

The Islamic Sources Speak for Themselves

"Those atheists, people of the book [Christians and Jews], where will they end up? In Surfers Paradise? On the Gold Coast? Where will they end up? In hell and not part-time, for eternity. They are the worst in God's creation." **Sheik Taj Din al-Hilaly former Mufti of Australia and Imam of the Lakemba Mosque (sermon at the Lakemba Mosque October 2006).**

"Those who know nothing of Islam pretend that Islam counsels against war. Those, who say this, are witless. Islam says: Kill all unbelievers just as they would kill you all!!! Does this mean that Muslims should sit back until they are devoured by the unbelievers? Islam says: Kill them [the non-Muslim], put them to the sword and scatter their armies. Does this mean sitting back until non-Muslims overcome us? Islam says: Kill in the service of Allah those who may want to kill you! Does this mean that we should surrender to the enemy? Islam says: The only good there is exists thanks to the sword and in the shadow of the sword! The sword is the key to paradise, which can be opened only for holy warriors! There are hundreds of other Quranic psalms and hadiths saying of the Prophet urging Muslims to value war and to fight. Does all that mean that Islam is a religion that prevents men from waging war? I spit upon those foolish souls who made such a claim". — **Seyyed Ruhollah Mosavi Khomeini - Excerpt from 'Islam Is Not a Religion of Pacifists' 1942**

"Muhammad is God's apostle. Those who follow him are ruthless to the unbelievers but merciful to one another". **Qur'an Sura 48 Verse 29.**

"Let not the believers make friends with infidels in preference to the faithful. He that does this has nothing to hope for from God – except in self defence" **Qur'an Sura 3 Verse 28.**

"Believers, if you yield to the infidels they will drag you back to unbelief and you will return headlong to perdition. ... We will put terror in the hearts of the unbelievers. ... The fire shall be their home" **Qur'an Sura 3 Verses 149-151.**

"Believers, do not seek the friendship of the infidels and those who were given the book before you [Jews and Christians], who have made of your religion a jest and a diversion" **Qur'an Sura 5 Verse 57**

"Fighting is obligatory for you, much as you dislike it. But you may hate a thing although it is good for you,

God knows, but you know not." **Qur'an Sura 2 Verse 216.**

"When you meet the unbelievers in the battlefield strike off their heads and, when you have laid them low, bind your captives firmly. ... As for those [Muslims] who are slain in the cause of God. ... He will admit them to the Paradise He has made known to them. **Qur'an Sura 47 Verses 4-5**



Picture: Execution of Al-Nadr bin al-Harith a Meccan poet, who dared to humiliate Muhammad pointing out that his revelations were not new at all (he quoted similar ancient stories). Muhammad did not forget and did not forgive. He ordered that Nadr bin al-Harith was to be executed. after the victorious battle of Badr, where Al-Nadr bin al-Harith became Muhammad's captive.

(miniature from Sayer-i Nebi, a Turkish religious biography of Mohammed completed in 1388)

URL: <http://www.islammonitor.org>

E-Mail:

nsw-branch@islammonitor.org

vic-branch@islammonitor.org

admin@islammonitor.org



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Australian Islamist Monitor
<http://www.islammonitor.org>

Islam

Eight Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Muhammad?

Muhammad was born in Mecca in A.D. 570, to the Hashim tribe. Orphaned early in life, he was raised by his grandfather and later his uncle. He achieved recognition as a trader after his advantageous marriage to Khadijah. About A.D. 610 he "experienced" his first religious revelation while meditating in a cave. He continued to receive these revelations until his death in Medina in 632. During his life Muhammad fought 27 battles (8 in person), married 12 women and entertained numerous concubines. He rejoiced in the execution of opponents – ordering the beheading of all 600 men of the Banu Qurayzah tribe and the enslaving of their women and children.

Muslims recognise Muhammad as the "perfect man" and embrace the example of his life as the ideal for men and women for all ages. The battles, murders, numerous wives and concubines, faithfully recorded in the Qur'an and Hadith, are still the gold standard for Muslims everywhere at the beginning of the 21st century.

What is the Qur'an?

Muslims believe the Qur'an is the true word of Allah as revealed to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel. It is said to be a faithful reproduction of an eternal heavenly book and is organised into 114 suras (chapters). Despite its imputed divine source some later suras are said to abrogate (override) earlier suras. In several suras - the Satanic Verses - Muhammad is believed to have been deceived by Satan into recognising existing pagan beliefs.

The Sunnah – what Muhammad said, did, and approved of – adds context to the Qur'an and gives

innumerable examples from day-to-day life. This material was gathered into a small number of collections called Hadith by authors such as Muslim and Al-Bukhari. The Sira are the approved biographies of Muhammad. Together, these texts comprise the complete source of Islamic belief.

What is Sharia Law?

The Qur'an and the Sunnah together with Tafsir - commentary on these texts - form the Sharia Law. It encompasses far more than personal religious observance. The law dictates every aspect of life from the most trivial to matters of life and death. Politics, banking, business law, contract law, family law and social issues all fall under Sharia Law. It places severe limitations on the practice of non-Islamic religions including Christianity. Sharia Law is solidly based on the mindset of 7th century Arabia and is not open to change or re-interpretation.

The political significance of Sharia for western democracies is profound. Western political institutions have no place under Sharia. Democratic elections and representative government are replaced by theocratic rule—sheikhs and imams issue fatwas (religious rulings) based solely on the religious texts. Muslims promoting Sharia in the West have sought, as a first step, the application of Sharia to family law. For countries with large Muslim minorities (France, parts of Scandinavia) autonomous Islamic communities have evolved where police and civil officials are (forcibly) excluded and Sharia is enforced within the community itself.

What is Meant by Jihad?

The meaning and significance of jihad is a contentious issue even within the Islamic tradition. For a few Islamic apologists jihad is striving for inner sanctity and godliness. For the Bin Laden school jihad is warfare against the unbelievers. More generally and more accurately jihad is struggle in the path of Allah. Thus any activity that promotes or advances Islam, missionary activity (dawah) for example, qualifies as jihad. That said, there is no doubt the primary meaning of jihad has always been armed warfare (qital) in the defence or furtherance of Islam.

Is Islam a Religion of Peace?

The meaning of Islam is submission to the will of Allah. Islam divides the world into dar al-Islam literally the house or region of submission – those lands under Muslim government – and dar al-Harb the house or region of war – those lands where Muslims are in the minority. For Muslims peace will be achieved when the whole world is dar al-Islam. Until that time there will be conflict in dar al-Harb.

Are All Muslims Terrorists?

Of course not. Our concern is with Islam and its aggressive political and social agenda. There are many responsible Muslims living in the West. On the other hand, opinion polling after the London terror attacks, reveals a disturbing minority of Muslims openly supporting the terrorists and their anti Western sentiments. Of those polled, nearly 10% felt terrorism was sometimes justified. Many more supported the objectives of the terrorists, if not their methods.

Should You be Concerned About Islam?

The short answer is yes. The very stark distinction between Muslims and infidels, the overt threats of violence against unbelievers and apostates, the fatalism derived from the unknowable nature of Allah and the impossibility of changing or re-interpreting the holy texts are threats to any modern secular society.

What Can You Do?

Inform yourself. Read what Muslims are saying. Become Active. Defend Australian and Western values of fairness, equality, freedom of speech and freedom of conscience. Write to your state and federal MPs. Attend public meetings promoting Islam and ask difficult questions. Read well researched western literature on Islam. A suitable text is "The Truth about Muhammad" Robert Spencer Regnery Publishing 2006. Spencer also maintains a web site <http://www.ijihadwatch.org>. A very active site focusing on Australian issues is <http://www.islammonitor.org/>. Both these sites have extensive links to other national and international sites.