

VALKYRIE
(CHOOSER OF THE SLAIN)

IT SEEMS FASHIONABLE TO LABEL AMERICA THE 'GREAT SATAN AND ISRAEL THE LITTLE SATAN' BY TERRORISTS AND MILITANTS WHEN THE REAL ORIGIN OF THE TERMS RESTS WITH MOSLEMS OF ISLAMIC FAITH LIKE KHOMEINI OF IRAN AND OSAMA BIN-LADEN OF SAUDI ARABIA. UNLESS WE OF THE WEST ARE IN A STATE OF DENIAL AND THAT INCLUDES OUTGOING AND INCOMING PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE ENEMY ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN EXTREMIST ISLAM AS WORLD ARBITER AND RESIST OTHER RELIGIOUS FAITHS. VALKYRIE, A NORSE MYTH, CODE-WORD FOR THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO ASSASSINATE HITLER SEEMS APPROPRIATE FOR BIN-LADEN WHOSE MISSION TO WAR WITH AMERICA AND THE WEST IS WELL-KNOWN AND 'CHOOSER OF THE SLAIN'.

TO THOSE WHO TIRE OF MY REFRAIN OF MILITANT ISLAM AS ENEMY AND THAT THE 'WAR OF TERRORISM' IS A MISNOMER, VAGUE, AND NON-DEFINABLE AS A STRATEGY CAN RETURN TO PHILOSOPHER GEORGE SANTAYANA WHO REMINDED US 'TO FORGET THE LESSONS OF HISTORY IS TO REPEAT THEM AT OUR DISCOMFITURE'. WE ALMOST RESPONDED TOO LATE TO THE APPETITIES OF HITLER AND STALIN. AND TO THOSE WHO RATIONALIZE ISLAM OR BLAME US FOR ITS ANGER WITH US SHOULD RESEARCH AND TRACE 'WHY THEY HATE US' AND THE ESSENCE OF THEIR CRUSADE. THERE IS MUCH AVAILABLE. ALBERT HOURANI'S 'A HISTORY OF THE ARAB PEOPLES HELPS.

THIS IS AN INTELLECTUAL TREK OF A PANAORAMIC VIEW OF 12 CENTURIES OF ARAB HISTORY AND CULTURE. IT TELLS THE WHOLE STORY UP TO THE 1990S WHEN IT WAS PUBLISHED, SCHOLARLY, AND A MASTERWORK, NOT DOCTRINAIRE OR REVOLUTIONARY BUT PERHAPS THE SEEDS ARE THERE. IT REVEALS THE TURMOIL OF ARAB NATIONALISM AND FUNDAMENTALISM, MIDDLE-EASTERN WARS, OIL CRISES AND THE CIVILIZATION IT CREATED: BEAUTY OF THE MOSQUES; EDUCATION; ARAB SCIENCE; AND

INTERNAL CONFLICTS TO INCLUDE WIDESPREAD POVERTY, THE ROLE OF WOMEN, AND THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. THEORETICIANS AS TAYMIYYA: ISLAM MUST PREVAIL AS ONLY RELIGION, DEFEAT/PERSECUTE OTHERS; WAHHAB: (SAUDI IDEOLOGY) ARGUED FOR ONENESS AND ISLAM AS ITS VOICE; AL-BANNA: ISLAM A STATE AND A RELIGION; SAYID QUTB: SAW CHRISTIANITY AS EVIL DUE TO OPENNESS AND SEXUAL ATTITUDES –AND ARGUED TO EXPUNGE IT AND JUDAISM.

HADITH (TRADITIONS OF MUHAMMED WHAT HE SAID AND DID) AND THE QUR'AN (WORD OF GOD) BECAME A RITUAL FOR ALL REQUIRING TO LEARN ARABIC, RECITE QUR'AN, TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD. PILLARS OF ISLAM DISCIPLINED AS TO ALLAH, TITHES, DAILY PRAYERS, FAST (RAMADAN), HAJJ (PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA) AND JIHAD (EXTENDING THE BOUNDS OF ISLAM) WHEREAS SCHOLARS REQUIRED MORE EXTENSIVE LEARNING: (A BODY OF LAWS AND MORAL PRECEPTS) -BROKEN DOWN BY PROCESS (FIQH) AND PRODUCT (SHARI'A).

TO THE TRUE BELIEVING MOSLEM THERE APPEARS NO COMPROMISE, A RITUAL SO ENCOMPASSING, PERSUASIVE, IDEOLOGICALLY STRONG AND PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT -NO ROOM FOR RATIONALIZATION, CHANGE OR OPPORTUNITY TO ARGUE ITS MERITS, OR LEAVE. TO LEAVE COULD LEAD TO OSTRACISM, PRISON OR EVEN DEATH AS HISTORY REMINDS. UNLIKE JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY WHERE ONE CAN DISAGREE, SIN, REPENT AND RETURN. BELIEF HERE CAN BE STRONG, YET OUR CULTURE PLACES IT IN A PERSPECTIVE OF INDIVIDUAL SELECTION RATHER THAN IN THE GUISE OF A NEAR FANATICAL MOVEMENT.

TO PARAPHRASE ERIC HOFFER (TRUE BELIEVER) 'MAN IS EVERYWHERE ON THE MARCH, BOTH BY CONVERTING OR ANTAGONIZING HE SHAPES THE WORLD IN HIS OWN IMAGE. TO LINE UP WITH OR AGAINST HIM, WE MUST KNOW HIS NATURE AND POTENTIAL.'

