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Religious Perspectives – Islam

What are some misunderstood or controversial practices within your religion?

“I think that in Islam particularly and you see some of that outside, it’s the word jihād. Jihād is quite misunderstood. Jihad, again an Arabic word, which starts, which has a root which means struggle. Struggle, struggling against the worldly attractions, against the bad morals and so on. So yeah, jihād is war. But, it is against yourself; to avoid bad things and to struggle in life for education, for doing good things, for helping the society and so on. So that is one thing that is totally misunderstood. There isn’t anything holy about any war. So there is no such thing as holy war at all according to the Islamic concept. So, that is I think perhaps one of the most misunderstood word from a Muslim standpoint.”

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