

The Commonalities Among Three Holy Religions In Ethics

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Abstract:

The present article is the last part of a three-part essay considering the commonalities among the three holy religions of Islam, Christianity, and Jews.

In the two previous articles, we have touched very briefly in the commonalities considering the Unity of God (Tauhid) and Religious Practice (Ahkam). This part and actually the last part is allocated to ethics and its subcategories in the three holy religions.

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Ethics can be defined as those “orders” which are explained in ethics books and are mostly related to spirit and thought. In the other words, these “orders” form the individual manners of people. The “**ethical advices**” in the Gospels are more than their “**religious practices**”. Whilst in the Torah religious practices are more than ethnical orders. Some of the commonalities between ethnical orders of the holy religions are as follows:

1.Respecting Our Parents

Respecting our parents, not to hurting them, not calling them names, to being polite and kind to them, helping them financially, obeying them except in things like polytheism, are highly advised by all the holy books. On the other hand, those who disrespect their parents will be severely punished by God.¹

2. Purifying The Spirit

Purifying the spirit from sins is one of the emphasized advices of all religions; this goal will be reached through expelling temptations from our soul, and setting the soul free from worldly desires.²

3. Donating Charity And Helping The Needy

Donating our wealth -specially the best part and the most loved parts - for the cause of God and giving it to needy people such as family members and relatives,

¹ The holy Quran (2:83), (4:36), (6:151), (17:23, 24), (46:15); the Gospel of Matthew (15:4); Leviticus (3:19), (20:9)

² The holy Quran (20:76),(35:18),(87:14), (91:9); the Gospel of Mark (1:25), (9:49)

orphans, homeless people,... are regarded as good deeds. These generous actions will lead to great rewards in this world and the Hereafter. ***The most worthy alms*** are those spent on people who are essentially needy but do not declare it because of their shame and dignity. The important point here is that this help should not be done to cultivate fame and this help must not hurt anyone's dignity and ego.¹

There are some verses in the holy books which advice people not to gather wealth, but to spend their wealth in the way of God and to help the needy ones.²

4. Humbleness And Good-temper

*T*hese two characteristics are of the great humane characteristics which faithful people possess.³

5. Forgiveness

*O*ne of the other much advised characteristic of the faithful is to forgive people's mistakes, control and suppress their anger and give asylum to those who seek it.⁴

6. Bringing Peace And Solving Disputes

*B*ringing peace and solving people's disputes instead of raising discrepancies and fomenting arguments is

¹ The holy Quran (2:3, 177,215, 260-263,67, 272-274), (3:92 & 93), (4:36-38), (9 :6), (16:90), (57:7&10); the Gospel of Matthew (5:41), (6:2-4); the Gospel of Mark (10:21, 23), (12:41-44); the Gospel of Luke (3:11); Deuteronomy (24:19-22)

² The holy Quran (9 :34), (57:20), (102:1), (104:2); the Gospel of Luke (12:21)

³ The holy Quran (3 :159), (64 :4); the Gospel of Matthew (5:5 & 22)

⁴ The holy Quran (3:134 & 159); (7:199); the Gospel of Matthew (5:7), (11:25); the Gospel of Luke (17:3&4); Deuteronomy (23:15)

regarded as one of the good characteristics of human beings. The holy Quran and the Gospels emphasized on solving disputes between wife and husband, among people and bringing peace and making reconciliation with each other.¹

7. Tolerating Enemies And Taking Care Of Them

There are several advises while confronting foes: being kind to them, not hurting them when they surrender, giving them asylum if they seek it, avoiding cursing them and calling names, being benevolent, charitable and kind to them, and at the same time being watchful and heedful.²

8. Modesty And Decency

Not performing indecent things like extramarital affairs or looking at the opposite sex with lust are advised by all holy religions³.

9. Returning To God And Repenting

One of the firmly advised orders of all holy religions is to turn our hearts away from sins and repent to God and seek His forgiveness.⁴

10. Praying In Private

To pray with sincere intention and in private have also been greatly advised. Prayer will purify soul and God

¹ The holy Quran (2:224), (4:35), (8 :1), (9 :10), (49 :9 &10); the Gospel of Matthew (5:9 &25), (18:14-22)

² The holy Quran (4:104), (8 :61), (9:6); the Gospel of Matthew (5:43&44), (0:16); the Gospel of Luke (6:27-33)

³ The holy Quran (24:30, 31 &33); the Gospel of Matthew (5:28), (6:22& 23); the Gospel of Mark (7:22); the Gospel of Luke(11:34)

⁴ The holy Quran (3:133&135), (4:17,18&110), (7:153), (11:90), (66:8); the Gospel of Matthew (4:17), (6:14&15)

will accept and answer our prayer¹: Whatever you make a request for in prayer, have faith that it has been given to you, and you will have it.

11. Being Good To Others

*I*n Quran it is advised to do good and race (take over) each other in good deeds and cooperate with each other for such manners. The Gospels encourage people to do good in such a private manner that the left hand does not become aware of the good deeds that the right hand has done.²

12. Being Honest And Not To lie

*A*ll holly books highly advised us to be honest.³

13. Saying Hello When We Enter A Home

*I*t is highly recommended to say hello when entering a home. Quran advises us to answer such a person with better greetings.⁴

14. Patience

*T*olerating hardships and being steadfast when approaching the difficulties of performing good deeds

¹ The holy Quran (7:205), (8:47), (17 :79), (23 :60), (73 :1-4), (107:6); the Gospel of Matthew (23:14); the Gospel of Mark (11:24); the Gospel of Luke (11:10, 11)

² The holy Quran (2:148, 195 & 274), (4:40), (5 :2&48), (6 :160), (13 :22), (14:31), (16:75&90), (35:29); the Gospel of Matthew (5:10 & 15), (6:3)

³ The holy Quran (2:177), (3:61), (12:74), (24 :7), (27:27); the Gospel of Matthew (15:19); the Gospel of Mark (10:19); Leviticus (6:2)

⁴ The holy Quran (4:86), (24:27); the Gospel of Matthew (10:12)

and refraining from aimless wishes have been recommended.¹

15. Contentment And Avoiding Creed And Jealousy

*B*eing happy and satisfied with whatever you posses, not desiring things which have been given to others and not being jealous of or having an eye on others properties and wealth.²

16. Keeping Promises And Oaths

*K*eeping promises and avoiding betrayal and breaking the promise³; He who is true in a little, is true in much; he who is false in small things, is false in great.

17. Avoiding Showing-off And Hypocrisy

*I*t is not suitable to pretend to be pious or to show off and let others know when and how you do good deeds.⁴

18. Avoiding Hurting People And Transgressing Their Rights

*N*ot to hurt others or do vicious things to others and also not to punish more than one deserves. Observing others rights and property and not violating them are some of the other highly advised commands in all holy books.¹

¹ The holy Quran (2:45 &154), (3 :186&200),(15:3), (16 :126), (18 :4& 48); the Gospel of Matthew (5:5); the Gospel of Mark (8:34)

² The holy Quran (2:188), (4:32), (6:152), (9:55, 59 &85), (59 :8), (74 :15), (113 :5); the Gospel of Mark (7:21-23); the Gospel of Luke (3:11-14)

³ The holy Quran (4:58), (5 :1), (8 :27, 56 & 58), (16 :91), (17 :34), (61:2); the Gospel of Luke (16:10-12); Deuteronomy (23:23)

⁴ The holy Quran (2:262), (4:38), (7:205), (8:47), (33:48), (63:1), (66:9); the Gospel of Matthew (6:1), (6:16), (23:3); the Gospel of Mark (12:40)

19. Avoiding Evils Of The Tongue

*A*voiding tainting others, tempting others, telling lies, gossiping, belittling others and backbiting are all regarded as faults of the tongue. It is also advised not to act differently from what we say.²

20. Endeavor And Effort

*T*o attempt to gain the things you desire, persistence, endeavor and learning that without effort nothing will be achieved are some of the other recommendations of the holy books.³

30. Migration

*T*o migrate from one place to another place or to go from one district to another if you are being bothered and tortured there have been advised.⁴

The above orders are significant commonalities among holy Quran, Gospels and torah in ethics which are worthy of attention. These commonalities can help followers of different religions understand and tolerate each other.

¹ The holy Quran (2:33, 58, 190,194, 229, 262-264), (3:1), (5:33), (8:22&55), (17 :11), (10: 11), (21:35), (23:7), (70: 31), (98:6), (99:8), (113:2-5), (114:4-6); the Gospel of Matthew (5:21&22); Leviticus (22:2&3); Deuteronomy (25:3)

² The holy Quran (3:61), (12:74), (24:7 & 23), (27 :22), (49:11 &12), (61 :2), (114 :4 &5); the Gospel of Matthew (15:19); the Gospel of Mark (7:21), (10:19); Leviticus (2:6), (19:16); Deuteronomy (23:23)

³ The holy Quran (18 :30), (34 :37), (23 :60), (53 :39); the Gospel of Matthew (7:7-11); the Gospel of Luke (11:9&10)

⁴ The holy Quran (4:97&100), (9:20); the Gospel of Matthew (10:23)