

# Humanity and Human Rights Are Above All Religions and Creeds

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To me, nothing is above **humanity**, and no law is superior to **the law of human rights**.

Several decades of life, studies, observations and reflection, have made me conclude with certainty that the best religion is humanity, and the best of books is The Declaration of Human Rights, which was ratified in 1948 in the city of San Francisco. I say this without any prejudice, devoid of any insult to other people’s beliefs, just as I’ve never offended anybody in my life.

It’s time to stop sugarcoating the truth. Now and then, the great scientist and philanthropist, Albert Einstein, was asked about God and religion. Perhaps in an attempt to bring people closer to science, and to build a bridge between scientists and the religious people, in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, he said that his view was close to “Spinoza’s God, who reveals Himself in the lawful harmony of the world.” However, later on, in a surviving letter from the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup>

century, even as he wrote that he was happy to be Jewish, and pointed out his deep affinity with the Jewish people's mentality, he nevertheless bluntly criticized the concept of God — which he thought of as “an expression and the product of human weaknesses” — and the albeit respectable yet ultimately primitive legends of the holy book of the religious people; and he deemed the Jewish religion, like any other, an incarnation of the most childish superstitions. (Cf. the Letter of 1954 by Einstein to Eric Gutkind, a philosopher)

Several important questions stare at us besides the Declaration of Human Rights: Could we call someone “a human being,” or “the noblest of all creation”, who does not accord other people the right to life? Could we apply the term “human rights” to the writings which command to kill innocent people? Could we consider a text “holy” which commands to plunder and massacre people?

In the past, translations of the inciteful books of religions were not available to all; but today, they are. The followers of such books are themselves harmed the more, and suffer more miseries because of their books, than others do; but the dark veil of prejudice doesn't let them see such truths.

For an instance, let us begin with ourselves, and point out a recent incident which took place in Israel: a group of fundamentalist Jews known as the Haredis broke into a riot, insultingly and violently, against two young female Israeli soldiers, who had gone to their town merely to visit a new recruit. This mob of several hundred emptied the trash bins on the streets, flipped over a police vehicle, and ran after the two ladies; until several police officers saved the poor women from the ordeal, as they were running away from the crowd. Fortunately, only a few people were wounded in this incident, and no lives were lost. What matters here isn't what caused the riot, but the very act of the riot itself: to follow their beliefs, this ignorant bunch gave in to the most primitive of behaviors, against two

helpless women at that, even though the ladies had done nothing to provoke this, and had committed no violent behavior, whatsoever.

Yet, for a most shocking and horrifying case in point, that of the heart-wrenching consequences of a religion for its own followers, and on a much broader scale, I think of the events of January 2026, Iran: the people rallied at large and peacefully across the country, for such basic demands as freedom and better lives; but the protests were drawn to violence, no doubt due to manipulations by the Iranian regime, who went on to commit a vast massacre all over the country. According to some reports, this massacre by the Iranian government led to the loss of about 60,000 innocent lives, most of whom had been murdered over the course of only three days. Hundreds of thousands wounded, tens of thousands arrested, countless numbers executed, with possibly many more absolutely innocent people yet to be executed, these have been among the other results of this massive crackdown. Such a terrifying crime stands beyond the imagination and the mental processing power of most people.

For a silver-lining, these protests indicate that the people have become increasingly aware of the true nature of the religion, and they won't be buying the words of the mullahs anymore. The Iranian regime, perhaps aiming to stir up religious sentiments, and as a way to justify their own crimes, has nevertheless admitted as much implicitly, where *Hamshahri Online*, a news outlet evidently controlled by the government, states that (as the protests were drawn to violence) more than 300 mosques were subjected to fire or general arson across the country, of which about 60 cases took place in Tehran alone. It's too soon to say as to what extent such acts of sabotage have been spontaneous and committed by the people, or whether they've been another trick by the regime meant to muddy up the waters. Nevertheless, these acts in themselves leave no doubt that those in power are fully

aware that the people's demand for a regime change means that the religion in general has failed; just as such a horrifying crime is a clear testament to the grave dangers of the inciteful teachings of religions, and the religious mindset, and hence the need, greater than ever, to reject them across the globe.

Altogether, as of now, the painful events of January 2026, Iran, have been the peak of the evident savagery of the country's theocratic regime since 1979 against its own people. This has been a crime whose magnitude and details known so far extend far beyond the imagination and comprehension of the majority of people.

Still, none of these should have come as a surprise, indeed, given that for centuries, a whole range of holy books and their countless sects have maintained, "Kill whoever doesn't believe in Me or in these books"; and the adherents of these religions, most of whom haven't as much as read or understood their own books, have blindly followed these writings and whoever preaches them.

To see how a host of beliefs and creeds simply have no real basis, consider that all religions claim in unison, "God is one!" And yet, thousands of them have each created a god of their own. Each religion, each sect, each group has its own god, one with a unique name, particular address, and special characteristics, all of whom, as it happens, are enemies to one another! This simple yet obvious point goes to show how so many beliefs have no real foundation. After all, if there's only one God, then what's this whole talk about *my* God versus *yours*?

The Rumi said in effect, "Once I passed by a mosque, where I met a group of people who were praying, 'Oh God! Kill the infidels!' I moved on, and arrived at a church, where another group were praying, 'Oh God! Kill the heathens!' I kept walking, till I arrived at a tavern, where people just clinked their cups together, and wished, 'Cheers! To health! And to life!' I realized then that the best religion was to drink, for the drunk has no wish but health for the others. **In the religion of**

**love, worship is all about getting drunk. / Who is sober is not privy to this circle.”** (Based on a video in Persian made available on the internet)

Meanwhile, as I've mentioned before, alas, some governments but stir up hateful prejudices, for instead of promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence, they resort to deadly weapons and unbridled violence. My question remains as before: has the killing of hundreds of thousands of extremists produced the slightest change in the extremist societies and their beliefs? With all due respect, I address the prominent political and religious figures, and I say: Please, open your heart's eye! Even if you make hundreds of thousands more aircraft carriers and fighter-bombers, they won't be worth a brass farthing, for there can be no peace and security without peace between the religions; and as a prerequisite for such peace to be realized, human rights must be practiced by everyone.

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I was born in Iran, and spent a part of my childhood in the city of Kashan. Ever since a child, I worked while I was going to school. When I was a teenager, whilst I went to the night school, I worked at an import-export company, in the Amir Chamber of the Grand Bazaar of Tehran, where I learned hands-on the know-how of international trade. In Iran, I was a successful businessman; until with the 1979 Revolution, and in mid-life, I lost almost everything that I had built and saved with much persistence and hard work over many years, and together with my dear small family, began a new life in the United States. Amid my deepest gratitude toward America, this second homeland which allowed us to build our lives anew, my love for Iran has never left my heart.

This love has its own reasons. The Cylinder of Cyrus the Great, considered to be the first charter of human rights, was decreed centuries ago, with the aim of freedom of humankind, and respect for the beliefs and customs of all nations, peoples and groups, regardless of color, race or religion; and it has been one of the pillars of the modern Declaration of Human Rights. We the Iranian Jews consider Cyrus, the King of Persia, as our savior, and Iran as our millennia-old birthplace and homeland and that of our ancestors. We enjoy the literature, poetry, art and music of that land, and we have not and shall not forget our homeland.

Our love of Iran has roots in modern history, as well: as my readers may remember, during WWII, the cursed Hitler asked Reza Shah, the Pahlavi King of Iran, through the Iranian ambassador in Berlin, “What will happen to the Jews, once I’ve conquered Iran?” To which his Highness Reza Shah, may he rest in paradise, replied, “These people are ‘Jewish Iranians’. All of us here are first and foremost Iranians, who may hold different beliefs, or belong to one or another sect.” Fortunately, the cursed Hitler took his dream of conquering Iran to his grave. At that juncture in history, not only the Jews of Iran were among the few Jewish communities worldwide who survived the Holocaust, but also Iran became a safe haven for a large number of European war refugees, Jewish and otherwise. Why, even an Iranian diplomat named Mr. Sardari went so far as saving a considerable number of European Jews from certain death by issuing them Iranian passports.

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Let’s keep step with the modern progress and civilization, remain up-to-date, clean up our minds, look at the world with fresh eyes, and constantly revise and correct our convictions and beliefs. As Nietzsche put it, “The snake which cannot cast its skin has to die. As well, the minds which are prevented from changing their opinions; they cease to be mind.”

Here's hoping for the day when fundamental human rights, which are agreed upon by every human being, will all be fully realized.

Let us be awake, so we can sleep soundly.

Thank you.

Wishing you all the best,

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