

In Semitic languages many words are created by inserting different vowels between the three root consonants, e.g. "iSLaM" and "SaLaM" are two derivations from SLM. Does that mean they are related in meaning also?

In Romanic and Germanic languages it is not so much by vowel changes, but by adding prefix or suffix to the root word [i.e. before or after the root]. For example "love" can be seen as a 'root word', which then can be the base for several adjectives, like "loving" and "loveless", both of which come from the same root "love" but clearly they mean basically the opposite. "Typical" and "atypical" also come from the same root "type" but mean again the very opposite. Now, English is not the standard to which one has to measure Arabic, but this example has the purpose to make clearer the below article to those who do not speak Arabic. I hope it is helpful.

The below is an English translation of [the Arabic original](#).

Islam & Peace

Muslim propagandists are nowadays making extraordinary efforts to change the image of Islam by reintroducing it to the Western society as a religion that calls for peace and rejects violence. One of the new theories that they are trying to sell is that the name of their religion *Islam* implies the meaning of 'Peace', which in Arabic is *Salam*. The grounds for their theory is that both words are derived from the same root in the Arabic language!

While it may be possible to deceive those who do not speak Arabic or those who do not know much about Islam, propaganda like this does not fool someone who knows the Arabic language and the teaching of Islam, a religion that was established by violence and still believes in violence as a principal and as a way of life. The relationships between Muslims themselves and between them and all other nations have always been based on terror and still is. *Islam* and *Salam* are two incongruous words that share no common ground either in name or in substance.

In order to find the meaning of a certain word in the Arabic dictionary, it is essential to search for the three letter infinitive verb which is called the root. Many words can be derived from the same root, but they don't necessarily have to have any similarity in their meaning. The word *Islam*, which means 'submission', is derived from the infinitive *Salama*. So is the word *Salam* which means 'peace' and so is the verb *Salima* which means 'to be saved or to escape from danger'. One of the derivations of the infinitive *Salama* means 'the stinging of a snake' or 'The tanning of the leather'. Hence, if the word *Islam* has something to do with the word *Salam* i.e. 'Peace', does that also mean that it must be related to the 'stinging of the snake' or 'tanning the leather'?

Muhammad used to send letters to the kings and leaders of the surrounding countries and tribes, inviting them to surrender to his authority and to believe in him as the messenger of Allah. He always ended his letters with the following two words: "Aslim, Taslam!". Although these two words are derived from the same infinitive *Salama* which is the root of *Salam*, i.e. 'Peace', neither one of them implies the meaning of 'peace'. The sentence means 'surrender and you will be safe', or in other words, 'surrender or face death'. So where is the meaning of 'Peace' in such a religion that threatens to kill other people if they don't submit to it?

On the other hand, the *Qur'an* and other Islamic books like *Al-Hadith* and *Al-Sira*, i.e. the life of Muhammad, are full of evidence which proves that had it not been for violence, Islam wouldn't have existed or wouldn't have survived until today. A good example to mention would be *The Wars Of Al-Riddah*, i.e. 'the wars against the apostates', that began immediately after the death of Muhammad. Feeling relieved by the disappearance of the strong fearful leader Muhammad, the tribes which have been forced to embrace Islam, revolted and began, one after another, to renegade and to refuse paying the taxes imposed on them by the Prophet's government. In response to the revolution, the first Caliph, Abu-Bakr, ordered his army to fight the apostates. It took him almost two years of fighting to force the tribes back into the fold of Islam. These wars were not ordered only by the first Caliph, but they were also instructed by Allah and his messenger Muhammad. The *Qur'an* states clearly that those who go back from Islam are to be punished by death: "But if they turn renegades seize them and slay them wherever ye find them and (in any case) take no friends or helpers from their ranks. Al-Nisaa 4:89." Muhammad also said, as narrated by Al-Bukhari, "If somebody - a Muslim - discards his religion, kill him."

The *Qur'an* not only ordered the killing of those who embraced Islam and afterwards decided to renegade, but also commanded the followers to fight all nations until they either believe in it, pay the Jizya or face death:

"Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the last day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and his apostle nor acknowledge the religion of truth of the people of the Book (the Jews and the Christians) until they pay the Jizya with willing submission and feel themselves subdued. Surat At-Tauba 9:29"

And in the same Sura, verse 5, the *Qur'an* also states: "Fight and slay the pagans wherever ye find them and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem ..."

Now doesn't the image of Islam as a religion of peace sound, after all, a little bit hard to believe? ...

Better educated Muslims agree that ["Islam" does not mean "peace" but "submission"](#)
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