

Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA)

MUNA is a non-profit faith based social organization working to promote knowledge and understanding of divine guidance, and enhance unity and brotherhood among Muslims in United States of America.

In the Name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful.

Since the horrific and tragic events of September 11th, nothing has been more discussed and scrutinized in the public arena than discussion about Islam. The world at large has been subjected to a wealth of analysis by 'experts' - which has further fuelled people's curiosity about this religion. Some of the media have bluntly suggested that the action taken after September's event is a war and Islam is at its heart. Although there is a conscious effort to truly understand Islam and Muslims, there seems to be those who are determined to paint terrorism and Islam with the same brush. Simplified and undifferentiated descriptions of Islam help create an image by which Islam is seen as hostile to Western culture, and a religion of backwardness and oppression.

If Islam is a religion of peace, how does it gain a reputation for being a religion of war and terror? The answer lies in the way that Islamic scriptures are misinterpreted to suit perverted agendas. Words and phrases that are often repeated in the media have been

misconstrued by individuals to give incorrect meanings. The deliberate blur between 'jihad' and acts of terror has been a phenomenon that has resulted from those unqualified in the science of Sacred Law.

The word “Islam” is derived from the word meaning “peace” in Arabic. Islam is a religion revealed to mankind with the intention of presenting a peaceful life where the infinite compassion and mercy of Allah (SWT) manifests on Earth. Allah (SWT) calls all people to live by the moral values and sets so that compassion, mercy, peace and love can be experienced all over the world.

In Quran Surah Baqarah, Verse 208 Allah (SWT) commands us: “O believers enter into Islam completely and do not follow the footsteps of Devil (Shaitan), surely he is your clear-cut enemy.” In the verse above, Islam intrinsically calls for peace and fosters a life in absolute sincerity and honesty before Allah (SWT). Therefore, it is vitally important for an individual to believe in Allah (SWT) with his own will and aspiration, and observe Allah’s commands and advice through personal conscientious contentment.

Islam promotes living peacefully with all nations and people, giving equal rights to everyone regardless of the color of their skin or the amount of wealth one possesses. In Quran Surah Hujrat verse 49 Allah (SWT) says: “O mankind, indeed we have created you from male and female, and have made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Indeed, the

most honored of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted". This is to assert that in Islam, no nation is created to be above other nations or to rise above them. Man's worth in the eyes of men and in the eyes of Allah is determined by the good he does, and by his obedience to Allah. The differences of race, color or social status are only incidental. They do not affect the true stature of man in the sight of Allah. Again, the value of equality is not simply a matter of constitutional rights or the agreement of noblemen or condescending charity. It is an article of faith, which the Muslim takes seriously and to which he must adhere sincerely. The foundations of this Islamic value of equality are deeply rooted in the structure of Islam.

Qais ibn Sa'd reported : A funeral passed by the Messenger of Allah , peace and blessings be upon him , and he stood up . It was said to him , "It is a Jew ." The Prophet said , "Was he not a soul ?" (Source: Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 1250, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 961)

In Surah Anam verse 151 Allah (SWT) commands us "and do not take any human being's life - [the life] which God has declared to be sacred - otherwise than in [the pursuit of] justice: this has He enjoined upon you so that you might use your reason".

In Surah Maidah verse 32 Allah (SWT) says: "whoever kills a person, except as a punishment for murder or mischief in the land, it will be written in his book of

deeds as if he had killed all the human beings on the surface of the Earth and whoever will save a life shall be regarded as if he gave life to all the human beings on the surface of the Earth.”

In a famous saying of Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, he says: “The merciful are shown mercy by the Merciful one. Show mercy to those on Earth and you will be shown mercy by the One in Heaven.” The Quran declares that Muhammad was sent as a Mercy to the world”. (Surah Ambiya: 107), something to which he himself testified when he refused to curse a warring tribe: “I have not been sent to curse, but as a mercy”.

The Islamic greeting is Assalām u ‘Alaikum (May Allah grant you protection and security). The response to this is Wa ‘Alaikumus Salām (May Allah grant you protection and security too). These brief Arabic words let people know that they are among friends, not strangers and Islam promote love and peace.

The Muslims in the West are facing a defining moment. Muslims must recapture the true spirit of Islam and reclaim it from those who have harmed its integrity and honor. True Islam cannot in any way, shape or form be associated with terrorism. It is in complete contradiction to the pure concept of Islam, for without a doubt; the divine religion of Islam denounces Terrorism and promotes peace and justice.



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