

**ISLAM**  
**The Way Of Peace**

*By Dr Musharraf Hussain*



**AS-SALĀM**  
**THE SOURCE OF PEACE**

**"O' Lord you are Peace,  
Peace is from you,  
Peace Returns to you,  
O' Lord! Keep us living in peace,  
Enter us into the abode of peace"**

Is one of the most off - repeated prayer of a Muslim.

One of the beautiful names of God is As-Salam, meaning 'Peace'. The source of all peace without whose blessings, there can be no peace. For a Muslim there can be no peace without God, because only He can rectify the conflict within human soul. For if there is no peace within, there can be no peace without.



Islam teaches Muslims to forgive to settle disputes and to establish peace. This is reconciliation in the community. However, even more importantly Islam aims to lead the human soul to the 'abode of peace!' It does this by giving clear guidance to us to live a virtuous life of submission, prayer, obedience, adoration simplicity and frugality.

To live in peace and to die in peace is the goal of Islam as of other authentic traditions, when man sincerely turns to God.

**"He sends peace in the heart of believers" (48:4)**

Islam emphasises clearly that the true abode of peace is heaven,

**" And (angels) call upon the dwellers of paradise; peace be onto you" (7:46)**

And this is why the Muslims greeting is **"peace be on to you"**

As though we are attempting to reflect something of the heavenly reality on earth.

**"Peace, such is the greeting from the Lord- all compassionate" (36:58)**

In paradise **"there is nothing else but the saying peace, peace,"(56:26).**

The total devastation of cities and countries that can be caused by high-tech modern warfare has brought home to us the horrors of war so much so that everyone today talks about peace. **So why are people yearning for peace?**

For a Muslim the answer is quiet simple: **God is peace and our yearning for peace is nothing more than our yearning for our God.**

Muslims, Christians, Jews and Hindu's all can find many nasty stories of wars in other religions. We mustn't forget that the cause of these wars was not the religion.

Human nature has certain weaknesses; greed, and aggression being the most obvious. In the Middle Ages when Europe was devoutly Christian all wars were fought under the banner of Christianity. When Christianity became weak wars were fought under the banner of communism, fascism and nationalism. The two world wars were fought for these ideologies, and underlying all their isms is the pernicious ideology of economic progress.

For which religion did Bush & Blair attack Iraq? They have unleashed untold terror in that country. So you cannot blame religion for the conflicts and wars in the world. Muslims are still devout by and large and Islam continues to play an important role in their lives therefore whenever there is any kind of conflict the name of Islam is still used by the unscrupulous people.

All acts of terror against civilian violate Islamic teachings so how can these people claim to be fighting in the name of Islam. An obvious contradiction.

However, what is most frightening today is that in the name of religion of economic progress man is waging a War against the mother earth. The scope and the consequences of this war are unimaginable. This is where most efforts need to be put to bring about peace and harmony between man and nature.

A talk given by Dr Musharraf Hussain

Interfaith Meeting at Saint Barnabas' Cathedral,  
Nottingham,  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2005