

## **COMMON VALUES**

### **BETWEEN ISLAM AND WESTERN RELIGIONS**

### **AND WAYS OF CO-OPERATION**

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Islam is known as the religion of divine favour and it was revealed on the Prophet Mohammad whom the Almighty Allah has given the name "Mercy for All the creatures" (رحمة للعالمين). Among all the qualities of Allah, Allah has qualified Himself as "The Compassionate and Most Merciful" (رحمن ورحيم).

Allah says in Quran (7/56) **"My Mercy embraces all things"**. And He said about the Messenger Mohammad (ﷺ) **"And we have sent you (O Mohammad) not but as a mercy for all the creatures"**. Mohammad (ﷺ) himself said about him "I am the gift of mercy", and said about others, "Be kind and merciful for those who live on earth and Allah will send down His kindness and mercy on you". Thus muslims are also a merciful nation. It is obvious by the interaction of muslim nations with other nations of the world. Islam invites to accept that there is only one Lord for all the universes and none has the right to be worshipped but Allah. Islam also tells that a man should pass his life according to the will of Allah. It is the verdict of the Quran that **one day all the matter and substance of this world shall transform into a new world and mankind will be held accountable and sent to the hell or heaven according to their good or evil deeds.**

Islam is in fact a monotheistic religion which means to believe that there is only one Lord for all the universe and that is Allah. To believe that none has the right to be worshipped. We must believe in all the qualities of Allah which He has stated in the holy Quran or mentioned through his Messenger Mohammad (ﷺ). This Islamic monotheism has been the foundation of all the heavenly religions. All prophets and messengers Ibrahim, Moosa or Isa had come with the same religious call. The sign of Islamic monotheism is found in some Western and Indian religions also, Islam is a modern religion so the glimpses of the religions of the prophets and messengers of pre Islamic period is seen quite clearly in Islam I have no time to mention, how pleasant impact is left on the life of a man who worships one and only Allah. But it can be understood by only one event. There were 360 idols in Kabah before Islam all the Arabs used to move round the Kabah but there was a law that any one who moved round the Kabah in his dress was not allowed to wear that dress again, otherwise he had to wear the dress of the caretakers of Kabah and any body who denied that, he had to move round the Kabah in nude. So lots of men and women were bound to move round the Kabah without wearing any dress. But when Islam came into existence people of Makkah got rid of this evil and disgraceful act.

Now have a look on another aspect of Islam when Makkah was conquered. All the chiefs and leaders of Makkah who had given great trouble to the muslims and forced them to leave their houses and tried every possible way to harm them, assembled in the courtyard of the Kabah. One must think that they should have been killed but see how our prophet Mohammad (ﷺ) addressed them "O people of Quraish Allah Almighty has subdued your pride, all mankind are children of Adam, who was created from dust". Then he recited the verse of the holy Quran:

**-- O mankind! we have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily the most honourable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has (At-Taqwa) the pious.**

After that Mohammad (ﷺ) said: "Go, you all are free and there is no penalization for you today". Common human behaviour intoxicated with victory always results in more bloodshed and killing, but Prophet Mohammad (ﷺ) who has been sent by Allah as Mercy for all the universe forgave his mortal enemies without taking any revenge.

Mohammad (ﷺ) migrated to Madina, and signed a treaty for peace with the Jews tribes who were settled in Madina. The respect he gave to the Jews was unbelievable. The agreement included the following points:

1. The Jews of Banu Auf with Muslims are one nation.
2. The associate nations of this treaty would help and support one another in war.
3. They would keep a relationship of welfare and solicitude between them.
4. The rights of the allies of the Jews would be accepted as the same.
5. Aggrieved persons would be helped.

Later the Jews could not be firm on this treaty and they broke it.

(seerat Ibn Hesham 1/178)

A delegation of the Christians of Najran came to Mohammad (ﷺ) and he wrote an agreement paper and gave it to them. In which was written:

"It is the responsibility of Allah and Mohammad (ﷺ) the prophet to protect the lives of the people of Najran, their animals, their religion, their land and their properties. More or less what they have in their possession will not be altered. They will not be punished for their previous killings. Forced labour (duress) and trade tax will not be taken from them, the army will not trample their lands (fields)".

Islam teaches how to amend the bad behavior of an individual or a nation in this way:

**The good deed and the evil deed can not be equal. Repel (the evil) with one which is better (i.e. Allah orders the faithful believers to be patient at the time of anger, and to excuse those who treat them badly) then verily he, between whom and you there was enmity (will become) as though he was a close friend.** (The Quran, V. 41:34)

Islam gives much stress on justice and true witness in such way:

**O you who believe ! Standout firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even though it be against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, be he rich or poor, Allah is Better Protector to both (than you). So follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest you avoid justice, and if destroy your witness or refuse to give it, verily, Allah is ever well-acquainted with what you do.** (The Quran V. 4:135)

What importance is given to the life of a human being in Islam, can be guessed in the following verse of the holy Quran:

**If anyone killed a person not in relation of murder, or (and) to spread mischief in the land. It would be as if he killed all mankind, and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind.** (V. 5:32)

Imbibing wine and fornication are two big causes of social destruction and its prevention is a great favour for the society. See what Islam says about these evil deeds.

**And come not near to unlawful sex. Verily It is a Fahishah (i.e. any thing that transgresses its limits: a great sin), and an evil way (that leads one to Hell unless Allah forgive him).** (The Quran V. 17:32)

**O you who believe ! Intoxicants (all kinds of alcoholic drinks), and gambling, and Al-Ansab, (animals that are sacrificed (slaughtered) on An-Nusub and for the idols), and Al-Azlam (arrows for seeking luck or decision) are an abomination of Shaitan's (Satan) handiwork. So avoid (strictly all) that (abomination) in order that you may be successful.**

(The Quran V. 5:90)

Theft is also a big social evil - A Quraishian woman named Fatma was a habituated thief. Mohammad (ﷺ) ordered to cut her hand. When Osama bin Zaid whom the prophet Mohammad liked very much, recommended in her favour, the prophet Mohammad said: "if even my daughter Fatima would have been found guilty of theft, I would surely have cut her hand. The previous nations were destroyed for if any noble and strong person was found guilty of theft, he was left and if a weaker person did the same crime, he was punished".

Now we shall discuss the teachings of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Zoroastrian religion, which have a little resemblance to Islamic teachings. These teachings are in the ancient books of these religions. The changes which came later in these books are not being discussed here.

Famous muslim traveller Al-Brunie, author of 'Kitabul Hind' studied the ancient books of Hindu religion such as Geeta, Patanjali etc and writes that about the entity and quality of God (Allah), Hindus' faith is that:

"He (Allah) is one and only, neither His beginning is known nor His end is known, He is Master of His own actions. He is Almighty, He is Supreme, He is existing and worthy of existence for ever, He is Prudent, He is Immortal, He is Incomparable in His Kingdom, Whose is no opponent no alike, Neither He resembles to any thing nor any thing has any resemblance to Him". (Kitabul Hind P. No. 1/13)

Albrunie says that idol worship is the custom of lower strata of Hindu society not of the gentry, for this statement he gives reference from Geeta: "Many people for their purposes want to get reward from other than Me (God) and seek support from other than Me (God) to approach Me (God). We (God) give them power and divine help, make them reach their objectives for We (God) are contented of these things." (Kitabul Hind P. 1/54, Urdu Translation 1/58,144)

Some people say that except Brahmans and Kshatriyas other people who are not capable of or It is not possible for them to learn Vedas can not get Salvation. According to the Statements of their scholars Salvation is common for these classes and all human kind if they have complete willingness and intention to get salvation.

According to Vayas, "A person who has the authentic knowledge of 25 things, is free to adopt any religion he likes, and he will surely get the salvation." (Kitabul Hind, P. 1/51)

Abu Raihan Albrunie further says that:

"In Hindus there were very strict laws of punishments against killing, theft, imbibing wine and fornication. If the murderer happened to be a Brahman and the victim of other caste then the Brahman was not punished but he had to expiate. He had to keep fast, give alms, for his sin and offer prayers regularly. And if the victim also happened to be a Brahman then It was considered a great sin which could not removed even by expiation and of which punishment was supposed to be given in the Hereafter. After that was the sin of imbibing wine and fornication, If a Brahman or Kshatriya was found guilty of imbibing wine or fornication his property was ceased and he was excluded from the society. If a Brahman did theft his eyes were excavated then one of his hands and one of his legs of apposite side were cut. Other thieves except these two castes were killed. A woman fornicator was excluded from her husband's home, and she had to live in exile". (Kitabul Hind. P. 281)

In many holy books of the Hindu religion such as Bhushya Puran and Kalki Puran, there are sings (tidings) about the prophet of peace Mohammad (ﷺ).

About these Dr. Ziyaur Rahman has written: "Perhaps the Aryans have taken these signs from Prophet Ibrahim because. Once he prayed to Allah to send a messenger in the race of Prophet Ismail", as it has been said in the holy Quran:

**"Our Lord! Send amongst them a Messenger of their own who shall recite unto them your verses and instruct them in the Book (The Qur'an) and**

**Al-Hikmah (full knowledge of the Islamic laws and Jurisprudence or wisdom or prophethood) and purify them. Verily ! you are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise".**

(V. 2:129)

Because this is proved that Aryan's migrations came into action in the same period when prophet Ibrahim's call for Islamic monotheism had become manifest in Iraq and its vicinity. And these are the regions through which the Aryans passed during the journey of their migration and later they reached to Sindh. They brought with them Kuldani and Babuli thoughts, which had been discovered in the archaeological excavation of Mohanjadaro.

My opinion was that the word Barahman is related to prophet Ibrahim before I studied the book 'Al-Burhan fil Marfatil Adyan' written by 'Abul Fazal Al-Saksaki' (783 H) In which he wrote "They are called Barahman because they believed in Allah and disbelieved other means of approach (i.e. other messengers except Ibrahim). They were convinced of the prophethood of Ibrahim, So they are called Barahmans". (Al-Burhan Fil Ma'arfatil Adyan, P. 87, with reference: Risalat Fil Yahood Wal Masihiat wa Adyanil Hind)

Taaranbenthas and Das are two groups of the two big sects 'Digambari and 'Shwetambari' respectively of the Jain religion.

They forbade the idol worship. They believe firmly in Non-Violence. To them the best religion is; not to give trouble or hurt any one. They also say that they do not deny the existence of the Creator (God). (Derasat fil Yahoodiat wal Masihiat wa Adyanil Hind, P. 666)

About Buddhism a group of scholars say that Buddha was a believer of Allah, but he did not pay much attention to it. Because in Indian society it was a known fact. Ten principles of Buddhism are very famous. Such as to kill any one, to theft, to tell a lie, to imbibe wine, to eat after the afternoon, to dance and to play music, to use perfumes, to sit at the common streets and elevated places and accept the gift of gold and silver, are prohibited in both religions. Buddha preached about human equality and he did not accept the Hindu caste system. But in his opinion the base of differentiation is ability.

"Even a person of the mean class of society can achieve salvation if he follows the path of spiritual love and meditation". (Derasat P. 244)

According to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in China who is the follower of both religions, they had faith in the Lord of universe (the almighty Allah) along with the local gods and goddesses. (Tarjumanul Quran 1/258)

In Sikhism there is similarity in many things to Islam, in fact they have been adopted from Islam.

1. Statement about the faith in oneness of Allah (Rab): Allah the Almighty is eternal, Guarding, Free from jealousy and repugnance, Lord of Universe, Justful, Merciful, Bountiful, He has not created mankind to punish them, but the real cause of the creation of mankind is that, they pray to Allah. (Muqaddama "Preface" Translation Guru Granth Saheb Dr. Chaupal Chandra Singh)

Dr. Singh further says that all are equal in the court of Allah. He does not distinguish them on the basis of their caste, community or sex. So all shall be accounted according to their deeds.

Guru Nanak - founder of Sikh religion - himself says that only Allah (Rab) is the creator of all seen or unseen things of the universe and He does not need any material for his creation.

2. Monastery is prohibited in Sikh religion and it persuades its followers to earn livelihood.

3. Returning of soul again and again in the world is not obligatory rather it can be avoided only by the grace of Allah.

This belief of Sikhs matches with Islam to this extent that salvation is achieved only by

the grace of Allah otherwise transmigration of soul is baseless.

4. Sikh religion acknowledges that all men and woman are equal near Allah for His forgiveness and deliverance. This is the belief of Islam which has been adopted by Sikhism.

5. Sikh religion says that Allah's religion is for all and whoever follows His religion (Islam) will surely get the salvation.

6. Sikh religion does not acknowledge the belief of incarnation (i.e. a god in human form) rather it believes in prophethood. This faith is also similar to the faith of Islam. (Derasat fil Yahoodiat wal Masihiyat wa Adyanil Hind, P. 692)

In the teachings of Zoroastrian religion there are statements about Oneness of the Lordship of Allah (Tauhid), life after death (the Hereafter), angels of Allah, good and evil, satan and human kind etc. Later changes are not necessary to be mentioned here.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad writes:

The customs which are found in Indian Vedas and Hindu mythology about the worship of deities and sacrifices, almost the same kind of belief and customs were found in Paras and Media.

Manifestation of zoroastrian religion brought a change in the belief and faith of Iranian people and made them aware of the teaching of Muzdsina (worship of only one God: Ahura Mazda) this "Ahura Mazda" is Incomparable, Matchless, Luminous, Pure and Chaste, wisdom and virtue from top to bottom and the creator of the whole universe. He has created two world for mankind one of worldly life and another of the life after death (the Hereafter). After death body is perished but soul remains existing and get retribution according to its deeds and misdeeds. Zoroastrian religion brought the concept of 'Amash Aspand' and 'Yuzna' (angels) in place of deities, these angels follow the commandments of 'Ahura Mazda'. In place of Evil Forces' it brought the idea of 'Angrame Niwash' (Satan). This 'Angrame Niwash' was later called 'Ahriman' in Persian language. In Zoroastrian religion refutation of the vedic faith of Indian Aryans is seen clearly.

The same word bears apposite meaning in two different countries, Iran and India. 'Ahura' of Avesta has become Asura in Sam and Yajur Ved, though in Rig Ved it had been used in good sense but now it has become a devil spirit of evils. Indra of Vedas has become 'Angra' in Avesta. He was known as the God of sky in Vedas, but he has become the devil of earth in Avesta. In India and Europe the word (Dev) or (Deus) or (Theus) was used for God but in Iran the meaning of (Dev) became, demons or giants. So, there was a big conflict between these two religion. God of one religion was devil for another religion. Same as this (Yam) is the angel of death in Hindu mythology where as in Avesta he was known as the biggest sign of life, then the same (Yam) became (Jamshed). (Tarjumanul Qur'an, Surah, Al-Fateh: 280)

It is clear from the above statements that in European religions monotheism is present in some form or the other in their ancient books, many European religions have faith in prophethood and the life after death (the Hereafter). And offence like murder, theft, fornication, drinking wine etc. are prohibited and supposed to be illegal. The world today has become like a village through social and scientific development. But this modernisation of the world has changed the human ideology and things like bloodshed, violence, plundering, fornication, immodesty, armed clash, despoilation of countries, oppression of some people by some other have become very common. Because of this the fear of the destruction of human being and the Earth is being felt. To overcome this precarious situation the followers of western religion and culture may come forward and by making their original teaching base, they can adopt the peaceful way of mutual survival. They can make the human society free of mutual differences, war and other misdeeds. Through excellence and welfare can be obtained the path of success in the life after death (the Hereafter), and our Lord (Allah) will be pleased to us. We should consider that we all are children of the same parents Adam and Eve.

The Qur'an says: **And indeed we have honoured the children of Adam, and we have carried them on land and sea, and have provided them with lawful goods, and have preferred them above many of those whom we have created with a marked preferment.** (V. 17:70)

This preferment has given to mankind in comparison to other creatures such as animals, plants and inorganic matter. One is most respectful near Allah who is doer of good deeds, to unite blood relation, to execute neighbours' rights, to take care of the orphans, to guard the rights of parents, husband and wife and children, to do justice while dealing with each other, all these good works are necessary for human social life. Tyranny, taking or giving bribe, usury, hoarding of crop and other commodities in crisis are unlawful deeds.

These are the factors on which depend the betterment of human relationship and respectability. All the followers of oriental religions should favour these terms. Mutual cooperation is necessary for the development of humanity, the holy Qur'an says:

**Help you one another in virtue, righteousness and piety, but do not help one another in sin and transgression. And fear Allah verily, Allah is severe in punishment.** (V. 5:2)

Whether an individual or a nation, regard of its freedom is necessary which means life, and property, religion, race and honour of an individual or a nation must be protected. All governments of the world have regarded it as one of the most essential thing for the survival of an individual or a nation. Allah says in Qur'an:

**Allah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who fought not against you on account of religion nor drove you out of your homes. Verily, Allah loves those who deal with equity. It is only as regards those who fought against you on account of religion, and have driven you out of your homes, and helped to drive you out, that Allah forbids you to befriend them. And whosoever will befriend them, then such are the Zalimeen (wrong doers - those who disobey Allah).** (V. 60:8,9)

As the world is suffering from agitation, rebellion, tyranny and cruelty, It has become necessary to join it to its creator. And if all followers of oriental religions act unitedly according to aforementioned values, there will be no differences and rebellion in the world.

At last I would like to mention here some more verses of the holy Qur'an before I finish my talk:

**And who is better in speech than he who [says: "My Lord is Allah (believes in His oneness)", and then stand firm (acts upon His order)' and invites (men) to Allah's (Islamic Monotheism), and does righteous deeds, and says, "I am one of the Muslims.**

**The good deed and the evil deed can not be equal. Repel (the evil) with one which is better (i.e. Allah orders the faithful believers to be patient at the time of anger, and excuse those who treat them badly) then verily he, between whom and you there was enmity, (will become) as though he was a close friend.**

**But none is granted it (the above quality) except those who are patient and none is granted it except the owner of the great portion (of happiness in the Hereafter i.e. Paradise and of a high moral character) in this world.**

(V. 41:33,34,35)

May Allah make us the true believers and the true followers of the teachings of Prophet Mohammad (ﷺ)!