

Feedback about my
biography by Deborah
Baker (2010-2012)

THE MUSLIM WORLD BOOK REVIEW

MWBR.cs

18th June 2010

Maryam Jameelah
c/o Mohammad Yusuf Khan
15 / 49 Sant Nagar
Lahore
PAKISTAN

Dear Maryam

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit.

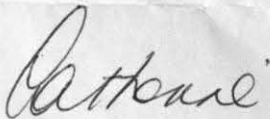
Further to my letter of 26th May I am writing to let you know that I have, today, put a copy of the following book in the post for you:

A Carpet Ride to Khiva: Seven Years on the Silk Road by Christopher Aslan Alexander

We have only just received the book but I felt sure you would be interested! I have sent it to Professor Khurshid since that seems to be the best way for you to receive the books we send and I know that either he or his secretary, Shiraz Gul, will ensure it reaches you.

Both Dr Manazir and I both send our greetings to you and to Khan Sahib and hope that you are both keeping well.

With kind regards



Catherine Shaw





Im Namen Gottes, des Gnädigen, des Barmherzigen

Fatima Grimm

Bauernrosenweg 27
22177 Hamburg
FatimaGrimm@t-online.de
Tel./Fax 040 / 690 27 26
10th May 2010

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mohammad Yusuf Khan Sahib
15/49 Sant Nagar

54000 Lahore / Pakistan

My dear Maryam,
as-salamu alaikum wa rahmatu-llahi wa barakatuh!

This time I feel very guilty indeed because I neither sent you a postcard from my beautiful car excursion to Andalusia nor did I write to you immediately upon my return though I know only too well how anxiously you are waiting for news from my side. Your only consolation may be that I have ordered the book you wanted and the book shop has informed me that I can collect it tomorrow. At first I intended to send my letter and the book together by airmail but then I remembered at least that you wanted me to read the book first so that we can exchange our thoughts on it.

My trouble is that I am very badly mis-organized at moment. I have so many things to do that I simply don't get started doing them... Piles of papers to sort out, uncountable @-mails to read and still lots of other events to attend to: A big family meeting from my mother's side in Mainz near Frankfurt which took me four days yet where I very much enjoyed to see my brother with his son, daughter-in-law and little Cassian - and a very big tommy of his mother since in June a little sister is expected. And last weekend I had a visitor from Berlin from Friday to Sunday who met a brother from Bangladesh here in Hamburg. He is a widower and so much wants to marry her. And Allah knows best what is good for the two of them.

I don't know where the weeks since my return have gone - I only know that I have a terribly bad conscience. Especially also because I could work on several translations which would do my purse very well - the journey was really

wonderful but much more expensive than expected... Andalusia was partly breath-taking, exciting, moving and making one very sad. The worst was the marvellous mosque of Cordoba with the integrated ugly church... Fortunately I learned only afterwards from Muslim brothers and sisters that praying in this mosque is strictly forbidden - if anyone enters in an obviously Muslim dress he or she is immediately informed to that effect. But probably it was noon-break, nobody stopped us and I gratefully remember the short spiritual encounter with our Creator in a comparatively lonely corner.

Granada was also a very moving experience. As we were there during the so-called *santa semana* (holy week before Easter) the city was often closed for traffic since for hours long processions with "Christ" being carried around accompanied by strange freemason-like dressed men and boys with huge hoods covering the head with only the eyes looking out took place. There was terrible music played by violins expressing sorrow which only on Easter Sunday became less nerve-straining. We were told that we could only enter Alhambra if we bought tickets beforehand. So I got two tickets for 41 € and we were very glad that we did not have to cue with hundreds of less fortunate visitors. We were also informed that we would have to be very punctual, otherwise we would not be admitted to the Nasseride Palace with the famous lions well. So we were nearly half an hour early. But to our dismay it turned out that during the night (28th to 29th April) the clocks were advanced for one hour, so they simply would not let us in. A young couple whose bus left at 12 am also tried to get entry earlier because their tickets were for 1,30 pm, but they were also refused. When we decided to try and get tickets for the afternoon we met these people and they gave us their tickets - we were so overwhelmed that we gave them 10 €. But when we tried to get in at the exact time we learned that they had probably manipulated their tickets (perhaps wanting to make 1.30 pm into 10.30 am) and so again entry was refused to us... We could not help nearly laughing out heads off and just took a taxi to the "mesquite" and that was truly a wonderful reward. This very neat and clean and friendly mosque made up for all our misfortune. It was built by the Murabitun (Shaykh Abdul Kadir's people) but is of course open for everyone who wants to pray there. On our way home we went via Sevilla, Cadiz, Gibraltar, Malaga, Bologna and so many other places, then through Italy, Switzerland, Austria back to Munich where I stayed with my son for 3 days while Djamilia was with an old friend. And one day we visited a very interesting mosque in Penzberg south of Munich with a Minaret made of very big metal Arab letters with glass in between, and with the most beautiful library where I even found some of my books and was of course very proud...

It is now half an hour past midnight and I must close for now. Hope to write more soon. All my best wishes and regards for now, Yours in Islam

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Fatima



Im Namen Gottes, des Gnädigen, des Barmherzigen

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My dear, dear Maryam,

As-salamu alaikum wa rahmatu-llahi wa barakatuh!

Today I received your happy and content letter of May 25th and enjoyed every single line - it is shining with grateful submission to all our Almighty Creator is sending you way/masha Allah! And indeed, what a blessing that your dear Khan Sahib is well enough to share namaz and Qur'an reading with you as He did now for so many years, alhamdu-li-llah.

I shall insha Allah hand your message of love on to sister Zeba. Just this morning I happened to come across a PC video showing Shaikh Nazim as he embraces the Pope during his visit to Zyprus. It is really amazing what this old man is still able to achieve! He sitting peacefully in a chair and the Pope coming with his entourage to this place and bending down to kiss him. Subhana-llah! Probably you will already have FRAGILE in your hands when this letter reaches you. I have gone through the volume and am of course deeply touched by all the misery and braveness illustrated though the photos by the very enthusiastic and engaged author. Yet I was reluctant to keep the book in my house for too long - one feels so utterly helpless in face of all those tribulations by which these poor people are visited... One would continuously go on imploring our Lord for His mercy on those co-inhabitants of mother earth who seem to me in no way guilty of creating their own plight. They are simply carrying the heavy burden for the rest of the world and we are condemned to be nothing but onlookers who have no chance of really lightening their lot. If we could not trust that Almighty Allah will make up for all this in the other, the better World, we should lose our mind. That is at least how I feel.

How wonderful that you were able to show the people from Al-Jazeera your albums, it must be a priceless collection, I am sure! And how Maulana's children will feel when they come to see this, God willing.

Isn't it strange? I am at moment also working with a very good friend and poet on my biography - so to say the story of trying to live Islam during 50 years as a convert / revert in surroundings mostly rather uncongenial to Islam!

Hopefully my companion during the car trip through France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland and Austria will also write her story with this friend - she was born in a NS concentration camp because both her parents were committed communists, and was living in East Germany till she succeeded in fleeing away to the West in 1960. She is now 66, the friend will be 71 this year and published his own biography last year - FROM BASEBEK IM MOOR VIA MOSCOW TO MEKKA. This very well written account presents him as a young Protestant, becoming later on a Catholic, then a "noble" (idealistic) Communist und finally ending up as Muslim - and when he expected his very old mother to be horrified by this last step, she smiled and said: "Most important, you did not turn into a Catholic again!!!"

To round off this letter, I am only too thankful that I can assure you too: I am also feeling so privileged by Almighty Allah to be able to still live at nearly 76 and full-heartedly enjoy every hour granted to me, that I can do my Qur'an readings every morning after fajr and am even planning to keep fast again during Ramadan, insha Allah Ta'ala. Of course I only manage half of what I would want to, but then age is demanding its toll which is quite normal.

Also all my children and grandchildren are most kind to me, I still live in the place where I was so happy with my Abdul Karim and if my health permits I may even undertake some more travelling, provided my financial circumstances permit this.

Please accept all my best and warmest wishes for your further well-being from your much remembering

Fatima

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Im Namen Gottes, des Gnädigen, des Barmherzigen

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On the way home I took the train via Aachen where an important meeting of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany was held, and in the evening of 1st August I returned to Hamburg - at about 2 m.a. on August 2nd I was in bed, alhamdu-llah. But at 11 o'clock the same day 7 sisters from Hamburg with two children arrived and stayed with me over night, till nearly 3 p.m. the next day. And on Wednesday I had to go to Lützelbach near Frankfurt where a family meeting of the House of Islam took place. Fortunately my young friend Sena who also has a driving licence accompanied me and I even stayed over night with her family for three days since the House of Islam had so many families, or rather mothers

(11)

27.07.2010 Rückblick auf ein bewegtes Leben: die IZ im Gespräch mit Fatima Grimm

„Die Akzeptanz kommt einfach, wenn man sich nicht verkriecht“

(iz). Fatima Grimm ist fast schon ein Urgestein des Islam in Deutschland, denn am 25. Juli 1960 wurde sie Muslimin - vor fast genau 50 Jahren. Seitdem ist viel passiert, wie die Islamische Zeitung im Interview erfuhrt. Zur Zeit ist Fatima Grimm etwa dabei, ihre Autobiografie fertig zu stellen. Wer also mehr wissen möchte, dem sei angeraten, darin weiterzuschmökern.

Werbung

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Islamische Zeitung: Frau Grimm, könnten Sie ein bisschen über sich selbst erzählen?

Fatima Grimm: Ich bin 1934 - in der Nazizeit - als Helga Wolff in München geboren. Meine Kindheit war recht glücklich; ich wuchs mit drei weiteren Geschwistern auf, und uns ging es gut. Ich machte meine mittlere Reife, ging mit 18 Jahren für ein Jahr nach England, war später Reporterin für verschiedene Zeitungen und auch Sekretärin, wobei mir meine guten Englischkenntnisse sehr zur Hilfe kamen und auch heute noch hilfreich sind, wenn es etwa um die Übersetzung vom Englischen ins Deutsche geht. So habe ich zum Beispiel vor einiger Zeit eine Qur'aninterpretation von der Nurcu-Bewegung, die bis dahin nur auf Türkisch und Englisch verfügbar war, ins Deutsche übersetzt und hatte dadurch die Möglichkeit, der deutschen Gesellschaft neue Gedanken zugänglich zu machen. Doch zurück zu meiner Jugend: Wir wurden atheistisch erzogen, und da mir das nicht genügte, suchte ich schon früh nach Orientierung. Eine Zeit lang fühlte ich mich als Zeugin Jehovas, da unsere Hausangestellte Erna, die ich sehr mochte, eine war und mich dafür begeistern konnte. Als wir von Haus zu Haus gingen und an jede Türe klopfen, um von unserem Glauben zu erzählen, hielt mich Erna vor dem Haus des örtlichen Pfarrers mit dem Argument zurück, bei Glaubensträgern könne man dies nicht machen. Da war für mich der Wurm drin, und ich verabschiedete mich und suchte weiter. Ich nahm an verschiedenen Zeltlagern von Protestanten teil, ließ mich aber letztendlich bei einem katholischen Benediktinerpater taufen. Auch dann hatte ich jedoch nicht das Gefühl, meinen Weg gefunden zu haben.

Islamische Zeitung: Wie sind Sie dann zum Islam gekommen?

Fatima Grimm: 1958 lernte ich meinen ersten Mann kennen. Er war Tscheche, hatte in Prag Orientalistik studiert, war später wegen des Kommunismus nach Deutschland gegangen. Ihn hatte vor allem die arabische Schrift und Kalligraphie sowie die Moschee-Architektur fasziniert, weshalb er bereits mit 16 Jahren bei einem tschechischen Muslim sein Glaubensbekenntnis aussprach und sich von da an Omar Abdul Aziz nannte. Wir lernten uns also kennen, und auch ich fühlte mich vom Islam angezogen und konvertierte 1960 bei einem russischen Imam, der in Bayern für die Flüchtlinge aus seiner Heimat zuständig war - in dem Jahr, in dem wir auch heirateten. Wir kannten damals keine Muslime in unserer Umgebung und versuchten, uns die islamische Praxis aus dem Buch anzueignen. Das fühlte manchmal zu komischen Dingen: so wusste ich nicht, dass man beim Beten ein Kopftuch trägt, betete zuweilen also einfach mit Nachthemdchen, und fand es schon optimal, wenn ich es wenigstens ein, zwei Mal täglich schaffte. Und im ersten Ramadan, den ich einhielt, fastete ich alle 30 Tage, weil ich nicht wusste, dass Frauen an bestimmten Tagen von dieser Pflicht ausgenommen sind. Natürlich fragten wir uns auch, ob es nicht unsere Verpflichtung sei, in einem islamischen Land zu leben, um unsere Religion besser praktizieren zu können. Schließlich war unsere Antwort: Ja, und da Pakistan damals gerade gegründet war, gingen wir also 1962 in dieses Land. Dort durchlebte ich dann sozusagen meine muslimische Kinderstube, bekam dann auch mein erstes Kind, Saifuddin, und fühlte mich rundherum wohl. Omar aber, der ja unseren Lebensunterhalt verdienen musste, war enttäuscht darüber, dass alles nicht so rosig war, wie wir es uns erträumt hatten. Nach drei Jahren kehrten wir also nach München zurück.

Islamische Zeitung: Wie ging es dann in Deutschland weiter? In den 60ern kamen ja auch die ersten Gastarbeiter und muslimischen Studenten.

Fatima Grimm: Genau. Als wir zurückkamen, gab es bereits eine Reihe von Studenten, vor allem aus arabischen Ländern, in Deutschland. Sie sammelten eifrig Spenden für ihre eigene Gebetsstätte. Im Jahre 1967 wurde dann der Grundstein für die heute noch bestehende Moschee in München-Freimann gelegt, und ich war dabei und hörte den ersten Adhan unter „meinem“ weißblauen Himmel. Dort war ich dann lange ehrenamtlich aktiv, kümmerte mich um die Einrichtung eines muslimischen Friedhofs, den muslimischen Kindergarten und die Schule

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with children, because only two fathers were there. I had a nice time with the children and their mothers. And most important of all: Muhammad Siddiq assured me that the sponsor of Zeba Siddiqi's book "History of the Prophets from the Qur'an" will insha Allah soon give the translation money so that I was able to give sister Sarah, the main translator of the second volume, the fee for her work and now she got visa to visit her husband in Algeria and stay with him for three months, insha Allah. As I may have mentioned, after spending last Ramadan with her husband's family she returned all covered in a dark burqa so that she lost her job and had to earn her bit of money in helping me around the house. It would be so lovely to get some of the money back which I paid in advance for the translations... Well, and the last week we had Abdul Karim's son Daniel from Columbia with his 10 month old daughter with us, while the mother was sent back from Madrid to Columbia because something was not all right wither her passport.

To my great job the IZ (Islamische Zeitung / Islamic Newspaper) in its August edition brought a full page of interview with me because my 76th birthday was also the 50th anniversary of my (re-)entering into Islam... And yesterday our Hamburger Abendblatt (evening paper) sent a reporter and photographer in order to make an article about my "Burkini" - swimming suit covering the complete body. Since I have this (May 2010) I joined the early morning swimming group with water gymnastics on Fridays at the local swimming hall and though some people make horrible remarks or even scold me publicly, this swimming suit is allowed according to public ordinances and I always hope that more sisters will also make use of this opportunity - it gives them the chance to teach their children swimming (which is very costly with official teachers) and actually swimming is so heathly for a great number of bodily ailments.

So will you kindly accept my apologies for writing so late after reading all these excuses?

All my love for now and I shall try the print out the interview on the backside of these pages hoping you might find someone who will translate it for you.

All best wishes and blessings for Ramadan - Your much remembering

Fatima

für die islamische Gemeinschaft. Ich war begeistert vom Islam und war 100 Prozent bei der Sache. Meinem ersten Mann Omar habe ich dadurch das Leben wohl nicht leicht gemacht, ihm war das alles zu viel. Nach 25 Jahren Ehe trennten wir uns also im Jahr 1983 einvernehmlich, und ich war erst einmal allein.

Islamische Zeitung: Bis dahin waren Sie in München? Wie hat es Sie dann nach Hamburg verschlagen?

Fatima Grimm: Das ist eine wundersame Geschichte. Auf meiner Pilgerfahrt ('Umra) 1982 freundete ich mich sehr mit den Kindern von Abdul Karim Grimm an, die ebenfalls mit ihrem Vater daran teilnahmen und deren Mutter etwa sechs Jahre vorher verstorben war. Als die ältere Tochter Nadija erfuhr, dass ich alleinstehend war, schrieb sie mir kurzerhand einen Brief und fragte: „Fatima, warum kommst du nicht nach Hamburg und heiratest unseren Papa?“ Und so schlossen wir tatsächlich am 1. April 1984 den Bund der Ehe, und ich zog ich von München nach Hamburg, wo ich bis heute lebe. Es waren 25 Jahre, die mir viel Glück und viele unvergessliche gemeinsame Erlebnisse beschert haben, alhamdulillah. Am Anfang war es natürlich nicht einfach, sich aneinander zu gewöhnen, da ich ja sozusagen eine ganze Familie heiratete - Abdulkarim hatte ja drei Kinder aus seiner zweiten Ehe, und in Amerika gab es noch seine Tochter Jasmin, von deren Mutter er sich aufgrund der schrecklichen jugoslawischen Bestimmungen schon nach ganz kurzer Ehe wieder trennen musste. Ich lebe heute, nachdem mein Mann, den ich so sehr vermisse, ja im Februar 2009 verstorben ist, mit meiner Stieftochter und ihrer Familie in einem Haus und habe Gott sei Dank ein sehr gutes Verhältnis zur gesamten Familie.

Islamische Zeitung: Wie hat sich das Verhältnis der Gesellschaft zu Islam und Muslimen Ihrer Meinung nach im Laufe der Zeit und vor allem nach dem 11. September verändert?

Fatima Grimm: Ich habe schon Veränderungen erkennen können. Früher war man dem Islam gegenüber nicht so voreingenommen wie heute. Man wusste nicht viel über ihn, aber er war geduldet. Ich selbst wurde damals oft als Exotin betrachtet, da es nicht viele Muslime in Deutschland gab und Konvertiten schon gar nicht. Das hat sich inzwischen geändert; es gibt immer mehr Menschen, die sich für den Islam entscheiden, auch für dessen spirituelle Facetten. Die Moscheen füllen sich, und die nichtmuslimische Gesellschaft wundert sich und reagiert teilweise ängstlich auf diesen regen Zulauf. Man bemerkt schon eine allgemeine Skepsis gegenüber Muslimen. Ich persönlich habe aber recht wenige negative Erfahrungen gemacht; es ist eher das allgemeine Klima, das sich verändert hat.

Islamische Zeitung: Gibt es so etwas wie eine deutsch-muslimische Kultur? Und wie verorten Sie sich da?

Fatima Grimm: Der Islam wird nach außen hin oft noch als Ausländerreligion betrachtet, obwohl wir meiner Meinung nach doch schon längst hier angekommen sind. Deshalb haben Abdul Karim und ich uns auch für die Deutsche Muslim-Liga eingesetzt, die es immerhin schon seit mehr als 50 Jahren im Deutschen Vereinsregister gibt. Wir sind Gott sei Dank immer gut mit allen muslimischen Geschwistern ausgekommen und haben stets gute Beziehungen zu vielen Vereinen und Gemeinden unseres Glaubens in Deutschland gepflegt. Ich danke schon, dass der Islam hierher gehört und sich gerade in den letzten Jahren auch sehr viel getan hat. Es gibt Bücher wie „Deutsch, muslimisch, weiblich“ von Lamyia Kaddor, die sich ganz klar hier verortet, was ich gut finde. Ich selbst gehe mit meinem so genannten Burkini, dem Ganzkörperbadeanzug, regelmäßig im Hallenbad schwimmen. Natürlich waren die anderen Schwimmer erst einmal skeptisch, ab und an bekomme ich die eine oder andere Bemerkung ab, aber die meisten Besucher haben sich inzwischen an meinen Anblick gewöhnt. So verhält es sich mit vielem: Die Akzeptanz kommt irgendwann einfach, wenn man sich nicht verkriecht, sondern zeigt, wie sehr man seinen Glauben liebt. Eine andere Sache ist der Religionsunterricht für alle. Mein Enkelsohn besucht so einen Unterricht, und ich finde das sehr gut, da man dort über alle Religionen etwas erfährt. Die Hauptsache ist doch, dass wir alle, die wir in diesem Land leben, einander achten.

Islamische Zeitung: Sie sind 76 Jahre alt und haben viel erlebt. Womit beschäftigen Sie sich im Moment?

Fatima Grimm: Vor einem Jahr ist mein Mann gestorben, und das war sehr schwer für mich. Ich habe jedoch sehr viel Unterstützung und Zuspruch bekommen, was mir sehr geholfen hat, mich wieder aufzurappeln. Im Moment bin ich mit Dr. Peter Schütt, dem Verfasser einiger schöner und heiterer Bücher über den Islam, dabei, meine Erlebnisse als Muslima in Deutschland aufzuschreiben, und bin, so Gott will, auch fast fertig damit. Ab und zu gibt es Übersetzungsprojekte, und vor kurzem habe ich ein Buch mit Geschichten rund ums Kopftuch von Musliminnen in aller Welt zusammengestellt, das inscha Allah demnächst beim Verlag des Haus des Islam verfügbar sein wird. Oft werde ich von Leuten aus der muslimischen Community angerufen und um Rat gefragt, auch in Sachen Heirat. Da ist oft guter Rat sehr schwierig! Aber ich bin unendlich dankbar, dass ich noch so aktiv sein kann, ebenso wie für all die schönen und manchmal herausfordernden Jahre, die hinter mir liegen.

Islamische Zeitung: Vielen Dank, Fatima Grimm!

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Sie können den Artikel unter folgender Adresse direkt aufrufen: <http://www.islamische-zeitung.de/indexneu.cgi?id=13585>

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Fatima Grimm: Ich bin 1934 - in der Nazizeit - als Helga Wolff in München geboren. Meine Kindheit war recht glücklich; ich wuchs mit drei weiteren Geschwistern auf, und uns ging es gut. Ich machte meine mittlere Reife, ging mit 18 Jahren für ein Jahr nach England, war später Reporterin für verschiedene Zeitungen und auch Sekretärin, wobei mir meine guten Englischkenntnisse sehr zur Hilfe kamen und auch heute noch hilfreich sind, wenn es etwa um die Übersetzung vom Englischen ins Deutsche geht. So habe ich zum Beispiel vor einiger Zeit eine Qur'aninterpretation von der Nurcu-Bewegung, die bis dahin nur auf Türkisch und Englisch verfügbar war, ins Deutsche übersetzt und hatte dadurch die Möglichkeit, der deutschen Gesellschaft neue Gedanken zugänglich zu machen. Doch zurück zu meiner Jugend: Wir wurden atheistisch erzogen, und da mir das nicht genügte, suchte ich schon früh nach Orientierung. Eine Zeit lang fühlte ich mich als Zeugin Jehovas, da unsere Hausangestellte Erna, die ich sehr mochte, eine von unserem Glauben zu erzählen, hielt mich Erna vor dem Haus des örtlichen Pfarrers mit dem Argument zurück, bei Glaubensträgern könne man dies nicht machen. Da war für mich der Wurm drin, und ich verabschiedete mich und suchte weiter. Ich nahm an verschiedenen Zeltlagern von Protestanten teil, ließ mich aber letztendlich bei einem katholischen Benediktinerpater taufen. Auch dann hatte ich jedoch nicht das Gefühl, meinen Weg gefunden zu haben.

Islamische Zeitung: Wie sind Sie dann zum Islam gekommen?

Fatima Grimm: 1958 lernte ich meinen ersten Mann kennen. Er war Tscheche, hatte in Prag Orientalistik studiert, war später wegen des Kommunismus nach Deutschland gegangen. Ihn hatte vor allem die arabische Schrift und Kalligraphie sowie die Moschee-Architektur fasziniert, weshalb er bereits mit 16 Jahren bei einem tschechischen Muslim sein Glaubensbekenntnis aussprach und sich von da an Omar Abdul Aziz nannte. Wir lernten uns also kennen, und auch ich fühlte mich vom Islam angezogen und konvertierte 1960 bei einem russischen Imam, der in Bayern für die Flüchtlinge aus seiner Heimat zuständig war - in dem Jahr, in dem wir auch heirateten. Wir kannten damals keine Muslime in unserer Umgebung und versuchten, uns die islamische Praxis aus dem Buch anzueignen. Das fühlte manchmal zu komischen Dingen: so wusste ich nicht, dass man beim Beten ein Kopftuch trägt, betete zuweilen also einfach mit Nachthemdchen, und fand es schon optimal, wenn ich es wenigstens ein, zwei Mal täglich schaffte. Und im ersten Ramadan, den ich einhielt, fastete ich alle 30 Tage, weil ich nicht wusste, dass Frauen an bestimmten Tagen von dieser Pflicht ausgenommen sind. Natürlich fragten wir uns auch, ob es nicht unsere Verpflichtung sei, in einem islamischen Land zu leben, um unsere Religion besser praktizieren zu können. Schließlich war unsere Antwort: Ja, und da Pakistan damals gerade gegründet war, gingen wir also 1962 in dieses Land. Dort durchlebte ich dann sozusagen meine muslimische Kinderstube, bekam dann auch mein erstes Kind, Saifuddin, und fühlte mich rundherum wohl. Omar aber, der ja unseren Lebensunterhalt verdienen musste, war enttäuscht darüber, dass alles nicht so rosig war, wie wir es uns erträumt hatten. Nach drei Jahren kehrten wir also nach München zurück.

Islamische Zeitung: Wie ging es dann in Deutschland weiter? In den 60ern kamen ja auch die ersten Gastarbeiter und muslimischen Studenten.

Fatima Grimm: Genau. Als wir zurückkamen, gab es bereits eine Reihe von Studenten, vor allem aus arabischen Ländern, in Deutschland. Sie sammelten eifrig Spenden für ihre eigene Gebetsstätte. Im Jahre 1967 wurde dann der Grundstein für die heute noch bestehende Moschee in München-Freimann gelegt, und ich war dabei und hörte den ersten Adhan unter „meinem“ weißblauen Himmel. Dort war ich dann lange ehrenamtlich aktiv, kümmerte mich um die Einrichtung eines muslimischen Friedhofs, den muslimischen Kindergarten und die Schule für die islamische Gemeinschaft. Ich war begeistert vom Islam und war 100 Prozent bei der Sache. Meinem ersten Mann Omar habe ich dadurch das Leben wohl nicht leicht gemacht, ihm war das alles zu viel. Nach 25 Jahren Ehe trennten wir uns also im Jahr 1983

with children, because only two fathers were there. I had a nice time with the children and their mothers. And most important of all: Muhammad Siddiq assured me that the sponsor of Zeba Siddiqi's book "History of the Prophets from the Qur'an" will insha Allah soon give the translation money so that I was able to give sister Sarah, the main translator of the second volume, the fee for her work and now she got visa to visit her husband in Algeria and stay with him for three months, insha Allah. As I may have mentioned, after spending last Ramadan with her husband's family she returned all covered in a dark burqa so that she lost her job and had to earn her bit of money in helping me around the house. It would be so lovely to get some of the money back which I paid in advance for the translations... Well, and the last week we had Abdul Karim's son Daniel from Columbia with his 10 month old daughter with us, while the mother was sent back from Madrid to Columbia because something was not all right with her passport.

To my great job the IZ (Islamische Zeitung / Islamic Newspaper) in its August edition brought a full page of interview with me because my 76th birthday was also the 50th anniversary of my (re-)entering into Islam... And yesterday our Hamburger Abendblatt (evening paper) sent a reporter and photographer in order to make an article about my "Burkini" - swimming suit covering the complete body. Since I have this (May 2010) I joined the early morning swimming group with water gymnastics on Fridays at the local swimming hall and though some people make horrible remarks or even scold me publicly, this swimming suit is allowed according to public ordinances and I always hope that more sisters will also make use of this opportunity - it gives them the chance to teach their children swimming (which is very costly with official teachers) and actually swimming is so healthy for a great number of bodily ailments. So will you kindly accept my apologies for writing so late after reading all these excuses?

All my love for now and I shall try to print out the interview on the backside of these pages hoping you might find someone who will translate it for you.

All best wishes and blessings for Ramadan - Your much remembering *Fatima*

P.S. Masha Allah, I found this letter on my PC which I dared not hope, so I send it again hopefully proving that I did not forget you! I am well and healthy, thanks Allah, and shall be travelling to Egypt just for one week next Friday - an invitation which does not cost me anything, apart perhaps from some pocket money, alhamdu-li-llah.

I am just preparing the meal for the members of the German Muslim League who are holding their annual meeting in Abdul Karim's little mosque/prayer room. Today, how grateful I am to Allah Almighty that He offers me so many chances to do something for the Umma. Since about 4 weeks I am correcting the M.A. thesis of a young sister on Feminism in Egypt - it is so troublesome indeed! Much love - Yours

Fatima

25. Sept 2010

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einvernehmlich, und ich war erst einmal allein.

Islamische Zeitung: Bis dahin waren Sie in München? Wie hat es Sie dann nach Hamburg verschlagen?

Fatima Grimm: Das ist eine wundersame Geschichte. Auf meiner Pilgerfahrt ("Umra") 1982 freundete ich mich sehr mit den Kindern von Abdul Karim Grimm an, die ebenfalls mit ihrem Vater daran teilnahmen und deren Mutter etwa sechs Jahre vorher verstorben war. Als die ältere Tochter Nadija erfuhr, dass ich alleinstehend war, schrieb sie mir kurzerhand einen Brief und fragte: „Fatima, warum kommst du nicht nach Hamburg und heiratest unseren Papa?“ Und so schlossen wir tatsächlich am 1. April 1984 den Bund der Ehe, und ich zog ich von München nach Hamburg, wo ich bis heute lebe. Es waren 25 Jahre, die mir viel Glück und viele unvergessliche gemeinsame Erlebnisse beschert haben, alhamdulillah. Am Anfang war es natürlich nicht einfach, sich aneinander zu gewöhnen, da ich ja sozusagen eine ganze Familie heiratete - Abdulkarim hatte ja drei Kinder aus seiner zweiten Ehe, und in Amerika gab es noch seine Tochter Jasmin, von deren Mutter er sich aufgrund der schrecklichen jugoslawischen Bestimmungen schon nach ganz kurzer Ehe wieder trennen musste. Ich lebe heute, nachdem mein Mann, den ich so sehr vermisse, ja im Februar 2009 verstorben ist, mit meiner Stieftochter und ihrer Familie in einem Haus und habe Gott sei Dank ein sehr gutes Verhältnis zur gesamten Familie.

Islamische Zeitung: Wie hat sich das Verhältnis der Gesellschaft zu Islam und Muslimen Ihrer Meinung nach im Laufe der Zeit und vor allem nach dem 11. September verändert?

Fatima Grimm: Ich habe schon Veränderungen erkennen können. Früher war man dem Islam gegenüber nicht so voreingenommen wie heute. Man wusste nicht viel über ihn, aber er war geduldet. Ich selbst wurde damals oft als Exotin betrachtet, da es nicht viele Muslime in Deutschland gab und Konvertiten schon gar nicht. Das hat sich inzwischen geändert; es gibt immer mehr Menschen, die sich für den Islam entscheiden, auch für dessen spirituelle Facetten. Die Moscheen füllen sich, und die nichtmuslimische Gesellschaft wundert sich und reagiert teilweise ängstlich auf diesen regen Zulauf. Man bemerkt schon eine allgemeine Skepsis gegenüber Muslimen. Ich persönlich habe aber recht wenige negative Erfahrungen gemacht; es ist eher das allgemeine Klima, das sich verändert hat.

Islamische Zeitung: Gibt es so etwas wie eine deutsch-muslimische Kultur? Und wie verorten Sie sich da?

Fatima Grimm: Der Islam wird nach außen hin oft noch als Ausländerreligion betrachtet, obwohl wir meiner Meinung nach doch schon längst hier angekommen sind. Deshalb haben Abdul Karim und ich uns auch für die Deutsche Muslim-Liga eingesetzt, die es immerhin schon seit mehr als 50 Jahren im Deutschen Vereinsregister gibt. Wir sind Gott sei Dank immer gut mit allen muslimischen Geschwistern ausgekommen und haben stets gute Beziehungen zu vielen Vereinen und Gemeinden unseres Glaubens in Deutschland gepflegt. Ich denke schon, dass der Islam hierher gehört und sich gerade in den letzten Jahren auch sehr viel getan hat. Es gibt Bücher wie „Deutsch, muslimisch, weiblich“ von Lamyia Kaddor, die sich ganz klar hier verortet, was ich gut finde. Ich selbst gehe mit meinem so genannten Burkini, dem Ganzkörperbadeanzug, regelmäßig im Hallenbad schwimmen. Natürlich waren die anderen Schwimmer erst einmal skeptisch, ab und an bekomme ich die eine oder andere Bemerkung ab, aber die meisten Besucher haben sich inzwischen an meinen Anblick gewöhnt. So verhält es sich mit vielem: Die Akzeptanz kommt irgendwann einfach, wenn man sich nicht verkriecht, sondern zeigt, wie sehr man seinen Glauben liebt. Eine andere Sache ist der Religionsunterricht für alle. Mein Enkelsohn besucht so einen Unterricht, und ich finde das sehr gut, da man dort über alle Religionen etwas erfährt. Die Hauptsache ist doch, dass wir alle, die wir in diesem Land leben, einander achten.

Islamische Zeitung: Sie sind 76 Jahre alt und haben viel erlebt. Womit beschäftigen Sie sich im Moment?

Fatima Grimm: Vor einem Jahr ist mein Mann gestorben, und das war sehr schwer für mich. Ich habe jedoch sehr viel Unterstützung und Zuspruch bekommen, was mir sehr geholfen hat, mich wieder aufzurappeln. Im Moment bin ich mit Dr. Peter Schütt, dem Verfasser einiger schöner und heiterer Bücher über den Islam, dabei, meine Erlebnisse als Muslima in Deutschland aufzuschreiben, und bin, so Gott will, auch fast fertig damit. Ab und zu gibt es Übersetzungsprojekte, und vor kurzem habe ich ein Buch mit Geschichten rund ums Kopftuch von Musliminnen in aller Welt zusammengestellt, das inscha Allah demnächst beim Verlag des Haus des Islam verfügbar sein wird. Oft werde ich von Leuten aus der muslimischen Community angerufen und um Rat gefragt, auch in Sachen Heirat. Da ist oft guter Rat sehr schwierig! Aber ich bin unendlich dankbar, dass ich noch so aktiv sein kann, ebenso wie für all die schönen und manchmal herausfordernden Jahre, die hinter mir liegen.

Islamische Zeitung: Vielen Dank, Fatima Grimm!

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Im Namen Gottes, des Gnädigen, des Barmherzigen

Fatima Grimm

Bauernrosenweg 27
22177 Hamburg
FatimaGrimm@t-online.de
Tel./Fax 040 / 690 27 26
20th October, 2010

Maryam Jameelah Begum
c/o Mhd. Yusuf Khan Sahib
15/49 Sant Nagar

54000 Lahore / PAKISTAN

My dear, dear Maryam,

As-salamu alaikum wa rahmatu-llahi wa barakatuh!

So glad to hear that after all my letter reached you. Yours also came or was actually awaiting me when I returned from my 8 days trip to Cairo. Enclosed I am sending you an article which appeared on Oct. 8th in the Al-Azhar weekly Newspaper. Even if you have nobody who can translate it to you, you can at least see the pictures.

While in Cairo (1st to 8th October) I was busy reading the book by Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid MY LIFE WITH ISLAM. He actually told Navid Kermani the story of his forced divorce from his wife in 1995 because the court in Egypt found him guilty of apostasy. The book is in my opinion one endless declaration of deep devotion to his faith and the way in which Navid Kermani has written down the story I felt like crying several times. But of course I did not mention the affair during my three visits to Al Azhar, the last of which was a lecture given by the Grand Imam Dr. Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, Sheikh Al-Azhar, on Al-Gazali's thesis that Allah's commands were issued in 14 different ways: e.g. as order, permission, prohibition, exhortation, reminder, warning etc. We were a bit late and when I slipped by the speakers's desk, the Sheikh took out three sweets from his Pocket and handed them to me. One of them I gave to my dear friend Samah, who is a B.A. graduate of Al-Azhar in Germanistic and in the meantime has successfully completed her M.A. in Hamburg. She is married to a very stout German Muslim, they had a 5 year old daughter by the time I came to Al-Azhar, and since have been granted a very sweet little boy by Allah Ta'ala - his name is Ibrahim. Yesterday I visited the family and admired the tiny Muslim, masha Allah.

Hopefully you will put questions in your reply to these lines - I am terribly busy because I am supposed to write an article on Muslims in Germany for the Al-Azhar Newspaper, an from 1.-5.Nov. I shall insha Allah attend the Islam Week in Stuttgart from 1.-3. Nov.

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Abu J. Yusuf Kermani

[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

خلال استقباله لوفد مسلمى ألمانيا

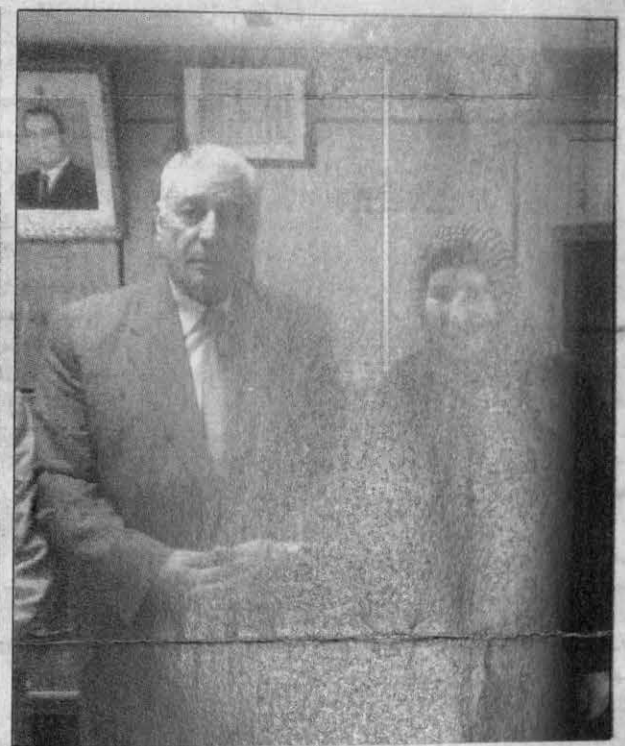
أسامة العبد: الأزهر الشريف مهد للوسطية والاعتدال والمسلم الصحيح لا يعرف الشدة والعنف



فاطمة جرم خلال قراءتها للقرآن الكريم



فاطمة جرم مع أحد مسلمى ألمانيا



فاطمة جرم خلال زيارتها للشيخ أسامة العبد نائب رئيس الجامعة

فاطمة جرم: أداوم على قراءة القرآن وتعليمه لمسلمى ألمانيا الدين الإسلامى هو الدين الوحيد الذى يلبي فطرة الإنسان.. الإمام الأكبر عالم مستنير يدعو للتسامح

بازهاق روح شخص آخر لا لشيء إلا لسوء فهمه عن حقيقة هذا الدين الصحيح. وأضافت ان اتحاد العلماء المسلمين فى ألمانيا سوف يقوم بتنظيم نشاط ثقافى يعكس على مدى أسبوع ثراء الحضارة الإسلامية وتنوعها وقبولها للأخر إضافة.

الدكتور أحمد الطيب شيخ الأزهر ذلكم العالم الجليل الذى يعكس بنور وجهه سماحة وعظمة هذا الدين الحق واستنكرت الحادث البشع الذى أودى بحياة المصرية المسلمة مروة الشريبنى وقالت إنه شيء بشع أن يقوم شخص

وضعها الله فى النفس البشرية خاصة أنه يلبي فطرة الإنسان وتلك هى عظمة هذا الدين الذى لا يفرق بين المسلم وغير المسلم. وتمنت فاطمة جرم التعاون الجاد والفعال من الأزهر الشريف برئاسة فضيلة الإمام الأكبر

لها لجامعة الأزهر فقد سبق أن زارت الأزهر على رأس وفد من مسلمى ألمانيا وهم فى طريق عودتهم من الأراضى المقدسة لاداء العمرة. وأوضحت أنها اعتنقت الإسلام منذ أكثر من ٥٠ عاما لأنها وجدت فيه قوة ذاتية

فى شتى بقاع الأرض. ومن جهتها أشادت فاطمة جرم بالحفاوة التى قوبلت بها فى رحاب جامعة الأزهر الشريف. تلك المؤسسة العريقة التى تصمد فى وجه التشدد والغلو على مدى أكثر من ألف عام. وقالت إن هذه ثانى زيارة

من الأحكام العامة والقواعد ما ينظم حياة الإنسان مهما تقدمت البشرية مشيرا إلى أن أحكامه بسيطة وليست معقدة وأنه لجمع البشر ويتعامل مع كل البشر. وأعرب عن سعادته بأى نوع من التعاون من شأنه أن يعود على الإسلام والمسلمين بالخير

معتدلا لا يتعصب لمذهب ولا يعرف بالشدة والعنف وإنما يتصف بأنه متسامح فى تعاملاته سواء مع المسلم أو غير المسلم مشيرا إلى أن مصدر تسامحه يكون من القوة وليس من الضعف. وأضاف أن الإسلام دين صالح لكل زمان ومكان لان به

بعد:
أسامة محمد
ئيس جامعة
ات العليا
أن الأزهر
شأنه وحتى
المؤسسة
تتخذ من
ال والتسامح
أنها هي
لى وسطية

استقباله
سلمت منذ
ربيا. تدعى
عضو فى
بألمانيا
مقير مراد
نى المسلم
من مسلمى

أسامة العبد
سى هو دين
كل الأجناس
لإمام الأكبر
طبيب شيخ
بالم مستنير

بر الشريف
يتوانى عن
عم لمسلمى
عاون المتمر
ساد العام
خاصة أن
بوسطية
لابتعاد عن

لقيمى
من رسول
يسلم قدوة
نح مضيئة
لام خاصة
بان خلقه
نح المثالى
و أن يكون

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Oslo 2.june / 2010-19. Jumada al-Akhir 1431 a.h

Salaam aleikum, my dearest sister in faith!

May you receive this letter with the best of health and tranquillity.

Alhamdulillah, I was so pleased to receive your last letter with the assurance that the package and letters was received safely to your home. It is indeed an impressive book! It impresses me to read that you despite the peak of your age are still active in writings in your book reviews. Surely that is a blessing from Allah. I've searched on internet Muslim World Book Review; and read so many interesting topics on reviews, including yours. MashaAllah.

Your biography is surely worth to be known, preferable written by fellow Muslims.

Recently the Pakistani mosque Islamic Culture Centre here in Oslo had invited the leader of jama-e-islamia in Pakistan among with the well known journalist sister Yvonne Ridley. Unfortunately I didn't have the chance to attend the lectures, but surely it was an honour that she finally took time to visit Oslo. She has been invited earlier, but then to no avail. She's busy woman working for the ummah. Alhamdulillah. Sadly some Muslim community here criticise her and hence give wrong impressions to non-Muslims..

As soon as Muslims criticise hostile policy against Muslim nations, they are accused to be too radical or extremist. Well, the recent event to the aid convoy boarded by the Israeli navy killing activists clearly shows what we are talking about. Sadly, as the history has its tendency to repeat itself, this too will soon go into the "lets-forget-and -move-on-forward-book" It was an instant demonstration outside the Israeli embassy here in Oslo the same morning after the breaking news, and more Norwegians will support boycott of Israeli

goods...hopefully with some effect. The Norwegian activists who was held in Israeli prison for 48 hours, say they don't regret, and will repeat their activism..(alhamdulillah) What a solemn response from the White House; Israel's biggest supporters. Not even an angry remark, merely a pity condolence to the families of the deceased. .pathetic!

I enclose two articles with some news. See; alhamdulillah, the person who suggest forbiddance of minaret in Swiss embraced Islam! Fantastic. Though a small article, it can't be hidden. No Norwegian newspaper published this news even though the suggestion of forbiddance of minaret was also suggested here in Norway and let down. But they didn't dare telling the story of conversion of this Swiss person who wanted it in the first place!

"Say; Truth has come and falsehood has vanished. Falsehood is always bound to vanish."
(the Holy Quran 17:81)

Secondly; the news about Malcolm X' assassin.

His speech about the unity and racist free true Islam is still today indeed an inspiration to the Muslim *ummah*, taking example from hajj where we observe so many nationalities of Muslims from around the world gathering together in worship to the One and Only Lord.

To be a native Norwegian Muslim, seems to me as a clear manifestation of Islam's universality.

Some ignorant might propagate Norwegians who embrace Islam as traitors; closing their eyes of the fact this religion has its message to the whole mankind, whereupon so many influential and high intelligible western people has become Muslim. This is toilsome ignored, as I read in another article about how European girls converts to Islam, becoming extremist and potential suicide bombers,-as this would be the norm of an European female becoming Muslim!

Never the mind this kind of propaganda; Islam is still the fastest growing religion on earth, Norway included. Some are desperate in their effort to refute this, and use internet as their tool faking videos about Muslim becoming Christians!! It has been proving all to be arranged theatre, but some Muslim youth might believe this, as their young minds are not so critical to what's produced on the internet. However, their ridiculous effort is too obvious! Likewise those in Egypt who published a so called holy scripture with Quranic style but with a Christian message!! Truly all in desperation!

08. june -10/ 25. Jumada al-Akhir

Please excuse my delay in posting this letter, but I had a disruption this week due to my husband and mother in law travelling to Casablanca, and days went in preparation. This Saturday coming the rest of us, -me and the kids, - are going too. Alhamdulillah, we are looking forward to it for a long time. We haven't been in Morocco since summer -07.

The new library (biggest in Africa) outside the big Hassan II mosque is open to the public by now, and I'm truly looking forward to see it. I am missing listening to the *adhan*, the smell of the ocean, sunset over the Atlantic sea, all kind of activities. Though a very busy city, you can easily find quiet places and moments. Fortunately we'll start Ramadan there this year. That's the first time I'll spend some days of Ramadan in a Muslim country.

My only complaint is missing the seminar with dr Bilal Philips who visits Norway again this summer. He is a scholar to relay on. His books makes things easy to understand, and very clear and comprehensive. Have you read any of his work?

I do pray that you are all well, likewise your khan sahib and the rest of your family.

You might respond to me in Morocco, as we are staying until August 21.

Your sister in faith; Batoul

Address in Morocco:

(Batoul Angell Morchid)
Residence Snoussi 6
Rue Boulmane, Bourgogne
Casablanca 01
MOROCCO

*Ps:
SubhanAllah; Not even a week has gone since the tragedy of killing activists by the Israeli navy, and not a single word has been mentioned again these last days about it in the news, and the US president has been angry and furious everyday for weeks about the spilling of oil in the Mexico Gulf...this is truly a Masonic controlled media..!!*

Oslo 7th September 2010/ 28th Ramadan 1431

Assalaam Aleikum , dearest sister in faith!

Eid Mubarak!

May Allah bestow upon you and your family His blessings and tranquillity, and reward you with the bliss of the garden of Paradise, and may Allah accept our fast and prayers. I pray that you all are in the best of health.

May Allah the Almighty help the unfortunate victims of the flam in your country; aid them with strength and patience. Surely it has been an outmost trial. Norway are distributing with a lot of aid,; financially and medically. Reporters from Norway give us on live the tragic image of suffering villagers. Problems arise when only 1/3 of the help comes in time though it's clear it's an urgent situation. May Allah help them!

Alhamdulillah, my family and I returned all well and safe from Morocco a couple of weeks ago. For the first time I experienced Ramadan in a Muslim country, and it was tremendous!! I loved the atmosphere of the whole community going into the service of Allah by collective fasting, and by the time for salatul taraweeh, thousand of Muslims gathered together inside and outside the grand mosque Hassan II in Casablanca. The wonderful reciting of the imam over the microphone went straight to the heart, which struck me that surely Qur'an is the language of the heart, because of the enormous impact it gives to the soul by listening to it "live" in that way. It doesn't matter which nationality a Muslim has, understanding the words or not; it goes into the heart and it understands it by itself!

As we travelled Morocco-Norway through Marrakech we spent some days there prior departure, and also had the pleasure of enjoying the huge gathering for salatul taraweeh outside the ancient mosque Kotoubia. The city was full of tourists; and of course they couldn't help being noticed by the unity and atmosphere the Muslims were into this time. At the end of salaah, we saw them on the outside of the mosque, taking photos and videos... surely its must have seemed unique to them. It was such a situation that even the praying Muslims were guarded by police. Not for any danger, but to keep tourists from enter into the prayer place to take pictures..subhanAllah!!

-I do hope you received my letter from Morocco? I was so enjoined receiving yours. Alhamdulillah!

Sister, I'm sorry this is such a short letter but I promise to take time to make it better next time, inshaAllah.

Again; I pray that you and your family enjoined Ramadan with all its blessings, and again, Eid Mubarak!

*The very best regards from your sister in faith;
Batoul and family!*



Tromsoe 02. October /2010, 23.Shawwal 1431

Assalaam aleikum my dear respected sister in faith

Tromsoe city



I pray that you receive this letter in the best of health and strong eemaan. May Allah bestow his peace and tranquillity over your blessed home and family.

First of all; let me thank you the most for the two letters I received recently so delighted. Funny, our mail must have passed by each other. At this very moment I'm sitting with my mum's computer in her home in Tromsø, north of Norway. My daughter Yasmine and I with the youngest one Imran arrived here Friday to spend a week vacation with my mother.



norwegian landscape

My husband and our two other sons left for vacation to Istanbul, Turkey.



(the "blue" mosque in Istanbul)

They are overwhelmed by this beautiful city, its architecture and charm. At jumua they enjoined the collective prayer in the Famous blue mosque Sulthanamet. Beautiful!

I talked to them by phone earlier today, and the boys couldn't stop talking about the fantastic museum they had been to.



As the sun set, the sky was a deep, rich red, and the stars began to appear.

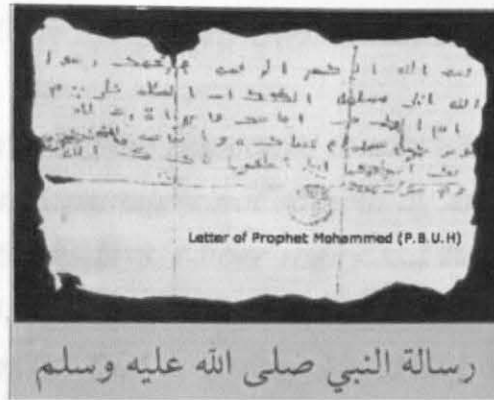
I had never seen such a beautiful sight before. The stars were so bright and clear, and the colors of the sky were so vibrant. I had never seen such a beautiful sight before. The stars were so bright and clear, and the colors of the sky were so vibrant.



The mountains were so tall and steep, and the water was so calm and still. I had never seen such a beautiful sight before. The mountains were so tall and steep, and the water was so calm and still.



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These photos show some of what is at the museum.

It is surely amazing how it could have been collected even the teeth and beard of RasulAllah (saws) you might wonder how real it is, but anyone can't help being fascinated.

I hope to see all this one day too, inshaAllah. It is the first time we spend separated vacations, but it so happened that it was decided before summer that my daughter and I would see my mother this week. And then my husband disliked spending the week "alone" with the boys in the apartment in Oslo, so alhamdulillah the opportunity came and Istanbul became their destiny. Best of all they are enjoying it.

You asked if I ever been to the old city of Fes in Morocco, but no. The time back we drove across the country, we just passed by the cities Fes and Meknes on our way to the mountain of Atlas and a town called Ifran was we started our trip to south. I am most fascinated by the Sahara desert of Morocco and the Atlas Mountains. Strangely enough; even though my origin is from the cold north, used to fjords and high green mountains with snow tops; I fell in love with Sahara and its heat. It has this tremendous tranquillity, embracing the visitor with a warm as from a heart...but if the visitor doesn't show her due respect, she is unmerciful. I have even got used to Casablanca and can see its charm beneath all the traffic chaos, modernisation and lost people. I have spent summers with dislikes and criticism, but realized I had to look for the good where it is and mind my own business. I am so fortunate to have a lovely family in law, and that makes our home in Casablanca so much more than just a second home. It means a lot to me and my children to have a Muslim, and

practising Muslim family there. Even though my own family is at ease with me being Muslim, it's not the same.

It pleases me to hear that you have a most respectful family who takes care of you and your Khan Sahib. It is unfortunately not something an older Muslim generation can take as granted these days. I hear many sad stories where the elders (Muslim) are left in the hands of community workers to take care of them in stead of their own family. This is surely something influenced by western mentality. In Oslo, the owners of dogs have to pick up the dirt from their animal if it drops something on the street; if not they have to pay a ticket. My husband often makes joke of them saying that they do all this for their dogs, but they can't even take care and help their old and maybe senile parents.

Sister; of course I would be delighted to translate into Norwegian your enclosed article! I am sharing a web site with another Norwegian sister, and we write articles about religion, our faith and social issues. It is read by both Muslims and non-Muslims. It is called a "blog" which means that readers may add comments to articles we write. Very interesting! My last article was about the supposed burning of the Holy Quran by rev. Timmy Jones who wanted the holy Book burned as a marking of the Memorial Day 9/11. My point was that Muslims would never come to such a low level to burn the Bible or Torah, but if so supposed, how the global reaction would be and condemnation of such a disrespectful act. When a priest wants to burn Muslims Holy Book he is defended by the freedom of speech! I also argued that yes, Muslims did burn some copies of Salman Rushdies "Satanic verses" some years ago, but again; that is not a book of religion with millions of followers. One comment I got to that was how disrespectful Muslims were to the Christians church Hagia Sofia in Istanbul and made it into a mosque when the country fell into Muslim hands (ages ago). And that was far worse than burning books, this commenter said! My response was that if she compares that issue with Muslims al Andalous in Spain and the destiny of mosques in Córdoba and its universities, not at least the lost of alHambra when the Christians took over, she would find a far more hostility against other faiths holy places by the Christian church. Some who

comments do so just to argue against, but never the less makes the topic interesting. So I will, InshaAllah put your article on this website with your signature, and if it comes any comments I will let you know. I enclose copies of articles about this issue (burning of the Holy Quran) I found on the web site of AlJazeera.



Speaking about internet; it is the media-transmitter no 1. Recently the American news agency NBC put on the net a WARNING TO THE WEST! Be aware, "you are becoming Islamized!" Showing Muslims in the streets of Paris doing salaah earlier this September.

(this photo is one of what the web site showed from the streets of Paris that day) They claimed people got scared and threatened by this view, and couldn't get out or into their homes because of this blockade! Moreover, they showed a "scary" image of Muslim sisters wearing niqab and burka in Paris, and how "they moved bold in the streets mist of the heart of Europe!" (as Paris is called) I enclose a very good article authorized by a non-Muslim professor's view about Muslim ladies choice of covering. Those with islamophobia have a lot to learn from intelligent and academic people.

Dear sister, I'll close my letter by now. We are about going hiking in the forest on the top of this city island of Tromsø. Wish you could have been here with me, relaxing in this wonderful nature by Allahs design. (photos not from Tromsø)



a fjord
in
Norway



Foto: Robert Kamben

The north-light at winter



My duaa is also with the victims of the tragic flam in Pakistan, May Allah ta ala make it easier for them and give them strength and relief.

Bstowul

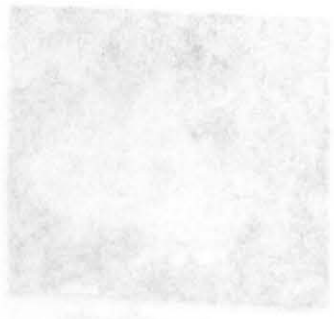
35

...do so just as they appear, but every time the topic
...do I want to know what you think on this website with your
...and if I can't see your name, I will let you know. I would copy or
...about this issue. I found on the web site of

...about the subject it is the media
...to I thought the American news
...on the net a WARNING TO THE
...are becoming
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Oslo 8th February 2010 / 24. Safar 1431

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*Dearest sister in faith,
Assalaam aleikum wa rahmatuAllahu wa Barakatuh*

May you receive this letter in the best of health and strong faith.

Please accept my deepest apology for my late reply; I was only waiting impatiently for this required book to come to the bookshop in a hope of pleasing you by receiving it with this letter. It is truly a most interesting and impressing book, and I do hope you'll find it useful. I had a peak inside, and found myself lost in a quite unknown world..subhanAllah. The stories of each individual, their struggle for just keeping themselves alive, their dependence of others welfare...how can this end?

I'm also curious about your new writings; your sample of an introduction to Middle Eastern face-veils was indeed yet another needy argument for the hijab. As the West experience that their ban of hijab just makes Muslim women wants to wear it even more, they are now trying to influence the Muslim scholars that the Islamic head scarf is not compulsory according to Islam, just a way of sunnah and voluntarily. Moreover, some Muslim women who agree upon this and takes of their hijab, gives arguments that this idea of compulsory headscarf and face veils, is an interpretation of mail scholars, because they want to "hide away" their female family members...ect ect. That's why it was a blessing to read your intellectual arguments for the necessity of wearing the Islamic covering, because it comes from a native Western convert sister. Alhamdulillah! May I translate and use your sample with your signature if necessary? A Norwegian printing company is now working on a project collecting different stories about why or why not hijab

[Handwritten signature]

...you receive this letter in the best of health and strong faith.

...I was only ... my deepest apology for my late reply. I was only ... for this required back to some to the books in ... with this letter. It is truly a ... and I do hope you'll find it ... and found myself lost in a quite ... The stories of each individual their struggle for ... their independence of others ...

...also curious about your new writings. Your sample of an ... to Middle Eastern face veils was indeed yet another ... As the West experience that their ... women wants to wear it even more. ... the Muslim scholars that the ... according to Islam, just a way ... some Muslim women who ... Moreover, some Muslim women who ... their hijab, gives arguments that this idea of ... and face veils is an interpretation of ... their female family ... that's why it was a blessing to read your ... the necessity of wearing the Islamic ... Western context, ... May I translate and use your sample with your ... A for woman printing company is now working ... about why or why not ...

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for Muslim women, each one telling their stories. The book is supposed to be finished compiled by the end of the year, inshaAllah.

Let me not forget to thank you so, so much for your lovely photo! I felt like looking at a dear family member. I'll truly treasure it, and save it in my album.

Yes, true Muslims are facing many tribulations here in the West, both external and internal. In many ways these trials from our Lord might makes His servants draw nearer to Him, as He says:

And surely We shall try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives and crops; but give glad tidings to the steadfast, Who say, when a misfortune striketh them: Lo! we are Allah's and lo! unto Him we are returning. Such are they on whom are blessings from their Lord, and mercy. Such are the rightly guided. (Baqarah 155-156)

If ye have received a blow, the (disbelieving) people have received a blow the like thereof. These are (only) the vicissitudes which We cause to follow one another for mankind, to the end that Allah may know those who believe and may choose witnesses from among you; and Allah loveth not wrong-doers. (al Imran 140)

How much comfort Allahs Words give to the heart of the servant. In these times I always remember the story of our noble Prophet (saws), how despite all negative propaganda, just made those strange to the faith searched for the truth and found it in Islam, hence embraced it.

The global environmental issue has cooled down quicker than it started. All the focus on the international meeting in Copenhagen, all demonstrations, all covering in the media, is like a closed book stuffed away in bookshelf in a library. It is true as you observed; As long as there is money in it, we can't see any change before the prizes has changed. China was realistic and left the meeting before it was over.

It was a needy and most necessary initiative, but it has been left to the man on the street to make the environmental care come true.

Muslim women, each one telling their stories. The book is
planned to be finished compiled by the end of the year.

Do not forget to thank you so so much for your lovely photo.
It like looking at a dear family member. I'll truly treasure it and
keep it in my album.

The Muslims are facing many tribulations here in the West.
In many ways these trials from our Lord
and makes the servants draw nearer to Him, as He says:

And We shall try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of
wealth and lives and crops; but give glad tidings to the steadfast. Who say:
We are in the way of Allah and we will not turn back.
Such are they on whom are blessings from their Lord, and mercy from
Him. (Al-Baqara: 214-215)

When a person is faced with a trial, the (disbeliever) people may receive a blow, the life
of this world and the hereafter. Allah knows the hearts to follow the right
path, to the end that Allah may bring him who believes and may know
that from among you and Allah knows not wrong doers. (Al-Baqara: 217)

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These times I always remember the story of our noble Prophet
(ﷺ) how despite all negative propaganda, just made those strange
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has changed. China was realistic and left the meeting before

as a necessary and most necessary initiative, but it has been left
on the street to make the environmental care come

With that attitude, I'm afraid we can't see much of any global environmental change this century. Take just the trash problem; on the surface as in oceans. And now it starts to be a huge problem with trash floating around the atmosphere coming from space craft and the international space station. The list for suggestion where to start is long...

How enjoyable it must have been to have visit of your family all the way from America. In those cherish moments surely a month pass way too fast.

We are hoping going to Morocco this summer, inshaAllah. We all miss being in our home there and with the family. Not at least listening to the adhan in regular time. I wish you could have come with us..

May Allah bless you and your family. May He bestow upon your home tranquillity and happiness.

I look forward to hear from you soon.

O Allah! We ask You for Your love and the love of those who love You, and the love of every action that will bring us closer to Your love.

The very best salaam from your sister in faith and family.

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environmental change this century. Take just the trash problem on
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quility and happiness.

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ask for your love and the love of Allah in the love for you and the
every action that will bring us closer to your love.

very best seldom from your sister in faith and family.

42

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Oslo, April 12th 2010/ 20th Rabi al thani 1431
a.h

**Assalaam aleikum, my dearest sister
Maryam!**

May you receive this letter with the best of health and strong faith. May your home be filled with the blessings of Allah ta ala and tranquillity.

I received your letter dated 10th march, and surprised you haven't received my other letter dated the 10th February?

It might have come late, but I'll enclose a copy of it with this one. Yes, the book (*Fragile; human condition*) will be sent by shipping, so it will take some time, but inshaAllah it will arrive safely. And what an honour you have received an autographed book by S.Nasr, it seemed to be a very interesting topic I might want to look up in the local library.

Have you heard that in Egypt the Coptic Christians have published a book which they've tried to make similar to the Holy Qur'an? It is in half Arabic and English, and each chapter starts in Arabic with the words; in the "name of the father ect.." Are they so desperate to convince people into Christianity that they have to try to copy a book like the Holy Qur'an with the Christian message? SubhanAllah, but they can and will never succeed!

And if ye are in doubt concerning that which We reveal unto Our slave (Muhammad), then produce a surah of the like thereof, and call your witness beside Allah if ye are truthful. And if ye do it not - and ye can never do it - then guard yourselves against the Fire prepared for disbelievers, whose fuel is of men and stones.

(al Baqarah: 23-24)

More strange things seems to happen in Egypt, as the famous Azhar university now has abandoned Sheikh Deedats (rahmatuAllah) books, specially "*who moved the stone?*" which put to question the believe that prophet Eesa (as) was buried in that tomb in Jerusalem. They considered it likely to hurt the Christian's feelings and belief, so it should be stopped distributed. (!) What's next?



[Faint handwritten text]

April 19th 2010 30th Rabul al thani 1431

Assalamu alaikum, my dearest sister

Magnum

When you receive this letter with the best health and strong faith. May you be filled with the blessings of Allah and tranquility.

I received your letter dated 10th March, and surprised you haven't received my letter dated the 10th February.

I might have come late, but I'll enclose a copy of it with this one. The book (Faydal: human condition) will be sent by shipping. It will take some time, but inshaAllah it will arrive safely. And for an honour you have received an autographed book by me. It seemed to be a very interesting topic I might want to look up in the local library.

As you heard that in Egypt the Coptic Christians have published a book which they've tried to make similar to the Holy Quran, it is in half Arabic and English, and each chapter starts with the words in the name of the father etc. As they desperate to convince people into Christianity that they have to copy a book like the Holy Quran with the Christian way, SubhanAllah, but they can and will never succeed.

It is one in doubt concerning that which the Quran into the (Qur'an), then produce a search of the like thereof, and your witness beside Allah, ye are fruitful. And if ye do it not, ye will never do it - then guard yourselves against the punishment for disbelievers, whose just end is of men and stones.

(Surah: 23-24)

Strange things seems to happen in Egypt, as the famous university now has abandoned "Sarakh Dardara" (Sarakh Dardara) books, specially "who robbed the stones" which to question the believe that prophet Jesus (as) was buried in tomb in Jerusalem. They considered it likely to hurt the nation's feelings and belief, so it should be stopped. (?) What's next?

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Alhamdulillah my family is all well. This year the Easter holiday has been tremendous! My two sons (Adam 14 and Yassin 10) visited my mother in north of Norway (Tromsø), and the rest of us enjoined three days with *the international Islamic peace conference*, first time in Scandinavia, followed up with two days courses with dr. Bilal Philips and Sh Hussein Yee. This kind of Islamic peace conference has previously just been in Mombay, India and London. It was attended by well known lecturers like Abdu Raheem Green and Yusuf Chamblor (british), sheikh Hussein Yee (Chinese/Malaysian) and dr Bilal Phillips (settled in Qatar at the moment but have previously established Islamic schools and author of several books). We also had the honour of getting to know sh. Yee and his wife in private as they visited us home one of the days. Alhamdulillah, that week is indeed something to remember.

Finally the Norwegian government has decided that to abandon the Islamic headscarf (hijab) would be against the international UN commission of human rights and freedom of religion, hence government attached to these laws are not allowed to refuse Muslim women wearing their hijab in public. (Including institutions like schools or work places).

Alhamdulillah, the Spring time seems to have arrived all of a sudden after the coldest winter for many years. Surprisingly it was noticed all the way to the news in your country? Norway is a cold winter country in general, so people were not surprised. However, countries further down Europe suffered a great deal more as neither buildings nor vehicles are made for that kind of cold or amount of snow. By vehicles I mean that the state in a southern European country surprised by an abnormal harsh winter, didn't urge people to change tires, hence many accidents. In Norway we have special date in October when all vehicles have to change into winter tires unless they have to pay patch. Nevertheless, the heavy snow and all salt spread over roads to prevent ice, has cost billions.

SubhanAllah, Allah gives clear signs for those who have hearts of understanding. There is always a danger of arrogance for those who have all materialistic goods at hand, like the welfare of Norway. Now it is decided that all preparations of the damaged roads should be paid by the oil foundations; and from where does

Alhamdulillah my family is all well. This year the Easter holiday has been tremendous! My two sons (Adam 14 and Yassin 10) visited my mother in north of Norway (Trondheim) and the rest of us enjoyed three days with the international Islamic peace conference, first time in Scandinavia, followed up with two days with Dr. Bilal Philips and Sh. Hussain Yee. This kind of Islamic peace conference has previously just been in Bombay, India and London. It was attended by well known lecturers like Abu Rafeem Green and Yusuf Chamber (British), Sheikh Hussain Yee (Chinese/Malaysian) and Dr. Bilal Philips (settled in Qatar at the moment but have previously established Islamic schools and author of several books). We also had the honour of staying to know sh. Yee and his wife in private as they visited us some one of the days. Alhamdulillah. That week is indeed something to remember.

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Alhamdulillah, Allah gives clear signs for those who have hearts of understanding. There is always a danger of arrogance for those who have all materialistic goods at hand, like the western way. Now it is decided that all preparations of the world should be paid by the oil foundations; and from where does

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the oil come from? The banks in Northern sea is about to be empty,, and if billions of krone (our currency) is taken out this year, and the next, or each year ten more from now, the banks of oil will be empty for the next generation.

"Which of the favours of your Lord will you deny?" says the Almighty in Qur'an al Kareem. Less than two hundred years ago Norway was one of the poorest country in Western Europe, then oil and gas was discovered in the Northern Sea, and as the history went; we are today one of the wealthiest country in Europe. (Alhamdulillah) Now Allah the Almighty shows clearly who has the real power, and sends down heavy amount of snow and extreme low temperatures which have caused some damages and difficulty. However, this is nothing compare to what other part of the world have gone through with tsunamis, earthquakes, flam and mud avalanches. They explains everything by the environment, global warming, damage in ozone layer and so on, but never they admit that it is something attributable to Allah the Almighty,- not in public in anyway. In a secular country like Norway, the name of God (Allah) is never mentioned by politicians, not even the Christian Party. SubhanAllah!

My dear sister, I pray that the book will arrive safely, inshaAllah, and you'll find much benefit in reading and studying it.

May Allah bless you and your family. *Amin*

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

*By (the Token of) time (through the Ages), Verily Man is in loss,
Except such as have Faith, and do righteous deeds, and (join
together) in the mutual teaching of Truth, and of Patience and
Constancy.
(surat al Asr)*

Your sister in faith, Batoul

Wa assalaam

of some form? The banks in Northern sea is about to be
and if billions of krona (our currency) is taken out this
and the next or each year ten more from now the banks of
will be empty for the next generation.

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Almighty, not in public in anyway, in a secular country like
way, the name of God (Allah) is never mentioned by
Muslims, not even the Christian Party. SubhanAllah

dear sister, I pray that the book will arrive safely, inshaAllah
and you'll find much benefit in reading and studying it.

In Allah bless you and your family. Ameen

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

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and such as have Faith and do righteous deeds, and from
that in the mutual teaching of Faith, and a Tameer and

In sister in Faith, Batawi

In sha Allah

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Dear Appa,

Asslaam alaikum

I received your letter and it made me really happy. Hope you and abba jaan will be in good health. Hasaan's photos are developed now and I am sending them along with this letter. Hasaan is growing fast MASHAALLAH and he has started smiling and cooing. He does not give me enough time to do anything else as he keeps me busy with him all the time. He is going to be 6 week old on August 20.

You asked me to check on the internet about your biography. I checked it on internet but did not found any new information about it. Then I wrote an email to Deborah Baker and her reply was:

"Dear Aiman Khan,

Thank you for your email. The manuscript is in the last stages of being edited and fact checked. The book will not be published until next May and I will send your grandmother 3 copies by registered post. The new subtitle is *A Parable of Islam and America*. You should be able to find it online in a month or so. The publisher is /Graywolf Press."

I will keep checking on internet for the next subtitle and will send it to you whenever it will be published on internet.

Ramadan has started but I am not fasting as I am completing my postpartum time. I don't know whether I will be able to fast this year or not as I am nursing Hasaan. You know he does not wait even for a second when he is hungry and cries a lot if I got late in feeding him.

Now is his time to awake so I am finishing the letter. I will keep writing you InshaAllah. Salaam to Abba jaan and may Allah always bless you and abba jaan.

Allah hafiz

Aiman

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received your letter and it made me really happy. Hope you and abba jann will
in good health. Hassan's photos are developed now and I am sending them
along with this letter. Hassan is growing fast MASHAALLAH and he has started
walking and crawling. He does not have enough time to do anything else as he
spends his day with him and her. He is going to be 5 weeks old on August 30

you asked me to check on the internet about your biography. I checked it on
internet but did not find any new information about it. Then I wrote an email to
Abdullah Bakir and her reply was:

Dear Amin Khan,
Thank you for your email. The manuscript is in the last stages of being
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and I will send your grandmother 3 copies by registered post. The new
edition is a Paradise of Tales and America. You should be able to find
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I will keep checking the internet for the next update and will email to you
whenever it will be published on internet

Abdullah has started but I am not fasting as I am completing my postpartum
and I don't know whether I will be able to fast this year or not as I am nursing
him. You know he does not wait even for a second when he is hungry and cries
and I got late in feeding him.
I will keep writing you
Allah's Salam to Abba jann and may Allah always bless you and abba jann

50

Cassim Osman

P.O. Box 78112
Avondale Road
Durban
4101
(South Africa)

Phone: 031-309-1245
Cell: 084-5492336

10 May 2010.

25 Jamadul-Awwal 1431.

Sister Maryam Jameelah,
c/o Mohammad Yusuf Khan,
15/49 Sant Nagar,
Lahore-54000.
PAKISTAN.

Dear Sister-in-Islam,
Assalaamu-Alaikum.

Your very welcome and keenly awaited letter dated 27 January 2010 was received by me on 14 February 2010. However, as I was busy preparing to leave for Umrah with some members of my family, I was unable to reply earlier.

I and my wife Jubeida were delighted to know that you and your family are enjoying good health in company with your several grandchildren as well. May Allah reward you abundantly for your ongoing literary service to Islam. Your works are not just a pleasure to read but are of immense spiritual benefit as well to all who read them. May Allah Rabbul-Izzat sustain you and make more fruitful your noble efforts in His cause, for many more years to come.

I was able to obtain a list of your publications on the Internet through the efforts of my dear granddaughter Zaakirah (who is presently studying medicine at the Dubai ~~Girls~~ Medical College for Girls). She was very impressed by your book "Islam and Western Society, comprising the ten essays. I was also enabled to obtain a few slim volumes of your works, as per the enclosed list, some of which are included in your "Ten Essays" written between 1971 and 1975. These are of eternal value, providing thrilling reading for me in this, the twilight years of my life.

The main purpose of writing to you today is merely to acknowledge receipt of your letter (as above stated.). My granddaughter Zaakirah Osman has been sent to Dubai to study medicine. This is her second year (3 more to go). My wife and I were not very happy to agree to her being sent to any tertiary institution in this era in which most such institutions are steeped in the evil liberalism of the West. However, my attitude softened when I read the introductory piece, "MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER OF DUBAI MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR GIRLS." (by Mr. Lootah). From reports (and also personal inspection on a visit last year) it became apparent to us that a strict code of Islamic ethics is in force there, to the extent that the five daily salaahs are regularly observed, together with other disciplinary rules which are strictly enforced. I shall nevertheless welcome comments from you as regards the wisdom of our decision. Zaakirah flies down home for two-week breaks every four months. Thanking you very much again for your kindness in writing to me.

Yours sincerely,

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**Books By
Maryam Jameelah**

Islam and The Modern
Man
Islam and the Muslim
Women Today
Modern Technology and
Dehumanization of Man
Westernization and Human
welfare
Western Imperialism Menaces
Muslims
Why I Embraced Islam?
Islam face to face with
Current Crisis
Islam And Our Social Habits
Islamic Culture Theory and
Practice
Correspondence Between Maulana
Mawdudi and Maryam Jamila
Is Western civilization Universal?
Western Versus Muslims
The Generation Gap its Causes
and Consequences
Two Mujahideen of the Recent
Past
Shaikh Hasan Al-Banna and
Al-Ikhwan-ul-Muslimoon

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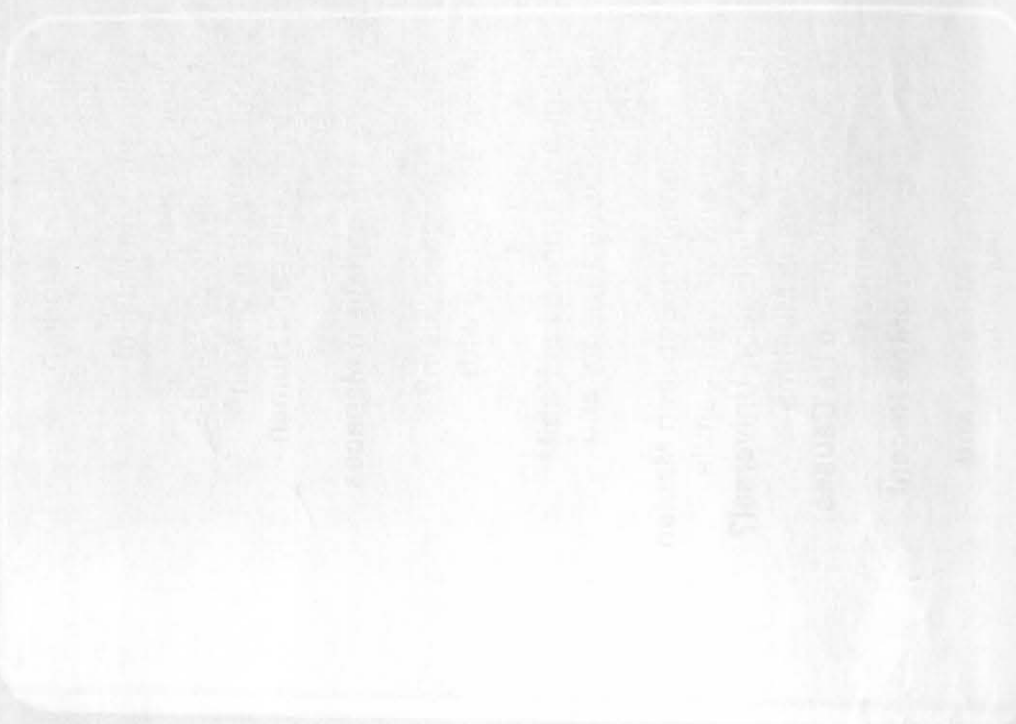
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BY THE SAME AUTHOR

1. Modern Technology and The Dehumanisation of Man
2. Westernisation and Human Welfare
3. Western Imperialism Menaces Muslims
4. Why I Embraced Islam
5. Islam Face to Face with Current Crisis
6. Islam and Modern Man
7. Islam and Our Social Habits
8. Islamic Culture in Theory and Practice
9. Islam and the Muslim Woman Today
10. Islam Versus the West
11. Correspondence Between Maulana Maudoodi And
Maryam Jameelah
12. Two Mujahidin Of The Recent Past And Their
Struggle For Freedom Against Foreign Rule
13. Is Western Civilization Universal ?
14. Shaikh Hassan Al Banna & Al Ikhwan Al Muslimun
15. The Generation Gap : Its Causes & Consequences
16. Westernization Versus Muslims

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- 1. *Organization of the System*
- 2. *The Structure of the Course & Components*
- 3. *The Role of the Student in the System*
- 4. *The Role of the Teacher in the System*
- 5. *The Role of the Parent in the System*
- 6. *The Role of the Community in the System*
- 7. *The Role of the Government in the System*
- 8. *The Role of the Media in the System*
- 9. *The Role of the Arts in the System*
- 10. *The Role of the Sports in the System*
- 11. *The Role of the Science in the System*
- 12. *The Role of the Technology in the System*
- 13. *The Role of the Environment in the System*
- 14. *The Role of the Culture in the System*
- 15. *The Role of the Religion in the System*
- 16. *The Role of the Philosophy in the System*
- 17. *The Role of the History in the System*
- 18. *The Role of the Geography in the System*
- 19. *The Role of the Economics in the System*
- 20. *The Role of the Law in the System*
- 21. *The Role of the Politics in the System*
- 22. *The Role of the Social Science in the System*
- 23. *The Role of the Humanities in the System*
- 24. *The Role of the Fine Arts in the System*
- 25. *The Role of the Music in the System*
- 26. *The Role of the Dance in the System*
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- 41. *The Role of the Nanotechnology in the System*
- 42. *The Role of the Space Technology in the System*
- 43. *The Role of the Biotechnology in the System*
- 44. *The Role of the Nanobiotechnology in the System*
- 45. *The Role of the Nanomedicine in the System*
- 46. *The Role of the Nanoelectronics in the System*
- 47. *The Role of the Nanomaterials in the System*
- 48. *The Role of the Nanosensors in the System*
- 49. *The Role of the Nanofabrication in the System*
- 50. *The Role of the Nanomanufacturing in the System*

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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER OF DUBAI MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

Praise be to Allah who taught man what he did not know and guided His servants through knowledge to the path of piety and obedience to Him. He Himself says in the Holy Book:

Only those of his servants who are endowed with knowledge truly fear Allah. (35:28)

And may Allah's peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) who taught humanity all good things and guided us towards righteousness and piety.

There can be no doubt that the two most important areas that need development in the life of man are economy and education. We express our gratitude to Allah for having blessed our toil of many years with rich fruit and having granted us valuable experience in both these areas. Our partners in the venture have been some chosen individuals of Allah with faith in the Almighty deeply rooted in their hearts, who are forward-looking in nature and are infused with zeal for development. The outcome of all this is there for anyone to see, especially in the persons of those who have reaped a rich harvest in their dealings with the Islamic banks or of those who have truly understood the ultimate purpose of the Islamic School and sent their children to it.

The impetus to our thinking about effecting changes in the educational system came from the fact that tediously long periods were consumed in the process of learning. The present system makes the pupils spend the most vibrant and potentially productive years of their life in schooling. They only graduate - at the age of 25 generally - when their resolutions have weakened and their zeal and enthusiasm have dwindled.

The fault lies in our system of education. It does not harmonize with the nature on which Allah has created man. Let us look at man's life. In the beginning, as a newborn, he neither knew nor understood anything. **The Qur'an portrays this state in the following terms: Allah had brought you forth from the wombs of your mothers when you knew nothing, and He gave you hearing and sight and understanding that you might give thanks to Allah. (16:78)**

The second stage, the period for man's learning that begins right from birth, ends with the dawn of puberty. During this period the learner passes through various phases of essential education that should reach its culmination at the age of 15-i.e. the age of his maturity. Now, at this stage, he is a man. He can and should work and produce and play his part in easing some of the stresses in the life of his near and dear ones. At this stage, he begins to think in terms of building a new family and attaining self-sufficiency. He is now working and earning. He no longer depends on his father. He is himself a father now. Let him not, therefore, be a burden on the society. He has past the stage of being a mere passive consumer and has become an active, producing member of it. It is in this respect that the traditional educational system comes into conflict with human nature. It hampers the natural process of human progress by extending the duration of education to as many as twenty years.

Another casualty of the traditional system of education is the grandson's chance to benefit from the experiences of his grandfather. A logical consequence of late

termination of educational process is late marriage and late fatherhood. Consequently, a grandson is deprived of the benefits from his grandfather's knowledge and wisdom, which would complement the knowledge directly received from his father and in school.

Logic and reason, therefore, demanded that we try to find out a way out of this impasse. It could only be through devising a new system of education that would be in accord with human nature and achieve the intended educational goals with the minimum fuss and in the shortest possible time. This would not have been possible unless we deeply analyzed the old system, did away with its negative aspects, benefited from its positive elements and opened up new windows on knowledge and education before the learner. Only thus would he be able to work and produce at an early age. This takes him towards self-realization and self-discovery, making him a help, not a hindrance to his father, his family, his country, his community, and for the world at large. For this is the period of his life when he is filled with youthful energy, and this is the stage when the time with him is ample, when his mind is unclouded and clear, when his memory is fresh and when the thinking is unadulterated.

After deep, deep pondering we decided to put before every learner the following motto, which sums up the true philosophy of our new educational system: Learn so that you may work and work so that you may learn. Or to phrase it differently: Learning that leads to work which widens the area of knowledge and which in turn multiplies the fields of work.

The above motto or slogan became the starting point of our philosophy on which the Islamic School for education was built. It was the first school founded with the object of reforming the educational system throughout the world. The Dubai Medical College has also been set up with the same purpose and is meant to serve as an elder sister that would support and guide the school in fulfilling the expectations reposed in it and achieving the goals already specified above.

The school was set up keeping in view the clearly visible physiological changes taking place in the life of a person approaching the stage of maturity. This period may well be considered a watershed between childhood and maturity or, to put it differently, between the stage of freedom and irresponsibility on the one hand and obligation and responsibility on the other. A young man reaches the stage of puberty around the age of fifteen. At this juncture he should become a fully responsible person capable of discharging his responsibilities. Foremost of these are the religious duties. Now pilgrimage is a religious obligation fulfilled by him and accepted by Allah. And now the punishment for theft prescribed in the Islamic law is to be enforced upon him should he commit this sin provided that all conditions necessary for the enforcement of the law are satisfied in his case.

As for the Medical College, the initial impulse for it came from my feeling that the women in the present-day world do not get their due right in the society. I do not mean to say that they are being oppressed and denied their rights. On the contrary, I believe that they themselves are oblivious of their true position and have even been a party to this usurpation of their rights. Women have unnecessarily entered into competition with man without realizing that Allah has seated her in a place where she could be an object of envy for her male counterparts. A poet has done women grievous wrong by saying:

Teach your maid to love the Homeland;

For the maid is a partner of young men.

The ultimate goal that the poet is visualizing here for the woman is that there must be complete parity between womankind and man. The fact, however, is that she is better than all men -in her own field; for she is the foundation of the populace, governess of generations and producer of the gentry. The most important role for which she was created and in which no man can rival her is that of motherhood. This important social function particular to her surpasses all occupations specific to men. It is a function no man is equal to discharging in all his physical fitness and mental alertness. Another poet was perhaps to the point than the earlier one when he said:

A mother is a seminary, if you prepare it

You prepare a noble breed of mankind.

She is the organizer of the house and the fastener of the beads of family. She is a wife helping her husband in the struggle of life. She is a mother pushing her children ahead to glory. Later, she is the grandmother transferring the heritage of ancestors to the grand children. She does the work of linking the brilliance of today with the experiences and lessons of the past. How can the woman, then, retrieve her lost rights?

In order to know her rights and realize her worth and value as well as regain her right position, the woman must go back and read her history and perceive her proper role in the family -as a mother and wife - as well as her role in the society - as a doctor or a teacher. She must know the true position Islam has placed her in sufficient if she remembers the following saying of the Prophet Muhammad:

"Anyone given the guardianship of three daughters, if he teaches them good manners and treats them well, these daughters will act as a shield for him from hellfire."

A woman then stood up and said: "O Allah's Messenger, if she has two?" The Prophet (pbuh) said: "Even two."

At this another woman said: "O Allah's Messenger, If she has one?" "Even one," answered the Prophet (pbuh).

Another deciding factor in the institution of the College was the fact that I realized that -apart from education- the woman was not getting her due right even in the field of treatment and nursing. The woman does not get female medical help if she falls sick. In all such eventualities she finds herself confronted by male doctors, there being acute paucity of lady doctors. This is a phenomenon, which neither human nature accepts nor Islam allows except under a pressing need. Some of the women would not accept it even under the most pressing circumstances.

It was due to these reasons that I thought of starting a women's wing in the Islamic School. It was meant to be a place where a woman could acquire knowledge that would elevate her to the position she rightly belongs to. For the same reason I thought of

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instituting the Dubai Medical College for Girls. It is intended to be a place where a woman will not only graduate as a physician to provide treatment to women patients only but will also learn to play her role as a dutiful wife and a kind mother capable of bringing up her children on the right lines.

I was, however, keen not to follow the traditional time-consuming system of education. I set two goals before me, namely, shortening the duration of courses and making optimum use of the given time.

I, therefore, pondered over a system that would take care of both the above mentioned points. I met many specialized scholars of medical sciences from various countries, and I found a perfect harmony of ideas or identity of views on the point that medical education really needs a new approach or a system based on the maximum utilization of time and shortening the period of study. All of them were waiting for someone who would implement the plan first. The most prominent among those I met were Dr. Zuhaira Abideen and Dr. Mohammad Abd Al-Monem Abu Al-Fadl. Our meeting was fruitful and constructive. They welcomed the idea. So, as a first step, we jointly started building up this imposing educational structure. The second step followed on the heels of the first. Both of them made commendable effort and played a prominent role at each step. Thanks to their kind cooperation, the College saw the light of the day and received its first batch of female students in 1985. These were the young women who were denied continuation of university education either for their inability to bear the rigors of journey or unavailability of a mahram (unmarriageable male near relation) or inability to leave their hearth and home for any reason whatsoever.

While setting up the Medical College on a system different from the one followed in the Islamic School as far as the age factor is concerned, I was convinced that medical profession needed superior skill, better mental capability and physical maturity. These attributes are impossible to come by before the age of fifteen for both male and female students. It was but natural that students be admitted to the College at an age higher than the one fixed for the school. Thus students of the Islamic School would be admitted to it only after their graduation from the school.

I cherish another ambition and I do hope that it will be realized in the Dubai Medical College. The ambition is that, alongside their medical studies, students of the College should also learn some other useful skill or skills related to their profession or household affairs. I strongly hope that the teaching staff of the College will believe in the rightness of this concept and extend their cooperation in realizing these objectives.

Now that a period of more than fifteen years has passed since the establishment of the College, I do not have any words to thank Allah for the many achievements we have registered during this period. Some of them are as follows:

Our policy of shortening the duration of the course has been proven right. Our graduates during this period have made their presence felt not only in hospitals but also in the international academic and educational forums. Some of them have successfully passed the American Equivalence examination. Others have passed the Fellowship examinations of Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in England.

Close on the heels of it the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research UAE

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accorded recognition to the college under its decision No.55 of 1994. The British Medical Council was kind enough to recognize the Dubai Medical College Degree in 1995, which opened up the doors for our graduates to work and register themselves for postgraduate studies in the UK. And last but not least the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research UAE, vide its Decision No.65 of 1996, also granted the Degree of Medicine and Surgery of the Dubai Medical College for Girls equivalence to the first degree of Medicine and Surgery (i.e. MBBS).

Such remarkable successes, in a so short period, speak volumes of the stupendous efforts made by the teaching staff on the one hand and of the fruitful cooperation between the academic wing of the College and the Clinical departments of the hospitals on the other. It amply demonstrates the great amount of passion for knowledge and hard work put in by the students of the College who seem to be determined to see that the College not only occupies its due place among its other counterparts but also be in the forefront of them all.

We, however, desire and wish that excellence in morality and religiosity of the students of this College should also match their academic excellence.

By the grace of Allah, it is a common sight in our hospitals now to see the woman patients there meets doctors that faithfully adhere to the tenets of Islam, treat patients kindly, try to alleviate the psychological strains alongside the physical pains of the patients, infuse the surroundings with kindness and motherly care and discharge their duties with a missionary spirit.

I can say it with confidence that the alumnae of the Dubai Medical College could be the models of good Muslim physicians. They would be the role models for those who wish their daughters to acquire knowledge that will provide them with the right faith, good moral conduct and a secure future. It will also ensure them an honorable and independent life in the society that will appreciate their efforts, extend its cooperation and raise its voices of encouragement in chorus.

My joy at the achievements of the College is great. My happiness at its success is beyond measure. It is a plant which has reached its fruition and a sapling that has attained its ripening. It is a sun filling the atmosphere with light and a star brightening the space. For me it is a dream come true. May the College surge further ahead! May its successes endure! May its benefits spread far and wide! May Allah be with it! May Allah protect it, bless it, and right its wrongs! Allah never lets go to waste the recompense of those who do good deeds.

Saeed Bin Ahmed Al Lootah



كلية دبي الطبية
DUBAI MEDICAL COLLEGE

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The Swiss politician Daniel Streich, who rose to fame as a result of his opposition to mosques in his homeland, has now embraced the faith he reviled.

Daniel Streich was a member of then Swiss People's Party (SVP) in Switzerland. A well-known politician, Streich led the calls for a ban on minarets across Switzerland. He was active in building anti-Muslim sentiments throughout Switzerland. This sustained campaign led to him being given a high ranking position in the Swiss Army.

SVP Witch Hunt

Streich left the SVP in November 2009 calling his party's campaign against Islam as a 'witch hunt.' The date coincided with the second anniversary of Streich's conversion which he had kept secret from the party.

With the party's campaign to ban minarets leading to a referendum, Streich said the situation had become unbearable for him.

Switzerland Minaret Ban and Daniel Streich

In the lead up to the ban Streich said "If the initiative passes, it will be an absolute deep blow for me. I would have to ask myself, why I applied myself professionally and politically for over 30 years for this political system. It is not worthy of Switzerland to force Muslims to practice their faith in back alleys."

Streich is a military instructor in the Swiss army and was said to be a committed Christian reading the Bible and attending Church regularly.

He was also committed to his party (SVP) and stood as a local politician in the commune of Bulle.

Daniel Streich Conversion to Islam

Streich attempted to understand the *Qur'an* and Islamic teachings in order to argue against Muslims on tenets of their faith. In the course of his efforts the ex-Christian began to agree with and acknowledge the proclamations of the *Qur'an*.

"Islam offers me logical answers to important life questions, which, in the end, I never found in Christianity," says Streich. He is now a committed Muslim, who attends the mosque, recites the *Qur'an* and prays five times a day.

Post-Conversion Life for Daniel Streich

Streich has now focused his intentions on participating in the building of the new Conservative Democratic Party in the canton of Freiburg. Freich's new movement is in contrast to his previous one and he aims to promote religious tolerance and peaceful cooperative living, in spite of the fact that ban on mosques minarets has gained a legal status.

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He is vehemently opposed to the Minaret ban and is hoping to establish Switzerland's fifth mosque and the most beautiful in Europe.

Meanwhile the SUV have raised concerns over Streich's position as Military Commander in the Army in the aftermath of his conversion citing him as a security risk. SVP-National Council member Alfred Heer cited the Fort Hood shooting spree as an example.

Read more at Suite101: [Daniel Streich Embraces Islam: Swiss Politician Bans Minarets then Converts to Islam](http://islam.suite101.com/article.cfm/daniel-streich-embraces-islam#ixzz0psxtHR6M) <http://islam.suite101.com/article.cfm/daniel-streich-embraces-islam#ixzz0psxtHR6M>

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Malcolm X Killer Is Freed on Parole

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published: April 27, 2010

The only man to admit shooting Malcolm X was freed Tuesday on parole, 45 years after he helped assassinate the civil rights leader, New York State officials said.

The man, Thomas Hagan, the last person still serving time in the 1965 killing, was freed from a Manhattan prison where he spent two days a week under a work-release program, said Linda Foglia, a spokeswoman for the State Department of Correctional Services.

Mr. Hagan, 69, has said he was one of three people who shot Malcolm X as he began a speech at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem on Feb. 21, 1965. But Mr. Hagan has said the two men convicted with him were not involved. They maintained their innocence and were paroled in the 1980s. No one else has ever been charged.

The assassins killed Malcolm X out of anger at his split with the leadership of the Nation of Islam, the black Muslim movement for which he had once served as chief spokesman, said Mr. Hagan, who was then known as Talmadge X Hayer.

He has repeatedly expressed regret for his role in the assassination, which he described in a 2008 court filing as the deed of a young man who "acted out of rage on impulse and loyalty" to religious leaders.

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Islamic Center in New York:

A Contrived Controversy

By Mirza A. Beg

Al-Jazeera, CCUN, September 13, 2010

Almost everyone except a miniscule minority is born to their religion and adheres to the social traditions of their culture. Religions may preach unity to their flock but give-in to sectarianism. The sects roughly fall into two cerebral groups.

At the upper end a thoughtful and introspective minority that considers humility and service to humanity as the essence of their being and the calling of their religion. At the other end the narrow-minded who consider their creed to have been chosen by God for domination and use selected passages from their scripture in zealous pursuit of political power.

In the middle lives a large majority of usually kind and decent people too busy in the chores of living to think critically the morality of their social setting. They follow religious rituals and usually admire the first group, but succumb to the propaganda of the second in traumatic times.

In dictatorial or feudal regimes the first group is persecuted and the second latches on to power and thrives. In democracies, the first group may draw people to a higher vision, but suffers the onslaught of unethical propaganda by the second, especially during elections in stressful times.

After eight long years of mismanagement, two wars of hubris and a complete economic collapse, the US electorate in the elections of 2006 and 08 threw the Republicans out of power. In the last year and a half the economy has been stabilized, but the jobless rate is still very high, the electorate is not happy. With this backdrop and the trauma of 9/11, the drummed up controversy and misinformation about the Islamic community center two blocks from ground zero in New York follows this pattern.

In the last two months opposition politicians with the help of pundits on the anything, but "fair and balanced" FOX news and talk radio have kept up the drum beat of misinformation and half truths about the Islamic Center. Unsurprisingly, there has been a gradual rise in anti Islamic Center opinion along with anti Muslim feeling in the ephemeral public opinion polls. Many local right wing groups have latched on in opposing Islamic centers many smaller communities as well.

The fear mongers have found a more potent propaganda, better than the perennial illegal immigration that simmers on the back burner to be resurrected in elections. Even better than the invented new twist of a few months ago, "the Anchor Babies", implying that people come to US to deliver babies to cash in years later, the eventual

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right of citizenship under the US constitution.

Muslims should not be disheartened at this turn of events. Immigrants in the past have been subjected to much worse. It is part of the endemic struggle between the idea of the great democracy that the founding fathers envisioned and the drag of the baser human tendencies.

The United States of America came into being as a democracy drawing on the high ideals of enlightenment. Yet the full implementation of the ideals in the constitution took another two centuries to unfold. The genius of the US constitution is that it guides and allows progress, evolving with the needs of times.

The drag of the baser part of our history is well known, the massacre of Natives, the horrible legacy of slavery, the ethno-religious persecution of Jewish, Catholic - Irish and Italian immigrants, and the indigenous Mormon. The exploitation and persecution of imported Chinese and Japanese laborers in the 19th century is also a part of the same exploitative fabric.

The nation gradually evolved to reject these, once accepted practices. In hard economic times and in times of war it often regresses, but eventually it re-discovers its moorings. It takes time, often a long time. Blacks were forced to immigrate in chains and were kept in political chains up to the 1960s, until the passage of the Civil Rights legislations. During the hysterical fear of the "new age religions" of 1970s and 80s, charlatan "deprogrammers" made a lot of money preying on the fears of the parents whose children opted to experiment with new trends in thoughts. The current anti Muslim propaganda too shall pass.

So the present anti Muslim propaganda is not surprising. What should be celebrated is that in the wake of 9/11 the administration arrested about 1,200 innocent Muslims; justice prevailed and none of them were found guilty. However in the last three years some Muslims have indulged in reprehensible acts and are legitimately being brought to justice. There have been many attacks on Islamic centers and Mosques by the cowardly religious miscreants, but the law has brought them to justice.

Though right wing propagandists have succeeded in corrupting the public mind to gain about sixty percent support, it is a great tribute to the US democracy that about thirty to forty percent have not succumbed to the knee jerk reaction. Many Pastors, Rabbis and most editorials in the newspapers and commentary sections have decried this assault on the first amendment. It is a very high index of sanity in difficult times in any country. The founding fathers took special care to check the tyranny of the insidious emotional gullible majority by requiring two thirds majority and ratification by three-fourths of the states to change the constitution.

It is important to realize that bigots on all sides are equally reprehensible. Each side considers the nameless, faceless bigots on the other side to be despicable propaganda figures. While the bigots on their side to be human beings who love their children and are good neighbors, therefore are more easily swayed by their rhetoric. In wars of supremacy each side succumbs to those who misuse religion and yields leadership to the most despicable charlatans among them.

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Burning the Holy Quran Crisis

By Kourosh Ziabari

Al-Jazeera, CCUN, September 13, 2010

The ninth anniversary of September 11 attacks coincided with the offensive insults of the Americans to the holiest book of 1.5 billion Muslims around the globe. According to reports by the Reuters, near Nashville, Tennessee, evangelical Pastor Bob Old and another preacher used lighter fluid and a lighter to burn at least two copies of the Quran. Old called Islam "a false religion."

It was also reported that the American protesters objecting to the construction of an Islamic center and a mosque adjacent to the Ground Zero site tore pages from the Holy Quran and set them alight. Reuters also dispatched reports from the similar abuses to the Holy Quran in Lower Manhattan.

The terrifying plan of burning the holy book of Muslims was initially proposed by the pastor of an obscure, small, non-denominational church in Gainesville who had announced that he would be burning copies of the Holy Quran on the anniversary of 9/11 attacks. The plan was described by the global media as a publicity stunt by someone whose desire for gaining some reputation and attention by the international media propelled him towards thinking of such an evil action.

Although a global wave of protests which erupted immediately after Pastor Jones announced his plan for burning the Holy Quran on September 11 dissuaded the attention-seeking preacher from realizing his mischievous intention, he inspired other people to go ahead with the plan and abuse a Holy Book which is venerated and adored by millions of people in the four corners of the world.

Insulting the holy book of Muslims in the United States put an emphasis on the fact that those who consider themselves the harbingers of mutual understanding, religious toleration, peaceful coexistence and freedom of expression are merely making unfounded and baseless claims which they perpetually fail to adhere to in practice. These are only claims which are designed to portray an idealistic image of the United States and its culture. Burning a holy book is the clear manifestation of an uncivilized and barbaric action for which there can't be any justification or explanation.

Muslims around the world are subject to the most unfair convictions and unjustifiable discriminations. They're usually labeled as extremists, fundamentalists and radicals. They're always judged with pessimism and negativity. Every terrorist operation is attributed to them and the most offensive charges are leveled against them as unjustly as possible. So, what's the reality of Islam? Is it a religion of violence and barbarism, as the Americans claim? Does it further and spread terrorism and extremism? Is Islam a "false religion", as the evangelical pastor has claimed? A general investigation of the Islamic scriptures and Quran can provide the response to all of these questions. There are numerous indications that Muslims are among the

most pacifist and peace-lover people in the world. Islam has categorically rebuffed violence and aggression towards the people and condemned those who use force against others and undermine their esteem.

The most fundamental pillar of Islam is based on sociability, interaction with the other people and respecting their prestige and stature. The Holy Quran on several occasions has underlined the importance of revering the humankind as the most prestigious and valuable creature of the Almighty God. In the verse 70 of the chapter Al-Isra', the Almighty God introduces the man as His most admirable and brilliant creature, saying that he is superior than all of the other beings on the Earth: "It is a favor that We have honored the sons of Adam and blessed them with conveyances on land and sea and provided them with good and pure things and exalted them above many of Our other creatures."

As a vanguard ideology, Islam has always emphasized the essentiality of behaving with the followers of other religions with respect and admiration. It was once asked from Imam Reza, the eighth Twelver Shiite Imam and the seventh descendant of Prophet Muhammad that how should one pay tribute to the Jews and Christians who don't follow the religion of Islam? He answered: "tell them may the Almighty God bless the world for you."

Those who claim to be the guardians of human rights have so far killed more than 1 million innocent civilians in Iraq since they launched their so-called War on Terror. One may wonder whether these 1 million people have been human or not. Islam has never claimed to be a charter of human rights, but in actuality, it is the most comprehensive and all-inclusive declaration of human rights. It pays attention to each and every aspect of human's dignity and disallows the destabilization of man's decorum. In the verse 12 of the chapter Al-Hujuraat, the Almighty God prevents the believers from backbiting, being suspicious about the others and spying: "Believers, avoid being excessively suspicious, for some suspicion is a sin. Do not spy, nor backbite one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? (by backbiting) You would surely detest it. Have fear of Allah. Surely Allah is much prone to accept repentance, is Most Compassionate."

In the verse 13 of the same chapter, the Almighty God has highlighted the fact that the most venerable and esteemed people are the ones who fear Him the most and do good deeds as a result of this fear. This shows that people, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, gender and language, are equal in Islam and their decency is the basis of judging their actions: "Verily the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most God-fearing of you."

Islam has also stressed the importance of respecting the followers of other religions and called the holy books of Jews and Christians divine revelations which should be treated with esteem and respect. In the verse 46 of the chapter Al-Ma'idah, we read: "And We sent Jesus, the son of Mary, after those Prophets, confirming the truth of whatever there still remained of the Torah. And We gave him the Gospel, wherein is guidance and light, and which confirms the truth of whatever there still remained of the Torah, and a guidance and admonition for the God-fearing."

With these descriptions, it will become clear that Islam is a religion of toleration,

peace and friendship. It pays tribute to all of the religions which had preceded it and obliges the Muslims to live along with the followers of other religions peacefully. Islam confirms and verifies the authenticity of previous holy books and asks the Muslims to be benevolent and compassionate with the "people of faith".

Burning a holy book which is full of instructions for a peaceful, serene, pure and happy life indicates nothing but ignorance and animosity. More than 1.5 billion people around the world read the Holy Quran to learn from its insights and teachings. Burning such a book simply indicates the lack of tolerance and freedom in a country which considers itself a beacon of freedom.

Thank God, Muslims have always treated with the followers of other religions respectfully. They never drew insulting cartoons of Prophet Jesus nor did they desecrate the Bible and Torah. The mainstream media in the West portray the Muslims as terrorists and extremists, but the Muslims around the world have righteously demonstrated that they are worthy of praise and admiration for their excellent demeanor and their peaceful disposition.

Does Burning the Holy Quran Solve Any Problems?

By Kourosh Ziabari

Al-Jazeera, CCUN, September 13, 2010

Non-Muslims might be unfamiliar with the concept of "Wudu". It's an Islamic practice involving the washing of some parts of the body such as the hands, arms and face in order to get prepared for saying prayers or reciting the Holy Quran. It's is of high value in the Islamic tradition, because it's a preface to inner purity and satisfies the Almighty Creator who wants its creatures to be pure and clean once they want to talk to Him. Wudu is translated into English as "ablution". One who is in the state of Wudu, that is has washed his face, hands, arms and feet, is obliged to adhere to some certain codes of morality, including devotion to honesty, justice and sincerity. One who is in the state of Wudu is supposed not to tell lie, not to judge with prejudice and partiality and not to state or claim what is unrighteous and unfair.

Prior to setting off for writing this article, I conducted "Wudu" and promised myself not to get out of the borders of honesty and objectivity. I promised myself to propose what is my concern in a manner that is justifiable and virtuous, and pose a few questions as someone who has been entitled to ask freely, without being disrupted by projection or disturbance.

It was on the news headlines that the Florida-based Dove World Outreach Center church pastor, Terry Jones, decided to burn copies of the Holy Quran on the advent of September 11 in an action which is deemed to be a remonstrance against what is

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introduced as "Islamic extremism".

Regrettably, Wayne Sapp who is an associate pastor of the Dove World Outreach Center has proclaimed that burning the Holy Quran is a direction God wants them to go. "We are convinced this is the direction God wants us to go. That's the only reason we're doing it in the first place," he told the reporters.

First and foremost, it should be noted that the announcement of such a plan, regardless of its being done or not, is an immoral, condemnable and blameworthy action. The immorality and unacceptability of such an action would be underscored by the fact that an evangelical church which considers itself a propagator of Christian religious values has decided to burn a holy book which some 1.5 billion people around the world revere and venerate.

In this point, one may unavoidably come across to a vital question which puts one into an inevitable and inescapable stalemate: what happens if the Muslims announce a plan to burn the Torah? Won't they be accused of extremism, anti-Semitism, fanaticism, fundamentalism and radicalism? Won't they become the subject of unending attacks by the mainstream, corporate media of the United States, United Kingdom, Israel and their European allies? Won't the international organizations collectively condemn the Muslim society and won't an all-out wave of Islamophobic actions set out to emerge around the world? Won't the high-ranking politicians and statesmen of countries, who don't have anything to do with Judaism, condemn this action simply because of their connection and affinity with Israel? Won't any conscious, cognizant and decent citizen rebuff such an outrageous and disgraceful action? Won't the international community categorically react to the Muslims community?

The answer to all of the questions posed above is clear. The extent of international punishments for insulting the holy book of Jews will be so wide-ranging and across-the-board that the Muslims will profoundly regret their action and instantaneously apologize; however, the question which I posed contains a possibility that never takes place. Muslims have always paid tribute to other Abrahamic religions and treated their pillars, prophets and holy books with great reverence and respect. Essentially, Islam has put a crucial responsibility on the shoulders of Muslims to respect the other religions, treat with the followers of Abrahamic religions in a brotherly manner and never make a distinction between them.

To be just and fair, Islam has comprehensively advised its followers to pay homage and respect to the beliefs of those who follow other religions and avoid behaving in a way which degrades and subdues them. In Verse 285 of Chapter 2 (Al-Baqara, The Heifer) of the Holy Quran, we read: "The Apostle believeth in what hath been revealed to him from his Lord, as do the men of faith. Each one (of them) believeth in God, His angels, His books, and His apostles. We make no distinction (they say) between one and another of His apostles. And they say: we hear, and we obey: (we seek) Thy forgiveness, our Lord, and to Thee Is the end of all journeys."

This is a clear evidence for the fact that Quran orders the Muslims to treat all of the prophets equally without making any distinction between them.

In Verse 44 of Chapter 5 (Al-Maida, The Table Spread), the Almighty God stresses the necessity and essentiality of respecting and esteeming the holy book of Torah: "It was We who revealed The Torah (to Moses): therein was guidance and light. By its standard have been judged the Jews, by the Prophets Who bowed (as in Islam) to God's Will, by the Rabbis and the Doctors of Law: For to them was entrusted the protection of God's Book, and they were witnesses thereto: Therefore fear not men, but fear Me, and sell not My Signs for a miserable price. If any do fail to judge by (the light of) what God hath revealed, they are (no better than) unbelievers"

The more substantial evidence which demonstrates that Islam is strictly committed to the veneration of other prophets and their holy books can be found in the Verse 136 of Chapter 2 (Al-Baqara). "Say ye: we believe In God, and the revelation given to us, and to Abraham, Ismā'īl, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and that given to Moses and Jesus, and that given to (all) Prophets from their Lord: we make no difference between one and another of them: And we bow to God (in Islam)."

The Holy Quran highlights that its teachings and values verify and complement the teachings of previous holy books, including Torah and Bible, and this clear statement can be found in Verse 92 of Chapter 6 (Al-Ana'am, The Cattle): "And this is a Book which We have sent down, bringing blessings, and confirming the revelations which came before it: that thou Mayest warn the Mother of Cities and all around her. Those who believe In the Hereafter believe in this Book, and they are constant In guarding their Prayers."

Islam has never hesitated to verify the authenticity and legitimacy of its predecessors and the nations which adhered to the holy books. In Verse 62 of Chapter 2 (Al-Baqara), it's expressively stated that those who believe in the Almighty God and do decent acts, regardless of their religion, will be blessed and exalted rightfully: "Those who believe in the Quran, and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures), and the Christians and the Sabians, - any who believe in God and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord: on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve."

Burning the Holy Quran on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks will simply draw an end to the spiritual life of those who have planned such a dirty trick. I'm sure that no conscious Muslim will do any harm to the evangelical pastor who (was) going to burn the Holy Quran on September 11, but I'm sure that his spiritual life as a minister will come to a tragic end, because the very Almighty God who has revealed the Holy Quran upon Prophet Muhammad will save His book as well. "We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly guard it." (The Holy Quran, Chapter 15, Verse 9).

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How Should Muslims React to Anti-Islamic Stunts, Such as Attempts to Burn the Holy Quran?

By Nihad Awad

Al-Jazeera, CCUN, September 13, 2010

Muslims are once again placed in the difficult position of deciding how best to respond to an act designed to cause as much offense as possible to them and their faith.

Previously, it was a series of cartoons mocking the Prophet Muhammad. Then it was the bigoted response to the call for "Everybody Draw Muhammad Day."

Now, Pastor Terry Jones of the Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville, Fla., who said that he would burn copies of the Quran, Islam's holy text, outside his church on the anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks (But he did not, due to pressures). He told a local television station that he decided to burn copies of the Quran, which he calls an "evil book," because Islam "teaches against the Bible. . . The Quran teaches against Jesus being God."

Perhaps Pastor Jones has not opened the Quran to verse 45 of chapter 3, which states: "Behold! The angels said: 'O Mary! God giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him. His name will be Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, held in honor in this world and the Hereafter and in (the company of) those nearest to God.'"

So, how should Muslims in America and around the world react to this latest attempt by hate-mongers to smear Islam and cause intentional offense?

They must look to the Quran itself and to the example of the Prophet Muhammad, who faced many such insults during his lifetime.

God states in the Quran: "(But whatever they may say or do,) repel the evil (that they commit) with something that is better: We are fully aware of what they attribute (to Us)." (The Holy Quran, 23:96)

And also: "(Since) good and evil cannot be equal, repel (the evil deed) with one that is better. Then you will see that he with whom you had enmity, will become your close friend." (The Holy Quran, 41:34)

In other verses, God states: "When (the righteous) hear vain talk, they withdraw from it saying: 'Our deeds are for us and yours for you; peace be on to you. We do not desire the way of the ignorant'. . . O Prophet (Muhammad), you cannot give guidance to whom you wish, it is God Who gives guidance to whom He pleases, and He is quite aware of those who are guided." (The Holy Quran, 28:55-56)

Should Muslims be Allowed to Perform Hajj to Mecca?

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The Quran also says: "Invite (all) to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching, and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for thy Lord knows best who have strayed from His Path and who receive guidance." (16:125)

Another verse tells the Prophet Muhammad to "show forgiveness, speak for justice and avoid the ignorant." (7:199)

Islamic traditions include a number of instances in which the Prophet did just that -- clearly demonstrating that forgiveness is an act of liberation and that it shows strength, not weakness. Most importantly, God commands us to show forgiveness.

The Prophet often had the opportunity to retaliate against those who abused him, but refrained from doing so.

All Muslims know the tradition (hadith) of the woman who would regularly throw trash on the prophet as he walked down a particular path. The prophet never responded in kind to the woman's abuse. Instead, when she one day failed to attack him, he went to her home to inquire about her condition.

In another hadith, the Prophet was offered the opportunity to have God punish the people of a town near Mecca who refused the message of Islam and attacked him with stones. Again, the prophet did not choose to respond in kind to the abuse. Instead, he asked God to save the abusers.

Even when the Prophet was in a position of power, he chose the path of kindness and reconciliation.

When he returned to Mecca after years of exile and personal attacks, he did not take revenge on the people of the city, but instead offered a general amnesty.

These are the examples that Muslims should follow as they express deep concern about an intentional insult that is in reality just a cheap publicity stunt by a tiny extremist group seeking attention and donations.

Instead of protesting the Quran burnings -- and playing into the hands of extremist publicity-seekers like Pastor Jones -- American Muslims and Muslims around the world should spend September 11 reaching out to people of other faiths and beliefs to build bridges of respect and understanding.

For Americans who are not Muslim, the principle should be "learn, don't burn." Request a copy of the Quran at www.explorethequran.com and read all the references to Biblical figures such as Moses, Jesus and Abraham (peace be upon them all).

Research has shown that anti-Islam prejudice goes down when people interact with ordinary Muslims and have greater knowledge of Islam.

It might also be a good idea for Americans of other faiths to borrow a Quran from a Muslim friend, neighbor or co-worker. In that way, knowledge may be increased as bonds of friendship are formed.

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A calm and faith-based reaction to this provocative act, coupled with the fact that the Quran burning has been condemned by every mainstream American religious and political leader, will hopefully deflect Pastor Jones' message of hate (it did) and instead result in increased interfaith dialogue and mutual understanding.

Nihad Awad is national executive director for the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil liberties group. He may be contacted at: nawad@cair.com

Burning the Quran and the Satanic Verses:

Is there a difference?

By Yamin Zakaria

Al-Jazeera, CCUN, September 13, 2010

Whilst some Muslims around the world demonstrate with rage, others find this cheap media stunt by the US Pastor, Terry Jones, rather amusing; he appears like the typical ignorant rugged hillbilly with a tiny band of followers. From his interviews, he fits the profile of those ignorant Americans raised on a diet of Zionist Fox News and baseball, who would struggle to comment on the US history and geography, let alone the rest of the world.

His interview on CNN bought a smile to my face, as it did to the CNN Presenter who was trying to clarify the justification for burning the Quran; it is obvious that he lacks ability to articulate his case, compounded by the fact that he has not even read the Quran or any scholarly literature that elaborates on the subject. Indeed, he sounds like a man who does not read much.

His allegations that Quran advocates violence is laughable, as the same teachings can be found in the Bible, some of the laws derived from the Old Testament are much harsher than the Quranic laws. It seems the pastor is also unfamiliar with the Bible. If we talk about the actions or reactions of some Muslims, that needs to be assessed against the actions of violent Christian-America. I am not talking about the daily shootings at schools and shopping malls, rape, bombings, and the high level crime rate inside America, but the killing of innocent people in distant land.

This is the nation that dropped the Atom bombs and chemical weapons on innocent civilians; over last century it has killed millions for profit, and continues to do so in the Middle East. Allegedly, their 'loving' Christian god commanded George Bush to carry

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out the slaughter of innocent people. Numerous videos depict the cruelty of US soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, who are often killing civilians for sheer enjoyment, true to their sadistic nature. The Pastor needs to take closer look at his nation with its awful history.

The Muslims should have ignored Terry Jones, and by the usual emotional reaction of some it has only given him far greater media attention than he deserves. I guess for sensitive issues like this, the hearts and emotions rule over the mind.

It's ironic that a 'Christian' pastor, whose flock constantly peddles the message of 'love' and 'forgiveness' can demonstrate so much blanket hate towards another community. Such hypocrisy is not surprising, as many prominent US-based preachers have consistently demonstrated this over the years. How many have swindled money from their docile flocks? How many TV-Evangelists have been caught with their pants down after lecturing about sexual morality? What about the numerous claims about healing, later exposed as fraudulent. Not to mention the recent revelation of those celibate Priests sexually molesting children.

Far from the central Christian message of 'love', this pastor represents a new breed of extremists: Christian-Zionist, who has anything but love; these people are simply evil. Incidentally, why is the Pope silent on this issue? Where are the prominent Christian Priests issuing condemnations? Had this been Muslims burning the Bible, the entire Muslim community would have been put on the docks. For the actions of few Muslims, we are all frequently held accountable; the same principle should also apply here with Terry Jones.

Let us leave aside the religious dimension, most of us live in a secular society; thus, let us examine the secular arguments of free speech which underpins this issue. This has resurfaced the old debate of the right of freedom of speech against 'selective' curbing of it, to prevent incitement to hate and violence. In defence of Terry Jones, the issue of freedom of expression is pointed out, along with the example of the Muslims burning the Satanic Verses of Salman Rushdie, in the past. The obliging media selectively pushes the arguments of incitement to hate and violence to the back, and the argument of the right of free speech for Terry Jones is brought to the front. It works in reverse for the Muslim action and reaction, as it is always measured against the principle of incitement to hate and violence, rather than a right to express their viewpoint.

Both, the Satanic Verses and the actions of Terry Jones are provocation, and not a reaction; one can also include the Danish Cartoon in this category. Rather, the Muslims will point out, if the media opposed the book burning of Satanic Verses, why did they not demonstrate the same level of opposition to the burning of the Quran. Moreover, the 'Satanic Verses' is not a sacred scripture with millions of followers around the world. Thus, if anything, the response to curtail free speech of Terry Jones should have been greater. This merely confirms that media consistency is the exception, and media-hypocrisy is the norm.

Most Islamophobes are overt racists or closet racists. It is the culture of war on terror that has encouraged them come out and target Islam and Muslims, which has been fanned by the mainstream media for decades, significantly increased post 9/11; the

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racist Islamophobes are enjoying the free ride. Since racism has become unacceptable, the overt racists are quick to deny their racist motive, and make the technical argument that targeting religious group is not a racist action; however, when you prod under their white skin by examining the behaviour and track record of its prominent members, the racist agenda becomes clear. For example, the disparity in response to the decades of IRA bombings in the UK to the single incident of 7/7 makes it obvious. The entire Irish community was not put on the dock, they were not viewed with the same level of disdain, and the response was confined to the perpetrators, nor were there any calls for repatriation or curbing immigration from Republic and Northern Ireland. The National Front never marched into the areas populated by the Irish community.

In the UK, the EDL (English Defence League) fits this profile of being over racists using the cloak of opposing radical Islam. I think it would be more accurate to call it 'reactionary' Islam to the ongoing oppression in the Islamic world. If you oppose radical Islam, then why is the basis of your organisation a racial one? Surely, being English has nothing to do with opposing radical Islam? Even their name gives the game away. The EDL and their ilk of racists are adopting a more politically correct slogan, and concealing their racist agenda behind targeting Islam and Muslims. To support their claim of being non-racist, the EDL present the likes of Gurmit Singh, but the core organisation is simply an unofficial branch of the BNP (British National Party).

A partial solution to this problem is to engage them intellectually. It's unlikely the majority of the followers of EDL or Terry Jones know the issues in depth; they do need educating. In the UK, I am sure, many Muslims would happily engage with the EDL followers when they are sober, over the nation's favourite food: the Indian curry!

From the days of the Civil Rights movement to the LA riots of Rodney King shows line of progression, protests can and will eventually turn violent. The oppressed ones will rise in revolt eventually. If you demonise a racial group, you will get a violent reaction eventually, and why that should be any different for a religious group. Soon, such a reaction might take place in a large scale, and gradually the targeting of a religious group might become as unacceptable, like racism is at present.

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My Burqa Is None of Your Business

By RONALD SOKOL

"The burqa is not welcome in France," President Nicolas Sarkozy solemnly pronounced in his state of the union message last month. In this he went legally, philosophically and morally astray, although his politics may be sound.

An educated guess is that there are no more than a few thousand women in France who wear the burqa or niqab, a loose gown running from head to foot that covers the face with either an opening for the eyes or a veil to hide the face. One can go for months in France without seeing a woman in a burqa.

Covering one's face from the view of others is a way of protecting one's anonymity. The right to anonymity, if there is such a right, is closely linked to the right of privacy that is guaranteed by the French civil code and by the European Convention on Human Rights. On public streets or in an outdoor market, one's anonymity enjoys legal protection from photographers. Other than permitting identification, there would appear to be no legitimate public interest in compelling people to expose their faces.

Dress codes do exist in France as elsewhere, but their enforcement is through social custom rather than law. There are no obligatory vestimentary rules in France outside of prisons and, to a limited extent, schools.

What is odd is the sudden French zeal for conformity, for no country has shown more respect than France for the uninhibited expression of individuality. It runs like a musical theme from François Villon in the 15th century to Georges Brassens in the 20th.

Yet on nothing more than the quicksand of intuition President Sarkozy concluded that the burqa symbolizes women's submission. France's highest court in administrative matters, the Council of State, reached the same conclusion just a year ago when it denied citizenship to a woman who has lived in France for eight years, speaks perfect French, has a French husband and four children born in France, on the sole ground

that she wears a burqa. The court, like the president, felt that wearing a burqa conflicts with the principle of the equality of the sexes.

Yet there exists no legal inferiority. A woman wearing a burqa enjoys the same legal rights as any other person in France, including the right to divorce. If there is no legal inferiority, perhaps the submission invoked by the president and the court is a psychological submission.

If so, they have rushed in where angels fear to tread. An adolescent girl who starts to smoke submits to psychological peer pressure. So too those who sport baggy trousers or skin tight jeans, wear tattoos or go in for piercing, face-lifting, breast enhancement and a myriad of other practices just as offensive to some as the burqa is to others.

Is the working wife who does the laundry submitting psychologically to a feminine stereotype incompatible with the French principle of gender equality invoked by Mr. Sarkozy and the French supreme court? Can government intrude that deeply into how men and women interact and organize their lives?

The analogy that the president seemed to have in mind is that of a sect whose members are so brainwashed that they have lost all power to free themselves from exploitation. But there is no evidence that women in France who wear burqas are victims of a sect or are exploited.

Many wish to see the burqa as a badge of feminine oppression. They seem to feel that by removing the dress the purported oppression will vanish and the person's true voice will be found. Yet no evidence shows that women in France who wear burqas are forced to wear them, or have low self-esteem, or are unable to exercise their legal rights.

The political clamor to ban the burqa is not an evidence-based policy. It is a misguided effort to enhance the status of women grounded in speculation about what a woman hidden in a burqa must feel. Yet whatever she feels will certainly not be changed by a law telling her what not to wear. And were there a law, how would it be enforced? Would there be a fine for wearing a burqa? Would there be clothes police? The whole notion is reminiscent of the prohibitions applied to women in Afghanistan before the Taliban lost power.

While the burqa has become a useful political distraction, it could be turned into a symbol of a state that welcomes diversity. It could exemplify a state that knows that its role is to promote equality, protect diversity and forbid discrimination.

Mr. Sarkozy has done more to enhance that role than any of his predecessors, but on the issue of the burqa he has gone seriously astray.

A state that proclaims democratic values cannot justify telling its residents what to wear or not to wear any more than it can justify telling them what to think or what to say or to which god to pray when no harm comes from the behavior, save the shock felt by those whose views and customs differ.

Until evidence is forthcoming that wearing a burqa poses a clear and present danger, President Sarkozy is tilting a lance not at the devil but at an old windmill. The devil does not wear burqa.

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