

there is nothing we can do, they are autonomous." It is time the Student Union stood on its feet instead of sitting on the fence, and did something about this travesty.

I remain, a womyn for equal rights for all on this planet!

Dawn Ambler

Dear Mr. Editor:

This is in response to your supplement on religion in the X-press dated March 26, 1992. It is encouraging to see the interest and efforts to understand various religious beliefs and practices in this Global Village. However, the appropriate approach should have been to contact the people who practice these religions and ask them to present the basic teachings in an authentic manner. The segment on Islam was so brief that it did not convey any idea about Islam except to give the impression that Muslims are interested only in eating good food and drinking soft drinks and procreating. Islam is much more than that. Volumes have been written on the topics Islam deals with. So to present the whole of Islam in about twelve lines in one column does not do the justice. Instead it create the wrong impression. I do not know who wrote those twelve lines. Here I will try to outline very briefly the main ideas or teachings of Islam. Islam is not a religion in the ordinary sense of the word and the Qur'an, the revealed book of Islam is not a Book on religion alone. The Qur'an is the foundation of Islamic way of life. From this book springs all encompassing Islamic culture. What is the subject matter of the Qur'an? It is a book of Guidance. It is not a book on economics, politics, sociology, philosophy, eschatology, history, culture, law and jurisprudence, international relations, physics, biology, creation (the science of embryology and creation of the universe for example), astronomy, animal and vegetable kingdom. Yet it deals with all of them at some length in addition to dealing with prayer, forgiveness, piety, sin and avarice. In other word the Qur'an deals with the totality of human situation. It certainly goes beyond eating and drinking as is the impression given by these twelve lines in the X-Press. In the words of Dr. Maurice Bucaille, a French Physician "What initially strikes the reader confronted for the first time with a text of this kind is the sheer abundance of subjects discussed... What human explanation can there be for this observation? ...How could a man (Muhammad), from being illiterate, become the most important

author, in terms of literary merit, in the whole of Arabic literature? How could he then pronounce truths of scientific nature that no other human being could possibly have developed at the time, and all this without making the slightest error in his pronouncements on the subjects?" This is the glorious Qur'an, a Guide for humanity. Moreover, the Qur'an is the only book that has come to us in an unadulterated form. Since humanity was unable to preserve the Books given to other prophets before Muhammad, God took upon Himself to preserve the Qur'an in its purest form. "It is for Us to collect it and to promulgate it" (75: 17). What is the basic message of the Qur'an? God is the Supreme Owner of the Universe and we are His trustee on this earth. We are supposed to execute our affairs according to His will. Just like in our daily dealings with each other we expect the trustee to carry out the instructions of the person who owns the estate (i.e the person's estate should be handled according to his/her will), God expects us to do the same when dealing with Him. God has revealed His Will to all the prophets from Adam to Muhammad. The Qur'an contains the same Will as was revealed to Adam, Abraham, Noah, Isaac, Moses and Jesus (peace be upon them all), but in its final form. What is His Will? His Will is reflected in the basic beliefs of Muslims.

A Muslim believes in God, His Angels, His Prophets, His Books given to these prophets, Day of Judgement and fate, good or bad is from God. These are called Articles of Faith. A Muslim also believes that "God is Unique and there is nothing like Him. (i.e., we are not created in His image). He is inimitable. He is the Creator of the Universe. Muhammad was a human being whom God inspired to guide people to His worship; for God has absolute authorities in all matters in this world and in the hereafter. God is not triune (three in one). He does not beget nor was He begotten. Muhammad is not an anthropomorphic god, nor was he a prophet on earth and a god in heaven." Islam means submission to the Will of God. Anybody who submits to His will is called a Muslim. Since all the Prophets of God from Adam to Muhammad willingly submitted to His Will, they are all described in the Qur'an as Muslims. Without going into more details let me point out the Major Commandments as mentioned in the Qur'an:  
Say: "Come, I will recite what your Lord has forbidden you:

1). Do not associate anything with Him; 2). And [show] kindness towards both [your] parents; 3). Do not kill your children because of poverty; We shall provide for you as well for them. 4). Do not indulge