

# The Revisionist Observer™

*A Quarterly Newsletter Searching For Truth In History*

## WHAT IS THE RELIGION CALLED "AL-ISLAM" ("THE SUBMISSION"), AND WHO IS THE DEITY CALLED "AL-ILAH" ("THE ONE GOD")?

By Harrell Rhome, M.Div., Ph.D., S.T.D. (Cand.)

### EXPLORING MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Most Americans to a great extent misperceive and misunderstand Islam. Moreover, neither the media, nor the few carefully chosen Muslims who appear sporadically, seem to shed much real insight. Most Americans either label it "a terrorist religion" or "a religion of world peace and brotherhood", but what are the facts?

### DEFINING ISLAM

Melissa K. Strecker, an American Islamic woman writes in 2002 from San Jose CA to a number of newspapers, saying: "The word Islam is derived from the Arabic [root] word 'S\_L\_M' [salaam; same root as Hebrew shalom], which means among other things, peace, purity, submission and obedience. In the religious sense, the word Islam means submission to the will of God and obedience to His Law." So that sounds OK, doesn't it? No evil or terrorism is present in what Maria wrote. She should know. Converts to any religion are often the most fervent and best read among the faithful. This is a good point to add that "Mohammedanism" is a blasphemous term to Muslims ("those in submission"), and reminds them of Christianity, which blasphemously says a mere man is God, or so says Islam. Some 750,000,000+ million people practice "the religion of peace and submission." Once almost all Muslims were Arabs, but today Indonesia is the largest Islamic nation.

### WHO WAS MOHAMMED?

Mohammed (Muhammad, etc.), meaning "Praised" (how curious), was born into the pagan Arab Quraysh tribe near Mecca on the Arabian peninsula, and lived from c.560-570 to 632. He knew Christians and Jews, and was obviously influenced by both. As you will see, this was not the only early influence on this evidently dedicated and dynamic man who may be the greatest eclectic synthesizer of religious thought who ever lived.

### PRE-ISLAMIC RELIGION IN ARABIA: EARLY INFLUENCES ON MOHAMMED

Mohammed's home town, Mecca was already a pagan "proto-one-world-religion" center, sacred to no less than five religions, including those worshipping Saturn or the Moon. In addition to the pagans, were resident Christians, Sephardic Jews, Judeo-Arabians, Christian and non-Christian Gnostics, and others. The Kaaba, an ancient, almost square stone structure, was already there. Nowadays, the courtyard of the Grand Mosque surrounds it. Said to have been built by Abraham, it houses a black meteorite that is still venerated much like a Catholic statue or holy relic in spite of all the various Koranic prohibitions against idols. Apparently Muslim theologians or the faithful don't see it that way even though the main event of the Haj is the circling of the Kaaba and kissing or touching the black stone, now no longer a pagan symbol, but now purified and imbued as a sign of Allah. Crowds estimated at more than one million have done this ritual march around the simple, black-draped cube, some dying in the crush of the crowd. Each Muslim is asked to make a Haj, or pilgrimage to Mecca, at least once in life if possible. Emphasizing equality before Allah, all Hajis wear a simple white garment. But as said, in early times, the Kaaba was the perfect model for a One-World Religion. In truly ecumenical spirit, it contained at least 360 idols from the world over, including a bust of the Virgin Mary with the Christ Child. Jews revered it too, with a tradition that Moses and Aaron made pilgrimages there. A moon god some say was also called "Allah" or "Al-ilah" was a part of the pantheon. A Judeo-Arab convert named Tobba put the first curtain over the building, much as it is today. When Muslims make their Haj, the procession circles the Kaaba where each one kisses or touches the black stone. This is the central ritual of the pilgrimage experience.

### THE MISSION OF MOHAMMED

Multi-cultural, polytheistic pre-Islamic Mecca had a great influence on the future prophet, who knew many faiths. He was 40 when beginning his religious, prophetic life. It was not an easy course.

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He attracted a few followers from his immediate family and clan, but aroused little other than anger among most he encountered. Sir Richard Burton says, "After a long course of meditation, fired with anger by the absurd fanaticism of the Jews, the superstitions of the Syrian and Arabian Christians, and the horrid idolatries of his unbelieving countrymen, ...he determined to reform those abuses.... He introduced himself as one inspired to a body of his relations and fellow-clansmen. The step a failure (except for converting Ali)." These religious/political struggles were quite fierce and bloody on all sides, hence, Mohammed had many opponents who wanted to kill him. In 622, he and his main followers were forced to flee from Mecca to Yathrib. While somewhat of an ignominious retreat, it did save his life, and the event became legendary. The date is commemorated as the Hegira, the Flight from Mecca to Yathrib, then renamed Medina, now a major holy site. Islamic calendars note this as Year 1, so if you see an Islamic-style date, simply add 622 years. He proclaimed Allah as the One God and himself as the last and greatest prophet, and returned to Mecca, where he cleansed the Kaaba of idols, and began the first Islamic government.

Mohammed led his followers to military victory (and thus "conversion") of all surrounding tribes, massacring the Jews and Christians who dared refused. By 630, he had won all of Arabia. The Jihad for Allah continued after his death, threatening Europe from more than one direction. Read about the Battle of Tours and the 500 years of Islamic government on the Iberian Peninsula. Even today, many Islamic maps commonly show Spain and Portugal colored with the Islamic green, denoting a Muslim nation. As a result of all the expansions of Arabian civilization that followed the conquests, Arabs, especially in the Levant, began to mix their gene pool with many converted Jews as DNA analysis now shows their kinship.

#### WAS MOHAMMED A BLACK MAN?

While many Africans and some African-Americans believe the Prophet was black, this appears to be a story carefully planted by Arab mullahs, who emphasized the "African-ness" of Mohammed. In actuality, Vol. 2 of Hadith No. 122 says clearly calls him "this white man". Mohammed thought blacks were suitable for slavery. One story tells how he seized a slave freed by a Muslim, auctioning him off immediately for 800 dirhams! In spite of all this and much more, Muslims (especially in the Third World) still say that Islam supports black liberation and opposes slavery, and that he was a man of color.

#### MOHAMMED, ISLAM, AND WOMEN

As for women in Islam, Mohammed had a large harem. In one story, he takes the wife of his adopted son and copulated with her when she was

only nine years old! Even if not true, it is exemplary of certain sexual predilections found among certain Middle Easterners. However, to be fair, we must not impose the responsibility for certain practices on Islam even though they occur (not solely) in Islamic societies, e.g., female circumcision. This is a pre-Islamic practice that has simply continued as a part of dominating the submissive Islamic female. I know that many Islamic women will disagree, and I know that women (like Maria at the beginning) love and appreciate Islam and the status it gives (some) women (in some places). Nonetheless, while I abhor the "cultural models" that are imposed on western girls, Islam would not seem to be much of an improvement. Before closing the topic, let's also note that Maria is a modern Islamic woman in America. She would not lead the same kind of life in almost any declared Islamic state. She knows this, and values her religion anyway, hoping for positive changes, I am sure. I greatly respect people of this nature. It's just that I disagree with her answers, and for one of the first time in my writings, I am taking a position liberal American women can affirm!

There is more, but this is probably quite enough about the founder. One writer, speaking two years before the WTC and DC bombings, says: "The facts speak loudly... [Islam] ...has tricked many into believing that [it] is a religion of peace, justice and equality. It has never been our policy to group all Muslims in the same category, for we know that not all Muslims are guilty of the crimes committed by the more extreme and violent elements in Islam. Nevertheless, we can definitely say beyond a doubt that the religion of Islam itself teaches and condones violence, which is characteristically manifested in war, revenge, oppression, slavery, persecution and murder toward any and all who oppose Islam. ... Do not be deceived, for Islam will not tolerate other systems of belief, nor will they rest until their opposition is completely subdued." ["Tribal Call", "Battle Cry Sounding", 1999-2001.]

#### WHO IS THE DEITY CALLED ALLAH?

Allah" comes from the same Semitic root word, "EL" (also "AL"), an early name for god or gods as in the polytheistic Hebrew plural, "Elohim", seen in Genesis. The "EL" root is used in names such as Isra-el, Gabri-el, etc. EL is God/god through a related, but different line of tradition than the one ending up as Y\_H\_W\_H. "Allah" may be the continuation in another form of an old pagan moon god, also called similarly called, one of 360 idols in the Kaaba. The Prophet cleansed the Kaaba, expelling them all, yet the crescent moon remains as the most enduring and visible symbol of Islam. While always said to simply mean God, "Allah" is made from two Arabic words: "al" ("the") and "ilah" ("god"), probably used in the pre-Islamic Arabic

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transition from polytheism to "monolatry" or the worship of one supreme god out of many (same as Elohim, a plural), indicating that their tribal god was the supreme God. There is archeological evidence supporting the moon-god as al-ilah, but here again, we mustn't get distracted. Besides, if you don't like the name, Allah, the Koran (again, like the Talmud) says there are 99 other names (I think the Talmud and Cabala may have more than that), commemorated in the 99 beads of the Islamic rosary (from Catholics and Buddhists), the 100th and largest one representing Allah. Today, most people, Christian and not, will say that all "three great monotheistic faiths" worship "the same God", and want to join with them in prayer at public events. Again, there is a tendency to say much more here, but to put it simply once one studies the Old Testament, New Testament, Talmud and Koran, most readers note a stark difference between the God of Jesus, the Christ, and that portrayed in modern-day Talmudism or Islam or "Judeo-Christianity". Another way this fallacy is expressed is "we all worship the same god", whether Hindus, Aum Shinrikyo, Voodoo, Pale Mayombe or whatever. The good old American "melting pot" idea is misapplied in this instance. Serious Jews don't believe it for a minute, and serious Christians know that Christ Immanuel is One with God; that He is God. But, today's "Judeo-Christians" and New Agers have no theological or doctrinal problems with any of this. It's the "experience" of God or the "spirit" of Jesus' "and praying and meditating as brothers and sisters" that counts, which all begs the basic question of is it all the "same God"?

### IS THE PROPHET INFALLIBLE?

The Prophet is regarded as infallible, hence not only a plan for one's life, but for nation-states as well. It does not advocate much tolerance toward non-believers except in special cases where they are charged a tax. Non-Muslims are subjects, not citizens, of an Islamic regime. While the Bible is accused of 50,000 errors, the Koran has many evident flaws. For example, in the Jewish Book of Esther, the famed oppressor is named Haman, but the Koran mistakenly calls him an Egyptian when he was a Persian. Mohammed heard so many Christian and Jewish and Gnostic stories and lore, he simply got his facts crossed up. The Koran also sets up a series of miracle stories (amplified in the Hadith) not unlike those about Jesus. James Green writes, "Whatever Jesus did, [Mohammed] told his followers how he had done greater miracles than Jesus. He told them how he had ridden a unicorn through the air. [There are many, many amazing, miraculous stories, including that he cut the moon in half.] Mohammed told them how the sister of the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus, was the sister of Aaron (Sura 19:290) and daughter of 'Imran' (Amram) (Sura 3:31) and hence identical with

Miriam the sister of Moses and Aaron. Mohammed missed this reference by maybe 1,400 to 1,500 years in light of Bible history! Jesus and Moses did not live a few years apart..., but would have had to if Mohammed were correct. ... Many statements of Mohammed have been disproved by science, by archeology, by history, by medicine, and by the reliably translated Bible. Yet the Muslims assert the reason why they know that Mohammed is the True Prophet of God, whom they claim is named Allah, is because he never made an error.... His infallibility... proves he was a genuine prophet. Muslims will violently oppose, even to the point of murder, anyone who begins to check out whether or not the many claims of Mohammed matches the known facts." In light of this, there are, to say the least, few "radical revisionists" in Islam. While his writings are virtually unreadable trash, Salman Rushdie is an example of what happens to one of their own who betrays them. Interesting, this is identical to what the Jewish Talmud prescribes for traitors.

### THE KORAN

The Koran is said to have been dictated (over 20 years) by the Archangel Gabriel. Mohammed was ordered to listen and then repeat, hence "Koran" means "The Recitation." About the same size as the New Testament, it is organized in 114 suras or chapters. They are not arranged by subject or chronology, but by size, the shortest being first. Like verses from the Talmud, the Koran (perhaps intentionally?) contradicts itself, or if you prefer, like the duplicitous Talmud, "provides more than one interpretation." While there are incongruities in the materials collected and approved to be called "Bible canon", contradictions (and thus loopholes) are key features in both Sharia and Talmudic Law. It is impossible, therefore, without the help of a mullah, imam or a cad (Islamic judge), to make sense of Sharia just as one cannot make sense of the Talmud without the help of Talmudic scholars and rabbis. Since there are major contradictions and variances on many topics, Sharia and Talmud mean only what the mullahs and rabbis say it means. I have long maintained that the entire "legal" concept of the "loophole" comes from the Talmud. Since Jews heavily influenced Mohammed, admiring them in the beginning, it is not surprising to find this legalistic, litigious likeness. By 651-652, the canonical text of the Koran was settled. Other materials, legends, superstitions and stories are collected in a compendium called the Hadith. While the Koran is in many languages, it is not considered genuine and worthy of veneration unless it is in Arabic or has the Arabic text to the side, as do some Jews with parallel Hebrew text. In the beginning, few thought that it had any meaning outside the Arabic cultural and linguistic paradigms. Like Christianity, it was only in its secondary phase that it

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manifested itself as a world religion. Studied intently by Muslims (often they study nothing else), it has become the basis for a now international Islamic culture complete with legal and governmental guidelines. In other words, the Koran is not only the guidebook for your life, but forms the constitution and law books of an Islamic state. All one needs is found there, and if you cannot decipher it yourself, the mullahs and tribunals will assist you.

### THE HADITH (Traditions)

"Our Prophet, the Messenger of our Lord, has ordered us to fight until you worship Allah alone...." (Vol. 4, No. 386). "No Muslim should be killed for killing an infidel." (Vol. 4, No. 283; Vol. 9, No. 50). "Any Muslim who is killed while fighting in a Jihad will go straight to the sexual pleasures of Paradise." (Vol. 1, No. 35; Vol. 4, No. 386). The last one is what the Old Man of the Mountains, the original proto-type of Osama bin Ladin, and his Hashish-eating Assassins ("hashashin") believed back in the 15th century. Much of the violence and ugliness comes from the Hadith. Hence, a Muslim can dissemble and misrepresent the facts, and tell you that none of it is found in the Koran. It's not, but it's in the Hadith, which is also sacred. Furthermore, the Hadith, like the Talmud, teaches that a Muslim may possess the property of the goyim/infidels through Jihad and oppression. As Mohammed said, "Whoever has killed an enemy and has proof of that, will possess his spoils." (Vol. 4, No. 370).

The Hadith contains many other teachings and stories of Mohammed in addition to the "sacred" traditions cited above. Just as Jews tell you that they have no hate, directing you to the Torah and ignoring the spiteful Talmud, so Muslims will tell you that, according to the Koran, Islam is a civilized religion of peace and tolerance, usually ignoring Koranic texts to the contrary (there's probably another that contradicts it), but always avoiding the Hadith altogether.

### DIVISIONS OF ISLAM

Though it is not nearly as diverse and splintered as is Christianity, there are many sects in Islam. The largest, the Shi'ia and the Sunni, differ over certain lines of genealogical succession from Mohammed, and over the centuries, other ritual and theological differences now also separate the two groups. One of the problems exacerbating the Iran-Iraq situation and its development into one of the world's bloodiest wars was religious and ethnic differences. The predominantly Arabic and Iraqis, especially Sadaam and the then-ruling cabal, were Sunni Muslims while the non-Arabic, Farsi-speaking Persian-Iranians are devout and dogged proponents of Shi'ism, which also has numerous Iraqi followers. While Islam seeks to present a united front, there are numerous differences in

belief and practice. The divisions have now existed for centuries, and are well entrenched. Of course, now they can almost all unite in a general hatred of western culture, especially the United States and its military adventures, all "fighting terrorism", of course.

Readers interested in diverse and sometimes exotic Muslim sects like the Sufis and the Ismailis can find plenty of references, but let's shift our focus to other religions.

### ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

The Koran says Jesus (Issa in Arabic) was a great (but not the last) prophet, and (unlike some modern Christians) says that He was born of a virgin. Some Jesus miracle stories are repeated, but Mohammed's marvels always seem to top them, emphasizing his prophetic seniority over the Judean, Issa. Islam not only came to reform, but to replace Judaism and Christianity, both of whom he accused of corruption, and of altering or adulterating their sacred writings. By the 2nd century A.D., Christianity was flourishing all over the Middle East. The Nestorians even went to China, and a strong Chaldean Church thrived in Persia and Iraq. There were many Arab Christians in North Africa. Early versions of the Bible, as well as some important, non-canonical ancient Christian writings, were in Arabic. Many writers point out that Christianity had dulled into a superstitious slumber in Africa by 700 A.D. But whatever the case, by the second and third generation after Mohammed, all these communities (and many not cited) fell militarily to Islamic forces after more than 500 years of deep roots. The Christians of Constantinople, many who were rich and powerful, packed into the great Hagia Sophia Cathedral when the Muslim Jihad entered the city in 1453. Along with their Patriarch and his bishops, they thought they would be spared. They were not. Uncounted tens of thousands were killed, and blood ran knee deep in the floors of the huge building. The Church of the Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sofia) was cleansed of the blood and all Christian profane items, and became a mosque as it is today, an ancient Christian Constantinople, "the Second Rome", was so devastated and depopulated that it took centuries to truly recover. I have recounted nothing about the earlier Christian Crusades, but most everyone knows that few military campaigns, then or now, exceed their brutality. Neither religion was a religion of peace; both used the sword freely. Emasculated modern Christianity has lost its warrior spirit. Islam, however, has not. Nonetheless, after the rise of Islam after the passing of Mohammed, Christianity virtually ceased to exist in North Africa and the Orient except in enclaves like the Copts of Egypt and Ethiopia, and a few in the mountains of Iraq. Several Orthodox Patriarchs still sit in Istanbul, Damascus Iraq and Beirut, etc., but where they were once the spiritual leaders of millions, their

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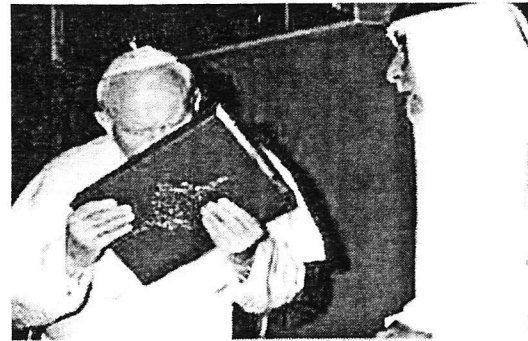
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congregations today are a mere shadow of their former pre-Islamic glory. Most (but not all) Islamic states tolerate Christians, but do not allow them to proselyte or publicly talk about their faith. In severe Islamic states such as 1970s Iran, and in the newer Taliban movement, it could mean death. Christianity is seen as a blasphemous (saying a man is God) and idolatrous cult, at best to be tolerated and confined (and taxed), but not allowed to expand. Nothing of the Trinity recognized; Islam is Unitarian; God/Allah is One. Christian art works like paintings and statues in Catholic churches and the icons of the Orthodox are seen as idols. The Koran allows no portrayals of human or animal form; hence there is no true Islamic art other than abstract drawings and geometric designs. While Sufism and other mystical, aesthetic beliefs widen their traditions a bit, Islam is primarily an ascetic, desert faith, closer in temperament to the Anchorite, Stylite desert Christians monks (who preceded them) than to the worldly modern "Christians" of today.

Some American Muslims, as have all other faiths, have "adapted" to our hyper-culture and to the "modern" world. Even "fundamentalists" such as the Saudi royals of the Wahhabist sect can be enticed by the satanic delights of the west via western money. It is these "adaptations" that spurred the modern Islamic World Revolution. So far, the moderates are losing, and "liberals" exist nowhere except as carefully tended "hothouse flowers" in the west.

Historic Christianity can have courteous, mutually respectful relations with Islam, but when theology and doctrines are placed on the table and examined, there is really very little room for either side to agree on much of anything. In spite of the ugliness of Islam toward Christians, Vatican II Pope John Paul II goes to Iraq and kisses a Koran! Oh well, he had already acknowledged Judaism as a "brother", so why not Islam as well?

So then, Judeo-Christians and Judeo-Catholics can pray all they want with a few carefully selected "moderate" Imams such as those hauled out for the media lens in recent "national prayer." While we can be civil and respectful with one another as religions sharing the world, as do nation-states through diplomacy, the theological issues are clear. Either Christ Jesus Immanuel is correct or Mohammed is correct. There is little middle ground. Certainly a "Christian pastor" never told you any of this, so call one up and see what he/she might have to say on the matter. I welcome dialog and comments.



Pope John Paul II kisses the Koran, an obvious act of adoration, just as when a priest kisses the altar or holy vestments.

## ISLAM AND JUDAISM

If there is any true kinship among the "three great monotheistic faiths" (as ironic as it may sound) it is between Islam and Judaism, not with Christianity. When he was just a regular guy in his pre-prophet days, Mohammed was probably a "Hanif", a member of a sect claiming spiritual descent from Abraham. Moreover, several Arab tribes had adopted Judaism of some form. One (like the later Central Asian Khazars) became a Judaic kingdom for a time. Islam, like Christianity, arose out of a Judaic milieu. Some writers say that Mohammed was a Christian before creating his own strange religious blend. To some degree, both early Islam and early Christianity (until Paul) are efforts to reform, purify and unify Judaic and pre-Judaic Hebrew beliefs. While the Pauline church gave up some Mosaic and all Talmudic/Pharisaic law codes, circumcision, ritual foods, and the like, Islam did not. Because of his pre-existing Christo-Gnostic-Judaic-quasi-Abrahamic belief system, Mohammed naturally expected Christians, but especially Jews, and more especially, those of the Arab-Jewish tribes, to see the light. He evidently anticipated more success than Jesus, whom the Jews rejected and killed some 600 years earlier. Surely, thought Mohammed, they will follow me and recognize Allah. They did not. As well as ridding the newly conquered Islamic lands of the idolater-Christians, Mohammed also annihilated the Jewish and Jewish-Arab tribes of North Africa in one of the first bloody Islamic jihads.

But as I said, this should be judged in context. As exemplified amply in the Old Testament, and foreshadowing the Christian Crusaders yet to come, early Islam follows an ancient tradition of holy war and murder in the name of a god. Sir Richard Burton, the 19th century explorer and orientalist, said, "And did Moses disdain to place carnal weapons in the hands of his people? The great Lawgiver of Israel sanctioned the murder in cold blood of women and child captives. Even kings were hewed in pieces before the Lord." This is a fascinating line of inquiry to follow as it leads to the conclusion that what we today know as

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"Jihad" has both Mosaic and Talmudic-Jewish roots. One of many famous stories about Mohammed concerns an attempted poisoning by a Jewess. After this, not to mention the consistently unrelenting and often bitter rejections by the Jews, he finally gave up on converting them. Muslims were now told to face Mecca for prayer, where previously, they faced Jerusalem.

There are more likenesses. Ritual food preparations are almost identical. Halal food may be substituted when a kosher meal is not available, and vice versa. Both the Orthodox Jew and the devoutly observant Muslim prefer the unshaved beard, though the Islamists omit the Hasidic forelocks. Islam has no real "Sabbath" but Friday became the day a Mullah might preach a sermon and read from the Koran. The Jewish Sabbath begins on Friday night. There is no music or dance except in Sufi sects as is with the Orthodox synagogue. Sharia Law operates quite like Rabbinical Talmudic Law. One submits disputes to a court of Mullahs and Koranic scholars and judges who decide the case on that basis. This is essentially the same as the Rabbinic Beit Din court.

There are other similarities as well, but lately on TV, some of them are uncannily mirrored in rituals and educational practices. Koranic study, like Talmudic study, is intense. If he (like Jews, women are not encouraged to study scripture) learns to recite the Koran from memory, he bears the honorific, Hafiz. Watch the young Islamic boys at Madrassah schools, in their skullcaps, swaying back and forth reciting the Koran just as Jewish boys in yarmulkes recite the Talmud. The Jewish swaying and nodding is seen on TV at the "Wailing and Whining Wall" in Jerusalem. Curiously, the little "beanie" cap is found in Christianity too. Just look at the Pope, the Cardinals and the Bishops. Looking at clergy of all religions, a mullah is more akin to the rabbinical model, and must not be seen (as some foolishly call them) as the "priests" of Islam. There is neither priesthood nor sacraments, though the Shi'ite movement has their own lines of Ayatollahs ("Sign of Allah"), Imams, and hierarchical clergy as well as a calendar of martyr-saints.

Formerly, all three religions forbade usury. Christianity gave this up in the 1500s, and Talmudic Jews can practice all the usury they want with non-Jews, but Islamic banking still holds to the non-usurious model. Again, this is a topic well worth further exploration as this may be a very positive contribution toward actually establishing a non-usurious monetary system.

In another likeness, both Jews and Muslims are quite exclusive, essentially regarding those who do not practice their true religion as heathens at best and cattle/goyim subhuman at worst. One who has submitted to the purity of Islam does not make

friends or confidants of such types. Strongly echoing the Talmud, the Koran says: "O ye who believe! Take not Jews and Christians for your friends and protectors; THEY ARE BUT FRIENDS AND PROTECTORS TO EACH OTHER. And he amongst you that turns to them is of them. Verily, Allah guideth not a people unjust." Sura 5:51. This verse is very enlightening in the face of current events and recent history. Think of this verse, then think of all the trouble Islamic countries have with U.S. military and cultural presences in Muslim lands. No wonder Osama bin Ladin and many others think that the Saudi royals apostatized and betrayed the Koran by allowing American military protectors on holy soil. And maybe the part of the verse I highlighted is not so far off base when one thinks of the "Christian" U.S. and its backing of Israeli Zionist terrorism toward Palestinians.

Within the last decade, the number of Muslims exceeded the number of Jews in the U.S. Counting undocumented aliens, the figures may be much higher. There are other ironic and seeming incongruous similarities between the two religions as well, but this short survey will have to suffice.

#### ISLAM AND THE ONE-WORLD RELIGION

The goal of the New World Order United Nations religionists is a simplified, unifying faith through "brotherhood and equality" and their carefully crafted concepts of "social justice." For those who need the "spooky" and the mystical, there are various underlying Masonic, cabalistic and "new (old) age" beliefs on the ecumenical buffet table. Islam fits in here, for a close reading of the Koran reveals a combination of Gnostic, Jewish, Christian and pre-existing Arab paganism, although, of course, they deny it. Other than for its extreme exclusivity and insistence on its own way or nothing, egalitarian (except for women), (ostensibly) non-racist Islam fits right in. I'm no "prophet", but look at the American Mullahs and Ministers of Islam on TV, right alongside the Baptists and the Catholics and the Jews and whatever else. There already is an "American blend" of diluted Islam just as diluted Christianity is now practically the only kind you can find. This kind of Islam may possibly be incorporated by Hegelian synthesis into the One-World Religion that is now already with us. But real, traditional Islam will not be a very good candidate for incorporation and synthesis. Islam sees itself as the only One True Religion, and recognizes the legitimacy of no other. No real Muslim will (for very long) tolerate anything less. It is not that Islam is an exclusive club or caste as with Judaism. Anyone can join, but ultimately everyone must join. There is no room for tolerance or pluralism as we have in America. Again, Jews seem to innately know this. Christians should have learned it long ago, but who remembers the perhaps millions of Christian

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martyrs to the Islamic Jihad in Africa and Asia over the past one thousand years? A really violent Jihad may not be all that necessary in Europe and North America. Jihad by immigration may do the job even more thoroughly and effectively.

#### AMERICAN VERSIONS OF ISLAM

All kinds of Muslims are in the U.S. -- Sunni, Shi'ite, Wahhabi, Ismaili, and some who have no real name for their sect, but follow the precepts of a particular Mullah. The best-known American-born sect is Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam, but there are others too, e.g., "Moorish Science". The major branches of Islam regard all as unorthodox. Nation of Islam was founded by an Arab (or a white man) named Fard, and contains many non-Koranic beliefs, including black supremacy and racial separatism in contrast to orthodox Islam. Again, do not stereotype all "black Muslims." Only a few are members of the Nation or other splinter sects, most adhering to traditional Sunni beliefs. While most American Muslims are still heavily of Middle Eastern or Asian descent, the occasional Caucasian or Hispanic convert is not as uncommon as it once was. As said, a watered-down American blend is evolving, but this is of no consequence to the millions of fundamentalist Muslims outside of the cosmopolitan, multi-cultural U.S.A. They do not care what some Mullah or Imam, manipulated by and openly associating with Christians, says on infidel American TV. All of that is strictly for domestic consumption so that even more anti-Islamic incidences do not proliferate. Islam is a "religion of peace" when it is of benefit to Islam, but the Jihad over the satanic infidels is never far from mind. Even watered-down American versions will only go so far. If you don't believe me, that's fine. Read the Koran and the tales of the Hadith, and tell me where I'm wrong.

#### EUROPEAN ISLAM

As we know, some European peoples in the Balkans have followed Islam for centuries. The present-day problems in the region are rooted in a Christian versus Muslim centuries old struggle. But as problematic as the Balkan white Muslims may be, they are nothing compared to the millions of others now present in Europe through recent waves of immigration encouraged by a New World Order that intends to displace and destroy traditional Indo-European culture and values. If allowed to continue, the Hegelian synthesis will result in a politically Islamicised (and thus paralyzed) Europe, i.e., a Europe no longer able to act without considering its large Muslim minorities. There are many North Africans in France and Spain, Turks and Kurds and whatever in Germany, plus generations of Pakistani Muslims in the UK. Like in the US, Muslims are now everywhere. The turban and the chador and the headscarf are no longer considered as exotic sights in the

supermarket checkout line. Albania and other Muslims have been in Europe for centuries, and Kosovo may become an Islamic republic. Radical pro-bin Ladin Islamic Chechnya already has a solid de facto existence. Bosnia is the first modern Islamic European state, but there is certainly no reason to assume it will be the last.

#### WHAT IS AN ISLAMIC STATE?

The former head of Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence describes his concept of what is to succeed the "post-modern nation-state", i.e., the Islamic state, which is, "A global village [are you listening, Hillary?] under divine order, or we will have global bloodshed until good triumphs over evil. Islam encapsulates all the principal religions and what was handed down 1,400 years ago was the normal evolutionary sequel to Judaism and Christianity. The prophet's last sermon was a universal document of human rights for everyone that surpasses everything that came since, including America's declaration of independence and the U.N. Charter of universal rights. If you superimpose true secular values on true Islamic values, there is no difference. So surely divine law should supersede man-made law. Islam is egalitarian, tolerant and progressive. It is the wave of the future." Got that? If not, look again. While we fear the existing New World Order cabals, they are plainly not the only threat to freedom.

But as to the origin of the basic concept of an Islamic state, it must be remembered that, during his lifetime, Mohammed never controlled any territory outside Arabia. It is by no means certain that he thought Islam had any significance at all except for Arabs. It was the successors to Mohammed, the Caliphs, who were already militarily prepared and motivated for more Jihad, who emphasized (what they say) are "universalistic tendencies" in Mohammed's thought. Over the centuries, Islam has become the ultimate in Unitarian, universalistic religions for all mankind. It (says it) has no racial lines, and provides an entire and complete divinely inspired cultural and political system. There were once Christian states as there are Islamic states, but now there are none, and the concept has almost disappeared. In another add parallel with the past, the old "Christian" Crusaders bear similarity to the Muslim holy warriors of today. While some men went to the Crusades only for gold and power, most went for spiritual, prayerful reasons. And, like the Mujahadeen, many were young and idealistic. There were two children's crusades; both ended tragically just as tens of thousands of young warriors died in the Iran-Iraq war and elsewhere, gladly becoming cannon fodder for Allah and the Prophet. Today, no Christian state exists apart from the artificial Vatican, but there are over fifty Islamic nations, ranging from the Taliban and Sudan to the more moderate

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Morocco or Egypt. We know that Islamic states look to Allah, but it is unclear what deity is recognized by the non-Islamic, non-Christian nation-states of the One-World Order. You can decide. But no matter how you feel about Islam, it must be seen in direct opposition, not only to western secular culture, but also to the whole concept of the World Order of the West. But while Muslims want an Islamic world order, they differ greatly on how to achieve this or what it might really look like. A state is Islamic because it follows the Koran, but its government might be a republic or a monarchy, or maybe as time goes by, something else.

Mostly, Islamic states are established through some form of "Jihad", a most misunderstood word. Jihad sometimes simply means the struggle within one's own life to submit to God and live a truly Islamic life, which practicing Christians will understand. As for violent holy war, just as there were wars "approved" by Catholic Popes (and now by national religious consensus; if you don't object, then you approve), there are Koranic rules for a state of official Holy War. While Muslims hate the word "crusade" because of the unfortunate events of the past, the Islamic Jihad of today's fundamentalists fit the crusader model. The goals are the same -- to compel a territory to accept the True Religion or die. Except to some extremist elements, true Jihad is in self-defense, and is not invoked without good cause, after one has been attacked. Of course, the fundamentalist Islamic world believes that it is under attack from the west on several fronts, least of which is the ubiquitous spread of American "pop culture." No wonder the first things burned are the U.S. embassies, then the banks, and then MacDonald's. There is a cultural onslaught from the west whether we Americans want to see it or not. Conservative Christian and Jewish Americans understand these multi-cultural, often anti-religious, pressures all too well. While I do not want to worship the Islamic Allah, we may be able to connect with Islam on certain issues, such as justice in Occupied Palestine (aka Israel). A good place for beginning a dialogue might be to openly discuss what passes for "western culture" and how it actually affects the rest of the world, but this may be much too much to hope for just now!

Can/should we have theological dialog with Islam? Certainly, for this is how religions understand one another and perhaps avoid misunderstandings that become wars. But to claim "we all worship the same God" is at best, a great over simplification. Muslims are working for an Islamic World Order that includes no other ideas or religions. This is not an unfamiliar thing, really, as this is how Europe and the Americas were operated for a long time. Europe was under Christian/Catholic hegemony, and the U.S. under a "Protestant" ("Judeo-Christian") one. But that old cultural center is broken, shattered and empty today, and modern Christianity is certainly not the Christianity of the past.

While Islam is in natural opposition to the forces we call the New World Order, it's own Islamic World Order is just as deadly for all other religions. When Islam is firmly in control, the overwhelming preponderance of the evidence shows that it firmly roots out and destroys any rival ideas, no matter how bland and insipid they may be. While some existing Islamic states are tolerant than others in face of present world opinion, when the carrot is removed, the stick will quickly become a weapon of Jihad. Should we fear and hate Islam? No, but we must act out of knowledge rather than naiveté, ignorance and prejudice.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

On the other hand, the role of a Superpower Bully who attacks small, poor Islamic countries, forcing American military presence and American/Western political, cultural and financial hegemony on them is not right either. Islam and the west can co-exist in a milieu of mutual strength and respect, but if we choose to violently confront them in their own lands, and impose false peace and American-backed terror such as in Palestine and now Iraq, then we have truly sown the seeds of the wind, and are now harvesting the whirlwind of Islamic Jihad. The full extent of the present "war on terrorism" is yet to be known, and the outcome far from determined. So far, we seem to be making all the classic blunders. But worse than that, we are beginning the struggle with an abysmally dangerous ignorance and woeful underestimation of those with whom we now fight. Hopefully, this brief exploration will lead to greater knowledge and wisdom. Be informed – speak the truth – then your voice will be heard.

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