



**Interactions**  
between  
**Muslims**  
and  
**Non-Muslims**





In the Name of Allah,  
the Most Gracious,  
the Most Merciful



## Interactions between Muslims and Non-Muslims

Before we begin, let us mention the words of the award winning TED speaker and author Dr. Karen Armstrong: “Ever since the Crusades, when Christians from western Europe were fighting holy wars against Muslims in the near east, western people have often perceived Islam as a violent and intolerant faith - even though when this prejudice took root Islam had a better record of tolerance than Christianity.”



## 01 Financial transactions between Muslims and non-Muslims

All financial transactions are lawful between Muslims and non-Muslims, such as buying and selling, and taking part in companies, as long as the Islamic principles are upheld. A'ishah, may Allah be pleased with her said: "The Prophet ﷺ bought some food from a Jewish seller and was not able to pay the money upfront so he left his armor as collateral with him until he could pay." (Bukhari)

The only form of bartering that is unlawful is that which contains a degree of harm. Allah, the Exalted, says:

“O you who have believed, do not consume usury, doubled and multiplied, but fear Allah that you may be successful.” (3:130)

Allah, the Exalted, also says:

“O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, sacrificing on stone alters, and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful. Satan only wants to cause between you animosity and hatred through intoxicants and gambling and to distract you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. So will you not desist?” (5:90-91)



## 02 Performing prayers in a Non-Muslim place

It is lawful for Muslims to perform prayers in a non-Muslim place of worship. Abu Musa performed prayers in a church in Damascus.

It is not praiseworthy for a Muslim to do this, for there maybe idols, and other pictures. So, it is recommended that only if a person cannot find any other place to pray in, he may pray

there. Umar said to a Christian, “We do not enter your Churches due to the pictures that are posted on the walls.”

### 03 Entering the Masjid (Mosque)

It is lawful for non-Muslims to enter the Masjid, if there is a need. This provision does not include the Grand Mosque in Makkah. As for Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ met with some non-Muslim delegates there.

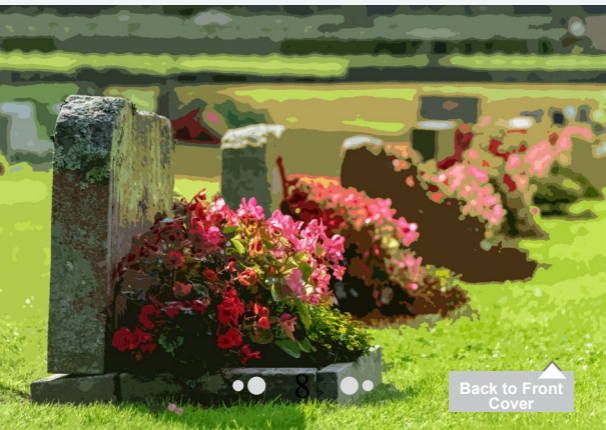
### 04 Visiting Non-Muslims

It is good for Muslims to visit non-Muslims who are sick and to supplicate for them that they become healthy. Anas said a young boy from a Jewish background fell sick and the Prophet ﷺ visited him and encouraged him to accept Islam. The boy looked to his father for permission, and the father told his sick son: “Obey Abal-Qasim (i.e. Muhammad ﷺ)”, so

he said the Testimony of Faith and the Prophet ﷺ said, “All praise is due to Allah who saved him from the Fire.” (Bukhari)

## 05 Giving Condolences to Non-Muslims

We can also give our condolences to non-Muslims. Abu Hurairah said that the Prophet ﷺ said: “I sought permission to visit my mother’s grave and it was granted to me.” (Muslim).







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## Giving Charity to Non-Muslims

One can give charity to non-Muslims as long as they are not engaged in oppressing others. Abdullah Bin 'Amr slaughtered a sheep and gave some of its meat as a gift to his Jewish neighbor. He said, "The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: 'The Angel Gabriel kept on enjoining the good treatment of neighbors to the extent that I thought that he would include neighbors as heirs.'" (Muslim)



## 07 Maintaining Ties of Kinship with non- Muslim Relatives

Islam has further encouraged Muslims to maintain the relations of kinship even if they be non-Muslims. Asma bint Abi Bakr, came to the Prophet ﷺ and said: “My mother is visiting me, and she is a non-Muslim.” He said, “Be kind to your mother.” (Bukhari)

## 08 Using Non-Muslims Utensils and Clothes

There is no concern for Muslims to eat from non-Muslims utensils and use their clothes as long as they are not made from materials that are unlawful for us. Abu Tha'labah al-Khushani said: "O Messenger of Allah, we are in a land that belongs to the People of the Book, shall we eat with their utensils?" He said: "If you can find other utensils, it is better. If not, then wash them and use them." (Bukhari)

## 09 Marrying a Non-Muslim

It is also lawful for a Muslim man to marry a chaste woman from the People of the Book. Allah, the Exalted, says:

"This day [all] good foods have been made lawful, and the food of those who were given the Scripture is lawful

for you and your food is lawful for them. And lawful in marriage are chaste women from among the believers and chaste women from among those who were given the Scripture before you, when you have given them their due compensation, desiring chastity, not unlawful sexual intercourse or taking them as [secret] lovers. And whoever denies the faith, his work has become worthless, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers.” (5:5)



## 10 Accepting Islam while being married

Whoever accepts Islam and is married to a woman from the People of the Book, his marriage would continue to remain valid.

## 11 Eating the Food of Non-Muslims

It is lawful for one to eat of the foods slaughtered by the People of the Book, as long as it is lawful for us to eat and they have mentioned the name of God over it. Allah, the Exalted, says:

“And do not eat of that upon which the name of God has not been mentioned, for indeed, it is grave disobedience.”  
(6:121)



## 12 Offering Protection to a Non-Muslims

We are to offer protection to a non-Muslim if he seeks it. Allah, the Exalted, says:

“And if any one of the polytheists seeks your protection, then grant him protection so that he may hear the words of Allah. Then deliver him to his place of safety.” (9:6)

### **13 Do not speak ill of Non-Muslims' Faith**

A Muslim is not to swear or speak ill of the non-Muslims' faith. Allah, the Exalted, says:

“And do not insult those they invoke other than Allah, lest they insult Allah in enmity without knowledge.” (6:108)

### **14 Paying the loan to Non-Muslims**

Allah has ordered that we repay our loans to a non-Muslim. He, the Exalted, says:

“O you who have believed, fulfill [all] contracts.” (5:1)

He, the Exalted, also says:

“And fulfill [every] commitment. Indeed, the commitment is ever [that about which one will be] questioned.” (17:34)

## 15 Showing Kindness to Non-Muslims

Furthermore, we are encouraged to show kindness and to uphold justice for those who do not share our faith. Allah, the Exalted, says: “As regards those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes, Allah does not forbid you from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.” (60:8)

The Prophet ﷺ also said: “Whoever kills a person who is under a contract of safety in a Muslim country, that person will not even smell the scent of Jannah.” (Bukhari)





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## Non-Muslims should receive the welfare services

When a non-Muslim resides in a Muslim state, he would receive the welfare services due to any citizen who has reached a senior age. Umar saw an old man who was Jewish, and he asked about his condition. He was told that he was from the people who had previously paid the protection-tax. So, the Caliph, Umar, told him, “We

have not been fair to you. We took Jizyah from you while you were young and now that you are old, you have nothing!” So, he took him by his hand till he went to the Muslim treasury, and he gave him some food and clothing. He then told the treasurer, “Find people like him and give them what is enough for them and their families.” He then recited the verse: “Zakah expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy.” (9:60)

He said the poor are the Muslims and the needy are those from the People of the Book.



## 17 Non-Muslims will be forgiven if they cease

Allah has opened the gateway of forgiveness for them (non-Muslims). He, the Exalted, says:

“Say to those who have disbelieved [that] if they cease, what has previously occurred will be forgiven for them. But if they return to hostility], then the precedent of the former [rebellious] peoples has already taken place.”  
(8:38)

## 18 Wanting good for others is a sign of one's faith

The Prophet ﷺ said to Abu Hurairah: “O Abu Hurairah, be cautious, and you will be the most devoted of people to Allah. Be content, and you will be the most grateful of people to Allah. Love for people what you love for yourself, and you will be a (true) believer. Be a good neighbor to your neighbors, and you will be a (true) Muslim. And laugh little, for laughing a lot deadens the heart spiritually.” (Saheeh Ibn Majah)

This is an excerpt  
of a larger book titled  
**“Ease and Tolerance in Islam”**  
by Abd Ar- Rahman  
bin Abd Al-Kareem Ash-Sheha.

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