

Qx29 – 3rd Part of the Quran’s 3rd Period

Dear: Again, and for the final time, recall the quotation from Smith dealing with the three periods during which the Quran was allegedly dictated:

The third period, referred to as the Medinan period (between 623-632 CE), centered in Medina and lasted roughly ten years, until Muhammad’s death in 632 CE. There is a distinct shift in content during this period. Divine approval is given for Muhammad’s leadership, and much of the material deals with local historical events. There is a change from the preaching of divine matters, to that of governing. Consequently, the suras are much more political and social in their makeup (suras 2-5, 8-9, 22-24, 33, 37, 47-49, 57-59, 60-66, 98, 110).

These contain by far the most material; in this chapter, I’ll get through the third (and final!) of three parts of the Third (Medinan) Period. Once again, the version of the Quran being quoted is the one available at the University of Michigan (<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/k/koran/browse.html>), which was translated by M.H. Shakir and published by Qur’an, Inc., in 1983. I should also note that since Sura 9 seems generally accepted to be Muhammad’s final “revelation” (before he died, suffering a terrible headache), therefore, I’ve shifted it to the end of this chapter.

The Family of Imran

3.7 *He it is Who has revealed the Book to you; some of its verses are decisive, they are the basis of the Book, and others are allegorical; then as for those in whose hearts there is perversity they follow the part of it which is allegorical, seeking to mislead and seeking to give it (their own) interpretation. But none knows its interpretation except Allah, and those who are firmly rooted in knowledge say We believe in it, it is all from our Lord; and none do mind except those having understanding.*

Muhammad claimed that Allah gave “clear communications”; yet now he claims that “none knows [the] interpretation [of the allegories in the Bible] except Allah”! Those two claims are incompatible.

3.10 *(As for) those who disbelieve, surely neither their wealth nor their children shall avail them in the least against Allah, and these it is who are the fuel of the fire.*

Muhammad claims that those who don’t believe in hell are headed there. I wonder if he ever saw why such an argument isn’t convincing: it would be rather silly to fear something that you’ve decided doesn’t exist!

3.11 *Like the striving of the people of Firon [Pharaoh] and those before them; they rejected Our communications, so Allah destroyed them on account of their faults; and Allah is severe in requiting (evil).*

Muhammad believes all the silly stories in the Old Testament, for example, God's killing of all the Egyptian first born, saying that "Allah destroyed them on account of their faults". It's a wonder he didn't ask himself: "What were the 'faults' of all those Egyptian babies?"

3.25 *Then how will it be when We shall gather them together on a day about which there is no doubt, and every soul shall be fully paid what it has earned, and they shall not be dealt with unjustly?*

Muhammad claims, "there is no doubt" about something for which there is no knowledge. Who but a fool would be so foolish!

3.28 *Let not the believers take the unbelievers for friends rather than believers; and whoever does this, he shall have nothing of (the guardianship of) Allah, but you should guard yourselves against them, guarding carefully; and Allah makes you cautious of (retribution from) Himself; and to Allah is the eventual coming.*

Muhammad claims that, just by having non-Muslims for friends, Muslims will lose Allah's "guardianship". What a horrid proclamation! What a horrible policy!

3.29 *Say Whether you hide what is in your hearts or manifest it, Allah knows it, and He knows whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth, and Allah has power over all things.*

Muhammad's god is the ever present, ever active, peeping Tom!

3.106 *On the day when (some) faces shall turn white and (some) faces shall turn black; then as to those whose faces turn black Did you disbelieve after your believing? Taste therefore the chastisement because you disbelieved.*

3.107 *And as to those whose faces turn white, they shall be in Allah's mercy; in it they shall-abide.*

The preceding is a fairly strong suggestion of racism (suggesting that people with black faces are chastised, while those with white faces are "in Allah's mercy"); the following is one of many examples of anti-Judaism.

3.112 *Abasement is made to cleave to them [the Jews] wherever they are found, except under a covenant with Allah and a covenant with men, and they have become deserving of wrath from Allah, and humiliation is made to cleave to them; this is because they disbelieved in the communications of Allah and slew the prophets unjustly; this is because they disobeyed and exceeded the limits.*

But Muhammad did back off, at least a little, from his condemnation of the “followers of the Book” (i.e., the Bible), as follows:

3.113 *They are not all alike; of the followers of the Book there is an upright party; they recite Allah’s communications in the nighttime and they adore (Him).*

3.114 *They believe in Allah and the last day, and they enjoin what is right and forbid the wrong and they strive with one another in hastening to good deeds, and those are among the good.*

But Muhammad never relented in his hatred for “disbelievers” – especially those who didn’t believe in him!

3.116 *(As for) those who disbelieve, surely neither their wealth nor their children shall avail them in the least against Allah; and these are the inmates of the fire; therein they shall abide [which is essentially a repeat of 3.10].*

Muhammad must have experienced some bitter encounters with some Jews and Christians, leading him to advocate permanent animosity:

3.118 *O you who believe! do not take for intimate friends from among others than your own people; they do not fall short of inflicting loss upon you; they love what distresses you; vehement hatred has already appeared from out of their mouths, and what their breasts conceal is greater still; indeed, We have made the communications clear to you, if you will understand.*

3.119 *Lo! you are they who will love them while they do not love you, and you believe in the Book (in) the whole of it; and when they meet you they say We believe, and when they are alone, they bite the ends of their fingers in rage against you. Say Die in your rage; surely Allah knows what is in the breasts.*

3.120 *If good befalls you, it grieves them, and if an evil afflicts you, they rejoice at it; and if you are patient and guard yourselves, their scheme will not injure you in any way; surely Allah comprehends what they do.*

What a pity that, instead, Muhammad didn’t meet more “just ordinary” people who expressed “just ordinary” folk wisdom – such as the apparently simple-minded Los Angeles resident Rodney King, who (after the 1992 riots that followed the acquittal of the police who brutally beat him) asked the

brilliantly penetrating question: “Can’t we all just get along?” In contrast, Muhammad threatened terrorism:

3.151 *We will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve, because they set up with Allah that for which He has sent down no authority, and their abode is the fire, and evil is the abode of the unjust [thereby telling the Arabs that they had their own “profit”].*

3.164 *Certainly Allah conferred a benefit upon the believers when He raised among them an Apostle from among themselves, reciting to them His communications and purifying them, and teaching them the Book and the wisdom, although before that they were surely in manifest error*

Thereby, he encouraged “believers” to be “martyrs” for “the cause”:

3.169 *And reckon not those who are killed in Allah’s way as dead; nay, they are alive (and) are provided sustenance from their Lord;*

all from adopting the crazy scheme promoted by Zoroaster, which continues to pollute so many people:

3.185 *Every soul shall taste of death, and you shall only be paid fully your reward on the resurrection day; then whoever is removed far away from the fire and is made to enter the garden [paradise] he indeed has attained the object; and the life of this world is nothing but a provision of vanities*

i.e., give up what you have for what the con-artist clerics promise. And the source of all this silliness is simply that so many people still don’t understand even the most elementary science. For example, there is Muhammad’s silliness:

3.190 *Most surely in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day there are signs for men who understand.*

3.191 *Those who remember Allah standing and sitting and lying on their sides and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth Our Lord! Thou hast not created this in vain!*

To which the only sensible answer is: “No, Muhammad, Allah didn’t create it in vain. In fact, there isn’t the tiniest shred of evidence to support the speculation that he created anything (in vain or otherwise) – or even that he exists!”

The Women

It's somewhat amazing that, after earlier telling people

2.219 *They ask you about intoxicants and games of chance. Say: In both of them there is a great sin and means of profit for men, and their sin is greater than their profit.*

Yet now, apparently he recognized that people were going to drink intoxicants no matter what he said, for he now he adds:

4.43 *O you who believe! do not go near prayer when you are Intoxicated until you know (well) what you say...*

And of course he keeps up his hideous threats of his imagined hell:

4.56 *(As for) those who disbelieve in Our communications, We shall make them enter fire; so oft as their skins are thoroughly burned, We will change them for other skins, that they may taste the chastisement; surely Allah is Mighty, Wise.*

Meanwhile, apparently his heaven is only for those who live in equatorial desert heat:

4.57 *And (as for) those who believe and do good deeds, We will make them enter gardens beneath which rivers flow, to abide in them forever; they shall have therein pure mates, and We shall make them enter a dense shade*

which wouldn't be very appealing to people living in cold, damp climates! Meanwhile, here on Earth, Muhammad intends to rule:

4.59 *O you who believe! obey Allah and obey the Apostle and those in authority from among you; then if you quarrel about anything, refer it to Allah and the Apostle, if you believe in Allah and the last day; this is better and very good in the end.*

And it's especially good if you OBEY "the Apostle" (Muhammad) – at least for him – because thereby, he'll gain power over you, even to the extent of turning you into a martyr, willing (even eager) to die for him and his infantile ideas:

4.74 *Therefore let those fight in the way of Allah, who sell this world's life for the hereafter; and whoever fights in the way of Allah, then be he slain or be he victorious, We shall grant him a mighty reward.*

No doubt that and the following fortified the crazy suicide bombers to crash into the Twin Towers:

4.78 *Wherever you are, death will overtake you, though you are in lofty towers, and if a benefit comes to them, they say This is from Allah; and if a misfortune befalls them, they say This is from you. Say All is from Allah, but what is the matter with these people that they do not make approach to understanding what is told (them)?*

That's crazy! "What is the matter" with people is that they'd like more evidence than just that some crazed mystic "told them"! Further,

4.79 *Whatever benefit comes to you (O man!), it is from Allah, and whatever misfortune befalls you, it is from yourself...*

has got to be one of the craziest, demeaning philosophies ever concocted!

But then, Muhammad makes it clear that, similar to all such crazy people, he speaks for God:

4.80 *Whoever obeys the Apostle, he indeed obeys Allah...*

4.82 *Do they not then meditate on the Quran? And if it were from any other than Allah, they would have found in it many a discrepancy.*

Oh come off it, Muhammad! On the one hand, just because some book doesn't have any "discrepancies" doesn't mean that it's from your fictitious god (e.g., again, think of Morse and Feshbach's – not Allah's – *Methods of Theoretical Physics* or, if that's out of your league, consider any Superman comic book! And on the other hand, what do you mean by no "discrepancies" in the Quran? How about the discrepancy between what you advocate and what sensible people adopt: you advocate that people "believe" in your fairy tale because you tell them to; sensible people hold their beliefs only as strongly as relevant evidence warrants; you advocate belief in the supernatural; sensible people adopt the scientific method. Or how about the discrepancies between what you *versus* what civilized people advocate: your treatment of women, your participation in slavery, your advocacy of eternal torture for humans, and so on? Those aren't policies adopted by civilized people; they're barbaric. As just one more in a huge list of such discrepancies between what you advocate and what sensible, civilized people advocate, there's the following horrible, hateful stuff, promoting murder of people who find that you provide insufficient evidence for them to believe in your fairy tale – including murdering of those who join and then renounce Islam (i.e., 'apostates'):

- 4.89 *They desire that you should disbelieve as they have disbelieved, so that you might be (all) alike; therefore take not from among them friends until they fly (their homes) in Allah's way; but if they turn back, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them, and take not from among them a friend or a helper.*
- 4.91 *You will find others who desire that they should be safe from you and secure from their own people; as often as they are sent back to the mischief they get thrown into it headlong; therefore if they do not withdraw from you, and (do not) offer you peace and restrain their hands, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them; and against these We have given you a clear authority. [And thereby, just like all the other megalomaniacs, Muhammad claims that he has the right to kill other people.]*

But in addition to such hideousness, there are “discrepancies” (or at least a set of communications that apparently hasn't been understood by Muslims), such as the following. Earlier, Muhammad stated

- 4.3 *...marry such women as seem good to you, two and three and four; but if you fear that you will not do justice (between them), then (marry) only one...*

Yet, now he states:

- 4.129 *And you have it not in your power to do justice between wives, even though you may wish (it)...*

From which the only obvious conclusion, apparently ignored by Muslims, is that men should have only a single wife.

And then there are the discrepancies between what “the Book” says about Jesus *versus* what Muhammad says:

- 4.157 *And their saying Surely we have killed the Messiah, Isa [Jesus] son of Marium [Mary], the apostle of Allah; and they did not kill him nor did they crucify him, but it appeared to them so (like Isa) and most surely those who differ therein are only in a doubt about it; they have no knowledge respecting it, but only follow a conjecture, and they killed him not for sure.*
- 4.158 *Nay! Allah took him up to Himself; and Allah is Mighty, Wise.*
- 4.171 *O followers of the Book! do not exceed the limits in your religion, and do not speak (lies) against Allah, but (speak) the truth; the Messiah, Isa son of Marium is only an apostle of Allah and His Word which He communicated to Marium and a spirit from Him; believe therefore in Allah and His apostles, and say not, Three [i.e., the trinity of “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost”]. Desist, it is better for you;*

Allah is only one God; far be It from His glory that He should have a son, whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth is His, and Allah is sufficient for a Protector.

The Dinner Table

5.8 *O you who believe! Be upright for Allah, bearers of witness with justice, and let not hatred of a people incite you not to act equitably; act equitably, that is nearer to piety, and be careful of (your duty to) Allah; surely Allah is Aware of what you do.*

But apparently the suicide bombers pay no attention to the command “to act equitably” and to the following command (to “pardon them and turn away”):

5.13 *But on account of their breaking their covenant We cursed them and made their hearts hard; they altered the words from their places and they neglected a portion of what they were reminded of; and you shall always discover treachery in them excepting a few of them; so pardon them and turn away; surely Allah loves those who do good (to others).*

Yet Muhammad did make some good points, for example

5.32 *For this reason did We prescribe to the children of Israel that **whoever slays a soul, unless it be for manslaughter or for mischief in the land, it is as though he slew all men; and whoever keeps it alive, it is as though he kept alive all men** [bold type added]; and certainly Our apostles came to them with clear arguments, but even after that many of them certainly act extravagantly in the land.*

But it appears Muhammad left himself (and the terrorists) some “wiggle room” – enough to fly a Boeing passenger jet through – because if you read that “commandment” again, you can see that it authorizes killing people for making “mischief in the land” (e.g., saying that Muhammad was mad, that his ideas are infantile, or similar). Further, his prescribed penalties were those of a mad man:

5.38 *And (as for) the man who steals and the woman who steals, cut off their hands as a punishment for what they have earned, an exemplary punishment from Allah; and Allah is Mighty, Wise.*

And I say that he’s ‘mad’, because just as he failed to define “mischief in the land” (for which he deemed it to be okay to kill the “mischief maker”), here he failed to define what ‘stealing’ means: if you take an apple from an orchard that, in turn, was taken from you by force, then are you stealing or

just reclaiming one of your apples?! Yet, sometimes he expressed tolerance for those who were hooked on other fairy tales:

5.69 *Surely those who believe and those who are Jews and the Sabians and the Christians whoever believes in Allah and the last day and does good – they shall have no fear nor shall they grieve.*

But then he quickly condemned some of their beliefs:

5.72 *Certainly they disbelieve who say Surely Allah, He is the Messiah [Jesus], son of Marium [Mary]; and the Messiah said O Children of Israel! serve Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Surely whoever associates (others) with Allah, then Allah has forbidden to him the garden, and his abode is the fire; and there shall be no helpers for the unjust.*

5.73 *Certainly they disbelieve who say Surely Allah is the third (person) of the three [The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost]; and there is no god but the one God, and if they desist not from what they say, a painful chastisement shall befall those among them who disbelieve.*

5.75 *The Messiah, son of Marium is but an apostle; apostles before him have indeed passed away; and his mother was a truthful woman; they both used to eat food. [What's that got to do with it!] See how We make the communications clear to them [Riiiiight], then behold, how they are turned away.*

Next, Muhammad criticized Christians for not hating the horrible “disbelievers” – in fairy tales; i.e., those who hold their beliefs only as strongly as relevant evidence warrants:

5.80 *You will see many of them befriending those who disbelieve; certainly evil is that which their souls have sent before for them, that Allah became displeased with them and in chastisement shall they abide.*

5.81 *And had they believed in Allah and the prophet and what was revealed to him, they would not have taken them for friends but! most of them are transgressors.*

And it's somewhat interesting the way Muhammad criticized drinking and gambling, but not so much as he criticizes other “sins”. Thus, now he says:

5.90 *O you who believe! intoxicants and games of chance... are only an uncleanness, the Shaitan's work; shun it therefore that you may be successful.*

5.91 *The Shaitan only desires to cause enmity and hatred to spring in your midst by means of intoxicants and games of chance, and to keep you off from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. Will you then desist?*

But then he delivers a truly sick communication, telling people not to question the Quran:

- 5.101 *O you who believe! do not put questions about things which if declared to you may trouble you, and if you question about them when the Quran is being revealed, they shall be declared to you; Allah pardons this, and Allah is Forgiving, Forbearing.*
- 5.102 *A people before you indeed asked such questions, and then became disbelievers on account of them.*

And yet, obviously he questions the Bible (!), even claiming authority not only to speak for God but also for Jesus:

- 5.116 *And when Allah will say O Isa [Jesus] son of Marium [Mary]! did you say to men, Take me and my mother for two gods besides Allah [Hello? No Christian “takes” Mary for a god?! That, my dear Muhammad, is just one more “discrepancy to add to the list!] he will say Glory be to Thee, it did not befit me that I should say what I had no right to (say); if I had said it, Thou wouldst indeed have known it; Thou knowest what is in my mind, and I do not know what is in Thy mind [In contrast, Muhammad obviously claims to know what’s in the minds of both Jesus and God!], surely Thou art the great Knower of the unseen things.*
- 5.117 *I [Jesus] did not say to them aught save what Thou didst enjoin me with That serve Allah, my Lord and your Lord, and I was a witness of them so long as I was among them, but when Thou didst cause me to die, Thou wert the watcher over them, and Thou art witness of all things. [So then, why would God ask Jesus if he said such a thing? Do you mean, Muhammad, that God isn’t all knowing? If so, that’s another of your “discrepancies”!]*

And certainly it was nice of God to straighten out the confusion about the trinity – but apparently Muhammad missed the message about the meaning of the trinity, i.e., not three separate gods but a three-for-one sale – which if he understood it, Muhammad the merchant might have promoted!

The Accessions

- 8.2 *Those only are believers whose hearts become full of fear when Allah is mentioned... [And may all those who preach fear be listed among those who have harmed humanity.]*
- 8.12 *When your Lord revealed to the angels I am with you, therefore make firm those who believe. I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore*

- strike off their heads and strike off every fingertip of them.* [And may all those who preach such hideousness be counted among the hideous.]
- 8.17 *So you did not slay them, but it was Allah Who slew them, and you did not smite when you smote (the enemy), but it was Allah Who smote...* [Well, the bunch of you are not only bonkers, you're maniacs.]
- 8.39 *And fight with them until there is no more persecution and religion should be only for Allah...* [Oh, I agree: religion should be only for Allah – not for people!]
- 8.41 *And know that whatever thing you gain, a fifth of it* [Wow! Now it's a 20% tax – or is this tax just on the loot that they get from plundering people?] *is for Allah and for the Apostle* [Oh! And what cut does Muhammad give to God?!] *and for the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer...* [and it will be I, Muhammad, who decides on how the booty is to be distributed among those listed!]
- 8.43 *When Allah showed them to you in your dream...* [Allah shows you things in your dreams. Why Muhammad, that's amazing: the Ancient Greek gods did the very same thing!]
- 8.55 *Surely the vilest of animals in Allah's sight are those who disbelieve...* [Little bunny rabbits, who don't believe in Allah, are 'vile'?! But to hell with Allah: he can't see, anyway (nonexistent things have notoriously poor eyesight); but people who can think do see what is the vilest of all humans: those who advocate killing other humans because they "believe" in different fairy tales.]

The Pilgrimage

Apparently these are attempts to make unbelievers fear Muhammad and Muslims, thereby attempting to turn humans into animals, ruled by fear:

- 22.19 *...then (as to) those who disbelieve, for them are cut out garments of fire, boiling water shall be poured over their heads.*
- 22.20 *With it shall be melted what is in their bellies and (their) skins as well.*
- 22.21 *And for them are whips of iron.*
- 22.22 *Whenever they will desire to go forth from it, from grief, they shall be turned back into it, and taste the chastisement of burning.*

Simultaneously, Muhammad attempts to stimulate another powerful emotion, greed, in his followers.

22.23 *Surely Allah will make those who believe and do good deeds enter gardens beneath which rivers flow; they shall be adorned therein with bracelets of gold and (with) pearls, and their garments therein shall be of silk.*

Yet, in contrast to the preaching of Osama bin Laden and his fellow terrorists, Muhammad produced a sensible policy dealing with war:

22.39 *Permission (to fight) is given to those upon whom war is made because they are oppressed, and most surely Allah is well able to assist them;*

Except in so far as both Muhammad and modern terrorist leaders proclaim as “truth” what no evidence supports:

22.58 *And (as for) those who fly in Allah’s way and are then slain or die, Allah will most certainly grant them a goodly sustenance, and most surely Allah is the best Giver of sustenance.*

22.59 *He will certainly cause them to enter a place of entrance which they shall be well pleased with, and most surely Allah is Knowing, Forbearing.*

And surely it’s amazing that people in this age would “believe” that, as well as the following stupidity:

22.65 *Do you not see that Allah has made subservient to you whatsoever is in the earth and the ships running in the sea by His command? And He withholds the heaven from falling on the earth except with His permission... [!]*

Stated differently, as those who knew Muhammad said: the man’s mad. In the vernacular, he’s nutty as a fruitcake – but not that I’m not thankful that there’s a giant Jabberwock up there in the sky who “withholds the heaven from falling on the Earth.” (☺) But then, it’s not that much harder to believe that than to believe that there’s more than a billion people alive today who follow the madman Muhammad, convinced (by their parents and their societies) that he was the last and greatest Earthly spokesman for the giant Jabberwock in the sky –some of them so convinced of it, that they willingly (even eagerly) blow themselves up (while murdering “infidels”) and fly jetliners into buildings full of people. If you want a really tough one to believe in, try believing that sane people have a chance in this world – and if that’s doubtful, that humanity has any future at all.

The Believers

One can easily imagine Muhammad squirming still more, since he says that the people said to Noah, and later “profits” (such as him!):

* Go to other chapters via

- 23.25 *He is only a madman, so bear with him for a time.*
- 23.26 *He said O my Lord! help me against their calling me a liar.*
- 23.32 *So We sent among them an apostle from among them, saying Serve Allah, you have no god other than Him; will you not then guard (against evil)?*
- 23.33 *And the chiefs of his people who disbelieved and called the meeting of the hereafter a lie, and whom We had given plenty to enjoy in this world's life, said This is nothing but a mortal like yourselves, eating of what you eat from and drinking of what you drink.*
- 23.37 *There is naught but our life in this world; we die and we live and we shall not be raised again.*
- 23.38 *He is naught but a man who has forged a lie against Allah, and we are not going to believe in him.*
- 23.39 *He said O my Lord! help me against their calling me a liar.*
- 23.44 *Then We sent Our apostles one after another; whenever there came to a people their apostle, they called him a liar, so We made some of them follow others and We made them stories; so away with a people who do not believe!*
- 23.45 *Then We sent Musa [Moses] and his brother Haroun [Aaron], with Our communications and a clear authority,*
- 23.46 *To Firon [the Pharaoh] and his chiefs, but they behaved haughtily and they were an insolent people.*
- 23.47 *And they said What! shall we believe in two mortals like ourselves while their people serve us?*
- 23.50 *And We made the son [Jesus] of Marium [Mary] and his mother a sign, and We gave them a shelter on a lofty ground having meadows and springs.*
- 23.67 *In arrogance; talking nonsense about the Quran, and left him like one telling fables by night.*
- 23.68 *Is it then that they do not ponder over what is said, or is it that there has come to them that which did not come to their fathers of old?*
- 23.69 *Or is it that they have not recognized their Apostle, so that they deny him?*

- 23.70 *Or do they say There is madness in him? Nay! he has brought them the truth, and most of them are averse from the truth.*
- 23.71 *And should the truth follow their low desires, surely the heavens and the earth and all those who are therein would have perished. Nay! We have brought to them their reminder, but from their reminder they turn aside.*
- 23.72 *Or is it that you ask them a recompense? But the recompense of your Lord is best, and He is the best of those who provide sustenance.*
- 23.81 *Nay, they say the like of what the ancients said*
- 23.82 *They say What! When we are dead and become dust and bones, shall we then be raised?*
- 23.83 *Certainly we are promised this, and (so were) our fathers aforetime; this is naught but stories of those of old.*

Given all that I'd say, "Good job", to the Arabs who lived in Muhammad's time: they saw that he was a madman and called his bluff! Would that modern Arabs (and all Muslims) would react similarly!

The Light

- 24.1 *(This is) a chapter which We have revealed and made obligatory and in which We have revealed clear communications that you may be mindful.*

Muhammad then attempts to specify some such "clear communications", well illustrated with the following inane proclamations, which all three-year olds are to follow.

- 24.26 *Bad women are for bad men and bad men are for bad women. Good women are for good men and good men are for good women [Clear enough?!]*
- 24.30 *Say to the believing men that they cast down their looks and guard their private parts; that is purer for them; surely Allah is Aware of what they do. [Did all the little children understand that one?]*
- 24.31 *And say to the believing women that they cast down their looks and guard their private parts and do not display their ornaments except what appears thereof [Hello? What's that supposed to mean?! Don't display... except what's displayed? Any chance for a little clearer communication?], and let them wear their head-coverings over their bosoms [well, wouldn't they then be wearing "bosom covers" over their heads?], and not display their ornaments except to their husbands or their fathers, or the fathers of their husbands, or their sons, or*

the sons of their husbands, or their brothers, or their brothers' sons, or their sisters' sons, or their women, or those whom their right hands possess [i.e., slaves], or the male servants not having need (of women), or the children who have not attained knowledge of what is hidden of women; and let them not strike their feet so that what they hide of their ornaments may be known; and turn to Allah all of you, O believers! so that you may be successful. [Muhammad: are you really turned on that much by women's "ornaments", so much so that you don't want them to "strike their feet, so that what they hide of their ornaments may be known"? You know, fetishism for women's ornaments is one thing, but being a sex maniac is something else. What's the matter: can't even just one of your many wives satisfy your sexual needs?]

And through it all, of course there's Muhammad's powerful theme: obey!

24.51 *The response of the believers, when they are invited to Allah and His Apostle that he may judge between them, is only to say We hear and we obey; and these it is that are the successful.*

24.52 *And he who obeys Allah and His Apostle, and fears Allah, and is careful of (his duty to) Him, these it is that are the achievers.*

Yet, Muhammad adds a new twist:

24.55 *Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good that He will most certainly make them rulers in the earth as He made rulers those before them, and that He will most certainly establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them, and that He will most certainly, after their fear, give them security in exchange; they shall serve Me, not associating aught with Me; and whoever is ungrateful after this, these it is who are the transgressors.*

So, Dear, in case you were wondering: Muslims get to rule the Earth – and you. Any other questions? Do I hear any objections?

The Clans

Muhammad's sweeping claim of authority (for himself, for his wives, and for his relatives – at least I think that the latter is what one clause claims):

33.6 *The Prophet [Muhammad] has a greater claim on the faithful than they have on themselves [he owns them!], and his wives are (as) their mothers [Muhammad's wives have as much authority over you as your mother!]; and the possessors of relationship [whatever that means] have the better claim in the ordinance of Allah to inheritance, one with respect to another, than (other) believers, and (than) those who have fled (their homes), except that you do some good to your friends; this is written in the Book. [And Lord knows that "the book" takes precedence over thought, over the scientific method, over anything else!]*

And surprise, surprise, Muhammad's not above praising himself:

33.21 *Certainly you have in the Apostle of Allah [i.e., in me] an excellent exemplar for him who hopes in Allah and the latter day and remembers Allah much.*

He then apparently wanted to relay messages from Allah to Muhammad's many wives (not, of course, that Muhammad had anything to do with concocting the messages!):

33.28 *O Prophet! say to your wives If you desire this world's life and its adornment, then come, I will give you a provision and allow you to depart a goodly departing*

33.29 *And if you desire Allah and His Apostle and the latter abode, then surely Allah has prepared for the doers of good among you a mighty reward.*

33.30 *O wives of the prophet! whoever of you commits an open indecency, the punishment shall be increased to her doubly; and this is easy to Allah.*

33.31 *And whoever of you is obedient to Allah and His Apostle and does good, We will give to her her reward doubly, and We have prepared for her an honorable sustenance.*

33.32 *O wives of the Prophet! you are not like any other of the women; If you will be on your guard, then be not soft in (your) speech, lest he in whose heart is a disease yearn; and speak a good word.*

33.33 *And stay in your houses and do not display your finery like the displaying of the ignorance of yore; and keep up prayer, and pay the poor-rate, and obey Allah and His Apostle. Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you, O people of the House! and to purify you a (thorough) purifying.*

33.34 *And keep to mind what is recited in your houses of the communications of Allah and the wisdom; surely Allah is Knower of subtleties, Aware.*

Muhammad also relays messages from Allah to Muhammad's obedient followers (again, of course, not that I would wonder if Muhammad didn't modify the messages for his own benefit):

33.36 *And it behooves not a believing man and a believing woman that they should have any choice in their matter when Allah and His Apostle have decided a matter; and whoever disobeys Allah and His Apostle, he surely strays off a manifest straying.*

33.38 *There is no harm in the Prophet doing that which Allah has ordained for him; such has been the course of Allah with respect to those who have gone before; and the command of Allah is a decree that is made absolute*

33.40 *Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Apostle of Allah and the Last of the prophets...* [Happiness is having the final word.]

And apparently, happiness is also in having more wives than anyone else:

33.50 *O Prophet! surely We have made lawful to you your wives whom you have given their dowries, and those whom your right hand possesses [i.e., your slaves] out of those whom Allah has given to you as prisoners of war, and the daughters of your paternal uncles and the daughters of your paternal aunts, and the daughters of your maternal uncles and the daughters of your maternal aunts who fled with you; and a believing woman if she gave herself to the Prophet, if the Prophet desired to marry her – specially for you, not for the (rest of) believers; We know what We have ordained for them concerning their wives and those whom their right hands possess in order that no blame may attach to you; and Allah is Forgiving, Merciful [even for a sex maniac such as yourself].*

And it's especially good if you can easily get rid of some of your wives with little trouble for you:

33.51 *You may put off whom you please of them, and you may take to you whom you please, and whom you desire of those whom you had separated provisionally; no blame attaches to you; this is most proper, so that their eyes may be cool and they may not grieve, and that they should be pleased, all of them with what you give them...*

And a little privacy, if you please:

33.53 *O you who believe! do not enter the houses of the Prophet unless permission is given to you for a meal, not waiting for its cooking being finished – but when you are invited, enter, and when you have taken the food, then disperse – not seeking to listen to talk; surely this gives the Prophet trouble, but he forbears from you, and Allah does not forbear from the truth. And when you ask of them any goods, ask of them from behind a curtain; this is purer for your hearts and (for) their hearts; and it does not behoove you that you should give trouble to the Apostle of Allah, nor that you should marry his wives after him ever; surely this is grievous in the sight of Allah. [Even after I'm dead, damn it, those women are mine!]*

And Muhammad is to get other special privileges, because

33.56 *Surely Allah and His angels bless the Prophet; O you who believe! call for (Divine) blessings on him and salute him with a (becoming) salutation.*

For example, believing women aren't to wear all those over-garments in Muhammad's presence:

33.59 *O Prophet! say to your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers that they let down upon them their over-garments; this will be more proper, that they may be known, and thus they will not be given trouble...*

Poor Muhammad: troubles, troubles, troubles.

The Rangers

Criticism of Muhammad apparently never ended:

37.12 *Nay! you wonder while they mock, And when they are reminded, they mind not, And when they see a sign they incite one another to scoff, And they say This is nothing but clear magic.*

37.36 *And to say What! shall we indeed give up our gods for the sake of a mad poet?*

The rest of this "Rangers" seems to be written in the form of a poem (about Noah, Abraham, et al.). Whether or not the poet is 'mad', I'll leave for some youngster to add! Maybe:

Those who knew him said he was quite mad,
And it's clear that Muhammad was bad;
Yet with parents both dead
And his wife, family head,
Then maybe the fool was just sad.

Although, upon thinking about it a bit, it leads me to concoct a new insult: "As bad as Muhammad!" In fact, I think that "mad", "insane", "sex maniac", "liar", "murderer" inadequately describe him. How about:

Though it's more than a mere PC gaff
(Which alone leads to Muslim-based wrath),
Yet Muhammad was not
Just a sick sorry lot
He was clearly a damn psychopath.

Muhammad

Some “rules of war” – which actually aren’t so bad as they first seem, given that war is hell, although it would have helped if Muhammad had promoted attempts to avoid war:

47.4 *So when you meet in battle those who disbelieve, then smite the necks until when you have overcome them, then make (them) prisoners, and afterwards either set them free as a favor or let them ransom (themselves) until the war terminates. That (shall be so); and if Allah had pleased He would certainly have exacted what is due from them, but that He may try some of you by means of others; and (as for) those who are slain in the way of Allah, He will by no means allow their deeds to perish.*

Perhaps the above was poorly received – which then might explain what appears to be Muhammad’s attempts to rally his troops to fight:

47.20 *And those who believe say Why has not a chapter been revealed? But when a decisive chapter is revealed, and fighting is mentioned therein you see those in whose hearts is a disease look to you with the look of one fainting because of death. [Those unwilling to fight?] Woe to them then!*

47.30 *And if We [Allah] please We would have made you know them [those unwilling to fight?] so that you would certainly have recognized them by their marks and most certainly you can recognize them by the intent of (their) speech...*

And then Muhammad goes on with his strange, foolish, philosophy:

47.36 *The life of this world is only idle sport and play, and if you believe and guard (against evil) He will give you your rewards, and will not ask of you your possessions.*

As you know, Dear, I agree that life’s a game – but the adjective ‘idle’ is inappropriate – yet, I strongly disagree that the recommendation to live this life as if it were only preparation for your next life. Let it be preparation for the lives of the next people!

The Victory

48.1 *Surely We have given to you a clear victory... That Allah may forgive your community their past faults and those to follow and complete His favor to you and keep you on a right way, And that Allah might help you with a mighty help.*

48.4 *He it is Who sent down tranquility into the hearts of the believers that they might have more of faith added to their faith...*

No doubt belief in some giant Jabberwock in the sky can bring ‘tranquility’ to ‘believers’ who can have more ‘faith’ piled on top of their existing delusions – but then, so can illegal drugs, such as opium; as Marx said, “Religion is opium for the masses.” And Muhammad desires that his ‘revelations’ become “the drug of choice” for all religious addicts, worldwide:

48.28 *He it is Who sent His Apostle with the guidance and the true religion that He may make it prevail over all the religions...*

The Chambers

But apparently Muhammad had troubles keeping even his own crew under control:

49.1 *O you who believe! be not [be?] forward in the presence of Allah and His Apostle...do not raise your voices above the voice of the Prophet, and do not speak loud to him as you speak loud to one another, lest your deeds became null while you do not perceive. Surely those who lower their voices before Allah’s Apostle are they whose hearts Allah has proved for guarding (against evil)... (As for) those who call out to you from behind the private chambers, surely most of them do not understand. And if they wait patiently until you come out to them, it would certainly be better for them...*

What strange admonitions, starting at

49.11 *...do not... call one another by nicknames... avoid most of suspicion, for surely suspicion in some cases is a sin, and do not spy...*

Muhammad seems to me to be like a little child, requiring others to play by his rules and throwing temper tantrums if he doesn’t get his way.

The Iron

As in the New Testament, Muhammad preaches that people should be charitable out of greed:

57.18 *Surely (as for) the charitable men and the charitable women and (those who) set apart for Allah a goodly portion, it shall be doubled for them and they shall have a noble reward. [Although in the NT, the promised return is much more than “double”!]*

In addition, though, he preaches a weird fatalism:

57.22 *No evil befalls on the earth nor in your own souls, but it is in a book before We bring it into existence...*

So, according to Muhammad, not only does God permit evil, he has it all planned out and written down in his “book”. It suggests that Muhammad (who allegedly couldn’t read) considered books to be magical and powerful – including the Bible (which he called “the Book”):

57.25 *Certainly We sent Our apostles with clear arguments [as if “arguments” were sufficient, even without evidence!], and sent down with them the Book and the balance [Allah made the balance?!] that men may conduct themselves with equity; and We have made the iron [Allah made iron? – and no doubt the internet, as well!], wherein is great violence and advantages to men...*

57.27 *Then We made Our apostles to follow in their footsteps, and We sent Isa [Jesus] son of Marium [Mary] afterwards, and We gave him the Injeel [the Gospel or the New Testament], and We put in the hearts of those who followed him kindness and mercy; and (as for) monkery, they innovated it – We did not prescribe it to them...*

And so, congratulations to Muhammad for criticizing the “monkery” of Christianity. I wonder what he would say if he could see the “monkery” now rampant in Islam!

She Who Pleaded

Poor old Muhammad – apparently he was called on by his followers to settle domestic disputes:

58.1 *Allah indeed knows the plea of her who pleads with you about her husband and complains to Allah, and Allah knows the contentions of both of you...*

Such is the fate of those who have followers! That, and more:

58.9 *O you who believe! when you confer together in private, do not give to each other counsel of sin and revolt and disobedience to the Apostle... Secret counsels are only (the work) of the Shaitan [Satan] that he may cause to grieve those who believe, and he cannot hurt them in the least except with Allah’s permission [so God give Satan permission to do his dirty work? Isn’t that the definition of an accomplice? Isn’t Allah then equally guilty?!]*

But at least Muhammad is to get paid for his counseling:

58.12 *O you who believe! when you consult the Apostle, then offer something in charity before your consultation; that is better for you and purer...*

Unless of course you're broke:

58.13 *Do you fear that you will not (be able to) give in charity before your consultation? So when you do not do it and Allah has turned to you (mercifully), then keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate and obey Allah and His Apostle; and Allah is Aware of what you do.*

Although, as a counselor, Muhammad left as much to be desired as did Jesus, both managing to break families and communities apart:

58.22 *You shall not find a people who believe in Allah and the latter day befriending those who act in opposition to Allah and His Apostle, even though they were their (own) fathers, or their sons, or their brothers, or their kinsfolk; these are they into whose hearts He has impressed faith... [rather than love and kindness!]*

The Banishment

Courtesy the following stupid statement from Muhammad, maybe the terrorists "think" they'll win:

59.14 *They will not fight against you in a body save in fortified towns or from behind walls; their fighting between them is severe, you may think them as one body, and their hearts are disunited; that is because they are a people who have no sense.*

Well, some of us, at least, have sense enough not to live our lives as participants in fairy tales!

The Examined One

And the following sure doesn't help humanity toward peace:

60.1 *O you who believe! do not take My enemy and your enemy for friends. Would you offer them love while they deny what has come to you of the truth, driving out the Apostle and yourselves because you believe in Allah, your Lord? If you go forth struggling hard in My path and seeking My pleasure, would you manifest love to them? And I know what you conceal and what you manifest; and whoever of you does this, he indeed has gone astray from the straight path.*

60.2 *If they find you, they will be your enemies, and will stretch forth towards you their hands and their tongues with evil, and they ardently desire that you may disbelieve.*

60.3 *Your relationship would not profit you, nor your children on the day of resurrection; He will decide between you; and Allah sees what you do.*

60.4 *Indeed, there is for you a good example in Ibrahim and those with him when they said to their people Surely we are clear of you and of what you serve besides Allah; we declare ourselves to be clear of you, and enmity and hatred have appeared between us and you forever until you believe in Allah alone...*

To all of which I respond, “Muhammad and all terrorists and clerics of the world: BLOW IT OUT YOUR EARS!”

The Ranks

According to Muhammad, make war, not love:

61.4 *Surely Allah loves those who fight in His way in ranks as if they were a firm and compact wall.*

But maybe it’s okay to love old merchants, such as Muhammad:

61.10 *O you who believe! shall I lead you to a merchandise which may deliver you from a painful chastisement?*

The Congregation

But Muhammad considers himself to be no longer a merchant but an Apostle:

62.2 *He it is Who raised among the inhabitants of Mecca an Apostle from among themselves, who recites to them His communications and purifies them, and teaches them the Book and the Wisdom...*

62.6 *Say O you who are Jews, if you think that you are the favorites of Allah to the exclusion of other people, then invoke death If you are truthful.*

Poor old Muhammad has got himself caught in another “discrepancy”. Apparently, no one told him that the Ancient Jews didn’t believe in an afterlife – especially including his ‘heroes’ (such as the murderer Moses, the drunken lout Noah who cursed his grandson for his son’s seeing him naked, the damnable Lot for offering his daughters to be raped by a mob, and the horrible Abraham who lied, pimped his wife, and planned to murder his son). All the afterlife nonsense was picked up by Ezra and his crowd after they converted to the Zoroastrian religion of the Persians! Nonetheless, Muhammad did catch the Christians in a logical fallacy: “Invoke death if you are truthful.” In contrast, the terrorists are at least consistent; they say, “We love death”; so I say, let’s give them what they want.

The Hypocrites

63.1 *When the hypocrites come to you, they say We bear witness that you are most surely Allah's Apostle; and Allah knows that you are most surely His Apostle, and Allah bears witness that the hypocrites are surely liars. [Whatever.]*

The Mutual Deceit

64.12 *[O]bey Allah and obey the Apostle, but if you turn back, then upon Our Apostle devolves only the clear delivery (of the message). [Whatever.]*

64.17 *If you set apart for Allah a goodly portion, He will double it for you and forgive you; and Allah is the Multiplier (of rewards)...*

And if you buy that, then I have some great ocean front property in Arizona that I can let you have for pennies on the dollar...

The Divorce

65.1 *O Prophet! when you divorce women, divorce them for their prescribed time, and calculate the number of the days prescribed, and be careful of (your duty to) Allah, your Lord.*

The Prohibition

Apparently Muhammad had his own domestic problems:

66.3 *And when the prophet secretly communicated a piece of information to one of his wives – but when she informed (others) of it, and Allah made him to know it, he made known part of it and avoided part; so when he informed her of it, she said Who informed you of this? He said The Knowing, the one Aware, informed me.*

66.5 *Maybe, his Lord, if he divorce you, will give him in your place wives better than you, submissive, faithful, obedient, penitent, adorers, fasters, widows and virgins.*

Maybe – or maybe not – but you can always dream – apparently!

66.8 *O you who believe! turn to Allah a sincere turning; maybe your Lord will remove from you your evil and cause you to enter gardens beneath which rivers flow, on the day on which Allah will not abase the Prophet...*

Maybe, but then who would have expected Allah to abase Muhammad!

The Clear Evidence

Of course this “clear evidence” is:

98.2 *An apostle from Allah, reciting pure pages, Wherein are all the right ordinances...*

And as proof that this is “clear evidence”, Muhammad offers the Quran. And as proof that Superman is weakened by kryptonite, I offer you almost any Superman comic book. Clear enough?

The Help

110.1 *When there comes the help of Allah and the victory,*

110.2 *And you see men entering the religion of Allah in companies,*

110.3 *Then celebrate the praise of your Lord, and ask His forgiveness; surely He is oft-returning (to mercy).*

Whatever! And then finally, Dear, have a look at Sura 9, which seems to be generally accepted as Muhammad’s final “revelation”.

The Immunity [also called “The Ultimatum”]

9.1 *(This is a declaration of) immunity by Allah and His Apostle towards those of the idolaters with whom you made an agreement.*

9.3 *And an announcement from Allah and His Apostle to the people on the day of the greater pilgrimage that Allah and His Apostle are free from liability to the idolaters... [We declare ourselves innocent of all charges and free from all liability. Any questions? Isn’t there someone who’s tired of having his neck hold up his head?]*

9.5 *So when the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush... [Kill, kill, kill!]*

9.7 *How can there be an agreement for the idolaters with Allah and with His Apostle; except those with whom you made an agreement at the Sacred Mosque? ...*

So, Dear, apparently we shouldn’t trust any treaty with Muslims unless the treat is signed at the Sacred Mosque. That’s enough to drive me to another limerick:

Since the basis of business is “just”
Productivity, honor, and trust,

Then when dealing with those
Wearing Arabic clothes
Signing contracts in mosques is a must!

There is, however, a slight problem – mosques are off limits to us:

- 9.17 *The idolaters have no right to visit the mosques of Allah while bearing witness to unbelief against themselves, these it is whose doings are null, and in the fire shall they abide.*
- 9.18 *Only he shall visit the mosques of Allah who believes in Allah and the latter day, and keeps up prayer and pays the poor-rate and fears none but Allah; so (as for) these, it may be that they are of the followers of the right course.*

Muslims are required even to disown their fathers, brothers, sons, and wives if they are unbelievers [in Muhammad's fairy tale]:

- 9.23 *O you who believe! do not take your fathers and your brothers for guardians if they love unbelief more than belief; and whoever of you takes them for a guardian, these it is that are the unjust.*
- 9.24 *Say If your fathers and your sons and your brethren and your mates and your kinsfolk and property which you have acquired, and the slackness of trade which you fear and dwellings which you like, are dearer to you than Allah and His Apostle and striving in His way, then wait till Allah brings about His command and Allah does not guide the transgressing people.*

According to Muhammad, disbelievers in his fairy tale and the idolaters are to be subjugated:

- 9.28 *O you who believe! the idolaters are nothing but unclean, so they shall not approach the Sacred Mosque after this year...*
- 9.29 *Fight those who do not believe in Allah, nor in the latter day, nor do they prohibit what Allah and His Apostle have prohibited, nor follow the religion of truth [cough, cough], out of those who have been given the Book, until they pay the tax in acknowledgment of superiority and they are in a state of subjection.*

And therefore, Dear, probably during your entire life, war will rage between Muslims and humans, i.e., those who'll fight to the death before they'll be "in a state of subjection" to a bunch of imbecilic, maniacal Muslims.

Illustrate of what such Muslims mean by “a state of subjection” is given by the following quotation.¹

Sir Jadunath Sarkar, for example, a pre-eminent historian of Mughal India, wrote the following in 1920 regarding the particularly debasing imposition of the Koranic poll-tax (cf. Koran 9:29) upon the indigenous Hindus of the Indian subcontinent.

As the learned Qazi Mughis-ud-din declared, in accordance with the teachings of the books on Canon Law: “The Hindus are designated in the Law as ‘payers of tribute’ (kharaj-guzar); and when the revenue officer demands silver from them, they should, without question and with all humility and respect, tender gold. If the officer throws dirt into their mouths, they must without reluctance open their mouths wide to receive it.” By these acts of degradation are shown the extreme obedience of the zimmi [dhimmi], the glorification of the true faith of Islam, and the abasement of false faiths. God himself orders them to be humiliated, as He says, “till they pay jaziya with the hand and are humbled... The Prophet has commanded us to slay them, plunder them, and make them captive...” No other religious authority except the great Imam (Hanifa) whose faith we follow, has sanctioned the imposition of jaziya on Hindus. According to all other theologians, the rule for Hindus is ‘Either death or Islam’.

The late (d. 2002) scholar K.S. Lal records this translation, “...and should the collector choose to spit into his mouth, opens the same without hesitation, so that the official may spit into it...” Lal notes, further that, “Actual spitting in the mouth of the non-Muslims was not uncommon.” Lal cites a poem by Vijaya Gupta (1493-1519 CE), which includes the line, “The peons employed by the qazis tore away the sacred threads of the Brahmans and spat saliva in their mouths.”

And should you think, Dear, that such horridness is irrelevant for you, then let me remind you of two recent statements. The first was contained in an open letter to Americans from Osama bin Laden (written soon after 9/11):

Allah Almighty’s Word to his Prophet [Muhammad] recounts in summation the true relationship [between non-Muslims and Muslims]: “O Prophet! Wage war against the infidels and hypocrites and be ruthless. Their abode is hell — an evil fate!” Such, then, is the basis and foundation of the relationship between the infidel and the Muslim. Battle, animosity, and hatred — directed from the Muslim to the infidel — is the foundation of our religion.

And the other statement for your consideration was made by the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, on 14 August 2007:

¹ Copied from “Andrew Bostom comments on Tony Blankley’s Journey Into Islam”, 20 June 2007, *Jihad Watch* at <http://www.jihadwatch.org/>.

There is no truth on earth but monotheism and following tenets of Islam, and there is no way for salvation of mankind but rule of Islam over mankind.

In preparation for any eventuality, Dear, maybe you'd like to join me and buy yourself an AK-47, so that we'll be able to welcome them suitably – to show them how readily we accept the status of “dhimmitude” (a status in which we would be forbidden to possess weapons or to criticize Islam), that is, so that we can ensure that any Muslim who “thinks” similarly will have a big enough hole to blow it out their ears.

And to end this tromp through Muhammad's craziness called the Quran, there's his treasonous declaration against humanity, urging his followers to kill people who dare to think differently from him:

9.123 *O you who believe! fight those of the unbelievers who are near to you and let them find in you hardness...*

If there were a hell, that's where Muhammad and his mad followers belong. Such horridness is enough to drive me to still another limerick:

Old Muhammad, he never seemed sad,
He apparently loved what he had:
His wives he adored,
His enemies, gored,
Since he killed those who saw he was 'mad'.

And with that, I end my trek through the quagmire called the Quran. In summary, I'd say that, as with the Bible, it's not worth the paper that it's printed on. But maybe it's worth another couple of limericks.

Old Muhammad, a merchant by trade,
Is quite famous for offers he made:
Pay less and get more,
Free virgins galore –
But your life was the price that you paid.

Those who knew, said Muhammad was mad,
The Quran shows the madman was bad:
He would cut off your head,
Take your widow to bed,
And call murder and rape his “Jihad”!

Otherwise, Dear, I don't know how to summarize it. It's just another bunch of religious garbage that belongs in the trashcan marked "Human Mistakes."

Yet, I would give Muhammad a little credit: he saw some of the stupidities in both Judaism and Christianity, apparently based on stories he heard derived from the Bible, and rejected those stupidities. Unfortunately, though, he bought into the propaganda promoted by the authors of the Old Testament (Ezra and co-authors), i.e., the stupidity about the Jewish people being stupid. Thereby, unfortunately he became anti-Jewish, as is Islam to this day. But he didn't buy into the silliness promoted by Paul (and then, in the rest of the New Testament) that Jesus was the son of God who sacrificed Jesus to atone for the "original sin" of all humans (because Adam ate the apple). Thereby, and fortunately for humanity, Muhammad rejected Christianity (i.e., Paulism).

If any principle can be discerned from all of that, perhaps it's just: pendulums swing.

Thus, Dear, consider again what happened. Insofar as the backward, tribal, brutal Arabs paid attention to anything but trying to stay alive in a hostile environment, then while to the north the remains of the Roman Empire fought with the remains of the Persian Empire, the Arabs found monotheistic Jews and Christians immigrating to their desert, which the Arabs were convinced was ruled by a host of "nature gods". The Arabs apparently had the same idea about death as did most sensible people: when you die, you're dead.

Meanwhile, though, some crazed kook by the name of Muhammad (orphaned as a child, a merchant working for a woman he subsequently married) bought into the general ideas of the foreigners, not only believing in the oxymoronic idea of life after death but also claiming that he could communicate with the one, all-powerful god. Understandably, his fellow Arab thought he was bonkers (both mad and a liar). And understandably, that didn't sit well with Muhammad, especially when they threw him out of town (Mecca).

But he was an organizer, to be sure, and in Medina, he organized a rag-tag group of similarly mystic followers, convinced them that they would live forever, and thereby created for himself a powerful fighting force – for what

could be more powerful fighting force than one made of maniacs who believe not only that they'll live forever but also that, if they're (temporarily) killed fighting for Muhammad, they'd get immediate access to an eternal paradise. Drug people with that delusion and there's no need for bravery! As a result, not only did Muhammad conquer his hometown, but in subsequent centuries, his followers conquered countries from Spain to Afghanistan (and parts of India).

Those were "the glory days" of Islam. Although ruled by tyrants (as was the norm for the time), Islam flourished for a while. During that time, there were men such as the Egyptian scientist Alhacen (Ibn al-Hitham, 965–1040, who was basically the founder of the physics of optics and who wrote his book *Optics* summarizing his experiments performed while he was in prison for more than a decade) and of course, the Persian astronomer, mathematician, philosopher, poet, genius, Omar Khayyam.

But then, Dear, look more at his poem *The Rubaiyat*, which he wrote in 1120, as given in the translation by Edward Fitzgerald (1809–1883).

*Strange, is it not? that of the myriads who
Before us pass'd the door of Darkness through,
Not one returns to tell us of the Road,
Which to discover we must travel too.*

*The Revelations of Devout and Learn'd
Who rose before us, and as Prophets burn'd,
Are all but Stories, which, awoke from Sleep,
They told their comrades, and to Sleep return'd.*

*I sent my Soul through the Invisible,
Some letter of that After-life to spell:
And by and by my Soul return'd to me,
And answer'd "I Myself am Heav'n and Hell:"*

*Heav'n but the Vision of fulfill'd Desire,
And Hell the Shadow from a Soul on fire,
Cast on the Darkness into which Ourselves,
So late emerged from, shall so soon expire.*

*We are no other than a moving row
Of Magic Shadow-shapes that come and go
Round with the Sun-illumined Lantern held
In Midnight by the Master of the Show;*

*But helpless Pieces of the Game He plays
Upon this Chequer-board of Nights and Days;
Hither and thither moves, and checks, and slays,
And one by one back in the Closet lays.*

*The Ball no question makes of Ayes and Noes,
But Here or There as strikes the Player goes;
And He that toss'd you down into the Field,
He knows about it all – He knows – HE knows!*

*The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.*

*And that inverted Bowl they call the Sky,
Whereunder crawling coop'd we live and die,
Lift not your hands to It for help – for It
As impotently moves as you or I.*

*Oh, threats of Hell and Hopes of Paradise!
One thing at least is certain – This Life flies;
One thing is certain and the rest is Lies:
The Flower that once has bloomed for ever dies.*

With ideas like that, no religion – including Islam – could (or will) survive!

So, the damnable Islamic clerics did what the damnable Christian clerics did ~500 years earlier: they put the brakes on scientific progress; they used their damnable mysticism to damp out the pendulum's swing; they drove their societies into their Dark Ages, from which Islamic societies still haven't recovered; and they did it just as the Christians had done it (and continued to do it): with the sword. That is, just as the murdering Christians had the butcher Emperor Constantine as their example, the murdering Muslims had Muhammad (or "Mahmud") as their example. Thus, as Omar Khayyam also wrote in the *Rubaiyat*:

*The mighty Mahmud, Allah-breathing Lord
That all the misbelieving and black Horde
Of Fears and Sorrows that infest the Soul
Scatters before him with his whirlwind Sword.*

Yet “it’s a ill wind that blows no good”, and for humanity, it was fortunate that Islam stopped the Christian cancer from spreading throughout the world. As a result, while the Christian clerics had been able to almost totally stop human progress throughout Europe for ~1,000 years during Europe’s Dark Ages, Islam permitted some progress, preserving Greek knowledge and expanding it (e.g., in mathematics and in science, via the scientific method). But now, unfortunately for Muslims and for the rest of humanity, the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction. In the West, thanks to humanists and scientists during the past ~500 years, the stupidity of the Christian clerics has been exposed, and therefore, the power of the damnable Christian clerics has been waning.

Meanwhile, however, the stupidity and power of the Islamic clerics waxed, driving the poor Islamic people even deeper into their own Dark Ages. In a terrible twist of Muhammad’s teachings, the clerics promoted and still promote ignorance. Thus, although Muhammad reportedly stated “Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave” and “The acquisition of knowledge is compulsory for every Muslim, whether male or female”, yet Islamic clerics twisted this clear injunction into the perversion that Muhammad meant only “knowledge of the Quran.” That idiocy shut down science in Islam for the past ~1000 years.

And in a terrible twist of treachery, the Islamic clerics have even managed to spin the pendulum. Recently, when some of the especially fortunate Muslim youths (e.g., those whose parents were enriched by oil revenues) made it to the West (e.g., to get some decent education), they saw how backward their countries were. And agreeing with their clerics that there must be some reason for Islam’s backwardness, they were (and still are) hoodwinked by the same clerics to believe that the cause is not the clerics (of course!), but the wickedness of the West – a perverted idea that supplies all the cannon fodder and suicide bombers that Bin Laden and his bandits can use.

As for the outcome, I don’ know. Maybe Muslims, too, will be able to break free from their clerics’ ignorance. Maybe Muslims will be able to start their scientific pendulum swinging again. But, be that as it will be, my point is simply this: although Muhammad polluted humanity with still another religion, I’m thankful that he was able to do to stop the spread of the Christian clerics’ cancer – and I add my hope that “secular Muslims” and “unbelievers” will succeed in arresting and eventually eliminating the spread of the Muslim clerics’ equally horrible (or even worse) cancer.