

Islamic Views: Oneness of Humanity, Peace and the Environment



*"Greater indeed than the creation of man is the creation of the heavens and the earth."
(Sura 40:57)*

*"The Qur'an does not deny the variety of religions, nor that contradictions might exist between them regarding beliefs and practices. At the same time, it emphasizes the need to recognize the 'oneness' of humanity created by Him, and the need for all to work toward a better understanding between the followers of the different faiths. The unique characteristic of Islam is the conviction that belief in the Oneness of God unites the Muslim community with all of humanity, because He created every human being, irrespective of their religion, tradition or background. And on the Day of Judgement, all the inhabitants of the world are to be judged, regardless of their sectarian affiliation or moral performance." - **Ayatullah Sayyid Fadhil Milani***

God wants us to go further, by using the resources of this planet fairly for the benefit of all mankind. So isn't it time that the more advanced countries assist, in action and Spirit, those deprived of resources, including water, in executing what Prophet Muhammad says in his enlightened message? (**Sheikh Ahmad Kuftaro Grand Mufti Syria.**)

"Do you not observe that God sends down rain from the sky, so that in the morning the earth becomes green?" (Sura 22:63). The color green is the most blessed of all colors for Muslims and, together with a profound sense of the value of nature as God's perfect and most fruitful plan, provides a charter for a green movement that could become the greatest exertion yet known in Islamic history, a "green jihad" appropriate for addressing the global environmental crisis.

With respect to humankind's stewardship of the earth, the privilege entails a profound responsibility. Other living species are also considered by the Qur'an to be "*peoples or communities*" (**ummas; Sura 6:38**). The creation itself, in all its myriad diversity and complexity, may be thought of as a vast universe of "signs" of God's power, wisdom, beneficence, and majesty. The whole creation praises God by its very being (**Sura 59:24**).

The **Prophet Muhammad** said that: "*The earth has been created for me as a mosque and as a means of purification.*"

"And it is He who spread out the earth, and set thereon mountains standing firm and (flowing) rivers; and fruit of every kind He made in pairs, two and two; He draweth the night as a veil over the Day. Behold, verily in these things there are signs for those who consider." (13:3)