

CHAPTER 4

The moral teachings of Islam and Christianity

Both Islam and Christianity exhort men to virtuous deeds and pious life. They condemn falsehood, dishonesty, hypocrisy, injustice, cruelty, pride, ungratefulness, treachery, intemperance, lust, sloth, jealousy, selfishness, apathy, hurtful speech, anger and violence. Both enjoin upon their followers faith and trust in God, repentance, truth, purity, courage, justice, charity, benevolence, sympathy, mercy, selfcontrol, and uprightness. The Chief virtues enjoined by Islam and Christianity alike may be grouped under tow headings. Firstly, those that prevent a man from injuring the life, property and honour of others, such as chastity, honesty, peacefulness, and politeness. Secondly, those that prompt a man to do good to others, such as mercy, forgiveness, truthfulness, courage, patience, sympathy, kindness, and love.

Now I shall give a brief summary of the moral teach-

ings of Islma and Christianity in the words of the Scriptures of the two religions.

CHRISTIANITY

Chastity

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shall not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after he hath committed adultery with her already in his heart”. (Matthew 5:27,28).

ISLAM

“And come not near unto adultery (totally abstain from its preliminaries and everything that is likely to lead unto it). Lo! it is an abomination and an evil way”. (The Quran 17:32) Draw not nigh to levd things whether open or concealed”. (6:142).

“The adultery of the eye is to look with an eye of desire on the wife of another; and the adultery of the tongue is to utter

what is forbidden”. (Sayings of Muhammad).

Peacefulness

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves”. (matthew 5:5).

“Blessed are teh peacemakers, for they shall be called teh children of God”. (Matthew 5:9)

“Whosoever killeth a human being... it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and who so saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind”. (The Quran 5:32).

“A Muslim is he from whose tongue and hands people are safe, and a Muhajir is he who forsakes what God has forbidden”. (Sayings of Muhammad) “Sahl I inform you of a better act than

fasting, alms and prayers? Making peace between one another: enmity and malice tear up heavenly rewards by the roots". (Sayings of Muhammad).

Politeness

"But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of judgement: and whosoever shall say to his brother. Raca, shall be in danger of the concil: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." (Mat-

"Turn not your cheek in scorn and anger towards folk nor walk with pertness in the land, Lo! God loveth not each braggart boaster. Be modest in your bearing and subdue your voice, Lo! the harshest of all voices is the voice of an ass." (The Quran 31:18,19).

thew 5:22).

“O ye who believe! Let not folk deride a folk who may be better than they are, nor let women deride women who may be better than they are; neither defame one another nor insult one another by nicknames. It is evil to call by a bad name after faith. And who so terneth not in repentance, such are evildoers. O ye who believe! Shun much suspicion; for lo! some suspicion is a crime. And spy not, neither back-bite one another”. (The Quran 49:11,12).

“A man cannot be a Muslim till his heart and tongue are so”. (Sayings of Muhammad).

Honesty

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant nor anything (Exodus 20:17).

“And covet not the things in which God hath made some of you excell others Unto men of fortune from that which they have earned, and unto women a fortune from that which they have earned”. (The Quran 4:32).

“And eat not up your property among yourselves in vanity, nor seek by it to gain the hearing

of the judges that ye may knowingly devour a portion of the property of others wrongfully”. (The Quran 2:188).

“Give full measure, and be not of those who give less than the due. And weigh with the true balance. Wrong not mankind in their goods, and do not evil, making mischief in the earth”. (The Qur’an 26:181-183).

“On the day of resurrection I shall be the adversary in dispute of a person -- who employs a servant and receives fully

the labour due from him, then does not pay his full remuneration". (Sayings of Muhammad).

Truth and Justice

"Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbour". (Exodus 20:16).

"Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous. That which is altogether just shalt follow, that thou mayest live and in-

"No man is true in the truest sense of the word but he who is true in word, in deed and in thought" (Sayings of Muhammad) "O ye who believe! Be ye staunch in justice, witnesses for God, even though it be against yourselves or your parents or your kindred, whether the case be of a rich man or a poor man, for God is nearer

herit the land which the
Lord thy God givest
thee” (Deuteronomy
16:18,20).

unto both than ye are. So
follow not passion lest ye
lapse from truth and if ye,
lapse or fallaway, then
lo! God is ever informed
of what ye do” (The Qu-
ran 4:135).

In equity, and let not ha-
tred of any people for
you seduce you that ye
deal not jusly. Deal just-
ly, that is nearer to your
duty. Observe your duty
to God. Lo! God is in-
formed of what ye do”.
(The Quran 5:8).

Courage and Patience
“And brother shall deliv-

“O ye who believe!
Seek help in patience and

er up the brother to death,
and the father the child;
and the children shall
rise up against their par-
ents and cause them to be
put to death, and they shall
be hated of all men for
my name's sake: but he
that endureth to the end
shall be saved. But when
they persecute you in this
city, flee ye into another:
for verily I say unto you,
ye shall not have gone
over the cities of Israel,
till the Son of man be
come....

Fear them not therefore:
for there is nothing cov-

er up the brother to death,
and the father the child;
and the children shall
rise up against their par-
ents and cause them to be
put to death, and they shall
be hated of all men for
my name's sake: but he
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city, flee ye into another:
for verily I say unto you,
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over the cities of Israel,
till the Son of man be
come....

“And surely We shall
try you with something
of fear and hunger, and
loss of wealth and lives
and crops; but give glad
tidings to the patient and
the steadfast, who say
when a misfortune strik-
eth them: Lo! we are
God's and lo! unto Him
we are returning”. (The
Quran 2:55,156).

“Those unto whom men
said: Lo! the people have
gathered against you,
therefore fear them. The

ered that shall not be revealed; and hid that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach, ye upon the housetops. And fear not them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell". (Matthew 10:21-28).

Forgiveness

"Peter said unto him, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me,

threat of danger but increased the faith of them and they cried: God is sufficient for us! Most Excellent is He in Whom we trust!" (The Quran 3:173).

"And vie one with another for forgiveness from your Lord, and for a

and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, until seventy times seven”. (Matthew 18:22).

Paradise as wide as the heavens and the earth, prepared for those who ward off evil; those who spend of that God hath given them on others, in ease and adversity, those who control their wrath and are forgiving toward mankind; God loveth the doers of good to others”. (The Quran 3:134).

“Many of the People of the Scripture (i.e., followers of the other revealed religions) long to make you disbelievers after your belief, through envy on their own account, af-

ter the truth hath become manifest unto them. Forgive and be indulgent toward them until God give command. Lo! God is able to do all things". (The Quran 3:159).

Doing Good to Others

"And Jesus answered and said a certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way:

"All God's creatures are His family, and he is the most beloved of God who tries to do the greatest good to God's creatures". (Sayings of Muhammad)

"What actions are the most excellent? To gladden the heart of a human being, to feed the hungry,

and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place came, looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed came where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he

to help the afflicted, to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful, and to remove the wrongs of the injured". (Sayings of Muhammad)

"Hast thou observed him who belieth religion? That is he who repelleth the orphan and urgeth not the feeding of the needy. Ah, woe unto worshippers who are heedless of their prayer; who would be seen at worship, yet refuse small kindnesses!" (The Quran 107:1-7.

"Those who spend their wealth in the way of

departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Go, and do thou likewise". (Luke 10:30-37).

God, and afterward make not reproach and injury to follow that which they have spent; their reward is with their Lord, and there shall no fear come upon them neither shall they grieve. A kind word with forgiveness is better than almsgiving followed by injury. God is Absolute, Clement. O ye who believe! Render not vain your almsgiving by reproach and injury, like him who spendeth his wealth only to be seen of men and believeth not in God and the Last Day".

(The Quran 2:262-264).

Love and Sympathy

“Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself” (Mark 12:31).

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:34,35).

“Do you love your Creator? Love your fellow-creatures first.” (Sayings of Muhammad).

“No man is a true believer unless he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.” (Sayings of Muhammad)

“Thou wilt see the faithful in their having mercy for one another and their kindness towards one another like the body; when one member of it ails, the entire body ails, one part calling out the other with

sleeplessness and fever.”
(Sayings of Muhammad).