

Tolerance (and Patience) in the fields of religion, politics and social affairs is an almost new issue in Iran's contemporary culture which has its own opponents and proponents among both non-Islamic and Islamic thinkers. That is, some scholars based on their definition of tolerance oppose this approach and consider it strongly harmful for man's life, and some scholars advocate the approach for their own reasons. In fact, all of them discuss this issue based on their own philosophy. Hence, because of the disagreements regarding this issue and social concerns, the author decided to study this approach regarding Imam Khomeini's view. The issue of tolerance is a controversial issue in Iran's today world, and since this has recently provoked numerous conflicts, the author decided to find an answer for the following questions by using verses, hadiths and modus vivendi of Imams and prophet Muhammad (PBUH):

Is Islam basically a religion advocating toleration and showing decisiveness only in exceptional cases? Alternatively, is it a strict form of religion that allows toleration only in exceptional cases?

If we consider Islam a religion suggesting toleration and patience, we will become an advocate of this toleration approach; but if we consider Islam a religion suggesting violence and strictness, we will become an advocate of violence theory. Since Islam and its school and Ulema have educated Imam Khomeini, his ideas and performance are considered fully compatible with Islam. Therefore, studying his viewpoints about treating his enemies, proponents, people and agents can be useful and can serve as a solution for government officials and us. Therefore, the author tried to give examples of Imam's view about toleration approach and his performance. This research contains one preface and three chapters. In the preface the general outline is given.

In the first chapter the concept of toleration (and patience), its history and its literal definition from the viewpoint of the opponents and proponents of toleration approach is covered.

The second chapter covers obstacles facing this type of approach and discusses those exceptional cases when Imam Khomeini decisively treated the matters: heeding the constitution, heeding Islam's principles, avoiding conspiracy and heeding the interest of Iran's Islamic system.

The first part of the third chapter covers Imam's theory about toleration approach. In addition, the second part covers his performance regarding this approach. In the end a conclusion comes which demonstrates and approves the major results of this research.

One of the intellectual concerns of the writer in this thesis is to recognize whether Islam is a religion of tolerance and open-mindedness or it is an inflexible and tedious religion; which in exceptional cases allows tolerance, lenience and open-mindedness. If we consider Islam as a religion of tolerance and soft temperament, we will certainly be counted as one of the theorists of broadmindedness and lenience but on contrary if we consider Islam as a religion of violence and coarseness we will be considered as one of the supporters of the theory of violence. Since Imam Khomeini was brought up according to the thoughts of Islamic school and religious elders, his views and actions will also be naturally in concurrence with Islam

and the divine commandments. It is because of this only, that the study of his views regarding his dealing with opponents and enemies and also people and subordinates etc., can show the right path to us and especially to the Officials of the system of Islamic republic. Therefore the author of this thesis has tried to show the views and actions of Imam Khomeini, regarding tolerance and lenience. This thesis includes an introduction along with three following chapters. The outline of research is discussed in the introduction. The first chapter discusses the concept of tolerance and its historical background in general and provides us with the definition and lexical expression of the word “tolerance” and also points out the supporters and detractors of tolerance in the west and the Islamic world. The second chapter which is titled as “the Barriers of tolerance in Imam Khomeini’s view” is dedicated to the exceptional cases regarding which Imam Khomeini showed his intensity of action and assertiveness; such as observance of constitution, adherence to the basic principles of Islam, inexistence of conspiracy and observance of benefit of Islamic system of governance. The first part of the third chapter deals with Imam Khomeini’s views regarding tolerance, the second part of the same chapter describes tolerance in Imam Khomeini’s actions. In the end, a conclusion is given which is the result of primary findings of this thesis and finally a bibliography is given in the last chapter.