The Big Challenges Which Face the Message of At-Taqrib, Today

By: Dr. Muhammad Ad-Dusuqi

There is no doubt or disagreement on the fact that Islam is the religion of unity in its absolute comprehensive conception and dimensions. Really it is the unity of faith and systematic approaches, and it is the unity of cooperation, integrity, and strong solidarity. So the faithful Muslims of this religion are brothers, and this brotherhood obligate those who have accepted Islam as their religion to have a comprehensive unity which emphasizes the fact that relationships and good ties of the faith are stronger and have priority over the ties of kinship, and blood or family relationships.

For this reason, this Islamic unity has become a unity with strong and firm pillars and bases which cannot be
easily weakened by the accidents. It cannot be affected by hardships and straitened circumstances, except for increasing of its strength, power, might and triumph. Regarding this respect, it is no wonder when the Prophet (S.A.) "Has likened Muslims to the strong building which is compressed closely together, whose parts strengthen one another ", or: "They are like a one united human body, if any one of its organs complains of pains or illness, all of the other parts respond to it with fever and staying awake (waiting) for taking care and protection.

Owing to the Islam's great concern and care for the unity of Muslim believers, their coherent solidarity, and their continual staying in firm and powerful ranks with only one great and strong heart, it has prevented all the factors and causes of oppression and transgression on the rights and sanctities, which affect such unity, whether in word or action. When a conflict occurs between two Muslim groups, it is incumbent upon the Islamic Ummah to intervene to make reconciliation or a compromise between them, and settle their problems, if any, and to remove all the causes of conflict and dissension. And when any of the two groups or sects does not respond
positively or submit to the call of goodness and interest for the Muslims, then the Islamic Ummah has the lawful right to use force or necessary arms to fight it, (till it returns to the upright path of Islam).

In fact, the Islamic Ummah, today, is passing a fatal stage, so it is necessary to take a decisive stance to declare publicly that every religious school of thought has its own human understanding of the major Shari'ah texts, and its general laws and rules. So no one has the right to attack any of these schools of thought, hence, if he has done it, he would surely offend the unity of the Ummah, and this means that he misunderstands the genuine Islamic Shari'ah which is sent for the goodness of the affairs of this world and the Hereafter (the Afterworld).

Thus, I repeat again what I have referred to as the necessity of issuing a declaration or a statement about the general bases for at-taqrib (rapprochement).

In fact, whatever said or uttered that there are some attempts to direct the taqribi action towards publishing or spreading a religious sect at the expense of another sect or school of thought, is actually considered incorrect or untrue. And surely, we see and notice that the decisive
future vision for protecting the Ummah and strengthening the ties and relations between its peoples, and achieving the intellectual integrity among its ‘ulama’ is the main objective and purpose of the calling to at-taqrib (rapprochement).