

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابَ وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ عِوَجًا، وَجَعَلَ لِمَنْ اتَّقَاهُ
فَرَجًا وَمَخْرَجًا، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، أَنْزَلَ
الْقُرْآنَ هِدَايَةً وَنُورًا، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولَهُ،
فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
الطَّيِّبِينَ الطَّاهِرِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah. He revealed the Book and has not made therein any deviance. He also provided relief and a way out for those who obey Him. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. He sent down the Quran as a guidance and enlightenment to His Creation. I also bear witness that our Master Mohammed is the servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

"Our Lord, forgive us and our brothers who preceded us in faith"

A Hallmark of Muslims is we remember and pray for those who have passed away and learn from their lives.

In July 1995 in Bosnia - Srebrenica, the militia lined up and killed over 8,000 Muslim men and boys, and buried their bodies in mass graves; they forcibly deported thousands of Muslim women and children, and raped them; this was an act of genocide that shocked the world.

Every year the 11th of July is marked as Srebrenica Memorial Day. In Srebrenica it was the Bosnian Serb militia's intent to destroy Muslims; in Rwanda, it was the Hutu gangs' intent to destroy the Tutsis; during the Holocaust, the Nazis' wanted to wipe out Jews from Europe.

The common element with all ethnic cleansings and genocides is deep **INTOLERANCE** and **HATRED**. It is therefore necessary to remind ourselves of the Islamic teachings about tolerance, love and co-existence.

1. In Islam there is absolutely NO hatred of others. WE DO NOT DIFFERENTIATE on Race, Ethnicity, Colour, Nationality or Religion.

I cannot change my mother or father, the colour of my skin, my race or ethnicity, neither can I change the country of my birth or original nationality. **WE LIVE ON 1 EARTH AND WE MUST SHARE IT IN PEACE, HARMONY AND RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER.**

O Mankind! We created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, so that you may know each other. Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of God is he who is the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)

Allah sent Prophets to all nations that went before us, to all ethnicities and colours. How can we therefore ever hate the creation of Allah?! If one truly loves Allah, then you must love all of His Creation.

2. In Islam we are told as everyone has a **CHOICE**. Allah has given us the freedom to decide what to & what not to believe. We are **NOT** permitted to violate the religious rights of others. **In Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ and the early Muslims fought hard for the freedom to believe, and not to be persecuted for that belief.**

Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from error
Say: the truth is from your Lord, so let whoever wills, believe; and let whoever wills, disbelieve

Because of this Muslims lived & co-existed with other tribes, nations and religions in Madinah. Muslim **PROTECTED** the rights, lives and buildings of Christianity, Judaism, and other religions.

3. In Islam RACISM and PREJUDICE is a MAJOR SIN. Look at the way the Prophet ﷺ welcomed the many different Sahabah into the brotherhood of Islam with an open heart. Racism and prejudice is one of the first sin mentioned in the Qur'an – **The Sin of Iblees**

He (Iblees) said: I am better than he is: You have created me out of fire, whereas him You have created out of (mere) clay!

Racism And Prejudice Comes From This Evil Arrogance Of Looking Down On Others. This disdain for others, and this is how peoples are demonised. This is how the Muslims were demonised in Srebrenica, the Jews by the Nazis, and others around the world today.

4. In Islam INJUSTICE, OPPRESSION AND PERSECUTION are vile actions that are utterly condemned. The Qur'an instructs Muslims to maintain justice in their dealings with others, even with their enemies

O you who believe! Be ever steadfast in your devotion to God, bearing witness to the truth in all fairness; and never let the hatred of anyone lead you into the sin of swerving from justice. Be just! This is the closest to being God-conscious. And remain conscious of God: verily, God is aware of all that you do.