

Bill O'Reilly of the Fox channels "O'Reilly Factor", a "conservative" Republican talk show, appeared on the show "The View". During his interview he stated "Muslims are trying to kill us." His comments prompted two of the Views hosts to walk off the stage. O'Reilly followed up on his own show not only repeating the comments but arguing all Muslims pose a threat, calling 9-11 a collective attack by Muslims. Are Muslims out to get us? Do "we" have to watch out for "them"?

The simple minded words of O'Reilly hold some truth to many Americans. On 9-11 our nation felt first hand the lunacy of Al Qaeda when they flew airliners full of civilians into the World Trade Center Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and a quiet Pennsylvania field, killing more than three thousand men, women and children. It was my generations Pearl Harbor. Osama bin Laden and his followers claimed responsibility and called it a "victory" for Muslims world wide. Following the attacks murders and beheadings were encouraged by Al Qaeda in the name of Muslim Jihad (Holy War).

For O'Reilly and the narrow minded like him that is sufficient to determine "they" are after "us" and therefore should be viewed, as a whole, as a threat.

For most of us mass murder in the name of religion is unfathomable. However, nearly every religion has utilized at some point in its history terror, murder and Mayhem to push its particular brand of thought. A quick review of the Jewish Torah (Christian Old Testament) reveals countless examples of the literal slaughter of women and children, and even the use of fear for converts (See Esther 8:17; 9:5-10). Christians have had a long history of the use of terrorism, and even recently the KKK, a self-proclaimed "Christian value" organization committed a slew of crimes including bombings and murder pushing its values.

People like O'Reilly ignore those facts or explain them away with even more simple minded factoids. No one is suggesting the Christians and/or Jews are out to get "us" or trying to kill "us". And because bin Laden and those like him claim such actions are in the name of Muslims does not make it so. In fact, if that were the case then it could be said that the actions of the KKK, or terrorists like Robert "Bob" Matthews, David Lane (both members of "The Silent Brotherhood") or even David Duke are in the name of all Whites, including O'Reilly, who would, by his own definition, agree.

In the Islamic world Jihād is a religious reality. However, how Jihād is defined is as diverse as the many Christian denominations who each define their view of how to define the "right" way to follow Jesus. The view of Al Qaeda and bin Laden about Jihād is not widely accepted by Muslims nor does it even fit into the well established definition of what Jihād is.

The book "Nahjul Balagha" is a Muslim collection of sermons, letters, orders and sayings of Imam Ali ibn Abu Talib (Hazrath Ali)², the first cousin of the Prophet Muhammed.² The book is highly valued and is venerated in Islam as an exalted source of inspiration and convincing discourse on the spiritual values of Islam.³ Muslim scholars, theologians and historians cite and quote Hazrath Ali as an authority on theology, ethics and the teachings of Muhammed and the Quran.⁴

It is relevant because it cites the teachings of Hazrath Ali, who was raised by the Prophet Muhammed and who Muhammed called an authority of Islam. Also, it is necessary to check the "facts" of people like O'Reilly who say Jihād is a Holy War to kill "us", Americans. In the Nahjul Balagha Hazrath Ali defines Jihād and sets out a number of principles for carrying out Jihād, which include:

- (1) Never kill wounded persons who cannot defend themselves;
- (2) Never molest or outrage the modesty of a woman;
- (3) Never hurt a woman even if she swears at you or hurts you;
- (4) Never hurt a child;
- (5) Never hurt an old or enfeebled person.⁵

Hazrath Ali is said to have "hated bloodshed, did not believe in Imperialism, and had no faith in propagation of religion with sword in one hand and the Quran in the other."⁶ Hazrath Ali himself believed that Islam was "a message of Peace and Love" and believed mankind should be "ruled on the basis of equity and justice."⁷ Hazrath Ali believed that no person should be killed "unless in self defense", that no person "who begs for life and mercy" should be killed, "Do not kill civilians" and "Do not harm old people or children."⁸ All of the above mentioned clearly are diametrically opposed to the ideas pushed by bin Laden

and even Bill O'Reilly.

Expanding on the idea of Jihād, Hazrath Ali is quoted as saying:

"A Muslim's life is a battle-field, where he is seldom required to defend himself or his cause and country at the point of sword, which is Jihad-e-Asghar (Holy war on a minor scale), however formidable be the forces he is to face, while in every day of his life he is to fight against evil desires, vicious cravings and inordinate wishes, which is Jihad-e-Akbar (a holy war on a major scale), take care and do not suffer a defeat in this battle; remember it is life long struggle; a success here will be honored with martyrdom, even if one dies in his bed surrounded by his relatives." 9

These religious attributes are universally expressed by Christianity, Messianic Judaism and Judaism, to name a few. Al Qaeda, bin Laden and other religious extremists have violated these principles of Jihād (and others). Their brand of thought is not even a largely accepted Islamic view, yet people like O'Reilly push a narrower view.

The same reasoning O'Reilly uses is the same reasoning Hitler used against Jews. It is the same reasoning used by the kkk against non-whites. It is a dangerous type of thinking. It also is a bigoted view I have experience with.

I use to belong to a White Supremacy group founded in the prisons of Oregon in the 1990's. It now has members in Oregon, New Mexico, Texas, Maryland and the Federal prison system, that I'm aware of. The purpose of the group is to pick up where the Silent Brotherhood (also called "The Order") left off in the 1980's. Members recruited in prison are required, in the minimum, to stab another prisoner and/or staff member to be considered for membership. Members on the street are required to kill - a minority or other perceived "enemy".

The group is called Aryan Soldiers Branch (ASB). The ASB advocates for an establishment of an all white nation and is actively planning murders and bombings. Its founding members begin paroling in February 2011. And yes, Federal and some state authorities do know of their existence."

While I renounced my membership in ASB and turned my back on the racist ideology, I can recognize the various forms of the "us" versus "them" mentality used to attract people to a particular idea. You see, the ASB uses the same tactics to attract and cultivate supporters and members in prison. "The Jews are trying to kill us." Followed by factoids that make the Jewish conspiracy come to life. Don't think it works? Hitler did it. The kkk did it. What about the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) that never panned out? Look at the Northern Ireland Conflict that raged for 1800 years and over the last 40 years has been the cause of over 3000 deaths there.¹²

Bill O'Reilly thinks the Muslims are out to get "us". He wants you to believe it, too. The ASB wants you to believe that, too. They want you to look at Muslims and fear you'll be blown up. They want you ~~you~~ to view any one perceived as an "other" as dangerous or potentially dangerous. They will sugar coat their view with factoids.¹³

I'm not saying O'Reilly is a Nazi or hates Jews. I'm not a mind reader.¹⁴ What I am saying is that to change our world for the better, to justify our claims that our nation values Human Rights, that we are a nation administered by the people and for the people, it is necessary to approach everything humbly, without pre-conceived notions or ideas, and in ~~an~~ a way that promotes genuine discourse and resolution.

There are all kinds of threats that we face as a people and nation. "The Muslims are trying to kill us," is not even a remote reality when viewed with real background and facts. People were not saying, "The Muslims are trying to kill us", in the 1980's when we, as a nation through our government, trained and supplied weapons to bin Laden to fight the Soviet Union. We shouldn't now either.¹⁵

Nor does being Muslim equal terrorist.

Footnotes

(1) Nahjul Balagha (Peak of Eloquence): Sermons, Letters and sayings of Imam Ali ibn Abu Talib*, 3rd Revised Edition, Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc.

(2) Id., pg. 9

- (3) Id., pg. 5
- (4) Id., pg. 5
- (5) Id., pg. 55 ; There are dozens more listen principles as well.
- (6) Id., pg. 57
- (7) Id., pg. 57
- (8) Id., pg. 65
- (9) Id., pg. 65
- (10) I am now a strong advocate of diversity and I speak out against racist groups.
- (11) For the most part authorities have not taken the threat serious enough. I believe in the next five (5) to ten (10) years this group will commit serious acts of violence on the streets not seen since The Order.
- (12) The U.S. government has long turned a blind eye to the conflict. While there are often reports on "IRA terrorists" no background is ever reported why such a bloody conflict exists in a purportedly "civilized nation". I recommend reading the books "Ten Men Dead" and "The IRA: A History" which give some perspective into the conflict.
- (13) 9-11 is a way they use to promote their "us" versus "them" ideology. They want you to believe those twenty men and their small faction of supporters somehow represent millions upon millions of Muslims. A concept Hitler used on Jews.
- (14) I regularly watch the O'Reilly Factor. While I have to take it in small doses I try to look at everyone's view equally. But O'Reilly's mannerisms remind me of one of the leaders of the ASB.
- (15) The actions of a few do not represent the feelings of the many.