

Sources of Tolerance and Intolerance in Islam: the case of the people of the Book

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The Dynamics of Tolerance: Philosophical, Metaphysical, and Mystical Presuppositions. Firstly, let me briefly explicate my own conceptual framework and philosophical presuppositions in understanding tolerance. Tolerance presupposes plurality and diversity of identities. Therefore—for the Qur-an—God is both the Ultimate Source of these diversities and the Essential End of all varied cosmic entities. His scholarly book, *The Religion of Islam*, which was the result of these dialogic exchanges, show a very rational explication of Islam; at the same time fully cognizant of the Christian missionaries' objections against Islam by responding to these objections using the Qur-an and Sunnah as bases of clarification. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, Oktar published a book, *Islam Denounces Terrorism*. He argues that violent and intolerant beliefs about Islam go against the teachings of the Quran. Here, he presents six quotes that support his claim. Peace is the Cornerstone. The word "Islam" is derived from the word meaning "peace" in Arabic. Islam is a religion revealed to mankind with the intention of presenting a peaceful life where the infinite compassion and mercy of God manifests on earth. God calls all people to live by the moral values He sets so that compassion, mercy, peace and love can be e Unfortunately, the source of societal intolerance in Pakistan is the state itself. The Pakistani state has exhibited its intolerance quite often. Its intolerance clearly has a trickle-down effect on society where space for free expression and speech is gradually and systematically shrinking. The action against a television channel a couple of years ago and more recently against a leader of a political party is only a reflection of the viciousness that the state can resort to when what is expressed is not to its liking. In both cases, justice appeared to be on the side of the state than the cau