Respected judges, teachers, parents and fellow students **السلام عليكم””**. May Allah almighty bestow his peace and blessings upon all of you!

**Coexistence in the Teachings of Islam**! Coexistence… what is it really…? In simple terms, it is the art of living and conducting one’s life to the highest moral and social standards that never infringe the feelings, rights, or the well-being of the fellow human beings. It is the art that makes life meaningful and living so pleasant and conducive. It is the art that makes a society successful.

The teachings of coexistence is something that cuts across all religions, nations and ages of times however, the degree of importance Islam places on it is absolutely phenomenal. For us Muslims living and conducting our life with morality, respect and tolerance towards one another, regardless of one’s belief and background is not just a worldly requirement for the meager sake of fame and pleasure in this world, rather, it is an essential part of our religion, and a vital requirement to attain the mercy of Allah Almighty and accomplish a higher place in the eternal life.

Dear friends, diversity and pluralism is an integral part of Islam and the fundamental teachings of the Quran about equality is that all human beings are descends from one father and mother, and thus on the basis of humanity they are equal.

In the Qur’an, Sura Al Hujurat, Chapter 49 verse 13, Allah almighty says that:



Quote “O mankind, we have created you from a male and a female, and made you into races and tribes, so that you may identify one another. Surely the noblest of you, in Allah‘s sight, is the one who is most righteous of you. Surely Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware”. Unquote

In addition to the teachings Qur’an, when it comes to the spirit of coexistence and tolerance there can never be a better exemplary human being than our beloved Prophet Muhammad “صلى الله علية وسلم”.

“Beware!  Whoever is cruel and hard on a non-Muslim minority, or curtails their rights, or burdens them with more than they can bear, or takes anything from them against their free will; I (Prophet Muhammad) will complain against the person on the Day of Judgment.” (*Abu Dawud*)

As narrated by Abu Hurayrah in Dawud :: Book No. 40 : Hadith No. 4665 – The Prophet Muhammad “**صلى الله علية وسلم**” said: “The most perfect believer in respect of faith is he who is best of them in manners.”

Further in Bukhari :: Book No. 9 :: Volume 93 :: Hadith No. 473 – Jarir bin Abdullah narrated as Allah’s Apostle saying: "Allah will not be merciful to those who are not merciful to mankind.“

So, dear fellow Muslims let us adhere to the traits of coexistence that Islam teaches us and perfect our life with love, kindness, forgiving, caring and decency.

May Allah Subahana Huwatala grant all of us the **“هداية”** to understand and practice the beautiful teachings of good manners taught in the Holy Qur’an and the essence of the exemplary life of our beloved Prophet Muhammad **“صلى الله علية وسلم”.**

~~~~~~~~~~~~**والسلام عليكم . واخر دعوانا ان الحمد لله رب العالمين**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Written by : Father of Sneha M. Rizan