

When I asked my Muslim friend:  
Why do you hate the Jews?

*An analysis of the roots of Muslim hatred toward Jews in the Islamic world and possible solutions.*

### **T. Hamid**

A few months ago, I was sitting with my Muslim friend sipping good hot American coffee. He has an advantage, which is that he does not get violent if he cannot answer a question, or is cornered in a discussion.

After the first two sips I asked him to tell me honestly, “why do you hate the Jews? ‘

My friend started to change his position in the chair and said “of course I can”. I asked him to give me the reasons and let us start to discuss them one by one.

My friend was very confident that he had very powerful reasons to justify hating the Jews and he started to list them as follows:

- They think that they are the chosen people and better than others.
- The Quran described them as “Monkeys and Pigs”
- The Quran said they are cursed.
- They are rich and control many markets.
- They think that they are an intelligent race.
- They do not believe Mohamed and Islam.
- They do not follow the Quran.
- They betrayed Mohamed and Muslims.
- Israel has stolen the Arab land.
- Israel kills innocent Arabs and Muslims everywhere, tortures them, and rape their women.

I thanked him for making the reasons so clear so that we can start the discussion.

I said, “Let us now start discussing these points one by one”

Regarding the first “they think that they are the chosen people and better than others”, I asked him if Allah said something in the Quran, would you believe it or not. He replied “of course I will”. I then asked him “Are you ready to anything the Quran says?” He immediately replied “of course”.

Then I opened the Quran and showed him the following verses:

2:47 Children of Israel! Call to mind the favour which I bestowed upon you, and that I preferred you to all other nations.

2:122 O Children of Israel! Call to mind the favor which I bestowed upon you, and that I preferred you to all other nations.

44: 32 And We have chosen them (the Children of Israel) above the '*Alamîn*' (mankind, and jinni) and our choice was based on a deep knowledge.

I then again asked him "Do you still believe the Quran in anything it says as you just said?"

He did not answer and I immediately told him it seems that you only believe the Quran when it is against the Jews! My friend went into a state of shock and absolute silence.

I then continued with the second point. "The Quran described them as "Monkeys and Pigs"". This is not what the Quran has said.

He immediately answered "What?"

I said to him let us open the Quran and see the exact verse:

5:60 Say: "Shall I point out to you something much worse than this (not following the holy book: the Bible) by the treatment it received from Allah, those who incurred the curse of Allah and His wrath, those of whom some He transformed into apes and swine, those who worshipped evil - these are (many times) worse in rank, and far more astray from the even path!"

(Obviously the verse is talking about another nation that does not follow the bible, and not the Jews at all).

After I showed my friend the exact verse I said to him: Can you please show me the word Jews in the verse?" Then I repeated "show it to me please"

I then said, "It seems that you want to understand the Quran in such a way that makes you hate the Jews more and more. Sadly, hatred makes you blind so that you cannot even see the words in the verse. You go out and say everywhere that the Quran said that "the Jews are pigs and Monkeys" without even reading the verse properly!

You insult a whole great nation that is considered in the Quran as "God's preferred and chosen people"

My friend was in near shock and I agreed to give him few minutes to breath and have a drink.

After the break I continued to tell him that the third point that he mentioned "Allah cursed the Jews in the Quran" is also an absolute lie as the exact verse is:

5:78 Curses were pronounced on those among the Children of Israel who rejected Faith (in G-d and the Torah), by the tongue of David and of Jesus the son of Mary: because they disobeyed and persisted in excesses.

So the verse as in the previous one is not talking about all the Israelites, but only about those who rejected God and the Torah.

Once more, go deeply into the Arabic language first before accusing a whole great nation that is highly respected in the Quran as God's chosen people of being "cursed by God" and do not generalise that which is specific.

We then had another cup of coffee and then continued the discussion....

While sipping the second cup I went through the next point, which was "They are rich and control many markets".

I did not want to spend much time on this one as it just represents jealousy, but I said to him..."Why then you do not also hate the Saudis while they are rich and control the oil market?" He did not answer.

I then asked him "Why, if a Muslim is rich, you do not hate all Muslims. Whilst if one Jew is rich you hate all of them? Is this reasonable? ..... My friend, you should not hate someone because he is rich. You should judge people by their deeds and actions. There is nothing wrong if you are rich. What is wrong is when you use that money to promote hatred toward others".

Throughout history, millions of Jews were extremely poor, and they lived in the poorest places in Europe. If a minority were rich, it is not a sin. This is no different from Muslims, Christians, or Hindus who also have some rich people among them... Will you hate all of these people too because "some" of them are rich?

My friend...it seems that your primary intention is to hate the Jews and you are just trying to find any reason to justify your hatred, because if you really hate them because "some" are rich you should also hate Muslims because "some" of them are rich.

"Can I hear your answer my friend?" Silence.

Then he started to ask, "What do you think about this point "They think that they are an intelligent race".

I told my friend that I really cannot understand why it is normal for you and for many Muslims to say that the Afro-Americans are genetically athletic and the Arabs are great in poetry. But it is very difficult for you and for them to admit that the Jews are genetically intelligent. Genuine statistics show that the Jews have had more scientists and contributed more to science than the whole Arab world, even though they are only a very small number compared to Arabs.

Furthermore, IQ is mainly genetic, and it is well known that Jews marry mainly from within their community. This feature magnifies the effect of certain genetic factors and could have contributed to the very high IQ among many Jews, and at the same time contributed to the development of certain genetic diseases within their own community (such as Tay-Sachs disease).

Do you only accept the rules of genetics when it causes mental retardation for some Jewish kids (who have metabolic errors) and you totally forget about the same genetic rules if it causes high IQ among them?

He started to get angry and asked me to shift to the next point.

I said to him the next point was "They do not believe in Mohammed and Islam".

I continued, saying the Quran did not consider that Jews or Christians have to believe in Mohammed to be accepted by God. My friend just opened his mouth and said, "This is impossible."

I just opened the Quran for him to the following unambiguous verse:

2:62 Those who believe (in the Qur'an), and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures), and the Christians and the Sabians (certain sect in Arabia),- any of them who believe in God and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord; on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.

In fact the Quran did not ask the Jews and Christians to follow any thing but the Torah and the Bible...

And before my friend had time to think, I recited for him the following verse of the Quran:

5:66 if only they (Jews and Christians) stood fast by the Law of the Torah, the Gospel, and all the revelation that was sent to them from their Lord, they would have enjoyed happiness from every side.

In fact the Quran blamed the Jews for asking Mohammed to judge between them in their tribal problems, instead of following the torah:

5:43 But how do they (the Jews) come to you for decision, when they have the Torah which has the law of God.

Then I said to him..." What do you think now my friend? I think you can see now clearly that your hatred for the Jews based on the fact that they should believe in Mohammed and follow the Quran, is simply against what the Quran had said.

This time my friend opened his eyes and could not blink.

Then I continued saying, in addition, the next point that you mentioned "they betrayed the prophet Mohammed and Muslims" has no logic in it at all.

Sadly, many Muslims hate the Jews based on this historical point. It is described in Islamic history books as: "when Mohammed had a war against the Idolaters, he and the Muslims burrowed a great tunnel around the city of the Muslims and left an area to be protected by the Jews"... According to this story, the Jews allowed the enemies of Muslims to enter the city from this area. Sadly, based on this story, millions of Muslims came to hate the Jews.

I then said to him, "Let us assume that this story is correct, does this mean that if your grandfather hit my grand father a hundred years ago I should hate you for that? What a strange and unjustifiable logic the Quran is teaching you.

But it says;

17:15 ...No bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another (mistakes or sins).

So, even if the historical story was correct, how come you hate the Jews of today for something they did not do?

Furthermore this story does not come from the Quran. It is only present in some Islamic history books, which are considered much less accurate than the Quran. So do you want to follow a story that could be absolutely inaccurate in order to hate a whole nation? Is this right or moral?

We now come to the two last points

"Israel has stolen the Muslim's land".

Without going into to many details of this point let me tell you that the Quran considered this land as the *promise* of God to the Israelites, the land that is *written* to them in a permanent contract, and that it is their *inheritance* according to the following Quranic verses:

1- 17:104 And We (represents God in Arabic language) said thereafter to the Children of Israel, "Dwell securely in the land of promise":

2- 5:21 "O my people (the Jews)! Enter the holy land which God hath written to you and turn not back ignominiously, for then will ye be overthrown, to your own ruin."

3- 26:59 Thus it was, but we made the Children of Israel inheritors of it (the Promised Land)

At this time I felt sorry for my friend, as he was nearly speechless, shocked, and I could only hear the sounds of his anxious breathing.

Then I said to reassure him, "If you really love God.... love the truth and speak it, even if it is against what you want to prove, and what you may like to believe, or if it is supporting those that you hate, as the Quran teaches you the following:

4:135 O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin

5:8 O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for Allah, as witnesses to fair dealing, and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is next to piety: and fear Allah. For God is well acquainted with all that ye do.

**The final point that you mentioned my friend is what the Arab media propagate everywhere that is that: "Israel kills innocent Arabs and Muslims everywhere, tortures them and rape their women.**

I then asked him: if this was true, why then do we see tens of thousands of Palestinians waiting at the cross borders to get permission to go and work in Israel?

Why would these people go intentionally to the place that as you said, "Kills them, tortures them, and rape their women!"

Is there any possibility that someone goes to a place where he/she *knew very well* that he/she will be killed and tortured or are these are just lies.

If what you say that, "Arabs are killed and tortured in Israel" was truly happening, we would not have found these thousands of Palestinians dreaming about getting permission to work in Israel. In fact we would have found that more than a million Arabs who live in Israel, are the ones who are crossing the borders to go to their Arab relatives in the West bank and Gaza to be saved from what they call "The Israeli oppression".

My friend,  
Stop this unjustifiable hatred against the Jews.  
Do not let hatred rule your life. Start, at least for once, to try to love rather than to hate.  
Just try to love.

My friend,  
Have you ever talked with a Jew?  
Have you ever sat with him or her on the same table to enjoy the food that God gave both of you?

Have you ever tried to give them a smile, to laugh with them, and to cry with them?  
Have you ever tried to understand them?  
Have you... have you... have you.....  
Just try to start  
Just try to put your hand in the hand of the Jews to write a story of love...just try...my friend and you will never regret it.

T.  
10/6/2004