

# Foreign Student Discusses Religion

## The Islam Religion--Their Attitude Toward War

Editor's note: The following article by Mohamed A. Khan, graduate student from Pakistan, was written to give you a picture of the Islamic religion and its attitudes toward war, as told by a native of that country. Khan will be remembered by many readers who followed the series of articles he wrote on Pakistan earlier this Summer.)

By MAHAMED A. KHAN

PEOPLE unfamiliar with the teachings of Islam are apt to confuse an Islamic State with a theocracy. This tendency is more marked today than before. Before dwelling on the main topic, it is necessary to describe in detail what is meant by an Islamic State.

A theocracy is a kingdom of God where authority vests in specially ordained priests who exercise this authority on behalf of God. Islam does not recognize priesthood and there is no place in Islamic society of special "agents" of God to administer laws which express His will.

Sovereignty in an Islamic State is vested in the Moslem people guided by teachings of Islam. No particular class of people has been given the authority to interpret the teachings of Islam. The reason for this is that the growth of a class vested with sacerdotal authority or religious sanctity discourages the mass of people from acquiring the true knowledge of the Faith.

In the past, Moslem people elected a high executive called the Caliph to carry on business of the state on their behalf. This executive was only an agent to carry out the will of the people. The people being Moslems, naturally demanded that their affairs be conducted in accordance with their Islamic beliefs and convictions. In this context the people are the political sovereign in an Islamic state.

### "Shar" Is Legal Sovereign

The legal sovereign in an Islamic state is the law of Islam called the "Shar" which consists of three main principles—two immutable and one mutable. The immutable principles are the Koran—the holy book of the Moslems, and "Hadith," of the Prophet—the interpretation given by the Prophet to religious injunctions revealed in the Koran to him by God.

The mutable factor in Islamic law is the interpretation of the

principles of Islam by the application of human reason in different conditions. Thus, while the two immutable factors have remained constant in the course of Islamic history, the one mutable factor has resulted in a corpus of man-made law varying in some degrees in different parts of the Moslem world.

The immutable principles about war do not teach aggression nor do they preach the believers to "turn the other cheek" on one hand and "sell their clothes to buy a sword" on the other. The teachings of Islam fit into the natural instincts of man, and promote peace in the only possible way. Islam forbids aggression, but it urges us to fight if failure to fight jeopardizes peace and promotes war.

If failure to fight means the extinction of free belief and of the search of truth, it is our duty to fight. With clear-cut words the Koran lays down the distinctive characteristics of the lawful and unlawful wars. This is as follows:

### "Allah Loves Not Transgressors

"And fight in the cause of Allah against those who fight you, but do not transgress. Surely, Allah loves not transgressors." (2:190) "If they (opponents) give up the fight, refrain from repressions which should be visited only upon the wicked." (2:192-193) "If they (people) remain neutral without attacking you and give you every security, God does not allow you to disturb their peace." (4:90)

"God does not forbid you to be kind and fair toward those who do not attack you on account of your religion and do not drive you away from your home. God loves the just and the fair." (9:8). Purpose of the war to which the Koran exhorts the faithfuls is still more precisely defined in the following passage:

"Would you hesitate to make war on a people that have violated their pledges and who planned to banish the Apostle? Besides, it is these very people who were the first to rise up against you. Do you fear them? God is still more dreadful if you are true believers." (4:13)

Self-explanatory as they are, from the above quotations and many others we may safely conclude that only defensive wars are lawful, provided, however, they fall into one of these two categories specifically mentioned in the Koran:

● First in self-defense, perpetuation of free belief and search of truth.

● Secondly, to help a defenseless ally or brother "would you not fight in the way of God to help the weak; the men, women and children who cry out, 'Oh Lord! deliver us from this city of tyranny; send us an ally or a protector.'" (4:75).

### Rules for Prisoners of War

It goes without saying that in both cases the adversary is supposed to have assumed a bellicose attitude that he had taken the initiative or at least has indicated to do so.

Of prisoners of war, the Koran teaches:

"It does not behoove a Prophet that he should have captives until he engages in a regular fighting in the land." (8:68) At the same time rules for the release of prisoners are laid down. Thus we have:

"Then afterwards either release them as at favor or by taking ransom—until the war lays down its burdens." (47:5)

There is provision for prisoners of war who are unable themselves to pay and who have none who can or will pay for their release. This provision in the Koran reads:

"And such as desire a deed of manumission from among those (prisoners) whom your right hand possess, write it for them, if you know any good in them; and give them out of the wealth of Allah which He has bestowed upon you." (24:34)

In simple words, it means that prisoners neither able to pay ransom nor desiring to be set free without it, can obtain release by signing an undertaking that if allowed to work and earn, they will pay their ransom. If their competence is proved, they should even have financial help from Moslems in their (prisoners) effort to work and earn.

With regard to armistice in 8:62-63 we have:

"And if they (opponents) incline towards peace incline thou also towards it, and put thy trust in Allah. Surely, it is He who is All-Tearing, All-Knowing. And if they intend to deceive thee, then surely Allah is sufficient for thee. He it is Who has strengthened thee with His help and with the believers."

That is to say, if in the course of a battle the opponents at any time incline towards peace, Moslems are to accept the offer at once and to make peace. Moslems are told to do so even at the risk of being deceived.

The passages quoted from the Koran, above, contain the teachings of Islam on the subject of war and peace. They indicate in what circumstances it is right to go to war and what limits have to be observed by Moslems when they make war.

These teachings do not consist only of precepts laid down in the Koran, but also include the precepts and example of the Prophet—Mohammed. What he did or what he taught in concrete situations is also an essential part of the Islamic teaching. A few sayings of the Prophet pertinent on the subject under discussion are listed below:

### Moslem Teachings

1. Moslems are forbidden altogether to mutilate the dead.

2. Children are not to be killed, nor women, old and decrepit. The possibility of peace should always be high in view.

3. Priests and religious functionaries and religious leaders are not to be interfered with. Ambassadors and delegates from other countries should be held in great respect. Any mistake or discourtesy, they commit, should be ignored.

4. The least possible loss should be inflicted upon the enemy. When Moslems enter enemy territory, they should not strike terror into the general population. They should permit no ill treatment of common folk.

5. A Moslem army should not camp in a place where it causes inconvenience to the general public. When it marches, it should take care not to block the road nor cause discomfort to other wayfarers.

6. When prisoners-of-war are put under guard, those closely related should be placed together. Prisoners should live in peace. Moslems should care more for the comfort of their prisoners than for their own. If a Moslem ill-treats a prisoner-of-war, atonement is to be made by releasing the prisoner without ransom. The prisoner-of-war should be fed and clothed in the same way as he, who takes his charge, does himself.

It is evident that Islam has instituted steps which have the effect of preventing or stopping a war or reducing its evil. The principles are not pious precepts only, but they have their practical illustration in the example of the Prophet and those who succeeded him.

## Battalion Editorials

Page 2

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1951

### Improving Farmer Services

THE U. S. Department of Agriculture recently put out a 121-page booklet entitled "Family Farm Policy Review" dated June 11, 1951. The booklet was sent to all County Agricultural Mobilization Committees.

It is a provisional report with certain recommendations as to how the various agencies within the Department of Agriculture can improve their programs in serving farmers.

The publication has this to say about credit facilities: "Special credit facilities under the Defense Production Act apparently are not well adapted to finance family farms or farm production generally." The booklet also says the Department of Agriculture should

assume the responsibility for extending credit necessary to encourage defense production of food."

The American Bankers Association now has this obligation. Here are three reasons why we think that the ABA should continue as the official lending agency for the farmers:

(1) The record of farm credit in 1950 which shows that banks and not PCA's are doing the job in taking care of the credit needs of farmers.

(2) That banks are committed to serve the credit requirements of all worthy farmers for production with the defense effort.

(3) That loans to farmers for production purposes are normally exempt from the workings of the Voluntary Credit Restraint Program.

### Bryan's Street Cleaning

BRYAN'S Chief of Police, H. W. "Rip" Collins, has issued an order that will clear the Bryan sidewalks of weight machines, popcorn and peanut stands and other similar obstructions.

The fundamental reason is that the sidewalks are the property of the city and the city would be responsible in case of any accident that might be traced to the vending machine obstructions.

We doubt the likelihood of anyone seriously injuring himself because of the presence of these various machines. Unless, of course, some dieting lady would have heart failure as a result of putting a penny in one of the weight machines only to find that she had gained five pounds.

However, no matter how whimsical the reasons for removing these obstructions, the result should prove invaluable. The city realizes very little, if any, rental from the machines and the neatness of sidewalks will be improved many fold due to the absence of these monstrosities.

### Hot Enough For One Day

NO LONGER can the West Texas cowboy or the South Texas rancher "brag" about the heat in those far away places they call home.

College Station tagged along with the rest of the state and tied Fort Worth for the day's high of 105 degrees yesterday.

Not that this East-Central Texas haven on the Brazos is to be compared with such far away spots—that would offend the localities as well as the foreigners.

But if College Station and Bryan must find a way to out do these places in something, the heat would be the best answer—for a day or so maybe. Who would want more dust and sand and rain-less days than West Texas or more mesquite and cactus than South Texas.

We'll take the publicity and proudly boast about "How hot is was in College Station"—but just for one day.

## The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions  
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under No. 100,451, on August 10, 1928, by Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Member of The Associated Press

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of republication of all other matter herein are also reserved.

JOEL AUSTIN, Editor  
Andy Anderson, Associate Editor and Sports Editor  
Pat Morley, Women's Editor  
William Dickens, Feature Editor  
Frank Davis, City Editor

Staff Writers: Frank Price, John Lancaster, R. D. Witter, Charles McCullough, Jim Thompson, Owen Lee, Advertising Manager  
Allen Pengelly, B. F. Roland, Frank Davis, William Dickens, Ray Rushing, Tom Rountree, Gus Becker, Ray Holbrook, Calvin Janak, Sports News Writers, Picture File Clerk

## Mexico Youth Is 'Good Neighbor'

By MAC ROY RASOR  
AP News Staff

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 14.—A 19-year-old Mexican youth has taken the "good neighbor" problem into his own hands.

Texas tourists who happen to cross paths with him are learning about a brand of super hospitality that even the Texas Good Neighbor Commission would hardly dare dream about.

### Mexico Citizen

He is Carlos Huesca, citizen of Mexico but football player-graduate of Huntington, Ind., high school. His studies in the United States for the past four years have been by special arrangement of the governments of the two countries. This fall he plans to return to enter college to study international trade.

I first met Carlos at breakfast in the dining room of a small hotel off the beaten tourist path. He was visiting, I learned later, with his brothers and sisters who lived in a nearby apartment. His parents are dead.

With the politeness of an old-time southern colone, he approached our table and inquired if my wife and I were planning to go to Xochimilco. It was Sunday and all tourists go to Xochimilco on Sunday to ride flower-decked canoes through garden-like lagoons.

### "Had An Angle"

Suspicious, like most Americans, we assumed he had an "angle." We told him we thought we would go later in the morning but thought we knew the way and wouldn't need any help.

"You do not understand," he broke in. "I am not a guide. Mexico City is my home but I have been going to school in the United States for the past four years. The people there have been so wonderful to me, I made up my mind that I would help American tourists here whenever I could. I want no payment. It will be my pleasure to be whatever help I can."

If such were truly his pleasure, he was undoubtedly supremely happy for the next two days. He showed every sign of being so.

From early in the morning until late at night and even into small morning hours, Carlos wrote our Mexico holiday into capital letters.

### Had Own Convertible

He had his own yellow convertible and insisted on using it, chaffering us with ease through the belching traffic to the pyramids, markets, restaurants, night clubs.

At every turn he made it more impossible ever to pay or repay him. A corsage for my wife, a bright table cloth for our dining

table, a shiny flint image souvenir of the pyramids—all were his "pleasure."

He translated for us, bargained in the markets to get our purchases for half the tourist price, steered us to the best of Mexico City and away from the tourist traps. Early one morning he rounded up a troop of "mariachis" to serenade us with familiar Mexican ballads.

### "It Is Nothing"

"De nada," he would say—"It is nothing." As we started to leave, he presented us with an autographed print of his high school graduation picture.

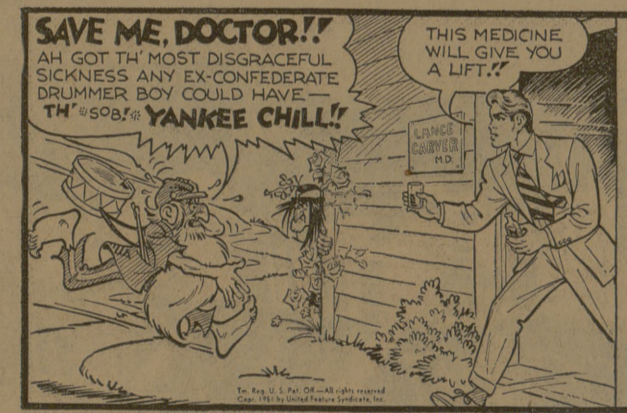
"I hope I have helped you a little to have a more enjoyable visit," he told us. "I only wish I could help more tourists."

We could not help but ponder such good neighborliness. It was the sort of thing that has been urged consistently during the ten-year existence of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission—but in reverse!

Tune in BOGART BACALL  
"BOLD VENTURE"

EVERY MONDAY  
KORA  
8:00 P.M.  
AMERICAN LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANERS

LPL ABNER He Got The Point



LPL ABNER Mind Over Matter



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, The Battalion:

It was with great disgust and distaste that we read of the action taken by the student with regard to the "sip" downtown. The fact that this supreme body has seen fit to express their feelings and represent them as the feelings of the entire student body in amazing, to say the least. Judging by the feelings expressed in the letter printed last Thursday, our own feelings, and those of the students to whom we have spoke, to say that the senators had represented a cross section of the student body leads one to wonder if that cross section includes anyone except D and E ramps of Walton Hall. Perhaps the unwillingness of the remainder of the students to accept this action can be attributed to two things.

First, we would like to mention a little item of uniforms stolen during the last Austin Corps-trip. Yes, our little friends betrayed the faith of the Senate and took such a liking to certain articles of clothing that they per-

manently attached themselves to life up here has given us some strange ideas though. In conclusion, the boys who lost clothing in Austin were repaid for about half what they lost. And the sips paid about a half this amount. So at most, the future coal miners have about one fourth the amount they declared coming to them, if their own reasoning may be applied.

The second point we would like to make is that it seems strange after so long a time up here to hear a person moan about water. We always thought that one should reach for a mop and not a crying towel following water. Perhaps

Reuben D. Cook '52  
James Broussard '54  
Wm. R. Harris '51  
Bill Dishman '54  
Lem Lockhart '54  
Louie McFeron '51  
C. H. LeBlanc '54  
Lewis Jarrett '52  
Andy Anderson '52

We've Moved... Right on the Campus  
EASTERWOOD FIELD  
New Home for PIONEER FLIGHTS  
Beginning August 15th, improved Pioneer service will be yours—right from your own campus at Easterwood Field. Pioneer Liners will take off and land from Easterwood, conveniently located 2 1/2 miles west of A&M College. Pioneer's new home will be nearer to you—save you valuable time.  
Pioneer offers you the same superb transportation—4 Fast Flights Daily. Morning and afternoon flights to Dallas and West Texas with connections to Chicago, Washington and New York. Noon and evening flights to Houston with connections to South and East Coast.  
NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER for information and reservations call 4-5054  
BAYLOR WATCHES—OFFICIAL TIMEPIECE FOR PIONEER  
fly PIONEER AIR LINES

Panel 3: A man says 'I got the point.' A doctor replies 'Mind over matter.'

Panel 4: A man says 'I got the point.' A doctor replies 'Mind over matter.'

Panel 5: A man says 'I got the point.' A doctor replies 'Mind over matter.'

Panel 6: A man says 'I got the point.' A doctor replies 'Mind over matter.'