

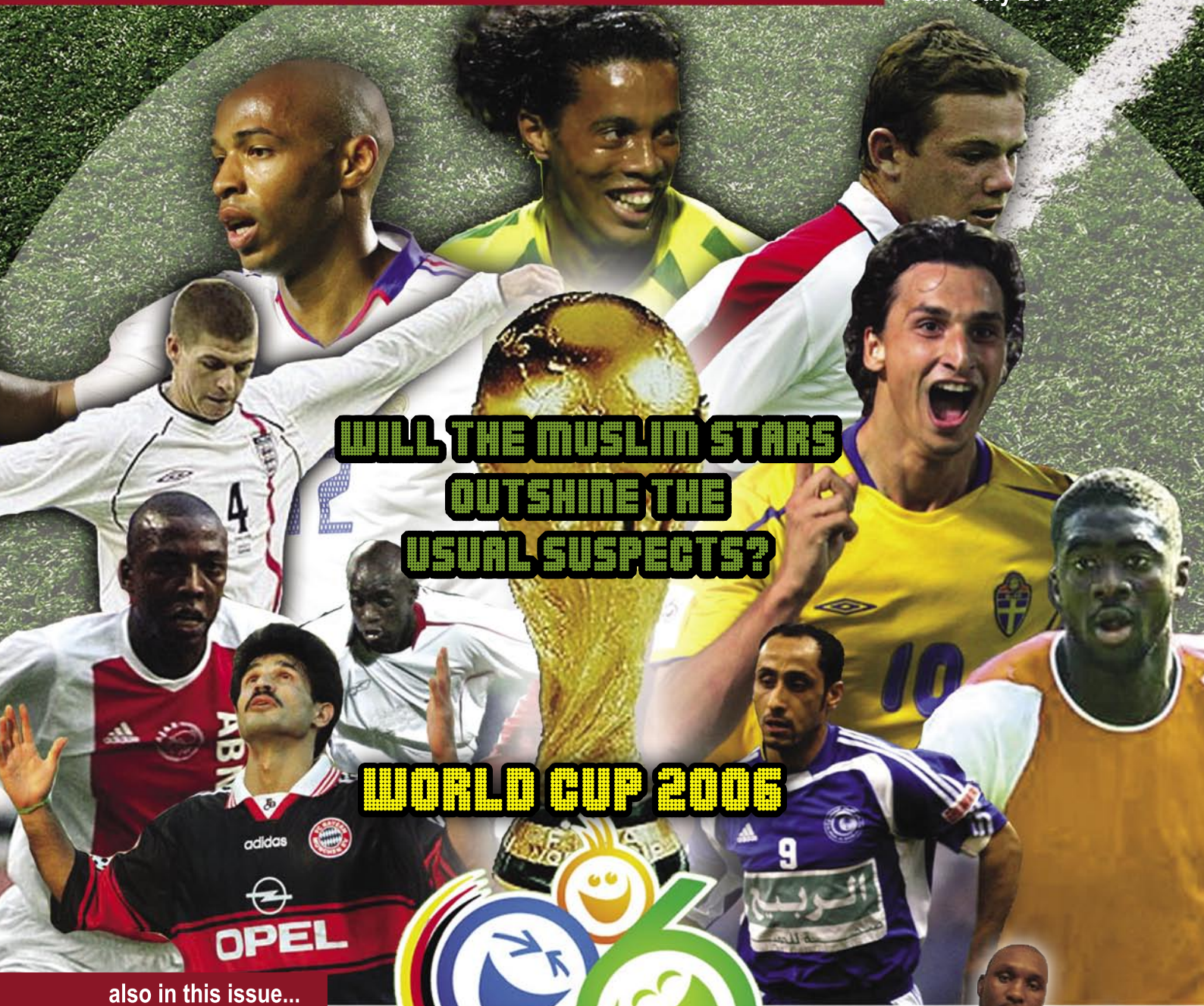
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voice of the muslim youth

Issue 05
June / July 2006



**WILL THE MUSLIM STARS
OUTSHINE THE
USUAL SUSPECTS?**

WORLD CUP 2006

also in this issue...

Cut the culture



CULTURE!



EXTREMISM
mother of all beasts



Danny Williams EXCLUSIVE interview



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In a dark dark world there was a dark dark country. In the dark dark country there was a dark dark newspaper. In the dark dark offices of the dark dark newspaper, the dark dark Editor had a dark dark idea. He decided to set up a dark dark competition to make some dark dark caricatures of the Prophet of Islam. His dark dark intentions being to test whether Muslims would be able to accept this dark dark vision.

Enough of the fairy tale! The Muslim reaction was anger. Understandably so. Yes some Muslims went too far with their protest by rioting, threatening, kidnapping and hijacking! However, the

thing most non-Muslims did not understand was why the reaction was two months down the line. Was it politically motivated? Was it extremists jumping onto a bandwagon? Was it terrorists trying to cause a reaction? Was it Muslims trying to silence their critics? It was actually because the diplomatic approach had been rejected. The Danish Prime Minister refused to even meet ambassadors of Muslim countries (who wanted to discuss these caricatures as well as other worrying trends they had noticed in a smearing campaign against Muslims and Islam), let alone take any action. Secondly, something else happened. Other European newspapers had seen the ruckus, and decided to chip in. They decided to republish the caricatures, knowing full well that it was deeply offensive to every single Muslim in the whole world. The insult was not bound to any particular state. The reaction that followed was not bound to any country either.

In the ensuing carnage there were massive protests, both peaceful and not. People died. Embassies were burnt. Countries were sanctioned. And cookies were renamed. Come again? Cookies renamed? Yes, just like in the good old US of A French Fries were renamed Freedom Fries, in Iran, Danish cookies were renamed... wait for it... 'Rose of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) cookies'. Apparently they were too delicious to boycott.

Freedom of speech?

The paper cried freedom of speech. And that it had every right to print the caricatures. It was later revealed that the same paper had (rightly) refused to print caricatures insulting Christians. As a response an Iranian paper decided to have its own competition. To take the mickey out of the holocaust. When the Editor of the Danish paper said he had no qualms to reprint such caricatures, he was suddenly placed on leave due to the unbearable strain on him. Or was it because he had taken freedom of speech too far planning to mock the holocaust?

Editorial:

Where is freedom of speech?

The people who have defended the newspapers who printed or reprinted the cartoons seem to be on the freedom of speech mantra. It is implied that Muslims want to limit freedom of speech, and subvert society. It is suggested Muslims have no problem about insulting others, but are touchy when it comes to commenting on Muslims.

What should be made public is that Islam is against the ridicule of any religion just for the sake of it. We are asked not to insult other

Freedom to insult?

religions as it will result with Islam and Muslims being insulted. What is also forgotten by such people is that the freedom of speech is already limited here. Recently a person was fined 50 quid for using the 'f' word. No, not 'freedom', but the other one. That is not the only way in which freedom of speech is already curtailed:

- Official Secrets Act. Secret service officer was imprisoned for publicising unsavoury activities done in the name of the British people.
- Race relations laws which prevent speech and actions of a certain type.
- New anti-terror legislation which prevents any utterances which may be deemed to 'glorify terrorism'.
- EU blasphemy laws in regards to Christianity.
- Nick Griffin / Abu Hamza trials in regards to their hate filled speeches
- To deny the holocaust is illegal in certain countries and you can be jailed. British historian David Irving was sentenced to three years under Austrian law for denying the existence of the holocaust.

What happened to freedom of speech there?

What should be done?

Everyone should be given an equal footing. Everyone is protected apart from Religious groups- or should I say Muslims and Islam. In a fair society religions should all be covered in laws which do not allow ridicule. Fair comments, and constructive criticisms as a part of a larger debate should be allowed, but extreme ridicule just to cause offence should be banned. After all even freedom of speech would not allow someone to run through a packed cinema or theatre shouting 'fire!'. Unless there was really a fire.

If European countries like Holland, Finland, Austria, Spain and Ireland have blasphemy laws then the UK, France, Denmark and the rest should follow suit.

Note:

For further information on this subject please read 'A call to prevent a clash of civilisations' by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tahir ul Qadri. Available on The Revival website.

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The Revival Team

Cut the CULTURE!

By Alveena Salim

Culture, what exactly is it? Well even though you might think it's got nothing to do with you; you are in fact surrounded by culture all the time – be it the culture of your parents/grandparents or the western 'British' culture. Culture is the outward expressions of your values, beliefs, lifestyle etc. So from that point of view if culture is just basically your way of doing things then Islam can be your culture right? Yep too right it can and so it should be! But it ain't always as simple as that – you all have probably experienced or know someone who has been caught up in the clash between Islam and culture; this is when the culture from back home is mixed in with Islam and this in turn causes a major confusion. The line between Islam and culture becomes blurred and that's when your mind starts to boggle!

Culture of our parents

It all started round about the 50's and 60's when our parents or grandparents decided to come over here in order to work and make some cash. Not intending to stay forever they began working but ended up calling their families over and we've been here ever since. Now when our elders came here they also brought along with them their culture i.e. their lifestyle, traditions and general customs. Certain aspects of this culture have stayed with us whether Islamic or not and this is where the potential problems arise. When parents/grandparents arrived here they were very careful and tried their best to hold on to their values and beliefs and when the third generation of Muslims were born in Britain and consequently exposed to the Western culture, understandably parents/grandparents started getting a wee bit worried.

Many of us don't realise and appreciate the big sacrifice that our parents/grandparents had to make in order to move here and if we did then maybe we would better understand their motives for always wanting to protect us! I mean imagine arriving in a totally alien land where the people of the land have a different lifestyle altogether – wouldn't you be nervous about raising your children in such a place? Yeah I thought you would, so it's not right for us to totally look down on our parents/grandparents and see them as being 'backward'.

National culture v Islamic culture

So we've established that it was hard for our parents to move here but the real issue here is the outcome of this great move and more importantly how does it affect us? Cos we're born in Britain and are more familiar with the 'Western' lifestyle, some of us may find it difficult to empathise with many aspects of our parents' culture. For instance why do Asian brides always throw rice at weddings? I mean that's just a waste of totally good food!! OK maybe I'm being too picky but you have to admit some parts of the Asian culture just don't make sense. On a more serious note some aspects of culture from many countries actually contradict the teachings of Islam but are nearly always done in the name of Islam.

So What is Islamic Culture?

You may be asking what is Islamic culture then? Well its simple really: its any aspect of culture that does not contradict the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah, and is not an official part of another religion.

Forced Marriages

One of the main dilemmas emerging out of many cultures that faces most youth is the ever-bugging forced marriage. We've all heard the horror stories about fathers beating their daughters or even killing them in the name of 'honour', and all this is linked to the idea of forced marriages. We may not personally know of any crazy fathers like these (hopefully!) but I'm sure many of us are familiar with the concept. Whether it is force by physical abuse or emotional blackmail – it is totally forbidden in Islam. Islam makes itself crystal clear on this issue. The Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) has made it clear to us that force and marriage do not mix, as stated in this hadith: al-Khansa' bint Khidam said: "My father married me to his nephew, and I did not like this match, so I complained to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh). He said to me: 'Accept what your father has arranged.' I said, 'I do not wish to accept what my father has arranged.' He said, 'Then this marriage is invalid, go and marry whomever you wish.' I said, 'I have accepted what my father has arranged, but I wanted women to know that fathers have no right in their daughter's matters (i.e. they have no right to force a marriage on them).'" [Ibn Majah, 1:602]

So if Islam doesn't allow forced marriages then why do some parents practise it?

There can be a number of reasons for this, one being lack of knowledge. Parents may not fully realise that what they are doing is wrong or it may be that they are just scared of the Western culture influencing their children so they become too strict in their ways purely because they want to protect you and in such cases it is up to you to inform them. But this does not mean you can disrespect, shout at or unnecessarily hurt your parents. Islam instructs us to deal with our parents with kindness, love and with utmost respect at all times even in a situation like this. Parents can NOT force their kids into marriage, so educate them with love and if they still try to force you into marriage then get a religious, respected and educated member of the community to talk to them



Culture in Islamic weddings

There is nothing wrong with culture as long as it doesn't contradict Islamic teachings. But amongst Muslims it's always at a wedding where we cross the line. In most weddings, especially amongst Indo-Pak Muslims we have intermixing, mendi (Henna nights) for men and women, young girls encircling the bride and groom with candles, throwing paint at each other and many other cultural traditions which have come from 'back home' and really have no place in Islam. Muslim weddings should be carried out according to the teachings of Islam.

Sexist culture?

Also there are some aspects of culture that is downright sexist! For example a woman that is divorced is looked down upon!!! The Holy Prophet (pbuh) married women that were divorced and also encouraged divorced women and widows to marry again.

Housework is just for women

..... if a man does it, it affects his 'izzat' (honour). This exists in a lot of cultures worldwide! This crazy culture says that women should only do the housework and men are to come and sit on their backsides all day. Again, this is not very Islamic as the Holy Prophet (pbuh) did his chores himself. If the greatest of creation can do that then who else is to say otherwise.

Walk 10 steps behind your man!

The weirdest thing is when women are expected to walk 10 feet behind their husbands!! Come on now, what's all that about. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the husband and wife walking next to each other in public or even I would say holding hands God forbid!

Girls are locked up!

There seems to be this medieval attitude running through our communities, that girls can't get an education, they should just stay at home and learn how to cook and clean, whilst the boys can doss in the streets, get into trouble, stay out late and do whatever they want with no questions asked. If a guy messes around it's not a biggie but if a girl is seen with a boy by a nosy auntie she's brought "shame on the family". Such ridiculous sexist attitudes stem from the time a child is born - when a boy is born it's laddu (sweets) all around but if a girl is born it's not a big deal or even a 'bad' thing! It's sad and difficult to believe this still goes on considering Allah warned us against it in the Quran 1400-odd years ago: "whenever any of them is given the glad tidings of [the birth of] a girl, his face darkens, and he is filled with suppressed anger. Avoiding all people because of the [alleged] evil of the glad tidings which he has received, [and debating within himself:] Shall he keep this [child] despite the

contempt [which he feels for it]-or shall he bury it in the dust? Old, evil indeed is whatever they decide!" [Surah 16: Verses 58-59]

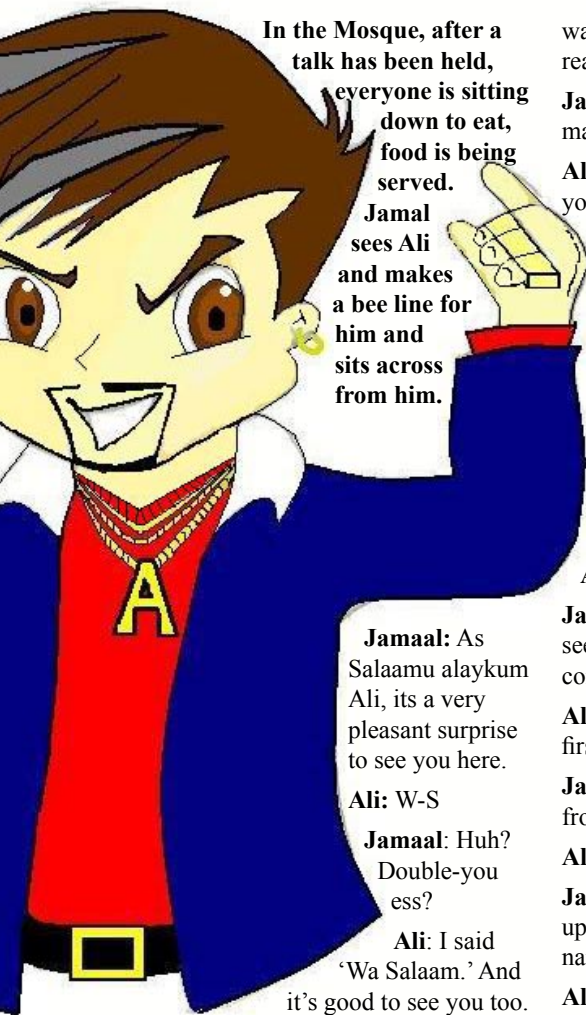
So people need to snap out of this ancient mentality and realise that Islam is NOT a sexist religion, far from it in fact! Morality is equally prescribed for both girls and boys - an un-Islamic act committed by a man or a woman carries the same amount of sin; the idea that if a man sins it ain't too bad but if a woman does it then it's really bad is unacceptable! In the sight of God men and women are equal when it comes to reward and punishment. Also, it is an Islamic duty for every man AND woman to gain knowledge, religious or secular, so there's nothing at all wrong with a girl getting an education or pursuing a career.

Parents to blame?

Also parents need to take a reality check and remember their own youth (even though it may seem like yonks ago). Most of our parents couldn't afford an education in the first place and so the men went out to work and the women spent their time doing the housework, which was the norm of that time. So, parents can not expect their kid to be the perfect, traditional Paki, Guji, Bengali etc. Hadrat Ali (ra) said "Bring up your children differently to how you were brought up as they are from a different time".

Follow Islam- You can't go wrong!

In short there is nothing wrong with following ones culture as long as it doesn't go against Islam. So yeah you can still eat the food, wear the traditional clothes (I don't mean the sleeveless, skin-tight shalwaar kameez!) and speak your language etc. coz there's nothing wrong with all that. At the same time there's nothing wrong if you don't follow some aspects of your culture - you ain't a bad Muslim if you prefer wearing loose jeans/top or a loose skirt and top instead of the traditional Shalwaar kameez, prefer chips to curry and would rather speak English! Islam is more than that - as long as the core beliefs of Islam are maintained then it's all kool and the rest can sort itself out!



In the Mosque, after a talk has been held, everyone is sitting down to eat, food is being served. Jamal sees Ali and makes a bee line for him and sits across from him.

Jamaal: As Salaamu alaykum Ali, its a very pleasant surprise to see you here.

Ali: W-S

Jamaal: Huh? Double-you ess?

Ali: I said 'Wa Salaam.' And it's good to see you too.

Jamaal: Aww thanks, really though it's amazing that you're here.

Ali: Its nothing, I got a text saying there was food and...the rest is history.

Jamaal: Well the important thing is that you're here; just being in a Mosque is a rewardable act.

Ali: Bonus, I get rewarded from God and I get a Scran, now that's what I'm talking about.

Jamaal: err...exactly; you should stay positive...like the Shaykh!

Ali: Where is it? I'll have a mango or strawberry Shake.

Jamaal: No no, I meant the Shaykh who just gave the talk, as in learned Shaykh not a Milkshake.

Ali: What? Make your self clear next time bro me was well lookin forward to a shake, I can taste it now its your fault.

[Jamaal takes out his mild frustration on the food]

Jamaal: You look great! What you been doing?

Ali: Sick bro, I met someone, and we're talking about marriage-

Jamaal: [Cough] [Cough] [Splutter]

Ali: WOAH, JAM! I ain't never seen anyone cough curry out through their nose before!

Jamaal: That is so amazing, Masha Allah I am really glad for you! Really?

Ali: Yeah bro, I've seen people choking on

water, or sneezing in their biryani, but for real you did something next level!

Jamaal: NO! The marriage, so you're gonna marry then?

Ali: Easy Bro, I know you Molvi types like your food but you ain't rushing me into getting married just so you can have some scran. I was talking to this guy I know he was telling me about his rishtah!

Jamaal: Oh right, sorry, sorry...so your giving advice to others when you going to take some advise and get married...to a nice girl?

Ali: Nah mate, I got all my all my chilling to do first!

Jamaal: Like what?

Ali: er...I want to see the world.

Jamaal: So marry someone and you can see the world together, a wife and traveling companion.

Ali: Yeah, but I wanna make bare dollars first.

Jamaal: No Problem, a wife won't stop you from making money.

Ali: No but she'll spend it pretty quick.

Jamaal: Ah I see your point. I could set you up with a girl from back home, easy maintenance n all that.

Ali: ...No woman is easy maintenance bro they just eat your money.

Jamaal: Okay, but did you know The Holy Prophet SAW has said that 'marriage is half of Deen'?

Ali: Okay...erm...but, I wanna work on the other half first.

Jamaal: You're not really going for the whole marriage thing are you?"

Ali: To tell you the truth Jam, I'm scared. If I get married, no more getting up at half twelve in the afternoon, and no more crazy nights with the boyz, no more reckless driving in the Pakimobile with the boyz...I'll go under Jam! I don't wanna GO UNDER! Don't let me go under! Please!

Jamaal: Shhh bro, everyone is looking at us... [Pause] Marriage ain't no prison sentence

Ali: Seems to look like one though

Jamaal: Look bro, Islam teaches us that the man and the woman are a perfect pair, some things the man has a degree of advantage and in something's the woman does. But together they're a team, a match made in heaven.

Ali: so what you're saying, is that if I get married, she can cook I'll eat, I'll make a mess n she will clean and wash up after me?... Wow marriage sounds good now.

Jamaal: Uh...we're getting there...

Jamaal:...Could you pass me some coke bro?

Ali: WHAT? In here? Look Jam I got none of that stuff! It's no good for you Jam! Drugs are HARAAM...aren't they?

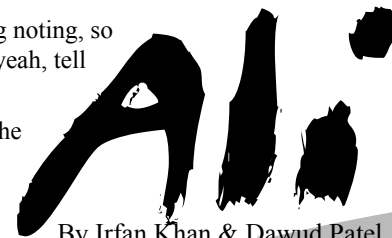
Jamaal: What are you on about? There's a bottle right next to you.

Ali: Oh righth, coke. Ha-ha, sure no problem, ha-ha here you go.

Jamaal: Jazaakallah Khayr brother...So what d'you think I meant?

Ali: Noting noting, so marriage, yeah, tell me more.

Jamaal: The first objective of the Islamic law of



marriage is that it protects the morals of the people. Islam forbids adultery and fornication, so it gives you a legit alternative which is then a rewardable act.

The second objective is the relationship should be based on mutual love cooperation of love, mercy and kindness for each other, so they may enjoy the happiness and peace vital for a healthy society.

The first woman was made from the rib of the first man to be by his side, and from his left rib to be near and protect his heart, and so that together the man and woman find completeness in each other.

Allah SWT says in the Qur'an how everything is made in pairs and so it really is the natural way.

[Ali digests more than just the food.]

Ali: Well I would like to settle with some nice girl.

Jamaal: That's good.

Ali: A nice house.

Jamaal: Excellent.

Ali: A few kids.

Jamaal: Beautiful.

Ali: But not yet.

Jamaal: Why.

Ali: I'm the heart break kid bro, me break enough women's hearts if me gets married, now me can't do that can I?

Jamaal: you don't know the half of it, fire underneath you, and hell fire above. Hot enough to melt your skin off.

Ali: Easy bro...

Jamaal: Is it too REAL for you?

Ali: Nah bro, it's just the whole skin melting thing, y'know I'm trying to eat an all.

Jamaal: I'm sorry; does the idea of your skin melting put you off your food? DO want to be drinking BLOOD and PUSS???

Ali: What you chattin' about you muppet?

Jamaal: HELL!!

Ali: Don't swear bro we're in a Mosque, and what's with the blood drinking talk, I ain't no vampire! Vampires are Kaafir...right?

Jamaal: Do you want to burn in HELL? Ali, because messing around with girls and having a bit on the side without getting married is a good way to book a reservation.

Jamaal

Ali: What? Talk sense fool, you trying to send me to Hell!

Jamaal: Not me brother, it's the devil that's trying. Hell ain't too pretty: "Thus. Then will they taste it – a boiling fluid and a filthy fluid of pus and blood and other penalties of a similar kind to match them." [Quran.38: 57-58]

Ali: Okay now you're scaring me.

Jamaal: WOMAN is the last arrow of Shaytaan, when he runs out of tricks and disguises to throw at you; he uses the trap of women!

Ali: What you mean the trap of women?

Jamaal: The shaytan will tempt you into doing haram things and seen as men are weak and pathetic he will use the lure of women to make you do something that goes against Islam.

Ali: So I guess the Devil will be tempting the women too by using a good looking guy like me?

Jamaal: You wish....So if you wanna put the smack down on The Devil, you gotta get married, that's why its 1/2 of your faith. Marriage stops you from doing so many wrongs if you go into marriage with the right frame of mind.

Ali: Right, so if I wanna give him a knock out blow or a big kick in the nuts then I should get married three more times!

Jamaal: I like your Taqwa, but if you plan on staying in this country, you have to obey the law of the land, and that means only one wife at a time.

Ali: Yeah, you're right four wives would be serious head-ache.

Jamaal: True, Were not allowed to take more than one wife Islamically, if there is a fear we wouldn't be able to treat them all fairly and justly.

Ali: That wouldn't be too easy, all that make up to buy, the latest fashion accessories, the new clothes.....someone grab me I'm gonna faint.

Jamaal: Marriage is a blessing upon us, it is mentioned as a blessed and rewarding thing in Allah SWT Qur'an, and it is the pious Sunnah of Our Beloved Prophet SAW. It leads to children, which are the mercy of Allah SWT, and a nourishing society.

Ali: Whoa that's tight. I'z gonna give that some proper heavy thought.

Jamaal: Really? You'll actually consider getting married.

Ali: Well I'm not saying I want to get married right now, but I don't think I'll be saying 'no' forever.

Jamaal: That's encouraging to hear.

Ali: So tell the molvi Saab the program was really good.

Jamaal: You liked it, aww that's beautiful.

Ali: Yeah, the way it started with rice and then the curry, and then some potato put in here and there, then how he wrapped it all up at the end with a small piece of naan. Genius. Left a warm glow inside of me...I gotta order here more often.

Jamaal: Have some water bro before that warm glow turns into a raging fire....

Ali: You know what Jam? I fink you'd make a proper good husband....

Jamaal: Thanks Ali.

Ali: ...To some molvi type woman!

[Ali cracks up laughing]

Jamaal: I don't know why you're laughing bro, that's a really nice compliment!

Ali: What? Don't you want a good looking wife?

Jamaal: Of course I do.

Ali: Okay you're confusing me, if you want a good looking wife, shouldn't you go for someone sexy.

Jamaal: Hey, we're in a Mosque.

Ali: Right...yeah.

Jamaal: You can have a beautiful pious wife, The Beloved Prophet SAW said "A woman is married for four reasons, her wealth, lineage, status and Deen. Choose the one who is religious." (Sahih al-Bukhari).

Ali: Whoa, that's like the best of both worlds.

Jamaal: You said it; the first marriage took place in paradise and lasted into this world and it works the other way too. Islam tells us that in paradise a wife will still be married with her husband, not just that but just being with your wife is a rewardable act that can lead you to paradise. Just a look of tenderness passed between husband and wife is a rewardable act as well as a divine blessing!

Ali: That's beautiful Jam, truly.

Jamaal: You should marry a molvi Ali.

Ali: You meant 'Molvi type wife' right?

Jamaal: Have lots of beautiful kids.

Ali: Actually I was thinking of having ugly ones.....of course I want beautiful kids.

Jamaal: No, what I meant is that, if you have pious children they are blessings for you; even after you kick the bucket. Their good deeds can redeem you from the hellfire or raise your Station in Paradise. They can ask forgiveness on your behalf, so you would get rewarded for being blessed with molvi



type children.

Ali: Yeah that all sounds sick, in a good way, but why do we have to marry our cousins?

Jamaal: Uh...you don't. I know there are some people who say you can only marry your cousins, but that's not true, it is permissible for Muslims to marry their cousins but they can also marry other people too.

Ali: What about these people, who say you, gotta marry someone in your same caste?

Jamaal: Yeah that's true; they're called Hindu's, its haram for us to marry them.

Ali: What??? But I heard Muslims saying they got to marry in the caste?

Jamaal: No for real, only the Hindu's have castes. The Muslims believe all men are equal in the sight of Allah SWT except in piety, and we believe having different family names doesn't make you un-pious.

Ali: Okay one more question...What about goats? Is that halaal?

Jamaal: Goats? Yes, they make great food

Ali: No...er... I mean to marry one? Cos I read about this guy who was made to marry a goat.

[Jamaal chokes]

Ali: Hey! You just did the curry out your nose trick again!...

TO PROPHET

By Sajid Iqbal

AN IDIOT'S GUIDE

“MOHAMMED IS THE GUY MUSLIMS WORSHIP INNIT?”

No. Muslims do not worship Muhammad (peace be upon him) or any other prophets. Muslims believe in all prophets including Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, Solomon, Moses and Jesus. Muslims believe that Muhammad (pbuh) was the last of the prophets. They believe that God alone is to be worshipped, not any human being.

“SO THEN... WHO WAS HE?”

In brief, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was born in Mecca in Arabia in the year 570 AD. His ancestry goes back to Prophet Ishmael, son of Prophet Abraham. His father died before his birth and his mother died when he was six. He was raised first by a nurse as it was the custom in those days, and then by his grandfather and uncle.

As a young man, he was known as a righteous person who used to meditate in a cave. At the age of 40 he was given the first revelation, when the angel Gabriel appeared in the cave. Subsequently, the revelations came over 23 years and were eventually compiled in the form of a book called the Quran.

“DIDN'T MOHAMMED WRITE THE QURAN?”

No. The Quran was revealed to the Prophet (pbuh) through the Angel Gabriel. It is the record of the exact words revealed by God to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The revelations were memorised by the Prophet (pbuh) and then dictated to his companions. The Quran has been preserved, unchanged, in its original form and confirms the truth in the Torah, the Psalms and the Gospel. The Quran is also proven scientifically because it contains hundreds of scientific facts and statements which have only been discovered in the last 100 years or so. This clearly proves that the Quran is work of NO man

“WHY DO MUSLIMS ALWAYS BANG ON ABOUT MOHAMMED?”

The prophet (pbuh) is the most important figure in the lives of Muslims. Muslims respect him and follow the example he left behind. The prophet (pbuh) is the person who brought to us the religion we follow. He taught us the purpose of life, how to live our lives, and how to treat ourselves and others. He is our role model and we follow his example, known as “Sunnah”, which is documented in books of “Hadith”.

“SUNNAH? HADITH? IS THAT THE LATEST FASHION MAN OR WHAT, LIKE GUCCI AND ARMANI?”

No, it's not. 'Sunnah' is what the Prophet (pbuh) did, said or approved of. Hadith are recorded tra-

ditions relating to the sayings and doings of the Prophet (pbuh) which are available today in book form in almost every language.

“BUT WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HIM? WHAT DID HE DO THAT WAS SO SPECIAL?”

You see, the Prophet (pbuh) liberated the slaves and protected the weak. He gave equal rights to women and gave the world the concept of the equality of mankind. The Prophet (pbuh) was the first human in history to give universal suffrage (votes to every adult). He gave the first written constitution to mankind, consisting of 60 articles. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the first person in history to give rights to prisoners of wars (PoWs). These were revolutionary and historical actions, which gave rights to each person in every society for all time.

You know why he's so special? Coz he wasn't only a teacher, preacher and propagator of moral values but he practised them in his own life as well. He provided us with moral values, moral behaviour, human values and etiquette which are practised world-wide to this day. He was a Prophet, a political leader, a military leader, a judge, a religious and spiritual leader, a teacher and a perfect personality for all to follow.

“AIN'T THE TEACHINGS OF MOHAMMED OUT OF DATE? COME ON MAN, 1400 YEARS IS ANCIENT!”

When you study his life you get practical guidance and an ideal role model on how to act as a husband, father, brother, neighbour, teacher, ruler, reformer, judge and as a human being... I would say very up to date! Anybody and everybody can get light from following the lifestyle of the holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

The Prophet (pbuh) gives clear teachings to resolve modern day problems such as racism, tribalism, sectarianism, hunger, homelessness, poverty, teenage pregnancies, single parent families, rape, child abuse, drugs and alcohol abuse, world peace, environmental health and many more. So NO, the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) are definitely relevant today and most certainly NOT out of date.

“DIDN'T MOHAMMED HATE NON MUSLIMS?”

He acted with mercy and compassion even to those who came to attack him. Many attempts were made to kill the Prophet (pbuh). His followers and supporters were tortured and killed. He and his supporters had sanctions put on them and were boycotted by the rest of Mecca. He had animal excrement thrown on him whilst in prayer. He was stoned by children in Mecca and was badly injured. He went through many periods of bitter starvation. He had to leave his

MUHAMMAD

(PBUH)

homeland and migrate to Medina to escape the persecutions in Mecca. The Prophet was called a madman and ridiculed. BUT HE NEVER INSULTED ANYONE. HE NEVER SHOWED HATE TOWARDS ANY OF HIS ENEMIES. HE SIMPLY FORGAVE THEM AND HE OFFERED THEM LOVE AND COMPASSION.

“DIDN'T MOHAMMED HATE CHRISTIANS AND JEWS?”

Again, he taught the exact opposite. Islam tells us that Jews and Christians are “people of the Book”. By the book it means those that also received divine scriptures. Muslims are told to treat them with respect and justice and not to fight with them. Let's look at the classic example from the life of the Prophet (pbuh):

Once a group of Christian priests were in Medina. They needed a place to stay so they went to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). He said you can stay at my house. He cooked them dinner and made them welcome. Soon it was the time for the Christians to pray, the Prophet (pbuh) took them to the Mosque of the Prophet and said you can do your worship here.

“DIDN'T MOHAMMED TEACH VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM?”

Now that's a joke. He taught the absolute opposite of this. Just listen to some of his teachings:

“The faithful is he in whom people place their confidence about their property and life”. (Tirmizi)

“A perfect Muslim is one from whose tongue and hands mankind is safe.”

‘It is unworthy of a Muslim to injure people's reputations: and it is unworthy to curse any one: and it is unworthy to abuse any one: and it is unworthy of a Muslim to talk arrogantly.’

Faith is a restraint against all violence, let no Muslim commit violence.’

The Prophet Muhammad was asked; ‘what actions are most excellent in Islam?’ He replied: ‘To gladden the heart of a human being, to feed the hungry, to help the afflicted, to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful, and to remove the wrongs of the injured.’

Some people asked Allah's messenger : ‘who is a very good Muslim?’ He replied: ‘one who avoids harming the people with his tongue and hands.’ ‘A believer remains within the scope of his religion as long as he doesn't kill another person illegally.’

Now does that sound like a man of violence and terrorism or a great man of peace? Terrorism goes against every principle in Islam. If a Muslim engages in terrorism he is not following Islam and is contradicting the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). They may be using the name of Islam for political or financial gain.

“I AIN'T HEARD NO BIG NON-MUSLIM ‘BIG UP’ MOHAMMED?”

Michael H Hart.

‘The 100: A Ranking of the most influential Persons in History’. New York: Hart Publishing Company, Inc. 1978: ‘My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular level.’

Lamartine

A French historian writes in his book, History of Turkey, p. 276:

‘...Philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, warrior, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational beliefs, of a cult without images; the founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire, that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?’

Mahatma Ghandi

When I closed the second volume (of the Prophets biography) I was sorry that there was not more for me to read of a great life.’

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

I have studied him - the wonderful man and in my opinion far from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Saviour of Humanity.”

“IF MOHAMMED WAS REALLY A TOP PROPHET AND THAT... THEN WHY DON'T CHRISTIANS, JEWS AND OTHERS MENTION HIM IN THEIR BOOKS?”

Well.... actually they do. The Prophet (pbuh) is mentioned in Hindu scriptures, Buddhist scriptures, Torah and the Bible.(See The Revival website for further details)

“DID PROPHET MOHAMMED PERFORM MIRACLES LIKE PROPHET JESUS DID?”

Yes he did. He performed hundreds of miracles which was one of the proofs that he was a true Prophet of God. (See The Revival website for further details)

“WHY DID MUSLIMS MAKE A BIG DEAL OF SOME STUPID CARTOONS?”

Muslims see the Prophet (pbuh) as a role model and follow his every teaching. The cartoons insulted the prophet and portrayed him as a terrorist. So obviously Muslims were upset and angry. But it should be crystal clear that those Muslims who protested with violence, shooting, killing, hijacking and threatening to kill others have totally contradicted the exact teachings of the prophet they were protesting for.

The World Cup. Its great innit! We all fool ourselves that our national team is gonna win. We all support the under-dog. We all support teams like Nigeria in their matches against European rivals. We all shout ingerluund! ingerluuund! iingggerlundddd!. But lets face it. We all know Brazil is gonna win.

So what really matters is which players makes a name for themselves, which nations are disgraced (2002: France- no goals!), and which TV Channel has the most viewers! All in the name of footballing glory.

The Revival has got world cup fever like nearly everyone else on the globe, and we did our research to see who would be representing Islam and Muslims, and who may set the world alight this summer in Germany. There were many Muslim footballers such as West Brom's Kanu, the Spurs duo of Mido and Naybet and Birmingham City's Muzzy Izzet whose countries, unfortunately, didn't make it to the biggest sporting event in the world. But there are quite a few Muslims who will be playing in the World Cup and The Revival has dug out the top players to look out for:



the revival

WORLD

CUP

2006

guide

By Hayder Khan

Robin Van Persie – HOLLAND

The 23 year old Arsenal striker moved to the Premiership a few seasons ago and has forced himself into the Arsenal first team alongside the mind blowing Thierry Henry. He's a player with bags of potential and is one of the brightest prospects around, and should be playing in the Dutch attack. Robin is believed to have reverted to Islam as a result of a close friendship with his school's Moroccan caretaker. He could be one of the young stars who could win the World Cup for Holland.



Sami al Jaber- SAUDI ARABIA

Sami Al Jaber, who spent a short loan spell in English football with Wolverhampton Wanderers, is a Saudi footballing superstar. He has played for his country for half his life having made his debut as a 17-year-old. Al Jaber scored his first national goal on his debut in 1990 and the 2006 finals will be his fourth World Cup tournament. In 1994 he also scored against Morocco in a 1-0 win to secure the nation's first ever victory in the World Cup finals.



SO WHO ELSE TO WATCH OUT FOR?

Kolo Toure- IVORY COAST

Regarded as the second fastest player at Arsenal, second only to Thierry Henry. Toure has established himself as one of the best defenders in the world. He will be representing Ivory Coast, who have gone from strength to strength and are capable of causing a few upsets. The 25 year old is a born Muslim, and he will be playing alongside his younger brother Yaya Toure – who is also another Muslim looking to use this tournament as a chance to impress and earn himself a move to a big club.



Zlatan Ibrahimovic – SWEDEN

Swedish international striker currently playing for Juventus in Italian Serie A. The Swedish multi-million pound striker was voted the 8th best player in the world last year! He is easily the main player in the Swedish squad and if Sweden are to go far then a lot is expected from Ibrahimovic. He will be facing England so he's definitely one to watch out for. England manager Eriksson rates him highly saying: "If Zlatan Ibrahimovic goes on like he does at the moment, he will be the best in the world."

Khalid Boulahrouz -HOLLAND

Another Muslim in the Dutch squad! Plays for Hamburger SV and is a major part of Netherlands national football team. His nickname in Hamburg is Khalid der Kannibale ("Khalid the Cannibal") for his ability to "eat up" the opposition. He moved to Hamburger SV at the start of the 2004/05 season and his impressive displays made Marco van Basten pick him for the Netherlands national football team.



Ali Daei – IRAN

Iranian legendary striker who will be leading the line at the world cup. Daei is most noted for being the world's all-time leading goal scorer in international matches. Daei ran many charitable organisations and used a great deal of his money in support of the less fortunate. He has made very significant charitable donations and has made appearances in charitable football matches world-wide including featuring in the World vs. Bosnia match with Roberto Baggio and other football legends.

Hatem Trabelsi- TUNISIA

The 25-year-old defender, got his dream move when top Dutch side Ajax came in for him at the start of the 2001/02 season. The defender began his career as a right-sided forward and can provide a useful ball into the opposing penalty area. He recently made his debut at the 2002 African Nations Cup. His attacking prowess may give Tunisia an added dimension at the World Cup finals.



He may not be Muslim (yet!!) but Wayne Rooney is already being tipped to be the World Cup hero, and the 20 year old undoubtedly has the potential to be one of football's greats. Lionel Messi, one of Argentina's tidiest players (geddit?!), is already a Barcelona regular and he is tipped to be the new Maradona.

All eyes will be on Ronaldiniho, Thierry Henry, United's Ronaldo and Van Nistelroy and Germany's own world star Michael Ballack.

Who's gonna win it? The Muslim countries of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia or Iran? Nah, Brazil or England of course!

VOICE OF THE MUSLIM YOUTH:

WHAT ROLE DOES ISLAM PLAY IN YOUR LIFE?

The Revival has travelled across the UK to speak to young Muslims about the role of Islam in their everyday lives:

Name: Sara **Age:** 21, **Location:** Bolton

Islam is my passion. My life revolves around my Islamic commitments, even Uni and work is set around my Islamic timetable. On a weekly basis I attend/lead Islamic circles, manage Islamic websites, organise Islamic programmes and write Islamic articles.

My parents are not happy with the extent of my involvement in Islam (coz I'm never at home!), so its not unusual for me to attend Islamic programmes and tell my parents I'm in a lecture in Uni nor is it unusual for me to sneak out of the house and sit in a late night Zikr when dad is out of the country.

It is because of Islam that I've led a happy, successful, stress free life so far. It's given me extreme respect and love from most people. Islam is also the reason why I'm somewhat anti-marriage at the moment. This is coz I feel that marriage will be the end of most of the Islamic activities that I'm involved in and I don't feel ready to give all that up yet.

Name: Sophia **Age:** 22, **Area:** Bradford.

I was born into a Muslim family and I'm proud to be a Muslim, but I gotta admit I'm very far from Islam. My boyfriend is my main distraction from Islam. I'm currently in a long term relationship and I'm hoping to marry him in the near future. Being with someone who understands me and makes me feel pretty makes me feel good.

I've been through bear crap in my life; my world was turned upside down when I was clocked by my parents and went through hell when they stopped me from going to College and checked up on me 24/7. I realised that I needed to change my ways, so I prayed a lot during that time and asked Allah to get me through that stressful time and he did. My parents eventually forgave me and I realised that my boyfriend was not good for me.

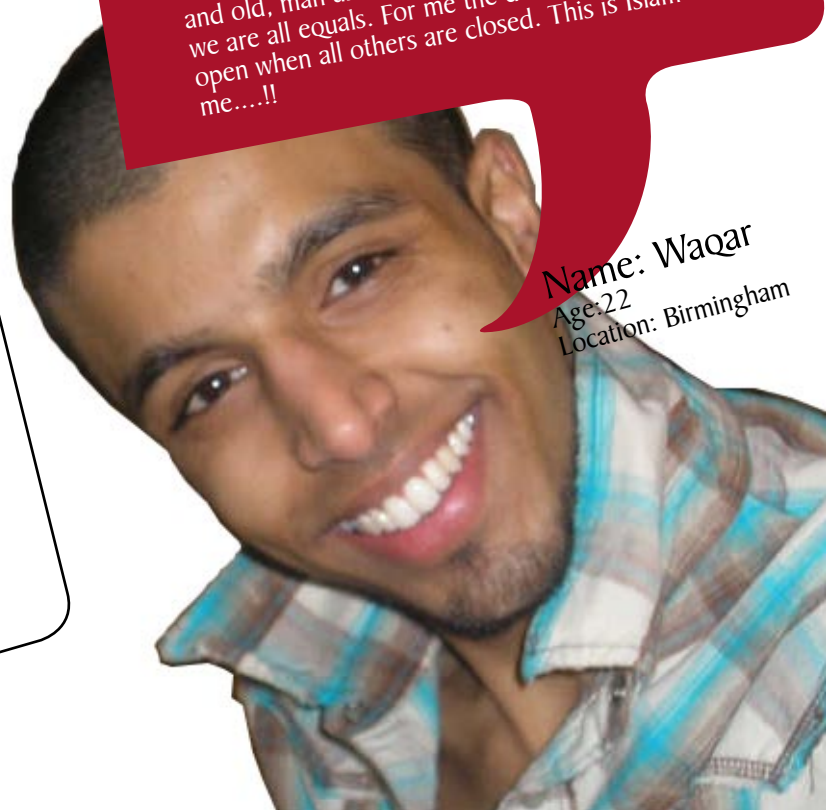
I'm now stricter with my prayers and do try to attend talks sometimes, my only weakness is my boyfriend and I know that if I wasn't with him I'd cover my head too. I intend to become a better Muslim after I get married, so I hope that my boyfriend will encourage me to become a better Muslim.

As a Muslim being brought up and living in Birmingham I felt that I was always a part of not only a British society but an Islamic one also. Where I could easily learn about my religion and at the same time be part of a multi-cultural and multi-faith community where there was a mutual understanding and respect for one another, and I strongly believed and till this day still do that this was Islam for me.

As well as attending a state school at a very young age I also attended a Muslim faith based school. Attending this school when I did, I believe for me was the best thing I did where I not only learnt my duties as a Muslim but also that what Islam had to offer was not only for Muslims but for the whole of mankind. I also learnt the true values of my faith which are that Islam is not only for the Muslim world, it is to be practised wherever we are. Islam for me is not a religion but a way of life.

I am grateful to Allah (SWT) that he gave me the best of way of life to follow and that I am amongst the best of nations. Islam welcomes us all no matter what our race, culture or creed and this is the beauty of Islam. Islam has taught me to respect the young and old, man and woman, parent and teacher, where we are all equals. For me the door of Islam is always open when all others are closed. This is Islam for me....!!

Name: Waqar **Age:** 22 **Location:** Birmingham





Name: Dawud

Age: 18 Location: Manchester

I wake up and I know I am alive coz of the kindness of Allah (swt). When I smile at someone, embrace them or if I am happy with them, I know it's because the kindness of Allah (swt) is showering upon me.

On a more specific level, maybe one of the bigger changes to my life since I became a Muslim is the struggle - Jihad. I try to purify my character, say kind words, wake up early for Fajr prayer and Sehri, to refrain from baseless thoughts, words and actions.

I aspire as much as possible to follow as best as possible the holy Prophet (pbuh)- the height of excellence and beloved of Allah. So as a Muslim, I try to be grateful and repentant to my Allah (swt). I try to serve my fellow man, be gracious to my family and friends, not to envy others but to empathise with the needy and help as best I can.

What role does Islam play in my life? Islam is a way of life, it's my way of life.

Name: Madheia

Age: 19, Location: London

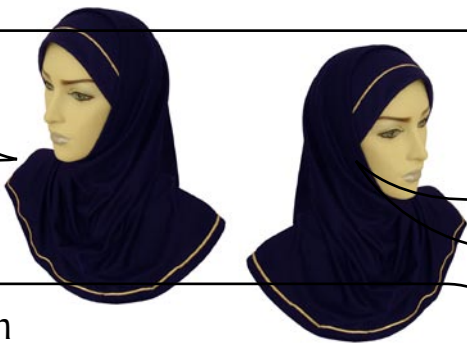
Islam is in my face 24/7. I am close to both my mum and my sister and they just happen to be on the holy moly flex. In their day to day life, they're both always running around, attending/giving lectures and I've got the choice to either go with them or stay home and clean up. I always end up on my jacks miserably cleaning up.

Mum teaches kids every day after school.. And I gotta attend mosque down the road at the same time, I try to bunk mosque by hiding upstairs whilst mums teaching downstairs and when her class finishes, I come downstairs pretending I've been in Mosque the whole time, but sometimes mums too clever for me and comes upstairs to check on me and when she finds me cowering under the bed, she goes psycho on me.

I wear a scarf out of my own choice.. cos deep down inside I should. During high school I used to wear it on and off but when I started sixth form I decided to keep it on at all times.. at times I really wanna take it off, I want my hair to look sleek and straightened just like most girls but my scarf makes it look flat and manky.

Its hard sometimes as I don't wanna be wearing a scarf with tight jeans and short tops but at the same time I don't wanna wear a jilbaab or the traditional shalwar kameez.. so I just spend my monthly pocket money buying the latest high street fashions and trying to make them decent by wearing long tops...

In the future i wish to become practising from my heart.



Name: Sulman

Age: 18, Location: Cardiff

I come from a very religious family. Mum's lectures are about one thing and one thing only-Islam. Mum does everything she can to get me on this flex too. She's always enrolling me into Islamic classes that I always bunk, she even promises to give me £10 if I read all my namaaz for a whole week and grow a beard (which I've done a few times only cos I needed the money).

Mum is always yelling at me to "turn that shaytaan (rude music) off". And we often argue when she hides my MP3 player and refuses to tell me where it is.

My mates and cousin got me into weed. I aint addicted to that crap but I roll up when I'm with them cos they'd think I was gay if I refused.

I'm better than most guys, I read my jummah regularly, I fast in Ramadan, I don't mess about with girls, I don't touch alcohol. I'm just interested in making money and not ending up banged up in jail with no future like most of the scum's in my area.

Name: Humaira

Age: 25, Location: Glasgow

We know that Islam is referred to as Deen - a complete way of life, and not just a religion. So to me, Islam ain't just about praying, fasting and so on...its also about our moral conduct, the education we seek, our worldly actions etc. Islam plays a huge part in my life or so I like to think it does. Two years ago I had no direction, I didn't know where I was heading but this changed when I was in presence of a well renowned eminent scholar. Basically he made me aware that this life is for only a short time, and we shouldn't run around to please the world...rather we should please Allah (swt) so we can benefit in this life and the hereafter. I think about this a lot, and it makes me realise a lot what is important to me and what isn't.

I attend study circles every week where I learn about the life of the Holy Prophet (saw) and the contemporary issues facing the Ummah of today. I also enjoy taking part in organising different Islamic events. Being Part of an organisation gives me aims and objectives it also makes me aware of Allah (swt). Like I said, Islam is a complete way of life so at the moment I am at university where I'm studying. I also spend time with family, go out with friends, and to me Islam means fulfilling your rights but also enjoying your life in a manner that is acceptable in Islam. Islam doesn't limit us in anyway but its the lack of knowledge we have which limits our understanding about Islam.

EXTREMISM: MOTHER OF ALL

By Irfan Khan

Reading, listening or watching the latest news headlines it seems to me that there is always yet another brand that I as a Muslim can fall into. Apart from fundamentalism, terrorism, Islamism (which genius came up with that one?!) etc. I can also fall in to the wider category of 'Moderate' or 'Extremist'. The media has attached so many labels to Muslims that I myself am beginning to wonder what type of Muslim I am.

Am I not just a Muslim? Are not all Muslims the same and don't we believe in the same message and read the same Quran?

But, wait a minute I am appalled by the terrorist bombings that kill innocent people. I can't stand these so called representatives of Islam that promote violence and murder and I disagree with their interpretations and teachings. So that doesn't make me an extremist, so am I a moderate?

Why is it that we read the same Quran and books of Hadith yet a minority of Muslims choose to interpret it so as to justify their wrong actions? Who has given them the right to think what they say is correct, who has given them the right to represent me- where is my voice?

Why am I and millions of Muslims like me not heard? I guess the first answer to that would be we don't sell newspapers and don't make for particularly good reading or television. Who wants to hear about a boring married Muslim who works 9-5, struggles like every one else to pay bills, loves watching football and lives an average life like the rest of the British public. By the sounds of things not even I would read about me.

So what is extremism?

According to dictionary.com it is 'any political theory favouring immoderate uncompromising policies.' So if extremism is to do with immoderate policies then this is against Islam because Islam teaches you the middle way and the moderate way. So if you are a true Muslim and follow the Quran and the Sunnah and follow the example of the Prophet (pbuh) then you will not and cannot be an extremist.

No Extremism in Islam

In Islam, extremism in any aspect of life is strongly discouraged, be it in our businesses, our education, our social relations or our religious practices. No one likes a person who is either too serious, or is constantly joking about. The Prophet of Allah (pbuh) said: *"Destroyed are those who are extreme." And he repeated it three times.* (1)

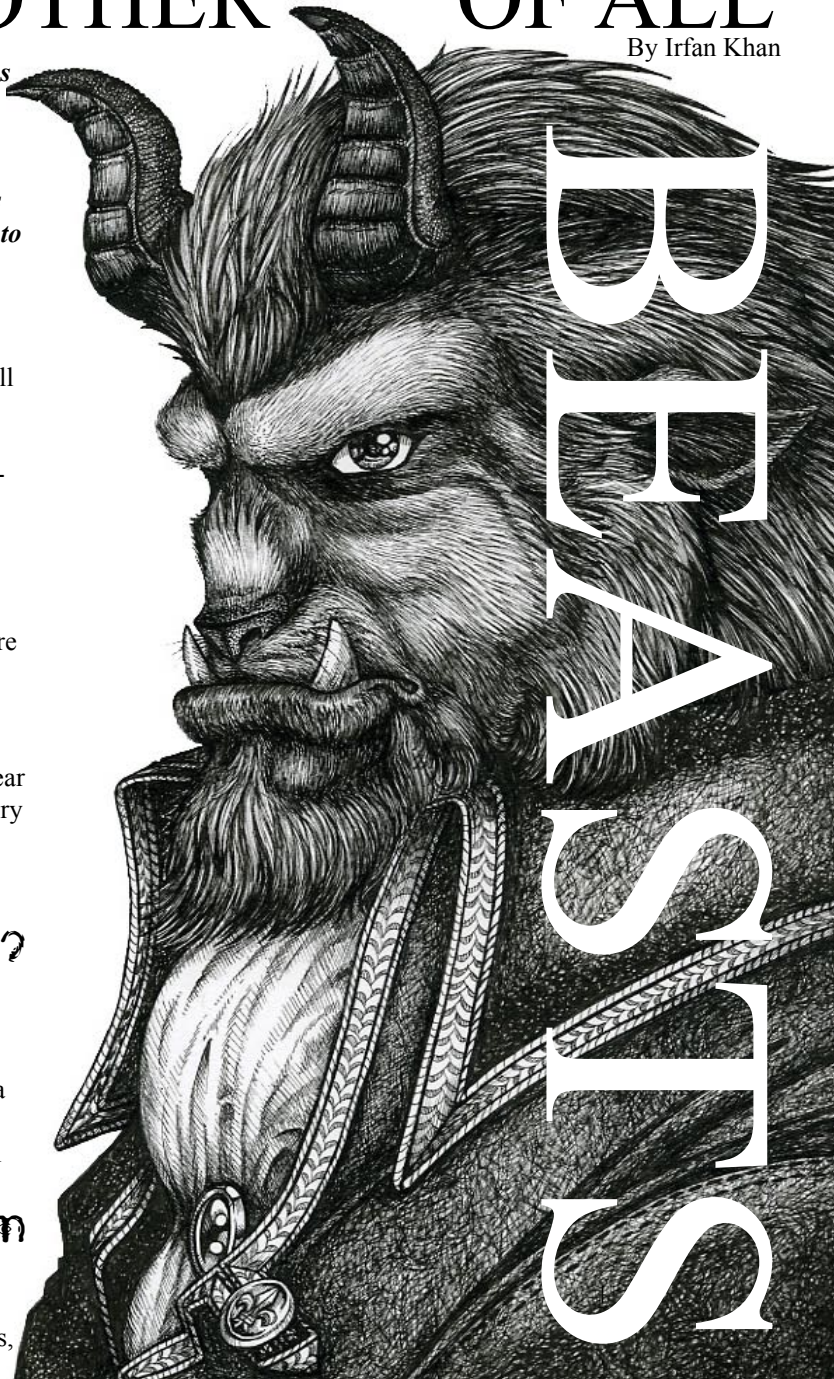
In another hadith, he (pbuh) said, *"I warn you of extremism in the religion for indeed those that came before you were destroyed due to their extremism in the religion."* (2)

Again, the Prophet (pbuh) repeated his words three times in order to emphasise their importance. So there is a clear warning to the Ummah against extremism in all things, particularly in matters of religion which have been prescribed by Allah (pbuh).

Why do some Muslims turn to Extremism?

So why is it that we have these extremists among us? They were brought up like us, went to the same schools as us, went to the same mosques as us, eat the same food, read the same books and wore the same clothes as us. Why is it they can kill and have these extremist views and we don't?

Could it be that some Muslims turn to alcohol, drugs, sex and crime out of lack of jobs, education, anger and frustration against the state of their lives? They feel empty, and unfulfilled. They see their family culture and background and feel alienated from it; then they see the western culture and also feel alienated by it, wouldn't you if



you were called 'Paki' and told to go home?

However, when they realise that alcohol, drugs, sex, crime and even their culture do not provide them with a solution to their problems, they look for alternatives- and find Islam as another way to vent their anger and frustration.

So they start to read their prayers, attend the mosque and read about the teachings of Islam. The more they read the more they fall in love with Islam. They are like sheep without a Shepard; they don't know where or which way to go. They want to know more and more, they need to make up for all the wrong they have done, but without a guide they almost immediately adopt other extreme practices, which they see as being associated to Islam.

Young, angry and Muslim

These young, angry Muslims become ultra-serious, committed, ritualistic type of Muslim, who judge others and themselves by the ability to memorise Arabic passages (with or without understanding), or the growth of beard, length of trousers or the number of hours spent in prayer or in a study circle.

They're convinced that they are "guided" whilst everyone else is astray. According to them everyone (including their parents) is

“ignorant”. They become strict in the rituals of Islam but fail to embrace the love, patience, mercy, humility and compassion that the Prophet (pbuh) stressed towards others.

This harsh and rigid understanding of Islam harms themselves as well as the wider community. According to Abdul Hakim Murad, this initial enthusiasm, gained usually in one’s early twenties, loses steam some seven to ten years later.(3)

Scholars of Hate

Some Muslims may adopt an extreme understanding of Islam because of crazy ‘scholars’ who go around encouraging hatred of the West and charging up young, impressionable Muslims to carry out acts of violence. These so-called preachers are known to target schools and colleges, where young people who have lots of questions, are less challenging and more susceptible to extremism (so watch out!). The young Muslims with an identity crisis who have little knowledge about Islam, can be ideal recruits for these fanatical scholar-wannabes.

Foreign Policy_ A Big Issue!

Obviously, the foreign policy of most Western countries does not help. The unjustified war in Iraq, the suffering of Muslims in Afghanistan, Chechnya, Kashmir, Palestine, the occupation of Muslim lands angers young British Muslims. The fact that numerous protests and rallies against foreign policy have been ignored frustrates them, and to the few who are already on the slippery slope to extremism, it provides justification for their acts of violence. Their actions contradict the teachings of Islam – in Islam the end never justifies the means. However, even “moderate” Muslims can empathize with their sentiments.

According to a top secret report by the Joint Intelligence Committee which was leaked : “Iraq is likely to be an important motivating factor for some time to come in the radicalisation of British Muslims and for those extremists who view attacks against the UK as legitimate.” (4)

It goes on to say that the war in Iraq contributed to the radicalisation of the July 7 London bombers and is likely to continue to provoke extremism among British Muslims.

How do we tame this beast?

We know the basic reasoning behind why a normal chap may turn to Extremism, and even Terrorism. So why is nothing being done to bring an end to it?

This is what can be done to kill this beast of extremism:

1. Muslim parents have a responsibility to educate their children about the true spirit of the religion. Parents should be aware of the activities of their children and the company they keep.

2. Muslim youth need to educate themselves by following renowned Muslim scholars so they are not easily brainwashed by narrow-minded preachers who provoke hatred towards the West. Do not allow yourself to be brainwashed by narrow-minded preachers who provoke hatred towards the West.

3. Mosques need to tackle the root causes of extremism. Imams need to encourage Muslims in the political process and to become politically active so that they can have a say in political and international issues that concern Muslims. This way they can release their frustration through the ballot box and lobbying and not by blowing themselves and others up!

4. Imams need to openly denounce acts of extremism, and define what it is and give social, spiritual, political and relevant advice and solutions to young Muslims.

5. Regular courses across the UK which provide a clear cut and easy to understand explanation of what Jihad is and isn’t by scholars of high calibre. Emphasis needs to be put on the life and example of the Prophet (pbuh)



6. Mosques need to be the centre point for young Muslims today, so most of their religious, social and cultural needs and activities should be catered by the mosque.

“Extremist” Muslims do not represent all Muslims any more than white supremacists represent all Christians. “Extremism” can exist in every religion, culture or nation. Most Muslims are not violent and do not carry out acts of terrorism. So it’s up to the Muslim community to open interfaith dialogue with non-Muslims and be positive role models for Islam.

Also, non-Muslims need to realise that they can’t judge Islam by



the actions of a few misguided Muslims. Islam has got nothing to do with terrorism and any Muslim who carries out acts of terror is totally contradicting the teachings of Islam.

I will leave you with the words of a highly respectable scholar of Islam:

Shaykh Hamza Yusuf says: ‘The Prophet Mohammed (s) over fourteen hundred years ago said “beware of extremism, for it is that which destroyed the peoples before you.” In the light of the present situation it is indeed wise advice. He also said. “My way is the middle way.” Moderation is in fact the way of thinking people everywhere. The vast majority of humanity is not extremist but in key times can easily be driven so.’ (5)

References:

1. Reported by Muslim on the authority of Ibn Mas’ood (r.a)
2. Reported by an-Nasaa’ee (5/268), Ibn Majah (no. 3029), Ahmad (1/215, 347) with a saheeh sanad.
3. Article: ‘The Poverty of Fanaticism’ <http://masud.co.uk/ISLAM/ahm/fgtnevo.htm>
4. Article: ‘Faith and the future’ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4259173,00.html>
5. Mentioned in the BBC Thought for the Day, 11th October 2001

Over the last year about FIVE Sheesha restaurants opened in my local town, so is smoking Sheesha allowed?

In the name of Allah the most Beneficent and Merciful.

WITH SHAYKH
SALIM GHISA

A. Smoking Sheesha or Huqqa carries a ruling depending upon the ingredients. If the ingredients is only sweet smelling flavoured fruits then the ruling is Makrooh (preferably disliked). If the ingredients have harmful ingredients then the ruling would start at Makrooh Tahrimi (reprehensible) to Haram (forbidden). This depends upon the harm that it may cause the human body.

Allah says in the Quran 'And do not throw yourself into destruction with your own hands.' (Baqarah 195). Also: 'And do not kill yourselves'. (Nisaa 29)

Therefore we are now aware that continuous intake of tobacco can cause lung cancer and hence cause one harm, therefore to become

an addict of smoking Sheesha would be Haram.

The reason why the non harmful Sheesha is preferably disliked is because there could be chance that it may lead to making a habit of it or adding ingredients that are Haram. Imam Tahtawi in his Hashiyat al Maraqa writes it is not permissible to say the words 'Bismillah Hir Rahmaan Nir Raheem' (In the name of God, Most Merciful, Most Kind) when smoking Sheesha even permissible Sheesha/Huqqa as it is Makrooh.

As far as going to Caf e's where Sheesha is being served is Makrooh. The reason for this is that places like this encourage idle gossip, waste money and integration between men and women. Therefore it is improper for a Muslim to visit a place where the product is either Makrooh or Haram and the by-product (intermixing with the opposite sex) is a likely possibility. Even if an all women's or all men's event was held there it would still be improper.

Of course Allah knows best.

Can you work in a place which sells haram food and also are you allowed to eat halal food where they sell alcohol?

In the name of Allah the most Beneficent and Merciful.

A. Working in a place that sells Alcohol or Haram food carries a different ruling depending upon the circumstances. Generally it is Haram for a Muslim to work in a place which sells Alcohol or serves Alcohol in it's premises. The same applies for Haram food as the general ruling is 'what is Haram to you is also Haram to others', whether they believe it or not.

Our scholars state: "Anything haram to use oneself is haram to give to another." [Ibn Nujaym, al-Ashbah; Majalla].

Also regarding Alcohol, The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) explained that among those who are cursed by Allah [i.e. completely distanced from His Mercy, and under His Anger] are the those who accept it and those who serve it. [Tirmidhi and Ibn Maja]

Therefore if a person has employment in such a place they should seek alternative employment as soon as possible.

The exception to the rule is where the main source of income is not from Haram food or alcohol such as a cashier in a supermarket. The scholars state that one must avoid to the best of their ability handling or scanning alcohol but the employment and money earned would be Halal. However, piety is in looking for alternative employment.

The reason for this ruling is as follows:

In the case of the actions mentioned in the question, that which is interdicted takes place through the choice and actions of a willing actor, not as a direct result of the actions of the Muslim in question. i.e. the owner is a non Muslim.

'Ala' al-Din al-Haskafi (Allah have mercy on him) said in his Durr al-Mukhtar, considered the most definitive commentary in Hanafi fiqh for legal details:

"(And) it is permitted to repair a church or (to transport wine for a non-Muslim) by oneself or one's vehicle (for money)."

Ibn Abidin commented in his Radd al-Muhtar, which is the primary reference for the relied upon positions of the school,

"(His saying, 'It is permitted to repair a church.')

It is stated in al-Khaniyya(1) that if one got hired to work in repairing a church, there is nothing wrong with it [though it is better not to], because the sin is not in the action itself. (His saying, 'and to transport wine for a non-Muslim')

Now for the scientific bit!

Zayla`i said, 'This is Abu Hanifa's position. His two companions [Abu Yusuf and Muhammad ibn al-Hasan] said that it is [prohibitively] disliked (Makrooh), because the Prophet (Allah bless him & give him peace) cursed ten with regards to wine, and he included the one who transports it. Abu Hanifa's reasoning is that the hiring is for transporting itself is neither a sin nor a reason for it. Rather, the sin only occurs through the action of a willing actor (i.e. Non Muslim), and drinking [which is the sin, for example] is not necessarily done so by the transportation, because it could be [for a permitted reason such as] to throw away or to transform into vinegar. Therefore the reason to it being hired to press or cut grapes. As for the hadith, it is interpreted to mean transporting with the intention of sin...'

Then, Zayla`i said, 'The same difference exists [between Abu Hanifa and his two companions] if he is hired with a vehicle to transport wine, or if hired to herd pigs. In such cases, the wages are permissible according to Abu Hanifa, and [prohibitively] disliked (Makrooh) according to Abu Yusuf and Muhammad ibn al-Hasan. (Imam Abu Hanifa's two students) although they relied upon position in these issues is that of Abu Hanifa.(2)

It is mentioned in al-Muhit (3) that, '.... If a shoe-maker is asked to make a shoe like that [characteristic] of Magians [or other non-Muslims], or the corrupt, or if a tailor is asked to make clothing like that [characteristic] of the corrupt, it is disliked to do so, because it is a means to the imitation of unbelievers or the corrupt [which is impermissible.]" [Radd al-Muhtar' ala al-Durr al-Mukhtar, 'Babal-Bay'] Therefore it is the position of a Muslim to prefer Taqwa (God-consciousness) and piety over doubtful means. Also the true belief that verily livelihood is provided by Allah.

Of course Allah knows best

Muhammad Salim Ghisa

NOTES:

1. Al Khaniyya is the Fatawa works by Qadi Khan who was one of the greatest Hanafi Imams of the 6th Century.
2. When the students of Imam Abu Hanifa differ from the Imam, the position of the Imam is taken. The reason why they differ is that the students were Mujtahid Imams themselves therefore they had the qualification to differ but followers of the Madhab (school of thought) stick to the position of Imam Abu Hanifa as it is his Madhab.
3. Al Muhit is the Arabic- English dictionary.

Turkey of the month

By Naheem Zaffar

Hello everybody. Long-time, no see. Many turkeys have managed to escape our grasp in the past few months. Its not really our fault, as we only nominate one person/group per issue. We can't then therefore, berate everyone for their stupidity.

Lets see what we have had recently, shall we? We have the infamous caricatures insulting every single Muslim that were printed in a Danish paper. Then we have the Danish PM who refused to even acknowledge that there was a problem. That is until the economy was blind sided by the 'sanctions' imposed by ordinary Muslims who refused to buy Danish products. If you can't rely on the Muslim leadership, you can rely on the Muslim people. Or not; as demonstrated by the prats who dressed up as suicide bombers to protest the caricatures. And then there were the other European newspapers who decided to reprint the pictures 'for solidarity and freedom of speech' when all they wanted to do was offend Muslims.

Then there is the Iranian situation. Well, saying Iranian situation, I means many many situations. First there was the blurt about Israel made by the president, which really did not help his case to win over the international community in the war of words. Well that is better than a war of nukes I suppose. Then was the renaming of Danish cookies to Rose of the Prophet Muhammad (saw). Somebody please shout freedom fries! Come on, not only is it just as stupid, but its also a mouthful. Well the name as well as the cookie I mean. And to top it off why don't we have a nice, friendly competition to see if we can add humour to the holocaust. After all the Iranians are big on freedom of speech!

And the Turkey is...

No, ignore them pretenders to the throne. This issue, the Turkey of the Month will be **Sir Trevor Phillips**. Come on everybody give him a hand. He has wanted this prize for a while now.

He has finally managed to beat the previous runner-up spot we gave him last year. That time he said that under performing black students should be separated from their classmates in order to improve their education and their parents should be banned from having access to them if they do not attend parents evening.

He has now stooped much lower. And on two separate occasions! Now that is something. First he said 'be gone!'

Who should be gone? Well, anyone who challenges his notion of Britishness. Especially those 'Moslems' who may want their sharia law to be forced upon the native Britons.

What he has really said is that Muslims should be fully involved in British life, but if they want to make Britain a better place, then send them to Guantanamo... sorry I mean send them back home. No, not home, but 'Home' (say that with the little finger next to your lip and finish off with 'Muhahhahaa').

Democracy and Sharia

'Sharia' is not just a legal system. It's a way of thinking. Its about ideals and principles. What he is saying is that Muslims should not apply their ideals if they want a better society.

If someone wants a more social infrastructure, they can work towards it. If they want pure capitalism they can work towards that. If they want any other system as long as they work within the system, then can go for it. But if Muslims want their concerns answered, they should leave the country.

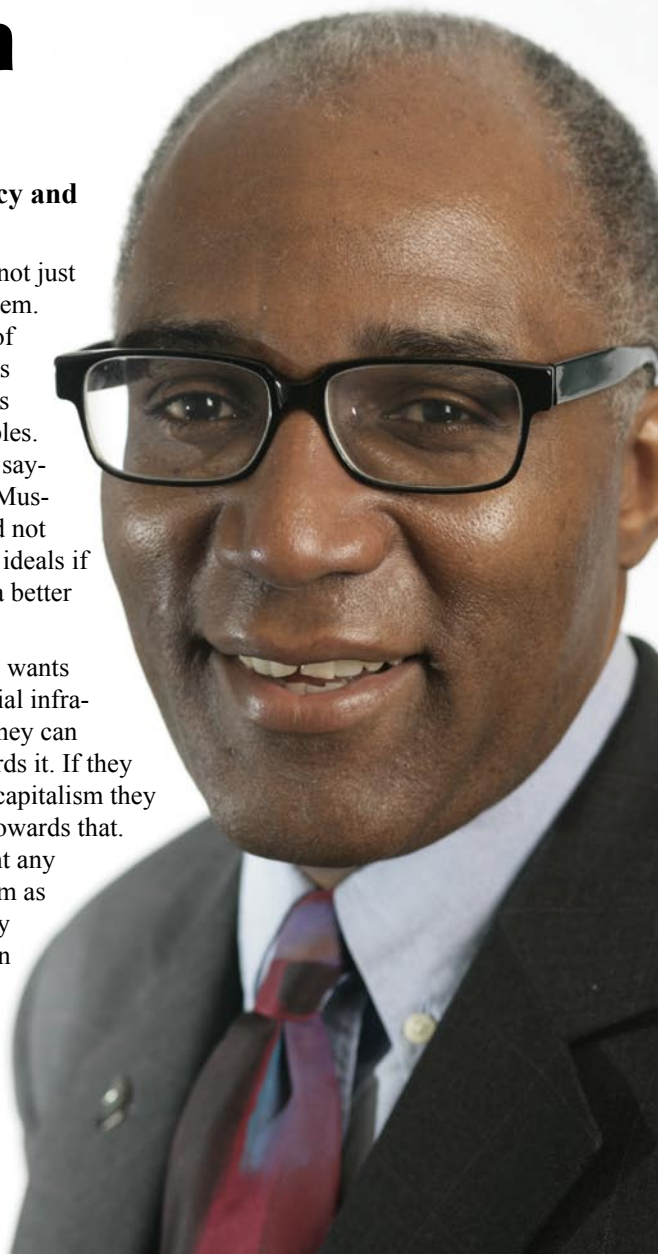
The heart of this issue is not about 'Sharia law' but inclusiveness. He is saying Muslims should not apply their ideals when becoming involved in political life, as their thinking will 'taint' the system. (After all, all Muslims should strive to work within the limits set in the Qur'an – which is a primary source for sharia).

He wants Muslims to 'integrate', into society by not participating. He does not want Muslims to be politically active. Everyone is allowed to make Britain batter, as long as they are not Muslim.

By using fluffy buzz words, he actually sounds quite credible. Well that is until you look at what his words really mean. Then his words become pretty scary.

And his second gaffe? (Is it really a gaffe? Once is a gaffe. Twice is a coincidence... but this is the third time overall!) His statement that cities where whites are a minority threaten stability. Yes, multiculturalism is good, but too much is bad. And this from the head of the governments racial equality watchdog. According to him such 'plural cities' bring a risk of 'mistrust and fracture'.

That is why Sir Trevor Phillips is The Revival's Turkey of the month.



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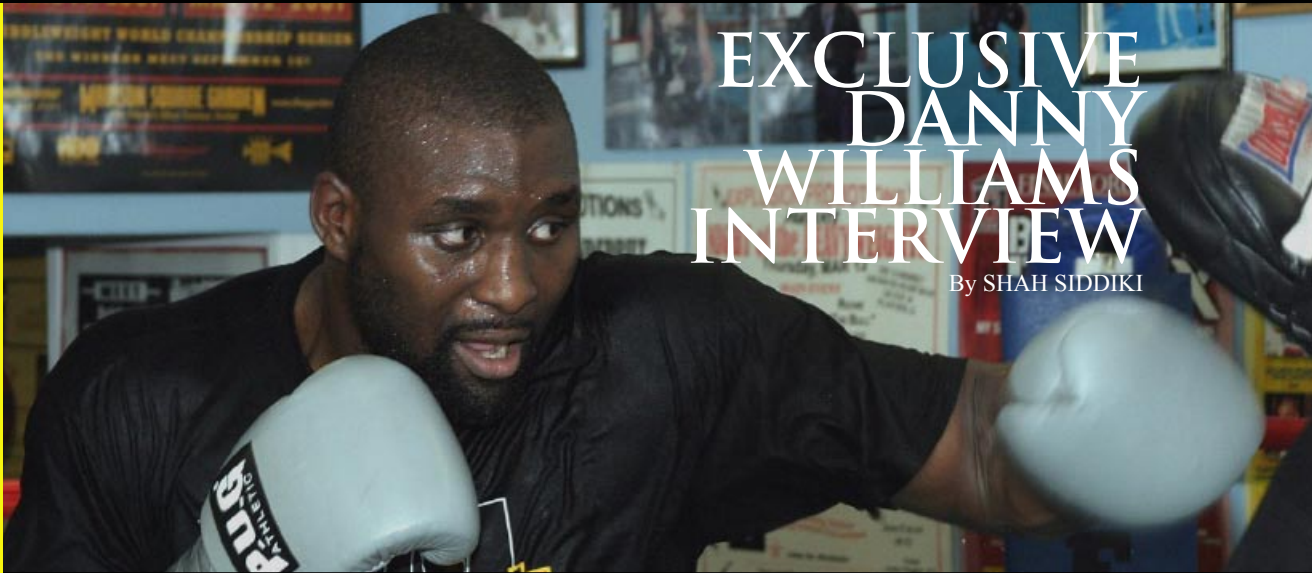
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EXCLUSIVE DANNY WILLIAMS INTERVIEW

By SHAH SIDDIKI

The Revival talks to Danny Williams about life as a Muslim, his boxing career and his future plans.

Big, powerful and fearless can be three words to describe the current British Boxing heavyweight champion. After knocking out the likes of Iron Mike, Audley Harrison and most recently Matt Skelton, Danny Williams visited Queen Mary's University in East London to discuss Islam and life outside the ring. The talk, hosted at the Mason lecture theatre, turned out to be quite an audience as the big man sat himself down with his title belts gleaming in front of them.

Born and raised in Brixton, Williams described how his life revolved around friends who were involved with drugs, gang violence and prison, yet the only time he went to court was for jury service. Although his family were not so religious-minded, his father was a strict Christian and Danny still remembers attending Sunday Church with him. However Christianity, with its fundamentals based on the 'Trinity,' was something which dazed Williams. "The more I read the Bible, the more I questioned myself" he said. He began pondering about Islam and Judaism, although he repeatedly spoke of how he did things which prevented him from being a Muslim at the time.

Journey to Islam

He was first drawn to Islam while he was abroad in Turkey, when he heard the adhan at a mosque there. Williams described how at the age of 27 he turned to seek spiritual guidance and slowly fell in love with Islam through the beautiful Quran. "You only need to listen to the verses to realise this is the true word of God" he said, and he called on the non-Muslims who were present to read the Quran. It took him a few years before he converted to Islam in 1999. In his own words it was "a gradual process." He spoke clearly of the numerous contradictions contained in the Bible and felt that worshipping Jesus was not right. "Every time I tried to prove the Islamic faith wrong, my belief in it became strengthened; there was an answer to every question I asked." Danny said that he used to watch a lot of Ahmed Deedat's debates, particularly the Christian versus Islam debates. William regards Deedat as one of his main inspirations in becoming a Muslim alongside his desire to

read various Islamic books and attend various talks. Williams describes how he found it simple and easy to wake up in the morning and pray five times a day. "It only takes a few minutes to pray, you could be on the phone longer than that", he said, jokingly. "A few years later my wife converted and now she prays five times a day." After taking up Islam, he described his daily routine which included waking up at four in the morning, reading his Fajr prayer and then going out for his jog. His lifestyle and career revolved around praying five times a day.

Boxing Career

The subject shifted to his boxing career as Williams spoke of how he took up boxing when his dad had a dream for him to become a world champion one day. By the age of 10 his dad had provided him with 4-5 years of training to enable him to go to the gym and become a qualified boxer. Training since the age of 8, he hailed the likes of Rocky Marciano and Muhammad Ali as his childhood role models. "I was about 14 years old when I had my first fight, and it gave me the strength to believe I can be a good boxer."

His showdown with Klitschko last year was endured with fatigue and tiredness, because he trained during the holy month of Ramadhan. But he was determined and confident of taking the WBU title for himself. Williams believes that allowing Islam into his life made him become a better fighter because it made him more comfortable and patient. Speaking of his battle with Audley Harrison a few months ago, he said he was able to ignore all the criticism made towards him from Harrison, because of how Islam taught him to have patience. "I was always a nervous fighter, but since I became a Muslim, I am more relaxed both in and out of the ring."

Williams was now open to questions from the audience so I thought I'd ask him how he handled life without getting too deep into the luxury of it. "Simple" he replied, jokingly. "I'm not rich but I'll answer the question when I do get the money." Immediately laughs began echoing all around the lecture hall. I was then tempted to ask him how he handled his nerves before clashing with Iron Mike and whether he had nightmares of Tyson taking a bite off his ear. Again the response was

a simple one- "I was stronger, more confident and knew he wouldn't be biting again." Following my questions came an anonymous one in a small slip passed by one of the sisters from the back row, which read- 'are you married?'. Louder echoes of laughter were received as Williams responded- "yes I have a marriage contract with my wife."

An interesting question was addressed to Williams from the audience, surrounding the issue of whether he thinks Muslim women are being oppressed in society because of how they cover themselves. To this, Williams responded by saying how he personally feels that it is Western women, and he cited Hollywood actresses as an example, that are actually oppressed, because of how they reveal themselves in everyday society. "It is they who are being exploited," he argued.

Life after Boxing

A happily married father of two, he intends to give up his boxing career very soon because Islam discourages violence. He wants to wait until he becomes World Champion so he can accomplish his fathers dream. After giving his audience a few boxing lessons, Williams returned to talk about his future ambitions and said he was willing to give up boxing for the sake of Islam. He spoke of how he intended to go abroad, learn Arabic and seek more knowledge after his boxing career. While his parents aren't too bothered about him being a Muslim, the problems stem, he said, from converting them. However his sister has recently taken up Islam and his brothers are keen to study it.

As the lecture was drawing to an end, Williams dished out his title belts for the audience. Fortunately I was on the front row so I could hold them and get a quick picture with him before a wave of people came my way. Those who weren't able to talk with Williams followed him all the way to his car until he drove off.

As I saw for myself, Danny Williams is a great role model for young Muslims along with the likes of Amir Khan. Let's hope Inshallah there are more Muslims who can be successful like them and show the world that Islam isn't a segregated, questionable faith but a beautiful one which encourages Muslims to prosper in every field.



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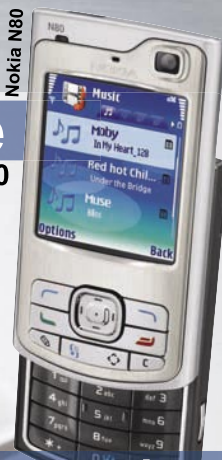
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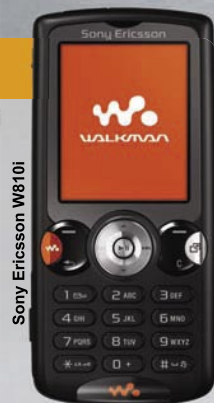
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