

Muslim Progressive Traditionalist Alliance recognizes and affirms that throughout history humanity has received Divine Guidance in forms appropriate for each nation, tribe and people. Truth has been explored, analyzed and framed in each culture, region and religion regardless of name or names of God. Allah is the same God worshipped by all Monotheists and represents the unifying principle and source of life for all creation.

God is beyond the limitations of our understanding and no religion may lay exclusive claim to understanding Him. Among the many messages attesting to this primordial wisdom carried by Prophets and other exemplars, the teaching of Islam is designed for the development of our human potential and as a mercy for our souls.

The Message of Islam is an offering for all humanity. Non-Muslims should be considered equal in rights - the previous Millet system for non Muslims was specific to a particular time and social system. It is better not to discriminate or judge others too freely. No Believer in God should be called a Kuffar.

Therefore, the "House of War" cannot be simply equated with non-Muslim nations, or specific ethnic or religious groups, as it refers primarily to those in a spiritual state of rebellion. Conversely the "House of Peace" or "Dar al Islam" does not simply correspond to a country whose population has inherited Islamic traditions. Not does this term necessarily relate to politicized or ideological Islam. Ideally the term relates to a functioning Muslim community (segments of the greater "Ummah") wherever it may manifest, regardless of size or sect.

Within the religion, what is Divine is perfect and what is human is not. Islam teaches that there is no compulsion in religion. However, human choice, human understanding, spiritual development and love have far more value than blind obedience. Compassion can guide us through renewal of all our thinking.

Obedience and discipline may be important aids to personal and social growth. But Islam fully embraces logical, practical and rational thought as well as the mystery of faith-based understanding. Faith is not blind, but includes such forms of deep reflection as spiritual self-inquiry and the remembrance of God's Attributes, which may help deepen awareness and personal integrity, and even strengthen tawheed or sense of unity in God.

Therefore, Universal Truth, embodied in many forms, cannot be imposed by force; nor is Law a sufficient form for its unfolding. Islamic Scholarship is a source of wisdom and guide to good conduct, but represents a means to an end, not an end itself. God Consciousness, Virtue and Good works are more valuable than scholarship and far more so than ideology. Corruption of intent may take place even within high-minded politics and the pursuit of power. Caution is required when communicating in modern media lest the Message take on unintended characteristics. Traditional forms designed to fit social systems of the past may not suit contemporary human needs.

Humanity is not a thing. Men and Women are not created simply to survive, to reproduce or produce; or to consume or fear or desire or otherwise glorify the ego. Muslims live to witness a Greater Reality. To proceed along the path without humility is a most uncertain struggle; let patience and gratitude keep us clear sighted at each step. God guides best and His blessings are without limit.

Let all nations see the Muslim as friend. Let the green world and the blue-green sea sense our love, wisdom and tender husbandry of creation's beautiful bounty. Let us not go astray in the name of tribe or nation; or in claiming the cause of justice or jihad. But let us not sit on our hands, neglecting the very serious problems that beset our world.

As a Friend to all Humanity, the Muslim will not fear association with sinners, as we are all sinners. The Muslim will not easily be led astray if eyes are open. Let us see, but not play the judge. May God forgive us as we pray to forgive others.

Hope is human. But beware of false promises. At this time, Islamic States are a dream; let the mind and imagination know their places. Do not expect that authoritarian regimes can solve humanity's problems without creating new problems and injustices. There is no home for tyrants or cruelty in Islam. The ends do not justify the means. Clear and regular communication and respectful Inclusion of all classes, types and perspectives will strengthen consensus. Men and women are equal in their human potential. A rightly guided secular state, even when it tolerates behavior that is not sanctioned by Islam, will provide a free haven for Muslims. If injustices can possibly be addressed without attacking the system, or if the system can be improved, however incrementally, a democratic society may be the surest safeguard for spiritual and social freedoms, and offer the best conditions for contemporary Muslims to grow in wisdom.

inshAllah.