

PLEASE READ the anti-Islamic remarks made by Rabbi Mark S. Miller (Temple Bat Yahm in Newport Beach, CA) in the Daily Pilot (May 19th, 2007) and the response from Imam Sayed Moustafa al-Qazwini, which will be published in the Daily Pilot on Sat., May 26, 2007.

The Daily Pilot is a daily newspaper published by the Los Angeles Times to serve the communities of Newport Beach and Costa Mesa in Orange County, California.

We kindly request that our Brothers and Sisters contact the Daily Pilot for respected comments (see web-links below)

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: Irrational intolerance is a frightening reality

By MARK S. MILLER
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EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the first of weekly columns by local religious leaders. Cindy Trane Christeson's "The Moral of the Story" will continue in this space once a month.

I taught at UC Irvine for 22 years. I am glad to have left a campus that has become fertile ground for hate speech and take pride in joining Chapman University, where discourse is passionate but civil.

Last year, I was invited back to UCI to speak about Israel to several hundred political science students. The ad hominem attacks launched by the Muslim class members, the insults they flung at me, the rage that contorted their faces, indicated an irrationality never to be imagined in a university classroom. Later, the professor confessed his fear that physical violence would explode and that he had considered calling security to protect me as I left.

Muslim students recently sponsored programs geared to whip up a frenzy against Israel. The only democracy in a sea of tyrannical and primitive regimes was likened to Nazi Germany and apartheid in South Africa. It is a crime punishable by imprisonment for a Christian to wear a Cross in Saudi Arabia, and yet this is the culture that attacks Israel for its alleged intolerance.

Islam, a faith profoundly inimical to Western values, divides the world into realms of *dar al Islam*, believers, and *dar al harb*, unbelievers. The Koran of Medina commands: "Then your Lord spoke to His angels and said, 'I will be with you. Give strength to the believers. I will send terror into the unbelievers' hearts, cut off their heads and even the tips of their

fingers!" " We of the West, who affirm, "Love your neighbor as yourself," recoil at the global jihad that daily implements this homicidal Koranic message.

We must condemn speech that descends into vilification. As Lebanese-born Arab reformer Brigitte Gabriel recently said to my congregation, "What is at stake on campuses is our future; the students of today will become tomorrow's leaders."

I tremble.

RESPONSE ARTICLE by Imam Sayed Moustafa al-Qazwini, to be published by the Daily Pilot, Sat., May 26, 2007

(<http://www.dailypilot.com/>)

The reality of today's world is that we are living in a very precarious and unstable time. In every part of the world there is some form of human conflict. We, as spiritual leaders, it is our mission to try to comfort, assure, and give hope to people. Our duty is to build within each soul the human qualities of love, respect, and acceptance of others. I believe that America has the potential to pollinate the fields of religious diversity within her land and carry it world-wide. American religious leaders have already begun to cultivate relations by holding interfaith dialogue, visiting each others place of worship, building joint academic and community ventures, and supporting one another through mutual reverence. Truly, many spiritual leaders are manifesting the over-arching theme of their divine book—Quran, Torah, and Bible—"love your neighbors as yourself." It is not befitting of any spiritual leader, let alone a scholar, to manipulate a passage from the Quran to support a claim that Islam is "inimical" to Western values. For the sake of argument, one could easily apply the same elementary tactic to the Old or New Testament. Would it be worthy of me, to extract out of context, selected cruel and inhumane passages from the Torah or Bible to validate that Jews and Christians also preach violence? How would that benefit me or the world that I live in? What sort of preaching or accuracy would I be promoting? We must stop spewing rhetoric phrases that slander and anathematize a faith that is shared by over a billion peaceful people. Instead of finger pointing, we must work together to find common grounds to develop solutions for the on-going Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Spiritual leaders must not mirror the rage, animosity or prejudice seen in others but rather reflect the rays of ethical justice, compassion, understanding, forgiveness, and most importantly, labor for a peaceful outcome. We must be able to provide a form to genuinely listen to one another respectfully without insult or accusation. Our students of today must have the right leaders to model in order to ensure that they become rightful leaders of tomorrow. It is our duty, as representatives of faith to continue to reach out to others, to find amicable solutions through dialogue, and to heal and strengthen the common bond of man.

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