

As explained by Saint Laurent "Jihad" has more than one meaning. There is the greater Jihad which is more like an internal struggle with your own spirituality. Muslims experience this on a daily basis. They strengthen their bond with Allah through this struggle.

The lesser Jihad is a defensive holy war. This concept is misunderstood frequently and often misused in the media resulting in an unfair ~~opinion~~ opinion of the Muslims religious take on issues like violence, terrorism, retaliation or aggression.

Islam is a complex religion whose

followers are quite passionate about the things they believe in. This passion can often be misinterpreted as fanaticism.

There are always going to be ~~people~~ ~~people~~ followers of a religion that act in a way

that is not within the teachings of a particular religion. There have been instances of this in all religions

all across the world. No religion is

Without its extremists. ~~There have been a few~~
Unfortunately there have been a few
instances where a small
group that was perceived to be Muslim
(I do not know if ~~they~~ they did in fact
practice Islam) committed a very violent
terrorist act. Opinions and beliefs
about this religion were based largely
on these instances.

A little understanding along with
a little research would lead you far from
that initial impression, I believe.

While Islam is not a religion that
teaches it followers to turn the other
cheek to violence or crimes committed
against them, it also does not teach
violence as a principle. Islam ~~is~~
follows "an eye for an eye a tooth for
a tooth" philosophy. It teaches first
to react with that which is better
when presented with evil. It is possible
to react to evil with good. It also teaches
that you can react defensively to the
of the attack. Which I interpret

OK

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to mean if a group of people is attacking a group of people to which you belong, by all means counter attack. The Quran states that you must act defensively, you must not start a war. If you are attacked, a counter attack would be defense.

When war is necessary there are guidelines which are to be followed.

1. You must only act defensively
2. Women, children and old must not be harmed.
3. When ~~the~~ treaties or agreements are made you must honor them.
4. Do not desecrate. Do not destroy sacred objects or crops.

There are more but these most closely lead to the point I am trying to make. The religion of Islam does not condone violence. When necessary it can't be avoided but it also can't be used without following these guidelines.

Muslims admit that there have been times when leaders of the religion have ~~gone~~ ~~acted~~ committed

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acts of violence that would not be

permitted when following the Quran or the teachings of Muhammad. This

is also true of all religions. Christians

have committed violent crimes as well

as Jewish. Muslims as a whole have

been no more violent in the name of

their religion than any other.

Further research of the religion

will reveal an even more non-violent nature.

The Quran teaches tolerance of all

religions. Muhammad was a firm believer

in this. Throughout Islamic history Muslims

have lived in harmony with other religions

groups. Even when there were Muslim

leaders of an area inhabited by Christians

and Jews, they were allowed to practice

their religion without persecution.

~~At that time~~ Muslims also accept all

racess of people into their religion and

rejoice at the conversion from another

religion.

The Quran teaches Muslims

to reach out to those less fortunate.

To help the poor the wayfarers

and orphans. A specific percentages

of income and possessions are given at a specific time to the poor or needy. Islam teaches about love, to love all humans equally. Clearly this is not a religion that love to wave around their swords. Rather, they are a religion who wields a sword only when necessary, using other means whenever possible.