

# Even the Devil Loves his Friends and Hates His Enemies

Amazon review of Islam, Culture, and the Charlie Hebdo Affair  
by Stephen Suleyman Schwartz

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The Editor-in-Chief of Science, Religion, and Culture hoped this book "would begin a dialogue, get people talking, and perhaps even lead to progress and a deeper understand of Islam". This book fails to promote real dialogue, but I give it four stars for trying.

It impresses me how little these authors know about Islam. Lets not bob and weave about what Islam is. The Reliance of the Traveler (<http://www.amazon.com/Reliance-Traveller-Classic-Manual-Islamic/dp/0915957728>) is the compendium of Sharia law, with certified English translation of 1991. It represents the opinion of the Ulama on the do's and don'ts in Islam. It's very clear. Read it. You'll read that "when a person who has reached puberty and is sane voluntarily apostatizes from Islam, he deserves to be killed" (p595); that among things that entail apostasy are "...to deny any verse of the Koran or anything which by scholarly consensus belongs to it"(597). Read "It is offensive to conduct a military expedition against hostile non-Muslims without the caliph's permission (though if there no caliph no permission is required)...The caliph makes war upon Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians (provided he has first invited them to enter Islam ...or to enter the social order of Islam by paying the non-Muslim poll tax)....The caliph fights all other peoples until they become Muslim..."(602-3). Read that philosophy and "the science of materials" are unlawful knowledge (14). You won't read about slavery in Islam since those pages were not translated. Mister Editor-in-Chief, if you want a deeper understanding of Islam, please ask your Muslim authors to clarify whether this is Islam. If it is not, please point us to the fatwas outlawing rape, murder, forced marriages, genocide and everything else that ISIS is doing to non-Muslims. And while you're at it, ask them to translate the passages on slavery.

Islamophobia is mentioned repeatedly by the Muslim apologists in this book. A phobia is an irrational fear. I dislike slavery, genocide, etc. Am I a slavery-o-phobe? I dislike any doctrine that promotes these things. If Islam is not such a doctrine, don't tell us atheists, tell the scholars at Al Azhar university from whom ISIS gets their playbook. Tell the 80 plus percent of people in Muslim countries who believe that sharia is the revealed word of god (Schermer, Kindle Locations 816-817).

There isn't much dialogue in this book between the apocalyptic vision of Ali Sina and the purveyors of the Muslim victim narrative. Yale professor of Islamic studies Frank Griffel typifies this narrative when he claims that Turkey is denied admission in the EU because they are Muslims (Kindle Locations 1075-1076). No professor, they are denied because of their laws, such as the one that makes it illegal to "insult Turkishness" by claiming that the Armenian genocide took place.

Real dialogue will start when Muslim authors confront the content of their religion and stop uttering such nonsense as "...the free speech discussion conflates the right to say whatever one chooses with the license to do so." (Rashied; Kindle Location 321). Pigliucci says, "one cannot force nations to become democracies by bombing the h\*\*\* out of them..."(Kindle Locations 417-419). Well, that's the route Germany and Japan chose. Let's hope Islam chooses a different route. Start by recognizing the universal rights of man. After all, even the devil loves his friends and hates his enemies.