

Islam: The Qur'an, Oath of Office and the U.S. Congress

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"You can't back down, you can't chicken out, you can't be afraid, you got to have faith in Allah, and you got to stand up and be a real Muslim," Detroit native Keith Ellison said to loud applause. "Allahu akbar" — God is great - was the reply of many in the crowd.¹

Background

Recently, a flurry of news articles appeared alleging the right of newly-elected Keith Ellison, who is the first Muslim to be elected to United States Congress, to take the oath of office with his hand upon Thomas Jefferson's Qur'an.² It is ironic that President Jefferson's Qur'an was used, considering he sent the US Navy to war against the Muslims of the Barbary Coast.³ Congressman Virgil H Goode Jr. warned there will be more Muslims elected to national office if immigration from Muslim countries were not restricted.⁴ As a result of his comments, many newspaper editors launched into verbal tirades condemning his statement as bigoted, Islamophobic, anti-religious, and unconstitutional.⁵

An Indisputable Fact

The New York Times and Washington Post did not take exception to the truth of Virgil H. Goode's statement. It is an indisputable fact that further immigration from Muslim countries will increase the likelihood that more Muslims will be elected to the U.S. Congress who will use the Qur'an in their unofficial swearing-in ceremonies. We need only to look to Europe for an example of nations that have traveled a long way down the immigration pathway. Europe has millions of Muslim immigrants who see themselves first as Muslims,⁶ rather than as a citizen of their own country, and who are impacting the demographics⁷ and politics of Europe.⁸ Many Europeans are fearful of their future because of the number of Muslims in their midst,⁹ the bombing attacks of July 7th in London¹⁰ and March 11th in Madrid,¹¹ the murder of Theo Van Gogh¹² in November 2004, the violence resulting from the Danish publication of the cartoons of Muhammad,¹³ the growing influence of Shari'a law in Europe¹⁴ and America,¹⁵ honor killings,¹⁶ etc.

¹ [First Muslim congressman encourages crowd to push for justice.](#)

² 'I'm a Sunni Muslim', [Rep. Keith Ellison: First Muslim in Congress.](#)

³ [What Thomas Jefferson Learned From the Muslim Book of Jihad.](#)

⁴ [Text of Rep. Virgil Goode's letter.](#)

⁵ [Taking oath on the Quran is constitutional right of a Muslim Congressman, Va. Lawmaker's Remarks on Muslims Criticized, A Bigot in Congress: One Muslim congressman is one too many for Virgil Goode, Congressman Criticizes Election of Muslim.](#)

⁶ Muslim Communities in Non-Muslim States, Islamic Council of Europe, 1980, ISBN: 0907163009, pp. 169.

⁷ [Islam converts change face of Europe.](#)

⁸ [An Uncertain Road: Muslims and the Future of Europe, European Dishonor: Sharia on the Old Continent.](#)

⁹ [Europe's rising class of believers: Muslims, Muslims in Europe: Country guide, Anti-Muslim Dutch politicians in hiding after death threats.](#)

¹⁰ [7 July 2005 London bombings.](#)

¹¹ [Europe: Facing up to al-Qaeda reality.](#)

¹² [Van Gogh's murder](#)

¹³ [Cartoons, Muhammad & Europe.](#)

Large percentages of Muslims in Europe say they think of themselves first as a Muslim rather than as a citizen of their country. The tendency is strongest in Great Britain where 81% in the Muslim oversample self-identify as Muslim rather than British, ...¹⁷

Sloganeering

Side-stepping the truth or falsity of Goode's statement, his critics engaged in politically-correct sloganeering, stating he is Islamophobic,¹⁸ intolerant, offensive, bigoted, etc. Although sloganeering ought to be rejected as a fallacious attempt to disprove a person's statement, creative slogans are amazingly persuasive when a claim cannot be logically refuted.

"Representative Goode's Islamophobic remarks send a message of intolerance that is unworthy of anyone elected to public office," said CAIR National Legislative Director Corey Saylor. "There can be no reasonable defense for such bigotry."¹⁹

Qur'an

While it is not expected that Representative Keith Ellison will follow the Qur'an's guidance during his tenure in Congress, placing his hand upon the Qur'an is symbolically significant, because it supports the myth that the Qur'an is compatible with the Constitution of the United States. According to the Qur'an, all legal judgments have to accord with what Allah has allegedly revealed in the Qur'an, Sunnah, and Sirah of the Prophet of Islam. Additionally, if a person does not judge by what Allah has divinely revealed in the Qur'an, he or she is a hell-bound disbeliever (*kafir*). If the Qur'an were true, Representative Ellison will face the flames of hell, if he does not follow its guidance during his office tenure.

... Whoso judgeth not by that which Allah hath revealed: such are disbelievers [Kafir]. Surah 5:44, see also Surah 5:45.

If anyone contends with the Messenger even after guidance has been plainly conveyed to him, and follows a path other than that becoming to men of Faith, We shall leave him in the path he has chosen, and land him in Hell,- what an evil refuge! Surah 4:115

It is not fitting for a Believer, man or woman, when a matter has been decided by Allah and His Messenger to have any option about their decision: if any one disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he is indeed on a clearly wrong Path. Surah 33:36

Representative Ellison admonished Muslims to turn to the Qur'an for guidance.

¹⁴ [Sharia law is spreading as authority wanes, One UK legal system? Think again, Poll reveals 40 pc of Muslims want sharia law in UK, The end of one law for all?](#)

¹⁵ [Shariah Board of America](#)

¹⁶ ['Honour killing' brother jailed, European Dishonor: Sharia on the Old Continent.](#)

¹⁷ [Muslims in Europe: Economic Worries Top Concerns About Religious and Cultural Identity.](#)

¹⁸ [Lawmaker won't apologize for 'Islamophobic' letter.](#)

¹⁹ [VA Rep Asked to Apologize for Anti-Muslim Remarks.](#)

[I]f we turn to the Quran for guidance, we'll find an answer to the questions we have.²⁰

Islam asserts that the Qur'an is the eternal word of Allah to give supreme guidance in religious, economic, governmental, legal, societal, and familial matters for all time and for all people. It does not purport to be a spiritual book limited to matters of personal faith.

And the Unbelievers say: "Why is not a sign sent down to him from his Lord?" But thou art truly a warner, and **to every people a guide.** Sura 13:7

But no, by the Lord, they can have no (real) Faith, until they make thee [Muhammad] **judge in all disputes** between them, and find in their souls no resistance against Thy decisions, but accept them with the fullest conviction. Surah 4:65

We have sent down to thee the Book [Qur'an] in truth, that **thou mightest judge between men, as guided by Allah:** so be not (used) as an advocate by those who betray their trust; Surah 4:105

Islamic scholar Abdul Maududi agrees that Islam is not a 'religion' as defined by Western standards. It encompasses the rule of Allah over all aspects of society.

But the truth is that Islam is not the name of a 'Religion', nor is 'Muslim' the title of a 'Nation'. In reality Islam is a revolutionary ideology and programme which seeks to alter the social order of the whole world and rebuild it in conformity with its own tenets and ideals.²¹

Dangerous Secular Myths²²

Secularists assume that religions, by definition, are spiritual subjects and not matters for a worldly government. This assumption is a holdover from the Christian scriptures where Jesus taught his disciples to honor their duties to both Caesar and God (separation of church and state).

Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him. Mark 12:17 (NIV)

Jesus also said, "My kingdom is not of this world" John 18:36. Finally, the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and Titus telling them to instruct Christians to pray for kings, rulers, and authorities and to be subject to them.

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone —
for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 1 Tim 2:1-2 (NIV)

²⁰ [First Muslim congressman encourages crowd to push for justice.](#)

²¹ Maududi, Abul, *Jihad in Islam*, Holy Koran Publishing House, Beirut, Lebanon, 1980, p. 5.

²² Horowitz, David, [Unholy Alliance: Radical Islam and the American Left](#), Regnery Publishing, Inc., Washington, D.C., 2004, pp. 256, ISBN: 089526076X .

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, Titus 3:1 (NIV)

Consequently, it is not surprising that most Western thinkers assume that other religions are limited to spiritual concerns about God, angels, heaven, hell, and the Last Day. While passing off Christianity as mere mythology originating in superstition, illusion, and wish fulfillment, Western progressives have embraced their own myths; such as, the notion that Islam is just a peaceful religion about non-worldly topics. This illusion blinds them to the reality that Islam is a socio-political system challenging the Western ideals of a democratic government and basic human rights. It is time that Western leaders wake-up and challenge their own illusions.

Popular Myths about Islam

1. Islam teaches that all oaths are obligatory.
2. Islam is a tolerant religion of peace.
3. Islam is not a political or legal system.
4. Islam supports man-made laws.
5. Islam teaches the separation of church and state.
6. Islam was not spread by the sword.
7. Islam is a religion of equal human rights for Muslims and non-Muslims.
8. Islam has been hijacked by extremists.
9. Islam rejects apostasy and blasphemy laws.

Islamic Oaths

Since Representative Ellison's oath of office and the Qur'an were the center of the controversy, the Qur'an's statements on oaths are relevant to a Muslim's understanding of their very nature. As you will see from verses in the Qur'an and the following discussion, Islamic oaths may be solemnly taken but easily dissolved. Since the Qur'an allows for an oath to be expiated, pledging an oath of office on a Qur'an may be advantageous for someone who, in the future, may desire Allah's permission to renege on his sworn duties.

1. Some oaths may be disregarded.

Allah has already ordained for you, (O men), the dissolution of your oaths (in some cases): ... Surah 66:2

2. Oaths are limited to the intentions of the heart.

Allah will not call you to account for thoughtlessness in your oaths, but for the intention in your hearts; and He is Oft-forgiving, Most Forbearing. Surah 2:225

3. Futile oaths may be disregarded.

Allah will not call you to account for what is futile in your oaths ... Surah 5:89

4. Deliberate oaths may be expiated by feeding ten indigent persons or fasting three days. This shows that Islamic oaths are no more valuable than the hardship of fasting or feeding some people. When a Muslim understands an oath may be easily expiated, it lessens his sense of responsibility to keep an oath's obligations. For a Muslim, Allah is the one who provides an escape mechanism from the solemn duties of an oath.

Allah ... will call you to account for your deliberate oaths: for expiation, feed ten indigent persons, on a scale of the average for the food of your families; or clothe them; or give a slave his freedom. If that is beyond your means, fast for three days. That is **the expiation for the oaths ye have sworn**. But keep to your oaths. Thus doth Allah make clear to you His signs, that ye may be grateful. Surah 5:89

5. Five oaths may substitute for the testimony of the required eye witnesses in the trial of a spouse charged with sexual infidelity. At first, Muhammad required four witnesses to support a charge of sexual misconduct. It was not long before some of his followers complained that they could not produce a single witness to support their claim of alleged spousal sexual misconduct. To appease these malcontents, Muhammad changed His mind and decided that an actual eye witness was not really necessary. As a result, an accuser could repeat an oath four times as a proxy for each of the previously required witnesses. Finally, a fifth oath was added to solemnize the caricature of Shari'a injustice.

And those who launch a charge against chaste women, and produce not **four witnesses** (to support their allegations),— flog them with eighty stripes; and reject their evidence ever after: for such men are wicked transgressors;— Surah 24:4

And for those who launch a charge [of adultery or fornication] against their spouses, and have (in support) no evidence but their own,— their solitary evidence (can be received) if they bear witness **four times (with an oath)** by Allah that they are solemnly telling the truth; Surah 24:6

And the **fifth (oath)** (should be) that they solemnly invoke the curse of Allah on themselves if they tell a lie. Surah 24:7

6. Muhammad dissolved his formal treaty with the pagans at Mecca.

Freedom from obligation (is proclaimed) from Allah and His messenger toward those of the idolaters with whom ye made a treaty. Surah 9:1

Allah and His Messenger dissolve (treaty) obligations with the Pagans. Surah 9:3

The ancient Islamic scholars recorded that the introduction of the expiation of oaths influenced early Muslims to break their oaths.

Narrated 'Aisha: **Abu Bakr As-Siddiq had never broken his oaths till Allah revealed the expiation for the oaths**. Then he said, "If I take an oath to do something and later on I find something else better than the first one, then I do what is better and make expiation for my oath."²³

²³ *Oaths and Vows, Translation of Sahih Bukhari, [Book 78: Volume 8, Number 618](#).*

Why These Secular Myths?

There must be some deep-seated reasons why liberal thinkers have adopted these myths and welcomed Islam into the Western world. The reasons cannot be that they were totally unaware of the oppressive nature of Islamic law and the bloody sword of Muhammad.

There seems to be three salient reasons: pride, Christianity, and votes. Firstly, they are so proud of their progressive and liberal societies that they cannot imagine that any Muslim immigrant would hesitate to integrate fully into their advanced societies. They believe Western societies are superior to Islamic ones, and they find it inconceivable that any rational Muslim would reject enlightened Western ideals? As a matter of fact, many Muslims do reject the results of many liberal causes, such as, abortion, sodomy, sexual permissiveness, women's rights and revealing apparel, broken families, Hollywood culture, widespread alcohol and drug use, etc. As a result, many Western Muslims seek to protect their families from these influences.²⁴ Hence, the popularity of Islamic schools for Muslim children is on the rise.

Secondly, liberals view Islam as a powerful ally against the influence of conservative Christianity. Over the centuries, they have been largely alone in their struggle to diminish Christianity's impact upon Western society. Now, they have discovered Islam as a powerful weapon in their arsenal against the public expression of Christian traditions. For example, secularists would like to diminish the role of the Bible in public ceremonies. Muslims believe it is a corrupt and a dangerous book teaching that God had a son, an unforgivable sin (*shirk*) in Islam. Hence, Muslims may be offended by the public role that the Bible plays in some official ceremonies.

Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah's curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the Truth! Surah 9:30

Therefore, in the name of religious tolerance and multiculturalism, progressive liberals want any religious text to be allowed for courtroom oaths. As a side note, historically, the rationale for using the Bible has been the Ninth Commandment and the fear of divine wrath for violating one of the Ten Commandments. Its purpose has never been to affirm the religious claims of the Bible.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. Exodus 20:16 (NIV)

A Christian understands that when a person swears under oath, the person obligates himself to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. In addition to the Ninth Commandment, the solemnity of a person's vow is reinforced by Jesus' statement about the Devil and lying, "When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44 (NIV) But, the Qur'an affords provisions under which this solemn obligation may be null and void. When a religion allows a host of circumstances to invalidate an oath, will lying under oath be protected under the rubric of religious liberty? Furthermore, Islam is a legal and political ideology at odds with the U.S. Constitution. While Islam may serve the

²⁴ Muslim Communities in Non-Muslim States, Islamic Council of Europe, 1980, ISBN: 0907163009, pp. 169.

secular purpose of diminishing the role of Christianity in Western civilization, it comes at the price of truth-telling, human rights, and democratic freedoms.

A lawsuit filed by the ACLU and a Muslim woman seeking the use of the Quran or other non-Christian texts in addition to the Bible for courtroom oaths should be allowed to go forward, the state Court of Appeals ruled today[January 16, 2007].²⁵

Additionally, the Qur'an teaches that Christ Jesus was not crucified on a cross. Hence, it is a short step to argue that the public displays of a cross upon public property are offensive to Muslims and should be eliminated. It should be noted that symbols of the cross are banned in Saudi Arabia. Again the wishes of anti-Christian forces and Islam coincide.

That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah";— but they killed him not, nor crucified him, Surah 4:157.

Thirdly, liberal elites seek an electoral advantage by courting Muslim voters. As the population of voting Muslims increases, compliant politicians will repeat the myth that Islam is a religion of peace and brotherhood to gain an advantage during an election.

Eurabia²⁶

In Europe, the forces for a secular society have successfully diminished the role of Christianity, even while Islam grew in ascendancy. Very slowly, Europeans are waking up to the idea that Islam is a political, social, and economic institution seeking to be Europe's future. It will be a daunting task to slow its progress. While some European politicians fear their gradual *Islamization*, America's political, educational, and religious leaders applaud Islam's rise in the U.S.A.²⁷

It is amazing that Western elites will not accept what Muslims scholars themselves have written regarding their global objectives.

While separation of church and state is a bedrock principle of American democracy, the international Brotherhood preaches that religion and politics cannot be separated and that governments eventually should be Islamic.²⁸

Has the mindset of Western leaders already morphed to the slavish mindset of *dhimmitude*? In the starkest terms, Sheikh Abul Maududi stated clearly what the ultimate goal of Islam is.

Islam wishes to destroy all states and governments anywhere on the face of the earth which are opposed to the ideology and programme of Islam regardless of the country or the Nation which rules it.²⁹

²⁵ [N.C. lawsuit seeking use of Quran for courtroom oaths gets green light.](#)

²⁶ [Eurabia - Europe's Future?, Eurabia: The Euro-Arab Partnership.](#)

²⁷ [Europe's Angry Muslims.](#)

²⁸ [A rare look at secretive Brotherhood in America.](#)

²⁹ Maududi, Abul, [Jihad in Islam](#), Holy Koran Publishing House, Beirut, Lebanon, 1980, p. 6.

Article VI of the U.S. Constitution

...but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.³⁰

The Constitution of the United States forbids a *religious* test as a requirement for public office. However, the application of Article VI hinges on the definition of the word, *religion*. Islam is not confined within the Western understanding of a religion. Therefore, because Islam is outside the bounds of religion and is a political ideology seeking to govern the entire world under a Caliphate ruling according to Shari'a law, Article VI of the U.S. Constitution does not strictly apply to it.

Imagine the advances that Adolf Hitler would have made, if he had had the foresight to flavor Nazism with a sprinkling of religion. This foresight would have given it a privileged status and an appealing cover for its political agenda. Anyone who would have opposed the emerging Nazi religion would have been branded as bigoted, anti-religious, and ignorant of the freedom of religion afforded in the U.S. Constitution. Elected representatives to the U.S. Congress would have been praised for the originality of taking the oath of office with *Mein Kampf*.

Conclusion

Because accommodating Western leaders choose not to challenge the political and social ideology of Islam, there will be a high price to pay in the future for this appeasement. If Western leaders were for real peace, they would face the double-standard in freedom that exists between Western and Muslim nations. While the West welcomes Saudi Arabia's millions of dollars to fund Islamic education³¹ and mosque construction³² in Europe and North America, the Saudis have banned all expressions of non-Islamic religions in the Arabian Peninsula. Muslims have applied for a permit to build a mega-mosque in London, the Markaz, that can hold 40,000 worshippers and up to 70,000 if necessary.³³ When have the Saudis ever permitted a large church to be built within their national borders? From an Islamic perspective, mosque construction is a form of conquest that establishes the land of Islam (*Dar-al-Islam*) within a hostile land (*Dar-al-Harb*). Without demanding religious reciprocity, Wahhabism will continue to use Western tolerance to expand Islamic intolerance around the globe.

As a start, Saudi Arabia should not be allowed to fund religious projects in Europe or North America, unless it permits churches, synagogues, and temples to be constructed within its own borders. Additionally, many Muslim nations limit the religious rights of non-Muslims with the silent approval of Western leaders.³⁴ For example, Algeria is victimizing non-

³⁰ [United States Constitution Article VI](#)

³¹ [Saudi Prince Donates \\$40 Million to Harvard, Georgetown Universities.](#)

³² [The shadow cast by a mega-mosque.](#)

³³ [Make Way for the Mega-Mosque.](#)

³⁴ [Algeria bans Muslims from learning about Christianity.](#)

Muslims, especially Christians, within its borders. The Algerian Parliament approved a law banning any call to a religion other than Islam, and the Algerian Ummah Council (Senate) ratified the Parliament's decision in March, 2006. A fine and imprisonment awaits anyone who even stores some Christian evangelistic literature. Where is the outrage and condemnation of these Algerian laws?

The ratified law stated to sentence imprisonment for two to five years and a fee between 5 to 10 thousands EURO against "anyone urging or forcing or tempting, to convert a Muslim to another religion."

The same penalty applies to every person, manufacturer, store or circulate publications or audio-visual or other means aiming at destabilizing attachment to Islam.

Since Muslims wrested control of Algeria from the French, the native Christian community has been decimated. Muslims always claim that they are the ones who suffer *victimization*, when, in reality, they are the ones who are most often the *victimizers*.

The Christian community constitutes the largest religious minority in the country. This community accounts for the time being to less than 11,000 after it was hundreds of thousands before Algeria's independence in 1962 including 110 priests and 170 monks distributed all over Algerian lands.

For example, France has five million Muslims of which Algerian Muslims make up the largest percentage.³⁵ President Jacques Chirac promised to address the needs of the Muslim community to help them integrate within French society.³⁶ The French Council of the Muslim Faith (Conseil Français du Culte Musulman) was even established to be the French Muslims' representative before the national government. Yet, in spite of the efforts of the French government to integrate Muslims within its society, their government is criticized extensively for its treatment of them. What would happen if the French government were to criminalize the act of printing, storing, or distributing Islamic literature, as the Algerian government has done for Christian literature? There would be massive riots all over France, and the Muslims would be screaming *victimization* and *Islamophobia*. Such is the double-standard existing between Muslim and Western nations. There are no meaningful response when a Muslim nation violates the rights of its non-Muslim citizens. Instead, the West bends over backwards to find as many ways as possible to blame itself for the religious, social, and scientific backwardness of the Muslim world.

Even more stunning is the West's muted voice to the vitriolic sermons that ring across the Muslim world each Friday. These political sermons influence millions of Muslims who assume the sermons' allegations must be true because the Western world refuses to offer a rebuttal. As a result, these anti-Western tirades become more believable and entrenched in the minds of the Muslim masses and build up deep-seated hatred towards the West.

³⁵ [French struggle to build local Islam, Islam in France.](#)

³⁶ [Chirac addresses social biases as fuel for rioting.](#)