

# *Islam & Confucianism*

*Inter-faith Harmony*



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

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*This book is dedicated*

*To*

*The Pakistan Army*

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*Islam*  
*&*  
*Confucianism*

*Inter-faith Harmony*

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### ***The Author***

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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 banana 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 Confucianism. The verses from the Holy Quran, Hidiths and quotations of philosophers from Confucianism are put together so that readers can understand both the religion and also pursue righteousness to achieve the ultimate goal of Eternal life.

Confucius (551 B.C - 479 B.C) also known as Kung Fu-Tzu was a Chinese philosopher, teacher and political figure. His teachings, preserved in the Analects, focused on creating ethical models of family and public interaction and setting

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educational standards. After his death, Confucius became the official imperial philosophy of China. *Confucianism is based entirely on kindness, mutual respect and an appreciation for character virtues. It is founded on the belief that society can flourish only when people learn to interact positively with each other.*

In this modern era, mostly 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 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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### **Astray**

**Islam:** Allah sends wrong-doers astray. 14:27

**Confucianism:** If you equip yourself with every virtue, you will never be led astray. Meng Tzu

### **Actions**

**Islam:** Actions are only (judged) by their end.  
Saheeh al-Bukhari, 6607

**Confucianism:** Good actions may bring benefit to only one person, but they have many consequences. Meng Tzu

### **Anger**

**Islam:** A man said to the Prophet (PBUH); “Advice me.” He said: “Do not get angry.” The man repeated his request several time, and each time the Prophet (PBUH) told him: “Do not become angry.”  
Saheeh al-Bukhari, 6116

**Confucianism:** When someone has wronged you, resist the temptation to hold a grudge (anger) against him.

Kung Fu Tzu

A quick and eloquent (forceful) tongue is a doubtful asset. It frequently provokes resentment and anger in others.

Kung Fu Tzu

### **Benevolence**

**Islam:** The likeness of the believers in their mutual love,

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mercy and compassion (benevolence) is that of the body; when one part of it is in pain, the rest of the body joins it in restlessness and fever. Saheeh Muslim, 2586

**Confucianism:** The essence of wisdom is to understand benevolence and to grasp them to your heart. Meng Tzu

The worst folly is not to show benevolence, when nothing stands in the way of benevolence. If you are neither benevolent nor wise, and you are devoid of both courtesy and morality, then you are a slave to your desires. But if you are benevolent, wise, courteous and moral, then you are free under heaven.

Meng Tzu

### **Conversation**

**Islam:** Successful indeed are the believers, and who shun vain conversation. 23:1,3

**Confucianism:** Wise people may be judged foolish by a single foolish word that they utter. Kung Fu Tzu

Use words that are appropriate to each occasion.

Kung Fu Tzu

### **Conduct**

**Islam:** Lo! The noblest of you, in the sight of Allah is the best in conduct. 49:13

**Confucianism:** When someone speaks with insight, you naturally agree, but agreement is worthless unless your behavior is not altered by that insight. Kung Fu Tzu

### **Children**

**Islam:** (Show) Kindness unto near kindred. 4:36

No father can give his children a better gift than good manners.

Tirmidhi, Birr (Piety), 33

**Confucianism:** If you do not follow the way yourself you cannot expect your children to follow. Meng Tzu

Meng Tzu said to the King Hui, as King you must watch over the education which is provided in schools. Ensure that the children are taught to treat the elderly with respect. Meng Tzu

### **Compassion**

**Islam:** Whoever does not show mercy (compassion) to people, Allah will not show mercy to him.” Saheeh Muslim, 2319

**Confucianism:** Compassion is the seed of benevolence and virtue is the seed of wisdom. If people nurture these seeds, they become spiritually strong. Meng Tzu

### **Care for Animals**

**Islam:** A woman was punished because of a cat which she kept locked up until it died, and she entered Hell because of it. This

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is because she did not feed it or give it water when she kept it locked up, neither did she let it eat from the vermin of the earth. Jami' at- Tirmidhi, 807

A prostitute saw a dog on a hot day that was circling a well, with its tongue hanging out because of thirst. She drew some water for it with her shoe, and she was forgiven.

Saheeh al-Bukhari, 3321

**Confucianism:** If one of your sheep were to develop some illness, and so fall to the ground, you would try to heal it.

Meng Tzu

### **Doing Right**

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

**Confucianism:** A virtuous (righteous) life is likely to be a long life. Kung Fu 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 loves the beneficent. 2:195

**Confucianism:** Goodness gives pleasure to the soul just as meat give pleasure to the palate. Meng Tzu

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## **Deeds**

**Islam:** Allah does not look at your possessions; but He looks at your heart and your deeds. Muslim, Birr (Piety), 33; Ibn Majah, Dhuhd (Observance of Devotions) 9; Ahmed bin Hanble, 2/285, 539

Fear Allah wherever you are, follow a bad deed with a good deed to erase it and treat people with a good attitude.

Jami' at- Tirmidhi, 1987

**Confucianism:** If your words are honest and your deeds are kind, then even your enemies will respect you. But if your words are often false and your deeds often harsh, even your friends will despise (hate) you. Kung Fu Tzu

## **Evil**

**Islam:** Gardens of Eden which they enter, underneath which rivers flow, herein they have what they will. Thus Allah repays those who ward off (evil). 16:31

**Confucianism:** Love of goodness and hatred of evil are expressed in morality. Meng Tzu

## **Forgive**

**Islam:** And we prescribed for them therein. The life for the life and the eye for the eye and the nose for the nose and the ear for the ear and the tooth for the tooth and for wounds retaliation. But whoso forget it (in the way of charity) it shall be expiation for him. 5:45

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**Confucianism:** The mark of gentle people is that they do not hold grudges against those who have wronged them and they do not feel resentment. Kung Fu Tzu

### **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

**Confucianism:** You may have many close relatives. But a few benevolent friends are far more valuable. Kung Fu Tzu

If you wish to preserve your virtue avoid the company of evil people. Kung Fu Tzu

### **Good works**

**Islam:** So vie (compete) with one another in good works.

2:148

**Confucianism:** Benevolence (goodness) is the strength in our souls and morality is the road that we must travel. Meng Tzu

### **Goodness**

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

9:100

**Confucianism:** If you seize every opportunity to do good, you will always have friends. Meng Tzu

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## **Generosity**

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

Whoever opens a way to a charitable deed is like the one that has done this good deed (himself).

Tirmidhi, ilm (knowledge), 14

**Confucianism:** Benevolence (goodness) manifests itself in five qualities, respect for others, tolerance towards others, honesty in speech, promptness (Punctual) in action and generosity in word and and action. King Fu Tzu

## **Good**

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

**Confucianism:** Wise people seek goodness within themselves; foolish people seek goodness in others. Kung Fu Tzu

## **Guiding**

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

Saheeh Muslim, 1893

**Confucianism:** Gently guide human nature away from evil and toward benevolence (goodness). Meng Tzu

## **Honesty**

**Islam:** The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Religion is sincerity

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(honesty).” To whom, O Prophet of Allah?” He said: “To Allah, His Book, His Messenger, to the leaders of the Muslims and their common folk.” Muslim, Iman (faith), 95

**Confucianism:** A person may possess numerous virtues, but if honesty is not among them, that person should be avoided. A carriage may be sturdily built, comfortable and elegant, but if the pin is missing from a wheel, it will tip over. Kung Fu Tzu

Every day I ask myself. Have all my words been honest and trustworthy? Kung Fu Tzu

### **Hatred**

**Islam:** Do not shun each other; do not ignore one another; do not hate one another; and do not envy one another; and be brother one another, O slave of Allah, No Muslim is allowed to shun his (Muslim) brother for more than three days.

Bukhari Adab (Manners), 57-58

**Confucianism:** Tolerance consists in reducing your range of hatreds. Meng Tzu

### **Kindness**

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

**Confucianism:** If you wish to learn benevolence (kindness), watch a benevolent person and imitate what you observe.

Meng Tzu

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## **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 of) Salam amongst yourselves.” Saheeh Muslim, 54

**Confucianism:** To be benevolent is to love other people.

Kung Fu Tzu

## **Morality**

**Islam:** Islam necessitates having good moral qualities.

Qanz Al-Ummal, 3/17, Hadith No: 5225

**Confucianism:** He said, life is precious, but I regard morality as more precious than life, for that reason I would not cling to life at all costs. Meng Tzu

A man came to see King Hui. The King said, “You have come a great distance to see me. You must surely have some way of profiting my kingdom. Meng Tzu replied, why must your majesty use the term profit? Benevolence and morality should be your concern. Benevolent people do not turn against their parents; people of morality do not turn against their rule.”

Meng Tzu

## **Modesty**

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

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**Confucianism:** Modesty is the seed of courtesy. Meng Tzu

### Neighbour

**Islam:** (Show) kindness onto the neighbour who is of kin (unto you) and the neighbour who is not of kin. 4:36

**Confucianism:** How can people be considered wise, if they do not value benevolence (goodness) in their neighbours?

Kung Fu Tzu

### Path

**Islam:** Show us the straight path. 1:5

**Confucianism:** Wise people regard following the (right) way as their most important task. Kung Fu Tzu

You should seek the advice of those who follow the way (of righteousness). Kung Fu Tzu

### Parents

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

**Confucianism:** The essence of benevolence is serving your parents. Meng Tzu

### Poor

**Islam:** The one who strives to help widows and the poor is like the one who strives in *jihad* for the sake of Allah or the one who prays at night and fasts during the day.”

Sahee-al-Bukhari 5353

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**Confucianism:** If you are rich, do not despise (hate) the poor.

Kung Fu Tzu

### **Righteous**

**Islam:** The righteous man is he who wards off (evil). 2:189

**Confucianism:** Virtue (righteousness) is the seed of wisdom.

Meng Tzu

In all activities your primary purpose is to follow the way (of Righteousness).

Kung Fu Tzu

### **Respect**

**Islam :** Whoever does not show affection to the young and respect to the old is not one of us.

Tirmidhi, Birr (Piety), 15; Aboo Dawood Adab (manners) 66

**Confucianism:** Treat those set above you and those below you, with equal respect.

Kung Fu Tzu

Do not talk to people who has no respect for themselves.

Meng Tzu

### **Righteousness**

**Islam:** It is not righteousness that you turn your faces to the east or the west; but righteous is he who believeth in Allah and last Day and the angels and the scriptures and the prophets; and give his wealth for love of Him, to the kinsfolk and to

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orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and those who ask, and setteth slaves free; and observe proper worship and payeth the poor-due, and those who keep their treaty when they make one, and the patient in tribulation and adversity and time of stress, such are they who are sincere. Such are the God fearing. 3:39

**Confucianism:** There are honours bestowed by heaven and there are honours bestowed by human beings. Benevolence, morality, honesty, delight in goodness – these are honours bestowed by heaven. Kingship, nobility, wealth, status these are honours bestowed by human beings. Wise people strive to acquire honours bestowed by heaven and foolish people strive to acquire human honours. When a person has acquired heavenly honours, all desires for human honours fades away.

Meng Tzu

### **Stinginess**

**Islam:** Beware of stinginess, for stinginess destroyed those who came before you. Saheeh Muslim, 2578

**Confucianism:** A rich man, who is eager for respect is happy to make large and conspicuous gifts. But when a beggar asks for a bowl of soup, reluctance is written all over the rich man's face.

Meng Tzu

### **Self - Control**

**Islam:** The strong man is not the one who can overpower

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others (in wrestling); rather, the strong man is the one who controls himself when he gets angry.

Saheeh al-Bukhari, 6114

**Confucianism:** Shame leads to self-control respect brings wisdom.  
Meng Tzu

### **Speech**

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

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

**Confucianism:** You should be quick in action, but cautious in speech.  
Kung Fu Tzu

Speak only when it is time to speak, so people never grow tired of hearing you.  
Kung Fu Tzu

If someone is capable of benefiting from your words, silence would be wasted. If someone is not capable of benefitting from your words, then words would be wasted.  
Kung fu tzu

### **Success**

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

**Confucianism:** If the king follows the way (righteousness) and the people imitate him, then not even the mightiest army can defeat them.  
Meng Tzu

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## **Treating**

**Islam:** None of you will have true faith till he wishes for his (Muslim) brother what he likes for himself.

Bukhari, Iman (Faith), 7: Muslim, Iman (Faith), 71

**Confucianism:** If you know yourself and treat others as you would wish them to treat you, then you are following the way.

Meng Tzu

## **Understanding**

**Islam:** When Allah wills good for a person, He grants him understanding of the religion.” Saheeh al-Bukhari, 71

**Confucianism:** The essence of wisdom is to understand benevolence and to grasp them to your heart. Meng 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

**Confucianism:** I have set my heart on following the way (of righteousness). I have put on the cloak of virtue.

Kung Fu Tzu

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At fifteen I set my heart on learning. At thirty I could discern the nature of virtue. At seventy I was free from all evil desires.

Kung Fu Tzu

If you are virtuous do not be upset if people without virtue dislike you.

Kung Fu 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

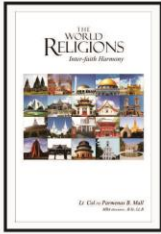
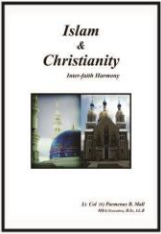
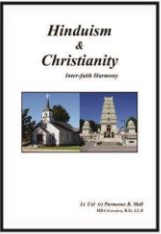
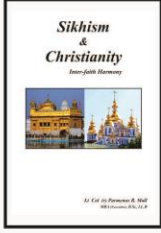
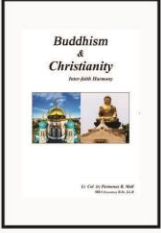
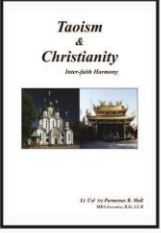
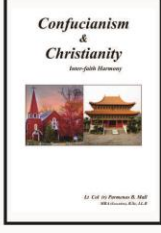
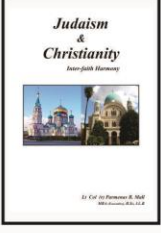
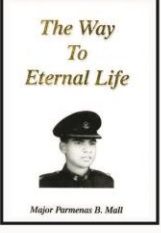
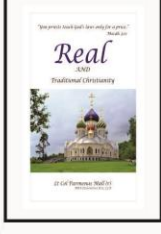
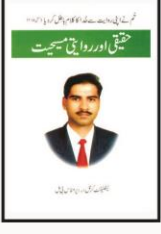
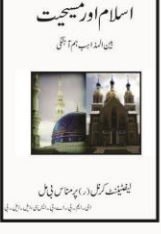
**Confucianism:** Wisdom is good, beautiful and true. So desire it, admire it, and love it.

Meng Tzu

If you devote your life to acquiring wisdom you will have a good death (respectable end).

Kung Fu Tzu

Irrespective of our religious background, we should try to act upon these verses 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.

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