The Connection between “Religious Intolerance” and “Holy Ignorance”;
Discussion on Religious Freedom Based on the Qur’an and Hadith

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Abstract

Nowadays in four corners of the world, there are groups rising and violating human dignities and social orders by the name of religion. The existence of such belief is due to misconceptions about religion, especially when speaking of Islam versus the West. In the other, “tolerance” occurs in a society wherein different social groups and parties live together with different beliefs and customs. Nevertheless, different ideas regarding the sound meaning of the term tolerance, which basically in Islam comes from the Qur’an and Hadith literature, led to contradict practices by different religious sects. The present paper, based on the analytical descriptive method and through Qur’anic notions, traditional and Islamic teachings and thinkers’ views, aims to discuss the extent and limits of tolerance in Islam, particularly concerning freedom, and how misconceptions about it brings about the disaster phenomenon of “holy ignorance”. It will show the meaningful connection between intolerance, holy ignorance, radicalism, lack of sound understanding about religion, and lack of religious freedom.

Keywords: religious freedom; holy ignorance; tolerance; intolerance; the Qur’an; Islam