



PEACE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD AND ITS IMPACT ON DIVERSE CULTURES: AN ISLAMIC OVERVIEW

Dr Aasia Rashid¹, Dr.Farhat Nisar², Hafiz Muhammad Shariq Saleem³,
Ume Farwa⁴, Farwa Chema⁵, Dr. Amna Saeed⁶, Shagufta Hafeez⁷

¹Assistant Professor, NUML, Lahore, Pakistan

²Assistant Professor COMSATS, Islamabad, Pakistan

³Director, Center for Interfaith Research, Lahore, Pakistan

⁴Lecturer, COMSATS, Islamabad, Pakistan

⁵Lecturer, NUST, Islamabad, Pakistan

⁶Assistant Professor COMSATS, Islamabad, Pakistan

⁷Assistant Professor, Government Degree College for Women, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

Abstract:

Peace is one of the most desired and basic elements for humanity on the face of earth. Without this neither evolution nor the social life can function properly. Islam conveys the message of love, peace and harmony and at the same time admonishes pandemonium, restlessness and chaos in society. Humanity on the globe generally and Muslims specifically are passing through very difficult times. Humanity, now a days is passing through various tensions and threats where bedlam is one of them either on individual or collective level or on national and international level. In this difficult time, it necessitates to return and revise the teachings of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) as his (S.A.W) teachings are a blessing, sanctified element and gift from Allah which should be studied, understood and practiced so that we may contribute as an effective part of society. Literal meanings of Islam, Muslim and *Momin* indicate towards the message of love, peace and harmony. Allah has many names and one among them is "*Salam*" "Peace". Being Muslims it is our duty to present the peaceful face of Islam as our prophet (S.A.W) fought for the establishment of peace and discouragement of violence in society. According to various books on the life of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) such as Rahmat Aalam, Nabi Rehmat, Hadi Azam, Muhammad-e-Arbi one of the major achievements of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) is to establish a pious and complete society based on oneness of Allah and divine laws. The divine law which was given by Allah and implemented by Holy Prophet (S.A.W) was based on love, peace and harmony. Rest of the Prophets (A.S) was sent for the accomplishment of the same mission. They all instituted the serenity in societies of their time and ceased off devastations and pandemonium in humanity. It is observed that world is in search of lost peace which has become a dream of present day's societies, families, and countries. Even peace has vanished from streets and towns at international and national politics, economy,

religiosity, individual and collective levels. All this mess is directing towards restlessness, lack of patience, lack of justice and revenge. Humanity and world can come out of this chaotic situation only by acting upon God Almighty's divine teachings and practices of Holy Prophet (S.A.W). The present research paper is a drop of the rain that overviews and understands prophetic teachings for chaos and establishment of peace.

Keywords: peace, terrorism, tolerance, Muslim rulers, equality, unity, brotherhood, harmony, revival

1. Introduction

Peace contains different connotations. Scholars define peace as equilibrium, stability, absence of violence and all good. Peace is name of such a position where everybody can feel safe from threats and terror. Opposite to peace is terror. One of the meanings of peace is to have a satisfied soul. In Peace, one can enhance his creativity, whereas function of violence is quite opposite. Peace means submission. There are two ways of submission. First submission is peace with Allah that implies complete submission to His will. Second is peace with man means that he is not only commanded to refrain from evil or cause injury to another but also to do well to his fellow beings.

1.1 Meanings of peace

Ibn-e-Manzoor from Africa writes:

أمن ، الأمان
و الأمانة بمعنى وقد أمنت فأنا أمن
و أمنت غيري من الأمن و الأمان
و الأمن ضد الخوف ،
و الأمانة ضد الخيانة و الإيمان
ضد الكفر و الإيمان بمعنى التصديق ضده التكذيب

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"Peace is opponent of panic"

According to Murtaza Zaidi peace is:

²الأمن: طمأنينة النفس و زوال الخوف

Luis Maloof narrates peace as:

امن: آمَن، امنا، وامناً و اماناً. امان، الطمأنينة:
الامنة ، الاطمئنان و سكون القلب³

Imam Raghیب Asfahani says:

Meaning of peace is to be at peace of soul. *Aman*, *Ammanah*, *Amman* are actually abstracts of same words.⁴

So in simple words we can say that peace means to be secured from all types of evils, faults, and from trial.

1.2 World of Peace in the light of the Holy Quran

Holy Quran is the guiding principles of Islam. Peace and Aman is used in different connotations in the text of Holy Quran. Importance of peace and its process according to the Quran can be realized that in Quran the word peace is mentioned 44 times while the word of fight or war is mentioned 6 times only.

The critics of Islam cannot deny the message of Islam. The peaceful recovery of Bait Allah was the main purpose of the Prophet (PBUH). Quran mentions peace with a variety of meanings and in one of the meanings peace is mentioned against terror.

(وَأَمَنَهُمْ مِنْ خَوْفٍ)⁵

And gave them security against fear.

Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) prayed for peace during the construction of house of Allah.

(وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا)⁶

(Recall) when Ibrahim said, My Lord, make this a city of peace,

It indicates that the purpose of all prophetic teachings remained to be establishment of universal peace and security of humanity. Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) name *Amin* comes from root word *Aamun* (*peace*).

Allah mentioned in the Holy Quran:

(وَمَنْ دَخَلَهُ كَانَ آمِنًا)⁷

Whoever enters it attains safety

Allah demonstrates His house as place of peace:

(وَإِذْ جَعَلْنَا الْبَيْتَ مَثَابَةً لِّلنَّاسِ وَأَمِنًا)⁸

Keeping in view the up given definitions of peace we can conclude that peace is the name of internal and external tranquility. Where there is no threat of child labor, kidnapping, no lack of peace in courts and no threat to women's respect and hurting of individual or collective ego. For this purpose Islam guides towards some very basic elements like, the pray of peace (Salam) is encouraged in society, every Muslim finishes

his or her five times prayers on sending peace. We have many *duas* to enhance peace in society like,

استغفر الله، اللهم انت السلام و منك السلام تباركت يا ذوالجلال والاکرام)⁹

Holy Prophet (S.A.W) also declared:

(لا يحل لمسلم ان يروع مسلماً)¹⁰

Peace in amongst the primary needs of humans therefore Islam protects this right firmly. Islamic teachings promote peace on religious, political, cultural, economic, micro and macro levels because it is an understood truth that no society can move towards the path of prosperity without peace and only true guidance can be sought from the life of Holy prophet (S.A.W) whose conduct is the greatest among all conducts and his way of life is also amongst best ways of life. Actually peace and terror or war are indicators of two different perceptions or understandings of life which can be achieved and can become part of personality only through hard individual, collective, social and spiritual exercises.

Peace, simply, does not only means absence of war rather it should be a collective expression for religious, collective, individual, international life therefore one of the names of paradise is (dark-o-salaam) house of peace.

سَلِّمْ قَوْلًا مِّن رَّبِّ رَحِيمٍ)¹¹

Salam (Peace upon you) is the word (they receive) from Merciful Lord.
There are almost 50 verses related to the opposite of peace.

وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفُسَادَ)¹²

Allah does not like disorder.

وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ)¹³

And Allah loves not those who do mischief.

So from these verses it becomes quite clear that there is no single verse in the Holy Quran which could support the aggression upon others. It also becomes clear that the main reasons of fighting in Islam are against aggression, to protect the name of Islam and to defend religious freedom. If in any case Muslims fight with others then they cannot cross the limits.

وَقَاتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ يُفَاتِنُوكُمْ وَلَا تَعْتَدُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِينَ)¹⁴

Fight in the way of Allah against those who fight you, and do not transgress. Verily, Allah does not like the transgressors.

1.3 Importance and necessitates of peace

“Peace”. It has been already mentioned that without peace, the primary need of humanity, no social existence is possible. No blessing is greater than the blessing of peace except the blessing of faith and *eman*. Allah mentions these two blessings in Quran by narrating the “village of Saba” and prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) also prayed for peace for the people of Makah. In Surah Qusas Allah indicates towards the blessings of peace and prosperity.

وَضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا قَرْيَةً كَانَتْ آمِنَةً مُطْمَئِنَّةً يَأْتِيهَا رِزْقُهَا رَغَدًا مِّنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ فَكَفَرَتْ بِأَنْعَمِ اللَّهِ فَأَذَاقَهَا اللَّهُ لِبَاسَ الْجُوعِ وَالْخَوْفِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَصْنَعُونَ¹⁵

Allah gives an example: There was a town, secure and content with its sustenance coming in plenty from every place. Then, it turned ungrateful to the bounties of Allah; so, Allah made it to taste hunger and terror (that covered it) like a garment, as recompense of what its people used to do. Allah also narrates the blessing of peace and fertility in Surah Qisas as following.

وَقَالُوا إِن نَّبَتِيعِ الْهُدَىٰ مَعَكَ نَنخَطَّفُ مِنْ أَرْضِنَا ۖ وَلَمْ نُمْكِن لَهُمْ حَرَمًا آمِنًا يُجْبَىٰ إِلَيْهِ تَمْرَاتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ رِّزْقًا مِّن لَّدُنَّا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ¹⁶

They said, “If we follow the guidance with you (O Muhammad), we will be driven out of our land. Is it not that we have established them in the peaceful Haram (sanctuary) to which the fruits of everything are drawn as a provision from us? But most of them do not know”.

When Muslims meet each other, they say “As-salaam o Alykum”. It means peace be on you. As-Salaam is one of the names of Allah. It means that it is only the essence of Allah who possesses perfect safety.

Islam has a message of peace, harmony and tranquillity in society. Islam is a religion, which not only teaches peace and harmony among people of different religions but also gives a concept of universal brotherhood. It has abolished all distinctions and discriminations based on race, colour, nationality, language or caste. It believes in the equality of man being the progeny of one male and female.

The Holy Quran says:

(يَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ مِّن ذَكَرٍ وَأُنثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ)¹⁷

“O mankind! We have created you from 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.

If a person will submit his will in front of Allah then he will get reward for it

بَلِيٍّ مَنْ أَسْلَمَ وَجْهَهُ لِلَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ فَلَهُ أَجْرُهُ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِ . وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ)¹⁸

“Whoever submits his whole self to Allah and he is the doer of good, he will get his reward with his Lord; on such (people) shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve”.

Allah Almighty fully appreciated the attributes of those people who avoid extremism and lead a peaceful and moderate life in society. The Holy Quran says:

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا)¹⁹

“And the servants of (Allah), the most Gracious are those who walk on the earth in humility, when the ignorant address them, they say, “Peace!”

Here we can say if a person approaches Allah through Islam, he cannot fail to get the blessings of Allah and diversity of mankind is just for the sake of recognition. Otherwise all are equal.

2. Factors behind chaos in modern world

There are countless causes of chaos in this world but most prominent amongst them are social and political ones.

2.1 Economic instability in society

Chaos is a greatest reason for economic imbalance in any society. If peace exists then it would automatically increase the chances of economic development. No doubt, these two things are similarly important for society but if any government is between the two edges to choose one thing either peace or prosperity, it should go for peace. In present days, Muslims are the most depressed nation suffering from chaos and warfare.

There are many reasons behind it, such as

- Lack of understanding of religious dogmas;
 - Internal and external fights;
 - Conspiracies;
 - Lack of political perception;
 - Preference of individual benefits on collective benefits;
- and so on.

The eye of heaven witnessed downfall of Muslims whenever they ignored the teaching of Allah and practices of holy prophet (PBUH). The only purpose of life remained is to earn money even at the cost of ego, self-respect, bloodshed, compromises, stone heartedness and so on. This disease cannot be cured until and unless we do not find the root cause of all this mess and frustration.

Mostly three factors remained very calamitous on international politics and those are following:

- Lack of understanding of religious dogmas;
- Fabrication in historical facts;
- International pressure.

Due to the above stated reasons, peace and harmony are considered as foolishness, helpfulness or affection is considered as apparition and justice is considered as weakness. The one who wants to seek justice as his right would be considered as a fool and the one who wants to move on the road of prosperity without any terror and threat is considered weak.

2.2 Contemporary situation and role of United Nations

Nowadays among the nations of the world, this concept is prevailing that through violence, war and power peace can be established in the society. In fact, this perception is very wrong. Peace can be maintained in the world through dialogue and harmony with other nations. Now it is the need of time to highlight what is the reality of peace? How peace can be maintained in the world? How one can eliminate the difference among nations? Simple answer is the religion of Islam, which means peace and harmony. It is the characteristic of Islam that evils cannot exist in religion. Among the 99 names of Allah one name is “Salam” which peace.

(هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيْمِنُ الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ الْمُنَكَّبِرُ)²⁰

He is Allah, besides whom there is no god, the Sovereign, the Supreme-In-Holiness, the Safe (from all defects), the Giver-Of-Peace, the Guardian, the All-Mighty, the All-Repairer, the Sublime. Pure is Allah from what they associate with Him.

By following religion of Islam and the Holy Prophet (PBUH), one can eliminate aggression, anarchy and disturbance from the society. Muslims should highlight hypocrites who are defaming the name of Islam. Muslims should portray the positive image of Islam in the world. Islam says, one can neither kill innocent people nor impose the message of Islam on others. In present era, print and electronic media is portraying the negative picture of Islam. In fact being a follower of the last prophet, we can say how kind was the conduct of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) with non-believers. He said:

الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلَّمَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَبِيَدِهِ)²¹

It means that a true believer is one from whose tongue and hands, all other Muslims are secure.

2.3 Disrespect of humanity, temptation, unrest and its treatment

Islam has a message and mission for the whole world, a message of peace, harmony and tranquillity in society. This very mission of Islam has been declared in the Holy Quran in these words:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ادْخُلُوا فِي السَّلَامِ كَافَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ²²)

O you who believe! Enter into Islam whole-heartedly, and follow not the footsteps of the evil one for he is to you an avowed enemy.

Violence and extremism has been strongly condemned by Islam. Islam stands for maintenance of peace and prevention of riots and disturbances. Islam says that every possible step should be taken for eradication of inequality from the society. Islam is against aggression, fanaticism, unjust killing, rape, adultery and terrorism.

وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا وَادْعُوهُ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا²³)

Don't mischief on the earth after it hath been set in order”.

2.4 Respect for the sanctity of human life

Killing a person is highly forbidden in Islam. The Quranic injunctions regarding worth of human life are highly appreciated. Islam says that killing an innocent person is equivalent to killing the whole humanity. The Holy Quran says:

وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكُمْ وَصَّيْتُكُمْ بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ²⁴)

“And that ye slay not the life which Allah has made sacred, save in the course of justice. Thus he hath commanded you, in order that you may discern”.

وقاتلوا في سبيل الله الذين يقاتلونكم ولا تعتدوا ان الله لا يحب المعتدين²⁵)
مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا²⁶)

Anyone who murders any person who had not committed murder or horrendous crimes, it shall be as if he murdered all the people. And anyone who spares a life, it shall be as if he spared the lives of all the people”. (5:32).

The Holy Prophet PBUH said:

اكبر الكبائر : الاشراك بالله، و قتل النفس ، و عقوق الوالدين)

Greatest sins are polytheism, killing of man and violating of rights of the parents.²⁷

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ ذَا قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ)²⁸

There is no compulsion in Religion.

In the religion of Islam terrorism is strictly forbidden. Unfortunately, Muslims are declared terrorist. If one cannot find out any example from the holy Quran nor from the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

3. Examples of peace from the History of Muslims

Islamically terrorism, fanaticism and fundamentalism is categorically forbidden in Islam. Islam is from *Slma* which means peace and no other religion of the world carries the name of peace by its name. Being a true Muslim, we should come to know the history of our distinguished Muslim leaders. Actually, current position of Muslim Ummah demands that we should memorize the life of our real heroes whose services were credible. Maybe in this way we can revive our past civilization and culture. First, we will look upon the glimpses of the life of our beloved Prophet (PBUH). He also emphasized his believers to spread peace among people.

3.1 Peace in life of the Holy prophet (PBUH)

Allah sent down righteous men and teachers in every community to bring forth the people from the depths of darkness in to light of Islam. Through the ages, due to the several changes people according to their desires abrogated the prior teaching. Then Allah sent his last messenger among polytheistic society. He peacefully spread the message of Islam between people. Islam preaches religious tolerance and the same was practiced by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and the Caliphs of Islam after him. When the Holy Prophet (PBUH) invited the people towards Islam, he had to face extreme adversity from the enemies. Then he travelled to Madina and became the leader of the Muslim community. The first thing he did was a contract between Muslims and non-Muslims. He gave the equal rights to non-Muslims. There are many examples of peace, tranquility and harmony from life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). For instance:

A Christian delegation from *Najran* came to Madina, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) received them in his Mosque and they were invited to offer their prayers inside it. The Muslims along with the Holy Prophet (PBUH) prayed on one side of the Mosque and the delegation prayed on its other side.²⁹

3.2 The Conduct of the Holy Prophet PBUH during different Gazawats

The Prophet's Gzawats demonstrates a unique example for humanity. There is absolutely fact that Islam was propagated through the Quran in one hand and the

sword on other. The prophet used sword just for the sake of religion. It was the first time when in the history of mankind that prophet of Islam put a check on using of the arms and he absolutely forbidden the arms for the conversion of non-Muslims. He fought defensive wars for self- preservation and for the protection of the lives and properties of Muslims. In fact, forceful conversion was not the aim of wars.

It has been reported from Sulaiman b. Buraid through his father that when the Messenger of Allah (May peace be upon him) appointed anyone as leader of an army. He would say: Fight in the name of Allah and in the way of Allah. Fight against those who disbelieve in Allah. Make a holy war, do not embezzle the spoils; do not break your pledge; and do not mutilate (the dead) bodies; do not kill the children. When you meet your enemies who are polytheists, invite them to three courses of action. If they respond to any one of these, you also accept it and withhold yourself from doing them any harm. Invite them to (accept) Islam; if they respond to you, accept it from them and desist from fighting against them. Then invite them to migrate from their lands to the land of Muhajirs and inform them that, if they do so, they shall have all the privileges and obligations of the Muhajirs. If they refuse to migrate, tell them that they will have the status of Bedouin Muslims and will be subjected to the Commands of Allah like other Muslims, but they will not get any share from the spoils of war or Fai' except when they actually fight with the Muslims (against the disbelievers). If they refuse to accept Islam, demand from them the Jizya. If they agree to pay, accept it from them and hold off your hands. If they refuse to pay the tax, seek Allah's help and fight them. When you lay siege to a fort and the besieged appeal to you for protection in the name of Allah and His Prophet, do not accord to them the guarantee of Allah and His Prophet, but accord to them your own guarantee and the guarantee of your companions for it is a lesser sin that the security given by you or your companions be disregarded than that the security granted in the name of Allah and His Prophet be violated When you besiege a fort and the besieged want you to let them out in accordance with Allah's Command, do not let them come out in accordance with His Command, but do so at your (own) command, for you do not know whether or not you will be able to carry out Allah's behest with regard to them.³⁰

It has also been narrated by Sa'd b. Abu Burda through his father through his grandfather that the Prophet of Allah (may peace be upon him) sent him and Mu'adh (on a mission) to the Yemen, and said (by way of advising them): Show leniency (to the people); don't be hard upon them; give them glad tidings (of Divine favors in this world and the Hereafter); and do not create aversion. Work in collaboration and don't be divided.³¹

Now I am giving you some examples of peace from Gazawat of the Holy prophet (PBUH).

3.2.1 Example of Badr

The holy prophet made a great set up of love after the conquest of Badr. He showed affection to the prisoners of Badr. He gave them proper food and clothes.³²

3.2.2 Peace and Uhud

In the field of Uhud Wahshi Bin Harb martyred Hazrat Hamza (RA), the uncle of the Holy prophet (S.A.W) and Hinda, the wife of Hazrat Abu Sufyan (RA), chewed the liver of Hazrat Hamza (RA). In the same Gazwa the teeth of the Holy prophet (S.A.W) were martyred. But the Holy prophet (S.A.W) prayed to Allah and said;

O My Lord! Forgive my people for they have no knowledge.

O Allah! Guide my people for they have no knowledge.³³

3.2.3 Peace and Hudebiya

In 6 Hijri the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) along with 1400 hundred followers left Madina to perform Umrah at Makkah. But Quarish did not permit them to perform Umrah over there. Then after negotiations, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) succeeded to sign a contract between them. According to that contract both Muslims and Qureish cannot fight with each other for the next ten years and if any tribe wished to join Muslims or Qureish then no party will interfere between them. Here is a saying of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) from where you can come to know that he wanted peace.

It has been narrated on the authority of Bara' who said: When the Prophet (PBUH) was checked from going to the Ka'bah, the people of Makkah made peace with him on the condition that he would (be allowed to) enter Makkah (next year) and stay there for three days, that he would not enter (the city) except with swords in their sheaths and arms encased in their covers, that he would not take away with him anyone from its dwellers, nor would he prevent anyone from those with him to stay on in Makkah (if he so desired). He said to 'Ali: Write down the terms settled between us. (So 'Ali wrote): In the name of Allah, most Gracious and most Merciful. This is what Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah, has settled (with the Makkahns), the polytheists said to him: If we knew that thou art the Messenger of Allah, we would follow you. But write: Muhammad b. 'Abdullah. So he told 'Ali to strike out these words. 'Ali said: No, by Allah, I will not strike them out. The Messenger of Allah (May Peace be upon him) said: Show me their place (on the parchment). So he ('Ali) showed him their place and he (the Holy Prophet) struck them out; and 'Ali wrote: Ibn 'Abdullah. (According to the terms of the treaty, next year) the Holy Prophet (May peace be upon him) stayed there for three days. When it was the third day, they said to 'Ali: This is the last day according to the terms of your companion, so tell him to leave. 'Ali informed the Prophet (May peace be upon him) accordingly. He said: Yes, and left (the city). IbnJanab in his version of the tradition used: "we would swear allegiance to you" instead of "we would follow you".³⁴

3.2.4 Conquest of Makkah

When the power of the Muslims increased then the enemies of Islam shattered. On the eve of the conquest of Makkah the Holy Prophet (PBUH), forgave his bitterest enemies like Hinda, Akrama, Wahshi, Ummaya bin Sawan and Usman bin Talha who after severe persecution forced him to leave Makkah. He announced that everyone who would surrender his arm and take refuge in the house Abu Sufyan will be secure. He addressed them and said:

Do you know how I will treat you?

They said that you are a noble brother and noble nephew. We expect nothing but good from you. The prophet replies you are free today.

*There is no blame on you.*³⁵

During wars against non-believers, one cannot find out any example of destruction at homes, crops and killing innocent persons. But unfortunately critics claims that Muslim rulers spread Islam by force. In fact, Islam by its nature cannot be forced on others. History proves where ever Islam reached, it survived and wherever Muslim conquerors went they lived side by side with non-believers natives peacefully.

3.2.5 Conduct of Khulfa Rashidin

During the reign of Hazrat Abu Bakr, Umar, Usman and Ali (RA) there are numerous examples of peace and harmony.

Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) brought unity among Muslims and he crushed all rebellions. When the first caliph Abu Bakr (RA) sent his army to Syria, then he issued instructions to them;

- Women children and old should not be slain.
- Corpus should not be multiplied.
- Monks should not be vexed nor their temples and monasteries be destroyed.
- No fruit tree should be cut nor should the crops be burnt.
- Habitation should not be laid waste.
- Animals should not be killed.³⁶

Almost the same instructions were issued during the travel of Heerah and other places. The next caliph Hazrat Umer (RA) after the conquest of Egypt ordered to protect non-believers. He said that after war no Muslim can take any property or anything by forced from conquered people.

[Hazrat](#)Ali (RA) said to his son about the rights of non-Muslims that their life is my life, their blood is my blood and their honor is my honor.³⁷ The life of property of those who offer

Submission should be protected as the life and property of Muslims.

3.3 The behavior of Muslim conquerors with others

Is Islam is a source of violence? This question haunts the mind of many people concerned with religion. The major misconception in the mind of non-Muslims is arising due to the international media. It is common complaint among non-Muslims that Islam spread by the use of sword. They said that if Muslims would not have used force then no one would have followed the message of Islam. In fact, in Islam force can be only used to promote peace and harmony in the world. It will be great surprise for the critics of Islam that Muslim rulers often built places for worship under their rule.

- In the era of al Mahdi, a church was erected at Baghdad for the use of Christian prisoners.
- In the reign of Harumur Rashid, a church was built at Baghdad for Christians.
- Al Mamun gave general permission to construct churches, synagogues and fire temples to non-Muslims.
- Muhammad bin Qasim conquered Sindh in 711 and he stayed there for three years. The people of Sindh were very much impressed by the attitude and his character. When he went back to Iraq, they were very depressed and for a long time they remembered his character.³⁸
- Muslims ruled Spain for about 800 years. One cannot find out any example regarding use of sword to convert the religion of community. On the other hand, when Christians crushed occupied Spain, they wiped out the Muslims. At that time, no Muslim can openly give Adhan (call for prayer).
- When Muslims occupied Andulas, an English historian Deoran said; One cannot find out any example of Muslim rule in Andulas.³⁹
- Alp sultan was the second king of Suljuk Empire. He defeated Romans in 1071. Emperor Romanos was presented as a prisoner in front of Alp Arslan.

The following conversation is said to have taken place after Romanos was brought as a prisoner before the Sultan. There an argument was started between them. Romanos said:

Alp Arslan: "What would you do if I was brought before you as a prisoner?"

Romanos: "Perhaps I'd kill you, or exhibit you in the streets of Constantinople."

Alp Arslan: "My punishment is far heavier. I forgive you, and set you free.

Alp also said that this is the difference between you and me. Alp released him after receiving very little amount as jazya.⁴⁰

- Salahuddin Ayyubi was a brilliant leader of 12th CE. When Salahuddin re conquered Jerusalem, he gave a lot of honor to Christians. He addressed them and said if you can leave this place u can, otherwise you can live here with peace. Truly, he was example of tolerance. His behavior with King Richard I was exemplary. "When Richard falls sick he would not only send him to his personal doctor, but also he would send ice and fruits to overcome his disease.

If in the presence of above mentioned solid historical facts, Islam is characterized as an intolerant religion that would be a great blunder. Here I am giving some examples of Muslim rulers from the writings of non-Muslims.

- When the king of Qurtaba Abu Yusuf Yakub al-Mansur besieged Talita. At that time, a Christian princess was governing over there. She wrote a letter to Yousaf that attacking women is not allowed in Islam. Then he went back.⁴¹
- So from the above mentioned examples, it becomes very clear that the successors of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) acted upon the teachings of Islam and they showed the world that aggression, violent behavior, killing and other negative approaches are not allowed in Islam. They proved that the purpose of Jihad is to raise the name of Islam and exterminate evil from society.

Arnold writes: "The ottoman emperors at least for two centuries after their conquest of Greece exhibited tolerance which was at time quite unknown in the rest of Europe."

Nestorian Patriarch said: 'The Arabs to whom God has given Government of the world do not persecute the Christian religion. The allegation of violence on non-Muslims subjects of India has no fact. Islam was spread in India by the use of tongue not by the use of sword. Here you can read out example of Sufis who spread Islam by their own character. So we can say that Islam condemned all types of violence. We should not idealize western culture, in fact, solution of our problems is peace and peace can be obtained by following the life of Muhammad.

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا⁴²)

Indeed a good model for you is the Messenger of Allah - for the one who has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah profusely:

وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُمْ مِنْ قَرْنٍ هُمْ أَشَدُّ مِنْهُمْ بَطْشًا فَنَقَّبُوا فِي الْبِلَادِ هَلْ مِنْ مَّحِيصٍ (43)

Many generations we have destroyed before them who were stronger than these in their grip on power, and they searched out the cities. Was there any place (for them) to escape?

It is quite comprehensible from the above mentioned facts that Muslims were very peaceful. But on the contrary, Muslims were brutally tortured under the rule of other nations.

After the conquest of Jerusalem and Spain Muslims were severely tortured.

3.4 Peace in contemporary period (Pakistani perspective)

Currently Muslim community at national and international level is not secure due to the terrorism. After the terrible event of 9/11 Muslims are facing numerous problems in the world. I am giving some figures of terrorism from Pakistan which is as follows:

Table 1: Casualties as a result of terrorist attacks in Pakistan (2003-2015)

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/ Insurgents	Total
2003	140	24	25	189
2004	435	184	244	863
2005	430	81	137	648
2006	608	325	538	1471
2007	1522	597	1479	3598
2008	2155	654	3906	6715
2009	2324	991	8389	11704
2010	1796	469	5170	7435
2011	2738	765	2800	6303
2012	3007	732	2472	6211
2013	3001	676	1702	5379
2014	1781	533	3182	5496
2015	630	210	1673	2513
Total*	20567	6241	31717	58525

*Data till August 16, 2015⁴⁴

Dr Farukkh Siddiqi writes in his book about Bomb Blasts in Pakistan 2000 – 2011 that: Just in 2000-2011, total suicide blasts in Pakistan are 3654 and in the result of this 7581 people were expired.⁴⁵

So due to the up given statistics of terrorist attacks, it becomes comprehensible that in Pakistan terroristic activities are increasing day by day. Non-believers and some extremists are trying their best to spread disturbance in society. As I wrote down at the start, that Islam is against such kind of activities.

4. Execution of peace in contemporary age and the sayings of the Holy prophet (PBUH)

The religion of Islam shines on the horizons of the Arab by the Holy prophet (PBUH) and gradually enlightened the whole world. Islam is a universal religion and the aim of Islam is to fight against injustice and any kind of violence. That's why Muslims spread the message of Islam all over the world and they became the master of the world. Muslim culture and their supremacy prevailed on the greater portion of the civilized world. But gradually as the power of Muslim rulers grew, their decline started due to

their luxurious life style. They could not maintain his glory and masters became slaves. The main reason behind their decline was not following the spirit of Islam.

Contemporary Muslim world is very far from the teachings of Quran and Sunnah. Unfortunately, some members of faith are defaming the name of Islam. They forget the teachings of Islam, which says that killing of one man is killing of the whole humanity. It is true that at this moment Muslims are victims of aggression and violence in the world. Islam does not allow cruelty at any cost. Islamic rules are very strict and in Islam, there are severe punishments for rebellious persons. No women, child, or elderly to be harmed, no plant and animal's life be injured. Islam is against bloodshed and repression. Islam teaches us that peace can be obtained through forgiveness, tolerance, and responding evil with good.

Islam stresses co-existence. Quran clearly tells that Muslims should protect the churches of Christians, the Jewish synagogue and places of worship of all other religions.

The Dutch orientalist Snouck Hurgronje observes: The idea of the league of human races has been approached by Islam more nearly than by any other ideology. For the League of Nations founded on Muhammad's religion takes the principle of equality of all human races so, seriously as to put other communities to shame.⁴⁶

Peace can be maintained by following the life of Islam. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said in his last addresses that success of Ummah is in Islam. Whenever Muslims did not follow the message of Islam, they became weak in the world. Now Muslims are following non Muslim's traditions and their culture. Unfortunately, there is no Muslim leader, who can lead the world. The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said that solution of the problems of Muslim Ummah is in unanimity. From the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), we can learn how to live in a society peacefully. If we will understand the exact spirit of Islam then we will get success.

Saudi Mufti Imam Azam also focused that solution of the revival of Muslim Ummah is in unity. It is crystal clear that Jews and Christians are enemies of Islam; they are trying their best to declare Islam as a terrorist and violent religion.

There are some principles of peace in society:

- Islam said if anyone wants peace then he should have faith in one Allah.

مَنْ آمَنَ وَأَصْلَحَ فَلَا خَوْفَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ⁴⁷)

- After having faith in Allah, he should worship Allah sincerely.

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ أُولَئِكَ لَهُمُ الْأَمْنُ وَهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ⁴⁸)

- One should promote peace, harmony and tolerance in society. Every person should be the well-wisher of other.

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said:

لا يومن احدكم حتى يحب لا خيه ما يحب لنفسه)⁴⁹

None of you is a believer until I am dearer to him than his father, son and other kin.

In the light of this Hadith, one should prefer other. Then society will be the cradle of peace. The severe punishments of Islam are also to maintain the peace in society. The peace of world is in Islam.

5. Conclusion

We can tell the world by our actions and character that what is the real face of religion offered by Prophet (PBUH), Islam is a religion of peace. Temptation, unrest, bloodshed and terror fell killings have nothing to do with Islam. However, Muslims are peaceful and compassionate nation. Glorious teachings of Islam in the past had been revolutionized the individual and national development. Similarly, in present world's situation where capitalization, unrest and temptation are on its peak, teachings of Islam in society will be useful and meaningful. Through old experiences in the world, we conclude that the teachings of Islam can bring peace, human rights, equality, justice, tolerance and humanity. Moreover, the main challenge can be cured by this solution only.

There are conspiracies against Islam in which Muslims are declared as terrorists and fundamentalists. Look at example of Affia Siddique, how she was brutally treated in the hands of so called civilized western community. However, the main reason causing decline of the Muslim world is not following the teachings of Prophet (PBUH). When we do not follow Quran, we fall in trouble and loose the grace of believer. By this, today the enemies of Islam are succeeding in their nefarious deeds and in fact by following the teachings of Islam non-Muslim are succeeding whereas we Muslims are declining by not following our religion.

Today is the age of temptations of materialism, self-interested and selfishness. ALLAH called himself the Prophet (PBUH) the title of (رحمة للعالمين)

وما ارسلنك الا رحمة للعالمين)⁵⁰

Islam is a religion of peace. Temptation unrest, bloodshed and terror killings have nothing to do with Islam. However, Muslims are peaceful and compassionate nation. Glorious teachings of Islam in the past had been revolutionized the individual and national developments. Similarly, in present world's situation where capitalization unrest and temptation is on its peak, teachings of Islam in society will be useful and meaningful.

6. Discussion Results

1. Nowadays our duty is to care about the sanctity of man's life and to uphold the respect, so that more people become peaceful.
2. Murder, bloodshed, hatred and religious bigotry has weakened the Muslim Ummah, and the maintenance of public order has collapsed. By following, the life of Prophet (PBUH) Muslims can progress.
3. We should follow the ethics of Prophet (PBUH) and demonstrate unity. Now we are not thankful to the blessing of peace. That is why we are economically very weak. For the revival of Ummah peace is very important.

وتعاونوا على البر والتقوى ولا تعاونوا على الاثم والعدوان)

4. Western media and community have to stop its propaganda against Islam as terrorist religion. They should read out the message of Islam and meaning of Jihad. Jihad is just a struggle to eliminate evil from society and to raise the name of Islam.
5. Be a source of mercy for others not a source of destruction for others. Islam strictly prohibited and condemned acts like hatred, bitterness, greed and resentment which are the root causes of violence in society. Islam believes in Help and do not fight assimilation not destruction, harmony and peace not dissension.

Conclusion: Keeping in view the up given definitions of peace, we can conclude that peace is the name of internal and external tranquility. Where there is no threat of child labor, kidnapping, no lack of peace in courts and no threat to women's respect and hurting of individual or collective ego. For this purpose Islam guides towards some very basic elements like, the pray of peace (Salam) is encouraged in society, every Muslim finishes his or her five times prayers on sending peace.

The divine law which was given by Allah and implemented by Holy Prophet (S.A.W) was based on love, peace and harmony. Rest of the Prophets (A.S) was sent for the accomplishment of the same mission. They all instituted the serenity in societies of their time and ceased off devastations and pandemonium in humanity.

It is observed that world is in search of lost peace which has become a dream of present day's societies, families, and countries. Even peace has vanished from streets and towns at international and national politics, economy, religiosity, individual and collective levels. All this mess is directing towards restlessness, lack of patience, lack of justice and revenge. Humanity and world can come out of this chaotic situation only by acting upon God Almighty's divine teachings and practices of Holy Prophet (S.A.W).

The present research paper is a drop of the rain that overviews and understands prophetic teachings for chaos and establishment of peace. Peace in amongst the primary needs of humans therefore Islam protects this right firmly. Islamic teachings promote

peace on religious, political, cultural, economic, micro and macro levels because it is an understood truth that no society can move towards the path of prosperity without peace and only true guidance can be sought from the life of Holy prophet (S.A.W) whose conduct is the greatest among all conducts and his way of life is also amongst best ways of life. Actually peace and terror or war are indicators of two different perceptions or understandings of life which can be achieved and can become part of personality only through hard individual, collective, social and spiritual exercises.

Peace, simply, does not only means absence of war rather it should be a collective expression for religious, collective, individual, international life therefore one of the names of paradise is (dark-o-salaam) house of peace. The critics of Islam cannot deny the message of Islam. The peaceful recovery of Bait Allah was the main purpose of the Prophet (PBUH). Quran mentions peace with a variety of meanings and in one of the meanings peace is mentioned against terror. Keeping in view all above discussion it is quite clear that there is no single verse in the Holy Quran, which could support the aggression upon others. It also becomes clear that the main reasons of fighting in Islam are against aggression, to protect the name of Islam and to defend religious freedom. If in any case Muslims fight with others then they cannot cross the limits. Hoy Quran is the guiding principles of Islam. Peace and Aman is used in different connotations in the text of Holy Quran. Importance of peace and its process according to the Quran can be realized that in Quran the word peace is mentioned 44 times while the word of fight or war is mentioned 6 times only.

The critics of Islam cannot deny the message of Islam. The peaceful recovery of Bait Allah was the main purpose of the Prophet (PBUH). Quran mentions peace with a variety of meanings and in one of the meanings peace is mentioned against terror.

End Notes

¹Ibn Manzoor Afreeqi Al Mesri, Lasaan Ul Arab, (Beirut: Dar Saadar, 2010), P 21

²Syed Murtaza Zabadi, Taj Ul Aroos Min Jowhar Ul Qamoos, (Makta Hakumatul Kawait), P23

³Louis Maloof, Al Munjad Ful Lughah (Beruit: Al Maktaba Ul Khathleeka), P 18

⁴Imam Raghabsfahani, Muradatul Quran (Damascus: Dar Un Nashar)

See Also Surah Anfaal 8:27

⁵Surah Al Quraush 106:4

⁶Surah Al Baqara 2:134

⁷Surah Al Imran 3:392

⁸Surah Al Baqara 2:133

⁹Imam Muslim, Sahih Muslim Kitab Bel Masajid Wa Mawadhasalat, (Saudi Arab: Dar Ul Islam Ridah) Hadith NO1334

¹⁰Imam Abu Dawood, Sunan Abe Dawood, (Saudi Arab: Dar Ul Islam Ridah)) Hadith NO 2005

¹¹Surah Yaseen 36:58

¹²Surah Al Baqara 2:205

¹³Surah Al Maeda 5:64

¹⁴Surah Al Baqara 2:192

¹⁵Surah Nahal 16:112

¹⁶Surah Qasas 28:57

¹⁷ Surah Al Hujarat 49:13

¹⁸Surah Al Baqaraa 2:112

¹⁹Sural Al Furqan 25:63

²⁰Surah Al Hasher 59:23

²¹Imam Muslim, Sahih Muslim Bab UIEman,(Saudi Arab: Dar Ul Islam Ridah,2007) 162/25

²²Surah Al Baqara2:208

²³Surah Al Raaf 7:56

²⁴Surah Al Anaam 6:151

²⁵Surah Al Baqarah 2:190

²⁶Surah Al Madiyah 5:32

²⁷Imam Bukhari, SahihBukhari,KitabUIDeyat,BabWaMunAkhyaha,Hadith No 2871

²⁸Surah Al Baqara 2:256

²⁹ Islam Peace And Tolerance By Zahid Aziz,(Lahore AhmedyahAnjuman Publicatios,2007).P 14

³⁰Saheeh Muslim, Vol 5, BabtameerUl Imam Mel AmraAlulBaeoos, Pp2-3, Khalid Ehsan Publishers
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³¹SaheehMuslim,Vol 5,Babtameer Ul Imam Mel AmraAlul Baeoos,Pp4,Khalid Ehsan Publishers Lahore

³²Akbar NageebAbbadi,Tarrekh –I- Islam,Vol:1,(Lahore: Dar UlAndalus),P42

³³SaifuRahman Al Mubarikpuri,AIRaheeq Al Makhtoom,(Lahore:Maktaba Salfia,1995) P 551

³⁴ Imam Muslim, Saheeh Muslim, Vol 5,Bab SulhaHadabia,(Lahore: Khalid Ehsan Publishers,1981) PP62-
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³⁵SaifuRahman Al Mubarikpuri,AIRaheeq Al Makhtoom,(Lahore:Maktaba Salfia,2000)Pp 364-365

³⁶Dr Khalid Alvi Muhammad PBUH The Greatest Military Strategist,(Islamabad:Dawah Academy),Pp39-
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³⁷ Tolerance In Islam By Abdul Karim, Islamic Book Centre, Lahore 1935, Pp42-43

³⁸HadiatUllah Khan Chaudary, IslamiTareekh Pak O Hind,Vol1(Lahore: IllmiKetabKhana)P 12

³⁹DrGulamJeelaniBaraq,Europe Par MusلمانooKy Ehsan,P132

⁴⁰Ibid 128

⁴¹Ibid 83

⁴²Surah Ahzab 33:21

⁴³Surah Qaaf 50:36

⁴⁴Source: Figures are compiled from news reports and are provisional.

⁴⁵Farukhsiddiqi,Bomb Blasts In Pakistan 2000 – 2011,Govt Of Pakistan

⁴⁶SnouckHurgronje, Muslim World Today(New York.1995),P 135

⁴⁷Surah Al Anaam 6: 48

⁴⁸Surah Al Anaam 6:82

⁴⁹Imam Bukhari,SahihBukhari,KitabulEmaan,

⁵⁰Surah Al Anbiya 21:108

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