

THE CONTRIBUTION OF ISLAM TO PEACE
(Delivered by HIS EMINENCE MAULANA MOHAMED ABDUL ALEEM SIDDIQUI)

“Live in Peace and Harmony” was a global multi-faith conference organized to bring awareness of the importance of Religion to bring peace and harmony around the world. Maulana Shah Abdul Aleem was the Ambassador of Islam to deliver the message of peace on behalf of Islam.

The same speech was published by UNESCO in 2015. Masha Allah, how relevant, Maulana Sahab’s speeches and writings are. We are all still referencing and getting inspired up till today about the work of this great scholar.



May Allah Almighty continues to illuminate his grave and elevate his rank to the highest place in Jannatul Firdhous (Ameen)

I start in the name of God Almighty, the one who has created us, the one that we worship, the one that we ask to guide us in the straight path and the one that we seek his intervention to bring peace and harmony in this world. We also ask God Almighty to help us understand each other's belief, so that we can live in mutual respect and harmony.

PEACE BE UPON YOU! I am expected to submit before you the contribution of the religion preached by the Great Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) to peace. It is said and believed about Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that he did not speak anything of his own accord. As the Holy Quran says,

“He does not speak of his own desire. It is a revelation revealed to him by his creator.” (Quran, 53:4).

These revelations and messages of Allah are recorded in a book called the Quran, which is still preserved in its original form. I shall confine myself to the strict wordings of the Quran and thus submit to you the contribution of the Quran towards peace.

The name given to this religion, “Islam” which literally means “peace” because the whole message of the Quran is nothing but a message of peace with the Almighty by submitting ourselves to His Commands to achieve peace with the world. This message from beginning to end preaches and describes the means to achieve peace. In the limited time at my disposal I shall not be able to do justice to the vast subject but to be authentic in my speech I shall just give quotations from the Quran in different headings.

A. The Course, which one should adopt for his life, which leads to peace.

The religion before Allah is Peace (Islam) (Quran, 3:19)

Oh you who believe! Enter into the way of peace wholeheartedly and follow not the ways of Satan, the Evil One, for he is to you an avowed enemy (Quran, 2:208)

This day I have perfected your religion (code of life) for you and completed my favours upon you and have chosen for you Islam the religion of peace as your religion. (Quran, 5:4)

B. People are warned not to create mischief and disturb peace.

Do not make mischief on the earth when order has been established therein (Quran, 7:56)

And remember the benefits (you have received) from Allah to refrain from evil and mischief of the Earth. (Quran, 7:56)

Those who break Allah's covenant after it is ratified and sunder what Allah has ordered to be joined and do mischief on earth; these cause only loss to themselves.

Tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter. (Quran, 2:191)

The blame is only against those who oppress people with wrongdoing and rebel in the land defying right and justice, for such grievous penalty. (Quran, 42:42)

C. Killing the Individual is Killing the whole nation.

If anyone kills a person- unless if be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land it would be as if one has killed the entire nation; and if anyone saved a life, it would be as they saved the life of the whole nation(Quran, 5:35)

D. Although recompense for injuries is provided for forgiveness is recommended.

The good deed and evil deed are not alike. Repel the evil deed with one which is better; then will they between whom and you there was enmity become as though a bosom friend. (Quran, 41:34)

The recompense, for an injury is an injury equal thereto (in degree); but if a person forgives and makes reconciliation their reward is due from Allah, for Allah loves not those who do wrong. (Quran, 42:40)

But indeed, if any show patience and forgiveness that would truly be an exercise of courageous will and resolution on the conduct of affairs. (Quran, 42:43)

But if the enemies incline towards peace, you should also incline towards peace and trust in Allah; for He is the One who hears and knows all things. (Quran, 8:61)

E. Means to Establish Peace

1. One must realize that there is the existence of an Almighty, All-Knowing having the power to punish and pardon

Allah! There is not God but He the Living, Self-Subsisting Eternal. No slumber can seize Him nor Sleep. His are all things in the Heavens and on Earth. Who can intercede in His presence except as He permits? He knows what (appear to his Creatures as) before or after or behind. Nor shall they compass aught His knowledge except as He wills. His throne extends over the heavens and the Earth and He feels no fatigue while guarding and preserving them. For He is the Most High, the Supreme in Glory. (Quran, 2:255)

Surely the God of you all is the One Allah- there is no God but He. All things HE comprehends in His knowledge. (Quran, 20:98)

It was We (Allah) who created man and we know what dark suggestions his soul makes to him for we are nearer to him than his jugular vein. Behold, two (guardian angels) appointed to learn his doings learn (and note them) one sitting on the left and one sitting on the right. Not a word does he utter but there is a sentinel by him ready to note it (Quran, 50:16-18)

2. Beliefs in different gods creates division. Therefore, the unity of God is emphasized.

Take not the worship of more than one God for He is just one God. (Quran, 16:51)

Had there been any other Gods but Allah in the Heavens and Earth, surely there would be a disturbance in both. (Quran, 21:22)

3. Believing in all Messengers of God Almighty

The same religion He has established for you is that which he enjoined Noah- that which we have sent by inspiration to you- and that which we enjoined on Abraham, Moses and Jesus; namely that you should remain steadfast and make no divisions therein. (Quran, 42:13)

Verily we send messengers before you, of them there are some stories of whom we relate to you and some whose story you have you not related to you. (Quran, 40:78)

Say, we believe in Allah and what has been revealed to us and to Abraham, Ismail, Issac, Jacob and the Tribes and in the (Books) given to Moses, Jesus and the Prophets from the Lord. We make no distinction between one another among them and to Allah do we submit. (Quran, 40:70)

And this is in the Books of the earliest revelations- the Books of Abraham and Moses. (Quran, 87:18-19)

4. Teachers of other religions, even those of different deities must not be insulted.

Do not revile whom they call upon besides God, lest they out of spite revile God in their ignorance, (Quran, 6:108)

5. Respect for other religions or beliefs

I worship not that of which you worship. Nor will you worship that which I worship.
To you be your religion (way of life) and to me and my religion (Quran, 109:2-6)

6. Everyone is made responsible for their own actions.

Say, shall I seek for (my) Cherisher other than Allah when He is the Cherisher of all things (that exist)? Every soul draws the reward of its acts on none but itself; no bearer of burdens can bear the burdens of another. Your goal in the end is towards Allah. He will tell you the truth of the things which are disputed. (Quran, 6:164)

7. Universal Brotherhood is established- all are the children of a pair.

Allah created you from a single person, created of like nature, his mate, and from them twain countless men and women. (Quran, 4:1)

Oh Mankind! We created you from a single pair and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise one and other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (the person who is) the most religious of you and Allah has full knowledge and is acquainted with all things. (Quran, 49:13)

The Believers are but a single brotherhood. So, make peace a reconciliation between your two contending brothers and fear Allah that you may receive mercy. (Quran, 49:13)

8. Humility is recommended, arrogance is condemned.

And swell not your cheek (for pride at men) nor walk in insolence through the earth; for Allah loves not an arrogant boaster. (Quran, 31:18)

Let not some men among you laugh at others, it may be that the (latter) are better than the (former); nor let some women laugh at others; it may be that the (latter) are better than the former; nor call each other by (offensive) nicknames. Ill-seeming is a name connoting wickedness (to be used of one) after they have believed; and those who do not desist are indeed doing wrong. (Quran, 49:11)

9. To envy others is forbidden.

And do not covet those things in which Allah has bestowed His gifts more freely on some of you than others. To men is allotted what they earn to women what they earn but Allah of His bounty. For Allah has full knowledge of things. (Quran, 4:32)

10. Problem of wealth is sorted.

Eat not up your property among yourselves in vanities; but let there be amongst you traffic and trade by mutual goodwill. (Quran, 4:29)

Allah has permitted trade and forbidden usury. (Quran, 2:275)

11. Principle of distribution of wealth.

In order that it may not take, merely make a circuit between the wealthy among you. (Quran, 59:7)

There are indeed among the priests and anchorites who in falsehood devour the substance of men and hinder them from the way of Allah. And there are those who bury gold and silver and spend it not in the way of Allah: announce to them the grievous penalty. On the day when the heat will be produced out of that wealth in the fire of Hell, and with it will be branded their foreheads, their flanks and their backs, "This is the treasure which you buried yourselves" taste you (then) the treasures you buried. (Quran, 9:34-35)

12. Justice to be observed in every action.

Allah commands justice, the doing of good and liberality with kith and kin and He forbids all shameful deeds and injustice and rebellion. He instructs that you may receive admonition. (Quran, 16:90)

Stand out firmly to Allah as a witness to fair dealing and let not the hatred of others make you swerve to

wrong and depart from justice. Be just; that is next to piety and fear Allah for Allah is well acquainted for all you do. (Quran, 4:59)

13. Sovereignty of Allah will be observed, Law and Order to be kept.

No authority can there be for anyone but Allah. (Quran, 12:67)

Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those charged with authority among yourself. (Quran, 4:59)

14. Everyone is expected to preach the message of peace.

You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoying what is right and forbidding what is wrong and believing in Allah. (Quran, 3:11)