



Non-violent responses to hatred

Hebrew Bible

Samuel 16: 5-12

5 As King David was approaching Bahurim, a member of Saul's clan- a man named Shimei son of Gera- came out from there, hurling insults as he came. 6 He threw stones at David and all King David's courtiers, while all the troops and all the warriors were at his right and his left. 7 and these are the insults that Shimei hurled: "Get out, get out, you criminal, you villain! 8 The Lord is paying you back for all your crimes against the family of Saul, whose thrown you seized. The Lord is handing over the throne to your son Absalom; you are in trouble because you are a criminal!" 9 Abishai son of Zeruah said to the king, "Why let that dead dog abuse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head!" 10 But the king said, "What has this to do with you, you sons of Zeruah? He is abusing [me] only because the Lord told him to abuse David; and who is to say, 'Why did you do that?'" 11 David said further to Abishai and all the courtiers, "If my son, my own issue, seeks to kill me, how much more the Benjaminite! Let him go on hurling abuse, for then Lord has told him to. 12 Perhaps the Lord will look upon my punishment and recompense me for the abuse [Shimei] has uttered today."

English translation: JPS 1985

ה וּבָא הַמֶּלֶךְ דָּוִד עַד בַּחֲוָרִים וְהִנֵּה מִשָּׁם אִישׁ יוֹצֵא מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת בֵּית שָׁאוּל וְשָׁמוֹ שְׁמַעִי בֶן גֵּרָא יֹצֵא יְצוּא וּמְקַלֵּל. וַיִּסְקַל בְּאֲבָנִים אֶת דָּוִד וְאֶת כָּל עֲבָדָיו הַמֶּלֶךְ דָּוִד וְכָל הָעָם וְכָל הַגִּבּוֹרִים מִיְמֵינוֹ וּמִשְׁמָאלָיו. ז וְכֹה אָמַר שְׁמַעִי בְּקַלְלוֹ צָא צָא אִישׁ הַדְּמִים וְאִישׁ הַבְּלִיעֵל. ח הַשִּׁיב עָלֶיךָ הַ" פֶּל דְּמֵי בֵית שָׁאוּל אֲשֶׁר מְלַכְתָּ תַּחְתּוֹ וַיִּתֵּן י הַ" אֶת הַמְּלוּכָה בְּיַד אַבְשָׁלוֹם בְּנֵךְ וְהִנֵּךְ בְּרַעְיָתְךָ כִּי אִישׁ דְּמִים אָתָּה. ט וַיֹּאמֶר אֲבִישַׁי בֶּן צְרוּיָה אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ לָמָּה יְקַלֵּל הַכֶּלֶב הַזֶּה אֶת אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲעֲבֹרָה נָא וְאָסִירָה אֶת רֹאשׁוֹ. {ס} י וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ מַה לִּי וְלָכֶם בְּנֵי צְרוּיָה כִּי (כָּה) יְקַלֵּל וְכִי (כִּי) י הַ" אָמַר לוֹ קַלֵּל אֶת דָּוִד וְגַם יֹאמֶר מִדּוּעַ עֲשִׂיתָהּ כֵּן. {ס} יא וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל אֲבִישַׁי וְאֶל כָּל עֲבָדָיו הִנֵּה בְנֵי אֲשֶׁר יֹצֵא מִמִּעַי מִבְּקֹשׁ אֶת נַפְשִׁי וְאִם כִּי עֲתָה בֶן הַיְמִינִי הִנְחוּ לוֹ וַיִּקְלֵל כִּי אָמַר לוֹ הַ". יב אוֹלַי יִרְאֶה י הַ" בְּעוֹנֵי (בְּעֵינַי) וְהַשִּׁיב י הַ" לִּי טוֹבָה תַּחַת קַלְלָתוֹ הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.



Non-violent responses to hatred

New Testament Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

English translation: NRSV

¹⁷μηδενὶ κακὸν ἀντὶ κακοῦ ἀποδιδόντες: προνοούμενοι καλὰ ἐνώπιον πάντων ἀνθρώπων: ¹⁸εἰ δυνατόν, τὸ ἐξ ὑμῶν μετὰ πάντων ἀνθρώπων εἰρηνεύοντες: ¹⁹μὴ ἑαυτοὺς ἐκδικοῦντες, ἀγαπητοί, ἀλλὰ δότε τόπον τῇ ὀργῇ, γέγραπται γάρ, Ἐμοὶ ἐκδίκησις, ἐγὼ ἀνταποδώσω, λέγει κύριος. ²⁰ἀλλὰ ἐὰν πεινᾷ ὁ ἐχθρὸς σου, ψώμιζε αὐτόν: ἐὰν διψᾷ, πότιζε αὐτόν: τοῦτο γὰρ ποιῶν ἄνθρακας πυρὸς σωρεύσεις ἐπὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν αὐτοῦ. ²¹μὴ νικῶ ὑπὸ τοῦ κακοῦ, ἀλλὰ νίκα ἐν τῷ ἀγαθῷ τὸ κακόν.



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Qur'an

[Verses] Made Distinct 41:33-36

33 Who speaks better than someone who calls people to God, does what is right, and says, 'I am one of those devoted to God'? 34 Good and evil cannot be equal. [Prophet], repel evil with what is better and your enemy will become as close as an old and valued friend, 35 but only those who are steadfast in patience, only those who are blessed with great righteousness, will attain to such goodness. 36 If a prompting from Satan should stir you, seek refuge with God: He is the All Hearing and the All Knowing.

English translation: Abdel Haleem

وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا
وَقَالَ إِنِّي مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٣٣﴾ وَلَا تَسْتَوِي
الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ۚ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا
الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ ﴿٣٤﴾
وَمَا يُلْقِنَهَا إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَمَا يُلْقِنَهَا إِلَّا ذُو
حَظٍّ عَظِيمٍ ﴿٣٥﴾ وَإِمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ
فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ ۗ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ﴿٣٦﴾