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**ISLAM WITH BASIC CONCEPTS**

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**Dear Mumins!**

There are some basic concepts which define the religion of Islam. In all of the religious sources, it has been explained that our religion is primarily the religion of **tawhîd**. It has been also decreed in one of the many verses which express the tawhîd belief as follows: "**Your ilâh (God) is One ilâh, There is none who has the right to be worshipped but He, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.**"<sup>1</sup> Kalimah at-Tawhîd are two sentences that should be recited and believed to enter into Islam. It is the remark of acceptance of God as The Only One. The Qur'ân calls people to being in unity around the tawhîd belief.

Our religion is the religion of **mercy** and the religion of **compassion, dear Mumins!** According to the Qur'ân, our Prophet (s.a.w.) has been sent as a Mercy for all existing beings.<sup>2</sup> Therefore the right of every breathing thing has been delicately protected. Our Prophet of Mercy showed a person who gained paradise since he watered a thirsty dog as an example. Therefore, Muslims have founded many waqfs (foundations) for stray animals, wounded migratory birds, even for getting trousseaus for destitute girls throughout history. Furthermore, they have taken even the birds into consideration during mosque constructions.

Our religion is a religion of **love** and **brotherhood**. In the Qur'ân and hadiths of the Prophet (s.a.w.) it has been expressed that believers are brethren, so they should treat each other in a brotherly manner and live

in peace.

One of the most significant characteristics of our religion is that it also bears some principles that would accept a philosophy of life **open to pluralism and multi-culture**, which forms a foundation of a rich tolerant culture. Likewise, Muslims have sustained principles of just treatment towards members of other religions and races for centuries. Our Prophet (s.a.w.) declared that humanity has been come from the same core;

brotherhood is central, differences are temporary, saying as follows: "*O people! All of you are children of Adam. Adam was created from the soil*". Our holy book expresses that all of us are the children of the same man and woman,

and we have been made into nations and tribes so that we may know one other, not to fight with each other.<sup>3</sup>

**Dear Muslims!**

The nations of Islam made it possible both Muslims and members of other religions to live together in peace, in the territories they governed all over the world during history. Structures of multi- religions, multi- races and multi- cultures have been the most significant, the most humanistic and preserved feature of our advanced civilization for centuries. Even today, we see hundreds of indications of this factor, embracing civilization.

To protect the principles of global brotherhood and the peace of Islam, which are summarized above and have been sustained as our religious and national responsibility for centuries, and to avoid damaging them is the major duty for all of us.



<sup>1</sup> Al-Baqarah, 163.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Anbiyâ, 107.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Hujurât, 13.