

## **Hagia Sophia, Turkey**

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahe Wa Barakatuhu.

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim.

Today's topic of discussion is "Conversion of Hagia Sophia to Mosque".

### **Brief history of Hagia Sophia**

From 537 AD to 1204 AD it was a cathedral of Orthodox Greek. From 1204 AD to 1261 AD it was used as Church of Roman Catholic. 1261 AD to 1453 AD it was again converted to Greek Orthodox Cathedral. That means total 859 years it was Greek Orthodox Cathedral and 57 years as Roman Catholic Church. Total 916 years as Greek Orthodox cathedral and Roman Catholic Church.

### **Muslim won the war in 1453 AD**

Sultan Mehmet Fateh conquered this land in the year 1453 and converted this Hagia Sophia as Mosque. As per prevailing international war Law this conversion was legal. But still he purchased the land in the name of a Trust and incorporated in the Memorandum that future conversion of this mosque to any other purpose will be illegal and this act will invite curse from the Almighty Allah SWT.

### **Kamal Ataturk, Turkey leader declared it as Museum in the year 1934 AD**

In the year 1934 AD, a secular ruler of Turkey Kamal Ataturk declared it as Museum disregarding the opinion of Muslim Population of Turkey and violating the Memorandum of a Trust.

### **Highest Court of turkey and the government took decision to revert back Hagia Sophia as Mosque in July 2020**

The Highest court of Turkey in a ruling declared the conversion of Mosque to Museum by Kamal Ataturk was illegal and subsequently Govt. of Turkey took decision to convert Hagia Sophia as Mosque.

### **What is Islamic view of this conversion?**

*Question: Whether Al Quran and Sahih Hadith accept this conversion as legal.*

*Answer: yes.*

As per prevailing law of war at that time, it was legal to convert places of warship by the winning party.

Christian converted hundreds of Mosques to Churches in Cordova and Granada. Muslims also did after conquest of land.

Even now-a-days, Muslims bought and buying churches and converted and converting to mosques in Europe and USA.

**It is revealed in the holy Quran:**

أُذِنَ لِلَّذِينَ يُقَاتَلُونَ بِأَنَّهُمْ ظَلِمُوا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ نَصْرِهِمْ لَقَدِيرٌ ۚ ۲۲ الْحَجَّ ۳۹

Permission [to fight] has been given to those who are being fought, because they were wronged. And indeed, Allah is competent to give them victory. **Al-Hajj 22:39**

الَّذِينَ أُخْرِجُوا مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ إِلَّا أَنْ يَقُولُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ۗ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَهْجَمَتْ صَوَامِعُ وَبِيَعٌ وَصَلَوَاتٌ وَمَسَاجِدُ يُذْكَرُ فِيهَا اسْمُ اللَّهِ كَثِيرًا ۗ وَلَيَنْصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَنْصُرُهُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ ۚ ۲۲ الْحَجَّ ۴۰

[They are] those who have been evicted from their homes without right - only because they say, "Our Lord is Allah." And were it not that Allah checks the people, some by means of others, there would have been demolished monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques in which the name of Allah is much mentioned. And Allah will surely support those who support Him. Indeed, Allah is Powerful and Exalted in Might. **Al-Hajj 22:40**

In verse 39 Allah SWT permitted Muslims to fight against Non Muslims. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time permission was given by Allah SWT, because the Muslims were oppressed, were driven out of their homes, properties and from their land. In the last part of verse 40 a divine principle was mentioned that Allah does not let a group of people or a community have authority forever. Every now and then He repels one group by another.

With this verse of 40, it cannot be established that conversion of the places of worship of Non Muslim cannot be converted to places of worship of Muslims.

Similar divine principle is stated in verse 251 of Sura 2 Al-Baqara.

فَهَزَمُوهُمْ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَقَتَلَ دَاوُدُ جَالُوتَ وَآتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَعَلَّمَهُ مِمَّا يَشَاءُ ۗ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَفَسَدَتِ الْأَرْضُ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَىٰ الْعَالَمِينَ ۚ ۲ الْبَقَرَةَ ۲۵۱

So they defeated them by permission of Allah, and David killed Goliath, and Allah gave him the kingship and prophethood and taught him from that which He willed. And if it were not for Allah checking [some] people by means of others, the earth would have been corrupted, but Allah is full of bounty to the worlds. **Al-Baqara 2:251**

Refusal by Umar (r.a), 2<sup>nd</sup> caliph to offer prayer inside church of Jerusalem can also not be cited to justify that conversion is illegal. Umar (r.a) refused because there was treaty between wining Muslim and defeated Non Muslim that Non Muslim accepted Muslim as Winner and accepted to

pay Zizia Tax. So Muslims gave protection of their homes, properties business, arable land and places of worship.

## Hadith on this Conversion

### 1. Muslim Vol 6 Book 60 Number 244:

Ibn Abdullah who said the holy Prophet entered Makkah. There were 360 idols around Ka'ba. He began to thrust them with stick that was in his hand saying "Truth has come ... 17:81" Truth has arrived, and Falsehood can neither create anything from the beginning nor can it restore to life. (Book 19: Number 4397)

2. Jabir reported that there was in Pre-Islamic days a temple called Dhul-Khalasah and it was called the yamanite Ka'aba or the northern Ka'ba. Allah's Messenger said unto me:

Will you rid me of Dhul-Khalasah and so I went forth at the head of 350 horsemen of the tribe of Ahmas and we destroyed it and killed whom so ever we found there. Then we came back to him (to holy prophet) and informed him and he blessed us and the tribe of Ahmas Muslim 2476.

3. Prophet sent Amr bin Al-Aas to destroy the idol Suwa' Muslim 643

4. Abul-Hiyaaj Al Asadi said, Ali bin Abi Talib said to me, Shall I not send you on the same basis as the Messenger of Allah sent me? Do not leave any statue without destroying it and do not leave any built up grave without razing it to the ground. Muslim 969

5. Prophet sent Khalid bin Walid to destroy the idol Uzza is Nakhla, which was close to Makkah and Khalid not only had to destroy the idol itself, but also the Jinn who was related to idol. Muslim 643

6. Sad bin Zaid Al Ashhali was sent to Al-Mashallas to destroy idol Manat. Muslim 643

Therefore, As per Al Quran and Sahih hadith the conversion of places of worship of Non Muslim to places of worship of Muslim was not illegal is the past. And also conversion is not illegal at this time by purchasing of Non-Muslim's places of worship and converting to Muslim's places of worship.

No Muslim religious and political leader should think that highest court of Turkey and present Turkey Govt. have given wrong ruling and have taken wrong decision by declaring Hagia Sophia as Mosque from Museum.

May Allah SWT guide us to right path. Ameen.

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