My religion is not the business of the state

**Jinnah repeatedly said that a person’s religion is a personal matter and not the business of the state. So why have the elected representatives of this country spent the last week debating a non-issue?**

09-Oct-17 by [Yasser Latif Hamdani](http://dailytimes.com.pk/search/test/%C2%A0/462/)

This last week when the Electoral Reforms Bill was introduced, someone — someone who is gifted with both heart and a first rate brain — removed the ‘religious oath’ from the bill. It was about time. What kind of nation state in the 21st century is still bothered by what the personal faith of an individual is? Need I remind you of what the founder and maker of this country, Jinnah, — “You may belong to any religion caste or creed- that has nothing to do with the business of the state”.

Why then in God’s name are my religious beliefs then the business of this ‘Islamic’ constitution imposed on us by those in the National Assembly of 1973?

One of these constitution makers, Ahmad Raza Kasuri, made quite a scene in Islamabad High Court two weeks ago after his cell phone rang during court proceedings. He refused to turn the phone in screaming at the judge “I am the founding father of the constitution, how dare you take my phone away”. Yes he is many of the founding fathers of the so-called ‘Islamic’ Constitution.

*Pakistan will not progress — whatever we imagine its founding myth to be — unless it separates religion from state completely and uncompromisingly*

Another founding father of the Constitution was Maulah Bux Soomro, brother of Allah Bux Soomro, the arch pro-Congress “secular politician” who presided over conferences of Ahrars and Momins in Delhi against the Muslim League some time before the Hurs got rid of him for killing Pir Pagaro. Maula Bux Soomro would take special pleasure in abusing and attacking Jinnah and who later, quite appropriately, became chief advisor to Martial Law dictator General Ziaul Haq. He had wanted his son Illahi Bux Soomro to become the Prime Minister instead of Muhammad Khan Junejo.

Yet another founding father of the Constitution of ours is Khan Abdul Wali Khan. This brilliant Pushtun nationalist politician – scion of ‘secular’ Khan dynasty and Bacha Khan’s political heir had voted on serial no8 on the list to declare Ahmadis Non-Muslim through the 2nd Amendment. He did so along with his entire party — the ‘National Awami Party. His father Bacha Khan, the great non-violent secular saint was alive and well then. No protests were heard from these self styled champions of secularism and liberalism while Pakistan converted into a theocracy. Instead, for decades they evaded the question so long as the proceedings were under the wrap but truth did come out. We now know that not only did Wali Khan vote alongside his party, but he also asked the Ahmadi leader that question which seemingly sealed the fate — “do you consider us Muslims?” Should it matter to a secular leader whether someone else considered him or her Muslim? The issue is and will always be of the state making that determination.

And then we had Mr Zufikar Ali Bhutto – the gallant soldier of Islam, the Islamic Socialist hero, the arch-patriot, the Quaid-e-Awam and the leader of the Pakistan People’s Party. The PPP likes to claim that ZAB threw the question of Khatm-e-Nabuwat to the National Assembly as a last resort. Whether that is true or not, for years Bhutto took credit for it. In a recent interview to a TV journalist, Khurshid Shah even implied that Bhutto was assassinated as part of an international conspiracy because he dared to declare Ahmadis Non-Muslim. Have some shame at long last Mr Shah.

Even more shameless than the shameless leader of the opposition was the politician from Rawalpindi — Shaikh Rasheed. He invoked the memory of Majlis-e-Ahrar and Ataullah Shah Bokhari in the next session. Yes the same Atatullah Shah Bokhari who famously said that those who vote for Jinnah or the Muslim League are the same as those who eat pork. Majlis-e-Ahrar called Pakistan Kafiristan and called Jinnah Kafir-e-Azam, but in this country that Jinnah founded, we have to live by the diktat of these personnel. The purpose of the Constitution is not to fix your religious belief or aqeedah. A constitution’s sole purpose is to exist as a social compact between the state and the governed. It is not the state’s business if I believe or disbelieve. My religion is no business of the Constitution. I call upon all citizens of Pakistan reading this article to rise up against this religious tyranny imposed on us.

No, they say, the state was founded in the name of Islam. No, that is not an accurate narration of historical events leading up to the Partition. The state was founded because Muslims and Hindus as legally-defined ethnic groups under the British could not find a constitution acceptable to both. They came close. It was known as the Cabinet Mission Plan. But it didn’t happen. Whatever the case, Pakistan was not founded so that the constitution framed for it impinges upon citizens’ right to exist as free individuals. Jinnah promised as much repeatedly – he repeatedly said that a person’s religion is his personal matter and not the business of the state. So why have the elected representatives of this country spent the last week debating a non-issue? Pakistan will not progress – whatever you imagine its founding myth – unless it separates religion from state completely and uncompromisingly.

***Published in Daily Times, October 9th 2017.***

The whole Muslim community is guarding Khatm e Nabuwat;Tahir Javaid Naqshbandi.

Sheikhupura (Bureu Report) Religious leaders highlighted over the amended bill in all mosques of Sheikhupura. Haji Tahir Javed Naqshbandi the President of Lahore division of Jameeat Ulama Pakistan talked to media reporters. Divisional president Mian Mohammad Ismail Naqshbandi, Divisional General Secretary Dr. Qari Fayaz ul Hasan Jameel al Azhari, Pir Mohammad Latif Naqshbandi, Mohammad Anwar, Kamran Tahir Naqshbandi, Sahibzada Qari Aman ullah Naeemi,Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Noori, Allama Qari Mohammad Iqbal Qasmi, Maulana Karamat Ali Naqshbandi were also present on this occasion. They said that right from the first Caliph of Islam Hazrat Abu Bakr Saddique all devoted lovers of Holy Prophet (PBUH) has sacrificesd thousands of lives to abolish the conspiracy of Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani. All religious leaders and scholars participated in the history of 1954 and 1974.

**Daily Ausaf News Faisalabad 8 October 2017**

**We have always taken practical steps to protect the law of the honor of the Holy Prophet (PBUH); Shahbaz Shareef.**

**Government has an unshaken belief over Khatm e Nabuwat, Quality education is the right of every child; Zahid Hamid.**

**Opening of Khidmat Centers is appreciable, Sympathies over Dasht accident, congrats to Sharmeen Ubaid.**

Lahore (Special Reporter) Federal law minister Zahid Hamid met Chief Minister Punjab Mohammad Shahbaz Shareef. Chief Minister thanked him for re-activating the Khatm e Nabuwat law. A long meeting was held under the supervision of Chief Minister to discuss thoroughly about school reforms, and road map program. He said that positive results are coming of the reforms made in education and we have achieved big land marks. He said in his message on the national awareness day of Natural Disasters that awareness must be increased among people to face any sudden or natural disaster. Modern methods must be adopted to lessen the damage. Progress made in Punjab Health Reforms Road Map was also discussed. He said that due to impressive steps taken by Punjab Government raised immunization level up to 85%.

**Daily 92 News Faisalabad 8 October 2017**

**Qadianiyat favoritism will make rulers an admonition:Molana Allah Wasaya.**

Shareef Brothers are not so naïve to understand the difference between declaration of an oath and written bond.

Chiniot (representative Duniya) the head of international Majlis Tahafuz Khatam-e-Nabowat, Molana Allah Wasaya said that change in declaration of oath is a grave conspiracy.Shareef Brothers are not so naïve to know the difference between declaration of an oath and written bond.He expressed these views in press conference a day before.Government steps shows that they swear to bend the Muslims in front of Qadianis. That’s why no chance is missed to give Qadianis privilege and also making the Khatam-e-Nabowat article ineffective. It’s the dire need to control those hand who are behind this change in declaration of oath. Moreover, he said that Mian Nawaz Shareef has not learnt any lesson by the circumstance. Qadani favoritism will surely make him an example for others.

**(Daily DuniyaFaisalabadThursday5thOctober, 2017)**

**Religious scholars urged nation to be careful as agreement is a test case.**

**They urged government to restore the previous affidavit.**

Jhang (Correspondent) Leading religious scholars, Abu BakarIshaq, Mohsin Habib, Khalid Waheed, Noor Ul Hassan and Mufti TanvirZuberi said in their addresses at Central Ashrafia Mosque Hussainabad that Khatm e Nabuwat is a faith so there is no room for its amendment. Introducing agreement instead of oath is an attempt to weaken the scope of affidavit. We cannot trust Sharif brothers anymore due to their habit of supporting Qadianis. We will not accept the amendment of even one word in the section of Khatm e Nabuwat.

**(Daily Dunya Faisalabad 5th October 2017)**

**Religious and political parties launched protests against the amendment in affidavit.**

**Replacement of words and removal of 2 sections in the new constitution are unacceptable. If previous affidavit in not restored, we will run nationwide movement from tomorrow: Tahir Ashrafi and others**

**Faith has been attacked on the name of electoral reforms. LabaikYaRasoolUllah (PBUH) Movement launched protests in Faisalabad.**

Faisalabad, Lahore (City Reporter/Staff Reporter) Religious leaders, TahirMehmoodAshrafi, Abdul Hameed Watto, AyubSafdar, AsadUllahFarroque, Muhammad AshfaqPatasi and Zubair Ahmad Zaheersaid in their addresses during the protesting events organized at various parts of the country that replacement of words and removal of 2 sections in the new constitution are unacceptable. They urged Prime Minister to take action against the enemies of ideology of Pakistan. Existing government is continuously developing conspiracies against the faith of Khatm e Nabuwat. Few employees of government are conspiring to promote anarchy in the country. If previous affidavit in not restored, we will announce nationwide movement from tomorrow. They appealed citizens of Pakistan to be aware of those who attack the faith. Participants of the meeting organized by Pakistan Ulama Council Lahore asked government to restore the words related to Khatm e Nabuwat in next 48 hours. Muhammad Ismail Shujaabadi, Mufti Muhammad Hassan, Aziz Ur RehmanSani, Jameel Ur Rehman Akhtar and Abdul Naeem said in their joint statement that parliament committees’ statement of restoring affidavit is appreciable. We will continue out peaceful protest till the action against culprits. LabaikYaRasoolUllah (PBUH) Movement organized protesting rally from district council to GhantaGhar in Faisalabad. Participants held placards and flags that have slogans of Khatm e Nabuwat written on them. AshfaqBajwa said in his address to the participants of rally that democratic system has been put at stake for naming disqualified person as a president of party. Qadianiat prevention act has lost its significance as a result of amendment. Qadianis will get another opportunity to play with the faiths of Muslims. .

**(Daily Dunya 5th October 2017)**

Daily Duniya, Faisalabad, Thursday, 5th October,2017.

**We will not accept any amendment in the law of Khatm e Nabuwat: GhulamFarid**

Kharianwala (Dunya Correspondent) Counselor of UC 29, Malik GhulamFarid said that N League has invited wrath of God by amending the law of Khatm e Nabuwat. Government has deceived nation under the cover of electoral reforms as per the conspiracy. He urged government to take back its decision of amending the law to prevent the law and order situation of the country. Nation will not accept the amendment at any cost.

**Daily Duniya, Faisalabad, Thursday, 5th October,2017.**