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# Thousands Are Praying For You to Die!

## The Power of Religious Belief Systems

By Jim Myers

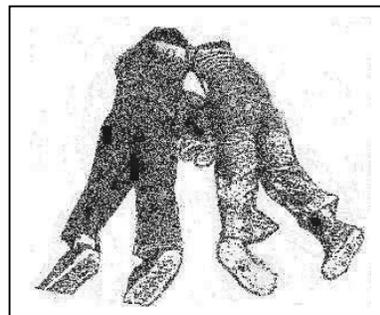
Every Friday (and on other days too) thousands of people who belong to Islamic groups that are called “extremists” begin their prayers with –

**“Death to America  
Death to Israel”**

They do not care whether you have been a good person or a bad one – the only reason they want you to die is because you are either an American or Israeli. Why do they ask their God to kill you? They have been taught by their religious leaders that it is God’s will and if you should find yourself in their midst – *you could lose your head* (literally).

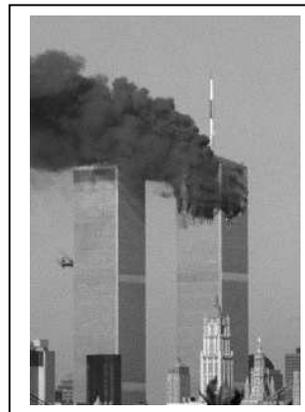


Many of you know that I have been writing about the power of Religious Belief Systems for many years. The first time I really grasped this power was when I was looking at pictures of the horrible **Jonestown** tragedy and I saw the soles of a little pair of little pair of tennis shoes –



As I looked at those little shoes I asked myself a question – *What could be so powerful that it could cause that little child’s mother to put a cup of deadly poison to the lips of her own baby?* At that moment the answer hit me with the impact of a locomotive – her religious belief system!

Since that moment, so many years ago, I have found case after case that makes it very clear that when some people truly believe that they know the divine will of God, they will commit acts that I do not think they would ever do under any other circumstances – poison their baby (Jonestown); allow their children to burn to death (Waco); or attach a bomb to their bodies and commit suicide / murder (Middle East).



***Blindly following  
uninvestigated  
religious teachings can  
lead to deadly  
consequences for  
yourself and for other!***

# The Journey Begins at Home!

Almost everyone I speak with knows that their BS (Belief System) is right – it is always the other person’s BS that is wrong. They know it’s wrong because it doesn’t agree with theirs.

When I ask how they know theirs is correct, they usually say – “I just know!”

It is abundantly clear that most people use their BS as the ruler to measure and test the beliefs of others. It simply never crosses their minds to check the accuracy of their “rulers.” *What if their ruler is wrong?* Obviously an inaccurate ruler would not serve as good tool for making accurate measurements when they are needed.

This is what happens when the topic of the teachings of radical Islamic sects comes up. Most people that I encounter are absolutely sure that those Islamic teachers are wrong. They are sure about this because the Islamic doctrines are different from theirs – and many times those Islamic folks don’t look exactly like “us.”

Of course, based on articles that I have read about Islam, many of their faithful are very much like many Jews and Christians I know – *they have their rulers and because they are their rulers they believe they must be correct.* I don’t think one needs to be a prophet to conclude that *any attempt to get members of these groups to engage in an honest and open dialog would probably end up with everyone defending the accuracy of their rulers – **Mine is right and yours is wrong; so there!***

If we are going to have any success in dealing with any religious group outside or inside our Judeo-Christian heritage, we must first learn how to test the accuracy of our ruler (BS). There is a way to do it, but each person must do it for themselves. Those who want to let someone else do it will simply switch from blindly following one person or group to another. *If you want to put your future in the hands of others, then do nothing. If you want to take responsibility for your own spiritual destiny – get the facts first!*

## Find and Follow the Histories

**Every religious belief system has a history.** It began at some point in time. Someone was the first person to contribute to its teachings. Many times it was initially viewed as heretical by the established religious institutions of that time.

**Every religious group or institution points to something or someone as proof for its divine authority.** The Roman Catholic Church claims that the proof of its divine authority is **apostolic succession** – God authorized Jesus; Jesus authorized Peter; Peter authorized the next Pope; and it has been transferred from one pope to the next. Protestants claim that their authority comes directly from the Holy Spirit. *It is very difficult to try to convince someone that they have a direct link to Jesus since they didn’t come into being for almost fifteen hundred years after Jesus was executed.*

The claims of **Apostolic Succession** and **Holy Spirit Authorization** are doctrines – *not facts.* **Every doctrine has a history too!** It is very common for people to get confused between doctrines and facts. *A doctrine could be based on facts or it could be the incoherent ramblings of a mentally ill person.*

Most religious belief systems attempt to prove their validity by appealing to their “sacred book.” **Every sacred book has a history.** Its origin may be based on fact or doctrine. There is a history of how it was transmitted from one generation to another. There are histories of its translations and how those translations came into being.

Only after you know the histories of your religious belief system, the religious groups and institutions that teach the doctrines of your belief system and the history of your sacred book – **will you be prepared to intelligently discuss the validity of any group that prays to their god and petitions for His divine help to kill you!** BHR

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