

# Reflections on Why We Are Here

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The Koran tells us that creation serves a just purpose and that Allah intended for self-conscious humanity, symbolized by Adam, to be the earthly *khalifa*, or deputy, of the universal Creator. Human beings who are made “in the best of molds” are capable of becoming Allah’s co-workers in creating a temporal order that embodies divine attributes such as knowledge, justice, love and mercy. However, they are also capable of becoming the “lowest of the low” through misuse of the ability to think and exercise moral autonomy while doing that which is pleasing to Allah.

To me life is an internal and external journey toward attaining a state of peace that is the true goal of Islam. However, peace is not merely the absence of conflict even as health is not merely the absence of sickness.

According to the perspective of the Koran, peace is a positive state of safety or security in which one is free from anxiety or fear. It comes into being when human beings honoring the divine imperative to live justly, learn to be just to themselves and to others. Constant striving is required to overcome the fragmentation to which most human beings are subjected in the technological age. Constant striving is required to eliminate sexism, racism, classism and all forms of totalitarianism that lead to the injustices and inequities that characterize the world in which we live. To engage in such striving is the purpose of life.

“Reflections on Why We Are Here,” in *The Meaning of Life*: Reflections in Words and Pictures on Why We Are Here - Reflections of three hundred wise men and women compiled by David Friend and the Editors of *Life*, Little Brown and Company, Boston, Toronto, London, 1991, p. 181