

***The following Application was sent to the PM, AG, their Opposition counterparts and all Senators in mid-2017.***

## **APPLICATION FOR THE BANNING OF A BOOK IN AUSTRALIA**

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**BOOK:** The Qur'an – all editions and translations.

### **EXPLANATORY NOTES:**

1. Excerpts from the Qur'an are from the translation by M. A. S. Abdel Haleem published by Oxford University Press.
2. English translations of the Qur'an use either the word 'Allah' or 'God' for the god of the Qur'an. Haleem's translation uses the word 'God', and this Application will follow this convention.
3. It should be noted that the word 'God' is used by religions whose precepts differ significantly from those found in the Qur'an.

### **INTRODUCTION**

For about 600,000 Australian residents ('Believers' for this Application) the Qur'an directs their spiritual and temporal life. The Believer's view of the world and their behavior is governed by the Qur'an: it holds supremacy over all other spiritual and temporal things. It is read by them, or to them, regularly.

Unfortunately, embedded in the Qur'an are values, themes and associated precepts that are diametrically opposed to the accepted values, culture, traditions, institutions, and regulations that shape Australia's secular democracy. The result is an uneasy tension between Believers and the rest of the population.

The cost of managing this tension is billions of dollars annually and, for all that, neither State nor Commonwealth governments can guarantee the safety of their citizens. The situation is untenable and cannot be allowed to continue.

In short, the values, themes and precepts found in the subject book promote thoughts and actions that result in the following.

- Conduct that is contrary to the laws of the Commonwealth and the States of Australia.
- An ethos that is treasonous to the Commonwealth of Australia.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Qur'an documents a series of revelations that, the Qur'an states, were transmitted by a spiritual being (said to be the archangel Gabriel) at the direction of God to an Arabic man (Muhammad) over a period from AD 610 - 632. The application of these revelations was the formation, by Muhammad, of a new religion, Islam. Followers of the new religion (Muslims) regard God as the singular supernatural creator god and the Qur'an this god's plan for the world and his precepts for the life of a Believer: Western leaders ignore these simple truths at their peril and that of their nation. For Believers the person of God and the sanctity of the Qur'an and the life example of Muhammad are inviolable for all manifestations of Islam.

Regrettably, the themes and precepts to be examined have ensured that since its inception Islam has been a religion of war and subjugation: Islamic history attests to this. Today, with significant Muslim populations embedded in all Western nations, these themes are causing destabilization to the point where the peace and stability of the secular democracies within which Islam is embedded are threatened as witnessed by recent terrorist activities. As a consequence there have been calls, both without and within Islam, for the Qur'an to be reformed: take out all the 'nasty bits'. As will be demonstrated, this will never happen. Islamic spiritual leaders, the real power base, would never allow it. And nor would God: after all, it would prevent him from achieving his goal: the subjugation of mankind to himself.

Before examining specific themes and precepts it is essential to understand the sanctity and inviolability of the Qur'an and God and the standing of Muhammad in the eyes of Believers.

## **The sanctity and inviolability of the Qur'an**

As noted many, both within and without Islam, have called for changes to the Qur'an to make it compatible with secular democratic principles. It is essential to realize that this will never happen: as stated above, any change to the Qur'an would neuter its purpose and God's objectives. When believers read the Qur'an they are conditioned by the following statements.

- *Praise be to God, who sent down the Scripture to His servant and made it unerringly straight, warning of severe punishment from Him, and [giving] glad news to the believers who do good deeds – an excellent reward that they will always enjoy. (The Cave 18:1-3)*
- *Truly, this Qur'an has been sent down by the Lord of the Worlds: the Trustworthy Spirit brought it down to your heart [Prophet], so that you could bring warning in a clear Arabic tongue. (The Poets 26:192-195)*
- *This Scripture is sent down from God the Mighty, the Wise. (The Throngs 39:1)*
- *I swear by the position of the stars – a mighty oath, if only you knew – that this is truly a noble Qur'an, in a protected Record that only the purified can touch, sent down from the Lord of all being. (That which is Coming 56:75-80)*
- *This [Qur'an] is a message sent down from the Lord of the Worlds: (The Inevitable Hour 69:43)*
- *The word of your Lord is complete in its truth and justice. No one can change His words: He is the All Hearing, the All Knowing. (Livestock 6:115)*

These are very powerful statements for Believers. There will be no changes to the Qur'an. If spiritual leaders permitted any changes it would be tantamount to admitting that God is not a supreme spiritual being and the Qur'an is simply a temporal document put together by Muhammad and others for their benefit and that of their successors. Changing the Qur'an would not be in God's stated interests and would make no sense to a Believer.

## **The sanctity and inviolability of God**

Similarly, the sanctity and inviolability of God is clearly defined: Believers take this very seriously.

- *God: there is no God but Him, the Ever Living, the Ever Watchful. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him. All that is in the heavens and in the earth belongs to Him. Who is there that can intercede with Him except by His leave? He knows what is before them and what is behind them, but they do not comprehend any of His knowledge except what He wills. His throne extends over the heavens and the earth; it does not weary Him to preserve them both. He is the Most High, the Tremendous. (The Cow 2:255)*
- *Control of the heavens and earth belongs to God: and to God is the final return. (Light 24:42)*
- *It is God who created seven heavens and a similar [number] of earths. His command descends throughout them. So you should realise that He has power over all things and that His knowledge encompasses everything. (Divorce 65:12)*
- *Do you not realise [Prophet] that everything in the heavens and earth submits to God: the sun, the moon, the stars, the mountains, the trees, and the animal? So do many human beings, though for many others punishment is well deserved. (The Pilgrimage 22:18p)*

### **The standing of Muhammad**

- *[Say], 'I only deliver [what I receive] from God – only His messages.' Whoever disobeys God and His Messenger will have Hell's Fire as his permanent home: (The Jinn 72:23)*
- *Those who insult God and His Messenger will be rejected by God in this world and the next – He has prepared a humiliating torment for them – and those who undeservedly insult believing men and women will bear the guilt of slander and flagrant sin. (The Joint Forces 33:57-58)*
- *The Messenger of God is an excellent model for those of you who put your hope in God and the Last Day and remember Him often. (The Joint Forces 33:21)*
- *God and His angels bless the Prophet – so, you who believe, bless him too and give him greetings of peace. (The Joint Forces 33:56)*

These are the words of God. As with the Qur'an, Muhammad's position will never be challenged. It is the combination of Muhammad's life examples and the words of the Qur'an that create the framework for a Believer's life.

## **THE THEMES**

We now consider the themes mentioned above, examples of their related precepts, and their significance for Australia's secular democracy. For the sake of brevity a limited number of examples are given: other precepts emphasising each theme occur throughout the Qur'an. For a complete understanding, it is recommended that those considering this Application read the Qur'an in its entirety.

It should be noted that most precepts in the Qur'an have a relation to some incident in Muhammad's life. It is therefore common for Qur'anic apologists to offer 'context' or 'out of context' arguments to deflect attention away from the universal application of a precept. There are no limitations placed on the interpretation of a precept: the Qur'an is believed to be valid for all times and all places.

### **Alienation between Believers and the rest of mankind**

Believers are encouraged to behave according to the following precepts in relation to other peoples. God will expect them to do so.

- *You who believe, do not take the disbelievers as allies and protectors instead of the believers: do you want to offer God clear proof against you? (Women 4:144)*
- *You who believe, do not take My enemies and yours as your allies, showing them friendship when they have rejected the truth you have received, and driven you and the Messenger out simply because you believe in God, your Lord. (Women Tested 60:1p)*
- *You who believe, do not take the Jews and Christians as allies: they are allies only to each other. Anyone who takes them as an ally becomes one of them—God does not guide such wrongdoers. (The Feast 5:51)*
- *The believers should not make the disbelievers their allies rather than other believers— anyone who does such a thing will isolate himself completely from God—except when you need to protect yourself from*

*them. God warns you to beware of Him: the Final Return is to God. (The Family of 'Imran 3:28)*

- *Believers do not take your fathers and brothers as allies if they prefer disbelief to faith: those of you who do so are doing wrong. (Repentance 9:23)*

A disbeliever is anyone who is not a Believer. And, note that such alienation extends to family members. And there are precepts that give good reason for behaving in this manner.

- *You who believe, do not take for your intimates such outsiders as spare no effort to ruin you and want to see you suffer: their hatred is evident from their mouths, but what their hearts conceal is far worse. We have made Our revelations clear for you; will you not use your reason? (The Family of 'Imran 3:118)*
- *Neither those People of the Book who disbelieve nor the idolaters would like anything good to be sent down to you from your Lord, but God chooses for His grace whoever He will: His bounty has no limits. (The Cow 2:105)*

### **Deception and dissimulation in dealings with non-Believers**

It is accepted by Islamic scholars that the following precepts give Believers the license to practice deception and dissimulation.

- ***With the exception of those who are forced to say they do not believe, although their hearts remain firm in the faith, those who reject God after believing in Him and open their hearts to disbelief will have the wrath of God upon them and a grievous punishment awaiting them. (The Bee 16:106)***
- *The believers should not make the disbelievers their allies rather than other believers - anyone who does such a thing will isolate himself completely from God - **except when you need to protect yourself from them.** God warns you to beware of Him: the Final Return is to God. (The Family of 'Imran 3:28)*

Muhammad, and later Islamic leaders, developed the concept implied by these precepts to a high degree such that it can extend to cover acts of treachery, lying and secrecy or to hide the truth or a portion thereof even though other precepts of the Qur'an may suggest otherwise. For Believers living within non-

Islamic societies, such behaviour may be practiced on the basis of circumstance and need.

### **Physical harm and/or subjugation for non-Believers**

It is impossible to read the Qur'an without being aware that coercion and physical violence plays a central role in the subjugation of mankind to God.

- *Believers, when you meet the disbelievers in battle, never turn your backs on them: if anyone does so on such a day—unless manoeuvring to fight or to join a fighting group—he incurs the wrath of God, and Hell will be his home, a wretched destination! (Battle Gains 8:15-16)*
- *[Prophet], tell the disbelievers that if they desist their past will be forgiven, but if they persist, they have an example in the fate of those who went before. [Believers], fight them until there is no more persecution, and all worship is devoted to God alone: if they desist, then God sees all that they do, but if they pay no heed, be sure that God is your protector, the best protector and the best helper. (Battle Gains 8:38-40)*
- *You who believe, fight the disbelievers near you and let them find you standing firm: be aware that God is with those who are mindful of Him. (Repentance 9:123)*
- *Fighting is ordained for you, though you dislike it. You may dislike something although it is good for you, or like something although it is bad for you: God knows and you do not. (The Cow 2:216)*
- *When you meet the disbelievers in battle, strike them in the neck, and once they are defeated, bind any captives firmly – later you can release them by grace or by ransom – until the toils of war are ended. That [is the way]. God could have defeated them Himself if He had willed, but His purpose is to test some of you by means of others. He will not let the deeds of those who are killed for His cause come to nothing. (Muhammad 47:4)*
- *God truly loves those who fight in solid lines for His cause, like a well-compacted wall. (Solid Lines 61:4)*
- *Your Lord revealed to the angles: 'I am with you: give the believers firmness; I shall put terror into the hearts of the disbelievers – strike above their necks and strike all their fingertips.' That was because they*

*opposed God and his Messenger, and if anyone opposes God and his Messenger, God punishes them severely – ‘That is what you get! Taste that!’ – and the torment of the Fire awaits the disbelievers. (Battle Gains 8:12-14)*

It does not take much imagination to conjure up incidents, local or international, small or large, that can easily give rise to the application of one or more of the above precepts. And, as believers become more emboldened within a society, nationally, or internationally they themselves may manufacture such situations.

### **Coercive management as a tool to exact performance from Believers**

To be worthy of paradise or heaven, the Qur’an requires Believers to repent, have faith in rational aspects of their belief, perform Qur’anic designated good deeds, adhere to the dictates of the Qur’an and the example of Mohammad. The Believer’s daily life should reflect this.

The imperative placed on the importance of good deeds is very powerful to the point where Believers could be driven to undertake extreme actions either personally or under the encouragement of another Believer. Believers may express condemnation at the results of extreme actions but will not prevent such acts because they can be rationalised as being in accord with the Qur’an’s precepts. The following highlight that coercive pressure.

- *On that Day the weighing of deeds will be true and just: those whose good deeds are heavy on the scales will be the ones to prosper, and those whose good deeds are light will be the ones who have lost their souls through their wrongful rejection of Our messages. (The Heights 7:8-9)*
- *The Crashing Blow! What is the Crashing Blow? What will explain to you what the Crashing Blow is? On a Day when people will be like scattered moths and the mountains like tufts of wool, the one whose good deeds are heavy on the scales will have a pleasant life, but the one whose good deeds are light will have the Bottomless Pit for his home—what will explain to you what that is? –a blazing fire. (The Crashing Blow 101:1-10)*
- *On that Day when the Trumpet is blown, the ties between them will be as nothing and they will not ask about each other: those whose good deeds*

*weigh heavy will be successful, but those whose balance is light will have lost their souls forever and will stay in Hell—the Fire will scorch their faces and their lips will be twisted in pain. (The Believers 23:101-104)*

- *You who believe, if any of you go back on your faith, God will soon replace you with people He loves and who love Him, people who are humble towards the believers, hard on the disbelievers, and who strive in God's way without fearing anyone's reproach. Such is God's favour. (The Feast 5:54p)*

The rewards for the performance of good deeds are very enticing: no less than Paradise.

- *As for those who believe and do good deeds, We shall admit them into Gardens graced with flowing streams and there they will remain forever. They will have pure spouses there, and We shall admit them into cool refreshing shade. (Women 4:57)*
- *As for those who believe and do good deeds— We do not let the reward of anyone who does a good deed go to waste—they will have Gardens of lasting bliss graced with flowing streams. There they will be adorned with bracelets of gold. There they will wear green garments of fine silk and brocade. There they will be comfortably seated on soft chairs. What a blessed reward! What a pleasant resting place! (The Cave 18:30-31)*

And, death in God's cause appears to be a sure path to Paradise.

- *[Prophet], do not think that those who have been killed in God's way as dead. They are alive with their Lord, well provided for, happy with what God has given them of His favour; rejoicing that for those they have left behind who have yet to join them there is no fear, nor will they grieve; [rejoicing] in God's blessing and favour, and that God will not let the reward of the believers be lost. (The Family of 'Imran 3:169-172)*

This is coercive management of the highest order. Any movement employing such a strategy to exact performance from its members to advance its agenda would be considered dangerous and unpredictable.

### **No recognition of the separation of church (religion) and State.**

There are no specific precepts that rule out the concept of Islam existing within the ambit of a secular democracy. But, more importantly, there are no

precepts that countenance Believers being subject to an environment that is controlled by other than Qur'anic precepts. As we have seen previously, Believers are to live by the precepts set out in the Qur'an.

- *If anyone seeks a religion other than [islam] complete devotion to God, it will not be accepted from him: he will be one of the losers in the Hereafter. (The Family of 'Imran 3:85)*
- *'Follow what has been sent down to you from your Lord; do not follow other masters beside Him. How seldom you take heed!'* (The Heights 7:3)
- *Do they seek anything other than submission to God? Everyone in the heavens and earth submits to Him, willingly or unwillingly; they will all be returned to Him. (The Family of 'Imran 3:83)*
- *It is to God that everything in the heavens and earth submits, every beast that moves, even the angels – they are free from arrogance: they fear their Lord above them, and they do as they are commanded.(The Bee 16:49-50)*
- *Everything in the heavens and earth belongs to Him: everlasting obedience is His right. Will you heed anyone other than God? (The Bee 16:52)*
- *It is God who created the heavens and the earth and everything between them in six Days. Then He established Himself on the Throne. You [people] have no one but Him to protect you and no one to intercede for you, so why do you not take heed? He runs everything, from the heavens to the earth, and everything will ascend to Him in the end, on a Day that will measure a thousand years in your reckoning. (Bowing down in Worship 32:4-5)*

The Qur'an assumes that all life revolves around God and his precepts contained in the Qur'an: any other principalities or powers may be tolerated but will not supersede the precepts of the Qur'an on any matter. Believers living in Australia may adopt many of Australia's values, customs and regulations but *act* as the Qur'an requires.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- It has been demonstrated that the Qur'an and its God, the driving forces behind the subject book, will not go away and that the Qur'an will never be changed. Consequently, the assumption that second and subsequent generations of Believers will adapt to the Australian way of life and reject Qur'anic precepts is a delusion. Believers will continue to be conditioned by the Qur'an if this book continues to be readily available in schools, mosques and homes.
- It has been argued by apologists that the majority of Believers are 'moderates': they do not like or agree with the Qur'an's 'nasty bits'. However there is no evidence to support the 'moderate' assertion. For example, we do not see a natural reaction to something that displeases: in this case, significant numbers of 'moderates' demonstrating their displeasure of Qur'anic precepts by deserting Islam and adopting some other lifestyle. The Qur'an's precepts are prescriptive and do not allow any leeway for a Believer to be 'moderate'.
- Australia's disinterest in matters spiritual, a disinclination to read, and a cultural 'she'll be right mate' attitude, makes it easy to dupe most non-Believers that the themes and precepts of the Qur'an are benign. The popular perception that the Qur'an defines a religion of peace that is governed by five pillars (affirmation, prayer, alms, fasting and pilgrimage) is the simplistic outward face for non-Believers: it overlooks the principal themes and precepts examined above
- As noted previously, the conduct of a Believer is not only dictated by the precepts of the Qur'an but also by the conduct of Muhammad. Examples of Muhammad's conduct are recorded in a series of writings (*hadiths*) as prophetic traditions and are of equal significance for the behaviour of a Believer as the precepts of the Qur'an. The outcome has been the introduction to Australia of behaviors that are considered not only unacceptable but illegal. Well examined examples include child marriage, polygamy, and the subjugation of women.
- It could be argued that the rights conferred by freedom of religion and freedom of speech would be breached by this Application. However, for each freedom, it is an accepted principal that those rights are restricted

by the need to protect national security or public order, or public health or morals. This Application argues that the themes and precepts examined above fall under one or more of these restrictions.

## **CONCLUSION**

This Application of necessity refers to Muslims, Islam, and the Qur'an, as they are the background to the subject book from which the themes and precepts that are considered emanate. However, the heart of the issue is not one of religion or theology and it is essential that the cloak of religion or the intricacies of theology do not obscure the primary thrust of the Application.

That is, that **no** book of **any** genre that teaches and encourages the following behaviors should be freely available in Australia.

- Antagonism between, separation of, and alienation by, a specific group and the rest of mankind.
- Deception and dissimulation in dealings with people who are not of that group.
- Physical harm and/or subjugation for those who are not of that group.
- Coercive management as a tool to exact performance from members of that group.
- No recognition by that group of the separation of church and State.

The presence of a book encouraging these behaviours is an immediate and evolving challenge to the values, traditions, institutions, and regulations that define Australia's secular democracy. There are no arguable circumstances under which it should play a role in shaping the character of any Australian citizen.

This Application demonstrates that the Qur'an is such a book: it teaches and encourages such behavior. Its themes and precepts are taught in schools, mosques and homes throughout Australia. Over 600,000 Australian residents live by these themes and precepts every day.

**On the basis of the above, this Application requests that the Government classify the Qur'an as a banned book in Australia.**

