

Lectures for
International Peace Youth Group
(Part 1)



Ayatollah Hosseini Nassab



Introduction

The International Peace Youth Group (IPYG) is an organization of international youth leaders passionately dedicated towards achieving peace in our world through working together.

IPYG started out as a group of peace-seeking, determined youth who were also active volunteers in the Korean community.

In May 2013, this group of young people found that there was a clear interest in the peace projects they were doing, not only from communities within Korea, but on an international scale. They set out contacting and inviting all youth organizations around the globe to join them in their mission, and with the vision of creating a lasting change in the world IPYG rapidly grew.

IPYG aims to unite the youth of every nation, and pave the way to a peaceful future for our world.

We strive to do this through fostering a new culture of world peace, a heavenly culture that will respect and

embrace the beautiful diversity of humanity and restore faith in mankind.

IPYG will walk this path of growth and change as one united world youth.

The purpose of IPYG is to create positive and lasting change internationally through uniting major youth associations around the world.

IPYG supports the development of different communities and encourage them to set the example in educating and motivating their nation's active pursuit of peace.

International Peace Youth Group invited Grand Ayatollah Seyed Reza Hosseini Nassab to give lectures monthly in its discussion meetings with other religious leaders.

Here are the brief summary of his lectures for IPYG.

The relationship between Religion and Scriptures

In the name of God the compassionate the merciful

What is the meaning of religion?

The religion is a way that leads the human being to reach the highest status of perfection which is God Almighty. It is also, the path of life which teaches us to know how to deal with each other in our family and our society, with peace and tolerance.

The Glorious Quran says:

يا ايها الانسان انك كادح الى ربك كدحا فملاقيه

O mankind, indeed, you are striving to your Lord, and you will meet him. (84, 6)

The Quran also says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ

O you who have believed, respond to God Almighty and

to the Messenger when he calls you to that which will give you life. (8, 24)

What is the purpose of religion?

The main purpose of religion is to maintain Justice.

The Holy Quran says:

لقد أرسلنا رسلنا بالبينات وأنزلنا معهم الكتاب والميزان ليقوم الناس بالقسط

We have already sent our messengers with clear evidences and sent down with them the Scripture and the balance that the mankind may maintain in justice. (57, 25)

An introduction of our scripture:

The Holy Scripture of all Muslims in the world is the Quran. The verses of this Heavenly Book were revealed by God Almighty to Prophet Muhammad from 609 to 632 AD.

Several companions of Prophet Muhammad, including Imam Ali, were in charge of writing down the revelations. The Glorious Quran was compiled by those companions when the prophet was alive and he approved it before his demise.

This copy of the Holy Quran was published officially at the time of Caliph Uthman in 656 AD, as the standard version of Muslims scripture.

One of the oldest copies of Glorious Quran which was discovered in 2015 by the University of Birmingham, in England, dating back to 645 Ad, shows that the Muslims in the beginning of Islam were writing the verses of Quran on leather.

The Glorious Quran is a book which has never been distorted in the history.

We recite in chapter 15. , Verse 9 as follow:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

Surely We have revealed the Quran, and We are its Protectors.

The Quran is the main source of Islamic knowledge and is considered as the most important miracle of Prophet Muhammad.

Our Holy Scripture emphasizes on the most important human values. They are:

1. Freedom of thought.

God Almighty says:

فبشر عبادى الذين يستمعون القول فيتبعون احسنه

Give good news to my servants, those who listen to the Word, and follow the best. (39, 17-18)

2. The Peace.

The Holy Scripture says:

وَإِنْ تُصَلِحُوا وَتَتَّقُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا

If you come to peace and piety, God is All-forgiving and All-merciful. (4, 129)

3. Equality and rejecting racism and discrimination

The Glorious Quran says in Sura Al-Hujorat:

يأَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

O mankind, we have created you from male and female and made you nations and tribes that you may know each

other. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. (49, 13)

4. Tolerance and Mercy

We recite in the Holy Quran:

فبما رحمة من الله لنت لهم و لو كنت فظا عليظ القلب لانفصوا من حولك
By the mercy from Allah you have been able to deal with the people so gently and with mild morality. And if you had been rough and hard-hearted, the people would have been separated from you.

(3, 159)

The Quran also says:

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
رَؤُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

A Messenger from your own people has come to you. Your destruction and suffering is extremely grievous to him. He really cares about you and is very compassionate and merciful to the believers. (9, 128)

Quran, as the main source of Islamic Law

The Muslims resort to two essential sources as follows:

1. The Divine Book of Allah, Glorious Quran.
2. The Prophet's traditions.

Among the mentioned sources, the Divine Book of Quran is the most fundamental source of the Islamic jurisprudence and the criterion for the Divine commandments.

The Muslim leaders have introduced this heavenly Book as the most authentic reference for the Islamic Law, so that any other tradition in Islam is only adopted if it is in accordance to the Quran, and vice versa.

With regard to this fact, Imam Ja'far Sadiq (a) says:

وكل حديث لا يوافق كتاب الله فهو زخرف

(Any tradition, which is not in accordance to the Holy Quran, is groundless.)

The Holy Prophet of Islam also says:

ايها الناس ما جاءكم عني يوافق كتاب الله فانا قلته و ما جاءكم يخالف كتاب الله فلم اقله

O, people! If any statement that is attributed to me is in

accordance with the Divine Book (Quran) is of mine,
and vice versa.

From this mentioned traditions, it becomes obvious that
the heavenly Scripture is the primary and most authentic
source and reference for Islamic Law and Jurisprudence.



Life and Death

Why do people die?

In other word, what is the philosophy of death?

According to the viewpoint of our holy scripture the Glorious Quran, the human was not created to live on the earth forever.

God Almighty created the human being to live in this world for a period of time and achieve the result of his activities and to be tested by God and finally, to be transferred to the spiritual and eternal world.

The earth itself also is not eternal and will be collapsed and destroyed in future.

The Glorious Quran says:

Blessed is God who owns the dominion, and who is Able to do all things. Who has created death and life, that He may test you which of you is best in deed? And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Forgiving. (Chapter 67, verse 1 - 2)

According to these verses, God Almighty has created the life in this physical and material world, and he also,

created the death which is a journey from this limited life to the eternal life in hereafter.

Based on this fact, death is not lack of life, but it is the beginning of a higher level of life, which is spiritual and eternal.

Types of life

In our religion, there are 2 types of human's life:

1. The physical and bestial life. The source of this life is the material and natural world. This life starts from birth and ends by death. In this phase of life, the human is partner of other animals.
2. The spiritual and humane life. The source of this life is God Almighty. This life starts from birth and continues for ever. It is eternal. In this phase of life, the human is partner of Divine Angles.

We recite in the Holy Quran about the first type of life: Know that the worldly life is only a game, a temporary attraction, a means of boastfulness among your selves and a place for multiplying your wealth and children. (Chapter 57, verse 20).

But our scripture says about the second type of life:

Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and we will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do. (Chapter 16, verse 97).

Is there a cause regarding 4 phases of life (life, sick, age, death) in the scripture?

According to our scripture, these issues are only different situations of the worldly and physical life of human. The real spiritual and eternal life of human is away from oldness and death.

Can human be freed from death?

As I mentioned above, the human has physical and spiritual lives. The physical and worldly life will be ended by death and there is no solution for this issue. But the spiritual life of human will continue after death and would never be ended. The human after physical death / will achieve the consequence of his/her activities / which were done / in this world.

The Holy Quran says:

Indeed, you are to die, and indeed, they are to die. Then

indeed you, on the Day of Resurrection, before your Lord, will dispute. (Chapter 39, Verses 30-31)

Based on these verses, there is no solution for physical death, but the soul of human will be alive for ever.

The important issue is that the level and quality of this second life depend on the type of activity of every person in this world.

We recite in the Quran as follow:

By the soul and who created it,

By God Almighty who inspired it the wickedness and the righteousness,

He has succeeded who purifies his soul,

And he has failed who corrupted his soul. (Chapter 91, verses 7-10).

According to these verses, we will not be destroyed after death, but we may be successful and reach the high status of perfection, or to be failed.

The human being has opportunity in this world to make his identity for his eternal life.

If we maintain peace, justice, solidarity, humanity, piety, generosity and other good characteristics we will be

successful and will have a perfect spiritual life in hereafter and vice versa.

How did human exist?

The material dimension of human being was created on the earth and the spiritual soul of human was granted to him by God Almighty. This spiritual soul is the cause of many privileges of human being among other soulful beings, such as: wisdom, peroration and speech, fast progress, discovery and invention.

The Glorious Quran says:

We certainly created human from an extract of clay.
(Chapter 23, verse 12).

The Quran also says:

When I created Adam (the human) and put into him of my soul. (Chapter 15, verse 29).

What is the reason of its existence?

The human being was not created without a logical purpose and philosophy.

The Quran says:

Did you think that we had created you without any purpose and that you would never be brought back to

us?

According to other verses, the purpose of creation of human being on the earth is to have the best type of creatures which can learn knowledge and get developed and become perfect due to piety, virtue, purification, and worshipping God Almighty.

God says:

I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship me. (Chapter 51, verse 56).

The human is the being in the world who can select his destiny by choice.

And worship is the best type of connection between the human being and God Almighty who is the highest point of perfection.

At the end I should mention this important issue that: belief in the resurrection and hereafter helps the human being to maintain more justice, peace, and piety in this world. When we know that we will reach the result of our worldly actions after death, we will be kinder and more careful in our life.

Verses:

Chapter 67, verse 1 – 2

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ. الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ
لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَفُورُ

Chapter 57, verse 20

اعلموا أنما الحياة الدنيا لعب ولهو وزينة وتفاخر بينكم وتكاثر في الأموال
والأولاد

Chapter 16, verse 97

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ
أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

Chapter 39, verse 30-31

إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ مَّيِّتُونَ. ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ

Chapter 91, verses 7-10

وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا . فَأَلْهَمَهَا فُجُورَهَا وَتَقْوَاهَا . قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَن زَكَّاهَا . وَقَدْ خَابَ
مَن دَسَّاهَا

Chapter 23, verse 12

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنسَانَ مِنْ سُلَالَةٍ مِّنْ طِينٍ

Chapter 15, verse 29

فَإِذَا سَوَّيْتُهُ وَنَفَخْتُ فِيهِ مِنْ رُّوحِي فَقَعُوا لَهُ سَاجِدِينَ

Chapter 51, verse 56

و ما خلقت الجن و الانس الا ليعبدون



How God influences us

According to Islamic Theology, God Almighty is the creator of the world, the master of the world, and the Lord of the world.

The Holy Quran says:

He is God Almighty: there is no god but He: the King, the Holy, the All-Peace, the Giver of security, the Overseer, the Most Mighty, the Overpowering, and the All-Great.

He is God Almighty, the Creator, the Inventor, the Fashioner; to Him belong the best names. Whatever is in the heavens and earth is exalting Him. And He is the Exalted in Might, and He is the Wise. (Chapter: 59, verse: 23-24)

According to these verses of Quran, God Almighty has the most influence and power in the world and over human being.

According to Islam, God Almighty has two types of influence on the human being:

1. Welayah Takwinieh

2. Welayah Tashryieh

Welayah Takwinieh means: Formative influence and power.

Welayah Tashryieh means: Legislative authorization and mandate.

Based on this fact, God Almighty influences the human beings by his power to solve their problems and to save them from dangers and to make them succeed over the biggest enemy who is devil.

He also influences the human being by legislation and making law to help us find the way of life and the right path.

There are two questions:

Question No: 1. we know that God loves the humans and teaches justice and peace, so why do pain, misery, and death still exist?

The answer:

God Almighty did not create this physical world as an

eternal world for human. The hereafter world has been prepared as the perfect and eternal destination.

This physical world has been created for human, to make him practice, work and reach the highest status of perfection.

It is the place of examination and experiment.

The Quran says:

We have created human `being into trial and struggle.

(Chapter 90, verse 4)

So, the physical world is the world of trial and struggle, and there is no struggle without difficulties.

Death also is not the end of life, but it is transferring from the temporary and physical world to the eternal and spiritual world.

The human being will achieve the result of his actions in hereafter world, which is forever without death.

Question No: 2. what is God's work on the earth and how does he influence the man?

The answer:

According to Islamic philosophy, existence and continuation of the world and human being depend on the will of God Almighty.

In addition, God helps the human being by angels and positive powers to reach the success and prosperity and to succeed over Satan and negative powers.

We recite in the Glorious Quran:

Satan threatens you with poverty and orders you to immorality, while God Almighty promises you forgiveness from Him and bounty.

God Almighty also guides the human being to find the correct way of life by his messengers.

The Quran says:

Indeed, you do not guide whom you like, but God Almighty guides whom He wills. And He is most knowing of the [rightly] guided. (Chapter 28, verse 56)

When we believe in God and his support, we will have more confidence and power in front of problems in our life and he also will support us by his power.

God / is the source of existence, guidance, happiness and prosperity.

The Glorious Quran says:

What comes to you of good / is from God, but what comes to you of evil, is from yourself. (Chapter 4, verse 79).

Verses:

Chapter: 59, verses: 23-24:

هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيَّمِنُ الْعَزِيزُ
الْجَبَّارُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُ ۚ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ
هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَالِقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّرُ ۗ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ ۗ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي
السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

Chapter 2, verses 268-269:

الشیطان یعدکم الفقر ویأمرکم بالفحشاء والله یعدکم مغفرة منه وفضلا والله
. واسع علیم .

یؤتی الحکمة من یشاء ومن یؤت الحکمة فقد أوتی خیرا کثیرا وما ینکر إلا
أولو الألباب

Chapter 28, verse: 56:

إنک لا تهدی من أحببت ولكن الله یهدی من یشاء وهو أعلم بالمهتدین

Chapter 90, verse 4:

لقد خلقنا الإنسان فی کبد

Chapter 4, verse 79:

ما اصابك من حسنةٍ فَمَنْ اللهُ و ما اصابك من سيئةٍ فمن نفسك



The messenger from God

The Messenger or prophet is an individual, who receives the revelation and inspiration from God Almighty, and delivers his message to the people.

We recite in Quran, Chapter 21, verse 73 as follow:

We made the Prophets leaders guiding by command of God. And we inspired to them the doing of good deeds, establishment of prayer, and giving of donation to the poor; and they were worshippers of God.

Revelation is a spiritual message from God Almighty to a pious and virtuous person who is a Prophet, to be delivered to the people.

Revelation can be received by Prophet directly or indirectly from God, or by Angel.

The Glorious Quran says in chapter 42, verse 51:

It is not for any human being that God should speak to him except by revelation or from behind a partition or that He sends a messenger to reveal by His permission.

There should be at least 3 characteristics to prove that a

person is messenger from God:

1. He should invite the people to God Almighty, not to himself.
2. He should be innocent.
3. He should have miracle.

Miracle is an extraordinary and supernatural action which can be done by the power of God only and no one else can do it.

For example, Prophet Abraham was set on the fire, but God Almighty saved and protected him.

Prophet Moses also, could make a road in the heart of Nile river, and could change his stick to a dragon.

Prophet Jesus could give life to the dead person. And Prophet Mohammad could make stones glorify God Almighty.

There are much more miracles which are mentioned in Quran for different Prophets.

There is a Chapter in Quran about the Prophets and their miracles, which is named: Surah Al-Anbiya. It is twenty first Chapter of Quran.

There is also a specific chapter about Prophet Jesus which is named Sura Maryam (the Chapter of Marry). It

is 19th chapter in Quran.

Name and stories of 27 messengers of God are mentioned in Glorious Quran.

They are:

1. Adam,
2. Noah,
3. Abraham,
4. Muses,
5. Jesus,
6. Mohammad,
7. Idris,
8. Saleh,
9. Hud,
10. Ismail,
11. Isaac,
12. Lut,
13. Jacob,
14. Josef,
15. Ayyoub,
16. Dhul Kifl
17. Shoayb
18. Aaron,

19. David
20. Solomon
21. Jonah
22. Ilyas
23. Yasa'a
24. Ozair
25. Khidr
26. Zechariah
27. Yahya

The first prophet of God was Adam, who established the building of Ka'aba in Mecca.

God Almighty says in Chapter 3, Verse 96:

Indeed, the first House established for mankind was built at Mecca blessed and guidance for the worlds.

So, the first prophet established the first house for the sake of grace, blessing and guidance.

Prophet Adam was the first human being and the first messenger of God. It means that the human beings always need guidance from God Almighty.

According to religion of Islam, there were 5 worldwide Prophets who are named Ulul Azm Prophets:

They are: Abraham, Noah, Moses, Jesus, and Prophet Mohammad.

Prophet Abraham is one of the most important messengers.

Abraham fulfilled all the exams and trials which God Almighty tried him. As a result God appointed him to be the Imam and leader of all the nations of the world.

The Glorious Quran says in Chapter 2, verse 124:

When Abraham was tried by his Lord with some commands and he fulfilled them. Then God said, Indeed, I will make you a leader for the people of the world.

Abraham (a.s) is ancestor of Prophets of 3 important religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

According to Glorious Quran, Prophet Abraham is a messenger, a leader, a role model, and an example of success and prosperity for all people in the world.

That's why God Almighty names Prophet Abraham in Chapter 16, verse 120 from the Quran, as a nation and says:

In fact Abraham was a nation in himself.

According to the religion of Islam, Prophet Mohammad is the last prophet. He was born in 570 AD, in the city of

Mecca.

He came to continue and improve the message of Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

Verses:

Chapter 21, verse 73 as follow:

وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أُمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ الْخَيْرَاتِ وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ
وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ وَكَانُوا لَنَا عَابِدِينَ

Chapter 42, verse 51:

وما كان لبشر أن يكلمه الله إلا وحيا أو من وراء حجاب أو يرسل رسولا
فيوحي بإذنه ما يشاء إنه علي حكيم

Chapter 3, Verse 96:

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ بَيْتٍ وُضِعَ لِلنَّاسِ لَلَّذِي بِبَكَّةَ مُبَارَكًا وَهُدًى لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

Chapter 2, verse 124:

وَإِذِ ابْتَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ رَبُّهُ بِكَلِمَاتٍ فَأَتَمَّهُنَّ ۖ قَالَ إِنِّي جَاعِلُكَ لِلنَّاسِ إِمَامًا

Chapter 16, verse:

إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ كَانَ أُمَّةً فَاٰنَا بِرِٔهِ حَنِيفًا وَّلَمْ يَكُ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِيْنَ



Understanding Religion

The religion is one of the most important causes of peace and war in the world. That's why we should study the base, influence, and role of major religions and faiths.

There are several questions about religion of Islam and I should answer:

First question: Who is the creator of religion of Islam?

We believe that the creator of all religions is God Almighty. The Prophets are only intermediates between God and the human being, to deliver his message. God is called Shaarei, the creator of Shari'a (The religion and path of life).

The Glorious Quran says:

Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth is exalting Allah, the Sovereign, the Pure, the Exalted in Might, the Wise.

It is He who has sent among the people a Messenger from themselves reciting to them His verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book and wisdom. (Chapter 62, verse: 1-2)

The holy Quran also says:

Muhammad is not but a messenger. [Other] messengers have passed on before him. So if he was to die or be killed, would you turn back on your heels [to unbelief]? (Chapter 3, verse: 144).

Second question: When did the religion of Islam originate?

Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam was born in 570 AD.

When he was 40 years old, he received the first revelation from God in 610 AD, as follow:

Recite in the name of your Lord who created.

Created man from a clinging substance.

Recite, and your Lord is the most Generous.

Who taught by the pen.

Taught man which he knew not. (Chapter 96, verses: 1-

5)

These first five verses which were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, are talking about knowledge, writing, pen, and education.

It means that: Education is the main key for success, peace, and prosperity of human being in the world.

Verses of Quran were revealed to Prophet Muhammad during 23 years.

Prophet Muhammad died on June 8, 632 AD.

Third question: where is the source of your religion?

The city of Mecca in Arabia Peninsula is the source of religion of Islam.

Before beginning of Islam, Mecca was the capital city of idolaters in Arabia.

Prophet Muhammad invited worshipers of idols to worship only God Almighty, the lord of the worlds.

When Islam began to spread, the idolaters in Mecca who were from tribe of Quraysh, asked Abu Talib, the uncle of Prophet Muhammad to hand him over to them for

execution, but he refused.

Then, the Qurayshi idolaters forced Prophet Muhammad and his followers to leave the city of Mecca to a valley in the desert out of town, which was called Shibe Abi Talib.

They lived in that valley in misery for 3 years.

In 623 AD, he and the new Muslims migrated to the city of Medina, which is 340 Kilo meters north of Mecca.

He established the first Islamic community in Medina. It was the starting point of increasing of Islam in the world.

We recite in the Quran as follow:

And [remember, O Muhammad], when those who disbelieved plotted against you to restrain you or kill you or evict you [from Makkah]. But they plan, and God also plans. And God is the best of planners.

(Chapter 8, verse: 30).

Forth question: What event caused the beginning of your religion?

The philosophy of beginning of Islam is the same cause of appearance of other major religions.

When a great number of people in the world are suffering from injustice, discrimination, and ignorance, God Almighty sends a savior and messenger to protect human beings from corruption and destruction.

The period of time before appearance of Islam, was age of ignorance of divine guidance. That time is named Jahiliyyah, which means: the state of darkness and ignorance of the guidance from God.

This term is used in reference to the Arabic cultural situation before the arrival of Islam.

The Glorious Quran says:

When those who disbelieved had put into their hearts fanaticism and chauvinism at the time of ignorance, but God sent down His tranquility and peace upon His Messenger and upon the believers and imposed upon them / the word of righteousness. (Chapter 48, verse: 26)

Fifth question: what events caused the end of your

religion?

According to the Glorious Quran, Islam is an eternal religion. It is a faith that is flexible and suitable for all generations and all ages. The true Islam is based on knowledge, logic, justice and morality.

According to the statistics in 2015, over 1.7 billion people in the world are Muslim. It means that about 24 percent of the world population are following Islam.

25% of population in Asia-Oceania , 91.2% in the Middle East-North Africa, 30% in Sub-Saharan Africa, and around 6% in Europe.

That's why we read in the book of "mankind search for God" that: Islam perhaps is the fastest growing religion in the world, especially in Africa and in the western countries.

Verses:

Chapter 62, verse: 1-2:

يسبح لله ما في السماوات وما في الأرض الملك القدوس العزيز الحكيم . هو الذي بعث في الأميين رسولا منهم يتلوا عليهم آياته ويزكيهم ويعلمهم الكتاب والحكمة وإن كانوا من قبل لفی ضلال مبين

Chapter 3, verse: 144:

وما محمد إلا رسول قد خلت من قبله الرسل أفإن مات أو قتل انقلبتم على أعقابكم ومن ينقلب على عقبيه فلن يضر الله شيئاً وسيجزى الله الشاكرين

Chapter 96, Verses: 1-5:

اقرأ باسم ربك الذي خلق (1) خلق الإنسان من علق (2) اقرأ وربك الأكرم (3) الذي علم بالقلم (4) علم الإنسان ما لم يعلم (5)

Chapter 8, verse: 30:

وإذ يمكر بك الذين كفروا ليثبتوك أو يقتلوك أو يخرجوك ويمكرون ويمكر الله والله خير الماكرين

Chapter 48, verse: 26:

إِذْ جَعَلَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْحَمِيَّةَ الْحَمِيَّةَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةَ فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ وَعَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَأَلْزَمَهُمْ كَلِمَةَ التَّقْوَى



Peace and Religion

In our time, many politicians, leaders, and strategists encourage the people to increase clashes and conflicts between different nationalities civilizations, and countries.

In 1947, George Kennan mentioned the theory of “Cold War” paradigm. Based on this theory, the politicians and leaders in the world founded NATO, SEATO, WORSAW and SENTO coalitions.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Southeast Asia Treaty Organization

Treaty of Warsaw

Central Treaty Organization

These treaties were established to manage the Cold War between powers and superpowers for decades.

In 1992, Francis Fukuyama wrote his famous book which is named “The End of History and the Last Man”.

But in the same year, Samuel Huntington presented the theory of “The Clash of Civilizations”. We see many politicians and organizations which try to carry out this theory and increase the clash between civilizations and followers of different religions and faiths.

So, what is the message of God in front of these treaties and theories?

According to the Glorious Quran, God Almighty invites all people and all nations and civilizations to perform peace.

We recite in Chapter 10, Verse 25, as follow:

God invites to the Home of Peace and guides those who want to be guided to the right path.

The Holy Scripture also says in Chapter 4, verse 129:

If you come to peace and piety, God is All-forgiving and All-merciful.

So, the message of God Almighty according to religion of Islam is: Peace, conciliation and tranquility.

There are 2 questions.

First question: Who are the people who have done the work of peace in your scriptures?

We know that the prophets are the messengers from God. They deliver the message of peace from God Almighty to the people.

Based on this fact, prophet of Islam also, should have done the work of peace according to our holy scripture. Prophet Mohammad was the herald and harbinger of peace in his sayings and his actions.

God Almighty says in Chapter 3, Verse 159:

By the mercy from Allah you have been able to deal with the people so gently and with mild morality. And if you had been rough and hard-hearted, the people would have been separated from you.

The Quran also says in Chapter 9, Verse 128:

A Messenger from your own people has come to you. Your destruction and suffering is extremely grievous to him. He really cares about you and is very compassionate and merciful to the believers.

If all people become compassionate and merciful, then there will not be any violence and oppression in the world and all people will live with each other with peace and justice.

The most important message of Prophet Mohammad was mercy and grace. We recite in Quran, Chapter 21, Verse 107, as follows:

And we have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.

The practical way to reach peace for all people in the world, is to increase tolerance among the various nationalities, and followers of different religions and faiths.

That's why God Almighty asked Prophet Mohammad to encourage tolerance among all people who worship God, and says in Chapter 39, Verse 17 and 18:

Give good news to my servants, those who listen to the Word, and follow the best. (39, 17-18)

Second question: What should the people of religion do to achieve peace?

People should realise that they are brothers and sisters in

humanity.

The religious and spiritual leaders also should invite people to maintain tolerance and mercy.

We recite in Chapter 49, verse 10 as follow:

All believers are brothers, so make peace between your brothers. And be pious for the sake of God, to receive his mercy.

God Almighty also says in the same chapter 49, verse 9:

And if two factions among the believers should fight, then make peace and settlement between them.

So, all people are responsible in front of God Almighty to maintain peace in the world, and all religious leaders and scholars are responsible to increase tolerance and mercy among different nations and civilizations.

Verses:

Chapter 10, verse: 25:

وَاللَّهُ يَدْعُو إِلَى دَارِ السَّلَامِ وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ

Chapter 4, verse: 129:

وَإِنْ نُصَلِحُوا وَتَنَفَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا

Chapter 49, verse 10:

انما المؤمنون اخوة فأصلحوا بين اخويكم

Chapter 49, verse 9:

و ان طائفتان من المؤمنين اقاتلوا فاصلحوا بينهما

Chapter 3, Verse 159:

فبما رحمة من الله لنت لهم و لو كنت فظا عليظ القلب لانفصوا من حولك

Chapter 9, Verse 128:

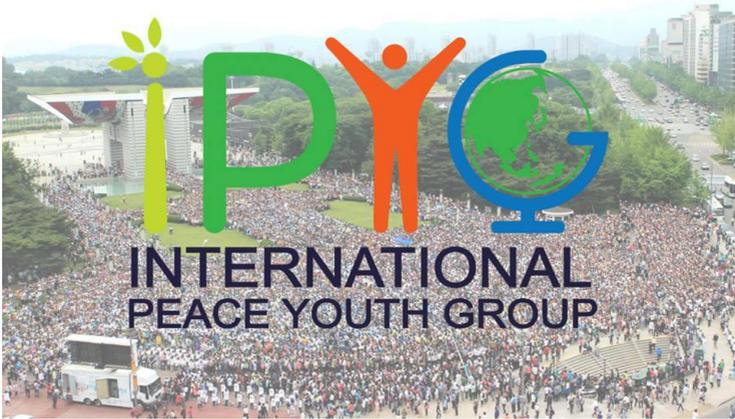
لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
رَؤُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

Chapter 21, Verse 107, as follows:

و ما ارسلناك الا رحمة للعالمين

Chapter 39, Verse 17 and 18:

فبشر عبادى الذين يستمعون القول فيتبعون احسنه



Good and Evil

According to Islamic philosophy, good is equal with existing and being, and bad is lack of existence or lack of perfection.

These philosophers presented this definition of god and bad, because they believe that God Almighty is absolutely good and he is the source of goodness and does not create any bad being.

So, if you see something bad in the world, it is actually lack of goodness.

For example, ignorance is lack of Knowledge, and death is lack of life.

- **What is the definition of Good in your Scripture?**

Good is something which is the source of existence, perfection, and happiness. The Glorious Quran says:

Maintain for orphans [and help them] in justice, whatever you do of good - indeed, God Almighty will see and know it. Chapter 4, verse 127

The Quran also says:

If they make peace and settlement between them, then the peace is extremely good. Chapter 4, verse 128

We also recite in Quran:

If you perform fasting, it is good for you. Chapter 2, verse 184

The Holy Quran also says in Chapter 2, verse 197:

Whatever good you do – God Almighty knows it, take provisions of piety and virtue, indeed, the best provision is the piety.

According to these verses, Peace, supporting Orphans, Fasting, and Piety are considered as Good, because, they are the sources of existence, prosperity, perfection and happiness.

- **What is the definition of Evil in your Scripture?**

According to Quran, evil is the source of ignorance, aberration, oppression, depression, and destruction.

The Glorious Quran says:

(Some people) have hearts but they do not understand, they have eyes but they do not see, and they have ears but they do not hear. Those are like livestock; rather, they are more astray. They are the ignorant. Chapter 7, verse 179

The Quran also says:

Do not be like those who say, "We have heard," while they do not hear. Indeed, the worst of living creatures in the sight of God are those who do not think and do not use reason.

Chapter 8, verses 21-22

We also recite in the Quran as follow:

Satan threatens you with poverty and orders you to immorality, while God Almighty promises you

forgiveness from Him and bounty. Chapter 2, verse 268

According to this verse, Satan who is evil tries to make people loose there hope and get depressed.

The Quran also says in Chapter 41, verse 49:

Man is not weary and exhausted of supplication for good, but if evil touches him, he is hopeless and despairing.

- **In Spiritual world, who is good and who is evil**

according to your scripture?

According to the Holy Quran, those who had believed in the Hereafter and established prayers and helped the poor people are the best.

But those who did not believe in the Resurrection day, and did not perform any righteous deeds and did not prepare themselves for the Hereafter, are the losers.

The Quran says:

Guidance and good news for the believers

Who establish prayer and give donation to the needy people, and believe in the Hereafter.

Indeed, for those who do not believe in the Hereafter, We have made pleasing to them their deeds, so they wander blindly.

Those who gained the worst of punishment for themselves, and in the Hereafter they are the greatest losers. Chapter 27, verse 2 – 5

- **In Physical world, who is good and who is evil**

according to your scripture?

There are many characteristics mentioned in Quran for good and evil people.

The Holy Quran says in Chapter of Time:

By the Time,

Indeed, mankind is in loss.

Except for those who believe, and do righteous deeds, and advise each other to the truth and advise each other to patience.

According to these verses, the causes of salvation and prosperity are the following:

1. To believe in God and worshipping him.
2. Doing righteous deeds.
3. Following the truth and advising each other to the truth.
4. Being patient and advising each other to patience.

Verses:

Chapter 4, verse 127:

وَأَنْ تَقُومُوا لِلدِّينِ بِالْقِسْطِ وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِهِ عَلِيمًا

Chapter 4, verse 128

ان يصلحا بينهما صلحا و الصلح خير

Chapter 2, verse 184

وَأَنْ تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ

Chapter 2, verse 197:

و ما تفعلوا من خير يعلمه الله و تزودوا فإن خير الزاد التقوى

Chapter 7, verse 179

لهم قلوب لا يفقهون بها ولهم أعين لا يبصرون بها ولهم آذان لا يسمعون
بها أولئك كالأنعام بل هم أضل أولئك هم الغافلون

Chapter 8, verses 21-22

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ قَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ. إِنَّ شَرَّ الدَّوَابِّ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ
الصُّمُّ الْبُكْمُ الَّذِينَ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ

Chapter 2, verses 268:

الشیطان یعدکم الفقر ویأمرکم بالفحشاء والله یعدکم مغفرة منه وفضلا والله
. واسع علیم .

Chapter 41, verse 49:

لَا يَسْأَلُ الْإِنْسَانُ مِنْ دُعَاءِ الْخَيْرِ وَإِنْ مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ فَيَؤُوسٌ قَنُوطٌ

Chapter 27, verse 2 - 5:

هُدًى وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ

الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَبُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَهُمْ بِالْآخِرَةِ هُمْ يُوقِنُونَ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ رَبَّنَا لَهُمْ أَعْمَالُهُمْ فَهُمْ يَعْمَهُونَ
أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ لَهُمْ سُوءُ الْعَذَابِ وَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ هُمْ الْأَخْسَرُونَ

Chapter 103, verses 1-3:

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ. وَالْعَصْرُ
وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ



What is peace?

According to Glorious Quran, one of the beautiful names of God Almighty is the Peace.

We recite in our holy scripture as follow:

He is God Almighty: there is no god but He: the King, the Holy, the All-Peace, the Giver of security, the Overseer, the Most Mighty, the Overpowering, and the All-Great.

He is God Almighty, the Creator, the Inventor, the Fashioner; to Him belong the best names. (Chapter: 59, verse: 23-24)

That's why God Almighty / is the source of happiness, peace and prosperity.

The Quran says:

what comes to you of good / is from God, but what comes to you of evil, is from yourself. (Chapter 4, verse 79).

The peace is tranquility, safety, serenity, conciliation and resolving the problems by negotiation.

The world with peace is the heaven, and with war is the Hell.

Peace is the main message of God and the most important mission of all prophets.

According to the Glorious Quran, God Almighty invites all people and all nations and civilizations to perform peace.

We recite in Chapter 10, Verse 25, as follow:

God invites to the Home of Peace and guides those who want to be guided to the right path.

The Holy Scripture also says in Chapter 4, verse 129:
If you come to peace and piety, God is All-forgiving and All-merciful.

The foundation of peace is built on various pillars, such as: Awareness, tolerance, mercy, equality, justice, morality and mutual understanding.

To reach peace and tranquility, we have to increase education, tolerance and democracy in our communities.

God Almighty says in Chapter 3, Verse 159:

By the mercy from God you have been able to deal with the people so gently and with mild morality. And if you had been rough and hard-hearted, the people would have been separated from you.

