MUSLIM SOURCES, WEST'S PLAN AND SEYMOUR HERSH

Muhammad Akram Sajid* Umar Hayat**

Abstract: The phenomenon, grows rapidly in the international politics, if the American Think Tank suggests some solution of the problem it will not only supersede but this is the best. Considering itself a sole superpower its intellectuals feel proud of arguing their ideas in favour or against of any burning issue. The international grim situation about the clash of civilizations provides the vacuum to discuss the topic freely. Unluckily, Muslim Ummah does not feel the worsening situation which is tightening the surroundings bitterly day by day. Irony is, the west smells the pain but the Muslims particularly Middle East merely enjoy the pleasure seeking luxuries without the vision that the sources will be consumed day by day and the day will come there would be no more resources. There are so many intellectuals who comment the topic, among them is Seymour Myron Hersh. This paper is going to reveal the analytical approaches of Seymour Hersh.

Key Words: Lai (adventure), Hindutvac aggressive (Hindu philosophy), Old World Order (Replacing the present order and establishing New World Order), Fedel Castro (Cuba's heroic leader), Caucasus (Chechen area where Guerilla war continues against Russia).

There Seymour Myrone Hersh, Pulitzer prize winner U.S. analyst was born in Chicago to Yiddish speaking Lithuanian Jewish parents in April 8, 1937, emigrated to United States from Lithuania Poland. Arriving to America they set up a dry cleaning shop in the Far-West side neighborhood of Chicago called Austin¹. Hersh did his graduation from the University of Chicago. He tried his luck to opt journalism as an occupation and joined as police reporter in 1959².

Lecturer, Government College Township, Lahore. Pakistan

Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, GC Unicersity Faisalabad, Pakistan.

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- 30. Theodore Van de Velde, Ideal Marriage, p. 110, cf. Anees Islam and Biological Futures, p. 69
- 31. William H. Masters and Virginia E. Johnson, Human Sexual Response, Boston Little Brown, 1966, pp. 124-6
- 32. C.B. Martin and N.M. Morris, Sex During the Menstrual Period, Medical aspects of Human Sexuality, Macmilan Publishing Inc., London, p. 40
- 33. Walter R. Wilson and Merle A. Sande, Current Diagnosis and Treatment in Infectious Diseases, Mcgraw Hill Medical Division New York, 2001, p. 209
- 34. M.A. Anees, Islam and Biological Futures, Ethics, Gender and Technology, p. 68
- 35. Marriage and Sexuality in Islam, p. 107
- 36. Lee Goldeman, Dennis Ausiello, Cecil Textbook of Medicine, 22nd ed., vol. 2, Ajanta offset New Delhi, 2004, p. 1914



Estrogens are used as part of some oral contraceptives, in estrogen replacement therapy for postmenopausal women, and in hormone replacement therapy for trans women.

Like all steroid hormones, estrogens readily diffuse across the cell membrane. Once inside the cell, they bind to and activate estrogen receptors which in turn modulate the expression of many genes

- 22. Progesterone also known as P4 (pregn-4-ene-3,20-dione) is a C-21 steroid hormone involved in the female menstrual cycle, pregnancy (supports *gestation*) and embryogenesis of humans and other species. Progesterone belongs to a class of hormones called progestogens, and is the major naturally occurring human progestogen.
- 23. Ralph C. Benson, Current Obstetric and Gynecologic Diagnosis and Treatment, 3rd ed., Lange Medical Publications, Merizen Asia (Pvt) Ltd. 1980, P. 108
- 24. The ducts in the mammary glands
- 25. Relating to or situated in the small, narrow spaces between tissues or parts of an organ
- 26. Sa'īdī, Ghulam Rasul, Allama, Sharah Sahih Muslim, Vol. 1, Fareed Book Stall, Lahore, 2000, pp. 109-1110
- 27. Sheldon H. Cherry, A Gynecologist's Guide to Modern Female Health Care, Macmilan Publishing Co., Newyork, 1979, p. 27
- 28. Georgeanna Seegar Jones and Anne Colston Wentz, Adolescence, Menstruation and the Climactoric in David N. Danford, Obstetrics and Gynecology, 4th ed., Harper and Row Publishers, Philadelphia, 1817, p. 171
- 29. Allan H. De Cherney, Current Diagnosis and Treatment, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mcgraw Hill Medical Publishing Division, New York, 2007, p. 570

through to the base of the stroma, which also carries a rich blood supply of spiral arteries. In a woman of reproductive age, two layers of endometrium can be distinguished. These two layers occur only in endometrium lining the cavity of the uterus, not in the lining of the Fallopian tubes. The functional layer is adjacent to the uterine cavity. This layer is built up after the end of menstruation during the first part of the previous menstrual cycle. Proliferation is induced by estrogen(follicular phase of menstrual cycle), and later changes in this layer are engendered by progestrone from the corpus luteum (luteal phase). It is adapted to provide an optimum environment for the implantation and growth of the embryo. This layer is completely shed during menstruation. The basal layer, adjacent to the myometrium and below the functional layer, is not shed at any time during the menstrual cycle, and from it the functional layer develops. In the absence of progesterone, the arteries supplying blood to the functional layer constrict, so that cells in that layer become ischaemic and die, leading to menstruation. It is possible to identify the phase of the menstrual cycle by observing histological differences at each phase:

21. Oestrogens or estrogens (spellings in British English and American English usage respectively), are a group of compounds named for their importance in both menstrual and estrous reproductive cycles. They are the primary female sex hormones. Natural estrogens are steroid hormones, while some synthetic ones are non-steroidal. The name comes from the Greek ο στρος (oistros), literally meaning "gadfly" but figuratively sexual passion or desire, and the suffix -gen, meaning "producer of".

Estrogens are synthesized in all vertebrates as well as some insects. Their presence in both vertebrates and insects suggests that estrogenic sex hormones have an ancient evolutionary history.

- 6. Drummond, Lynne M., and Clive M. Tonks, The Premenstrual Syndrome in Psychological disorders in Obstetrics and Gynecology(R.G. Priest), Bitter Worths and Co., Ltd., 1985
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- 12. Abu Dāwud, Kitāb al-Tahārah, Hadīth no. 267-273
- 13. Tabrī, Abu Ja`far, Muhammad Ibn Jarīr, Jāmi`- al-Bayān `an Tāwīl 'Ayah al-Qur'ān, vol. 2, P. 459, Dār Ahyā al-Turāth al-`Arabiy, Beirut
- 14. Abu Dāwud, Kitāb al-Tahārah, Hadīth No. 259
- 15. Sahīh Muslim, Kitāb al-Hayd. Hadīth no. 682,683
- 16. Bukhārī, Kitāb al-Hayd, Hadīth No. 303
- 17. Tirmadhī, abwāb al-Tahārah, Hadīth No. 135
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- 19. Sa'īdī, Ghulam Rasul, Allama, Sharah Sahih Muslim, Vol. 1, p. 995 Fareed Book Stall, Lahore, 2000
- 20. The endometrium consists of a single layer of columnar epithelium resting on the stroma, a layer of connective tissue that varies in thickness according to hormonal influences. Simple tubular uterine glands reach from the endometrial surface

Islam is a religion of cleanliness and piety. Islamic teachings are to keep people tidy and healthy. The Prophetic teachings and the Qur'ānic injunctions are all to avoid sexual intercourse during menstruation. If a person does not avoid, it is not only against Islamic teachings but also against the clinical principles. The higher value of PH in the blood may harm the committer. This high value of PH, a good medium for germs' germination may contain germs, destroying the sexual health of the male partner. There may be some germs that are transmitted sexually; the chances of their transfer are enhanced to maximum when the medium is quite favorable for the growth of microbes. So, to avoid copulation during menses is not only a duty towards Almighty Allah, it is also a blessing in disguise. It does not only raise man near to God by obeying His directive but is also necessary to remain safe, healthy and to live a vigorous life. So, as a Muslim we should be thankful to God who has made the arrangement to save our health.

Notes and References

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The chemistry of menstrual blood is not the same as that of the normal blood. That's the reason it provides the best medium for microorganisms to thrive. The best medium for bacterial growth is always unsafe for human health. Elucidating the fact Dr. M.A. Anees makes the point as:

"From the biochemical view point, menstrual blood is different from the ordinary human blood. The former contains longchain fatty acids that cause uterine contractions with the resultant discharge of menstrual blood. One of the female sex harmones, estrogen, is also known to increase during menstruation with a rise in the mucopolysaccharide level. On the other hand, there is some evidence that a menstruating woman may influence living tissues." (34)

Imam Ghazali warning about the bad effects of sexual intercourse has given:

"It has been said that it would engender leprosy in the ofefspring." (35)

Besides this there are many diseases which are sexually transmitted. For those the sexual contact is too crucial. In such circumstances the intercourse during a period when the medium is apt for the growth of microorganisms may result in the propagation of such diseases. Lee Goldman pointing to the reason of their propagation with sexual contact has given:

"These microorganisms depend on sexual contact for transmission because

- 1. Many of these microorganisms, such as Treponema pallidum and Trichonomas vaginalis, have limited environmental survival and are susceptible to drying.
- 2. Only limited sites can be infected by some of these agents(e.g. Neisseria gonorrhea and Chlamydia trachomatis can produce primary infection at only certain mucosal surfaces in the adult. Urethra, endocervix, rectum, pharynx and conjunctivae)
- 3. Lesion containing microorganisms in numbers adequate to transmit disease frequently occur at those anatomic sites used for sexual contact. (36) Conclusion:

It must be kept in mind that all these symptoms are not much prior to menses but these occur when the menses are to start, about one or two days before.

Sagacity to avoid women during this period:

Islam is a religion of purity and cleanliness. In the Qur'ānic injunctions where it is prohibited to have sexual contact with menstruating women, it is given 'till they are clean' means Islam abhors uncleanliness. Look, the bleeding situation alongwith cellular debris, perhaps every prudent will stay away. So, the first reason is its uncleanliness. Besides this uncleanliness, there are oher complications which may arise. In western society there is some echo in favour of sexual contact during this phase. (30)

Similarly, Masters and Johnson have opined:

"Frequently it has been presumed that coital activity during menstruation will lead to acute physical distress on the woman's part. During the past ten years no clinical evidence to support this concept has been established. In short, from a purely physiological point of view, there is no contra-indication to coition or auto-manipulation during menstruation." (31)

Martin and Long have also explicated:

"There is to be no established reason to abstain from coitus during the menses on patho-physiological grounds." (32)

Menstruation is a natural process but it(because of its removal of blood and cellular debris which were at one time part of the body) brings some changes which may cause some nuisance for the menstruating women. The trickling of blood is itself a cause of great disturbance. Menstruation brings blood alongwith the breakage of corpus luteum, a cellular organ formed inside the placental region. This cellular debris provides the best medium for the propagation of microorganism. Elucidating the detrimental effects of coitus during menses Walter R. Wilson and Merle A. Sande explicate:

"During menses, blood raises the vaginal PH, which is more suitable for trichonomal replication." (33)

As the menstrual blood is a good medium for microorganisms and there are many diseases which are sexually transmitted, so the chances of transmission enhances greatly.

- 2. Vaginal changes: Examination of daily vaginal smears shows a progressive increase in the growth of the vaginal epithelium as the menstrual cycle progresses.
- 3. Breast changes: Though the mammary glands normally does not secrete until lactation, it undergoes cyclic changes synchronous with the ovarian cycle throughout reproductive life. During menstruation, the ducts acini(24) and interstitial(25) tissues of the breasts undergo regression and pre menstrual engagement disappears.(26)

This illustrates that body of woman especially the reproductive tract passes through the changes at the moment. As a result of these changes woman feels some disturbance. Due to this disturbance temprament may also become affected.

Sheldon H. Cherry elucidates the fact saying:

"Many women will complain of an increase in irritability, nervousness, fatigue and some depression as well as an increase in appetite, some weakness, some lower abdominal pain and bloating, swelling of the breasts and nausea prior to the menstrual cycle." (27)

Commenting on this facet, Georgeanna Seegar Jones and Anne Colston Wentz have tinted the point:

"Some discomfort normally accompanies ovulatory menstruation. This varies with the woman and may be menifested as lower abdominal cramping, backache, and aching of the thighs, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headach and anorexia are not uncommon." (28)

Such are the discomforts which are very common among the menstruating women. These are not because of some external factor. The internal changes are the cause of these disturbances. Due these discomforts, women may feel a great change in her mood. Alan H. De Cherney pointing to this fact has given:

"Other syptoms commonly included in PMS (Pre Menstrual Symptoms) are abdominal discomfort, clumsiness, lack of energy, sleep changes and mood swings. Behaviour changes include social withdrawal, altered daily activities, marked changes in appetite, increased crying and changes in sexual desire. In all, more than 150 symptoms have been related to PMS. Thus the symptom complex of PMS has not been clearly defined." (29)

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In Abu Dawud, it is given; if the blood has vanished and she has not taken the bath then the compensation is half Dinar, otherwise one.

b. There is no punishment and, only repentence is required

The person who performs coitus activity during menses considering it lawful is heretic and the one who commits it unknowingly(menses or the commandment) has committed a sinful act but will have to pay no penalty and a person committing it knowingly has done a prohibited act and he has to beg repentance. Most of the scholars agree to this and according to the scholars of hadith the tradition of penalty is a weaker one.(19)

Bilology of menses:

Before studying the biological sagacity, first we should have a look on the mentruation process. What is the biology and what changes occur at the time of menstruation. The changes that occur during menstruatio are:

"Although endometrial regression(20) is initiated by withdrawal of the sustaining influences of estrogen(21) and progestron(22) following deterioration of the corpus luteum, the subsequent complex chain of events in the endometrium that causes it to break down is still incompletely understood. The following factors are involved:

- 1. Fluctuation in ovarian and pituitary hormone levels
- 2. Characteristics of the endometrium(Phase, receptivity to hormones)
- 3. Activity of autonomic nervous system
- 4. Vascular changes(Stasis, Spasm dilation)
- 5. Enzymes and prostaglandins
- 6. Other factors such as nutritional and emotional ones (23)

Reproductive tract changes during menstruation cycle are:

1. Cervical changes: The cervical glands increase in size and secretory activity during the preovulatory phase of the cycle, paralleling the estrogen rise. It controls the secretion of cervical mucus.

Ibn 'Abbas, Mujahid, Hasan and 'Ikramah are of the view that to lie, to sit and eating and drinking are lawful with a menstruating woman.

This has also been quoted in Hadith literature. As is in the Hadith of A'ishah(R.A)

A'ishah (R.A) says that she used to suck from the bone and the holy Prophet(SAW) too sucked that bone from the same place. I used to drink water and then give the bowl to him, he used to drink water from the same corner from where I had taken though I were menstruating at that very time. (14)

Similar is in the Tradition of Maimoona(R.A)

It is quoted on the authority of Syeda Maimoona (R.A) that the holy Prophet(SAW), in the start of her menses used to sleep with her in a single bed. He washed his cloth if it got dirty; he washed his body if something got touched with his clothes. He used to say the prayer with same clothes. (15)

In Bukhari, it is given, if the holy Prophet wanted to meet with his mentruating wife, he asked her to tie Tehband.

There are so many Prophetic traditions on the subject of menstruation. (Each book of Hadith has a complete book on menses named as Kitab al-Hayd)

Views of the Jurists:

During menstruation, the prohibition of copulation is prohibited is a unanimous view. But whether the committer will have to pay the penitence or not. There are two views;

a). Compensation is due

In Tirmadhi, it is given; if the blood is red, the compensation is one Dinar, if yellow, then half.

transcendence of the Eve(A.S). So, the Eve's daughters are also the daughters of Adam(A.S)" (10)

Prophetic teachings demonstrate the limits of relation with women during menstruation process. It has been narrated on the authority of Anas (R. A):

عن أنس أن اليهود كانوا اذا حاضت المرأة لم يؤكلوها ولم يجامعوهن في البيوت ، فسأل أصحاب النبي ، فأنزل الله (ويسئلونك عن المحيض قل هو اذى فاعتزلوا النساء في المحيض) إلى اخره الاية، فقال رسول الله اصنعوا كل شيئ الا النكاح ، فبلغ ذلك اليهود فقالوا: ما يريد هذا الرجل أن يدع من أمرنا شيئا الا خالفنا فيه ، فحاء أسيد بن حضير وعباد بن بشير فقالا يارسول الله أن اليهود تقول كذا وكذا ، أفلا نجامعهن؟ فتغير وجه رسول الله حتى ظننا أن قد وجد علينا ، فخرجا فاستقبلهما هدية من لبن ال النبي فأرسل في اثارها ، فسقاهما فعرفا أن لم يجد عليهما.

"The Jews neither allowed their women to eat with them nor did they keep the women with them during this process. When the companions of the Holy Prophet asked him about it, this verse of the holy Qur'an was revealed and it was told by the holy Prophet (SAW) "Everything except copulation is lawful." When the Jews knew this, they said, this man always opposes us. Quoting this saying of the Jews, 'Usayd ibn Hudayr and 'ibad Ibn Bashar asked permission for copulation during menses. Hearing this, the Holy Prophet (SAW) got angry till the companions thought, the holy Prophet has got angry with these people. When they were about to go, they were presented the milk by some one, then it was known that the anger is over."(11)

This Prophetic tradition clearly demonstrates that except copulation everything is lawful. So, everything is allowed except copulation. In the Prophetic traditions, it is given that the Holy Prophet (SAW) used to keep relations with his wives except sexual intercourse.

Ibn Jarir has also quoted a tradition elucidating the fact:

"Once Masruq came to A'ishah and said, "I want to inquire in to a matter but feel ashamed of, she replied, you may inquire into as I am your mother and you are like my son, you may ask whatever you like. He asked, "What is lawful for a man from his menstruating wife? She replied, "Everything is lawful except the sexual intercourse." (13)

and do not approach them until they are clean. But when they have purified themselves, ye may approach them in any manner, time, or place ordained for you by Allah. For Allah loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who keep themselves pure and clean." (al-Baqarah, 2: 222)

Besides this menses have been quoted at two other occassions also. First, when the divorced woman is advised to wait for the next marriage, the counting of her duration depends upon menstruation.

"Divorced women shall wait concerning themselves for three monthly periods." (al-Baqarah, 2: 228)

Second, on the occassion where the limit for menopausal women is mentioned as three months.

"Such of your women as have passed the age of monthly courses, for them the prescribed period, if ye have any doubts, is three months, and for those who have no courses (it is the same)": (al-Talaq, 65: 4)

Prophetic Teachings:

The holy Prophet's (Peace and Greetings of Allah Be Upon Him) description about the process is such that it is binding upon the daughters of Adam (A.S) and according to some, it first started from the Israelites (9) وقول النبي المناه المناه المناه المناه المناه المناه والمناه المناه والمناه المناه والمناه ولمناه والمناه وال

but Ibn Hajr pursuing the issue has underlined:

"The Prophet's version includes all the daughters of Adam(A.S), so in it are incorporated all the women before and after the Israelites. According to Allama Dawudi there is no contradiction between Prophetic saying and of Ibn Mes'ud(R.A) as Israelite women are also Adam's daughters. Ibn Hajr correlates it as, menstruation remained for a long time in Bani Israel and it was a torment upon them, nor it started from them. Hakim and Ibn Mundhir have narrated that menstruation started from the very

Religious view point:

In almost all religions, menstruating women are prohibited to copulate with. In Jewish tradition, such a woman is named Niddah and is prohibited to be assaulted sexually. (7)

According to Old Testament:

"And if a woman has an issue, and her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean. . . In Genesis it has also been given about the Eve: 'Multiply thy sorrow and thy conception.' (3:13) In the 'Book of the Prophet Micah', 'Be in pain, and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Zion, like a woman in travail' (4:10)

"These excerpts of the Old Testament are anti feminine and despises her condition. Even these days they observe the tradition that copulation be avoided even after seven days after menstruation. They even replace the bride by a young girl if she is in the menstruation phase so that the couple may not cross the limits." (8)

In Christianity, it is also condemned to have sexual relation with such a woman as is given in the Old Testament.

Islamic view point:

Islamic teachings also reveal that during menstruation, the women should be avoided. But to what extent this avoidance be kept? Here Islam differs from the rest. Islam does not teach to keep them in isolation. According to Islamic teachings only mating should is prohibited. In this situation, they may remain with other people. They can cook food, can take part in all the household activities. They are exempted from saying the prayer. The avoidance from women is given in the Holy Qur'an and its details are in the Prophetic traditions.

Qur'ānic teachings:

The holy Qur'an elucidates the fact:

ويسئلونك عن المحيض . قل هو اذي فاعتزلوا النساء في المحيض ولاتقربوهن حتى يطهرن . فاذا تطهرن فاتوهن من حيث امركم الله . ان الله يحب التوابين ويحب المتطهرين

"They ask thee concerning women's courses. Say: They are a hurt and a pollution: so keep away from women in their courses,

History of behaviour:

As concerned the history of attitude towards a menstruating women, there are different views about it.

Discussing the peril that may have to be faced from a menstruating woman, Pliny has given:

"Contact with it turns new wine sour, crops touched by it become barren, grafts die, seeds in the gardens are dried up, the fruit of trees fall off, the edge of steel and the gleam of ivory are dulled, hives of bees die, even bronze and iron are at once seized by rust, and a horrible smell fills the air; to taste it drives dogs mad and infects their bites with an incurable poison. . . even that very tiny creature the ant is said to be sensitive to it and throws away any grains of corn that taste of it and does not touch them again."(3)

At the time of advent of Islam, the Jews kept their menstruating women solitary and they could not touch anything.(4)

In some societies, the situation was so adverse that the menstruating women were kept separate from the rest of the society. For this purpose special huts were built outside the residential areas where such women had to spend the period.

Shedom H. Cherry commenting upon the behaviour towards such women elucidates the fact:

"The taboos and myths of menstruation are all too common in our culture. Menstruation has been termed the curse, unwell, and neutral words such as 'visit from a friend' have been used to describe this psychological event . . . For thousands of years menstruation has been a taboo sunject. The mestrual huts of primitive societies are one example. To this day some religious cults consider the menstruating women as unclean." (5)

Not only this but religions have also implemented some prohibitions against menstruating women.

"There have been religious prohibitions on menstruating women in many cultures."(6)