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## The Solution for Islamic Extremism

by Ariel B. Tzadok

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**There is only one solution for Islamic extremism,** and that is the religion of Islam itself.

It might come as a surprise to many non-Muslims (and maybe even to many Muslims), but Islam has far more to offer the world than just a message of violent extremism, and intolerant hatred.

There was a time in history when Islamic culture, science, philosophical pursuits, and even mysticism, shined as the brightest beacon on an otherwise darkened western world.



It is true that the foundational teachings of Islam disagree with those of both Christianity, and Judaism, but the foundations of these two other religions also disagree with one another.

One thing modern civilization has taught us is that disagreements in matters of faith do not have to lead us to violent conflict.

Granted, this was the way of the past, be it for Jews, Christians, or Muslims. But in each faith there is a kernel of light, wisdom, tolerance, and love that shines brightly above, and beyond any teachings about racism, supremacy, or damnation of non-believers.

Islam today is caught in the same struggle that Christianity had to face centuries ago, and that Judaism faced centuries before that. Jewish extremism led to the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem. Christian extremism led to the Crusades, a bloodbath that lasted centuries.

Today, Islam has its own extremism to deal with. My personal hope is that wise leaders will arise in Islam, who will learn from the lessons from the past, and pave a new road for the future.

In spite of prejudicial views, Christians, Muslims and Jews do share a common heritage.

In spite of misunderstandings of doctrine, and theology, Christians, Muslims and Jews do embrace the same God, be He called, Heavenly Father, Allah, or HaShem.

If Islam were to abandon extremism, and violence, and were to missionize the world, in a way similar to Christian missionaries, they might make so many converts that Islam might indeed in short time become the world's largest religion.

Indeed, it is Islamic violence and extremism that is preventing the spread of Islam, a contradiction of Islam itself.

In theological matters, we can agree to disagree, and respect one another accordingly. We can still inspire others, not with the words we preach, but with the deeds we do, and the lives we lead.

Finding common denominators upon which to build unity should be the essential focus of all peoples of good-will.

Let Islam (and all other religions, movements, and groups) shine their true non-violent, non-extremist light. Let the world see it, and admire it, for the true good it really has to offer.

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