

## 1.4 Brotherhood in Islam



Islam like Christianity upholds the belief in one God implying that all humans are united in the singular idea of an all-encompassing God. Islam has the second largest religion in the world amounting to 1.5 billion people as its adherents. The moral values of Islam are enshrined in Quran, the Scriptural Basis of Islam and the living example of the saints.

According to Islam scholars moral values, such as honesty, trustworthiness, justice and chastity, are originally innate values which Allah planted in the hearts of mankind; then He sent His messengers with a system of life in accord with this innate disposition to affirm it.

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**“So set your face toward the religion, as one by nature upright; the instinctive (religion) which Allah has created in mankind. There is no altering (the laws) of Allah’s creation. That is the right religion but most people do no know” (Surat Al-Rum:30)**

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2 A believer adheres to these moral values because his nature, fortified by faith, induces to do so, and because the religions he believes commands him with them and promises him a reward for them in the Hereafter.

Islam lays the fundamental value of brotherhood and righteousness for humanity as a whole, which are to be observed and respected under all circumstances. Whatever leads to the welfare of the individual or the society is morally good in Islam and whatever is injurious is morally bad. Islam attaches so much importance to the love of God and love of man that it warns against any forms of hatred or violence.

This is the standard by which a particular mode of conduct is judged and classified as good or bad. Before laying down any moral injunctions Islam seeks to firmly implant in man's heart the conviction that his dealings are with God and therefore s/he has to seek goodness in the brotherhood of humanity.

Islamic tradition invites morality reign supreme and ensures that the affairs of life, instead of dominated by selfish desires and petty interests, should be regulated by norms of morality. It stipulated for man a system of life which is based on all good and is free from all evil. It invokes the people, not only to practice virtue, but also to establish virtue and eradicate vice, to



bid good and to forbid wrong. The Quran mentions it as the highest quality of Muslim:

3 "The most honorable among you in the sight of God as the one who is most God-conscious" (49:13). Humanity, modesty, control of passions and desires, truthfulness, integrity, patience, steadfastness, and fulfilling one's promises are moral values emphasized in Quran (3:146).

Any Islam-God conscious person spends his life for charity in time of plenty and in time of hardship, and restrain from anger, and pardon their fellow men, for God loves those who do good" (3:133-134) by way of "Establish regular prayer, enjoin what is just, and forbid what is wrong; and bear patiently whatever may befall you; for this is true constancy. And do not swell your cheek (with pride) at men, nor walk in insolence on the earth, for God does not love any man proud and boastful. And be moderate in your pace and lower your voice; for the harshest of sounds, indeed, is the braying of the ass" (31:18-19)

The moral values of Islam may be summarised from the sayings of its Prophet: "My Sustainer has given me nine commands:

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- to remain conscious God, whether in private or in public.
  - to speak justly, whether angry or pleased;

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- to show moderation both when poor and when rich,
- to reunite friendship with those who have broken off with me;
- to give to him who refuses me;
- that my silence should be occupied with thought;
- that my looking should be an admonition;
- and that I should command what is right”.

The value basis of any Islam adherent as expressed in the words of Prophet (PBUH) is: “He is not a believer who eats his fill when his neighbor beside him is hungry” and: “He does not believe whose neighbours are not safe from his injurious conduct”.

The following moral injunctions of Islam are quite noteworthy in appreciation the moral basis of Islam. It reads: “And the (faithful) slaves of the Most Gracious (Allah) are those who:

- Walk on the earth with humility and sedateness.
- And when the foolish address them (with bad words) they reply back with kind words of gentleness.
- And those who spend the night in worship of their Lord, prostrate and standing.



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- And those who,. When they are reminded of the Ayat of their Lord, fall not deaf and blind thereat.
  - And those who say: "Our Lord! Bestow on from our wives and our offspring the comfort of our eyes and make us leaders of the Muttaqun (the pious). Those will be rewarded with the highest place (in Paradise) because of their patience. Therein they shall be met with greetings and the word of peace and respect". The Holy Quran, Chapter 26, Verse 63-75.

Thus, on the basic moral characteristics, Islam builds a higher system of morality by virtue of which mankind can realize its greatest potential. Islam purifies the soul from self-seeking egotism, tyranny, wantonness and indiscipline. It creates God-conscious men, devoted to their ideals, possessed of piety, abstinence and discipline and uncompromising with falsehood. It induces feelings of moral responsibility and fosters the capacity for self control. Islam generates kindness, generosity, mercy, sympathy, peace, disinterested goodwill, scrupulous, fairness and truthfulness towards all creation in all situations.

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- And those who say: "Our Lord! Avert from us the torment of Hell. Verily, its torment is ever an inseparable, permanent punishment". Evil indeed it (Hell) is as an abode and as a place to rest in
  - And those who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor niggardly, but hold a medium (way) between those (extremes)
  - And those who invoke not any other ilah (god) along with Allah.
  - Nor kill such person as Allah has forbidden, expect for just cause.
  - Nor commit illegal sexual intercourse – and whoever does this shall receive the punishment. The torment will be doubled to him on the Day of Resurrection and he will abide therein in disgrace;
  - Except those who repent and believe and do righteous deeds; for those, Allah will change their sins into good deeds, and Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.; And whosoever repents and does righteous good deeds, then verily, he repents towards Allah with true repentance.
  - And those who do not bear witness to falsehood, and if they pass by some evil play or evil talk, they pass by it with dignity.