



A
Rejoinder
To
Pope's
Allegations
Against Islam

BY:
Mukhtar A. Cheema

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FOREWORD

Head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI, during his lecture, delivered on 12th September 2006 at the University of Regensburg in Germany, criticized Islam. Under the shadow of centuries old so called dialogue between Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologus and an educated Persian, on the subject of Christianity and Islam, and the truth of both. In the selection of a very small segment of the dialogue Pope made target to the Holy Prophet of Islam.

He might be testing the patience of the Muslims, but in reality he not only ruined, the years long efforts of his predecessor in moments but also he exposed himself to the entire world, where he stands. In the citation of discourse of the emperor he said, **“Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached”**.

In this way, the Pope leveled false accusations against the Holy Prophet of Islam under the shelter of so called dialogue between Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologus and a Persian scholar. This statement was astonishing for the whole world in general and particular for the Muslims.

The so called dialogue starts as comparison between Christianity and Islam and From the citation of a bit of dialogue by the Pope, the main impression is created that God forbid, whatever the Holy prophet of Islam brought that was new, is full of evils, or in other words before the Holy Prophet of Islam there were teachings full of wisdom and knowledge having suitability to mankind but whatever new he brought that was full of

incompatibility to the human values and full of evils. Then he especially quoted, “such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached”. In this way he presented Islam as the religion of horror and terror. He also presented the Islamic concept of God as irrational and beyond the limits of experience, existing out side the material world which is different from the Greek mythology and the Biblical concept of God.

I do not hesitate to say that it was the prophet of Islam, who not only taught the people manners and human values but accomplished all the moral standards through his excellent examples. In the entire human race he is the only person who can be presented as perfect exemplar for mankind. In teaching ethics and good manners to humanity he is well recognize in the history of religion. The supremacy of Islam over all the religion is obvious and this whole credit goes to the Holy Prophet of Islam. This is not just lip service but it is the truth and reality.

Being Muslims it is our prime duty to accept this challenge, to show not only to the Pope, but to the entire Christian world, the true picture of Islam and Christianity and prove with logic and wisdom that whatever new thing was brought by the Holy prophet of Islam that was all good, nothing but the good, and he was not the promoter of evil, rather he was the promoter of peace brotherhood and harmony in the world. It cannot be denied that by his appearance evils and immoralities vanished away from the scene.

M.A. Cheema

Pope's lecture can be divided and discussed under three main categories

1. Nature of God in Christianity and Islam
2. Biblical and Quranic Teachings.
3. Islam is a violent religion and it was spread by force.

In the following pages I would try to bring into lime light step by step the philosophy and teachings brought by the Holy Prophet of Islam, along with comparison with the Biblical teachings of Christianity.

THE CONCEPT ABOUT GOD

Allah is the proper name of God, which is known since the time immemorial, through the prophets. Islam presents most perfect and complete concept of God, free from any weakness. Almighty Allah is the Lord of all the worlds. He is free from all blemishes and possesses all perfect attributes. He alone is fully aware of the real nature of all things. God is entitled to all praise. His providence is not only universal but is also extended to both the physical and the spiritual world. He is the creator and we all his creatures, so the powers and faculties with which man is endowed are all gifts of God. It is He Who is deserving of praise for any good that may be done by man.

Holy Quran says;

هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ هُوَ اللَّهُ
الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيَّمِنُ الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ
الْمُتَكَبِّرُ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَالِقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّرُ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ
الْحُسْنَى يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ *

“He is Allah and there is no god beside Him, the Knower of the unseen and the seen. He is the Gracious, the Merciful. He is Allah and there is no god beside Him, the Sovereign, the Holy One, the Source of peace, the Bestower of security, the Protector, the Mighty, the Subduer, the Exalted. Holy is Allah, far above that which they associate with Him. He is Allah, the creator, the Maker, the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names.

All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifies Him, and He is the Mighty, the Wise.”

(HOLY QURAN 59: 23-25)

Pope quoted in his lecture;

“Theodore Khoury, observes: For the emperor, as a Byzantine shaped by Greek philosophy, this statement is self-evident. But for Muslim teaching, God is absolutely transcendent. His will is not bound up with any of our categories, even that of rationality.”

So for as the attributes and the powers of God are concerned he is not bound to his creatures, otherwise what will be the difference between the creature and the creator? Our abilities, talents and aptitudes of mind are very limited as compare to the attributes and the powers of the creator of the universe, but still we can comprehend his existence. In his creation from the smallest particle to the greatest galaxies, even our own subsistence is a living proof of the existence God. In spite of being hidden from our physical eyes he is every where, and controlling the entire universe. It is true that with our own power we cannot see him but he himself reaches to us, as Holy Quran says;

لَا تُدْرِكُهُ الْأَبْصَارُ وَهُوَ يُدْرِكُ الْأَبْصَارَ وَهُوَ اللَّطِيفُ الْخَبِيرُ

“Eyes cannot reach Him but He reaches the eyes. And He is the incomprehensible, the All-Aware.”

(HOLY QURAN 6:104)

God according to Islamic belief is incomprehensible, but same time he is closer than our own souls. He is more aware about us than our own selves.

Being hidden from our eyes he remains in the core of our hearts. Almighty God himself says;

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ وَنَعْلَمُ مَا تُوَسْوِسُ بِهِ نَفْسُهُ وَنَحْنُ أَقْرَبُ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ حَبْلِ الْوَرِيدِ

“And assuredly, We have created man and We know what his mind whispers to him, and We are nearer to him than even his jugular vein.”

(HOLY QURAN 50: 17)

So whoever becomes obedient to God and walks the ways he likes, and supplicates to him, he is near to such person, he hears the supplications of the supplicants and responds to him. This is Islamic concept of God. Concept of a living and loving God. It is not just hypothesis, but it is the reality, he appeared to whom he pleased in all the ages and revealed his secrets.

Holy Quran says;

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

“And when My servants ask thee about Me, say `I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So they should hearken to Me and believe in Me that they may follow the right way.”

(HOLY QURAN 2:187)

Contrary to the Islamic point of view it is mentioned in the Gospels that no man has seen God;

“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

(JOHN 1:18)

So if no man has seen God, according to the Gospel of John then definitely Pope’s statement is contradictory to his own belief. But in reality Bible supports Islamic point of view. Because it is mentioned in the Bible that God talked to Moses face to face.

“And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.”

(EXODUS 33:11)

It is not Moses to whom God talked face to face rather he talked to other Israelites also on the mount Horeb, as it is described in the book of Deuteronomy.

“1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. 2 The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who [are] all of us here alive this day. 4 The Lord talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire. 5 I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to shew you the word of the Lord: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;”

(DEUTERONOMY 5:1-5)

So the above are the two contradictory Biblical statements, and there is not any possible way to reconcile them, unless seek guidance from the Holy Quran. So according to the Islamic point of view God is not bound to be seen to every one, but he appears to whom he pleases, so this unavoidable dilemma which Pope has mentioned in his lecture can be solved in the light of the Quranic teachings. In the above Biblical statements, Gospel of John is speaking about the appearance of God in physical sense and that is not possible, so no man has seen God. The book of Exodus and the book of Deuteronomy are talking about appearance of God in Visionary form and that is possible and true.

According to the Holy Quran, Almighty God guides them in his ways to reach him, those who, struggle to find him. To strive hard to win his pleasure. This can best be done by following a Divine guidance given through the prophets.

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

“And as for those who strive to meet us. We will, surely, guide them in Our ways. And, verily, Allah is with those who do good.”

(HOLY QURAN 29: 70)

There are different attributes of God, mentioned in the Holy Quran, all those attributes invite the servants of God to adopt them, and put them into practice in the daily life. This is the way to become totally of God and totally surrender to him. Same philosophy is mentioned in the following verse of the Holy Quran too;

صِبْغَةَ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ مِنَ اللَّهِ صِبْغَةً وَنَحْنُ لَهُ عَابِدُونَ

“Say, `the real color is the color of Allah; and who is better in color than Allah, and him alone do we worship.”

(HOLY QURAN 2:139)

This is the stage in which some one totally loses his identity, and adopts Allah’s attributes and become entirely of God. This is the situation when some acquire God's attributes and become His living manifestation. Then his action becomes the action of God.

The God of Islam is a living God; he takes care of every one, and is free from any kind of weakness. Nothing is hidden from his eyes. Holy Quran says in this regard;

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ

“Allah- there is no god save Him, the Living, the Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining. Slumber seizes Him not, nor sleep. To Him belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth.”

(HOLY QURAN 2:256)

The Quranic concept of God presented above is an excellent concept, is more rational as compare to the concept presented by any other religion. Islam has presented the idea of God with logic and wisdom, the God we have personally experienced. Not like Christianity, three in one and one in three, this triune philosophy is borrowed from Greek mythology. This is

why Pope agreed to compromise with Greek's traditional concept of gods. Islam cannot compromise with such myths, and put aside the magnificent idea about God. Holy Prophet of Islam has introduced God in a wonderful way having no comparison at all. The Islamic point of view of God is different from the Biblical perception. Bible presents an immature and imperfect opinion about God. Like it is mentioned in the Bible;

“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.”

(GENESIS 2:2)

How someone can even suppose about God, the creator of the heavens and the earth, controller of the whole universe needs to take rest. What kind of God that is, who feels to restore energy by taking rest? Of course that is not the God introduced by Muhammad (Peace be upon him), rather that is the God of Christianity, introduced in by the Bible.

Holy prophet of Islam introduced one omnipotent God which is different from the triune God of Christianity, in which Jesus Christ is also God, the God who remained in the company of devil for forty days, according to the Christians;

“And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led in the Spirit in the wilderness during forty days, being tempted of the devil. And he did eat nothing in those days: and when they were completed, he hungered.”

(LUKE 4:1-2)

God of Islam is not the one who can be under the dominance of any one, but the God of Christianity suffered for forty days by devil even felt hunger.

It was not the God of Islam who was mocked and spitted on by the enemies and remained dead for three days and nights, but that was the God of Christianity.

“For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.”

(LUKE 18:32-33)

And what he did, after he was raised from the dead? That God was so scared from the enemies that for forty days he disguised himself and finally disappears from the scene. Of course the Holy prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) did not introduce any such God.

THE CONCEPT ABOUT THE PROPHETS

It is a horrible concept about the Prophets given in the Bible; it is astonishing how the Christians believe in the prophets those who were cheaters, liars and fornicators. God forbid.

Lot slept with his own daughters and had children. God forbid.....

(GENESIS 20: 30-38)

According to the Bible, Abraham committed lie by saying Sarah was his sister, but she was his wife.

“And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, she is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah.”

(GENESIS 20:2)

More than that Jesus Christ condemned all the prophets who were before him according to the Gospels;

*“Jesus therefore said unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. **All that came before me are thieves and robbers:** but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; by me if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and go out, and shall find pasture.”*

(JOHN 10:7-9)

What kind of belief the Christians have in their prophets who were thieves and robbers? The prophets were sent by God to lead the human beings, if they were sinners, then what type of leadership these people had? If they were all sinners then how they were leading the sinners” can a blind, lead the blind?

Is it what pope thinks, Islam was going to copy from them? No, not at all. Holy prophet of Islam introduced entirely different concept about the prophets, and this is what is brought by Muhammad (Peace be upon him), not copied from the Bible. It was all unique and new, unblemished, clean and pure.

Holy Quran says about the prophets that they were all guided by God, pure and righteous. And this is how they guided the people toward piety and righteousness. Just compare the picture of the prophets painted by the Holy Quran and the Biblical image of the prophets. It is just to compare the broad day light with the thick dark patches of night.

Holy Quran says;

وَوَهَبْنَا لَهُ إِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ كُلًّا هَدَيْنَا وَنُوحًا هَدَيْنَا مِنْ قَبْلُ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِهِ دَاوُودَ
وَسُلَيْمَانَ وَأَيُّوبَ وَيُوسُفَ وَمُوسَى وَهَارُونَ وَكَذَلِكَ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ
وَزَكَرِيَّا وَيَحْيَى وَعِيسَى وَإِلْيَاسَ كُلٌّ مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ

“And We gave him Isaac and Jacob; each did We guide aright, and Noah did We guide aright aforetime, and of his progeny, David and Solomon and Job and Joseph and Moses and Aaron. Thus do We reward those who do good. And We guided Zachariah and John and Jesus and Elias; each one of them was of the righteous.”

(HOLY QURAN 6:85-86)

The prophets of Islam they were all pious and pure, guided by God, and this is why they guided humanity to God, taught them manners and human value.

THE CONCEPT ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

Almighty God sent the scripture through the prophets for the human guidance, and these scriptures were according to the human need and aptitude of mind, and according to the capability of the prophets. So from Adam to this time many prophets appeared and they were given the teachings according to their talent and need. But there was a need of perfect and complete law and commandments for the people, that law did not appear up to the law of Moses, as the Bible itself states;

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

(JEREMIAH 31:31-34)

According to the above statement of Jeremiah, Israelites were given the law but that law was rejected and broken by the Israelites. This is what is also supported by the prophet Isaiah in the Bible;

“The earth also is polluted under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant.”

(ISAIAH 24:5)

The law given to Moses was an excellent law for that time, which was able to fulfill the needs of the time, which is also testified by the Holy Quran;

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا التَّوْرَةَ فِيهَا هُدًى وَنُورٌ يَحْكُمُ بِهَا النَّبِيُّونَ الَّذِينَ أَسْلَمُوا لِلَّذِينَ هَادُوا
وَالرَّبَّانِيُّونَ وَالْأَحْبَارُ بِمَا اسْتُحْفِظُوا مِنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ

“Surely, We sent down the Torah wherein was guidance and light. By it did the Prophets, who were obedient to Us, judge for the Jews, as did the godly people and those learned in the Law, because they were required to preserve the Book of Allah.”

(HOLY QURAN 5: 45)

In reality the Law of Moses was the Divine guidance and light but it was rejected and ignored by his followers. It happened so much so that after Jesus Christ, the Christians not only rejected that Divine guidance but declared it as a curse from God. And still they affirm it; even the Roman catholic Pope cannot decline from this believe. It is the part of the faith of Christianity;

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”

(GALATIANS 3:13)

The Christians not only declared the law of God as curse but also affirmed Jesus Christ who was a noble prophet of God as cursed. So those who can say such word about their own spiritual head, what can be expected from them about the Holy Prophet of Islam? It looks as if they do not know the meaning of the word curse.

Curse is so detestable in the sight of God the almighty, that it should be used with great caution, even about an ordinary person. The Bible has described curse as disobedience to God, and to reject his commandments. It is most despicable in the sight of God;

“And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.”

(DEUTERONOMY 11:28)

So this is what happened to the Bible by the hand of its own followers. There is another reason that the Christians and the Jews treated the Bible so inadequately, because it is destined by God to send the perfect and complete law for the people, which is also testified by Jesus Christ in the gospels;

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all

truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.”

(JOHN 16:12-13)

So Jesus could not give the complete message to the people rather it was destined by someone else, and that was the Holy Prophet of Islam who brought the complete, perfect and unchangeable law from God, which exists in the form of the Holy Quran and it will remain for ever as a perfect Guide for mankind. This is the law which Jeremiah was talking about, that the Lord will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not according to the covenant what He made with their fathers in the days when they were taken out of the land of Egypt.

So in the light of the above information it becomes clear, what in reality Muhammad (Peace be upon him) brought for mankind, and it was truly a new message for mankind the message of hope and love. This message is not even remotely connected with any evil or inhuman teachings rather it is full of good and kindness to mankind. About this law Jeremiah has already mentioned that it will be put in the minds of the people and will be written on their hearts.

Practically it is proved that this is the law, which is put in the minds and the hearts of the people, because they are the Muslims only, who give respect and honor to the law of Quran, and they take it as a very precious treasure in their hearts. And physically also it is proved, the Muslims memorize the Holy Quran and this is how that law of God becomes written on the heart of the people. In this way God has confirmed what is recorded in the book of Jeremiah, *“I will be their God, and they shall be My people”*

On the other side Christians take the Biblical law as curse, having not any respect in their hearts for that law which was given as a blessing to mankind through the prophets. And in the physical sense also, there is not a single Christian who can claim that he has memorized the entire Bible. So that law which was predicted by the prophets was not written on their hearts at all.

Holy Quran is the everlasting covenant from God and a perfect guide for mankind, as the Holy Quran itself claims;

ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

“This is a perfect Book; there is no doubt in it; it is a guidance for the righteous.”

(HOLY QURAN 2: 3)

So those who could not see the beauty of their own scripture, and declared it as curse. What can be expected from them about the Holy Quran?

In reality their eyes are dazzled before the brilliant light of the Holy Quran, and they are not able to see its beauties, which were brought by Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

HUMAN RIGHTS

According to the law of Muhammad

(Peace be upon him)

And the law of the Bible.

The greatest problem in any society or any nation is always the issue of discrimination in the society. When we study the Biblical teachings through this angle, we see it full of discrimination. Bible promoted discrimination among the different ethnic groups and races, even in human gender. But Holy Quran teaches equality on the bases of race and color in the entire human race.

This is the message of hatred which is promoted by the Bible, especially about the non Jews;

It is unbelievable that even Jesus Christ according to the gospels addressed the non Jews as dogs and swine;

*“²¹Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” ²³But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.” ²⁴But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”²⁶But He answered and said, “**It***

is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

(MATTHEW 15:21-26)

Again Jesus said;

"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before the swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

(MATTHEW 7:6)

Jesus addressed to those who denied him in the following words;

³¹"Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³²Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. ³³Serpents_brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell"?

(MATTHEW 23:31-33)

Biblical law also discriminates on the bases of any imperfection or defect among the people, which in reality is not in human control.

*¹⁶The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ¹⁷Speak to Aaron and say: No one of your offspring throughout their generations **who has a blemish may approach to offer the food of his God.** ¹⁸For no one who has a blemish shall draw near, one who is blind or lame, or one who has a flat nose or a limb too long, ¹⁹or one who has a broken foot or a broken hand, ²⁰or a hunchback, or a dwarf, or a man with a blemish in his eyes or an itching disease or scabs or crushed testicles. ²¹No descendant of Aaron the priest who has a*

blemish shall come near to offer the Lord's offerings by fire; since he has a blemish, he shall not come near to offer the food of his God. ²²He may eat the food of his God, of the most holy as well as of the holy. ²³But he shall not come near the curtain or approach the altar, because he has a blemish, that he may not profane my sanctuaries; for I am the Lord; I sanctify them. ²⁴Thus Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons and to all the people of Israel."

(LEVITICUS 21:16-24)

But Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) brought the message in the form of the Holy Quran which promoted equality among the mankind, in which there is no difference among the Arabs or the non Arabs; it is only the righteousness that makes the difference;

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

"O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female; And We have made you tribes and sub-tribes that you may know one another. Verily, the most honorable among you, in the sight of Allah, is he who is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware."

(HOLY QURAN 49: 14)

Islam teaches to treat all the nations equally, and not to exhibit any injustice, bigotry or hatred against the others. Not to mock or ridicule them. Islam teaches to treat even the enemies with Justice;

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا يَسْخَرُ قَوْمٌ مِّنْ قَوْمٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونُوا خَيْرًا مِّنْهُمْ

“O ye who believe! Let not one nation deride another nation, they may be better than them”

(HOLY QURAN 49: 12)

The message of Islam was not limited to any race or color like the Biblical message rather the message of Islam was for all human race, as it is clearly mentioned in the Holy Quran;

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا

Say, “O mankind, truly I am a Messenger to you all from Allah”

(HOLY QURAN 7:159)

Holy Prophet of Islam up to his last breath remained educating his followers, established a wonderful society before his eyes, he not only established the bond of love among his follower but also taught them manners to respect the others also. He tried tooth and nail to bring all human beings under one banner. Just study his last address to before his demise, in which he addressed, over one hundred thousand of his followers. That address is worth to be written with golden words.

THE FAREWELL ADDRESS OF THE HOLY PROPHET

(Peace be upon him)

A Wonderful Charter for the Modern World

The farewell address of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), which he delivered in Mecca during his last pilgrimage, teaches human equality without discrimination of any race or color. This address can serve the best human charter of peace, harmony and brotherhood, in which he said:

O men, lend me an attentive ear for I know not whether I will stand before you again in this valley and address you as I address you now. Your lives and your possessions have been made immune by God to attacks by one another until the Day of Judgment. God has appointed for everyone a share in the inheritance. No testament shall now be admitted which is prejudicial to the interests of a rightful heir. A child born in any house will be regarded as the child of the father of that house. Whoever contests the parentage of such a child shall be liable to punishment under the Law of Islam. Anyone who attributes his birth to someone else's father, or falsely claims someone to be his master, God, His angels and the whole of mankind will curse him.

O men, you have some rights against your wives, but your wives also have some rights against you. Your right against them is that they should live chaste lives, and not adopt ways, which may bring disgrace to the husband in the sight of his people. But if the behavior of your wives is not such as would bring disgrace to their husbands, then your duty is to provide for

them food and clothing and shelter, according to your own standard of living. Remember, you must always treat your wives well. God has charged you with the duty of looking after them. Woman is weak and cannot protect her own rights. When you married, God appointed you trustees of those rights. You brought your wives to your homes under the law of God. You must not, therefore, abuse the trust, which God has placed in your hands.

O men, you still have in your possession some prisoners of war. I advise you, therefore, to feed them and to clothe them in the same way and style as you feed and clothe yourselves. If they do anything wrong which you are unable to forgive, then pass them on to someone else. They are part of God's creation. To give them pain or cause them suffering can never be right. O men, what I say to you, you must hear and remember.

All Muslims are as brethren to one another. All of you are equal. All men, whatever nation or tribe they may belong to, and whatever station in life they may hold are equal. (Raising his hands, and joining the fingers of the one hand with those of the other, he added, Even as the fingers of the two hands are equal, so are human beings equal to one another. No one has any right, any superiority to claim over another. You are as brothers.

O men, your God is One and your ancestor is one. An Arab possesses no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab over an Arab. A white man is in no way superior to a black nor for that matter, is a black man better than a white, but only to the extent to which he discharges his duty to God and man. The most honored among you in the sight of God is the most righteous among you.

Even as this month is sacred, this land inviolate, and this day holy, so has God made the lives, property and honor of every man sacred. To take any man's life or his property, or attack his honor, is as unjust and wrong as to violate the sacredness of this day, this month, and this territory. What I command you today is not meant only for today. It is meant for all time. You are expected to remember it and to act upon it until you leave this world and go to the next to meet your Maker. What I have said to you, you should communicate to the ends of the earth. Maybe those who have not heard me may benefit by it more than those who have heard.

(Sihah Sitta, Tabari, Hisham and Baihaqi)

This is what the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) brought, a wonderful message of equality and brotherhood, to sever all the ties of national and tribal prejudice and hatred, and to get all human races under one banner.

So can I humbly ask to the Christians, especially to the head of the Roman Catholic church, that which message is inhuman? The message of Islam which is calling all human races to join together, leaving all difference aside or the Biblical message?

The message of Christ which is only limited to the Jews and putting all human being aside addressing them as dogs and swine, is inhuman or the message of the holy prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), treating every one equally, and teaching superiority of human race on the bases of piety and righteousness?

Of course it is Islam. And this is what holy prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) brought a new ray of hope for mankind.

Let me show something more inhuman from the Biblical teachings, how the Bible teaches to treat, other nations or aliens;

“You shall not eat anything that dies of itself; you may give it to aliens residing in your towns for them to eat, or you may sell it to a foreigner. For you are a people holy to the Lord your God.”

(DEUTERONOMY 14-21)

It is really inhuman that some thing which is disliked by some one is given to the others. Such things are only expected by some one who had gone into the depth of moral degradation.

On the other side the Holy Prophet of Islam says;

لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى يُحِبُّ لِأَخِيهِ مَا يُحِبُّ لِنَفْسِهِ

“No one among you believes unless, he likes for his brother what he likes for himself”

(IBN-E-MAJAH)

This is Islam and this is the new message what Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) brought.

WOMEN RIGHTS

Now let us see how the Bible and the Holy Quran deal with the women rights, because in the whole world Christianity is beating the drum that Islam is not giving the proper rights to the women.

According to the Bible, from the very beginning, it was decided that man is going to rule the woman;

“To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

(GENESIS 3:16)

Then in the New Testament a very clear-cut message is given, that women are created for men, that is it.

“Indeed, man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for the sake of woman, but woman for the sake of man”

(1 CORINTHIANS 11:8-9)

Not only that, but the freedom of speech and conscience is also taken away from women,

She cannot even speak in Public: but still they say it is not inhuman;

“Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.”

(1 TIMOTHY 2:11-12)

Bible is full of similar inhuman teachings, regarding women;

“Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.”

(1 CORINTHIANS 14

Again Bible says, woman has no freedom what to dress or wear. No gold, pearls, or expensive clothes are permitted for woman to put on.

“I desire, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument; also that the women should dress themselves modestly and decently in suitable clothing, not with their hair braided, or with gold, pearls, or expensive clothes.”

(1 TIMOTHY 2:8-9)

Now let me show what Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) brought, that was altogether different, a new law but not inhuman like the Biblical Law, it was a law of freedom of speech and conscious, the law of respect and honor for women and men equal. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was very serious in improving the condition of women in society and on securing for them a position of dignity and fair and equitable treatment.

Holy Quran says

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا يَحِلُّ لَكُمْ أَنْ تَرِثُوا النِّسَاءَ كَرِهًا وَلَا تَعْضُلُوهُنَّ لِتَذْهَبُوا
بِبَعْضِ مَا آتَيْتُمُوهُنَّ إِلَّا أَنْ يَأْتِيَنَّ بِفَاحِشَةٍ مُبِينَةٍ وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ فَإِنْ
كَرِهْتُمُوهُنَّ فَعَسَى أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَيَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا

“O ye who believe, it is not lawful for you to inherit women against their will, nor should you detain them wrongfully that you may take away part of that which you have given them, except that they be guilty of a flagrant impropriety, and consort with them in kindness, and if you dislike them, it may be that you dislike a thing wherein Allah has placed much good.”

(HOLY QURAN 4: 20)

Again holy Quran says;

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً
وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

“And of His Signs is that He has created wives for you from among yourselves that you may find peace of mind in them, and He has put love and tenderness between you. In that, surely, are Signs for a people who reflect.”

(HOLY QURAN 30: 22)

Islam gives equal rights to men and women, but of course they have their responsibility according to their sphere of life. Holy Quran also addresses

men and women equally side by side. And all men and women will be rewarded equally by God on the Day of Judgment; in this regard the Holy Quran says;

إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْقَانِتِينَ وَالْقَانِتَاتِ
وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالصَّادِقَاتِ وَالصَّابِرِينَ وَالصَّابِرَاتِ وَالْخَاشِعِينَ وَالْخَاشِعَاتِ
وَالْمُتَّصِدِّقِينَ وَالْمُتَّصِدِّقَاتِ وَالصَّائِمِينَ وَالصَّائِمَاتِ وَالْحَافِظِينَ فُرُوجَهُمْ
وَالْحَافِظَاتِ وَالذَّاكِرِينَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا وَالذَّاكِرَاتِ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا
عَظِيمًا

“Surely, men who submit themselves to God and women who submit themselves to Him, and believing men and believing women, and obedient men and obedient women, and truthful men and truthful women, and men steadfast in their faith and steadfast women, and men who are humble and women who are humble, and men who give alms and women who give alms, and men who fast and women who fast, and men who guard their chastity and women who guard their chastity and men who remember Allah much and women who remember Him - Allah has prepared for all of them forgiveness and a great reward.”

(HOLY QURAN 33: 36)

Just see what status women have in Islam. It is the Holy Prophet of Islam who said that women as mothers have paradise under their feet, and to seek paradise we have to serve our mothers;

الْجَنَّةُ تَحْتَ أَقْدَامِ الْأُمَّهَاتِ

“The paradise lies under the feet of the mothers.”

(SAHEEH MUSLIM)

In the same way the holy prophet always advised the believers to give every possible respect to the wives and to take their proper care. Once he said;

خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ وَأَنَا خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي

“The best among you is one, who is best in taking care of his wife.”

(JAMI-SAGEER)

Comparing the Biblical teaching with the Islamic teaching in regards to women, is like comparing darkness with light.

In respect to Islamic rights regarding women, the Christians raise objections that Islam gives not equal rights in the laws of property inheritance.

In reality Islam was the first religion, which conferred upon women the right of inheritance. The Quran makes daughters along with the sons heirs to the property left by their parents. In the same way a mother is made an heir to her son's or daughter's property, and a wife is made an heir to her husband's property, when a brother becomes an heir of his deceased brother's property, a sister is also an heir to that property. No religion before Islam had so clearly and firmly established a woman's right of inheritance and her right to possess property. In Islam a woman is the

absolute owner of her own property and her husband cannot obtain any control over it by virtue merely of their relationship. A woman is at full liberty to deal with her property as she chooses. Islam has half share for women as compared to men, because Islam puts the whole financial responsibility of the family on the men only. Man being husband and the head of the family has to take all the economic liabilities upon his shoulders.

But let us see what rights are given by the Bible to women, so far as property inheritance is concerned. When we study the Biblical law in this regard, we see that women cannot become heirs in the presence of their brothers;

*“And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “The daughters of Zelophehad speak what is right; you shall surely give them a possession of inheritance among their father’s brothers, and cause the inheritance of their father to pass to them. And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘**If a man dies and has no son, then you shall cause his inheritance to pass to his daughter.** If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the relative closest to him in his family, and he shall possess it.”*

(NUMBERS 27:6-11)

COMPULSION IN THE RELIGION

In his lecture, the Pope quoted:

*"The emperor touches on the theme of the holy war. The emperor must have known that surah 2, 256 reads: **"There is no compulsion in religion"**. According to some of the experts, this is probably one of the suras of the early period, when Mohammed was still powerless and under threat. But naturally the emperor also knew the instructions, developed later and recorded in the Qur'an, concerning **holy war**. Without descending to details, such as the **difference in treatment accorded to those who have the "Book" and the "infidels"**.*

Following is the verse of the Holy Quran which is mentioned in the above quotation given by Pope;

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ

"There is no compulsion in religion. Surely the right has become distinct from wrong."

(HOLY QURAN 2:257)

According to the statement of the above quote, this declaration of the Holy Quran was for the early days of Islam, when Holy Prophet was powerless, but when he gained power he started the Holy war, God forbid. Verse of

the Holy Quran says, “ لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ ” *there is no compulsion in the religion*, and the philosophy of this Quranic command is given in the next part of the verse,

قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ

“Surely the right has become distinct from wrong”.

It is the height of injustice to accuse Islam for using force, for the propagation of Islam. The verse not only gives the commandment that in no case is force to be used for the purpose of converting non-Muslims to Islam, but also gives the reason why it should not be used, saying: Surely, right has become distinct from wrong. It means that the true path has become distinct from the wrong one and therefore there is no justification for using force. Islam is a manifest truth. Anyone who sincerely desires to see this truth can easily see it; but if there is a person who does not desire to see it, no force can possibly make him do so. All that we have to do is to point out its beauties to non-Muslims; it rests with them to accept it or reject it as they like. Faith in Islam is defined as believing in a thing with the heart and the mind and expressing that belief with the tongue. No force on earth can bring about that change. Islam never used force to convert any one to Islam rather force was used against Islam.

The terminology of the Holy war is not an Islamic terminology; rather it is a Christian innovation, which was started during the Christian crusades against Islam.

But in Islam the terminology of Jihad is used which I am going to discuss now.

JIHAD

The term, Jihad is misunderstood by the majority of Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Jihad in Islamic terminology, means to make an effort, to endeavor and to strive in a noble way, and has been metaphorically applied to fighting in the cause of religion. Over the centuries this meaning of Jihad has been obliterated or at least diluted.

According to the Holy Prophet there are three main, categories of Jihad.

- 1 The Jihad that is waged against lower self, for self-purification. In Islamic idiom it is called the greatest Jihad (Jihad Akbar)

This Jihad was started, the very first day, when Islam was introduced by the Holy Prophet of Islam. The Holy Prophet guided his followers in every walk of their lives. He purified them and taught them the Book and the wisdom as it is mentioned in the Holy Quran;

هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ
الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

“He it is Who has raised among the Unlettered people a Messenger from among themselves who recites unto them His Signs, and purifies them and teaches them the Book and wisdom, although they had been before, in manifest misguidance.”

(Holy Quran 62:3)

- 2 The Jihad to preach the word of God through the Holy Quran and is called the greatest Jihad (Jihad Kabeer)

This Jihad was also started the day the Holy Prophet started his mission and continued till the last breath of his life. All his companions (his followers who lived during his time) also tried their utmost to participate in this Jihad. During this Jihad, I mean the Jihad of preaching the word of God, some companions lost their lives, others their children, still others their properties, but they never ever gave up, or relented. Through this Jihad the Muslims were able to win the hearts of people, and to gather them under the banner of Islam. No sword was ever used for this jihad. Rather the sword was raised against the Muslims to stop them from preaching the word of Allah. But in spite of all these hardships and persecutions, through love and affection, through the beautiful teaching of the Holy Quran, through his excellent character, the Holy Prophet of Islam and his companions attracted the unbelievers towards Islam.

- 3 The Jihad that is waged against the enemy of freedom of conscious as also to fight in self-defense. This is called the lesser Jihad (Jihad Asghar).

It is mentioned in the hadeeth (the recorded sayings of the Holy Prophet) that on returning from an expedition (Tabuk expedition) the Holy Prophet said: "We are returning from the Jihad Asghar (the lesser jihad of fighting in self-defense) to Jihad Akbar (struggle against oneself)." This Jihad was not started like the other two types of Jihad with the appearance of the Holy Prophet of Islam. Rather it was started after 13 years of severe persecution of the Muslims. The history of Islam records how the Holy Prophet along with his followers faced hostility and enmity by his

opponents for a very long time. When there was no way out from this situation, he commanded his followers to migrate to Abyssinia and later, to Medina. Finally, he too migrated to Medina. So, all the Muslims left Mecca, their hometown, in a very helpless condition. Still, they were not permitted by the Holy Prophet to raise their swords even in self-defense against any opponent. After the Muslims had migrated to Medina, the next year the Meccans organized their forces to attack the Muslims even in their new place of refuge, Medina. That was the time when the Almighty Allah granted the permission to the Muslims to fight in self defense as stated in the following verses of the Holy Quran say;

أُذِنَ لِلَّذِينَ يُقَاتَلُونَ بِأَنَّهُمْ ظَلَمُوا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ نَصْرِهِمْ لَقَدِيرٌ * الَّذِينَ أُخْرِجُوا
 مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ إِلَّا أَنْ يَقُولُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ
 بِبَعْضٍ لَهْجَمَتْ صَوَامِعُ وَبِيَعٌ وَصَلَوَاتٌ وَمَسَاجِدٌ يُذْكَرُ فِيهَا اسْمُ اللَّهِ كَثِيرًا
 وَلَيَنْصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَنْ يَنْصُرُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ

“Permission to fight is given to those against whom war is made, because they have been wronged and Allah indeed has power to help them. Those who have been driven out from their homes unjustly only because they said, ‘Our Lord is Allah.’ And if Allah did not repel some men by means of others, there would surely have been pulled down cloisters and churches and synagogues and mosques, wherein the name of Allah is oft commemorated. And Allah will surely help one who helps Him. Allah is indeed Powerful, Mighty.”

(HOLY QURAN 22:40-41)

So, the third type of Jihad was started after Muslims being attacked in their new place of refuge following a long period of severe persecution and loss of lives and property. Until then, Muslims were not allowed to retaliate, rather they were commanded to leave Mecca and migrate to Medina, nearly 250 miles away, in a very helpless condition. When they were granted permission to fight, it was for defensive purpose only. These were not offensive wars. If the conditions of this Jihad are studied carefully, it will be found that they are not for any destructive purpose; rather they were permitted only to protect human rights and to give protection to places of worship, like cloisters, churches, synagogues and mosques.

Islam does not permit any act of aggression or terrorism against any religion, may they be from Judaism or Christianity. We find specific injunctions in the Holy Quran:

وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا

“And create not disorder in the earth after it has been set in order.”

(HOLY QURAN 7:57)

وَلَا تَعْتَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ

“And commit not iniquity in the earth causing disorder.”

(HOLY QURAN 11:86)

Aggression, hostility, mischief and wickedness are condemned in several other verses and Muslims are commanded to work wholly for peace. Islam always encourages the freedom of conscience and the promotion of human welfare. Islam not only preaches peace and brotherhood but also promotes

tolerance, broadmindedness, forbearance and complete harmony in the multi religious society. Islam is a religion of peace, brotherhood and love basing its teachings on the Quran,

It is also a false accusation against the Holy Prophet of Islam that he used power in the later part of his life against his enemies. He was the greatest benefactor of human beings, and mercy for the mankind as is recorded in the Holy Quran;

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

“And We have not sent thee but as a mercy for all peoples.”

(HOLY QURAN 21:108)

In every walk of his life he remained kind and compassionate to every one. He forgave even to his blood thirsty enemies. He was at the peak of his power when he captured Mecca. On the day of the victory of Mecca ten thousand soldiers of the Muslim army marched into the city but with great care that nobody should be disturbed. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) himself was controlling the situation with great concern for the safety and welfare of the people. That was the day when the enemies of Mecca fully surrendered themselves before the Muslim army. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) had full control not only upon his opponents but also upon his own army. As the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and his army marched through the heart of Mecca, he did so in all peace, humbleness, and justice. That was a very great achievement and victory of Islam. That was the day when the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) returned to Mecca, the city from where he was expelled along with his helpless companions. He had not yet forgotten his helpless position the

day he left Mecca. Every scene was fresh in his memory. When he was leaving the city, he had a last glance at it, while tears rolled down from his eyes and he could not control his emotions and said, "O city of Mecca, I don't like to leave you but the people of Mecca don't permit me to live in." It was the same city where he was severely tortured and humiliated. It was the city where his loved ones were tormented and killed mercilessly. Now he was entering the same city as a victor. He was the champion, he was the conqueror, but very different from the worldly kings. He was a wonderful man, that history is not able to produce single one parallel to him. He entered in Mecca while the people of Mecca were at his mercy, but there was not any sign of pride on his face. He was riding on a camel and his head was bowing down so much so that it was touching the back of the camel. A man spoke to him on that day, trembling with fear. As he did so, Muhammad (peace be upon him) consoled him saying, "Calm yourself, for I am not a king. I am but the son of a humble and poor woman from Quraish."

Treatment to the people of the book

It is also a false allegation that he exhibited difference in treatment to those who were the people of the book, “Jews and Christians” he never ever discriminated any one that may be his friend or foe. History has recorded a wonderful event which is witness upon his fare treatment to the non Muslims;

In 628 C.E. the Holy Prophet of Islam (peace be upon him) Charter of Privileges to the monks of St. Catherine Monastery in Mt. Sinai. It consisted of clauses covering all aspects of human rights including such topics as the protection of Christians, freedom of worship and movement, freedom to appoint their own judges and to own their own property, exemption from military service, and the right of protection in war. This document is excellent guidance for all the Muslim states for dealing with the Non Muslim minorities.

Text of the Charter:

This is the document which Muhammad, son of Abdullah, God’s Prophet, Warner and Bearer of glad-tidings, has caused to be written so that there should remain no excuse for those coming after. I have caused this document to be written for Christians of the East and the West, for those who live near, and for those of distant lands, for the Christians living at

present and for those who will come after, for those Christians who are known to us and for those as well whom we do not know.

1. Any Muslim violating and abusing what is therein ordered would be regarded as violator of God's testament and would be the breaker of His promise and would make himself deserving of God's curse, be he a king or a subject.

2. I promise that any monk or way-farer, etc., who will seek my help on mountains, in forests, deserts or habitations, or in places of worship, I will repel enemies with all my friends and helpers, with all my relatives and with all those who profess to follow me and will defend him, because they are my covenanted. And will defend the covenanted against the persecution, injury and embarrassment from their enemies in lieu of the poll-tax they have promised to pay.

3. If they will prefer themselves to defend their properties and persons, they will be allowed to do so and will not be put to any inconvenience on that account.

4. No bishop will be expelled from his bishopric, no monk from his monastery, no priest from his place of worship, and no pilgrim will be detained in pilgrimage.

5. None of their churches and other places of worship will be desolated destroyed or demolished. No material of their churches will be used for building mosques or houses for the Muslims, any Muslim so doing will be regarded recalcitrant to God and His Prophet.

6. Monks and bishops will be subject to no tax or indemnity whether they live in forests or on the rivers, or in the East or West, North or South. I give them my word of honor. They are on my promise and covenant and will enjoy perfect immunity from all sorts of inconveniences.

7. Every help shall be given them in the repair of their churches. They shall be absolved from wearing arms, and shall be protected by the Muslims. Let this document be not disobeyed till the Judgment Day.

(Al-Wasaiq-ul-Siyasiyya, pp. 187-190)

BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

And compulsion in the religion

I discussed the Islamic teachings and the practice of the prophet of Islam regarding propagation of religion, his conduct with non Muslims and freedom provided by the prophet of Islam to the non Muslims. Now I will discuss the Biblical teachings and the practice of the follower of the Bible in this regard, and it will be very easy to decide which scripture provides more freedom of speech and conscience. When we study the Biblical history, it is full of blood shed, no forgiveness or mercy at all. In reality the Biblical teachings are packed with horror and terror. It is mentioned in the Bible;

*“When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are about to enter and occupy, and he clears away many nations before you—the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations mightier and more numerous than you. **And when the Lord your God gives them over to you and you defeat them, then you must utterly destroy them. Make no covenant with them and show them no mercy.**”*

(DEUTERONOMY 7:1-2)

Can someone believe, these are the teaching of any religion? No nation, culture or civilization permits killing, after any nation has been conquered. But in the above quotation of the Bible Moses said to his followers to slaughter all the inhabitants of the land, after they surrendered, and not to

make any treaty with them at all. Such teaching are not even remotely related to Islam, and never practiced.

Somebody can say that these were only the teachings, and these commandments were not practiced. But it is not true, these teachings were implemented by the followers of the Bible and an example was set up for the nations to come. Just see what further happened;

*“7 And they warred against the Midianites, as the Lord commanded Moses; and they slew all the males. 8 And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword. 9 And the children of Israel took all the women of Midian captives, and their little ones, and took the spoil of all their cattle, and all their flocks, and all their goods. 10 And they burnt all their cities wherein they dwelt, and all their goodly castles, with fire. 11 And they took all the spoil, and all the prey, both of men and of beasts. 12 And they brought the captives, and the prey, and the spoil, unto Moses, and Eleazar the priest, and unto the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the camp at the plains of Moab, which are by Jordan near]Jericho. 13 And Moses, and Eleazar the priest, and all the princes of the congregation, went forth to meet them without the camp. 14 And Moses was wroth with the officers of the host, with the captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, which came from the battle. 15 **And Moses said unto them, have ye saved all the women alive?”***

(NUMBERS 31:7-15)

After the Midianites, were captured, their mails were killed, their properties were looted and the cities were burnt, but still Moses was not satisfied and he said, have ye saved all the women alive?

Can someone believe such horrible teachings were not only preached, but forcefully practiced by the Biblical prophets and their followers. How such religion can raise figure against the religion which is the promoter of love and peace?

These are the people against whom Jesus Christ said;

“41 And why you behold the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceive not the beam that is in your own eye? 42 Either how can you say to your brother, brother, let me pull out the mote that is in your eye, when you yourself behold not the beam that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of your own eye, and then shall you see clearly to pull out the mote that is in your brother's eye.”

(LUKE 6:41-42)

So Pope is worried about the Islamic teachings, which are full of love and compassions, but he is not worried about the dreadful Biblical teachings. Such people are not accepted in God's kingdom, these are the people who are addressed by Jesus Christ has hypocrites;

Again see what Moses is saying;

“25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies: 26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. 27 And he said unto them, Thus said the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from

*gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor. 28 **The sons of Levi did as Moses commanded, and about three thousand of the people fell on that day.***

(EXODUS 32:25-28)

Can someone believe, only in one day three thousand people were killed? This is the bloody history of the Bible. Prophet of Islam never commanded such to his followers, and never butchered the people like that.

Again see what Moses commanded to his followers to do, and this is what is supported and promoted by the Bible within last thousands of years;

*“12 If you hear it said about one of the towns that the Lord your God is giving you to live in 13 that scoundrels from among you have gone out and led the inhabitants of the town astray, saying, **“Let us go and worship other gods,”** whom you have not known 14 then you shall inquire and make a thorough investigation. If the charge is established that such an abhorrent thing has been done among you 15 you **shall put the inhabitants of that town to the sword, utterly destroying it and everything in it** even putting its livestock to the sword. 16 All of its spoil you shall gather into its public square; then burn the town and all its spoil with fire, as a whole burnt offering to the Lord your God. It shall remain a perpetual ruin, never to be rebuilt.”*

(DEUTERONOMY 13:12-16)

Christians still can say, that it is the history of Moses, it is not advocated by Jesus Christ. My dear Jesus have also similar teachings, but could not carry out, because he never got power. Just see what Jesus said;

“34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.”

(MATTHEW 10:34)

Can anyone say in the light of the above statement, that Jesus was the promoter of peace? Answer will be No. Because the message is very clear and no body can be deceived. Is not wolf in the goat's sleeve?

Again see what Jesus is saying to his disciples, that sell your garment and by swords.

“35 And he said unto them, when I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said nothing. 36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.”

(LUKE 22:35-36)

It looks Jesus had a hidden agenda. But failed, because Jews and Romans never gave him chance to do so. Jesus was always in hallucination of killing and slaying the other, it looks as if it was the aim of his life. This is what is mentioned in one of his parable what he narrated to his disciples;

26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. 27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

(LUKE 19:26-27)

Just imagine if Jesus would have seceded in his aims, as it is described above in his own statements, the situation would have been worse than the time of Moses and Joshua.

So the teaching brought by the Holy Prophet of Islam are excellent teachings, better than the teachings of all Biblical Prophets. He was a wonderful man ever appeared in the history of mankind. This is not what is preached by Muslims only, but in reality accepted by many non Muslims also. Here I would like to quote some non Muslim scholars, who wrote in favor of Islam and sung in the praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Non Muslims
In the praise of Islam
And the Holy Prophet Muhammad
(peace be upon him)

Michael H. Hart wrote:

“My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world’s most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular level.”

(The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History, By Michael H. Hart, New York: Hart Publishing Company Inc., 1978, p. 33)

Rev. Bosworth Smith wrote:

“Head of the State as well as the Church, he was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without the Popes pretensions, and Caesar without the legions of Caesar, without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a police force, without a fixed revenue. If ever a man ruled by a right divine, it was Muhammad, for he had all the powers without their supports. “

(R. Bosworth Smith ‘*Muhammad and Muhammadanism*’. Page 262. Book Tree. (1st published 1876, this edition 2002)

Annie Besant Wrote:

“It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia, who knows how he taught and how he lived, to feel anything but reverence for that mighty Prophet, one of the great messengers of the Supreme. And although in what I put to you I shall say many things which may be familiar to many, yet I myself feel whenever I re-read them, a new way of admiration, a new sense of reverence for that mighty Arabian teacher.”

(The Life and Teachings of Muhammad, By Annie Besant, Madras, 1932, p. 4)

W. Montgomery Watt wrote:

His readiness to undergo persecution for his beliefs, the high moral character of the men who believed in him and looked up to him as leader, and the greatness of his ultimate achievement, all argue his fundamental integrity. To suppose Muhammad an impostor raises more problems than it solves. Moreover, none of the great figures of history is so poorly appreciated in the West as Muhammad.

(Mohammad At Mecca, By W. Montgomery Watt, Oxford, 1953, p. 52)

Thomas Carlyle wrote:

"Our current hypothesis about Muhammad, (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) that he was a scheming Impostor, a Falsehood incarnate, that his religion is a mere mass of quackery and fatuity, begins really to be now untenable to any one. The lies, which well-meaning zeal has heaped round this man, are disgraceful to ourselves only... It is really time to dismiss all

that. The word this man spoke has been the life-guidance now of a hundred and eighty millions of men these twelve hundred years. These hundred and eighty millions were made by God as well as we. A greater number of God's creatures believe in Muhammad's (peace and blessing of Allah be on him) word at this hour, than in any other word whatever. Are we to suppose that it was a miserable piece of spiritual legerdemain, this which so many creatures of the Almighty have lived by and died by? I, for my part, cannot form any such supposition".

(Thomas Carlyle 'On Heroes, Hero-Worship and the Heroic in History'. Pages 43 & 44. U of Nebraska Press (1966)

Edward Gibbon Wrote:

"His beneficial or pernicious influence on the public happiness is the last consideration in the character of Muhammad (peace be upon him). The most bitter or most bigoted of his Christian or Jewish foes will surely allow that he assumed a false commission to inculcate a salutary doctrine, less perfect only than their own. He piously supposed, as the basis of his religion, the truth and sanctity of their prior revolutions, the virtues and miracles of their founders. The idols of Arabia were broken before the throne of God; the blood of human victims was expiated by prayer, and fasting, and alms, the laudable or innocent arts of devotion;... he breathed among the faithful a spirit of charity and friendship; recommended the practice of the social virtues; and checked, by his laws and precepts, the thirst of revenge, and the oppression of widows and orphans. The hostile tribes were united in faith and obedience, and the valour which had been

idly spent in domestic quarrels was vigorously directed against a foreign enemy.”

(Edward Gibbon ‘The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire’. Vol. V. Page 231. Penguins Classics (1st published 1788, this edition 1996)

John Devonport Wrote:

“It would be a huge mistake to assume that the creed taught by the Qur’an was propagated by the use of the force. He says that those who are unbiased would freely acknowledge that through the religion of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) sacrifice of human was replaced with worship of God and charity and it infused a spirit of generosity and social harmony instead of enmity and chronic hostilities. He wrote that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) was a true blessing for the Eastern world and it was particularly for this reason that he did not need to employ the bloody strategies which were used without exception and indiscriminately by Moses (on whom be peace) in order to obliterate idolatry. He concludes that it is idle to be insulting in ignorant condemnation of such an excellent source that nature provided to influence beliefs and propositions of human beings for a long period in time.”

(John Devonport ‘An Apology for Muhammad and the Quran’. (1st published 1869)

George Bernard Shaw wrote:

“I have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him - the wonderful man - and in my opinion far from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Savior of Humanity.”

(George Bernard Shaw 'The Genuine Islam'. Vol. 1 No. 8 (1936))

Pringle Kennedy wrote:

“Muhammad was, to use a striking expression, the man of the hour. In order to understand his wonderful success, one must study the conditions of his times. Five and half centuries and more had elapsed when he was born since Jesus had come into the world. At that time, the old religions of Greece and Rome, and of the hundred and one states along the Mediterranean, had lost their vitality. In their place, Caesarism had come as a living cult. The worship of the state as personified by the reigning Caesar, such was the religion of the Roman Empire. Other religions might exist, it was true; but they had to permit this new cult by the side of them and predominant over them. But Caesarism failed to satisfy. The Eastern religions and superstitions (Egyptian, Syrian, Persian) appealed to many in the Roman world and found numerous votaries. The fatal fault of many of these creeds was that in many respects they were so ignoble ... When Christianity conquered Caesarism at the commencement of the fourth century, it, in its turn, became Caesarised. No longer was it the pure creed

which had been taught some three centuries before. It had become largely de spiritualised, ritualised, materialised...

How, in a few years, all this was changed, how, by 650 AD a great part of this world became a different world from what it had been before, is one of the most remarkable chapters in human history This wonderful change followed, if it was not mainly caused by, the life of one man, the Prophet of Mecca...

Whatever the opinion one may have of this extraordinary man, whether it be that of the devout Muslim who considers him the last and greatest herald of God's word, or of the fanatical Christian of former days, who considered him an emissary of the Evil One, or of certain modern Orientalists, who look on him rather as a politician than a saint, as an organiser of Asia in general and Arabia in particular, against Europe, rather than as a religious reformer; there can be no difference as to the immensity of the effect which his life has had on the history of the world. “

(Pringle Kennedy 'Arabian Society at the Time of Muhammad. Pages; 8, 10, 18, 21.)

S. P. Scott wrote:

If the object of religion be the inculcation of morals, the diminution of evil, the promotion of human happiness, the expansion of the human intellect, if the performance of good works will avail in the great day when mankind shall be summoned to its final reckoning it is neither irreverent nor unreasonable to admit that Muhammad was indeed an Apostle of God.”

(S. P. Scott 'History of the Moorish Empire in Europe'. Page 126)

Ruth Cranston wrote:

“Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) never instigated fighting and bloodshed. Every battle he fought was in rebuttal. He fought in order to survive...and he fought with the weapons and in fashion of his time... Certainly no ‘Christian’ nation of 140,000,000 people who today dispatch (this is a book written in 1949) 120,000 helpless civilians with a single bomb can look askance at a leader who at his worst killed a bare five or six hundred. The slayings of the Prophet of Arabia (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) in the benighted and bloodthirsty age of the seventh century look positively puerile compared with our own in this ‘advanced’ and enlightened twentieth. Not to mention the mass slaughter by the Christians during the Inquisition and the Crusades – when, Christian warriors proudly recorded, they “waded ankle-deep in the gore of the Muslim infidels.”

(Ruth Cranston ‘World Faith’. Page 155. Ayer Publishing. (1949)

James A. Michener wrote

“Muhammad, the inspired man who founded Islam, was born about AD 570 into an Arabian tribe that worshipped idols. Orphaned at birth, he was always particularly solicitous of the poor and needy, the widow and the orphan, the slave and the downtrodden. At twenty he was already a successful businessman, and soon became director of camel caravans for a wealthy widow. When he reached twenty-five his employer, recognizing his merit, proposed marriage. Even though she was fifteen years older, he married her, and as long as she lived, remained a devoted husband. Like almost every major prophet before him, Muhammad fought shy of serving

as the transmitter of God's word, sensing his own inadequacy. But the angel commanded 'Read.' So far as we know, Muhammad was unable to read or write, but he began to dictate those inspired words which would soon revolutionize a large segment of the earth: "There is one God." In all things Muhammad was profoundly practical. When his beloved son Ibrahim died, an eclipse occurred, and rumors of God's personal condolence quickly arose. Whereupon Muhammad is said to have announced, "An eclipse is a phenomenon of nature. It is foolish to attribute such things to the death or birth of a human-being." At Muhammad's own death an attempt was made to deify him, but the man who was to become his administrative successor killed the hysteria with one of the noblest speeches in religious history: 'If there are any among you who worshipped Muhammad, he is dead. But if it is God you worshipped, He lives forever.'

("Islam: The Misunderstood Religion," By James A. Michener, Reader's Digest (American), May 1955, pp. 68-70)

The End