

In response to the complaint against the Holy Qur'an

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In a letter to the Television & Entertainment Licensing Authority dated 17 May 2007 allegations were directed towards the Holy Qur'an that the Holy Qur'an contains verses of a sexual and indecent nature and should therefore be classified as "obscene". The allegations were that the Holy Qur'an made references to acts of incest, intercourse and sexual discrimination.

Below is an English translation of the letter:

To whom it may concern,

The publication (referring The Qur'an translated by Ma Jian, China Academy of Social Science Publisher, Beijing, 1987) contains substantial contents of indecency and obscenity, which is truly unacceptable by the members of the society. The publication has contradicted the standards of decency as well as the traditional and contemporary standards of morality in the society. In order to protect our young generations, it shall not be sold or lent to people aged under 18 as Class I publication. I hereby ask the Television & Entertainment Licensing Authority to submit the *Qur'an* to Obscene Articles Tribunal for classification.

Description of the acts of incest (The Holy Qur'an 4:23)

Prohibited to you (For marriage) are:- Your mothers, daughters, sisters; father's sisters, mother's sisters; brother's daughters, sister's daughters; foster-mothers (Who gave you suck), foster-sisters; your wives' mothers; your step-daughters under your guardianship, born of your wives to whom ye have gone in,- no prohibition if ye have not gone in;- (Those who have been) wives of your sons proceeding from your loins; and two sisters in wedlock at one and the same time, except for what is past; for Allah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful;

Description of intercourse (The Holy Qur'an 55:70 – 74)

In them will be fair (Companions), good, beautiful;
Then which of the favours of your Lord will you deny?
Companions restrained (as to their glances), in (goodly) pavilions;
Then which of the favours of your Lord will you deny?
Whom no man or Jinn before them has touched;

Sexual discrimination (The Holy Qur'an 26:165-166)

Of all the creatures in the world, will ye approach males, "And leave those whom Allah has created for you to be your mates? Nay, ye are a people transgressing (all limits)!"

This is our response to the complaint:

"Allah commands justice, the doing of good, and liberality to kith and kin, and He forbids all shameful deeds, and injustice and rebellion: He instructs you, that you may receive admonition."

(The Holy Qur'an 16:90)

1. Muslims must have faith in the Holy Qur'an – Allah's final and Divinely-protected revelation to human beings. Therefore, we must not be afraid of any allegations directed towards the Holy Qur'an, and welcome questions and sincere criticisms from people.

2. The allegations that The Holy Qur'an (4:23) makes references to acts of incest is grossly incorrect. The verse state Islam's unyielding attitude towards such an abominable act. Islam is the only religion that clearly defines incest and prohibits this ugly custom by enacting it into law.

3. Allah has sent human beings Messengers with Divine Revelations in order to invite us to worship Him and live a happy and meaningful life in this world. We believe in all Divine Revelations - those to Ibrahim (Abraham) and Musa (Moses) – The Tawrat (87:19), to Isa (Jesus) – The Injil (5:46), to Dawood (David) – The Zabur (4:163) and to Muhammed (peace be upon him) – the final Revelation, The Holy Qur'an. Therefore, as Divine Revelations, we believe they do not contain any indecent or obscene words.

4. Muslims respect all Prophets and Messengers (peace be upon them). They are excellent examples and a guide for human beings. Therefore, we believe none of the Prophets and Messengers committed sin or indulged in immoral acts of a sexual or indecent nature.