

Freedom

- ❖ There are two types of freedom in Islam; freedom of thought, where the Almighty states [there is no coercion in Islam]¹ and freedom of action, given the principle accepted by the jurists “people are in charge of their own affairs.”
- ❖ Islam adheres to the principle of [there is no coercion in Islam] in various aspect of life.
- ❖ It is Islam alone that is the religion of freedom.
- ❖ In Allah’s system and the Islamic regime, the freedom of thought is more holy than even the testimonies of faith; Islam wants people to be free.
- ❖ The non-Islamic principles and schools of thought that have appeared over the past century, and continually chant the slogan of freedom, have no real substance to them.
- ❖ Islam is the religion of freedom; in principle, in reality and in practice.
- ❖ The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his holy family, never killed any of the atheists or polytheists if they did not accept Islam, and never coerced anyone to accept Islam. Rather he left them to their devices, and to their religions, even though they were false and fictitious, in order not to take away from them the freedom of thought and religion.

[For more on this matter see endnote #4 in the endnotes section beginning on page 243.]

¹ The Holy Qur’an, 2:256

- ❖ The freedom of thought is embodied in Islam through Qur'anic verses such as:

[So let him who please believe, and let him who please disbelieve],¹

[Truth stands out clear from Error: whoever rejects false deities and believes in Allah hath grasped the most trustworthy handhold],²

[And We have shown mankind the two ways],³

[We have shown mankind the way, whether he be grateful or disbelieving],⁴

[For you is your religion, and for me is mine].⁵

- ❖ The way of Islam has neither pressure nor coercion in it.
- ❖ Allah's messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, had a Christian friend and a Jewish neighbor; he never forced any one of them to accept Islam, even though he was the supreme leader of the Arabian Peninsula, and he had within his disposal the sword, and the necessary wealth and power.

¹ The Holy Qur'an, 18:29

² The Holy Qur'an, 2:256

³ The Holy Qur'an, 90:10

⁴ The Holy Qur'an, 76:3

⁵ The Holy Qur'an, 109:6

Freedom

- ❖ The Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali, peace be upon him, was continually confronted by some base individuals who used to deliberately interrupt him when speaking, dispute with him, and even insult him in the harshest manner, but the Imam would not have “their heads cut off”, even though he was the supreme leader, to whom the nation in its entirety pledged allegiance, not to mention that he was appointed to lead the Ummah by Allah’s Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, on direct instructions from the Almighty. Imam Ali used to respond to their argument, if they had one, and leave them with their freedom of belief, as long as they do not resort to using violence and the sword.
- ❖ Islam says to you: Do whatever you like, you have the freedom of action, as long as you do not harm others; for [the principle is that] one may not do harm, or see harm, in Islam.
- ❖ Islam severely strikes the hand of the oppressor and the one who wants to do harm to others, and thus if you guarantee that [i.e. preventing harm], then you are free in your conducts.
- ❖ There is no pressure, forcing, coercion, and suppression of freedom in Islam, save some directives and guidance to show you the best form of conduct, which state: this is right, this is recommended, this is preferred, and this is discouraged.
- ❖ Take the freest countries in the world today such as France and the USA, you will find many restrictions such as those on travel, these restrictions prevail in all countries, including our countries, but in Islam, there is no such a thing.

Inspirational Quotes

- ❖ Islam does not question you as to: “Where do you live?” or “where are you going?” or “when are you going?” Rather Islam says: Allah created you and gave you the intellect and intelligence, so do not be a slave to someone else who is like you.
- ❖ You are not required in Islam to inform the government about when you leave or enter the country, your stay or departure, what you import or export – with the exception of what Allah has prohibited. However, Islam lays down some guidance for you and says if you adhere to them you will succeed and if not you will lose.
- ❖ Islam provides guidance and draws a roadmap, and after that it is: [there is no coercion in Islam],¹ i.e. all kinds of coercions are rejected by Islam.
- ❖ The freedoms that are available in Islam cannot be matched in history.
- ❖ The freedom that Islam grants in the various fields and domains cannot be matched, and nothing comes close to it – throughout the history of the world – not even today which is called the era of freedoms.²
- ❖ Just as the creator of nature created it according to a system and laws that suit mankind, the same goes for the laws of the Sharia system, but with the difference that Allah gave mankind the choice and freedom to implement them, [as opposed to laws of nature where mankind has no choice but to accept and comply with.]

¹ The Holy Qur’an, 2:256

² The principle of “the land belongs to Allah and whoever develops it”, freedom from many taxes, including sales tax (VAT) and inheritance tax, minimal rules and regulations, minimal number of civil servants and public workers, flourishing economy as a result, such a list is beyond the scope of a Footnote.

- ❖ Why did Allah create the rain? So that it comes down to earth and goes in vain?! Or is it in order to irrigate the land and benefit mankind? Allah created the earth, the rain, and mankind and linked them together, and enabled mankind to acquire the blessings of the heaven and earth.
- ❖ If the Islamic freedoms, the Qur'anic pluralism, the law of "land belongs to Allah and whoever develops it", and all other of Allah's laws, and teachings of Allah's Messenger, and the Commander of the Faithful are implemented in Iraq, and that for just five years, you will not find a foot's length of land not farmed, and you would not find a single individual who does not have a house. Five years may be too long, if the management took its cues purely from the Holy Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt, peace be upon them.
- ❖ Search all contemporary civilizations as well as the ancient ones, will you find a freedom like this? Like this ownership?¹ Rather, you will find hundreds of fetters, restrictions and legislations that deprive the masses from the great many boons which Allah favored His people such as cultivating the earth and developing it.

[For more on this matter see endnote #5 in the endnotes section beginning on page 243.]

Even though Imam Ali, peace be upon him, is *ma'soom* and does not oppress, he provided freedom, pluralism, and freedom of expression; imagine what [would be the outcome] if a non-*ma'soom* Ruler practices dictatorship and usurping power.

¹ This notion of ownership may be cited from the Qur'anic verse [It is He Who created for you all that is in the earth]2:29

Freedom

- ❖ We have in Islam the best kinds of freedoms, about which the world has never dreamt of within the realm of the world's finest civilizations.
- ❖ Under an Islamic government everyone is free with his or her writings and ideas, speeches and books, forming associations and societies, political groups and parties, raising or giving donations, publishing newspapers and magazines, setting up broadcasting stations, etc.
- ❖ Freedom is a grand divine blessing the use of which should be seized in the best manner.