

A Comment on Zia Shah's long-winded invitation to Pope Benedict XVI

Zia Shah's "An open letter: A cordial invitation to Pope Benedict XVI at <http://www.themuslimtimes.org/2012/11/uncategorized/an-open-letter-a-cordial-invitation-to-the-pope-benedict-xvi>

Reminds me of the second-last paragraph of [http://www.lohar.com/generalpdf/Pope\\_Benedict.pdf](http://www.lohar.com/generalpdf/Pope_Benedict.pdf)

I include the paragraph here:

"I invite Pope Benedict to do some study of Islam as compared to other religions. After studying I am sure he would see that, if we disregard the deplorable actions of some Muslims, Islam is the religion closest to human nature and to reason. He would also find that there is no command by the Holy Prophet of Islam to spread his message by the sword. If that were the case Spain would still be all Muslim, there would be no Hindus left in India, there would be no Islam in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand, and most of Europe would be Muslim. (I mention Indonesia and Thailand. These countries never saw any invading Muslim army. They were impressed by the dealings of the Muslim Arab merchants they came in contact with.) Though the Pope does not seek a dialogue with Muslims in his speech, I am sure his comments will stir up a positive reaction from Muslims and a healthy curiosity among the Christians. It is about time that the Muslims started teaching the World about Islam rather than Christian and Jewish orientalist and theologians."

The article was written in the wake of the Pope's comments. Since a much better, and more comprehensive, article by Maulana Mukhtar A. Cheema had already appeared I just put mine on my web page. Maulana Cheema's article can be found at: [http://www.alislam.org/topics/response-to-pope/A\\_Rejoinder\\_to\\_Popes\\_Allegations\\_Against\\_Islam.pdf](http://www.alislam.org/topics/response-to-pope/A_Rejoinder_to_Popes_Allegations_Against_Islam.pdf)

Finally, I am sorry to have broken my promise of never to write for this forum, but somethings do need to be done.

I tried to publish it as a rejoinder to Zia Shah's long winded article but