

God's Prophets: How Have We Treated Them?

Lecture Notes

Noah:

They said: O Noah! Thou hast disputed with us and multiplied disputation with us; now bring upon us that wherewith thou threatenest us, if thou art of the truthful.

He said: Only Allah will bring it upon you if He will, and ye can by no means escape.

My counsel will not profit you if I were minded to advise you, if Allah's will is to keep you astray. He is your Lord and unto Him ye will be brought back. (11 Hud:32-34)

And it was inspired in Noah, (*saying*): No-one of thy folk will believe save him who hath believed already. Be not distressed because of what they do. (36)

And he was building the ship, and every time that chieftains of his people passed him, they made mock of him. He said: Though ye make mock of Us, yet We mock at you even as ye mock; (38)

(from Koran, I think chapter 21)

Abraham: Destroyed the idols, an action that led to the chiefs of his people ordering that he be burnt alive (Koran, Ch.21:Vs.52-72).

Moses:

- Persecuted as a child
- Pharaoh and his chiefs rejected Moses' plitudes seeing him as 'a liar and a sorcerer', in spite of the numerous signs and warnings he provided (Ch.7:Vs.104-119 and Ch.7:Vs.131-134) to convince them to release the Children of Israel.
- The Children of Israel for whom Moses(as) attracted God's blessings and guided them on their Exodus still took to idolatry at the slightest opportunity (Ch.7:V.139 and Ch.7:V.149).

The Israelites have the most detailed documented account of their treatment of successive Prophets. Even though to all outward appearances they accepted most of the Prophets, they

frequently broke their covenants with God and remained constantly intransigent. They maltreated and maligned the Prophets, attempted to kill some of them, etc.

Christ: 72 disciples

Muhammad:

That is what made the leaders of Mecca very upset, because that was their base of power. There were 360 idols in the Kabbah, and everyone would come for pilgrimage, bringing their money and business there. That is when they started opposing him.

Before they openly opposed him, they went and talked to his uncle who raised him. Muhammad was under his uncle's protection (in the same tribe). They said, "You'd better go and talk to your nephew and tell him to stop this. What he is saying is going to hurt us all. If he just says that that is his God, and the other gods are OK, we will leave him alone. We will give him a good position, a lot of money and everything he wants, but he has to stop saying that there is only One God and there is no god beside Him." His uncle went to him and said, "That is what the leaders in the city want you to do."

Prophet Muhammad answered, "If you put the moon in one of my hands and the sun in the other, I will not stop my mission."

http://www.maitreya.org/FILES/Feast/Lectures/4th-seal_submission.htm

Shakyamuni Buddha suffered innumerable persecutions: For ninety days he was forced to eat horse fodder; a huge boulder was dropped on him (by Devadatta), and though it missed him, his foot was injured and bled; a group of eight priests led by Sunakshatra, outwardly acting as the Buddha's disciples but in spirit siding with Brahmans, watched every moment of the day and night for a chance to kill him; King Virudhaka killed great numbers of the Shakya clan; King Ajatashatru had many of Shakyamuni's disciples trampled to death by wild elephants and subjected the Buddha to a series of severe tribulations. Such were the persecutions that took place "in the Buddha's lifetime."

The Gathas contain allusions to personal events, such as Zoroaster's triumph over obstacles imposed by competing priests and the ruling class. They also indicate he had difficulty spreading his teachings, and was even treated with ill-will in his mother's hometown. They also describe familial events such as the marriage of his daughter, at which Zoroaster presided. In the texts of

the Younger Avesta (composed many centuries after the Gathas), Zoroaster is depicted wrestling with the daevas and is tempted by Angra Mainyu to renounce his faith (Yasht 17.19; Vendidad 19). The Spēnd Nask, the 13th section of the Avesta, is said to have a description of the prophet's life. [20] However, this text has been lost over the centuries, and it survives only as a summary in the seventh book of the 9th century Dēnkard. Other 9th- to 12th-century stories of Zoroaster, as in the Shāhnāmeḥ, are also assumed to be based on earlier texts, but must be considered as primarily a collection of legends. The historical Zoroaster, however, eludes categorization as a legendary character.

Zoroaster's death is not mentioned in the Avesta. In Shahnameh 5.92,[22] he is said to have been murdered at the altar by the Turanians in the storming of Balkh.

<http://www.reviewofreligions.org/2821/rejection-of-god%E2%80%99s-prophets-part-1/>

1 Then Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of Pashur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashur the son of Malchiah, heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken unto all the people, saying, **2** Thus saith the LORD, He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live; for he shall have his life for a prey, and shall live. **3** Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it. **4** Therefore the princes said unto the king, **We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them:** for this man seeketh not the welfare ^{F158} of this people, but the hurt. **5** Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do any thing against you. **6** Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, ^{F159} that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.

(Bible)

And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjathjearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah:

And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men, and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death: but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid, and fled, and went into Egypt;

And Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt, namely, Elnathan the son of Achbor, and certain men with him into Egypt.

And they fetched forth Urijah out of Egypt, and brought him unto Jehoiakim the king; who slew him with the sword, and cast his dead body into the graves of the common [F117](#) people.

(Bible)

From the time that [Joseph Smith](#) received this First Vision until his death in 1844 he was despised, attacked, imprisoned, and tarred and feathered. He was also loved, honored, and respected by many.

Who has been persecuted? Wasn't Noah persecuted, and Adam, Moses, Muhammad, and Christ? Even King David was persecuted for awhile. He ran away and eventually returned and became King.

Who else was persecuted? Weren't the disciples of Christ persecuted? The disciples of Muhammad were persecuted. The disciples of Bab were persecuted. The people who followed Noah were persecuted.

Blessed are they, because they will inherit the Kingdom. They have been chosen to inherit the Kingdom. They are the channels of God. Who would be better to inherit the Kingdom than the people who are the channels for God?

Their efforts were not wasted. Any lifetime they came, they were persecuted. They had a hard time. But each time they came, they gathered a few more people who would listen to them. So their numbers increased and increased and increased.

http://www.maitreya.org/FILES/Thus%20Speaks%20M/On%20Esa%20the%20Christ/the_fulfillment.htm

RESISTANCE TO BELIEVE IN PROPHETS

<20>Prophets speak the truth. But the human does not want to hear the truth. He is like a little child who becomes very angry, cries, and tries to change the minds of his parents to give him back his toys to play with, or when he does all the things necessary to try to persuade others to conform to his unreasonable whims. <21>Humans also do not want to hear the truth. They follow the one who inflates their false egos.

<22>Prophets, however, tell them that they have to put the illusion of this external world aside and be(come) Divine. Although they see the truth revealed by Prophets, because it is not according to the demand of their lower natures, they disregard it. <23>If the Prophet insists, as they did in the past, they may even kill him. <24>But there will always be a great disaster and a lesson for the disbelievers of the Prophets of the time until humans understand those lessons given by history and surrender to the truth.

Surah Al-Hijr

Humans always ridicule Messengers:

Ever a Messenger was sent to them, they mocked him. (11)

Surah The Poets (Ash-Shu'ara)

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Resistance of humans to believe in Prophets:

They said: "You (Thamul) are but a human being like unto us.

Then bring to us a sign, if you are of the truthful." (153-154)

<25>Humans always look for miracles instead of concentrating on the truth of the teachings of the Prophet.

Surah The Wind-Curved Sand-hills (Al-Ahqaf)

Poor people (humbled) have fewer concepts, pride, and fear than others in accepting a new revelation:

The disbelievers say of those who have believed: If the Qu'ran had been any good, they [the poor and lowly] would not have accepted it before us. Since they [the unbelievers] are not guided by its truths, so they say: This is a fabricated lie from the ancient sayings. (11)

<http://www.maitreya.org/FILES/THOTH/KORAN.HTM/Koran11.html#RESISTANCE%20TO%20BELIEVE%20IN%20rophets>

Indeed the only Prophet who was listened to was Jonah who went to the city of Nineveh. He told them that God sent him as a Messenger to tell that that because they were so wicked and they were going against God's Will, such a disaster would come to them. They all repented, put on sackcloth, and sat on the ashes. They even put sackcloth on their animals. They all repented, cried to God, and said, "Sorry. You are right. We are wicked. We repeat." They turned around, and therefore the disaster was stopped.

From 134,000 plus Prophets that have come to humanity, they have listened only to one. How optimistic can I be? One over 134,000 mathematically is almost equal with zero.

http://www.maitreya.org/FILES/Calling%20Elects/2007/03_03_2007_maitreya_calling_elec.htm

Reasons why rejected the Prophets of God:

- Didn't fulfill their dogmatic expectations
 - o Christ: Expected him to elevate them above others, remain the Chosen people, stick with their dogmas (thought he blasphemed saying he is God, etc.), show them signs
 - o Muhammad: Rejected by Christians and Jews
 - The disbelievers of Makkah and Madinah rejected the Holy Prophet(saw) because he was a mere 'mortal who eats and drinks and walks the street'.
 - And there comes not to them a new Reminder from the Gracious God, but they turn away from it. (Koran Ch.26:V.6)
 - And in like manner have We made for every Prophet an enemy, the evil ones from among men and Jinn... (Koran Ch.6 V.113)
 - 'what our fathers worshipped' (Koran Ch.11:V.63)
 - o Bab: Similar to Christ, expected to proclaim Islam as the truth, judgment day, everyone else goes to hell, hidden Imam, etc., would not accept his criticism or saying that there were more prophets after Muhammad
 - o Maitreya: Come in the clouds, know everything about all scriptures, proclaim one religion or people above others, walk and have lotus flowers spring up, be in several places at once, appear to everyone simultaneously, etc.
- Didn't want to give up their power/worldly pleasures, being God themselves – rejected much more by the rich and powerful than by the poor, slaves, etc.
 - o Moses: Pharaoh tried to kill him at birth, rejected by Egyptians, accepted by Jews, but still rejected later on in favor of worldly pleasures (golden calf)
 - o Christ: Scribes and Pharisees feared loss of power, also King Herod – followed by the poor, diseased, etc. (although even most of them did not really follow him)
 - o Muhammad: Merchants and wealthy men of Mecca didn't care about the teachings, only that they would lose money and power without the idols in the Ka'aba, etc. – most disciples poor, slaves, etc., especially initially
 - And We never sent a Warner to any township but the wealthy ones thereof said, 'Surely we disbelieve in what you have been sent with.' (Koran Ch.34:V.35)

- Bab: Persecuted by Shah and religious leaders, especially once his movement became powerful
- Baba: Same as Bab (persecuted by government and religious leaders once he became powerful)
- Maitreya: Leaders of the world not listening, humans do not want to give up the Maya, especially in this time

Nitpicking:

- Christ: Why do your disciples eat on the Sabbath? Why do you heal on the Sabbath?
- Bab: Grammatical errors
- Maitreya: Wears glasses, stuttering, small errors on website, expected to know exact verses, etc.

Trick questions:

- Christ: The woman that had seven husbands; should we pay tribute to Caesar?

"The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" (Matthew 19:3)

"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female," (Matthew 19:4)

"And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Matthew 19:5)

"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Matthew 19:6)

"They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?" (Matthew 19:7)

"He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." (Matthew 19:8)

Ask for our own proof:

- Give us a sign!
- Muhammad: The 3 questions

According to Muslim tradition, the Quraysh sought to discredit Muhammad theologically after failing to stop him by other means. They sent a delegation to [Yathrib](#) to consult with the Jewish tribes. The [Jews](#), who had far greater experience with prophets, supplied three diagnostic questions to be asked from Muhammad:^[75]

- What is the story of the young men who left their people long ago?
- Who was the traveler who had reached the ends of the then known world?
- What is a description of the [Holy Spirit](#)?

They advised that if Muhammad was unable to answer those questions, he was a fraud. Islamic tradition states that the prophet said he will answer the questions tomorrow, without saying "Insha-Allah" (Arabic for "if God wills"), which resulted in the delay of revelation to Muhammad. An admonition is also contained in the part of Qur'an (18:23-24) that was revealed along with the answers to the questions posed by Quraysh at the behest of the local Jews. After a lengthy, and rather embarrassing silence, Muhammad finally answered the questions (in accordance with the Qur'an):^[75]

- These young men are the "[Seven Sleepers of Ephesus](#)" and further description was delivered as [Surah Kahf](#).^[76]
- The traveler was "[Dhul-Qarnayn](#)", whose journeys are also delivered as [Surah Kahf](#).^[77]
- This question can't be answered since the Holy Spirit exceeds human understanding.^[78]

Though the answers were considered satisfactory, the Quraysh did not convert to Islam.^[75]

- Bab: Asked many times to write commentaries on specific verses or Surahs in the Koran – expected to save himself from the firing squad (and they were flabbergasted when he miraculously survived the first time)
- Maitreya: Tell me my past, signs and miracles, asked “what does this word mean in this one verse in the Old Testament”, person proclaims not a Prophet when Maitreya doesn’t know instantly – also asked to write commentaries on certain verses ([Zechariah 14](#)) – many other things, etc.

So accepting a new Prophet or the Messiah or -- and we have seen that all of them have suffered up to this point. Even Prophet Muhammad was stoned and chased out of town, the property of his followers was confiscated, and they eventually had to leave Mecca and go to Medina. Bab was shot at and was killed. Christ died. Even Baba (Ananda Marga) was put into prison and all that.

But in our case, there is no prophecy that there is going to be such suffering. Actually, it says he is going to talk to everyone, but he never goes to the street [laughing], as we can see it now. God created the United States that there is freedom of religion. You can have any religion you want and no one is going to persecute you for your ideas or your religion.

If I had started this Mission in an Islamic country, and especially in Iran that is much more closed, even more closed than when the Shah was in power, yes, I would have been persecuted and probably would have been killed a couple of times by now.

But God has prepared much preparation for this Revelation to come. Because this Revelation is mostly explanation. It explains what has been a mystery to humanity up to this point. It explains every point of religion that humanity had accepted as Revelation from God but they did not know what it really meant in a deeper level. It is really very intellectually explained to humanity what it is that God has been trying to give to humanity. And if you understand our teaching, really there is no mystery left for you. It explains exactly every point, every question, every Revelation. Everything that has been in the past that has not been given to humanity now is absolutely given out because it is the Seventh Angel, it is the end of it.

I do not foresee any great physical suffering but I have to tell you that I have suffered emotionally, intellectually, discriminatively, and socially. There is suffering, no doubt, relationship-wise with the people who came and claimed they loved the Mission and they wanted to be in the Mission.

Well, you heard some of them. You have been involved with some of them that even affected you emotionally. Of course, as the disciples of Christ also suffered, you probably suffered also emotionally because some people came and claimed and then they did not do what they promised.

In that sense there is a great suffering, emotional suffering, or people claim and then you see they do not exactly mean what they say, or promise and they do not follow through, when you do yourself always follow through with your promises.

So it is a kind of -- that kind of suffering has been great in my case. So you can see that even I have suffered in one sense. But I have not been stoned. I have not been put in prison.

http://www.maitreya.org/english/Satsangs%201999+/2000/03_25_2000.htm