

“The Relationship Between Justice and Peace in Our Scriptures”

1. God requires countries to have democracy, elected leaders and just system of judiciary: In the Muslims’ scripture, the Holy Qur’an, the Government of any country is required to entrust the affairs of the State to the community leaders of their country, who are worthy of this responsibility. These leaders are democratically elected by peoples of that country. Leaders must be exemplary and do not regard community matters below dignity. This is quoted in the verse **HQ21:73** *“And We made them leaders who guided (people) by Our command, and We revealed to them the doing of good and the keeping up of prayer and the giving of alms, and Us (alone) they served.”* The Holy Qur’an requires the country to have a system of judiciary and its Judges to be just. People are reminded that God is ever-watching over humanity and records everything. This is in the quotation **HQ4:58** *“Surely Allah commands you to make over trusts to those worthy of them, and that when you judge between people, you judge with justice. Surely Allah admonishes you with what is excellent. Surely Allah is ever Hearing, Seeing.”* An elected Government is the Trustee of that country.

2. God requires humanity to practice justice but without partiality; fairness at all times: The Holy Qur’an requires that persons in capacities of Judges should not be partial to those who are the better crust of society, neither for personal gain nor driven by any assumed fear of consequences. The Holy Qur’an states at **HQ4:135** *“O you who believe, be maintainers of justice, bearers of witness for Allah, even though it be against your own selves or (your) parents or near relatives — whether he be rich or poor, Allah has a better right over them both. So follow not (your) low desires, lest you deviate. And if you distort or turn away from (truth), surely Allah is ever Aware of what you do.”* Regardless of standing in society, Judges must execute their best judgments. The Holy Quran states at **HQ16:90** *“Surely Allah enjoins justice and the doing of good (to others) and the giving to the kindred, and He forbids indecency and evil and rebellion. He admonishes you that you may be mindful.”* Regardless how some communities may be having hatred against other communities, God has ordered Muslims to respect them in the verse **HQ5:8** *“O you who believe, be upright for Allah, bearers of witness with justice; and let not hatred of a people incite you not to act equitably. Be just; that is nearer to observance of duty. And keep your duty to Allah. Surely Allah is Aware of what you do.”*

3. Justice alone is not the formula for good governance of any society and requires equitable balance of peace for betterment within the wider

communities: In plural societies, sometimes certain groups insist on dominance over the others. This has been witnessed in many countries, which have communal violence. The Holy Quran states at **HQ60:8** *“Allah forbids you not respecting those who fight you not for religion, nor drive you forth from your homes, that you show them kindness and deal with them justly. Surely Allah loves the doers of justice.”* Sometimes people do not recognize that the internal inspirations they have against other communities are the sly workings of the devil. God warns humanity in steering clear of the devil in the verse **HQ2:208** *“O you who believe, enter into complete peace and follow not the footsteps of the devil. Surely he is your open enemy.”* Once people or communities of people come into the control of the devil, then those people are easily misled into the ways the devil desires. Often this results in quarrels within the community and requires peacemakers to intervene. Notwithstanding the consequences of sly interference by the devil, God gives His reassurances to those who have not been swayed by the devil and maintain relationships amongst all communities. Islam teaches that whenever people incline to peace, then the Muslims must also incline to peace. This is in the verse **HQ8:61** *“And if they incline to peace, incline thou also to it, and trust in Allah. Surely He is the Hearer, the Knower.”* Islam also teaches that when people genuinely incline towards peaceful settlement, then the Muslims must also reach peaceful settlements.

4. Political situations are not the only ones causing injustice and often settling of debts and contracts are not appropriately made which causes disharmony within the communities:

The Holy Qur’an advises humanity to enter into contracts with witnesses, in the verse **HQ2:282** *“O you who believe, when you contract a debt for a fixed time, write it down. And let a scribe write it down between you with fairness; nor should the scribe refuse to write as Allah has taught him, so let him write. And let him who owes the debt dictate, and he should observe his duty to Allah, his Lord, and not diminish anything from it. But if he who owes the debt is unsound in understanding or weak, or (if) he is not able to dictate himself, let his guardian dictate with fairness. And call to witness from among your men two witnesses; but if there are not two men, then one man and two women from among those whom you choose to be witnesses, so that if one of the two errs, the one may remind the other. And the witnesses must not refuse when they are summoned. And be not averse to writing it whether it is small or large along with the time of its falling due. This is more equitable in the sight of Allah and makes testimony surer and the best way to keep away from doubts. But when it is ready merchandise which you give and take among yourselves from hand to hand, there is no blame on you in not writing it down. And have witnesses when you sell one to another. And let no harm be done to the scribe or to the*

witnesses. And if you do (it), then surely it is a transgression on your part. And keep your duty to Allah. And Allah teaches you. And Allah is Knower of all things.”

5. Islam requires peoples of all countries to respect all other ethnicities and religious Faiths:

The Holy Qur’an mentions by examples at **HQ22:40** “Those who are driven from their homes without a just cause except that they say: Our Lord is Allah. And if Allah did not repel some people by others, cloisters, and churches, and synagogues, and mosques in which Allah’s name is much remembered, would have been pulled down. And surely Allah will help him who helps Him. Surely Allah is Strong, Mighty.” Muslims must respect that all other Faiths have rights to exist and practice and must not abuse them, in the verse **HQ6:108** “And abuse not those whom they call upon besides Allah, lest, exceeding the limits, they abuse Allah through ignorance. Thus to every people have We made their deeds fair-seeming; then to their Lord is their return so He will inform them of what they did.”

6. Some of the causes of conflicts is imposing State religion on all communities.

(a) The Holy Qur’an states in the verse **HQ2:139** “Say: Do you dispute with us about Allah, and He is our Lord and your Lord, and for us are our deeds and for you your deeds; and we are sincere to Him? Islam has proclaimed that there is no compulsion in religion. (b) Countries should not impose a State religion. **HQ2:256** “There is no compulsion in religion — the right way is indeed clearly distinct from error. So whoever disbelieves in the devil and believes in Allah, he indeed lays hold on the firmest handle which shall never break. And Allah is Hearing, Knowing.”

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