

IS VIOLENCE & TERRORISM A PART OF ISLAM?

or...

"THE TRUTH ABOUT MUHAMMAD, ISLAM, & JIHAD"¹

INTRODUCTION: Since the time of the terrorist acts on the United States back in 2001, there has been a steady stream of statements from around the world by political and religious leaders, both Christian and Muslim, that such violence and terrorism is not a part of Islam or due to Islamic teaching and belief. The print and electronic media carry articles, photos, and commentary defending Islam against those who would blame it for the senseless violence & destruction that occurs on a regular basis around the world. So to answer the question "*Is violence and terror the face of Islam?*" in the affirmative, would seem to indicate that one is either terribly misinformed or a religious bigot. However, at the risk of being labeled as such, I wish to challenge the consensus of opinion among the media and world's elite and answer, "*Yes, violence and terror IS the face of Islam. It is, and has been throughout history, Islam's standard operating procedure.*"

It is now incumbent upon me to defend such a position. I ask only that the reader consider the facts and statements that follow with an open mind. I am going to let Islam's holy book the *Qur'an* (Koran), as well as the *Hadiths* (authoritative Islamic traditions), statements by Muhammad & various Islamic leaders and followers, and history and the present day situation, speak for itself. You can be the judge.

THE TEACHINGS OF THE QURAN (KORAN) REGARDING FIGHTING & VIOLENCE. G.J.O. Moshay in his 1990 book "*Who is this Allah?*" has stated, "Violence in Islam is real, and it is spiritual."² Others have also pointed this out. World famous commentator & writer William F. Buckley Jr recently wrote: "Whatever is or is not authentic transcription of Islamic dogma, we do know that the people who ran the airliners into the World Trade Center believed that a Koranic voice was telling them to do what they did. We have the four-page document that told them not only what to do, but what to think. *'Kill them, as God said; no Prophet can have prisoners of war... Recognize what God has prepared for believers in endless happiness for martyrs... Be steadfast and remember (that in) God you will be triumphant.*"³ "*The night before he died, Mohammed Atta (no doubt) did what the just-released memo found in his luggage urged him and his 18 fellow hijackers to do: Read the Quran, check your weapons and review the battle plans. 'Apply the rules of the prisoners of war. Take them prisoner and kill them as God said... The nymphs are calling out to you, come over here, companion of Allah.*"⁴ While Muslims deny that violence and terrorism is taught in Islam, the plain facts of life say otherwise. So let's look at the Qur'an first, to see where PLO suicide bombers and other terrorists get such ideas:

A. Quranic Verses that Appear to Encourage Civilized Behaviour. First, in all fairness it should be pointed out that there are a very small number of random verses in the Quran that seem to endorse civilized behaviour-though they are few and far between [& as we shall see below, are easily avoided or nullified in a Muslim's]! For example: **Surah 2:256** states: "*Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from error...*"⁵ cf. **Surah 2:62** "...and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures), and the Christians and Sabians, any who believe in God and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord..." [pp. 33-34] & **Surah 30:10** declares: "*In the long run evil in the extreme will be the end of those who do evil...*"⁶ Mohamed Serag, professor of Islamic Studies at the American University in Cairo recently stated: "The Koran says that if anyone shows any inclination towards peace, even if you fear they may not be sincere, then you must accept their offer."⁷

Such quotes are so rare as to have obviously had little—if any—impact on Islam. It is important to note in regard to the first Quranic quote (2:256) that "... (It) was made at the early stage of Mohammed's mission, when he was just settling down in Yathrib (Medina). Such an attitude was necessary (then) in order to get the co-operation of the Jewish tribes and Christians who were in the majority in Yathrib. Mohammed said he believed in all the Jewish prophets, and that he had not brought any new religion but the very things that the old prophets of Israel had preached. At that time, he did not have enough people to wage any war. When, however, he had raised enough military manpower, he began to launch out against those he suspected did not believe in his religion."⁸ In relation to the latter quote, it is highly instructive to read A. Yusuf Ali's explanatory note in regard to those verses. After pointing out that a good Muslim will always be ready for a "good fight," nonetheless he should always be ready for peace "*if there is any inclination for towards peace on the other side*" (So far, so good). But he then goes on to say: "*It (fighting) should be a joyful duty not for itself, but to establish the reign of peace and righteousness and*

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² G.J.O.Moshay, *Who is this Allah?* (Dorchester House Publications: Bucks, Great Britain, 1990, 1994), p.19

³ William F. Buckley, Jr. "*So You Want a Holy War?*" National Review Online, 03 October, 2001.

⁴ "*Who We Fight*" Maggie Gallagher. *Associated Press* (editorial roundup), Yahoo News online, 02 October, 2001, p. 1.

⁵ Note: This and all subsequent quotations from the Quran are from "*The Holy Qur'an, Text Translation and Commentary*" by A. Yusuf Ali (Amana Corporation: Brentwood, MD, 1983), p. 103 (1st edition 1934). The copy was given to me by members of the Islamic Society of Papua New Guinea.

⁶ *Ibid*, p. 1053

⁷ The exact quote reads: "*But if the enemy incline towards peace, do thou (also) incline towards peace, and trust in God: for He is the One that heareth and knoweth (all things). Should they intend to deceive thee,--verily God Sufficeth thee: He it is that hath strengthened thee with his aid and with (the company of) the Believers.*" (Qur'an, Surah VIII:61-62, p. 430).

⁸ Moshay, op cit., p. 22

William Miller, who was a Presbyterian missionary in Iran from 1919-1962, while tracing the early history of Islam has pointed out regarding this apparently conciliatory Surah (2:257) that it was later cancelled out: "During the ninth year of the Hegira many tribes, realizing that they could no longer resist Muhammad, came and submitted to him. At this time a revelation came which abrogated (canceled) the previous command not to use force in making converts (Surah 2:257). It was this: 'When the sacred months are past, kill those who join other gods with God wherever ye shall find them, and seize them, besiege them, and lay wait for them with every kind of ambush; but if they shall convert and observe prayer and pay the obligatory alms let them go their way' (Surah 9:5)... Not only were pagans forced at the point of the sword to become Muslims, a Christian prince in the north of Arabia named Ukaider was promised his life if he accepted Islam. This he did."¹⁰

It should also be pointed out that Muslims also often redefine and reinterpret even the few "civilised" verses in Qur'an, in order to legitimize and carry out their terror! Olasky writes: "Although the Qur'an states that 'there is to be no compulsion in religion,' Islamic states often interpret that to mean that 'there is no competition in religion' within their borders. Iraq, Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Kuwait, and Egypt are among the countries blasted by the [U.S.] State Department's year 2000 Report on International Religious Freedom. In hard-core Muslim countries, any Muslim who violates tawhid [defined as "making everything united"] by becoming a Christian may forfeit his life, family, or property. In several 'moderate' Muslim countries, churches are allowed behind walls within which Bibles and church bulletins must remain."¹¹

"(And)...while Muslims agree that it's not right to attack civilians or innocent bystanders, *some are making up new definitions of noncombatant categories*. Some Palestinian groups war on every Israeli, conveniently claiming that almost all citizens receive some military training so that few people are civilians and no one is innocent. It's only one step from that to claim that every Pentagon worker is an enemy because the U.S. supports Israel. It's one step further to declare everyone at the World Trade Center an enemy because capitalists control the world. It's a further step beyond to state, as bin Laden did in 1999 to Newsweek, that 'any American who pays taxes to his government... is our target, because he is helping the American war machine against the Muslim nation.'"

Buckley has wisely observed: "Carefully selected, there are Koranic preachments that are consistent with civilized life. But on Sept. 11 we were looked in the face by a deed done by Muslims who understood themselves to be acting out Muslim ideals. It is all very well for individual Muslim spokesmen to assert the misjudgment of the terrorists, but the Islamic world is substantially made up of countries that IGNORE, or COUNTENANCE, or SUPPORT terrorist activity" (emphasis added)¹² I would submit that there is a reason for that. Islam teaches that it is acceptable to do anything, including the use of violence, fighting and holy war (Jihad) to advance Islam in this world.

B. Verses in the Quran that Encourage Fighting &/or Violence. In contrast with those few verses in the Qur'an which encourage peaceful, civilized behavior, there are a *multitude* of verses that encourage war, fighting and violence. Some examples:

1. **Surah 5:33-34, 36.** "Speaking as an oracle of Allah, Mohammed commanded that all those who opposed his message be killed or they should be nailed on a tree or their hands and legs be cut off, or they be driven out of the land."¹³ "The punishment of those who wage war against God and His Apostle, and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: **execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land**: That is their disgrace in this world, and a heavy punishment is theirs in the Hereafter; except for those who repent before they fall into your power: in that case, know that God is oft-forgiving, Most Merciful... As to those who reject faith,--if they had everything on earth, and twice repeated, to give as ransom for the penalty of the Day of Judgment, it would never be accepted of them. Theirs would be a grievous penalty." [pp. 252-253].¹⁴

2. **Surah 47:4.** Smite the necks of (i.e. decapitate) those who oppose Islam. "Therefore, when ye meet the Unbelievers (in fight), smite at their

⁹ This aptly illustrates my contention that to a devout Muslim, fighting is fine, as long as it is done to further the cause of Islam i.e. Peace to a Muslim is when Islam rules over all. It is much like the Communists, who used to often talk about peace as well, and even sponsor "Peace & Friendship Festivals" such as one held in the mid-80's in Moscow. On more than one occasion I told individuals, "Yes the Communists are for peace. But you see, to a Communist, peace is when the whole world is Communist!"

¹⁰ William M. Miller, "A Christian's Response to Islam." (Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co.: Nutley, N.J., 1976), pp.34-35

¹¹ Marvin Olasky, WORLD, "Islam & Terrorism." 27 October, 2001, Vol. 16, No. 41, p. 19

¹² Buckley, op cit.

¹³ Moshay, op cit., p. 22

¹⁴ Again, the note by Yusuf Ali is instructive: "For the double crime of treason against the State, combined with treason against God (remember, Islam is a religio-political system in which to go against Islam IS to go against the State & God), as shown by overt crimes, four alternative punishments are mentioned, any one of which is to be applied according to circumstances, viz., execution (cutting off of the head), crucifixion, maiming, or exile. These were features of the Criminal Law then and for centuries afterwards (& still today?!) except that tortures such as 'hanging, drawing, and quartering' in English Law, and piercing of eyes and leaving the unfortunate victim exposed to a tropical sun, which was practised in Arabia, and all such tortures were abolished [how kind!-mwe]. In any case sincere repentance before it was too late was recognised as a ground for mercy" [i.e. either recant & return to Islam, or you're dead-something which is still true today. Note for example the Afghani's who were arrested in August, 2001 for associating with eight foreigners, six of whom are women, connected with "Shelter Now International." As of the date of the original writing of this paper [Oct. 01], they were all still imprisoned in Afghanistan for the crime of having/distributing Bibles-mwe] and are accused of becoming Christians. Abdul Ghafoor. It was stated that according to Islamic law they would have from 3-30 days to recant and return to Islam. If they don't, they would be killed. The USA Today.com article stated: "The Afghans face the death penalty if convicted of preaching Christianity." ("Parents of Jailed Aid Workers Visit with Detainees." USA Today.com "World," 27 Aug., 01, p. 1)

necks; at length, when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond firmly (on them: thereafter (is the time for) either generosity or ransom: until the war lays down its burdens." [pp.1378-1379]. Yusuf Ali comments in his notes in the Qur'an: "When once the fight (Jihad) is entered upon, carry it out with the utmost vigor, and strike home your blows at the most vital points (smite at their necks), both literally and figuratively. You cannot wage war with kid gloves... In the first onset there must necessarily, be great loss of life; but when the enemy is fairly beaten, which means, in a Jihad, that he is not likely to seek again the persecution of Truth, firm arrangements should be made to bring him under control. I thus construe the words 'bind a bond firmly (on them)', but others have construed the words to mean 'after the enemy's numbers are fairly thinned down, prisoners may be taken.'"¹⁵

3. **Surah 2:190-191.** "Fight in the cause of God those who fight you, but do not transgress limits,¹⁶ for God loveth not transgressors. And slay them wherever you catch them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out; for tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter; but fight them not at the Sacred Mosque, unless they (first) fight you there; but if they fight you, slay them. Such is the reward of those who suppress faith." [pp. 75-76]. The explanation usually given is that Muslims are only authorized to engage in war as an act of "self-defence."¹⁷ However, the offensive, unprovoked violence perpetrated by the followers of Islam in countries around the world, against Jews, Christians, and even their own Muslim brothers, puts the lie to that statement. An official statement by the head of the 3000+ member Ahmadiya Muslim community in Papua New Guinea made a very revealing statement in regard to jihad. He said, "The Holy Qur'an permits jihad only in self-defense when a Muslim or the religion of Islam was at the receiving end of bad thoughts and actions of non-Muslims."(!) Apparently if a Muslim even believes that you have had a bad thought about him, he is apparently justified in engaging in jihad with you!¹⁸

4. **Surah 9:19-22.** "Those who believe, and suffer exile and strive with might and main, in God's cause, with their goods and their persons, have the highest rank in the sight of God: They are the people who will achieve (salvation). (!) Their Lord doth give them glad tidings of a mercy from Himself, of His good pleasure, and of gardens for them, wherein are delights that endure: They will dwell therein for ever. Verily in God's presence is a reward, the greatest (of all)." [pp. 443-444].¹⁹

5. **Surah 9:29.** "Fight those who believe not in God or the Last Day (i.e. non-Muslims), nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by God and His Apostle, nor acknowledge the Religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya [compensation] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued." [p. 447].

6. **Surah 9:41.** "Go ye forth, (whether equipped) lightly or heavily, and strive and struggle, with your goods and your persons, in the Cause of God. That is best for you, if ye (but) knew." [p. 453].

7. **Surah 9:123.** "O ye who believe! Fight the Unbelievers who gird you about, and let them find firmness in you: and know that God is with those who fear Him." [p. 478]. Yusuf Ali's note in the Qur'an again encourages fighting: "When conflict becomes inevitable, the first thing is to clear our surroundings of all evil, for it is only evil that we can rightly fight [remember, evil & "infidels" are those who do not embrace Islam & the Muslim faith-mwe]. To evil we must put up a stout and stiff resistance. Mealy-mouthed compromises are not right for soldiers of truth and righteousness. They are often a compound of cowardice, weariness, greed and corruptibility." (Ali, Qur'an, p. 478)

8. **Surah 61:4.** "Truly God loves those who fight in His Cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure." [p.1539]

¹⁵ A. Yusuf Ali, Qur'an, op cit., pp. 1378-1379

¹⁶ One wonders where these "merciful" limits were, either in the time of Muhammed who supposedly was the example par excellence, of this principle (in reality he practised and authorised some incredible cruelties), or today? For instance in the Iran-Iraq war, as well as the Iraq war with Kuwait, not only were hundreds of thousands of Muslim lives snuffed out by their Muslim brothers, but some of the most horrible atrocities were perpetrated-all in the name of Allah!

¹⁷ This note in the Qur'an by Yusuf Ali is typical and loaded with double meanings to a devout Muslim. I have tried to point out those double entendre's in supplementary statements located in brackets [] with my initials, throughout the quote. Statements in parentheses () are by Yusuf Ali and are part of his explanatory notes in the Qur'an: "War is only permissible in self-defence, and under well-defined limits. When undertaken, it must be pushed with vigour, but not relentlessly, but only to restore peace and freedom for the worship of God. In any case strict limits must not be transgressed: women, children, old and infirm men should not be molested [cf. the wholesale raping of Kuwait women by Iraqi male soldiers during the 1st Gulf War-mwe], nor trees and crops cut down, nor peace withheld when the enemy comes to terms... In general it may be said that Islam is the religion of peace, goodwill, mutual understanding, and good faith. But it will not acquiesce in wrong-doing [cf. Anwar Sadat's assassination shortly after trying to prosecute some Islamic radicals guilty of crimes. It is reliably reported and assumed that he was killed for that action-mwe], and its men will hold their lives cheap in defence of honour, justice, and the religion which they hold sacred. Their ideal is that of heroic virtue combined with unselfish gentleness and tenderness [cf. the PLO, Hamas, etc-mwe], such as is exemplified in the life of the Apostle [In actual fact, "Apostle" Mohammed had even women killed for simply writing poems making fun of him!-mwe]. They believe in courage, obedience, discipline, duty, and a constant striving, by all the means in their power, physical, moral, intellectual, and spiritual, for the establishment of truth and righteousness [i.e. Islam-mwe]. They know that war is an evil, but they will not flinch from it if their honour demands it and (a most important condition) a righteous Imam (such as Muhammad was par excellence [sic] commands it [so if any Imam or major Islamic leader calls for war, or Jihad, a loyal Muslim must fight-mwe], for then they know they are not serving carnal ends." (Notes by Yusuf Ali, The Quran, note #'s 204 & 205, pp. 75-76

¹⁸ "Muslims call for Understanding", Kevin Pamba, *The National* (PNG), 15 October, 2001, p. 5

¹⁹ Yusuf Ali comments [once again I have placed my interpretative comments in brackets]: "Here is a good description of Jihad. It may require fighting in God's cause, as a form of self-sacrifice [cf. the strong Muslim denial that they allow suicide, with their practice in real life e.g. PLO suicide bombers, suicide pilots crashing planes into buildings in America, suicide drivers in Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, etc-mwe]. But its essence consists in (1) a true and sincere Faith, which so fixes its gaze on God that all selfish or worldly motives seem paltry and fade away, and (2) an earnest and ceaseless activity, involving the sacrifice (if need be) of life [read suicide-mwe], person, or property, in the service of God. Mere brutal fighting is opposed to the whole spirit of Jihad, while the sincere scholar's pen or preacher's voice or wealthy man's contributions [e.g. Osama bin Laden's money-mwe] may be the most valuable forms of Jihad." (Yusuf Ali, The Qur'an, note # 1270, p.444)

9. **Surah 61:10-12.** "O ye who believe! Shall I lead you to a bargain that will save you from a grievous penalty?--That ye believe in God and His Apostle, and that ye strive (your utmost) in the Cause of God, with your property and your persons: that will be best for you, if ye but knew! He will forgive you your sins, and admit you to Gardens beneath which rivers flow, and to beautiful Mansions in Gardens of eternity: that is indeed the supreme achievement." [pp. 1541-1542].

10. **Surah 5:51.** Muslims are told not to take Jews or Christians for friends: "O ye who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends and protectors: They are but friends and protectors to each other. And he amongst you that turns to them (for friendship) is of them. Verily God guideth not a people unjust" [pp. 259-260].²⁰

11. **Surah 2:216.** "Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But God knoweth, and ye know not" [p.84].²¹

12. **Surah 8:39.** "And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in God altogether and everywhere [i.e. fight until Islam prevails universally-mwe]. But if they cease, verily God doth see all that they do. If the fuse, be sure that God is your Protector..." [p.424].²² Another translation of this verse reads: "And fight with them until there is no more persecution and religion should be only for Allah."²³

13. **Surah 9:14.** "Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you (to victory) over them, heal the breasts of Believers..." [p. 442]. This passage is clearly speaking of physical fighting, since Ali's footnote reads, "Heal the breasts of believers, i.e., of wounds that they may have sustained from the assaults, taunts, and cruelty of the enemy." (The Qur'an, footnote #1262, p. 442) Another translation of this verse reads, "Fight them, Allah will punish them by your hands and bring them to disgrace."²⁴

14. **Surah 9:73-74.** "O Prophet! Strive hard against the Unbelievers and the Hypocrites, and be firm against them. Their abode is Hell,-an evil refuge indeed. They swear by God that they said nothing (evil) but indeed they uttered blasphemy, and they did it after accepting Islam; and they meditated a plot which they were unable to carry out: this revenge of theirs was (their) only return for the bounty with which God and His Apostle had enriched them! If they will repent, it will be best for them; but if they turn back (to their evil ways), God will punish them with a grievous penalty in this life and in the Hereafter: They shall have none on earth to protect or help them." [p. 462]

15. **Surah 5:54.** "O ye who believe! If any from among you turn back from his faith, soon will God produce a people whom He will love as they will love Him,-Lowly with the Believers, mighty against the Rejecters, fighting in the Way of God, and never afraid of the reproaches of such as find fault." [pp. 260-261]

16. **Surah 3:85.** "If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to God), Never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter he will be in the ranks of those who have lost (all spiritual good)." [p. 145].²⁵

17. **Surah 4:74-77.** "Let those fight in the cause of God who sell the life of this world for the Hereafter. To him who fighteth in the cause of God,-Whether he is slain or gets victory-Soon shall we give him a reward of great (value). And why should ye not fight in the cause of God and of those who being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)?-Whose cry is: 'Our Lord! Rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors [this referred supposedly to Meccan believers at the time of Mohammed, but it is not hard to see how "Palestinians" in the West Bank or Gaza Strip would eagerly claim it as their own-mwe]; And raise for us from Thee one who will protect... Those who believe fight in the cause of God, and those who reject faith fight in the cause of evil: So fight ye against the friends of Satan: feeble indeed is the cunning of Satan.... Short is the enjoyment of this world: the Hereafter is the best for those who do right: never will ye be dealt with unjustly in the very least!" [The Qur'an, p.202] Moshay observes, "Any Muslim who is not violent (secretly or openly) is hardly a real Muslim, at least not in the Quranic sense. It means he has not got the spirit of Islam. A typical practising Muslim must be violent, especially if he expects to get any

²⁰ Yusuf Ali's note is not exactly comforting: "This is, look not to them for help and comfort. They are more likely to combine against you than to help you. And this happened more than once in the lifetime of the Apostle, and in after-ages again and again. He who associates with them and shares their counsels must be counted as of them [horrors!-mwe]. The trimmer loses whichever way the wheel of fortune turns." [p.259]

²¹ Ali comments: "To fight in the cause of Truth is one of the highest forms of charity. [!] What can you offer that is more precious than your own life? But here again the limitations come in. If you are a mere brawler, or a selfish aggressive person, or a vainglorious bully, you deserve the highest censure. If you offer your life to the righteous Imam, who is only guided by God, you are an unselfish hero. God knows the value of things better than you do." [p.84] so, if the Imam says to conduct a Jihad (fight) you are to offer your life and you will become a hero.

²² An explanatory footnote states, "If they cease from fighting and from the persecution of truth [i.e. opposing Islam], God judges them by their actions and their motives, and would not wish that they should be harassed with further hostility. But if they refuse all terms [i.e. you have two choices, agree with and convert to Islam, or the fight continues-mwe], the righteous have nothing to fear: God will help and protect them." (The Quran, n.#1208, p. 424)

²³ Quoted by Olasky, op cit., p. 22

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ The footnote for this verse in the Qur'an, clearly asserts Islam's exclusive claim to truth: "The Muslim position is clear. The Muslim does not claim to have a religion peculiar to himself. Islam is not a sect or an ethnic religion. In its view all Religion is one, for the Truth is one. It was the religion preached by all the earlier Prophets [sic]. It was the truth taught by all the inspired books...If any one wants a religion other than that, he is false to his own nature, as he is false to God's Will and Plan. Such a one cannot expect guidance, for he has deliberately renounced guidance." A. Yusuf Ali, n. # 418, p. 145.

reward in the Muslim heaven (see quote above)... If words have meaning, then we can confidently say from the quotation above that submission to Allah (Islam) is not just in prayers and zakat as some would want us to believe, but in obedience to the order for killing in order to spread Islam. That is the Islam of Mohammed."²⁶

MUSLIM & OURANIC "TOLERANCE." Muslims speak much of tolerance. For instance, "In a seminar paper presented at the National Association for Religious and Ethnic Tolerance (NARETO) Conference in Lagos in August 1992, General Ibrahim Babangida said, 'Islam has a full-fledged philosophy of religious tolerance and peaceful co-existence.'"(sic)²⁷ It is a well known fact that in many Muslim countries, converting to Christianity from Islam is to sign your own death warrant (literally!). And this is not some something harkening back to ancient times. It is something practised today-now! In Muslim countries around the world! For example, in early August (2001) eight expatriate workers and 16 Afghan staff of the "Shelter Now International" organisation were arrested and imprisoned in Afghanistan. What was their crime? They were accused of preaching Christianity and possessing and possibly distributing Bibles in Persian & Pashtu, "the two main languages of Afghanistan."²⁸ Please keep in mind that this occurred BEFORE the terrorist attacks on the USA i.e. this is "standard operating procedure" for Islamic countries. Supposedly, the expatriates accused of proselytizing were going to be expelled from the country (though they ended up being held hostage- undoubtedly as bargaining chips in the subsequent war in Afghanistan). Four months after their arrest, while being taken from Kabul to Kandahar they and their captors were forced to overnight along the road due to American planes bombing vehicles nearby. While delayed, anti-Taliban Afghan nationals fought with their Taliban captors and ran the Taliban off. They then freed the hostages, made contact with American military forces and within 48 hours American Special Operation soldiers flew in by helicopter and took them out of the country.

What is relevant to this discussion though is that Afghani said "*Islam allows Muslims who have converted to Christianity, three to 30 days to recant their conversion and embrace Islam again.*"²⁹ And if they don't? The article points out that the Afghans face the death penalty if convicted of preaching Christianity! Afghani stated: "*In one of the foreigner's confessions she said 'we had hired Afghan teachers,' and if they are teaching the Christian message then that means they have converted already.*"(Ibid) So for the "crime" of merely being accused of becoming a Christian, one faces the death penalty. This is true in many Muslim countries.

- **Where does this kind of intolerant thinking and behaviour come from? The Qur'an! Surah 4:89:** "*They but wish that ye should reject faith, as they do, and thus be on the same footing (as they): But take not friends from their ranks until they flee in the way of God (From what is forbidden). But if they turn renegades, seize them and slay them wherever ye find them; and (in any case) take no friends or helpers from their ranks;-Except those who join a group between whom and you there is a treaty (of peace)...*" Surah 4:89-90 [pp. 207-208].
- Miller comments: "**According to Islamic law, the penalty for apostasy is death.** In some countries a Muslim who is baptized, or who has only shown interest in Christianity, may quite possibly be poisoned by his own family. In countries in which Islam is the national religion, the abandonment of Islam is considered an act of disloyalty to the state. The convert to Christianity is suspected of being in the employ of some foreign government as a spy."³⁰
- **Talk of "tolerance" serves only one purpose to Islam: To give Muslims a chance to promote Islam in non-Muslim countries.** Moshay observes: "It is the same tactic of '*No compulsion in religion*' that Mohammed first adapted to Christians and Jew that Muslims are using in the Western world today. Migrate to Christian areas because they are tolerant. Pretend to be peaceful, friendly and hospitable; begin to clamour for religious, political and social rights and privileges that you will not allow to Christians in an Islamic country; breed fast there and settle down; there should be no Christian activities in your community; you may speak or write to discredit their religion, but they must not talk about Islam; begin to expand your community; Christian activities should be restricted in all the places you expand to; the moment you have enough military might against these 'disbelievers', these Trinitarian kaferis, go ahead and eliminate them or suppress them as much as you can, and be in control. Where immediate invasion is not possible, that has always been the policy."³¹
- **Even between Muslims there is a huge lack of tolerance & respect for differing viewpoints.** Everyone is aware of Iran & Iraq's 8 year war in the 1980's that resulted in the slaughter of 1 million Muslims by their own brethren! The various Muslim factions in Afghanistan have been killing each other for years. No one can forget the atrocities Iraqi Muslims perpetrated on their Kuwaiti Muslim brethren. More recently (2005-2007) in Iraq, the world has witnessed Shi'ite & Sunni Muslims killing each other by the thousands with car bombs, etc. And on those rare occasions when a Muslim leader of a Muslim country tries to practice real tolerance and a measure of justice towards minority Jews or Christians in their countries, they often pay for it with their life! A case in point is Anwar Sadat the late President of Egypt, and signer of a peace accord with Israel. Moshay comments: "*Even in a country like Egypt where all the key leaders are Muslims, there will still be unrest among Muslims until a pure Islamic government is*

²⁶ Ibid, p. 26

²⁷ Ibid, p. 21

²⁸ From an interview with Abdul Ghafoor Afghani, chief of protocol for the Taliban militia, in a USA Today.com article "*Parents of jailed aid workers visit with detainees.*" 27 August, 2001, c. Associated Press.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ William Miller, op cit., p. 95

³¹ Ibid, p. 25

established and imposed on all other people in the land. So long as Coptic Christians remain in the land and their churches are still visible, Muslims will never rest. In September 1981, the Muslims went on an onslaught against the Copts (Christians) and left 50 dead. Because of this, the then President, Anwar Sadat, ordered a wave of arrests and trials of fundamentalists. A month later, an underground Islamic group assassinated him."³² Note: In November, 2001 I had the opportunity to meet and talk with a highly traveled, well educated Egyptian Muslim academic, here in Goroka. I told him that I had heard that there were thousands of Islamic militants in prisons in Egypt and asked if that were true. His reply: "Oh yes, thousands, but the problem is they let them out after a couple of years and they come out and do even worse things the next time."

HOLY WAR or JIHAD. Since in the mind of the Muslim, Islam is the *ONLY* true way³³ they, of necessity, feel it obligatory to wage war, mental, spiritual, & most importantly for our discussion here, physically, on any who do not submit to or support Islam.³⁴ It should be pointed out that Muslims typically emphasize that Jihad means "striving" and then portray Muslims who use violence as radicals who misunderstand the meaning of Jihad. However the fact is, even such Muslim apologists admit that the striving includes the use of arms and force (e.g. "striving in the way of Allah by pen, tongue, hand, media and, if inevitable, with arms."³⁵) and admit that "The Qur'an and the Hadith use the word 'jihad' in several different contexts [including]... (#5) Having courage and steadfastness to convey the message of Islam... (#6) Defending Islam and the Community... #8 Removing treacherous people from power... (#9) Defending through preemptive strikes... (#10) Gaining freedom to inform, educate and convey the message of Islam in an open and free environment."³⁶ In regard to #10 it is highly instructive to note the semantical games Muslims play to excuse violence & forced conversions. The author of this authoritative brochure states: "To gain this freedom, Prophet Muhammad said: 'Strive (Hahidu) against the disbelievers with your hands and tongues.' (Sahih Ibn Hibban, No. 4708). **The life of the Prophet Muhammad was full of striving to gain the freedom to inform and convey the message of Islam. During his stay in Makkah he used non-violent [??-mwe] methods and after the establishment of his government in Madinah, by the permission of Allah, he used armed struggle against his enemies whenever he found it inevitable.**"³⁷ Moshay answers the Muslim attempt at explaining away Jihad very well in the following quote: "*Liberal Muslim scholars who are getting embarrassed with the amount of terrorism being perpetrated in the world today by Muslims try to explain Jihad away, saying physical fighting was never part of the 'original' Islam, and that this was a misinterpretation of Allah's injunction by some fanatical Muslims of this generation. In the light of... clear instructions in both the Qur'an and the Hadith* (see below under #II), *such scholars have no case.*"³⁸

Muslims consider themselves the very best people on the face of the earth. "*Ye [Muslims] are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in God. If only the People of the Book [Jews & Christians] had faith, it were best for them: among them are some who have faith, but most of them are perverted transgressors.*" **Surah 3:110** [p. 151]. cf. **Surah 6:89:** "*These were the men to whom we gave the Book and Authority, and Prophethood: if these (their descendants) reject them, behold! We shall entrust their charge to a new People who reject them not.*" [p. 313]. "*Those who have faith and do righteous deeds (Muslims),-they are the best of creatures.*" **Surah 98:7** [p.1768]. By contrast, the Jews and Christians who have rejected Islam³⁹ are the worst: "*Those who reject (Truth), among the People of the Book and among the Polytheists, will be in hell-fire, to dwell therein (for aye). They are the worst of creatures.*" **Surah 98:6** [p. 1768].

"We learn from the Koran (**Sura 9:5**) that a revelation came to Muhammad that he should make war on the idolaters of Arabia and force them to submit and become Muslims, and this he did. The followers of Muhammad used the sword to extend their empire throughout

³² Moshay, op cit., pp. 37-38

³³ For example: "...Our God and your God is One; and it is to Him we bow (in Islam [i.e. submission])." **Surah 29:46.** note the accompanying footnote: "*That is, the religion of all true and sincere men of Faith is, or should be, one; and that is the ideal of Islam.*" (A. Yusuf Ali, n. # 3474, p. 1042)

³⁴ In light of all the terrorist acts and evil being perpetrated under the name "Jihad" (Holy War), many Muslim apologists vehemently claim that Jihad has been misunderstood, that today it refers to spiritual and mental efforts expended to convert people to Islam. However the facts of ancient and very recent history, as well as current state-sanctioned or sponsored atrocities which continue to occur against Christians and other non-Muslims demonstrates the falsehood and hypocrisy of such statements. A typical statement would be the following by Yusuf Ali in the Qur'an: "*Here is a good description of Jihad. It MAY require fighting in God's cause, as a form of self-sacrifice. But its essence consists in (1) a true and sincere Faith, which so fixes its gaze on God that all selfish or worldly motives seem paltry and fade away, and (2) an earnest and ceaseless activity, involving the sacrifice (if need be) of life, person, or property, in the service of God. Mere brutal fighting is opposed to the whole spirit of Jihad, while the sincere scholar's pen or preacher's voice or wealthy man's contributions may be the most valuable forms of Jihad.*" (Qur'an, footnote #1270, p. 444)

³⁵ From: "**Jihad Explained**", M. Amir Ali, Ph.D. The Institute of Islamic Information & Education: Chicago, IL, n.d., brochure #18, downloaded off the Internet 2001.

³⁶ Ibid, pp. 3-4

³⁷ Ibid, pp. 4-5

³⁸ Moshay, op cit., p. 27

³⁹ Note Yusuf Ali's footnote in the Quran: "*The responsibility of the People of the Book is greater than that of pagans, because they People of the Book had been prepared for the standard and straight Religion by the revelations which they had already received. Yet, when the clear evidence came in Islam, they resisted it... To be given the faculty of discrimination between right and wrong, and then to reject truth and right [i.e. Islam-mwe], is the worst folly which a creature endowed with will can commit. It must necessarily bring its own punishment, whether the creature calls himself one of the children of Abraham or one of the redeemed of Christ... Honour in the sight of God is not due to race or professions of faith, but to sincere and righteous conduct (xlix.13)... Human beings who live a life of faith and good deeds justify the purpose of their probation here. They attain the fulfilment of their highest hopes, which is their heaven.*" [Footnotes # 6227, 6231 & 6232 p. 1768].

the Middle East and North Africa and Spain, and in more recent times pagan peoples have been forcibly brought into the fold of Islam. Some Muslims have always looked forward to a time when they would be able to conquer all non-Muslims and establish Islam as the religio-political system for the world. **They see the world divided into two hostile camps, that of the Believers and that of the Infidels, and there must be war till God's army prevails.** However, many Muslims today interpret jihad (struggle) in a spiritual manner, and say it means a striving for the cause of God."^[cf. refs # 27 & 28 above]⁴⁰

"In the Preface to The Call of Jihad, Mallam M. Salih exclaims: 'What an hypocrite is a man who regards the Jihad as an antiquated duty of Islam.' As a matter of fact, there are no intolerant or fanatical extremes of Islam. All violent acts and vandalism that may be, are only normal to the religion. **The so-called fanatical Muslims are the real Muslims... They must establish the kingdom of God on earth.**"⁴¹

DEFINING ISLAMIC "PEACE." Muslims talk much of "peace." In fact they assert that peace is the very foundation of their religion. Right after the 9/11 attacks, a newspaper article in Papua New Guinea stated: "*Islam Means Peace. The word 'Islam' is an Arabic word which means 'submission to the will of God'. This word comes from the same root as the Arabic word 'salam' [sic], meaning 'peace.' The religion of Islam teaches that in order to achieve true peace of mind and surety of heart, one must submit to God and live according to His Divinely revealed Law. In that respect Muslims are no different to Christians.*"⁴² In reality, even the statement parroted by virtually every Muslim that Islam means "submission" and is based on peace, is clearly debatable! "Dr. Jane Smith of Harvard University has clearly shown in a dissertation that even the term 'Islam' did not originally mean 'submission.' Also, in The Spiritual Background of Islam, Middle East scholar Dr. M. Bravmann reveals that the term 'Islam' did not originally mean Mohammed's religion or that of any Jewish patriarchal religion as claimed by Muslims. According to Dr. Bravmann, the word 'Islam' was 'a secular concept denoting a sublime virtue in the eyes of the primitive Arab; defiance of death, heroism; to die in battle'. The term denoted bravery in battle. It did not mean peace or submission."⁴³

It is extremely important that non-Muslims understand the mindset of Muslims, and what they mean when they talk of peace. It is very similar to Communists of the past who often spoke of peace. Everyone would breathe a collective sigh of relief and say, "*Oh, I'm so relieved that they desire peace!*" But what such naive individuals did not realize is that to a Communist, peace is when the whole world is Communist! So too, a Muslim will often talk of peace, but peace for a follower of Islam, is when the whole world has become (by persuasion or by force) Muslim! Thus fairly innocuous verses in the Quran that speak of fighting to achieve peace take on a whole new meaning. They can be read, fight until the whole world embraces Islam."⁴⁴

Moshay comments: "For Islam, peace or 'salaam' is not achieved until Islam has swallowed the nation. Peace means total eradication of enemies. It means subjugating, killing or swallowing all non-conformists. Nobody should therefore ever imagine 'giving peace a chance' in a nation with a significant number of Muslims. As Richard Wurmbrand has said, Christians are not going to quarrel, but we're not going to allow anybody to swallow us either. '*Children of God are too valuable a species; we have to survive... while we must loathe war, we also had to defeat Hitler, the lover of war.*'"⁴⁵

"Late in 1989, key Muslim leaders from all over Africa gathered in Nigeria. One of the resolutions was to establish '**The Islam in Africa Organisation' (IAO). The IAO was founded, and Nigeria was made its 'permanent headquarters.'** Members concluded: 'We are ready to go to any length to get Sharia [Islamic law] established in this country whether we are alive or dead.' Should Christians be silent so that we do not provoke a riot? Muslims do not need to be provoked. For them, it does not take two to fight. If they have to obey the injunctions of Allah in the Quran and follow Mohammed's examples and instructions in the Hadith, they do not have to be provoked... For them, everybody must be judged by *Sharia*, the law of Allah. Muslim leaders are now working very hard to engulf not only Africa but the Western world. Billions of petro-dollars are being spent to erect mosques in Britain, Europe, Australia and the United States. When the International Islamic Conference was held in Britain in 1976, Muslims determined and vowed, '**If we can win London for Islam, it won't be hard to win the whole Western world.'...the progress Islam has made in Britain is great. Over 1000 mosques are already there [as of 1994].**'"⁴⁶

⁴⁰ William Miller, op cit., pp. 62-63

⁴¹ Moshay, op cit., p. 36

⁴² "*Terrorism is a Crime Against Muslim Law*" by "special correspondent" [a Muslim?], The Post-Courier, Tuesday, 11 December, 2001, p. 11

⁴³ Moshay, op cit., pp. 27-28

⁴⁴ "The Quran says, '*Power belongeth to Allah, His Apostle, and the believers.*' It is therefore necessary for the Genuine Muslim to cause fitna (anarchy, trouble) until a pure kingdom of Allah is established in a land. That was the spirit of the Revolution that brought Khomeini to power; it is the spirit driving the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and the Alawites in Syria. It is the Islam of Mohammed and the world must no longer misunderstand their violent actions. When Muslims destroyed Churches and killed Christians in Kaduna State, Nigeria, in 1987, a panel was set up by the government to investigate the issue. All parties involved in the incident were asked to submit memoranda to the panel. [Instructively-mwe] In Section 4, subsection (C) of its own memorandum, the Jama'atu Nasril Islamiyya (JNI) said: '*...ignorant Christians give Muslims all sorts of bad names such as "fundamentalists", "fanatics," etc as a quality for any faithful Muslims who believe in living according to Islamic injunctions...If the Christians knew Islam well, they would not waste their time trying to stand in their way as they would realize that... nothing could stand in the way of the real faithful Muslims.*' We can understand the irony and the undertone here. These are the genuine Muslims. The fact is that it is we Christians that have been ignorant of what really faithful Muslims are supposed to be... It is utterly impossible to follow Mohammed's example in the Hadiths and obey his Allah in the Quran and then be peaceful, tolerant and submissive to a government that is not entirely Islamic." (Moshay, pp. 36-37)

⁴⁵ Moshay, Ibid, p. 45. (The quote is from Wurmbrand, R., "*A Hundred Meditations*", p. 142)

⁴⁶ Ibid, pp. 45-46

Moshay calls attention to what a MUSLIM authority has stated regarding fighting, in order to achieve peace (i.e. make the world Muslim): "Then Allah revealed in Surah Bara'at (Repentance, IX) the order to discard (all) obligations (covenants), etc, and commanded the Muslims to fight all the pagans as well as against the people of the Scriptures (Jews and Christians) if they do not embrace Islam, till they pay the Jizya (A tax levied on those who do not embrace Islam...) Muslims were not permitted to abandon 'the fighting' against them (pagans, Jews and Christians) and to reconcile with them and to suspend hostilities against them for an unlimited period while they are strong and have the possibility of fighting against them. Here, the reason for killing Christians and Jews is clear: 'if they do not embrace Islam'. This is contrary to what some modern Muslim revisionists claim. Jihad against Christians was NOT defensive but offensive, and we need to emphasise this. (Surah 9:29, 123). Shaykh bin Hamid continues: 'So at first, 'the fighting' was FORBIDDEN, then it was PERMITTED, and after that it was made OBLIGATORY--Allah made 'the fighting' (Jihad) obligatory for Muslims and gave importance to the subject matter of Jihad in ALL the Surahs which were revealed (at Medina) as it is in Allah's statement: '*March forth whether you are light (being healthy, young and wealthy) or heavy (being ill, old and poor) and strive hard with your wealth and your lives in the cause of Allah. That is better for you if you (but) knew*'" (Surah 9:41)⁴⁷

This idea of "*peace is when the whole world is Islamic*" mindset is the main source and justification for terrorist activity by Muslims. A 180 page primer in Arabic titled "Military studies in the jihad against the tyrants" was seized a few years ago from a suspected member of the Osama bin Laden Al Qaeda organisation. It states: "The main mission for which the Military Organisation is responsible is: the overthrow of the godless regimes and their replacement with an Islamic regime."⁴⁸ Lesson Two: Necessary qualifications and characteristics for the organisation member. He has to be willing to do the work and undergo martyrdom for the purpose of achieving the goal and establishing the religion of Majestic Allah on Earth."⁴⁹

QUOTES & STATEMENTS FROM THE HADITH (i.e. authoritative Islamic traditions). "The reports of **Muhammad's sayings (hadiths)** and **actions (sunnah)** were tirelessly collected by subsequent generations. Even though these hadiths were never regarded as equal to the Qur'an, they were viewed as an uninspired record of inspired words and actions [by Muhammad]. Eventually Muslim theologians of the second and third centuries of the Islamic era, after much examination of the texts (matn) of these hadiths and their chains of narrators (isnads), put it in the book forms that we have today. While among all Muslims the Qur'an is the only sacred and inspired book, nevertheless, the hadiths of the prophet are also foundational because of all the minute details that they provide regarding almost every aspect of Muslim life and practice. Ajijola writes, '(Muhammad's) life became a source of inspiration to his followers. Even minute acts and deeds of him have been recorded by his companions and contemporaries for the benefit of mankind.'

"The Muslim author, Kateregga, writes: 'The Hadith is not a Holy Book (revelation) as the Qur'an and the previous Scriptures. However, to the Muslims the importance of Hadith ranks only second to the Holy Qur'an. The Hadith is complementary to the Qur'an. It helps to explain and clarify the Holy Qur'an and to present the Qur'an in a more practical form... As Muslims, our knowledge of Islam would be incomplete and shaky if we did not study and follow the Hadith. Similarly an outsider cannot understand Islam if he ignores the Hadith.'

"The greatest Muslim theologian of all time, al-Ghazzali (d. 111), in his classical Ihya ulum ad-din (Revival of Religious Sciences), explained the importance of observing the prophet's tradition in this way: 'Know that the key to happiness is to follow the sunna (Muhammad's actions) and to imitate the Messenger of God in all his coming and going, his movement and rest, in his way of eating, his attitude, his sleep and his talk... God has said: "What the messenger has brought-accept it, and what he prohibited-refrain from it!" (59:7). That means, you have to sit while putting on trousers, and to stand when winding a turban, and to begin with the right foot when putting on your shoes.'

"An interesting example of Muslim piety in following the prophetic tradition is found in Sayyid Ahmad Khan, the nineteenth-century Indian reformer, who emphatically believed that it was better not to eat mangoes since the prophet had never touched this favorite fruit of India. Also it is said that the great mystic Bayezid Bistami did not eat watermelons for sixty years because he could not establish how Muhammad would have cut melons! Of course these are radical examples of emulating the prophet's lifestyle. Even though the majority of pious Muslims do not go to such extremes, they do try their best to follow Muhammad's example in many details of their daily living. Schimmel, a prominent scholar on Islam at Harvard University, observes the influence of prophetic tradition on unifying the Islamic culture: 'It is this ideal of the imitatio Muhammadi (imitation of Muhammad) that has provided Muslims from Morocco to Indonesia with such a uniformity of action: wherever one may be, one knows how to behave when entering a house, which formulas of greeting to employ, what to avoid in good company, how to eat, and how to travel. For centuries Muslim children have been brought up in these ways.'⁵⁰

SO... the HADITH CARRIES GREAT WEIGHT! SO LETS SEE WHAT VARIOUS HADITHS SAY ABOUT THE USE OF VIOLENCE BY MUSLIMS (Note: I do not have copies of the various Hadiths, but a concerted effort has been made to try and insure that each quote is accurate-though a reference/page number could possibly be different than listed):

- Mishkat Masabih Vol II, p. 253. "In the Hadith, **Jihad is said to be 'the best method of earning (blessings) both**

⁴⁷ Shaykh (Sheikh) Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Hamid of the Sacred Mosque of Mecca. Entire quote from Moshay, Ibid, pp. 29-30

⁴⁸ The manual further states: "*Other missions consist of the following: Gathering information about the enemy, kidnapping enemy personnel, documents, secrets, arms. Assassinating enemy personnel as well as foreign tourists. Freeing the brothers who are captured by the enemy. Blasting places of amusement, immorality, and sin. Blasting and destroying the embassies and attacking vital economic centres. Blasting and destroying bridges leading into and out of the cities.*"

⁴⁹ "Manual Offers Glimpse into Terrorist Methods", The National, Thursday, 4 October, 2001, p. 11

⁵⁰ Norman L. Geisler & Abdul Saleeb, "*Answering Islam: The Crescent in Light of the Cross.*" (Baker Books: Grand Rapids, MI, 1993), pp. 81-82

spiritual and temporal. If victory is won, there is enormous booty of a country, which cannot be equaled to any other source of income. If there is defeat or death, there is everlasting paradise'. So we conclude that Jihad is NOT extremism, but normal in Islam."⁵¹

- Mishkat al Masabih, pp. 147, 721, 810, 811, 1130. "In the Hadith the mother of Haritha was assured by Mohammed that Haritha had attained the highest garden in paradise because he had died in battle. In the same Hadith **Mohammed also said:**
- "'No warlike party or body of troops will go out to fight, gain booty and return safe without getting beforehand two-thirds of their rewards in full'.
- "'He who dies without having fought, or having felt it to be his duty will die guilty of a kind of hypocrisy'.
- "'There is no emigration after the Conquest, but only jihad and some good intention; so when you are summoned to fight, go forth.' 'The last hour will not come before the Muslims fight the Jews and the Muslims kill them'.
- "'Three people are all in God's safekeeping: a man who goes out to fight in God's path, who is in God's safekeeping till He takes his soul and brings him to paradise, or sends him home with the reward of booty he has obtained...'" 'Abu Dharr said he asked the Prophet what action was most excellent, and he replied, 'Faith in God and jihad (fighting) in His path'."⁵²
- Bukhari, vol. 9, #17. "Narrated Abdullah: Allah's Messenger (Mohammed) said, *The blood of a Muslim who confesses that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and that I am His Messenger, cannot be shed except in three cases: in Qisas (equality in punishment) for murder, a married person who commits illegal sexual intercourse and the one who reverts from Islam (Apostate) and leaves the Muslims.*"⁵³
- Bukhari vol. 9, #64. "Narrated Ali, 'Whenever I tell you a narration from Allah's messenger, by Allah, I would rather fall down from the sky, than ascribe a false statement to him, but if I tell you something between me and you, (not a Hadith), then it was indeed a trick (i.e., I may say things just to cheat my enemy). No doubt I heard Allah's messenger saying, *"During the last days there will appear some young foolish people, who will say the best words, but their faith will not go beyond their throats (i.e. they will leave the faith) and will go out from their religion as an arrow goes out of the game. So, wherever you find them, kill them, for whoever kills them shall have a reward on the Day of Resurrection.*"
- Bukhari, vol. 1, p. 13. "I have been ordered by God to fight with people till they bear testimony to the fact that there is no God but Allah and that Mohammed is his messenger, and that they establish prayer and pay Zakat (money). If they do it, their blood and their property are safe from me."
- Hadith, vol. 4:196. "Mohammed said, *I have been ordered to fight with the people till they say, none has the right to be worshipped but Allah.*"
- Hadith, vol. 9:57. "Mohammed also said, *'Whoever changes his Islamic religion, kill him.'*"
- Hadith, vol. 9:50. "Mohammed said: *'No Muslim should be killed for killing a Kafir (infidel).'*"
- Hadith, vol. 5:716. "Mohammed's last words were: *'Turn the pagans (non-Muslims) out of the Arabian Peninsula.'*"
- Al Bukhari, vol. 1:25. "Mohammed once was asked: what is the best deed for the Muslim next to believing in Allah and His Apostle? His answer was: *'To participate in Jihad in Allah's cause.'*"
- Al Bukhari, vol. 1:35. "Mohammed also said, *'The person who participates in (Holy battles) in Allah's cause and nothing compels him to do so except belief in Allah and His Apostle, will be recompensed by Allah either with a reward, or booty (if he survives) or will be admitted to paradise (if he is killed).'*"
- Hadith, vol. 4:73. "Mohammed also said, *'Know that paradise is under the shades of the swords.'*"

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS BY PAST & PRESENT ISLAMIC LEADERS PROMOTING VIOLENCE.

Mohammed: "Who is a real Muslim? Mohammed himself has said, 'He that flees (runs away from fighting) is not one of us. 'This

⁵¹ Moshay, op cit., p. 23. reference states: "Mishkat Masabih Vol II, page 253, cited in Gerhard Nehls, A guide to Muslim Evangelism, Life Challenge, Nairobi, p.4"

⁵² Moshay, Ibid, pp. 26-27, quoting hadiths found on the above-mentioned pages.

⁵³ All of the following quotes from the Hadith are taken from the postscript of an extensive letter by Dr. Jim Garlow, Skyline Church, San Diego, California titled: *"Jesus and Mohommad after September 11, 2001."* Garlow did not compile the quotes but noted that all Quranic quotes had been double-checked for accuracy. It appears the Hadith quotes came from the following source(s): answering-islam.org.uk; www.islamreview.com; & the book, *"So What's the Difference?"* The author/compiler of that postscript is not known.

means that claiming to be a real Muslim and refusing to engage in physical fighting is apostasy."⁵⁴ S.M. Houghton in his brief church history states: "*Different prophets, said Mohammed, have been sent by God to illustrate his different attributes--Moses, his clemency and providence; Solomon, his wisdom, majesty and glory; Jesus Christ, his righteousness, omniscience and power. But I, the last of the prophets, he said, am sent with the sword. Let those who promulgate my faith enter into no argument or discussion, but slay all who refuse obedience to the law.*"⁵⁵

Ayatollah Khomeini (Iran): "Khomeini slaughtered more people during the first few years of his reign than were killed during all the years of his predecessor, Shah Muhammad Reza Pahlavi. After all the massacres of non-Muslims in Persia (present Iran) Khomeini said: '*In Persia no people have been killed so far--only beasts!*' On another occasion, this "servant of Allah" said: '*The purest joy in Islam is to kill and be killed for Allah.*' Early in 1984, Ayatollah Khomeini was quoted as saying: '*In order to achieve the victory of Islam in the world, we need to provoke repeated crises, restore value to the idea of death and martyrdom. If Iran has to vanish, that is not important. The important thing is to engulf the world in crises.*'"⁵⁶ Compare that with the present (2006) attempts by Iran to develop a nuclear bomb, and the unbelievable and incendiary comments of its present leader

Shaykh Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Hamid (Sheikh of the Sacred Mosque of Mecca): "*To get ready (for Jihad) includes various kinds of preparations and weapons. Tanks, missiles, artillery, airplanes, naval ships, etc., and the training of the soldiers in these instruments of war are all included under the word 'force', (to include land force, navy and air-force).*"⁵⁷

Ahmed Deedat (South Africa): "*Our armour, sword and shield in this battle of Faiths are in the Koran, we have been chanting it for centuries... now we must bring them forth into the battlefield.*"⁵⁸

Muammar Ghaddafi (Former Dictator of Libya): "Send missionaries to Burundi, Zaire, Uganda... to combat the evil activities of Christian missionaries there... God wants you to fight in one rank and he who does not do this is outside Islam and God will not let him enter paradise... You must incite Muslims in Zaire and urge them to engage in Jihad so that Mobutu may be toppled. He who kills this man will go to paradise."⁵⁹

EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING ISLAMIC INTOLERANCE, VIOLENCE AND BIGOTRY. One need not look at past history to determine if Islam leads to religious intolerance, physical violence and the elimination of freedom of speech, religion or the press. Below are a few well-known examples:

Israel. The unending suicide attacks (remember, suicide & terrorist activity is supposedly condemned in the Quran & against Islamic teaching!) perpetrated against Israel by followers of Islam is unprecedented in human history. Muslims worldwide hate the Jews with a nearly incomprehensible hatred. And make no mistake about it; it has nothing to do with the "Palestinian" question. "Dr. Muqtadar Khan, director of International Studies at Adrian College in Michigan challenges American Muslims to set the masses straight: '*While we loudly and consistently condemn Israel for its ill treatment of Palestinians, we are silent when Muslim regimes abuse the rights of Muslims and slaughter thousands of them. Remember Saddam and his use of chemical weapons against Muslims (Kurds)? Remember the Pakistani army's excesses against Muslims (Bengalis)? Remember the Mujahdeen of Afghanistan and their mutual slaughter? Have we ever condemned them for their excesses? Have we demanded international intervention or retribution against them? Do you know how the Saudis treat their minority Shi'is? Have we protested the violation of their rights? But we all are eager to condemn Israel; not because we care for rights and lives of the Palestinians, we don't. We condemn Israel because we hate "them.*'"⁶⁰

Sudan. The attempts by various Islamic governments in Khartoum to convert by force or virtually exterminate the Christians who reside primarily in the southern half of this, the largest country in Africa, has been going on for nearly half a century, and continues unabated. The number of Christians killed, raped, injured or otherwise brutalised is staggering!

Nigeria. The atrocities here are staggering to the point of being nearly unbelievable. But here is the eye witness testimony of one who has lived there: "Nigeria has seen practical Islam; and there are too many cases for us to cite. We shall recall only a few of the more recent ones. We remember the 1980 Maitatsine Islamic uproar in Kano during which 4,177 people were officially reported as slaughtered with property worth millions of dollars destroyed. Two years later, on October 30, 1982, eight big Churches were burnt in Kano. That same year the Muslims struck in Kaduna and 400 people were officially reported as killed. In October of the same year, members of the Muslim Students Society (MSS) struck in Sabon Gari in Kano and killed two people. Many of the killings were not just of Christians but also of the people of different sects in the same religion of Islam.

⁵⁴ Moshay, op cit., pp. 35-36

⁵⁵ *Sketches From Church History*, S.M. Houghton (Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, Scotland, 1980), p. 36

⁵⁶ Moshay, pp. 31-32. Note statement #2 in this quote is from David Lamb, *The Arabs*, Random House, New York (1987), p. 287, & quote #3 is from 'Le Point Magazine', No. 599, 12 March, 1984, pp. 89, 91

⁵⁷ Ibid, p. 33

⁵⁸ Moshay quoting Ahmed Deedat, *What is his Name?* (Islamic Propagation Centre, Durban, South Africa, 1986), p. 13

⁵⁹ "*Nigerian Sunday Punch*", 26 January, 1986, quoted in Moshay, op cit., p. 40

⁶⁰ Quoted by Larry Elder in an article, "*Arab World Poverty-Whose Fault?*" TownHall.com Creators Syndicate, Inc., 25 October, 2001.

"In 1984, Muslims in Yola and Jimeta went berserk and killed 700 including policemen, and 5,913 people were rendered homeless. They also besieged Gombe and more than 100 people were killed (Time International, Lago, 19 March, 1984, p. 6). On May 3, 1986, the Muslim students of the then University of Sokoto went on a rampage attacking other students with dangerous weapons. While these Muslim students were still boiling in Sokoto, their counterparts in Ibadan were setting fire to the sculpture of Jesus in the Chapel of the Resurrection at the University of Ibadan. The following year, March 6, 1987, at the College of Education, Kafanchan in Kaduna State, Muslims went on a rampage they expected would spread to the South. This engulfed Kafanchan itself, Kaduna and Zaria. Of all the 150 churches in Zaria alone, only one escaped being burnt down in three days of Jihad in that town. Many Christians were slain in cold blood while some were burnt alive. Many houses belonging to Christians and cars with Christian stickers were burnt in those cities. This writer [Moshay] was in Kaduna and Zaria to see things for himself. The immediate cause of the riot: A female Muslim student of the college accused Revelation Abubakar Bako, a former Muslim, of 'misinterpreting' the Quran, in his preaching. No non-Muslim must quote from the Quran, even though a Muslim can quote from the Bible. For them, a person who is not a Muslim cannot understand what the Quran says on any issue.

"It would be impossible for this (paper) to contain reports of all the atrocities perpetrated in Nigeria by Muslims since the Uthman Dan Fodio Jihad in 1804. Yet such horrors must never be taken as extremism... violence in Islam is both a doctrine and a person. In Christianity, peace is also both a teaching to obey and a Person to possess. When one is possessed with any of these 'persons', one can't help but behave accordingly... In 1991 and 1992 there were three more riots by Muslims in Katsina, Bauchi and Kano during which thousands lost their lives. In Bauchi, the immediate cause was the sale of roasted pork or suya by a Christian, in Tafawa Balewa, a Christian area, which a Muslim bought and allegedly ate. The meat seller was killed for 'tempting' the Muslim. Hundreds of souls from both sides died in the riots that followed. In Kano, the Muslims were rioting to protest against a proposed Christian evangelistic programme by a German preacher, Reinhard Bonnke. Many unprintable atrocities were reported... A team of The Nigerian Newswatch magazine who went to cover the butchery wrote that it would be against decency to publish some of the pictures they took in Kano. It seems we easily forget history, and by that we can put our generation and our posterity in danger...

"an elder of the ECWA Church, Tundun Wada, in Kaduna, whom Muslims burnt to death together with his church during the 1987 riots. (That) church was rebuilt at the cost of N500,000. In May 1992 Muslims burnt the church again. There was a Christian play going on in the church that evening. A band of Muslims just came, surrounded it and set the church on fire, killing at least 20 people inside. The assistant secretary, Musa Bakut, was not there; but the Muslims went to look for him in his house and slaughtered him and his son, burnt his car and left his wife half dead. They decided not to finish her because they suddenly remembered that Allah says they should not kill women or little children."⁶¹ It should be pointed out that the reason this listing of Islamic brutality stops in 1992 is only because the book these reports are taken from was printed in 1993.

Saudi Arabia. There is absolutely no religious freedom or tolerance for anything other than Islam in this birthplace of Islam. Personal friends of mine lived there for several years at the behest of the Saudi Arabian government. Yet it was a full three months before they were even secretly told of a Christian fellowship that existed and met weekly. Why? Because the expatriate believers living there had to be extremely careful that no Saudi Arabian find out about their Christian "church", lest even they be deported or end up in Saudi jails! But let me quote the husband's first-hand description of conditions there:

"Religious freedom, the right to freely worship as one wishes, is a freedom seldom appreciated by those who have known nothing else. Usually, only deprivation or constraints on ones ability to worship God sobers one into the realization of how precious religious freedom is. My family and I experienced these restrictions first hand when we lived in Saudi Arabia. There Islam is the only recognized and accepted religion. The practice of other religions is forbidden. Even as expatriates working in their country as guests, we, as Christians, were not allowed to gather together to worship God. To have fellowship and worship services we had to gather together secretly in homes at night. We had to close all windows and curtains to prevent detection and turn on air-conditioners at top speed to drown out our singing. There were 'eyes' everywhere. Such informants were suspicious of anything out of the ordinary and would report it to the authorities immediately. Thus, we had to move the meeting to a new house every week. When our meeting finished, we had to send people out in small groups at staggered intervals so as not to arouse suspicion among neighbors or police patrols in the area. Through these experiences we learned how great our need for fellowship was and its importance to the vitality of our Christian lives. We learned to deeply appreciate the freedoms we had previously taken for granted."⁶²

Afghanistan. The facts here are now well known, and alluded to above. No religious freedom, death if you leave Islam, etc. The only Christian church in the entire country (which was for "expatriates only" and was only allowed to be built at the specific request of President Dwight D. Eisenhower during a presidential visit to Kabul in the late 1950's) was literally bulldozed to the ground only three years after it was built. In fact the government leaders of the time instructed those involved in the demolition of the building to dig 12 feet (4m) below the foundation level, to "find" the "underground" church that Muslim leaders had heard rumors about! (Not understanding that the term "underground church" refers to Christian believers who meet clandestinely to avoid persecution and punishment by those opposed to Christianity.⁶³

⁶¹ Moshay, op cit., pp. 40-44

⁶² I do not feel at liberty to give the name of this individual, since he is still presently (as of 2007) living in a Muslim country, but the statements are from "*Religious Freedom*", unpublished paper, c. 1987, p. 1

⁶³ The complete story is told in "*Afghanistan: The Forbidden Harvest*," J. Christy Wilson, Jr. David C. Cook Publishing Co.: Elgin, IL, 1981 & Chapter 8 ("Afghanistan's Apostle Paul") in "*More to Be Desired Than Gold*," J. Christy Wilson, Jr. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary: South Hamilton, MA, 1992, pp. 169-176.

Iran, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Egypt, Yemen, Qatar, Pakistan, Niger, Libya & Indonesia. The mere mention of these Islamic states conjures up images and examples of religious repression and physical punishment for Christians, Jews and other non-Muslims too numerous to mention. Even the most "liberated" of Muslim countries (e.g. Turkey) is oppressive in the extreme.

United States. The repeated terrorist attacks by various Islamic groups is well known and well documented, from the 1970's right up to the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States & beyond. Osama bin Laden and many other Muslims have claimed that these horrendous attacks and the killing of thousands of innocent civilians were completely justified, and payment for America's friendship and support for Israel.

Philippines. While not an Islamic country, as is well known, Muslims have been attempting to take control of some of the southern islands of this Pacific Archipelago, such as Mindanao, Basilan, etc. A number of Philipinos, Americans, and others have been kidnapped, tortured and/or killed by the various Muslim groups in that country.

MUSLIM VIOLENCE AGAINST OTHER MUSLIMS. The above are a few examples of present day Muslim persecution and violence against Jews and Christians. However the reader should be reminded that Muslims have also engaged in violence against their own Muslim brethren throughout the recent past, and continue to do so today. Refer to I.C. #4 above.

"MARTYRDOM": THE ONE GUARANTEED WAY FOR A MUSLIM TO GET TO HEAVEN. Muslim clerics and Imams often deny in print that the Quran and Islam teach that martyrdom in the cause of Islam (Jihad) is the one way to automatically get to the Muslim paradise. Such denials are patently false, and every well-informed Muslim knows so. Early in this paper I quoted the diary entries of some of the Muslim pilots who flew a couple of the hijacked airplanes into the World Trade Center in New York City ("**Recognize... what God has prepared for believers in endless happiness for martyrs... Be steadfast and remember (that in) God you will be triumphant**" & "**The nymphs [women] are calling out to you, come over here [paradise], companion of Allah**").

In an ABCNews.com article "*Inside the Mind of a Suicide Bomber*" the writer explored what prompts the constant stream of Palestinian suicide bombers in Israel. He zeroed in on one such suicide bomber, a 22 year old young man named Saeed Hotari. The writer comments: "His [Hotari's] face is plastered on posters everywhere. He's a legend. The children, especially, idolize him. 'When I grow up I want to be just like him,' said Hosni, a 9-year-old Palestinian boy... What is it that would drive anyone to commit such a horrendous act, at the same time killing himself? 'A sense of mission empowers him,' explained Dr. Eyad Sarraj, a Palestinian psychiatrist and one of the world's foremost experts on suicide bombers... (But the writer goes on to say)... Hotari's act, said Sarraj, 'gives his family the highest status ever. His name becomes immortal.'...Hotari was described by friends and relatives as devoutly religious, quiet and ordinary. **And now, it is believed that as a martyr he is awarded a special place in heaven, the highest level of paradise, where some say 70 black-eyed virgins await him.** 'The teaching of Islam tells you if you die for God, you don't actually die,' said Sarraj. 'In fact, you find in the last seconds of people acting this act, they smile.'"⁶⁴ Where do such ideas come from? The Qur'an & Muhammed's own statements!

"It seems that only the martyrs slain in battle for Islam are granted immediate entrance into paradise."⁶⁵

- **"Mohammed** [said]... Whoever fights for the true faith whether he fall or conquer, will assuredly receive a glorious rewards, and be certain of entrance into paradise. Prayer, he added, leads half-way to God; fasting leads to the gateway to heaven; alms opens the door, but waging the holy war gives actual entrance into heaven."⁶⁶
- **Surah 2:207:** "*And there is the type of man who gives his life to earn the pleasure of God; and God is full of kindness to (His) devotees. O ye who believe! Enter into Islam whole-heartedly; and follow not the footsteps of the evil one...*" [Qur'an, p. 82]⁶⁷
- **Surah 3:157-158:** "*And if ye are slain, or die in the way of God, Forgiveness and mercy from God are far better than all they could amass. And if ye die, or are slain, Lo! It is unto God that ye are brought together.*" [Qur'an, p. 164]
- **Surah 3:169-171:** "*Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord; They rejoice in the bounty provided by God: and with regard to those left behind, who have not yet joined them (in their bliss), the (Martyrs) glory in the fact that on them is no fear, nor have they (cause to) grieve. They glory in the grace and the bounty from God, and in the fact that God suffereth not the reward of the faithful to be lost (in the least).*" [Qur'an, pp. 167-168]
- **Surah 22:58-59:** "*Those who leave their homes in the cause of God, and are then slain or die,-On them will God bestow verily a goodly Provision: Truly God is He who bestows the best provision. Verily He will admit them to a place with which they shall be well pleased: For God is all-knowing, most forbearing.*" [Qur'an, p. 867] *The Quranic footnote is*

⁶⁴ John Quinones, "*Inside the Mind of a Suicide Bomber.*" ABC News. World-ABCNEWS.com, 07 December, 2001, pp. 1-2

⁶⁵ Miller, op cit., p. 56

⁶⁶ Houghton, op cit., p. 36 (cf. the Hadiths quoted earlier in this paper).

⁶⁷ Yusuf Ali's Quranic footnote is again instructive: "*This... type of man,-firm, sincere, devoted, willing to give his life for the faith that is in him-was common in early Islam. Such men were its pillars. Through persecution, obloquy, torture, threat to their own lives or the lives of those dear to them, they stood by their leader and many of them gave their lives. This is what established Islam. We are asked in the next verse to follow this type and shun the other or evil type. If we do that, our Cause is safe.*"[fn. #229, p.82]

VERY ILLUMINATING and in light of the denials by Muslim Imams and leaders demands quoting in full here:
"Martyrdom is the sacrifice of life in the service of God. Its reward is therefore even greater than that of an ordinarily good life. The martyr's sins are forgiven by the very act of martyrdom, which implies service and self-surrender in the highest sense of the word. God knows all his past life but will forbear from calling him to account for things that should strictly come into his account."(!) [fn #2839, p. 867]

A DESCRIPTION OF MUSLIM HEAVEN (i.e. **PARADISE**). I don't know the origin of the phrase "**wine, women & song**," but I would not be at all surprised were I to find out that it comes from a Muslim/Arab origin. Note the Quranic descriptions of Paradise. While interpreted spiritually by *some* Muslim clerics, Paradise is portrayed *very graphically* as just that i.e. a place of wine, women and pleasure. Islam teaches that the faithful will recline on soft couches, drink as much wine as they wish without becoming intoxicated, and will be waited on by beautiful "*huri*" maidens-of whom each man can have as many as he wishes!

What about heaven for Muslim Women? What is that like? Some have asked me whether Muslim women likewise have the hope and anticipation of bunches of young men available for their pleasure. Little is said about Muslim women and what they can expect in Paradise. A footnote in the Qur'an (# 4728) does comment that "*The women as well as the men of this life will attain to this indescribable bliss*" (p. 1352) and **Surah 9:72** mentions that the "*gardens*" of paradise are for both men and women. But little else is said regarding the situation for women in paradise. On the other hand, a veteran Christian missionary doctor who spent 40+ years serving Christ with his wife in various African (Muslim) countries or areas such as Niger, Nigeria, etc., remarked recently during dinner in our home in Papua New Guinea, that Muslim women have basically nothing to look forward to in the next life. It is probably significant that the relevant passages on paradise always refer to *huri maidens*, but no such *huri* "*hunks*" are mentioned-though Yusuf Ali downplays this fact in the above-mentioned footnote by claiming that the symbolism "*must apply to both [men and women]*." At any rate, here is a brief summary of Islamic heaven by Miller, and some quotes from the Qur'an:

- "Believers, both men and women, who have feared God and been humble and charitable, and have suffered for God's sake, will be welcomed to paradise. There they will dwell forever by flowing rivers, reclining on silken couches, praising God, and enjoying heavenly food and drink in company with dark-eyed maidens."⁶⁸
- **Surah 37:40-49:** "*But the sincere (and devoted) servants of God,-- For them is a sustenance determined, fruits (delights); and they (shall enjoy) honour and dignity, in Gardens of Felicity, facing each other on thrones (of dignity): Round will be passed to them a cup from a clear-flowing fountain, crystal-white, of a taste delicious to those who drink (thereof), free from headiness; nor will they suffer intoxications therefrom. And besides them will be chaste women, restraining their glances, with big eyes (of wonder and beauty). As if they were (delicate) eggs closely guarded.*" [Qur'an, pp. 1196-1197] cf. Quranic note #4065: "This ['delicate eggs' phrase at end] is usually understood to refer to the delicate complexion of a beautiful woman, which is compared to the transparent shell of eggs in the nest, closely guarded by the mother-bird; the shell is warm and free from stain. In v. 58 the phrase used is 'like rubies and coral', referring to the red or pink of a beautiful complexion." [p.1197]
- **Surah 44:51-55:** "*As to the righteous (they will be) in a position of security, among gardens and springs; Dressed in fine silk and in rich brocade, they will face each other; So; and we shall join them to Companions with beautiful, big, and lustrous eyes. They can they call for every kind of fruit in peace and security;*" [Qur'an, p. 1352] One of the notes in my copy of the Quran [#4728] says that these "symbolic" words need not be taken literally. **But almost all Muslims do take them literally.** And it should be pointed out that Ali's very next footnote takes things very literally: "Hur implies the following ideas: (1) purity... (2) beauty, especially of eyes, where the intense white of the eye-balls stands out against the intense black of the pupil, thus giving the appearance of lustre and intense feeling, as opposed to dullness or want of expression..." [fn. # 4729, p. 1352]
- **Surah 52:17-20, 22-24:** "*As to the righteous, they will be in gardens, and in happiness,--Enjoying the (bliss) which their Lord hath bestowed on them, and their Lord shall deliver them from the penalty of the fire. (To them will be said:) 'Eat and drink ye, with profit and health, because of your (good) deeds.' They will recline (with ease) on thrones (of dignity) arranged in ranks; and we shall join them to companions, with beautiful big and lustrous eyes... And we shall bestow on them, of fruit and meat, anything they shall desire. They shall there exchange, one with another, a (loving) cup free of frivolity, free of all taint of ill. Round about them will serve, (devoted) to them, youths (handsome) as pearls well-guarded.*" [Qur'an, pp. 1434-1436.]⁶⁹
- **Surah 55:54-58, 60, 70-72, 74-76:** "*They will recline on carpets, whose inner linings will be of rich brocade: the fruit of the gardens will be near (and easy of reach). Then which of the favours of your Lord will ye deny? In them will be (Maidens), chaste, restraining their glances, whom no man or Jinn [spirit] before them has touched; -- Then which of the favours of your Lord will ye deny? Like unto rubies and coral⁷⁰ ... Is there any reward for Good-other than good? ...In*

⁶⁸ Miller, op cit., p. 56

⁶⁹ Again, Muslim assertions that such passages are not meant to be taken literally, ring completely hollow when one compares the beliefs about paradise, a) held by the vast majority of Muslim men, & b) the explanatory footnotes in the Qur'an itself: "*The bliss of the righteous is described in three aspects: (1) their individual bliss, verses 17-20; (2) their social bliss, verses 21-24... Individual satisfaction is expressed in three types of figures of speech. (1) eating and drinking. (2) thrones of dignity, and (3) the joy of individual companionship. But the eating and drinking will not be like the physical acts, which are subject to drawbacks, such as excess, after-effects and satiety: here there will be pure health, profit, and enjoyment. So about the other two... cf. xlv. 54 and notes 4728 and 4729, where the meaning of Hur is fully explained. This is the special sharing of individual bliss, one with another.*" [fn's # 5050, 5051 & 5053]

⁷⁰ cf. Ali's footnote # 5211: "*Delicate pink, with reference to their complexions and their beauty of form. The gems also indicate their worth and*

them [the gardens] will be fair (companions), good, beautiful;--Then which of the favours of your Lord will ye deny? Companions restrained (as to their glances), in (goodly) pavilions... Whom no man or Jinn before them has touched;-- Then which of the favours of your Lord will ye deny? Reclining on green cushions [or pillows-Ali, fn# 5220, p. 1482] and rich carpets of beauty." [Qur'an, pp. 1480-1482]

- **Surah 56:17-24, 34-38:** "*Round about them will (serve) youths of perpetual (freshness), with goblets, (shining) beakers, and cups (filled) out of clear-flowing fountains: No after-ache will they receive therefrom, nor will they suffer intoxication; And with fruits, any that they may select; and the flesh of fowls, any that they may desire. And (there will be) companions with beautiful, big, and lustrous eyes, -- like unto pearls well-guarded. A reward for the deeds of their past (life)... And on thrones (of dignity), raised high. We have created (their companions) of special creation. And made them virgin-pure (and undefiled), beloved (by nature), equal in age, for the companions of the right hand [i.e. the faithful Muslims]."* [Qur'an, pp. 1486-1488].⁷¹

ISLAMIC SALVATION IS OBTAINED BY GOOD WORKS (Thus the desire for a quick "martyrdom" i.e. short cut to heaven). Since most people realize that they fall far short of the necessary righteousness to earn heaven by their own merit and good deeds, *suicide* (i.e. "martyrdom") is an attractive alternative. Of course the Bible clearly teaches that NO ONE can get to heaven by good works, and that the only way to heaven is by grace through faith in Christ alone (e.g. Jn. 1:12; 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:28; 10:9-10, 13; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; etc). Here are a couple of representative verses from the Qur'an, teaching the false idea of salvation by good works:

- **Surah 23:101-103:** "*Then when the trumpet is blown, there will be no more relationships between them that day, nor will one ask after another! Then those whose balance (of good deeds) is heavy, -- they will attain salvation: But those whose balance is light, will be those who have lost their souls; in Hell will they abide."* [Qur'an, pp. 891-892]
- **Surah 39:61:** "*But God will deliver the righteous to their place of salvation: no evil shall touch them, nor shall they grieve."* [Qur'an, p. 1255]

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dignity." [p.1480]

⁷¹ Again it should be pointed out that some Muslim leaders claim all of these descriptions should be taken figuratively or spiritually. But most Muslims don't! And often, even in the midst of footnotes containing such cautions, a literal idea is hinted at or openly encouraged (e.g. "*The companionship of beauty and grace is one of the highest pleasures of life. In this bodily life it takes bodily form. In the higher life it takes a higher form suitable to the spiritual world... The pronoun [companion] in Arabic is in the feminine gender, but lest grosser ideas of sex should intrude, it is made clear that these Companions for heavenly society will be of special creation.--of virginal purity, grace, and beauty, inspiring and inspired by love, with the question of time and age eliminated.*" [Footnotes # 5233 & 5240, pp. 1486-1487]