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Virginia Marston

40 Questions to Mohamedans

I know, I know. *Curiosity killed the cat* and didn't do much for the Muslim Yenta, either. But, given the vastness of God's creation, it stands to reason that a proportionately inquisitive nature is in order, right? Besides, there are just *some* things that *must* be asked; whether anyone can actually *answer* them is another story...

- And I, for one, want to know -
- 1) How do you know that TV is so evil if you never watch it?
 - 2) Why are there so many descendents of Prophet Muhammad, who had no surviving son?
 - 3) Didn't Abu Jahl have any children?
 - 4) Why do the women who cover the most tend to have the least worth covering?
 - 5) Speaking of which, does the Qur'an say anything about concealing ugliness?
 - 6) Why do so many converts insist on dropping Christian names for the pagan ones of the *Sahaba*?
 - 7) Why do Islamic organizations tend to be neither?
 - 8) Why are "unity" gatherings usually ethnically homogeneous?
 - 9) Where is "Back Home," anyway?
 - 10) Did Prophet Muhammad say "may God's peace and blessings be upon me"?
 - 11) How can you run an Islamic society when you can't even agree on a moon-sighting?
 - 12) Will the (dis)organizations have a Mahdi-sighting committee in the Last Days?
 - 13) If physical strength makes men superior to women, are mules superior to men?
 - 14) Why do Western Muslims visiting Muslim countries during Ramadan tend to waive their traveler's concessions,

- while immigrant Muslims often treat the US like a spiritual demilitarized zone in Ramadan?
- 15) Why are you compelled to compel to a religion in which there is *no compulsion* (2:256)?
 - 16) Why were women fresh out of *jahiliyah* afforded more respect than those who have had 14 centuries of respectability to prove themselves worthy of Islamic treatment?
 - 17) Why are men who interact with women at work or school suddenly too shy to speak to a *Muslimah*?
 - 18) Are women 'awrah?
 - 19) Why do you issue your loudest invitations to those who are already at God's party?
 - 20) Why do you gain weight during a month of fasting?
 - 21) Why was interaction between the sexes good enough for the Prophets but not for us?
 - 22) Would Prophet Muhammad have been able to afford the admission fees of the conferences we hold to discuss his life?
 - 23) Why is fluency in Arabic a prerequisite for *da'wah* work amongst people who think a *hamza* is an Italian sports car?
 - 24) Why is it less proper for Muslim women to interact in society than non-Muslim ones?
 - 25) Why do you import scholars from halfway around the world to speak on issues they've never heard of in a land they've only seen in reruns of "Three's Company"?
 - 26) Why do so many north Africans call themselves "Arabs"?
 - 27) If you're supposed to set yourselves apart from non-Muslims, why do *some*

- Muslim women look like nuns?
- 28) How can you forget to remember God when you remember so well to forget Him?
 - 29) Shouldn't God's students cut class distinctions?
 - 30) If women outnumber men, why are women's sections in mosques so small?
 - 31) Why do you only say "masha'Allah" when something pleasant happens?
 - 32) If Muslim countries are so wonderful, why are the majority of their citizens over here?
 - 33) Why does the verse enjoining male modesty come *before* the one directed to the fair sex?
 - 34) If Islam traditionally grants child custody to fathers, why do the mothers always get them during Islamic gatherings?
 - 35) Why is so much of the "Middle Nation" now the "Nation with the Middle"?
 - 36) Why are you so contemptuous of non-Muslims when so many of your heroes used to be them?
 - 37) If this country is so wicked, what are you all doing here?
 - 38) Do men outnumber women in Islamic organizations because it takes more of them to accomplish anything?
 - 39) Why do you rely on the very people you condemn as "filthy pagans" to entertain you?
 - 40) Shouldn't the "best of peoples" have a lot to smile about?

Editor's note: Virginia Marston, known as Karima Omar in her Mohamedan days, is a writer with wonderful wit and sharp analysis. She shared some of her articles in the April and May, 1988 issues of the *Perspective*. We are delighted to have her back in this issue.

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

SUBMITTERS PERSPECTIVE

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Editor: Abdullah Arik / Masjid Tucson

"They want to put out God's light with their mouths, but God insists upon perfecting His light, in spite of the disbelievers" (9:32)

TALES vs TRUTH

Is Satan trying to confuse people about God's message using Salman Rushdie?



There Was This Storyteller . . .

Next month Salman Rushdie's first book since *The Satanic Verses* will reach U.S. bookstores. The initial printing (125,000 copies) is large for a children's book, which is what *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* at first appears to be. But hold on. The tale seems eerily parallel to Rushdie's predicament. There is a storyteller named Rashid Khalifa, also known as the Shah of Blah, who loses the gift of the gab and can no longer entertain. What's worse, his condition is mysteriously linked to a fanatic cult that wants to wipe out not only made-up tales but also human speech. Children may take all this as make-believe, but adult readers are free to perceive some veiled autobiography, plus a wistful prophecy: in the end, the good guys live happily ever after. □

In the October 8, 1990 issue of Time Magazine, an interesting article, shown at left, appeared about the infamous writer Salman Rushdie whose book entitled *Satanic Verses* created a commotion among the so-called Muslim *ulama* (religious scholars). As you may remember, a two million dollar prize for Rushdie's head, offered by Ayatullah Khomeini early in 1989 before he passed away, made the book an instant seller. The article, shown on the left, is about Rushdie's new book for children *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*. It is very interesting that he chose the name Rashid Khalifa for the storyteller in his book. Like his first book *Satanic Verses*, this book also has some connection with the messenger of God. Is this just coincidence or is he now trying to appease the Mohamedans? Whatever the case, Satan is involved in it. It seems that Satan wants the people to confuse Rashad Khalifa with the character in this book. Of course, Satan knows very well that Rashad was a messenger of God, that sooner or later many people will believe in the message he represented. Therefore, this may be his attempt to fill people's minds with a fictional character called Rashid Khalifa as much as possible, before they even hear about Rashad Khalifa, the messenger of God. This way, when these people hear about Rashad and his message, Satan hopes that they will disregard him because they will equate him to the character in Rushdie's book.

Satan and his followers can scheme and plot all they want. God knows their plans and He always has a counter-plan that will turn their scheme into something that benefits His message and the believers. It is possible that the more this Rashid Khalifa character is publicized, the more inquisitive people may get about Rashad Khalifa and the message he was killed for.

A year ago, in the October 1989 issue of S.P., an article by Edip Yuksel under the title "The Salman Rushdie Connection," addressed the issue of *Satanic Verses*, and the connection between Rashad and Rushdie. Some of the excerpts from this article are given below:

"Both Salman Rushdie and Rashad Khalifa have the same number of letters in their names, both in English (13 letters each) and in Arabic (9 letters each). The title of Rushdie's book (*Satanic Verses*) has been the main subject of research by Rashad since 1985. (Rashad published that 9:128-129 are *Satanic Verses* in the MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE of March 1985).

...Satan wants to confuse the people and lead them to mix Rashad with Rushdie (just like claiming that 19-based miracle was a Bahai plot). Rashad was planning to publish the new translation with the Arabic text purified, after removal of the *Satanic Verses*...

Later developments removed all doubt regarding the connection, in God's plan, between Rushdie's affair and Rashad's upcoming translation... 38 so-called Muslim Ulama met in Saudi Arabia under the chairmanship of the notorious Sheikh Abdul Aziz ben Baz to discuss the Rushdie disaster, and ended up condemning both Rushdie and Rashad, and calling for killing them!! That meeting was held on March 19, and the number of participating Ulama was 19x2... A few days later, the international organization called "Article 19" launched a campaign in defense of Salman Rushdie (Article 19 of the Human Rights Charter of the U.N. guarantees freedom of expression). The whole world saw many famous writers defend Rushdie, with a great big poster behind them carrying nothing but a huge "19." ...The Rushdie matter is definitely a divine plan in preparation for the greatest event in this century: Publication of the purified Quran and its authorized English version."

Let us not forget God's promise in Quran: "...He causes the truth to prevail, and the falsehood to vanish, despite the evildoers." (8:8)

IN BRIEF

Edip Yuksel

THE DANGEROUS QUESTION

A few weeks before the martyrdom of the Messenger of the Covenant, while I was talking with him, I expressed my astonishment about the silence of the Mohamedans about the publication of the pure Quran and I asked the following rhetorical question: "Why do they not condemn this book publicly? Those who created a violent storm in a teaspoon of water for the fake Satanic Verses (Rushdie's book), why are they so quiet for the exposing of the real satanic verses?" The answer was simple: They are dying with their anger, but they cannot express it. If they publicize their anger by saying "Rashad has distorted the Quran," they will have real trouble answering the question of their followers: "You were claiming that God is preserving the ink and paper of the Quran from any distortion and you defended the last two verses of Chapter 9 based on that claim. Yet, how do you say that Rashad distorted the Quran?"

Did God break His promise now?!" Thus, to avoid this dangerous question, the Mohamedan leaders chose to hide their anger and rage in their hearts. They killed Rashad silently. They did. But they could not solve their problem. Thousands of copies of the translation of the Quran, purified of the two satanic verses, are now in every corner of the world. In the near future, when millions see the pure Quran, the avoided question will arise. Since they do not have the answer to this dangerous question, they will be deaf towards it. But for how long? Will they try to kill all of us? Poor idol worshipers! From now on, we will ask this dangerous question of every Mohamedan: "Did the Amawy kings and their followers add two verses to the Quran? Why not? Did Rashad take these two verses out of the Quran? Why, or why not?"

In Turkish, we have an expression which describes the dilemma of the Mohamedan leaders against this question: "If you spit up, you have mustache, if you spit down, you have beard." Since the answer to the avoided question is either 'YES' or 'NO,' there is no in-between for them. Sooner or later they will spit on either their beard or mustache!

19. PROVINCE OF IRAQ?

This is the first time in modern history that the Arab world has had such a big problem. They are practicing the verse 6:65. The Middle East is pregnant for a big disaster. I will not analyze the political, economical and military aspects of the recent invasion of Iraq. I want to call your attention to some numbers in this incident.

Iraq invaded Kuwait just after the 19th Islamic Conference which the presidents and foreign ministers of all "Muslim" countries attended.

Iraq claimed Kuwait to be its 19th province

If you follow the news about this subject, you will see numerous other 19's everywhere: the number of diplomats in Baghdad and in Washington, the number of minutes of Saddam's speech to the American people, and so on. Let's watch God's punishment of those who are described in Quran in verse 9:97:

"The Arabs are the worst in disbelief and hypocrisy, and the most likely to ignore the laws that God has revealed to His messenger. God is Omniscient, Most Wise."

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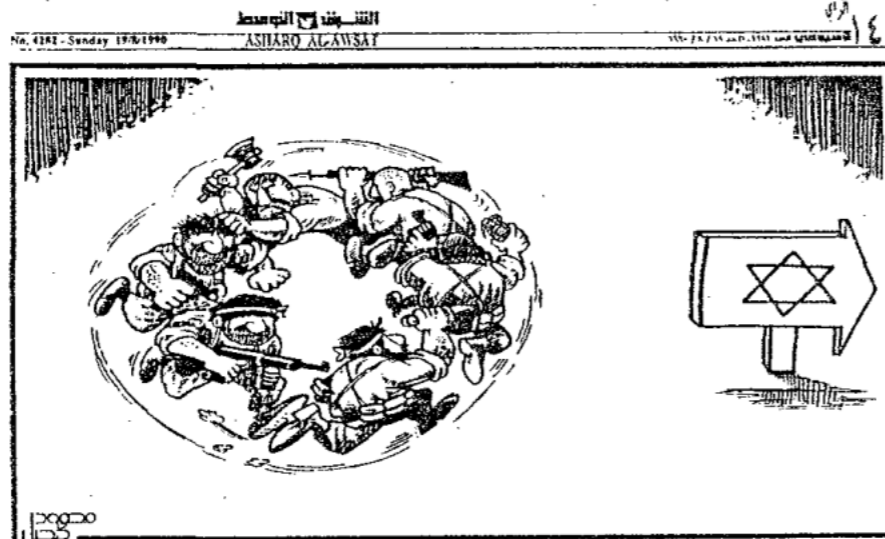
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Arabs vs Arabs

Say, "He is able to pour upon you retribution from above you, and from beneath your feet, or He can divide you into factions and have you taste each others' tyranny and persecution. Note how we explain the revelations, that they may understand." (6:65)

In the last issue of S.P., the lead article was titled "Arabs vs Arabs." The cartoon below is a perfect fit for that article. It is taken from the weekly newspaper *Asharq Al-Awsat*, published in Saudi Arabia. It gives you a good example how the Arabs themselves view the present situation in the Middle East. Notice that the date of publication is August 19.



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