

An Anti-Islam Poster without Substance

Muhammad Zafrullah at Pocatello

I saw a link to BuzzFeed's "A new inflammatory anti-Islam poster", at salon.com. Naturally, I was curious and so I clicked. Here's the link if you wish to check it out: <http://www.buzzfeed.com/copyranter/new-inflammatory-anti-islam-poster>

The poster that is paid for by American Freedom Defense Initiative includes a picture as a reminder of 9/11 and a mistranslation of a verse from the Holy Quran. The verse in question is [3:151] and the purported translation is: "Soon shall we cast terror into the hearts of the unbelievers." I say it is a mistranslation because it does not represent the whole verse. So let me include here the verse fully translated.

Translation of [3:151]: We shall strike terror into the hearts of those that have disbelieved because they associate partners with Allah for which He has sent down no authority. Their abode is the Fire; and evil is the habitation of the wrongdoers.

Clearly if you look at it with an open mind you will see that God is unhappy with the folks who associate partners with Him and is promising to cast terror into the hearts of such disbelievers. To me it sounds akin to "the wages of sin is death" where of course "sin" is associating partners with God. If you read [3:149] [3:150] and [3:152] also you would find out that [3:151] has more to do with keeping the house in order than with Jihad! And it would be an extremely bent Muslim named person who would set out to kill thinking that God has promised to terrorize the disbelievers.

Let me include the translations of all the verses mentioned above to put the verse in question in a proper context.

Translation of [3:149]: O ye who believe! If you obey those who have disbelieved, they will cause you to turn back on your heels, and you will become losers.

Translation of [3:150]: Nay, Allah is your Protector, and He is the Best of helpers.

Translation of [3:151]: We shall strike terror into the hearts of those that have disbelieved because they associate partners with Allah for which He has sent down no authority. Their abode is the Fire; and evil is the habitation of the wrongdoers.

Translation of [3:152]: And Allah had surely made good to you His promise when you were slaying and destroying them by His leave, until, when you became lax and disagreed among yourselves concerning the order and you disobeyed after He had shown you that which you loved, *He withdrew His help*. Among you were those who desired the present world, and among you were those who desired the next. Then He turned you away from them, that He might try you — and He has surely pardoned you, and Allah is Gracious to the believers. —

So God Almighty admonishes Muslims to shun the ways of the disbelievers in 149, promises them His protection in 150, tells them that He will make sure that the disbelievers will not

bother them by instilling fear in the hearts of disbelievers and in 152 reviews some past record.

So [3:151] is conditional with 149 and 150 on the one hand and has nothing to do with war or Jihad on the other. The verse [3:151] could be worrisome only if it were “revealed” to a Jihadist Mullah along with a “request” to help God fulfill His promise of casting terror into the hearts of the disbelievers. But luckily the Jihadist Mullahs believe that God has stopped speaking.

I firmly believe that God speaks, selectively, to those who believe and definitely not to those who disregard His order given in [26:183]: “And diminish not unto people their things, nor act corruptly in the earth, making mischief.” Mischief here could be war-mongering and hate-mongering or some other way of causing problems for fellow humans.

The war-mongers and hate-mongers are favorites with Satan. Satan, according to the Quran, works by instilling in the hearts of its victims the fear of poverty or the fear of loss of influence, gets them to take a stand and then leaves them in the lurch to face the consequences of their folly. The fears of poverty and of losing face/influence are the forms of disbelief that bring people very close to giving godlike importance to worldly comforts and wealth.

If we look closely at the problems present and past we may conclude that most of the injustices are done as a result of fear. Sometimes the fear is that of mixing pure blood with other lesser beings, or of losing superiority in some way or of course of losing worldly goods. So while the Romans became exceedingly cruel when they saw their influence slipping, some Western folks have ditched their notions of religious freedom for fear of the possibility that Islam might be the predominant religion in the West. Of course Taliban kill to maintain their influence.

As far as I can see, from what was alleged by the terrorists, 9/11 happened because they feared that the US was on a course to decimate Islamic countries. So perhaps Satan spoke to them to pre-empt and get, as a consequence, a lot of Muslims killed. Now of course Satan seems to be talking to Pamela Geller who founded the American Freedom Defense Initiative to “save” America from Islam and its terrorists. (Terrorists being mischief-makers come under [26:183]!)

I would not mind ads against Islam, if they were genuine and based on facts. But it is hard to pin something patently bad on a religion that has been tested by time and that promotes fairness to all. So apparently the hate-mongers have chosen to misrepresent, hoping perhaps that the mere mention of the Quran will get the crazies all riled up.

My advice to Pamela Geller, the main force behind, this monstrosity and many others like it, is: Do research your allegations and fear the time when someone sets out to find the real you and turns up with the verdict of “a dropout who saw her chance with hate-mongering after 9/11”.