



**SOME INSPIRING STORIES  
OF COEXISTENCE AND  
COOPERATION BETWEEN  
MUSLIMS AND JEWS  
VOICES OF LOVE  
BETWEEN HATE!**

**DR. ZUBAIR ZAFAR KHAN**



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Voices of Love between Hate!  
Some inspiring Stories of Coexistence and  
Cooperation between Muslims and Jews

by  
Dr. Zubair Zafar Khan

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## Foreword

The World knows Muslims and Jews as one of the bitter enemies of each other especially due to the ongoing clashes between Israel and Palestine, paid by thousands of innocent lives from both sides. Amid this hatred and violence many stories of coexistence and cooperation occurred but little known to both sides and the World. Though these stories scattered on the internet but one cannot find it in a single collection. In this volume the author tried for the first, to compile these stories of mutual cooperation and humanity which could invoke the inspirations of love and compassion in the hearts of the both sides and could be helpful in reducing the emotions of hatred and enmity. The readers will find unexpected behavior of humanity and cooperation from both sides contrast to what has been propagated that both cannot live together peacefully. Especially during the World Wars when Albanian Muslims not only live with Jews but also protected them from Nazis by hiding their identities and assimilating Jews in their society. Even many times risking their lives because Nazis announced that whoever will harbor Jews would be killed. The Author, Zubair Zafar Khan is a faculty in the Department of Islamic Studies at Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi. The stories included in this collection reflect the humanistic efforts of both sides so that the readers don't feel any biased approach which could hinder the

purpose of the Work that is to reduce hate and violence and to develop mutual love and compassion.

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## Preface

Islam is among great religions of the World having second largest number of followers after Christianity. The two main sources of Islam are Quran and Hadith (Prophetic traditions). Both sources testify that Allah is the creator of this Universe and all living beings within it. But he didn't gave birth to any one as a mother or father therefore He has no blood relation with anyone. Since all living beings are his creations therefore He has equal respect and affection to all. Therefore Islam encourages all types of tolerance, service, compassion, sympathy and respect to all creatures and discourages and condemns all types of violence, conflict, suppression, quarrel as well as War unless it is inevitable. Many verses of Quran and Prophetic traditions indicate this attitude. Since Islam is a universal religion and call all human beings and Jinnahs to the straight path to God and its message is for whole world till the last day of the World therefore its follower found nearly in all countries and parts of the World living with the adherents of other religions and faith. So Islam encourages its followers to live peacefully with others and to try best to avoid any kind of conflict and violence within the community and with others, and harshly condemned those Muslims who spark any kind of violence. Restoring and maintaining peace is a great virtue and the person who maintains peace promised by Allah big rewards in hereafter. Even a prophetic tradition maintains that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) praised the person who retreats from a dispute, despite of he is on the truth, just to avoid conflict. Since Islam and Judaism are both Abrahamic faiths but their attitude towards each other, are too unfriendly. There is a long history of conflict and violence between the two and in the modern world the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a major example of it. But among the hatred and rivalry there are few but inspiring examples of mutual cooperation and coexistence which reflects a humanistic side of the relations. In this volume

some of these examples of mutual cooperation and coexistence are presented which could inspire the minds of the both sides and helpful in minimizing the emotions of hatred and enmity.

*Dr. Zubair Zafar Khan*

## Unit 1 Glimpses of History

### *Early days of Islam*

Islam is the last version of the Godly religion that was started with the advent of man on the earth and Quran is the last addition of the Word of God. Muhammad (pbuh) was not the founder of Islam but rather he was the last messenger of Allah and the first messenger was Adam the forefather of Homosapian race on earth. Since Muhammad (pbuh) was the messenger for entire humankind from his Prophethood to the last human being on earth. Therefore the primary literature of Islam (Quran and Hadith) contain enormous amount of teachings regarding the religious peaceful coexistence because though Islam highly recommends its scheme of religion to every human beings but Muslims are not allowed to impose that scheme forcefully to others. A famous verse of Quran says “there is no compulsion in religion”.<sup>1</sup> In the early days of Muslims in Makka they use to live peacefully with others despite they were in minority and facing persecution from others but they never plan to establish their own colony. In Medina also the society was mix and there were not separate colonies of different religions. Even many Sahaba (companions of Prophet) were employees of Jews and Christian including Hazrat Ali. Many times the members of Jewish community attend the lectures of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and even write his words even they request to speak slowly as they can easily follow him to write his words and ask questions to clear concept as well as to knew his ideas about other things including the occurrence of the day of judgment or what is soul etc. Not only Muhammad (pbuh) use to reply them but whenever he was unable to answer he got silent until Allah reveal verses of Quran as the answer. There are many verses in Quran which were initially revealed as

answers to the questions of Jews. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) frequently accepted the invitation of Jews for food and he use to go to their homes whenever invited. Many times Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and Sahaba took loans from Jews.

Many verses of Quran teach that a man should participate in any effort of peaceful coexistence but even to initiate the process especially with Jews and Christians. As a verse says to Muslims “Say O people of the Book (Jews and Christians)! Come to the terms which are common between us and you: that we worship none but Allah; that we associate no partners with Him; that we erect not from among ourselves Lords and patrons other than Allah”.<sup>2</sup> This verse ask a person to talk to others on common things on which both parties agree and not to involve in discussing controversies which result in quarrel and dispute and then conflict. In another verse Quran states that “who so saved a life it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind”.<sup>3</sup> Also “the true lovers of God are those who “feed, for love of God, the poor, the orphan and the prisoner, saying: ‘We feed you for Allah’s pleasure only. We desire no reward, nor thanks from you”.<sup>4</sup> “When Allah (Exalted be He) created the world, His wrote about: “Actually, My Mercy overcomes My Anger”.<sup>5</sup>

There are also several Prophetic traditions in which Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) teach his friends to be sympathetic to others. His companions testify “We were on a journey and during the Prophet’s absence, we saw a bird with its two chicks; we took them. The mother bird was hovering and circling above us in the air, beating its wings in grief. When Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) returned he said, “Who has hurt the feelings of this bird by taking its chicks? Return them to her”.<sup>6</sup>

### *What Maimonides (a great Rabbi of medieval ages) said about Islam?*