

The Al Islam eGazette

Friday, April 4th, 2008

www.alislam.org

Blessed are the peace makers for they are the sons of God. (Mathew 5:9)



This is the historic handshake at the time of Camp David accord. The three great personalities in this picture representing Christianity, Islam and Judaism are President Jimmy Carter of US, President Mohamed Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, respectively.

The greatest of the three had to wait the longest to get his Nobel Prize for peace. He finally received it in 2002. Making his Nobel speech in Oslo, President **Jimmy Carter** said, “The present era is a challenging and disturbing time for those whose lives are shaped by religious faith based on kindness towards each

In this Issue...

- Camp David accord
- International Brotherhood
- Humanity First and Nationalism Second
- A Strange Distortion of Reality in Recent Times
- Professor Dawkins' Delusions
- Keynya Violence
- The Human Abuse of Ideals
- A Lesson in History and Sociology
- Khalifatul Masih IV: His Holiness Mirza Tahir Ahmad
- The Bride Unveiled: Influences on and Interpretations of Al Hambra
- Some more important references
- Conclusion: International Brotherhood
- Islam Ahmadiyyat—Revival of Faith
- Peace Conference in London

Do you like this eGazette? Then please forward this to your friends and relatives and ask them to subscribe directly at

www.alislam.org/egazette

other.”

When asked by *Christianity Today* to explain this statement, he responded:

“There is a remarkable trend toward fundamentalism in all religions — including the different denominations of Christianity as well as Hinduism, Judaism, and Islam. Increasingly, true believers are inclined to begin a process of deciding: ‘Since I am aligned with God, I am superior and my beliefs should prevail, and anyone who disagrees with me is inherently wrong,’ and the next step is ‘inherently inferior.’ The ultimate step is ‘subhuman,’ and then their lives are not significant.

“That tendency has created, throughout the world, intense religious conflicts. Those Christians who resist the inclination toward fundamentalism and who truly follow the nature, actions, and words of Jesus Christ should encompass people who are different from us with our care, generosity, forgiveness, compassion, and unselfish love.

“It is not easy to do this. It is a natural human in-clination to encapsulate ourselves in a superior fashion with people who are just like us — and to assume that we are fulfilling the mandate of our lives if we just confine our love to our own family or to people who are similar and compatible. Breaking through this barrier and reaching out to others is what personifies a Christian and what emulates the perfect example that Christ set for us.” (Our endangered values: America’s moral crisis)

The great son of Africa representing Islam, in the picture, who gave his life for his willingness to stand up for peace, is no other

than President Mohamed Anwar al-Sadat of Arab Republic of Egypt:

“The U.S. president Jimmy Carter mediated the negotiations between Sadat and Begin that resulted in the Camp David Accords (Sept. 17, 1978), a preliminary peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. Sadat and Begin were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1978; and their continued political negotiations resulted in the signing on March 26, 1979, of a treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel, the first between the latter and any Arab nation.

While Sadat’s popularity rose in the West, it fell dramatically in Egypt because of internal opposition to the treaty, a worsening economic crisis, and Sadat’s suppression of the resulting public dissent. He was assassinated by Muslim extremists.”

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9064679/Anwar-el-Sadat>

Sadat’s autobiography, was published under the title *In Search of Identity*.

“Menachem Begin received a law degree from the University of Warsaw in 1935. Active in the Zionist movement throughout the 1930s, he became (1938) the leader of the Polish branch of the Betar youth movement, dedicated to the establishment of a Jewish state on both sides of the Jordan River. When the Germans invaded Warsaw in 1939, he escaped to Vilnius; his parents and a brother died in concentration camps. The Soviet authorities deported Begin to Siberia in 1940, but in 1941 he was released and joined the Polish army in exile, with which he went to Palestine in 1942.”

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9014121/Menachem-Begin>

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD

“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 honourable among you, in the sight of Allah, is he who is the most righteous among you. Surely, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.” (The Holy Quran 49:14)

“Moral improvement can be understood in terms of what the philosopher Peter Singer calls ‘**the expanding circle.**’ People have steadily expanded the mental dotted line that embraces the entities considered worthy of moral consideration. The circle has been poked outward from the family and village to the clan, the tribe, the nation, the race, and most recently (as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) to all of humanity. This expansion has happened for a number of reasons. As people in more parts of the planet become economically interdependent, the hatred between them decreases, for the simple reason that **you can’t kill someone and trade with him too. Our sympathy** response can also be cranked up by new kinds of information demonstrating that other folks are similar to ourselves. Words and images from erstwhile enemies can make it impossible to continue to believe that they are subhuman. A historical record can warn against **self-defeating cycles of vendetta. An** expansion of sympathy may come from something as basic as the requirement to be logically consistent (and hence taken seriously) when imploring other people to behave in certain ways. **People come to realize that they cannot force others to abide by rules that they themselves flout.** Egoistic, sexist, racist, and xenophobic attitudes are logically

inconsistent with the demand that everyone respect a single code of behavior.”

(Intelligent Thought – Edited by John Brockman, Vintage Books, 2006. Page 148-149)

“O mankind! Be mindful of your duty to your Lord, Who created you from a single soul (early life forms) and from it created its mate and from the two created and spread many men and women; and be mindful of your duty to Allah, in Whose name you appeal to one another, and fear Him particularly in respecting ties of kinship. Verily, Allah watches over you.” (The Holy Quran 4:2)

HUMANITY FIRST AND NATIONALISM SECOND

Sometimes the East is presented as separate from the West, Islam is presented as a separate civilization from that of Christianity but that is the vision and paradigm of those who will divide and rule. The unifying paradigm is that of understanding the three great monotheistic religions as the Abrahmic faiths or the faiths of his two great sons Isaac and Ishmael. When the prophet Muhammad^{saw} had only a handful of followers in Makkah and they were bitterly persecuted by the polytheist Makkans the king to give them shelter was no other than the Christian King Negus of Ethiopia. When Europe was slumbering in the dark ages who educated the founding fathers of Renaissance? It was the Muslim Universities of Spain and Baghdad. The history of these three religions is for ever intertwined with each other. One can hope that our better days as monotheists and as a species are ahead of us as the globe changes into an international village. The ever increasing closeness and proximity of human race can be seen in the person of Senator Barack Hussein

Obama. A proud Christian with a Muslim name, born in USA, grew up in Indonesia and his paternal grand mother still living in Kenya.

The first commandment to the first of the three great Abrahmic faiths was, “You shall have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:2) The Christian version of this commandment is, “Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:29) After this fundamental commandment, the New Testament tells us, “The second most important commandment is: Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:31)

In this era of space travel, the term neighbour has taken a global dimension. So the human compassion does not know any religious or national boundaries. Most Christian and Muslim philosophers will agree that the concept of ‘Loving your neighbour’ in this day and age needs to be extended to the whole of humanity.

The Holy Quran highlights the service to fellow humans at numerous occasions, “Slacken not in serving your fellow beings.” (4:105) Again, “Indeed, Allah is with those who are righteous and those who do good to others.” (16:129) Yet again, “Surely, the mercy of Allah is near those who do good to others.” (7:57)

If we try to live the first commandment without living up to the second most important commandment we fail miserably, in all dimensions. As is the saying:

I sought my soul,
But could not see,
I sought my God,
But He eluded me,
I sought my brother,
and found all three.

As St. John tells us so pithily, “If some one says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, how can he love God,

Updates at www.ThePersecution.org

- ◆ Annual Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2007 on Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia - US State Department - Released on March 11, 2007
- ◆ Halaf, jhoota ya sachha - BBC Urdu حلف، جھوٹا یا سچا - March 17, 2008
- ◆ Newsreport January and February 2008
- ◆ An 80-year-old Ahmadi man arrested for blasphemy - AsiaNews, Italy - March 06, 2008

And many more regular updates...

Friday Sermons—Past and Present

A comprehensive archive of Friday Sermons delivered by Ahmadiyya Khulafa.

<http://www.alislam.org/archives/>

Alislam eGazette

Patrons: Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar
Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah

Editor: Zia H Shah

Technical Editor: Masood Nasir

Published by Alislam Team:

Mureed Nazir
Peer Habibur Rehman
Mansoor Malik
Salman Sajid
Naveedul Islam
Anwar Ahmad

whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have **from Him, 'He who loves God must love his brother also.'**" (1 John 4:20-21)

It was deemed that we not only need to be service minded in general but even just and fair to our enemies. Jesus Christ said and it is recorded in the New Testament, **"But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." And again, "You have heard that it was said, Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If some one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."** (Matthew 5:38-39)

The ideals mentioned in this regard in the Holy Quran are, **"Let not the enmity of a people in that they hindered you from the Sacred Mosque (violated your religious freedom), incite you to transgress. Assist one another in piety and rectitude, and assist not one another in sin and transgression; and be mindful of your duty to Allah." (5:3) And again, "O ye who believe, be steadfast in the cause of Allah, bearing witness in equity. Let not a people's enmity towards you incite you to act contrary to justice; be always just, that is closest to righteousness. Be mindful of your duty to Allah; surely, Allah is aware of all that you do." (5:9)** Islam will not be unfair to even its enemies, it could not certainly condone taking of innocent lives for any reason what so ever.

A natural ramification of these teachings is that self interest and national security do not trump justice. If they did humans from different nations will be in constant conflict

with each other. What may be self interest for one nation will be destructive for the other nation. The only common ground between different parts of humanity is that we need to be just to each other. So how did we come up with this possible notion that all is fair in the name of national security?

A STRANGE DISTORTION OF REALITY IN RECENT TIMES

As we noted the principle of justice needs to be extended to the whole of humanity. The present day modern media has presented a strange distortion of this sense of justice. Recent times have created a new option of not loving but exploiting ones neighbour.

If the national media mentions truths favourable to the neighbours infrequently and keeps harping on the facts that it finds in self interest, it gives the media an extraordinary power of propaganda. Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Now, if you **combine with this power, Adolph Hitler's prescription, "If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed;" one has a very strange situation where anything can now pass for reality and any truth denied. Combine the human vulnerability to not see the beam in ones own eye while trying to remove the mote from other people's eyes, with Hitler's recommendation and you have a perfect recipe for confusing the reality in the eye of the masses.**

Gathering hope and ambition from these tools in a post 9/11 world, Dawkins launched his unfair campaign to link religion in general and Islam in particular with violence. Mankind had known for centuries, the causes of violence at different levels in human history. The common ones were age old human greed, desire for political dominance, bigotry, intolerance and injustice. Dawkins thinks that he can make a new discovery given the hype of the post 9/11 media and

the hysteria of the so called patriots; he can link violence to religion. He feels that he can turn the table and turn reality upside down by connecting aggression to the compassionate teachings of Islam and Christianity.

PROFESSOR DAWKINS' DELUSIONS

Professor Richard Dawkins in his recent advertisements on US national television claims that if there were no religion there will be no Crusades or suicidal bombers. He is insinuating that most if not all wars are due to religions, and he claims that emphatically in his book, *the God Delusion*. He conveniently forgets the recent political struggles in Sri Lanka, South America and Kenya.

Sir Charles Darwin despite his great wisdom was thoroughly convinced that Englishmen were at the pinnacle of the evolution! This Victorian thought may be popular in UK, but those of us who are not Englishmen may be able to see the seed of a British Empire and world wide political struggle in this self indulgent thought. **But, Darwin is in good company. In his book 'The Republic' commenting on the qualities of Greece, Plato had said that the intellectual development of the Greeks is much higher than that of inhabitants of other countries. Even the Muslim rationalist Averroes (Ibn Rushd) fell in this trap and declared Andalusia to be equivalent to Greece in this intellectual quality of its inhabitants. It took the best Arab, Muhammad^{saw}, to declare, "An Arab has no preference over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab over an Arab; nor is a white one to be preferred to a dark one, nor a dark one to a white one." Therein lies the solution to most social problems. The root cause of most wars is bigotry,**

prejudice, injustice, both real and perceived and the familiar old timer, human greed.

Dawkins fails to tell us that even if there were no religion, there will still be millions killed in equivalents of the Civil War, and the World War I and II. The most recent developments at the time of the airing of his advertisements were the riots in Kenya that included burning of people alive in Churches, after a disputed election. In his advertisements, he fails to allude to that or for that matter to any violence in which religion is not a party. He is selective in choosing his stories of violence. He hopes that in line **with the saying of Hitler, "If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed", if he keeps on with the rhetoric,** in this post 9/11 atmosphere, he may gather some traction.

On the very first page of the preface of *the God Delusion* he writes, **"In January of 2006 I presented a two-part television documentary on British Television (Channel Four) called *Root of All Evil?* From the start, I did not like the title. Religion is not the root of all evil, for no one thing is the root of all anything. But I was delighted with the advertisement that Channel Four put in the national newspapers. It was a picture of Manhattan skyline with the caption 'Imagine a world without religion.' What was the connection? The twin towers of the World Trade Center were conspicuously present."**

What I read in these lines is that Dawkins is ready to profit and bask in the Islam phobia that has been reawakened in the Western world after a century of truce. Even though a staunch atheist, when push comes to shove he is more of a Christian than a Muslim. In an interview in December, 2007, He told *the BBC's Have Your Say*

that he did not want to "purge" the UK of its Christian heritage. He added that he liked "singing Carols along with everybody else". Prof Dawkins further said, "This is historically a Christian country. I'm a cultural Christian in the same way many of my friends call themselves cultural Jews or cultural Muslims. So, yes, I like singing carols along with everybody else. I'm not one of those who wants to purge our society of our Christian history. **If there's any threat these sorts of things, I think you will find it comes from rival religions and not from atheists.**" Translation, **'never mind the details, I am more critical of Islam, than any other religion.'** To confirm his bias, in his book we read, **"Seventeen years ago, I was one of the thirty six writers and artists commissioned by the magazine New Statesman to write in support of the distinguished author Salman Rushdie."**

The human condition is, as Plato would make Socrates say in the Republic (7.514a ff.), comparable to that of prisoners of an underground cave, whose unfortunate fate is to confuse reality with passing shadows created by a fire inside their miserable abode and kept in motion by clever manipulators, who in the name of politics, religion, science, and tradition control the human herd. This is the agenda of Dawkins and he is not seeking the truth. **Dawkins could have looked and investigated millions of criminals and tried to find the causes of crimes.** Wars and mob violence are crimes at a larger scale from the perspective of the perpetrator and defensive war from the perspective of grieved party and sometimes it is a mixed bag.

KEYNYA VIOLENCE

As Dawkins advertisements for his book were being played out on the national TV in USA, the scenes of violence were unfolding



on the internet in Kenya, with people being burnt alive in the places of their refuge, highlighting once again for Dawkins benefit that root cause of violence is faulty politics and injustice. Kenya, one of the most stable nations in east Africa, descended into chaos after the disputed election triggered violence.

At least 1500 people have been killed in the ethnic and political **unrest sparked by the announcement of President Mwai Kibaki's re-election** as president on 27 December, 2007. The United Nations has warned that up to 500,000 people will need humanitarian **assistance in the weeks ahead if the country's political crisis intensifies.** In one of worst incidents, on January 27, 2008, 19 Luo people were burned to death in a house they sought refuge in, after being chased through a slum by a gang of Kikuyus, police said. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7212493.stm>

The political struggle broke into a tribal rift and once prosperous and beautiful African nation creates self destruction and chaos for itself. By March 3, 2008 almost two months after dozens were burnt alive in church burning for political advantage; the death toll **from ethnic riots triggered by President Mwai Kibaki's disputed re-**

election has soared to at least 1500. The political crisis also reignited long-standing land and economic disputes in parts of Kenya. Land disputes are one of the issues to be tackled as talks between the government and opposition were to resume in the capital, Nairobi. Parliament is to convene to discuss the deal under which opposition leader Raila Odinga is to become prime minister and share power with President Mwai Kibaki.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7274892.stm>

THE HUMAN ABUSE OF IDEALS

Any power or instrument can be used for good or bad ends. Nuclear energy can be used for good productive purposes or to kill innocent humans. Religion is a powerful motivation tool. It has been used for so much good over human history but when married to bad politics and other greedy agenda it can lead to harm definitely. Dawkins wants to benefit from the recent hype of post 9/11 era and makes one-sided claims, **‘religion causes people to do evil things’**.

Even when violence is done in the name of religion, it has no tendency to show that religion is itself a bad thing, or that its message is false. Love causes people to do evil things; so does patriotism. The love of a man and a woman can lead to unfaithfulness, to the destruction of families and even to murder. Patriotism can lead to hatred and to the indiscriminate bombing of cities. None of this means that either love or patriotism is a bad thing. It simply means that the weakness of human nature is such that any great object or cause may so stir our emotions as to lead us to act against our better judgment. If religion occasions evil as well as good, this is no sign of its falsity, but simply of its power of attraction over human nature. That in the name of

religion good men may do bad things is no argument against religion, unless crimes of passion are arguments against human LOVE. (Thomas Crean Religion is no Delusion, page 118-119)

Madame Rolande was brought to the guillotine to face execution on trumped-up charges in 1792. As she prepared to die, she bowed mockingly toward the statue of liberty in the Place de la Revolution **and uttered the words for which she is remembered: “liberty, what crimes are committed in your name.” All ideals divine, transcendent, human or invented-are capable of being abused. That’s just the way human nature is. And knowing this, we need to work out what to do about it rather than lashing out uncritically at religion.** (Allister E. McGrath. Dawkins’ Delusion. Page 81)

The well read are aware of scores of political moves that are made in the name of democracy and liberty to the detriment of the weak.

“The God Delusion is to be seen as one of a number of books to emerge from the events now universally referred to as 9/11 the suicide attacks on buildings in Washington and New York. For Dawkins it is obvious that religious belief leads to suicide bombings. It’s a view that his less critical secular readers will applaud, provided they haven’t read the empirical studies of why people are driven to suicide bombings in the first place.

As Robert Pape showed in his definitive account of the motivations of such attacks, based on surveys of every suicide bombing since 1980, religious belief of any kind is neither necessary nor sufficient to create suicide bombers-**despite Dawkins’s breezy simplifications.** (Remember, the infamous “suicide vest” was invented by the secessionist Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka back in 1991) Pape argues is that the fundamental motivation is political: the desire to force the withdrawal of foreign forces occupying land believed to belong to

an oppressed people who have seriously limited military **resources at their disposal. This isn't what Dawkins will want to hear**, but it is an important element in reflecting on how this phenomenon arose and what might need to be done to end it.

Dawkins, however, seems to have a rather different answer. Since religion is the problem, its disappearance will be to the general benefit of civilization. Dawkins, however, seems more than a little coy about just how religion might vanish. There is a **serious risk that criticism of a people's religion might be misconstrued to represent (or encourage) hostility toward them as a social group. Legitimate criticism of religious ideas can all too easily give way to the rather more disturbing and dangerous vilification of a people. The real issue is that religion possesses a capacity to transcendentalize normal human conflicts and disagreements, transforming them into cosmic battles of good and evil in which the authority and will of a transcendent reality is implicated. Divine warfare is terrestrialized, its mandate transferred to affairs on earth. When this situation arises, the normal constraints and compromises that allow humanity to solve potentially explosive situations are trumped.**"

(Allister E. McGrath. *Dawkins' Delusion*. Page 80)

What Dawkins fails to realize is that believers do not have to transcendentalize violence only; they could transcendentalize forgiveness and compassion as well. A believer in a Merciful Universal God having fully overcome his enemy may choose to forgive and let go, believing that God will protect him from the consequences stemming from his forgiveness, but an atheist victor in the same circumstances will have no reason not to press eradication of the enemy.

Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall (1875 – 1936) the first British convert to Islam, quotes the crown verse of the Holy Quran and extrapolates religious tolerance from that:

“ ‘Allah! There is none to be worshipped save Him, the Alive, the Enduring. Age and slumber come not night Him. His is all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. Who is he that intercedeth with him save by His leave? He knoweth all that is in front of them and all that is behind them, while they encompass nothing of His knowledge save what He will, His throne extendeth beyond the Heavens and the Earth, and He is never weary of preserving them. He is the Sublime, the Tremendous.’ (The Holy Quran 2:256)

And ‘There is no compulsion in religion. The right direction is henceforth distinct from error. And whose rejecteth vain superstitions and believeth in Allah hath grasped a firm handle which will not give way. Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.’ (The Holy Quran 2:257)

The two verses are supplementary. Where there is that realization of the majesty and dominion of Allah, there is no compulsion in religion. Men choose their path--allegiance or opposition--and it is sufficient punishment for those who oppose that they draw further and further away from the light of truth.

What Muslims do not generally consider is that this law applies to our own community just as much as to the folk outside, the laws of Allah being universal; and that intolerance of Muslims for other **men's opinions and beliefs is evidence that they themselves have, at the moment, forgotten the vision of the Majesty and mercy of Allah which the Quran presents to them.**"

A LESSON IN HISTORY AND SOCIOLOGY

Dawkins claims that if there were no religion there will be no crusades or suicidal bombing is historically ill informed. First time the world saw suicidal bombing was in the form of Kamikaze pilots in the World War II. Dawkins presentation lends itself to black and white separation without acknowledging the nuance positions of different colors of gray. He conveniently forgets that humans have discriminated against each other on the basis of color, race, family ties, gender, financial status and looks, to name a few. Commenting on the absurdity of Dawkins claims, Allister E. McGrath writes:

“The simplistic belief that the elimination of religion would lead to the ending of violence, social tension or discrimination is thus sociologically naive. It fails to take account of the way in which human beings create values and norms, and make sense of their identity and their surroundings. If religion were to cease to exist, other social demarcators would emerge as decisive, some of which would become transcendentalized in due course. Dawkins has no interest in sociology, as might be expected. Yet the study of how individuals and societies function casts serious doubt on one of the most fundamental assertions of his analysis.

It is well established that prejudice and discrimination are shaped by perception and group identities. Gross simplifications about religion, exclusion and violence will simply delay and defer **a solution of humanity’s real problems.”**

Holy Quran actually requires being service and fair minded as preconditions for any spiritual development. So it cannot lead a **genuine seeker after truth to violence. The Holy Quran says, “We**

will surely guide in Our ways those who strive after Us. Verily, **Allah is with those who do good, (and are service minded).” (29:70)** And, **“They are eager listeners to falsehood, devourers of things forbidden. If, then, they come to thee for judgment, judge between them or turn aside from them. And if thou turn aside from them, they cannot harm thee at all. And if thou judge, judge between them with justice. Surely Allah loves those who are just.” (5:43)** There are scores of other verses that can be quoted on this subject.

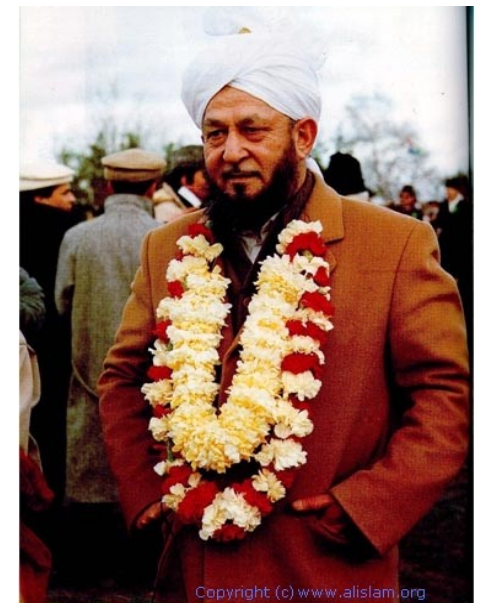
KHALIFATUL MASIH IV: HIS HOLINESS MIRZA TAHIR AHMAD

“Swords can win territories, but not hearts; force can bend heads, but not minds.” — Mirza Tahir Ahmad

His biographer, Iain Adamson introducing him on the back cover of the biography titled, *A man of God*, writes:

“He is the fourth successor of ‘Ahmad’ who proclaimed that he was the Messiah promised in all the great religions of the world.

Today followers of Ahmad have become most dynamic missionary force of Islam. They have translated Holy Quran or selected verses in more than 117 languages and established missions, hospitals, and schools in more than 120 countries and directed doctors, teachers, and engineers to work along side their missionaries. Thousands and thousands of children are already dedicated by



Copyright (c) www.alislam.org

their parents to become missionaries to convert Russia, China and South America.

The man who leads *Jihad*, this holy war of words and pen to convert the world to Islam, is TAHIR, the fourth Successor.

More than 10 Millions have taken the covenant of allegiance to him - among them a Nobel Laureate, a director of World Bank, A president of General Assembly of the United Nations and government ministers in many countries. This is story of his life.”

He was a man who stood steadfast to the principles of justice and religious tolerance when his own life and well being of his family was threatened for years on end. He wrote about the principles of religious tolerance in Islam long before September 11, 2001, in his books [*Murder in the name of Allah*](#) and [*Islam's response to the Contemporary issues*](#).

THE BRIDE UNVEILED: INFLUENCES ON AND INTERPRETATIONS OF AL HAMBRA

Al Hambra is a reminder of the glorious religious tolerance for 6-7 centuries under the Muslim rule when Muslims, Christians and Jews lived side by side, in harmony, and together worked on issues of common interest including study of nature.

Iram Ahmad a medical student in University of Arizona reviews the architecture beauty and history of Al Hambra:

The Royal Complex in Al Hambra consists of three main parts: Mexuar, Serallo, and the Harem. The Mexuar is modest in decor and houses the functional areas for conducting business and administration. Serallo, built during the reign of Yusef I in the 14th century, is highly and elaborately decorated and contains



the Patio de los Arrayanes. The picture above is that of Patio de los Arrayanes.

... article continues on [alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org)

To read more please visit

<http://www.alislam.org/library/articles/Alhambra-20080402MN.pdf>

SIR ZAFRULLA KHAN

Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan was the first foreign minister of Pakistan in 1947. He became the president of the 17th Session of the UN General Assembly and later served as Judge of the International Court of Justice at Hague, and eventually also became the president of this court. He is author of numerous books and articles on politics, law and religion.

On the occasion of the 16th Congress of International Association for Religious Freedom held in Chicago, Illinois (USA), on the 10th August 1958, Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, Vice President of the International Court of Justice at Hague, was invited to speak on the Islamic solutions to World Problems. The speech of Sir Muhammad Khan, which deals with various aspects of Islamic teachings, is of great informative value. Its contents are just as relevant today as they were 49 years ago when the speech was made. It can be reviewed at the following URL:

<http://www.alislam.org/library/ContributionofIslam.html>

FRIDAY SERMON JUNE 22, 2007

Love for All—Hatred for None—A motto of Ahmadi Muslims
Friday Sermon by Khalifatul-Masih V, his holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad on the topic of the Islamic teachings that promote peace and security on a global level:

[[English Summary](#) — [Audio/Video/Translations](#)]

FUNDAMENTAL VERSES ALLEGORICAL

Here is a summary article about war and peace issues highlighting what is fundamental and central in the Islamic teachings versus what is peripheral.

<http://www.alislam.org/library/articles/War-and-Peace-in-Islam-20080402MN.pdf>

CONCLUSION: INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD

As long as people indulge in outdated parochial religious belief systems and ethnic tribe-all-ego arrogance and hatred, there will be no peace. Indeed! We will be doomed as a species. We need to

establish universal brotherhood; this brings us to the vision of the Messiah of this age and the UN Charter of human rights.

The Messiah (may peace be upon him) of this era, the lead follower of the Prophet Muhammad^{saw}, his holiness Mirza Ghulam Ahmad has said:

“A religion which does not inculcate universal compassion is no religion at all. Similarly, a human being without the faculty of compassion is no human at all. Our God has never discriminated between one people and another. This is illustrated by the fact that all the potentials and capabilities which have been granted to the Aryans have also been granted to the races inhabiting Arabia, Persia, Syria, China, Japan, Europe and America. The earth created by God provides a common floor for all people alike, and His sun and moon and many stars are a source of radiance and provide many other benefits to all alike. Likewise, all peoples benefit from the elements created by Him, such as air, water, fire and earth, and similarly from other products created by Him like grain, fruit, and healing agents, etc. These attributes of God teach us the lesson that we, too, should behave magnanimously and kindly towards our fellow human beings and should not be petty of heart and illiberal.” (‘A Message of Peace’ Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi, the holy founder of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community)

On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following this historic act the Assembly called upon all **Member countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and ‘to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions.**

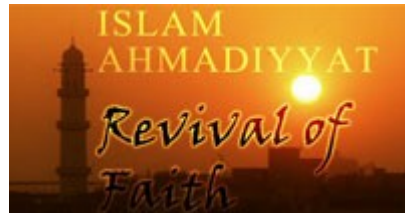
In this charter, humanity already has an agreed upon solution to the international problems that we are facing today. All the countries and, therefore, indirectly the whole humanity is signatory of this charter. It has 30 Articles. The whole of the charter can be reviewed at [UN website](#).

To review the fact that these humanitarian ideals are exactly in keeping with the Islamic teachings and early Muslim tradition, please review a book by Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan [Islam and Human Rights](#).

The difficulty is that most countries are not publicizing it as they promised to do. Moreover, the media that has a moral responsibility to educate masses is not talking about this readily available and agreed upon international solution.

ISLAM AHMADIYYAT—REVIVAL OF FAITH

Muslim TV Ahmadiyya released a new documentary on 23rd March 2008 to celebrate Masih-e-Maud (The Promised Messiah) Day. The documentary is now available on [alislam.org](#) at following page:



<http://www.alislam.org/introduction/Islam-Ahmadiyyat.html>

PEACE CONFERENCE IN LONDON

The third Annual Peace Conference was hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK at the Bait-ul-Futuh Mosque in Morden on 29th March 2008. The event sought to promote the peaceful relations between peoples of all faiths and was

attended by around 500 guests. The highlight of the evening was the keynote address delivered by the World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad in which he responded to the false portrayal of Islam, perpetrated by the evil acts of extremists and tackling the problems faced by the Developing world. The video of conference is now available in [multimedia page of alislam.org](#).

KHILAFAT CENTENARY CELEBRATION

In connection with the Centenary Celebration of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya this year, Al Islam team has pooled all the resources including books and articles at the following link:

<http://www.alislam.org/topics/khilafat/khilafat-resources.php>

OTHER UPDATES AT ALISLAM.ORG

- ◆ Affiliated Websites: [IslamicFAQ.org](#) | [Turkish](#) | [Bangla](#) | [MuslimSunrise.com](#)
- ◆ [15 more books](#) by Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Pakistan.
- ◆ [5 new volumes of Anwarul 'Ulum](#)—Books of Hadhrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad, the Promised Son and Khalifatul Masih II (ra)
- ◆ English Book: [Ta'limul Qur'an](#) a self-study book by Dr. Karimullah Zirvi
- ◆ 2 Urdu books related to Waqf-e-Nau: [Nisab Waqfe Nau](#) | [Sermons](#)
- ◆ 2 [Malayalam books](#): Mansab-e-Khilafat and Jalsa UK 2007 Speech
- ◆ [84th Jalsa Salana](#) Bangladesh Pictures
- ◆ Urdu book on [Ibn-e-Rushd](#) by Muhammad Zakaria Virk
- ◆ [Yearly Index](#) of Alfazl International

Please remember Al Islam Team volunteers in your prayers.