

# SLB-005

# Spiritual Life Basics

# Lesson 5

The Necessity of a Spiritual Life:  
The Times in Which We Live

# "Iran says it's ready for 'serious' talks"

- (Ali Akbar Dareini, AP/Yahoo! News, 2006/08/22)
- "TEHRAN, Iran - Iran's top nuclear negotiator said Tuesday that Tehran was ready to enter "serious negotiations" over its disputed nuclear program but did not say whether it was willing to suspend uranium enrichment — the West's key demand.

# "Iran says it's ready for 'serious' talks"

- The negotiator, Ali Larijani, hand-delivered Iran's response to a six-nation package of nuclear incentives aimed at persuading it to suspend enrichment.
- He gave the reply to ambassadors from Britain, China, Russia, France, Germany and Switzerland, state-run television said, without disclosing details.
- Iranian officials close to the meeting said Iran offered a "new formula" to resolve the dispute as part of its formal response to the incentive package.
- The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information."

# Spencer: After August 22

- August 24, 2006
- Spencer: After August 22
- In yesterday's featured article at FrontPage, which I was prevented from putting up yesterday by yet another attack on this site, I discussed the August 22 brouhaha, and why all those who are crowing now about "right-wing hysteria" should not lose sight of the real problem: the continuing threat from Iran:

# Spencer: After August 22

- Iran drew concern worldwide for refusing to respond in a timely fashion to the West's offer of an incentives package in exchange for Tehran's abandonment of its nuclear program.
- Iranian officials brushed aside the June 29 deadline set by the West and said Iran would respond on August 22.

# Spencer: After August 22

- Some, including Farid Ghadry of the Reform Party of Syria (as I reported several weeks ago) and Islamic scholar Bernard Lewis, suggested that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the mullahs in Iran's inner circle may have chosen that date in order to establish a connection with the Islamic prophet Muhammad's fabled Night Journey, during which Allah is said to have miraculously illuminated the night sky over Jerusalem to facilitate the prophet's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem, and thence to Paradise.

# Spencer: After August 22

- Would Iran's answer to the West's tribute package be to illuminate the night sky over Jerusalem again, this time with a nuclear device?
- Obviously not – at least not on August 22 itself. That was a cue for some of the loudest advocates of Western appeasement and surrender to the global jihadists to condemn right-wing hysteria, despite the fact that no one who reported on this possibility had ever stated with any certainty that anything in particular would happen on August 22.

# Spencer: After August 22

- Brian Whitaker, a columnist for The Guardian who once suggested that Gandhi would admire jihad, sneered: “The purpose of all this scaremongering is obviously to build up fears about an Iranian nuclear attack.
- When Whitaker and his ilk dismiss “fears about an Iranian nuclear attack” as “scaremongering,” they ignore both Iran’s present bellicose activities and clear indications it has been giving of its future plans:

# Spencer: After August 22

- According to the Times of London, Iran “is seeking to import large consignments of bomb-making uranium from the African mining area that produced the Hiroshima bomb.”
- On August 22 itself, an Iranian warship fired upon a Romanian oil tanker moored in the Persian Gulf; Iranian troops occupied the ship.
- Lethal roadside bombs strong enough to penetrate American and British tank armor are being turned out in large numbers by three Iranian factories. A large cache of other Iranian-made weapons and materiel were discovered last Monday in the Iraqi city of Um Qasr.

# Spencer: After August 22

- After decisively altering the balance between Hizballah and Israel by supplying military hardware to the Lebanese Shi'ite terror organization, Iran continues even after the ceasefire announcement to ship arms and materiel to Hizballah.
- Ahmadinejad continues to indulge his now well-established taste for pugnacious rhetoric, declaring last week: “If you want to have good relations with the Iranian people in the future, you should acknowledge the right and the might of the Iranian people, and you should bow and surrender to the might of the Iranian people. If you do not accept this, the Iranian people will force you to bow and surrender.”

# Spencer: After August 22

- Hardly a promising foundation for the negotiations that American officials so desperately want to initiate with Tehran.
- The Iranian President also threatened George W. Bush during his recent interview with Mike Wallace. Referring to the letter he sent several months ago to Bush inviting him to accept Islam, Ahmadinejad said to Wallace: “We are all free to choose. But please give him this message, sir: Those who refuse to accept an invitation will not have a good ending or fate.”

# Spencer: After August 22

- This is in accord with Islamic tradition. Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, tells his followers to call people to Islam before waging war against them:
- “Fight in the name of Allah and in the way of Allah.
- Fight against those who disbelieve in Allah.
- Make a holy war...When you meet your enemies who are polytheists, invite them to three courses of action....Invite them to (accept) Islam; if they respond to you, accept it from them and desist from fighting against them....

# Spencer: After August 22

- If they refuse to accept Islam, demand from them the Jizya [the tax on non-Muslims specified in Qur'an 9:29].
- If they agree to pay, accept it from them and hold off your hands. If they refuse to pay the tax, seek Allah's help and fight them (Sahih Muslim 4294).”

# Spencer: After August 22

- (Muhammad sent a letter much like Ahmadinejad's to one of Ahmadinejad's early predecessors, Chosroes, emperor of Persia – who contemptuously tore it to pieces.
- Muhammad, hearing of this, called upon Allah to tear the Persian emperor and his followers to pieces (Bukhari, vol. 5, book 64, no. 4424)).
- Ahmadinejad has followed Muhammad's instruction to the letter both by calling Bush to Islam, and then by warning that his refusal would have bad consequences.

# Spencer: After August 22

- Iran has in the last few days conducted large-scale military maneuvers and tested a new short-range missile.
- Ahmad Khatami of the Iranian Assembly of Experts said last week on government-controlled Iranian television that if Bush and Olmert “decided to display the slightest aggression against Islamic Iran, they should...fear the day that our missiles, with a range of 2,000 kilometers, land in the heart of Tel Aviv....They should know that playing with Islam is like playing with a lion’s tail.”

# Spencer: After August 22

- Ahmadinejad continues to call for “elimination of Zionist regime.”
- August 22 has come and gone. But the threat of Iran continues to hang over the world.
- Those who choose to ignore or downplay it may be in before too long for a most unpleasant surprise, courtesy of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

# Al-Takeyya

- The principle of Al-Takeyya

The Arabic word, "Takeyya", means "to prevent," or guard against.

- The principle of Al Takeyya conveys the understanding that Muslims are permitted to lie as a preventive measure against anticipated harm to one's self or fellow Muslims.
- This principle gives Muslims the liberty to lie under circumstances that they perceive as life threatening.

# Al-Takeyya

- They can even deny the faith, if they do not mean it in their hearts.
- Al-Takeyya is based on the following Quranic verse:  
"Let not the believers Take for friends or helpers Unbelievers rather than believers: if any do that, in nothing will there be help from Allah: except by way of precaution (prevention), that ye may Guard yourselves from them (prevent them from harming you.)"
- But Allah cautions you (To remember) Himself; for the final goal is to Allah." Surah 3: 28

# Al-Taakeyya

- According to this verse a Muslim can pretend to befriend infidels (in violation of the teachings of Islam) and display adherence with their unbelief to prevent them from harming him.
- The following actions are acceptable: “Drink wine, abandon prayers, and skip fasting during Ramadan. “Renounce belief in Allah. “Kneel in homage to a deity other than Allah. Utter insincere oaths.”

# Al-Takeyya

- The implications of the principle of Al-Takeyya
- Unfortunately, when dealing with Muslims, one must keep in mind that Muslims can communicate something with apparent sincerity, when in reality they may have just the opposite agenda in their hearts.
- Bluntly stated, Islam permits Muslims to lie anytime that they perceive that their own well-being, or that of Islam, is threatened.

# Al-Takeyya

- In the sphere of international politics, the question is: Can Muslim countries be trusted to keep their end of the agreements that they sign with non-Muslim nations?
- It is a known Islamic practice, that when Muslims are weak they can agree with most anything.
- Once they become strong, then they negate what they formerly vowed.

# Al-Taakeyya

- The principle of sanctioning lying for the cause of Islam bears grave implications in matters relating to the spread of the religion of Islam in the West.
- Muslim activists employ deceptive tactics in their attempts to polish Islam's image and make it more attractive to prospective converts.
- These texts are peaceful and exemplify tolerance towards those that are not followers of Islam.
- All the while, they are fully aware that most of these passages were abrogated (cancelled and replaced) by passages that came after he migrated to Medina.

# Al-Takeyya

- The replacement verses reflect prejudice, intolerance, and endorse violence upon unbelievers.
- In conclusion, it is imperative to understand, that Muslim leaders can use this loop-hole in their religion, to absolve them from any permanent commitment.
- It is also important to know that what Muslim activists say to spread Islam may not always be the whole truth.
- When dealing with Muslims, what they say is not the issue.
- The real issue is, what they actually mean in their hearts.

# Al-Takeyya

- Al-Takeyya in Action
- The Hossam Armanious family had inspired several Muslims to convert to Christianity — or thought they had. These converts were actually practicing taqiyya, or religious deception, pretending to be friends of these Christians in order to strengthen themselves against them, as in Qur'an 3:28: "Let believers not make friends with infidels in preference to the faithful -- he that does this has nothing to hope for from Allah -- except in self-defense."
- The entire family was murdered in their home by these "Takeyya Christians."

# Al-Takeyya

- Many Copts are regarding the murders as a warning to the Coptic community as a whole, related to the increasing strife between Copts and Muslims in Egypt and the Copts' energetic efforts in America to get the truth out about the differences between Middle Eastern Christians and Muslims -- differences that the Islamic lobby, with its disingenuous talk of "Arab Americans," routinely glosses over and hopes you don't notice. The Copts, to their immense credit, have been particularly outspoken among Middle Eastern Christians about Muslim oppression. And yes, many are active on Pal Talk debating Muslims. (Jihad Watch)

# "Al-Qaeda: Britain in its sights"

- (Zaki Chehab, New Statesman, 2006/08/21)  
Londonistan:
- Al-Qaeda's leadership has surveyed the world and it has identified Britain both as a rich source of recruits and as an important target.
- The leaders' simple strategy is to put the two together, so today their proxies know every way there is to take average young British men and deliver them to martyrdom...
- And if you can't afford to go to Pakistan, or can't get the time off work, there are options closer to home.

# "Al-Qaeda: Britain in its sights"

- There are training camps in Wales and Sussex; some radical groups have been known to rent sports halls in London suburbs such as Ealing, and even in the city centre, to deliver training unimagined by their hosts.
- The guidance is very Islamic: for female recruits, a female sports trainer is provided.
- One specific female trainer travels from Cardiff to a different city every week just to give instruction to young women interested in jihad.
- In other cases, military training is provided by Muslim former members of the British armed forces who have acquired battlefield experience at the expense of Her Majesty's Government. ...

# Vigilance in the USA

- Green card and visa applications not checked against terror watch list 75% of the time
- Keystone Kops Alert: "Terrorist screening missed 75% of time: Green card and visa applications not checked against terror watch list," from DailyBulletin.com, with thanks to Doc Washburn:
- An estimated 75 percent of applicants for immigrant benefits - green cards, work visas, and a host of other documents - at a major federal processing center were not screened through the U.S. terrorism watch list over the past four years, the Daily Bulletin has learned.

# Vigilance in the USA

- The error - on nearly 3 million applications dating to 2002 - was confirmed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officers at the National Benefits Center in Lee's Summit, Mo., near Kansas City. The center is one of several facilities across the country that process foreign applications for immigrant benefits.

# Vigilance in the USA

- Numerous Department of Homeland Security e-mails - sent the day after British authorities uncovered major terror plot - noted that supervisors and adjudicators at the Missouri center were not aware that a simple touch of a computer key would have allowed them to check the names of applicants against the highest-priority terrorist list. According to the e-mails and the adjudicators themselves, up to 2.8 million applications at the center dating to 2002 did not get such checks.

# Vigilance in the USA

- August 24, 2006
- Jihadist website publishes instructions: How to kill a Westerner
- On August 4, 2006, the Al-Hesbah website published instructions on "How to Kill a Crusader in the Arabian Peninsula." The document was signed by Amer Al-Najdi, and dated June 15, 2006.

# Know Thy Enemy!

- "Below I will explain the jihadist way of action and the security measures to be employed by the jihad fighter [when he wants to kill a Westerner]:
- "First of all, before carrying out the operation, pray [to Allah] to guide you on the good path.
- "[Regarding your] external appearance - Try as much as possible to look like someone who is not religious. For example, wear [a kuffiyeh] with an 'aqa instead of a turban, and wear cheap dark glasses during the day and regular glasses at night.

# Know Thy Enemy!

- Your clothes must be long, and try if at all possible for them to be heel-length, or longer; don't be afraid of this. Wear a sport suit or a regular suit. Similarly, it is greatly preferable to be shaven.

# Know Thy Enemy!

- "[Regarding] the items or the clothing in [your] car - Immediately get rid of everything in your car that indicates that you are religious, such as jihad cassettes, small papers such as post-its... The most important thing there must not be anything in the car indicating that the owner is a religious man... so that if the dogs of the security [apparatuses], the emergency [apparatuses], or the other [apparatuses] stop you in a suspicious place and search your car they will find nothing proving that you are religious, and will release you right away.

# Know Thy Enemy!

- "While you are carrying out the operation, be careful not to take your cell phone with you - especially if it has a camera - so that it won't cause you, or your friends whose numbers are in the phone, problems with unknown consequences.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- Anyone at JW from the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines? Anyone now stationed in Iraq? Anyone who has returned from Iraq, still trying to make sense of why those Iraqis were so ungrateful, so clamoring for more and more and more American goodies for themselves and their family and their tribe, but not for "Iraq"?

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- Anyone wondering why they were so eager to have the American soldiers take all the risks, do all the most important and dangerous tasks -- whether the Shi'a government urging us to fight the Sunnis (or as they have been called, the "insurgents") or the Sunnis now wanting us to protect them from the Shi'a, and even to see if they can inveigle us, the infinitely-foolable Infidels, into now fighting the Shi'a militias?

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- If so, then you will want to see the recent C-Span interview with Robert Spencer, in addition to, or preparatory to, reading his books. You will thereby find out what the generals and civilian masters would not teach you, would prevent you from learning adequately about -- lest it cause you to question all kinds of things, including the "forward strategy of freedom" that makes no sense.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- And for that matter, many others connected to the military should watch this video -- no, it should be assigned. Do you now teach, or attend one of the service academies, or one of the ar colleges? Perhaps you are, say, a colleague of that nice Vali Nasr, the one who is the son of the famous apologist, and who has tried, out of belief and embarrassment and filial piety, to ignore so much of Islam in order to keep himself a Muslim. Nasr's current theme is that the American government should "seek to engage" the Shi'a.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- There's a whole lot of "seek-to-engaging" going around – it's the fashion of the month, just the way that word "robust" is now the adjective of the month: "a robust response" and a "robust" this and a "robust" that -- lemmings of language, and lemmings of thought. And so there Nasr is, and he sounds plausible, and he tells you why it would make sense -- from his point of view -- to "engage the Shi'a" in dialogue.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- And back in Washington, Sunni Arab diplomats are explaining why we should take the side of the Sunnis in Iraq and, by the way, please do pressure Israel into that suicidal "two-state solution" stuff -- because you see, it will dampen the appeal of Iran and help relieve us, the Sunni Arab despots.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- No, Vali Nasr, sweet as he is, is part of the problem -- as are all those sweet-and-reasonable Muslims who want us to do all kinds of things, but never to realize that Sunni and Shi'a alike, and all those who take the belief-system of Islam and the duty of Jihad to heart, regard us as the enemy. Even if they do not participate in Jihad, those who attempt to support or promote it, or to hide its promptings in the immutable and canonical texts of Islam, are part of the Camp of Islam that regards us, the Infidels, as the enemy.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- And if they regard us, and treat us, as the enemy, then it follows that they are, in turn, for us the enemy. We didn't cause it. We haven't been making war, all the Infidels in the world, on Muslims. We haven't moved by the tens of millions into Muslim lands. Nor has the government of India treated its Muslims the way Hindus have been treated in Pakistan and Bangladesh. Nor have Christians in the West treated Muslims with the same hostility and cruelty with which Muslims have for centuries treated Christians and other non-Muslims, and continue to do so today in any land where Muslims dominate and rule.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- It is silly to study "counter-insurgency" techniques in the abstract -- as do all kinds of "experts" -- with campaigns of the British in postwar Greece and Malaya, and the Americans in Vietnam, in mind.
- Why? Because in all of those cases the insurgencies were of two, non-Islamic kinds. There were the insurgencies of those who simply wanted an overlord, a colonial master, out -- as in Kenya with Jomo Kenyatta's Mau Mau, or those of Communists, or those claiming they were Communists, motivated by a desire for economic justice.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- But that is not what the "insurgency" in Iraq is about. The war in Iraq is about who, within Iraq, is going to possess political power, and therefore whatever wealth -- almost entirely oil wealth -- there is.
- It would not matter if the Americans tried to win Sunni hearts and minds or Shi'a hearts and minds.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- They will, those Americans, remain Infidels, and therefore, in the end, those Infidels will be rejected, even if, for a while, they will be exploited to the hilt, by first one side, and then the other, as the Americans keep believing or pretending to believe or not admitting that they no longer believe, that they are there to "help the (non-existent) Iraqi people," the people who supposedly "want freedom" or "want democracy" (both words undefined, and for the Administration, it would be dangerous to dare to define them because the absurdity of what we mean by "freedom" and "democracy" and what Muslim peoples mean, would be obvious to all).

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- But that does not mean that we have not been, are now, and will continue to be, exploited by local forces, this or that leader whispering sweet nothings in private even as he denounces the Americans and their allies in public, and certainly will never utter words of praise, or of gratitude, in Iraq, to people in Iraq -- but only in the White House, only while addressing Congress.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- The Sunnis and Shi'a will use the Americans, as best they can, to promote their own quite different interests. Among those interests will be obtaining as much money -- billions and tens of billions -- for themselves, or their families, or their tribes, as they can, not for "Iraq" or the "Iraqi people."
- It will mean trying to inveigle the Americans into training their troops, not the troops of the enemy, and since the Americans have little idea who is Sunni and who Shia, who Arab and who Kurd, all kinds of fooling can go on.

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- And along with the training, various forces in Iraq -- not "Iraqis" but Shi'a Arabs and Sunni Arabs and Kurds -- will try to obtain as much American military equipment, now, or later when the Americans leave, as leave they will, either now, as part of a larger thought-out scheme, or if not now, then later, possibly as part of no scheme at all, but rather in a furious reaction to the squandering of resources, after the next presidential election (Bush has no notion, apparently, of attempting to insure that appeasement will not follow upon, as it could in reaction to his clinging to the tarbaby of Iraq).

# Fitzgerald: Time to get an education

- Not the "Iraqi people," but the various Muslim groups in Iraq, divided along ethnic and sectarian lines (divisions between Arab and non-Arab, and Shi'a and Sunni, that predate the founding of the United States by a thousand years), will never, can never, be truly grateful or for that matter even be truly friendly with American Infidels. It can't happen.