

BELIEVERS VS NON-BELIEVERS (PART II)

I have mentioned this as a separate article, to inform our Ummah, the true method by which Allah has ordained us to behave with non-Muslims. Please note that the word Allah is an Arabic word for the Supreme Creator of the Universe. We call HIM Allah, because this word has no gender nor plural. Whether you call HIM Allah, Ilaah, Ilahi, it denotes the same ONE AND ONLY GOD ALMIGHTY.

GUIDANCE THROUGH QURAN AND SUNNAH AS HOW ARE WE TO BEHAVE WITH NON-MUSLIMS?

We find that many non-Muslims consider Muslims to be their enemies and spew hatred. This is because of the misconception that Muslims are terrorists. As a result, some Muslims reciprocate, creating an atmosphere of hatred and chaos in Society. However, Islam does not advocate hatred. Muslims are ordered to repel hatred with kindness (41: 34). It is through our good behaviour that the true light of Islam is reflected and becomes attractive to others.

- "There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong. So, whoever disbelieves in Taghut (Superstitions) and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will not break. And Allah is All-Hearing and All-Knowing." (Al-Quran- 2: 256)

Allah commands: "AND DO NOT ARGUE WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE SCRIPTURE EXCEPT IN A BEST WAY, EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHO COMMIT INJUSTICE AMONG THEM, AND SAY, 'WE BELIEVE IN THAT WHICH HAS BEEN REVEALED TO US AND REVEALED TO YOU. AND OUR GOD AND YOUR GOD IS ONE; AND WE ARE MUSLIMS [IN SUBMISSION] TO HIM.'" (AL-QURAN- 29: 46)

This is beautiful advice for us Muslims. We should not get unduly angry or frustrated when we hear negative comments about our religion.

"ALLAH DOES NOT FORBID YOU FROM BEING RIGHTEOUS TOWARD THOSE WHO ACT JUSTLY TOWARD YOU, AND THOSE WHO DO NOT FIGHT YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR RELIGION, AND DO NOT EXPEL YOU FROM YOUR HOMES - INDEED, ALLAH LOVES THOSE WHO ACT JUSTLY."- (60: 8)

ISLAM DOES NOT ADVOCATE ANYONE TO BE FORCED TO CHANGE THEIR FAITH, NOR CAN THEY BE BRIBED WITH WEALTH OR POWER. THE BELIEF SHOULD COME FROM WITHIN THEIR HEARTS. THEREFORE, THE WHOLE HISTORY THAT MUSLIMS FORCED ISLAM UPON THE NON-BELIEVERS IS COMPLETELY FALSE AND FABRICATED. ALL OF THOSE WHO REVERTED TO ISLAM DID SO BECAUSE THEY SAW THE SINCERITY OF FAITH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AMONG THE MUSLIMS WHOM THEY CAME ACROSS IN THEIR LIVES.

It is when war becomes inevitable, "Allah only forbids you from befriending those (enemies) who fight you because of religion, and expel you from your homes and aid in your expulsion - [HE forbids] that you make allies of them. *And whoever makes allies of them, then it is those who are the wrongdoers.*" (60: 8,9) (Betrayal in war is punishable by death in most countries.)

The constant torture towards the new Muslims in Mecca was borne with great patience. Only when the enemy pursued them to Medina, where they sought refuge, were they ordered by Allah to fight in self-defence against them. All these portions of history are conveniently obliterated.

While the mischief-mongers quote from the Quran verses regarding war and killings of non-Muslims, they try to hide the verses which advocate kindness and love, which is the main basis of Islam. "Worship none but Allah and do Good deeds" is the motto of Islam and was the basis of all messages sent through all the Prophets from Adam to Mohammed ﷺ. Yet, they claim that there are no such verses in the Quran. However, several verses from the Quran, as well as in the way of our Prophet ﷺ, show that the command from Allah (GOD in Arabic) is

"HATRED TOWARDS DISBELIEF AND NOT DISBELIEVERS".

1. "And not equal are the good and the bad. *Repel (evil) by that (deed) which is better; and verily! He, between whom and you there was enmity, [will become] as though he was a close friend.*" **41: 34**
2. Prophet Mohammed ﷺ said, "A Muslim is the one who avoids harming Muslims with his tongue and hands. And a Muhajir (emigrant) is the one who gives up (abandons) all that Allah has forbidden."¹
3. And *"the strong is not the one who overcomes the people by his strength but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger."* (Sahih Bukhari, H. No. 6016/ 6114)

MANY VERSES IN THE QURAN SUPPORT A MORE LIMITED USE OF FORCE, EVEN DURING WAR:

4. "If they withdraw from you but fight you not, and (instead) send you (guarantees of) peace, then **GOD HATH OPENED NO WAY FOR YOU** (to continue in war against them)" (4:90)
5. "... if they (the enemy) incline towards peace, *you (also should) incline towards peace*, and trust in God: for He is the One that hears and knows (all things)" (8:61).
6. "And *do not argue with the People of the Scripture except in a way that is best*, except for those who commit injustice among them, and say, 'We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you. And our God and your God is ONE; and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him.'" - (29: 46)
7. "Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided." (16: 125)

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL ADVICE FOR US MUSLIMS. WE SHOULD NOT GET UNDULY ANGRY OR FRUSTRATED WHEN WE HEAR NEGATIVE COMMENTS ABOUT OUR RELIGION. INSTEAD, WHEN WE ENTER INTO DEBATE WITH THE IGNORANT, IF WE CAN EXPLAIN TO THEM IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE THE TRUE CONCEPT OF ISLAM, WE CAN BENEFIT MORE IN TERMS OF THEIR UNDERSTANDING, THAT WHAT WE ARE SAYING IS THE TRUTH. HOWEVER, IF THEY ARE PERPETRATORS OF EVIL ACTIONS, AND TRY TO INDUCE THEIR WRONG IDEAS UPON US, WE SHOULD BE FIRM WITH THEM, AND NOT BOW TO THEIR WISHES, NOR ALLOW THEM TO CORRUPT THE TRUE BELIEVERS.

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¹ Sahih al-Bukhari 10, Source: Sunnah.com

THE WAY OUR PROPHET BEHAVED WAS THE BEST EXAMPLE TO BE FOLLOWED.

Allah declares: “There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often.” (33: 21)

The Prophet Mohammad ﷺ and those who believed and followed him had to endure many tortures at the hands of the Quraish: the natives of Mecca; their motherland. Allah did not allow them to raise a finger against them for 13 long years.² Only after they migrated to Medina, where they found refuge with those who believed in the Prophet, and the Meccans pursued them and attacked them, did the command of Allah CAME TO FIGHT IN DEFENCE.

The very first revelation in which the permission to wage war against the forces of evil is given, sums up the aim and object of Qital (fighting) in Islam: *"Permitted are those who are fought against, because they have been oppressed.* And verily God is more Powerful for their aid. Those who have been driven from their homes unjustly only because they said: 'Our Lord is Allah,' for had it not been for 'Allah's repelling someone by means of others, monasteries, and churches, and mosques, wherein the name of Allah is oft-mentioned, would assuredly have been pulled down. Verily Allah helps one who helps Him. Lo! Allah is Strong. Almighty" (Al-Quran, 22. 39, 41).

So great is the respect for human feelings in Islam that even the wanton destruction of the enemy's crops or property is strictly forbidden. The righteous Caliphs followed the teachings of Allah and those of HIS Apostle in letter and spirit closely; the celebrated address which the first Caliph Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) gave to his army while sending her on the expedition to the Syrian borders is permeated with the noble spirit with which the war in Islam is permitted.

He said: ‘Try to be considerate and sympathetic in your attitude towards others in future. Never mutilate (the dead), because it is a grave offence. God purified Islam and the Muslims from rashness and excessive wrath. You are well aware of the fact that those enemies fell into the hands of the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) who had been recklessly abusing him; who had turned him out of his home; and who fought against him, but he never permitted their mutilation.’

While it is the norm of the world that in war, the most vulnerable people affected are the women and children, Islam forbids such acts. The Holy Prophet (may peace be upon him) has given clear instructions about the behaviour of the Muslim army.

The first Caliph Abu Bakr, who did nothing other than what the Prophet ﷺ said, observed: ³

"Stop, O people, that I may give you ten rules for your guidance in the battlefield.

1. Do not commit treachery or deviate from the right path.
2. You must not mutilate dead bodies. Neither kill a child, nor a woman, nor an aged man.

² This concept of non-violence, was later adopted by Mahatma Gandhi in his fight for independence.

³ Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/islamic-law-and-rules-war/> dated April, 24, 2014

3. Bring no harm to the trees, nor burn them with fire, especially those which bear fruits.
4. Slay not any of the enemy's flock, save for your food.
5. Maybe you will pass by people who have devoted their lives to monastic services; leave them alone"
6. Do not kill for personal revenge. (Once Imam Ali subdued an opponent in war and raised his sword to kill him. However, he refused to kill him when he spat at Ali, saying, 'If I kill him me now, it would be for personal vengeance; that Islam forbids.')
7. No justification exists for either side to attack civilians, property, animals, or anyone who is not an active combatant.
8. Do not tie them to mutilate or kill them.
9. Treat the POW kindly, and give them food and drink as you have. Do not discriminate against them.
10. Do not steal from the booty.'

The Muslim army is not even allowed to claim *the booty* from the enemy army for himself. It had to be gathered and brought to the Prophet, who would distribute it among them. Prophet ﷺ commanded: "Set out for Jihad in the name of Allah and for the sake of Allah. Do not lay hands on the old verging on death, on women, children, and babes. Do not steal anything from the booty and collect together all that falls to your lot on the battlefield and do good, for Allah loves the virtuous and the pious."

Thus, Jihad in Islam is not an act of violence directed indiscriminately against the non-Muslims; it is the name given to an all-round struggle which a Muslim has to face against the evil temptations and persecutions; struggle to remain firm in Islam in

TOTAL SUBMISSION TO THE SUPREME CREATOR, WHO CREATED HIM AND ALL OF THE UNIVERSE.

‘At present times, it has become a common practice to destroy as many cities and villages as possible. It is considered right to indulge in the killing of civilians and destruction of property. Case in point?

The US atomic bombs on Japan! The American destruction of Iraq and Afghanistan. Burmese atrocities against the Rohingya! The genocides in Africa, and now in Palestine! The list goes on.

Compare such actions with the Islamic rules of war as laid down by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ himself. Imagine if the armies of today were to follow them?

Millions of lives would be saved. People would not have to flee their homes and seek refuge elsewhere. The concept of “collateral damage” in war would end totally.

Irrespective of what the others say about us, Islam is indeed a religion of peace. Our Prophet went the extra mile to protect the innocents, and he did not forget the rights of even trees and animals during war! Such acts speak for themselves and continue to live on, as an inspiration for generations to come.

THUS, ALL THE PROPAGANDA OF THE WEST ABOUT THE BRUTALITY OF THE MUSLIM ARMIES AND ACCUSATIONS THAT THEY TORTURED THE PRISONERS, AND RAPED THEIR FEMALE VICTIMS, IS FALSE.

WHEN WE SUMMARISE THE WHOLE MATTER, WE FIND THAT THERE ARE THREE CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE; ALLAH HAS SHOWN US HOW TO BEHAVE WITH THEM.⁴

- **THE BELIEVERS:** WE SHOULD ASSIST THEM, LOVE THEM, SHOW KINDNESS, UNITE WITH THEM, WORK WITH THEM, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ETHNICITY, FINANCIAL STATUS, OR COLOUR, RACE, ETC. WHOEVER THEY ARE, YOU SHOULD LOVE THEM FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAH, AND TRY TO EDUCATE THOSE WHO ARE IGNORANT.

- FROM AMONG **THE DISBELIEVERS, THOSE WHO OPPOSE YOU,** HATE YOU AND SHOW ENMITY TOWARDS YOU. HERE YOU OUGHT TO STAND AGAINST THEM WITH EQUAL VIGOUR, IN DEFENCE OF YOUR RELIGION AND PROPERTIES, AND LAND. DO NOT BE DECEIVED BY THEM. DO NOT THINK THAT IF YOU SHOW THEM A FAVOUR, THEY WILL HELP YOU. SUCH WILL NOT HELP YOU, BUT WILL ONLY USE YOUR NAIVETY TO GET BACK AT YOU.

- **THE THIRD GROUP ARE THOSE WHO LIVE IN PEACE WITH YOU.** THEY DO NOT OPPOSE YOU BY WORDS OR ACTIONS. TOWARDS SUCH WE SHOULD BE JUST. IF THEY HAVE SHOWN ANY FAVOUR TO YOU, SHOW A FAVOUR IN RETURN. IF THEY SUPPORT YOU, THEN YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THEM.

- AND WAGING WAR AGAINST SUCH PEOPLE WILL BE FOOLISH. WHEN YOU BETRAY THEIR TRUST, YOU ARE NOT ONLY SHOWING YOUR BAD CHARACTER, BUT ALSO MAKE THEM THINK BADLY ABOUT ISLAM. WHILE IT IS YOUR DUTY TO PROPAGATE THE TRUE FACE OF ISLAM TO THE WORLD, YOU ARE DISOBEYING ALLAH, WHO HAS LAID THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INFORMING THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT ISLAM.

THUS, NOWHERE IN THE QURAN DOES IT TELL US TO HATE OTHERS. AND, IN NO WAY ARE WE SUPPOSED TO SHOW HATRED TOWARDS THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE CONCEPT OF ISLAM. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD FEEL PITY BECAUSE OF THEIR IGNORANCE THAT CAN LEAD THEM TO HELL!

WE MUST LEARN TO HATE DISBELIEF: NOT DISBELIEVERS WHO ARE AMICABLE TO US.

⁴ Source: English Tafseer of sister Farhat Hashimi, dated May 2024