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Muslims of the world must unite and get out of the rut

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MUSLIMS worldwide, regardless of nationality and ethnicity, seem to suffer from a similar psyche and predicament. We lack the will to become strong, independent, powerful and knowledgeable.

We see pictures of Muslims fighting for bread, Muslims with guns pointed at them, Muslims blown to pieces and Muslim homes raided - to mention only a few of the indignities suffered by them. There is no compassion for them, be they very young, old or infirm.

The Arabs have great potential to emerge as a powerful people. But alas, professing the same faith and being a linguistically homogeneous group are not enough for the Middle Eastern co-religionists. They do not mind being compartmentalised into 22 states, both tiny and large.

There is a fable which many of us may have read. An old man had a bundle of sticks tied steadfast. He called on his sons to try to break the bundle. None of them could do so. The old man then untied the bundle and he then asked the children to break the sticks individually. It was so easy for them.

He had this moral for them: If you are united, it is difficult for others to weaken you. If you are disunited, you are finished.

Never has the world become so unsafe for Muslims - in their own country or outside. The gross indignities have to stop. They have to excel educationally, scientifically, technologically and in all fields of knowledge which elevate them to great heights to be accorded much respect. Muslims do not have to monopolise poverty, be recipients of aid, suffer civil strife, political animosity, etc.

We have to create a brave new world for ourselves where we can walk tall and live without fear. We need to have capable leaders with mission and vision. The Organisation of Muslim Countries (OIC) should offer its most senior position to our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He has led Malaysia to new heights. He should be persuaded to take the ummah out of their present malaise, insyaAllah. Muslims are in deep trouble today. We are not going to be left in peace for a very long time