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# VIEWS LETTER

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## Fear & Ignorance are the Nuts and Bolts of Fascism

~by AWD

Those whom I consider to be worthy of admiration and emulation are considered to be fools by a growing percentage of America. I guess that makes me a fool as well. Although, I should be unconcerned about the feelings of this particularly ignorant group, it is heartrending that a good number of my friends feel that I am misled and blindly following an imprudent path.

I would love to sit and talk to those other fools who have gone before and ask them if the cause that they proclaimed was worth the problems it caused them. I'm sure that almost every one of them would answer in the affirmative. Men like St. Paul, who was beheaded because of his Christianity or St. Peter who was crucified upside down at his own request because he didn't feel worthy enough to be crucified right-side-up like his Savior and friend, Jesus. There was the young man, Nathan Hale, who was hung as a spy by the British, giving his life for the future dreams of liberty for America. And all those other who gave their lives at places like Lexington, Concord, Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, New Orleans, Manassas, Shiloh, Chancellorsville, Belleau Wood, Normandy, Omaha Beach, Midway, Okinawa, the Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima and numerous other battlefields all over the world. Not forgetting those who died and were

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## Lights Out on Liberty

Mark Steyn

*Mark Steyn's column appears in the New York Sun, the Washington Times, Philadelphia's Evening Bulletin, and the Orange County Register. In addition, he writes for The New Criterion, Maclean's in Canada, the Jerusalem Post, The Australian, and Hawke's Bay Today in New Zealand. The author of National Review's Happy Warrior column, he also blogs on National Review Online and appears weekly on the Hugh Hewitt Radio Show. He is the author of several books, most recently America Alone: The End of The World as We Know It. Born in Toronto, Mr. Steyn lives with his family in New Hampshire.*

*The following is adapted from a lecture delivered at Hillsdale College on March 13, 2008, while Mr. Steyn was in residence as a Eugene C. Pulliam Visiting Fellow in Journalism.*

**On August 3, 1914**, on the eve of the First World War, British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey stood at the window of his office in the summer dusk and observed, "The lamps are going out all over Europe." Today, the lights are going out on liberty all over the Western world, but in a more subtle and profound way.

Much of the West is far too comfortable with state regulation of speech and expression, which puts freedom itself at risk. Let me cite some examples: The response of the European Union Commissioner for Justice, Freedom, and Security to the crisis over the Danish cartoons that sparked Muslim violence was to propose that newspapers exercise "prudence" on certain controversial subjects involving religions beginning with the letter "I." At the end of her life, the Italian writer Oriana Fallaci—after writing of the contradiction between Islam and the Western

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**The very purpose of our creation is to love God and others, and to be loved by God and others.**

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crippled and disfigured in places like Korea, Viet Nam, the Persian Gulf and, now, in Iraq and Afghanistan. I love, honor and respect all those forgotten men and women much more than I do many who have served as Commander-in-Chief. I do respect the office, but it's the persons who filled the office and their philosophies that I can't respect.

Wars are always fought for some ideology or another, some good and others not so good. Many of the recent battles have been fought for reasons other than defeating evil regimes that were a threat to America, but were waged and fought for personal and private policy. Policy of so-called leaders many elected on deceitful proclamations who insisted that going to war was in our best interest. Parents of these dead, young men and women should be demanding that these politicians be tried for treason and insurrection to the Constitution which each swore to uphold and support. I am aware that the attack on America that took place on 9/11/01 was real and that many American and others died because of it. Our government has the responsibility of catching those who were responsible and bringing them to justice, but nowhere in our Constitution does it authorize our government to meddle in the affairs of other nations.

The attempt to use unauthorized power is not uncommon in the history of the world or the brief history of America. History tells us that many of things that have happened during our short existence were not always right nor in our best interest.

Almost 100 years ago, William Howard Taft was elected the 27th President of the USA. He was a leader in the progressive, conservative wing of the Republican Party, (Progressive Conservatives, who tended to be slightly fascist in their philosophy, thought that the Constitution was too antiquated for the 20th Century and would have changed it if they had been able). Taft was a trust-buster on one hand and expanded the civil service on the other. Taking away a large amount of liberty for a small amount of security, and this small amount of security became a huge burden

by the 21st century as the civil service community makes up a large percentage of our population.

Woodrow Wilson's Federal Reserve Bank was probably the most damaging thing to ever be done to the American people, and may have been the final nail in the coffin containing liberty. Many of the Social programs put in place by FDR (Franklin D. Roosevelt) started an erosion of the liberties guaranteed us by our Constitution. Harry Truman was one of the best, and strongest Presidents to ever occupy the White House, but he wasn't strong enough to right the wrongs done by previous Presidents. Somehow, he was caught up in the Korean Conflict where many young men died and many more were crippled.

Everybody liked Ike, (Dwight D. Eisenhower) a strong man who oversaw the cease fire in Korea, helped the USA into the 'Space Race,' and gave us our Interstate Highway System.

Along came JFK, (John Fitzgerald Kennedy) whom the whole world loved, but he didn't live long enough to get anything done. It is believed by many that his death was caused by powerful people in high places—that his assassination was because of his desire to remove or limit the Federal Reserve's power.

Many of us can remember the upheaval of the sixties much of which was caused by the Viet Nam War among other things. The Congress and the Executive branch of our government were terribly afraid of The Peoples Republic of China and the Soviet Union. Fear worked both ends of the war effort in Viet Nam. Our government was afraid that the lack of our presence there fighting for democracy would cause a domino effect and that one country after another would fall to Communism. (. . . at least this was their excuse.) And, at the same time they were afraid to win because winning might cause another World War which they felt could be a nuclear holocaust. Fear dogged the decisions of LBJ (Lyndon Baines Johnson) and Robert McNamara; they both proved to be weak leaders at best. The question remains, what good did we do in Viet Nam? In retrospect, it is difficult to imagine anything good that came at the expense of all those young men

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who were killed, mutilated and crippled.

Then, Along came Dick (Richard Millhouse Nixon) who wasn't afraid and had a unquenchable thirst for power, but Watergate was his Waterloo. When he resigned, I was disappointed, but now I can see how the system worked and "Freedom of speech and freedom of the press," caused the light of truth to shine in dark places. America was wounded and weak, but she was still intact, and still a great nation in spite of all the attacks she had sustained.

Jerry Ford (Gerald Rudolph Ford, Jr.) finished Dick's second term, but because he pardoned Dick he wasn't elected for another one.

Jimmy Carter came along, he was a good guy, but another very weak leader.

President Ronald Reagan gave the nation a new identity. The Soviet Union lost the battle of spending and was disassembled. The Iron Curtain and Berlin Wall the came down. It isn't common knowledge, but Ronald Reagan was a believer in God and His Providence. He believed that what was right was right, and he counted on right to always win in the end. His strength was founded in his faith in God. President Reagan left behind two deeply, worn impressions in the carpet of the oval office where he spent hours on bended knees in prayer for his nation and for the wisdom to lead it.

George H. W. Bush was the first Bush. He won the Gulf War and wisely pulled back. He seemed to be in favor of a "New World Order," which probably meant a one world government. He was a one-term president.

Slick Willy (William Jefferson Clinton) was next, and he rode the wave of a strong economy which had been created by the Reagan Administration. For a Democrat, he was a conservative, and the economy seemed to thrive. TWA flight 800 was most probably shot down off the coast of New York by a very mysterious shooter during Slick's watch. Slick created a new definition of what having a sexual relation did not mean. His actions as an immoral person lead to new ideas for the 'un-sexual' activity of the teenagers of the nineties and

the first part of the 21st century.

Then came G. W. Bush, the second President Bush. A man who is the spitting image of Alfred E. Newman in more ways than one, however, the primary character of Mad Magazine seemed to have more common sense and intelligence than GW II. Vice President Chaney seems to be the real dark side of this administration holding the strings of this Puppet President. I think that the conservative right which includes the Religious right can't help but like a good old boy that seems to talk just like they do and claims to worship just like they do, etc. Everyone loves and likes good-old-boys. GW II is another President who doesn't like the confines of the Constitution.

Now in the immediate future of America, we have an election coming. The candidates running for President are difficult to become excited about. We don't have much of a choice. We can vote for "weak" or "worse"—the lesser of two evils. We have elected a Congress full of hopeless individuals who can think only of themselves. A vast majority of self-serving, arrogant, selfish men and women who each have taken an oath to uphold and support the Constitution of the United States although they haven't read it since high school and don't have a clue as to what it says much less what it means. But, they have sworn to uphold and support it. It is obvious that most of them spell the word **importance**, **'SELF.'**

The decaying of our Great Nation is under way, take a whiff of air while it is still free, you can smell the decay. There are only a few reasons for our ruin. Most assuredly it is because of ignorance, stupidity, and lazy complacency. There are more than a few people who know the truth, but what are they willing to do? Frederick Douglass once said, *"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to, and you have the exact measure of the injustice and wrong which will be imposed on them, and these will continue till they have been resisted with either words or blows or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they suppress."*

If you love liberty, justice and freedom, if you love

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## Some people walk in the rain, others just get wet.

-Roager Miller. musician (1936-1992)

your children, your grandchildren, and your country, then I challenge you to get a copy of the Constitution of the United States of America and read it. Article VI clause drives home a very important point. It states; **This Constitution . . . shall be the supreme Law of the land;** . . . All laws in America must conform to and are subservient to the Constitution. Then get a copy of the Bill of Rights and do the same with the first ten amendments. If you don't know these bottom line laws the Government can and someday may come and take your property, and there is nothing that you will be able to do about it. There are things you could do, but you won't know what they are because you are ignorant of your rights, and worse, you live among an ignorant society. Very few people in this country realize who they are and what their rights are. This fact makes the majority very ignorant which makes it easy for them to be manipulated by a very few, clever people.

The bottom line is; in America an American Citizen is sovereign, a U.S. Citizen is not nor a U.S. person nor a U.S. Taxpayer, they all possessions of the federal government. An American is a free person and belongs only to his or her creator. That is who I

am. I am an American Citizen with all the rights and privileges guaranteed to me in the Constitution of the United States of America, and I hope that that is who you are. If that is you, you are truly free. If you are one of the others mentioned you are not free, but a possession of the United States Government.

The vast majority of people that I talk to, and that will talk to me believe that there is nothing that can be done, and as a result they will live and die prostrate to the almighty government—being always subservient to the suggestions, requests and demands of the lowest plebe in charge. This attitude will make it easy for a power-hungry-despot to take over. Before you know it the law will forbid your talking about your faith in God or will forbid your complaints about any government code or any official. We have already lost many of our freedoms for the sake of who knows what! A person better not be caught spanking their children or they could be jailed and lose custody of them.

Presently, the price of oil and all commodities is causing great fear to be spread across the land. The economy can and will be used by officials in power to spread more and more fear, hunger and turmoil.

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## The Crisis of Christmas

The crisis of Christmas in the Christian community is truly a crisis of faith. Many of us will continue to ignore the invitation, dodge the truth, evade reality and postpone the decision about Jesus—which is a decision itself.

Yet Christmas is the birthday of the Son of God. What will separate the men from the boys, the women from the girls, the mystics from the romantics this Christmas will be the depth and quality of our passion for Jesus. The insensitive will eat, drink and be merry; the superficial will follow social customs in a religious setting; the defeated will be haunted by ghosts from the past.

And the victorious minority who are not intimidated by the cultural patterns of the lockstepping, anonymous and unbelieving majority will celebrate as though He is near, near in time, near in place, the witness of our motives, our speech, our behavior. As indeed He is.

The world will ignore them. A few pious and proper Christians may call them religious fanatics. But the victorious will be in touch with truth and living in reality. Their passion and seriousness about Christmas will be a microcosm, a paradigm, a foretaste of their life in Christ Jesus through the coming year.

The contemplatives will be among their numbers. So will the shipwrecked. And you and I? How are we going to celebrate Christmas?

~ **Brennan Manning** ~ *excerpt from The Relentless Tenderness of Jesus*

There is a group of people who have graduated from ignorant to stupid. In other words, they know that there is a problem, and they know what the problem is, but they won't do anything at all about it. This response is fear-driven, accompanied by ignorance and complacent stupidity. Many Americans have the blind faith that just because America is America that everything will be okay. I wish that this pipe dream were true, but logic tells me that it isn't. Blind faith in politicians who hunger for more and more power while ignoring justice is a grave error in judgment. A large percentage of this group of Americans hasn't begun to feel the pressure of poverty so they are living in denial and in the most relentless kind of ignorance. These are people who are deceived into thinking that sacrifice is something that only affects others, not themselves, and especially not government officials whether elected, appointed or hired.

America seems to be running around like a chicken with its head chopped off, and all this frantic activity is fear-inspired. The final words of our national anthem should be changed from land of the free and home of the brave to land of the enslaved and home of the fearful.

I heard a lot of rhetoric, clichés and slogans about the Constitution, liberty, justice and freedom during the Republican National Convention. Was it rhetoric or do these Republicans mean what they are saying? If McCain wins the election (After listening to the Sarah Palin's speech, I hope that he does.) the acid test of whether or not his true grit is sincere will be, will he face the facts about the IRS in an honest and sincere way or will he ignore the subject and place objections to the IRS on the back burner as frivolous nonsense? Will he continue his talking the talk about taxes—at the same time ignoring the IRS, and the illusion that it is part of the Federal Government and the chief obstruction to liberty and freedom in America today? Is he really a patriot willing to expose those, who behind closed doors, desire to control the economies of the world? Or will he look with a blind eye seeing things through rose colored lenses ignoring these truths just as the media and others have ignored Congressman Ron Paul and his message to uphold and support the Constitution of the United States of America? Will McCain walk the walk or just talk the talk? John McCain is a true American Hero, and I love him for that, but what he does as President of the United States of America remains to be seen.

If Barack Obama wins, Barack will try to sell The United States of America to the United Nations, and if he is successful we can toss the Constitution into the trash bin and forget about liberty, freedom and justice for all. We all will be forced to become a part of the Government in order to survive.

I beg anyone of you who have read this far to please do something to shake up your government. I hear the term 'Energy Independence' and how we need it in America, but what America really needs is Independence Energy.

I love America, and I hope that it will survive until the Rapture. It can and will, if we the people hold our Government officials' feet to the hot fire of truth.



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## Lightning Strikes

During my thirty-three year career as a pilot with Western Air Lines, I had many experiences, mostly good but a few bad or as told in the words of an airline pilot, "Hours and hours and hours of sheer boredom, punctuated by moments of stark terror."

One of those moments occurred on the morning of March 29, 1955, when Dick Young, the Captain, and I, the copilot, took off from Seattle-Tacoma Airport in a Douglas DC-4, N99721, ship # 212, as we normally would refer to it, accompanied by a Flight Attendant, (at that time called Stewardess) Mary Fadden. We proceeded to our first point of landing, Portland, Oregon, and landed without incident.

Upon disembarking the aircraft, we proceeded to the dispatch office at which point we checked the weather along the route to our next point of intended landing which was Oakland, California. There appeared to be severe weather conditions along Amber 1, the airway we normally take as the most direct and scenic route in good weather, but decided to try to go around the back side of the front, along the Pacific coast, over what we thought would be a more comfortable flight for our California bound passengers.

Once again airborne, we could cruise at a lower altitude, as the mountainous terrain was far to the east, and provide our charges easier breathing, and a smooth trip. We filed our flight plan over North

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*Lightning, continued from page 5.*

Bend, and Coos Bay, Oregon, and thence to Crescent City, Arcata, Ukiah, and Point Reyes, California, at which point we could transition ourselves for an approach into Oakland. Dick Young, the Captain, was flying, while I was handling the radio communications, reporting over check points, with time, altitude, and estimated time over the next check point. All went rather well at our cruising altitude of 8,000 feet until we were approaching Crescent City. At this point the sky got darker and darker until it was almost like night time. The air got rougher until it took the two of us to control the airplane. We experienced an updraft that threatened to take us to a higher altitude, at which point, Dick pulled the power back to maintain our cruising altitude, when BLAM! we were struck by lightning! It was right on the nose of the aircraft and felt like a bevy of flashbulbs was fired into my face. Dick shouted, "No Airspeed!!" and immediately started adding power thinking we were about to fall out of the sky. I looked at my instruments and saw that my airspeed indicator was acting normally, and we had plenty of speed to continue with out adding more power.(Thank goodness for redundancy.) What had happened, we subsequently discovered, was the lightning strike had sealed the Captain's pitot tube, through which air passes to give us indication of the speed with which we are traveling through the air. We also lost all High Frequency radio communications, and the inability to tune in any navigational aids. At this time, the Stewardess came to the cockpit and asked, "What was that?" Dick replied that we were rather busy at the moment and didn't have time to explain. At that moment, KABOOM! Another lightning bolt discharged off the plane on the left wing tip, blowing every static wick off the ship. (Static wicks are used for the purpose of neutralizing static electricity that builds up when flying through clouds that have a different electrical charge than the plane flying through it.) Mary hastily departed the cockpit and left us struggling with this bucking bronco of a plane. The wind was incredible with heavy rain and hail that was pelting us unmercifully. Moments later KERWHAMM! We felt and heard the third bolt of lightning, and upon landing, discovered a six inch hole blown out of the top of our vertical fin! We also learned that Mary was in the rear of the plane to escort a sick passenger to the toilet, when that final lightning strike occurred. (I suppose she

thought the lightning was following her around the plane.)

Shortly afterward, things started calming down, the sky got lighter, the air got smoother, and our nerves were settling, as we emerged from the violent thunderhead we had been riding.

After numerous attempts to contact somebody on the radio we finally contacted a San Francisco company radio on VHF, the only radios that were working, and told them we were going to come straight into SFO, (San Francisco International Airport) and not land in Oakland because SFO was a maintenance base, and we had some damage to the airplane that we wanted looked at. When the radio operator inquired about how much damage there was, Dick responded in his inimitable wit, "Well, we haven't had time to get out and walk around the airplane to see where the damage is."

Upon landing in SFO and discharging our passengers, we assessed the damage which I previously described. In addition, there was the aluminum skin of the plane which felt like sandpaper when rubbed. There were thousands of tiny balls of aluminum that were caused by the melting of the skin that had to be polished out before the ship was returned to service.

We ferried # 912 back to LAX (Los Angeles International Airport) without further incident.

I donned my uniform coat and departed the plane. Upon arriving in the Dispatch office, Dick looked at me rather quizzically and said, "What happened to your wings?"

Looking down at the wings above my breast pocket, I noticed about one-half-inch was melted off each wingtip! My jacket had been hanging on the radio rack during the flight and apparently the lightning strike that melted our radios had arced across the antenna post to the wings of my coat, and didn't even singe the material. I have those wings to this day as a constant reminder of a "moment of stark terror."

No one ever saw that Stewardess again after we landed in SFO!

*By Unknown Author and Copilot*

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tradition of liberty—was being sued in France, Italy, Switzerland, and most other European jurisdictions by groups who believed her opinions were not merely offensive, but criminal. In France, author Michel Houellebecq was sued by Muslim and other “anti-racist groups” who believed the opinions of a fictional character in one of his novels were likewise criminal. In Canada, the official complaint about my own so-called “flagrant Islamophobia”—filed by the Canadian Islamic Congress—attributes to me the following “assertions”:

America will be an Islamic Republic by 2040. There will be a break for Muslim prayers during the Super Bowl. There will be a religious police enforcing Islamic norms. The USS Ronald Reagan will be renamed after Osama bin Laden. Females will not be allowed to be cheerleaders. Popular American radio and TV hosts will be replaced by Imams.

In fact, I didn’t “assert” any of these things. They are plot twists I cited in my review of Robert Ferrigno’s novel, *Prayers for the Assassin*. It’s customary in reviewing novels to cite aspects of the plot. For example, a review of *Moby Dick* will usually mention the whale. These days, apparently, the Canadian Islamic Congress and the government’s human rights investigators (who have taken up the case) believe that describing the plot of a novel should be illegal.

You may recall that Margaret Atwood, some years back, wrote a novel about her own dystopian theocratic fantasy, in which America was a Christian tyranny named the Republic of Gilead. What’s to stop a Christian group from dragging a dotting reviewer of Margaret Atwood’s book in front of a Canadian human rights court? As it happens, Christian groups tend not to do that, which is just as well, because otherwise there wouldn’t be a lot to write about.

These are small parts of a very big picture. After the London Tube bombings and the French riots a few years back, commentators lined up behind the

idea that Western Muslims are insufficiently assimilated. But in their mastery of legalisms and the language of victimology, they’re superbly assimilated. Since these are the principal means of discourse in multicultural societies, they’ve mastered all they need to know. Every day of the week, somewhere in the West, a Muslim lobbying group is engaging in an action similar to what I’m facing in Canada. Meanwhile, in London, masked men marched through the streets with signs reading “Behead the Enemies of Islam” and promising another 9/11 and another Holocaust, all while being protected by a phalanx of London policemen.

Thus, we see that today’s multicultural societies tolerate the explicitly intolerant and avowedly uncultural, while refusing to tolerate anyone pointing out that intolerance. It’s been that way for 20 years now, ever since Valentine’s Day 1989, when the Ayatollah Khomeini issued his fatwa against the novelist Salman Rushdie, a British subject, and shortly thereafter, large numbers of British Muslims marched through English cities openly calling for Rushdie to be killed. A reader in Bradford wrote to me recalling asking a West Yorkshire policeman on the street that day why the various “Muslim community leaders” weren’t being arrested for incitement to murder. The officer said they’d been told to “play it cool.” The calls for blood got more raucous. My correspondent asked his question again. The policeman told him to “Push off” (he expressed the sentiment rather more Anglo-Saxonly, but let that pass) “or I’ll arrest you.” Mr. Rushdie was infuriated when the then Archbishop of Canterbury lapsed into root-cause mode. “I well understand the devout Muslims’ reaction, wounded by what they hold most dear and would themselves die for,” said His Grace. Rushdie replied tersely: “There is only one person around here who is in any danger of dying.”

And that’s the way it’s gone ever since. For all the talk about rampant “Islamophobia,” it’s usually

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**The Constitution of the United States of America is much more than Slogans, Clichés and Rhetoric. The Constitution is the Law of our land. It defines and limits the Federal Government for the Benefit of We the People who created it.**

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only the other party who is “in any danger of dying.”

### War on the Homefront

I wrote my book *America Alone* because I wanted to reframe how we thought about the War on Terror—an insufficient and evasive designation that has long since outlasted whatever usefulness it may once have had. It remains true that we are good at military campaigns, such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our tanks and ships are better, and our bombs and soldiers are smarter. But these are not ultimately the most important battlefronts. We do indeed face what the strategists call asymmetric warfare, but it is not in the Sunni triangle or the Hindu Kush. We face it right here in the Western world.

Norman Podhoretz, among others, has argued that we are engaged in a second Cold War. But it might be truer to call it a Cold Civil War, by which I mean a war within the West, a war waged in our major cities. We now have Muslim “honor killings,” for instance, not just in tribal Pakistan and Yemen, but in Germany and the Netherlands, in Toronto and Dallas. And even if there were no battles in Iraq and Afghanistan, and if no one was flying planes into tall buildings in New York City or blowing up trains, buses, and nightclubs in Madrid, London, and Bali, we would still be in danger of losing this war without a shot being fired.

The British government recently announced that it would be issuing Sharia-compliant Islamic bonds—that is, bonds compliant with Islamic law and practice as prescribed in the Koran. This is another reason to be in favor of small government: The bigger government gets, the more it must look for funding in some pretty unusual places—in this case wealthy Saudis. As *The Mail on Sunday* put it, this innovation marks “one of the most significant economic advances of Sharia law in the non-Muslim world.”

At about the same time, *The Times* of London reported that “Knorbert the piglet has been dropped as the mascot of Fortis Bank, after it decided to stop giving piggy banks to children for fear of offending Muslims.” Now, I’m no Islamic scholar, but Mohammed expressed no view regarding Knorbert the piglet. There’s not a single sura about it. The Koran, an otherwise exhaustive text, is silent on the matter of anthropomorphic porcine representation.

I started keeping a file on pig controversies a couple of years ago, and you would be surprised at how routine they have become. Recently, for instance, a local government council prohibited its workers

from having knickknacks on their desks representing Winnie the Pooh’s sidekick Piglet. As Pastor Martin Niemoller might have said, “First they came for Piglet and I did not speak out because I was not a Disney character, and if I was, I’d be more of an Eeyore. Then they came for the Three Little Pigs and Babe, and by the time I realized the Western world had turned into a 24/7 Looney Tunes, it was too late, because there was no Porky Pig to stammer, ‘Th-th-th-that’s all folks!’, and bring the nightmare to an end.”

What all these stories have in common is excessive deference to—and in fact fear of—Islam. If the story of the Three Little Pigs is forbidden when Muslims still comprise less than ten percent of Europe’s population, what else will be on the black list when they comprise 20 percent? In small but telling ways, non-Muslim communities are being persuaded that a kind of uber-Islamic law now applies to all. And if you don’t remember the Three Little Pigs, by the way, one builds a house of straw, another of sticks, and both get blown down by the Big Bad Wolf. Western Civilization is a mighty house of bricks, but you don’t need a Big Bad Wolf when the pig is so eager to demolish the house himself.

I would argue that these incremental concessions to Islam are ultimately a bigger threat than terrorism. What matters is not what the lads in the Afghan cave—the “extremists”—believe, but what the non-extremists believe, what people who are for the most part law-abiding taxpayers of functioning democracies believe. For example, a recent poll found that 36 percent of Muslims between the ages of 16 and 24 believe that those who convert to another religion should be punished by death. That’s not 36 percent of young Muslims in Waziristan or Yemen or Sudan, but 36 percent of young Muslims in the United Kingdom. Forty percent of British Muslims would like to live under Sharia—in Britain. Twenty percent have sympathy for the July 7 Tube bombers. And, given that Islam is the principal source of population growth in every city down the spine of England from Manchester to Sheffield to Birmingham to London, and in every major Western European city, these statistics are not without significance for the future.

Because I discussed these facts in print, my publisher is now being sued before three Canadian human rights commissions. The plaintiff in my case is Dr. Mohamed Elmasry, a man who announced on

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Canadian TV that he approves of the murder of all Israeli civilians over the age of 18. He is thus an objective supporter of terrorism. I don't begrudge him the right to his opinions, but I wish he felt the same about mine. Far from that, posing as a leader of the "anti-hate" movement in Canada, he is using the squeamishness of a politically correct society to squash freedom.

As the famous saying goes, the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. What the Canadian Islamic Congress and similar groups in the West are trying to do is criminalize vigilance. They want to use the legal system to circumscribe debate on one of the great questions of the age: the relationship between Islam and the West and the increasing Islamization of much of the Western world, in what the United Nations itself calls the fastest population transformation in history.

### Slippery Slope

Our democratic governments today preside over multicultural societies that have less and less glue holding them together. They've grown comfortable with the idea of the state as the mediator between interest groups. And confronted by growing and restive Muslim populations, they're increasingly at ease with the idea of regulating freedom in the interests of social harmony.

It's a different situation in America, which has the First Amendment and a social consensus that increasingly does not exist in Europe. Europe's consensus seems to be that Danish cartoonists should be able to draw what they like, but not if it sparks Islamic violence. It is certainly odd that the requirement of self-restraint should only apply to one party.

Last month, in a characteristically clotted speech followed by a rather more careless BBC interview, the Archbishop of Canterbury said that it was dangerous to have one law for everyone and that the introduction of Sharia to the United Kingdom was "inevitable." Within days of His Grace's remarks, the British and Ontario governments both confirmed that thousands of polygamous men in their jurisdictions are receiving welfare payments for each of their wives. Kipling wrote that East is East and West is West, and ne'er the twain shall meet. But when the twain do meet, you often wind up with the worst of both worlds. Say what you like about a polygamist in Waziristan or Somalia, but he has to do it on his own dime. To collect a welfare check for each spouse, he has to move to London or Toronto. Government-subsidized poly-

gamy is an innovation of the Western world.

If you need another reason to be opposed to socialized health care, one reason is because it fosters the insouciant attitude to basic hygiene procedures that has led to the rise of deadly "superbugs." I see British Muslim nurses in public hospitals riddled with *C. difficile* are refusing to comply with hygiene procedures on the grounds that scrubbing requires them to bare their arms, which is un-Islamic. Which is a thought to ponder just before you go under the anaesthetic. I mentioned to some of Hillsdale's students in class that gay-bashing is on the rise in the most famously "tolerant" cities in Europe. As *Der Spiegel* reported, "With the number of homophobic attacks rising in the Dutch metropolis, Amsterdam officials are commissioning a study to determine why Moroccan men are targeting the city's gays."

Gee, whiz. That's a toughie. Wonder what the reason could be. But don't worry, the brain trust at the University of Amsterdam is on top of things: "Half of the crimes were committed by men of Moroccan origin and researchers believe they felt stigmatized by society and responded by attacking people they felt were lower on the social ladder. Another working theory is that the attackers may be struggling with their own sexual identity."

Bingo! Telling young Moroccan men they're closeted homosexuals seems certain to lessen tensions in the city! While you're at it, a lot of those Turks seem a bit light in their loafers, don't you think?

### Our Suicidal Urge

So don't worry, nothing's happening. Just a few gay Muslims frustrated at the lack of gay Muslim nightclubs. Sharia in Britain? Taxpayer-subsidized polygamy in Toronto? Yawn. Nothing to see here. True, if you'd suggested such things on September 10, 2001, most Britons and Canadians would have said you were nuts. But a few years on and it doesn't seem such a big deal, nor will the next concession, or the one after that.

The assumption that you can hop on the Sharia Express and just ride a couple of stops is one almighty leap of faith. More to the point, who are you relying on to "hold the line?" Influential figures like the Archbishop of Canterbury? The politically correct bureaucrats at Canada's Human Rights Commissions? The geniuses who run Harvard, and who've just introduced gender-segregated swimming and gym sessions at the behest of Harvard's Islamic

*Continued on next page see, LIGHTS OUT*

Society? (Would they have done that for Amish or Mennonite students?) The Western world is not run by fellows noted for their line-holding: Look at what they're conceding now and then try to figure out what they'll be conceding in five years' time. The idea that the West's multicultural establishment can hold the line would be more plausible if it was clear they had any idea where the line is or even gave any indication of believing in one.

My book, supposedly Islamophobic, isn't even really about Islam. The single most important line in it is the profound observation, by historian Arnold Toynbee, that "Civilizations die from suicide, not murder." One manifestation of that suicidal urge is illiberal notions harnessed in the cause of liberalism. In calling for the introduction of Sharia, the Archbishop of Canterbury joins a long list of Western appeasers, including a Dutch cabinet minister who said if the country were to vote to introduce Islamic law that would be fine by him, and the Swedish cabinet minister who said we should be nice to Muslims now so that Muslims will be nice to us when they're in the majority.

Ultimately, our crisis is not about Islam. It's not about fire-breathing Imams or polygamists whooping it up on welfare. It's not about them. It's about us. And by us I mean the culture that shaped the modern world, and established the global networks, legal systems, and trading relationships on which the planet depends.

To reprise Sir Edward Grey, the lamps are going out all over the world, and an awful lot of the map will look an awful lot darker by the time many Americans realize the scale of this struggle.



## Christian Hope During the Christmas Season

Christian hope, the spirit that dominates the Advent/Christmas season, is not reserved merely for some splendid future yet to come. It is much more than an otherworldly matter, a promise of heavenly reward after death. Jesus does not ask us to wait until later, until the end for help and healing. Hope is the good news of transforming grace now. We are freed not only from the fear of death but from the fear of life; we are freed for a new life, a life that is trusting, hopeful and compassionate.

Unfortunately, the whole concept of grace is alien to the American psyche. In our culture the tradition of "rugged individualism" has assumed a religious dimension. Americans are the people of par excellence who get things done. Give us enough time, money and manpower, and we can achieve anything. Listen to all the Sunday sermons with their emphasis on willpower and personal effort, and you get the impression that a do-it-yourself spirituality is the American fashion, that the Pelagian heresy is very much vogue.

Though the Scriptures speak insistently of the divine initiative in the work of salvation, that by grace we are saved, that the Tremendous Lover has taken to the chase, American spirituality still seems to start with self, not with God. Personal responsibility replaces personal response. We seem engrossed in our own efforts to grow in holiness. We talk about acquiring virtue as if it were some kind of skill that can be acquired through personal effort, like good handwriting or a well-grooved golf swing. In seasons of penance, we focus on getting rid of our hangups and sweating through various spiritual experiences, as if they were a religious muscle-building program designed to produce that Christian Charles Atlas.

~ **Brennan Manning** ~ excerpt from *The Relentless Tenderness of Jesus*

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**The contemplative at Christmas grows quiet before "the light [that] shines in the darkness" (John 1:5). He stills his soul and becomes tranquil like a child in its mother's arms. He interiorizes and appropriates to himself the mercy, forgiveness, reconciliation and love that are embodied in the Child of Bethlehem. He surrenders to the grace of the Word made flesh. He accepts acceptance.**

~ Brennan Manning ~