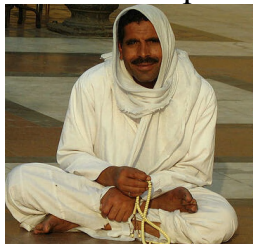




**THE OTHER ISLAM**  
By Brother Tariq al' Beza



*“The Holy Prophet Mohammed came into this world and taught us ‘That man is a Muslim who never hurts anyone by word or deed, but who works for the benefit and happiness of God's creatures.’ Belief in God is to love one's fellow men.” – Badshah Abdul Ghaffar Khan*

*“There is nothing surprising in a Muslim or a Pathan like me subscribing to the creed of nonviolence. It is not a new creed. It was followed fourteen hundred years ago by the Prophet all the time he was in Mecca.” – Badshah Abdul Ghaffar Khan*

We live in an era in which the public image of Islam is dominated by violent “Jihadists.” But true jihad is non-violent warfare against bloodshed, malevolence, poverty, and pain. It is a spiritual path more in harmony with Mahatma Gandhi than Osama bin Laden.

In the struggle for India’s independence Badshah Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Mahatma Gandhi worked closely

together with great mutual respect, using and shaping the practical tool of nonviolence to gain independence for their people. They both believed that the uplift of their people was essential preparation for in-dependence. Khan opened schools, brought the women out of the home into roles in society, and included a vow taken by his nonviolent soldiers to do at least two hours a day of social work.

In Yusuf Islam’s song “Angel of War”, the singer asks the Angel, “Who is my enemy? Against whom do I fight?” The answer is the devil, the oldest of enemies. It is Evil that tempts us down the easy path of hatred and violence.

Today’s world is traveling in some strange direction. You see that the world is going toward destruction and violence. And the specialty of violence is to create hatred among people and to create fear. I am a believer in nonviolence and I say that no peace or tranquility will descend upon the people of the world until nonviolence is practiced, because non-violence is love and it stirs courage in people.

Islam is *amal, yakeen, muhabat*” – selfless service, faith, and love. Yakeen, faith, is an unwavering belief in the spiritual laws that underlie all life, and in the nobility of human nature – in particular, in the ability of every human being to respond to spiritual laws. It

implies a profound belief in the power of muhabat, love, to transform human affairs. This is not the sentimental notion of love portrayed in films. It is a spiritual force which, when drawn upon systematically, can root out exploitation and transform anger into love in action. Badshah Khan based his life and work on this profound principle, raising an army of courageous men and women who translated it into action. Were his example better known, the world might come to recognize that the highest religious values of Islam are deeply compatible with a nonviolence that has the power to resolve conflicts even against heavy odds.

### RECOMMENDED READINGS

Nonviolent Soldier of Islam, Easwaran, Eknath, 1999, ISBN 978-1-888314-00-7  
The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari, Sharma, Robin S., 1996, HarperCollins, New York, NY, ISBN 0-06-251560-8

### EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m., *Zazen/ Centering Prayer, White River Dharma Center, 250 Lilly, Batesville, Arkansas*

Sundays closest to the new moon, 6:30 pm-onward, *Sacred Fire Ceremony and potluck dinner, Sacred Fire Community of Eureka Springs, Arkansas*, contact Melissa Clare at (479) 253-8252 or [eshearthfire@gmail.com](mailto:eshearthfire@gmail.com)

*Sitting Zen, Maria Kannon Zen Center, 6532 Hunnicut Road, Dallas TX 75227*

Mondays & Wednesdays: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Fridays: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Saturdays & Sundays: 8:30 am to 10:00 am; 10:30 am to 12 noon

*Silent Sitting, Ecumenical Buddhist Society, 1015 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Little Rock Arkansas*

Sundays: 9:00 a.m.



I was walking across a bridge one day, and I saw a man standing on the edge, about to jump off. I immediately ran over and said "Stop! Don't do it!"

"Why shouldn't I?" he said.

I said, "Well, there's so much to live for!"

"Like what?"

"Well ... are you religious or atheist?"

"Religious."

"Me too! Are you Christian or Jewish?"

"Christian."

"Me too! Are you Catholic or Protestant?"

"Protestant."

"Me too! Are you Episcopalian or Baptist?"

"Baptist."

"Wow! Me too! Are you Baptist

Church of God or Baptist Church of the Lord?"

"Baptist Church of God."

"Me too! Are you Original Baptist Church of God, or are you Reformed Baptist Church of God?"

"Reformed Baptist Church of God."

"Me too! Are you Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1879, or Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915?"

"Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915!"

To which I said, "Die, heretic scum!" and pushed him off.

*✍ Articles, news, letters to the editor, or comments may be sent to:*  
[tfaulkenbury@earthlink.net](mailto:tfaulkenbury@earthlink.net).

*Please visit our website at*  
[www.sanghaofthespirit.org](http://www.sanghaofthespirit.org)