

## Islam Does Not Allow Terrorism

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### ABSTRACT

The word ‘terrorism’ hangs one’s mind on violence, brutality and fear. This fierceness splays in the globe briskly. In its current shape ‘terrorism’ is supposed to have a correlation with Islam, which is totally baseless. Islam is a religion of peace and mercy. It doesn’t support callousness and peacefulness in the society. Since its revelation, it appears as a code of peace, love and sympathy among human beings regardless of ethnicity. Islam is basically the religion that fixes a frame of universal fundamental rights as a whole, and advises strictly to respect and observe them under all circumstances. Islam provides a legal safeguard and an effective moral system in that way. If we have a close look over history, we recognize that inhumanity, and, or, terrorism in other words, had concealed the globe before the revelation of Islam. If we turn our focus to examine the Prophet Hadrat Muhammad’s life and achievements, as the last messenger of Allah, we find the lesson of integrity, honesty, peace, piousness, mercy and love. We don’t see any terrorizing act and, or a favour to such inhumanity. We recognize him as a ‘Rahma-tul-lil-Aalamiin’ or ‘Mercy unto the Worlds’. A good example is the conquest of Mecca that impressed the people of Arab and soon after, many of them embraced Islam. If we further explore Islam and read the Holy Quran carefully, we do not find any chapter or any verse of this Holy book that reveals to favouring terror in the world among the creatures either human beings or other things. We find rules, which upsurge the standards of the society to a great moral margin, if observe. Allah says in the Holy Quran: “Whoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell, wherein he will abide eternally, and Allah has become angry with him and has cursed him and has prepared for him a great punishment” (4:93). Islam basically teaches the ways to regulate the society, and hence the world as a whole, in a peaceful, pleasant and justifying manner. It makes lives satisfied and spreads concord among human beings, if its teachings are followed. This article surfaces the untold truths and clarifies that Islam doesn’t allow terrorism.

**KEYWORDS:** Islam, Peace, Mankind, Terrorism

### INTRODUCTION

A miserable propaganda about Islam is aimed to unfold in this piece of writing, considering the emerging belief of the non-Muslim world that Islam perhaps allows terrorism which is unjustified and untrue. This draft tells us, Islam in its teachings does not instruct to terrify each other. This religion educates to observe compassion in practices not only towards each other, but also to other creatures. The Islamic commands lead people to organise the world, and draw the sketch to perform. The exploration of this peaceful religion doesn’t show any instruction to motivate one to frighten other creature in the globe. Before we delve into the depth, it seems mandatory to introduce one with the terms ‘Islam’ and ‘terrorism’, in order to make a base for a deeper understanding and though, to drawing a clear and justifiable conclusion.

Islam is based on the following testifications by a human in the words, “I bear witness that no one deserves to be worshipped except Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah”. If one evinces to believe in the above mentioned faiths, and utters them with an intention of leaving out blasphemy, he/she embraces Islam and becomes Muslim. What Islam teaches? It teaches, Allah is the only God and only Allah deserves to be worshipped, no one else and nothing else, only He, Who is the Creator of everything. The son of Abdullah, Muhammad, born about 1400 years ago in Mecca, is a Messenger of Allah. He conveyed everything truthfully that God revealed to him, so that, the humans believe in and work with the Laws he received and brought. One can now easily extract that Islam is a monotheistic religion, and eliminates therefore, all such elements of the society, which produce conflicts and reduce harmony in case of polytheistic religious and ritual beliefs. A vast number of factors that disperse the society due to antagonism, which rises by the faith in gods, get eradicated believing that there is the only one God. This belief helps healing the society and propagates love among humans. As we explore further, we recognise that the book, the Holy Quran, is considered as a verbatim word of God by the Muslims, and they adhere

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not only to the teachings of the Holy Quran, but also to the advices, instructions, practices and normative examples of Muhammad considering him the last prophet of God. Such teachings and normative examples are called ‘Sunnah’ which is composed of hadiths. Muslims believe in the Hereafter, that is a life after death. This faith in Hereafter generates awareness in them to behave justly in this world, to get a fruitful result after death, in all circumstances they face here, because they will have to reap whatever they sowed. Good will lead towards Heaven and bad results into Hell. The Quran states, “God has created death and life to test which one of you is best in conduct [1].” We mentioned few basic faiths and concisely displayed about Islam to level up the ground of understanding. Now we continue our journey of exploration to know, what is ‘terrorism’? The term comes from French ‘terrorisme’ and from Latin ‘terror’, which means great fear or dread that is related to Latin verb ‘terrere’ with a meaning, ‘to frighten’ [2]. The word ‘terrorism’ is used to state such practices and conducts of violence which are performed to terrify people and to fear them to obey whatever is demanded for a purpose either political or any other. If one consciously considers and thinks of the teachings of Islam and compares them subsequently to those practices observe in terrorism, one can differentiate between the truth and the propaganda. After studying the Holy Quran, analysing the life of the prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and reviewing Sunnah, one notifies that Islam is a religion of peace, love and mercy not only for humanity, but also for all creatures.

Allah says in the verse 56 of chapter, Al-A’raf, of the Holy Quran: “And spread not mischief in the earth after it has been set right and call on Him fearing and longing. Surely the mercy of Allah is nigh to the good doers [3].” Humans are advised in the chapter 28 of the Quran as follows: “That home of the Hereafter We assign to those who do not desire exaltedness upon the earth or corruption. And the [best] outcome is for the righteous [4].”

We recognise the prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as a role model, while exploring his events of life. For example, we see that when he invited the Hijaz aristocracy in Ta’if to embrace Islam, he was hurt and stoned. The street urchins were set to chase him and stone him until dusk. He was highly injured and bleeding from head to toe, but despite getting angry he prayed, “O my Lord, guide my people along the true path, as they are ignorant of the truth [5].” This expresses his respect, love and mercy for humanity, we see another example which shows his compassion for the other creatures such as animals, as follows: Al-Bukhari and Muslim reported on the authority of Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) who said, Allah’s Messenger (Peace be upon him) said, “While a man was walking he felt thirsty and went down a well and drank water from it. On coming out of it, he saw a dog panting and eating mud because of excessive thirst. The man said, ‘This (dog) is suffering from the same problem as that of mine. So he (went down the well), filled his shoe with water, caught hold of it with his teeth and climbed up and watered the dog. Allah thanked him for his (good) deed and forgave him.’ The people asked, ‘O Allah’s Messenger! Is there a reward for us in serving (the) animals?’ He replied, ‘Yes, there is a reward for serving any animate [6].’”

Analysis of the above quoted a couple of verses of the Holy Quran and the teaching of the messenger of Allah highlights Islamic instructions to keep the system of the world in a great and righteous order. Islam conveys the message of affection, sympathy, kindness, equality, brotherhood and generosity to create a peaceful atmosphere in the globe. The Holy Quran and the prophet’s life are full of such education that helps to attain a pleasant life. The rules, laws, boundaries and margins have been settled by Allah to sustain a balance in the world.<sup>1</sup> Individuals make the nation, hence individual, family, tribe, society and nation are the parts of a sequence that produce a system. In order to establish a balanced system, each constituent of this series must work properly in a regular and in a standardised way, because they depend upon each other. Islam is such a religion, which tells the ways to establish a balanced system. It introduces people to several rights and ties them to observe the settled margins in everyday practices. Humans are advised to consciously and carefully obey the instructions about those rights to get a reward in this world and Hereafter. In this world, one is rewarded in the way to spend a peaceful, balanced and pleasant life. However, a place in the Heaven for such obedience seems like a bonus by the master over fulfilling the duties in a righteous way with sincerity and honesty. We are familiarized to such responsibilities in the name of rights, rights of parents, rights of siblings, the rights of the husband; wife and children, rights of relatives and neighbors, the rights of the helpless people of the society such as widows; orphans; poor and needy over the privileged people, rights of slave and master, and rights as a human in the society. This religion ties us in the boundaries of conduct, and tells if everyone among us plays his role in a justifiable way, we can get rid of all evils that ruin the globe. The teachings of sympathy and regard not only revolve around humanity, but also all creatures such as animals, plants and other

<sup>1</sup>Allah advises in the verses 12-13, chapter 49, Surah Al-Hujurat, of the Holy Quran, “O believers! Avoid most suspicions, verily some suspicion is a sin and do not look out for faults and do not backbite one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would abominate it. And fear Allah, Verily Allah is Oft Returning, Merciful. O people! We created you from one man and one woman and made you branches and tribes that you may recognise one another. Undoubtedly, the most respected among you in the sight of Allah is he who is more pious, verily, Allah is knowing, Aware.”

things. Although this is beyond the limit to draft all the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah in this manuscript considering the instructed limit of the words, but quoting a few of them to declare, ‘Islam has no tolerance for terrorism’ is certain. Islam doesn’t instruct to intimidate people. It is a character’s trait who follows the evil ways by his own wish despite his ethnicity and religion, if he is Muslim, Christian, Jew, or Hindu etc. Allah says in the Holy Quran: “O mankind! remember the favour of Allah upon you. Is there any creaser beside Allah who provides for you from the heavens and the earth? There is no God but He, whither then are you turning back? If they belie you, then no doubt, Messengers have been belied before you. And all affairs return to Allah. O mankind! Undoubtedly, the promise of Allah is true, let never then deceive you the life of the world, and let not the great deceiver deceive you regarding the serenity of Allah. Undoubtedly, the devil is your enemy. He only invites his party that they be among the companions of the Hell. For the infidels there is severe torment and those who have believed and have done good works, for them is Forgiveness and great reward [7].” Another verse from the Quran, demonstrates human’s conduct as follows: “O people! We created you from one man and one woman and made you branches and tribes that you may recognise one another. Undoubtedly, the most respected among you in the sight of Allah is he who is more pious, verily, Allah is knowing, Aware [8].”

Turning our focus back to the commands that illuminate and open the room to humanity; charity and benevolence, we describe following few selected grounds. Parents are a precious gift of Allah to human beings. Allah puts adore in the hearts of parents for their children. No one can love you more than parents in this world among humans. Allah says: “Your Sustainer has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in your life time, do not say to them a word of contempt nor repel them, but address them in term of honour. And, out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility and say: My Sustainer! Bestow on them your mercy, even as they cherished me in childhood [9].” However, in the modern times we observe a growing trend of ‘old houses’, specifically in the non-Muslim countries, where senior citizens are left by their beloved ones. Their beloved ones make them living an all alone life, just for own comfort. Islam stops us frightening our olds and teaches us to respect, obey and take great care of them, fearing Allah, Who rewards for an obedient conduct with them. Further study illustrates that Islamic commandments bind one to observe some rules in order to retain a balance in the society and to keep it safe from demolition. The lower classes are usually ignored by the higher classes in a society, and such disregard leads them to wrongdoings and felonies which if roots, the system gets destroyed. Islam has therefore established a system of kindness and generosity to facilitate poor, orphans, widows and needy people without hurting their self-esteem and demand of any reward in return. This is Allah, Who rewards for such munificent deeds. Allah praises the believers in the following words: “And they feed, for love of Him, the poor. The orphan and the prisoner. They say to them, ‘We feed you for Allah pleasure only. We desire no recompense or thanks from you.’ Undoubtedly, we fear from our Lord a day, which is frowning and very hard. So Allah has saved them from the evil of that day and granted them cheerfulness and happiness. And recompensed them for their patience with a Garden, and silken clothes [10].” Regarding neighbours and relatives, we are advised to seek it as a responsibility to treat them sympathetically regardless of thinking either they are Muslims or non-Muslims. The prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) frequently asked the Muslims to keep a good behaviour with a neighbour, “He is not a believer who eats his fill when his neighbour beside him is hungry; and: He does not believe whose neighbours are not safe from his injurious conduct [11].” At another place the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “By Allah, he is not a true believer, By Allah, he is not a true believer, By Allah, he is not a true believer (three times). He was asked ‘Who?’ Upon which he replied, “The one whose neighbours do not feel secure from his mischief and evil [12].” Another hadith, that is related by Anas (may Allah be pleased with him), the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “He has not affirmed faith in me (i.e. he is not a true follower) who eats to his satisfaction and sleeps comfortably at night while his neighbour goes hungry, and he is aware of it [13].” Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “Whoever wants an increase in his sustenance and that the marks of his feet remain for a long time in the world (i.e. to live long). He should be kind and helpful to his relatives.” Further to that, he said, “Whoever violates the rights of relatives, shall not go to Paradise [14].” It is also greatly appreciated, if one treats animals, birds, insects and plants in a sympathetic way, as the instructions demonstrate. “A woman was punished because she imprisoned a cat until it died. On account of this, she was doomed to Hell. While it was imprisoned, she did not give the cat food or drink, nor did she free it to eat the insects of the earth [15].” The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) advised: “When you slaughter an animal, do so in the best way. You should sharpen your knife to reduce the suffering of the animal [16].” It is stated in another place, “Once we were on a journey with the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), we saw a Pochard (a type of duck) with two of its chicks. When we picked the chicks, the mother started crying for them back. When the Holy Prophet came to know about the situation, he inquired about the person who frightened this bird by taking away its chicks. He directed to immediately return the chicks to mother [17].” We

learn another experience of concern as follows: "The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) noticed that an ant village had been burnt, about which he asked: "who burnt this?" We said: 'It was us!' He said: "It is not for anyone to burn with fire except the Creator of the fire (Allah) [18]." Meanwhile, Islam educates not to waste anything that has been created to benefit living beings such as the plants and trees which yield fruits are forbidden to cut without any pressing need. Likewise an unnecessary use that escorts wastage of drinking water or other blessing of Allah is disliked. A Muslim is considered to essentially obey the teachings and instructions framed by Islam.

Consequently, the review emerges in an appreciation that the Islamic teachings severely forbid from all norms of terrorism. The Islamic history exhibits that the world was in its highly violent state in the days of ignorance. The condition had been settled after the Islam arose, and not only the Muslims, but also the non-Muslims had enjoyed equal opportunities to freely practice their respective faiths in the land. We sum up with the following quotations from the farewell sermon of the prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and also the instructions of Hazrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him), which describes our goal clearly.

In his last sermon, the messenger of Allah, addressed the people on the ninth day of Hajj, 10 A.H. (589 A.D.) in Arafat at Mecca:

"O People lend me an attentive ear, for I don't know whether after this year I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore, listen to what I am saying to you carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today.

"O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and that He will indeed reckon your deeds. Allah has forbidden you to take usury (Interest); therefore all obligations on interest shall henceforth be waived....

"Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

"O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. If they abide by your right, then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them, for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never committing adultery.

"O People, listen to me in earnest, worship Allah, offer your five daily prayers (Salah), fast during the month of Ramadhan, and give zakah of your wealth. Perform Hajj if you can afford to. You know that every Muslim is the brother of another Muslim. You are all equal. Nobody has superiority over another, except by piety and good action.

"Remember, one day you will appear before Allah and answer for your deeds. So beware, do not be astray from the path of righteousness.

"O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O People, understand my words, which I convey to you [19]."

The instructions of Hazrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him)<sup>2</sup> to mankind are pointed up here [20]:

1. "Always fear Allah because He knew what the hearts conceal.
2. Treat your subordinates well.
3. Honour the representative of your enemies.
4. Always be truthful.
5. Keep away from untruthful men and be intimate with those who are truthful and faithful.
6. Do not be dishonest in any way.
7. Do not disturb saint and worshippers of other religions.
8. Do not destroy places of worship.
9. Do not kill a woman, old man and children and those who are not fighting with you (i.e., Civilian).
10. Do not cut flower's trees.
11. Do not ruin any populated place.
12. Do not kill goats, camels and cattle, besides what you need to eat.
13. Do not burn gardens.

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<sup>2</sup>Hazrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) was the father-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He was among his followers. He was the first in men who converted to Islam. Before the Prophet Muhammad's death, the Holy Prophet said that he did not find anyone better than Abu Bakr in his followers. Hazrat Abu Bakr became the first Muslim Caliph after the death of the Prophet of Islam Hazrat Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

#### 14. Do not be dishonest in booty.”

The debate illuminates the room and refuses the modern emergence of the non-Muslim world about Islam that reflects Muslims as an aggressive Ummah and extremist. Islam has no space and consent for extremism to frighten people in any case. Contrary to that, Islam preaches not only to develop one's own spirit to the highest moral standards of humanity, but also commands to encourage others to follow the right path and to prevent them from wrongdoings, peacefully. As a consequence, it frames the world in the ties of virtue and root outs evil. It is advised, therefore, for the sake of humanity, to spread it in the entire world despite enjoying the good alone. Islam advises to invite people towards good and oppose wrong. Those who accept the invitation and embrace Islam are called Muslims, and Ummah<sup>3</sup> as a whole, who make efforts to set up and enforce goodness and eradicates and suppresses evils. The growing wrong concept about “Jihad” is therefore also just because of the lack of knowledge about Islam. People need awareness and they must avoid the baseless belief of connection of Islam with terrorism. It creates a great regret to Muslims in the modern times, and they suffer severely from such unconscious confidence. In the Holy Quran, Allah says: “And if you punish [an enemy, O believers], punish with an equivalent of that with which you were harmed. But if you are patient - it is better for those who are patient [21].” In another chapter Allah commands: “Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress. Indeed. Allah does not like transgressors [22].” We further read in the Quran: “O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do [23].” It is justifiable now to understand ‘Islam’ as a religion of mercy, people embrace and follow it, it had not been and never will be spread by the sword and dread, regardless if the Islamic state did as a country in its inception for good reasons.

### Conclusion

This review justifies explicitly, Islam has no tolerance for terrorism. Let's consider a few examples. Pakistan, which was created in the name of Islam, suffers from terrorism more than any other country or state. The population is mainly Muslim, and Muslims are being affected from terrorist attacks. Few recent examples include deaths of more than hundred innocent children in a school of Peshawar on December 16, 2014, and killing of a large number of people in Shikarpur in January 2015. These are only a couple of examples, there are hundreds of such examples we see in Pakistan. Pakistani Muslims are in miserable condition than others due to terrorism. The Islamic teachings never allow any Muslim to kill other Muslims or humans, and even a small creature without any reason. Terrorists are those deprived people who don't have any education regarding any religion. They are mentally ill, and their psychological disorder brings them to the stage where they can not differentiate between right and wrong. This should not be wrong to say such people don't follow any religion. They are actually the followers of their evil desires, because there is no religion including Islam, which allows terrorism. Islam establishes a great system of morality and virtue. One can easily realise its greatest potential to purify the souls from egotism, brutality, violence, prejudice, intolerance, immorality and undisciplined traits. It stimulates the feelings of decency, honesty and responsibility, and encourages the spiritual growth. Islam strongly implants a conviction in the heart of a human, that his all dealings are with Allah, Who sees him at all times and in all places. Though, he can hide himself from everything and everyone in the world, but not from Allah. He can deceive mankind, but never Allah, and he may flee from grip of anyone else but not from Allah's. The Holy Quran states the highest quality of a Muslim: “And Allah loves those who are firm and steadfast [24].” Islam resists the act of terrorism and does not allow killing, bombing and maiming the innocent souls. All evil actions, including suicide bombing and terrorism are prohibited and hated in Islam. If a Muslim individual commits an act of terrorism, then it is his guilt of violating the Islamic laws and commandments. Therefore, for the shortcomings of one's character, the whole Ummah cannot be assumed to involve in aggression. The religion, Islam, protects the rights of non-Muslims, and advises to treat them justly and to give them security in the Muslim sphere. It imposes blood money and compensation for an act of killing, which committed against someone among them, and enforces duties on them such as, a Muslim, should be true and sincere in faith, he must be a good citizen and supporter in social affairs. The Muslim's own individual soul must be firm, strong, powerful and unshaken in all circumstances. With all such traits of character, no one can commit himself to terrify anyone, anywhere regardless of his mores and religion. Consequently, it is not wrong to say that Islam builds and not destroys, it calms, but not frighten, and hence Islam doesn't allow terrorism.

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<sup>3</sup>The Muslim world as a whole is represented by a single word ‘Ummah’ in Islam, which means community of the believers.

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