Citizenship and Islam

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What I will write in this article is my personal opinion and based on my humble understanding of religion. The fundamental issues in Shariah are fixed and unchangeable while the scholarly opinions on contemporary issues may change depending on the enhancement of knowledge or change of circumstance. The subject citizenship from an Islamic perspective is quite complexed, vast and profound. It may have more than one scholarly opinion based on the research of each and every individual scholar.

- Meaning of the word citizenship:

According to Cambridge Dictionary the word citizenship means:

The state of being a member of a particular country and having rights because of it.

It also may mean:
The state of living in a particular area or town and behaving in a way that other people who live there expect of you.

- Belief in fate:

A fundamental element of a Muslims faith is to have a solid belief in fate. A true Muslim is bound to be content and satisfied with the decrees and decisions of Allah, the almighty whether he likes them or not. Allah, the exalted said in the Noble Quran:

((He has created everything, and has measured it exactly according to its due measurements))
Surah Furqan: 2

((Verily, we have created all things with Qadar, Divine Preordainments of all things before their creation, as written in the Book of Decrees))

Surah Qamar: 49

- **Migration to Europe:**

Many of our parents, grandparents and ancestors had migrated to United Kingdom as well as to many European countries starting from 16th century for many different purposes. Diplomacy, searching for better jobs, establishing businesses, better education, medical treatments and tourism were amongst the purpose of migration. Soon many of these purposes have turned into a permanent residency then ultimately citizenship including the establishment of special cemeteries for Muslims in Europe. Approximately 100,000 British natives converted to Islam already making Islam as the fastest growing religion in UK and all over Europe.

- **Did all these happen accidently or happened by the will of Allah?**

I don’t really think all those things happened accidently. I believe all of these happened by the will of our creator, the lord of the universe Allah, almighty which is an undeniable fact. The wisdom behind the decrees of Allah sometimes can be understood easily and other time it takes longer to comprehend.
• **Muslim live as a minority:**

Today, there are approximately 1.6 billion Muslims all over the globe which make them 23% percent of world population. This make Islam the 2nd largest religion in the world and that is projected to be the largest by 2070 inshaallah. It is estimated that one third of whole Muslim Population live as a minority in this world.

• **Muslims always co-existed:**

Muslims had always lived as minority since the early stage of Islam. Muslims co-existed and lived with people of other faith in peace and harmony over the centuries. Approximately 9 Million Non-Muslims reside in Middle East which is the hub of Islam. Muslim Rulers always provided them with safety and security and never forced them to Islam. We can see the evidence when we look at the historical churches in Egypt and in other parts of Middle East. Inida was ruled by Muslims for decades yet vast majority of Indians are people other faith.

• **Migration from Makkah to Ethiopia:**

On the other hand, we can see the Migration of early Muslims from the holy land of Makkah to Ethiopia due to the severe enmity and harassment from the enemies of Islam in Makkah. The christian King Najashi of Ethiopia granted the companions of holy prophet Mohammed PBUH with safety and security. Many companions never returned to Makkah even after it's conquest.

• **Is loyalty allowed for anyone apart from Allah?**

The faith of any religious person is that the absolute and ultimate loyalty is to his creator Allah, the almighty. However, the partial and multiple loyalty can exist too. A person can be loyal to his boss but this loyalty would not be considered as an absolute loyalty rather it would go under the partial loyalty. Similarly, a person can be loyal to Allah SWT while being loyal to his parents. In the issue of loyalty, a general principle had been outlined by our holy prophet Mohammed PBUH which must be observed in all condition as much as possible:
There is no obedience to the creation, in the disobedience of the Creator.

(Musannaf Ibnu Abi-Shaibah)

- Roles of a good Muslim Citizen in Britain:

  1. Fulfil your contracts:

     Amongst the Beautiful qualities of good Muslim is to abide by the contracts and to keep their promises and respect their covenants. The citizenship is a form of covenant and it should be observed once it has been made

     Allah, almighty said in the Holy Quran:

     ☁️ ☁️ ☁️

     O you who believe! Fulfil your obligations

     (Al-Maidah: 1)

     ☁️ ☁️ ☁️

     And fulfil (every) covenant. Verily! the covenant, will be questioned about

     (Al-Israa: 34)

  2. Be a divine prophetic practicing Muslim with the best character and mannerism

     The holy Prophet Mohammed PBUH said:
Show the best character to people

(At-Tirmizi)

3. Be a preacher of Islam with wisdom, beautiful speech and dialogue
   Allah, the almighty said:

   اَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَالْمُوَعِّظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ ﻭَجَادِلْهُمْ ﺑِالْحَسَنَةِ ﻭَﺍﻟْﻤَﻮْﻋِظَةِ ﺑِﺎﻟْﺤِﻜْﻤَةِ ﻟَمَّا إِﻧَّهُ ﺑِمَآؤُلُ ﺑَيْنَكُمْ أَحْسَن

   Invite the mankind to the way of your lord with wisdom and beautiful speech, and argue with them in a way that is better

   (An-Nahl: 125)

4. Respect the law of the country and especially laws which are legislated for the health, safety and security of public such as traffic law, health and safety law and laws related to benefits etc.

5. Respect the tradition, custom and culture of other citizens while adhering to the Sunnah of Prophet Mohammed PBUH as much as possible.

6. Be a constructive person in this world and always make positive contribution

   The holy Prophet Mohammed PBUH said:

   ﻟِإِﻥَ قَﺎﻣَﺖِ ﺍﻟﺴﱠﺎﻋَﺔُ ﻭِﻓِي ﺱَأَأِ ﻭَأَحَدُكُمْ ﻓِسْبِيلَةٌ، ﻓَإِنَّ ﺍسْﺘَطَﺎﻉَ أَنَّ لاَ ﺗَفْعَّلُ ﺑِهَا ﻋِنْ ﻓِسْبِيْلَهَا فَلِيَغْرِسُهَا.

   If the Final Hour comes while you have a palm-cutting in your hands and it is possible to plant it before the Hour comes, you should plant it.

   (Al-Adab Al-Mufrad)
7. Be best in whatever profession you may be in

The holy Prophet Mohammed PBUH said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَتَعَلَّى بِيَدَيْنِ يُحْبِبْ إِذَا عَمَلْتُمْ أَحَدَّكُمْ عَمَا لَّا أُنْرِنَّهُ

Allah loves someone who when works, he performs it in perfect manner

(Al-Baihaqi)

8. Take care of the environment

The holy Prophet Mohammed PBUH said:

اتقوا اللعنين، قالوا: وما اللعنان، قال: " الذي يتخلى في طريق الناس، أو ظلهم"

Be on your guard against two things which provoke cursing. The companions said: Oh Messenger of Allah! what are those things which provoke cursing? He said: passing urine or stool in public roads or under the shades where people take rest.

(Al-Muslim)