

## **Religions and Politics V**

### **Qur'an, Al Saffat 37:84-111**

Look: he came to his Master with a whole heart. Look: he said to his father and to his people, "What do you worship? Falsehood -- gods other than Allah that you desire? What is your idea about the Master of the worlds?" Then he looked once at the stars. And said, "I am indeed sick." They turned away from him, and departed. Then he turned to their gods and said, "Don't you eat? What is with you that you don't speak?" Then he turned upon them, striking with the right hand. Then his people advanced towards him in haste. He said, "Do you worship what you have carved? But Allah created you and what you make!" They said, "Build a furnace for him, and throw him in the blazing fire!" They tried a plot against him, but we made them low! He said: "I will truly go to my Master, who will guide me! My Master! Grant me a righteous son!" So we gave him message of a forbearing son. When the son grew to work with him, he said, "My son, indeed I see in vision that I sacrifice you. Look, what do you see?" He said, "My father, Do what you are commanded! You will find me, if Allah wills, among the steadfast." And when they had both submitted their wills and he pushed him forehead down We called out to him "Ibrahim! You have already fulfilled the vision!" So indeed we reward those who do right. This was an obvious trial -- And we redeemed him with an immense sacrifice. And we left for him among generations in later times: "Peace upon Ibrahim!" So we reward those who do right. Indeed he was one of our believing servants.

### **Ibn Ishaq (eighth century C.E.), on the furnace of Nimrod**

When they were ready to throw him into the fire, they lit it in each of the corners of the wood that they gathered so that the fire roared. They came together to push him into it. The heavens and the earth and all that was created in it except the humans and the Jinn screamed to Allah in a single voice: "Our Lord, there is no one on your earth but Abraham who worships you, and he is being burned in the fire. Give us permission to help him." When they said this, Allah said: "If he calls for something from you or asks for something, then help him. I give permission for this. If he does not call out except for me, I am his protector. Leave it between me and him. I will make him secure." So they threw him into the fire, and he said, "Fire, be cold and peaceful for Abraham," and it was as God said.

**Al-Shaybani (d. 804 C.E.)**

Allah gave the Prophet Muhammad four swords: the first against the polytheists, which Muhammad himself fought with; the second against apostates, which Caliph Abu Bakr fought with; the third against the People of the Book, which Caliph 'Umar fought with; and the fourth against dissenters, which Caliph 'Ali fought with.

**Imad ad-Din on Saladin's victory at Tiberias in 1187**

This field of battle became a sea of blood; the dust was stained red, rivers of blood ran freely, and the face of the true Faith was revealed, free from those shadowy abominations....the humiliation proper to the men of Saturday was inflicted on the men of Sunday.

**Saladin's vow in Jerusalem in 1189**

I think that when God grants me victory over the rest of Palestine I shall divide my territories, make a will stating my wishes, then set sail on this sea for their far-off lands and pursue the Franks there so as to free the earth of anyone who does not believe in God, or die in the attempt.

**Ibn Taymiyah (1268-1328 C.E.) on *jihad*:**

Now, it is in *jihad* that one can live and die in ultimate happiness, both in this world and in the hereafter. Abandoning it means losing entirely or partially both kinds of happiness. There are people who want to perform religious and temporal deeds full of hardship in spite of their lack of benefit, whereas actually *jihad* is religiously and temporally more beneficial than any other deed full of hardship. Other people desire to make things easy for themselves when death meets them, but the death of the martyr is easier than any other form of death. In fact, it is the best of all manners of dying.

**Murtaza Mutahhari, himself the victim of assassination in 1979**

The *shahid* can be compared to a candle whose job it is to burn out and get extinguished in order to shed light for the benefit of others. The *shuhada'* are the candles of society.... Islam came to reform society and to form a nation and government. Its mandate is the reform of the whole world. Such a religion cannot be indifferent. It cannot be without a law of *jihad*."