

Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad (1835-1908)
The Promised Messiah and Al-Imām Al-Mahdī
The Founder of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā‘at,
a worldwide Muslim community

The Promised Messiah

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā‘at, a worldwide community was founded in 1889. Its founder, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad of Qādiān, India, claimed to be the Promised Reformer whose advent was awaited under different names and titles by the adherents of various religions.

Under divine guidance, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām made the revolutionary disclosure that there was to appear only one such Reformer, whose mission was to ultimately bring humankind into the fold of one universal religion. He also maintained that the Promised Reformer was to appear, not in an independent capacity, but as a subordinate to the Holy Prophet of Islam, Ḥaḍrat Muḥammad Muṣṭafā, (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). His advent, he declared, would finally usher a golden era of one universal religion which for ages man had dreamt of and yearned for.

*Friends! Abandon the thoughts of “Jihād”
warfare now;
It is now forbidden to go to war for the sake of
your faith.
The Messiah who is the religious leader of the
faith has come;
Now is the end of all wars of violence for faith.
The light of God is now descending from
heavens;
It is now futile to issue an edict for battle and
fighting.
Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah
be upon him)—the Chosen Prophet—had
clearly stated that;
When the Second Advent of Jesus Christ takes
place, he would put a halt to fighting.*

*(Tuḥfah-Golarviyah, Rūḥānī Khazā’in, vol. 17, p. 77,
1902)*

*My dear! The way to support faith is quite
different!*

*Not that you draw the sword if someone
disagrees!*

*Why do you need to draw the sword to support
your faith;*

What survives on bloodshed cannot be faith.

(Tiryāq-ul-Qulūb, Rūḥānī Khazā’in, vol. 15, p. 132, 1902)

For further information, please contact:
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*In the name of Allah,
Most Gracious, Ever Merciful*

Jihād

The True Islamic Concept

The concept of Jihād in Islam has been a subject of great controversy in recent years. The Founder of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā‘at, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad of Qādiān, clearly stated more than one hundred years ago that, according to the teachings of the Holy Qur’ān and the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), use of force is totally forbidden in matters of faith. In this pamphlet, we are presenting a few excerpts from his writings.





Islam is Propagated through its Inherent Qualities

No true Muslim has ever believed that Islam should be spread by the sword. Islam has always been propagated through its inherent qualities. Those who, calling themselves Muslims, seek to spread Islam by means of the sword are not aware of its inherent qualities and their conduct resembles the conduct of wild beasts. (*Tiryāq-ul-Qulūb, Rūḥānī Khazā'in*, vol. 15, p. 167, footnote, 1902)

The Holy Qur'ān clearly forbids the use of force for the spread of the faith and directs its propagation through its inherent qualities and the good example of the Muslims. **Do not be misled by the notion that in the beginning the Muslims were commanded to take up the sword.** That sword was not taken up for the spread of the faith, but in self-defence against the enemies of Islam and for the purpose of establishing peace and security. It was no part of the purpose of taking it up to have recourse to coercion in the matter of faith. (*Sitārah Qaiṣariyyah, Rūḥānī Khazā'in*, vol. 15, p. 120-121, 1899)

The Promised Messiah Will Not Fight Disbelievers with the Sword

The commonly held doctrine professed by some of the divines that the Promised Messiah will descend from heaven and will fight the disbelievers and will not accept the poll tax and will offer only the choice of death or Islam, is utterly false. It is brimful of all types of error and mischief, and is utterly opposed to the Holy Qur'ān and is only an invention of the impostors. (*Nur-ul-Ḥaq, Rūḥānī Khazā'in*, vol. 8, p. 67, 1894)

Concept of Jihād

I have already written books in Urdu, Persian and Arabic, in which I have proved that the popular concept of Jihād prevalent among Muslims, such as the expectation of a bloodthirsty Imām and cultivation of malice for others, are no more than false notions harboured by shortsighted clerics. **Islam, on the contrary, does not allow the use of the sword in religion except in the case of defensive wars, wars which are waged to punish a tyrant, or those which are meant to uphold freedom.** The need of a defensive war arises only when the aggression of an adversary threatens one's life. Except for these three kind of Jihād permitted by the *Shari'ah*—Islamic Law, no other kind of war is allowed by Islam in support of religion. To highlight this concept of Jihād, I have distributed books in this country and in Arabia, Syria and Khurasan, etc., at great cost. (*Masiḥ Hindustān Mein, Rūḥānī Khazā'in*, vol. 15, p. 4-5, 1908)

Islam Does Not Permit Taking Up Arms as Rebels

It should also be remembered that Islam permits the taking up of the sword only in opposition to people who themselves take it up first, and it permits the slaughter only of those who embark upon slaughter first. **It does not lay down that the Muslims while they are the subjects of a non-Muslim sovereign who deals with them with justice and equity should take up arms against him as rebels.** According to the Holy Qur'ān this is the way of the wicked and not of the righteous. (*Anjām-e-Ātham, Rūḥānī Khazā'in*, vol. 11, p. 37, 1897)

The Promised Messiah Came to Put an End to War

The doctrine of Jihād as understood and propagated by the Muslim divines of this age who are called maulavīs is utterly incorrect. It can lead to nothing except that by their forceful preaching they would convert common people into wild beasts and would deprive them of all the good qualities of human beings; and so it has happened. **I know for certain that the burden of the sins of those people who commit murders through ignorance on account of such preaching, and who are unaware of the reason why Islam had to fight battles in its early stages, lies on the necks of these maulavīs who go on propagating secretly these dangerous doctrines which result in such grievous loss of life...**

It is written that when the Promised Messiah appears Jihād by the sword and all fighting for religion will come to an end as he will not take up the sword or any other earthly weapon. **His only instrument will be his supplications, and his only weapon will be his firm determination.** He will lay the foundation of peace and will gather the goat and the lion together. His age will be the age of peace and kindness and human sympathy. Why do these people not reflect upon the fact that thirteen hundred years ago the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had said concerning the Promised Messiah: He will put an end to war. (*Government Angrezī Aur Jihād, Rūḥānī Khazā'in*, vol. 17 p. 7, 1900)