

Introducing

ISLAM

to the

WEST

by Sarah Muslim

Introducing

Islam

to the West

Version 9.0

This book explains the origins of Islam, for the Western mind, where it has gone astray, and predicts what is likely to happen in the Islamic world with regards to Islam itself, and its place on Earth.

FOR NON-MUSLIMS ONLY

Apostasy in Islam is punishable (by virtue of Sharia Law) by death. And no one wants to die, so everyone stays in Islam, whether he likes it or not. **No choice is being given. No freedom at all.**

And so I think this book then **should not be read by Muslims**, especially devout Muslims. If you are a good Muslim, this book will make you feel like your favourite toy is being rudely taken away from you, and if you are an Islamist, you would be cursing this book to hell. I did not write it for Muslims or Islamists. I wrote it for Westerners, Apostates and Infidels (Murtads and Kafirs) so that we have a good book to read on our way to Hell. Enjoy !

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Why this book.

When a Muslim asks me why a certain so called Muslim or Islamist killed innocent people or blow up countries and holiday resorts, I reply saying it is the Religion. It is because of Islam. Being Muslim themselves, the response is swift. No no no, it cannot be so. I know. I am a Muslim. You are wrong about Islam. Islam is good. It is a Religion of Peace. You see, they say, you don't understand Islam. At this point I just usually smile and walk away.

Yes, Indeed. And a lot of good Islam has done to the World. Go on TV and say that . Say it in the World News of CNN, BBC, Al-Jazeera or whatever news channels out there.

The war with Terrorism requires the participation of all sane and peaceful, Peace loving humans. We cannot rely on just Countries, Organisations, Superpowers, United Nations even, to save the world. We each do our own little part to make the world a better place to live in. We owe it to ourselves, and to our children, who will inherit the Earth.

At the time of writing of this book, the situation with Islam, especially with what is happening in the Middle East, and the repeated failed attempts of the Superpowers to bring the wars caused by or amplified by Islam to an end, for they all have each their own vested political and economic interests.

And the very many lives lost all over the world in explosions, be-headings, tortures, crimes in the name of Religion, (**In the Name of Allah, the Most gracious, Most Merciful** - Muslims begin each and every act in their life with this saying, this prayer. Sex even, yes.), mistreatment of children and women, with millions of humans beings running away from these wars and cruelties, becoming refugees willing to risk their lives simply to find a safe haven, making stable countries suddenly having to cope with the arrival of thousands and millions of refugees that their own well being and stability is being affected.

Middle Eastern countries are typically Islamic countries, and the breaking down of peace and order must be attributed to the rise and abuse of Islam There are many more stories that deserve perhaps another book, but how can we as peaceful living human beings simply sit back and watch all this and say well, *it's sad but it's not our problem*, we need to be on time for work tomorrow, switch off the telly and go to sleep soundly ?

If you can still sleep well with all the cruelties in the world, even perhaps some in your own backyard, I salute you. They say what comes around goes around. It is a matter of time before the acidity of Islam corrodes you and your life and that when it happens to you, it may be your neighbours will also do the same as what you are doing now, watch everything in the news, and then sweep everything under the carpet, sleep soundly, complete with polite snoring. Islam has destroyed my personal life, out of my own negligence of not studying and analysing the religion accurately and correctly (I was not allowed to), to find bugs, lethal bugs.

There are also those who argue they can't really do anything, that life's like that, that Religion is like that and that we should just pray to God for help. Really ? Well, this book has some suggestions on how you can help, in simple almost effortless ways. And out of your own naive mind or religious posture you think God or Allah will help. Well, Allah says

Koran 13:11

Verily! Allah will not change the condition of a people unless there is a change of what is in themselves.

We have to do our part, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem. I think there are millions even billions of people in the World who actually care, and want to do something to help, but do not really know how, some even believing naively, as I myself once did, that we can do nothing and we have to accept it all. On my part I want this book out, to bring some ideas. Maybe some of the ideas are bad, some are good. However they are, this is my contribution to a better world. **It is time to repair Islam.**

Recent events and lives lost, and my own personal serious medical and life issues taught me that we can, each of us, contribute to World Peace and Harmony and **make this world a better place to live in** for ourselves and most importantly **for our children**, who are now growing and seeing and even suffering from all this sheer cruelty, stupidity and nonsense, all in the name of Islam.

And if you do agree, please join me in this little effort and plea, **for World Peace and for Love to Prevail**. May you be rewarded with peace and happiness all your life. God bless.

Only then can Muslims say "**In the Name of Allah, the Most gracious, Most Merciful**" and **really mean what they say**. Until then, the Islamic World or Muslim is all lies, mere lip service and sheer hypocrisy.

Synopsis

In this era of extreme religious madness and violence, despite the advancement of Science and Human Civilisation, it is not strange, especially for Westerners, to ask a simple question with regards to Islam. **Why is Islam extremely horrible and violent ?**

Apologists of Islam, especially Islamists and Muslims, vehemently defend their position saying repeatedly Islam not the fault, it's them extremists who are to blame. It's those extremists who are stupid, they say It's them extremists who are mad, power crazy and what they do is very unIslamic. Islam Islam is not like that they say, Islam is very good. These apologists are very biased people unable to call a spade a spade. They are mostly unprofessional or had no professional training in whatever discipline, and have low emotional control. I beg to differ. For me, the problem with Islam is Islam itself, and the major problem is the Koran or the Doctrine itself.

Many books and articles were written on this subject, mostly very biased, and so a very wide range of answers and with some even ridiculous answers that the authors tried to pass on as the answer to what Islam is or what Islam should be. None of them, except for a very few do justice to Islam, and almost all of them failed to reflect the true nature of Islam, and why it has become such an acidic religion, that one has to run for his life should he encounter an Islamist.

Almost all so called Islamic scholars and Muslim scholars try to defend Islam by saying that their readers do not understand Islam, and how wonderful Islam is. They think the non Muslims resist Islam because non Muslims do not understand Islam. They would all happily concede that they do not understand God as well, but they have "faith" in God, and that they obey God's Laws, whereas the "infidels" are enemies of God, and hence their enemies as well, deserving to be destroyed, to be killed. That is what God wished for us. And so, we have very little hope of ever succeeding, and would only be saved if we surrender, bow to this Allah God, and nod in agreement to each and every God's Law like a donkey tied to a pole before being slaughtered for meal in the festival of Eid al-Adha (Festival of the Sacrifice).

In order to explain Islam properly to the Western mind, this book goes to a slightly deep level, to the of the very roots of Islam, to its very core and very doctrine of Islam itself, and to **unbiasedly** examine the teachings of Islam, with reference to the social norms of today, this century, this era.

It brings perhaps bad news to the over 1.6 billion Muslims all over the world that they got it wrong I'm afraid. **They got the "wrong" Islam or they got Islam wrong.** I know very well this is a very heavy accusation to make, a real provocative and asking for trouble assertion. I would like however to stand my ground and please allow me to qualify what I say, to explain.

Also in Islam apostates are punishable by death. This verse or clause effective licenses any Muslim to kill, making most adherents stick to Islam like flies stuck onto a sticky tape. I call it the "Hotel California" effect, who song the lyric goes "**You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave. Welcome to the Hotel California". Welcome to "Introduction to Islam for the West".**

Another reason Islam has gone bad is sheer abuse. But this will not be touched upon by the book, as it is fairly obvious, and there isn't much we can do about it. Much like there is nothing much we can do when someone abuses a very potent drug.

I hope this book brings to light some of the seemingly inexplicable acts done by Muslims and Islamists.

Who should read this book.

This book isn't for Muslims. It is for Westerners who have to frown very hard to try and understand what on planet Earth this Islam is, and why it is they way it is today. Here is where it is all explained clearly. Extremely violent and hopelessly backward at best. There are perhaps *some* good values exhibited by Islam today, but they are in Scientific terms said to be **negligible** and there are perhaps millions, more than a billion even, of good Muslims out there, but all Muslims and Islamists exhibit a certain characteristics, and a certain habitat alien to the West, and a nuisance by Eastern or Asian standards.

This book is then for those who wish to understand why this is so, what makes a Muslim a Muslim, and the overall World-View of a Muslim. Having understood what a Muslim is, paves the way for one to know Islam the religion, and thus bring perhaps **enlightenment** as to why the Islamic World is the way it is today, **a mess of chaos with million upon millions of unhappy followers.**

That a Muslim or an Islamist is bad is a relative description. A typical Muslim may be seen as bad or at best as an undesirable character by the Western mind, but may be described as a good Muslim by another Muslim. It is not a case of one man's meat, another man's poison. It is a case of values, culture, perceptions or bias. A Muslim is a Muslim, it is us who categorize that Muslim is good or bad. But by any ruler and any standard in any society anywhere in the world, there are such universal values such that **murderers** are always feared, hated, avoided and eliminated (for the sake of the society, no one wants to die), **forceful and persistent pushy** people (for no good reason) are despised, **arrogant and bigoted individuals** are a real nuisance and much hated. It is by this ruler that I use to measure a Muslim and an Islamist.

I know that there would still be Muslims who would steal their way into reading this book, well, please enjoy yourself. I am grateful, but I maintain this book is only for non-Muslims, not as a law or anything like that, but that a typical Muslim reading with find it extremely unpalatable perhaps to even being outrageous and nonsense. It would enrage Muslims.

In fact the litmus test to know if you are a hopelessly biased Muslim or you are a professional Muslim, is whether you find this book pungent. If it is unpleasant to you, then you know you are perhaps an Extremist or at least a Fanatic Muslim, and you are candidate for a Terrorist. Perhaps you already are a Terrorist, but you don't know it.

If you find this book entertaining and informative, you are then perhaps a professional Muslim. Non Muslim in general would find this book easy reading I think, perhaps only religiously motivated people might find it slightly distasteful. Authoritarian Muslims will throw this book out of the window seven meters away, then blow hot air on something or somebody, dissatisfied at the sheer insult to his religion.

I try to give enough information in this book for the Western Mind to engage an Islamist or a Muslim in a discussion or debate. But if an Islamist or a Muslim do not want to, or cannot even talk about himself or his religion, then there can be no debate, no discussion, no Q & A session. Such an individual is already beyond repair. You best leave him or her alone.

Clear Definitions of Islam, Muslim and Islamists.

When in communication, whether by writing or verbally, whether in forums or informal discussions, whether official functions or mere coffee shop chat, it is important to be precise, to avoid misunderstandings, to preserve peace, and to convey the right message.

Muslims and Islamists

In this book, when I say Muslim, I am referring to the 1.6 billion adherents of Islam, in general. When I say Islamist, I am referring to the subset of same group, but only those who feel that others must follow the same religion, as it is the only right religion, all other religion being flawed or false.

Both are adherents to Islam, both live by the Koran, both follow the sayings of Prophet Muhammad. But Muslims live their own life and mind their own business, whereas Islamists feel they need to tell the world about Islam, they need to convert the world, and Islam needs to conquer the world, and it is their duty to help. Islamists strongly feel so, that salvation in the world can only come about when everyone is a Muslim. They cannot understand how anyone can reject the Words of God, how anyone can reject the Koran.

By this simple description of an Islamist, if anyone asks me how many of the 1.6 billion Muslims I think are Islamists, I would say about 1.3. or about 81%. Now do you see why Islam is such a problem ?

I have a friend whose parents never forced Islam unto him, never asked him to pray, never demanded anything "Islamic" from him. He is a Muslim, yes. He cannot understand the problem I have with Islam and Islamists. Indeed, many Muslims indoctrinated in a nice harmless way would not understand too. These people are not the victims of Islamisation, or Talibanisation. They cannot see the harm, the danger, the bad in Islam. These people are immune to Islam and Islamists. Why they are immune is due to several factors and for different reasons. Being a supporter of Islam, they cannot really explain to the Western Mind why Islam had caused so much damage in this world. They would definitely say it is the followers who are at fault, not Islam.

Very many other people say the same. And that is why until today Islam remains a problem and keeps going and keep wrecking havoc wherever it lands, like a perpetual Tsunami circling the globe over and over again. Sharia Laws are appearing in one country after another, in one town after another, regardless if they have non-Muslim citizens, who Islam and Islamists regards as second class citizen, and forced to pay taxes.

Islam is Islam in whatever form or variation. It includes Sunni's, Shia's, all the sects under both Sunni and Shia. It includes the Sufis, the Mystic and Controversial Sect of Islam merely because they are different. And all other cults of sects of Islam.

Islam is expanding at a rate no one can really contain. And a significant portion of the Islam that is spreading is by Islamists and the Islam they bring is the most acidic, most horrifying, most evil, all from the Koran. In this era of extreme religious madness and violence, despite the advancement of Science and Human Civilisation, it is not strange, especially for Westerners, to ask a simple question with regards to Islam. Why is Islam so extremely horrible and violent ? This book explains why.

Analysing Islam

When a professional **use their God given brains and analytical capability to analyse something, he needs to remove any emotional attachments he may have on the subject, so as to be impartial.**

If you are an Atheist reading this book, I do apologise for the use of the word God in the previous sentence, but my many years of arguing with religious nuts about god and about using our brains led me to the habit of using the phrase “God given brains”, often with anger during my younger days, nowadays with the same phrase minus the anger. Because **I now understand why religious people do not use their brains, do not think. They are not allowed to when it comes to religion, and it is as simple as that.** Typically I will be told I am not supposed to use my brains when it comes to religious matters, because **our brains are limited, they say, and God knows better.** Hence we should just follow, just obey and be a good slave of God, and that is the commandment of God. To argue, is to be bad, and God sends bad people to hell eternally. Just obey, just follow and everything will be fine. In stark reality, everything is not at all fine with the World.

When asked why then did God give us brains and thinking capability, what for, you will find the answers given by religious people most amusing, at least to me. My favourite was when engaged with a friend, in a heated argument about religion, my friend responded by saying, "there you go again, questioning God. Don't you get it ? You cannot do that, you cannot question God, who are you to question God, you simply cannot question God ! To which my response was a simple, “ I was not questioning God, I was questioning you ! ”

It seems that one with no answers gets very irritated when you ask the very question he is unable to answer. My favourite is “why does God or Allah speak Arabic, a language I do not understand at all and have no clue whatsoever ?” The typical answers is that “God knows better why, you should not be asking that sort of question, you should ask about the Laws of God “. At this point I know I am talking to a daft idiot who follows their religion blindly like a herd of cows, and hence try my best to continue putting an innocent straight face, while suppressing the body shaking giggle that is developing slowly in me and about to erupt into a full scale thunder rolling laughter.

And so I walk away quickly and peacefully and let the matter rest. I suppose if it were not my friend, if it were a Taliban, I would have lost my head, literally speaking, or perhaps he would have lost his first. I don't know. Nothing irks the religiously motivated people more than those who question God. Those who mock and ridicule God is irritating enough, but those who dare question God, must indeed be Satan. They call it **blasphemy**.

Learning Religion

Most religious schools are not schools. They are brainwashing centres. Their job is to program you or your child to "become" a Muslim. It is not easy for a typical Muslim, or even for any religious person for that matter, to understand and really (professionally speaking) learn about a Religion, not especially so if you are indoctrinated and brought up to be biased and forcibly so. Religious school practice indoctrination, not education. They are not schools. They are religious detention centres, some even paid by governments, most tax free.

Not wished to be whipped violently with the rattan, I said yes to almost anything and everything the religious classes and what the teachers "teach". But I always knew and could argue with almost everything "taught" to me, though I did not do it for fear of my own safety and social condemnation. The teaching just would not go into my system, my natural born system. I believe all humans are born with this system, for our own good and survival, and religious nuts go for this system earliest possible, and replace it with their religious system. It's called conquering or programming if you like. It is just like a virus taking over the nucleus of the target cell, making the cell produce more virus or clones. It uses everything and anything available, fear, prejudice, duress, trickery, propaganda, lies, magic, politics, relationships, love and best of all and the most convenient, **family ties**.

To really understand and learn about a religion, in a professional and academic way, one has to examine the religion and its teachings in an unbiased manner, in an unemotional way, in an absolute honest manner, and that is extremely difficult to do unless you are a trained professional (of whatever profession) or you are an academician or perhaps a scientist. It is due to this severe difficulty that religions can typically easily find weaknesses in a typical innocent human being and then make their way to the brains, take over the brains and then make the brains produce many more religious people by spreading the religion using our human seemingly harmless activities such as talking, singing, socialising, even touring. Including sex of course. The behaviour of a religion mimics exactly the behaviour of a virus. And like the virus too, it can seem passive and dormant for even thousands of years, and come alive to strike again when conditions are suitable.

The infected person become a missionary, (more like a machinery to me, even sounds like it). It is for this reason that communist countries ban religion, or tried to ban it, but it did not work very well, for the religions still manage to sneak into the communist population and still stick out its ugly head out somehow. Islam behaves in exactly the same way, being also a virus religion, and the Islamic word for missionary is called "Dakwah".

As evidence, one of the biggest headache for China is the Islamic Religion. [China Muslim](#). There are also Christians in China. There are perhaps all the Great Religions in the World in China, for they are the most populous country in the world, with a population of 1.4 Billion people. Muslims are brought up under very strict Islamic rules, brainwashed from as little as possible, and even babies if possible. Similarly, we have Baptism in Christianity. So severe and intense is this Islamic indoctrination process, that many millions of Muslims never ever grow out of it, could perhaps never do so, and the slightest attempt at questioning their religious beliefs, percepts or convictions will trigger an Earthquake much large than the Krakatau.

Islam Today

It is relatively easy to explain the Islam of today to a Westerner as Westerners are well exposed and probably even emerge from Christianity, a religion of the same family as Islam, all under the so called umbrella of Abrahamic Religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam).

If we take the Torah or the **Old Testament** as being the Book of **God, Version 1.0**, we can similarly say the Bible or the **New Testament** as **God, Version 2.0**, and thus the **Koran** can be referred to as **God, Version 3.0**.

Those who study or know history, especially the history of Christianity, will be familiar with the very many crimes and cruelties exhibited by religious zealots in the dark history of Christianity and history of mankind, and is even clearly documented in the Bible. This is God 2.0. **There is a reason history is being taught in schools all over the world, the very important reason is that if we do not learn from history, we will be punished by repeating the same mistake over and over again.**

"Those who **do not learn history** are **doomed to repeat it**." The **quote** is most likely due to George Santayana, and in its original form it read, 'Those who cannot remember the past are **condemned to repeat it**.'

God 3.0 is Islam, and the followers are generally referred to as Muslims, and there are quite many of them. Statistics say there are over 1.6 billion Muslims worldwide. ([There are an estimated 1.6 billion Muslims around the world, making Islam the world's second-largest religious tradition after Christianity, according to the December 2012 Global Religious Landscape report from the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion.](#))

The advent of new Information Technology and Communications has made it possible for Islam to spread quickly far and wide and has reached the shores of West, catching people by surprise almost everywhere it lands, even in so called "Islamic" countries themselves !

Islam mostly succeed and thrive in failed states and societies or communities, with many unhappy people, and many losers, as it promises a way out of their miseries in life. In stronger and more advanced states, Islam knocks on the door, sometimes violently, and insists it has the right to set foot, by virtue of the "democracy" being practised by these states. Once Islam gets one foot in the door, it is **goodbye democracy, hello theocracy**. In this way, Islam has become 1.6 billion.

Before I proceed too far with sad stories into this hopeless, dark alley of doom, I wish to give readers some degree of hope, some good news. **Is Islam really that bad, that violent ? Well yes and no. For all the bad negative examples of Islam, it has some very good values, golden values and sayings very useful to mankind.** But it is all lost to human greed, bureaucracy, jealousy.

The Islam today is by and large, bad and violent and ranging from simply ridiculous to being utterly disgusting and shocking. However, it isn't originally so and certainly Islam was not built on such negative inhuman spirit. Otherwise it would never have made it all as one of the worlds greatest and prominent religion.

It is not a world renowned religion because there are over 1.6 billion followers, no. That's mere quantity and quantity is nothing. If we are to count the number of fools and idiots there are in this world, it would likely be a lot more than the number of Muslims, but then again, that does not really mean anything, does it ?

And so Islam does have some very good qualities, certainly a very high and sophisticated philosophy, good values, good teachings, so much so that those who follow Islam say it can only be from God, for no human can have such values, superhuman values. They say only God can make the Koran, but real history of Islam teaches us that the Koran was compiled by a group of scholars, many years after the death of the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad.

History of the Koran

Muslims agree that the Quran we see today was compiled by Uthman the third caliph (653–656). Upon the canonization, Uthman ordered the burning of all personal copies of the Quran. The copy of the Quran kept with Muhammad's wife Hafsa was accepted. Until then, several copies of the Quran were available in different regions of Arabia with different dialects, so Uthman's ordered only one version of the Quran to exist to prevent any misinterpretation of Quranic text or word of God (Allah).

The good news is that there is some really very good quality teachings and lessons in Islam, yes. And not to forget that Islam introduced Science to the world, the Science of Verification. All the Mathematics, Optics, Chemistry and such, all came from Islamic Scholars during the glory days of Islam and the Islamic Empire.

The bad news is that it isn't easy to get at these good values. And today it is almost alien to Muslims. Most are lost in the confusion of the modern world, many of them distorted, and many more said to be or written of as invalid or outdated. Just how many Muslims know the "camera" came from the Arabic word "Kamar" and the very first camera in the world was this "kamar" with a picture of a distant tree against its wall, coming from a hole purposely bored through the wall of the room (which serves as the dark room) ? Learn History, Islamic History will amaze you. Do you know that majority of the stars we see in the sky bear Arabic names, for the Arabs were ardent scholars then ? Muslims today haven't a clue. All the Science and Medicine and Mathematics brought by Islam is lost in the politics of Islam.

Islam is introduced by indoctrination. This is usually done by families and a child is powerless against what the parents say. They have to obey and believe. A whole barrage of selected values and prejudices, both good and evil, are introduced, and usually indoctrinated. And the indoctrination can be intense and severe. The result is what we see today in the Islamic world. And is the root cause of Muslim countries being poor and often well behind other nations in terms of human progress and civilisation and is also why very many Muslims become Islamists.

It is extremely difficult for an innocent child or young adult to resist Islam. For over 1400 years, Islam has developed some very effective tool to spread and embed itself into almost any human

being. Most major world religion has this characteristic, else they would not have become a world religion in the first place. And 1.6 billion Muslim must surely be the testimony to this.

What is fundamentally wrong with Islam today ?

This chapter will perhaps invite the most fiery, the most acidic, the most violent response from Muslims and Islamists, who will undoubtedly take it as an insult to Islam, an insult to them, to the Prophet of Islam and whatever else they can think of as counter attack.

The title itself “What is fundamentally wrong with Islam” will be rejected, as both Muslims and Islamists will say there is nothing wrong with Islam, it is them bad Muslims giving bad examples, it is them Terrorists who are stupid, it is them Bigots who bring bad name for Islam. No, no, no Islam is not wrong, you don't understand Islam even, how can you say that ?

Typically, this is the line of answer that will be given, and the above would somewhat be the first response. It is extremely hard, almost impossible for someone indoctrinated into Islam, or into whatever religion for that matter, to accept that the religion is wrong, or even worse, that they are wrong, they got it wrong, they got the message wrong ! Hell no, it is not possible. They would indeed be very angry with you, or they might just write you off as someone crazy. Either way you will be condemned as dangerous or mad or both and very quickly arrested and charged with whatever charges they can throw at you, silence you, and then leave you to rot and die. Alternatively they may take the cheaper and easier solution to just shoot you point blank.

For what ? For simply having a title or a chapter called ” What is wrong with Islam “.

In short, you will be sent to hell. Not by God, no, but upright walking homo sapiens who once upon a time normally dwell in caves and have survived and multiplied until there are over 7 billion of us all over the world today.

Since I am not dead yet, I wish to proceed, if you may, on trying to explain what is wrong with Islam today. Thank You.

What is fundamentally wrong with Islam today, 2.0 ?

In order to understand why a religion, any religion, or any thing for that matter, we begin with a clear definition of what it is or what it is supposed to be or to do. Very many Muslims I met do not even know what a religion is, or what it is supposed to do. The same goes for any other religion. Verify yourself this statement, go find a religious zealot, and ask him or her why he is doing a certain religious ritual, and the calm innocent answer would be that it is the requirement of his religion, and he believes in that religion. Period.

What is a religion. Typically you get the answer, as the one given by Google below :-

religion

noun: religion

1. **the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.**

"ideas about the relationship between science and religion"

synonyms:

faith, belief, divinity, worship, creed, teaching, doctrine, theology;
sect, cult, religious group, faith community, church, denomination, body, following,
persuasion, affiliation
"the right to freedom of religion"

- **a particular system of faith and worship.** plural noun: **religions**
"the world's great religions"
- **a pursuit or interest followed with great devotion.**
"consumerism is the new religion"

Origin

Middle English (originally in the sense ‘life under monastic vows’): from Old French, or from Latin religio(n-) ‘obligation, bond, reverence’, perhaps based on Latin religare ‘to bind’.

The trouble with these definitions, although correct, is that they lack character. What is a religion and why does one even need a religion ?

The most accurate description I found is from a Jewish newspaper website, an article about the origins of the word “religion”. The article is called Roots of ‘Religion’. Apparently, even the origin of the word religion is in disputed by the scholars. In this sort of a situation, and I am in need to define the word religion as accurately as possible for my readers, I have taken to choose the oldest definition of it, which would be the bolden part of the para in the box below, extracted from the article mentioned, the Roots of Religion.

It took the Romans, who in conquering the world were forced to become its first anthropologists, to realize that behind all this multifariousness was something about which it was possible to generalize. From its original meaning of “**punctilious respect for the sacred**,” religio came to denote **any comprehensive human system of organizing and expressing such respect**. **Religio was, Cicero wrote, cultus deorum, “the worship of the gods.”** Whether he was also right about where the word came from would appear to be anyone’s guess.

From its original meaning of “punctilious respect for the sacred” *religio* came to denote any comprehensive human system of organizing and expressing such respect. Thus, the character of a religious person exhibit this “punctilious respect for the sacred”, and in Islam today there are very many things sacred, The Koran is, the Prophet is, Allah is, conformity to Koranic values is also sacred, which is why Gays and Lesbians are persecuted, Kafirs or non-Muslims are hated, they way Allah hates kafirs as described by the Koran. That is what religion is. Many religions are like that. That is what Islam is today.

Now if you have a belief, that would be a personal belief, that is not a religion, not yet. No, you do not have a religion. I repeat, you do not have a religion . No one has actually has a “religion”. But everyone has a personal belief, yes. However, it is common today, that a person who has a certain belief , or a group of people having the same belief, is said to be of a certain religion

But who defines what a religious belief is ? In Christianity, today it is the Bible and the Pope. But, do the Pope speak for Protestants ? Similarly, who in Islam today speaks for Islam ? Do the Sunni Imams speak for Shias ?

The problem with Islam today is that there is no clear leader in the religion. The Imam of Mecca may make statements regarding religion, but Muslims usually follow their own local Imam, and indeed these local Imams even dispute what the Imam of Mecca says. They do so under the authority of the Koran itself, and sometimes explain away what the Imam of Mecca says as politically motivated or under duress.

Hence, there cannot be one who speaks for Islam and the Prophet of Islam is long dead. It has been prophesied in Islam that a new leader will come about, the so called **Imam Mahadi**. Until then you can pick our choice among the many Imams of the world. And until then, **a Muslim is expected to follow the Koran, and the ways of the Prophet called the Sunnah**. And it is with this authority that individuals and Imams make their own interpretations of the religion. And some of their interpretations are extremely violent, some sheer absurd, yet they are all believable , especially by a Muslim. Why ? Because it is from the Koran, the Word of God.

A personal belief or system of belief, is knowledge passed down to us to aid us in our struggle in life, which can be very difficult. It tries to help us from cradle to grave and even well after we are in the grave, for those we leave behind. Typically, religions have rituals for newborn and for deaths, and we consider them significant because they bear the burden of enormous emotional baggage.

If we take religion as collection of beliefs for society, purpose of religion then would be so that we can have peace in our society and world peace. No religion claims to be able to stop or prevent natural disasters, yet many followers of religion organize mass gathering and prayers to pray for God to stop the disaster, or to spare them. And these are even done officially, organised by governments.

Thus, it is obvious that religion is an extremely useful tool for the individual and for governments, politicians even businessmen, as an aid in life. It is because of this that efforts to eradicate religion from time immemorial all failed in various degrees.

If we all believe in peace, and that belief is also our religion, then we have a religion of peace. We may encounter another person with a different religious belief, but if that person also believes we should live in peace, we then have peace. The person's personal belief may be very different from us, but the common belief is in peace. It can be said that if we all have different beliefs and religions, but we all have a common religious and personal belief, which is to live in peace, we then can perhaps achieve world peace. That we have not had sustainable world peace in the domain of religion suggests that some of us and some of our religions do not believe in, and preach peace. Islam is suspect.

And at this stage of the book, I wish to assert that Islam is the religion that does not preach peace, promotes violence and murders, and it is exactly the reason we see all the horrors of crime and wars coming from wherever there is a Muslim or Muslim or Islamic community. This fact is very obvious, will be denied only by the blind or by the one so indoctrinated, either voluntarily or by force, that a mere suggestion of something wrong with his religion gets thrown out without further honest examination.

It is also at this stage I expect my family to denounce me, my friends to stay well away from me, mobile phone and telephone ring in the offices of authorities (especially religious authorities) and my own biological mother will turn in her graveyard. So be it. I owe this to the very many lives lost due to killings and murders done by Muslims in the name of Islam.

(I just hope the people helping me with the production of this book do not suddenly disappear.)

Salman Rushdie wrote the Book called "Satanic Verses", which I had not have the chance to read yet, but it was banned by Muslim countries worldwide and even some neutral countries, for the sake of peace, and earned him, the author Salman Rushdie, a fatwa (declaration or opinion) by the Ayatollah of Iran (a majority Shia Muslim Country) calling for Rushdie's death.

Personally, I think Salman Rushdie went too far, and never did declare the intention of writing his "Satanic Verses". This leads to negative perceptions perhaps.

But given that there are indeed satanic verses in the Koran and they are the ones I refer to as promoting violence and murders in the top paragraph, something has to be done, in order for the real beauty of Islam, the gem of Islam to shine and the glory of Islam returned to its rightful place in the world of religions.

Something has to be done, but what ?

USA declared war on Terrorism. Soon after made another statement saying the War is against Terrorists, not against Islam. (A war against Islamic Terrorist is a war against a Terrorist, not a war against Islam). This effectively avoids another Crusade, on which would undoubtedly bring about the end of the world. (There are about 2.2 Billion Christians and 1.5 Billion Muslims. A repeat of the Crusade today, would be very very different from the actual Crusade in our human history !)

Some governments took charge of the Religion for their country, some governments support the Terrorists, and some governments pretended nothing happened, yet some governments become Terrorists themselves. However, none of these, no one and nothing on Earth has prevented further wars and crimes due to religion, due to Islam. Islam is so acidic it would penetrate and burn any and every part of the World. **So what do we do ?**

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