

# MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE®

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## RELIGION AS 21ST CENTURY WORLD FORCE

THE GREAT SECULAR MOTIVATIONS THAT HAVE BOTH CONFLICTED MANKIND AND ENABLED ITS DEVELOPMENT FROM EARLIEST TIMES HAVE BEEN WEALTH AND POWER. THESE TWO DRIVERS OF HISTORY HAVE APPEARED IN VARIOUS FORMS, BUT MORE RECENTLY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS MONEY AND MILITARY STRENGTH.

THEIR USE AND CONTROL CAN BE HANDED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER OR BE BROUGHT TO A SUDDEN END BY TECHNOLOGICAL, NATURAL OR HUMAN AGENCY. THEIR MOBILITY AND VIOLENCE HAVE GIVEN THEM A SPECIAL APPEAL, AND THEY HAVE BEEN IN PRETTY MUCH CONSTANT USE IN OUR WORLD FOR ABOUT 3,000 YEARS.

THROUGHOUT THIS TIME THERE HAS BEEN A THIRD SPIRITUAL FORCE, RELIGION, THAT HAS BECOME A KEY PART OF OUR HISTORICAL NARRATIVE. IT HAS MANAGED TO WIND ITS WAY THROUGH MANY OF OUR SECULAR CONFLICTS AND EVEN IMPOSE ITS OWN TERMS AND SOLUTIONS. JOSEPH STALIN'S FAMOUS QUERY IN DISCUSSING THE VATICAN'S IMPACT UPON THE COMMUNIST PENETRATION OF POSTWAR WESTERN EUROPE, "HOW MANY DIVISIONS DOES THE POPE HAVE?", IS REVEALING. THE VATICAN, OF COURSE, HAD NO DIVISIONS AND COULD NOT OFFER ANY MILITARY RESISTANCE, BUT WAS A PRESENCE THAT HAD TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

THE CASE FOR RELIGION BEING A DETERMINANT, OR AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PARTICIPANT, IN OUR WORLD'S SEEMINGLY ENDLESS LIST OF CONFLICTS IS STRENGTHENED CONSIDERABLY BY THE FACT THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF OUR CIVILIZATION'S

WARS HAVE HAD THEIR ROOTS IN RELIGIOUS ARGUMENTS.

AS MOST RELIGIONS EMBRACE GOALS, OR AT LEAST SEE THEMSELVES AS AGENTS, OF HUMAN COMPASSION AND PEACE, OUR RECORD OF RELIGIOUS CONFLICT POSES A REAL CONTRADICTION. IF OUR SPIRITUAL NATURES WERE ALIGNED WITH THE ANCIENT GREEK, ROMAN, TEUTONIC, NORSE OR OTHER GODS OF WAR AND CONQUEST, WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY OUR CONTINUING RELIGIOUS WARS, BUT THE HISTORY OF THE LAST TWO THOUSAND YEARS WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM FAITHS HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A MORE PEACEFUL, CHARITABLE AND COOPERATIVE WORLD VIEW.

WE HAVE TALKED AND PRAYED PEACE, BUT WE HAVE FOUGHT WARS. THIS IS, PERHAPS, THE GREATEST RELIGIOUS CONTRADICTION OF OUR HISTORY WHICH GROWS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND WHEN WE CONSIDER THAT MUCH OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE AND WARFARE WAS EXCHANGED BETWEEN TWO SECTS OF THE SAME CHRISTIAN FAITH. AND THE MUSLIM/CHRISTIAN/JEWISH CONFLICT IS ONE IN WHICH ALL THREE ENTITIES TRACE THEMSELVES BACK TO A COMMON ANCESTOR. WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF THIS?

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IN OUR PREVIOUS CHAPTER WE CITED MILITANT ISLAM (MI) AS A POWERFUL COMPETITOR SEEKING TO EXERT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FORCE EQUAL TO THE US, CHINA AND

**IN THIS ISSUE:** WE EXPLORE ISLAM'S PAST AND ITS CONTEMPORARY ROLE AS A FORCE SEEKING SUPREMACY IN OUR WORLD, AND WAYS IN WHICH THIS FORCE HAS ALREADY AFFECTED THE WEST.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE** WILL CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION OF RELIGION WITH EMPHASIS ON ISLAM'S CHALLENGE TO OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC AND TO OUR CULTURAL MIX OF FAITH, GOVERNMENT, MEDIA AND MONEY.

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RUSSIA. ALL ARE STRIVING FOR SUPREMACY IN SOME SECULAR MATTERS AND MI HAS THE ADDED ADVANTAGE OF A SPIRITUAL DIMENSION IN WHICH ITS THOUGHTS AND VALUES ARE SEEN AS GOD GIVEN.

SUPREMACY, HOWEVER, IS A HEADY MIX AND HISTORICALLY HAS OFFERED AMPLE EVIDENCE OF THE PROBABILITY THAT WITH ANY ENCOURAGEMENT, REAL OR PERCEIVED, IT WILL EXPAND BEYOND ITS ORIGINAL INTENTION TO OTHER AREAS. THE RELIGIOUS FACTOR AIDS IN THIS EXPANSION AND INTENSIFIES WHATEVER CONFLICT TO WHICH IT MAY ATTACH ITSELF. MOST OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS HAVE EXPERIENCED PERIODS IN WHICH THE COMPETITION BETWEEN SPIRITUAL GOALS AND SECULAR MEANS HAS RESULTED IN VIOLENCE AND WARFARE, MOST NOTABLY THE PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC WARS IN EUROPE OF THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES AND THE 300 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN CRUSADES AGAINST ISLAM THAT COMMENCED IN THE 11TH CENTURY.

THESE SAVAGE AND EXTENDED CONFRONTATIONS ARE ONLY TWO AMONG MANY, THEIR REAL SIGNIFICANCE BEING THAT RELIGION HAS, ACROSS A BROAD RANGE OF TIME AND GEOGRAPHY, BEEN ABLE TO SPAWN EXTREME ANGER AND VIOLENCE AMONG ITS PRACTITIONERS.

TO UNDERSTAND RELIGION AS A WORLD FORCE WE MUST ASK SOME DIFFICULT QUESTIONS. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF RELIGION'S MANY CONFLICTS? WHY DO THEY REGULARLY REAPPEAR? WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ITS CONTRADICTIONS? AND WHY ARE THE SAME PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR FOUND IN MANY OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS?

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OUR FIRST STEP INTO THE SPIRITUAL UNKNOWN MIGHT LOGICALLY BE TO ASK "WHAT IS RELIGION?" THERE IS NO SHORT ANSWER AND THERE IS PROBABLY NO ANSWER THAT WOULD SATISFY EVERY FAITH.

AMONG ITS MANY EXPRESSIONS IT IS A FAITH IN GOD, OR SOMEONE OR SOMETHING THAT REPRESENTS GOD. IT IS A BELIEF IN POWERS AND EVENTS BASED ON FAITH WITHOUT HISTORICAL PROOF. IT IS THE PRODUCT OF MAN'S NEED AND YEARNING FOR IDENTIFICATION WITH A POWER VASTLY LARGER THAN HIS OWN HUMAN SCALE. IT IS A METAPHOR FOR HUMAN ASPIRATIONS AND THE CONSEQUENCES AND QUESTIONS THAT ATTEND HUMAN BEHAVIOR. IT IS THE BELIEF IN SACRED TEXTS AS REVEALED TRUTH, BOTH SPIRITUAL AND HISTORICAL. IT

IS SEEN AS A WAY TO BIND MAN'S BELIEFS AND ACTIONS TO HIS ENVIRONMENT, TO HIS FELLOW MEN AND TO THOSE MYSTERIES OF OUR UNIVERSE WHICH HE CAN ONLY HOPE TO UNDERSTAND. IT IS A WAY BY WHICH HE KEEPS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT BAY — IF ONLY FOR A WHILE. IT IS THE SOURCE OF SOME OF MAN'S GREATEST ARTISTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS — IN PAINTING, MUSIC, ARCHITECTURE AND LITERATURE. IT HAS PROVIDED VIEWS OF MORAL AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS THAT HAVE ADVANCED OUR DEVELOPMENT AS A RATIONAL SPECIES. AND IT PRESENTS THE DILEMMA OF MAN'S DUAL NATURE IN A WAY SECOND TO NONE. IT IS MYSTERY, FAITH, HEALING, MYTH, LOVE AND WORSHIP IN A MIX OF CONTINUALLY CHANGING PROPORTIONS. IT IS BOTH LOCAL AND GLOBAL AND HAS ACCOMPANIED MAN ON MOST OF HIS JOURNEY OF DEVELOPMENT. IT GRACES WITH ITS AUTHORITY THE RELIGIOUS CENTERS OF TODAY AS IT DID THE ANCIENT TEMPLES OF TIMES LONG PAST. IT IS BOTH AN OUTER CALL AND AN INNER PRESENCE WHICH WE CAN CHOOSE TO HEED OR IGNORE.

## A DIFFERENT TRINITY

AGGRESSION HAS BEEN PRESENT IN MAN'S DEVELOPMENT SINCE ITS EARLIEST STAGES, ORIGINALLY IN THE FORM OF SMALL SCALE HOSTILITIES BETWEEN NOMADIC TRIBES OVER TERRITORY WHICH PROVIDED SHELTER, WATER AND GAME. AS POPULATION INCREASED AND AGRICULTURE ENCOURAGED PERMANENT RESIDENCE, OUR AGGRESSIVE NATURE COULD CALL UPON GREATER RESOURCES, POPULATION AND WEAPONRY TO EXPRESS ITSELF.

THE RESULT WAS AN EVER IMPROVING WARFARE CAPABILITY THAT EMPLOYED A PROFESSIONAL MILITARY CLASS EQUIPPED WITH THE BEST WEAPONS AVAILABLE. FOR CENTURIES MUCH OF MAN'S "PROGRESS" SEEMED TO BE DETERMINED BY WARS OF EXPANSION — COMMERCIAL, TERRITORIAL AND RELIGIOUS.

THROUGHOUT THESE CENTURIES OF CONFLICT ALL COMBATANTS UNFAILINGLY INVOKED THE SUPPORT OF THEIR APPROPRIATE GODS, AS WE STILL DO TODAY. THIS IS A CURIOUS AND FUNDAMENTAL FACT OF HUMAN HISTORY: THAT RELIGION AND OUR INHERITED AGGRESSION BECAME INDISPENSABLE ELEMENTS IN OUR JOURNEY FROM PREHISTORIC TRIBES TO OUR MODERN, HIGH TECHNOLOGY CIVILIZATION — NOT OCCASIONAL PART PLAYERS OR ACCOMPLICES, BUT INDISPENSABLE DRIVERS OF RESULTS.

OVER THE CENTURIES, SINCE JUDAISM CHALLENGED THE OLD, MULTIPLE DEITY

RELIGIONS OF GREECE AND ROME WITH ITS MONOTHEISTIC MODEL, WARS OF FAITH INVOLVING MUSLIMS, JEWS AND CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN FOUGHT ACROSS MOST OF THE WESTERN WORLD — EUROPE, RUSSIA, THE NEAR EAST, NORTH AFRICA. OF THESE THREE DESERT RELIGIONS THE JEWISH FAITH WAS THE OLDEST, FOLLOWED BY CHRISTIANITY AND THEN ISLAM WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD AT THE END OF THE 6TH CENTURY AD.

HAVING BEEN SCATTERED BY THE DIASPORA WHEN THEY WERE EXPELLED IN 538 BC FROM BABYLONIA, THE JEWS HAD NO MILITARY OR DIPLOMATIC BASE FROM WHICH WAR COULD BE CONDUCTED, AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE WERE UNABLE TO COMBINE INTO A CLEARLY IDENTIFIED JEWISH STATE UNTIL ISRAEL WAS ESTABLISHED FOLLOWING WWII.

MUSLIM/CHRISTIAN WARFARE WAS CARRIED ON FOR MANY YEARS DURING THE CRUSADES. THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN/MUSLIM WARFARE, HOWEVER, IS NOT AS SIGNIFICANT AS THE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. CHRISTIANITY CALLS FOR A LIFE OF COMPASSION, LOVE, CHARITY AND DEVOTION TO GOD’S WILL AS EXPRESSED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS.

LIVES SO LED AND DEDICATED WERE CAPABLE OF RECEIVING GOD’S GRACE AND ASSURED OF ETERNAL AFTERLIFE. SIN IS A HUMAN STAIN FOR WHICH WE SEEK AND ARE GRANTED FORGIVENESS. CHRISTIANITY ACCEPTS THERE ARE BOUNDARIES OF THOUGHT AND ACTION WHICH IT NEED NOT CROSS. “RENDER THEREFORE UNTO CAESAR THE THINGS WHICH ARE CAESAR’S; AND UNTO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD’S.”<sup>1</sup>

ISLAM IS QUITE DIFFERENT, AS IT IS BASED ON THE WRITINGS OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD IN THE QURAN AND ESTABLISHES ITS OWN SYSTEM OF RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL LAW, SHARIA, WHICH ALLOWS FOR A RANGE OF INTERPRETATIONS BY DIFFERENT CLERGY DEPENDING UPON TIME, PLACE AND CIRCUMSTANCE. THE PENALTIES THAT SHARIA CAN IMPOSE FOR ITS VIOLATION MARKEDLY DISTINGUISH IT FROM CHRISTIANITY, AS THEY INCLUDE MUTILATION, AMPUTATION, STONING AND DEATH.

THE NOTABLE SPIRITUAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO FAITHS IS THAT ISLAM CELEBRATES HONOR MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF. WHETHER TRIBAL OR INDIVIDUAL, THIS HONOR MUST BE MAINTAINED AND ANY ACT WHICH DIRECTLY REFLECTS, OR APPEARS TO REFLECT, UPON IT IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH. ERGO, EVEN AN ACCIDENTAL ACT BY A CHILD THAT MIGHT OFFEND THE FAMILY HONOR CAN, AS WE SHALL SEE LATER, RESULT IN DEATH METED OUT BY PARENTS.

THE ISLAMIC EXPERIENCE OF SHAME CAN BE INSTANT, DRAWN FROM A WIDE RANGE OF OTHERS’ BEHAVIOR AND NOT RESPONSIVE TO APPEAL. NOT ONLY IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR SHAME, REAL OR IMPLIED, A MORAL ABSOLUTE, BUT ANY WORD, GESTURE OR ACT THAT CASTS DOUBT ON GOD (ALLAH) OR HIS MESSENGER (MUHAMMAD) CAN BE MET WITH DEATH; AGAIN, THE SHAME PRINCIPLE AT WORK.

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THE ISLAMIC INVASION OF EUROPE REACHED ITS PEAK AT THE BATTLE OF TOURS IN 732 AFTER WHICH THE MUSLIM

TIDE RECEDED, LEAVING BEHIND, HOWEVER, A STRONG DOSE OF ARAB CULTURE, MOST NOTABLY IN MUSIC, MATHEMATICS AND ARCHITECTURE. IN FOLLOWING CENTURIES ISLAM GREW IN COMMERCE AND IN FOLLOWERS AND ENJOYED SOMEWHAT OF A GOLDEN AGE IN ARTS, TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

BUT BY THREE HUNDRED YEARS INTO THE SECOND MILLENNIUM IT WAS AT WAR WITH CHRISTIAN EUROPEANS IN THE CRUSADES AND ALSO ENGAGED IN DEFENDING ITSELF AGAINST ATTACKS BY MONGOL FORCES UNDER GENGHIS KHAN AND TAMERLANE.

BY MID-MILLENNIUM, AS THE SHAPE OF THE MODERN WORLD BEGAN TO MAKE ITSELF KNOWN, ISLAM’S FAITH, PHILOSOPHY AND FORTUNES SHOWED SIGNS OF MOVING MORE SLOWLY AND IN A NARROWER RANGE THAN RENAISSANCE EUROPE.

NEAR EASTERN POWER STRUCTURES CENTERED ON CALIPHATES WHICH HELD ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY POWER AND WHICH APPEARED AND DISAPPEARED WITH UNUSUAL FREQUENCY. THERE WERE MONGOLS, BERBERS, TURKS, OTTOMANS AND OTHERS WHO ESTABLISHED REGIMES WHICH FAILED BECAUSE OF CORRUPTION, LETHARGY, A DECADENT LIFESTYLE AND DISORDERLY INHERITANCE PROCEDURES.

AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY, ONE SIMPLE EVENT TRANSFORMED THE NEAR EAST — THE DISCOVERY OF OIL DEPOSITS IN LARGE QUANTITIES AT SHALLOW DEPTHS. THE STREETS OF BAKU IN AZERBAIJAN LITERALLY FLOWED WITH OIL. CALOUSTE SARKIS GULBENKIAN, AN ENTERPRISING ARMENIAN REPRESENTING THE CALIPH IN BAGHDAD, WAS GRANTED THE RIGHT TO OFFER AN EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION CONCESSION TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM CONSISTING OF THE LARGEST EUROPEAN AND US COMPANIES. EXTENSIVE OIL EXPLORATION WITH WILDLY SUCCESSFUL RESULTS ESTABLISHED A PERMANENT WESTERN COMMERCIAL/POLITICAL PRESENCE AND THE MIDDLE EAST CHANGED FOREVER. IT NOW OCCUPIED A NEW SEAT IN WORLD COUNCILS BASED ON SOMETHING EVERYONE NEEDED — OIL.

IT IS AGAINST THIS BRIEF BUT COMPELLING BACKGROUND THAT WE MUST VIEW ISLAM AS ONE OF A HANDFUL OF SEEKERS OF SUPREMACY IN OUR WORLD.

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IF WE GO BACK TO OUR CHILDHOOD READING OF STORIES ABOUT THE LIVES AND LOVES OF MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS, THERE IS ONE IMAGE WE CANNOT ESCAPE. IT IS THAT OF A KNIGHT PRIOR TO GOING OFF TO BATTLE KNEELING IN PRAYER BEFORE AN ALTAR WITH HIS SWORD, HELMET AND BATTLE GARB AT HIS SIDE. THE NEXT DAY, HIS VIGIL COMPLETE AND HIS SPIRIT PURE, HE WOULD GO FORTH TO DO BLOODY BATTLE WITH THE ENEMIES OF HIS FAITH, HIS KING OR THE LORD OF HIS CASTLE.

THESE TWO POLES, PRAYER AND BATTLE, DEFINE THE CONFLICTING FUNCTIONS THAT HAVE BESET RELIGIONS OF ALL KINDS AND TIMES. WHICH IS THE TRUTH? THE LOVE, PEACE AND PRAYER OF ORDINARY LIFE, OR THE SAVAGE BLOODLETTING IN BATTLES TO DEFEND, OR EVEN EXTEND, ONE’S FAITH AND ONE’S HONOR? GIVEN RELIGION’S CONSTANT ROLE IN ASSIGNING

GOOD AND EVIL VALUES TO EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE AS WELL AS THE COMBATIVE NATURE OF THE TIMES, RELIGIOUS WARS WERE FIERCE AND FREQUENT.

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE AGE OF EXPLORATION AND THEN THE ENLIGHTENMENT, RELIGIOUS WARFARE IN EUROPE WOUND DOWN WHILE POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL WARS BETWEEN NATION STATES INCREASED. EVEN AS THESE NEW AGES AND THEIR SCIENCE CHANGED EVERY ASPECT OF MAN'S PHYSICAL WORLD, BATTLE SEEMED TO REMAIN A PERMANENT ASPECT OF MAN'S AGGRESSIVE NATURE THAT COULDN'T BE ELIMINATED COMPLETELY.

EXPLORATION/ENLIGHTENMENT ENABLED CHRISTIAN EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION TO GREATLY EXTEND ITS COMMERCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REACH, AND HERE AGAIN THE RELIGIOUS DIVIDE APPEARS. SOME EXPLORATION WAS UNDERTAKEN BY MILITARY FORCES STRICTLY FOR ACQUISITIVE PURPOSES (TREASURE, LAND, SLAVES, ETC.). OTHER, MORE PEACEFUL, EFFORTS WERE CONDUCTED BY MISSIONARIES WHO BRAVED EVERY IMAGINABLE PERIL TO BRING CHRISTIANITY TO REMOTE POPULATIONS AND CULTURES.

IN SOME AREAS MISSIONARY AND MILITARY EFFORTS WERE COMBINED INTO A PARTICULARLY LETHAL ENSLAVEMENT SUCH AS THAT IMPOSED BY THE SPANISH CONQUISTADORS IN MEXICO.

THE MISSION AND EXPLORATION PROCESSES WERE COMPLEMENTARY IN THAT EACH ASSISTED THE OTHER, AND THEY PROBABLY REACHED THEIR HIGHEST MOMENT DURING THE COLONIALISM OF THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES BY WHICH TIME MOST EUROPEAN NATIONS HAD ESTABLISHED OUTPOSTS OF EMPIRE IN THE VAST UNDEVELOPED AREAS OF AFRICA, ASIA AND THE AMERICAS.

THE CRUSADES AGAINST ISLAM AND THE PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC WARS THAT FOLLOWED THE REFORMATION HAD NO LIMITS TO THEIR VIOLENCE — MURDER, RAPE, DECAPITATION, BEING DRAWN AND QUARTERED AND INNUMERABLE PERSUASIVE TORTURE TECHNIQUES PRACTICED BY THE SPANISH INQUISITION AND ITS COUNTERPARTS THROUGHOUT EUROPE.

TODAY, CHRISTIAN EXPANSION, WHICH HAD SOMETIMES BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AT GUNPOINT, IS A MARKETING EFFORT THAT DELIVERS ITS GOSPEL BY BIBLES, SCHOOLS, HEALTH CLINICS AND OTHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARITABLE SERVICES.

THERE REMAIN OTHER DIVIDES WORTH NOTING. THE MEDIEVAL KNIGHT'S BROAD SWORD THAT RESTED BY HIS SIDE DURING HIS NIGHT-LONG VIGIL OF COMMITMENT WAS FORMED IN THE SHAPE OF A CROSS. SIMILARLY, THE SCIMITAR, THE SWORD FAVORED BY MUSLIMS, HAD A CURVED BLADE THAT SUGGESTS THE SHAPE OF ISLAM'S PRIME SYMBOL, THE CRESCENT. AS THE BROAD SWORD DEVELOPED IN THE WEST AND THE SCIMITAR IN THE ORIENT, THEIR ORIGINS ARE DIFFERENT, BUT THEIR SYMBOLISM IS WORTH NOTING.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CIVILIZATION HAS UNDERGONE MASSIVE CHANGES IN THOUGHT AND DEED SINCE

THE END OF WWII. ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT HAS BEEN THE SHIFT FROM AN ECONOMY DEPENDENT FOR ITS SUCCESS UPON PRODUCTION TO ONE DRIVEN BY CONSUMPTION.

THE FIRST CENTURY OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION WAS PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO THE EXPANSION OF POPULATION, RESOURCES AND PRODUCTION AROUND THE WORLD. AFTER WWII, WITH U.S. AND CANADIAN PRODUCTION FACILITIES INTACT, WE BEGAN THE ENORMOUS REBUILDING OF EUROPE PROVIDED BY THE MARSHALL PLAN. SIMULTANEOUSLY, OUR CURRENT POPULATION BOOM COMMENCED AND THE KEY TO SUSTAINABLE GROWTH SHIFTED FROM INCREASING PRODUCTION (I.E. SUPPLY) TO DEMAND AND CREATING OUR PRESENT ERA OF MARKETING DOMINANCE WITH ALL ITS PLUSES AND MINUSES.

THE APPLICATION OF MARKETING STRATEGIES/TECHNIQUES, ALONG WITH THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO APPLY THEM, BECAME SO PERVERSIVE THAT THEY QUICKLY OUTGREW THEIR COMMERCIAL ORIGINS AND, AS IF BY OSMOSIS, ATTACHED THEMSELVES TO OUR POLITICAL, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE PURSUITS. NOWHERE IS THIS MORE EVIDENT THAN IN RELIGION AND, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, ESPECIALLY IN THE US. HERE WE MUST BACKTRACK TO SOME EARLIER FORMS OF RELIGIOUS MARKETING.

IN THE COURSE OF THE DARK AGES, FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND THE MULTIPLE INVASIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE BY THE ASIAN HORDES, EDUCATION BASED ON THE VALUES OF GREEK, ROMAN AND CHRISTIAN THOUGHT MOSTLY VANISHED, AND WHAT WAS PRESERVED WAS LIMITED TO THE REMOTE AND SCATTERED MONASTERIES THAT HAD SERVED AS OUTPOSTS OF THE ROMAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH. THIS STATUS OF SPIRITUAL AND EDUCATIONAL CHRISTIAN MONOPOLY WAS NOT ONE THE ROMAN CHURCH WOULD READILY YIELD, BUT WAS FORCED TO IN THE 16TH CENTURY BY MARTIN LUTHER'S REFORMATION.

ALMOST COINCIDENTALLY, ABOUT A CENTURY EARLIER GUTENBERG'S INVENTION OF THE PRINTING PRESS USING MOVEABLE TYPE ADVANCED THE ART OF COMMUNICATION TO A NEW LEVEL OF EFFICIENCY AND ACCESSIBILITY THAT WOULD REMAIN THE GLOBAL STANDARD FOR FIVE HUNDRED YEARS UNTIL THE APPEARANCE OF RADIO AND TV IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY.

THE PRINTING OF RELIGIOUS TEXTS, LITURGIES, MUSIC, CODES OF CONDUCT, PRONOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION FROM ITS CENTER IN ROME FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ITS MOST DISTANT CHURCHES THROUGHOUT EUROPE WAS A GAME CHANGER FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (RCC), AND THE PRINTED BIBLE BECAME AN INCREASINGLY POWERFUL MEANS OF PRESENTING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. INITIALLY, THE CHURCH IN ROME WAS THE SOLE RELIGIOUS BENEFICIARY OF PRINT TECHNOLOGY IN EUROPE, BUT THIS CHANGED SUDDENLY WHEN LUTHER'S CALL FOR REFORM SPLIT THE CHURCH.

ALL MOVEMENTS THAT CHALLENGE ESTABLISHED AUTHORITY NEED TWO THINGS TO SUCCEED. THE FIRST IS IGNITION, AS A FUSE THAT DOES NO MORE THAN SPUTTER ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING. THE SECOND IS THAT IT MUST BE ABLE TO GROW QUICKLY AND WIDELY — TO ACHIEVE CRITICAL MASS.

AS PROTEST MOVEMENTS CONTAIN AND EXHIBIT HIGH ENERGY CAPABLE OF BEING MOVED QUICKLY TO OTHER PLACES AND BELIEVERS IN WAYS THAT THE PARENT STRUCTURE CANNOT MUSTER, THE AVAILABILITY OF PRINT IN ENERGIZING AND GROWING THE REFORMATION CANNOT BE OVERESTIMATED.

BUT FOR BOTH ROME AND PROTESTANTS PRINT PROVIDED REAL BENEFITS. IT TOOK RELIGION, AND ITS TEXTS, OUT OF THE HANDMADE AND VERBAL STORY TRADITIONS AND GAVE IT THE OFFICIAL, STURDY, UNIFORM APPEARANCE THAT FOSTERED ACCEPTANCE AND CREDIBILITY. AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT ESTABLISHED A DOCUMENTARY RECORD THAT COULD BE ACCURATELY AND CONSISTENTLY PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED. IN MARKETING, IT WAS AN IMMENSE STEP FORWARD.

## EARLY ISLAM

THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD DIED IN 632 AD AT WHICH TIME THE MUSLIM RELIGION WAS A SMALL, BUT GROWING, FAITH. IT WAS BASED ON THE 114 CHAPTER TEXT OF THE QURAN THAT MUHAMMAD DECLARED TO BE THE WORD OF GOD AS DICTATED TO HIM BY THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL. IN SPITE OF ITS 114 CHAPTERS, OR SURAS, IT IS A RELATIVELY SMALL BOOK AND MUCH SHORTER THAN THE BIBLE. BUT ITS IMPACT ON OUR WORLD HAS BEEN HUGE.

ISLAM COMMENCED AS JUST ONE OF A TURBULENT MIX OF FAITHS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT HAD TO COMPETE WITH CHRISTIANITY, TURKS, BYZANTINES, MONGOLS, OTTOMANS AND OTHERS AND MANAGED TO SURVIVE. BY THE 14TH CENTURY INTERNAL DIVISION WAS WIDESPREAD IN EUROPE AND ASIA AND CREATED A MOMENT OF TRANSFORMING OPPORTUNITY FOR ISLAM. THE COLLAPSE OF THE DOMINANT BYZANTINE AND MONGOL STATES ALLOWED ISLAM TO POWER ITS WAY TO A PERIOD OF EXTENSIVE CULTURAL, COMMERCIAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

THE MIDDLE EAST, HOWEVER, IS A PERILOUS PLACE FOR RESIDENTS, PASSERS BY AND OBSERVERS ALIKE, AND ITS POLITICAL/ECONOMIC/RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY ASSURES THE AVAILABILITY OF A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF PAIN AND ARGUMENT TO ALL. SHARP-EDGED HUMAN DRAMA EBBS AND FLOWS DAILY, AND IT CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH ACCEPTED BOTH ISLAM'S SPIRITUAL TENETS AND ITS EFFORTS TOWARDS RAPID EXPANSION. THE RESULT WAS AN ISLAMIC PRESENCE THAT HELD SWAY FROM GIBRALTAR INTO WESTERN ASIA. HERE, THE QURAN AND THE MANDATED LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF ITS TEXT DOMINATED THE WORSHIP, EDUCATION AND LAW OF THE LAND.

THE STRICT, UNBENDING ADMINISTRATION OF THESE VITAL ASPECTS OF LIFE COULD NOT HELP BUT FORM AN INVERTED SOCIETY WHICH SEPARATED ISLAM EVEN FURTHER FROM THE TECHNOLOGIES AND THOUGHT PATTERNS THAT HAD COMMENCED WITH PRINTING AND THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION.

ON THE HEELS OF THE LATTER QUICKLY FOLLOWED THE AGES OF GREAT EXPLORATION, ENLIGHTENMENT AND FOUR REVOLUTIONS — THE FRENCH, THE AMERICAN, THE INDUSTRIAL AND THE RUSSIAN — TOPPED OFF BY TWO WORLD WARS AND THE EMERGENCE OF EVERMORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES. IT IS

DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE ANY OTHER FIVE HUNDRED YEAR PERIOD THAT BROUGHT ABOUT SUCH VAST CHANGE IN HUMAN THOUGHT, KNOWLEDGE AND BEHAVIOR, BUT ISLAM REMAINED ISLAM. NOTHING — NEITHER ITS THOUGHT, LAW, NOR EDUCATION — WAS ALLOWED TO CHANGE.

TODAY WORLD MUSLIM POPULATION STANDS AT ABOUT 1.5 BILLION, SPREAD OVER AN AREA THAT COMMENCES ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA, MOVES EASTWARD THRU THE MIDDLE EAST AND THEN SPLITS WITH ONE ARM GOING NORTH LARGELY ALONG THE RUSSIAN/CHINESE BORDER AND THE OTHER DUE EAST TO PAKISTAN, INDONESIA AND THEN NORTH TO THE PHILIPPINES.

BY ANY MEASURE, THIS IS AN ENORMOUS SWATH OF TERRITORY. JUST LOOK AT A GLOBE OR MAP. IN ADDITION IT HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH THROUGHOUT WESTERN EUROPE BY FORMING AND CONTINUING TO POPULATE ENCLAVES THAT ARE FULLY ISLAMIC IN EVERY ASPECT OF THEIR LIFE.

MUCH LESS NOTICEABLE AND MENTIONED ARE ISLAM'S RECENT ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH SMALL (FOR THE PRESENT) COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE US. THIS WILL NOT BE EASY IN THE FORMER WHERE THE RCC IS STRONGLY ENTRENCHED, BUT REMOTE, HIGH POVERTY AREAS CAN OPT FOR CHANGE TO IMPROVE THEIR STATUS AND, AS MORE AREAS IN S.A. HAVE BEEN INFORMED AS TO LIFE ELSEWHERE, THEY HAVE BECOME DISAPPOINTED BY THE RESULTS OF THE RCC'S KEY ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

THE RCC IS AWARE OF THIS AND IS FIGHTING BACK, BUT WE SHOULD NOT LOOK FOR NEW OR QUICK SOLUTIONS. WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IS A STRUGGLE BETWEEN OUR WORLD'S TWO LARGEST RELIGIOUS FAITHS AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL. UPWARD MOBILITY DOES NOT COME EASILY.

AS FOR THE US, HERE THE MATTER OF MUSLIM EXPANSION HAS BEEN GREATLY FACILITATED BY THE SPONSORSHIP OF OUR GOVERNMENT. THIS MAY SEEM TO SOME TO OFFER POLITICAL BENEFITS NOW VIA OUR DEALINGS WITH PETROLEUM PRODUCING NATIONS IN THE NEAR EAST, BUT THESE BENEFITS COME WITH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRINGS ATTACHED, AS IS ALREADY ALL TOO EVIDENT IN EUROPE.

ISLAMIC FAITH AND POWER HAVE CHARTED A COURSE FOR "THE NATION OF ISLAM" FAR DIFFERENT THAN THOSE OF THE EARTH'S GREAT SECULAR POWERS. THESE COURSES ARE NOW COMING TOGETHER — SOMETIMES PEACEFULLY AND SOMETIMES IN VIOLENCE. THERE IS SO MUCH ABOUT ISLAM THAT IS ANTITHETICAL TO OUR WESTERN CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE, COMMERCE, COMPASSION AND HISTORY THAT WE WOULD LIKE NOT TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT, BUT THE PLAY HAS ALREADY COMMENCED. THE CURTAIN HAS RISEN ON THE FIRST ACT IN EUROPE, AND ISLAM IS THERE, FRONT AND CENTER, PREPARING TO SPEAK. THE DRAMA THAT WILL PLAY OUT WILL BE THAT OF ISLAM AS A WORLD FORCE SEEKING SUPREMACY.

## THE REALITY LENS

THE MIDDLE EAST WAS THE STARTING POINT FOR THE THREE GREAT DESERT RELIGIONS — JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY

AND ISLAM IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER — WHO TRACE THEIR LINE OF DESCENT TO A COMMON ANCESTOR, ABRAHAM.

THEY, OF COURSE, HAVE ALL EMITTED DIFFERENT SIGNALS AT DIFFERENT TIMES AND PLACES, BUT WHAT MOST STRONGLY AND CONSISTENTLY EMERGES AS THEIR IDENTIFYING MESSAGES ARE JUSTICE FOR JUDAISM, LOVE/PEACE FOR CHRISTIANITY AND AUTHORITY/CONQUEST FOR ISLAM. EACH IN THE PROPER PROPORTION CAN BE SAID TO HAVE ITS PLACE IN A GLOBAL MIX OF CIVILIZATION, BUT SUCH A PROPORTION HAS ONLY RARELY, IF EVER, BEEN ACHIEVED, AND WE ARE NOW IN A PERIOD IN WHICH ITS LIKELIHOOD OF BEING ACCOMPLISHED IS BECOMING EVER MORE REMOTE.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST WE FIND PERHAPS OUR WORLD'S GREATEST GAP BETWEEN WEALTH AND POVERTY. CONSIDER THE OIL RICH MUSLIM MONARCHS AND THEIR POORER BRETHREN WHO FORCE A LIVING OUT OF SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK OR RETAIL STORE EFFORTS. THIS IS ONE OF THE UNDERLYING FACTS OF ISLAM'S CURRENT WORLD STATUS, AND IT HAS BEEN SO FOR ALMOST A CENTURY SINCE THE SAUDI TRIBES ENJOYED THE SIMPLICITY OF A "ONE GOAT; ONE VOTE" ECONOMY.

BEFORE OIL THERE WERE EXTREMES BASED ON OTHER FORMS OF WEALTH AND PRIVILEGE, MOSTLY TRADE. BUT OIL WAS DIFFERENT. IT FIRST SHOWED SIGNS OF ITS LOOMING IMPORTANCE BEFORE WWI. BY THE BEGINNING OF WWII IT HAD BECOME THE FUEL UPON WHICH ALL THE WORLD'S RICH NATIONS WOULD DEPEND FOR THEIR WEALTH, AND THEY HAD TO COME, SILK HAT IN HAND, TO THE LAND OF THE POOR FOR THEIR RATION.

WEALTH IS JUST ONE OF MANY MIDDLE EASTERN CONTRADICTIONS OF WHICH THE REGION HAS ALWAYS HAD MORE THAN ITS SHARE. THEY HAVE BECOME WOVEN INTO ITS LIFE, AND IT IS EASY TO COME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE MIDDLE EAST MAY PRODUCE MORE NEGATIVE HUMAN INTERACTION THAN WOULD TAKE PLACE IN A MONTH ELSEWHERE. ANGER, ENVY, DECEIT, CORRUPTION, INJUSTICE, POLITICAL/SOCIAL REPRESSION, GENDER RESTRICTIONS, CHILD ABUSE, SEXUAL DENIAL, CULTURAL AUTHORITARIANISM AND SUPPRESSION, ABSENCE OF VOTING RIGHTS, FEMALE MUTILATION, ARRANGED MARRIAGES INCLUDING THOSE FOR CHILDREN, DEPENDENCE ON ISLAMIC EDUCATION, ETC. THE LIST GOES ON; IT REVEALS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONCERNS, BUT MOSTLY THE CONFLICTS OF LIFE IN THE NEAR EAST REVOLVE AROUND HUMAN ISSUES. ORDINARILY THESE ARE AREAS IN WHICH ONE'S FAITH MIGHT BE HELPFUL; BUT NOT AT THE EASTERN END OF THE MEDITERRANEAN WHERE EUROPE AND ASIA AND THE THREE GREAT WORLD RELIGIONS MEET.

ENGLISH POET/NOVELIST RUDYARD KIPLING DIVIDED HIS LIFE EVENLY BETWEEN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES (1865-1936) AND ENJOYED A WIDE AND DEVOTED READERSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HAVING LIVED IN INDIA, ENGLAND AND THE US HE EXPERIENCED POLITICAL/SOCIAL/ECONOMIC ISSUES FROM VALID PERSPECTIVES NOT AVAILABLE TO OTHERS, AND HE FAMOUSLY STATED THAT "EAST IS EAST, AND WEST IS WEST, AND NEVER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET."<sup>2</sup> BUT THEY HAVE, AND IN MANY WAYS THE RESULTS ARE NEITHER PRETTY NOR HAPPY.

SUCH A MASSIVE MEETING OF CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS FORCES COULD NOT OCCUR WITHOUT CREATING OR MAGNIFYING POLITICAL DIFFERENCES FOR WHICH ISLAM'S MILITANCY AND ITS MULTIPLE ROLES ARE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE. IT ACTS AS BOTH A DETERMINANT OF SPIRITUAL, CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAW AND AS THE SPONSOR OF THEOCRATIC POLITICAL GOVERNMENTS.

THIS CREATES AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL CIRCUMSTANCE UNMATCHED BY OTHER WESTERN OR ASIAN BELIEFS. THIS DUAL NATURE WHICH DERIVES FROM THE QURAN IS BASIC TO ISLAMIC PRESENCE AND THOUGHT. IT BEARS THE MARK OF MUCH EARLIER AND SIMPLER TRIBAL TIMES AND CHALLENGES MANY OF OUR CONTEMPORARY WESTERN VALUES.

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IN REFERRING TO ISLAM WE MUST CLARIFY THAT THERE EXIST TODAY TWO ISLAMs — THE MORE MODERATE AND NUMEROUS MODEL AND THE EXTREME, JIHADIST ELEMENT. THE LATTER, WHICH WE DESIGNATE AS MILITANT ISLAM, INCORPORATES VIOLENCE IN THE CONDUCT OF EVERY ASPECT OF ITS LIFE — EDUCATION, LAW, WORSHIP, COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT, MARRIAGE, ETC.

LAST AUGUST IN ENGLAND, 17 YEAR OLD SHAFIEA AHMED'S MUSLIM PARENTS WERE SENTENCED TO AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN PRISON FOR HAVING SUFFOCATED HER IN FRONT OF HER FOUR SIBLINGS BECAUSE SHE FAVORED WESTERN ATTITUDES AND DRESS.<sup>3</sup>

AND IN A SIMILAR CASE, ANOTHER YOUNG GIRL, WHO HAD ACCIDENTALLY TURNED IN THE DIRECTION OF A BOY, WAS DOUSED WITH ACID BY HER MOTHER AT THE ORDER OF HER FATHER. SHE DIED A VERY PAINFUL DEATH.

BOTH OF THESE EVENTS WERE JUSTIFIED BY THEIR PERPETRATORS AS HAVING BEEN NECESSARY BECAUSE THE ACTIONS OF THE GIRLS HAD "DISHONORED" THEIR FAMILIES WHOSE SHAME COULD ONLY BE REMOVED BY THE DEATH OF THOSE WHO CAUSED THEM.

THERE ARE IMPORTANT CONTRADICTIONS AND DIVISIONS REVEALED IN THESE TWO KILLINGS. IN BOTH CASES THE PARENTS ABANDON THEIR PROTECTIVE ROLE AS PARENTS TO THE HIGHER CALLING OF ACTING AS BOTH JUDGE AND JURY WITHOUT ANY TRIAL NECESSARY, AS THE GIRLS' GUILT HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE QURAN.

IN SUCH CASES THERE EXISTS A CLEAR CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LAW OF THE LAND AND THE RELIGION OF THE PERPETRATOR. FOR ISLAM THERE IS THE CONTRADICTION OF FUNCTIONING AS BOTH A COURT OF LAW AND RELIGION. AND WITHIN ISLAM THIS TYPE OF OCCURRENCE DISCLOSES THE DEEP SPLIT BETWEEN THE CLAIMS OF ITS MODERATE AND EXTREME FACTIONS.

FINALLY, WITH ALL THE ABOVE CONTRADICTIONS, HOW ARE THE RELIGIOUS, LEGAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT PROCESSES OF THE OUTER, NON-ISLAMIC WORLD TO ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL METHOD OF EITHER ACCEPTING OR REFLECTING ISLAM'S WAY?

ISLAM DIFFERS WITH THE OTHER DESERT RELIGIONS IN MANY WAYS, INSTITUTIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL, AND IN THE TWO EXTREME, BUT BY NO MEANS UNUSUAL, INSTANCES CITED ABOVE WE SEE ONE OF ITS MOST NOTABLE CONTRASTS IN ITS

ORDERING OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR. THIS IS THE PREEMINENCE IT ASSIGNS TO THE “HONOR” PRINCIPLE BY WHICH ANY REAL OR IMAGINED ACT OF HUMAN OR SPIRITUAL OFFENSE DISHONORS THE FAMILY OF THE PERPETRATOR, AND CAN ONLY BE REMOVED BY THE DEATH OF THE OFFENDER.

THERE IS NO SUCH CONCEPT AT WORK IN JUDAISM OR CHRISTIANITY. INSTEAD THEY HAVE CREATED AND DEPEND UPON MECHANISMS SUCH AS CONFESSION, FORGIVENESS, LOVE AND ATONEMENT TO EXPIATE INDIVIDUAL GUILT. THIS HAS BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL AND ENDURING DIFFERENCE WHICH EXTENDS TO MANY AREAS OF MUSLIM LIFE.

WHILE WE HAVE SHOWN THE HONOR PRINCIPLE’S EFFECT AT WORK IN TWO INSTANCES OF INDIVIDUAL CULTURAL CONFLICT, IT IS EVIDENT THAT IT TRANSCENDS FAMILY AND OTHER SOCIAL RELATIONS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, MUSLIM REGULATION OF INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR CAN BE READILY APPLIED TO THE LARGER GROUP TO WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL BELONGS — RELIGION, RACE, STATE, ETC.

FOR INSTANCE, WE HAVE ONLY TO CONSIDER THE USE OF MARTYRDOM IN THE JIHAD FORCES WE HAVE FACED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. THE SIN OF WESTERN (I.E. INFIDEL) PRESENCE DISHONORS THE WHOLE MUSLIM POPULATION FOR WHICH THE FOREIGNER MUST BE KILLED. VOLUNTEERS ARE CHOSEN FROM THE FAITHFUL AND ARE REWARDED BY A LIFE OF JOY, HONOR, PLEASURE AND IMPORTANCE IN THEIR LIFE THAT FOLLOWS DEATH. SIN IS PUNISHED; HONOR/VIRTUE IS PRESERVED AND THE COMMUNITY IS SAVED IN WAYS THAT OBEY THE WILL OF ALLAH AS REQUIRED.

THE “HONOR PRINCIPLE” HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN ISLAM’S POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS EXPANSION SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND CONTINUES TO DO SO TODAY. IT IS ONE OF THOSE KEY ISSUES WHICH, NO MATTER HOW OFTEN OR SINCERELY RELIGIOUS/POLITICAL LEADERS MAY TRY TO DENY IT, DRAWS A VERY FIRM LINE OF DIVISION BETWEEN ISLAM AND ITS TWO COUSINS.

RECENT EVENTS IN THE NEAR EAST ILLUSTRATE HOW ISLAMIC POLITICAL DIVISIONS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT OUR CONCERNS THERE. IN RECENT YEARS AMERICA HAS SUPPORTED THE COMPARATIVELY MODERATE PLO FACTION IN RAMALLAH AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE PALESTINIANS RATHER THAN THE MORE MILITANT HAMAS GROUP IN THE GAZA STRIP.

IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT A TRUCE WITH ISRAEL LEADERS OF THREE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (EGYPT, QATAR AND TURKEY) RECENTLY VISITED PALESTINE TO CONVINCING IT OF THE NECESSITY OF ACHIEVING A CEASE-FIRE. AS HAMAS WAS MILITARILY MORE ENGAGED THAN THE PLO, THESE MUSLIM EMISSARIES MET WITH HAMAS AND, BY DOING SO, ENHANCED ITS POSITION AND DOWNGRADED OUR PLO-LINKED STATUS. THE MUSLIM BOND IS IMPORTANT, AND, NO MATTER HOW MANY EFFORTS OR DOLLARS WE MAY COMMIT, IT IS ALWAYS PRESENT AND NEVER FAR FROM THE SURFACE.

ANOTHER FORM OF POLITICAL DIVISION HAS SHOWN ITSELF IN LIBYA. ONLY INCOMPLETE RESULTS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED FROM THE INVESTIGATION OF THE BOMBING OF OUR CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI. WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO UNCOVER SPECIFIC EVIDENCE RELATED TO THE KILLING OF OUR AMBASSADOR AND THREE OTHERS THERE, BUT ALL

TRAILS DISAPPEAR AND GO DEAD WHEN THEY REACH THE NEWLY FORMED, AND STILL SOMEWHAT TENUOUS, LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. ARMED MILITIAS STILL EXERT CONSIDERABLE POWER, AND FEAR OF REPRISAL IS AN EFFECTIVE SILENCER IN MANY MATTERS, INCLUDING JUSTICE AND SECURITY.

## SACRED TEXTS

THE THREE DESERT RELIGIONS ALL HAVE SACRED TEXTS — THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE, THE JEWISH TORAH AND ISLAM’S QURAN. THE BIBLE AND TORAH TEND TO BE MORE BROADLY CONSTRUED THAN THEIR MUSLIM COUNTERPART, BUT IN ALL THREE RELIGIONS THERE ARE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF FAITH WHEREBY SOME REGARD THESE TEXTS AS METAPHORICAL GUIDES AND OTHERS TREAT THEM AS HISTORICALLY AND FACTUALLY ACCURATE ACCOUNTS IN EVERY DETAIL.

THESE TEXTS AND THE HUMAN BEHAVIOR THAT THEY ENGENDER CREATE TWO VERY DIFFICULT AREAS OF CONTENTION. THE FIRST IS EXCLUSIVITY. THERE IS NOTHING AWKWARD OR THREATENING ABOUT EACH RELIGION HAVING ITS BASIC BELIEFS AND HISTORY PRESENTED IN ONE SACRED TEXT. BUT HUMAN NATURE IS NOT SATISFIED BY SUCH A SIMPLE AND PEACEFUL STATUS. HUMANS HAVE COME TO BOTH VALIDATE AND SYMBOLIZE THEMSELVES BY FAITH/RELIGION AND, IN DOING SO, ESTABLISH PRECEDENCE, SUPERIORITY OR ADVANTAGE OVER TEXTS (AND THEIR FOLLOWERS) THAT BELIEVE OTHERWISE. FOR THE DESERT RELIGIONS THIS TRANSLATES INTO EACH ONE HAVING NOT A SACRED TEXT, BUT THE SACRED TEXT.

THE SECOND VERY DIFFICULT ARGUMENT THAT ARISES FROM THESE THREE RELIGIONS IS THAT THE VALUES AND BEHAVIOR WHICH THEY REQUIRE OF THEIR FAITHFUL CAN DIRECTLY CONTRADICT, AND EVEN OPPOSE, EACH OTHER. THE GREATEST PROBLEM OF THIS NATURE IS FOUND IN THE QURAN’S DIRECTIONS FOR VIOLENCE, PHYSICAL ABUSE AND CONQUEST.

CHRISTIANS AND JEWS HAVE MANAGED TO ACCOMMODATE AND CREATE SPACE FOR EACH OTHER OVER THE CENTURIES, EVEN THOUGH A STRONG STRAIN OF ANTI-SEMITISM WAS MAINTAINED IN OUR AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES UNTIL WWII.

BECAUSE THE QURAN STATES OTHERWISE, NO SUCH EFFORT OR PURPOSE HAS HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP, WITH THE RESULT THAT OVER HUNDREDS OF YEARS ISLAM HAS BEEN AT WAR IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WITH CHRISTIANS, JEWS, HINDUS, BUDDHISTS AND OTHER FAITHS.

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THERE ARE NO MUSLIM BACKERS OF “LIVE AND LET LIVE” ACCOMMODATION, BUT NO LEADING ISLAMIC GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL HAS PUBLICLY CALLED FOR ISLAM TO ADOPT A POLICY OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE, WHICH MAY BE DUE IN PART TO ISLAM’S SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT AND DIFFUSE STRUCTURE.

CHRISTIANITY HAS TWO VERY POWERFUL VOICES THAT ADDRESS THE WORLD ON ITS BEHALF — THE ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND THE POPE IN ROME — AND WHO OCCUPY POSITIONS OF REAL AND CENTRAL AUTHORITY. THEY ALSO PROVIDE THEIR CHURCH WITH A TRADITIONAL HOME

BASE AND COUNTRY.

ISLAM HAS NO COMPARABLE WORLD LEADER AND A MUCH LESS VISIBLE INTERNAL HIERARCHY. THE RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR AFFAIRS OF ITS MOSQUES ARE DIRECTED BY A CHIEF PRELATE, OR IMAM. MOREOVER, GREAT LATITUDE EXISTS IN THE WAY IMAMS INTERPRET THE QURAN'S DIRECTIVES. THE PERSONAL SWAY OF THE INDIVIDUAL IMAM EXISTS TO A DEGREE NOT FOUND IN JUDAISM OR CHRISTIANITY. THIS, COMBINED WITH ISLAM'S PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN LARGELY REMOTE AND RURAL AREAS MARKED BY HIGH POVERTY, HAS GIVEN ISLAMIC IMAMS AN UNUSUAL DEGREE OF INDIVIDUAL INDEPENDENCE. IT IS NOT UNUSUAL TO FIND INTERPRETATIONS OF THE QURAN THAT VARY BY TIME OF THE YEAR, LINGUISTIC INTENT, OR THE PERSONAL PREFERENCE OF IMAMS.

THIS LATITUDE EXTENDS TO THE APPLICATION OF SHARIA AND TO THE PENALTIES PRESCRIBED UNDER IT, AS IT DOES TO A YOUTH EDUCATION SYSTEM CONTROLLED BY MOSQUES AND THEIR CLERGY. AND YET THIS SYSTEM OF VARIANCES HAS NOT ROBBED ISLAM OF ITS ENERGY. IT HAS ADVANCED AND RECEDED THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY AND IN RECENT YEARS HAS GATHERED ITS FORCES TO EXPAND ITS TERRITORY AND FAITH.

THE REAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS INTERNAL INDEPENDENCE, HOWEVER, IS THAT IT BRINGS US FACE TO FACE WITH WHAT IS PROBABLY ISLAM'S GREATEST CONTRADICTION — THAT BETWEEN THE FREEDOM IT ALLOWS ITS IMAMS AND THE REQUIREMENT OF ABSOLUTE CONFORMITY IMPOSED UPON ITS PRESENT MEMBERS AND ANYONE CONSIDERING CONVERSION TO IT. FOR THE LATTER, THERE IS NO LEEWAY. THERE IS ONLY THE SACRED TEXT, ITS INTERPRETATION BY THE IMAM AND, IN THE CASE OF NON-COMPLIANCE, PUNISHMENT WHICH CAN BE DETERMINED BY THE IMAM INDIVIDUALLY OR BY CONSULTATION WITH ELDERS OF THE MOSQUE.

THIS IS A MAJOR CONTRADICTION AND A VERY CURIOUS MATTER. LOOKING AT BOTH THE INDEPENDENT AND THE AUTHORITARIAN ASPECTS OF ISLAM, ONE CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER HOW EITHER ONE COULD GROW OUT OF THE OTHER. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ISLAM THAT WE MUST DEAL WITH POLITICALLY, RELIGIOUSLY AND SOCIALLY AS IT SEEKS SUPREMACY FOLLOWS THE HARDER LINE. THE MODERATES ARE BOTH SMALLER IN NUMBER AND IN VOICE AND, EVEN IF NOT ENTHUSIASTICALLY MILITANT, SEEM TO FIND IT SAFE TO GO ALONG AND NOT MAKE WAVES.

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WORLD SUPREMACY IS A QUICK, READILY COMPREHENSIBLE PHRASE. IT ROLLS OFF THE TONGUE EASILY, BUT HARBORS A GREAT DEAL OF HISTORY WITH PAINFUL EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE. CAESAR, NAPOLEON, HITLER, STALIN — IT LURED THEM ALL TO THEIR ENDS IN SPITE OF THE POWER THEY AMASSED.

THE KIND OF SUPREMACY SOUGHT BY RELIGIONS SINCE THE APPEARANCE OF THE THREE DESERT FAITHS, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN ANYTHING BUT QUICK. JEWS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED, ISOLATED AND ABUSED FOR CENTURIES. CHRISTIANS HAVE FOUGHT AMONG THEMSELVES WITH AS MUCH VIOLENCE AND

BLOODSHED AS THEY HAVE DIRECTED TOWARDS ISLAM. THESE HIGHLY DESTRUCTIVE WARS HAVE BEEN FOR TERRITORY AND WEALTH AS MUCH AS MATTERS OF THE SPIRIT, AND THEIR "PLAYBOOKS" HAVE BEEN THE BIBLE AND THE QURAN. SACRED TEXTS BECOME EVEN MORE SACRED IN TIMES OF WAR, AND EVERY FIGHTING FORCE GOING BACK TO OUR NOMADIC, TRIBAL ANCESTORS HAS INVOKED THE FAVOR OF ONE DEITY OR ANOTHER.

THE PROCESS OF QUALIFYING A GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL FOR WORLD SUPREMACY IS A SEDUCTIVE ONE. FAITH OR NEED OR LIBERTY OR MANY OTHER BENEFITS MAY BE THE GOALS OF THE ASPIRANT, BUT BENEATH ALL SUCH CLAIMS THE ACQUISITION AND EXERCISE OF POWER PROVIDES A COMMON BOND.

IN OUR AGE, KNOWLEDGE CAN TOO OFTEN BE DEFINED BY OUR INSTITUTIONS — POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, MEDIA, COMMERCIAL — BY WAYS IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS CANNOT PARTICIPATE. THIS CONCENTRATION OF POWER AND ITS MISUSE IS AN ACCEPTED ASPECT OF OUR TIME. IT EXISTS IN THE EU'S GREAT BRUSSELS BUREAUCRACY; AND IN THE IRON GRIP AND CONTROL OF INFORMATION BY THE COMMERCIAL/ COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA COMPLEXES THAT HAVE GROWN UP IN OUR ERA — MOST NOTABLY IN THE US AND UK.

THIS KIND OF POWER WREAKS HAVOC WITH AND IN OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, THE MOST NOTORIOUS EXAMPLE, PERHAPS, BEING THE DECADES, AND MORE LIKELY CENTURIES, OLD TRADITION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN BY PRIESTS WITHIN THE RCC. AS SO OFTEN HAPPENS WITH INSTITUTIONAL POWER'S ABUSE, THE SHOCK AND REPUGNANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S ACT IS COMPOUNDED IN OUR SENSIBILITIES BY THE STEALTH AND SLEAZE OF A WIDE COVER-UP.

THE RCC IS BY FAR THE LARGEST OF THE CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS — A POSITION THAT CARRIES WITH IT A MEASURE OF WORLD SUPREMACY REINFORCED BY CENTURIES OF MISSION TO REMOTE AREAS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD OFTEN UNREACHABLE BY THEIR DISTANT CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS. HERE THE LOCAL PRIEST HAS OFTEN SERVED AS THE ONLY FULL TIME AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL, RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL MATTERS AND HAS BECOME A DE FACTO MANAGERIAL ARM OF GOVERNMENT.

FREED FROM THE CONFINES OF SMALL PULPITS FROM WHICH SUNDAY SERMONS WERE GIVEN, RELIGION HAS BECOME BOTH BIG BUSINESS AND A WIDE BATTLEGROUND FOR BOTH IDEAS AND INTERESTS. IN AMERICA, OUR LOUDEST VOICES COME FROM THE CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT INHABIT THE FARTHER RIGHT SECTIONS OF OUR POLITICAL SPECTRUM. THEIRS IS A FERVENT AND LITERAL READING OF THE BIBLE, AND THROUGH OUR MASS COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES OF RADIO AND TV THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH MILLIONS OF FOLLOWERS AND MAKE MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN OBTAINED LEGALLY AND OTHERS NOT.

BIG NUMBERS, BIG MONEY, BIG BETS — RELIGION AS BUSINESS AND BUSINESS AS A RELIGION EXTEND FAR BEYOND THE CONCERNS AND ATTITUDES OF PERSONAL FAITH IN OUR LIVES. OUR AGE IS A WIDE BATTLEFIELD WHERE SECULAR ISSUES HAVE EQUAL STATUS WITH THOSE OF THE SPIRIT, AND RELIGION CAN BE CALLED UPON TO SERVE BOTH.

IN JULY, 2008 IN A SERIOUSLY MISGUIDED SPEECH AND BBC INTERVIEW, ROWAN WILLIAMS, THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, IN DISCUSSING ISLAM/SHARIA SAID THAT PARTS OF SHARIA ARE COMPATIBLE WITH ENGLISH LAW, THAT IT WAS DANGEROUS TO HAVE A “ONE SIZE FITS ALL” LEGAL CODE AND THAT ACCEPTANCE BY THE UK OF ALL OR PARTS OF SHARIA WAS “INEVITABLE”.<sup>4</sup>

WILLIAMS WAS ATTEMPTING TO INCLUSIVELY FACE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE WIDE SWATHS OF URBAN AREAS IN THE UK TOTALLY OCCUPIED AND CONTROLLED BY MUSLIM POPULATIONS. THESE CONCENTRATIONS BEGAN WITH GENEROUS IMMIGRATION POLICIES, WERE EXPANDED BY MULTICULTURAL ACTIVISTS AND HAVE BEEN PROTECTED BY POLITICAL COWARDICE THAT WILL NOT OPPOSE THE MUSLIM/IMMIGRATION SPECIAL INTERESTS.

IT IS IN THE UK AND OTHER EUROPEAN LABORATORY STATES WHERE THE ISLAMIC POLITICAL COMBINATION AND CONTRADICTION IS MOST APPARENT, AND WHERE THEIR RESULTS HAVE DESTABILIZED POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND LEGAL STRUCTURES.

HERE IN AMERICA, AS WE VIEW EUROPE’S FAILED EXPERIMENTS, THE COMMENT MOST OFTEN MADE IS THE OLD, WELL-WORN “IT CAN’T HAPPEN HERE” WITH WHICH WE LULL OURSELVES INTO A DANGEROUS STATE OF ASSUMED SAFETY DERIVED FROM THE PROTECTION AFFORDED US FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS BY OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES AND LANGUAGE.

BUT THERE ARE TWO FORCES NOW AT WORK THAT MAY CIRCUMVENT OUR HISTORICAL PROTECTION. THE FIRST, OF COURSE, IS ISLAM, ITSELF, WHICH DIFFERS FROM ANY RELIGIOUS EXERCISE WE HAVE KNOWN. IT HAS ITS OWN LAW (SHARIA), ITS OWN PURPOSE (EXCLUSIVE SUPREMACY) AND ITS OWN METHODS (ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY) NONE OF WHICH ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE FREEDOMS OF RELIGIOUS CHOICE, WORSHIP AND ASSEMBLY SO PROMINENTLY ADDRESSED AND PROCLAIMED IN OUR CONSTITUTION’S FIRST AMENDMENT.

THE SECOND THREAT IS AN INTERNAL ONE IN THAT THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY THE CONSTITUTION EXTENDS TO AMERICA’S OWN CITIZENS IS SO BROAD THAT IT CAN BE CLAIMED BY OTHERS AND USED AGAINST US AND OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

THIS IS A RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENON IN OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM. WE SEE FOREIGN GROUPS COME HERE AND CLAIM THAT OUR LAWS VIOLATE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS OR DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THEIR POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC STATUS. CONSTANT PRESSURE FIRMLY APPLIED BY WELL FUNDED LEGAL TEAMS IN CASES DETERMINED BY A SINGLE JUDGE CAN WEAR DOWN OUR SYSTEM’S ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF.

MUSLIM DRESS, MEDICAL, DIETARY AND RELIGIOUS CODES HAVE ALL CLAIMED EXEMPTION FROM OUR LAWS ON THE BASIS THAT ANY INTRUSION UPON MUSLIM LAW AND CUSTOM IS A VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOM GUARANTEED TO US RESIDENTS.

FOR INSTANCE, A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AN UNDOCUMENTED MUSLIM GIRL FACING DEPORTATION CLAIMED ASYLUM BECAUSE, WERE SHE TO BE RETURNED TO HER HOMETLAND, SHE WOULD UNDERGO THE GENITAL MUTILATION PRACTICED ON YOUNG GIRLS IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES. WHILE THIS PRACTICE CAUSES GREAT MENTAL AND PHYSICAL PAIN, IT

DOES NOT CREATE A LEGAL CLASS OF UNTOLD NUMBERS TO BE EXCEPTED FROM OUR IMMIGRATION LAWS. THE JUDGE FELT DIFFERENTLY, HOWEVER, AND CANCELLED THE DEPORTATION.

JUDGES FACE DIFFICULT DECISIONS SUCH AS THIS WHEN HUMAN CONCERNS AND THE LAW CONFLICT. IN SOME CASES THE LAW ALLOWS ENOUGH SPACE FOR GENEROUS INTERPRETATION BY THE JUDGE; IN OTHERS NOT. WE HAVE A COMPLEX LEGAL SYSTEM AND, WHETHER WE ARE CONCERNED WITH ASYLUM, VOTING RIGHTS, SPEECH, WORSHIP, MARRIAGE, DIET, ETC., THE FREEDOMS THAT OUR LAW HAS GRANTED TO OTHERS ARE NOW INCREASINGLY BEING USED TO SUBVERT OUR TRADITIONAL CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK.

ISLAM IS NOT THE ONLY FORCE AT WORK HERE. THE MULTIPLE SPECIAL INTERESTS THAT NOW SHAPE OUR IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL ISSUES HAVE CREATED “HUMAN” RIGHTS THAT THEY CLAIM ENJOY PRECEDENCE OVER NATIONAL LAWS — OURS AND OTHERS. BUT WHERE NATIONAL LAWS GRANT EXTRAORDINARY CHOICE AND BENEFITS, AS THEY DO HERE AND IN OTHER FREE, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES, THE NEW ARRIVALS TURN OUR FREEDOMS AGAINST US BY CLAIMING AND ADAPTING THEM TO THEIR OWN PURPOSE.

THE BATTLE LINE FOR THIS PROCESS IS OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM. SO FAR THE NEAREST WE HAVE COME TO A NATIONAL FUROR WAS THE ATTEMPT TO BUILD A MOSQUE ADJACENT TO THE SITE OF THE 9/11/01 TRADE CENTER ATTACK IN NYC. IT INVOLVED A MATTER OF PERCEPTION ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT WAS APPROPRIATE GIVEN THE MUSLIM ROLE IN THE TRAGEDY OF THE TOWERS.

OUR JUDGES ARE GIVEN ENORMOUS POWER IN BEING ABLE TO INTERPRET OUR LAW, AND THEREBY ESTABLISH LEGAL PRECEDENT BY THEIR DECISION. A DECISION BY A LOCAL JUDGE, IF UPHELD BY AN APPELLATE OR DISTRICT COURT, ADDS BOTH JUDICIAL MUSCLE AND SUPPORTERS TO ITS CAUSE, AND IN THE PROCESS ATTRACTS PUBLIC ATTENTION FIRST IN THE LOCAL AND THEN IN THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA.

AT SOME POINT, EITHER EARLY, MIDWAY OR LATE IN THIS “GAME”, OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM BECOMES PERSUADED THAT IT HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY. THESE ARE THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS FOR BIG MONEY TO SURFACE AND A BIG ARGUMENT TO GROW, AND, AS THEY DO, THE RESULTING PHILOSOPHIC, LEGAL, ENFORCEMENT OR POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES MAY BRING ABOUT EITHER NEW LEGISLATION OR A CHANGE IN EXISTING LAW.

AGAIN, ISLAM IS NOT THE ONLY FORCE THAT TURNS OUR LAWS AGAINST US, BUT IT COMES WITH IMPRESSIVE REFERENCES AS THE WORLD’S SECOND LARGEST RELIGION WHOSE GOAL AS STATED IN THE QURAN IS NOT ONLY SUPREMACY, BUT SUPREMACY WITHOUT COMPETITION.

COMPETITION CAN TAKE MANY FORMS AND ISLAM’S RANGE IS UNUSUALLY WIDE. IT CONSIDERS OTHER THAN ISLAMIC ART TO BE A FORM OF IDOLATRY, WHICH WAS THE BASIS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF ANCIENT BUDDHIST STATUES IN AFGHANISTAN AND TRIBAL ART IN NORTHERN MALI.

THESE ARE EXTREME CASES COMMITTED BY THE TALIBAN OR THOSE ALLIED WITH IT. THEY ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY MOST MUSLIMS, WE ARE TOLD. AND YET, THE SACRED TEXTS REMAIN SACRED; AND ISLAM’S COMMANDS HAVE CHANGED AND GIVEN WAY TO MODERN LIFE LESS OVER THEIR LIFETIME

THAN THOSE OF CHRISTIANITY OR JUDAISM. OUR NATIONAL NATURE AND OUR PREDOMINANT CHRISTIAN FAITH LEAD US TO BE TOLERANT AND ECUMENICAL, AND YET, AS WE OBSERVE LIFE UNDER MUSLIM CONTROL, WE CANNOT HELP BUT COMPARE IT TO OUR WAYS AND SPECULATE HOW WE MIGHT REACT IF THEY WERE TAKEN FROM US.

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FRANCE AND ENGLAND REST AT THE WESTERN EDGE OF EUROPE. THEY HAVE BEEN ITS STAUNCHEST DEFENDERS AGAINST GERMAN AGGRESSION IN TWO GLOBAL WARS WITH ONLY A FEW YEARS OF PEACE BETWEEN, AND HAVE WITHSTOOD THE POSTWAR EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH WORLD COMMUNISM.

AND YET THEY, AS MUCH AS ANY OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, HAVE SUFFERED ISLAMIC INVASIONS THAT ARE TRANSFORMING THEIR CULTURES, SOCIETIES AND GOVERNMENTS IN ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE WAYS BEGINNING AS RECENTLY AS A GENERATION AGO.

FRANCE'S MODEL OF POSTWAR LIFE HAS LED ALL ITS NEIGHBORS. IT HAS COMMITTED TO THE UN, NUCLEAR POWER, THE EU, THE DRIFT TOWARDS SOCIALISM, NATO AND RELUCTANTLY TO THE WARS IN KUWAIT, IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

AND YET IT FINDS ITSELF HOME TO A HOSTILE POPULATION OF MUSLIMS GATHERED IN MOSTLY URBAN ENCLAVES WHERE THEY EAT, SPEAK, DRESS, BREED AND WORSHIP IN THEIR OLD WAYS. ASSIMILATION IS NOT SEEN AS POSSIBLE BY THEM OR THEIR HOSTS, BUT THEY FEEL THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT.

FREQUENTLY, THEIR RACIAL, ETHNIC, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TENSIONS IGNITE INTO VIOLENT STREET PROTESTS ACCOMPANIED BY ARSON, LOOTING, MURDER AND WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS, STORES, AUTOMOBILES AND OTHER FORMS OF PROPERTY.

ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENT, DESTRUCTIVE AND EXPENSIVE OF THESE EVENTS CAME ABOUT AS THE RESULT OF A GOVERNMENT DECREE PROHIBITING THE WEARING OF MUSLIM GARMENTS THAT FULLY CONCEAL THE WEARER'S FACE AND FORM. THE QUICK AND PREDICTABLE RESPONSE WAS THAT THIS WAS AN ACT OF DISCRIMINATION TARGETING MUSLIMS WHO WERE BEING DEPRIVED OF THEIR RIGHT TO WORSHIP. IN THEIR ARGUMENT DRESS CODE AND WORSHIP ARE COMBINED, AS THEY ARE AND HAVE BEEN FOR CENTURIES UNDER THE ISLAMIC CODE.

DRESS CHOICE AS A FORM OF RELIGIONS EXPRESSION IS NOT A FACTOR IN AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LIFE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AMISH AND A FEW HIGHLY ORTHODOX SECTS OF JUDAISM. BUT IT IS ONE THAT A GROWING ISLAMIC PRESENCE WILL ASSUREDLY PUT TO US. AND WE SHOULD HAVE ANSWERS IN ADVANCE — POLITICAL, NATIONAL SECURITY AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ANSWERS.

THERE IS A STORM COMING OUR WAY IN THE FORM OF RELIGIOUS RIGHTS WHICH ARE BROADLY DEFINED AND GRANTED UNDER OUR CONSTITUTION. THEY HAVE WORKED FAIRLY WELL FOR US, BUT THEY ARE OPPOSED BY CENTURIES OF MUSLIM SACRED TEACHING AND PRACTICE.

WE MUST FACE THE FACT THAT OUR BASIC RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS NOT ACCEPTED BY OTHER NATIONS AND RELIGIONS, AND THAT WE ARE ENGAGED IN POLICIES THAT

WILL BRING THIS DIFFERENCE IN THOUGHT BACK TO OUR OWN COUNTRY WHERE THE GRANTING OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COULD OVERPOWER THAT OF SPEECH.

BIG FIGHTS CAN START SMALL AND CULTURAL DISTINCTIONS OFFER EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES. A DRESS CODE DISPUTE; A SCHOOL YOUTH FEUD OR FIGHT; A REAL OR IMAGINED SLUR AT THE CHECKOUT COUNTER; AN ARGUMENT OVER A PARKING SPACE; ROAD RAGE; THE PERCEPTION OF INJUSTICE OR DISCRIMINATION IN A COURT DECISION OR A SCHOOL POLICY; ALL OF THESE CAN SERVE AS POINTS OF IGNITION FROM WHICH ESCALATION CAN FOLLOW.

A SMALL AND NOISY ARGUMENT COULD RAPIDLY SPREAD IN SIZE AND SHAPE TO THE POINT WHERE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MEDIA COVERAGE ARE DRAWN IN. THE SPIRIT OF THE MOB MAY GAIN THE UPPER HAND. IN FRANCE, CONFLICT RAGED FOR DAYS AND LEFT LARGE PARTS OF ITS MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN BURNT OUT RUINS.

BUT, YOU SAY, IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE. IT COULD, BUT HAS NOT BECAUSE WE ARE FAR BEHIND THE FRENCH MUSLIM EXPERIENCE. OUR GOVERNMENT-CREATED MUSLIM COMMUNITIES ARE GROWING. FRANCE HAS HAD ALMOST FIFTY YEARS SINCE ITS FIRST WAVE OF FORMER ALGERIAN COLONIALS ARRIVED; IT HAS BEEN A VERY PAINFUL PERIOD FOR BOTH PARTIES. FRANCE'S PROUDEST POSSESSION, ITS CULTURE, HAS BEEN CHALLENGED, AND, BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF NEW ARRIVALS (BOTH BY BIRTH AND BY IMMIGRATION) CONTINUES TO GROW, GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DEFINE, LET ALONE ACHIEVE, A STATUS QUO.

STILL, SUPPOSE WE WERE TO EXPERIENCE A FLASH POINT CAPABLE OF PRODUCING MASS UNREST AND VIOLENCE. NOTED MYTHOLOGIST, TEACHER AND AUTHOR JOSEPH CAMPBELL HAS POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE REFERENCES TO VIRGIN BIRTHS IN THE LORE OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS AND, IN THIS HEMISPHERE, THE INCANS, MAYANS AND AZTECS, AS WELL AS OUR NATIVE AMERICANS<sup>5</sup>. WERE WE TO BRING THIS UP FOR DISCUSSION AMONG A RANDOMLY CHOSEN GROUP OF CHRISTIANS WE WOULD PROBABLY ENCOUNTER A RESPONSE THAT COULD RANGE FROM MILD TO AGITATED.

ANY COMPARABLE CHALLENGE OF A TENET OF ISLAMIC FAITH WOULD BE CERTAIN TO ELICIT A FAR MORE VIOLENT RESPONSE, SUCH AS THE DEATHS THAT OCCURRED IN THE NETHERLANDS AS THE RESULT OF UNGUARDED COMMENTS BY POLITICIANS AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS. QUITE SIMPLY, SPEECH IN ANY FORM, VERBAL OR PICTORIAL, THAT DENIGRATES THE FAITH OR ITS PROPHET IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.

THIS IS A FIGHT WHICH WE MAY NOT WISH TO ACCEPT, BUT MAY BE FORCED UPON US. WE CANNOT PREDICT WITH ANY CERTAINTY IF OR WHEN MUSLIM VIOLENCE WILL ERUPT IN AMERICA. HOPEFULLY, IT CAN BE AVOIDED, BUT THERE ARE VERY FIRM POSITIONS IN BOTH ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY THAT ARE SEPARATED ONLY BY BATTLE LINES, NOT FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS OR RED LINES OF WARNING.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE POLICIES THAT WORK IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. WHAT CAN WE IMAGINE WOULD BE OUR GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE IF A MUSLIM/CHRISTIAN CONFRONTATION TOOK PLACE IN ONE OF OUR RELIGIOUSLY CONSERVATIVE AREAS AND ESCALATED TO A LEVEL OF LOSS OF LIFE ON BOTH SIDES?

OUR GUESS IS THAT UNDER THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION THERE WOULD BE A LOT OF HIGH RHETORIC, AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF INVESTIGATION, ASSURANCE THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE WOULD BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE AND OTHER CONFUSED ATTEMPTS TO CONSIDER WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, WOULD DRAW THE LEAST CRITICISM. IN LINE WITH THIS WE CAN POINT TO THE LACK, AS YET, OF PROSECUTION OF MAJOR NIDAL HASAN IN THE 13 DEATHS AT FORT HOOD, TX ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO. THIS INCIDENT, BY THE WAY, IS NOW REFERRED TO BY THE GOVERNMENT AS A "WORKPLACE INCIDENT", NOT A TERRORIST ACT.

HASAN WAS A SHOWCASE OFFICER IN THE ARMY MEDICAL CORPS PSYCHIATRIC DIVISION WHO LEFT A TRAIL OF RED FLAGS THAT WERE HARD TO IGNORE, BUT ESCAPED THE ATTENTION OF THE CIA, ARMY INTELLIGENCE, DEPT OF DEFENSE, SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND THE FBI. IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT BY THE TIME HASAN IS BROUGHT TO TRIAL MUCH OF THE BACKGROUND WILL HAVE BEEN SANITIZED FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION.

A RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE HASAN CASE ILLUSTRATES IN A RELATIVELY SMALL WAY THE CONTRADICTIONS WE MAY FACE ON A LARGER SCALE. HASAN APPEARED AT A COURT HEARING WEARING A NEWLY GROWN BEARD WHICH THE ATTENDING JUDGE ORDERED HIM TO REMOVE AS BEING CONTRARY TO ARMY REGULATIONS.

HASAN AND HIS ATTORNEY CLAIMED THE BEARD WAS CENTRAL TO HIS ISLAMIC FAITH AND TO FORCE HIM TO SHAVE IT WOULD VIOLATE HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RELIGIOUS RIGHTS. THE MATTER WAS APPEALED AND A NEW JUDGE NOT ONLY GRANTED HASAN THE RIGHT TO RETAIN HIS BEARD, BUT ALSO REPLACED THE ORIGINAL JUDGE.

THIS RESPONSE TESTS BOTH OUR SYSTEM AND OUR CREDULITY IN THAT ARMY REGULATIONS CLEARLY FORBID BEARDS AND THAT HASAN DURING ALL THE YEARS OF HIS MILITARY SERVICE HAD BEEN CLEAN-SHAVEN AND HAD NOT SUFFERED ANY LOSS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

WHY NOW? FACIAL HAIR IS ICONIC IN ISLAMIC LIFE AND WE CAN READILY ASSUME THAT MAJ. HASAN AND HIS DEFENDERS ANTICIPATE A LENGTHY AND REVEALING TRIAL WITH GLOBAL MEDIA COVERAGE! THE SYMBOLIC VALUE OF HAVING HASAN APPEAR BEARDED IN THE ISLAMIC TRADITION WILL BE ENORMOUS AND WILL ALLOW MUSLIMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO VISUALIZE THE PROCEEDINGS AS A CLEAR CONTEST BETWEEN ISLAM AND THE WEST THAT WILL OBSCURE THE MURDER CHARGES. HE WILL BE SEEN AS A FAITH IMPRINTED MUSLIM, NOT A TERRORIST.

THIS TRIAL SHOULD BE WATCHED BY EVERY ELECTED POLITICIAN IN OUR COUNTRY. THERE WILL BE ENORMOUS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE PUBLIC OPINION AT WORK — AND NOT ALL OF THEM CLEARLY VISIBLE ON THE SURFACE. WE SHOULD SEARCH THE PROSECUTION, THE DEFENSE AND THE DECISION FOR CLUES AS TO THE SETTING OF LEGAL PRECEDENCE AND TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL DIRECTIONS THEY INDICATE OUR GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE IN THE FUTURE. THERE ARE MANY CONSTITUENCIES IN PLAY IN THIS TRIAL, AND WE MUST CERTAINLY ASK OURSELVES WHY IT TAKES THREE YEARS TO BRING TO TRIAL (NOT JUSTICE; THERE ARE SURE TO BE APPEARLS IF HASAN IS FOUND GUILTY) SOMEONE WHO WAS OBSERVED BY MULTIPLE WITNESSES TO

KILL THIRTEEN PEOPLE WITHOUT PROVOCATION. WATCH THE BODY LANGUAGE; FOLLOW THE LEGAL ARGUMENTS; AND LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE CHOICE OF WORDS. LIKE THE THREE RING CIRCUS, THERE WILL BE MANY THINGS HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME.

THE ARMY IS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION, AS THIS TRIAL INVOLVES CRIMES ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY A MILITARY OFFICER ON A MILITARY BASE. DOES THE PROSECUTION DEFINE THE KILLINGS AS AN ACT OF TERRORISM? WILL THE DEFENSE PLEAD INSANITY? THERE IS ENOUGH DAMMING EVIDENCE LURKING IN THE BACKGROUND TO CONCERN BOTH SIDES, AND, REGARDLESS OF WHAT ARGUMENTS ARE FINALLY MADE, THE MILITARY'S HANDLING OF PROCEDURES AND PEOPLE IN BOTH ITS MEDICAL AND SECURITY SYSTEMS WILL COME UNDER INTENSE QUESTIONING AND CRITICISM.

IDEALLY FROM A SECURITY PERSPECTIVE, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR US TO NOT MAKE AVAILABLE EITHER LIVE COVERAGE OR VIDEO REPLAY, BUT RATHER TO ISSUE BULLETINS THAT WOULD BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE EACH DAY'S EVENTS. SUCH AN APPROACH, HOWEVER, WOULD BREAK WITH BOTH OUR FREE PRESS TRADITION AND THE PRINCIPLES ESPOUSED IN OUR CONSTITUTION, AND WE ARE BOUND BY BOTH THE VALUES OF OUR PAST AND THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE PRESENT TO PROVIDE AS FULL NEWS COVERAGE AS POSSIBLE CONSISTENT WITH ANY DETERMINATION OF LEGAL RIGHTS.

THE PROBLEM, AND THE DAMAGE, LIE IN WHAT TRANSPIRES AFTER WE MAKE PUBLIC THIS TRIAL'S VIDEO/AUDIO FOOTAGE. IF WE RELEASE A VIDEO TO THE BBC, WE CAN BE CONFIDENT IT WILL BE BROADCAST AS RECEIVED. IF WE MAKE THE SAME MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO AL JAZEERA FOR TRANSMISSION TO ITS NEAR EASTERN AUDIENCES, IT MAY UNDERGO SOME NUANCED CHANGES RESULTING FROM THE CHOICE OF WHAT AND HOW MUCH CAN BE FITTED INTO THE PROGRAMMING OF THE DAY.

HOWEVER, GLOBAL NEWS COVERAGE ALLOWS THE SPREAD OF BROADCAST CONTENT TO THOSE WHOSE INTENT IS NOT BALANCED NEWS REPORTING. MI IS SUCH AN ENTITY, AS ITS PURPOSE IS ENTIRELY ALIGNED WITH ISLAM, AND A RELATIVELY SMALL SEGMENT OF IT.

WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE TALIBAN WILL OBTAIN COPIES OF WHATEVER MATERIAL IS RELEASED AND WILL THEN GO ABOUT PUTTING IT TO ITS OWN USE. THIS COULD INCLUDE FORMS OF EDITING THAT WOULD EMPHASIZE ISLAM'S POSITION AND GOALS AND ALSO OUTHRIGHT ALTERATION OF THE VIDEO/AUDIO MESSAGES.

FOR JIHADISTS, THESE VIDEOS COULD BE VERY EFFECTIVELY USED AS TRAINING AIDS FOR THEIR RECRUITS THAT PUSH THEM TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF COMMITMENT. MOST OF THEM HAVE ALREADY HAD A HEAVY DOSE OF ANTI-WESTERN (I.E. INFIDEL) DOCTRINATION AND COULD EASILY BE ENFLAMED BY IMAGES OF A BEARDED MUSLIM ON TRIAL IN A US MILITARY COURT.

HERE, THE IMAGE IS EVERYTHING AND IT WILL OBSCURE MUCH OF THE UNDERLYING ARGUMENTS AND FACTS. THE BEARD IS THE KEY, FOR WITHOUT IT THE EMOTIONAL TONE IS GREATLY DIMINISHED, AND MI'S SUCCESS HAS DEPENDED UPON CREATING AND SUSTAINING A HIGH LEVEL OF EMOTIONAL ENERGY.

IT MAY BE THAT OUR RESPONSE TO THE HASAN EVENT IS THE CLOSEST WE CAN COME TO HAVING A POLICY FOR DEALING WITH SUCH INFLAMMATORY ACTS. GOVERNMENTS, AND OURS ESPECIALLY WITH ITS IMMENSE SECURITY/DEFENSE BUDGET, SHOULD BE ON NOTICE THAT THEIR CITIZENS EXPECT TO HAVE THE RESULTS OF THE TECHNOLOGY THEY PAY FOR SHARED WITH THEM.

THE POSSIBILITY, OR EVEN PROBABILITY, OF SOME KIND OF MUSLIM/CHRISTIAN CONFRONTATION IN AMERICA IS NOW A REALITY OF WHICH GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE AWARE, AND SOMEWHERE IN CONGRESS THERE SHOULD BE PEOPLE ENGAGED IN RECOGNIZING THIS AND DRAWING UP REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES OR EVEN EMERGENCY LEGISLATION THAT WOULD SERVE THE NATION'S INTEREST.

THIS WILL NOT BE EASY, AS THERE ARE BOUND TO BE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES EITHER PRESENT IN FACT OR CLAIMED BY THOSE FOR WHOM EVERY EXERCISE OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY OR CONSIDERATION IS AN OCCASION FOR IDEOLOGICAL EXTENSION.

## THE FEAR FACTOR

FEAR IS PRIMAL. IT CAN GRIP INDIVIDUALS, TRIBES, NATIONS AND WHOLE POPULATIONS WITH PARALYZING AND UNRELENTING STRENGTH. IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, LIKE A SHADOW, IT ACCOMPANIES US FOR ALL OUR DAYS FROM THEIR BEGINNING TO THEIR END. AND ANYONE WHO CLAIMS NOT TO HAVE FEAR ONLY REVEALS THAT HE/SHE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PENETRATE ITS MANY DISGUISES. FROM THE AFRICAN VELD TO OUTER SPACE IT HAS MARKED AND MEASURED OUR MOTIVATION, OUR FAITH, OUR CHARACTER AND OUR PROGRESS. WE MAY CURSE IT, MOLD IT, USE IT OR DENY IT. WHAT WE CAN'T DO IS ELIMINATE IT.

FEAR HAS BEEN PART OF RELIGIOUS FAITH SINCE MAN'S MOST PRIMITIVE TIME AND BELIEFS — FEAR OF NATURE, FEAR OF BEING ALONE, FEAR OF RETRIBUTION, FEAR OF DIVINE POWER, FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN, FEAR OF LIFE AND FEAR OF DEATH.

FOR CENTURIES, AS RELIGIOUS WARS FOR TERRITORY AND SPIRITUAL DOMINANCE RAGED ACROSS EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA, THE NEAR EAST AND WESTERN RUSSIA, THE FEAR OF VIOLENCE WAS A CONSTANT. FOLLOWING THE HORRIFIC BRUTALITY OF THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES' CATHOLIC/PROTESTANT WARFARE AND THE SPANISH INQUISITION, THE SPREAD OF 18TH CENTURY ENLIGHTENMENT ACROSS WESTERN EUROPE BROUGHT ABOUT MAJOR CHANGES IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THOUGHT.

WEAPONRY DEVELOPMENT WAS ALSO A FACTOR IN THE SOFTENING OF ATTITUDES, AS THE ADVENT OF GUNS/GUNPOWDER MADE IT POSSIBLE TO KILL FROM INCREASING DISTANCES. AS BATTLE BECAME MORE ORDERLY, THE CHRISTIAN ARGUMENT OF FAITH BECAME MORE PEACEFUL AND BOTH BRANCHES, PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC, ABANDONED WAR IN FAVOR OF MISSION WORK/MARKETING TO SPREAD THEIR MESSAGES.

FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, RELIGIOUS AND

OTHERWISE, THE ENLIGHTENMENT AND ITS SOCIAL/ECONOMIC/TECHNOLOGICAL OFFSHOOTS SHARED BY WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA DID NOT TAKE ROOT IN THE NEAR EAST AND ITS NEIGHBORLY REGIONS WHERE ISLAM WAS CONCENTRATED.

THE RESULT IS THAT TODAY THERE STILL EXISTS A MILITANT BRANCH OF ISLAM THAT SEES ITS FAITH AND FUTURE AS IT DID A THOUSAND YEARS AGO AS "THE FLAMING SWORD". IT IS STILL COMMITTED TO PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT AND PAINFUL ABUSE OF THOSE WHO FAIL TO ABIDE BY THE STRICTEST REQUIREMENTS OF THE MUSLIM CODE OF CONDUCT.

RELIGION AND POLITICS BOTH WORK BETTER WHEN THEY ARE KEPT SEPARATE, BUT EVEN IN THE MOST OPEN SOCIETIES THERE CAN BE AN INHERENT CONFLICT BETWEEN WHAT RELIGION COMMANDS AND WHAT THE STATE CAN, OR SHOULD, PROVIDE.

ALL RELIGIONS IN THEIR CLAIMS TO "THE TRUTH" PUT THEMSELVES ON A PATH OF SPIRITUAL EXCLUSIVITY AND DISTINCTION WHICH WESTERN CIVILIZATION HAS LEARNED TO PURSUE PEACEFULLY, RATHER THAN BY WAR. LEARNING THE LESSON THAT SOULS CAN BE SAVED WITHOUT LIVES BEING LOST HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE LAST FIVE HUNDRED YEARS THAT REQUIRED ACCOMMODATION BY BOTH PROTESTANT AND ROMAN CATHOLIC DENOMINATIONS.

ISLAM IS THE SECOND LARGEST OF THE THREE DESERT FAITHS AFTER CHRISTIANITY. ITS SIZE ALONE ASSURES THAT IT HAS A PROMINENT VOICE IN WORLD RELIGIOUS MATTERS WHETHER IT CHOOSES PEACEFUL OR MORE AGGRESSIVE MEANS OF DELIVERING ITS MESSAGE.

THE PROBLEM POSED BY ISLAM TO THE WORLD AROUND IT, IS THAT ITS SACRED TEXT HAS PROVIDED A SPIRITUAL REFUGE FOR THOSE WHO FAVOR THE PURSUIT OF SUPREMACY BY VIOLENT AND AGGRESSIVE MEANS. TO THESE MUSLIMS THERE IS NO SEPARATENESS BETWEEN RELIGION AND THE STATE. THEY ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

THIS VIEW SERVED AS A KIND OF PRISON FOR ISLAMIC THOUGHT AND VISION UNTIL THEY WERE INALTERABLY CHANGED BY THE THREE GREAT GAME CHANGERS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY — NEAR EAST OIL WEALTH, INSTANT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH TELEVISION'S ABILITY TO BRING LIFE ELSEWHERE INTO VIEW AND THE FORMATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHEREIN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROVIDES A MEANINGFUL WORLD POLITICAL PLATFORM FOR THE NUMEROUS MUSLIM POPULATIONS IN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND ASIA.

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THE IMPACT OF THESE THREE DEVELOPMENTS IS NOT MUSLIM SPECIFIC. WE HAVE ALL BEEN JOINED MUCH CLOSER TOGETHER THAN WE MAY WISH BY TECHNOLOGY AND POPULATION. OUR SITUATION, AS THE SPACE BETWEEN US SHRINKS, IS NOT WITHOUT PERIL, THE GREATEST OF WHICH IS THE POSSIBILITY OF NUCLEAR WAR TECHNOLOGY BECOMING AVAILABLE TO ONE OR MORE GROUPS WILLING TO USE IT TO BREAK DOWN, RATHER THAN MAINTAIN, WORLD ORDER.

THIS IS NOT A GOOD SITUATION FOR THE WORLD TO BE IN, AND THE FINGERPRINTS OF FEAR ARE ALL OVER IT. THERE

IS THE GENERAL FEAR THAT ALREADY EXISTS IN THOSE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHOSE SOCIAL AND LEGAL PATTERNS HAVE BEEN ALTERED BY THE MUSLIM IMMIGRANT INFLUX.

AND THERE IS THE MORE POLITICALLY SPECIFIC FEAR IN THESE SAME COUNTRIES THAT TARGETS LEADERS AND DEPARTMENTS CHARGED WITH THE SMOOTH AND DEMOCRATIC FUNCTIONING OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. ADD TO THESE THE GROWING GROUP OF THOSE IN GOVERNMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES NOT YET AFFECTED, BUT WHO ARE CONCERNED BY WHAT THEY SEE AND HEAR OCCURRING ELSEWHERE.

OTHER, NON-POLITICAL ENTITIES, ALSO HAVE REASONS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SAFETY. THE MEDIA AND THE ARTS HAVE BEEN PUT ON NOTICE IN EUROPE AND HERE THAT THEIR TREATMENT OF MUSLIM CULTURE MUST CONFORM TO ISLAM'S REQUIREMENTS FROM WHICH ANY DEPARTURE WILL BE VIEWED AS BLASPHEMY PUNISHABLE ACCORDING TO THE ISLAMIC CODE OF JUSTICE.

THERE IS THE FEAR OF MODERATE MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS THAT INHABIT STATES OR REGIONS NEAR TO THOSE CONTROLLED BY THE JIHADIST ELEMENT. AFGHANISTAN WAS ONE SUCH AREA OF OPPORTUNITY AND WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE TALIBAN. MORE RECENTLY, NORTH MALI BEFELL THE SAME FATE, BUT, EVEN IF THE INVADING JIHADIST GROUPS ARE REMOVED, THE FEAR REMAINS IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO EXPERIENCED OR WITNESSED THE PAIN OF DECAPITATIONS, AMPUTATIONS, GENITAL MUTILATION AND OTHER FORMS OF PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT.

GROWING UP ANYWHERE IS DIFFICULT. GROWING UP IN THE POVERTY AND HARDSHIP OF A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY IS EVEN MORE SO. THEN CONSIDER WHAT IT MUST ENTAIL IF BOTH HANDS HAVE BEEN AMPUTATED; AND EVEN WORSE IF THE CHILD IS A GIRL.

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IT IS BARELY CREDIBLE THAT OUR COUNTRY'S LEADERS CAN LOOK AROUND THE WORLD AND OBSERVE THE ACTIONS OF MI WITHOUT SOME SENSE OF ALARM, BUT WASHINGTON HAS DEVELOPED THE PRACTICE OF AVOIDANCE TO THE POINT WHERE IT HAS BECOME THE PREFERRED RESPONSE TO DIFFICULT PROBLEMS (I.E., DEBT, IMMIGRATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, ETC.)

OUR CURRENT CAPACITY TO RESPOND IS FURTHER HAMPERED BY THE FACT THAT ISLAMIC PENETRATION OF THE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES (THERE IS, FOR INSTANCE, NO MUSLIM EFFORT IN NORTH KOREA) HAS REACHED A PEAK AT THE TIME WHEN WE HAVE HAD A PRESIDENT OF MUSLIM DESCENT AND HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN A PROGRAM OF IMPORTING AND SETTLING MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF OUR MID-EASTERN WARS.

THE DEEPEST, MOST TRAUMATIC AND POLITICALLY DIFFICULT ASPECT OF OUR EXPANDING MUSLIM POPULATION IS THAT WE MAY BE FACE TO FACE WITH A FORCE THAT ONLY RECOGNIZES OUR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AS A MEANS TO PURSUE ITS OWN AIMS. WE HAVE BECOME SO ACCUSTOMED TO OUR BASIC FREEDOMS — FREEDOM OF SPEECH, WORSHIP, ASSEMBLY, ETC.) — THAT IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE THEIR BEING TURNED AGAINST US. BUT THAT CAN HAPPEN AND, IF IT DOES, IT WILL PRODUCE AN ARGUMENT AND DIVISION MORE BITTER THAN

ANYTHING WE HAVE EXPERIENCED SINCE THE CIVIL WAR.

THERE IS NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT OUR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WILL BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY. IN ITS PRESENT, EARLY STAGE IT IS, ALMOST IT SEEMS BY COMMON AGREEMENT, EASY TO IGNORE, BUT IT WILL NOT GO AWAY. IT WILL, HOWEVER, CALL EVER MORE FORCEFULLY AND FREQUENTLY FOR OUR ATTENTION.

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## WORLD FORCE

FOR MANY REASONS RELIGION IS BECOMING A MORE DIFFICULT AND POWERFUL GLOBAL FORCE. PARTIALLY, THIS IS DUE TO OUR MODERN TECHNOLOGY WHICH PUTS ALL OUR ACTIVITIES UNDER STRONG MAGNIFICATION (FOR EXAMPLE, THE RCC CHILD SEX ABUSE EXPOSURE). WE HAVE FOCUSED MOST OF OUR ATTENTION ON MI, BUT ALL RELIGIONS ARE UNDERGOING THE SAME KIND OF COMPRESSION AND COMPETITION CAUSED BY OUR RAPIDLY EXPANDING ABILITY TO PROPAGATE AND COMMUNICATE.

UNLESS REINED IN OR DENIED BY MODERATE MUSLIMS, MI POSES THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GREATEST CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POWER TRANSFER OUR WORLD HAS EVER SEEN. CULTURAL EXPRESSION BY PAINTINGS, STATUARY, LITERATURE AND MUSIC AS WE HAVE COME TO KNOW IT WILL DISAPPEAR. AS WILL STOCK EXCHANGES, INTEREST PAYING DEBT INSTRUMENTS AND OTHER ELEMENTS IN OUR CAPITALISTIC SYSTEM WHICH WOULD, ITSELF, BE MARKED FOR EARLY RETIREMENT.

NEW LINES OF AUTHORITY UNRELATED TO THE ORIGINS OF OUR MULTI-NATIONAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE WOULD VANISH, TAKING WITH THEM THE EDUCATIONAL VALUES THAT HAVE PROVIDED THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE KNOWLEDGE BASE THAT HAS PERMITTED AND ENCOURAGED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FOR THREE THOUSAND YEARS.

REMEMBER, MI CONSIDERS WESTERN ART TO BE BLASPHEMOUS AND HAS CAUSED IT TO BE DESTROYED IN AFGHANISTAN AND MALI IN FULL VIEW OF MEDIA COVERAGE. THE VATICAN; THE LOUVRE; OXFORD'S BODLEIAN LIBRARY, CHARTRES CATHEDRAL; ALL AND MANY OTHERS COULD BE SUBJECT TO DEVASTATION.

MI HAS WITHIN IT ELEMENTS THAT ATTACK THE WEST FROM EVERY DIRECTION. THE CONFRONTATION THAT MAY RESULT COULD BE DESCRIBED AS "THE FIGHT THAT HAS EVERYTHING!" — SEX, MONEY, POWER, FAITH AND FURY. IT CAN BE SEEN AS THE "END OF DAYS" BY THE CHRISTIAN WEST — ARMAGEDDON, CHRIST'S SECOND COMING, THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ANTI-CHRIST AND THE LIFTING UP AND SALVATION OF TRUE BELIEVERS.

SIMILARLY, MI ENCOURAGES THIS TYPE OF DEFINITIVE SPIRITUAL BATTLE AS FINAL PROOF OF ITS MISSION AS PROCLAIMED BY THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD. LIKE CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM'S FORCES COMMITTED TO THE GRAND BATTLE ON EARTH ARE TO BE REWARDED WITH UNLIMITED JOYS, BOTH PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL, IN THE NEXT WORLD AFTER THE ULTIMATE

ENCOUNTER.

THE KEY PROBLEM AT THE CENTER OF THIS DEDICATION TO A VIOLENT CLASH OF ARMS AND POPULATIONS IS THAT EACH SIDE CONSIDERS ITSELF TO BE RIGHT AS A MATTER OF FAITH, AND THAT, CONVERSELY, THE OTHER SIDE IS WRONG; THAT THESE FAITH-DERIVED POSITIONS ARE JUSTIFIED BY THEIR SACRED TEXTS; AND THAT EACH FAITH IS ORDAINED TO CARRY OUT THE COMMANDS FOUND IN THE QURAN AND THE BIBLE.

MI, BY THE WAY, IS NOT ALONE IN SEEKING SALVATION VIA ARMAGEDDON, AS THERE ARE ALSO POWERFUL AND INSISTENT CHRISTIAN VOICES THAT SEEK THIS SOLUTION TO ESTABLISHING THE “TRUE” GOD AND FULFILLING HIS COMMANDS.

ON EARTH, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT TRUTH STILL IS DETERMINED MORE BY THE EAR OF MAN RATHER THAN THE VOICE OF GOD. WHAT ARE WE CALLED TO DO AND BE? AND WHY? AND HOW? WE DO NOT MAKE ANY CLAIM AS TO HOW OR WHEN THIS OPPOSITION WILL BE CONCLUDED. ITS POLITICAL STATUS IS STILL VERY MUCH ON A LOCAL, NATIONAL SCALE, BUT IT IS MADE UP OF POWERFUL, EMOTIONAL ARGUMENTS WHICH COULD EASILY GATHER GREATER FORCE AND SLIP THE BOUNDS OF CIVILIZED CONTROL. THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE AND COULD HAPPEN AGAIN — ONLY THE NEXT TIME IN OUR NUCLEAR AGE.

IF WE CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF FAITH-BASED ISSUES ON PAST CIVILIZATIONS, THEN WE CANNOT HELP BUT RECOGNIZE RELIGION AS A WORLD FORCE TODAY. TO DO SO RESPONSIBLY WILL REQUIRE GREATER ISLAM TO DEFINE ITS POSITION ON ITS MILITANT GROUP, AND FOR THE WEST TO COME TO FORMS OF AGREEMENT THAT WILL PROTECT ITS CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES AND PREVENT THEM FROM BEING HI-JACKED AND SET AGAINST ITS OWN TRADITIONAL LAWS AND INTERESTS. IT HAS LOST GROUND IN THIS RESPECT IN RECENT DECADES — GROUND THAT TOOK CENTURIES TO ESTABLISH. ANY FURTHER EROSION WILL CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT, AND PERHAPS EVEN DECISIVE, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL RETREAT.

ECD 1/4/13

## END NOTES

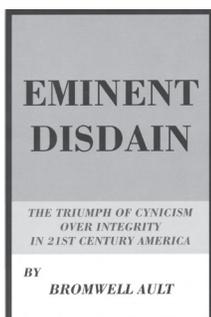
- <sup>1</sup> HOLY BIBLE: MATTHEW XXII, 21 AND MARK XII, 17
- <sup>2</sup> THE BALLAD OF EAST AND WEST BY RUDYARD KIPLING, 1889
- <sup>3</sup> THE TELEGRAPH, LONDON, 8/8-8/14/12
- <sup>4</sup> IMPRIMIS (AUG. 2008) LIGHTS OUT ON LIBERTY BY MARK STEYN
- <sup>5</sup> AN OPEN LIFE BY JOSEPH CAMPBELL AND MICHAEL TOMS, LARSON PUBLICATIONS, BURDETT, NY 1988

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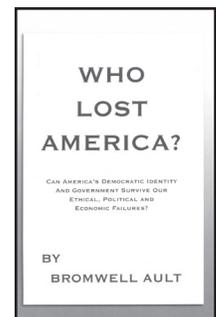
## EDITOR’S BIO

MR. AULT IS RETIRED FROM BUSINESS, A GRADUATE OF YALE UNIVERSITY, AND THE AUTHOR OF: A RETAIL FOOD STUDY (LA ROCHE & Co. NYC, NY 1957) WHICH DESCRIBED THE EMERGENCE AND GROWING DOMINANCE OF THE SUPERMARKET IN AMERICAN FOOD RETAILING; EMINENT DISDAIN: THE TRIUMPH OF CYNICISM OVER INTEGRITY IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICA. ; AND WHO LOST AMERICA? CAN AMERICA’S DEMOCRATIC IDENTITY AND GOVERNMENT SURVIVE OUR ETHICAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FAILURES?

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