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CLAIM:

Misconception 1

Islam is "the religion of peace" because: the Arabic word Islam is derived from the Arabic word "Al-Salaam" which means peace.

It might seem strange to think of this as a misconception, but in fact it is. The root word of Islam is "al-silm" which means "submission" or "surrender." It is understood to mean "submission to Allah." In spite of whatever noble intention has caused many a Muslim to claim that Islam is derived primarily from peace, this is not true.

[The above was taken from a Muslim website. Sad but true.]

ANSWER:

bismillaah, as-salaamu `alaykum,

Whoever authored this needs to study the fundamentals of tafseer. Even if this was a

misconception is it such a dangerous one that you have to consider it the #1

miconception?

Now in usool at-tafseer the Qur'aanic terminology can be subject to ikhtilaaf tanawwu`. There are two types of textual Ikhtilaaf: Ikhtilaaf tanawwu` (supplementary variance) and ikhtilaaf tadaad (contradiction). The latter does not exist in the Qur'aan or authenticated Sunnah.

An example is found in Surat al-Kahf:

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"Until he reached the setting of the sun, perceiving it to set in `ayn(in) hami'at(in),

and found there a people. We (Allaah) said said: 'O Thu-l Qarnayn, either you

chasten them or treat them kindly."

[Surat al-Kahf 18:86]

Note what I have underlined in both the Arabic text and the English translation. The

word Hami'ah as we find in rewaayah of Hafs `an `Aasim (more than likely the one

we all recite) was also recited Haamiyah in other rewaayaat. Ibn al-Manthoor says in

Lisaan al-`Arab regarding this verse:

الزبير وابن مسعود ابن

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"`Ayn(in) Hami'at(in) - That which contains earthen coagula (hama'ah). In the

Revelation it is said {wajadahaa taghrubu fee `ayn(in) hami'at(in)}. Ibn Mas`ood

and Ibn az-Zubayr recited this as haamiyah and those who recited it as haamiyah did

so in the absence of a hamza. The intended meaning here is heat as heat is essential

in this earthen coagula.."

Thus, as hami'ah means earthen coagula and haamiyah means heated both words

stemming from the same root are considered supplementary to the overall meaning

which is that it was a spring of bubbling hot mud, also called bitumen. 2

A word in the Qur'aan is not just taken for one of it's meanings as the Arabic

language is very, very different from English and other Romance languages.

Similarly, the word al-Islaam is a derivative of al-Istislaam which does not just mean

surrender! It means to submit, to be sincere, to find peace, and the like. It means all

of the above.

Ibn al-Manthoor explains this in Lisan al-`Arab as follows:

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"as-salaam - al-istislaam, likewise, as-silmu and as-salmu: al-istislaam is the antonym of warfare." (if I could emphasize this more than just bolding I would!)

He says further:

الانقياد؛

"al-Islaam and al-Istislaam: submission.."

Yet, further:

الله امر

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"Regarding al-Islaam, Abu Bakr Muhammad bin Bashaar has stated: It is said, 'Soand-so is Muslim,' and regarding this there are two sayings. First, it means he has

submitted to the command of Allaah. Second, it means they are sincere in their

worship of Allaah."

So what does Islaam mean? It means one who has found peace by sincerely surrendering to Allaah (subhaanahu wa ta`aala), fa-l hamdu lillaahi-rabbi-l`aalameen!

I don't know what is more tragic: The enemies of Allaah claiming that Islaam is not a

religion of peace, or certain types of Muslims bent on making Islam not a religion of

peace. w-Allaahu-l Musta`aan..

w-Allaahu wa rasoolahu a`lam, wa sallallaahu `alaa rasoolihi, was-salaamu

`alaykum,

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