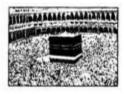
## Interaction is important

By Maulana Wahiduddin Khan



he Quran holds interaction to be of great
importance. This
principle is laid down in the
chapter Al-Fath
(Victory): "Truly, We have
granted you a clear victory,
so that God may forgive you
your past and future sins
and complete His favour to
you and guide you to a
straight path, and so that
God might bestow on you
His mighty help." (48-1-2)

These verses have a historical background. The Prophet Muhammad started a mission in Arabia. But people did not have religious freedom at the time so they were angered by his initiatives and started a war against him. A war-like situation did not favour the Prophet. The condition was particularly acute during the confrontation between the Prophet and the nonMuslim forces at Hudaybiyyah when the Prophet wanted to proceed to Madina to perform religious rites at the Kaaba. The Prophet, wanting to normalise the situation, initiated peace talks between the two parties, which lasted two weeks. These are called the Hudaybiyyah Talks.

The Prophet discovered that the other party was in no way ready to halt its militancy. He offered to accept all its conditions unilaterally, provided it agreed to end the hostilities. This offer was accepted, resulting in a ten-year no-war pact. When this peace treaty was finalised. God revealed the verses given earlier. On face value, the Hudaybiyyah treaty was like a defeat, for the price paid by Prophet was his unilateral acceptance of the conditions laid down by the other party. But the Ouran declared it as a "clear victory" for the treaty successfully removed the deadlock and opened the door to peaceful interaction between the two parties.