

**OSAMA BIN LADEN AND AL QAEDA :
SHALL WE KILL THE MESSENGER, OR DEBUNK THE MYTH ?**

It is, now, only too apparent that Osama bin Laden and his clique will be with us for many years to come.

Trite though this statement may appear to be, as with Jesus Christ, Osama bin Laden's deeds, those directed by him and those perpetrated in his name or in the name of the organisation that he founded, Al Qaeda (the Arabic name of *'The Base'*), have changed the political and moral landscape of the entire world.

And the death of this self-proclaimed leader of the Muslim world will neither eradicate nor expunge the legacy that he will leave behind (assuming that he is not dead, today).

His stated goals are said to be, inter alia:

1. Forcing the presence of the US, its military might, its influence, economic and political, and those of its allies, out of the Arabian Peninsula;
2. The overthrow of the present Government of Saudi Arabia; and,
3. Supporting, financially, Islamic revolutionary groups, around the world.

It is highly unlikely, however, that Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda network of terror, as it is, now, internationally, recognised to be, ever set out to create the chaos and mayhem that is attributed to his name or to that of Al Qaeda.

In fact, in a videography, following the 2 attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001, Osama bin Laden, himself, said that he had no idea how successful would be this deed of devastation.

It is estimated that, today, there are not less than 3,000 fighters, willing to lay down their lives for this enigmatic figure, whose international influence rivals that of Jesus, during the latter part of the First Century after that enigmatic figure's death.

There are some parallels to be drawn between the current activities of this 46-year-old son of a Saudi multi-millionaire and that of that other Middle-Eastern personality, who, also, became very much an international trouble-maker.

That man was born some 2007 years ago.

Yehoshua was born in about 4 B.C.

His life was not particularly eventful or noteworthy, contrary to popular belief, but about 100 years after his death, John the Evangelist eulogized Yehoshua and glorified his life, said by John the Evangelist to have been exemplary.

Today, the life and times of Yehoshua have been branded and wreathed in Holy significance; and, while the name, Yehoshua, is not widely known, the King James Version of the Bible refers to him as Jesus, a name that has international recognition for goodness, mercy and loving kindness.

Jesus is, without question, the most recognised name in the world, today, but it is questionable that he, truly, deserved the accolades that have been bestowed upon him and upon his name.

He is recognised in Christendom as being the Son of God.

In the words of Mary Baker Eddy, the Founder of Christian Science (1879), Jesus is: *'The divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error.'*

One could say that John the Evangelist *'invented'* Jesus because, had it not been for his rather colourful account of the life of this non-descript Jewish man, contained in the New Testament, it is quite likely that Yehoshua would have faded into obscurity.

Jesus, as is well known, was a descendent of the House of David and was a devout Jew (some Jewish scholars question that Jesus was of the House of David, however).

It is highly unlikely that he, ever, considered changing his religion to what is termed, today, Christianity.

The current definition of Christianity is that it is a religion, based on the life and teachings of Jesus.

However, Jesus, probably, never had many original ideas, especially in the field of the religions of his day, those pantheistic and those monotheistic; and, there is no tangible evidence, other than anecdotal reports, that he formulated any kind of a comprehensive religious treatise.

Religious scholars, those Jewish and those Christian, generally accept that John the Evangelist is the author of the Fourth Book of the New Testament.

It is dated to the latter part of the First Century after the death of Jesus.

It is based on the beliefs of esoteric cults, which have come to be known as Gnosticism: The sign of the fish, being the password of recognition of a believer of the secret world of *'knowledge'*.

The Fourth Book of the New Testament is centred on:

1. The nature and substance of Jesus and his incarnation in the world of man, leading to his being determined the *'true Christ'* – the Messiah;
2. The governing principle in the universe;
3. An account of the miracles, performed by or through Jesus; and, lastly,
4. An account of his demise, the betrayal of Jesus, his arrest, trial and subsequent crucifixion.

The Christians of today maintain that it was the Judean rabbis, fearing Jesus but not having the power of capital punishment, asked Pontius Pilate, the Roman military Governor of Judea of the day, to try Jesus for blasphemy.

According to Eusebius of Caesarea, Pontius Pilate committed suicide after the trial of Jesus, following Jesus' crucifixion.

However, there have been other suggestions that Pontius Pilate saw the *'light'* and converted to Christianity and was, subsequently, condemned to death by the Roman Senate.

One of the many troubles with the accounts of the trial and subsequent execution of Jesus, according to the Gospel of John, was that it would have been impossible for the rabbis of Judea to ask a non-Jew to try a Jew, or even to suggest it, because that would have been contrary to the teachings of the First Five Books of Moses (The Old Testament, as it is known, today), also referred to as The Pentateuch.

Looking at events from an historical perspective, only, the life and death of Jesus (assuming that those things, attributed to him by the 4 Gospels of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke and, then, John, who went further than just to repeat the life of Jesus, as outlined by the first 3 Gospels), have striking similarities to the life

of Osama bin Laden, although it is accepted that the modern-day '*messiah*' will not be crucified, but will, most likely, be buried or blown to pieces, following an attack on his headquarters by US/United Nations aircraft.

The major difference between Jesus and Osama bin Laden is, of course, that Osama bin Laden will create much more havoc and mayhem – and this has, already, been made only too apparent – than that of Jesus, indirectly, of course, simply because Osama bin Laden and his followers have more powerful weapons than those that were available in the First Century.

It is accepted that, during the life of Jesus (an assumption is made, here, that he did, indeed, live, and that his life was one that was exemplary, for his time), he accomplished, almost nothing.

In fact, it is clear that Jesus never meant to create another religion (Christianity): That was done for him by John the Evangelist, about 100 years after the death of Jesus.

It was only the political determination of Constantine I, Emperor of Rome between 306 A.D. and 337 A.D., that popularised and internationalised the concept of Christianity, following his presiding over the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.

It is said that Constantine I succumbed to the cajoling of his wife, Helena, to adopt Christianity.

It was expedient for the Roman world, under the control of Constantine The Great, as he came to be known, to embrace Christianity: It would be politically expedient so to do; and, it guaranteed peace of mind for Constantine.

The essence of the teachings of Jesus (another TARGET assumption is made here) is that monotheism should be made available to all, and that that, in and of itself, was an expression of faith.

That Jesus, during his life, was a failure is an accepted fact of history because, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus wanted to convert everybody to his interpretation of the Jewish religion.

John the Evangelist used Jesus as a kind of catalyst to promulgate the teachings (which were, probably, his and not those of Jesus), which have had a profound effect on the world, as we know it, today.

Osama bin Laden, who has adopted a religious mien in his much-publicised videographies, has taken on the appearance to his followers and admirers of a reincarnation of a fervour, bordering on a religious schism that embraces Islamic fundamentalism.

The Bali bombings of October 12, 2002, resulted in the deaths of not less than 180 people, a large proportion of whom were young Australian tourists, who had gone to Bali just to have a good time.

It is confirmed that Al Qaeda was behind the Bali attack, which enlisted the assistance of Jemaah Islamiyah, an Indonesian, militant Islamic sect, which has close links to Osama bin Laden/Al Qaeda.

The man, who planted the bombs in Bali, was Imam Samudra, a member of Jemaah Islamiyah, who had, in his home, copies of letters and the '*teachings*' of Osama bin Laden.

It was the first time that the statements of Osama bin Laden had been known to be used as '*the word*' of an imam – the male prayer leader in a mosque.

The Bali bombings were the latest atrocity, following the September 11, 2001, hijacking of 2 aeroplanes by Osama bin Laden's followers, who crashed their aeroplanes into the World Trade Center in New York City.

That attack killed an estimated 2,823 civilians.

While New York was under attack, another aeroplane, piloted by other followers of Osama bin Laden, was crashed into The Pentagon Building in Washington, D.C., killing another 180 persons.

And another aeroplane, on the same day, this one, carrying 38 passengers and a crew of 7 pilots and flight attendants, missed its mark and crashed into a Pennsylvania field, killing everybody on board.

Victims of the 4 separate attacks came from 90 countries:

World Trade Center 2,823 dead, includes the passengers and crew aboard the aeroplane

The Pentagon Attack 180 dead, includes the passengers and crew aboard the aeroplane

The attacks of September 11, 2001 caused the Western World to take note of the enormity of the evil that is personified in Osama bin Laden; and, of the powerful weapons that he has at his command.

But his presence and propensity for mischief on an international scale were known long before the 2 attacks on the World Trade Center.

And, sadly, it was not recognised how powerful the man had grown to become, in the same way that the Romans of the 34 A.D. did not realise the rising tide that was about to be unleashed upon the civilised world by the deification of the life of one, unspectacular Jew: Yehoshua.

On August 7, 1998, the US Embassies at Nairobi, Kenya, and at Dar-as-Salaam, Tanzania, were attacked by suicide lorry bombers, all linked to Osama bin Laden/Al Qaeda.

Not less than 213 people died as a result of the lorry bombings in Kenya, with thousands, said to have been injured, most of them, being Kenyan citizens.

In respect of the Tanzania attack, another 11 people died.

As far back as late 1993, it is, now, confirmed that Osama bin Laden had attempted to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

It was only after the US came to realise the potential horrors of the teachings of Osama bin Laden, et alii, that the international war on terror was initiated, officially and publicly, by US President George W. Bush.

If Osama bin Laden had not attacked US citizens on US soil, it is open to speculation as to whether or not President George W. Bush would have gone on the attack, leading to the invasion of Afghanistan and the eventual defeat of the former ruling Muslim fundamentalists of that country, known as the Taliban.

The Taliban had been governing the country for the previous 14 months, inflicting terror and unheard of horrors on the predominantly Muslim population of the country.

The Taliban, also, had granted safe passage to Osama bin Laden.

Afghanistan was, prior to the US/United Nations attack on the country, the adopted home of Osama bin Laden, who was, by birth, a native of Saudi Arabia, having been born of Yemeni parents, who were very wealthy.

The family's vast fortune had been based on its involvement in the construction industry. It had/has close ties to the Saudi Royal household.

Afghanistan, under the rule of the Taliban, had given Osama bin Laden '*safe haven*', following Osama bin Laden's expulsion from Saudi Arabia due to his anti-government sentiment and activities in that country.

Afghanistan had been used as a training camp for his followers, all of whom were schooled in the use of modern weapons.

Photographs and numerous videos were taken and disseminated, internationally, in order to allow the world to know of the power that Osama bin Laden had at his disposal.

His 3,000-odd fighters were, also, told that, one day, they might be asked to lay down their lives for their religion, Islam, and, if necessary, for their self-appointed leader.

Osama bin Laden was not opposed to having his photograph, taken in his flowing white over-garment, resembling a chasuble, as he fired a Kalashnikov rifle with his *'troops'*, watching in the background, looking fawningly upon their loving leader.

The image that he portrayed, by accident or design, was one of a man of God, a messenger, sent to preach to the Faithful, in accordance with the Holy Word, as written in the Q'ran.

He was described by those who met him as being quiet, unassuming, almost shy, and, above all, very religious.

Quoting suras from the Q'ran, his teachings were parroted throughout the Muslim world and where-ever the Osama bin Laden Faithful congregated.

He is looked upon by many as being the new messiah (savior, liberator), just below the class of Mohammed, who is the accepted Prophet of God by the (Islamic) Faithful:

'There is no God but He, the ever-living, the self-subsisting by Whom all subsist ...' (The Q'ran: 2:255)

But it was the ignorant, principally, who became the most ardent followers of Osama bin Laden.

And that is, still, the case, today.

Which was not very different to the level of learning and intelligence of the many followers of Jesus, or, should that read: John the Evangelist?

Osama bin Laden likes to quote the Q'ran, at every public meeting where he can obtain international publicity or where large numbers of his people are in attendance, obviously in order to justify his acts, which are viewed by the Western World as being wanton acts of terror.

Some of his favourite suras are thought to be:

'He grants Wisdom to whom He pleases. And whoever is granted Wisdom, he indeed is given a great good. And none mind but men of understanding.' (The Q'ran: 2:269)

'Now, surely whatever is in the Heavens and the Earth is Allah's. Now, surely, Allah's promise is true, but most of them know not. He gives life and causes death, and to Him you will be returned.' (The Q'ran: 10:55,56)

'Each one doth according to his rule of conduct, And thy Lord is best aware of him whose way is right.' (The Q'ran: 17:84)

'His Command, when Allah intends anything, is only to say to it, Be, and it is.' (The Q'ran: 36:82)

'And those who disbelieve will say: Our Lord, show us those who led us astray from among the jinn and the men, that we may trample them under our feet, so that they may be of the lowest.' (The Q'ran: 41:29)

And in the Hadith of the Prophet Mohammed:

'When Allah created Wisdom, He saith to it: ... "I have not created anything in all creation which is better than thyself, nor more excellent than thyself, no more beautiful than thyself; by thee I take, by thee I give; by thee am I known; by thee I punish; by thee is success, and by thee is punishment".'

Armed with the writings of the Q'ran, everything is possible, of course; and, horrors may be justified in its name and in the name of Allah or the teachings, as are inscribed in the Q'ran.

Design or Accident?

Some political scientists of today may take the stand that, from the beginning, Osama bin Laden set out to create a montage of a modern messiah.

This seems to be far-fetched because, from the outset, Osama bin Laden had been a combatant in the employ of the US Government, indirectly, fighting the previous regime of Afghanistan, following the Russian invasion of the country.

The Russians were intent of quelling tribal uprisings in the country and bringing the country under the yoke of Mother Russia.

At that time, 1979, Osama bin Laden was seen as a man of the Muslim '*cloth*' and a friend of the West and, especially, a friend of the US, which had been partially funding the Afghani jihad (Holy war), so labelled by Osama bin Laden.

An interesting point, here, is that it would appear that Osama bin Laden did not have the authority or endorsement from any high-ranking, Muslim cleric to call, officially, for a jihad, unless it was just his fervour, being espoused, and not an official formal pronouncement from the Islamic religious hierarchy.

Osama bin Laden, it is reported, was trained by US operatives of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

While a fighter in Afghanistan, he formed the Maktab al-Khidimat, which recruited people from around the world to come to Afghanistan in its struggle against the Russians.

Maktab al-Khidimat, also, imported guns and armaments into Afghanistan, some of which were financed by Osama bin Laden, personally.

The rallying call in the Afghani uprising of 1979 was that Russia was a country with an ideology that spurned religion; it was totally intolerant of the teachings of Islam.

Osama bin Laden is said to have issued an edict to the effect that Islam's most Holy places – Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem – should be cleansed of Infidels: A liberation, if you will.

Death to the Infidels!

The jihad was gathering momentum – and the world was taking note of this man, who, clearly, had a great deal of charisma.

As with Jesus, it is more than likely that, by pure accident, he became an international religious figure, lending itself gracefully to his being promoted to his present rank of the worldwide leader of Al Qaeda.

From a common fighter, it appears that he graduated to a leader of the Islamic Faithful.

Al Qaeda, today, is unlikely to be controlled, completely, by Osama bin Laden, however.

In far-flung places, such as Bali, no doubt, some of Osama bin Laden's lieutenants have been directing traffic, but Al Qaeda would appear to be a loose-knit coalition of Osama bin Laden's faithful fighters, carrying forward the concept of cleansing the world of scourge of the Infidel in the lands that are Islam's.

Today, there appears to be an interdependent relationship between those many corners of the world where Al Qaeda operates and Osama bin Laden's headquarters, where-ever that may be, from time to time.

The communiqués to various television stations in the Middle East and the posting of messages, in Arabic, on certain Internet websites indicates that Osama bin Laden applauds the work of those people, who claim to be, rightly or wrongly, his followers.

The killings by these seemingly independent groups, which, clearly, are not, directly, guided by, or under the instructions of, Osama bin Laden, appear to be predicated by his teachings, which are based, in part, on his personal hatred of the US, the Jews, and any and all parties said to promote the welfare of either and/or all.

The death of Osama bin Laden is likely to perpetrate the myth, now, clearly, enshrined in the person of Osama bin Laden: To his many followers, he is not just a mortal, but a man of God, endowed with a Holiness, reserved only for those who have been kissed by Allah.

Also, it is more than likely that his death, at the hands of the US Government or a coalition of armed forces under the aegis of the United Nations, will lead to more mayhem and more horrors, perpetrated in his name.

It would appear that what the West has to do is to discredit Osama bin Laden in the eyes of his people; and, to allow his followers to deal with that situation, as they see fit.

That could, in time, result in the death of the ideas, perpetrated by this man in the name of Islam.

The same is true of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq because, to have him assassinated by any government of the Western World, would smack of capitalism, stealing assets from the Muslim World, namely, oil supplies.

And Osama bin Laden would jump at the chance to make this claim.

The same logic would hold true for the likes of President Yasir Arafat, the elected leader of the '*Palestinians*' of the West Bank: Martyrdom does not destroy the myth, surrounding the individual, but tends to proliferate and to exacerbate suggestions of that individual's goodness, if, indeed, there is any goodness.

While the above may be self-evident to most political scientists, President George W. Bush continues to talk of '*taking out*' Osama bin Laden/Saddam Hussein – '*dead or alive*'.

The death of an individual differs, markedly, from the death of an idea, as President George W. Bush should well understand since the very foundations of the present-day US Government were planted by some of the most brilliant men of the 18th Century, people such as Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, just to mention 3 great men of those turbulent times.

The determinations of 1776 at the Continental Congress of the delegates of the former 13 colonies of America set the stage for a political treatise, enunciated in The Declaration of Independence.

This remarkable document has had a continuing and most-moving influence on the political developments of both America and Europe ... and its influence continues to this day.

It was the pillar of The Bill of Rights of The Constitution of the United States, which cascaded down to The Declaration of The Rights of Man and of The Citizen, which was adopted by The National Assembly of France in 1789, following the Revolution in that country.

King George III of Great Britain (1738-1820) learned, only too late, that his draconian stranglehold on the 13 colonies of the Americas, as the US was known in 1776, led to widespread discontent among even his own people in the colonies, and, though about one million Englishmen fled to Canada, those being loyal to the British monarchy of the 18th Century, it did not stop the spread of the ideas, ingrained in the freedom-loving men of the day and personified by the many exceptional and stirring speeches, made by the delegates of the Continental Congress, leading up to the drafting and adopting of The Declaration of Independence and, subsequently, the overthrow of the British rule of, what is, today, the United States of America.

One can never kill an idea by the destruction of the messenger of that idea.

This is especially true of Osama bin Laden, who, clearly, wants nothing of a material nature for himself: He has let it be known that he is fighting a Holy war – for Islam.

He who would kill Osama bin Laden may be taken as an Infidel, attempting to usurp the power of Allah and of his teachings, as laid down in the Q’ran.

In the case of the world’s worst arch villain of terror, Adolf Hitler of Germany, it was clear that he sought world domination and, during the years 1939 to 1945, it is estimated that he killed, or had executed, not less than 50 million people.

The State of Israel makes the claim, and it is, internationally, accepted as being accurate, that the German war machine of World War II killed at least 6 million Jews, alone, in that Holocaust.

In Russia, it is estimated that Adolf Hitler and his gang of international thugs slaughtered not less than 20 million Russians in Germany’s mad attempt to conquer that country by force of arms.

But Osama bin Laden and his clique do not seek lands, or money, or domination over any other person or country: They seek what they claim is the true way of the Islam.

And they want the West – and, especially, the US – to allow them to walk in the light of day in the radiance of Allah and his teachings.

Osama bin Laden is not the madman of the ilk of the accursed Adolf Hitler, or of Benito Mussolini, the Fascist Prime Minister of Italy between 1922 and 1943, who led that country on an expansionist foreign policy.

In both cases, Hitler and Mussolini were destroyed by their own people, most of whom had, at the outset of their coming to power, been beating the drums of welcome, ushering in their ignominious reigns.

Their eventual ends were only made possible when their own people realised that their ideas had been rooted in foundations of sand – and, then, their deaths were imminent since their dogmas were debunked ... from within, not from without.

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