

THE BENGALI MUSLIMS (ROHINGYA) AND THE RAKHINE BUDDHISTS: WHERE DOES THE HATRED COME FROM?

by Rick Heizman

The conflict and violence in Rakhine State, western Myanmar is between the Bengali Muslims (some use the term Rohingya, a term with no history) on one side, and the majority Buddhists, along with minorities of Hindu, Christian, various tribal ethnicities, and all other non-Muslims on the other side.

The Bengali Muslims are clearly disliked by every ethnicity, people of every non-Muslim religion, and every person who does not speak Bengali language - in other words, by the entire diverse multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-religious population of Myanmar. Again and again they say such things as, 'we get along fine with everyone else, we like to live in peace and harmony with each other, and this is what our various religions teach us - to be like the Buddha, or Jesus, or _____.'

The Bengali Muslims, are very very different. Extremely different. They don't want to live with people of other religions. They don't want to get along with someone who is not Muslim - nor even a different kind of Muslim, such as Sufi or Amadiyya. They want, NO diversity, NO multi-culturalism, NO ethnic variety. They have stated that since 1947, they want an apartheid autonomous state. Their Islamic religion teaches them to have absolute hatred towards all non-Muslims, and even to certain other Muslims. In their Islamic religion, their prophet, Mohammad, is the ideal man to emulate - as others emulate Jesus, or Buddha, or Lao-Tsu, or Confucius, or Zoroaster. Except, Mohammad, was different - very very different. He hated many kinds of people, especially those who thought he was speaking nonsense. He killed many people, he ordered his people to slaughter entire villages, and he attacked and massacred those of other religions and faiths who did not want to convert to his way. He told his followers that Allah will be pleased if they behead and butcher infidels (non-believers).

(Please don't get mad at me if you don't like what you are reading - I'm telling you where the absolute hatred, supremacy, and intolerance is coming from. So, direct your anger to the source - to Mohammad, the Mad Man, and his imaginary Allah - a God that defies all definitions of what a God represents and teaches, and to the Islamic religion - stuck forever in a harsh and savage 7th century desert.)

In Myanmar, there are other Bengali speaking people that get along fine with everyone else, they are respected and respectful, they have integrated without losing their language and

culture, there are no restrictions that they must bear, and they are comfortably part of the nation. They are the Hindus (usually not called Bengali Hindus - but most are Bengali speaking, and the same ethnic origin as the Bengali Muslims).

The Bengali Muslims are strongly disliked by everyone else who has lived near them. There is no ethnic or religious group of people who will say, 'We LIKE the Bengali Muslims, and we WANT to live with them.' The Buddhists, Hindus, Christians, and ethnic tribal people have the right to dislike someone, or any type of group of people. I know people who strongly dislike Putin, or Trump, or Hilary Clinton, or Republicans, or Antifa, or Mormons, or Muslims. People have the freedom to like or dislike - of their choosing. And, Islam seems to make itself disliked quite easily - thousands of girls in Africa and ISIS controlled areas kidnapped, converted, and sold as sex slaves is quite unlikable, and killers shouting 'Allahu Akbar!' (God is the Greatest) hurling bombs, driving trucks into crowds, shooting and stabbing in the name of Islam is, again, a reason almost every sane non-Muslim in the world can dislike Islam.

In the case of this conflict, it is very very clear that the hatred that is built into the religion, the intolerance that overwhelms the Quran, the supremacy taught in the madrassa schools, and the hatred of all others that is lectured in the mosques is the problem - and everyone else will continue to dislike that, and not want to live near that hatred - because it is deadly hatred - and the tolerant cannot tolerate the intolerant.

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