

## *Editorial*

An invitation to the religions' dialogue, on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth date of the holy Prophet (*p.b.u.h & h.f*)

***“Say, O followers of the book !Come to an equitable word between you and us; that we all shall not serve any but God, and do not associate anything with him, and that some of us shall not take others as God, beside the Almighty God.”*** (*The holy Quran; 3:64*)

We are living in a global society in which technology permits a greater mobility than before. At the same time, we witness huge migrations due to wars, poverty, and persecution in parts of the world; many people refer to religions as their last resort. To acknowledge the similarities of the great divine religions, although a theological subject, has become a challenging social issue for humanity.

Disagreements and conflicts over social issues, including religious belief, have been source of disputes, terrors and, wars in different regions. Some intellectuals have stated that no peace will appear among people, without peace the world main religions.

In our dialogue observation, we see religions are similar in many ways, and can be easily united. Yet there are differences in sub-parts and traditions that many divide the religions. In spite of religions absolutism, intolerance, and displacements under inquisitions, there have been many

religious leaders and official, who support peace, mutual understanding, and tolerance.

It seems that the people of religion have become of the plurality of faiths, and that there is an urgent necessity for an interfaith dialogue.

We believe that there are some essential similarities among the world divine (Abrahamic) religions that may work as a framework for their unity:

The fundamental common factor, Who is the creator of all creatures and mankind, and is called as “God”. He is the great, exalted, and unknowable eternal being.

The next common point is that “the holy reality” reveals itself, and talks to mankind, in order to show him the path of perfection, through infallible people, who are divine messengers and prophets (*p.b.u.t*).

The important common point among the divine religions, which can serve as a basic, among the whole mankind, is to accept the judgments of the man’s pure reason, intellect, or nature. This includes a wide range of universally respected morality, practice, and good and nice service to others, being thankful toward those who have served you; to respect one’s promise, and “do to people, whatever you like people do to you”, are some of the approved judges of the common pure reason.

Another common point among the divine religions is the belief that man’s life is not confined to this earthly life. Man looks for an ultimate goal in his life, and that God will judge and reward the acts and thoughts of his creatures in the last day.

We think the above similarities provide a basis for the unity of religions. So we invite and appreciate all studies of religions in the light of the religions’ unity paradigm.

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