

# *Islam & Taoism*

*Inter-faith Harmony*



*Lt Col (r) Parmenas B. Mall*

MBA (Executive), B.Sc, LL.B

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*This book is dedicated*

*To*

*The Pakistan Army*

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*Islam*  
*&*  
*Taoism*

*Inter-faith Harmony*

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### ***The Author***

*Lt Col (r) Parmenas B. Mall was born on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1962 in Sialkot. He got his early education from C.T.I. High school established by United Presbyterian Church and was declared student of the year. After Graduation (B.Sc) from Murray College got commission in the Pakistan Army. Served as a Chief Instructor and Commandant in the Division Battle School. Commanded 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Al-Shuja) and 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion (The Desert Hawks) the Punjab Regiment (infantry). The author has got Advanced Christian Leadership Training from Haggai Institute Hawaii USA. Retired from the Army in July 2013 and served in Islam Medical and Dental College as an administrator.*

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## **Series introduction**

Suppose, a person is living in an isolated island and he has tasted only bananas in his whole life. Although he has heard about other fruits like mangoes, apples and grapes but never tasted them. If he claims that bananas is the best fruit on this planet, yes, he can claim but his claim is not based on any logic or rational because he has never tasted other fruits in this world. In the same way, well is the whole world for a frog living in it.

Similarly, people follow the religion of their parent and they consider that their religion is right and superior and all other religions are wrong and inferior, without having any knowledge about them. The purpose of this book is to create positive attitude about Islam and Taoism.

The verses from the Holy Quran, Hadiths and the Sacred Texts of Taoism are put together so that readers can understand both the religions and also pursue righteousness to achieve the ultimate goal of Eternal life. Most people are wasting their precious time in useless, unproductive and worthless issues. We should concentrate in improving our own spiritual life and try to fulfill various obligations and responsibilities which our own religion demands. Some scholars talk less in the favour of their own religion but talk

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more against other religions. No person has any right to criticize other's faith. Our words and actions should strengthen love not hatred in the society. If a person is hurting others by his words, then he should understand that his words are not from the Almighty God. May God give us wisdom and power to shed away all types of evil and wickedness in our lives and enable us to pursue holiness, goodness and purity which God demands from every human being.

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## **Actions**

**Islam:** Verily Allah does not look at your outward form and wealth; rather He looks at your hearts and deeds (actions).

Saheeh Muslim, no.2564

Actions are but by intentions and each man will have but that which he intended.

Saheeh al- Bukhari no,1

Actions are only (judged) by their end.”

Saheeh al-Bukhari, 6607

**Taoism:** Love and hatred are the shadows of action. If your conduct is generous the shadow is love, if your conduct is mean, the shadow is hatred.

Lieh Tzu

## **Charity**

**Islam:** A man came to the Prophet (SA) and said: “O Messenger of Allah, which charity brings the greatest reward?” He said, “If you give in charity when you are healthy and miserly, fearing poverty and hoping for richness. Do not delay until you are at the point of death and you say: ‘give this to so and so, give this to so and so, when it already belongs to so and so.

Saheeh al-Bhukhari, 1419

**Taoism:** Wise people do not make any show of giving.

Chuang Tzu

## **Conversation**

**Islam:** Successful indeed are the believers, and who shun vain conversation.

23:1,3

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Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him speak good or else keep silent. Saheeh al-Bhkhari 6138

### **Disputes** (Quarrel)

**Islam:** Do not quarrel with your (Muslim) brothers. Do not make them such jokes as they will not like. Do not make promises to them that you will not keep.

Tirmidhi, Birr (Piety), 58

**Taoism:** That which others teach, I also say, that violence and aggression destroy themselves. That is the summary of my teaching. Lao Tzu

### **Doing Good**

**Islam:** Spend your wealth for the cause of Allah, and be not cast by your own hands to ruin and do good. Lo! Allah love the beneficent. 2:195

For such of them as do right and ward off (evil), there is great reward. 3:172

So vie (compete) with one another in good works. 2:148

**Taoism:** Work well and do good, but ask for neither honour nor reward, then you will be truly blessed. Lao Tzu

Yang Chu said to his disciples, if you strive to do good without any expectation of reward, you may win a high reputation, high office and a great wealth. Yang Chu

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## **Everlasting**

**Islam:** Allah is of infinite bounty. 3:174

**Taoism:** There is an entity that contains everything. It existed before heaven and earth. It is self sufficient. It pervades all that exists and all that happens. Lao Tzu

## **Envy (hatred)**

**Islam:** Do not envy one another, do not artificially inflate prices against one another, do not hate one another, do not turn away from one another, and do not undercut one another. Be, O slave of Allah, brothers. Saheeh Muslim, 2564

**Taoism:** Wise people despise (hatred) nothing that lives. They are guided by a hidden light. Lao Tzu

## **Favouritism**

**Islam:** Lo! Those who believe, and those who are Jews and Sabaeans, and Christians - whosoever believeth in Allah and the Last Day and doth right, there shall no fear come upon them neither shall they grieve. 5:69

And whatever good they (people of scripture) do, they will not be denied the meed (reward) thereof. 3:115

**Taoism:** The way has no favourites; it is on the side of goodness. Lao Tzu

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## **Friends**

**Islam:** A man will follow the way of his close friends so let one of you look to whom he takes as a close friend.

Jami at Trimidhi, 2378

**Taoism:** Wise people are shrewd in choosing their friends and shrewd in avoiding potential enemies. Lao Tzu

## **Goodness**

**Islam:** Those who followed them in goodness - Allah is well pleased with them and they are well pleased with Him. 9:100

Lo! The mercy of Allah is nigh unto the good. 7:56

**Taoism:** If you are wise, you are good to good people and good to bad people. By this means you become good. Lao Tzu

## **Generosity**

**Islam:** The alms (charitable donation) are only for the poor and the needy. 9:60

**Taoism:** In order to have compassion on the living, you should not merely feel for them. When you see people hungry, you give them food. When you see people cold, you give them warm clothes. When you see people in any kind of trouble you help them. Yang Chu

Those with greatest wisdom share their spiritual possessions with others. Those next in wisdom share their material possessions with others. Lieh Tzu

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## **Humble**

**Islam:** And seek help through patience and prayer, and without doubt prayer is an exacting discipline but not (hard) to those who are humble and God fearing. 2:45

**Taoism:** The way brings down the high and mighty, and raises up the humble. It takes from those who have much and gives to those who have little. Lao Tzu

## **Kindness**

**Islam:** And Forget not kindness among yourselves. 2:237

**Taoism:** Benevolence (kindness) is the essence of being human. If you understand this, then you understand the way.

Meng Tzu

## **Love**

**Islam:** You will not enter Paradise until you (Truly) believe, and you will not (Truly) believe until you love one another. Shall I not tell you of something which, if you do it, you will love one another? Spread (The greetings) Salam amongst yourselves. Saheeh Muslim, 54

**Taoism:** On the true path, which is the way, people do not regard differences between themselves and others as causes of division. They accept themselves and others as they are.

Chuang Tzu

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## Leading

**Islam:** The one who tells another about something good will have reward like that of the one who does it.

Saheeh Muslim, 1893

**Taoism:** To lead a whole nation in following the way is abundant virtue.

Lao Tzu

Righteous men and women devote themselves to making others conform to their standards.

Chuang Tzu

## Mighty

**Islam:** He is the Mighty, the Wise. 14:4

**Taoism:** There is an entity that contains everything. If it must be named let its name be great.

Lao Tzu

## Merciful

**Islam:** Whoever is not merciful (to the creation) will not be shown mercy by Allah.

Muslim, Fada'il (Virtues),66;Tirmidhi,Birr (Piety), 16

**Taoism:** The higher your reputation, the humbler you must become. The greater your power, the gentler (merciful) you must become.

Lieh Tzu

## Modesty

**Islam:** And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and be modest. 24:31

**Taoism:** Those possessing both wisdom and humility (modesty) enjoy the highest respect of all. Lieh Tzu

### **One**

**Islam:** Your God is one God; there is no God except him, the beneficent, and the merciful. 2:163

So believe in Allah and His Apostles: and do not say: Three (Gods) Forbear from saying so: it is best for you verily Allah is only one God. 4:171

Certainly those are infidels who said: "Allah is the third of the three (Gods)." Whereas there is no God except the one God. And if they do not desist (from the blasphemy), then a painful torment will surely befall those who disbelieve from among them. 5:73

Your God is one God. 16:22

**Taoism:** The hidden and manifest are one, they have a single origin. Lao Tzu

That which is invisible, inaudible and intangible is one.

Lao Tzu

### **Peace**

**Islam:** Lo! He (Allah) loves not the aggressors. 7:55

**Taoism:** Wise people, who follow the way, are at rest, nothing can disturb their peace of mind. Chuang Tzu

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## Parents

**Islam:** We have enjoined on man kindness to parents. 29:8

**Taoism:** Look after your parents and enjoy the years left to you. Chuang Tzu

## Pride

**Islam:** Lo! Allah love not such as are proud and boastful. 4:36

**Taoism:** Knowing my own smallness I am free from pride.

Chuang Tzu

## Purify

**Islam:** Therein are men who like to remain purified and clean.

And Allah loves those who are clean and pure. 9:108

**Taoism:** Without purity of mind, it is impossible to follow the right way. Chuang Tzu

## Quarrel

**Islam:** Do not quarrel with your (Muslim) brothers. Do not make them such jokes as they will not like. Do not make promises to them that you will not keep.

Tirmidhi, Birr (Piety), 58

There is no giving of harm to others nor retaliating harm with harm. Ibn Ma'jah, Ahqam (Decrees),17; Muwattah, Aqdiyyah,31

**Taoism:** Good people are not contentions (quarrelsome).

Lao Tzu

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## **Self-Control**

**Islam:** The strong man is not the one who can overpower others (in wrestling); rather, the strong man is the one who controls himself when he gets angry. Saheeh al-Bukhari, 6114

**Taoism:** If you are able to overcome other people you are strong. If you can overcome yourself, you are stronger. Lao Tzu  
Restraint (self-control) is the best protection against danger and will sustain you for a long time. Lao Tzu

## **Speech**

**Islam:** Allah loveth not the utterance of harsh speech. 4:148

**Taoism:** It is natural to speak with brevity and people should be brief. Lao Tzu

## **Success**

**Islam:** These depend on guidance from their Lord. These are the successful. 2:5

**Taoism:** If you follow the way you will gain, succeed and win. Lao Tzu

## **Thoughts**

**Islam:** O you who believe! If ye keep your duty to Allah, He will give you discrimination (between right and wrong) and will rid you of your evil thoughts and deeds and will forgive you. 8:29

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**Taoism:** If you allow your mind to fill with corrupt thoughts, or allow your soul to fill with corrupt feelings, you put your eternal existence in danger. Chuang Tzu

### **Virtue**

**Islam:** And whoever hopes for meeting with the Lord let him do righteous work. 18:110

Allah is a Lord a kindness to righteous. 3:152

Righteousness (virtue) is a good attitude and sin is that which wavers in your heart and you do not want the people to find out about it. Saheeh Muslim 2553

**Taoism:** Since so much care is devoted to the body, how much more care should be devoted to the cultivation of virtue. If virtue is absent misery disease and death are imminent. Virtue consists in following the way. Chuang Tzu

### **Wealth**

**Islam:** A person's feet will not move on the day of Resurrection until he is asked about four things: about his life and how he spent it, about his body and how he used it, about his wealth, from where he acquired it and on what he spent it, and about his knowledge and what he did with it.

Sunan ad-Darimi, 539

**Taoism:** Those who strive for wealth and status, bring ruin on themselves. Lao Tzu

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Wise people make no effort to accumulate wealth or goods.

Chuang Tzu

### **Wisdom**

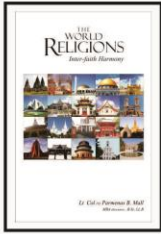
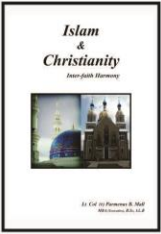
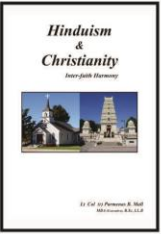
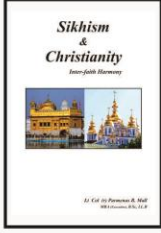
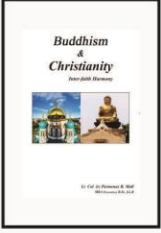
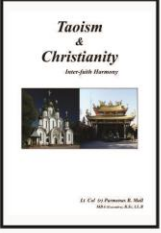
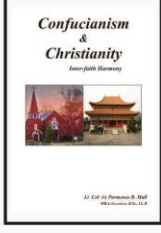
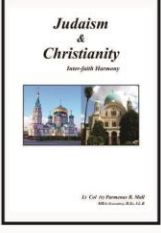
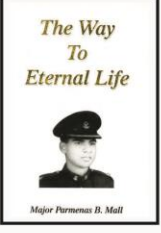
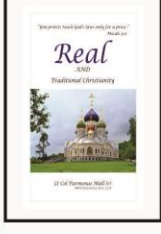
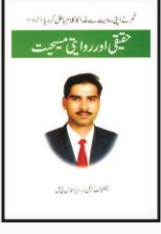
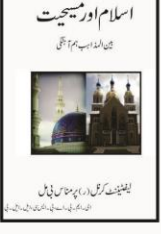
**Islam:** He bestows wisdom upon whom He will, and whosoever is granted wisdom he is indeed granted abundant good, and none accepts admonition except of understanding.

2:269

**Taoism:** Wise people encompass the whole world in their wisdom so nothing can be taken from them.      Chuang Tzu

Men and woman of wisdom can see in the darkness of ignorance and hear in the silence of stupidity.      Chuang Tzu

Irrespective of our religious background, we should try to act upon the teachings of Sacred Texts to improve our conduct, rather than wasting time in finding faults and errors in other religions. We can learn valuable and important lessons from every religion of this world. Let us pray to God that he may forgive our sins and give us wisdom and power to live according to his will. May! God bless all of us.

 <p>Dr. Col. Dr. Pervez M. Mall MPhil (Islamic Studies)</p>	 <p>Dr. Col. Dr. Pervez M. Mall MPhil (Islamic Studies)</p>	 <p>Dr. Col. Dr. Pervez M. Mall MPhil (Islamic Studies)</p>
 <p>Dr. Col. Dr. Pervez M. Mall MPhil (Islamic Studies)</p>	 <p>Dr. Col. Dr. Pervez M. Mall MPhil (Islamic Studies)</p>	 <p>Dr. Col. Dr. Pervez M. Mall MPhil (Islamic Studies)</p>
 <p>Dr. Col. Dr. Pervez M. Mall MPhil (Islamic Studies)</p>	 <p>Dr. Col. Dr. Pervez M. Mall MPhil (Islamic Studies)</p>	 <p>Major Pervez M. Mall</p>
 <p>Dr. Col. Dr. Pervez M. Mall MPhil (Islamic Studies)</p>	 <p>پروفیسر ڈاکٹر عزیز گل</p>	 <p>پروفیسر ڈاکٹر عزیز گل</p>

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