

Relations with non-Muslims

— Teachings of the Prophet of Mercy (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)

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Translators' note

Nowadays, many opinions abound as to what Islam says about non-Muslims. Most of them are incorrect. However, there is a great eagerness among the non-Muslims themselves to find out what Islam actually says in this regard. This book fulfils this acute need and provides authentic information about the relations of Muslims and non-Muslims. Especially, this book will prove to be a great help for the youth of the Muslim community.

This book has been rendered into English by the Department of Translation, Abul Hasanaat Islamic Research Center and has been uploaded on the bilingual Islamic website www.Ziaislamic.com as well. Apart from this book, other books of the Mufti are present on the website (please see at the end of the book) and are awaiting publication.

We have made all efforts to keep this book as error-free as possible. In spite of all this, if any errors have crept in, they are the sole responsibility of the Dept. of Translation and/or the Dept. of Publication and not of the author himself. Any errors brought to our notice will surely be rectified in future editions.

We are really thankful to Professor Dr. Badiuddin Sabri who read through the whole translation and rewarded us with his suggestions and corrections. May Allah reward him amply for his effort.

May Almighty Allah accept this humble effort.

Almighty Allah is the Lord and sustainer of all people, in all realms and the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is the Prophet of Mercy for one and all. Neither is Almighty Allah, the sustainer for any particular nation/s nor is the mercy of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) limited to any particular class or sect or nation. India is a democratic country. People of various religions live here. The merciful teachings of Islam benefit all of them.

Wherever Muslims live, be it Europe, Africa, Asia or anywhere else, Islam stresses that regardless of belonging to any country or nation, Muslims should treat other people nicely. Islam negates discrimination based on ethnicity or race and summarily rejects such prejudices. Islam teaches that only on the basis of humanity all people, regardless of their ethnicity, should be respected.

Muslims are living in non-Muslim countries and non-Muslims are taking up residence in Islamic countries. In this context, the question that how Muslims should treat and behave with non-Muslims becomes all the more important, so that our young generation, which is studying in colleges, etc. and is a target of anti-Islamic propaganda should learn the truth about the merciful teachings of Islam.

Islam safeguards human rights

Nowadays human values are being trampled upon. Humanity is being crushed in the name of vengeance. Oppression and harassment of others has become the order of the day. People have fallen from ideal moral and ethical values.

On one hand, we have this sad state. On the other, through its media, the western world reiterates and reinforces the notion that

it (the western world) is the promoter and protector of human rights and that Islam has no recognition of human rights. People who aren't aware of the true Islamic teachings, especially the young generation, are being affected by this false propaganda.

The fact is that the western world has been harping about human rights since about the mid 20th century, but the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has granted humanity its rights 1400 years ago and honored it. In that era of discrimination and barbarity, the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) not only granted rights but safeguarded them as well

Today, decisions are made on the basis of ethnicity and discriminations are made on the basis of race, caste, etc. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) didn't permit any such discriminations in His judgments. He revealed the value of basic human values, safeguarded them and turned those people who were on the brink of disaster to beacons of guidance for the ages to come. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) didn't declare superiority and excellence among human beings to be a function of one's ethnicity or culture or any such thing. Instead, He said that only piety decides the superiority and excellence of an individual. There is a Hadith:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَلَا إِنَّ رَبَّكُمْ وَاحِدٌ وَإِنَّ أَبَاكُمْ وَاحِدٌ أَلَا لَا فَضْلَ
لِعَرَبِيٍّ عَلَىٰ أَعْجَمِيٍّ وَلَا لِعَجَمِيٍّ عَلَىٰ عَرَبِيٍّ وَلَا لِأَحْمَرَ عَلَىٰ أَسْوَدَ
وَلَا لِأَسْوَدَ عَلَىٰ أَحْمَرَ إِلَّا بِالتَّقْوَىٰ

O people! Be aware that your Lord is One, your father is one (meaning Hadhrat Adam (May peace be upon him)). No Arab is superior to a non-Arab only by virtue of being an Arab. No non-Arab is superior to an Arab only by virtue of being a non-Arab.

No white complexioned person is superior to a black one and no black person is superior to a white-complexioned one, except by piety.¹

The Merciful Lord Almighty

Almighty Allah is most merciful on His creation. In the beginning of the Holy Quran when Almighty Allah introduces Himself, He did so with 3 of His attributes:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ . الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All praise be to Allah alone, the Sustainer of all the worlds. Most Compassionate, Ever-Merciful,²

Surah Fatiha which is like a foreword to the Holy Quran has a mention of these 3 attributes. All these 3 attributes show the mercy and benevolence of Almighty Allah. All the rules of Islam are but detailed explanations and interpretations of Surah Fatiha and will have the attribute of mercy in them as a predominant factor. Why not? The mercy of Allah is for each and every person, for every strip of land and for every thing in this world as the Merciful Lord says:

وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ

My mercy encompasses everything.³

¹ Musnad Imam Ahmed bin Hambal, Hadith No. 24204

² Surah Fatiha (1:1,2)

³ Surah A'araaf (7:156)

The extent of Allah's mercy

There is a Hadith in Sahih Muslim about the mercy of Allah:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - إِنَّ لِلَّهِ مِائَةَ
رَحْمَةٍ أَنْزَلَ مِنْهَا رَحْمَةً وَاحِدَةً بَيْنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنْسِ وَالْبَهَائِمِ وَالْهَوَامِّ
فَبِهَا يَتَعَاطَفُونَ وَبِهَا يَتَرَاحَمُونَ وَبِهَا تَعَطِفُ الْوَحْشُ عَلَى وَلَدِهَا
وَأَخَّرَ اللَّهُ تِسْعًا وَتِسْعِينَ رَحْمَةً يَرْحَمُ بِهَا عِبَادَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

Translation: Hadhrat Abu Hurairah (May Allah be well pleased with him) narrates that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Indeed, Almighty Allah has 100 mercies. He has distributed 1 mercy (of those 100) among the genies, humankind, animals and insects. It is because of that mercy people are benevolent with each other. Only because of this do they treat each other with grace and kindness and it is only because of this that barbaric animals are compassionate on their young ones. Almighty Allah has postponed His 99 mercies to the Day of Judgment when He will treat His slaves with mercy⁴.

Another Hadith in Sahih Muslim has the following words:

فَمِنْ ذَلِكَ الْجُزْءِ تَتَرَاحَمُ الْخَلَائِقُ حَتَّى تَرْفَعَ الدَّابَّةُ حَافِرَهَا عَنْ
وَلَدِهَا خَشْيَةَ أَنْ تُصِيبَهُ

Translation: It is because of that unit of mercy that the creation treats each other mercifully and affectionately so much that an

⁴ Sahih Muslim, Kitab Ut Tauba, Babun Fi S'iyati Rahmatullahi Ta'ala Wa Innahaa Sabaqat Ghazabahoo, Hadith No. 7150

