

Lasting manifestation of love *Prophet Muhammad's Charter of Protection for Christians* *preserved at the St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, Egypt*

(continued from last week)

On sea or land, in the West or East, I keep these obligations. They are under my guardianship. I have given the security. Do not collect jizyah or ushr (agricultural tax) from the crops of those living on the mountains and are busy with worship. Do not take any part of their crops for the treasury of the state. This is because their agriculture is only for feeding themselves, not for trade.

If you need men for defense, do not call them. If it is necessary to collect jizyah from them, do not take more than twelve dirhams a year, no matter how rich they are or how much property they have. They are not to be imposed with any trouble or hardship.

If you have to negotiate with them, they should be treated kindly, mercifully and compassionately. Keep them always under your merciful and compassionate wings. Wherever they may be, do not treat harshly those Christian women with Muslim men. Do not prevent them from going to their churches and worshipping according to their religion.

Whoever does not obey this order or acts against it, will be deemed to have revolted against the orders of God and His Prophet.

They must be helped when repairing their churches. This promise will be valid until the Day of Judgment and will remain unchanged until the end of the world and no one should act against it.

Prophet Muhammad instructed Ali bin Abi

Talib to write this letter in the blessed mosque in Madinah on the 3rd of Muharram in the second year after the *Hijrah* (migration).

The following signed at the bottom of this memorandum to all Christians:

1. Prophet Muhammad bin Abdullah
2. Abu Bakr bin Abi Kuhafah (who later became the first Caliph)
3. Umar bin Khattab (who later became the second Caliph)
4. Uthman bin Affan (who later became the third Caliph)
5. Ali bin Abi Talib (who later became the fourth Caliph)
6. Abu Hurairah
7. Abdullah bin Mas'ud
8. Al-Abbas bin Abdul Mutalib
9. Fadl bin Abbas
10. Zubair bin Awwam
11. Talhah bin Abdullah
12. Sa'ad bin Mu'az
13. Sa'ad bin Ubadah
14. Thabit bin Kays
15. Zaid bin Thabit
16. Abdullah bin Umar
17. Ammar bin Yasir

Source: "The Monastery of St. Catherine, Sinai, Egypt" written by Dr. Evangelos Papaioannou and "Global Harmony" published by Jamiyah Singapore

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