

The Traders of Discord

Muhammad Zafrullah at Pocatello

Have you seen "Obsession: The Threat of Radical Islam" aired by Fox News several times since 11/4/06? Taking video excerpts from speeches of some Mullahs who represent very small segments of Muslim population and video excerpts of speeches from Ahmadinayad who represents only himself and a few clerics, they want to frighten Americans into voting for Republicans. The picture they paint is truly awful and complete with scenes from 9/11. They do say that generally Muslims do not condone this kind of activity nor rhetoric, but they also leave the thought that anyone could be plotting. I can see that Fox News has an agenda but I consider it unfair not to allow Muslims to speak and clarify the situation, from the same platform. So I wrote the following to Fox News at the provided address specials@foxnews.com the e-mail came back as returned mail. Then I sent an e-mail to comments@foxnews.com . The contents of the e-mail are given below.

[Fox News Specials,

I used to think that strife between groups of humans was caused by the children (followers) of Satan. I in fact wrote the following article to stress that point.

<http://www.lohar.com/generalpdf/guys2.pdf> (read at least pp 3 and 4).

But I was not sure. After watching "Obsession" at Fox News Channel I am sure that the tussle between Muslims and the West is being fueled by the children of Satan from both sides. During the whole airing of "Obsession" there was no mention of "why this hatred?" For a long time now every misfortune that befell Muslims, my country USA appeared somehow behind it. Whose fault is it? You figure out. But those who suffer are going to hate America or the super power that appears behind their problems.

Now I am not one to leave folks to struggle with their problems. I have hinted at a solution in <http://www.lohar.com/walls.pdf> .There is another possible solution that I believe will be more effective. Find out a bit more about Islam. Allocate some time on the TV for Muslim scholars to explain the good points and beauties of Islam and its message of peace. This approach can on the one hand make sure that extremism will get uprooted from the US it will also cultivate understanding of Islam among non-Muslim Americans.

Sincerely,]

They have not yet responded. They usually do not. They are more concerned with their own agenda. Some readers may ask why they should have Islam 101. If you do not want to, then at least do not dwell upon hearsay or propaganda.

It should be the point at which I appeal to my Muslim brothers to stop being overly sensitive and start thinking before saying things. When you vent your frustration by airing violent thoughts, others are listening. They may not know that your family was killed in an Israeli raid or your land rendered barren by the wall the Israelis have built or that you have to live away from home in Lebanon or Egypt because of the creation of Israel. They may not know of your anguish for your Palestinian brothers, all they would see is that a Muslim or a group of Muslims is saying "death to America". I suggest that we should drop this wretched slogan. We never mean it literally but it gives bad vibes to folks who hear the translation and think that this is exactly what we are focused on. To the clerics, please think before playing with the emotions of your listeners, Jihad does not mean burning a few buildings and killing some innocent people. Jihad means struggle (a) with your own self (b) against the circumstances for instance if people in your congregation are less educated, getting them better education is Jihad (c) confronting an attacking enemy. Our Prophet, may peace be

upon him, is the only exemplar for us all and we should see how he performed the Jihad against ignorance and against attacking army. Remember how he freed captured enemy combatants for teaching Muslims how to write? Remember how he studied the situation before the arrival of an attacking army? At the time of Ghazwa Khundaq he decided on a trench, because that was the best way of defending his followers? Now the best way of stopping the enemy attack is to equip your followers with adequate education. By adequate I mean education of Islam as well as of Science. So, end the rhetoric start the education. For ordinary Muslims like myself I have this anecdote: Once in undivided India a Mullah gave a sermon about jihad and its high value and suggested that his followers attack a nearby Sikh village. His followers said OK we'll fight, come lead us. The Mullah fainted. Do not jeopardize your lives on the call of someone who cannot put his life where his mouth is.

Finally to all sides, please do not be traders of discord, there is plenty of service to humanity that all of us can do together.