

Tolerating The Intolerable

In a free society, thoughts go unpunished. There are exceptions: if you kill someone accidentally, you will be treated very differently from someone who did the same thing while *intending* to kill. The guilty thought makes all the difference.

In a free society, words go unpunished. There are exceptions: if you hire someone to commit a murder you are guilty of murder even if all you ever did was talk.

In a free society, the practice of religion goes unpunished. The only exceptions are acts which would be illegal whether they were religious practices or not.

Does **Salman Rushdie** live in a free society? Did his Japanese translator, his Italian translator, or his Norwegian publisher? And if they don't, do we?

Do mainstream Muslims living in Western countries identify with the evil doctrine of **death to the apostate**, or do they live in fear of it? Either way, do they live in a free society? And if they don't, do we?

Update (via **LGF**): an important paper, **Islam, Apostasy, and Human Rights**, presented to the UN Commission on Human Rights by Islamic apostate Ibn Warraq.

Sat, 04/17/2004 - 15:53 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permlink](#)

Signed posts

I guess you've probably thought this over, but maybe you should post as individuals so we can see the differences among the contributors. Perhaps you all talk about the posts and contribute to the weblog as a collective. To some people it would be interesting to see the differences of opinion among the contributors, if there are any. I've noticed that the responses to comments are signed by individuals. Sometimes that provides an insight into what people think or what they will say in defence of their opinions. Some other blogs do the individualist method, though I have no idea whether that results in better entries. Perhaps you could sign as yourselves when you are the sole author, and not when it was a collective effort.

by a reader on Sun, 04/18/2004 - 01:44 | [reply](#)

1000 year Reich

If you ever wondered what the world would have been like if the Third Reich really remained in power for 1000 years and became the source of a 'civilization', you don't need to wonder anymore. Just look at islam and the Islamic world today. Well, it is 1400 year Reich by now, but you get the point.

An Iranian Student (AIS)

by a reader on Mon, 04/19/2004 - 00:31 | [reply](#)

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