

Qur'anic Perspective of Interfaith Relations and Dialogue

1. Religious Freedom: The Qur'an says:

“And if thy Allah willed, all who are in the earth would have believed together. Wouldst thou (Muhammad) compel people until they are believers? (10:99)

“For each (community), We have appointed a divine law and a traced out way. Had Allah willed He could have made you one community. But that He may try you by that which He hath given you? So vie one with another in good works. Unto Allah ye will all return, and he will then inform you of that wherein ye differ. (5: 48)

2. No Compulsion in Religion:

“There is no compulsion in religion” (2:256)

3. Respect for other Religions:

“Revile, not those unto whom they pray beside Allah, lest they wrongfully revile Allah through ignorance. Thus unto every nation have We made their deed seem fair. Then unto their Lord is their return”. (6:108)

4. Build Relations with People of the Book:

“And argue not with people of the Scripture unless it be in a way that is better”. (29:46)

5. Islam is not but Continuation of Abrahamic Faiths

“Say: O people of the Scripture! Come to an agreement between us and you that we shall worship none but God, and that we shall ascribe no partners unto Him. (3:64)

“He hath ordained for you that religion which He commanded unto Noah, and that which We inspire in thee (Muhammad), and that which We commended unto Abraham and Moses and Jesus, saying: Establish the religion and be not divided therein. Dreadful for the idolaters is that unto which thou callest them, Allah chooseth for Himself whom He will, and guideth unto Himself him who turn toward Him. (42:13)

6. Respect Prophets and Speak Good about them:

“Peace be unto Abraham. Thus do We reward the good. Lo he is one of Our believing servants. (37: 109-111)

“And verily We gave unto Moses the Scripture and We caused of messengers to follow after him, and We gave unto Jesus, son of Mary, clear proofs of Allah's sovereignty, and We supported him with the holy Spirit..(2: 87)

“ Allah gave a glad tiding of a son whose name is John who cometh to confirm a word from Allah, lordly, chaste, a prophet of the righteous. (3:39)

About Mary : “And when the angels said: O Mary! Lo Allah hath chosen thee and made thee pure, and hath preferred thee above all the women of creation. O Mary! Be

obedient to thy Lord,, prostrate thyself and bow with those who bow in worship”.
3:42-43)

“And remember, when the angels said: O Mary! Lo! Allah hath given thee glad tidings of a word from Him, whose name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, Illustrious in the world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near unto Allah. (3:45)

7. Protection and Respect for Places of Worship

“If had not been for Allah repelling some men by means of others cloisters and churches and oratories and mosques, wherein the name of Allah is often mentioned, would assuredly have been pulled down. Verily Allah helpeth one who helpeth Him. Lo Allah is Strong , Almighty. (22:40)

8. Respect for Humanity:

“Lo! Those who believe this revelation and those who are Jews, and the Sabaeans, and the Christians, and Magians and idolaters- Lo! Allah will decide between them on the Day of Resurrection. Lo! Allah is witness over all things. (22:17).

“O people! Allah created you from a single pair of male and female and have made you nations and tribes that ye may know one another. Lo! The noblest of you, in the sight of Allah, is the best in conduct. Lo! Allah is knower, Aware.

9. All Judgment Belongs to God:

“And the trumpet is blown, and all who are in the heavens and the earth swoon away, save Him whom Allah willeth. Then it is blown a second time, and behold them standing waiting.

And the earth shineth with the light of God, and the book is set up, and the prophets and the witnesses are brought, it is judged between them with truth, and they are not wronged.

And each soul is paid in full for what it did. And He is best Aware of what they do.”
(39: 68-70)