

Attacks on Islam – a story of misquotes and misinformation

Muhammad Zafrullah at Pocatello

There is a newsgroup on Google. Sometimes I go there, thinking, who knows I might pick up something useful or interesting or I might help someone (or get corrected). Some time ago there was a spate of postings on that site of religious material, mostly from apparently Muslim sources. Some folks react somewhat angrily and say things that need to be answered. In the following I give an example of the sort of propaganda that comes through during such discussions. I have included below my (point-by-point) response to the poster who offered some interesting “references” that were designed to “show” that Islam allows wife beating, that being a believer only means fighting for God etc. I believe the purpose of all those “references”, which turn out to be misquotes, is to convey the feeling that Islam is a ridiculous religion, that all the Muslims are misguided into believing that all they have to do is fight and kill for Islam, and that it is OK to remove Muslims from the Earth by force.

(The poster’s comments start with the sign > and my responses start without that sign.)

>Mohammad:

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> Mathematicians like facts, I will include some towards the bottom of
> this replay, under the title "Facts", but for now, some statistics
> made by <http://islam-watch.org/>and posted at http://islam-watch.org/Archemedez/Sampling_Hatred_Verses_Koran.htm

> which states:

> A Random Sampling of 100 Verses from the Koran "refer to link for
> integrity of the sampling process"

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> Percentages of Verses per Category (sample size = 100 verses)

The verses of the Quran are not something you measure. You are supposed to understand them with an open and receptive mind. So, I am afraid you cannot do Statistics on them. Even two well-intentioned readers of the same verses can come up with different meanings, as you get from the Quran according to your own capacity, another reason you cannot apply to Quran a Science that depends so heavily on measurement.

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> 33% Hatred against Disbelievers

> 19% About Believers

> 18% About Allah

> 11% Judgement Day

> 9% Disbelievers

> 5% About Muhammad

> 2% Good Verse

> 2% Biblical Story

> 1% Philosophical

The Quran is a source of guidance for those who fear and believe God. Obviously the above classification does not come from someone who fears God and believes in Him.

> Facts:

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> beat a woman:

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> (Sura al-Nisa´ 4:32).

> "Admonish those women whose rebelliousness you fear, and leave them
> alone in their beds, and [even] beat them [if necessary]. If they obey
> you, do not seek any way [to proceed] against them".

I looked it up. It is 4:35 according to the copy of the Quran I am reading, the complete verse can be translated as follows.

4:35 Men are guardians over women (their wives) because Allah has made some of them excel others, and because men spend on them their wealth. So virtuous women are obedient, and guard the secrets of their husbands with Allah's protection. And as for those on whose part you fear disobedience admonish them and keep away from them in their beds and chastise them. Then if they obey you, seek not a way against them. Surely Allah is High and Great.

This verse says that men are supposed to take care of women (their wives) and women are supposed to obey them and respect them. If you are afraid that (in spite of you taking care of them) they will disobey or do you some harm by letting out some of your secrets, then do not just rush to divorce them (seeking a way against them) try to persuade them to act like a proper wife. If you have to be strict then so be it. What is wrong with that? (Of course this is for the ideal situation where the man is the bread winner of the house.)

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> (Sura Sad 38:44),
> 'Take in thy hand a bundle of rushes, and strike [your wife]
> therewith, and do not fail in thy oath.'

This is lifted from the story of Job (May peace be upon him). The whole story is told in four verses and you might like it. I am typing it out to show you how a Satanic mind can twist things.

Story of Job 38:42-38:45.

42. And remember Our servant Job, when he cried unto his Lord: 'Satan has afflicted me with toil and torment'

43. We directed him: 'Urge thy riding beast with thy foot and depart swiftly. Yonder is cool water to wash with and a drink!'

44. And We bestowed on him, his family and as many more with them, by way of mercy from Us, and as a reminder for men of understanding.

45. And We commanded him: 'Take in thy hand a handful of dry twigs and strike therewith, and incline not towards falsehood. Indeed We found him steadfast. An excellent servant was he. Surely he was constantly turning to God. (This is your 38:44!)

Now it appears that 38:45 refers to the story that Job's wife took care of him by working in a nearby town. One day she came back late, Job was so angry that he swore that he would hit her with a stick a hundred times. When Job got well he did not know how to fulfill that oath Our Merciful God told him the way out: 'Take a handful of (soft) twigs in your hand and hit her with them to fulfill your oath.'

I believe that you can get a more detailed version of the story of Job from the Holy Bible.

> ...
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> Terrorism:
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> 9.5-6.: "Kill those who join other gods with God wherever you may find them."

Taken out of context this may look like what you insinuate. But note that this verse comes from a Sura that addresses the capture of Mecca and there were disbelievers in Arabia who were prepared

to fight. (There were also those who sought peace treaties and got them!) I would give you the translations of the relevant verses and hope that you would understand the situation.

9:4 Except those of the disbelievers with whom you have entered into a treaty and who have not subsequently failed you in anything nor aided anyone against you. So fulfill to those the treaty you have made with them till their term. Surely Allah loves those who are righteous.

9:5 And when the forbidden months have passed, slay the disbelievers wherever you find them and take them captive, and beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them at every place of ambush. But if they repent and observe prayer and pay Zakat (tax) then leave their way free. Surely Allah is Most forgiving Merciful.

9:6 And if any one of the idolaters seeks protection of thee, grant him protection so that he may hear the Word of Allah; then convey him to his place of security. That is because they are a people who have no knowledge.

So, there you go. Where is the terrorism? God is telling the Muslims not to fight those you have treaties with. Fight those who fight you but if they stop fighting capture them. Also if someone seeks protection give it to him! Where is, that kill all ... stuff?

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> 4.76.: "Those who believe fight in the cause of God."

What is wrong with that? But the fellow who told you "forgot" to give you one earlier verse that gives the reason why the believers should fight. It is getting late but I think I would try to finish this. The copy of the Quran that I am looking at has as 4:77 the verse that you have as 4:76. I would of course start with 4:76 of my copy.

4:76 And why should you not fight in the cause of Allah and for the rescue of weak men, women and children who say, 'O Lord take us out of this town whose people are oppressors, and give us a friend from Thyself and give us from Thyself a helper.

4:77 Those who believe fight in the cause of Allah, and those who disbelieve fight in the cause of the Evil One. Fight ye, therefore, against the friends of Satan (the oppressors mentioned in 4:76); surely Satan's strategy is weak.

Well yeah the believers do fight, but for a cause and only against the oppressors. What is wrong with that?

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> 8.12.: "I will instill terror into the hearts of the Infidels, strike
> off their heads then, and strike off from them every fingertip."

Again the same trick! God will instill terror into whose hearts? Into the hearts of the armies that are at the doorstep of Medina to destroy Muslims! This refers to the battle of Badr! The disbelievers outnumbered Muslims and they were fully armed and the poor Muslims, very few had adequate arms. Whoever has given you this reference has played a dirty trick on you! Now read the complete translations of the verse you refer to.

This one is 8:13 in my copy.

8:13 When thy Lord revealed to the angels, saying, 'I am with you; so make firm those who believe. I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Smite them above the necks and smite off all finger-tips.

Hey, and this is not said to the Muslims. It is said to the Angels! Now be good and think, if someone gives you a gun and a sack full of bullets to go fight against a purported 'evil monster' and the first few of the bullets that you fire turn out to be duds, would you reach into your sack for more or would you run away cursing the thug who put you up to this with fake bullets? Do what is right, do what is just.

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> should I go on and on, more about "permission for laying, having sex
> with animals, putting man's own wife and daughter for prostitution,
> and the rest of the filth with referenced verses from the quran it
> self in English and Arabic the open to read????
- Hide quoted text -

Go on! I would try to do my best to allay your fears and to remove your misconceptions. I am not aware of any verses of the Quran that permit those immoral acts that you have just insinuated. So I cannot respond to the filth that your advisers have put together. But I can tell you the following. It is said in the Quran (4:77): 'Those who believe fight in the cause of Allah, and those who disbelieve fight in the cause of the Evil One. Fight ye, therefore, against the friends of Satan; surely Satan's strategy is weak.' People who fight in the cause of Satan have only lies at their disposal. I went to the site <http://islam-watch.org/> and I read the purported Statistical study: http://islam-watch.org/Archemedez/Sampling_Hatred_Verses_Koran.htm. They seem to want to create a consensus that Islam is a ridiculous and an oppressive religion, by offering as proof statements lifted from their proper context. They have collected some articles by some 'ex-Muslims', some of those writers may be those who were genuinely disaffected because of the way some Mullah's present Islam and some may be in for money and recognition. Only God knows. They seem to be serving one purpose of Satan: Make life difficult for the believers. But Satan's strategy is weak, being based on lies and misinformation.

You know what, read the following article. I wrote it for folks like you.
http://www.lohar.com/is_islam_a_cruel_religion.pdf

Muhammad"

Here are some notes to complement some of my comments.

(1) About the verse:

4:35 Men are guardians over women (their wives) because Allah has made some of them excel others, and because men spend on them their wealth. So virtuous women are obedient, and guard the secrets of their husbands with Allah's protection. And as for those on whose part you fear disobedience admonish them and keep away from them in their beds and chastise them. Then if they obey you, seek not a way against them. Surely Allah is High and Great.

Let us ask this question "What does a modern man do with a woman who shows signs of rebellion, i.e., has a tendency to rape young boys or he fears that she likes to show her private parts to strangers?" He gathers evidence, reports to the police, and files for divorce. If there is a case against her she is sent to jail. (If she is pretty and "photogenic" she has a chance of getting off easy but what I stated before is the usual procedure.) Now the Quran is suggesting that the husband should try to rectify the situation before he has to do all the legal stuff. There is of course another thought. The Quran covers even those times when there were no jails and family courts to speak of.

(2) I have taken most of my translations from "The Holy Qur'an with English translation and commentary" by Malik Ghulam Farid, The Oriental and Religious Publishing Corporation Limited, Rabwah, Pakistan, 1969.

(3) I talked about two well meaning persons translating verses of the Quran differently. That is true of the story of Job, as told in the Quran in 38:42-38:45. A lot of Muslims, including myself, translate 38:42- 38:45, somewhat differently from Malik Ghulam Farid, as:

38:42: And remember Our servant Job, when he cried unto his Lord: 'Satan has afflicted me with toil and torment'

38:43: (We directed him) 'Strike with thy foot, here is cool water to wash with and a drink'.

38:44: And We bestowed on him, his family and as many more with them, by way of mercy from Us, and as a reminder for men of understanding.

38:45: And (We advised him) 'Take in thy hand a handful of dry twigs and strike therewith, and break not thy oath.' Indeed, We found him steadfast. An excellent servant was he. Surely he was always turning to God.

This is a somewhat deep topic, I might write about it in a separate article. As a hint for those who are prepared to think, the story of Job, as stated in the verses discussed here, starts with "recall" and that seems to refer to a known and well-established source, and the earlier scriptures have been used for reference in the Quran. The point here, again, is that if the meanings of the verses of the Quran depend upon the perception and knowledge of the reader then there are no grounds for the application of Statistics to the verses of the Quran.

(3) The person never responded to my urging "Go on" in my response to his/her: "> should I go on and on, more about "permission for laying, having sex > with animals, putting man's own wife and daughter for prostitution, > and the rest of the filth with referenced verses from the quran it > self in English and Arabic the open to read?????"

(4). It appears that in what is known as "Bible" today we cannot find the story of Job as told in the Quran. But this does not mean that the Quran is at fault. It simply means that the Bible missed out on some of the stories in an effort to keep showing Job's wife Sitis in a bad light. In what is current Bible we find "Curse God and die" or "Bless God and die" more often than the true story of sacrifice of the lady. If you are in doubt you should read, "Secrets from the lost Bible" by Dr. Kenneth Hanson. According to him there are books that were not canonized to be included in the Bible. On the basis of one he has the following to say: (I am quoting from a passage from page 131 of that book.)

"Of course in the World of Feelings there are allies as well as adversaries. In the traditional story of Job we know very little about his wife---only that she taunts him with the words Barekh Elohim u'met--- literally Bless God and die (Job 2:9). But in the lost Bible she plays a much more prominent role, giving comfort to her husband. For years on end Job sits on his dung heap, immovably defiant. His wife (who, we now learn, is named Sitis) is an active ally in Job's struggle. She becomes a maidservant to a local nobleman, earning bread which she brings to her afflicted spouse. Her sacrifice has a remarkable effect on Job in the battle ground of feeling. He cries: How dare this man subject my wife to servitude!"

Talking of feelings, think of how worried Job could get when she was late. A helpless man can think of all sorts of scenarios and consequently can get angry enough to resolve to beat her up on getting better. That is what the Quran brings to light in just a few verses.

I keep reading the Quran, nearly one quarter of a part at a time, and I try to understand it, but I have not come across anything like what this person hinted at. This could only mean that the person tried

to “appeal” to my being a “Mathematician” in the hope that I would not know much about the Quran. I do not know much about the Quran, but the little I do know is enough, I hope, to repulse attacks like this.