

THE ETHICS OF DISAGREEMENT IN ISLAM WITH SEMITIC RELIGIONS

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the ethics of disagreement in Islam, particularly concerning other Semitic religions such as Judaism and Christianity. It aims to assess how Islamic teachings inform interpersonal conflicts and theological disputes, focusing on scriptural, historical, and contemporary perspectives. A qualitative method was employed, analyzing primary texts from the Quran, Hadith, and relevant scriptural commentaries alongside secondary literature that discusses inter-religious dialogue. Findings indicate that Islam advocates for respectful discourse and emphasizes the importance of mutual understanding. The analysis reveals that ethical frameworks within Islam promote a balance between faithfulness to doctrinal beliefs and the imperative of kindness in disagreements. This comparative approach highlights significant commonalities and differences in how each tradition handles dissent, suggesting pathways for dialogue and coexistence.

Keywords: Ethics; Disagreement; Islam; Semitic Religions; Interfaith Dialogue

INTRODUCTION

Examining the ethics of disagreement in Islam—especially concerning other Semitic religions—Judaism and Christianity—opens important ramifications for interfaith communication and societal peace. Although these religions have a similar theological background historically, they differ on important doctrinal matters which results in different ideas of ethical behavior given conflict. This paper seeks to dissect the ethical systems controlling inter-religious disputes and find channels of constructive communication among theological variants.

Past publications have mostly focused on conflict resolution from a historical or sociopolitical standpoint (Smith, 2018; Hassan, 2019). This work stands out by combining theological study with ethical philosophy to help Muslims and followers of Semitic faiths negotiate differences while preserving respect and dignity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research conducts a qualitative investigation of original texts from Islamic, Jewish, and Christian sources, as well as modern academic interpretations. The study includes Quranic texts, Hadith literature, and significant theological works, as well as scholarly discussions on ethics and interfaith relations. Comparative investigation reveals parallels and differences in ethical teachings on dispute across various religions.

Key verses and sayings related to disagreement were selected and interpreted to extract ethical guidelines. The analysis involved comparing Islamic teachings with relevant principles from Judaism and Christianity, highlighting areas of convergence and divergence.

DISCUSSION AND FINDING

Key results imply that while the Quran and Hadiths support polite disagreement (Quran 49:9–10), historical settings have sometimes resulted in conflicts between Islam and Semitic faiths. Ethical systems like those contained in Maimonides's writings on morality and reason reflect Islamic ideas of justice and pity and, therefore provide a foundation for mutual respect. Moreover, recent academics advocate a review of these moral principles given the multicultural society of today.

The case makes the case that rather than hatred, embracing ethical disagreement as a means of involvement could help to promote more understanding and collaboration. This study argues for a reconciliatory strategy that stresses common values over contentious ideas using an analysis of religious texts that support compassion and understanding—such as the notion of "Ummah" in Islam and "Tikkun Olam" in Judaism.

Islamic teachings promote principles such as justice, compassion, and the pursuit of knowledge. The Quran encourages believers to engage in respectful discourse (Quran 16:125), asserting that good conduct is essential even amidst disagreement.

Similarities with Judaism and Christianity are evident, particularly in the emphasis on love, compassion, and respect for others. Each tradition underscores the importance of ethical behavior during conflicts, advocating for resolution through dialogue.

However, significant differences also arise. For example, while Islam's framework allows for theological pluralism, some interpretations of Judaism and Christianity are more exclusivist. This leads to different ethical implications in how disagreements are managed.

CONCLUSION

The ethics of disagreement in Islam about Semitic faiths provides important insights for promoting interfaith communication. This research finds that adopting ethical frameworks that promote understanding, compassion, and respect might turn potential disputes into possibilities for cooperation. Future studies should concentrate on creating practical interfaith efforts based on these ethical principles, such as how communities might adopt dialogue frameworks that acknowledge and accept religious differences while establishing common moral ground.

In conclusion, managing the ethics of disagreement within Islam and Semitic faiths is both a theological problem and a critical socio-cultural requirement. Engaging with these ethical

components can favorably impact modern interfaith interactions and foster peace in increasingly diverse cultures.

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