

Osama bin Laden is dead what's next?

Osama bin Laden (aka Geronimo) is dead buried at sea less than 24 hours after the CIA directed Navy SEAL Team Six put a bullet to the head of this mastermind of 9/11 infamy. One editorial in The Form of USA Today put it this way, *“The demon is dead [yet] amid the gratitude of the troops who brought bin Laden to justice, we wonder what awaits us next in the continuing war on terrorism.”*

Osama bin Laden was the head celebrity of al-Qaeda. Now that he is gone we may be faced with a hydra (the Greek mythical multi-headed serpent) in his place. Already we are on alert concerning reprisals of revenge from the radical Islamists around the planet—reprisals that could very well include nuclear retaliation of some sort.

Why do the Muslims of the Middle East dislike or hate us so much? What have we done to deserve this? Granted from a political point of view we have often acted less than credible at the national and foreign policy levels. But there is more to it than nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom. If we would find a solution to the problem of getting along America must understand it is dealing with conflict between religious ideology not just political policies.

In The Coming Fall of Islam in Iran by Reza Safa—a former militant Muslim—states, *“Islam is an enemy of the freedom of individualism and freedom as we know it in the context of Western civilization. The sooner we acknowledge this truth, the faster we will find the solution. The more our politicians flirt with the idea of a ‘peaceful Islam,’ the harder it will become for them to deal with the troubles they are facing and will face with the Islamic world... Islam is at war with the Western lifestyle (page 118, 125).”*

During my thirties I spent over two years teaching school in the Middle East. I loved the culture and hospitality of the people and was attracted to the lure of the minaret and the mystic of the land and its spirit. But I never felt comfortable with Islam. There was something about it that kept me on guard. What I sensed then I have since come to know—the spirit behind Islam is not one of peace but a spirit of vengeance and violence, death rather than life. Though I am friends with several of Islamic persuasion who are genuinely kind and peaceful, I am still guarded as it concerns its ideology that seeks to inundate the West and the entire world under the tyranny of its collectivism and Sharia law.

From 9/11 to life after bin Laden with its continuation of terrorism, it appears what Resa Safa has written is true, *“Islam cannot be reformed; it must be exposed for what it is...for its violence, bloodshed, hatred, racism, degrading of women’s rights...and anti-West, anti-Christian stance in order for us to win any ground against Islamic terrorism (page 121).”*

But we too have blood on our hands. We too must deal with the charges against us. We have not been our brother’s keeper as it concerns the Middle East. We have spent ten years hunting bin Laden down as the primary symbol of what we stand united against. Now he’s dead a bullet to the head body disposed into the sea of the lost and we are no better off that before.

America it’s time to ask a very important question. What would it take to bring a just peace to the Middle East and turn the tide of terrorism not only there

but within America as well? You know the answer. Turn the other cheek, pray for your enemies, go the second mile, love one another as Christ has loved you not in weakness but in strength in the strength of a love that knows no bounds—the love of God.

We have no right to expose Islam for what it is unless we are willing to provide the covering that will make its adherents into what God would have them be. It's time to go beyond the bullets and the burials at sea. It's time to get down on our hands and knees and genuinely pray for the peace only God can bring between ideologies that are not even remotely reconcilable on their own. That is the next step in the war on terrorism. Are you up to the task?

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