

**Importance of four-point programme**  
**Prof M. Haroon**

In 1912 Imam Ahmad Raza (Rahmatullahi Alaih) put forward a four-point programme for the recovery of the Muslims. The aim of this article is to explain the importance of this plan. It is easy to explain. This plan is important because it is the best for the Muslims, the correct plan, and the only plan that will work! I will begin by explaining the plan.

In 1912 Imam Raza was asked about the terrible condition of the Muslim World. The West was pressing hard on the Ottoman Empire. Many Muslims in India claimed to be helping the Ottomans by launching boycott campaigns, and by sending money.

Imam Raza replied to the question of what to do, by saying that the present efforts were no good. The boycotts didn't work. No one took them seriously. And the money collected was not much, and most of it was spent promoting the careers of Muslim politicians, who actually did nothing for foreign Muslims. Imam Raza said more money could be sent, and more help given, but he replied that the real key to Muslim recovery was quite different.

The real key was to build up the Muslim Community, in size, in independence, and in Islamic culture. And that was the four-point programme. There was no point in trying to do anything, while the actual Muslim Community was weak. Boycotts or solidarity campaigns, or financial donations are all useless if there is no community. With a powerful community, all these efforts would be much more effective. And of course, building up the actual community in power, independence and Islamic Culture is the Revival of Islam. What is Islam in the World, except the actual community of the Muslims? If that community is strong, Islam is strong!

The four-point programme was very simple. Firstly the Muslims must avoid the non-Muslim State, and solve all problems among themselves, following the Sharia. The effect of this is to give political independence, and to develop an Islamic political leadership.

Before the West arrived, the Muslims in India were led by Ulama, and they followed the Sharia. Colonial rule destroyed this leadership of the Ulama. In British India the Sharia system, run by Ulama, was replaced by British courts, administering Anglo- Muhammadan Law, and also purely secular law.

If the Muslims were to avoid the British system, they would put Ulama and Sharia back in command. The leaders of the Muslims are Ulama and Awliya. The independence recommended by Imam Raza would put them back in command.

The second part of the four-point plan was that Muslims should avoid the non-Muslim economy, and build up their own independent economy. Muslims should, as far as possible, buy from and sell to Muslims.

Under the Capitalist system in India, the Muslims were being broken up as a Community. Muslims, instead of being a community, were being scattered all over society, and mixed in with the non-Muslim population by the workings of the market.

The Muslim Community was vanishing. If Muslims bought from and sold to mainly Muslims, this would restore the community. And this would bind the community firmly together.

The third part of the programme was that Muslims should develop their own independent banking system. Under the Capitalist system the Muslims were going for loans and business loans to the general financial and banking system.

In this way the Muslim Community, and the community of Muslim businessmen, was being scattered. No independent Muslim financial system existed. Imam Raza pointed out that under the Hanafi Code it was quite possible to have Islamic banking. He recommended that this be developed. In this way the Muslim Community would be pulled together, and given real independence, and economic power.

The effect of the second and third parts of the plan was simply that the Muslim community would be pulled together and developed so that it could live a real life as a community. There would then be a community for Ulama and Awliya to lead! The fourth part of the plan was equally simple. The Community must develop its knowledge of Islam. The Community must develop its Islamic culture.

The Community would be politically and economically independent. It could then become more and more Islamic. This Muslim Culture would, of course, above all be developed by the Ulama, and would lead to the development of an Islamic Life based on the Sharia. In British India the Muslims were quite simply ceasing to know any Islam. Educated Muslims were going to secular schools and universities. They were no longer being educated by the Ulama, or educated in Islam. This was disintegrating the Community from within. Imam Raza saw the answer to this in the development of Islamic Culture.

This, then was the plan of Imam Raza: develop the Community in independence, and economically, politically and culturally, and then Islam will be revived, and then you will have the strength to act internationally!

Now Imam Raza was actually proposing that Islam be developed as an island in society, and on that island the Community should grow, pull together, develop Islamically and produce its own leaders.

This plan of Imam Raza is important for many reasons. Firstly it is important because it is the only plan for the Muslims which works. Imam Raza put forward this plan because all the other plans were failing disastrously. When the British arrived in India and became its rulers, many Muslims thought that the correct plan was to abandon the Muslim Community, and join the Kaffir Community. They hoped that they would do well, get good jobs, and rise to the top of Kaffir society, and become the leaders of society, as partners of the British.

Later, in independent India, these same people thought they would be equal partners of the Hindus. Today, in Britain these people fancy they will become members of the British ruling class. To rise in society, these people were crazy about qualifications. They thought that 'all that was necessary was for their sons to get B.A.s, and then they would rise to the top, with the best jobs.

This plan was a complete failure. The British in India, quite simply, would not treat Muslims as equals. Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan's son even went to Cambridge, but was rejected and died broken-hearted! In India the Hindu flip fiercely resents today the idea that any Muslim should rise high in society. In Britain today, quite simply, the British will not give the Muslims the good jobs. The Muslims are kept out of the professions, are denied promotion, and often can get no job at all! I know many Muslim youngsters with good degrees. They are the most highly qualified unemployed people in Britain!

Imam Raza in 1912 noted that the Muslims were systematically discriminated against. His plan solves this problem. If the Muslims form their own community and buy from and sell to mainly Muslims

and work for and are employed by mainly Muslims, then all the Muslims will have a chance of a job and a career. If Muslim banks will provide money for Muslims, then these talented people can develop their businesses.

The plan of Imam Raza makes discrimination impossible! There are, in Britain, millions of Muslims. Their total income is greater than that of many a Muslim country. If the Muslims help each other, every Muslim can lead a prosperous and successful life! The real danger to the Muslims, though, is not unemployment. The real danger is explosive racism and communalism. The non-Muslims resent the idea of all the Muslims getting BA's and competing with them for the good jobs.

This is the secret of the BJP and of the BNP and National Front. Imam Raza's plan avoids this, for Muslims would not compete with the non-Muslims, but have their own community, their own island in society, on which they would live well. - In Bosnia Muslims are being murdered because Serbs cannot accept that Muslims should compete for jobs with them. Imam Raza's plan is the antidote to racism! How important is such a plan! Imam Raza's plan is also important because it avoids the State. In Imam Raza's plan the Muslims must avoid the State, and develop their own leadership, and their own legal system, on the island in society.

Now many of these Muslims who wish to rise in Kaffir society seek to use the State to do so. They want State help. They want legislation to give them "equal opportunities", which means jobs high in Kaffir society. They want the race relations industry to provide State handouts to help them! All this is dynamite!

The fierce hatred of the BJP in India is a protest at State help for Muslims. The fierce hatred of the BNP and the ordinary English, is provoked by fear that the State is helping the Muslims, giving them jobs and Council Houses!

Some people complain that Muslims in Britain are in a ghetto, surrounded by prejudice and discrimination. This ghetto is caused by attempts to use the State to get into Kaffir society. If most Muslims made their life in the Muslim Community, on the Muslim island, then there would be no prejudice against them and against the few who still made their living in the wider society. Some people wish the Muslims to form themselves into a pressure group to force their way to the top of Kaffir society. They want to imitate the Jews, who they imagine do this.

Don't they realise that this is exactly why Hitler killed the Jews?

The Jews themselves today do all they can to develop their own community as an island in society, to reduce hatred and prejudice.

Hitler killed Jews because he thought they were trying to rise to the top of Christian society, by going to the University and entering the professions. How wise is Raza's plan! The Muslims, avoiding the State, on their island in society, would be free to lead a happy life, with no danger from racism and fascism. Many Muslims think these days that the way forward is to develop an Islamic State.

By this they mean that, the Muslims organised in a political party, will conquer State Power, and then, by control of the State, raise themselves to wealth and power.

Unfortunately this plan is so explosive that to carry it out means hundreds of thousands, even millions, killed. The reason is simple. The non-Muslims are going to fight to keep State Power out of the hands of the Muslims. And of course the Muslims who seek to set up these Islamic States don't want to give wealth and power to any but themselves! And they are usually very intolerant of other

Muslims. They are usually Wahhabis. The Iranians are Shias. They all hate the ordinary Muslim who follows a Pir, or who is not like them.

And so, enormous numbers of Muslims also oppose the setting up of these Islamic States.

Imam Raza's plan for an Islamic State is quite different. The policy of the Muslim island was the one followed by Sunni Muslims from the time of the collapse of the Caliphate. The idea was that government and society were not Islamic. But if the Muslim island in society could grow, then slowly and with no use of force or politics, the Muslim island would expand to cover most of society, and finally be able to influence the government. The government would then be subjected to the Sharia, and to guidance from the ulama and awliya. But this Islamic State would not be the means for Muslims to dominate. Rather Muslims would come to dominate by developing the island, and only come to influence government when they made up the overwhelming force in society.

This method of Imam Raza was the one used throughout the Muslim World, after the disasters of the collapse of the Caliphate, and the Mongol invasion and resulted finally in the emergence of the Ottoman Empire and other Muslim governments.

Quite naturally Imam Raza turned to it when Islamic government collapsed in the World in his lifetime. This method worked before. There is no reason why it shouldn't work again!

And there is no reason why it shouldn't work in Britain. This Muslim island is not a ghetto. A ghetto is a place where people are isolated and cut off. In fact, if this Muslim island existed in society, anyone could come to live on it. Muslims who are cut off from the Community might join it. Non-Muslims can marry into the Community. or become Muslims for religious reasons.

In the Muslim World it took hundreds of years for Muslims to become a majority. In Britain Muslims could be a majority in one hundred years. All that can stop this is racism and fascism. And Imam Raza's plan, as I've shown, is the best for overcoming that.

How marvellous is this plan of Imam Raza.?

Imam Raza's plan, in fact, requires very little political activity. The aim is to withdraw from the State, and cultivate the Islamic Life on an Island in society, in political and social independence. The only politics is to get a minimum of toleration for the Muslims.

Imam Raza's plan would not be possible in a place like Stalin's Russia, where nothing independent of the State is allowed. And of course it would not be possible in a place like Serbia, where Muslims are killed. But it would be possible anywhere else. And today we live in a World of advancing toleration and political freedom. And the reason is that the Whole World is sick of Totalitarianism and Racism.

And so at this moment Imam Raza's plan is especially relevant and important. And of course this plan is extremely easy to carry out in a place like Britain, with its liberal, democratic traditions of freedom. It is easier for us here than it would be for many Muslims even in the Muslim World who are living under oppressive rule.

Secondly Imam Raza's plan is important for the Muslims because it is the only plan which is possible. The other plans for the Muslims don't work. No matter how hard the Muslims try, they will be forced to follow Imam Raza's plan.

Leaving the Muslim Community, ends with the Muslim just becoming the dregs of society. Prejudice is so great, and unemployment so high, and qualifications don't benefit the Muslims. The Muslim who abandons Islam can expect no welcome, and will generally get nothing but hatred and discrimination from the non-Muslims.

And so, thirdly, Imam Raza's plan is important because it is what Muslims are actually doing all over the World.

- In Britain Muslims find that the one place they can get a job and help is with a Muslim. The one place they are welcome is within the Muslim Community. The one culture within which they are equal and welcome is Islam. The leaders who will help are the Ulama and Awliya.
- The Bosnians were turned into refugees. The one group that welcomed them were the Muslims, everywhere. The Bosnian is perfectly welcome here in Britain among the Muslims.
- The Muslim will feel most at home, and most welcome, in a Muslim district, full of Muslim shops, and cafes, and Mosques and Sufi Tariqats.
- You may have a B.A., No one wants to know! But if you can sing Naat, in praise of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu Alathi wa Sallam), the Muslims will love you! The point is simple. We are all forced by life itself to follow the actual plan of Imam Raza. We should be following it deliberately and consciously. Muslims should think of creating the Muslim Island. They should think of living and working among Muslims. They should try to have Muslim Pirs and Ulama as their leaders. They should try to study Islam, and master Islamic culture.
- Imam Raza's plan is important, fourthly, because it would have the most marvellous results. The Muslim island truly would be a wonderful thing. Modern society has many problems that this Muslim island could solve them. We have mentioned racism and prejudice. Remember that the Muslim community itself is an international, multi-racial community. There is also loneliness, caused by family breakdown and mass unemployment.
- The Muslim island would be the place of the family. There are drugs and alcoholism, Islam can defeat them. There is the terrible culture of the Mass Media, with the collapse of traditional culture. The whole point of Imam Raza's Muslim island is to keep traditional Islamic culture alive. There is the death of religion. Religion shines out in the Muslim Community.
- The Muslim island in society would be a free society. It would avoid the State, and State control. It would be a society that ran itself. Its leaders would be those accepted by the people themselves. It would be a society with no rigid hierarchy. The True Ruler of this Muslim Island would be Allah Ta'ala Alone.
- The Muslim island would be a World society. The members would come from all races. Anywhere in the World a Muslim would be at home in it, just as today a person can come from India, or Pakistan or Algeria, and immediately be at home in Manchester or Birmingham with the Muslims.
- We must remember. The key to a World Community is a strong local community.
- Imam Raza saw this in 1912. These local communities really could organise financial help for the Muslims, and try to put political pressure on governments. The tragedy of Bosnia has been that Muslims in places like Britain haven't been able to give any political help to the Bosnians, But of course political activity over Bosnia was dominated by people who were not Sunnis.
- This Muslim island is above all the creation of Ahle Sunnat wal Jamaat. The sects have no interest in the Muslim Community but only in themselves, But to Ahle Sunnat this Community is the Umma of the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) And this Umma is a Holy Thing. It is the bearer of the Message of Allah Ta'ala to the World. And so it is vital for it to survive no matter what happens.

- This was the reason why the whole aim of the four-point plan of Imam Raza was to preserve this Umma. Imam Raza thought, and Sunni Ulama have always thought, that at all costs the Umma must be kept together. Many Muslims endanger the Community with all kinds of adventures. Many leave the Umma to live outside it. But Imam Raza aimed to keep it together.
- And so this four-point plan is itself a Holy Act. Some might ask is this Muslim island a good society..? The answer must be yes! On it the Muslims would be trying to lead the life which Allah Ta'ala wants the Muslims to live. It would be a society of love and kindness in Muslim families, Mosques, Sufi Orders with Muslim Charity and Zakat. It would be a society full of respect for the learned and the old. It would be a society led by Ulama and Awliya.
- Above all it would be the Perfect Society. That society is perfect which brings the greatest number of people to the greatest possible happiness. The greatest possible happiness is to be with Allah Ta'ala, in this life, and in the Next Life, and in Paradise.
- The aim of Ahle Sunnat is to make the Umma of the Prophet (Sall Allahu Alaihi wa Sallam) as big as possible. This Muslim island would be the biggest possible Umma of the Muslims. And we know that all these Muslims will go to Paradise because at the end the Prophet (Sail Allahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) will intercede and bring all the Muslims to Paradise.
- And so this society planned by Imam Raza in his four-point plan, is the Perfect Society, as through it the greatest possible number of people come to the greatest possible happiness which is Paradise. And that is the greatest possible reason for the importance of the four-point plan of 1912'.
- In conclusion you may ask how important this four point plan of 1912 is..? The answer is simple! There could be no plan in the entire World, which is more important. Follow it and the highest possible number of human beings will come to Paradise.

The incredible beauty of this plan proves it to be true.  
And the time to act on this plan is now!