

Essay Topic:

## PEACE IS THE ESSENTIAL

### MESSAGE OF ISLAM

Outline

#### 1- Introduction

**Thesis Statement:** Islam is a religion of peace and intrinsically promotes peace. Peace is essential to control the evils which damage our society. By practicing Islam with humility and love, and by promoting the preaching of Holy Prophet (PBUH), peace can be achieved.

#### 2- Peace and Misconceptions about Islam

- a) Islam being portrayed as the most intolerant religion.
- b) Jihad is associated with terrorism.
- c) All Muslims as potential terrorists
- d) Post 9/11 misconceptions

#### 3- How Peace is an Essential Message of Islam

- a) Meaning of the word "Islam"
- b) Preaching of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to ensure peace

- c) Islam is the guardian of human rights
- d) Killing of innocent people forbidden in Islam
- e) Jihad to end terrorism

#### 4- How Peace can be promoted through Islam

- a) Promoting the teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH)
- b) Practicing Islam in its true spirit
- c) Uprooting terrorism by taking serious actions

#### 5- Conclusion

A heartwarming video recently went viral on CNN's social media pages, featuring a cat who interrupted a Traveeh prayer at an Algerian mosque. In the video, the cat unexpectedly leaps out and approaches the Imam Masjid, who continues to recite the Holy Quran while gently patting the feline. The cat shows affection by kissing the man before running off, and the video has received widespread praise from viewers around the world, including non-Muslims who appreciated the display of love and peace in the Muslim community. This small yet beautiful act of kindness by a Muslim serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of showing love and compassion towards all beings. Peace has become the dominant theme of the world today. The search for ways to ensure peace has led to the establishment of numerous organizations. Following World War I and II the search for peace gained momentum resulting in the formation of League of Nations in 1920 and later on by the establishment of United Nations in 1945. However, the world witnessed the emergence of new form of war "terrorism", after the tragic events of 9/11. Sadly, terrorism is associated with Islam, with Muslims being branded as

terrorists. This has exacerbated the situation for Muslims worldwide. Whenever some terrorist act is done it is termed as Islamic Terrorism but no one ever heard about Christian Terrorism or Jewish Terrorism. Islam is a religion of peace and it always spread the message of peace. Terrorism is associated with Jihad but Islam uses Jihad to end terrorism. Human rights in their compact form were given by Islam long before the Magna Carta of the West. Peace is in fact the essential message of Islam. Peace is essential to control the evils which damage our society. By practicing Islam with humility and by preaching the teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) peace can be achieved.

Islam is being portrayed as the most intolerant religion. Violence is associated with Muslims. With the launch of Global War on Terror by America in Afghanistan, the violent strain of Islam appears to be metastasized. With tracts of Syria and Iraq, in the hands of self-styled Islamic states, the image of Islam has been worsened. Libya and Somalia engulfed in anarchy, Yemen being torn apart by the civil war, and Boko Haram terrorizing Nigeria, all are witnessing against Islam's peaceful nature.

Moreover, **Jihad** is considered to be a form of **terrorism**. It is commonly said that Islam was spread by the sword and is intolerant toward other faiths. Many social studies books portray an Arab Muslim with sword in one hand and Quran in the other conquering and forcibly converting. They provide witness of this behaviour which is obvious in Afghan Taliban who wanted to impose the Sharia Law forcibly through "Jihad". Similarly, Tehreek Taliban Pakistan is also doing Jihad in the form of terrorism with its own state to impose its own version of Sharia Law.

Muslims are perceived to be terrorists. This concept is widely spread in the unconscious of the society that whenever, there is a talk about terrorism, there always comes a **beard man but not white** in mind. There is common saying in West that "Not all Muslims are terrorists but every terrorist is a Muslim". Whenever, there is an act of terrorism by some Muslim man, it got more media attention than any non-Muslim committing the same offence. This racial discrimination has helped in promoting the anti-Muslim state response.

Post 9/11 scenario is even worst for Muslims. Any kind of terrorist act is biasedly linked with Islam and termed as Muslim Terrorism but no one ever heard about Jewish or Christian Terrorism. For example: The media coverage of the massacre in the Quebe City Mosque where in a terrorist attack 6 people killed and many were injured. Two men were suspected initially, one was white man with Canadian origin and the other a Moroccan origin. Fox News reported that the suspect was a single Moroccan man whereas the reality was quite different. Moroccan was the one who called police and ambulance service to help the victims and the white man was actual terrorist. So from 9/11 we are regularly witnessing the tendency to leap the conclusion that Muslims are responsible for terror attacks.

Islam is a religion that emphasizes peace and love. The very word "Islam" means "peace" and "submission" to one God. The religion's five pillars — the declaration of faith, prayer, almsgiving, fasting and pilgrimage — are individual acts that have a long lasting impact on society. Through the declaration of faith, one submits oneself to the will of Allah and commits to fulfilling the other four pillars.

Almsgiving and fasting encourage individuals to consider the needs of less fortunate and reduce societal barriers, potentially lessening the causes of violence. As such, Islam promotes a message of compassion and unity that can positively impact both individuals and society as a whole.

Islam was spread through the teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH) was free of the discriminations of ethnicity, nationalism and language. One of the main reasons behind the violence is ethnic divide, among the societies. The teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) ensured peace. He said: "A

"A true believer is he from whom people's lives and wealth are safe."

He also said:

"The most hated person in the sight of Allah is the most quarrelsome person".

So securing peace was one of the major expeditions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Islam recognizes the right of every citizen. The human rights in Islam have been conferred by God, so no legislative assembly, king, queen

or government on earth has the authority to make any amendment or change in the rights conferred by God. The Quran says:

"God commands justice, doing good, and generosity towards relatives and He forbids what is shameful, blameworthy and oppressive."

It is loudly and vociferously claimed that the world got the concept of human rights from the Magna Carta of Britain which only came 600 years ago while Islam ensured human rights some 1400 years ago. So Islam is in fact the guardian of human rights.

A perfect Muslim is one from whose tongue and hands mankind is safe. In Islam, the right to life is an absolute value. In Quran Allah mentioned that:

"He who kills a soul unless it be (a legal punishment) for murder or for causing disorder and corruption on the earth will be as if he had killed all mankind, and he who saves a life will be as if he had saved the lives of all mankind."



So one of the main objectives of Islam is to purify mankind of aggression and bring them to peace.

The term "Jihad" literally means "struggle". Mainly there are two types of Jihad: One is to fight against aggression and ensure worldly peace and the other is to struggle against one's egoistic desires to attain inner peace. The Quran says:

"Fight in the cause of God against those who fight you, but do not transgress limits. God does not love transgressors."

"If they seek peace, then seek you peace. And trust in God for He is the One that Hears and Knows all things."

War therefore, is the last resort, and is subject to the rigorous conditions laid down by the sacred law.

The Muslims of our day need to learn great deal from the teaching of the blessed Prophet (PBUH). He said:

"You will not enter paradise until you believe and you will not believe until you love each other. Shall I show you something that, if you did, you would love each other? Spread peace among yourselves."

He (PBUH) set the examples of brotherhood and fraternity among the people of Madinah and the migrants of Makkah. The main theme of his preaching revolved around peace. So to have a respectable status among the nations, Muslims have to ensure peace by following Muhammad (PBUH).

Islam is considered "a way of life" for Muslims and they make no division between sacred and secular in their lives. Islam may seem exotic or even extreme in the modern world. Perhaps this is because religion doesn't dominate everyday life in the West. Like Christianity, Islam permits fighting in self-defense, in defense of religion, or on the part of those who have been expelled forcibly from their homes. But it lays down strict rules which include prohibitions against harming civilians and against destroying crops, trees and livestock. So by following

Islam in its true spirit, harm can be avoided and peace can be established.

As Muslims, we have a responsibility to take effective action to end terrorism and eliminate the label of "Muslim" or "Islamic" terrorism. One approach is to ban terror extremist groups and protect borders to minimize cross-border terrorist activities. In addition, countries where terrorist organizations originate should take every possible step to bring them back to normalcy. These efforts should be made at both the national and international levels. One way to promote peace is by utilizing the platform of OIC to support impoverished countries that are affected by terrorism. By working together and supporting each other, we can combat terrorism and create a safer and more peaceful world.

To conclude, Islam is a religion of peace, but unfortunately, Muslims are often portrayed negatively as terrorists, due to biased views and misunderstandings. To counter this, it is essential to spread the message of peace and educate others about the true teachings of Islam. We should also raise our voice against discrimination and

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work towards promoting peaceful coexistence  
Every teaching of Islam is based on  
the principle of peace, and Muslims should  
have strive to follow the example of  
Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in promoting peace  
and avoiding violence. By understanding  
and applying the ideology of peace  
in Islam, we can help create a more  
peaceful world.