

site of Al-Aqsa mosque. It seems likely that the Jews would try to orchestrate another war between the West, especially the United States, and the Arab Muslims, most probably on the pretext of dealing with the threat of Islamic Fundamentalism.

Along with their sinister plan to gain control over the whole world through financial institutions — much of which has already been achieved — the Jews are also waiting for their Promised Messiah who would help them recapture the glory of David and Solomon. The Messiah was, in fact, none other than Prophet Jesus (Peace be upon him), but they opposed and rejected him, and tried their very best to have him crucified, though he was miraculously saved by Almighty God.

During the long series of imminent battles in the Middle East, Dajjal the individual would come forward — who is probably going to be an orthodox and fundamentalist Jew, claiming to be the Promised Messiah — and would lead them to the de facto creation of Greater Israel (which is supposed to include parts of Egypt, whole of Jordan and Syria, major portions of Iraq, southern Turkey, and northern Hijaz up to the holy city of Medina). Then God the Almighty will send the real Christ, with the mission of exterminating the Jews and their leader, Dajjal, the false prophet.

To be continued

TO CHRISTIANS WITH LOVE

Based on the lectures delivered by
Dr. Israr Ahmad

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aristocracy. The masses are encouraged to work hard, to enjoy their weekends, to digest whatever the media feeds them, and to invest all their time and energy in raising their standards of living. Endless consumption of products has become the dominant life-style of our times, and people have been made conditioned to measure each other on the basis of wealth and affluence, rather than character and morals. A whole entertainment industry has been created to keep the minds of the masses occupied whenever they are not working.

The entire system is acting as a contemporary "opium of the masses", so that no one can have either the time or the energy to give any serious thought to the nature of existence, about his Creator, about the accountability in the Hereafter – or about the exploiters. Dajjal the individual will represent the interests of those who are financially exploiting the whole world, against those who are being exploited. After the Armageddon, a Just Social Order will replace the present "Dajjalian System", and there shall be no more exploitation.

The Identity of Dajjal

The ultimate battle between the forces of Good and those of Evil requires a world that is highly polarized along ideological lines, and this has already started to take shape. The various Islamic movements throughout the world are clear proofs that more and more people are realizing the defects of the "Dajjalian System", and are coming in contact with the true sources of knowledge, that is, the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). The guardians of the status quo and the defenders of the New World Order, along with their agents and stooges, have already smelled the revolution that is taking shape in the form of Islamic Resurgence, and have started to try and suppress the idea whose time has come. The futility of their efforts is obvious.

The Western and predominantly Christian countries of the world, as we have discussed before, are virtually being controlled by a powerful Jewish lobby - aided by the extensive intelligent network of Israel - a recent accomplishment of which was the destruction of the military might of Iraq in the Gulf War. The next step in the Jewish agenda is the creation of Greater Israel, as well as the reconstruction of Solomon's Temple at the

mistrust of all thing connected with religion. The ruthlessly unfavorable attitude of the clergy caused a reactionary feeling of hatred against the Church, and then against the very idea of religion itself.

The development of science and philosophy in Europe, therefore, was forced to take place in an environment hostile to religion, and this hostility has since then permeated deep down into the very roots of Western thought. The world-view and civilization that grew out of this materialistic frame of mind is what we call the "Dajjalian System" of life. The hallmark of this system is a profound shift of emphasis — from God the Almighty to the material universe and laws of nature, from spiritual pursuits to sensual gratification, and from salvation in the life-after-death to success and prosperity in this world.

Human beings have been endowed by Allah (SWT) with two distinct sources of knowledge, that is, (a) information gathered by the senses and their interpretation by means of reason, intellect, and logic; along with (b) Revelation, in order to acquire metaphysical knowledge and practical guidance. However, the unfortunate shift of emphasis mentioned above resulted in a serious lack of balance in the modern thinking process. Thus, while humanity has made an incredible amount of progress with regard to science and technology, we see that, simultaneously, religion and morality have undergone an unprecedented decay. As such, the Western civilization can be described as possessing only a single eye. In other words, it has invested everything it had into a single source of knowledge — Reason and Science — while totally ignoring the other, equally important, source of knowledge which is Revelation from God the Almighty.

The system of life resulting from this materialistic mental attitude is characterized by a morbid preoccupation with collecting things and accumulating money. The corner stone of the "Dajjalian System" is the producer-consumer process, which is promoted as the ideal way of life. Highly sophisticated means are employed to convince the masses that they want newer and more expensive products, so that they can be made to work continuously in order to earn money to buy the goods they don't even need. The life blood of the "Dajjalian System" is usury, which is used to subjugate individuals as well as entire nations, so that they can be controlled and manipulated by a financial

word Armageddon has now come to mean the final battle between the forces of Good and the forces of Evil.

Dajjalian System of Life

It is important to distinguish between Dajjal the individual, and Dajjal as a world-wide intellectual and social phenomenon based on materialism and atheism. The latter is manifested as the philosophical outlook that has taken shape during the last few centuries in Europe, as well as the culture and life-style based upon that outlook. The system of life which is predominantly materialistic and which dominates the entire globe today is actually the "Dajjalian System" itself, whereas the greatest defender of that system is going to be Dajjal the individual.

As we have already seen, the innovations introduced by St. Paul in the original teachings of Jesus Christ had led to the genesis of a completely new and different religion. The highly irrational claim of Trinity ultimately resulted in the divorce between two natural allies, religion and reason. The conversion of Caesar Constantine in 313 CE, and of the entire Roman Empire during the next hundred years or so, turned out to be the starting point for the establishment of Christian Theocracy in Europe. The huge vacuum created by the Pauline idea of abolition of the Mosaic law was then filled with the virtually unlimited authority of the Church, represented by the infallible Pope. During the Middle Ages the Church and the clergy ruled the masses with an iron hand, oppressing and exploiting them in the name of religion, while discouraging any inclination towards science or rationalism.

The Aristotelian system of cosmos, as adopted by Ptolemy, was already incorporated into the Christian theology. As a result, when Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo opposed the Geocentric doctrine and proposed Heliocentric views based on their scientific observations, the Church condemned and vehemently opposed them as heretics, starting the unfortunate rivalry between Science and Religion.

The scientific and rationalistic movement in Europe, therefore, came face to face with the powerful religious establishment of the Church. The latter used all its resources to halt this new wave of progress towards knowledge and learning, but succeeded only in producing among the masses a deep

the world for the battle on the great day of God the sovereign Lord. (16:13,14)

...I saw a woman mounted on a scarlet beast which was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns... I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's people, and with the blood of those who had borne their testimony to Jesus... the angel said... the beast you saw was once alive, and it is alive no longer, but has yet to ascend out of the abyss before going to be destroyed. (17:3,6-8)

I saw heaven wide open, and a white horse appeared; its rider's name was Faithful and True, for he is just in judgment and just in war... The armies of heaven followed him... Out of his mouth came a sharp sword to smite the nation; for it is he who will rule them with a rod of iron... I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies mustered to do battle against the rider and his army. The beast was taken prisoner, along with the false prophet who has worked miracles in its presence and deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire with its sulfurous flames. The rest were killed by the sword which came out of the rider's mouth, and the birds all gorged themselves on their flesh (19:11,14,15,19-21)

I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the Devil, or Satan, and chained him up for a thousand years; he threw him into the abyss, shutting and sealing it over him, so that he might not seduce the nations again till the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let loose for a little while. (20:1-3)

The site of the final battle against the Anti-Christ is said to be Armageddon (Revelation 16:16), located in the ancient stronghold of Megiddo, roughly 15 miles south-east of Haifa, Israel. The

reorganize and unite the Muslim forces against the Christians, shifting the fortunes of The War in the favor of Muslims.

The third phase of The War will commence with the appearance on the scene of an exceedingly cunning Jewish leader – Dajjal or Anti-Christ. From then onwards the Jews will start to take active part in the fighting, and the combined forces of Jews and Christians will inflict heavy losses on the Muslims. At this stage – Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) has told in clear words – Prophet Jesus Christ will reappear and reinforce the Muslim armies. He will deliver the final installment of Divine punishment to the Jews, and will kill their leader, Dajjal. The reappearance of Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him) shall mark the end of Christianity as a separate religion, and the most glorious and most peaceful era of human history will commence. This will be “God’s Kingdom on earth”, when the Deen of Allah (SWT) will reign supreme, and the world will enjoy unprecedented bounties and blessings of the Lord.

This period of Khilafah on the pattern of Prophethood will last so long as God wills; then, after this blissful era, the world will once again be filled with wickedness. All the faithful population of the world shall die peacefully and calmly one day, just before the end of the world. In this way, only the unbelievers and the wicked shall be left to face the dreadful events of the Doomsday.

Armageddon!

It is interesting to note that prophecies regarding an ultimate World War between the forces of Good and the forces of Evil are also found in the Christian tradition. The highly cryptic and symbolic language of the last book in the New Testament – the Revelations of John – is often difficult to interpret, but the references to the beast and the false prophet resembles closely the Muslim concept of Dajjal; the woman riding the beast most probably refers to the Jews and their revival; the rider coming on the white horse seems like representing the Second Coming of Prophet Jesus Christ. Here are a few excerpts:

I saw three foul spirits like frogs coming from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. These are demonic spirits with power to work out miracles, sent out to muster all the kings of

be no house on the entire earth – neither of bricks nor one made of camel’s skin – but God will cause the word of Islam to enter it, either with the honor of the one who deserves honor, or with the subjugation of the one who is defeated. That is to say, God will confer honor on some and they will embrace Islam, and He will cause the others to give up fighting and they will surrender before the rule of Islam.”

The way to God’s Kingdom

Belief in the inescapable event of Doomsday is part of our faith as Muslims, and, in this context, the global happenings of our age clearly indicate that the end of the world is probably a matter of near future. This opinion is based upon the predictions of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), many of which have already come true in the world around us, and the stage is obviously being set for the final set of events before Doomsday – the grand finale of the global drama. We shall now discuss these coming events, which will precede the establishment of the domination of Islam, as disclosed by Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

Indications regarding the greatest World War that appear in the Hadith collections are, in general couched in allegorical language. It seems that The War will take place in three phases, and will be fought predominantly in the Middle East. During the first phase, Muslim and Christian armies will unite and fight against a third force, the identity of which is uncertain. The allies will defeat their common enemy, but then serious discord and hostility will break out between them, leading to the second phase of The War characterized by fierce fighting between the Muslim and Christian armies. Initially the Christians will have the upper hand, and the Muslims will lose important strongholds like Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. Although during the first and second phases the Jews themselves won’t take part in the battle, their resources, technical know-how, and their propaganda machinery will be used with utmost destructive effect against the Muslims.

At this point, according to the prophecies, the Muslims will select a rightly guided man as their military and political leader. This leader, called Mahdi in the Hadith literature, will

passing through the the final stage of its evolution. The Divine current of consciousness is still active in the collective mind of humanity, urging and guiding us towards the ultimate state of human perfection, i.e., towards the establishment of the global culture-civilization that will be based upon the teachings of the Qur'an. In this way the philosophy of Ideals, as developed by Dr. Muhammad Rafiuddin, makes it even more understandable how the global domination of Islam before the end of the world is inevitable from an evolutionary stand point.

This global domination of Islam has been clearly predicted in the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), three of which are quoted below:

(1) According to a tradition that is narrated by Imam Ahmad on the authority of Nauman Ibn Bashir, Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is reported to have said to his companions, "The period of Prophethood will remain among you so long as God wills, then He shall cause it to end. After that, there will be Khilafah among you on the pattern of Prophethood, and this will last as long as God wills, and then He shall cause it to end. After that, there will be a reign of oppressive monarchy, and this will also last as long as God wills, and then He shall cause it to end. After that there will be a period of enslavement, and this will last as long as God wills, then He shall cause it to end. Finally, there will again be Khilafah on the pattern of Prophethood."

(2) In another tradition narrated by Imam Muslim on the authority of Thauban, the Messenger of God (Peace be upon him) is reported to have said, "God the Almighty folded up the whole earth for me (in a vision), so that I was able to see all the easts and all the wests, and surely the domination of my followers will be established over all those places that were shown to me by thus folding the earth."

(3) Imam Ahmad has narrated, on the authority of Miqdad Ibn Aswad, that the Prophet of God (Peace be upon him) is reported to have said, "There shall

The existence, as the Holy Qur'an proclaims again and again, is something profoundly meaningful. The evolution of the universe in the direction of a predetermined goal is what provides everything with a single grand purpose. The universe is continuously in a process of evolution, constantly working to perfect itself.

According to Dr. Muhammad Rafiuddin (whose philosophy of history was mentioned earlier in this book), the cause of the evolution of cosmos is the desire or the will of the Creator. This desire or will of Allah (SWT) is flowing in the universe as a current of consciousness, changing the universe with a view to bringing it to the stage of its highest perfection. This cosmic evolution can be described as happening in several stages, as follows:

The first stage was that of physical evolution, from the Big Bang up to the time when simple chemical compounds grew into complex organic molecules, leading to the emergence of life on earth. This stage of purely physical change was directed by the Divine current of consciousness that continuously runs through all matter, causing it to behave in specific ways.

The second stage was that of biological evolution, when the same current of consciousness took the form of an indwelling life-force (compare Bergson's *élan vital*), which directed the process towards the creation of the perfect animal, man. It has been theorized on the basis of the pointers in the Holy Qur'an that, at this stage, Allah (SWT) selected a single pair of these human-animals, and endowed them with their spiritual souls; this was the creation of Adam and Eve.

The third stage was that of intellectual evolution, when the current of consciousness took the form of an urge for Beauty and Perfection, expressing itself in the love of an ideal (compare Freud's Libido), guiding the process towards the climax of intellectual and psychological development, that was finally achieved in the personality of Prophet Abraham (Peace be upon him).

The fourth stage was that of the collective cultural and social evolution of humanity, reaching its zenith in the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), when the true way of life or *Deen-ul-Huq* was perfected and the ideal system of social, economic, and political Justice was presented to the mankind in its final form. At the moment, the mankind is

by the New World Order.

Under the existing state of affairs, which is both distressing and disheartening, we must keep on reminding ourselves that the ascendancy of Islam over the entire globe is bound to come, as this has been emphatically foretold by none other than the Last Messenger of God himself, may God's peace and mercy be upon him. Although there is no such explicit and unequivocal guarantee in the Holy Qur'an, we find that both the minor and major premises of this syllogism are repeatedly mentioned, the inescapable conclusion of which is the ultimate establishment of world-wide supremacy of Islam. The major premise consists of the fact that Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) was appointed a messenger and envoy of God the Almighty for the whole humanity (Al-Qur'an 7:158; 21:107; 25:1; 34:28; & 62:2,3), whereas the minor premise is represented by the Divine assertion that the true way of life or Deen-ul-Haq will be made superior over the entire system of living (9:33; 48:24; & 61:9), and that God the Almighty is going to perfect His Light despite all the resistance from the unbelievers (9:32 & 61:8). The logical conclusion that necessarily follows from these premises is that the real purpose and the ultimate aim of the advent of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) will be fulfilled only with the establishment of the ascendancy of Islam over the entire mankind, all over the world. This has been promised by Almighty God in these words:

God has promised that He will surely make those of you who believe and do the right, vicegerents in the land, as He had made those before them, and He will surely establish their faith which He has chosen for them, and He will surely change their state of fear into peace and security. (24:55)

The Ascent of Humanity

In sharp contrast to all the materialistic theories of modern Science, the Holy Qur'an teaches us that Allah (SWT) is the only real force behind every creative activity that takes place in the universe. The clear and obvious signs of purpose and direction in the cosmos indicates that there is an intelligent mind at work, as pure chance could only have produced total chaos.

The Big Crunch will be followed by another Big Bang, leading to the creation of a new universe that will last forever, and which will be totally different from our present universe, utterly beyond the realm of our imagination. We believe, on the authority of the Qur'an and Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), in the rebirth of all humanity, their final judgment, the Hell and the Paradise, though the exact nature of that state of existence is simply inconceivable.

As far as the end of our own world is concerned, it seems that a major catastrophe will befall, destroying a part of our galaxy including the sun and the earth, and that this will happen well before the universal doomsday or the Big Crunch. It is this local doomsday that is referred to in the Holy Qur'an as the "Startling Calamity" or the "Inevitable".

The Ascendancy of Islam

There are a few cryptic remarks in the Holy Qur'an regarding the events which will precede the doomsday; these points are fully explained in the form of detailed prophecies that appear in the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). According to these prophecies four major events will happen before the end of the world; in chronological sequence, they are as follows:

- (1) The Ultimate World War of the human history, which will be fought predominantly in the Middle East;
- (2) The appearance of Anti-Christ, or Dajjal, in the final phase of that war, a leader who will inflict huge sufferings and destruction over the Arab Muslims;
- (3) The reappearance of Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him), who will cause the extermination of Dajjal and his Jewish followers; and finally,
- (4) The establishment of the system of Khilafah, or the domination of Islam, over the entire globe.

Except for the reappearance of Jesus Christ, there is nothing supernatural or incredible in these prophecies, as we shall discuss shortly. The very idea of the global domination of Islam however, seems like a fool's fantasy, keeping in view the present state of humiliation of the Muslims and their virtual enslavement

the Jews were able to take control of the affairs of the world without really exposing or endangering themselves.

This unnatural and artificial alliance between the Jews and the Christians — the basis of the so-called New World Order — is actually nothing more than the relationship between a parasite and its host, or between a master and his slave. One of the recent manifestations of this bizzare friendship is the decree issued by the Pope, exonerating the Jews from the two-thousand years old charge of crucifying Jesus Christ. The Holy Qur'an had prophetically warned us of the dangers of this coalition thus:

O Believers, do not hold Jews and Christians as your allies. They are allies of one another; and anyone who makes them his friends is surely one of them; and God does not guide the unjust. (5:51)

Before the Doomsday

It is an essential part of our faith as Muslims that we take the universe in which we live as created and contingent and not eternal. Unlike the early Greeks, who thought that the universe had always existed, the Holy Qur'an teaches us that ours is a very large but finite universe in terms of both space and time, and as such it has a definite beginning and a certain end.

In the beginning, God created a concentrated core of light-energy, and then, later on, He caused it to explode in a Big Bang, leading to the creation of time, space, and matter. This phenomenon of creation out of nothing represents the manifestation of divine command "Be!" The Big Bang did not happen at any specific place, as the "space" itself was created with this explosion. Similarly, it did not occur at any particular instant, as the "time" itself came into being with the Big Bang.

Since then, the universe has been continuously expanding, rotating, and evolving. At a predetermined point in the future, it will stop expanding, and from then on the contraction or folding-back phase of the universe will commence — either due to the gravitational pull of the unseen matter exceeding the forces of expansion, or as a result of the swallowing up of entire galaxies by Black Holes — leading ultimately to the Big Crunch, which is the disappearance of the cosmos in a catastrophic implosion, like the Big Bang in reverse.

acrimony -- the present state of alliance and friendship between them and the Christians,

The persecuted Jews were well aware that the only way to turn the table on their arch enemy, the Christians, was by way of minimizing the influence of religion over them and by debilitating the authority of the Church. Thus, they ingeniously used the spirit of rationalism -- that was already spreading from Muslim Spain into Christian Europe to make a breach in the bastion of Christian faith. As a matter of fact, the highly irrational and almost ridiculously illogical dogmas being enforced by the Church in the name of religion were never in a position to stand against the tide of Reason. The Renaissance in Europe was characterized by an intense interest in the physical world and in the knowledge derived from concrete sensory experience, and a decline in metaphysical speculations and interest in the life after death -- both of which were prominent themes during the Middle Ages. This rise of Reason, therefore, turned out to be the beginning of the end for Christianity, and the onset of the domination of materialism and pragmatic morality. The European Jews -- by playing a key role in polluting the essence of rationalism with the evils of licentiousness and promiscuity, as well as with that of intellectual vagrancy which is euphemistically called "liberalism" -- were able to increase their influence in the Christian society. The rise of sexual permissiveness and the resulting breakdown of traditional family values in the West represents only one aspect of the defeat of Christian morality against the financial interests and the growing influence of the Jews.

At the same time, the rise of Protestantism and the movement for "Reformation" opened the gates of unlimited individual freedom and destroyed the unity of Christendom. Although usurious money-lending activity of the Jews had existed on a small scale throughout the middle Ages, the weakening of the Church, along with the liberal views of John Calvin (1509-1594) in Economics, ultimately led to an enormous rise in the previously prohibited practice of usury. The acceptance by the Christians that such transactions are unavoidable for economic growth and material prosperity made them willing hostages of the money-lending institutions -- banks, insurance companies, and the like -- all of which are strongholds of the Jewish people. Today these financial institutions are the uncontested rulers of the Western World, particularly of Britain and the United States. This is how

Jewish historians like Abba Eban and Solomon Grayzel have acknowledged and recognized their "Golden Age of Diaspora" — the period of Jewish affluence and growth in Muslim Spain. When the Arab rule came to end in 1492, and the Jews were immediately expelled from Spain by the Christian rulers Ferdinand and Isabella, they were given refuge and asylum in the Ottoman Empire. Large population of Jews continued to prosper peacefully in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Egypt, during the time when their brethren were suffering heavily in Europe, particularly in the Russian Lands.

According to the Holy Qur'an, the hatred and enmity between the Jews and the Christians will last till the end of the world (5:14 & 64). However, we can clearly see that their mutual rancor had underwent a very slow and gradual decline, during the last few hundred years. The Qur'an seems to be saying, therefore, that the present coalition between the Jews and the Christians is only superficial and cosmetic as well as transient, and also that the end of the world is not very far.

We know that the Jews had always viewed themselves as a special breed of people, superior to the rest of the humity as the "Chosen People of the Lord", who are born to rule the Gentiles. As a result, they couldn't believe their centuries of shockingly unexpected humiliation, and thus the episodes of Divine retribution — instead of softening their hearts and producing in them a desire to repent and the willingness to atone for their collective crimes — has produced in them a revengeful and malicious envy and a sort of diabolical biterness.

It would of course be unfair to make sweeping generalizations, because individual characters vary greatly, but as far as the collective psyche of the Jewish nation is concerned, it is undeniable that they have developed a deeply ingrained tendency to conspire and to maneuver things surreptitiously for their own gain, without ever appearing on the stage. It may be pointed out that this character of the Jews was already prominent during the days of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), and that it is this very inclination towards behind-the-scene subversive activities that has produced — despite their long history of bloody

Dr. Ahmed Afzaal

LESSONS FROM HISTORY-VII

Based on the Urdu Columns by: Dr. Israr Ahmad

Allies of One Another

The early Christians were generally considered as nothing more than a Jewish sect, but with the passage of time the alien concepts implanted by St. Paul – Trinity, Atonement, Abolition of the Mosaic Law – made them a different people altogether. The initial three centuries of the Common Era were characterized by severe persecution being inflicted upon the Christians, a considerable segment of which still consisted of Unitarians, at the hands of both the Jews and the Romans. However, the whole situation changed dramatically when the Roman Empire embraced Christianity, as a result of which the Jews became the target of official harassment and oppression. As the Christians saw it, Jews were guilty of “deicide”, the murder of their God, and therefore they excluded the latter from the mainstream of socio-economic life. This trend continued unabated in the Middle Ages, often manifesting as wholesale killings of the Jews. In 1096, for example, the Crusaders on their way through France and Germany massacred thousands of Jews. Widespread killings took place in 1146 by the armies of the second Crusade. More than a thousand Jews were hanged in England, in 1234, for allegedly circumcising a Christian boy. In 1290, Jews were banished from England by King Edward. In 1350, they were held responsible for the spread of plague, and hundreds of thousands were murdered in Europe. They were forced to live together under subhuman conditions called “Ghettos”. Religious courts, or “Inquisition”, ordered the burning of thousands of Jews during the 15th century, and these events were witnessed and celebrated as popular holidays.

Ironically enough, during more than a thousand years of humiliation and persecution, the only respite of peace and prosperity experienced by the Jews was in the Muslim territories.