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ISLAM IS UNIVERSAL RELIGION

Dear Mumins!

While revealing a new religion, Allah (s.w.t.) had taken the human, its needs, current conditions, and social and cultural environment into consideration. It is a fact that some differences existed among the religions sent by Allah (s.w.t.), like language, geography, knowledge and historical process. Yet, the essence of faith, the understanding of servitude and basic-universal rights like justice, straightness, love, helping each other are common for all divine religions. So, we can say that all divine religions are same in their essence.

Islam is the last ring of the chain of revelation since Adam (a.s.). Therefore, naturally, Islam must be universal, namely must cover all people all over the world and all times until the doomsday.¹ And it does. Islam is not a religion, which was sent to only one tribe or nation, addressed only to them giving them a direction to live. On the contrary, it is a religion which addresses everybody, such as Japanese, Arabs, Turks, American, Mexican, Chinese, in brief all nations equally. It is useful for all. It shows ways of the happiness in both this world and in the hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Previous prophets (a.s.) and religions had addressed specific periods or communities. For example, Moses (a.s.) was the prophet of the tribe of Ben-i Israel. Yet, Islam addresses all times and places. The messages of Quran, which is the basis of Islam, cover all eras and both human and jinn.² When we look into Quran, we can clearly see that it is not only an invitation for a specific group but a call for all humanity. It was decreed in Quran as follows: **"And We have not sent you but to all the men as a bearer of good news and as a**

warner, but most men do not know."³ And, general expressions like "O who believe", "O people", "O son of Adam" are frequently used. The prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) also said: *"Every Prophet used to be sent to his nation only but I have been sent to all mankind."*⁴

Dear Mumins!

Islam does not discriminate people according to their social positions and their gender either. Its principles enlighten all parts of the individual and social life. Even in the individual worships like daily prayer and fasting, it looks after the benefit of the society. It is not against the pleasures and bounties of the worldly life. It demands that human should follow a balanced way between the life of this world and the hereafter, and should not exceed the limits and should work for both.

It is a known fact that the civilization has accumulated some main values as a result of experience and suffering, especially during the Middle Ages. These values, nowadays excepted as universal laws, have already been among the principles of Islam. Islam recommends all universal principles like human rights, straightness, reliability, justice, generosity, hospitality, equality, being open for newness, guarding the rights of children, women and elders, considering work and study important, being in a peaceful comprehension, entrusting work to those who are expert and deserving.

Since we believe in a so excellent religion, our gratitude and thanks to Allah would never be enough. Alhamdu-lillahi-rabbil-âlamîn.



¹ 34/28; Also refer to: 3/19, 83, 85.

² 55/31-35; 14/1.

³ 34/28. Also refer to: 25/1; 7/1.

⁴ Bukharî, Tayammum, 1; Nasâî, Ghusul, 26.