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*All things arise and cease due to  
interdependent causes and conditions*

## **The Lesser Holy Effort to The Greater Holy Effort**

Compiled by

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## **The Lesser Holy Effort to The Greater Holy Effort**

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1 • The Prophet [Muhammad, after the victory of Mecca] declared, "We have returned from the lesser holy effort [*al jihad al-asghar*] to the greater holy effort [*al jihad al-akbar*]."

They asked, "O Prophet of God, which is the greater effort?"

He replied, "Struggle against the lower self." —Islam (*Hadith*)

[Meaning: Literally, "jihad" means "effort," not war. Thus, to restore the preservation of the wholeness, holiness of the Holy Land of our Spirituality or Higher Self, the Promised Land within, by exerting the greater effort in conquering, driving away the infidels of uncompassion, cruelty and terror from the unwholesomeness, unholiness of the unholy land of our lower self or personality, which is but a mask of illusion. This is the higher true teaching, at times sadly forgotten in the faiths of the world. Hopefully, when this is fully understood, swords beaten into plowshares become shareholders in a widening higher standard of living. Universal peace and harmony can endure within and without. Citizens are trustworthy. Freedom rings for all.]

2 • "For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against ... this present darkness. ... Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." —Christianity (*Ephesians* 6.10-17)

3 • "They that are desirous of victory do not conquer by might and energy so much as by truth, compassion, righteousness, and spiritual discipline." —Hinduism (*Mahabharata, Bhishma Parva* 21)

4 • "Be Jews or Christians and you shall be guided.

"Say, 'Nay, rather the creed of Abraham, a man of pure faith; he was no idolater.'

"Also say, 'We believe in God, and in that which has been sent down on us and sent down on Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac and Jacob, and the Tribes, and that which was given to Moses and Jesus and the Prophets; of their Lord; we make no division between any of them, and to Him we surrender.'" —Islam (*Koran* 2.130-36)

5 • "Whatever affliction may visit you is for what your own hands have earned." —Islam (*Koran* 42.30)

6 • "Suffering is the offspring of violence—realize this and be ever vigilant." —Jainism (*Acarangasutra* 3.13)



7 • "Now that the present life is but a sport and a diversion, an adornment and a cause of boasting among you, a rivalry in wealth and children. It is as rain whose vegetation pleases the unbelievers; then it withers, and you see it turning yellow, then becomes straw. And in the Hereafter there is grievous punishment, and forgiveness from God and good pleasure; whereas as the present life is but the joy of delusion."  
—Islam (*Koran* 57.20)

8 • "Unrighteousness, practiced in this world, does not at once produce its fruit; but, like a cow, advancing slowly it cuts off the roots of him who committed it."  
—Hinduism (*Laws of Manu* 4.182)

9 • "As sweet as honey is an evil deed, so thinks the fool so long as it ripens not; but when it ripens, then he comes to grief."

"Not in the sky, nor in mid-ocean, nor in a mountain, is found that place on earth where abiding one may escape from the consequences of one's evil deed."  
—Buddhism (*Dhammapada* 69, 127)

10 • "And of mankind are some who say, "We believe in God and the Last Day," when they believe not. They think to beguile God and those who believe, and they beguile none save themselves; but they perceive not. In their hearts is a disease, and God increases their disease. A painful doom is theirs because they lie. And when it is said to them, "Make not mischief on the earth," they say, "We are only peacemakers." Behold they are indeed the mischief-makers but they perceive not."  
—Islam (*Koran* 2.8-12)

11 • "Whoever commits a delinquency or crime, then throws the blame upon the innocent, has burdened himself with falsehood and a flagrant crime."  
—Islam (*Koran* 4.112)

12 • "If some perverse man should come up to you with some piece of news, clear up the facts lest you afflict some folk out of ignorance and some morning feel regretful for what you may have done. ...

"Do not let one folk ridicule another folk. Perhaps they are better than they are. Nor let women mistreat other women; perhaps they are better than themselves. Nor should you find fault with one another nor shout at one another using nicknames; it is bad to use a dirty name instead of one you can believe in. Those who do not turn away from it are wrongdoers.

"Refrain from being overly suspicious: even a little suspicion is a vice. Do not spy on one another, nor yet any of you slander others. ... Heed God, for God is Relenting, Merciful."

—Islam (*Koran* 49.6-12)

13 • "God has endeared the Faith to you, and has made it beautiful in your hearts, and He has made loathful to you unbelief, wickedness, and rebellion: such indeed are those who walk in righteousness—a grace and favor from God."  
—Islam (*Koran* 49.7)



righteousness—a grace and favor from God.” —Islam (*Koran* 49.7)

14 • “Call on Him with awe and longing in your hearts: for the Mercy of God is near to those who do good.” —Islam (*Koran* 7.56)

15 • “The search for [true] knowledge is an obligation laid on every Muslim.” —Islam (*Hadith*, Ibn Majah & Baihaqi)

16 • “God is peace, His name is peace, and all is bound together in peace.” —Judaism (*Zohar*, *Leviticus* 10b)

17 • “Perfectd is the Word of your lord in truth and justice. There is nothing that can change His words. He is the Hearer, the Knower. If you obeyed most of those on earth they would mislead you far from God’s way; they follow nothing but an opinion, and they do but guess.” —Islam (*Koran* 6.115-16)

18 • “The whole of the Torah [The Law, Pentateuch] is for the purpose of promoting peace.” —Judaism (*Talmud*, *Gittin* 59b1)

19 • “The one who would have the worst position in God’s sight on the Day of Resurrection would be a learned man who did not profit from his learning.” —Islam (*Hadith of Darimi*)

20 • “The Master said, ‘Only one who bursts with eagerness do I instruct; only one who bubbles with excitement do I enlighten. If I hold up one corner and a man cannot come back to me with the other three, I do not continue the lesson.’” —Confucius (*Analects* 7.8)

### **On Islam or Spiritual Surrender**

“The wise man should surrender his words to his mind;  
And this he should surrender to the Knowing Self  
And the Knowing Self he should surrender to the Greater Self;  
And that he should surrender to the Peaceful Self (*al-Salaam*).”

—*Katha Upanishad* 3.13

### **Peace Be To All**

Peace be to earth and to airy spaces!  
Peace be to heaven, peace to the waters!  
Peace to the animals, plants, and peace to the trees!  
May all divine beings grant us peace!

By this invocation of peace may peace be diffused!  
By this invocation of peace may peace bring peace!

With this peace the dreadful I appease,  
With this peace the cruel I appease,  
With this peace all evil I appease,

So that peace may prevail, happiness prevail!  
May everything for us be peaceful!

—*Atharva Veda* 19.9.14

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