

# ISLAM A RELIGION OF TERROR?

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*"Verily, God enjoins justice, kindness, giving help to  
kith and kin and forbids all illegal acts, evil deeds and  
all kinds of oppression."*

AL-QUR'AN (16):90

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## FOREWORD

The last edition of this booklet travelled far and wide with there being an enormous demand for its distribution. After receiving an overwhelming positive response to the last edition from Muslims and non Muslims alike this new revised edition incorporates many suggested additions.

It has become necessary to show the true teachings of Islam, free from the menace that society is facing today from radicalism and extremism which has plagued our youth, across our towns and cities. Currently the whole discourse around Islam and Muslims has been in a very negative light. This politically motivated agenda by the extremist has not only distorted the image of the faith, it has also increased fear and suspicion amongst the common folk.

It is hoped that this humble effort is accepted by God Almighty and is successful in its intention of clearing up the misconceptions about Islam and to give Muslims a voice over the extreme and superficial.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped in the production of this small booklet, from the manuscript stages to it's publication and distribution, without them this would not have been possible, may God bless them all and add this to the scales of our good deeds, Ameen.

## INTRODUCTION

All praise is for Allah and may the peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, his companions and all those who follow his example until the Last Day. Indeed the best end is for the pious.

We live in turbulent times in which the dignity and humanity of human beings is no longer considered sacred, to the extent that the taking of innocent lives has become commonplace. Ordinary people are held at ransom through no fault of their own, by perpetrators to achieve certain political motives and objectives. With each passing year new groups emerge. Just when we think one problem has been resolved a new one appears, bringing with it fresh challenges that affect us all in some form or fashion. Hence 'terrorism' is rightfully considered one of the greatest threats to world peace and security. Regrettably violence of this nature has threatened the harmony of communities that have co-existed peacefully for hundreds of years, and in some cases uprooted entire societies.

The word terrorism has only been used extensively very recently, in the age of mass media and the internet. This word has often been linked with Islam and Muslims, often unjustly. Hence it has become synonymous and acceptable in some parts of the world that each time an act of violence occurs, for it to be attributed to Islam. Before the advent of such terrorism, other communities faced similar stigmatisation for a variety of reasons: the colour of their skin, their faith, their land of origin, or their ancestry.

Similarly, Muslims have also become victims of hate crime and Islamophobic attacks. Often the religion of Islam is held

responsible for the criminal acts of a handful of Muslims, and at times even for the acts of non-Muslims!

Sadly, the definition of terrorism has been limited only to acts of violence perpetuated by individuals or groups. Terrorism, in fact, spans the entire world, and manifests itself in many different forms. Its perpetrators do not fit any stereotype. Those who place no value on the sanctity of human life can play disparate roles within society to achieve their political goals and aims.

The narrow definition of terrorism driven by the media that implicates only individuals and groups, has intertwined the Islamic faith and Muslim communities with terrorism and extremism.

It is well recognised that Islam played a pivotal role in kick-starting the Renaissance in Europe, signalling the end of the Dark Ages. In its rich 1400 year history, Islam has made hudge spiritual, intellectual and cultural contributions for the betterment of human civilisation. The Arabic word "Islam" mean "peace and voluntary submission to the One God." Islam has over 1.2 billion followers around the globe.

In the light of these facts is it credible that this very same faith could promote indiscriminate terror and destruction in the modern era?

In this short booklet we will discuss terrorism from an Islamic perspective, using the sacred texts of Islam, as well as statements from respected scholars and academics. I ask the respected reader, to read the following pages with an open heart and mind, without any prejudice. Only then can we explore what is beneath the surface, to establish what the truth is and understand the teachings of Islam and its traditions.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN LIFE

The sanctity of human life is inviolable in Islam. Protecting this precious gift is sanctioned by Divine text, as well as by many Prophetic traditions. Human life in particular is accorded a special status in Islam. The first and foremost basic right of a human being is the right to live in peace and dignity, without fear, irrespective of one's creed, colour, social stature or the land they live in. God the Most High says in the Qur'an about the one who kills an innocent person:

**"... It is as if he had murdered all mankind. And if anyone saves another person's life, it is as if he had given life to all of mankind" <sup>1</sup>**

Such is the value of a single human life. God in the Qur'an equates the taking of even one human life unjustly, with killing all of humanity. This is how seriously this deplorable crime is considered in the Islamic faith. Both the Qur'an and the prophetic tradition prohibit murder in the clearest and strongest terms.

Islam requires Muslims to submit to God, to have piety, benevolence, forgiveness, perseverance, self-sacrifice, empathy and show respect for others of faith and of no faith. A Muslim practises all this in their daily life.

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<sup>1</sup>Al-Qur'an (5):32

## JIHAD

Islam in general has been misunderstood in the world today, especially in communities where there is little or no representation of Islam. In particular no word evokes such strong reaction as the word 'Jihad'. The term 'Jihad' has been abused extensively, conjuring up disturbing images in the public consciousness of violent Muslims spreading their religion by the sword and in recent times through terrorising people. This misunderstanding has been the key to mistrust between non-Muslim and Muslim communities.

The word Jihad comes from the Arabic root verb, which means to struggle, strive or endeavour in the way of God. Hence jihad is literally an act of struggling. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said that jihad is to struggle with the base desires of one's own soul. Thus jihad primarily refers to the inner struggle that each individual faces on a daily basis, doing good and refraining from all bad and submitting to God completely with sincerity. Every act should be done to please God. To be wholesome it must be in accordance with God's commands and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) while being cognisant of God at all times.

However, when it becomes absolutely necessary to physically fight evil, jihad takes on a martial dimension. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) and his followers, past and present, like many Israelite Prophets before them, fought wars in self-defence and in order to abolish

tyranny and oppression.

**"And why should you not fight in the cause of God and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated, men, women, and children, whose cry is: 'Our Lord! Rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from You one who will protect; and raise for us from You one who will help'." <sup>1</sup>**

Regardless of how unjust the enemy may be, Islam forbids mutilation, torture or the slaughter of the surrendering forces. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) also forbade killing by deceit, whether through the treacherous violation of treaties or by assassination during a cease-fire. Hence, jihad is like a surgical operation: it does not exceed the area of disease.

**"O You who believe! Show integrity for the sake of God, bearing witness with justice. Do not let enmity and hatred of others make you avoid justice. Be just: that is closer to piety and fear God. Verily, God is Well-Acquainted with what you do." <sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup>Al-Qur'an (4):75

<sup>2</sup>Al-Qur'an (5):8

## ISLAM FORBIDS THE KILLING OF CIVILIANS

As for the killing of innocent civilians, it is wholly forbidden in Islam. On the contrary, God says in the Qur'an:

**"God 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, God loves those who deal with equity." <sup>1</sup>**

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"The first cases to be adjudicated on the Day of Judgment will be of bloodshed."<sup>2</sup>

There is no doubt that inciting fear into the hearts and minds of defenceless civilians, the wholesale destruction of their homes, and the killing and maiming of innocent men, women and children are all forbidden and detestable criminal acts according to the Divine law of Islam. In fact, all manifestations of injustice and oppression are condemned by Islam and its God-fearing, orthodox adherents.

The ignorant hotheads who justify their evil in the name of Islam, passing off the terrorism of cowards as the jihad of the brave, do so only by twisting the texts of Islam and play-

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Qur'an (60):8

<sup>2</sup> Muslim #1678, Bukhari #6533

ing upon the fears and prejudices of an uninformed public.

Such is the deception of the devil that these ignorant individuals and groups do not appreciate how just God is, nor consider the glad tidings the Prophet Muhammad came with. They have deviated from the Truth by following their own whims and desires.

God says about such people:

**"And who is more misguided than the one who follows his own desires without guidance from God?"<sup>1</sup>**

HRH Prince Charles correctly observed how "our common attitude to Islam suffers because the way we understand it has been hijacked by the extreme and the superficial."

...we need to be careful of that emotive label, '*fundamentalist*' and distinguish, as Muslims do, between revivalist, who choose to take the practice of their religion most devoutly, and fanatics or extremists who use their devotion for political ends."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Qur'an (28):50

<sup>2</sup> Oxford, 1993

## SUICIDE BOMBINGS

Islamic texts have clearly stated that suicide bombings are not only contrary to Islam, but are forbidden. Hence Islam is free of such acts. The renowned Islamic Scholar, Shaykh al-'Uthaymin was asked: "What is the ruling regarding acts by means of suicide such as attaching explosives to a car and storming the enemy, whereby he knows without a doubt that he shall die as a result of this action?" He replied: "Indeed, my opinion is that he is regarded as one who killed himself, and as a result he shall be punished in Hell for it. It is authenticated that the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Indeed, whoever (intentionally) kills himself, then certainly he will be punished in the Fire of Hell, wherein he shall dwell forever." <sup>1</sup>

Islamic teachings and practices require Muslims to strive in purifying themselves from sins, to keep ties of kith and kin, to be kind to one's neighbours, to feed the poor and orphans, to live in peace and justice. This must be accorded to everyone in society irrespective of one's race, colour or creed. Regardless of how legitimate any cause may be, Islamic texts never condone killing of innocent people. Islam is a faith that promotes peaceful dialogue with all sections of society. Its message is one of love, peace, mercy and forgiveness, and the vast majority of Muslims have nothing to do with the violent acts that have been attributed to them or their religion.

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<sup>1</sup>Muslim, Bukhari

## TOLERANCE IN ISLAM

Islam is a religion that commands tolerance and a balanced approach in all affairs without going to extremes: be that an intellectual discourse or act of worship.

Scholars in the West have refuted the myth of Muslims coercing others to convert to Islam. The historian De Lacy O'Leary wrote in 'Islam at Crossroads':

"History makes it clear, that the legend of fanatical Muslims, sweeping though the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated."

Spain was ruled by Muslims for almost eight hundred years. During this time, the non-Muslim communities were treated with respect and tolerance. Eight hundred years was ample time for the forced conversion of the entire Iberian populace, had the Muslims been intent upon doing so. For centuries Christian and Jewish minorities have lived and flourished in the Muslim lands, often arriving to escape the organised killing by governments in Europe. Countries such as Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan all have significant Christian and Jewish populations.

Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists have also been living side by side with Muslims in India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia for many centuries, mutually conducting trade and many other transactions in peace and prosperity. This is not surprising

to the Muslims, for Islam prohibits the forced conversion of others to Islam and in fact guarantees religious freedom and protection as stated clearly in the Qur'an:

**"For you is your religion and for me is my religion" <sup>1</sup>**

**"Let there be no compulsion in religion" <sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup>Al-Qur'an (109):6

<sup>2</sup>Al-Qur'an (2):256



## EXTREMISM

Islam is replete with examples of moderation and tolerance. It exhorts its adherents to follow the middle course in all affairs, religious or secular. The life of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) is a testimony to his moderation in all matters, including worship.

Islam is a religion that is balanced in all aspects. It does not condone any form of extremism. In fact it unequivocally condemns all forms of extremism and terrorism.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"Those who go to extremes are destroyed" <sup>1</sup>

In another report he said,

"Beware of extremism for it was extremism that destroyed the nations before you."<sup>2</sup>

He also said,

"Make things easy and do not make things difficult. Give glad tidings and do not drive the people away."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ahmed

<sup>2</sup>Ahmed #1851-3248, Nasi #3059, Ibn Majah #3029

<sup>3</sup>Bukhari & Muslim

God says in the Qur'an:

**"God wishes for you ease and He does not wish for you hardship" <sup>4</sup>**

The Islamic faith teaches its adherents to be good to kith and kin, even with those that show enmity towards them, to be generous, pardon those who are unjust and to engage with all for the betterment of society.

In conclusion to this chapter, the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said three times,

"The extremists are destroyed." <sup>5</sup>

The reason why he said this three times was to show the severity of this issue. Extremism has lead people astray from the straight path of God and His Messenger.

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<sup>4</sup> Al-Qur'an (2):185

<sup>5</sup> Muslim #2670

## THE MEDIA

In today's highly polarised world, the media has played a pivotal role in demonising Islam. They cynically capitalise on every opportunity to produce lurid headlines, in order to sell newspapers and improve their ratings. This not only distorts the message of Islam, but also spreads fear, suspicion and mistrust amongst the ordinary folk about Islam and Muslims. Demonising Islam and Muslims is a growing industry. Amidst the clamour the voices of orthodox Islam are drowned out. In order to legitimise this distorted view of Islam, a small band of well-known extremist Muslims with no religious authority are regularly rolled out in front of the cameras to proffer their corrupt ideas.

The harm they cause to Islam is severe because of their claim to be Muslim, and their aiding and supporting Islam superficially, whereas in reality they are its enemies seeking to destroy it from within. They covertly spread corruption and ignorance to such an extent, that the unwary thinks they are upon sound knowledge and righteous action.

Islam and the Muslim community are the new scapegoat; every opportunity is taken to spread fear and suspicion, to the point where Muslims are considered people who cannot be trusted in any sphere of life. They are blamed for all that goes wrong, regardless of the contributions they have made in society or even to human civilization. And some have argued that they are the new enemy within. The media has car-

icaturised Muslims as people that are extreme, violent, hate-mongers, uncivilised, backwards, oppressors and uneducated that can only bring harm.

In recent times the media floodgates have been flung wide open with reports of Muslims spreading hate and extremism in mosques, prisons, universities and schools. Every aspect of Muslim life is now open to question. Even mundane issues such as Halal food have come under the spotlight with emotive stories of Muslims trying to covertly feed entire populations Halal slaughtered meat and poultry products. Not a day passes without anti-Muslim sentiment being expressed. In some quarters it has become fashionable to express such bigotry.

Previous communities faced loathing before Muslims, such as the Jewish communities in Europe, which endured hatred for centuries, culminating in the death camps and displacement of millions. It took many deaths and many years before rational heads prevailed.

The Afro-Caribbean and the Irish communities have also faced discrimination over the last few decades. One would have hoped that lessons would have been learned from past experience. However the reality on the ground is very similar to what other communities faced.

In the last few years we have seen an 81 year old grandfather<sup>1</sup> hacked to death for no reason except for being Muslim and a Muslim student who was fatally stabbed 16 times while she

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<sup>1</sup> *Mohammed Saleem*, 82-year-old, stabbed to death three times in Birmingham, West Midlands, England - after leaving the Mosque from evening prayers, on 29 April 2013.

was on her way to university.<sup>2</sup> These are just a couple of examples that show that anti-Muslim sentiment has risen so high. It is fast becoming the norm and acceptable. Muslims are subjected to unprecedented levels of hate, yet this very issue goes relatively unnoticed. Islam and Muslims are the new experiment which is being tested, their values and loyalty being in question.

Every tool at the media's disposal is being used. These disingenuous, deceptive and highly manipulative tactics are employed at every opportunity at the expense of community cohesion. The media claims to be honest, factual and seeking the truth whilst using spin tactics to manipulate public opinion.

The reality is that Islam is a religion of peace, empathy, justice, tolerance and truth, despite the widespread media antipathy towards Islam and Muslims.

Malcolm X famously once said,

"If you're not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing."

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<sup>2</sup> *Nabid Al-Manea*, 31-year-old, female PhD student from Saudi Arabia - stabbed to death 16 times in Colchester, Essex, England on 29 March 2014.

## THE UNIVERSALITY OF ISLAM

Islam is a way of life that transcends race and ethnicity. The Qur'an repeatedly reminds us of our common origin despite our apparent differences. Far from being an intolerant faith.

God says:

**"O mankind! We created you from a single pair of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other. Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of God is he who is the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)."**<sup>1</sup>

Another example of tolerance is Muslims respectfully consider Christians and Jews as people of the Book. Hence Islam has a common heritage with Christianity and Judaism dating back to Abraham whom all three faiths revere and respect.

God not only reminds Muslims of the previous Prophets and Messengers, but commands Muslims to believe in them and what was revealed to them. Muslims do not differentiate between any of them. Islam is a faith that came to re-affirm what the previous Prophets and Messengers came with: to worship God alone.

God says in the Qur'an:

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<sup>1</sup>Al-Qur'an (49):13

**"Say, 'He is God, Who is One. God, the Everlasting Sustainer of all. He has not given birth nor was He born. And no one is comparable to Him'"<sup>1</sup>**

Judaism, Christianity and Islam have much in common; they share aspects of belief, history, origin and lineage. No other faiths enjoy such commonality.

God also says in the Qur'an:

**"Say, We have believed in God and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Tribes and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them. We are Muslims submitted to Him"<sup>2</sup>**

It is the universality of its teachings that makes Islam appeal to a vast number of people throughout the world. This interest in Islam has led many to adopt Islam as their way of life. In this inter-connected world, where conflicts and war is common, a world that is threatened with terrorism and extremism perpetrated by individuals, groups and states, Islam is a beacon of light that offers peace and hope.

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<sup>1</sup>Al-Qur'an (112):1-4

<sup>2</sup>Al-Qur'an (2):136

## POSITION OF ISLAMIC SCHOLARS ON TERRORISM

Islamic Scholars have lectured and written many works on extremism, terrorism and suicide bombings. If I were to put together everything that has been said or written on these issues, it would be an enormous task and this work would come to many volumes. However two well respected scholars will suffice. They are well recognised globally as authorities on Islam. They were amongst the first to speak out against this menace to society, long before it became fashionable to do so.

This is the advice they gave to Muslims and non-Muslims alike on this subject.

*Shaykh Abdul-Azeez Ibn Abdullah Ibn Baz*, Said;

"From that which is known to everyone who has the slightest bit of common sense is that hijacking airplanes and kidnapping children and the like are extremely great crimes, the world over. Their evil effects are far and wide, as is the great harm and inconvenience caused to the innocent, the total effect of which none can comprehend except Allah.

Likewise... these crimes are not specific to any particular country over and above another country, nor any specific group over and above another group, rather it encompasses the whole world.



There is no doubt about the effect of these crimes; so it is obligatory upon the governments and those responsible from amongst the Scholars and other than them to afford these issues great concern, and to exert themselves as much as possible in ending this evil. <sup>1</sup>

Commenting on terrorist attacks he said:

"That Allah, Transcendent is He, commanded justice; and it is on such justice that the heavens and the earth were established on, and due to it Prophets were sent and heavenly scriptures revealed.

Allah says:

**"Allah enjoins justice and excellence [in all things] and charity to kinsmen, and forbids indecency and oppression. Thus He admonishes you that you may take heed."**<sup>2</sup>

And Allah, the Most High says:

**We sent Our Messengers with clear proofs, and sent down with them the Book and the Balance, that mankind may observe justice.**<sup>3</sup>

**Allah's judgement that no person shall bear the sins of another is from the perfection of the Divine justice: Nor does any soul bear another's burden.** <sup>4</sup>

Allah the Magnificent has forbidden oppression for Him-

<sup>1</sup> Kayfa Nu'aalij Waaqi'unaa al-Aleem - Page 108-109

<sup>2</sup> Al-Qur'an (16):90

<sup>3</sup> Al-Qur'an (57):25

<sup>4</sup> Al-Qur'an (6):164

self and has forbidden it between His servants. In a divine tradition the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) relates from his Lord that He said;

"O My servants, I have forbidden oppression for Myself and have made it forbidden amongst you, so do not oppress one another."<sup>5</sup>

This is universal for all God's servants, Muslims and non-Muslims. It is not allowed for anyone to oppress another nor transgress against them, even if hostility or ill-will exists between them. Allah commands:

**"O you who believe! Be steadfast witness for Allah in equity; and let not hatred of any people make you swerve from justice. Be just; that is nearer to godliness."<sup>6</sup>**

Thus, enmity and acrimony are no justification in Sacred Law for transgression or oppression.

*Shaykh Muhammad Nasir al-Din al-Albani, Said;*

"Some of the Scholars have understood that the person who commits suicide dies as an unbeliever since the one who commits such an act has malice and disdain for His Lord because of the calamities he has faced without patience. Without a doubt, a (true) Muslim could never reach the level whereby he or she contemplates such a heinous act, let alone carry out the taking of his own life. In most cases the individual who takes their own life is not a true believer."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Muslim, Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah

<sup>6</sup> Al-Qur'an (5):8

<sup>7</sup> Masjid al-Aqsa - The Path to its Freedom

## MERCY FOR ALL MANKIND

When describing the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) God has stated in the Qur'an:

**"We have not sent you [O Muhammad],  
except as a mercy to the worlds" <sup>1</sup>**

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) was a man who was passionate about the welfare of the poor and the orphans and urged the kind treatment of all men, women and children as well as animals and the natural world. His character was one of kindness and gentleness to all human beings irrespective of one's belief or creed. He was a man known for his generosity, patience and forbearance even at the most difficult of times and despite persecution. His message and conduct stands the test of time as a sublime model of fairness, justice and uplifting of human rights.

He would often talk about the rights of kith and kin as well as all the other rights that human beings have over each other. His message was one that transcends all boundaries: rich, poor, skin colour, language, race, social status. His message was simple and clear that the human race is one community, every single person is equal in front of God and that we shall be held accountable for our actions in front of God.

If I were to list all the examples from the life of the Prophet - his kindness, justice, human rights for all - we could write a whole new book on this subject, for they are many in number

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Qur'an (21):107

and would take many volumes. In what has been famously called his last sermon whilst he was on pilgrimage he said:

"O people, your Lord is one and your father is one. The Arab is not superior to a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab to an Arab, nor a red-skinned person to a black-skinned person, and nor a black-skinned person to a red-skinned person, except through piety."

In the same sermon he also said:

"Allah has made your blood, your possessions and your honour sacred, just as this day in this month and this land is sacred, this until you meet your Lord." And he repeated this over and over.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) also said;

"Feed the people, and greet those whom you know and those whom you do not know [with words of peace and kindness]." <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Bukhari #6236

## CONCLUSION

This small treatise barely scratches the surface of this important issue - terrorism is a problem that confronts all nations, races and faiths. Terrorist acts run against laws and reason and they are contrary to all religious teachings and customs. Terrorism knows no land, race, religion, sect, time or place. All people reject and condemn it and its perpetrators.

In conclusion, the following verses of the Qur'an and the statement of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) clearly demonstrate the Islamic position:

God, the Most High, says in Qur'an:

**"There is no compulsion in religion. The Right Path has indeed become distinct from the wrong. So whoever rejects false deities and believes in Allah, then they have grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And God is All-Hearing, Al-Knowing."**<sup>1</sup>

He also said:

**"Verily, God enjoins justice, kindness, giving help to kith and kin and forbids all illegal acts, evil deeds and all kinds of oppression. He admonishes you**

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<sup>1</sup>Al-Qur'an (2):256

that you may take heed. And fulfil the covenant of God when you have covenanted and break not the oaths after you have confirmed them and indeed, you have appointed God your surety.

"Verily, God knows what you do and be not like she who undoes the thread which she has spun, after it has become strong, by taking your oaths as means of deception among yourselves, lest a nation be more numerous than another nation. God only tests you by this, and on the Day of Resurrection, He will certainly make clear to you wherein you used to differ."

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"In the name of the One in whose Hand is my soul, you will not enter Heaven till you believe, and you will not believe till you love one another. Spread peace among yourself."<sup>3</sup>

I hope this small effort has come some way in dispelling the many myths that have become accepted about Islam and Muslims.

And God, the Most High, knows best.

All praise belong to God, Lord of the worlds and may the peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad and all the Prophets and Messengers of God and all those seeking the truth.

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<sup>2</sup> Al-Qur'an (16):90-92

<sup>3</sup> Muslim

## INDEX OF PROPER NAMES

*Ahmed:* bin Muhammad bin Hanbal bin Hilal ash-Shaybani, Abu Abdullah, he was born in 780 AD, Baghdad, Iraq. He was a well respected Imam and the author of the famous Musnad Imam Ahmed. He died in the year 855 AD, Baghdad, Iraq.

*Bukhari:* Muhammad bin Ismail bin Ibrahim bin al-Mughirah, Abu Abdullah. He was born in year 810 AD in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. He became the leader of Hadith, hence forth was nick-named 'The Leader of the Believers in Hadith' and he was the author of Sahih al-Bukhari. He died in the year 870 AD, Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

*Muslim:* bin al-Hajjaj bin Muslim al-Qushayri, Abu al-Husain an-Naisaburi, he was born in 821 AD, Nishapur, Iran. He was one of the great Imams of Hadith. He is the author of the famous Sahih Muslim which is the most authentic book of hadith after Bukhari. He died in the year 875 AD, Nishapur, Iran.

*Abu Dawud:* Sulayman bin al-Ash'ath bin Ishaq bin Bashir, Abu Dawud as-Sijjstani. He was born in 810 AD, Sistan, Afghanistan. He was the author of the famous Sunan Abu Dawud. He died in the year 889 AD, Basra, Iraq.

*Tirmidhi:* Muhammad bin Isa bin Sawrah bin Musa bin ad-Dahhak al-Sulami at-Tirmidhi, he was born in 824 AD, Termez, Uzbekistan. He was the Imam, Hafiz and the author of the famous Sunan at-Tirmidhi. He was the student of Bukhari. He died in the year 892 AD, Termez, Uzbekistan.

*Ibn Majah:* Muhammad ibn Yazid Ibn Majah al-Rabi al-Qazwini, Abu Abdullah. He was born in 824 AD, Qazvin, Iran. He was a famous scholar of Hadith and the author of the famous Sunan Ibn Majah. He died in the year 887 AD, Qazvin, Iran.

*Ibn Baz:* Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah bin Baz. He was born in November, 1910, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He was a leading scholar of Islam and the grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia. He died on 13th May, 1999, Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

*Albani:* Muhammad Nasir-ud-Din Al-Albani, he was born in 1914, Shkoder, Albania. He was the famous scholar who specialised in the field of Hadith. He has authored many works. He died on 2nd October, 1999, Amman, Jordan.

*Ibn Uthaymin:* Muhammad ibn Salih ibn Muhammad ibn al-Uthaymin at-Tamimi, Abu 'Abd Allah, he was born in March, 1925, Unaizah, Saudi Arabia. He was a famous scholar of Islam and author of many works. He died on 11th January, 2001, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

## BRIEF GLOSSARY

*Allah:* is the arabic word for God - the Eternal, Transcendent, Absolute one.

*Hadith:* are a collection of reports, sayings, accounts, actions and narratives of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing be upon him). They are regarded highly within Islam, as a tool to understand the Holy Qur'an, as well as an important tool to practice Islamic worship, morals, manners, ethics, etc. It consists of two portions, the body of the text and the chain of transmission.

*Hafiz:* Hadith Master, commonly referred to one who has memorised at least 100 000 ahadith.

*Imam:* a person in a position of leadership. This can be in a Mosque, in the Muslim community or in a particular field of Islamic Knowledge. They commonly lead the community in prayer, serve as community leaders, and provide religious guidance.

*Islam:* submission, submitting to the will of God, as revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing be upon him).

*Muslim:* "One who submits to God", a person who follows the religion of Islam based upon the Qur'an and following the tradition Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) in his / her life.



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