



*Academic report*

**THE FACE2FAITH3.0**  
**Inter-Religious Dialogue Forum on Happiness in Times of Trials: Covid-19**  
**Pandemic from the Perspectives of Islam, Christianity and Buddhism**

**Fatmir Shehu**

Associate Professor

FACE2FAITH3.0, Department of Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion,  
Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences,  
International Islamic University Malaysia, 50728 Kuala Lumpur  
Email: [fatmir@iium.edu.my](mailto:fatmir@iium.edu.my)

Face2Faith3.0: Inter-Religious Dialogue Forum was held virtually through Google Meet on Friday, 28th May 2021. The forum began at 3:30p.m, and ended at 5:30p.m. Its main theme was “*Happiness in Times of Trials - Covid-19 Pandemic, from the perspectives of Islam, Christianity and Buddhism*”. The forum was organized by the students of Inter-Religious Dialogue with the guidance of course Instructor, Assoc Prof Dr. Fatmir Shehu, Department of Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion, Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, IIUM. It has addressed means and ways of achieving happiness in the era of Covid-19 Pandemic challenges through and within the lens of religious teachings, particularly Islam, Christianity and Buddhism.

This forum has generated very important outcomes resulting from the discussions of the three speakers. *Firstly*, as stated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdurezak Abdulahi Hashi, in Islam, the effort of achieving happiness during times of trails has three dimensions, which are; (a) being connected to Almighty Allah (*s.w.t.*) and believe in Him based on *Tawhid*; (b) being connected to other members of the community, i.e., social connectivity with relatives, close friends, and neighborhoods; (c) working hard to pass the trials by showing *Sabr* (endurance), *Qana'ah* (contentment), *Yaqin* (certainty), *Tawakkul* (trust and reliance), and get *Rida* (pleasure) of Allah (*s.t.w.*). *Secondly*, Prof. Dr. Frans Jozef Servaas Wijzen, affirmed that in Christianity happiness is not political power or material possession; rather, it is an attitude. Spiritual happiness in Christianity is to put trust in God and be happy with what you have, which makes you happy at all times, i.e., times of trials too. *Lastly*, Mr. Tan Siang Chye, asserted that in Buddhism happiness in times of trials is achieved through *Sila* (morality, i.e., a person needs to have the proper moral values), *Samadhi* (mental composure, i.e., a person needs to train his mind), and *Panna* (wisdom, i.e., a person needs to see clearly, as with clear vision comes happiness).

The above mentioned comprehensive outcomes made it possible for this forum to achieve its main objectives, which are: *firstly*, to provide a live inter-religious dialogue experience for the students that enables them to practice the skills they have learnt from Inter-Religious Course. *Secondly*, to train them how to uphold their responsibilities towards the tasks assigned to each one of them in organizing such event(s). *Thirdly*, to give them an opportunity to listen directly from the practitioners of the three selected religions, Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism. *Fourthly*, to learn how to cooperate with the adherents of other religions in working together, to deal with common trials like Covid-19 Pandemic. *Fifthly*, to know how to respond to contemporary common problems through inter-religious dialogue platform. *Sixthly*, to show to them the significant role played by religion(s) in teaching their followers how to be happy in times of trial, i.e., Covid-19 Pandemic. *Seventhly*, to teach them how to improve their understanding towards their own religion and have

better perception about others. *Lastly*, to allow them to know how to develop friendly relationships with others based on mutual respect and better understanding.

As an overall remark, this forum was a good learning platform for students of Inter-religious Dialogue, and therefore, such inter-religious activities should be organized regularly with the aim to promote peaceful coexistence and happiness.

**FACE2FAITH3.0:**  
**INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE FORUM**

**Happiness in Times of Trials - Covid-19 Pandemic**  
(From the Perspectives of Islam, Christianity and Buddhism)

**REPRESENTATIVES**

**ISLAM**  
DR. ABDUREZAK ABDULAH HASHI

**CHRISTIANITY**  
PROF. DR. FRANS JOZEF SERVAAS WIJSEN

**BUDDHISM**  
MR. TAN SIANG CHYE

**MODERATOR**  
DR. FATMIR SHEHU

**“For indeed, with hardship will be ease, Indeed with hardship will be ease.”**  
[al-Qur'an / ash-Sharh: 5-6]

**FRIDAY, MAY 28**  
**3:30PM-5:30PM**

Google meet: [meet.google.com/jzu-hgna-ana](https://meet.google.com/jzu-hgna-ana)

**ORGANIZER**  
Students of Inter-Religious Dialogue Course – RKUD3071  
with Course Instructor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatmir Shehu  
SEM 2, 2020-2021.  
Department of Uşûl al-Dīn and Comparative Religion,  
Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences,  
International Islamic University Malaysia.

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