

## **How can Islam respond to the non-Islamic West in ways which enable co-operation?**

*By: IIO Team*

As the human civilization entered its 21<sup>st</sup> century, the religious perception prevailing on the globe went through a drastic change. The shock and awe with which the world witnessed the unfortunate and horrifying destruction of the World Trade Centre in the New York City, USA, the entire religious outlook of the world received disrespectful ripples from the international community. International terrorism crossed the zenith of barbarism with religion as their shield for their justified rebellion against forces which pose the ability to deform Islam. The dark reign of religious fundamentalism in Islam has brought the greatest hurdle for the order of peace in the world. The religious conflict between the Islamic and the non-Islamic world has become the biggest threat to the religious order of the world. Psychological and socio-cultural distancing between the ‘West’ and the ‘Islamic Civilizations’ of the world are deepening day by day.

Somehow, the media has encouraged West in delineating its psychology against the Arabian nations of the world. Lack of coherence and understanding about the various aspects of Islam and the countries following the particular religion has led to a distorted image of Islam in the Western countries. Propaganda and hardcore documentation are the two lethal weapons used by the media today in order to exhibit a grim picture of the Islamic countries and their association with international terrorism. Before the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2011, the Arabian nations were politically prominent all over the world. The Cold War, Iranian revolution, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the oil-exports were the ruling factors for the political importance of this region of the world. Post 9/11, things have become worse. Neither the Islamic countries nor the Western nations have come down to the common grounds of understanding and resolving the issues relate to this crisis. The typical blame-game hovering around the diplomatic framework of these two regions of the world poses the potential to derail the architecture ‘World Peace’.

West’s inability to accept the fact that humans, irrespective of their races share the planet with humans who have equal abilities, has led to the disturbed state of affairs between the Western world and the Islamic nations. The only solution to this critically sensitive issue is a compassionate and respectful dialogue between the two mammoth entities of the world. Before starting the dialogue, the representatives of both the Western and Islamic nations need to understand one thing that dialogue does not necessarily mean imposing one’s own views on the others. Listening to the other side is also very important. Whether it’s in televised panel discussions or parliamentary debates, most of the times the representatives disagree to listen to the arguments of the people on the other side.

Listening does not mean hearing all the time; it also conveys the understanding that is required to grab the core reasons behind the disturbed state of affairs in a particular region of the nation. Having a transparent vision about tradition and modernism plays an important role in dealing with critical and complicated issues. In order to play the role of a harbinger of peace for the entire human race, Islam and its followers along with the Western countries need to transcend the unexamined orthodoxy that prevails in the name of tradition in both these regions of the world.

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