

Unity in Diversity

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Islam is the greatest unifying force in the world. It is a religion for all human beings regardless of colour, race and language. It is a religion that can coexist with other religions and orders its followers to respect and protect all humans.

The unity of God's creation and the diversity of religions and cultures are accepted as a unity in diversity. Conflicts between people are condemned, and healthy debate is promoted. Acceptance and appreciation of a plurality of religions and cultures is propagated in the Quranic scheme of things.

Unity is not possible without a certain liberal stance and acceptance of diversity. We have to remember that God has made a world in which diversity is the essential feature of existence. God says in the Quran that if He so desired He would have made everyone one nation, but He made it a diverse world, so that different races, tribes and clans could distinguish and identify each other.

The Muslim world has many issues that need to be resolved: issues with global ramifications – including conflicts in Palestine, and Iraq; the ideological war on terrorism; and social issues such as underdevelopment, poverty, health, and education. These issues have a direct bearing on all Muslims. Given this reality, the Muslim world must eventually achieve unity in order to resolve them.

Unity among Muslims will be a reality only if attempts to solve contradictory issues are made in a manner respectful to the interests of all the parties involved. Even the analysis and exchange of thoughts over diverse issues should take place in a friendly and brotherly environment.

The holy Quran says:

“Do not quarrel with each other lest you fail or lose honour”
(Quran, 8:46)

There should be no confrontation and no conflict within Muslims.

The holy Quran says:

“And hold fast to the Rope of God all together, and do not be divided among yourselves”.

(Quran, 3:103)

We should perform this mission of holding fast in a right and correct way. The noble Quran says:

“So whoever disbelieves in the devil and believes in Allah, he indeed lays hold on the firmest handle which shall never break. And Allah ﷻ is Hearing, Knowing”.

(Quran, 2: 256)

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The Muslim World League (MWL), headquartered in Makkah Al Mukarramah, believes that the value of Islamic solidarity is determined by the objectives of unity, ending conflicts and dissension, mobilising capabilities of the nation to face evil and raising the level of global participation in the service of humanity.

As a result of unity among Muslims, the living standards and wealth of Muslim nations will increase, and their existing inequalities will disappear. A peaceful Muslim world can become a model for other countries, and existing conflicts can be resolved peacefully following the example set by the Muslim world. Practicing unity and solidarity as commanded by the Quran will cause its values to have a direct impact upon all Muslims' life.

We sincerely appeal to all Muslims to follow in the path of Shari'ah. The Shari'ah that was established by our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and those who followed him to bring Islam to our generation. ■