

*The Impact of the Rising Culture of Western Civilization in the Pakistani Muslim Community: An Influential Study from an Islamic Perspective*

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**Abstract**

This article aims to explore the effects of cultural imitation of western civilization within the Muslim community in Pakistan. Imitation, in this context, refers to the tendency of individuals to adopt and replicate certain behaviors, practices, and beliefs without critical examination. By analyzing various social, cultural, and psychological factors, this study aims to shed light on the underlying reasons behind this phenomenon. Drawing on a review of existing literature, this study identifies several key factors contributing to imitation within the Muslim community in Pakistan. Firstly, cultural influence plays a significant role, as individuals tend to imitate societal norms and practices passed down through generations. Cultural traditions, religious rituals, and community customs often shape the behavior and choices of individuals, promoting imitation as a means of conforming and maintaining social cohesion. Moreover, religious authority and leadership also exert a significant influence on imitation. Religious figures, such as imams and scholars, hold significant sway over the Muslim community in Pakistan. Their interpretations of Islamic teachings and religious practices often become the standard for imitation, with individuals seeking guidance and validation from religious authorities. Another important factor contributing to imitation is the lack of critical thinking and education. Limited access to quality education and critical thinking skills can hinder

individuals' ability to question established beliefs and practices, leading to a reliance on imitation as a way of navigating religious and social matters. Social conformity and the desire for acceptance within the community further fuel the propensity for imitation. In Pakistan, societal expectations and pressures to conform to religious and cultural norms can outweigh individual autonomy, pushing people to imitate behaviors and practices that are widely accepted within their social circles. It is crucial to note that while imitation may serve as a mechanism for social cohesion and identity formation, it can also restrict individual freedom and hinder societal progress. Addressing the causes of imitation requires a multifaceted approach, including promoting critical thinking skills, encouraging education, fostering inclusive dialogue, and empowering individuals to question established practices within the framework of their faith. By understanding the causes of imitation within the Muslim community in Pakistan, this research contributes to a broader understanding of the complex dynamics that shape religious and cultural behaviors. The findings of this study may inform efforts to promote individual agency, social diversity, and a more nuanced interpretation of religious practices, ultimately fostering a more open and progressive society.

**Keywords:** globalization, cultural practices, Muslim community, Pakistan, impact, western civilization, imitation

### **Introduction:**

In Islam, the conformity and similarity with non-Muslims and infidels has not been declared illegal and Haram in everything, there is absolutely no prohibition in the Sharia to do this, nor has it been prevented from doing so. Rather, the Prophet of Allah also adopted such a practice in many worldly matters, and this practice is also proven by the life of the Caliphs too.<sup>1</sup> According to Islamic Shariah, where it is not prohibited the law, there is no problem in adopting the ways and methods of the infidels. But, in religious affairs and rituals, it is not permissible to imitate anyone, nor will the religious ways and the cyphers (Shi'ār) of non-Muslims be adopted. There is no problem in adopting the ways of the disbelievers in other matters. Therefore, wherever the prohibition of imitating the disbelievers is described, it refers to the cases where imitating is prohibited. But there are some limitations and reservations too in this regard. Also, Islam orders the adoption of its own culture, so adopting its own culture and civilization is preferred in Islam, so Muslims should adopt its own culture and civilization.<sup>2</sup> In this study, it is analyzed that what are the causes and factors of imitation of western civilization in Pakistani community? Why do Pakistani Muslims feel ashamed of being followed to Islamic civilization? Moreover, it has been described in detail that what is the reality of Imitation

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<sup>1</sup> Allah Ditta and Hafiz Muhammad Hasan Mahmood, "The Tradition of Innovation in Islamic Civilization: An Exclusive Study of Early Ages of Islam," *Al-Milal: Journal of Religion and Thought* 2, no. 1 (June 27, 2020): 297–321, <https://doi.org/10.46600/almilal.v2i1.67>.

<sup>2</sup>See please for further details: Allah Ditta and Asmatullah, "Analytical Study of the Viewpoints of the Jurists about the Rulings of Imitation and Its Types," *Journal of Islamic and Religious Studies* 3, no. 1 (June 30, 2018): 1–16, <https://doi.org/10.36476/JIRS.3:1.06.2018.01>.

of non-Muslims? How harmful is it? And to what extent is suspicion of infidels allowed in Sharia?

### **Objectives of the research**

- 1 .Detecting the harm and damage of suspected infidels
- 2 .Creating passion and interest in following the Sunnah of the Prophet
3. Clarifying the reality of suspicion of infidels and creating awareness of its legitimacy and prohibition.

### **Research Question:**

What are the underlying factors that contribute to the prevalence of imitation within the Muslim community in Pakistan, and what implications does this phenomenon have on individuals, social dynamics, and the progress of the society?

### **Research Methodology:**

To investigate the causes of imitation within the Muslim community in Pakistan, the qualitative-method research approach is employed.

### **Important Factors for Impact of Western Civilization on Muslim Community in Pakistan**

In today's era of degeneration, the trend of turning away from the Sunnah and following western civilization is increasing rapidly. Rather, Muslims have made it their habit and a certain section of Pakistani society calls it enlightenment and ideological freedom. Some Muslims feel ashamed in following Islam or following the Sunnah. While on the other hand, the western people preach their practices and habits and Muslims immediately adopt them because of the weaknesses of their civilization and because of the intellectual leadership and dominance of the West.

On the contrary, if we look at our predecessors, they made the Qur'an and Sunnah the motto and cover of their lives and they were against the ways of the non-Muslims to such an extent that even in the courts of Caesar and Cyrus and they presented a practical example of opposition to the infidels and following the Qur'an and Sunnah.

By the way, there are many reasons why Muslims are adopting to imitate and replicate with infidels, but in the context of the present day, the following are some of the most important reasons.

### **Efforts against Muslims**

The enemies of Islam have always been engaged in plotting against Islam and its followers, from the beginning of Islam until today, perhaps there will be a day for them (and if there is such a day, it will be a very lucky day) when they have not made any efforts against Islam and its believers. In all the plots against Islam till date, the enemies of Islam must have been involved in one way or the other. They used their full strength, courage and energy to deliver harms to Islam and its followers. Because it is the most sacred work for them, that is why they don't let any moment slip for it, their wish is that

they can somehow succeed in eradicating Islam from this world. We must understand and thwart all such intrigues of theirs, behind which in one form or another, but hostility to Islam is pretty evident to every critical thinker. The Qur'an warns us about their schemes:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَطِيعُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ يَرُدُّوكُم بَعْدَ إِيمَانِكُمْ كُفْرِينَ<sup>3</sup>

O believers! If you follow the words of a group of People of the Book, they will turn you into apostates and disbelievers after you believe.

In another place, Allah commands abstinence from following them and says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن تَطِيعُوا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا يَرُدُّوكُم عَلَيَّ أَعْقَابِكُمْ فَتَنْقَلِبُوا خَاسِرِينَ<sup>4</sup>

Believers! If you obey what the disbelievers say, they will turn your upside down (turn you apostate) then you will be in great loss.

In another place Allah almighty says:

وَلَنْ تَرْضَىٰ عَنْكَ الْيَهُودُ وَلَا النَّصَارَىٰ حَتَّىٰ تَتَّبِعَ مِلَّتَهُمْ<sup>5</sup>

And neither the Jews nor the Christians will ever be happy with you, even follow their religion.

In other words, their aim is to turn Muslims away from Islam so that they can weaken Islam, and they are also the rivals of Muslims and they are extremely disgusted when Muslims receive any favor, good or reward from Allah. Allah almighty says:

مَا يَوَدُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَلَا الْمُشْرِكِينَ أَنْ يُنَزَّلَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِنْ خَيْرٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ<sup>6</sup>

Those who are disbelievers, people of the book or polytheists, they do not like that good (and blessing) should descend upon you from your Lord.

This shows that the enemies of Islam are exerting their elements so that their civilization could be dominant and looks imminent and looming. Some Muslims got into the deception and follow their methods. Resultantly, people are leaving the Islamic civilization.

### **Lack of Islamic Knowledge among Muslims**

In this advanced age of science and technology, the trend of alienation from religion is very common, but many people still adhere to it due to some necessity, habit, inheritance, or practice etc. Look at the people, they will be well aware of the teachings of their worldly matters, but in comparison, the majority of the Muslims are neither aware of the basic beliefs nor the basic orders of the religion. Not to speak of a common man, there is a large number of modern educated Muslims who are not even familiar with the name of *Dharūriyāt Deen* (the basic requirements of the religion), nor do they understand what the name of the *Dharūriyāt Deen* is and even do not try to know what it is.

It is futile to expect from those who are unfamiliar with the *Dharūriyāt Deen* that they will also know the difference between *Ḥarām* and *Ḥalāl*, *Faradh* and *Wājib*, *Sunnat* and *Mustahab*, *Makrūh* and *Mubāḥ*. Moreover, the people are unfamiliar with the ways of the Holy Prophet of Allah (Sunnah) and they are not keen to be familiar with it, so this is the reason why people easily fall under the imitation of infidels due to the lack of Islamic knowledge. Moreover, the harms and disadvantages of the imitation of the disbelievers are so many that it has been described by the Holy Prophet. Therefore, the Prophet of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, says:

<sup>3</sup> *Quran*, 3:100.

<sup>4</sup> *Quran*, 3:149.

<sup>5</sup> *Quran*, 2:120.

<sup>6</sup> *Quran*. 2:105.

مَنْ تَشَبَهَ بِقَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ<sup>7</sup>

Whoever resembles a nation is one of them.

In another narration, this statement is described in further details. The Holy Prophet said:

بُعِثْتُ بَيْنَ يَدَيْ السَّاعَةِ بِالسَّيْفِ حَتَّى يُعْبَدَ اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَجُعِلَ رِزْقِي تَحْتَ ظِلِّ رُمْحِي  
وَجُعِلَ الذُّلُّ وَالصَّغَارُ عَلَى مَنْ خَالَفَ أَمْرِي وَمَنْ تَشَبَهَ بِقَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ<sup>8</sup>

I have been sent with a sword to worship Allah alone with no partner, my sustenance has been placed under the shadow of My spear, full humiliation has been written for those who transgress My commandments, and whoever takes the likeness of a nation is of them.

In this hadith, the Prophet ﷺ is clearly saying that do not imitate the non-Muslims, if you are adopting the resemblance of the non-Muslims with the aim of becoming like developed nations in the world, and this is often the goal of those who adopt their resemblance, then the Prophet of Allah, peace be upon him, has clearly warned that if you leave my commandments and allow imitation of non-Muslims, your destiny will not be honor and superiority, but humiliation, disgrace and inferiority. Therefore, a Muslim should fully follow the orders of the religion of Islam, but a lover of the religion of Islam dislikes Judaism, Christianity and polytheism so much that he likes to jump into the fire, but it is not acceptable for him to leave the faith under any circumstances. If the disease is known, it can be treated and avoided by abstaining from it, and when the disease is avoided, one must turn to the Sunnah, and this is what the Shariah is intended for. This is the purpose of God's statement which has been explained in Quran:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا<sup>9</sup>

There is indeed a good model for you in the Messenger of Allah - for the one who has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah profusely.

When Muslims will follow this good rule perfectly, their life will be a standard and exemplary life, and this is the greatest guidance and the greatest revolution of the present age, beyond which there can be neither any guidance nor any revolution. The welfare and prosperity of this world and the hereafter lies in following the Sunnah, and in violation of the Sunnah, disgrace and humiliation are destined, even if they appear to be successful.

### Lack of Practice among Muslims

After learning the Islamic teachings, the most important step is to follow these commands, but most people, except for a certain religious group, are sedentary and do not follow the commands of Islam. This behavior of turning away from the Sunnah

<sup>7</sup> Sulaimān b. Ash'ath Abū Dāwūd, *Sunan Abū Dāwūd* (Beirut: Al-Maktaba al Asriah, n.d.). Hadith No. 4031.

<sup>8</sup> Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal, *Musnad Aḥmad* (Beirut: Mo'sasa al Risalah, 1421). Hadith No. 5114.

<sup>9</sup> Quran, 33:21.

involves various factors and mostly due to worldly interests. So sometimes they want to prove themselves to be advanced and sometimes they do it because of their sense of pride and want to impress the world that we are very modern, civilized, superior and organized people.

But if you look at it from the outside, there is no one inferior from them. In fact, they themselves suffer from a very bad feeling of inferiority, due to which they impersonate themselves, if they are superior, then they must not to imitate anyone. In spite of that, people must follow them, but this is not the case. Why don't they (the society) run behind them, so their doing so is an argument that they themselves suffer from inferiority complex. They are the creation of the Allah almighty and Allah has ordered the whole universe to imitate the ways of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah almighty be upon Him). His imitation is the guarantee of prosperity in this world and the hereafter. Allah almighty has described it in the Holy Quran:

وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا ۚ وَذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ<sup>10</sup>

And whoever obeys God and His Messenger, God will admit him to gardens with rivers flowing in them, they will remain therein forever, and this is a great success.

Whoever obeys the Messenger of Allah ﷺ will also find the pleasure of Allah ﷻ and the abode of His pleasure will be Jannah, but the one who disobeys, it is said about him in the Holy Quran:

وَمَنْ يَعْصِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَتَعَدَّ حُدُودَهُ يُدْخِلْهُ نَارًا خَالِدًا فِيهَا ۚ وَلَهُ عَذَابٌ مُبِينٌ<sup>11</sup>

And whoever disobeys God and His Messenger and transgresses His limits, God will cast him into Hellfire where he will remain forever and he will be punished with humiliation.

Disobeying the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and feeling displeasure in the heart with his commands, or being narrowed in the heart, is a sign of weak faith, and if one does not accept them and does not consider them correct, then this is disbelief. Despite that, a Muslim must accept all the commandments of the Holy Prophet whole heartedly with pleasure and happiness. It is mentioned in Holy Quran:

فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِي مَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا<sup>12</sup>

By your Lord, these people will not be believers until they make you fair in their disputes and do not feel tired in their hearts with the decision you make, but accept it with joy.

### **The estrangement to Islamic teachings**

A large number of Muslims knowingly object to Islamic teachings and thus they become suspicious. They make strange interpretations of their actions. Sometimes they say that the Islamic civilization is fourteen hundred years old. Therefore, it can no longer support the current era, and should we now become conservative and orthodox in this modern era, or we would turn back to that old era. These types of objections are undoubtedly the consequences of the distancing from Islamic teachings. The reason behind the fall of the Muslims and Islamic civilization is that the Muslims has departed from the teachings of Islam and they are humiliated and disgraced in the world today because of their disobedience to Islamic teachings. Iqbal says:

وہ معزز تھے زمانے میں مسلمان ہو کر  
اور تم خوار ہوئے تارک قرآن ہو کر<sup>13</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Quran. 4:13.

<sup>11</sup> Quran. 4:14.

<sup>12</sup> Quran. 4:65.

Iqbal says that the Muslims were honored to be a Muslim in his time due to following the teachings of Islam but in our times the Muslims have become discredited, destitute and ruined by taking themselves off from the commandments of Qur'an. So, they should be afraid of the annoyance of Allah ﷻ lest this act of theirs destroys their Hereafter. Instead, he should love the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his teachings immensely. The Holy Prophet said:

ثَلَاثٌ مَنْ كُنَّ فِيهِ وَجَدَ حَلَاوَةَ الْإِيمَانِ أَنْ يَكُونَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِمَّا سِوَاهُمَا وَأَنْ يُحِبَّ  
الْمَرْءَ لَا يُحِبُّهُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ وَأَنْ يَكْرَهُ أَنْ يَعُودَ فِي الْكُفْرِ كَمَا يَكْرَهُ أَنْ يُقَذَّفَ فِي النَّارِ<sup>14</sup>

Whoever possesses the following three qualities will have the sweetness (delight) of faith :

- 1 .The one to whom Allah and His Apostle becomes dearer than anything else .
- 2 .Who loves a person and he loves him only for Allah's sake .
3. Who hates to revert to Atheism (disbelief) as he hates to be thrown into the fire".

So, a Muslim should have the same dislike for their ways and way of socializing too. Consequently, when a Muslim dislike the thinking and behavior of Judaism and Christianity, he will necessarily turn to the Sunnah, and this is the purpose of the Shari'ah. Because, abandoning the Quran and the Sunnah is the root of all our diseases.

### **The trend of Materialism**

As the trend of materialism is increasing, the problems relating to religion, faith and beliefs are increasing, that's why people are adopting and imitating the ways of materialistic and successful personalities. Because of this, some people are making themselves as non-Muslims even no one can recognize them whether they are Muslims or non-Muslims. Perhaps this is what Iqbal said about such people:

وضع میں تم ہو نصاریٰ تو تمدن میں بنو  
یہ مسلمان ہیں جنہیں دیکھ کے شرمائیں یہود<sup>15</sup>

Iqbal said that you are a Christian by gesture, but a Hindu by culture and these are the Muslims whom the Jews should be ashamed to see.

### **Moral weaknesses of Muslims**

Muslims today are morally and ethically weak. This weakness is one of the main causes that invites the imitation of infidels. In order to remove this weakness, they want guidance from the west instead of taking guidance from the Qur'an and Sunnah, and instead of getting out of this deep swamp, the Muslims are sinking into this swamp. In most of the cases, the Muslims are becoming disbelievers or their faith about religion is becoming pathetic. The pity is that, the Muslims did not want to come out of this pit, rather, they are trying their best to sink into it. It is the Muslim who, despite reading or identifying the teachings of Islam, has the lifestyle of a disbeliever and not only does it,

<sup>13</sup> Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, *Kulyāt-e-Iqbal* (Lahore: Iqbal Academy Pakistan, 1990), 232.

<sup>14</sup> Bukhārī, *Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī*. Hadith No. 16.

<sup>15</sup> Iqbal, 231.

but also likes it. There is almost no one except the Muslims who believes in his religion but following another religion. The Holy Prophet said:

« لَا تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ حَتَّى تَأْخُذَ أُمَّتِي بِأَخْذِ الْقُرُونِ قَبْلَهَا، شِبْرًا بِشِبْرٍ وَذِرَاعًا بِذِرَاعٍ »، فَقِيلَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، كَفَّارِسَ وَالرُّومَ؟ « فَقَالَ: « وَمَنْ النَّاسُ إِلَّا أَوْلِيكَ »

The Hour will not be established till my followers copy the deeds of the previous nations and follow them very closely, span by span, and cubit by cubit (i.e., inch by inch)." It was said, "O Allah's Apostle! Do you mean by those (nations) the Persians and the Byzantines?" The Prophet said, "Who can it be other than they?"

Therefore, it has become difficult to discriminate between infidels and Muslims in social life today.

### **Degradation of Muslims in intellectual and ideological fields**

The need and importance of the topic under discussion has been in every era, especially in the present era, when Muslims are morally, socially, politically, economically and scientifically declined. Owing to this, most of the Muslims think that pretending to be non-Muslims and imitating them is a matter of pride and honor. It is necessary for us to follow them and this is a compulsion for everyone now a days. Furthermore, it is the aspect of modernism and they remember the opponents as extremists and conservatives. The reality and truth about this trend were spoken by the Holy Prophet ﷺ

لَتَتَّبِعَنَّ سَنَنَ مَنْ قَبْلَكُمْ شِبْرًا بِشِبْرٍ وَذِرَاعًا بِذِرَاعٍ حَتَّى لَوْ سَلَكُوا جُحْرَ ضَبٍّ لَسَلَكْتُمُوهُ قُلْنَا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ الْيَهُودَ وَالنَّصَارَى قَالَ فَمَنْ<sup>16</sup>

You will follow the wrong ways, of your predecessors so completely and literally that if they should go into the hole of an iguana, you too will go there." We (the companions) said, "O Allah's Apostle! Do you mean the Jews and the Christians?" He replied, "Whom else?" (Meaning, of course, the Jews and the Christians.)

The tendency to follow any dominant thought is an intuitive process, because today Muslims are behind in the intellectual and ideological field as well as in the field of science and technology, so the Muslims are imitating the customs, manners and etiquettes of western civilization. They used to imitate and feel proud to be like them. There was a time when non-Muslim communities wanted to follow the Muslim world. But today time has been changed. Now, it is time that Muslims feel proud to imitate the infidels and want to be like them in any case and at any cost. There is a need for Muslims to be proud of their civilization and culture, adopt it and make it a habit because it is beloved and cherished by Allah ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ.

### **Conspiracies of Hypocrites**

Like Jews, Christians and other infidels, the hypocrites are also at the forefront in providing the harm to Islam. History tells us that this group also came into existence with the appearance of Islam and from that time until today, this group is engaged in weakening the cause of Islam. From Abdullah bin Abi Salūl to Abdullah bin Sabā, and from Mir J'afar and Mir Şādiq to Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, how many hypocrites are there who are engaged in similar conspiracies against Islam. It is the result of the

<sup>16</sup> Muḥammad b. Ismā'īl Bukhārī, *Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī* (Beirut: Dar Touq-al-Najaat, 1422). Hadith. No. 3456



conspiracies of their endless efforts against Islam that today the Muslims are subjugated in the world, otherwise the map of the world today would not be like this.<sup>17</sup>

If the unity and agreement between them would have remained and Sultan Bayezid Yildirim and Emir Timur would not have fought each other and they themselves fought against the nations of Europe together, most of Europe today would probably be Muslim. Had it not been for Mir J'afar and Mir Şādiq, the situation in the sub-continent would have been different today, and these conspiracies always started with the imitation of the infidels and ended with their love and affection. The same situation occurred in Turkey and the decline started in Turkey and Sultan Salim Khan and Sultan Mustafa Khan were deposed<sup>18</sup>.

### **Lord Macaulay's System of Education**

The prevailing system of education in schools and colleges is perhaps the biggest reason for the imitation of infidels that has afflicted our young generation today. Today, the greatest need is to reform the education system and the curriculum so that our youth can become a true follower and lover of the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet. Professor Syed Suleiman Ashraf, pointing out the shortcomings of this education system, says: The aim of this education system was to fight against the Christian nations with the new education system. Unfortunately, it was not achieved but the religion was the main victim of this disaster. Moreover, the blusher of freedom and European civilization was applied to the religion and the shape of the religion was distorted.<sup>19</sup>

### **Poverty**

Poverty leads a person to the door of disbelief, so imitation of infidels and many other issues are the outcome of this aspect. The Christian missionaries are teaching the slogans of Christianity to the poor people in exchange for wealth. These people don't make them Christians but they don't let them remain Muslims either. Ashraf advises the Muslims, Dear, be wise, religion is the greatest wealth of God, it should not be lost from the luxurious life that comes with unbelief. The life of hardship is thousand times better than comfortable life which arises with disbelief.<sup>20</sup> These are the quotes which looks pretty but in practical life, to fight with these types of problems is a miracle. So, the government officials and other stakeholders should do their best to eliminate the poverty in society.

### **Fatwas of worldly scholars**

Since ancient times, there have been scholars who issue wrong type of fatwas to get closeness to government officials, noble persons or rulers or for a few pennies. Because of this, many problems became common among Muslims and disunity and disagreement became common among Muslims, one of them is the problem of imitation of infidels, which these bad scholars made common and spread among people.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the causes of imitation within the Muslim community in Pakistan are multifaceted and encompass social, cultural, and psychological factors. Cultural influence, religious authority, limited access to education, and the desire for social

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<sup>17</sup> Syed Sulaimān Ashraf, *Al-Balāgh* (Lahore: Idāra Pakistan Shanāsī, 2010), 18.

<sup>18</sup> Ashraf, 18.

<sup>19</sup> Ashraf, 19.

<sup>20</sup> Ashraf, 47.

acceptance all contribute to the prevalence of imitation. While imitation can serve as a mechanism for social cohesion and identity formation, it can also impede individual freedom and hinder societal progress.

To address this issue, it is essential to promote critical thinking skills and education among individuals in the Muslim community. Encouraging individuals to question and critically examine established beliefs and practices within the framework of their faith can empower them to make informed choices and develop a more nuanced understanding of their religious and cultural traditions.

Furthermore, fostering inclusive dialogue and creating spaces for open discussions can help challenge and expand the boundaries of acceptable practices within the Muslim community. Encouraging diverse perspectives and interpretations of Islamic teachings can promote a more inclusive and tolerant society, allowing individuals to express their unique identities while remaining rooted in their faith.

It is also important for religious leaders and scholars to emphasize the principles of Islam that encourage personal reflection, independent thinking, and compassion towards others. By highlighting these values, religious authorities can guide the community towards a more balanced approach that incorporates individual agency and critical inquiry while maintaining religious integrity.

Additionally, efforts should be made to address societal pressures and expectations that contribute to conformity. Promoting acceptance of diverse views and practices within the Muslim community can create an environment that encourages individual expression and reduces the need for blind imitation.

In conclusion, addressing the causes of imitation within the Muslim community in Pakistan requires a comprehensive approach that involves education, critical thinking, inclusive dialogue, and a focus on individual agency. By promoting these elements, Pakistani society can foster a more progressive and open environment where individuals can authentically express their identities while upholding their religious beliefs.