

Application of the Word ‘Peace’ (*Salam*) in the Qur'anic Vocabulary

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In the Qur'an, the trilateral root *sīn lām mīm* (س ل م) appears in 48 chapters on 140 occasions in 11 derived forms. The original root word *sa-li-ma* (s-l-m) is a verb and it means to be safe, unharmed, secure and sound. *Salam*, which is from the same root can be translated as peace and has an interesting application in Qur'anic vocabulary. The prolificacy of the meaning from connoting the name of God and His security granted for believers to greeting of the Angels, from the name of the Paradise as well as the initial greeting of its guardians and inhabitants to one of the essential characteristics of the believers and so on would attract the attention of curious readers. When the Qur'an is read holistically, it brings to mind a portrayal of an "ideal and eternal abode" which is what believers yearn for. Although this discourse appears to be more relevant with the hereafter, it has implications for Muslims in this world as well; the title 'Muslim' is extracted from the same root, their religion 'Islam' is named after the same word and they are expected to literally diffuse the word of peace 'Salam' among themselves and others. One clear implication is that adherents of this faith and followers of this book are supposed to attain this goal and actualise this ideal. This paper focuses on the verses that utilise the word *salam* and investigates what the implied meanings of this word and its application in various contexts are for its audience. Ultimately, this textual study identifies the place of peace within the Islamic tradition based on its literal and lexical application in the Qur'anic vocabulary.

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