

## **Self-Care and Clarity of Mind...a weekly column by Princess Lakshman (Sister Iqra)**



Welcome to my weekly column on **Self-Care and Clarity of Mind**. If you're taking time out to read this, pat yourself on the back because you have shown commitment to taking care of your mind and body.

Today, In Shaa ALLAH, we will explore the topic: **Relevance Of Religious Pluralism In Modern Society Through The Lens Of A Revert Muslim**

Today, I deviate from my usual self-care topics and open my heart to you about the relevance of religious pluralism in the modern society through my own lens.

Religious pluralism in modern society may be a group thought, a collective paradigm adhering to the notion that there is a harmonious co-existence between religions and that there is not one consistent means of approaching truths about God but rather many.

As a collective paradigm, it is ideal and even seems possible.

But, when it comes to a person's individual perception of another individual's spiritual journey, religious pluralism seems to lose its relevance. The individual's judgement of another individual's spiritual journey overshadows all else.

I embraced Islam seven years and was immediately ostracised by my modern, educated family. Religious pluralism in modern society should not have to be so challenging to practise. And yet it is, despite the fact that we modern people have progressed intellectually quite rapidly over the last 100 years. So, why is it so hard for a modern parent of today to accept that their adult child needs to explore her own spiritual path?

Is it because the modern society we live in is fear-rich and faith-poor? Is it because it's gadget-rich and heart-poor? Is it because it's tolerance-rich and understanding- and acceptance-poor? Is it because it's hate-rich and love-poor? Is it because it's population-rich and humanity-poor? Or is it because it's religion-rich and right-minded-perception-poor?

In my own experience, I feel the most dangerous ideology is that of loyalty. One individual gangs up against another individual or group and demands loyalty from others to support her or his selfish agenda. Loyalty isn't always righteous. And loyalty is never inclusive. The need of the hour is to recognise the individual and respect the individual. Live and let live.

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