

# **UNDERSTANDING RELIGIOUS UNITY**

## *The Sufi Approach to World Peace*

A Brief and Simple Explanation of  
Universally Accepted Religious Principles  
Written for Humanity's Team &  
The Federation of World Class Teachers  
By Ali Ansari

<http://www.surrenderworks.com>

**THREE WORDS, THREE PRINCIPLES**  
Understanding the Reality of Religious Unity  
And the Basis for World Peace

**THREE WORDS IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH**  
Towards A Common Religious Vocabulary

**THREE PRINCIPLES**  
Understanding the Nature of:  
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**THE SPIRITUAL QUEST OF IRAN**  
Understanding the Spiritual Imperative,  
the Unified Force of God and Humanity,  
the Confluence of Religious, Spiritual & Political Teachings,  
and the Irani Religious Concept of Unity,  
Spiritual Healing and World Peace



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### Introduction

It is hoped that this brief work will serve as the platform for communication between the Western Enlightenment Movement, so aptly represented by the Spiritual Politics of Humanity's Team and The Federation of World Class Teachers, and the understanding of Peace and World Harmony carried by the rest of the world in general and the Muslims in particular.

This work is an exposition of the true meaning and universal application of the three most commonly known and used Arabic words, Al-llah!, Islam and Muslim, and the three active principles supportive and causative of our Spiritual and Political Evolution. These three principles are: The Imperative of Spiritual Unity, The Universal Salvation Principle and The Psychology of Surrender. Together they are the real force of our esoteric guidance.

The activity of these principles is unstoppable, for they are the direct power God's intervention for the benevolent destiny of Humanity. These are the activities that we have all been praying for and to which the Surrendered are Surrendered. They are the Power Of We. For it is when we lend our energy to God's purpose that change begins to manifest. The reality of these principles has always been in effect, but our conscious Surrender to them is catalyzing their acceleration, speeding their conclusion, and turning the world of conflicting religious beliefs into a world dominated by peace, love and co-operation.

The negative effect of activity not in harmony with the peaceful needs of the world has its benefit also in that it has shown us what the alternative to world peace and harmony is. The function of dysfunction is to increase intelligence. Let us say that our intelligence is rapidly increasing as old cells are dying and new ones are springing into an increasingly responsive and hospitable world. It's understanding the undesirable alternative that forces us to realize that The Future must be Peace (or there is no Future).

Upon comprehending these Three Words and Three Principles we will then easily see and understand the Confluence of Religious, Spiritual and Political Teachings, which explains from the outward the "force", or the Esoteric Guidance Principle found not only in the hearts of believers but also promised in the deep spiritual teachings of Muslims and Christians. And this has to do with orienting our psychological preparation for the advent of A Just World Government.

It is this Esoteric Guidance Principle that is calling us inextricably to the destiny of our greatest potential. It is the knowing of our souls, calling us with love to the inevitability of our maximum fulfillment. Once we have Surrendered, the journey has both begun and ended. Look at the Surrender of one tiny man in ancient China called Lao Tsu, who wrote his little book called the Tao Te Ching. Now it is read and understood all over the world. Was his destiny not fulfilled? Did it not come from his Surrender?

## **THE FUTURE IS PEACE**

**(or there is no future)**

The Future is Peace but it will not be gained by the power of war. All that the power of war will gain is death, Hellfire, and endless fear and military control with all its concomitant revolt, revolutions and rebellions, sleepless nights with endless fearful watchfulness, and endless terror.

If War is Hell, then Peace is Heaven, and that's where Islam comes from, leads to, and means. And the choice is always ours, from moment to moment. If we suddenly discover that we've made a wrong choice, we must be courageous, rethink the placement of our will and make the right one. Here and now.

It is believed that the world effort to end anger and outrage has reached a sufficient momentum to succeed, and that the common understanding of these universal and religious goals by all involved will go a long way toward helping bring to an end the illusions of difference that fuel fear and anger.

To that end I wish to introduce the truth-concept of the Imperative of Spiritual Unity, that all peace workers may be familiar with the essential Unity teachings in all religions, but especially in Islam.

I hope thereby to show the English speaking Judeo-Christian world that the Peace and goals of the Muslim faith is the same as that being purported by the New Thought churches of Christianity as well as the independent world class teachers and healers who are having such a profound influence on western philosophy and world success principles.

Similarly I wish to present a universally accepted understanding of the point and purpose of Islam, based upon nearly forty years of prayer, contemplation, study and learning in association with some of the best minds of the contemporary Islamic world.

Unity (the Oneness and Uniqueness of God) is Truth. The Unity or Oneness of God is the essential and central theme in all the teachings of Islam, and indeed, is the core teaching of all world religions, spiritual and healing practices, and world-wide medical philosophies. It is, in essence, the key to every success. Understanding it completely is the only real solution to personal and societal problems.

The key operative and motivational word here is "Success", which is what we all want (unless, of course, we're suicidal, and that will be dealt with elsewhere.) In Arabic the word for success is "Falah". It is the root of Felaheen, referring to the farmers, or peasants, because they work and harvest the earth, and thereby prosper. Falah is the Second Compelling Word in the

Muslim Call to Prayer, which is heard five times daily from every Mosque in the world. The first of the two Compelling Words in the call is "Salah", or "Prayer".

One of the essential concepts to be understood is that among Muslims the acceptance of Christianity and Judaism is an imperative, and that the current peaceful manifestations of those faiths are both worthy of respect and divinely inspired. Part of our work is dedicated to helping the Muslim world so that the angered and outraged among them will come to understand even more that the Christianity and Judaism of today per se are not enemies but friends and willing to help in the construction of a peaceful world and resolutions to all problems of territory and hunger.

In true religion, there are no enemies. Our enemy is only within. If we learn to conquer anger and outrage we have won the greatest battle, called the Jihad al-Akbar in Arabic. The idea is that anger and outrage are the real enemies of peace and the peaceful resolution of differences. How many times has the prophet of Islam (pbuh) insisted that restraint of anger was essential and a key to the development of both self-esteem and good character. He also said that religion was for nothing if not for the development of noble character. He also said that religion was nothing if not wise counsel.

The following essays are for the development of a truthful understanding of the reality and imperative of Spiritual Unity - why it is imperative and the consequences of ignoring this imperative for petty, personal gains. It is hoped that these truth-concepts will contribute to the efforts of The Federation of World Class Teachers, who are currently having such a wonderful balancing effect on the overall state of peace in the hearts of the world.

Translating the understandings universal to the religion of Islam into a commonly understood English (or any other language) is the work of Muslims indigenous to that language and the work of Muslim travelers to foreign (non-Arabic) lands. It behooves us all to have an in-depth understanding of the needs, goals and hearts of the people in whose land we find ourselves before seeking to teach. We feel it our duty to help the people in whatever situation they find themselves, and at this moment the people of the world are struggling to understand Islam in terms that make sense to them.

But all too often Islam, like many other faiths, has been used as a tool of subjugation by Muslims who feel themselves also to be subjugated. It is not for us to enter foreign lands as the missionaries of old, seeking to convert the people from their ways of assumed ignorance before truly understanding their natural quest for betterment of their lot and greater spiritual understanding. Such activity is more like conquest than assistance. If we as Muslims have the truth of God and the Reality of Surrender in our hearts, then we must see it in the hearts of others and help them to see it and realize it in themselves and to understand our religion as a personal, inward manifestation of Gratitude and Surrender. And if we do not have it completely in our hearts, then we must seek first the complete understanding by associating ourselves with the true teachers of the way of peace. Not relying on fundamentals alone, completion of our own education first is mandatory, as well as, for the sake of unity, working in conjunction with already established peace teachers.

It is imperative for us to seek the reality and truth of our religion not only for ourselves but to assist others in seeing it for themselves also. This is done through human understanding

and compassion, and not through presenting attitudes of contention and demand. For all of us, it is imperative that we have a heart that can see and feel for the hearts of others. The sole purpose and first practice of the beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), was that of "Rahmatun lil Alameen", to be a Mercy Unto All the Worlds. Fulfill this and we have truly accomplished our goal, and all peoples will come to hear more of the teachings of our faith. We teach best by example, and our faith and way of life was sent solely for the development of noble character, to add to the peace and harmony to the world.

It is a religious imperative for Muslims to believe in the messages of peace brought by all the prophets, including and especially Jesus, and we do. His Second Coming is awaited by us and it can be argued that it is now manifest in the resurrection of his teaching as found in the New Thought mission. He and his teachings of truth are duly revered by all Muslims, and the purer the manifestation of his teaching by the people professing them, the greater the respect, understanding and cooperation that can be expected from the people of Islam. After all, the word "Islam" is the imperative form of the word "peace", and is, in effect, the Command to Surrender. This is the same Surrender that is taught in New Thought Christianity and is the prevalent principle in all world faiths. Hence it is the Universal Salvation Principle, which is in keeping with the teachings of Islam.

If we now view the teachings of Islam as the Spiritual Psychology of this Surrender, a way to further worship and gratitude for Surrendered people, ("Surrendered" in Arabic is "Muslim"), then the study and understanding of the ideas and social practices of Islam will make much more sense to the West. Whereas if we view Islam, as many us do, as a religion of competitive demands, then its beauty, wisdom and guidance might well escape us.

Most Muslims understand both the spiritual implications of their religion and the commonality of their goals with the other faiths. It is for this higher, "spiritual" education that the Sufis have existed within the peoples of Islam for centuries. They have carried and emphasize the true prophetic practice of peace, mercy, and love that the prophet imparted to a majority of his followers, who passed it along in private and in public, as circumstances allowed, throughout the generations.

And now, amazingly, the teachings of the Sufis, who were very highly educated in the spiritual implications of their religious teachings, have caught on stupendously in the culture of the more inquisitive western mentality, while it appears that a form of spiritual complacency has enveloped the majority of the Muslims countries, as a result of their choosing to view themselves as underprivileged and striving to "better" themselves materially. Be this as it may and to whatever degree of truth, the only thing impeding the benevolence of other countries is a fear of what might happen if the Muslims ever rise to 'power' again. Qur`an states clearly why God chooses to withhold bounty from many, and it is exactly for fear of the mischief they might cause in the land. We may cite the taliban as a recent example.

It is for this that we must work to instill in the people of all faiths the feelings of unity, friendship, brotherhood and compassion, which to date had been the work of the Sufi brotherhoods in the Muslim countries. And it now falls upon the Federation of World Class Teachers to properly understand the Sufi implications of the religion of Islam and the significance of the Spiritual Imperative and the common goal of all - that anger, outrage and aggression shall not rise again, and power, wealth and abundance may be fearlessly and gratefully shared. Mus-

lims should not be too proud or arrogant to learn from others. The prophet taught that seeking knowledge is incumbent upon us from the cradle to the grave. He instructed us to seek it even if we had to travel to China. And after all, it is our proven and historical practice to do so.

To facilitate this, western peacemakers must understand both the spiritual implications of their own faith and the basic terminologies of similarity in the language of Islam, Arabic. For this purpose I herein explain some of the meanings common to both languages. Western peacemakers might also need to have some understanding of the sources of agitation coming from materialist interpretations of the religious teachings, which can sometimes lead ordinarily religious people to acts of anger, outrage and aggression.

"WE" are immensely powerful people. "WE" can easily control the "world". Because in the moment we release our fears and transform ourselves into our capable, powerful Selves, we release that same capacity into the universe and make it all the easier for others to do the same. And as the numbers increase, the Power of Peace spreads, and the fear and fear-based reactive mind and thinking dissipates and disappears.

"WE" (Ar. Nahnu) is the Mighty Name of Power that the Sufis and Muslims claim exists in the secret realm. It is for this reason that Allah (God) in the Qur`an uses it to refer to Himself so often. For "WE" are the Power of Allah, His Divine Caliphs (khalifa) on earth. "WE" invite all around us to join us in heaven, and manifest it on earth.

There is a well-known Hadith (tradition in Islam) of common knowledge among Muslims that the last day shall not come until there has been forty years of peace and the sun has risen in the West. Need I say more?

## THREE WORDS, THREE PRINCIPLES

### For Religious Understanding, World Peace and Unity

I'm not asking for Religious Unity because it already exists, but for Religious Understanding. From Religious Understanding WILL arise Political Unity, because it is and will become truly evident that religion (i.e. belief in God) is the only real politic.

Religion is Surrender. Surrender allows for human growth and for our Spiritual truths to unfold. If the religious people of the world, who are by FAR, FAR, FAR the vast majority, continue in their demand for peace and freedom from tyranny, which they will, then they must succeed. And one thing that will stop any internal feuding with other believing groups is a simple, unified, universal religious understanding based on three words and three principles. The Federation of World Class Teachers will go a long way toward facilitating this Unity by incorporating this universally applicable understanding of three key Arabic words.

## THREE WORDS IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH

### Towards A Common Religious Vocabulary

**Al-Ilah!** = The One, God, "The Oneness", and The Beyond Oneness, the Prajna Paramita of the Buddhists, that in which the Buddha dwells, the Tao of the Taoists and that to which we are all surrendered, willing or not, and from which we all reap our benefit.

There are two aspects of this Oneness - A) the undeniable Oneness or Unity of Existence, and B) the equally undeniable and ineffable Uniqueness of the Creator over and above the Creation. These two meanings are commonly referred to in Arabic as "Wahdat ul-Wujood", the Oneness of Existence, and "Ahadiyyat" the Divine Right of Uniqueness.

This is the same Oneness that the scientists observe, that the Taoists understand, that the Buddhists explore, to which the pantheon of the Vedas refer, and that all independent investigators discover. We are either consciously aware of it or we are not. It is for each of us simply what is, and it is becoming obvious that it works for us to shift our love and attention to what is, otherwise we doom ourselves to always feeling "out of it". So of this Oneness we can say, "love it or lose it". It is evident that we increase our intelligence, knowledge, love, wisdom and prosperity by staying in it. And we only increase our insanity by staying "out of it". The "Will" of God is peace, surrender to life and a loving co-operation to build a perfect world. God makes this will known through a variety of means, and it will be done. Such is the "Imperative" of Spiritual Unity. Who hears it will be successful.

**Al-Islam** = The Surrender - that which we all know and do, even when we are not asleep like a baby. Qur'an says we know this better than we know our own children. Surrender is to our own inescapable Oneness in Existence and in recognition of the Uniqueness of God over it. Surrender is to release our soul power and truly become all that we can be and are.

**Muslim** = Surrendered, to the Oneness and the Uniqueness of God, Committed to the Surrender, and dedicated to PEACE ONLY, and to helping others. I define Muslim as "liberated



and fulfilled through being consciously Surrendered, and following an inner guidance towards a unified and benevolent self-governance for the benefit of all people".

This Surrender exists within us. So obviously people, when they are Surrendered, are already Muslim, or "in Islam", the State of Surrender, because that is the sole meaning of the word. And our beloved prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught simply that there are only two states (of being), that of Surrender and that of Conflict.

And this is the teaching of Muslims that children are born in the state of Surrender, and that it is due to our environment that we leave it and that it is our duty, quest and destiny to seek our way back to it. It is in this sense that the Holy Qur`an refers to our beloved Jesus (`Isa, peace be upon him) as a Muslim (i.e. Surrendered to the will of God), and that the way he taught and teaches - to enter into the garden, innocent as little children in the kingdom of God's forgiveness - is this very Surrender (i.e.: Islam).

In this simple understanding of our Natural Surrender lies the universal Reality of Religious Unity, and its Imperative. We ARE, innately, Spiritual Unity, and consciously IN Spiritual Unity when we are aware of our Surrender.

We are also in Political Unity when we become aware of our Surrender. With the awareness of this Political Unity, enforced by the natural Power of Peace (POP), comes the confidence of our success in the quest for unified world government.

Surrender is the Imperative. The choice is ours. It doesn't get any simpler than that.

For an expanded explanation of these simple words, their use and universal applicability, please read (on the website above) Some Simple Definitions, Islam the Easy Way or The Flavor of Surrender.

So, now that we are all unified and on the same page, so to speak, we can begin in earnest our quest for the Universal World Guidance. There are three simple principles to understand - The Imperative of Spiritual Unity, The Universal Salvation Principle and The Psychology of Surrender.

## **THREE PRINCIPLES**

### **1 - The Imperative of Spiritual Unity**

The Imperative of Spiritual Unity is actually obvious. Without a recognition and knowing of Spiritual Unity in the outward through understanding and emphasizing the confluence of religious ideology expressed above, we continue to have the illusion of differences in the outward, which we then continue to try to overcome or bridge, so we have no unity in the outward due to the fact that we don't recognize and honor the truth that we DO already have unity in the outward.

So first we must realize that our Unity in the outward through surrender to God is every bit as much a power and reality as our unity in the inward, and we need to and are beginning to recognize it. If there is to be peace, and unity, and harmony, among the peoples of the planet, which exists already among the overwhelming majority, then this is the very peace,

unity and harmony that must certainly be the main theme and teaching of all the world religions, which it is.

Therefore it is Imperative that we explore the power of our commonality in surrender, not of our differences or superiorities, and make it the central focus of our teaching, because it is the reality, will be the reality and must be made the reality.

The Imperative of Spiritual Unity is exactly that, an imperative. We either recognize it, honor it and work within it, or we do not. If we do, then we are surely in sync with Divine Purpose and assured of our success. If we do not, then we are fractured, lacking in foresight and long-term confidence, and any successes achieved will be temporary, at best. The Persian word for fractured is "Shikasta", and Doris Lessing wrote an incredible book by the same name on the fate of a planet that had broken its bond with the "Sense of WE Feeling".

It really is an imperative. We MUST, in the dual meaning of "absolutely need to" and "inevitably will", Surrender and come together in our oneness of Spiritual Unity. All religions and prophecies teach this, and the time is always now. And for those who don't, well, we all make our choices and thereby choose our destinies.

The efforts that are presently being made in this direction are historical for humanity. Never before has there been such potential for genuine change in the nature of world political thought. Shifting godliness and fear/love of God into the political limelight is the work of all religions, and in one way or another, all spiritual paths. Converting ourselves first and then our family and friends to believers in the miracle of Surrender is the work we were all cut out for. It's innate within us. It's the work of true self-manifestation and the work of the truly realized. It is totally natural for us, once we have discovered this way of the peaceful heart, to want to convey its beauty and wisdom to those around us and to want to surround ourselves in fellow lovers of God, truth, self, healing and abundance. And of course, to share it with the world, rejoicing in the discovery that many, many people know this already and are only waiting for us to call or hear their call.

Surrender to Divine purpose is the known gateway to prosperity and world peace, both within our hearts and within our many mutual worlds. Doing it (surrendering) on our own is the principle of doing it together.

Everything we want will come to us, quickly and easily through the Immediate Mercy of God.

The time is now for world peace and we know that God wants us to give up the endless struggle for personal prosperity in a seemingly hostile and objecting world, and accept it the easy way so that we can get on with our real work of helping others.

Prosperity courses work because they are based on and convey this truth of the times. Make prosperity easy and you free yourself to do something with it. It's not so much what we do for our money as what we do with it. Even for those who think that they do not have any, when they shift their thinking to "what am I doing with my money" (and my life), they will see all the answers. God has made prosperity a key to our faith and easy for us for this very reason. He wants us to devote our energies and our resources to other matters than our outward selves and our own personal security.

For professing Muslims, we are Surrendered and aware of our Surrender. We bear witness to our Surrender and to our awareness of our Surrender. We bear witness to our need and gratitude for guidance and to our willingness to follow it wherever it manifests. And we are saying all of that in our affirmation of the Unity of God and the Leadership of Muhammad. This is the very bearing witness that we do in our daily lives and in our five times daily prayers.

Professing Muslims also claim that buried deeply within the teachings of our hearts in Surrender (Islam) can be found a perfect code of social justice which, if implemented with dispassionate wisdom, can bring equity and harmony to humanity. Our quest then, is for the search and study of this code in preparation for its proper implementation at the hand of one trustworthy enough to be fair and just to all, even to the oppressor. Merciless justice will never be supported by all, and if the world is to be a peaceful place, a belief in Merciful Justice must be established.

## **2 - The Universal Salvation Principle**

The Universal Salvation Principle is simply the Surrender. Allah says in Qur`an that Surrender is the debt of nature, and the true repayment of the human debt of gratitude to God is to Surrender to God and to seek and follow the guidance from God provided for us in the moment and found among those who came before us in Surrender.

This is the Surrender of which I have written much. It is the Surrender of the innocent or new-born child. It is the Surrender that the beloved Messiah proclaimed to be the key to kingdom of heaven (on earth). It is the Surrender of the Muslims, the Christians, the Jews, the Buddhists, the Taoists, in fact of the ordinary person when he just plain gives up. It is the Surrender of the believer in "Let go, let God". It is the simplest thing that we do in the everyday realization of our lives and when we go to sleep at night. It is our inevitable destiny.

God did not create to punish, in spite of the fact that many people of faith believe otherwise due to their upbringing. But people are born in innocence. They do not have to accept any religion in order to go straight to heaven, but they may find themselves praying for wisdom and guidance in order to protect their innocence and that of their children. People need only live lives of natural goodness, love and caring. And even if they don't, God is forgiving, again and again. It is natural, when we see we're doing something wrong, to turn to God and repent. "I'm sorry, please excuse me, I won't do that again", means just that, in any language. It is this Surrender that our beloved prophet said children were naturally born into and their parents made into them something different. Surrender is the Universal Salvation Principle, and quite honestly, I doubt that any of us knows whether we will die in Surrender or not. So who are we to judge others?

Salvation AND Prosperity. What a concept. It is the very definition of Heaven and the essence of Surrender. In Arabic the word for Success is "Falah". It is the second Compelling Word in the Muslim Call to Prayer, which is heard five times daily from every Mosque in the world. It is singularly the most mysterious and alluring call in the human experience. Everyone wants to know what it means. The first of the two Compelling Words in the call is "Salah", or "Prayer". Linking prayer and prosperity - doesn't that sound familiar?

### **3 - The Psychology of Surrender**

The Psychology of Surrender is simply that once Surrendered we find ourselves curious, co-operative and easily guided. In fact, many people practice Surrender simply because they believe in and want to find and follow their infallible source of inner guidance. Many have found it before us and claim that it will indeed lead us on the straightest path to our ultimate and most magnificent success.

God knows that the Surrendered want and need guidance, both inwardly to their own best benefit, and outwardly to the perfection of humanity as a society, sharing in the abundant resources of a benevolent world. Is that not the heaven that we are promised, or at least the taste of better things to come?

Is not the search for guidance one of the purposes of Surrender? How could we heal the world without it? So on the next few pages I offer you the Heart and Soul of Islamic Eso- and Exo-terics on the subjects of Universal Guidance, the Unity of Religions, a Unified World Politics, a Vision of the Future, and the Search and the Preparation for the outward Manifestation of Our Inner Guidance.

As you will see, this is Our Universal Quest. This is the work in progress. But aren't we all?

## THE SPIRITUAL QUEST OF IRAN

Understanding the Spiritual Imperative,  
the Confluence of Religious Teachings,  
and the Irani Religious Concept of Unity,  
Spiritual Healing and World Peace

### Introduction

The ideas on these pages are being written for presentation to many of the various organizations for world peace. It is the intent of the author to point out to western peacemakers a little known and very important part of world religion and society, specifically the esoteric understanding of the Shi'a in general as to the true nature and purpose of the Islamic revelation and reality. It is entitled "The Spiritual Quest of Iran".

It is hoped that it will be of value not just for the West, but may serve as a reminder to all of us as to what our real purpose, and the purpose of Islam, here on the planet is - to add our value to the peace, love and joy and harmony for all of humanity.

Peace and love is the work not just of newborn babes and little children but the work of the intelligent and the innocent and the wise and the knowing people of the world. We Muslims may have blown the proper implementation of this message the first time as history shows us that Islam was changed into a religion for the strictly selfish reasons of personal salvation and escape through conformity from tyrannical persecution. Hence the outcome of our position in the world. It is possible and apparent that we did not treat the message in accordance with its true value and it was as a consequence, taken away from us. Be that as it may, we should by now know better. I am convinced that we cannot and will not fail again. There is of course no blame for the past. It was and is a part in preparation for the inevitable evolution of humanity.

In recognition of which, please take into consideration the rapidly rising Sunrise in the West. Realize that the American people are quickly realizing God in all things (abundant evidence is available for those who would care to notice) and are for the most part on the side of peace and international Unity. It's a huge, significant and ultimately successful movement. It is the actualization of the Universal Salvation Principle and Divine benevolence in action. It is the miracle we have all been looking for. We ARE taking care of our internal affairs. The healing movements taking place in the United States are unprecedented in world history, and gaining rapidly in momentum, as they are destined to do.

The new/old interpretations of significant meanings represented on these pages are certainly mine, and I do believe them to be the accepted and true meanings. But even if I am wrong, an intelligent reader will see how they are being put into practice in the search for enlightenment, guidance and success by the growing numbers of people worldwide. This search is indeed, or will certainly lead to, the search for a Universal World Guidance and to the investigation of the Shi'a `Ithna `Ashari, or "Imamiyya" understandings of the implementation

of the true Islamic teachings will certainly arise. This is what I am suggesting. This is what I am doing. We must be prepared.

The more the teachings of the Imamiyya are implemented in a reasoned acceptance of current events, the more they will be recognized and accepted and dealt with by the world in the manner they were intended. I know for a fact that these reasonings are very popular and mainstream among the majority of practically minded scholars of present day Iran, and I present here with them my reasoning as to why the limiting, personally fearful and controlling views of the letter-strict and punishment-oriented thinking of the current minority controllers of Irani affairs must and will be changed. It is for the good of the world, and certainly in keeping with the wishes of the hidden guide of us all.

People want and need personal liberation first, then they will tend to the problems of the world. It is my contention that not until there are a sufficient number of spiritually liberated people (i.e. free and choosing Muslims consciously surrendered) to guarantee the ultimate success of the movement will the Imam appear, and that it is those who understand the true liberation who will be true assistants to the Imam. Just my opinion, mind you. The rest will be, as it should be, guided by their quest for freedom and will be helped by God and those already surrendered. It is happening, and will be completed, sooner or later.

I define Muslim as "liberated through being consciously surrendered, and following an inner guidance toward a unified and benevolent self-governance for the benefit of the people". Free Guided Muslims (surrendered) - is that not our goal of our society? The goal of our society and societies is one, that liberated and guided people come together to discuss means of a betterment for the world.

The student agitation is therefore for liberation, free will and change. It is only from there that they can make their free choice, or not, to accept, study and implement the teaching of Islam for world peace. The lifting of any fear for the need of popular oppression for the students of Iran will lead only to the furthering of that preparation. It will and must happen anyway, and as you will see, is not a bad thing. The need for oppression will be no more and the light of self-governance will arise in the hearts of all people, this is a guaranteed outcome. Why not simply accept it now?

### **The Agreement of Religious People on the Necessity for, and Promise of, A Unified World Leadership**

What the world needs, and is promised in all scriptures, is unified leadership, and in its absence, a means of preparation for it.

It is evident that we, as a world, are preparing for it both personally and universally. Not only is it the promise of all three Abrahamic faiths, its very necessity and our evident preparation for it will create the space for it and it must then arise.

## THE MEANING OF "IMAMIYYA"

"He carries the flame of love in his left hand  
and the sword of keen discrimination in his right."

"Imamiyya" is the word that the Shi`a use to indicate their inner and outer spiritual path.

The Shi`a have a science similar to tasawwuf (the gnostic science and study of the Sufis and Sunni Muslims interested in the path of spiritual development) called `Irfan. They do not place the same degree of importance on it as it is to them similar to the study of psychology in the Western culture, interesting and of value, but not a day to day necessity except to the few who are interested or practice professionally. Since they consider themselves on the right path already, it is thought that the benefits of the study of `Irfan are inherent in their beliefs and practices. And they are, but awareness is better than happenstance.

The Imamiyya are the people who believe in, study and prepare for the advent of the Imam al-Mahdi, the twelfth descendant of the Prophet Muhammad who is known to be still alive and waiting for the world to prepare for his just leadership. As believable as this may be to first-time students, or not, the incredible body of knowledge that has been gathered in the course of this work toward preparing the world for just government is of inestimable social value and the teachings of these people, who are the Shi`a, cannot and should not be taken lightly or dismissed as irrelevant.

Even allowing for disbelief in the physical possibility of this event, the advent of the Imam is an article of faith for the majority of Muslims, Shi`a and Sunni. It is certainly the Islamic equivalent to the awaiting of the Second Coming of the Messiah, which is also believed in by the Muslim majority. In fact, the Islamic belief is that they will arrive together and work in concert to unify the truth of faith in and surrender to the One God, which will bring the final peace and unity to an evolved humanity. It is in this belief that the prophecies of all the founders of major world religions will come true. That there will be peace on earth and that the humble shall inherit a heavenly dwelling place, and that those who fought against it shall have no place in it.

This body of social harmony and justice teachings is preserved and developed in the Muslim religious universities all over the world and held in the hearts of most believers. Why then should it not be studied and incorporated by universalists and world peace ideologists searching for the ultimate form of just world governance? After all, Unity is Unity.

**THE CREDO OF THE IMAMIYYA  
(and a Key to World Unity)**

**It is the duty, goal and imperative  
of all Muslim (Surrendered to God) people  
to prepare for the Emergence of  
the Perfect Guide with Just Governance,  
and the Inevitability of a Perfect Peace,  
Justice and Harmony on Earth.**

**AND**

**The Credo of Humanity's Team  
(<http://www.humanitysteam.com>)  
"Creating the space of possibility  
for a New Spirituality to emerge upon the earth."**

**The Confluence of Muslim and Christian Teachings**

A Comm-unity of believing Muslims, Christians and Jews lies in the understanding and religious teaching that the world not only stands in need of Unified Government, but that its arrival is a promise in all our faiths, and that in our human evolution we are preparing for it.

The new concept of the Oneness, or Unity, of Religion requires only the given understanding that all people are, in one way or another, created by and believers in the One God Who created them, or not. And if not, then that is a personal peril. But the social preparation by nations and the United World Religions for the emergence of a Unified World Governance requires that warring sects cease in mutual understanding, or not, and be destroyed. War is hell. Peace is Heaven. The choice is ours.

This is an especially pertinent message to all peoples of religion whose favorite pastime is derogation of others in favor of themselves and their own personal belief that they are on the right path and others are destined for the fires of hell eternally. This tendency is human universally among religions and spiritual beliefs, but the correction of these misunderstandings is the responsibility of the people of each religion, so that the One Truth of the existence of God and His Infinite Mercy To All may arise prevalent.

The concept of the Mahdi, the Hidden and Awaited Guide, is probably little known in the world of Christian peacemakers, but it is a very real and thoroughly viable parallel to the Christian belief in the Second Coming of Jesus, which is also believed in and adhered to by Muslims.



## THE SPIRITUAL QUEST OF IRAN

The Spiritual quest of Iran IS the Spiritual quest of the Imamiyya and IS the Spiritual quest for Just World Guidance. For all of us who are seekers, the spiritual quest for our hidden guidance is the spiritual quest. Our quest is not solely the quest to know God, which is the healing of wounds and the search for and establishment of certainty. It is also the quest for a living guidance. For without this guidance or the search for guidance we are left only with the self-evidence of the existence of God, the "wahdat ul wujud", or the "oneness of existence", which is the realized basis of all spiritual teaching. From the standpoint of that self-evident truth we are still left with the question of universal truth and world governance. This need is made obvious. So the question remains whether to be left alone to be guided by our desires for increased material well-being, which in itself is not a bad thing but without community involvement suffers the risk of leading eventually to loneliness and individual ruin, or to choose a path to follow with a community and a leader, as do the Buddhists, Christians and Sufis, to mention only a few.

The Spiritual quest and obligation of the Muslims is to solve the riddle of World Unity and resolve the differences among themselves and with the supposed 'other' religions, organizations and spiritual paths. Disagreement with this need is a sign of sectarianism and the creation of separation. Part of that quest must lead to a contemporary, not emotional, study of Islamic history and the true intent of the revelation as opposed to the intent of the people who received it and obviously interpreted it to suit their personal desires at the time. Saudis take note.

It has been accepted over and over again by learned Sunni scholars at all major universities, such as Al-Azhar and other places of scholarship throughout history that the Shi`a people are justified in their faith and should and must be accepted by the Sunni majority as people who have preserved the truth of their message and its true intent. There are innumerable books written on this very subject by irrefutable Sunni scholars. Prejudice is no longer in fashion.

Unfortunate it is that these people were so persecuted and under attack that they had to fall back into a life of defensiveness and literary argumentation and were not afforded the opportunity to promulgate the true intent of the message. So their hearts too, got buried, and we now witness the final manifestation of that in a clerical rulership of Iran, where the rule tries to be by the letter but not by the heart. But it is incumbent upon us to try once again, in the spirit of universal peace, to be accepting of all peoples and their creeds, and especially investigate the claims of the esotericists among the Shi`a, most of whom refer to themselves as the Imamiyya. For it is with them that the concept of an awaited universal guide, not just for Muslims but for the whole world, resides.

It is understood by the Imamiyya and a great Muslim majority that the awaited universal guide will not appear until the environment of the world has been made, by the people, secure for him. This is in keeping with the spiritual law of human personal development also. A child born in an insecure environment will be forced by parental interpretation of circumstance to

conform to the needs of that environment. He will naturally and eventually give up and lose contact with his original intent and set about in a semi-cooperative way to help in the establishment of a peaceful environment, sacrificing by force his own truth and spiritual agenda until such time as he is secure enough to pay attention to the rediscovery of his own true nature and personal intent.

Unfortunate again, that many of these lives remain so embroiled in the putting out of endless fires, even to the extent of creating them because they have gotten so good at putting them out, that it never occurs to them there might be something better to do, another, or a better, way.

Enter at this point the "spiritual" teachings of a mythic and "mystic" quest, and the necessary decision that everyone faces at one point or another in their lives, to pay attention to it, or not. The acceptors of the challenge become the believers and enter into the pathway of self-investigation and spiritual reform, leading to the transformation of self and others, and this is how the true Islam of genuine Surrender to Peace is promulgated. The rejecters of it choose of their own accord to remain in denial, and for the most part out of fear of meeting their Lord. These people can and should be helped to understand the Mercy of God by the example and teachings of the others who have genuinely surrendered and who truly see the right way.

The guides to this Surrender and the pathway in it are, for the most part in Islam, Sufis and enlightened people among the rightly guided populace. They have in common that they have received their truth, faith and authority directly from the family of the prophet (Ahli-bait) themselves. For the general knowledge of all, it must be accepted that all faiths have within them the concept of just leadership and the principles of guidance and harmonious cooperation in peace.

The concept of an awaited universal guide is not exclusive to the Muslims. Christians also await the return of the Messiah, and the Jewish people are still awaiting theirs. There is, however, a lot of confusion within the Islamic world concerning him, his identity, time of arrival, conditions for emergence, and his intent. All agree that his emergence will be the certain end of unbelief, but it is said that his criterion for judgement will be different from that of the people, and that he will know the truthful by the hearts and not by the outward profession. This necessitates a preparation on the part of the Muslims in their hearts, which we accept. This is literally the creation of a welcoming and safe place in our hearts and in our environment, the world, for a just administration by the arriving messengers of the truth of the times.

Many spiritual organizations in the West and the East are unified in the same opinion, that the world must be brought by personal, individual, group, national and worldwide effort to the place where it is safe for a true world leadership to emerge. This means that personal prejudices must be investigated and cleared away. These are, in any case, the imperatives for salvation, both personal and worldwide.

The obligations of the Muslims are many, but paramount among them is to love the family of Muhammad (pbuh) and to live in his spiritual practice of "Rahmatun-lil `Alameen", being nothing but a "Mercy unto all the worlds". Each person on the planet, by God's leave and Mercy, lives in one of these worlds, so it is then obvious that it is the duty of Muslims to practice compassion to all and to speak to each according to their needs and understanding. The

understanding and practice of compassion (Rahma) is also the point and purpose of the Buddhist teachings as well as the Christian.

Religion is only rejected for two reasons. One is its abuse by its holder upon the rejecters, causing them to flee from its oppressive abuse, which is their right and duty, and God is with the oppressed; and the other is simply that 'other things', i.e. personal concerns, are taking priority in the mind. If true religion can be shown to be not just the understanding of these 'other things', but their actual resolution, then the mercy and understanding is demonstrated and the path of the real solution is opened.

Oppression is discrimination against any person or group of people. Discrimination is always a result of ignorance. If we really knew the plight and circumstances of people, our hearts of mercy would open to them. But it is our lack of understanding of the human situation that causes us to discriminate against, and thereby oppress, others. Qur`an says, "They seek to destroy that which they do not understand".

It is often said that we become what we hate. Thus the rich eventually taste poverty and the oppressors eventually become oppressed. Because by fleeing from it they are affirming it, not resolving it. And it is from oppression that the oppressors are fleeing in the first place, and, in an attempt to guarantee their own safety, they feel it necessary to oppress others.

In the case of Iran, it is inevitable that the youth, after fleeing the oppression of their very defensive/offensive fathers, will turn, on their own, to the spiritual quest for real truth, based on non-violence, non-oppression, true freedom and the search for the truth of their reality. But they must, and I say must, discover their own reality first. They cannot and will not accept it hearsay. This is the case for any child.

After studying the myriad of spiritual paths open to them by the West, they will come to some conclusions. One of these conclusions is that there is truth in all of them. After exhaustively investigating the truth in all paths they will necessarily have to investigate and realize that which is true in Islam, and then in their own particular history, that of the Shi'a and the `Ithnal `Ashari, or Imamiyya.

It is at that point that they will discover the reality of the Hidden Imam and his particular parallel to their own lives. He is the "Hidden Guide". He went undercover as a result of the intense oppression that ruled the 'Islamic' world at the time. Like all "inner children" he hid out and took on the colors of the environment so as to not be discovered and persecuted. And likewise, he waits for us to create a safe environment for his eventual emergence.

In an oppressive world, we are all doing the same. Yet nevertheless, this creates in our hearts a yearning for truth, safety and true self-expression that result in what is known as a 'spiritual' quest for our 'true' self. It is kept for the most part secret and shared only cautiously with those who might be of like mind. Hence we have the 'punk' generation in the USA.

When they realize the desperate need for world peace and a truly universal, humanitarian government, which they will and do, they will realize the universal value of the true teachings of Islam. They will also realize the point and purpose of the occultation of the Twelfth Iman, the "hidden" guide, who exists, in part, in all of us.