



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Pope infuriates Muslims and then backs down



Muslims are never too hard to coax into a state of incandescent fury. That the world knows, having witnessed it many times.

When you consider Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and numerous other places where their fury has given rise to the most brutal attacks upon their victims, often another brand of Islam, it is readily conceded that frenetic fury seems to be very much a “sacred duty” among them.

What they consider to be holy zeal is, in truth, nothing less than the base emotions of a depraved heart.

It would be going too far to say that we felt sympathy for the pope, when he was thus subjected to the outrage of Islam over comments he made regarding the record of history, on Islam’s use of the sword in accomplishing “conversions” amongst nations, which its armies overran in the Middle Ages.

In a speech in Bavaria, the pope quoted from a conversation between Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologus and an educated Persian on the subject of Christianity and Islam: “Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached”. Sympathy for the pope is not likely to be found in abundance amongst Bible Protestants when it is realised that in the same speech, part of which so offended Muslims, he uttered harsh words against the philosophy of the Protestant reformers who led forth a people from the dark and unscriptural teachings of Rome.

However, history was undoubtedly made, in that Bible Protestants agreed with the pope’s comments regarding Islam.

That agreement was short-lived, for the pope very quickly back-pedalled and apologised to Muslims. He claimed that he had been misunderstood!

The truth and the pope, at best, can have only a very short, fleeting and, one may say, incidental relationship. A hand may grasp a burning coal but for an instant and then it will instinctively release it, for burning coals are not something human flesh can abide for long. Likewise, the pope and truth will soon part company.

Rome’s Record

It should be remembered that Rome’s record on “conversion by violence” is similar to that of Islam’s. The case of Archbishop Cranmer (1489 – 1556) is illustrative of Rome’s record of cruelty. Cranmer opposed Rome’s central teaching and was amongst her chief critics in 16th century England. For this he was arrested, tried and found guilty of heresy and sentenced to be burned at the stake. While awaiting his fate, his courage wavered and he re-



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canted. He was offered pardon if he did so. However, Rome did not keep her word but was determined to burn him anyway. The reality of the system of Rome was thus brought home to Cranmer. He renounced his recantation and died in the flames, holding out his right hand, which had signed the recantation, to the hottest part of the fire.

The treatment of Cranmer illustrates the unrepentant, unreformed evil system that is ruled over by Pope Benedict XVI, the critic of Islam.
As we say in Ulster, it is a case of the kettle calling the pot black!

Irony

There were some in the Muslim world who recognised the irony of the fury manifested by protesting Muslims. Several Muslim writers argued that such violent reactions appeared to confirm the very things that Muslims have been seeking to refute!

According to a BBC report, the European Muslim scholar, Tarik Ramadan, blamed Muslim leaders and scholars for such violent responses.

let off steam

Leaders who deny their people freedom of expression, he wrote, find it convenient to allow their people to let off some steam as long as it is about Danish cartoons or words uttered by the Pope.

Future Day

Let every Christian recognise that the diplomatic “cosying up” to Islam by the Vatican, foreshadows a day when these twin evils will, like Pilate and Herod, unite in opposition to Bible Christianity.