

Buddha and Islam

Some people think, that Islam intends to destroy the Dharma (Buddhism). Even though there are such people as for instance the Taliban in Afghanistan, who have such intentions, then it is really a question if they indeed are Muslims. Of course, they properly think so themselves, though their own behaviour is most akin to that of ruthless bandits. It is hardly possible both to be a bandit and a good Muslim, but then of course, it might be that they are Muslim only on Fridays and then bandits the rest of the week. Or maybe they are Muslims in their thoughts, but bandits in their actions. It might also be, that these people are simply desperate. Normal Muslims distance themselves from such people, just like the rest of us. Also, it may be that we need to understand, it is one thing, what these people imagine themselves to be, while it is quite another how others perceive them.

According to traditional Muslim thinking, the Dharma is one of the "*religions of the book*", an Islamic concept which means that the teachings of the Buddha must be respected by Muslims, when they encounter Buddhists and their institutions. At the very least, that is what many learned Muslims scholars say. They have said so ever since the very early Caliphate, when the Arabs met with Buddhism in Central Asia as a result of their conquest of the region. Islam is a collection of very exotic religious groups when viewed with "native" Danish eyes, but they do not seem more strange than how the Danish religious landscape appeared just one hundred years ago. Also the Christian sect "Witnesses of Jehovah" is very exotic. Then again, some people think that the Taliban, the Salafists and Al Qa'ida supporters are the real Muslims, while the rest of the Muslim population in the world **just do not know** their own religion. This attitude correspond to claiming, that the only real Christians are the Witnesses of Jehovah.

I think that fascist people always use religion to promote their plan for dictatorship, suppression and uniformity. In the Muslim World, the fascists therefore use Islam as a cover, while they work for an entirely different political project, that they want to realise. *They first of all seek power over others and harbour envy towards those, who are in power.* They seek support from the Muslim masses by promoting hate and fanaticism, thereby inducing politically motivated violence into the societies, where they operate. Therefore, we should not call these people for Muslims at all, but instead for caliphate-fascists, since their dictator is to be named a Caliph and their methods are typically fascist. Are they then Muslims? Does it really matter? The majority of Muslims do not like them at all and do not share their attitudes. It is their fascism that is horrible and dangerous.

This fascism in religious clothing and half-long beards should not be confused with normal conservative attitudes, that is quite common among Muslims, just like it is found for instance in Tunisia. Many people will object, that for instance the suppression of women in Muslim countries is due to religion, but the suppression of women in the West had no such cause, though religion was formerly used as an argument against woman's liberation in the past. We now know, that the reason for this has something to do with cultural habit and too much war fought by men for too long a time. Religion *can* liberate women on the individual level, but it is politics and culture that determine the issue of emancipation of women in human societies. Women come second in societies that are intent on war, because it is men who become soldiers and fight wars.

We should not forget, that *religious ideals are only outlived by saints*, while the average person normally have a more superficial relation to religion. So, where does political culture stop and real religion begin? Well, for saints everything first really starts, when they leave the normal society behind with it's political culture, while culture and religion to the average man normally is quite mixed together. That is why saints never become fascists, while the normal person of the masses easily becomes the victim of political and cultural propaganda. Propaganda works particularly well, if somebody else is made into an enemy. If the enemy does the same, it works very well.

In many predominantly Muslim countries in the Middle East and Asia there are gigantic ecological, political and social problems. They also suffer excessive corruption and nepotism in the leaderships of these societies, that delay or hinder necessary ecological, political and social reforms. This is the ideal basis for the growth of fascism as we have seen it in Europe in the 1930'ies. Those countries are therefore in great danger of loosing their true spirituality and become victims of fascist dictatorship in religious disguise, as it is seen in for instance Iran.

Ad to this, the enormous hate of the various groups of people in the Middle East to each other, that of course render support to any kind of fascism in the area. The appearance of ISIL demonstrates all too well the brutal caliphate-fascism, that quite simply is in contradiction to Islam in all it's ways. The core of this is not a literal interpretation of the Koran, but their use of citations from the Koran, isolated from their proper context, to justify their brutal fascism.

(PS: I do not think that the *Witnesses of Jehovah* are fascists)

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