



THE TROUBLE WITH ISLAM TODAY: SOURCES & NOTES

Prologue: The Letter

- * "I hear from a Saudi friend that his country's religious police arrest women for wearing red on Valentine's Day."

Source and note: The friend to whom I refer is Ali Al-Ahmed, executive director of the reform-oriented Saudi Institute. His comment to me is corroborated by Dr. Amal Al-Qahtani's testimony to the U.S. Congress on June 4, 2002, in which she exposed Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses against women.

Said Dr. Al-Qahtani, "Those that celebrated Valentine's Day were arrested. Vendors were banned from selling red roses; women wearing red dresses were harassed by the *mutaween* (religious police) and sometimes detained. Female students were expelled from school if they were caught violating the ban on Valentine's Day. In other words, love was declared a sin in Saudi Arabia."

- * "How can we be so sure that homosexuals deserve ostracism - or death - when the Qur'an states that everything God made is 'excellent'?"

Source and note: Qur'an 32:6-7. There's more about this quote in Chapter 1.

- * "In France, Muslims have actually taken an author to court for calling Islam 'the most stupid religion.'"

Source: Michel Houellebecq, *Lire* online edition, September 2001.



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Chapter 1: How I Became a Muslim Refusenik

- * "Today, there is no shortage of children's books about Islam, including *A is for Allah*, by Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens)."

Note: In the vein of *101 Bible Stories*, there's now *The Best Qur'anic Stories*, by Kamal al-Sayyid. Go to www.fadakbooks.com and click on "Books for Children."

- * "These languages blanketed the interior of Aberdeen Centre, built several years later and billed as the 'largest enclosed Asian-themed shopping plaza in North America.'"

Source: Albert Warson, "East meets West in new mall: Asian Centre in B.C. to be totally rebuilt to attract wider clientele," *The Globe and Mail*, September 10, 2002.

- * "In that spirit, I prayed in solitude ('bowing alone' as the Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam might say)."

Note: That's a play on *Bowling Alone* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000), Robert Putnam's acclaimed book about the decline of community spirit in America.

- * "He's the Arab-American intellectual who, in 1979, used the word 'Orientalism' to describe the West's supposed tendency to colonize Muslims by demonizing us as the exotic freaks of the East."

Note: See Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage Books, 1979).

- * "How many of us know the degree to which Islam is a 'gift of the Jews'?"

Note: That elegant phrase comes from Thomas Cahill, *The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels* (New York: Nan Talese/Anchor Books, 1998).

- * "Nor, until educating myself, did I appreciate that Muslims worship exactly the same God as do the Jews and Christians. The Qur'an affirms this fact."

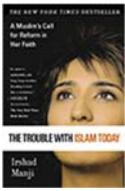
Source: Qur'an 29:46. See also 2:136.

- * "So, you see, Muslims didn't invent one God; they renamed him Allah. That's Arabic for 'The God' - the God of the Jews and the Christians."

Source: Karen Armstrong, *A History of God: The 4,000 Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (New York: A.A. Knopf, 1994), p. 141. See also Qur'an 29:61-63.

- * "Islam has a popular teaching against 'excessive laughter.' No joke. In a booklet entitled *Problems and Solutions*, Sheikh Muhammed Salih Al-Munajjid spells out the teaching."

Source and note: The original title is *Shakawa Wahulool*. According to www.islam-qa.com, Sheikh Al-Munajjid is a "known Islamic lecturer and author" who "aims to provide intelligent,



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authoritative responses to anyone's questions about Islam... and to help solve general and personal social problems."

- * "If the black magic of laughter is so offensive, why isn't the hypnotic, lyrical effect of the Arabic language, recited aloud, also frowned upon?"

Note: "The Qur'an," let's keep in mind, means "The Recitation." It's meant to be read aloud.

- * "How can the Qur'an at once denounce homosexuality and declare that Allah 'makes excellent everything He creates'?"

Source: Qur'an 32:6-7. The verse reads, "Such is He who knows all that is beyond the reach of a created being's perception as well as all that can be witnessed by a creature's senses or mind: the Almighty Dispenser of Grace who makes excellent everything He creates." See also 38:26, which reads, "And we have not created the Heavens and the earth, and what is in between the two, in vain." There are similar verses at 3:48 and 3:191, the former of which states that "God creates whom He will."

- * "How do my critics explain the fact that, according to the book by which they scrupulously abide, God has deliberately designed the world's breathtaking multiplicity?"

Note: One of my sternest critics is Wahida Valiante, vice-president of the Canadian Islamic Congress. When asked about me, she denies my Islamic credentials because 'there can be no such thing as a gay Muslim.' Yet, on a televised panel, she admits that "who we are, what we are, is a reflection of God" and that "it's a mystery to understand God's creation in its totality." (*Faith Journal*, Christian Television Station, November 23, 2002). Given that admission, how can she be sure that I'm an abomination? What happened to God's "mystery"?

- * "Girl coerced into sex to receive 180 lashes."

Source: *The Globe and Mail*, December 7, 2000



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Chapter 2: Seventy Virgins?

- * "In Pakistan, an average of two women every day die from 'honor killings,' often with Allah's name on the lips of the murderers."

Source: Cited by Amnesty International in Neva Welton and Linda Wolf, eds., *Global Uprising: Confronting the Tyrannies of the 21st century - Stories from a New Generation of Activists* (Gabriola Island, British Columbia: New Society Publishers, 2001), p. 214.

- * "In Mali and Mauritania, little boys are seduced into slavery by Muslim hustlers."

Source: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Freedom House and specific articles, including "Is Youssouf Male a Slave?" by Michael Finkel, *The New York Times Magazine*, November 18, 2001.

- * "In Sudan, slavery happens at the hands of Islamic militias."

Source: Charles Jacobs, "Why Israel, and not Sudan, is singled out," *Boston Globe*, October 5, 2002.

- * "In Bangladesh, artists who advocate for the rights of religious minorities have been locked up or driven out of the country altogether."

Source: Ruth Baldwin, "The 'Talibanization' of Bangladesh," *The Nation* online edition, May 18, 2002.

- * "A mob of men and boys gathered around them and began to hurl fist sized stones at their heads."

Source: Video footage aired on *QueerTelevision*, Citytv, April 8, 2001.

- * "'Although it appears that Islam doesn't tolerate homosexuality,' he said, 'anything's possible' with a majestic God."

Source: Charles le Gai Eaton, *QueerTelevision*, Citytv, April 8, 2001.

- * "Then, in London-honed English, he told Feiler that 'you must follow the last prophet' whom God has sent."

Source: Bruce Feiler, *Abraham: A Journey Into the Heart of the Three Faiths* (New York: William Morrow, 2002), p.180.

- * "Your imam represents the bulk of Muslims, at 'least around here.'"

Source: Bruce Feiler quoting a local journalist, *Ibid.*, p.181.

- * "Both believe in the absolute veracity and perfection of the Holy Qur'an. Both consider Muhammad as the last Messenger of God and struggle to imitate his sayings and 'practices.'"

Source: *Report: Aug-Dec 2002*, Academy for Learning Islam, Richmond, British Columbia.



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Prepared for the "Spirit of Islam Exhibition" at the Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

- * "God breathed life into a single soul and from that soul, He `created its spouse.""

Source: Qur'an 4:1. See also 4:57, which states, "As for those that have faith and do good works, We shall admit them to gardens watered by running streams, where, wedded to chaste spouses, they shall abide forever. To a cool shade We shall admit them." Notice that the gender-neutral "spouses" appears here, too.

- * "Who's the soul and who's the spouse? It's irrelevant."

Note: So when anti-gay protesters chant, "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve," remember that the Qur'an might disagree.

- * "As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them, forsake them in beds apart, and beat them."

Source: Qur'an 4:34.

- * "Sure, one clause in the charter affirms that women and men enjoy equal dignity. But the next clause designates men as the providers of their families."

Source: Articles 6(1) and 6(b) of the Cairo Declaration. See also Ann Elizabeth Mayer, *Islam and Human Rights: Tradition and Politics* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1999).

- * "Women are your fields. Go, then, into your fields and do as you please."

Source: Qur'an 2:223.

- * "He assures me that this 'sexually enlightened' verse serves as a defense of foreplay."

Source: Discussion on *Hot Type*, CBC Television, taped March 5, 2003.

- * "Khartoum's onslaught has rekindled the trade in black slaves... The terrorized survivors are marched northward and distributed to Arab masters, the women to become concubines, the girls domestics, the boys goat herders."

Source: Charles Jacobs, "Why Israel, and not Sudan, is singled out," *Boston Globe*, October 5, 2002.

- * "As for those of your slaves who wish to buy their liberty, free them if you find in them any promise..."

Source: Qur'an 24:33. Another reference that justifies slavery can be found at 4:25.

- * "It extols Jesus as 'Messiah' more than once."

Source: Qur'an 3:45 and 4:157.



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- * "To boot, the Qur'an reminds us of the Jews 'exalted' nationhood!"

Source: Qur'an 2:47 and 2:122.

- * "Given that all these warm fuzzies for our spiritual forebears, it makes sense that the Qur'an would advise Jews and Christians to relax, that they have 'nothing to fear or regret' as long as they remain loyal to their scriptures."

Source: Qur'an 2:62 and 5:69.

- * "On the other hand, the Qur'an explicitly anoints Islam as the only 'true faith.'"

Source: Qur'an 3:19.

- * "Different religions ought to exist, it says, so that human beings feel an incentive to compete in 'good works.'"

Source: Qur'an 5:48.

- * "... the Qur'an also discourages Muslims from taking Jews and Christians as friends, lest we become 'one of them.' ... There's talk of smiting, slaughtering and subjecting non-Muslims to a special tax as a tribute to their Muslim conquerors."

Source: Qur'an 5:51, 61:4, 61:7, 47:4, 39:71-73, 9:29. There's also a terrifying passage at 4:56, which reads, "Those that deny Our revelations, We will burn in fire. No sooner will their skins be consumed than We shall give them other skins, so that they may truly taste the scourge. Surely God is mighty and wise."

- * "A few weeks before September 11, I joined a panel of Muslims on national TV to discuss 'images of the Islamic world.'"

Source: *The Chat Room*, CTV, aired LIVE on June 19, 2001.

- * "'Let there be no compulsion in religion,'" says the Qur'an."

Source: Qur'an 2:256.

- * "With morose faces, we said that our faith had been 'hijacked.'"

Note: This metaphor had such credibility with the mainstream press that it continued to be used a year after September 11, 2001. See, for example, Sheema Khan, "The language of Islam has been hijacked," *The Globe and Mail*, December 17, 2002.

- * "To quote one such voice, Allah 'says in unequivocal terms that to kill an innocent being is like killing entire humanity.'"

Source: Muqtedar Khan, "A Memo to American Muslims," www.islamfortoday.com. Khan's other work tends to be thoughtful and honest. In this case, his sanitizing goes to show how even the most forthright Muslims have a problem acknowledging the Qur'an's support for violence when it's interpreted literally.



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- * "We laid it down for the Israelites that whoever killed a human being, except as punishment for murder or other villainy in the land, shall be regarded as having killed all mankind."

Source: Qur'an 5:32.

- * "As he told CNN in 1997, 'The U.S. government has committed acts that are extremely unjust... We have declared jihad on the United States.'"

Source: *People in the News: Osama bin Laden*, CNN, broadcast on several occasions since September 11, 2001.

- * "Consider one high-profile argument that defends 'authentic' Islam as a religion of peace."

Note: The argument to which I'm referring is made by Abdullahi An-Na'im, "The Islamic Counter-Reformation," *New Perspectives Quarterly*, Winter 2002.

- * "For starters, it's not clear which verses came to Muhammad when."

Source: Many scholars back up this point, including Mahmoud Ayoub of Temple University. See his excellent chapter, "The Islamic Tradition," in Willard G. Oxtoby, ed., *World Religions: Western Traditions* (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002), p. 357. Professor Ayoub writes, "The original compilers' arrangement of the *surahs* [chapters] of the Qur'an was by length" and that "[t]his arrangement made it impossible to determine with certainty the chronology of the recitation of the Qur'an."

- * "In the note, he said, 'It is enough for us that [the Qur'an's verses] are the words of the Creator of the Earth and the planets... 'Come hither, friend of God.'"

Source: Atta's note, contained in Barry Rubin and Judith Kolp Rubin, *Anti-American Terrorism: A Documentary Reader* (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 233-238.

- * "A month before September 11, a recruiter for the Palestinian resistance-turned-terror outfit Hamas told CBS television that he dangles the vision of seventy virgins in front of candidates."

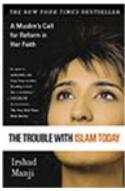
Source: Ibn Warraq, "Virgins? What virgins?" *The Guardian*, September 12, 2002.

- * "It's a perpetual license to ejaculate in exchange for a willingness to detonate..."

Note: Intelligence officers in Toronto, working with counter-terrorism experts around the world, have told me that suicide bombers often wear more than one pair of pants, or stuff newspapers down their crotches, to protect their genitals from the impact of the detonation.

- * "He traces the Qur'an's description of heaven to a Christian work written three centuries before Islam in a form of Aramaic, the language that Jesus likely spoke."

Source and Note: At the time of writing, Christoph Luxenberg's *The Syro-Aramaic Reading of the Qur'an* was available only in German, so I've relied on translations by various professors of German. I've also consulted reviews and articles. See, for example, Alexander Stille, "Radical



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New Views of Islam and the Origins of the Qur'an," *The New York Times*, March 2, 2002.

By the way, www.badattitudes.com introduced the raisins/virgins story on its website with a headline screaming, "Good news for vegan martyrs!" Go ahead, you're allowed to laugh.

- * "Sometimes the Prophet himself had an agonizing go at deciphering what he heard."

Note: See, for example, Karen Armstrong's description in *A History of God*, pp. 139 and 148.

- * "Yet, the fact that Muslim philosophers throughout the centuries have told this story speaks to age-old doubts about the Qur'an's perfection."

Note: Philosophers have also clashed on the number of virgins promised. Now, if math can't be crystal-clear, then how can something much more subjective - like the meaning of words - be considered absolute?



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Chapter 3: When Did We Stop Thinking?

- * "Friends in Europe sent me examples of similar platitudes being bandied around in their media."

Note: A similar observation comes from Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, columnist with *The Independent* in Britain. On August 22, 2002, she wrote, "A whole season of BBC programmes on British Muslims assiduously avoided any dangerous stories because after 11 September they felt it was important to give the public a positive view of diverse British Muslims. During Islam Awareness Week other channels and papers did similar feel good stuff."

- * "I wrote a series of articles calling for introspection."

Note: [Click here](#) for an example.

- * "Why would I aspire to be part of an intellectually atrophied and morally impaired mainstream?"

Note: Consider this excerpt from a story in the February 10, 2003 issue of the University of Toronto's student newspaper, *The Varsity*. It tells the story of a Muslim and Jew who participate in an "Evening of Engagement." Both are hesitant but pleasantly surprised by the results.

The Muslim, this story goes on to report, "knew of other Muslim students who had chosen not to attend." The paper quotes her as saying, "People are worried about the stigma that would be attached to their name or to their group if they were to participate in this event with certain groups that are not acceptable in the mainstream community."

Why would mere dialogue with Jews be unacceptable to the mainstream unless that mainstream is intellectually or morally stagnant - or both?

- * "In Spain, the western rim of Islam's reach, Muslims cultivated what one Yale historian calls a 'culture of tolerance' with Jews."

Source: Maria Rosa Menocal, *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain* (Boston: Little, Brown, 2002).

- * "Let me highlight a handful of Islam's contributions to Western culture..."

Sources: George Raphael, "A is for Arabs," www.salon.com, January 8, 202. "Ole!" is traced to "Allah!" by Murad Wilfried Hoffman, *Religion on the Rise: Islam in the Third Millennium* (Beltsville, Maryland: Amana, 2001), p. 3.

- * "In the Southern Spanish city of Cordoba, for example, a sexually spunky woman named Wallada organized literary salons..."

Source and note: Her full name was Wallada bint-al-Mustakfi. See Tariq Ali, *The Clash of the*



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Fundamentalisms: Crusades, Jihads and Modernity (London, New York: Verso, 2002), p. 56.

- * "It was in Baghdad that a ninth-century caliph, al-Ma'mum, constructed the so-called House of Wisdom - the 'first institution of higher learning in the Islamic and Western world.'"

Source: Mahmoud Ayoub, "The Islamic Tradition," Wilard G. Oxtoby, ed., *World Religions: Western Traditions* (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2002) p. 395.

- * "Along the way, their commander, Tariq bin Ziyad, crossed a hunk of rock whose current name, Gibraltar, hails from the Arabic for 'Tariq's Mountain.'"

Source: Tariq Ali, *The Clash of Fundamentalisms*, p. 34.

- * "That went double for the Arabs who, in the words of one culture critic, were 'warriors, not administrators.'"

Source: George Raphael, "A is for Arabs," salon.com, January 8, 2002.

- * "Jews made up half the population in parts of Spain."

Source: Khalid Duran, *Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Islam for Jews* (Hoboken, New Jersey: Ktav Publishing House/American Jewish Committee, 2001), p. 100.

- * "Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, learned Arabic during his lunch breaks so he could truly appreciate Maimonides."

Source: Duran, *Ibid.*, p. 105.

- * "The plurality of religions and their mutual intolerance result from the fact that people remain faithful to the education they received."

Source: Duran quoting Maimonides, *Ibid.*, p. 103.

- * "According to Ibn Warraq, 'al-Wathik personally tried to behead one theologian who refused to follow the official doctrine. The caliph did not succeed and eventually had to have professional aid to finish the job.'"

Source: Ibn Warraq, *Why I Am Not a Muslim* (Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books, 1995), p. 248.

- * "This one decreed that believers must accept what the Qur'an stipulates 'without asking how.'"

Source: Mahmoud Ayoub, "The Islamic Tradition," *World Religions: Western Traditions*, p. 398.

- * "Collections of famous fatwas have been made, which serve as manuals especially for less creative or less able muftis."

Source: Ayoub, *Ibid.*, p.392.



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- * "... we see that in Saudi Arabia, Iran, the Sudan and Afghanistan under the Taliban."

Source: Ziauddin Sardar, "Islam: Resistance and Reform," *New Internationalist*, May 2002.

- * "His offense? Re-interpreting early Islamic history."

Source and Note: Alexander Stille, "Radical New Views of Islam and the Origins of the Qur'an," *The New York Times*, March 2, 2002. Two journalists and one human rights advocate in the West Bank have confirmed to me that this incident took place.

The professor in question is Suliman Bashear. Check out a review of his book, *Arabs and Others in Early Islam*, in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. XXXII, No. 2, May 2000, pp 277-79.

- * "And then there's the pro-Chechen website that glorifies imitation in a slightly more elevated way."

Source and note: www.qoqaz.com. When I last checked in 2005, its homepage streamed video of people and places being blown up.

- * "Ye'or has coined the word 'dhimmitude' to describe Islam's ideology of wholesale discrimination against Jews and Christians."

Source: Bat Ye'or, *Islam and Dhimmitude: Where Civilizations Collide* (Madison, New Jersey: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2002).

- * "... 'The Prophet allowed the Jews to farm their lands, but only as tenants; he demanded delivery of half their harvest and reserved the right to drive them out when he wished.'"

Source: Bat Ye'or, *Ibid.*, p. 37.

- * "Have a glance at a few of the terms directed toward Jews and Christians..."

Source: Abdulaziz Sachedina, *The Islamic Roots of Democratic Pluralism* (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), p 67.

- * "These regulations 'were reinforced' by Muslim legislators and judges as a 'divinely sanctioned system of discriminatory provisions'..."

Source and note: Abdulaziz Sachedina, *Ibid.*, p. 65.

Sachedina isn't the only Muslim scholar who accepts Bat Ye'or's contention that an ideology of dhimmitude has existed in Islam. In *Children of Abraham*, Khalid Duran writes, "At first the Muslim conquest brought relief to many oppressed peoples in the Mediterranean and beyond. In later centuries, however, Muslim governments sometimes emulated the oppressive behavior or those they supplanted. Once their political power began to wane, some Muslim rulers turned tyrannical in their treatment of minorities" (p. 106).

Notice his use of the word "some." Duran doesn't accept dhimmitude as the norm in Islam, and says that "most of the time the dhimmi populations were tolerated..." (p. 109).



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- * "When Shmuel died in 1055, his son Yosef was appointed to replace him... he was killed and his community devastated."

Source: Reuven Firestone, *Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Judaism for Muslims* (Hoboken, New Jersey: Ktav Publishing House/American Jewish Committee, 2001), p. 56.

- * "...Firestone asks us not to overlook 'the relatively good position Jews and other religious minorities enjoyed under Islam.'"

Source: Reuven Firestone, *Ibid.*, p. 57.

- * "'Jewries,' or Jewish-only streets, instilled 'suspicion and dread into the popular imagination' of Christians."

Source and note: Mark Cohen, *Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994), p. 126. Earlier in this book, Cohen writes that "a trend among Arab and Arabist writers" is "slavish devotion to the axiom of Islamic tolerance... and to the myth of an interfaith utopia. This version of Muslim/non-Muslim relations in history served in part to justify and excuse another trend: a virulent strain of traditional European antisemitism in Arabic garb" (p. 8).

- * "And that's when he discovered how dogs, women, and Jews have been scurrilously linked as lesser beings..."

Note: Khaled Abou El Fadl makes this point in several media interviews. Visit the website that archives his work, www.scholarofthehouse.org.

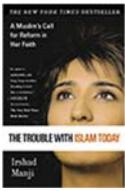
- * "According to one researcher, some fifty daily newspapers and two hundred weekly ones freely circulated, quoting strident secularists such as Voltaire."

Source: Fatemah Farag, *Al Ahram Weekly*, August 3-9, 2000. Farag reports that "Anwar Mughith, a researcher of modern Egyptian thought, has described how in 1889, there were 50 daily newspapers, rising to 84 in 1909, and 20 weekly newspapers, many of which openly discussed ideas of thinkers," including those who were "openly critical of religion."

- * "... the Egyptian press ran stories of toxic seeds.... And genetically modified fruit that sapped their husbands' sperm."

Source and note: Bernard Lewis, "Muslim Anti-Semitism," *The Middle East Forum* online edition, June 1998.

Such myths have traction in Palestine, too. Arab journalist Khaled Abou Toameh reports that "in the months leading up to the second intifada, Israel was being accused of distributing drugs among young Palestinian men and women in order to corrupt them... Israelis were also believed to be behind sexually arousing chewing gum found in Palestinian shops. The alleged goal: to turn Palestinian women into prostitutes. As the tensions intensified, PA officials this time accused Israel of spreading 'radioactive belts' cause cancer." See Khaled Abou Toameh, "How the War Began," *Jerusalem Post*, September 19, 2002.



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- * "The Jews in Europe thought to move to the U.S. so as to take absolute control of [American] capital... They are the Jews, Bush!"

Source: *Al-Sabil* newspaper, as quoted by MEMRI in *A New Anti-Semitic Myth in Middle East Studies: The September 11 Attacks Were Perpetrated by the Jews*, Washington, D.C., 2002, p. 31. MEMRI provides the Arabic-language originals of all its sources.

- * "I regard myself as a liberal Muslim... Yet when the views of a Muslim like yourself are used by non-Muslims and Zionists, you must rethink."

Source: Email dated May 19, 2002.

- * "I had the Zionists book me a plane ticket."

Note: In the months following my trip to Israel, I contacted various Arab, Palestinian, and Muslim organizations about sending me on a journalistic mission to the Middle East so that I could appreciate things from a non-Zionist perspective. Not one of them replied to my request.



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Chapter 4: Gates and Girdles

- * "In the 1980s, there was an effort to establish a Palestinian National Theatre... but it never really caught on with Palestinians."

Source: Conversation with Michael Handelsalz, an editor at *Ha'aretz newspaper* in Tel Aviv on July 5, 2002.

- * "We'd love to continue to work with him... He's probably too frightened [of the Palestinian Authority] to have contact with us now."

Source: Conversation with Nehama Gurainij, curator of the Tel Aviv Art Museum, in Tel Aviv on July 5, 2002.

- * "He later claimed he'd meant 'ultra-religious' immigrants."

Source: Tovah Lazaroff, Alisa Rose and Melissa Radler, "Lapid remark against religious US immigrants sparks anger," *Jerusalem Post*, July 9, 2002. The parliamentarian in question is Yosef "Tommy" Lapid, then-leader of the avowedly secular Change Party.

- * "Arafat's chief of security in the West Bank pre-approved Sharon's visit. A minister in the Palestinian cabinet later revealed that Arafat had been planning the intifada for months."

Source and note: Khaled Abu Toameh, "How the war began," *Jerusalem Post*, September 19, 2002.

The whole article is worth reading, but let me highlight one snippet. Toameh writes, "Imad Faluji, the PA communications minister, admitted on October 11, 2001, that the violence had been planned in July, far in advance of Sharon's 'provocation.' He said: 'Whoever thinks that the intifada broke out because of the despised Sharon's visit to Al-Aqsa Mosque is wrong, even if this visit was the straw that broke the back of the Palestinian people. This intifada was planned in advance, ever since President Arafat's return from the Camp David negotiations, where he turned the table upside down on President Clinton. [Arafat] remained steadfast and challenged [Clinton]. He rejected the American terms and he did it in the heart of the U.S.'"

Toameh, an Arab journalist, tells me that he's been criticized for airing the dirty laundry of Palestinians, but "[m]y facts have never been disputed. Not once." Conversation in Jerusalem on July 1, 2003.

- * "I don't bother to bring up additional monies from a United Nations relief agency that's been devoted to Palestinian refugees for three generations now."

Note: The agency I'm referring to is the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, better known as UNRWA.

- * "Later, I come across a newspaper article chronicling what a hassle this interdependence is for Jews who must beg the Wakf to fix leaks in the Western Wall."

Source: Etgar Lefkovits, "Wakf to investigate Western Wall leak," *Jerusalem Post*, July 8,



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2002.

- * "The atmosphere was great... Nothing sinister at all."

Source: Isabel Kershner, conversation in Jerusalem on July 8, 2002.

- * "... the ultra-Orthodox rabbis have forbidden their followers to use the Internet because of what they may learn from it... They have specifically forbidden the study of history, literature, sciences dealing with evolutionary theory such as biology and astrophysics, and philosophy."

Source: Interview with writer-scholar Jim Lederman in Jerusalem on July 9, 2002.

- * "This is a people who, if left to themselves, are capable of governing themselves... My driver once told me, 'What we need here is a rule of law, just like they have in Israel.'"

Note: I can't identify the diplomat, as his conversation with us was deemed "not for attribution." The conversation took place on July 8, 2002.

- * "'You shall pay for your treason... Make an example of you for others.'"

Source: Raja Shehadeh quoting Arabic radio in his memoir, *Strangers in the House: Coming of Age in Occupied Palestine* (South Royalton, Vermont: Streerforth Press, 2002), p. 68.

- * "I carry this with me wherever I go... It's apartheid."

Source: Conversation with Dr. Ali Jirbawi in Ramallah on July 8, 2002.

- * "My wife has a Jerusalem I.D... But there are ways to deny us our rights, based on ethnicity."

Source: Conversation with Abdul-Malik Al-Jaber in Ramallah on July 8, 2002.

- * "Page one seventy-three... The first inspires and the second makes possible in a day what used to take a score of men a month to accomplish."

Source: Raja Shehadeh reading from *Strangers in the House: Coming of Age in Occupied Palestine* (South Royalton, Vermont: Streerforth Press, 2002), p. 173.

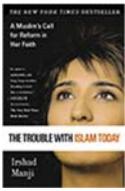
- * "... 'Only a political initiative' will work. And soon. Before there is no land left to speak of."

Source: Aziz Shehadeh quoted in *Ibid.*, p. 175.

- * "In Palestine... 'society conspires to destroy, discourage, and bring down by rampant corrosive jealousy those who triumph... your survival is contingent on remaining on good terms with your society.'"

Source: Raja Shehadeh, *Ibid.*, p. 141.

- * "'He was an energetic, public-spirited man who was never allowed to succeed. He had become a marked man...'"



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Source: Raja Shehadeh, *Ibid.*, p. 176.

- * "... 'We could not rest our case on the consent of the Arabs; as long as their consent was asked, they would naturally refuse it.'"

Source: Chaim Weizmann quoted by Walid Khalidi, "Revisiting the UNGA Partition Resolution," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Issue 105, Autumn 1997, p. 15.

- * "There were the newly whitewashed walls... The thirst for martyrs is consuming, a dominant passion."

Source: Hassan Khader, "Confessions of a Palestinian Returnee," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Issue 105, Autumn 1997, pp. 89-90.

- * "God changes not the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves."

Source: Qur'an 13:11.



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Chapter 5: Who's Betraying Whom?

- * "Why don't you have the Angel Gabriel build them a camp until we find a proper solution for me."

Source: Joke courtesy of Muhammed Abu Samra, "Martyrdom in Modern Palestinian Society," speech given in Toronto on October 6, 2002.

- * "... Jews and Arabs share at least one ancestor - having a 'common Middle Eastern origin,' as the study puts it."

Source: "Jewish and Middle Eastern non-Jewish populating share a common pool of Y-chromosome biallelic haplotypes," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, Volume 97, Issue 12, June 6, 2000, p. 10.

- * "We said to the Israelites: 'Dwell in the land. When the promise of the hereafter comes to be fulfilled, We shall assemble you all together.'"

Source and note: Qur'an 17:104. See also Qur'an 5: 20-21, which states, "Bear in mind the words of Moses to his people. He said, 'Remember, my people, the favor which God has bestowed upon you. He has raised up prophets among you, made you kings, and given you that which He has given to no other nation. Enter, my people, the holy land which God has assigned for you. Do not turn back, and thus lose all.'" Here, Allah is urging Jews to enter the Holy Land no matter who already dwells there. Their "crime" was to not enter at first, thereby failing to submit to God.

- * "Since 1948 we have been demanding the return of the refugees to their homes. But we ourselves are the ones who encouraged them to leave."

Source: Khaled Al-Azm, *The Memoirs of Khaled al-Azm, Vol. 1* (Beirut: Al Dar Al Muttahida Lol-Nashir, 1973), p. 386.

Note: Acknowledging war as the root of the refugee problem doesn't mean you can't be balanced about, or even sympathetic to, the Palestinian cause. For proof, see Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-49* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1989).

- * "If they did not 'disappear' it was because they had been gunned down in public or tortured and killed."

Source: Kanan Makiya, "Can Tolerance be Born of Cruelty in the Arab World?" *New Perspectives Quarterly*, Winter 2002.

- * "They get by on odd jobs."

Source: Paul Adams, "Tourists, Investors shun Beirut despite facelift," *The Globe and Mail*, March 27, 2002.



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- * "Their cable was ignored."

Source and note: Arieh L. Avneri, *The Claim of Dispossession: Jewish Land Settlement and the Arabs 1878-1948* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Transaction Books, 1984), p. 114.

Specifically, Avneri writes, "On March 31, 1911, some 150 Arab notables from Jerusalem, headed by Ragheb Nashashibi, sent a cable to the Turkish parliament protesting the land sales to Jews. Even moderate Arab leaders such as the mayor of Jerusalem, Hussein el-Husseini, who thought that the Arabs had much to learn from the Jews, expressed their apprehension over the land sales: 'All this notwithstanding, we must keep a watchful eye on the Zionists for, if things continue the way they are now going, all our land will before long pass into their hands. Our fellah is poor and downtrodden, and a poor man is ready even to part with his land to keep body and soul together. For this reason the Government must pass a law against land sales to Jews, taking into account the conditions in the country.'"

- * "That year marks the height of the Ottoman Muslim genocide against Armenian Christians."

Note: While Turkey officially denies that the Armenian genocide happened, even the most pro-Muslim Western reporter I can think of, Robert Fisk, doesn't deny it. See, for example, *The Independent*, August 5, 2000.

Ironically enough, however, Israel doesn't acknowledge the Armenian genocide in its social studies textbooks, for fear of upsetting its strongest regional ally, Turkey. Here's an Israeli policy that I have absolutely no problem criticizing. It's morally and factually wrong.

- * "... `a number of Arabs have asked for [British] Government protection."

Source: *Palestine Royal Commission Report*, Cmd 5479 (London, July 1937), p. 135.

- * "In 1939... Britain offered the Palestinians a plan for full statehood."

Source: Sandra Mackey, *Passion & Politics: The Turbulent World of the Arabs* (New York: Plume, 1994), pp. 121-22.

- * "'They merely want to be left alone to sow and harvest; to marry and find the wherewithal in these troubled times to bring up their families.'"

Source and note: December 10, 1938 report in the *News Chronicle*, quoted by Maurice Pearlman, *Mufti of Jerusalem: The Story of Haj Amin el Husseini* (London: V.Gollancz, 1947), p. 20.

This sentiment eerily echoes what a contemporary Palestinian farmer is quoted as saying about Arab terrorists: "They claim they are heroes. They brought us only destruction and made us homeless. They used our farms, our houses and our children to hide." See Paul Adams, "Protests a rare sign of support by Palestinians for ceasefire," *The Globe and Mail*, May 21, 2003.

- * "Did he build a shelter or an asylum or a charity cistern from which poor tramps could drink?"

Source: Maurice Pearlman quoting from *Mufti of Jerusalem*, p. 29.



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- * "... Haj Amin 'may well be descended from the best Roman stock.'"

Source and note: Hitler quoted by Robert Wistrich, *Hitler's Apocalypse: Jews and the Nazi Legacy* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1985), p. 164. I especially recommend the chapters, "Swastika, Crescent and Star of David" and "Militant Islam and Arab Nationalism."

- * "When Israel honored such a Bosnian family in the 1960s at a ceremony in Jerusalem, they decided to stay and become Israeli citizens."

Source: Sir Martin Gilbert, speech given in Toronto on January 30, 2003.

- * "'This saves your honor. God is with you.'"

Source: Maurice Pearlman quoting Haj Amin in *Mufti of Jerusalem*, p. 51.

- * "... the proposed Palestinian state would have boasted an overwhelmingly Arab population; not so the Jewish state, which would have had only a thin majority of Jews."

Source and note: Walid Khalidi, "Revisiting the UNGA Partition Resolution," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Issue 105, Autumn 1997, p. 11. Writes Khalidi, "In terms of population, the proposed Palestinian state would have 818,000 Palestinians" and "less than 10,000 Jews." But "the Jewish state would have about 499,000 Jews and about 438,000 Palestinians..."

- * "... 'the Arab League... discouraged - at times even prevented - any active Palestinian participation in the political process.'"

Source: Bernard Lewis, *The Middle East: 2000 Years of History from the Rise of Christianity to the Present Day* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1995), p 365.

- * "A vacuum had been created, to be filled by anyone ready to question the state and criticize governments in the name of Islam."

Source: Gilles Kepel, *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002), p. 53.

- * "Their great hope... has been that a return to strict Islam would provide the strength for a final victory over Zionism and Israel."

Source: Gaber Asfour, "Osama bin Laden: Financier of Intolerant 'Desert' Islam," *New Perspectives Quarterly*, Winter 2002.

- * "'Everything seems doomed to failure and corruption.'"

Source: Muhammed Abu Samra, "Martyrdom in Modern Palestinian Society," speech given in Toronto on October 6, 2002.

- * "'We take comfort, Mr. President, in designing excuses... may take yet another eternal struggle without opening a door of hope.'"

Source and note: *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, September 2, 2002. Translated by Independent Media Review Analysis and checked against other translations. It's interesting to note that Navil Amr,



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a former newspaper editor himself, became information minister in the cabinet of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

- * "[S]econd-generation Zionist propaganda... few people would have described the angry words of Blacks against Whites as a sign of Black racism."

Source and note: Yousef Al-Yousef, "Israeli propaganda nominated for Oscar," www.arabia.com, March 21, 2002. By the way, Yousef Al-Yousef is described in this review as "Chairman of the American Muslims for Global Peace and Justice - a Washington, DC-based American Muslim human rights advocacy group."

- * "After returning to Toronto, I learned that a Palestine solidarity group was sponsoring a South African academic to spread the word on North American campuses that Israel is an apartheid state."

Note: The academic in question is Na'eem Jeenah, spokesperson for the Palestine Solidarity Committee of South Africa. On September 30, 2002, he gave a speech on "South Africa and Israel - The Practice of Apartheid."

- * "... a Jewish parliamentarian had recently tabled a bill to introduce secular marriages..."

Note: The parliamentarian in question is Amnon Rubinstein.

- * "Would a Hebrew newspaper in an apartheid state run an article by an Arab-Israeli about why 'the Zionist adventure has been a total failure'?"

Source: Anton Shamas, an Arab-Israeli writer, quoted by Yosef Lapid, "To my candid, envious friend," *Jerusalem Post*, June 13, 1995. The Hebrew language newspaper in which Shamas wrote is *Ha'ir*, a Tel Aviv local.

- * "... an anti-Israel letter supposedly penned by Nelson Mandela but proven to have been authored by an Arab living in Holland."

Note: My research assistant has corresponded directly with the letter writer, Arjan El Fassed, who confirms the Al Quds "never retracted."

- * "Israel is not South Africa..."

Source: Edward Said, "Israel-Palestine: a third way," *Le Monde Diplomatique* (English translation), September 1998.

- * "Why can't we fight harder for freedom of opinions in our own societies, a freedom, no one needs to be told, that scarcely exists?"

Source: Edward Said, *Ibid*.

- * "At forums leading up to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, the Arab Lawyers Union circulated cartoons..."



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Note: I checked with non-Jewish friends who went to this conference, and several recall having seen these cartoons.

- * "Too many Arab-Muslim Intellectuals, journalists, and politicians tell their audiences that Jews are Nazis because they siphon the blood of non-Jewish children..."

Source: For fully documented examples of this, read Robert Wistrich, *Muslim Anti-Semitism: A Clear and Present Danger* (American Jewish Committee, 2002).

- * "No less a figure than the Syrian defense minister is publishing books and producing a movie to tag Jews as bloodsuckers."

Note: The defense minister is Mustafa Tlass.

- * "There are black Jews - Falasha - who, under the Law of Return, were airlifted from Ethiopia to Israel."

Source and Note: David Matas, *Israel and the Palestinians: Myths and Realities* (Institute for International Affairs of B'Nai Brith Canada, 2001), p. 5.

Matas makes another interesting point: "The Basic Law of Germany allows anyone to become a citizen who is the descendent of a person who was a German citizen and was deprived of that citizenship on political, racial, or religious grounds between January 30, 1933 and May 8, 1945. The person does not have to be a first generation descendant. This German law is itself informally called a Law of Return, yet no United Nations resolution has ever suggested that this German Law of Return is racist." (p. 6)

- * "They're also thriving, notching much higher university attendance rates than the Arab Muslim citizens of Israel and enjoying better overall health than Jews themselves."

Source: Amnon Rubinstein, "A minority within a minority," *Ha'aretz*, October 7, 2002. Rubinstein quotes Dr. Alex Lowenthal, head of the Israeli Health Ministry's Public Health Service, as saying, "The Christian Arabs have the finest health indicators in Israel. Better than the Jews."

- * "'It was crowded!'"

Source: Thomas Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree* (New York: Farrar, Straus Giroux, 1999), p. 278.

- * "'Listen to a Muslim intellectual, mullah or politician... he will perjure himself to get financial assistance from his offspring by declaring his insolvency.'"

Source: Irfan Husain, "When will we ever learn?" *Dawn*, December 21, 2002.

- * "'More telling, Pepsi cans litter the path to the cave of Hirah, where Prophet Muhammad reportedly imbibed the words of God.'"

Source: Farid Esack, *On Being a Muslim: Finding a Religious Path in the World Today* (Oxford:



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Oneworld Publications, 1999), p. 15.

- * "...denounced Pokemon (the children's video game) as a Japanese word that translates into 'I am Jewish.'"

Source and note: Hala Boncompagni, "Japanese pocket monster 'Pokemon' game fans passions in Jordan," *Agence France Presse*, April 5, 2001.

Boncompagni reported that "after the fatwas, or religious edicts, issued in Saudi Arabia and Qatar to ban Pokemon, passions are also running high in Amman where the game has created tension within a Christian community while some Jordanians see it as an Israeli plot. Father Emmanuel Estephan Banna of the Syriac Orthodox Christian community felt the sting several days ago when the first anonymous messages came over his facsimile machine. 'The messages said that the word Pokemon and the names of the characters found in the game were Jewish words rooted in the ancient Syriac Language and insulting to Islam,' the priest told AFP. 'They said the word Pokemon means 'I am Jewish' and that Pikachu (the game's main character) is a very bad and offensive description of Allah (God).'"

- * "... 'a Jewish plot aimed at forcing our children to forgo their faith and values and distract them from more important things such as scientific ambitions.'"

Source and note: Hala Boncompagni quoting Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah al-Sheikh, *Ibid*. The same cleric charged that most of the Pokemon trading cards "feature six-pointed stars, a symbol of international Zionism and the state of Israel" as well as "different-shaped crosses."

- * "... 'the frustration and anger of a populace that has been given some wealth but not voice - locked in a gilded cage.'"

Source: Fareed Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2003), pp. 135-36.

- * "... the United States will promote moderation and tolerance and human rights.'"

Source: President George W. Bush in a speech at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York on June 1, 2002.

- * "His sentence of seven years with the possibility of hard labor is almost like a 'death certificate' for civil liberties in Egypt..."

Source: Hisham Kassem, "All Things Considered," *National Public Radio*, July 29, 2002.

- * "... it became obvious to him that 'those I had angered decided to act to eliminate Saad Eddin Ibrahim from Egypt's public life.'"

Source: Saad Ibrahim in a speech to Freedom House, Washington, D.C., on October 21, 2002.

- * "The hounded couple now lives in Holland, from the safety of which Abu Zeid is counter-suing the Egyptian justice minister."



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Note: For an excellent overview of Abu Zeid's case, see Mary Anne Weaver, "Revolution by Stealth," *New Yorker*, June 8, 1998.

- * "'Societies that restrict the space for citizens to participate and express dissent will eventually spawn a twisted, angry and lethal response.'"

Source: Saad Ibrahim in a speech to Freedom House, Washington, D.C., on October 21, 2002.

- * "In a country that mandates that fully half the members of parliament must be either peasants or laborers, the current configuration is solidly tilted toward a tiny elite."

Source: Jon B. Alterman, "Egypt: Stable but for How Long?" *The Washington Quarterly*, Volume 23, Number 4, Autumn 2000, p. 115.

- * "'... a crime punishable - we soon learned - under a law from the 1920s, never used to prosecute [an] Egyptian citizen before.'"

Source: Saad Ibrahim in a speech to Freedom House, Washington, D.C., on October 21, 2002. The preceding two quotes also come from this source.

- * "... a 'laughable' suggestion, clucked one Arab journalist, considering that the Egyptian government survives on foreign aid."

Source: Rami Khouri, "Don't stifle a rare Arab voice of moderation," *The Globe and Mail*, July 5, 2000.

- * "... one of Washington's most conservative publications encouraged Bush to exercise America's 'abundant leverage with Egypt' and secure clemency for Ibrahim."

Source: Claudia Winkler, "Egypt's Sakharov," *Weekly Standard* online edition, July 31, 2002.

- * "A hundred Arabs from around the world nonetheless followed Bush's lead and sent Mubarak their own letter to support Ibrahim."

Source: To download this letter, visit www.memri.org, click on "Reform in the Arab Muslim World," and then go to "October 15, 2002: Liberal Arab Intellectuals Call on President Mubarak to Free Dr. Sa'as Al-Deen Ibrahim."

- * "...Muslim women can't legally marry outside the faith."

Source: I've received testimony from many women. For obvious reasons, they choose to remain anonymous.

- * "'The Arab states have fought no fewer than fifteen open or secret wars against one another since the 1930s...'"

Source: Amir Taheri, "The Arab Role," *National Review Online*, December 20, 2002.



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- * "... `we have failed as a civil society by not confronting the historical, social and political demons within us...`"

Source: Izzat Majeed quoted by Tom Friedman, "Breaking the Circle," *The New York Times*, November 16, 2001.

- * "'You are free... Hindus will cease to be Hindus and Muslims will cease to be Muslims... In the political sense as citizens of the state.'"

Source: Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his first speech as Governor-General of Pakistan on August 11, 1947.

- * "Trusting me as that 'Muslim on TV,' he bemoaned how our people are killing each other... But Zia rejected his offer."

Source: Conversation with Ahmed, who asked that his last name not be published, in Toronto on September 13, 2002.

- * "... `Important officials and concerned citizens'... part of a Hindu or Zionist conspiracy."

Source: Akbar Ahmed and Lawrence Rosen, "Islam and Freedom of Thought," *The Chronicle of Higher Education* online edition, November 2001.

- * "Muslims today `are the poorest, the most illiterate, the most unenlightened, the most deprived, and the weakest of all the human race.'"

Source: Pervez Musharraf as quoted by www.bbc.co.uk, February 16, 2002.

- * "'... I even received a negative response to my suggestion that Muslim scholars such as historian Ibn Khaldun or mystic poet Maulana Rumi be taught.'"

Source: Akbar Ahmed, "Reforming the Madrassah," www.beliefnet.com, November 13, 2002.

- * "'What is most important to the history of the world? Some stirred-up Muslims or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the Cold War?'"

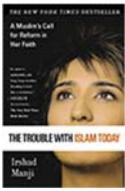
Source: Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, January 15-21, 1998, p. 76.

- * "Eisenhower noted `a campaign of hatred against us not by the governments but by the people' of the Arab world."

Source: President Eisenhower as quoted by Noam Chomsky, "Drain the swamp and there will be no more mosquitoes," *The Guardian* online edition, September 9, 2001.

- * "I think that's what we're talking about."

Source: *Donahue*, MSNBC, August 2, 2002.



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- * “The election system has no place in the Islamic creed’ since Islam views the leader as a ‘shepherd’ who’s responsible for his ‘flock.’”

Source: King Fahd as quoted by John Esposito, “A Response to ‘The Place of Tolerance in Islam’,” *Boston Review* online edition, February/March 2002.



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Chapter 6: The Hidden Underbelly of Islam

- * “‘We’re not smart enough’ is a commonly uttered explanation throughout the Islamic world for why Muslims couldn’t possibly have engineered the September 11 attacks.”

Source and Note: This is confirmed by the Muslim reformist Tarek Fatah, who recently spent time in Pakistan and frequently heard such mutterings.

Similarly, Tariq Ali writes in *The Clash of Fundamentalisms*, “I’ve met many of our people in different parts of the world since 11 September. One question is always repeated: ‘Do you think we Muslims are clever enough to have done this?’ I always answer ‘Yes.’ Then I ask who they think is responsible, and the answer is invariably, Israel.” (p. 305)

- * “Unless, as I said, Muslims today are not so much an international community as an Arabian tribe.”

Note: For further reading on this theme, consult Anwar Shaikh, *Islam: The Arab National Movement* (Cardiff: Principality Publishers, 1995) and W.R. Clement, *Reforming the Prophet: The Quest for the Islamic Reformation* (Toronto: Insomniac Press, 2002).

- * “‘But local cultures are now being ignored in places such as Indonesia and Malaysia because they are seen as insufficiently Islamic (meaning Arab).’”

Source: Fareed Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2003), p. 145.

Zakaria’s observation that Arab influences are increasingly defining Indonesian Islam is reinforced by Tracy Dahlby, “Indonesia: Living Dangerously,” *National Geographic*, March 2001. Writes Dahlby, “Wardah Hafidz, a leading advocate for the urban poor, told me that a growing number of female office workers had adopted the *jilbab* or Islamic head scarf.” Actually, *jilbab* is an Arab - not Islamic - head scarf, sold to the Indonesian masses (and some journalists) as an article of Islamic faith.

See also Simon Winchester, *Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded - August 27, 1888* (New York: HarperCollins, 2003). Winchester points out that Indonesia “was converted by Arabs, and it still looks to Arabia and Arabians for spiritual guidance” (p. 326). For a fascinating example of how Arabia can whip up the fundamentalist fervor of even serene Sufis, see pp. 330-332.

- * “‘Maybe the grip of desert tribalism is why Palestinian suicide bombers rely on handouts from Arab despots.’”

Note: In my July 2, 2003 interview with Dr. Eyad Sarraj, a Palestinian psychoanalyst and founder of the Gaza community Mental Health Program, he pinpointed tribalism as a major problem in Palestinian culture. Sarraj explained, “This is a tribal structure in which dissent is seen as treason. We have not yet developed a state of citizenry, within all Arab countries, in which people are equal before the law. This is very serious.”



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- * "Desert Islam... opposes 'the pluralistic, haggling life of the el-haraa - the urban alleyway bazaars. It is fanatic.'"

Source: Gaber Asfour, "Osama bin Laden: Financier of Intolerant Desert' Islam," *New Perspectives Quarterly*, Winter 2002.

- * "It means women, whom Asfour says are regarded by the desert culture as a 'source of temptation and evil.'"

Note: Some commentators point out that Ali, the fourth successor of Prophet Muhammad, urged Muslim men to 'beware of the evils of women. Be on your guard even from them who are (reportedly) good. Do not obey them even in good things so that they may not attract you to evils.' Supposedly, these words come from his sermon following the Battle of the Camel - a battle led, paradoxically enough, by the Prophet's wife, Ayesha.

- * "'It's as if God occupied the minds of Muslims, invaded them.'"

Source: Conversation with Taslima Nasrin in Toronto on October 28, 2002.

- * "The Qur'an insists 'to God belongs the east and the west. Whichever way you turn there is the face of God.'"

Source: Qur'an 2:115.

- * "Do you know where Iranian women got the design for their post-revolutionary chadors...? From a mullah who led Shias in Lebanon."

Source and note: The mullah in question is Mussa Sadr. See Amir Taheri, "The Freedom to go Topless," *Wall Street Journal*, December 6, 2002. That's not the only form of Arab colonization the Iranians have noticed. In her graphic novel, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* (New York: Vintage, 2003), the artist Marjane Satrapi illustrates the resentment of many Iranians toward the "Arab Invasion." (pp. 7, 79)

- * "I recently cracked open a book... It referred to the pre-Islamic period as the Age of Ignorance - capital A, capital I."

Source and note: Subhanbi, *The Message* (City unknown: Islamic Seminary, 1984), p. 41. An "interesting feature of this book," its author boasts, "is that it is absolutely free from heresies and concocted stories invented by vested interests." (p. xviii). All the more reason to note that one of the chapters is entitled, "Dangerous Designs of the Jews," which exposes an "Israelite program" to propagate myths "coined by the Jews..." (p. 179) So much for conquering the Age of Ignorance.

- * "... there was no room in the heart or mind of these believers for their pre-Mohammedan past."

Source: V.S. Naipaul, "Our Universal Civilization," *The Writer and the World: Essays* (New York and Toronto: Knopf, 2002), p. 508.

- * "... if they had not lived, it would have been impossible for us, despite all our zeal, during the whole of our lifetime, to assemble these principles of truth..."



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Source: Al-Kindi as quoted by David C. Lindberg, *Theories of Vision from Al-Kindi to Depler* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2976), p. 18.

- * "... `turned black for many days because of the ink and the blood.'"

Source: Mohammed Ayub Khan, review of Bernard Lewis's *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response*, www.islamonline.net, June 16, 2002.

- * "'Beware of new things, for every new thing is an innovation and every innovation a mistake.'"

Source: Quoted by Murad Wilfried Hofmann in *Islam: The Alternative* (Reading, UK: Garnet, 1993), p. 32.

- * "... a Persian princess briefly sparked a feminist consciousness (or a nationalist one, at any rate) that overhauled her state's constitution."

Source and note: The princess in question is Taj es-Saltana. See Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response* (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), p. 95.

- * "... Sufis had a great devotion to the Prophet Jesus, and the Faylasufs, who were inspired by the study of Plato and Aristotle, were seeking a more universal form of faith."

Source: Karen Armstrong, "A Question of faith" (review of Richard Fletcher's *The Cross and the Crescent*), *The Guardian*, March 1, 2003.

- * "With such proposals the Turks have become infidels' and 'it is lawful to make their children slaves.'"

Source: Sheikh Jamal, "Chief of the Ulema of Mecca," as quoted by Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response* (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), p. 92.

- * "'... almighty God preserve us...'"

Source: Arif Efendi, Chief Mufti of Istanbul, as quoted by Bernard Lewis, *Ibid.*, p. 93.

- * "... a Gallup poll showed that eighty-two percent of urban Pakistanis considered him a freedom fighter."

Source and note: Richard Behar, *Pakistan: A Kidnapped Nation*, *Fortune*, April 29, 2002. And in June 2003, the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press released the results of the 44-nation survey, "Views of a Changing World." It found that "solid majorities in the Palestinian Authority, Indonesia and Jordan - and nearly half of those in Morocco - say they have at least some confidence in Osama bin Laden to 'do the right thing regarding world affairs.' Fully 71% of Palestinians say they have confidence in bin Laden in this regard."

- * "'... Wahhabis forcefully took half of what Ismailis produced from their farms and animals...'"



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Source: Testimony by Dr. Ali H. Alyami to the U.S. Congress on June 4, 2002.

- * "It's all 'permissible' if you believe that Shia Muslims are actually Jews."

Note: Sheikh Muhammed Salih Al-Munajjid believes that Shias are, indeed, Jews. This mullah - the same guy who warned against "excessive laughter" - recently issued a fatwa urging Sunni Muslims to attack Shias. At least he's living up to his vision of a joyless Islam.

- * "'They have the legal status of a car...'"

Source: Testimony by Ali Alyami to the U.S. Congress, June 4, 2002.

- * "Some non-Muslims there face execution for having the nerve to utter the standard greeting of Islam - 'as-salaam alaikum, or peace be with you.'"

Source: Nicholas Kristof, "Watch What You Say," *The New York Times*, June 21, 2002.

- * "' ... We must stay away from them and create barriers between us and them.'"

Source: Dr. Abdullah Al-Tariki, *A Muslim's Relations with Non-Muslims, Enmity or Friendship* (Fairfax, VA: Institute for Islamic and Arabic Sciences in America), p. 28.

- * "*They have been socialized to accept that the religious authorities know best.*"

Source: Zainah Anwar, "Modern, and Moderate, Islam," *Asiaweek*, September 16, 1997, p. 34.

- * "*I don't see any contradiction in that.*"

Source: Zainah Anwar quoted by Anthony Spaeth, "Trouble in Purdah," *Time International*, April 8, 1996.

- * "*Nobody died.*"

Note: Canadian human rights advocate Ken Wiwa writes that "in an article in the newspaper on September 7, Ms. Daniel criticized Christian churches for turning a 'blind eye' to the moral and social decay in the country. 'If Christ were to come again,' she wrote, 'what would He say to those who profess to be called by His name?'" See "Jihad versus Miss World," *The Globe and Mail*, November 30, 2002.

- * "'... men so primitive as to seek their material and moral well-being from the guidance of one or another sheikh.'"

Source: Kemal Ataturk as quoted by David Remnick, "The Experiment: Will Turkey be the model for Islamic Democracy?" *New Yorker*, November 18, 2002, p. 51.

- * "These voters identified a future and not just a past."

Sources: Patrick Graham, "Troubled Turkey goes to polls," *National Post*, November 2, 2002



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and Tom Friedman, "There Is Hope," *The New York Times*, October 27, 2002.

- * "... you see their desperation to embark on the road forward."

Source: Khalid Duran, "Muslim world at a crossroads," *Washington Times*, January 4, 2002.

- * "... attempting to reconcile Islam with human rights, you know the road forward has a few more travelers."

Source: Read a review of the book by Karim Raslan, "Indonesia's moderate Islamists," *Foreign Policy*, July-August 2002, Issue 131, pp. 77-79.

- * "... and when that column screams, 'Face the Facts, Arabs,' you know the gag is loosening."

Source: Muhammad Omar Al-Amoudi, "Face the facts, Arabs," *Arab News*, May 29, 2002.

- * "... while making 'political and economic systems more democratic.'"

Source: Marwan Muasher, "A Path to Arab Democracy," *The New York Times*, April 26, 2003.

- * "... you know that he's inviting a global declaration of interdependence."

Source: Saad Mehio, "A specter is haunting the Middle East: democracy," *The (Beirut) Daily Star* online edition, October 1, 2002.



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Chapter 7: Operation Ijtihad

- * "Help her lead her own fight."

Source and note: Zainab Salbi, *Oprah*, October 7, 2002.

- * "About sixty percent of the people in Arab states are under twenty years old, compared to just twenty nine percent in America."

Source: Eric Boehlert, "The Arab baby boom," www.salon.com, October 18, 2001.

- * "... from almost three hundred million today to four hundred and thirty million in 2020."

Source: *United Nations Arab Human Development Report 2002* (New York: UNDP/RBAS, 2002), p. 37.

- * "... and they're eagerly looking West."

Source: Ibid., p. 3.

- * "... the crocodiles, snakes, and insects they could encounter upon arriving."

Source: Peter Stalker, *The No-Nonsense Guide to International Migration* (Toronto: Between the Lines, 2001), p. 38.

- * "... have received micro-loans in more than 40 countries' since the Grameen Bank opened."

Source: Maggie Black, *The No-Nonsense Guide to International Development* (Toronto: Between the Lines, 2002), p. 66.

- * "... the ten percent recovery boasted by the Bangladesh Industrial Development Bank, which serves only people with property."

Source: Black, Ibid., p. 65.

- * "... the Islamic tradition bustles with the sounds of business."

Note: Indeed, the Qur'an practically sanctifies business at 4:29: "Believers, do not consume your wealth among yourselves in vanity, but rather trade it by mutual consent."

- * "That two million should rise to fifty million'..."

Source and note: Bill Clinton, "The Struggle for the Soul of the 21st Century," *New Perspectives Quarterly*, Spring 2002. For more, read Hernando de Soto's *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Falls Everywhere Else* (New York: Basic Books, 2000).

- * "When Peru implemented de Soto's ideas, school attendance rose by twenty-six percent."



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Source: Conversation with Peter Schaefer, Executive Director of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy in Washington, D.C. on February 12, 2003.

- * "I want to find out if what the mullah says is in the Qur'an is really true'..."

Source: Elaine Kamarck, "Freedom through Islam," *Toronto Star*, February 15, 2002.

- * "People are prone to avarice."

Source: Qur'an 4:128.

- * "... are also societies in which men play subservient roles to men."

Source: Richard Haass, "Towards Greater Democracy in the Muslim World," speech to the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. on December 4, 2002.

- * "They are broadcast on public buses; on loudspeakers of mosques; and on the radio."

Source: www.wlumf.org. Search "Part One: The Context of our Struggle."

- * "... thus expos[es] the status and hidden facts of the Zionist military warfare."

Source: www.manartv.com. Click on "Programs," then on "Perspective."

- * "... citizens in every city of the former Soviet Union now have a variety of channels from which to choose."

Source: David Hoffman, "Beyond Public Diplomacy," *Foreign Affairs* online edition, March-April 2002, Volume 81, Issue 2, p. 5.

- * "... rather than feeling that they don't know enough to be able to speak."

Source: Dr. Ayesha Imam on Toronto's *Metro Morning*, CBC Radio, December 3, 2002.

- * "If you ask her, 'Do you believe this God would want you to be beaten, to be brutalized?' she would instantly understand this and say, 'No.'"

Source: Riffat Hassan as quoted by Elaine Kamarck, "Freedom through Islam," *Toronto Star*, February 15, 2002.

- * "When the likes of Tunisia and Turkey impose walls between spiritual life and the material realm, they end up giving secular democracy a less-than-democratic name."

Note: Until the rise of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, many Turkish women complained that they were barred from university classrooms and even from parliament because of their choice to wear hijab. For more, read Julie Salamon, "Seeking a Global Faith in the Details," *The New York Times*, May 9, 2002.

- * "I pointed out that the hijra, Prophet Muhammad's famous move from Mecca to Medina, translates into 'seeking protection by settling in a place other than one's own.'"



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Source: Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (New York: Warner Books, 1991), p. 17.

- * "Ms. Manji omitted the last qualifier to advance her argument."

Source: Mohamed Elmasry, then-president of the Canadian Islamic Congress, "Another leaf," *The Globe and Mail Letters*, February 6, 2002.

- * "... Abraham and Sarah were living in Hebron when Sarah died long before the Prophet Muhammad existed."

Source: Seila Dropkin, "Wake up Arafat," *The Globe and Mail Letters*, February 7, 2002.

- * "Bang away, kid."

Source: Conversation with Rabbi David Hartman in Jerusalem on July 9, 2002.

- * "... we must all be aware that Palestinians are people, too."

Source: Edgar M. Bronfman, "The Boos: A Mideast Moment," *The New York Times Letters*, May 14, 2002.

- * "... it is in the one-who-is-different that we meet God."

Source and note: Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations* (London, New York: Continuum, 2002), p. 59.

Sacks might celebrate difference more than most Orthodox Jewish leaders, but he's far from the only one who *tolerates* difference. Uri Lupolianski, an ultra-Orthodox Jew and mayor of Jerusalem from 2003-2008, ran for office on the slogan, "Live and let live." He won. True to his word, Mayor Lupolianski defended Jerusalem's 2003 gay and lesbian pride parade. "Everyone has his own parade," he reminded conservative protesters, adding that "I, myself, will be marching in another parade." See Mitch Potter, "Cavalcade of rainbow flags raises tension in Jerusalem," *Toronto Star*, June 21, 2003.

- * "... [t]he supreme religious challenge is to see God's image in one who is not in our image."

Source: Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations* (London, New York: Continuum, 2002), p. 60.

- * "... Islam's leadership can no longer come from Arabs because, on balance, they don't know how to speak with non-Muslims."

Source: Reported to me by Tarek Fatah, a Toronto delegate to the Kuala Lumpur conference.

- * "There, the official English-language newspaper congratulated couples on Valentine's Day."

Source: Lily Galili, "Liberal Islam in Asiatic dress," *Ha'aretz*, February 23, 2003.



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- * "... `the most important center of mainstream Islam in the Arab world.'"

Source: Fareed Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2003), p. 136.

- * "... `the enemies of Allah, sons of pigs and apes.'"

Source and note: "MEMRI Special Report - Arab Antisemitism," No. 9, November 1, 2002. I've had a speaker of classical Arabic double-check MEMRI's translation against the original.

MEMRI has also noted that "[i]n March 2003, Al-Azhar University's Institute for Islamic Research issued a recommendation not to describe contemporary Jews as 'apes and pigs.' The meeting during which the recommendation was drafted was headed by Sunni Islam's highest-ranking cleric, the sheikh of Al-Azhar, Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi." Notice, however, that this was only a *recommendation*, not a decree, against using the epithet. Where's a fatwa when you need one?

- * "... it will be the first to be defeated because it lives in a world in which there is no fear of death."

Source: MEMRI Special Dispatch Series - No. 59, November 19, 1999. I've had a speaker of classical Arabic double-check MEMRI's translation against the original.

- * "'I think that whoever refuses to meet with the enemy in order to slap him on the face is a coward, as long as the meeting in question serves Islam.'"

Source: MEMRI Special Report - No. 2, February 8, 1998.

- * "... the Three Faiths Forum cut off all communication when I asked why the venom-tongued Tantawi would be an acceptable patron."

Note: I sent my first email to the forum on February 22, 2003. The second and still-unanswered email was sent on February 24. Here's what I wrote to Sidney Shipton, coordinator of the Three Faiths Forum: "I must confess to being somewhat confused by Sheikh Tantawi's name as a patron. According to the Middle East Media Research Institute, the sheikh has made pretty inflammatory remarks about Jews (and not just Israel) for many years now - both during the [Oslo] peace process and afterwards. As recently as last April, he was quoted as saying that Jews are the 'enemies of Allah, sons of pigs and apes.' Given the nature of the work done by the Three Faiths Forum, why would the forum accept someone with these views as a patron? I ask in the spirit of openness and look forward to your reply."

- * "So, perhaps the idea that I am closer to Judaism and you are closer to Islam because of our belief in the One God revealed to Abraham isn't so far off the mark!"

Source: Posting on the Middle East Abrahamic Forum, September 11, 2002. This is the original (now defunct) URL: <http://groups.msn.com/MiddleEastAbrahamicForum>

- * "... that will help men rise from the dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of understanding and brotherhood.'"



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Source: Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail," April 16, 1963.

- * "... that Operation Ijtihad will embolden the International community to spot and stop the origins of genocide - origins that might be associated with religion."

Note: For more on this, see Anthony W. Marx, *Faith in Nation: Exclusionary Origins of Nationalism* (London and New York: Oxford University Press, 2003). A good primer is provided by Alexander Stille, "Historians Trace an Unholy Alliance: Religion and Nationalism," *The New York Times*, May 31, 2003.

- * "'Tens of thousands have been displaced, and 100,000... forcibly starved.'"

Source: Charles Jacobs, "Why Israel and not Sudan, is singled out," *Boston Globe*, October 5, 2002.

- * "... Britain's criminal courts have successfully prosecuted a Saudi-trained, London-based cleric for soliciting the murder of Jews, Hindus, and Americans."

Note: The cleric in question is Abdullah El-Faisal.

- * "'The Bible, at least, is beautiful because the Jews have a sublime literary talent.'"

Source: Michel Houellebecq, *Lire* online edition, September 2001.

- * "'They breed too much'... 'Italians don't produce babies anymore, the idiots.'"

Source: Oriana Fallaci, *The Rage and the Pride* (New York: Rizzoli, 2001), p. 137.

- * "'Yes to the market economy, no to the market society!'"

Source: Lionel Jospin, speech given at the Foreign Policy Centre in London on July 23, 1998.

- * "... '[t]he evidence shows that education, health, productivity, credit and governance work better.'"

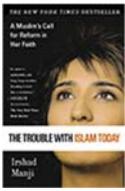
Source: "Women Key to Effective Development," World Bank Issues press backgrounder, December 6, 2001. See also *Engendering Development 2001*, World Bank Research Report.

- * "... Bangladeshi Muslims pay Riyadh two thousand dollars (four-fifths of a first year's salary)..."

Source: Peter Stalker, *The No-Nonsense Guide to International Migration* (Toronto: Between the Lines, 2001), p. 50.

- * "... only a business class that can be taxed by the state will, in turn, compel the state to develop institutions that respond to people."

Note: The authors of the *UN Arab Human Development Report 2002* agree. In the chapter entitled, "Arab Governance: Citizens Getting Organized to Bargain," they write, "Many governments previously offered guaranteed employment, subsidies and other inducements. Today, economic pressures have reduced their ability to offer such benefits. Governments



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increasingly need to rely on tax revenues to function, and this gives citizens more power to negotiate a greater voice in government.”

- * “... tearing a white rabbit to shreds as part of their training in defense of Iraq and of Islam, blood literally on their hands.”

Source: *Dawn*, December 21, 2002.



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Chapter 8: In Praise of Honesty

- * "Particularly from Muslim women, who thanked me for opening a door, you know."

Source: Conversation with Salman Rushdie in Toronto on September 20, 2002.

- * "I'm going to write exactly the same things that were said for the past six hundred years."

Source: Khaled Abou El Fadl, speech to the Canadian Council of Muslim Women in Toronto on September 14, 2002.

- * "Then Alex mentioned an article in the newspaper that day about Islamic extremism in Denmark."

Note: The article in question is by Daniel Pipes and Lars Hedegaard, "Muslim extremism: Denmark's had enough," *National Post*, August 27, 2002.

- * "We are all now necessarily involved with each other."

Source: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, *After Multiculturalism* (London: Foreign Policy Centre, 2000), p. 7.

- * "... a new sense of Muslim solidarity is in the making."

Source: Sulayman S. Nyang, www.projectmaps.com. Search "Why the Public Square?"

- * "... [i]gnorance, injustice, corruption, hypocrisy and the erosion of moral rectitude are quite prevalent in contemporary Muslim societies."

Source: Anwar Ibrahim, "The Need for Civilizational Dialogue," speech at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. on October 6, 1994.

- * "The final speaker of the day - the anchor of the anti-war dream team, if you will - publishes a newspaper that valorizes Iranian-style theocracy."

Note: I won't give this newspaper publicity by mentioning its name, but I will point out the degree to which its publisher, Zafar Bangash, blames everybody but Muslims for the crisis of Islam. In the November 15, 2002 edition of the TVOntario show "Diplomatic Immunity," Bangash stated that "the Muslims have been denied their destiny by colonialists, and they are struggling against that."

The interviewer then asked, "If Israel didn't exist, if Chechnya were independent, if Kashmir were an independent state, if America got all its oil from Alberta instead of Saudi Arabia and brought all its troops home, are you saying that everything would be fine in the Islamic world?" To which Bangash replied, "Absolutely; they [Muslims] would have no problem. They still have no problem."

- * "... the Zionists in Hollywood, the Zionists in New York, and the Zionists in D.C. are colluding against Muslims."



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Source: Abdul Malim Musa quoted by David Corn, "Capital Games," *The Nation* online edition, February 10, 2002.

- * "'They push the end of co-educational schooling, the banning of girls from sciences, sports and arts [and] educational programmes that promote a hatred of others.'"

Source: www.wluml.org. Search "Part One: The Context of our Struggle."

- * "... all soothing names, and all implicated in Islamic terror."

Source: Matthew A. Levitt, *Testimony to U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs* (Subcommittee on International Trade and Finance), "The Role of Charities and NGOs in the Financing of Terrorist Activities," August 1, 2002.

- * "... 'Does telling the truth make us racists?'"

Note: *In World on Fire* (New York: Doubleday, 2003), Yale academic Amy Chua writes that "[i]f Jewish-Americans are viewed as an ethnic minority in the United States, they do not remotely dominate the U.S. economy... None of the ten wealthiest Americans is Jewish." (p.189)

- * "... calling it 'more or less a wild guess.'"

Source: Noam Scheiber, "Numbers in the News: Is there really an army of terrorists in our midst?" *The New York Times Magazine*, February 16, 2002, p. 12.

- * "... Nelson Mandela's indictment of George W. Bush as 'a president who can't think properly...'"

Source: "Mandela condemns US stance on Iraq," www.bbc.co.uk, January 30, 2003.

- * "'... Between my buns when I ride or I bike...'"

Source: This performance was captured on camera by independent filmmaker Mike Downie and political science professor Ron Diebert, then broadcast on "Big Ideas," *TVOntario*, November 24, 2002.

- * "You and I know about America's inanities because we hear about them incessantly."

Note: Another telling example of this point appears in the acknowledgements of *Rogue Nation: The America the Rest of the World Knows* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2003). The author, *Toronto Star* journalist Peter Scowen, excoriates America as self-serving, duplicitous and generally in violation of its freedom-loving ideals. Yet, in his acknowledgments, Scowen says, "I owe a debt to the National Security Archives, whose tireless efforts have forced various departments and agencies of the United States government to cough up invaluable documents and make them available on the Internet." (p. vi) Scowen is an excellent illustration of someone who can easily criticize the U.S. because it's a country that bares itself to antagonists and not just to admirers.

- * "... why should human rights belong to non-Muslims?"



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Note: For more on this, see Bassam Tibi, *The Challenge of Fundamentalism: Political Islam and the New World Disorder* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), p. 205.

- * "... exactly insofar as they themselves respect the fundamental rights of men and women."

Source: Amin Maalouf, *In the Name of Identity: Violence and the Need to Belong* (New York: Arcade Publishing, 2001), p. 106.

- * "... `neglect[ing] the honour of the Virgin Mary and Jesus, Sheikh Omar signed a fatwa against McNally..."

Source: James Lyons, "Islamic court condemns author who depicts Jesus as homosexual," *The Independent* online edition, October 30, 1999.

- * "... he could be buried in a Muslim graveyard."

Source and note: James Lyons, *Ibid.* In response to Sheikh Omar, two gay-rights groups, the Lesbian Avengers and Outrage, issued a "Queer Fatwa" against him. The fatwa reportedly read: "Omar Bakri Mohammad is hereby sentenced to 1000 years of relentless sodomitical torture." Pity his torturer.



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Chapter 9: Thank God for the West

- * "At Dalhousie University, where Ibrahim sells hot dogs, they affectionately call him The Dogfather."

Source: Conversation with Ibrahim in Halifax on September 27, 2002.

- * "... unprovoked anger has erupted at some 'Arab-looking' people (among them, Israeli Jews)."

Source: Josh Tyrangiel, "Israeli Jews in the Dragnet," *Time Canada*, December 10, 2001, p. 41.

- * "'This is a proud moment for the Postal Service, the Muslim community, and Americans in general.'"

Source: Javid Hassan, "US to reissue Eid Stamp on Oct. 10," *Arab News* online edition, September 17, 2002.

- * "'... internships and fellowships in the White House and State Department.'"

Source: www.isna.net.

- * "... Queen Noor points out that President Kennedy personally appealed to Halaby to take the position."

Source: Queen Noor, *Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life* (New York: Miramax Books, 2003), p. 18.

- * "'We are overwhelmed,' said its religious director..."

Source and Note: Mahmoud Abdel-Baset as quoted by Solomon Moore, "After the Attack: Expressions of Support Surprising to Muslims," *Los Angeles Times*, September 26, 2001.

- * "'... that emerged in America for about two months after the attacks.'"

Source and note: Journalist Doug Saunders in an email dated February 25, 2003.

Saunders went on to acknowledge that "the Homeland Security measures and mass arrests and deportations and so on did have the effect of singling out entire ethnic cultures in the U.S. and criminalizing them en masse. Interestingly, I don't think this has turned into a popular villainization of Muslim Americans, the way the internment of the Japanese was accompanied by a real racist backlash against Asians in the general population. I suspect this may in part be because Americans are very, very religious people, and their own very deep Christian belief makes the practices and beliefs of Islam seem fairly reasonable, more so than it does in, say, Europe."

- * "'But I am heartened by the earnestness and sincerity with which people are trying to learn about Islam.'"



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Source: Sarah Eitantawl as quoted by Solomon Moore, "After the Attack: Expressions of Support Surprising to Muslims," *Los Angeles Times*, September 26, 2001.

- * "Let there be no compulsion in religion."

Source: Qur'an 2:256.

- * "Unto you your religion, unto me my religion."

Source: Qur'an 109:6

- * "If God had pleased, He would have made you all one people. But He has done otherwise..."

Source: Qur'an 5:48. A similar verse is found at 16:93, stating, "Had God pleased, He would have untied you in one community..."

- * "'If you're dead, you're dead. Finished. Finito.'"

Source: Conversation with Taslima Nasrin in Toronto on October 28, 2002.

- * "'Islam is one of the world's great religions - that's not just a line.'"

Source: Yossi Klein Halevi in an email dated February 26, 2003.

- * "The Sufis are... 'absurdly peripheral' within Islam."

Source: Yossi Klein Halevi, *At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with Christians and Jews in the Holy Land* (New York: William Morrow, 2001), p. 105.

- * "'Beats pork, eh?' say the rabbi and mullah."

Source: Noam Cohen, stand-up comic and coordinator of Toronto's "Funny Jews and Muslims" show.