in every centre of population is taken by men of evil. But the honorable “**DOMU-SOKHNA**” should not be discouraged. They should work in Righteousness and fulfill their mission (e.g. the late **VENERABLE CHEIKH AL HADJI ABDOUL AZIZ SY** (almighty **ALLAH** be pleased with him). The essence of **ISLAM** is to avoid all extravagances on either side. It is a sober, practical **RELIGION**. When two persons dispute, they advance extravagant claims. A just witness comes between them, and brings the light of **REASON** to bear on them Pruning all their selfish extravagance.

So the mission of **ISLAM** is to curb, for instance, the extreme formalism and the extreme other-worldliness. The witness unselfish, equipped with first-hand knowledge, and ready to intervene in the cause of justice. Such is the position claimed by **ISLAM** among **RIVAL SYSTEM**. Similarly within **ISLAM** itself, the position of witness to whom disputants can appeal is held by the Prophet **MUHAMMAD** (Peace be upon him) if we try firmly to follow the Prophet, we are thus in the true line of those who followed him (e.g. our great grand fathers) the one and indivisible message of the one **GOD**, wherever, delivered. If others narrow it or corrupt it, it is they who have left the faith and created a division or **SCHISM**. But almighty **ALLAH** sees and knows all. And he will be infinitely more precious than the support which **MEN CAN GIVE**.

## II. POLYGAMOUS FAMILY

People often fall back on the argument that ISLAM allows a man to have four wives at one time, but there is a clause that is always ignored. The Quran says in a very clear terms, that you may marry two, three or even four women, but if you cannot be just to them all, then marry just one.

And later in the same chapter, it says that, you will never be able to achieve the level of fairness to women. The implication is clear: anyone who is not able to achieve the level of fairness to women, better for him to keep one wife. In this case, Quran advocates one wife not four.

## III. “AL QIBLA” (Direction of KAABA FOR PRAYERS)

“SURA, AL BAQARA” or the HEIFER (verse n° 115). To ALLAH belong the EAST and WEST: whether so ever we turn, THERE IS THE PRESENCE OF ALLAH. For ALLAH is “ALL PERVADING, ALL KNOWING”. This verse, taken in a general sense, establishes the principle of freedom, of worship in a public MOSQUE or PLACE dedicated to the worship of ALLAH (GOD). This is recognized in ISLAMIC LAW. There may be differences of opinion between one individual and another. So long a person enters reverently and does nothing outwardly to cause offence to the other worshippers, he has a right to go and worship in a public set apart for GOD’s worship.

Verse n° 144 in the same Sura: “WE SEE THE TURNING OF THY FACE (for guidance) TO THE HEAVENS: NOW SHALL WE TURN THEE TO A QIBLA THAT SHALL PLEASE THEE. TURN THEN THY FACE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SACRED MOSQUE: WHEREVER YE ARE, TURN YOUR FACE IN THAT DIRECTION. THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK KNOW WELL THAT, THAT IS THE TRUTH FROM THEIR LORD. NOR IS GOD UNMINDFUL OF WHAT THEY DO”.

What become of PRAYER with the JERUSALEM QIBLA; it was equally efficacious before the new Qibla was ordained. **ALLAH** regards our Faith; every act of true and genuine Faith is efficacious with HIM, even if formalists pick holes in such acts. This shows that, the sincere desire of **MUHAMMAD** (peace be upon Him) to seek light from above in the matter of Qibla.

Until the organization of His OWN people into a well knit community with its distinctive laws and ordinances, He followed a practice based on the fact that, JEWS and CHRISTIANS looked upon Jerusalem as a sacred city. But, there was no universal QIBLA among them. Some JEWS turned towards JERUSALEM especially during the captivity. At the time of our Prophet **MUHAMMAD** (peace be upon Him) JERUSAMEM was in the hands of the BIZANTINE EMPIRE, which was Christian.

But the CHRISTIANS oriented their churches to the EAST. Hence, the word "orientation" which is a point of the compass and not the directions of any sacred place. The fact of the altar being in the EAST does not mean that every worshipper has his face to the EAST. For according at least to modern practice the seats in the CHURCH are so placed that different worshippers, may face in different directions.

The preacher of Unity naturally wanted in this as in other matters a symbol of complete Unity, and His heart was naturally delighted when the QIBLA towards the KAABA was settled. Its connection with **ABRAHAM** gave it great antiquity : its character of being an ARAB CENTER made it appropriate when the MESSAGE came in the ARABIC LANGUAGE, and was preached through the union of the ARABS: at that time it was adopted, the small MUSLIM COMMUNITY was shut out of it being exiles in MEDINA, but it became a symbol of hope and eventual triumph of which **MUHAMMAD** (peace be upon Him) lived to see the fulfillment and it also became the CENTER and gathering-ground of all people in the universal PILGRIMAGE which was instituted with it. ***QIBLA = the direction to which MUSLIMS turn in prayers.***

**ISLAM** lays greatness on social Prayer, in order to emphasize our universal BROTHERHOOD and natural co-operation. For such Prayers, order, punctuality, precision, symbolic postures and common direction

are essential, so that the IMAM (LEADER) and his entire congregation may face one way and offer their supplication to **ALLAH**. In the early days, before they were organized as a people, they followed as a symbol for their QIBLA the sacred City of JERUSALEM, sacred both to the JEWS and the CHRISTIANS, the people of the BOOK. This symbolized their allegiance to the continuity of GOD's REVELATION.

When despised and persecuted, they were turned out of MECCA, and arrived in MEDINA, **MUHAMMAD** our Prophet (peace be upon Him) under divine direction began to organize His people as an UMMAH, an independent people with laws and RITUALS of their Own. At that stage the KAABA was established as a QIBLA, thus going back to the earliest center with which the name of **ABRAHAM** was connected and traditionally also the name of **ADAM**. JERUSALEM still remained (and remains) sacred in the eyes of **ISLAM** on account of its past, but **ISLAM** is a progressive RELIGION and its new symbolism enabled it to shake off the tradition of a dead past and usher in the era of untrammelled FREEDOM dear to the spirit of MUSLIMS.

The change took place about 16 and a half MONTHS after HIJRAH. Thanks to Almighty **ALLAH**, by giving us a QIBLA of OUR OWN, most ancient in History, and most modern as a symbol of our organization as one NATION (UMMAH).

#### **IV. "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR PRAYERS"**

Sura AL ISRA verse n° 78, the commentators understand here the command for the FIVE DAILY Canonical prayers. The four from the declination of the sun from the Zenith to the fullest darkness of the night, and the early Morning Prayer (FAJR which is usually accompanied by a reading of the **HOLY QURAN**).

The four afternoon prayers are (ZUHR) immediately after the sun begins to decline in the afternoon; (ASR) in the late afternoon; (MAGHRIB) immediately after Sunset; and (ISHA) after the glow of the sunset has disappeared and the full darkness of the night has set in. There is

different of opinion as to the meaning of particular words and phrases but none to the general effect of the passage.

THE MORNING PRAYER is specially singled out for separate mention, because the morning is a “Holy hour” and special spiritual influences act on the soul awaking from the night’s rest.

SPECIAL Testimony is borne to the prayers of this hour by the Angelic host. Sura AL BAQARA verse n° 238: “guard strictly your (HABIT) of prayers”. Especially the Middle Prayers. And stand before GOD IN A DEVOUT (frame and mind). “ASALATUL WUSTA” may be translated, the best or the most excellent Prayer. Authorities differ as to the exact meaning of this phrase.

The weight of Authorities seems to be in favor of interpreting this as the “ASR” prayer in the middle of the afternoon. This is apt to be most neglected and yet this is the most necessary to remind us of ALLAH, in the midst of our worldly affairs. See ATTAFSIR AL KABIR, also AL IMAM ATTABARI and the greatest in our country AL IMAM CHEIKH EL HADJI AHMED DEM of SOKONE.

## V. “NOAH ‘S INTERCESSION FOR HIS SON”

Verses n° 40 - 47 of the Sura (chapter) of HUD and Sura (AL-A’RAF: 61) **NOAH** (peace be upon him) proceeded in his invitation with still more kindness. He told his people that he was not misguided, and that he was a messenger from GOD the LORD of the WORLD.

He also told them that he was not asking them for any money or reward and that he would not reject the believers who came to him because they were from the lower classes (HUD: 28 - 30). On their part, his people remained obstinate in their rebellion, threatened **NOAH** with severe punishment, and challenged him to bring them the punishment he was threatening them with. (AL -SHU’ARA: 116; HUD: 32), this state of affairs lasted for 950 years. Successive generations of **NOAH**’s people used to caution each other against listening to **NOAH**’s and accepting his message.

After spending that long time in an Endeavour which he found came to nothing, **NOAH** sought refuge in **GOD's** help and asked Him to either guide the people or destroy them. Almighty **ALLAH** told **NOAH** that, there will be no new believers from among His people; and that He should build the **ARK** as the disbelievers and wrong-doers will be drowned. (HUD 36 - 37) **NOAH** obeyed **ALLAH's** order and started building the **ARK**. His people used to pass by Him and laugh at him saying that He has become a carpenter after being a Prophet.

Almighty **ALLAH** assigned to Him an indication for the time to board the **ARK**, when water comes out of the fireplace. The sign came and **NOAH**, in accordance with **ALLAH's** command, boarded the **ARK** with his family (except the non-believers from among them), all the believers and a couple of every kind of living beings (HUD: 40) following that **ALLAH's** order came to all heaven and earth: Rain poured heavily from heaven and all the Fountains of earth broke up. (AL-QAMAR: 11 - 12) following that there were two groups of humans; the first group were those who accepted **ALLAH's** Message, boarded the **ARK**, and were saved. The second was that of those who rejected **ALLAH's** Message, and were drowned in the dark waves of the deluge.

One of those losers swallowed by the waves was **NOAH'S OWN SON**. His father called him to come on board but the son preferred to take refuge on a mountain top thinking that this would save him from the flood. The father said that there would be no refuge on that day from what **ALLAH HAD FATED**.

The son insisted on his own plan and was drowned along with the disbelievers. (HUD 42 - 43) the **ARK** was lifted by the water and floated along in **ALLAH'S EYES** (AL - QAMAR: 114 - 116) the Quran states that the deluge, the drowning of the wrong-doers and the saving of the believers was a wonder to be pondered. (AL SHU'ARA: 119 - 122) the deluge was a miraculous incident which shows Unequivocally that **ALLAH** the most high is omnipotent and is the ultimate disposer of all things in the universe and the reason behind the natural phenomena are nothing but appearances of His **WILL**.

When all was over **ALLAH** ordered the earth to swallow the water and the heaven to stop the rain, and the **ARK** rested on **MOUNT JUDI**, and

**ALLAH's** command was executed. (HUD 44) **MOUNT JUDI**, is a mountain on an island on the eastern side of the **TIGRIS RIVER** in the Vicinity of the City of **MOSUL** in present day **IRAQ**.

According to accounts of various historians, the inmate of the **ARK** disembarked on the day of **ASHURA** (the tenth day of the month of **MUHARRAM**) upon disembarking, **NOAH** and His followers took dwellings, in an area called **QARDA**, and built houses for themselves and their families, thus forming a village which came to be known as **THAMANIN** (**EIGHTY**) because there were eighty of them.

Verses n° 40 - 47 of the Sura chapter of **HUD**. Tell of **NOAH** interceding with **ALLAH** for his son who refused to go on board the **ARK** saying that the son was from his family. **ALLAH** answered that he was not of his family as his action was not a proper action fitting the family of a Prophet, and ordered **NOAH** not to go into things the reality of which he did not know. **NOAH** asked for forgiveness and mercy. We shall not discuss here the irrelevant details concerning **NOAH's** son: what was his name, was he **NOAH's** real son or not? What concerns us here is **NOAH's** question itself and **ALLAH's** answer to it, which was full of strong admonition. Prophet's asking favors from their **LORD** are perfectly acceptable, and the **QURAN** cites numerous instances where in Prophets was praying to **ALLAH** for certain favors.

Following are just a few examples.

- Prophet **ZECHARIAH**, for instance, asked **ALLAH** to give him a child, and **ALLAH** gave him a son, **JOHN** (**AL ANBIYA'**: 89 - 90),
- **JOB** also prayed to **ALLAH** for recovery from his illness and **ALLAH** granted him that (**AL ANBIYA'**: 83 - 84),
- **MOSES** also asked **ALLAH** to see **HIM**; and although he was stunned and could not see **ALLAH**, we say that was due to the impossibility of seeing **ALLAH** by humans in this world; **ALLAH** did not say that the request itself was illegal (**AL ' ARAF**: 143).

In all the above instances we find that Almighty **ALLAH** answered the requests of His **HONOURABLE PROPHETS** tenderly and granted them their prayers. A legitimate question arises here: why **NOAH's** request

not granted? Why did ALLAH answer him in strong language? The answer lies in the fact that the Prophet's request were within the circle of the permissible and within their rights; NOAH's request, on the other hand was not.

ALLAH had addressed him previously telling him to take on board the ARK all the believers and not to speak to HIM concerning the non-believers (AL MU'MINUN: 27). It was ALLAH's will, then, that non-believers were not to board the ARK; NOAH's son's refusal to come on board was a sign of his disbelief; hence the illegality of NOAH's request.

NOAH, out of his fatherly sentiment, asked ALLAH to grant him his son boarding the ARK, forgetting, or ignoring ALLAH's command, hence the strength of the language in ALLAH's admonition. Brothers and sisters in ISLAM, there is a great moral lesson for us in this story; If Prophets themselves were not allowed to say things outside the circle of their right; what are we, ordinary human, supposed to do? It stands to reason that we should be very careful with what we say and heed every word we pronounce. Grave PUNISHMENT is in store for those who speak carelessly about ALLAH, His Prophet or Religion.

### **V/1 POUR S'ACCORDER SUR LES REGLES DU JEU :** **(LE SPIRITUEL ET LE TEMPOREL)**

The meeting resumed between two of us my good Friend and myself. By then two to three days left for the holy month of RAMADAN 2011. AHMED EL MANSOUR DIOP; calling my full name. Yes I said, he started expressing himself, could you possibly add few lines about us in this most discouraging circumstances, yet should not be taken as a man of bad omen in a storm.

Naturally I did not want to annoy him; I offered to take extra work. But I suppose, I would never get any sleep, joking with him only to keep my good Friend happy. And I said, Brother; I will be more than happier to do anything that would be considered good for ISLAM and MUSLIMS.

## V/2 "DO NOT WASTE ANY TIME, AND MAKE NO MISCHIEVES"

The more general Quranic interpretation holds good in all ages. Faith and unfaith are pitted against each other. Faith has to struggle against power, position, (wrong power) organization, and privileges when it gains ground. Unfaith comes forward insincerely and claims fellowship. But in its own mind it is jealous of the armory of science and knowledge which faith brings into the service of **ALLAH** (GOD).

But **ALLAH** knows all, and if the people of faith will only seek knowledge sincerely wherever they can find it even as far afield as CHINA, as **MUHAMMAD** (peace be upon Him) said, they can defeat unfaith on its own ground. Verse n° 60 Sura "AL MAIDAH" it is not right that we should be in intimate association with those to whom religion (**ISLAM**) is either a subject of mockery, or at best in nothing but a plaything.

They may be amused, or they may have other motives for encouraging us. But our association with them will sap the earnestness of our Faith, and make us cynical and insincere. A man's actual personal religion depends upon many things (his personal psychology, the background of his life, hidden or repressed feelings, tendencies or history which psycho analysis tries to unravel) his hereditary dispositions or antipathies, and all the subtle influences of his education his environment. The task before the MAN of **ALLAH** is:

1. To use any of these which can sub serve the higher ends,
2. To purify such as have been misused,
3. To introduce new ideas and modes of working at things and
4. To combat what is wrong and cannot be mended.

All for the purpose of leading to the truth and gradually letting in spiritual light where there was darkness before. If that is not only a reaction of obstinacy, but an unseemly show of dishonour to the true God (**ALLAH**) and His truth, and doubts would spread among the weaker brethren whose Faith is shallow and infirm.

What happens to individuals is true collectively on NATIONS, or groups of people. They think in their self-obsession that their own ideas are right. **ALLAH** in His infinite compassion bears with them and asks those who have purer ideas of Faith not to vilify the weakness of their neighbours, let the neighbours in their turn vilify the real truth and make matter even worse than before.

In so far as there are mistakes **ALLAH** will forgive and send His Grace for helping ignorance and folly. In so far as there is active evil. He will deal with it in His own way. Of course the righteous man must not hide light under bushel, or compromise with evil, or refuse to establish right living where he has the power to do so.

The teaching in the Quran explains things by various symbols, parables, narratives and appeals to nature each time, a new phase of the question is presented in our minds. This is what a diligent and earnest teacher would do, such as was our **HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD** (peace be upon Him) those who were in search of knowledge and had thus acquired some knowledge of spiritual things were greatly helped to understand more clearly of which before the varied explanations, they had only one-sided knowledge.

Let us see the other side.

- ✓ **PLATO** believed that men are divided into three classes: GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE.
- ✓ **VILFREDO PARETO** an Italian economist argued that “the vital few” account for most progress. Such sentiments are taboo today in public life. Politicians talk of a “leadership - class” or the vital few at their peril.
- ✓ **SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL**, in his speech to the House of Commons on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1940, said: he was not elected to preside over the dismantling of the empire; let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its commonwealth last for thousand years, men will say “this was the finest hour”.

### **V/3 MAKE NO MISTAKE AND DO NOT WASTE TIME**

As we all know, money controls politics in all societies, throughout the world. Our role in our society is to fight for truth and justice at all levels, in all fields, under any circumstances. Truth only comes from **ALLAH** and it remains true however, men might try to conceal it or throw doubts on it. In whatever circumstances or at whatever time, or in whatever place we have to fight by all means, for truth and justice (e.g. our great grandfathers, our honorable spiritual leaders). May almighty **ALLAH** be pleased with them all the time. Be sure that, if our intentions and life are pure, **ALLAH** will recognize them even if the world cast stones at us because of some evil associations which they join with that we do or with the people we associate with or with the places which claim our reverence.

Dear brothers and sisters in Faith, when you give advice, kindly try to be an honest adviser to yourself, to the people, and to almighty **ALLAH**. Truth finds easiest entrance through the humble and lowly and not in the beginning at the Headquarters of power, but in the fullness of time it makes its way everywhere with irresistible force. "KNOWLEDGE is indeed a trial": if we are warned, we know its dangers: if **ALLAH** has endowed us with free will, we must be free to choose between the benefit and the danger. As mentioned above I firmly believe in "LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE" (e.g. **MAMOUDOU TOURE MAHMUD**) whom I came to know and work with him in a very discouraging circumstances.

Nevertheless; he stood firmly with courage and determination. Used to be with him during the I.M.F. (International Monetary Fund) and W.B (World Bank) meetings in Washington or elsewhere. Along with him for different negotiations many times with French authorities at different level, with the ARABIC WORLD, either with him or the honor was given to me to go alone on many years.

In the beginning of the 80s I was with him as an Economist and adviser to him and to the Ministry both. I was under his dynamic leadership **MAMOUDOU TOURE** a great man, a highly educated and schooled human being, A MAN OF NOBLE SOUL.

Under this honest man I came to learn besides his intellectual background and his Human values, I came to know a very humble man in his dealing with other human-fellows regardless of RACE or RELIGIONS. This efficient and able Minister; after handling the economic problems of the continent of Africa with I.M.F (International Monetary Fund) for over 13 - 14 years as a top Manager for African Department of I.M.F. He was requested by the Senegalese authorities to come down and help look after the Economies and Finances of the Country. I came to know a vey humble Man in his own right. A MAN OF ALLAH with himself especially when deals with spiritual matters (with absolute discretion). And when he was about to answer the call from the Senegalese Authorities, he was able to fix up the job to his reliable collaborator in the I.M.F Mr. **ALLASANE DRAMANE OUATTRA** (today the President of the Republic of Ivory Cost) hope to be able one day with the help of Almighty **ALLAH** to write about this Great Man.

What I learnt and know from **MAMOUDOU TOURE THE GREAT. MAMOUDOU TOURE A SELF-RESPECTING MAN NEVER MOVED AFTER ILL-GOTTEN GAINS, A BETTER BEHAVED MINISTER, A WORTHY PIOUS MUSLIM, NOT SELFISH OR GRASPING.**

In human affairs many things are inexplicable, which are things of the highest wisdom in the universal plan. May almighty **ALLAH** give him more years in his life with health and more wisdom. Aminn.

As I have written earlier in ARABIC language emphasizing the Role of “**DOMU - SOKHNA**”, in our society; today I choose to write in English for the benefit of those who belong to other schools which are not ARABIC schools. Perhaps we will be able to come back and hold firmly to the ideas that our spirituals leaders Great Grandfathers had laid out in this part of the ISLAMIC WORLD.

I am talking to those of whom happened to be equipped with the knowledge and Skills necessary for them to make a success of their lives and to take their rightful place in their Country (SENEGAL). If I seem to be concerned only with the “**DOMU - SOKHNA**” it is because the others seem to be able to take care of themselves. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. You have to get up and fight like you have never fought before, against **EVIL** blatant double standards, the overwhelming

adulation, the personality cult and excessive glorification that is often given to leaders and do not expect to be a LAME DUCK “DOMU - SOKHNA”, under any circumstances.

To make your own task easier do try to read Holy Quran, read and read more then do try to understand well. And work hard and harder, may Almighty **ALLAH** save us from EVIL influences, enabling us to achieve success and become MODELS to ALL MUSLIMS IN THE WORLD. The teachers of the religion (ISLAM) stress the need for prayer, for appeals of **ALLAH** during difficulty or threat. But what is not stressed is the injunction in the Holy Quran that **ALLAH** will not change your situation until you make the effort to change it, by yourself. That, we should try to help ourselves is very important.

Prayers alone will not help us except in cases where is nothing at all we can do for ourselves. But it is very seldom indeed that we are so completely helpless. The present dire state of MUSLIM (especially our state) is due at least in part to us doing nothing, or very little for ourselves beyond praying for help from the almighty **ALLAH**.

Clearly we are not following the injunction of the QURAN to help ourselves. First if we desire the help of the Almighty **ALLAH**. Blaming others will get us nowhere for we cannot really expect others to take action to save us when we are doing practically nothing to save ourselves.

Almighty **ALLAH** the most sublime commands Muslims to form a Nation of callers to good and interdiction of Evil (ALI IMMRAN: 104). He also tells Muslims that they would be the best of nations when they discharge the duty of enjoying good and forbidding Evil (ALI IMMRAN: 110).

**ALLAH** commands his messenger, to restore to forgiveness and enjoin what is known to be good and to turn away from the ignorant (AL AARAF: 199). **ALLAH** also asserts that, the believers, both MEN and WOMEN are sincere friends for one another, they enjoin good and interdict EVIL (AT TAUBA: 71). He stated that, the disbelievers from among the children of ISRAEL were cursed at the tongues of **DAVID** and **JESUS**, son of **MARY** for their disobedience and excess; they did not interdict EVIL among themselves (AL MAA - IDA: 78 - 79).

**ALLAH** commands His messenger to tell people that truth is from **ALLAH**; let the one who wishes to disbelieve do so (AL KHAF: 29). **ALLAH**, commands His Messengers to proclaim openly what He is commanded to relay to people (AL HIJR: 94). **ALLAH** tells that, He saves those who interdict **EVIL** and inflicts punishment on the wrongdoers for their Evil (AL AARAF: 165) **ABU AL - WALID OBADA IBN AL - SAMET** (**ALLAH** be pleased with him) says: “we gave the pledge to the Messenger of **ALLAH**” (peace be upon him) that, would hear and obey”. In time of ease as well as in time of difficulty, even if the leader favors himself above us; and that we would not rise up against incumbent leaders, unless we see clear and frank disbelief evidenced by statement from **ALLAH** and to tell the truth wherever we are without fearing blame from anyone in the way of almighty **ALLAH**. (AL BUKHARY and MUSLIM).

**ABU** said **AL KHUDRI** (**ALLAH** be pleased with him) relates having hear the Messenger of **ALLAH - MUHAMMAD -** (peace be upon Him) saying; He of you who sees an abomination should change it with his hand; if he could not; then with his tongue; if he could not, then in his heart; and this is the faintest in Faith (MUSLIM).

This HADITH, merits a word of explanation, it is the duty of every Muslim to try to keep the purity of the Islamic community he is leaving in especially of those who are in a position of authority or responsibility. Here ours are engaged. Like it or not. Here we need badly WISDOM. True wisdom is firm and enduring, and discerns who mystery is only known as **ALLAH**. So what is the book of wisdom?

It is a guide and a Mercy to MEN and teaches them how to attain Bliss. **ALLAH**'s Mercies are infinitive: how can MEN deny them? **LUQMAN** the wise taught grateful worship of the one True GOD, and the service of MEN, beginning with PARENTS: every good deed is known to **ALLAH** and is brought to account. So “**DOMU - SOKHNA**” walk in the golden MEAN, and serve him with constancy and firmness of purpose. The wicked plots against MEN of **ALLAH** in secret, forgetting that every hidden thought of theirs is known to **ALLAH** and that, for every thought and action of theirs, they will have to account to **ALLAH**.

And ALLAH's punishment can seize them in various ways. As happened in the cases of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon Him), the enemies try to frighten the man of ALLAH away from their midst, so that once away they could expel Him and keep Him out. But they are counting without the plan of ALLAH. If they persecute the righteous they dig their own graves.

The stain of SATAN is everywhere, yet we are bound to remove any lurking doubts in the minds of our people (suggestions of the EVIL one) that, victory might be impossible in these adverse circumstances. I might be little longer, only to make it clear, furthermore, what my good old friend said to me EL MANSOUR, we your brothers, sisters and friends together all know very well that, retirement allows you to devote full attention to our request. Kindly do not let us down. I would not comment at all however; the mysteries of life and death, worship and spiritual growth are matters of high moment, which it may be difficult for us to apprehend in this present life. It is no use arguing about him and plunging in endless controversies.

The proper attitude is to appeal to Almighty ALLAH humbly to accept our purified hearts and Faith, in the firm hope that everything which is now vague to us will be cleared up in the hereafter, and to pray to Him, for His guidance and mercy. In meantime, we must restrain ourselves from MISCHIEF PRIDE, and every kind of EVIL for our higher life is based on our probation on this very EARTH.

To be happy, one must learn to make compromises with GRACE. There are always lesson to be learnt, if only we have the wisdom to see them. MY GREAT GRANDFATHER wherever he went in the country or in the world, was always proud to declare himself a humble "DOMU - SOKHNA".

For my part as an economist with my P.H.D. and before that holding different Degrees from different Universities from East and West; being a S.C. Servant at different level of Senegalese administration. An Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal for many years, holding and in charge of different responsibilities, I wish to be able to go anywhere in the World and say with equal pride I am a HUMBLE "DOMU - SOKHNA"

DR AHMED EL MANSOUR DIOP  
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