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CONCEPT OF PEACE IN ISLAM WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO QUR'ĀN AND SĪRAH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ

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Abstract

Throughout the history of human life on the earth, attainment of peace has been the primary aspiration for humans at individual as well as collective level. However, human society has been always challenged by deterrents to peace. In current scenario, the unrestrained technological and materialistic accomplishment have put man into the wheel unjustified competition globally and have eventually fueled terror, warfare, disaster, hatred, hostility, individualism, and other such factors that gravely hinder the establishment of peace, brotherhood and harmony. Amid such circumstances the world is gradually turning into a battlefield endangering the survival of human race on the globe. Meanwhile, religion also has been strongly used as a tool of terror and warfare. Sīrah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the main and ultimate source of guidance for mankind to maintain peace and brotherhood in the world. The struggle for peace is the chief characteristic feature of the Sīrah. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ spent his whole life especially 23 years of his prophetic period for establishment of peace. The study will explore the Islamic principles regarding the establishment and sustenance of peace, harmony and brotherhood. It will bring under analysis the basic text of Islamic knowledge i.e. Qur'ān and Sunnah as well as the Sīrah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to highlight the significance of peace in Islam.

Keywords: Qur'ān, Peace, Sīrah Nabwīyyah, Islam, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

1. Introduction

Peace has been the core issue of mankind since antiquity; in reality, it is, perhaps, impossible to refer to any society, where peace has materialized in the absolute of the term. A look at different societies led the communities to the realization that human history was a history of confrontation, violence and wars. History is, indeed, little more than the register of the crimes, follies of mankind. It is a fact that conflicts and wars have prevailed between individuals, clans, tribes, states, empires and now nations throughout the world.¹

Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict and freedom from fear of violence between societies. Peace is most important in the contemporary world which is full of wars and attacks in the name of war against terror or some other operations. Every religion in the world is against the violence and it teaches peace and prosperity among individuals. Islam teaches us to maintain peace in the globe and it strongly condemns the violence because Islam itself means peace. 'Islam' literally means peace,

¹ Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (London: Strahan and Cadell, 1776), 93