

## The Internet Never Lies...But People Do! Or, Why Do Some Christians Love To Hate Muslims?

When you read something on the internet that seems to make sense to you, do you base your opinion of it on other observations that have been proven to your satisfaction to be true, or, do you accept it at face value because it fits with what you already believe? In the evolution of the internet, it appears that we are now at the "I can't think of anything original, so I'll pass this item I like on to all my friends, hoping they will believe it or be entertained by it" phase. There's no question that there is a lot of misinformation swirling around the internet. And, it's persistent...it doesn't want to go away very quickly. We need to analyze, more closely, the email we receive and pass on.

Here's an example of a deceptive email I received from one of my fellow Christian brothers who sent it to his email list of friends. Another friend at the church we attend received the same email from someone else. Enter here into our story another characteristic of the internet: The Multiplication Factor...it's staggering and powerful! Here's the email I received (I've edited some parts of it out, but you can check it out fully at Mr. Mathes' ministry, **Mission Gate Ministry**, website<sup>1</sup>:

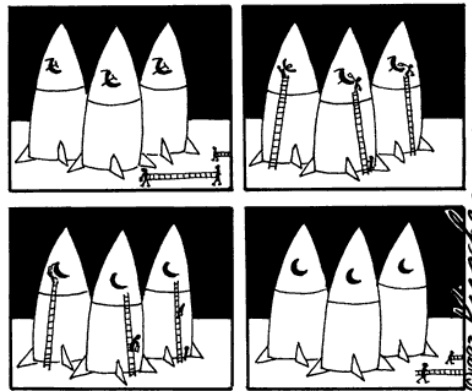
From: Mr. X  
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009  
Subject: Muslim Belief  
I'm sure you have read this many times!

*This is a true story and the author, Rick Mathes, is a well-known leader in prison ministry...The Muslim religion is the fastest growing religion per capita in the United States, especially in the minority races!!!...I was particularly interested in what the Islamic Imam had to say... After the presentations, time was provided for questions and answers...I directed my question to the Imam and asked: 'Please, correct me if I'm wrong, but I understand that most Imams and clerics of Islam have declared a holy jihad [Holy war] against the infidels of the world and, that by killing an infidel, (which is a command to all Muslims) they are assured of a place in heaven. If that's the case, can you give me the definition of an infidel?' There was no disagreement with my statements and, without hesitation,*

*he replied, 'Non-believers!' I responded, 'So, let me make sure I have this straight. All followers of Allah have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of your faith so they can have a place in heaven. Is that correct?'...He sheepishly replied, 'Yes.'...I continued, 'I also have a problem with being your friend when you and your brother clerics are telling your followers to kill me!*

June 19, 1992

### Dry Bones



After communism fell in the Soviet Union, it's been known since 1992, when this cartoon was drawn, that:  
**Muslims Are The Official Enemies of Americans.**

A final note was added to the email by the "original" forwarder, not the man who forwarded it to me: "...FOR GODS' SAKE! SEND THIS ON!"

Reading this email was a case of déjà vu for me. Something looked familiar about it. And, the claim that "All followers of Allah have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of your faith..." just didn't ring true, even with the little I knew about Islam. I have talked with a number of Muslims who would, I'm sure, deny this statement. To prepare for this article, I sent a request out to some Muslim friends for a response. One man whom I greatly respect replied: "Either that imam was a complete fool and totally ignorant of Islam, or this story is a fabrication meant to stir up hatred. There is no such instruction in the Qur'an or Hadith that Muslims should kill all unbelievers...What is the Imam's name and which prison is he in? The story does not provide the basic

facts required for a story. When did this happen? Again, no clue."

It turns out that the "Imam" in Mr. Mathes' story was an inmate at the correctional facility where the incident happened in May, 2003 (according to an internet investigation of the story by **snopes.com**<sup>2</sup>. Mr. Mathes' report appears to have originated in January, 2004 (refer to **Break-TheChain.org** story, "Defending Your Faith"<sup>3</sup>). On Mr. Mathes' website<sup>1</sup> his story was also amended to include:

**NOTE:** *The prisoner Imam was either ignorant of his faith, intimidated by my directness or agreed with my asking if all Muslims were called to kill infidels. I clearly was referring to the jihadists when I asked. He didn't reply and so I went to the issue of what I had intended. I wanted to give at least this Muslim a chance to choose Jesus. This is the biggest "I love you" I can any extend to any Muslim that may read or hear about this article. AMEN!*

It should be noted that the email I received did not include Mr. Mathes' clarifications about his original story. Mr. Mathes admits that he intimidated the inmate and then gave him "a chance to choose Jesus." I wonder what the conversion rate is for an approach like this. Just as I concluded in my previous article in the **Palestine Chronicle**, "Would Jesus Concur or Weep"<sup>4</sup>: I think Jesus would weep at the insensitivity of those who claim to follow Him and do things that would contradict Jesus' command to "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Oh, and, P.S., my neighbors are Muslims, and, I'm trying my best not to make Jesus weep.

by Tom Compton

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.charityadvantage.com/missiongateministry/AllahorJesus.asp>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.snopes.com/politics/religion/allah.asp>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.breakthechain.org/exclusives/rickmathes.html>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.palestinechronicle.com/view\\_article\\_details.php?id=14761](http://www.palestinechronicle.com/view_article_details.php?id=14761)

On Aug. 15, 2008 Mr. Mathes added a note to his story: "I would like to take this time to bring you up to date on the response of this

article and the criticisms I have been receiving. Virtually all the critics are attacking the statement the "all Muslims are called to kill infidels." This is not true of course and I didn't make that statement..." This is a far cry from his original inflammatory remarks.

**We Hold These Truths** is a group of Christians who believe strongly that everyone has a right to practice whatever religion they choose as long as their beliefs do no harm to another person or group. It is not our intent to defend other religions. Our purpose is to convict our fellow Christians to follow the teachings of Christ and show the love of Christ to others.

Here are three replies from Muslims, including one from a real Imam, Mohammad Asi, on the malicious email we received:

*Greetings of Peace, Tom*

*This piece that tries to display Muslims as people out to kill those who are not Muslims is a patent lie. The whole misunderstanding rotates around the mistranslation of the Quranic word "mu'min" into "believer" and the Quranic word "kafer" into disbeliever. The translation is wrong, therefore, the whole argument is wrong. A "mumin" is a person who has committed himself in deed and in spirit to the One God -- Allah. A kafer is a person who has done the opposite -- committed himself to authorities and deities besides God. And, up to now, each type of person has the right to live free and with dignity. The problem sets in when the "kafer" -- the denier of God's authority and power turns violent, aggressive, hostile, and combative. At that time the committed Muslims are instructed to wage war. In light of this, a "Jew", a Christian, even an atheist as well as others belonging to other religions are guaranteed the freedom and dignity that God Himself gave them. [And this is stated in the Quran]. But when any follower of any religion turns hostile and belligerent towards the Islamic will of honoring God as deity and authority combined, at that time an Islamic governing administration is given directives from God above to fight those who have become military enemies of Muslims. To put it in today's language, no Muslim individual or government has any grounds for violating the sanctity and the dignity of any other human being who is not a Muslim; to the contrary,*

*Islam and Muslims require that followers of other religions be treated with fairness and justice. But when those who say they are "Jews" or "Christians" move their militaries and armies with imperialist or zionist convictions into wars and aggression then they become the "mushriks" and "kafers" mentioned in the Quran who deserve a military or a fighting response. To understand this whole issue, a person will have to determine whether the "other" has a zionist character that over-rides his Jewish character and whether the "other" has an imperialist character that overrides his Christian character. Muslims who read and understand the Quran have an affinity with "religious" Jews and religious Christians, so much so that Muslims inter-marry with these who adhere to the Scriptural standards of the Old and/or New Testament. Parallel to that, Muslims who read and understand the Quran, cannot extend that affinity and courtesy to zionists and imperialists who hide behind a facade of Scripture or who cloak themselves with a "Jewish" or "Christian" cover when at heart and in their mind they are imperialists and zionists. The word "kafer" in the Quran in the context of "waging war" means in today's political context the zionists and imperialists.*

*There is much more to this than what I have just said. But rest assured there is no such thing in Islam as killing a non-Muslim, just because he or she are Jews, Christians, etc...*

*Faithfully,  
Mohammad Asi,*

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*Dear Christian brothers and sisters,*

*I do not believe this is a true story because this is not the Islamic belief. Islam is the religion that based on peace, harmony, kindness and compassion. Islam taught us that every one is equal no matter what the race or color is. Islam taught us to care and be kind to every one and specially your neighbors around you and to love for your brothers what you love for yourself. "Brothers means everyone not just Muslims".*

*One of our Prophet Mohamed saying*

*is that If you kill someone for no reason as if you killed all human beings and if you help someone to survive as if you gave life to all human beings. The Islam teaching is not to be the aggressor but always the defender to defend yourself, your family, your home and your land.*

*The ward hate is not in our true Islamic belief and it is the same for all other religions as well. The principles and teaching of all religions came from one God.*

*There are extremist in all religions and those the ones are noticed because of their bad actions.*

*If every one Muslim and non-Muslim live by the true teaching and belief of their religion and the faith of God we will not be facing these wars and disasters caused by human beings.*

*Please I urge every one to seek the true information from a trusted sources.*

*Your Sincerely brother,  
Mohamed Elebrashy*

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*Dear Mr. Compton,*

*Thank you for keeping me informed. Either that imam was a complete fool and totally ignorant of Islam, or this story is a fabrication meant to stir up hatred.*

*There is no such instruction in the Qur'an or Hadith that Muslims should kill all unbelievers. Even Osama bin Laden doesn't try to say that Muslims should kill all unbelievers.*

*I think the story has been fabricated. What is the Imam's name and which prison is he in? The story does not provide the basic facts required for a story. When did this happen? Again, no clue.*

*If you think it requires an extensive reply, let me know.*

*Sincerely,  
Kaukab Siddique*