

United Submitters International

Masjid Tucson, P.O. Box 43476, Tucson, AZ 85733-3476
Telephone: (602)323-7636

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Submitters Perspective

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Lessons From the Past *cont'd*

Moses was one of the many messengers who came after them. God's system is unchangeable. These communities are important for us. We must study the evils they committed, the sins we are thus taught to avoid—idol worship, homosexuality, corruption, cheating, vice. And we must learn from these lessons, or we will be among future communities that practice the same evils.

"Does it ever occur to them how many previous generations we have annihilated? They are now walking in the homes of those before them. These are signs for those who possess intelligence." [20:128]

"This should be a lesson for everyone who possesses a mind, or is able to hear and witness." [50:37]

Lydia Kelley

Of all the land and all the sea,
Of all the love that there will be,
Of all the stars up in the sky,
Of all the angels flying high,
Of all the trauma that we see,
Of all, give thanks for God in thee!

Selina Ingram/England

Dear Readers:

We would like to hear from you. If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please let us know. If you would like to contribute an article based on the Quran, Islam (Submission), or related topics, please send them to ICS/Masjid Tucson, PO Box 43476, Tucson, AZ 85733, USA.

If you have forgotten about your subscription dues, remember that it is only \$12 annually for the USA and Canada, and \$19 for overseas. God bless you all, and may He be pleased with you for your continuous support.

Over it is 19

[74:30]

The Quran is the Final Testament. It is a scripture with a built-in proof of divine authorship—a superhuman mathematical composition which was unveiled in 1974 by late Dr. Rashad Khalifa, in accordance with God's will.

The Quran's mathematical composition based on number 19 is simple to understand, but impossible to imitate. God calls it one of the great miracles (74:35).

If you have not heard about the miracle or are not exactly sure what it is all about, now is the time to get the facts. You should examine and verify the miracle for yourself. If you have questions, do not hesitate to call or write to us.

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Oppression by Religious "Scholars"

They have set up their religious leaders and scholars as lords, instead of God... [9:31]

...Therefore, do not reverence human beings; you shall reverence Me instead. And do not trade away My revelations for a cheap price. Those who do not rule in accordance with God's revelations are the disbelievers. [5:44]

It would have been believable if the following piece of news were from the Middle Ages. But this is almost the dawn of the 21st century, and the place is Singapore, a secular island country and one of the busiest trading centers in the world.

Because of their belief in God alone and their conviction that the Quran—the proven words of God—is enough for them, a couple in Singapore is declared apostate by the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, known by its Malay acronym MUIS. This declaration is contained in a letter to the couple, Rafil Azmi and Rafinah, dated July 5, 1993 and signed by the *Mufti* (head) of MUIS, Syed Isa Mohammad Semait. In this letter, the *Mufti* wrote that the couple "failed to repent and return after making the mistake of following the teachings of Rashad Khalifa of the United States, who was declared an apostate previously by the

'ulama, or Islamic clergy, throughout the world." A 'hidden' aspect of the declaration of apostasy which the word 'excommunication' does not carry is that an apostate can be killed. According to an article that appeared in the February 10, 1990 edition of the TEMPO news magazine published in Jakarta, Indonesia, the World Islamic League (Rabitha Alam Islami) issued a decree during their meeting in Mecca, Saudi Arabia in February 19-26, 1989 declaring that Dr. Rashad Khalifa was an apostate. This 'death sentence' by the Islamic clerics was followed by another formal announcement, also from the *'ulama* in Mecca, calling him 'a disbeliever.' Dr. Khalifa was subsequently assassinated in Tucson just before dawn on January 30, 1990.

After the brave couple refused to bow under pressure from the *'ulama* in Singapore, they were told that their four year marriage had been annulled by the *Sharia* court. Despite this harassment and oppression from the clergy, they steadfastly persevered and were planning a civil marriage. As the following article, copied directly from The Straits Times newspaper (November 3rd edition) shows, even in a secular country such as Singapore, where the Muslim population is a minority, the clergy is desperate to control the mind

and spirit of the Muslim masses. A very similar incident happened in Egypt earlier this year, where Cairo University professor Nasser Abu Zaid was declared an apostate by the Islamic clerics for criticizing the *Sharia* law. The *'ulama* also wanted to dissolve the professor's marriage to his wife, who is also a professor in the same university, on the ground that it is *haram* (forbidden) for a Muslim to stay married to an apostate. Otherwise, the wife would be stoned to death for committing 'adultery' with her husband.

This pattern of oppression has been the case throughout the Islamic world and throughout history. We are witnessing its devastating results in terms of a lack of creativity, the extreme fanaticism, hypocrisy and backwardness (social, scientific and technological) of the Muslim societies. This is happening despite the fact that God has given us in the Quran the ultimate freedom of choice. We are free to believe or not to believe in the Creator and none of us shall force others even to become believers (33:72, 18:29, 10:99). Muslims should also be aware of another famous principle: there shall be no compulsion in religion (2:256).

continued in the next page

The Month of Ramadan

Begins: 11-Feb-1994, Ends: 11-Mar-1994

(The above dates are for the United States and Canada. Check your local listings for the new moon in February and March to determine the month of fasting in your state or country. Refer to the article on Ramadan in January 1993 issue of Submitters Perspective to see how the beginning and ending of fasting are determined.)

This incident is another eye-opening signal to the world that not much has changed since the Middle Ages, when some people can justify oppression and even murder of others for the 'heresy' of using their God-given minds to think for themselves what is right and what is

wrong. At the same time it shows how much work still needs to be done to educate the world that Islam is not what these *'ulama* portray, i.e., teachings originated from men steeped in tradition. Rather, the true Islamic teaching is found in the Quran alone, the proven words of the

Creator of all things.

The following is a full copy of the Straits Times article (the same incident is also reported in the Malay daily Berita Harian, October 27th edition).

Dr. Gatut Adisoma

Muis ex-communicates couple linked to deviant Muslim group

By M. Nirmala

MUIS, Singapore's supreme Islamic body, has ex-communicated a Muslim couple after they refused to repent and end their links with a deviant Muslim group.

Haji Abu Bakar Hashim, the president of the Syariah Court, which rules on Muslim divorces, also said that the court had annulled their marriage as they were no longer Muslims.

The first such case in Singapore, it involves a couple, Mohamad Raffi Azmi, 29, and Rafinah Haji Ehsan, a 49-year-old divorcee. Both are factory workers.

They were turned in by Rafinah's brother, Haji Samuri Haji Eksan, 67.

Officials from the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) told The Straits Times yesterday that there were previous cases of Muslims belonging to deviant faiths. But when called up and counselled, they repented, said one Muis official.

Muis was informed of the couple's links with the deviant group in May when Rafinah's brother, Haji Samuri, wrote to Muis saying that he suspected the couple were following the teachings of a deviant group.

The following month, Muis called the couple to its Braddell Road premises for counselling. The two-hour session was attended by Mufti Syed Isa Semalt, the highest Muslim religious authority here, and two religious teachers.

The panel concluded that the couple were practising the teachings called the Ingkar Sunah, founded by Rasheed Khalifa in the United States.

Muis officials said his teachings, considered deviant in the Muslim world, tell followers that reading and knowing the Quran is enough.

It rejects the Hadith and the Sunah which are the traditions and laws of the Prophet Muhammad, said one official. The word "Ingkar" means to go against, and "Sunah", the prophet's tradi-

tion, he said.

Explained the Muis official: "This refusal to accept Prophet Muhammad's teachings questions the fundamental declaration of a Muslim which is believing in one God and accepting Muhammad as his Prophet."

"Reading the Quran alone is not enough. The Quran says you must pray but the Hadith tells you how often and when to pray. A Muslim understands the Quran better through the Hadith."

When Muis officials asked the couple to repent, they refused and stuck to their belief in Ingkar Sunah.

Subsequently, Muis wrote to Haji Samuri, informing him that the couple had been ex-communicated.

It also told Haji Samuri that the couple would be allowed back into the Islamic faith if they denounced their false beliefs and returned to the true Islamic teachings.

A person is considered *murtad* or ex-communicated once he does not adhere to the fundamental beliefs of Islam. An ex-communicated Muslim, among other sanctions, will not be allowed to marry a Muslim or be buried in a Muslim cemetery.

Muis also advised Haji Samuri to contact the Syariah Court to annul the marriage.

Last month, the couple appeared before the Syariah court president, Haji Abu Bakar Hashim was reported to have questioned them for half an hour.

The couple were married in September 1989 at the Registry of Muslim Marriages.

Mohamad Raffi, dressed in jeans and slippers, grinned throughout the questioning, whereas Rafinah, a mother of three, looked morose.

They were reported to be planning a civil marriage. The couple were not available for comment.

The Straits Times, Wednesday, November 3, 1993 / Singapore

The Quran's Mathematical Composition Based on Prime Number 19:

Simple to Understand, Impossible to Imitate

We will show them our proofs in the horizons, and within themselves, until they realize that this is the truth... [41:53]

By the Even and the Odd [89:3]

There are 114 (19x6) suras (chapters) in the Quran. If we look at the number of verses in each sura, we see that 54 suras have an odd number of verses, and 60 have an even number of verses. Now, if we look at the prime numbers associated with indices 54 and 60, we find them to be 251 and 281. (In other words, the 54th prime number is 251, and the 60th prime number is 281.) Now let us add these prime numbers up:

$$251 + 281 = 532, \text{ and } 532 = 19 \times 28.$$

There are 112 verses in the Quran that are not numbered. These are the *Basmalahs* which are in the beginning of every sura,

except for Sura 9. The *Basmalah* in Sura 1 is numbered. If we include these *Basmalahs* in our verse count, we get 52 suras with an even and 62 suras with an odd number of verses. The 52nd prime number is 239 and the 62nd prime number is 293. Now, let us add them up:

$$239 + 293 = 532, \text{ and } 532 = 19 \times 28.$$

We have two pairs of primes, (251, 281) and (239, 293). If we add the digits of these two pairs of prime numbers we get:

$$2 + 5 + 1 + 2 + 8 + 1 = 19, \text{ and}$$

$$2 + 3 + 9 + 2 + 9 + 3 = 28.$$

Again we are back to 19 and 28. God be praised.

Dr. Ali Fazely

(From the *Journal of Submission*, Vol. 1, No. 9, Nov. 1993)

Lessons From the Past: Noah, Hud, Saleh, Lot, Shu'aib

"This is news from the past communities that we narrate to you. Some are still standing, and some have vanished. We never wronged them; they wronged their own souls.... Such was the retribution enforced by your Lord when the communities transgressed. Indeed, His retribution is painful, devastating. This should be a lesson for those who fear the retribution of the Hereafter..." [11:100-3]

"We narrate to you the history of those communities: their messengers went to them with clear proofs, but they were not to believe in what they had rejected before. God thus seals the hearts of the disbelievers." [7:101]

"This should be a lesson, but most people are not believers." [26:139,158,174,190]

In Suras (Chapters) 7, 11, and 26, there are verses about a progression of messengers sent to evil communities. They are only a minority of the total messengers sent by God, but these five have very specific tales to tell. This is a chronology and abbreviated history for us to learn from.

"We have set it up as a lesson. Does any of you wish to learn?" [54:15]

Although they are sometimes given in different order in other places in the Quran, the chronology in suras 7, 11 and 26 is correct. Verse 11:89 tells us that Noah, Hud, Saleh, and Lot all preceded Shu'aib, with Lot just before him. Verse 7:69 says that the people of Hud were inheritors after the people of Noah, and 7:74 says that Saleh followed Hud.

Noah's community was full of idol worship [7:59 and 71:23] and corruption [71:21-2]. He preached to them day and night, publicly and privately. They rejected him because "the first people to follow you are the worst among us" [7:27 and 26:111]. His people suspected him of seeking personal gain and said God could have sent angels instead [23:24].

Noah then built the ark, which, as a sign of messengership, his people ridiculed and rejected [11:37, 23:27, 29:15, 54:13-5]. The flood then came, and Noah and a few believers were saved [11:40, 23:27, 54:12, 71:25]. Not even all of Noah's family were saved with him. His son clearly disbelieved and was among those who were drowned [11:43]. And Noah's wife is given as an example of a disbeliever married to a righteous servant [66:10].

'Ad then inherited from Noah, and God multiplied their numbers and blessed them [7:69, 26:133]. They were allowed to build beautiful buildings [26:128-9, 89:6-8]. But this became a problem for them, making them vain and aggressive [26:128-30], and they were also idolatrous [7:70, 11:50-4, 46:22]. Hud was the messenger God sent, but he was accused of behaving foolishly [7:66-7], and again the people said God could have sent angels [41:14].

The retribution for 'Ad was a storm with disastrous winds [41:16, 46:24-5, 51:41-2]. It lasted seven nights and eight days and "tossed the people around as if they were decayed palm tree trunks" [54:20, 69:6-7]. Yet it left the homes standing [46:25].

Thamoud was the community which followed 'Ad. They too had beautiful mansions, carving homes from the mountains [7:74, 26:149, 89:9]. Like 'Ad, they were an aggressive people [85:7-8, 89:9-11], and they practiced idolatry [11:61-2]. Their messenger was Saleh, who was a popular member of the society until he began telling them to worship God alone. His people asked for a miracle [26:154], and God sent the special camel [7:73, 11:64, 17:59, 26:155, 54:27, 91:13].

When the people rejected Saleh and slaughtered the camel, God gave Saleh knowledge of the future—that Thamoud had only three more days to live [11:65]. A devastating earthquake, "one blow," [54:31] left them "dead in their homes" [7:78], and utterly ruined their homes [27:52].

Lot was the next messenger to a transgressing community. The people of his

community practiced homosexuality, which Lot described as "such an abomination" [7:80]. In addition, they committed highway robbery and allowed all kinds of vice [29:29]. Lot stood up to his people repeatedly, and they rejected him because of his purity and steadfastness [7:82, 11:78, 27:56].

Lot, like Saleh, was given knowledge of the future. God's messengers told him to leave during the night because the annihilation of the community was coming in the morning [11:81, 15:66]. The community was turned upside down as a retribution [11:82, 15:74]. They were showered with a miserable shower of rocks "marked by your Lord for the transgressors" [51:33-4, 54:34, 25:40, 26:173].

Finally we have Shu'aib, whose people were the dwellers of the woods, the community of Midyan. God made them a prosperous community, but instead of being appreciative, they became greedy for more. They cheated in their business dealings, corrupted the earth [7:85, 11:84-5], and repelled from the path of God [7:86]. To them, Shu'aib's tribe was more important than God, and that respect for his tribe was all that kept them from killing him [11:91-2].

The retribution that struck Midyan is referred to as the "Day of the Canopy" [26:189]. It was an earthquake that left them dead in their homes [7:91, 29:37]. Then, God says, "Those who rejected Shu'aib vanished, as if they never existed" [7:92, 11:95].

continued in the next page

Messenger	Community/Place	Vice/Crime	Retribution
Noah	People of Noah	Idol Worship Corruption	Flood
Hud	'Ad	Idol Worship Vanity, Aggression	Storm with Disastrous Winds
Saleh	Thamud	Idol Worship Aggression	Earthquake
Lot	People of Lot (Sodom/Gomorrah*)	Homosexuality Highway Robbery Corruption	Shower of Rocks, Turned Upside Down
Shu'aib	Midyan	Cheating in Trade Corruption	Earthquake "Day of Canopy"

*Based on the Bible