



Interfaith Text Study

Theme: Struggle against Racism

- Text: Surah Ar-Rum {30:22}

In surah Ar-Rum [30:22], it is said, "***And among His wonders is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the diversity of your tongues and colors. For in this, behold, there are messages indeed for all who are possessed of innate knowledge!***"

- Commentary

The Prophet (PBUH) reaffirmed this teaching in the following Hadith:

"O people, your Lord is one and your father Adam is one. There is no favor of an Arab over a foreigner, nor a foreigner over an Arab, and neither white skin over black skin, nor black skin over white skin, except by righteousness. Have I not delivered the message?"

- Reflection Questions:
 - What do you make of the surah specifying diversity of human *languages* and *colors* in particular?
 - Does this remind you of other religious doctrines/texts? If so, which ones and why?
 - In the surah "...***For in this, behold, there are messages indeed for all...***" as well as the hadith, although both specifically refer to place of origin or skin color, it is implied that "...*except by righteousness*" there is value in discriminating between individuals. In light of the Black Lives Matter movement and what you have learned/experienced of systemic inequalities, how do you think these statements relate to your day-to-day life?
 - What are ways you can be aware of the distinctions you are making between people and how can you remind yourself to bring your focus back to a quality like righteousness?