

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

"[O Prophet,] invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and excellent admonition and discuss things with people in the best manner..." (16:125)

Prepared by

Mohammad El Sayed Mohammad

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

A Quiet Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds, Creator of the heavens and the earth, Maker of darkness and light. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone and He has no partner. Also, I bear witness that Muhammad-peace be upon him- is His slave and His Messenger. O Allah, invoke blessings and peace on the Prophet Muhammad, the Seal of Prophets and Messengers, as well as his wives, his best and clean family, his respectful companions and the followers of his guidance, path and his footstep to the Day of Recompense.

Verily, whoever contemplates about the teachings of Islam, its message and its call will know its full compatibility and perfect suitability for the pure instinct. All these characteristics let the clean souls and normal minds look forward to it. They are illustrated by these questions, which one of the Buddhists asked and reasonable logical answers presented by Islam on the tongue of a Muslim as follows.

(Question 1) Buddhist: Perhaps, you see what the Western media is publishing and promoting by imputation against Islam and Muslims with different types of extremism and terrorism. What is your comment on that?

(Answer1) Muslim: Islam is very far from any form of extremism and terrorism and is innocent of any act contrary to its open-minded teachings even if that action happened from the hand of who claims Islam. It is sufficient for you to know that the word "Islam" itself refers to: peace, security and tranquillity because it is derived from the source peace, which is also derived from the word submit, which means: security, safety and reassurance. Therefore, Islam is the religion of peace that can be enjoyed by all, all under its umbrella of peace, security, safety without injustice, oppression and tyranny. Almighty Allah says: "He who slays a soul unless it is in punishment for murder or for spreading mischief on earth shall be as if he had slain all mankind." By Islam, a person enjoys inner psychological and real peace because he will become safe in his belief in Almighty Allah, God, so his soul and mind will find tranquility and his body parties will be in the light of Islam's message by high guidance and teachings.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(Question 2) Buddhist: Therefore, what is the meaning of Islam?

(Answer 2) Muslim: Islam means: complete submission, surrender and obeying by mind, heart, spirit and body to Almighty Allah's commands.

Therefore, the slave should comply with his brain; he should believe in the existence of Exalted and Almighty Allah. He should believe in His oneness, His great power and His unique divinity. He should not have a partner with Him and should not believe in his God and his Creator except what suits His greatness. He must not think about Him except everything that is great and glorious without any injustice, deficiency or reduction.

Also, a person should obey with his mind and soul with love to his Exalted God and with reverence, respect and appreciation to Him.

The slave should comply with his body following the commands of Almighty God and avoiding wrongful acts.

That compliance should be from the created slave with love to his God and Creator hoping to get His satisfaction and expecting to get His Paradise with its great lasting stable enjoyment and with fearing for Exalted Allah's anger anticipating to be saved from His Hellfire with a severe painful torment.

(Question 3) Buddhist: To what does Islam call?

(Answer 3) Muslim: Islam came with the pure doctrine that inspired the minds and guided them to know the Creator and the Maker with clear knowledge which suits His majesty and greatness. It calls to everything that can be accepted and agreed with pure instinct, stainless spirit and the right mind. It came for:

- Calling to pure creed without any impurities or turbidity that can irritate the mind, disturb it or prevent it from understanding or accepting it. It calls to the pure belief accepted by the rational mind without coercion or imposing certain unacceptable perception. It calls to:

- Believing in the existence of God (Almighty Allah), the unity of His divinity and disassociating Him from rejected qualities of vice, imperfections, defects and all that He does not deserve and having faith in His great qualities and unrestrained ability.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

- Believing in the cherished angels as one of the greatest creatures of God. Allah created them for the worship, obedience and the implementation of His orders, so they do not disobey Him at all. He did not give them options to choose obedience or disobedience. It is among these angels who were entrusted with revelation. Some of them were charged with receiving the mandates, orders, prohibitions, directives and teachings of Almighty God and conveying them to those who have been chosen by God to be His prophets and messengers, so that they may report to people what they received (through the angels such as trusts, instructions and teachings).

- Believing in Almighty Allah's Prophets and Messengers and honouring them because they were chosen among the humans by Exalted Allah to spread His call and message also to introduce people's Creator and God to them and to call them to believe in Him and His oneness of divinity. Furthermore, they are sent to guide people to Allah's worship as He wants from them (as required by the perfection of his wisdom and will) through the implementation of His teachings and orders.

- Believing in the Last Day, which is the day when people will be raised up after their death to ask them about their beliefs and deeds and hold them accountable. Whoever does a small good deed will find its reward and recompense and whoever does an atom of evil will be held accountable.

- Believing in the bad or good destiny, that is to say everything that happens in this universe and what is being exposed to man either good or evil such as happiness and sadness, wealth and poverty including health and disease, it is with the prior estimation from Almighty God (according to the completeness of His wisdom and as required by Almighty's will) and His full awareness because He is All-knowing and the Most Expert.

- It calls to the guiding acts of worship, in which the human soul is purified and cleansed of vices, malicious acts, obscene morality and condones. It will rise to the highest standards of morality and the lofty levels of charity.
- It calls to sound laws, wise practices, and elevated teachings which let all human life be upright.
- It calls to knowledge, study and to what let humanity advance in all areas of life.
- It calls to all goodness and the way guiding to the performance of good deeds and prevents from all evil and paths that lead to it.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

- It calls to justice, charity and keeping relationship with relatives and forbids injustice, oppression, obscenities and evils.
- It calls to honouring the human and securing his life.
- It calls to respecting women in all stages of their lives starting from the period of their birth and childhood (that's to say since they are babies till they grow up and become bride) as well as passing through their marriage stage (as wives) to their maternity period (as mothers and grandmothers).
- It calls to having interest in raising children and encouraging on having compassion and mercy for them.
- It calls to caring for the youth.
- It calls to pitying and having mercy for other creatures (animals, birds, trees, plants...).
- It calls to the use of wisdom, fine preaching, mental logical and reasonable dialogue with the people of other religions to call them to believe in Almighty Allah the Creator and His oneness divinity in addition to not having a partner with Him.
- It calls to dealing with non-Muslims nicely.
- It calls to unity, solidarity, harmony, love and mercy.
- It calls to leniency in the wars.

The wars of Muslims against enemies had been either for repulsion to their aggression or defending their religion (Islam). Also, they are for securing the Islamic call or against those who distort its image and falsify its truth and hinder between them and the call to it and preaching its message to people and introducing its teachings to them. However, verily, Islam forbids Muslims in their wars to have treachery, betrayal or killing children, women, (non-combatants) powerless and elderly people. In addition, it prohibited the killing of those who surrendered and those who did not carry weapons (who do not fight Muslims). Furthermore, it disallows the destruction of houses, cutting of trees, demolition of cities and any kind of corruption on the ground. Islam is based on mercy and forgiveness, and from there we see justice in dealing with [people] and humanity in fighting.

- It calls to the good treatment of prisoners of war.
- It calls to peace, its components, its causes and the fulfilment of the promises and covenants but does not preach to extremism and terrorism.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(Question 4) Buddhist: Why does Islam call to monotheism?

(Answer 4) Muslim: Initially, Islam has come to call people to believe in the Creator of this universe, God the Maker (the Exalted Almighty Allah). As every existing must have its maker and does every product. Therefore, every creature has its own creator. So, from there, he should believe in the existence of his God and creator even if he cannot see him. However, the effects and evidence of its existence are more than to be enumerated. For instance, a person does not see his soul but believes in its existence because of seeing its effects in life as well as his brain but he believes in its existence due to its effects of having the capability for thinking and meditation. In addition, He does not see gravity, but he believes in its existence because of its effects of attraction ... and so forth. The signs, effects, and evidence of the existence of the Creator, God, are uncountable.

With the addition that Islam has come to call for the glorification of Almighty God the Creator, the belief in His great qualities, the perfection of His wisdom, the comprehensiveness of His knowledge and unlimited power. All of these necessitate for Islam to call to believe in the oneness of Almighty God and His uniqueness in His divinity.

Moreover, since the Creator God is only one God, He alone has the disposition of this universe and no one else is like that. Therefore, there is only one God, Almighty Allah.

(Question 5) Buddhist: What indicates that God (the Creator and Preserver of the universe) is only one God and not two, three or more?

(Answer 5) Muslim: The evidence of His oneness is abundant. Among of them:

1. Nature evidence: Every child is born on the instinct of believing in his Creator and Originator including the unity of His divinity. The evidence is that if he is born and left till he becomes aware and conscious without any external influence in his belief, we will find that his nature which he was created on by God tends to believe in its Creator and its Maker. From there, that [nature] will lead him to the belief that there is only one God, the Powerful Greatest God who is capable of creating him and all creatures. We find him (the man who has become aware and conscious) at the time of his urgencies and need calling Him: "My God, my Lord, my Creator" (referring to singularity in divinity rather than dualism or

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

pluralism): Guide me – ease my condition – provide my needs for me - do not forsake me ... and we will never see him saying. O my gods, lords or those who created me (referring to pluralism), which indicates that the Creator and Originator is only one God and He is Almighty God.

2. If a man asks: Who created and originated him? Who created all these creatures and brought them to being? The logical answer will be that whoever created and originated him and all these creatures must be the Greatest and most Powerful God who is described in His capacity for creation. He will repeat this question differently as follows: Who created this God and brought Him into existence? On the assumption that the answer is there must be another God described by power and greatness. He will find himself compelled to repeat that question in an endless way and in the same way: Who also created and originated this God? Thus, the same answer will be repeated without reaching a correct basic answer because the answer from the beginning was wrong and illogical.

The ideal answer to this question is that there is no Creator for this Creator God who created this human being and originated this universe as well as all its creatures and beings. Hence, there is only one God who is described with great unrestrained power. This is the typical and logical answer that the rational and sensible brain will not accept anything other than it.

- As I explained earlier, that since the Creator God is only one. He alone has the disposition of this universe and no one else is like that. Therefore, there is only one God (Almighty Allah) who deserves to be worshipped alone.

3. Assuming the presence of more than a god and then each has his autonomic will. For instance, if one of them wants to do something and others want other things; as if someone wishes to move something and the rest do not want to do so, what will happen then? The answer to this question (which was the result of the imaginary assumption) will not be out of three possibilities as follows:

(A) Either happening the will of each of them and that is a bad claim because it is rationally impossible.

(B) And either be unable to all of them to implement his wish. That is also an invalid claim because the description of the deficit is impossible for the Creator God who can do everything.

(C) Or the will of one of them only comes to true and neither the rest wills. Therefore, he is the true God that can do everything while others are not gods at all.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

By repeating this assumption, it will appear that there is only one true God. He is Allah the Creator of everything, who has the conduct of this universe and who can do whatever He wants.

4. If there is more than one God, at times some of them will surpass others and sometimes some have victory upon the others. As a result, the heavens and earth will spoil and then the destruction of the universe including creatures and all that exists in it as well as the life of whole mankind. Since all these did not happen but we find that this universe is very balanced and uniformed. Then, there is only one God. He is the most Powerful, Greatest, Capable God, and Controller of everything. He is the Exalted Almighty Allah.

For instance, if there is a chance to win the ruling and dominion of a country, we will find a dispute and war including killing, disaster and destruction after trying of opposition parties to get the ruling and dominion lonely. Therefore, instability will begin until the arrival of one of them to the post alone and stability of his dominion.

Also, what about if there is more than one president for a country? Will there be stability in this country? Of course, it is no. There is no doubt that there will be disputes between them, in addition to the consequent waste, loss of the capabilities of that country and lack of progress. Therefore, we find that the whole state will agree to let someone be its king or president. As well as it is for this universe including its creatures and living things. The only creator of it is one God. He is the most Powerful, Greatest, Capable God and Controller of everything.

5. Assuming that there is a slave owned by only one person and he obeys his boss and implements his orders and specific instructions without the smallest floundering. If he is sold to more than one person, will his condition be upright and stable while he is trying hard to follow their instructions? Of course, no because in his first state (when he was owned by only one person), he could find himself concentrated with rest of mind and soul winning the consent of his master and enjoying his compensation.

However, in his second condition (when it is owned by more than a person) he will find himself confused, sad and loser of satisfaction of his masters and tortured with their punishments for him because of the difference and clash of his bosses' orders. Therefore, he will find himself compelled to obey and follow the instructions of one of them. At the same time, he has to disobey and ignore others' commands. At times, he may try to please all of them but at last, he will become negligent and disobedient deserving their wrath and punishments.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

As well, so where will that weak slave go if there are many gods and their commands and instructions clash? Who should he follow and submit to? Then, if he obeys one of those gods and gets his consent, he will become disobedient to others, so he deserves their anger and punishment.

Surely, this [example] also confirms that the Creator, most Powerful, Greatest, Capable and the Controller of everything who deserves to be worshipped must be only one God who is the Exalted Almighty Allah.

(Question 6) Buddhist: Why does Islam say that believing in more than one God is the biggest sin?

(Answer 6) Muslim: That is because the Exalted Almighty Allah He is the True God and any god other than Him is false and fake; absolutely, he is not a god. There is a difference between the existing thing and non-existing one as well as there is a difference between the creator and creature and the originator and what he originated. There cannot be equality between the two opposite kinds of stuff whatsoever. Therefore, claiming that there is more than one God is counted as the biggest oppression and injustice because there is in it a transgression of the greatest right of Almighty Allah. He is the only one God who did not bear a child and He was not born; the true God who is alone in His divinity.

That can be illustrated through these examples:

- Can any sultan or king allow anyone to have a dispute with him in his power and ruling? Certainly, no.
- Can any jealous, arrogant and sensible husband agree with another man to share his wife? Surely, no.
- If a person has a maid and he pays her in exchange for her time and exertion for his service alone, will that [person] allow her to spend her time and effort to serve another person? Undoubtedly, no.
- If that is the condition of a creature who does not allow anyone to share his right with him, what about the Originator Creator God who possesses everything and has the conduct of this universe lonely.
- Will Almighty Allah accept that anyone have clash with Him (without any right) in His greatest right (divinity and deity) and become a partner with Him in His control and creating? Certainly, no because He is more jealous of His rights than His creatures on theirs.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

Therefore, His first and greatest right upon His creature is to accept His existence, the unity of His divinity, His huge bounty and virtue upon them.

(Question 7) Buddhist: Why does Islam prohibit photographing Allah in the form of photos and statues?

(Answer 7) Muslim: In addition to what I have mentioned: Islam has called to the glorification of Almighty Allah the Creator's attributes and disqualified their diminution through description or making His photograph in form of stones and statues because it does not make sense that Almighty Allah created man from nothing then he made different statues depicting His God and Creator in different forms (whereas he did not see him) and then another person portrayed his God and Creator in other forms, images and so forth!

Also, we surely see that such pictures and statues with different shapes and sizes are the cause for the human soul to glorify them (especially if they have enormous size and awesome scenery) then they worship them over the time. There are lots of examples of this situation in many countries. After that, they call another creature instead of True Allah who deserves to be glorified and worshipped alone.

Almighty Allah is the Present Creator who the kingdom of everything is in his hand, the only Controller of everything and anything other than Him is created and produced by Him.

For that, it is clear why Islam prohibits portraying Almighty Allah and depicting Him in stones and statues shape. Therefore, he has the right to be glorified.

(Question 8) Buddhist: There are among Buddhists who say that the purpose of worshipping statues is to focus and concentrate on worshipping God, what do you say about that?

(Answer 8) Muslim: That [statement] is baseless; I will explain it through this example: Imagine that a woman put another man's picture in front of her and she claimed that because she wanted to focus and concentrate on remembering her husband and his obedience so as not to forget what he commanded her to do. Will the husband accept such baseless and unauthentic claim? Surely, no because there

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

is no relation between that and this even her husband will count it as a big mistake against his right.

Also, what is the relation between the wrenched and fragile statue (made and carved from a weak creature) and Almighty Creator Strong Powerful God? There is no doubt that there is no relationship. Accepting such an unfounded and specious claim from the creature is an insult to the Creator.

However, that will lead to depicting God in humiliating images not worthy of His greatness and His majesty. That person portrays his god in such images and shapes and another man draws his god in other shapes. Each of them will also be proud of his and compare them to others' gods and claims that his god is superior to others. This is a statue of a higher degree and it is greater than other lower degree statues. Thus, that cow is more sacred than other animals that he sanctifies. Each of them has different acts of worship depending on the whims and desires. Therefore, there is no evidence of such a statement.

(Question 9) Buddhist: Why does Islam prohibit the doctrine of the incarnation of God in any of the human beings, images, statues, cows, other animals and creatures and thus forbid sanctifying any of them and prohibiting their worship?

(Answer 9) Muslim: Firstly, I will explain the doctrine of incarnation and the union (the presence of God in idols, statues, animals, etc. and becoming one) leads to division and non-unity. It also leads to believe in the existence of the Creator God in different images of His creatures - each according to his desires-. This person may see that God's incarnation and the union are in the sun, stars and planets and another may recognize Him in cows and other animals while others notice Him in idols, statues and stones. In addition, others see Him in trees and plants. There are those who see Him in everything, including unclean stinking places.

I have answered the previous question that there is a difference between the creator and the creature and that there is no equality between two opposite kinds of stuff at all. Therefore, the claim that both are the same is injustice and a big insult from the creature to the Creator. From there, we will ask:

- Is it fitting for the Exalted Almighty God the One who is far from lacking and defecting and He is attributed with all qualities of perfection to merge with some of His creatures? Assuredly, it is no.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

- Is it fitting for Almighty God to be present in a person who sleeps, urinates, defecates and carries dirty unclean faeces in his belly?! Is it fitting for the Dear, Living God, who will not die, to incarnate into a mortal man and then after his death he will become a stinking corpse?! Undoubtedly, it is no.

-Is it fitting for Almighty God to be in a humiliating, fragile and perishable statue made by a weak creature?! Certainly, it is no.

- Is it fitting for Almighty God to be in a cow which urinates, excretes and carries blood, dung and impurity in its belly and then it is destined to slaughter or death and become a stinking prey ?! Surely, it is no.

- Is it appropriate to Almighty Greatest God to be in an inferior beast such as mouse and others? This is absurd and it is absolute no.

- Is it suitable for Almighty God to be in everything and then be present in the unclean and filthy places?! Sure, no. The doctrine that God is inside His creatures, His possessions, and that He united with them makes everything in this universe to be worthy of worship? Or in a more precise sense, it means there is no difference between the creator and the creature. Undoubtedly, this is negation to the greatest right of Allah (His unique divinity). Furthermore, it is controversy to Almighty Allah's sanctity.

Let us ask in another way: Is it fitting for a person after being blessed by God with the grace of brains and favored him upon all His creatures to worship something weaker than him such as a statue or an animal which does not have the slightest intellect and has no harm, no benefit, no death, no life, and no resurrection?! Surely, it is no.

- What if a man tries to break and destroy that statue that he worships and thinks that God is inside it? Will it prevent him from breaking, destroying and ruining it? Exactly, it is no.

What about after doing so and it cannot defend itself from destruction? What is the condition of the god that he believed it was inside that statue? Will that god still be inside it or run away? If he thinks that the god is inside that broken stuff, why he did not protect it from being broken?

What about if a man tries to slaughter the worshipped cow which he thinks his god is inside it? Will that claimed god fight for killing it? Of course, it is no.

What about after slaying in it and it could not defend itself? What is the situation of the god that lives inside it? Will it still be inside it or move away? If he thinks that God is present in it after destroying in it and changing to the stinking dead body, why did not it secure it from being ruined?

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

Does it suit a reasonable intellectual mature person to worship something due to the advantage that he wants to benefit from it? Of course, it is no. However, what fits a wise person is to worship God who created that thing and put benefit in it. This God is Almighty Allah.

Therefore, it does not fit Almighty Allah's wisdom and greatness to create something vainly. All the creatures of Allah have their advantages either we do not know it or see it. Also, each has its role in securing the system and balance of the environment. For this reason, who deserves to be worshipped is the Originator of causes that is Allah the Benefactor Creator instead of worshipping the causes themselves. This is what makes sense.

At last, let us ask at this point: Why does God need to be inside any human being which is one of His creatures, in any one of the produced statues or those created cows? Does He need to do that? Absolutely, He doesn't because He demands nothing from any one of His creatures. It is the creatures that need their creator. Is there minimum evidence accepted by the brain (by which Almighty Allah blessed human) to such a thing?! Certainly, no, it is an illusion that has nothing to do with reality.

- Does the person who wants to approach his god, worship Him and beg Him need to buy or manufacture a statue of stone and the like in a form or a certain image in order to let God be present in it ?! Or to go to one of cows (peeing, excreting and carrying blood, dung and impurities in her stomach) to worship it, call it and pray to it?!

What is the need if the second person wants to get closer to his god and creator, worship him and call him to buy or manufacture another statue of stone and the like in a form and another image in order to let god be inside it or to go to another one of cows to worship it, call it pray to it?!

Do not we believe that the Creator God must be great in Himself, His qualities and actions and that it is not appropriate to attribute to Him any defects and imperfections or any of the ugly forbidden deeds? Therefore, He, the Exalted, will never do trivialities and imperfections. The answer is yes. Then, it is necessary for us to purify Almighty God from all that does not fit Him such as believing that He is present in one of His creatures because that is an attribute of imperfection for Him.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(Question 10) Buddhist: It is among the Buddhists who say that God is [one] in three images or objects. What is the view of Islam in that?

(Answer 10) Muslim: As for Islamic perspective in that belief, it explained:

Firstly, the belief that there is a god with three images or hypostasis is actually a belief that there are three different gods and not one God since each of them is believed to be one god from the other so that he has his own personality and his special role. Then, saying that three gods are one is an explicit violation of reasonableness and astonishment of its necessities.

Secondly, I have made clear through the evidence in my fifth answer to the question that indicates that God (the Creator, Protector and Controller of the universe) is only one God, not two, three, or more.

Hence, Islam has come to call for faith in the one God who alone has to act in this universe and no one else is like that, so there is only one Almighty God, Allah.

(Question 11) Buddhist: Some Buddhists believe that God came down to the earth after being incarnated in a human form represented by a person called Buddha. What is Islam's point of view?

(Answer 11) Muslim: As for Islamic perspective in that belief, it explained:

Islam has come to call for the glorification of Almighty God and the belief in the great and beautiful qualities and limitless of his power. Among of what it calls for is the belief in His vast wide complete knowledge that encompasses everything. He knows everything either place or time (past - present - future). Therefore, Allah does not need to be present in a human form to exist in the midst of His creation in order to know their news and conditions. That does not fit Him.

Islam has called to purify Almighty Allah from all that does not fit Him. Therefore, He will never do any acts of trivialities and imperfections. Describing Him with incarnation in an image of a weak person power –in order to know the conditions of His creation, guidance or education- cannot downgrade Him in His ability, concern and position because He is attributed with unlimited. This is not appropriate to Almighty God.

Islam has called to purify God from what is not fitting for Him in terms of faulty and disrespectful attributes. Not only that but also what is not appropriate for

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

Him such as the actions of humans' needs and other creatures like eating, drinking and excreting including sleeping, resting, marriage and giving birth ... Almighty Allah does not need anything like that.

To clarify in more detail, let us consider:

- Is it fitting for Almighty God to become a sperm for a man among His creatures in order to enter into the womb of a woman and stay in between flesh and blood and then turn from one stage to another until it becomes a fetus then a baby and at last a child ... After that, they deal with Him as a person in the form of a human?! It is certainly no because there is no relation between both of them. Therefore, there is the difference between the deity and the human. Allah does not do trivialities; because that means that He has thus abandoned the attributes of divinity.

- Can human nature meet with animal nature?! Surely, it is no.

Is it possible to accept that a man marries a cow or other kinds of animals to give birth to half a human being and the other half a cow (or other animals) and then the baby has animal nature and human image?! Can any reasonable person accept that?! Certainly, no, it is a moral degeneration and a diminution of the dignity of human being who was honoured by Almighty Allah. Humans are more dignified and superior to animals, although they are all creatures of God. If that is the case concerning the human nature and animal's although both are creatures, so what if the matter is related to Almighty God who is unique with divinity?

Can the divine nature meet with human nature (the weak creature born from his mother's private part and becomes a baby in need of embrace and care, who will be destined to die and be buried afterwards like other creatures) or else to be human nature or other embodiment of the divine image ?!

Certainly, no, this is slander about Almighty God, derogation for Him and a reduction in His ability. Hence, Islam has called to purifying Allah from the act of trivialities and imperfections. Allah is the one indivisible God. He did not give birth and he was not born. Also, He has no equivalent, similar or comparable.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(Question 12) Buddhist: It is among Buddhists who say that they worship Buddha because he came with many useful guidance and guidelines. What is the view of Islam in this?

(Answer 12) Muslim: Firstly, I had explained in the previous answer that Islam has come to call to purifying Almighty God from what does not fit Him. Therefore, He is not in need of doing trivialities and imperfections. Nothing can downgrade His status as the most Powerful God. So He will not be in the form of a weak creature in order to know the conditions of His creation, to guide them and teach them. That is not appropriate for Him as I had explained earlier.

Secondly, (Question) Islam has come out indicating that God has sent many of His prophets and messengers to call people to believe in Him, to guide them and to illustrate for them the uniqueness of His divinity, His great qualities and His unrestrained power. Moreover, they came with other tasks such as teaching people manner of acting in their lives. Is it reasonable to worship the prophets and messengers because they guided people to believe in Almighty Allah and introduced Him to them?! It is certainly, no, since that involves having a partner with God (as I explained earlier). In addition, it is contrary to the original call of the prophets and messengers which is to call to have faith in the one God who is Almighty Allah. Therefore, the worship must be to whom sent the prophets and messengers with the lofty teachings and rational guidelines that is to say Almighty Allah.

Thirdly, Islam can never accept the idea of the incarnation of God in the form of man, as this leads to the belief in the divine incarnation and then the divinity of many people as in the case of different nations, each according to their own desires. For this reason, people sanctify and worship them by claiming that they are different images of the divine incarnation in the form of human beings. That belief is polytheism because of the dispute in His greatest right whereas He is unique in His divinity. He must be worshipped alone without other human beings or any of His creatures.

(Question 13) Buddhist: What is the Islamic view in Siddhartha Gautama, nicknamed "Buddha" as well as the guidance and guidelines that he has come with?

(Answer 13) In my answer to previous questions, I pointed out that Islam has called to purify Allah-the Creator of human being and every creature-from all that does not fit Him. Therefore, He is not in need of doing trivialities and imperfections.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

Nothing can downgrade His status as the most Powerful God. So He will never be in any form or image of His creatures. So Islam sees Siddhartha Gautama, known as the Buddha, as a human being, a creature that has no any minimum attributes of divinity that God has.

Siddhartha Gautama, known as the Buddha, has many useful teachings and instructions that are compatible with the teachings of Islam. However, He did not clearly talk about the most important issue for which God created mankind, which is to believe in Almighty Allah, His unique divinity and not to associate any partner with Him. He did not explicitly call to having faith in the Creator God, whereas Islam made this issue its first topic. The following Islamic teachings are in line with the guidance and instructions of Siddhartha Gautama:

1. It calls to love, tolerance and dealing with people nicely.

- The Prophet Muhammad-peace be upon him-said, "None of you will have faith till he wishes for his brother what he likes for himself." It is narrated by Al-Bukhary, Hadith 13. The brotherhood that this Hadith means is the one in faith. Almighty Allah said: "The believers are brothers, so make settlement between your brothers and fear Allah that you may receive mercy." *Surat Al-Hujuraat: verse 10*
- The Prophet Muhammad-peace be upon him-said, "...Treat the people with good behaviour." Saheeh At-Tirmidhi, Hadith 1987
- He-peace be upon him-also said, "The signs of a hypocrite are three: Whenever he speaks, he tells a lie, whenever he promises, he breaks his promise and whenever he is entrusted, he betrays (proves to be dishonest)". Saheeh Al-Bukhary, hadith 6095. It means all of the above signs do not belong to a believer.
- He-peace be upon him-also said, "The believer is not a slanderer nor does he curse others and nor he is immoral or shameless." It is narrated by Imam Ahmad.
- He-peace be upon him-also said, "...Pay the deposit to him who deposited it with you and do not betray him who betrays you." Sunan Abi Daud, Hadith 3534

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

2. The Prohibition of extravagance

- Allah said: "... Eat and drink but be not excessive." *Surat Al-A'raaf: verse 31*
- Allah's Messenger-peace be upon him-said, "The human does not fill any container that is worse than his stomach. It is sufficient for the son of Adam to eat what will support his back. If this is not possible, then a third for food, a third for drink, and third for his breath." Saheeh At-Tirmidhi, Hadith 2380. As well as many other useful guidance and guidelines which serve the individuals and societies.

Islam came with the teachings and guidance treating what happened, while there were some imperfections in Buddha's statements such as encouraging men to keep away from women and marriage, whereas we found that Islam has come to call for the formation of a good family through which the working generations are created and in which the situation of individuals and societies become well in addition to the advancement of nations and peoples through mating and reproduction. The example of the Islamic teaching about marriage is the Prophet Muhammad's Hadith where he says: 'O young people! Whoever among you is able to marry, should marry....' It is reported by Al-Bukhary, Hadith 5065.

He-peace be upon him- also said: "Marry to have more children and be numerous." It is reported by Al-Bayhaqy.

The Messenger of Allah said: "When someone whose religion and character you are pleased with comes to you then marry (her to) him. If you do not do so, then there will be turmoil in the land and much discord." Jami` At-Tirmidhi, hadith 1085.

Allah's Messenger-peace be upon him- said: "The whole world is a provision and the best object of benefit of the world is the pious woman." Saheeh Muslim, Hadith 715 k

The Prophet-peace be upon him-said: "All of you are guardians and are responsible for your subjects. The ruler is a guardian of his subjects, the man is a guardian of his family, the woman is a guardian and is responsible for her husband's house and his offspring and so all of you are guardians and are responsible for your subjects." It is reported by Al-Bukhary, Hadith 5200 and Muslim, Hadith 1829

He-peace be upon him- also said: "Be kind to your children and perfect their manners." Sunan Ibn Majah, Hadith 3671. As well as other Quranic verses and many prophetic Hadiths that urge upon [marrying and social advantages].

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(Question 14) Buddhist: Do you know that the Buddhist religion says a doctrine called (reincarnation of souls) which means the transfer of human spirit after death to another body? What is the view of Islam in this?

(Answer 14) Muslim: Yes, I know that the Buddhist religion says the doctrine of the reincarnation of souls, which means in detail: the return of the human spirit after death to another body, to one of the animals such as dogs and pigs, to one of the insects, trees or non-living things. All is according to his work to get his rewards in another body in the world. If he is good, he will enjoy in that body that he returned to and if he is evil, he will be tortured.

Islam came to call for faith in the existence of the Last Day in which the creatures are resurrected after their death, where the soul returns to the body of its owner again after Almighty Allah re-creates his body. After that, there will be accountancy with great compensation and reward in an enjoyable eternal life for doing good and severe punishment in a naughty life for doing evil. Therefore, that [Islamic] view urges people to strive in doing good and adherence to soundness, high principles and praised morals and to let them give up the evil deeds.

From what I have pointed out, it appears that Islam does not agree to the claim of the reincarnation of life and then it opposes to the belief of the union of the created spirit with the Creator God. Furthermore, this important question which works to clarify the matter clearly confirms what Islam said, as follows:

Let us ask. Did any human being feel anything from the life of the previous spirit that he lived in another body before (according to the Buddhist religion)? Did he remember anything about it? In order to reach a high degree of credibility in the answer, let this question be directed to different races of non-Buddhists such as Europe, Africa, North and South America, Australia and Asia). Since we do not find anyone to feel such a life, it confirms that the statement of the reincarnation of life is only a baseless assumption.

A new kind of answer may be used as if there are new birthdays for many people, so it is not necessarily that every human being has a previous life. The response to this is very easy since the absence of any human being to feel such life illustrates the invalidity of the reincarnation case and then affirms the invalidity of the union of the created spirit with the Creator God.

In addition, if it is agreed that the human spirit after his death is transmitted to animals and trees, etc from which the man benefits, which serves as a reward for

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

his sins and punishment for his wrong deeds. Therefore, that assumption will be a reason for not leaving sins in order to multiply such animals and trees because of their usefulness and importance to humans. There is no doubt that there is a contradiction between what the Buddhist religion called to and its belief in the call to leave sins and adhere to good morals.

Moreover, if it is accepted that the spirit of the human transmits after his death to the poor, sick and disabled people as a reward for the human sins and punishment for his bad deeds, that will cause bad thinking towards these fellows and those who are like them. For that, people will think that they are in this miserable situation because of their sins and wrongdoing in the previous life. There is no doubt that this is unacceptable morally, humanely and mentally.

According to the previous illustration, the complete conformity has appeared between what is acceptable morally, humanely and mentally and the call of Islam. The belief in the Day of Judgment when people will be resurrected after their death lets them struggle in doing good and adherence to soundness, high principles and praised morals also abandoning suspicion towards the others and to let them give up the evil deeds.

(Question 15) Buddhist: Why does Islam call to the belief in the Last Day when people will be resurrected after their death?

(Answer 15) Muslim: Initially, the knowledge of the existence of the Last Day in which the creatures are resurrected after their death to get the great reward and compensation for doing good (paradise including permanent stable enjoyment) and to receive the painful punishment of evil (Hellfire including awful forfeiture) leads to diligence in good deeds and adherence to valued, high principles, good morals and abandoning the opposite of that which are bad evil deeds.

It is the wisdom of Almighty Allah to make the Last Day in which people will be held for accountancy. That is because if there is no afterlife for the reward, there will not be a logical reason to show the human morality and good qualities such as truth and honesty if adhering to them will contradict the worldly benefit. It means that the human being has good morals and qualities and stick to them-although adhering to them may oppose his worldly interest at times and positions- in order to get Allah's bounty, to fear His punishment and to hope for His compensation in the Hereafter.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

Also, if someone has caused the killing of thousands of people, how is he to be held for accountancy for those crimes and how will the victims get their rights if there is no the Day of Resurrection and Reckoning? This life is not enough to discipline him because the maximum punishment for him in this world is killing which is only a punishment for one human life that he has caused its killing. Then, what about the rest of the human souls that have not taken their rights and retaliation?!

Another example is that when a person presents himself to be killed in order to save another person's life (when defending him), this behaviour is a good praised moral. Here is a question: Is it enough logically for a person to lose his life in order to be praised for good morals and then there is no reward for this great work done by this noble creation, or does he sacrifice himself and his life to get Allah's reward for his nice deed? This is because Allah has urged man to show this marvelous behaviour and other good qualities and promised to reward him on the Day of Resurrection (the Day in which people will be raised up for the account) for rewarding, honouring and entering Paradise if he does this work because of Him and for glorifying His teachings. There is no doubt that the logical answer is that the person sacrificed himself and his life according to what Allah has enjoined upon him and to be rewarded. He also expected His promise for his reward on the Day of Resurrection.

According to this explanation, it is clear to us the need for the Day of Retribution for every human soul to retaliate for whom were killed and harmed by murderers and criminals and to punish the latter with what they deserve. Also, He will compensate the work of saving the human soul. Thus, it becomes clear to us the wisdom of God to make this Last Day for accountancy, the reckoning and the punishment. In addition, it proves the credibility of Islam's call for believing in the Last Day.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(Question 16) Buddhist: Some people forbade slaughtering animals (herbivores) and then prohibited eating their meat. What is the view of Islam in that?

(Answer 16) Muslim: The herbivores in Islam are like other domesticated animals that the Exalted Almighty God created to benefit humans from their meat, milk, skins and so forth. If not, why do people benefit from their milk without their meat?!

Let us consider how God created man and other creatures. If we look at the herbivores animals, we will find that God has created flat teeth for them (not fangs) and thin intestines (not coarse), all to suit the pattern of their diet of herbs and so on. This is a clear indication that these animals are allowed to eat this type of food (herbs and so on) and feed on it. If we look at the carnivorous animals, we will find that Almighty God has created fangs and coarse intestines for them, all to suit the pattern of their food. This is a clear indication that these animals are allowed to eat this type of food (meat) and feed on it. If we look at the human being, we will find that Almighty God has created his teeth flat and with canine. He also created thin and thick intestines for them, all to suit the pattern of their food. This is a reference to the fact that it is permissible for a person to eat both types of food (vegetables and meat including beef and so on) except harmful meat that Allah has forbidden for him such as the meat of the carcass, dead meat and pigs due to the dangerous diseases that they cause which are discovered by modern science.

Muslim: Now that I have explained detailed answers to you, I would like to present some important questions and inherent answers to them, as follows:

(1) Is not the Exalted God the Creator of human and other creatures? Is not Allah their Protector and who alone has the control of everything in this universe?! The answer is yes.

(2) Is it not the Exalted God alone, who blessed humans with His many countless bounties? The answer is yes.

(3) Is not in the hands of Almighty God alone the reward and punishment?! The response is yes.

(4) Is it permissible then to associate anyone with Him in His divinity or worship other than Him?! The answer is no. Allah is Almighty God who has bestowed on man all the uncountable blessings. Not only is that but also reward and punishment are in His hand alone. For that, He deserves to be worshipped.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(5) Which is closer to the clear mind: the belief that there are many gods, portraying the pictures of God in various images including dispersion, the worship of different gods such as the idols, stones and statues of different multiple gods plus other images of reverence, worship of the suns, planets, cows, various animals, trees as well as neglecting and insulting Him or belief in the oneness of Almighty God, uniting people, their meeting on worship, praying to one God, purifying Him from the shortcomings, defects, ugly acts of trivial, appreciating Him and glorifying Him? Answer: There is no doubt that the latter is closer to the explicit intellect without any opposition to it.

(6) Which tend to pure instinct and clean soul: belief in the multiplicity of gods which leads to a contradiction, the absence of a specific way in worship or belief in the oneness of Almighty God and uniting people on how to worship one God!? Answer: There is no doubt that the tendency will be to believe in the oneness of Almighty Allah and then uniting people to worship one God in one way.

Almighty God says: "Say (O Muhammad): He is Allah, (the) One, and the Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need. He begets nothing and He was not begotten. Also, there is none co-equal or comparable to Him.' *Surat Ikhlas, Verses 1-4.*

(Question 17) Buddhist: So, what are the attributes of God in Islam?

(Answer 17) Muslim: Islam called to believing in the goodness, beauty and greatness of the attributes of Almighty Allah. All these qualities are nice, perfect and great without any diminution. It is only Him (who has no partner) that deserves them. Creating, bringing to life and protecting are all in His hand. He is alone who has to act in all things. He is Almighty Allah. Among the attributes of Almighty Allah are:

-The attribute 'eternal': It means that He is the First who has nothing before Him and the Last who has nothing after Him. He neither overlooks nor sleeps. He is the Living that will never die. If places and times finish, He will not dismiss because He is the Creator of both.

- The attribute 'power': It means that Almighty God is the owner of absolute power and that He is the one who is capable of doing everything. If He wants anything, He will say to it 'Be and it will be'. The effects which are indicative of the transcendence of the power of God are uncountable. Among them is the admirable creation of the universe, its assets and creatures including the human being and the

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

creativity in the creation of spirit, mind, heart and complex internal systems and so on.

- The attribute 'knowledge': It means that He is All-Knowing and His knowledge is wide, complete and surrounding everything such as place and time (past - present - future). He is Almighty God Creator who brought everything to the existence from nothing.

- The attribute 'wisdom': It means that He is wise and that His wisdom is comprehensive and complete.

- The attribute 'will': It means that He does His will and wants in the framework of His virtue and justice depending on the capacity of His knowledge, perfection of His wisdom and greatness.

- The attribute 'forgiveness, mercy and generosity': It means that He loves forgiveness, mercy and generosity and forgives the sins of His slaves and their shortcomings if they repent to Him believe in Him and obey His orders. He blesses them, honours them by His grace and puts them in His paradise where therein is a great permanent stable bliss.

- The attribute 'truth and justice': They mean that He loves the truth and justice. He does not oppress His slaves or discriminate among them at all. Therefore, there is no difference between any of the human races, since no one is favoured over anyone in the sight of Allah except with faith, piety and good deeds.

Also, no one can bear the error of another, even if he is his father or his mother. Every person is responsible for himself and whoever does an atom of a good deed will find his reward and compensation on the Day of Resurrection (the day when people will be raised up after their deaths to hold them accountable for their deeds in this world and to reimburse them). On the other hand, whoever does an atom of evil will be held accountable as well.

- The attribute 'peace': He loves peace and orders His slaves to establish it and its causes on the Earth. Furthermore, He prohibits injustice and tyranny for them so that they can have peace and security. Here we may recognize the wisdom that greeting in Islam is peace, that is the first person should say, 'peace be upon you' and the second one should reply with 'peace be upon you, too' so that you feel safety and security.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

Islam has shown that nothing is like Him in His perfection, beauty, majesty, greatness, strength, absolute power, wide knowledge and perfect wisdom and other attributes.

(Question 18) Buddhist: Why should we believe in the Holy Qur'an as the last of the heavenly books?

(Answer 18) The Muslim: It is because the Holy Qur'an includes what supports its truthfulness and sanctity as follows:

(1) It contains the clean belief in Almighty Allah-as mentioned previously and briefly-and the pure call including guiding worships which lead to self-sufficiency, ascendancy and purifying oneself from the inferior manners.

It also has the sound laws, the noble teachings and the rational guidelines which let the life of mankind be on Allah's path. It solves all the problems with the beauty of its style, organizing, great rhetoric, the accuracy of the words, comprehensiveness and splendour in a way that people cannot bring a chapter like it.

(2) The Holy Quran and the Prophet's Hadiths have pointed to amazing scientific facts (in heaven, earth, mountains, seas, man, animals, birds and plants) especially in the case of creation since more than 1,400 years ago, at a time when no one had any knowledge about it. Then, the modern science came with its advanced techniques to discover its authenticity and credibility. Therefore, it confirmed the fact that this book (the Holy Quran) is the complete word of Almighty Allah.

Examples of these scientific facts related to the issue of creation such as the origin of the universe and how God created the heavens and the earth as well as the embryo and its stages of development:

Example one: Almighty Allah says: 'Have those who disbelieved not considered that the heavens and the earth were a joined entity, and We separated them and made from water every living thing? Then will they not believe?' *Surat Al-Anbya, verse 21:30.*

The meaning of "*Kanata ratqan*": are connected, that is, the heavens and the earth were linked, not divergent. The meaning of "*fafataqna huma*": separated them, that is, We separated the sky and the earth after they were linked. The Quranic gracious verse speaks about the God's creation of the heavens and the earth and the beginning of His creation. It calls to contemplating about the

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

creativity in His creation and how this acclaimed universe began to recognize its Creator and believe in Him, His great qualities and His unlimited power. The Quranic verse tells us that the heavens and the earth were at first connected as one thing as in His word, ‘they were joined’ and then they were detached as in His word ‘they were separated’.

The modern science has discovered the truth of what was told by the Quranic verse such as the surprising scientific fact that the scientists have discovered in this modern age. Hence, they have developed the theory of the Great Explosion, the prevailing theory in this modern era, after the discovery of the expansion and extension of the universe continuously.

Also, the theory of the Great Explosion, says that as long as the universe to the day diverges, it must have been close one day. Moreover, if we imagine that these galaxies are moving in the opposite direction to the direction of their divergence today, that is to say, they move close together, therefore they will become one segment adhering to one another as in the word of Allah ‘they were linked’ and equal to the size of the galaxies made for them.

Physicists say: The closer these galaxies come from each other and the more their mass increases, the more gravitational they become then the closeness increases as in Allah’s statement ‘they were linked’, the more spaces between the stars forming the galaxies disappear and the gravitational pressure increases on the stars themselves. That is how the pressure will continue until the constituent material of the universe becomes in the size of the atom, and then the pressure will continue till this material becomes the smallest possible, and then it exploded as in the word of God ‘then we separated them’. The parts of this material which has great pressure and tremendous energy spread in the form of radiation. After that, it gradually cooled down till this seen universe was formed in the heavens and the earth.

How accurate are the words of the Qur’an and its rhetoric! And on what does that indicate! There is no doubt that all of this evidence indicates the credibility of the Holy Quran and that it was revealed by Allah to His trustworthy Prophet, the seal of the prophets and messengers.

Example two: Allah says: ‘Then He directed Himself to the heaven while it was smoke...’ *Surat Fusilat: verse 11*.

The verse indicates that the sky at the beginning of its creation was created by Blessed and Exalted Allah as smoke.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

The modern science has been able to portray the first cosmic smoke resulting from the process of the Big Bang at the beginning of the creation of the universe. They found archaeological remains on the edges of the perceived part of the universe which confirms that the sky at the beginning was created by Allah and it was smoke as in His word. "Then He directed Himself to the heaven while it was smoke..."

How accurate are the words of the Qur'an and its rhetoric! And on what does that indicate!

Example three: He says: "And [mention] when your Lord took from the children of Adam - from their loins - their descendants and made them testify of themselves..." *Surat Al-Ahraf, verse 172.*

The Prophet Muhammad-peace be upon him- says: "Verily, Allah took a covenant from Adam's back and brought out from his spine all descendants He created..." It is narrated by *An-Nasahi*.

The previous verse, as well as the Prophet's Hadith, shows that all the offspring of Adam (the first father of all human beings and the first one created by God) were in his spine at the moment of his creation.

The modern science has discovered the so-called chromosomes in addition to the discovery of the role of the genetic chromosome in embryology. Thus, it has been proven to the embryologists that the creation of man is predetermined in the sperm of both his father and mother and that this estimate extends through the past centuries (distant past) to contact the genetic codes of parents and grandparents until it reaches Adam-peace be upon him-.

This genetic code is programmed with great accuracy and folded into the nucleus of the living cell of the reproductive cells. This means that each of the sons of Adam was present in the genetic code of his father Adam at the moment of his creation ⁽¹⁾. Then, the compatibility of what is mentioned in this Quranic verse, and the Prophetic Hadith is clear. The content of their references has been discussed at a previous point with the discoveries that the modern science has reached.

Example four: Allah says: "Does man think that he will be left neglected? Had he not been a sperm from semen emitted?" *Surat Al-Qiyama, verse 36-37*

The meaning of 'does man think that he will be left neglected?' Does a person think he will be ignored without being assigned to perform orders from Allah or he will be neglected without accountability or compensation (reward or punishment) for his obedience or disobedience to the commands of Allah?

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

The answer is that the person will not be left neglected unless he is assigned and ordered to execute commands from Allah and will not be left with no account and no reward for his obedience or disobedience to the commands of Allah. He will be asked and will be held accountable and rewarded for all. He who does an atom of good will get its reward and whoever does a whit of evil will be held accountable.

The meaning of "sperm": It is less than semen and it is the cause of procreation of men and women. The meaning of "produced sperm": water that is the cause of reproduction and the creation of the fetus. That is, the human being was the first to be created from one sperm (very small in size) including semen that is the cause of reproduction and that contains many sperms.

The Quranic verse is identical to what modern science has proven. The verse indicates that the embryo is formed from one sperm (as it is often), which is contained in semen, as God says "sperm", which refers to individuals, not to plural. The sperm does not contain all semen while the latter contains millions of the formal but the term "sperm" is not used in a plural form in the Quran because it is only one that vaccinates a female egg. This is the selected egg among the thousands of its types contained in the ovary so that it can be vaccinated by sperm.

After that, the compatibility is clear between what this Quranic noble verse referred to and discoveries that have been reached by the modern science, which demonstrated the accuracy of the words of the Qur'an, its rhetoric and conformity.

Example five: Allah says: "Then He made his posterity out of the extract of a liquid disdained." *Surat Sajda: verse 8*

The term "extract" is a very small abstract extract (selected and extracted) from the water that is the cause of reproduction. It is the semen that is explained in the previous verse (referred to above in the second example). The meaning of the verse is that the beginning of man's creation as a gene is from extraction a very small (abstract) descendant (selected and extracted) from the water that is the cause of procreation.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

The modern science has shown that the specifications of the semen (the sperm of the man in the semen), from which the embryo is created, and from which the offspring of man are exactly identical to what the Holy Quran mentioned and referred to through the word of God "extract" as follows:

The term *Sulala* meaning extract is derived from *Salla* meaning sheath, so the name given to the semen has several meanings as follows:

- The small part (the semen) of the man represented by the sperm.
- This small part of the fluid resembles a long fish.
- This small part of the fluid creeps out of man gently.

Modern science has discovered that the semen which embryo is produced from is a very small part (one sperm - as it is often - as shown by the verse we referred to in the second example) from the liquid contained in the semen and the shape of this part (sperm) is similar to the long fish which its length is longer than its width. It comes out gently from the center of the overcrowding of too many sperms at the cervix by swimming in the semen for the vaccination of the egg.

All these [evidence] are identical to what the Holy Qur'an had explained and pointed to in more than 1,400 years ago, where he pointed to these astonishing scientific facts at a time that no one knew anything about it. Therefore, these precious verses are amazing and witness to the truth of the Qur'an. They also testify that it is a revelation from Almighty God and confirm the credibility of the Prophet Muhammad's message.

Example six: Allah says: 'Indeed, We created man from a sperm-drop mixture...' *Surat Al-Insaan, verse 2*

The meaning of "a sperm-drop mixture" is that it is mixed from man and woman's water. Imam Ahmad narrated in his *Musnad* that a Jew asked the Prophet, Muhammad. He said: O Muhammad, from what man is created? The Messenger of Allah-peace be upon him- said: "O Jew, he is created from the sperm of man and woman." It is narrated by Ahmad, Hadith 4424.

The Quranic verse clearly tells us that the sperm from which man is created is not only from the man or the woman but from the both of them together as indicated by God's statement. This is also evident from the Noble Prophet's Hadith, which explains that man is created from the sperm of both man and woman.

It was believed in the past till the end of the eighteenth century that the body of a human being - with extremely small dimensions- is formed from the menstrual blood but after the discovery of the female egg, it is believed that the human body is fully created inside the egg. Then, after the discovery of the sperm, it is believed that the whole human body is created inside its head.

However, with the passage of time and awesome progress in modern technological means, modern science has discovered the invalidity of all these

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

claims and confirmed the truth of the Holy Quran's fascinating scientific facts since more than 1,400 years. That is after the stages of fetal creation have been portrayed through modern techniques.

The findings of modern science can be summed up in scientific discoveries in the following:

Millions of semen do not reach the cervical canal of uterus except only a very small number which does not exceed 500, not only that but also it is only one sperm that penetrates the female sperm to form a mixed sperm ⁽¹⁾. This process was what the third Quranic verse said as in Allah's word, 'a sperm-drop mixture' that is mixed from male and female sperms and as in the Prophet Muhammad's Hadith-peace be upon him-.

Let us ponder on the word of God "sperm" in the verse where it came in the singular and not in the plural form (sperms) where it is only one that can mix with the woman's to form the mixed sperm. This finding shows the accuracy of the words of the Holy Quran, its comprehension and the extent of its conformity with the discovery of the modern science.

Example seven: "O People, if you should be in doubt about the Resurrection, then [consider that] indeed, We created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then from a clinging clot, and then from a lump of flesh, formed and unformed..." *Surat Al-Hajj, verse 5*

The meaning of "sperm": It is smaller than water that is the cause of procreation of man and woman as in the word of God: "Mixed sperm" that is, the sperm of man that mixed with woman's. The meaning of "leech": a frozen blood-related piece of the uterus. The meaning of "chew": a piece of meat that can be chewed. The meaning of "created and uncreated": This piece of meat, which can be chewed, has two parts. Some organs of the body have been created in one of them. This is the meaning of the word of God "created", and nothing is created in the other part this is the meaning of Allah's word "and uncreated".

(1) **The Scientific Miracles in the Prophetic Sunnah by Dr Zaghoul Al - Najjar.**

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

Allah says: "And certainly We created man from an extract of clay. Then We placed him as a sperm-drop in a firm lodging. Then We made the sperm-drop into a clinging clot, and We made the clot into a lump [of flesh], and We made [from] the lump, bones, and We covered the bones with flesh; then We developed him into another creation. So blessed is Allah, the best of creators." *Surat Al-Muminoon, verse 12-14.*

The meaning of "an extract of clay": that is, We created Adam- the father of all human beings - from an extract of clay.

The meaning of "sperm", "Mixed sperm", "leech" and "chew" have been explained earlier.

Allah says: "What is [the matter] with you that you do not attribute to Allah [due] grandeur while He has created you in stages?" *Surat Nooh, verse 13-14*

The meaning of "stages" is different phases. After the stages of fetal creation were depicted (as indicated by the Holy Quran as shown by the word of God "*Atwara*") through modern techniques ⁽¹⁾, man has the possibility to see the mixed sperm, and then see the fetus as a piece of frozen blood-related at the top of the uterus. Also, he can see the fetus as a piece of meat or mud clay placed under the molars. The fetus at this stage resembles something chewed, as in the words of God "chewed". After that, he can see its qualities that are it has two parts. Some of the organs of the body were created in one of them as in the words of Allah "created" and the other part was not created as in the words of God "uncreated", that is, if we describe this "embryo" as a creature or non-creature, that description is wrong and non-scientific but the exact scientific description is what the Holy Quran said as in Allah's words created"and "uncreated".

How accurate are the words of the Holy Quran! Then, he can see the stage of creating bones, as God says, "Then We changed the embryo to bones." and then he can see the stage of cladding bones with the flesh, as in the words of God "And We put meat on the bones". Also, he can see another stage of creation where the human embryo becomes different at this stage from what was in the previous ones. Here, its shape is distinct from other embryos of other organisms, as in the words of God "And then, We created another creation".

(1) You can refer to the book: Miracles of the Quran in what is hidden in the womb, by Professor Karim Naguib Al-Aghar, in order to see all the stages of embryo creation, which were illustrated through modern techniques, showing the duration of each stage.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

These are the stages of the development of the fetus (human creation) in this order that is mentioned by the Qur'an with great accuracy and wonderful depicting using brief words.

How accurate are the words of the Qur'an and its rhetoric! What does the priority of Holy Quran and the Noble Prophetic Traditions refer to in these amazing scientific facts since more than 1,400 years ago, which were discovered only after technological progress in this modern era ?!

There is no doubt that all of these [facts] indicate the credibility of the Holy Quran, and that it is a revelation from Almighty Allah to His trustworthy Prophet, Muhammad, the seal of prophets and messengers.

Thus, protecting the Holy Quran (from God) in the framework of the Lord to this day and to the Hour with the loss and distortion of other prior books is evidence that it is the Book of God, which sealed all the previous heavenly books.

For more information on these amazing scientific facts, which were told by the Holy Quran and referred to by the Noble Prophetic Traditions in more than 1,400 years ago, at a time when no one has any knowledge of them, you can refer to:

1- Some Scientific Miracle Verses (Heaven, Earth, Animals, Plants) in the Holy Quran, by Dr Zaghoul Al-Najjar

2 - Parts 1-2-3 of Scientific Miracles in the Prophetic Traditions by Dr Zaghoul Najjar

3 - Encyclopedia of Islam and Modern Science, Scientific Miracle in the Holy Quran by Dr Zaghoul Najjar

4- Embryology in the Light of Quran and Sunnah by the International Organization for Scientific Miracles in the Quran and Sunnah

5 - Hidden Quranic Miracles in the Womb by Professor Karim Najib al-Aghar

6 - Islam and Modern Science Discoveries as One of the Evidence of the Prophecy and the Message of Muhammad-peace be upon him- by Professor Mohamed Sayed Mohamed.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(Question 19) Buddhist: Why is it a must to believe in the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad-peace be upon him-and the ratification of his call and his message?

(Answer 19) Muslim: It is because of what I have shown in my answer to the previous question to clarify what the Holy Quran contains in attesting to its truthfulness and sanctity since the Prophet Muhammad was the one who the Holy Qur'an was revealed to. This [fact] shows the truthfulness of his call and the credibility of his message including the prior answers to the previous questions about the clear good news of the coming of the Prophet Muhammad-peace be upon him- at the end of time according to the Buddhist Holy books. Therefore, I will now summarize for you examples of evidence and proofs of prophecy and the message of the Prophet Muhammad-peace be upon him- as follow:

- The pure creed and the clear call brought by the Prophet of Islam Muhammad-peace be upon him-are accepted by flawless instinct, good souls and rational minds (which I have referred to above).

- His good morals and dignified qualities, including the sweetness of his logic and speech, the beauty of his condition, the perfection of the qualities of his creation and his noble relation (where he was the most honourable of the Arabs) are the proofs that he was distinguished by Allah with the prophecy and message.

- His asceticism and abstaining from the adornments of the world and its attractions and his struggling in the worship of One God including his calling to the ways of good deeds, virtue, ethics, tying the relation and continuous remembrance of Almighty Allah by his heart

- His mercy for human and compassionate for all the creatures of God and blessing everyone who came to him for any reason.

- Almighty God's support for him in response to his prayer, to be a proof of the truth of his call-peace be upon him.

- Almighty Allah supports him with miracles and paranormals that no one can bring them except the prophets of Allah and His messengers to be a witness to the sincerity of his call and the credibility of his message including the Great Miracle (which Almighty Allah promised to keep to this day and to the Last Hour). It is the seal of all heavenly books. The Holy Quran preserves its divine text and enlightenments challenging [people] by its eloquence, the splendour of its meaning, the accuracy of its words, its structure, its lofty objectives and its goals for the Arabs and others everywhere and every time. It defied them to bring even one chapter (consists of one line) like it but they could not and failed.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

- Also, the Holy Quran has contained amazing scientific facts for more than 1,400 years. The modern science has confirmed its authenticity and credibility to be the proof that it is the revelation from Allah and that Muhammad is the seal of His prophets and messengers.

- Allah's protection for him till he delivered his message and spread it despite many attempts of enemies of Islam to kill or hurt him. The Qur'an was revealed to him at the age of 40 and he died at the age of 63. This estimate indicates that he spread his message for 23 years. That time is equivalent to the duration of the rule of many presidents and emirs but he was able during that period to uproot the polytheism, worshipping idols and anything other than Allah. Furthermore, he was sent to instil faith and monotheism in the hearts and found the worship of Allah in a clean way without ascribing a partner to Allah. Likewise, he removed the root of all bad habits from the Arabian Peninsula, so that it will be a proof that He supported him and his message.

The summary of the condition of the praised Prophet Muhammad was that he was always thoughtful, silent and did not speak except if it is needed. He did never get angry for himself (it was only when someone violated Allah's commands). Most of his laughers were smiling. He joked with his companions and played with them but he did not say except what is right.

Here is a summary of some of the physical qualities of the Prophet Muhammad. These qualities include: he had flower colour, white-reddish face. He had a round face like the moon on the night of the full moon. He had moderate black eyes. If you looked at him, you would think that there was kohl in his eyes due to their natural beauty and not because of adding kohl. They are wide with the presence of length in the part of the eye and in his eyelids. This length added beauty to his eyes. His eyebrows are thin in the length without being connected. He had a broad forehead, high nose and the most beautiful lips and had a good divergence between the front teeth. When he spoke, people would see as if the light came out from his incisors. If he is happy, his face becomes bright like a piece of the moon. He had black hair that is neither crimp nor long. His neck was clean like silver. He had a black beard with small white hair after being old. He had a moderate body neither fat nor slim. He was neither tall nor short but he is close to tall. Also, he had straight chest and abdomen. He was patient. He was so handsome to the extent that when people saw his shoulders during Hajj and Umrah, they thought they were light due to the beauty of their whiteness. Not only that but the Prophet Muhammad-peace be upon him-also had other good physical qualities.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(Question 20) Buddhist: Why should Islam be chosen as a religion?

(Answer 20) The Muslim: In addition to what I have explained in answers to the previous questions such as clarification of the contents of the Holy Quran and what attested to its truthfulness and sanctity. After that, I showed the sincerity of the call of the Prophet Muhammad-peace be upon him-because he was the one that the Holy Quran was revealed to including some examples and evidence that indicated the credibility of his message. Now, here are more illustrations:

Verily, Islam is the religion of instinct on which Allah created His creatures. It is the religion of monotheism which calls to believing in the Creator, Almighty Allah, and in the oneness of His divinity. It provides typical logical answers to all humans' thoughts, questions and needs .

Islam is the only religion that calls to believing in all Allah's prophets and messengers. It respects them and does not discriminate among them. It enjoins upon Muslims to believe in all of them, their messages and honour them as well as testifying that the last scripture is that of the Prophet Muhammad, the seal of all of them.

Certainly, the heavenly book which Islam brings is the Holy Quran. It is the only book that Almighty Allah promised to save from loss or distortion because there is no any Prophet or Messenger after the Prophet Muhammad. Therefore, it is the last heavenly book. It is the seal for all the previous ones. Moreover, it has remained in the framework of the Lord who preserves it by His shining light. It includes all that man needs to establish his life in this world and the Hereafter. The following is a part of what it consists of:

- (A) An authentic, pure, clean creed in which there is no defect and no murk.
- (B) The right legislation that let the life of all mankind be upright.
- (C) Guiding worships that purify the human soul, clean it from vices and evil deeds and promote it to the highest levels of kindness.
- (D) Good morals and gracious transactions.
- (E) The highest teachings through which the progress, advancement and civilization can improve.
- (F) Many and varied references to abundant cosmic sciences in various scientific disciplines to let them be impressive flashes: to advance the path of knowledge.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(G) The lofty guidelines that will solve the various types of problems faced by man in the past and the present.

Therefore, it is necessary to believe in this heavenly book, the Holy Quran, which brought by Islam, and then choose Islam as a religion.

The moderation of Islam: This is evidenced by the fact that Islam is moderate and not extremist in creed, which contains pure clean faith and calls for faith in the Creator God, Allah, and the unity of His divinity including His glorification, exaltation, and purification Him from any attribute of defamation, deficiency or defect. Also, it calls to believing in all the prophets of Allah and His messengers as well as respecting them because they were chosen by Allah to spread His message.

The moderation of Islam is also reflected in the legislation and worship. It does not assign a soul except what he can and does not enjoin upon him any difficulty. Its moderation is in everything such as eating, drinking, spending, and non-extravagance. Likewise, it is in giving the body and the spirit their rights and requirements. That [example] is in the Prophet Muhammad's confirmation to the statement of the companion, Salman, -who studied on his hand- to Abu Darda. He said: "Your Lord has a right upon you, also your soul and your family. Give each one of them their rights." Then, the Prophet said: "Salman is right." It is narrated by Al-Bukhary in a long Hadith, Hadith 1867.

Islam is the religion that achieves moderation and balance between the world and the Hereafter, giving each of them their rights. Therefore, Islam must be chosen as a religion because of a lot of evidence and proofs that attest to it being the true religion of Blessed and Exalted Allah.

Here is its explanation. It is generally a must for every human to search for the truth and follow it wherever he finds it as long as there is evidence that proves its credibility. It is not proper that since a thought or belief has prevailed in a society for a long time, therefore individuals should surrender for it and they should remain committed to its belief and stuck to it in order not to violate what their predecessors lived on especially if there is no evidence or proof for its authenticity. Therefore, if the invalidity of that thought and belief becomes clear to them and they find out the truth in another one, it is an insult to the human mind, which Almighty God has honored them with, to accept a belief or imagination that is merely based on illusions, assumptions and guesses without any evidence of their validity, especially if they are contrary and opposite to the rationality and obscure to its necessities. For that reason, we invite everyone to think about Islam in a logical and impartial way

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

and then the evidence and proof of its credibility will show to them including that it is the true religion of Blessed and Exalted God.

(Question 21) Buddhist: What is the result of choosing Islam in the Hereafter?

(Answer 21) Muslim: Allah said: "But whoever comes to Him as a believer having done righteous deeds - for those will be the highest degrees [in position]: Gardens of perpetual residence beneath which rivers flow, wherein they abide eternally. And that is the reward of one who purifies himself." *Surat Taa-haa, verse 75-76.*

Almighty God, in this Quranic verse, tells us the beauty of his reward and great compensation for those who believed in Him and the oneness of His divinity and performed good deeds with sincerity in their intentions and also surrendered to His commands. [Part of] all these rewards are high degrees in the Gardens of Eternity in addition to permanent, lasting, stable and immortal bliss.

Parts of the Descriptions of Paradise in Islam:

- 1- Its enjoyment is permanent and does neither reduce nor stop.
- 2- It is illuminated and decorated for its people. There is no heat or cold in it and whoever enters it will forever be happy and never be wrenched.
- 3- Its soil is very white. Also, it has pure musk strong sweet smell and its small stones are pearls and rubies.
- 4 – Its palaces are made of gold and silver.
- 5 – Its rivers are the most beautiful with splendid scenery including their multitude and diversity. They consist of pure water and others have milk that its taste does not change. Also, some rivers contain filtered honey and so forth.
- 6 – It is full of green orchards and fresh fruitful trees. The Prophet Muhammad-peace be upon him-said: "There is a tree in Paradise [which is so huge that] a rider can travel in its shade for a hundred years..." *Saheeh Al-Bukhary, Hadith 3252.* He also said: "There is not a tree in Paradise except that its tree is of gold." *Saheeh At-Tirmidhi, Hadith 2525*
- 7- Its fruits are sweet, abundant and varied. They will not stop at any time at all.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

8 -All different types of delicious food, meats, and drinks are available in it .

9 -Everything that hearts and eyes desire is there. Neither eyes have ever seen its enjoyment before nor have ears ever heard it and no human minds have thought about them.

Parts of the Descriptions of the People of Paradise in Islam :

1- Their faces are attractive beautiful fresh and shining like the moon on the night of the full moon.

2- Their length is sixty arms.

3- Their age is 33 years old. They will never become old because they will forever live in it as young. Their youth shall not perish nor shall their clothes be ragged. They shall be blessed and never die therein.

4- They will be healthy and never get sick.

5- They will be blessed with the grace of the Exalted Allah and He will never be displeased with them. Then, they will not be afflicted with depression, distress, affliction, sorrow or misery. They will always be happy and never become wrenched.

6- In addition, they will enjoy and delight in seeing Almighty Allah without encompassing Him because nothing is like Him.

7- There will be no hatred, discrimination or envy among them; their hearts are like the heart of one man.

8- All that they will eat and drink is sweet and delicious.

9- They will neither spit nor blow their noses. Not only that but they will not urinate or defecate. Any excess of their food and drinks will come out of their bodies in forms of sweat from their skins and its scent will be better than that of musk.

10- One of the people of Paradise shall be given the power of one hundred men.

11- They will marry the fair women with large, [beautiful] eyes (Women of the people of Paradise). If a woman among the women of Paradise looks at the earth, everything between it and the heaven will be full of light and good scent due to the extent of her elegance and beauty. It is known that Almighty Allah will

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

recreate Muslim women and they will be more beautiful than the women of the Paradise. In addition, they will be with their husbands in Paradise.

12- Their handsomeness and comeliness will be constantly renewed, as their attractiveness and gracefulness will forever increase.

13- They will be inspired the glorification and praising of Almighty Allah like the self-inspiration without the slightest hardship or fatigue.

The Prophet Muhammad-peace be upon him- said: "Allah would say to the inmates of Paradise: 'O, Dwellers of Paradise, and they would say in response: At Your service and pleasure, our Lord, the good is in Your Hand. He (the Lord) would say: Are you well pleased now? They would say: Why should we not be pleased, O Lord when You have given us what You have not given to any of Your creatures? He would, however, say: May I not give you (something) even better than that? And they would say: O Lord, what thing can be more excellent than this? And He would say: I shall cause My pleasure to alight upon you and I shall never be afterwards annoyed with you.'" It is reported by Muslim, Hadith 2829.

The Messenger of Allah-peace be upon him- said: " When those deserving of Paradise entered it, the Blessed and the Exalted Allah would ask: Do you wish Me to give you anything more? They would say: Have You not brightened our faces? Have You not made us enter Paradise and saved us from Fire? He said: He (God) would lift the veil and of things given to them nothing would be dearer to them than looking at their Lord, the Mighty and the Glorious. The Prophet said: 'That is the increment'. Then, he recited this verse: 'For those who have done good is the best [reward] and extra.' " It is reported by Muslim, Hadith 181.

With a simple explanation, which is looking at Almighty Allah does not mean that people encompass Him because He is greater than what can be surrounded by the eyes of a creature. Therefore, a place cannot surround Him and time cannot finish for Him; He is the Creator of both of them.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

(Question) Muslim: Now that I have answered what you have asked about and explained it to you, I would like to ask you: What is your opinion on Islam?

(Answer) Buddhist: Undoubtedly, I have seen in Islam compatibility and conformity with the instinct that Almighty God has created His creatures. Also, I have found in Islam logical and typical answers to everything I thought and I needed a rational answer for. In addition to that, through what Islam told us about the Paradise that God prepared for His believer slaves, my mind has been interested in it including a great permanent bliss as well as the pleasure of looking at Almighty Allah because if the Paradise is created with this wonderful beautiful description, there is no doubt that the Creator God is the Biggest, Handsome and Greatest.

(Question) Muslim: So, will you accept Islam as a religion?

(Answer) Buddhist: Certainly, with all longing and gracious reception, from now I do not want to contradict the instinct that Almighty God created me upon. Likewise, He has blessed me with the grace of brain to think and reason. Therefore, I do not want to oppose what is consistent with the explicit mental.

(Question) Buddhist: What is the way to enter Islam?

(Answer) Muslim: In fact, we can say: how to convert to Islam instead of saying: how to enter it because Islam is the religion of instinct that humans were created on and it is compatible with it.

In any case, converting to Islam is through the heart's belief in the Creator God and the oneness of His divinity-He is the Exalted Allah- including having faith in the truth of call and the message of the Seal of the prophets of Allah and His messengers Muhammad-peace be upon him-and then uttering them as declaration of faith in this way:

I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and His Messenger.

Thus, one becomes a Muslim without the need for any rituals or formalities and turns into a new brother (or new sister) in Islam to all Muslims around the world.

A Peaceful Dialogue between a Buddhist and a Muslim

Buddhist: I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and His messenger. I have become a Muslim from now on.

Muslim: Congratulation, my dear brother and welcome as a new brother in Islam.

Buddhist: Praise be to Allah who guided me to the grace of Islam and led me to it.

In conclusion, we thank the Exalted Almighty God for the favour of Islam with which He has blessed us and for letting us be monotheists and Muslims. We worship Allah with the best religion which the last Prophet-peace be upon him-brought.

O Allah shower Your mercy, peace, and blessing upon your Prophet and Messenger Muhammad-peace be upon him- and on all his pure family including his good companions as well as the followers of his guidance and path plus the imitators of his tradition to the Day of Judgment.

[All] praise is [due] to Allah, Lord of the worlds.
