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We stand at a critical moment in the World's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly inter-dependent and fragile, the future at once holds the chance of great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for human rights, honour, dignity, social and economic justice. Towards this end it's imperative that we realize the full extent of our responsibility to one another and the future of our offspring. Fundamental changes are needed in our values, institutions and ways of living. Our environmental, social, economic and spiritual challenges are inter-connected and together we can forge reasonable solutions. An additional emphasis that runs through all activities in this sphere is the ability of art and artistic expression to facilitate change throughout all we do. By using art resources to texturize our social justice work we touch hearts as well as minds. Our cultural diversity is a precious heritage and it's our duty to recognize and preserve traditional knowledge and spiritual wisdom in all nations and cultures that contribute to protection human well-being and are tolerant to diversity in spirit and culture. But this tolerance to diversity doesn't presuppose loutishness, abuse and insult which we encounter in the "ill-famous" cartoons of a Jewish artist on Prophet Muhammad, Hollywood insinuations on Jesus Christ mission and the like, all this leaves no one indifferent and excites turmoil and aggression. This is an obvious example of how political and ethnic preferences get the upper hand over our big talk upon respect and tolerance.

Taking into account that the executors of terrorist acts are immigrants or emigrants from Muslim countries they constitute a tangible threat both to Islam and to Muslims who don't share the extreme views of their violent neighbours who maintain alien to Islam right to disobedience, mutiny and discord-(arab.) "fitna". The Holy Qur'an declares: "Fitna is worse than death". And Ibn Hanbal, head of the most radical school in Islam claimed: "Fitna destroys the fundamental basis of religion and backing (supporting) even the least of all rulers is better than starting up fitna." The Holy Qur'an gives a definite command how to deal with the situation: "If two parties among the believers fall into a fight make you peace between them. But if one of them transgresses beyond bounds against the other, then fight the one that transgresses until it complies with the command of God." War throughout the whole of our land

impacts soldiers and civilian population alike and exacts wounds on our society. Both pay extremely heavy price for war's mythic role and its shady enterprise in national life. We should exercise a multi-cultural multi-faith global initiative that will help us to develop strategies that promote reconciliation and peace, lasting collaborations in faith and culture, and heal divisions in our society. Interfaith dialogue is a first step towards action. And most definitely a priority in this arena is to promote reconciliation between the Muslim and Non-Muslim worlds. To begin with we should create a safe space to bring people together from all sides of the issue, thus giving ground to the real and often untold consequences of conflict to emerge. Here we should work with experts to inform and inspire. I believe we possess enough strength and resources within our diverse communities to mitigate issues of religious intolerance and, as a consequence, armed conflicts.

To exclude this we should stop addressing people of Islamic origin "islamists, terrorists, extremists" because in their minds suffix "ist" (in political and social sense) is always associated with negative meaning: marxist, communist, materialist, nihilist etc.

As long as we keep applying the words "islamist, islamic terrorist" to the executors of terrorist acts, we continue to excite anger and rejection of all Muslim communities because by doing this we thrust (foist) the responsibility for the committed crime on the innocent law-abiding Muslims who justly consider this as an attack on their religion and their dignity, and demand the same verbal reaction to Catholic disturbances in Ireland, ethnic(national) disturbances in Spain, geopolitical disturbances of Buddhists in Tibet. I remember a couple of years ago some time before the aggression 11.11. 2001 on "Twins" in New York there was a terrorist attack on the Trade Centre in New York with more than one hundred victims. All mass media described it as committed by *Muslims*. A very short time later absolutely the same kind of aggression was committed in Oklahoma City with approximately the same number of casualties. But that time it was plainly said that the crime was committed by two *Americans*. A very strange compilation, isn't it? In the first case- *religious* component was introduced into the issue, in the second-*ethnic* (national) component. A very selective approach to the appraisal of the event, isn't it?

Political systems, economic, financial, educational structures come and go as soon as they expire their usefulness. Evolution is built in God's Providence and it concerns only the processes in Nature and transformations in social and political life. The only space not subjected to material evolution is religious feelings of the man inspired in him by our Creator (God Almighty) and lasting forever.

These feelings are not only sacred for every believer but they constitute a powerful unifying factor. Incompetent and offensive linking (tying up) religious feelings of a man with geopolitical and financial interests of people in power at present time, attempts to thrust on the decent people professing the norms of their religion, responsibility for the irresponsible, indecent behaviour of terrorists may become a powerful instrument for worldwide cross-cultural as well as global inter-faith confrontation.

All the world monotheistic religions are named after their ancestors-Buddhism, Zoroastrizm, Jewdaism, Christianity. The only religion which possesses in its very name conceptual meaning is Islam. Explanatory arab-arab Dictionary gives the vocabulary meaning of this name: peace, tranquility, clear conscience, security, good intentions, no excess in anything. The root meaning of SLM (the word Islam without vowels) doesn't allow the smallest hint of any form of either aggression or discord. And when mass media use word combinations "Islamic terrorism, Islamic extremism" which, when translated, mean "peaceful terrorism, moderate extremism" this sounds as philological nonsense and you can clearly see that this shows absolute ignorance and illiteracy of our Press. In the same Dictionary you'll find the one and only meaning of the word "Muslim"- believer in God, a person professing Islam. Prophet Mohammad said: "The moment a Muslim commits a death act of one innocent soul, he stops being a Muslim and he will never feel the smell of Paradise". And here I would add: the killer stops being a Christian, a Jew or whatsoever. A killer should be taken to the court! In this connection it is very important to stress that when we call terrorists "Shahids or Muslims" we discredit these two words which are of the extreme importance to every muslim, on the one hand, and we endow killers with the highest honour and glory and make them feel proud and happy, on the other. The same feeling of absolute happiness and pride experience their families.

We urgently need *a shared vision* of *basic values* to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community and exercise respect in all its diversity. Unfortunately, our diversity goes to a much deeper level than it may seem at first sight. We see only its surface. Its roots are strongly interrelated with human basic values. And these values have all the reasons to be absolutely the same and common to the whole of humanity with very negligible divergences. They are plainly described in two Big Books- The Holy Bible and The Holy Qur'an. All the "do"es and "don't"s, all the ordinances and prohibitions are actually the same- coming from one and the same source: Moses Law- a Table with Sacred Text inscribed upon it by God Almighty and revealed to Moses. And Islam is the only religion that assumes this as an Absolute Truth, the Providence of God Almighty, whose highest aim is not to divide but to unite. Moreover, Islam is the only religion that doesn't insist on its "one and only"ness. The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 5, verses 43-48: "But why do they come to thee (oh, Muhammad!)" for decision, when they have Torah before them?-Therein is the (plain) command of God...It was We who revealed the Torah(to Moses): therein is guidance and light... We ordained therein for them: life for life, eye for eye...We sent Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming the Torah that had come before him. And We sent him *the Gospel*, and therein is guidance and light, and *confirmation of the Torah* that had come before him...Let the People of the Gospel judge by what Allah hath revealed therein. If any of them fail to judge by what the God hath revealed, they are those who rebel. To thee (oh, Muhammad!) We sent the Scripture in truth(*the Holy Qur'an*), *confirming the Scripture that came before it* and guarding it in safety...To each among you have We prescribed a Law and an Open Way. If Allah had so willed, He would have made you a single People, but (his Providence is) to test you in what He hath given you: so strive (as in a race) in all virtues." In Chapter 11, verse 118, we have God's declaration of the greatest importance: "If thy Lord had so willed, He could have made mankind one People,"- that is: all mankind might have been one but in God's plan man was to have a certain measure of free-will and this freedom to exercise your own free will makes all the difference (Chapter 22, verse 40): "If Allah did not check one set of people by means of another, there would surely have been pulled down monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques, where the name of Allah is commemorated in abundant measure."

And as the moral values are practically the same in all Scriptures, they may constitute the basis of our inter-ethnic and inter-faith relations and cooperation. But to our great concern and sorrow life often involves tensions between important values. This can mean (require) difficult choices. However, we must find ways to harmonize diversity with unity.

We ought to examine our values and introduce amendments to the ways we are accustomed to, and choose a better way founded on a shared ethical framework that embrace a new vision shared by growing number of people in many nations and cultures throughout the world. In this we should uphold the right of all without discrimination to human dignity, bodily health and spiritual well-being. We should enhance the intellectual, social and financial resources of developing nations, promote the equitable distribution of wealth among them, enable them to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations.

Many of these values both in Europe and America suffered sufficient transformation and to be more exact- a quite perceptible devaluation. Death penalty (death for death, eye for eye in Scriptures) has been transformed to milder verdicts. The wide-spread usury, sodomy, adultery, alcohol, mild narcotics, pork, half-clad ladies have been either legalized or covertly permitted. And when we raise the question why do Muslims suffer great difficulties with assimilation in Europe the answer doesn't make us wait long- it's plain and unambiguous: they hold on to God's Ordinance. Certainly, from time to time they may exceed the bounds by wearing paranja (yashmak) or engage themselves and some activities alien to our understanding, but having no tangible impact on our life. We certainly should excuse them for these insignificant trifles because if we allow ourselves to violate God's Ordinances, it's our problem and we must be ready to pay for it.

The gist:

God Almighty has revealed ***Law to Mose*** in the Old Testament (Torah).

He has revealed ***Ethics*** of fulfilling the Law (love, mercy, compassion) ***to Jesus Christ*** in the New Testament (Gospel).

He has revealed to ***Muhammad Qur'an*** where He ensured the connecting link between the two (mentioned above) conveying it with the whole multitude of signs of the highest scientific value, the access to which was provided

exclusively with the help of the most powerful technical facilities of the 20th century. Moreover, the Holy Qur'an pointed out some scientific inaccuracies in the Bible text incompatible with modern knowledge which was provoked by the abundant intrusion of human factor. We may therefore agree with Jean Guitton when he says: "The scientific errors in the Bible are the errors of mankind". See: Maurice Bucaille "The Bible, the Qur'an and Science. The Holy Scriptures examined in the light of modern knowledge".



Verses from the Holy Qur'an

II: 256.

Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from error.

II: 190-193.

Fight in cause of God those who fight you... But fight them not unless they *first* fight you... And fight them on until there is no more persecution... Turn them out from where they have *first* turned you out... But if they cease the fight do not transgress limits for God loveth not transgressors.

LX: 8.

God forbids you not to deal kindly and justly with those who fight you not for your Faith nor drive you out of your homes.

III: 61.

If anyone disputes... say: come and let us gather together,- ourselves and yourselves, our sons and your sons, our women and your women, - and then let us clear the dispute.

V: 82.

And nearest among them in love to the Muslims will you find those who say: "We are Christians", because among them are men devoted to learning, and men who have renounced the world, and they are not arrogant.

VII: 31-33.

O, Children of Adam! Wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place... Say: Who has forbidden the beautiful gifts of God which He has

produced for His servants, and the things, clean and pure which He has provided for sustenance? ... Say: the things that my Lord has indeed forbidden are: indecent deeds, sins and trespasses against Truth or reason.

Chapter 109: 1-6

Say: O you that reject Faith!

I worship not that, which you worship.

Nor you worship that, which I worship.

And I will not worship that, which you will worship,

Nor will you worship that which I will worship.

To you be your Way (in eternal life) and to me – mine.

