

Circle: Comparison between the destruction of the idols by the Taliban and the destruction of the Idols by the Prophet (saw).

- ◆ Abdul Salam Zaeef, the Taleban's envoy to Pakistan was quoted as saying by the Islamabad-based Afghan Islamic Press: "We will destroy all statues, including the Buddhas, and no other proposal is under consideration in this regard,"
- ◆ The recent escapade regarding the rulers of Afghanistan's plans to destroy ancient statues of Buddha highlights a major contradiction. On the one hand they are going to destroy these statues, which is in compliance with Islam as Islam forbids any idols, however on the other hand they are making shirk by accepting the laws of man above the laws of Allah (swt) by recognising the United nations, accepting borders between Muslim land (e.g. Pakistan), etc.
- ◆ Compare this to the destruction of the idols by the Prophet (saw) in the conquest of Makkah. He (saw) liberated Makkah from the rule of Kufr as well as the idolatry of the Quraysh. Allah's Messenger (saw) pointed to the multitude of idols present with a stick in his hand and he recited the verse, "**The truth has come and the falsehood has passed away; verily falsehood is sure to pass away.**" [TMQ 17:81] All the idols collapsed onto their backs one after the other, then they were burnt, broken up and disposed of.
- ◆ The Taliban claim to rule by Islam whilst they take others besides Allah (swt) as *Andaad*. The situation is the same in all the Muslim countries today whether they call themselves Islamic or not. Even though the people are sincere in Afghanistan and other Muslim countries, it is the rulers that fail them.

Allah (Swt) says,

"And of Humankind are some who take (in obedience), others besides Allah (swt) as rivals (Andaad); they love them as they love Allah (swt). When those who are followed disown those who followed them, and they see their torment. And all their relations will be cut off from them. And those who followed will say, 'If only we had one more chance to return (to the worldly life), we would disown them as they have disowned us'. Thus Allah (swt) will show their deeds as regret for them. And they will never be able to get out of the Fire" [TMQ Surah al-Baqarah 165-167]

On the authority of Imam Bukhari, 'Abdullah (ra) narrated: "A man said, 'O Allah's Messenger! Which is the greatest sin in Allah's (swt) sight?' The Prophet (saw) said, 'To set up a rival unto Allah though He alone created you.' The man said, 'What is next?' The Prophet (saw) said, 'To kill your son lest he should share your food with you.' The man said, 'What is next?' The Prophet (saw) said, 'To commit illegal intercourse with your neighbour's wife'. "

The *mufasiroon* (Qur'anic commentators) elaborated the nature of these rivals. The *Andaad* are described as humans. Assadi says,

"The rivals are people or men whom they obey as they obey Allah (swt), even they obey them whilst disobeying Allah (swt)".

Fath al-Qadeer says,

"The rivals here are the leaders".

So, *Andaad* are humans, for the reference to 'love' is in the context of humans, not idols. This is further clarified by the fact that the *Andaad* will dissociate themselves from their followers on the Day of Judgement, which is not possible for idols.

It is to be expected that the disbelievers will love others besides Allah (swt). For example, the Christians love 'Isa (as) as they love Allah. In fact they refer to 'Isa (as) with more emphasis and reverence than Allah (swt). The *munafiqoon* (hypocrites) are also guilty of this crime. For

they hide *Kufr* in their hearts, whilst pretending to be Muslim. They love and continue to obey human rivals more than they obey Allah (swt).

It is the true believer alone that loves Allah (swt) without any partner. Love which is real love, together with respect, obedience, supplication to Him (swt) and tawakkul (dependence) on Him (swt) and Him (swt) alone. However today many Muslims, whilst believing in Allah (swt), set up rivals in love to Him (swt), such as the present rulers in Islamic Lands. They obey them even though their commands are against the commands of Allah (swt).

- ◆ The Khilafah will not only destroy idols to win the favour of public opinion, rather it will destroy all idols physical and intellectual. It will remove the shirk of man made law from the Islamic lands.

Taleban 'suspend' blasting of statues

March 6, 2001

Web posted at: 10:35 AM EST (1535 GMT)

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Afghanistan's ruling Taleban militia have suspended the demolition of two 1,500 year old Buddhist statues while the country observes the ongoing Muslim holiday, reports from the region say.

According to the Reuters news agency witnesses who have seen the statues say the demolition work "has been called off temporarily" during celebration of the Eid ul-Adha festival.

The news come as a senior Taleban envoy was quoted as ruling out any compromise on the destruction of the two unique statues -- an act which has sparked outcry from governments and religious groups around the world.

"We will destroy all statues, including the Buddhas, and no other proposal is under consideration in this regard," Abdul Salam Zaeef, the Taleban's envoy to Pakistan was quoted as saying by the Islamabad-based Afghan Islamic Press.

Pakistan, one of only three nations with diplomatic ties with Afghanistan, has itself called on the Taleban to reverse its plan.

Other governments, including the United States, have urged Islamabad to use what leverage it can bring to bear on the Taleban to halt the destruction.

In his first public comments since the Taleban announced it would begin the systematic destruction of all statues in Afghanistan, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Tuesday he deplored the action. "It's horrible, it's a tragedy. It's a crime against human kind. I deplore it," said Powell.

Last week Taleban leader Mohammad Omar ordered the destruction of all statues in Afghanistan, including the two enormous Buddhas in Bamian. One Buddha stands 175 feet and the other 120 feet. Both are carved into Bamian's sandstone cliffs.

Powell added that he didn't know the "extent of the damage at this time" or whether the two Buddhas have been destroyed.

Zaeef said destruction of the statues began Saturday and would continue until no trace of the images remained.

'One quarter destroyed'

Unconfirmed reports Tuesday quoted Taleban sources as saying the two statues have already been one quarter destroyed by forces using tanks shells, rocket-propelled grenades and dynamite.

The two giant statues of the Buddha are carved into the cliff-face above the town of Bamiyan in central Afghanistan and are regarded as some of the finest examples of early Central Asian art.

One of the statues is the world's tallest standing image of the Buddha.

The U.N.'s cultural and heritage body UNESCO has described the Bamiyan statues as a unique cultural treasure and called their destruction "cultural vandalism".

'Affront to Islam'

Last week the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar issued a religious edict, or fatwah, calling for all statues in Afghanistan to be destroyed.

He said dozens of ancient Buddhist images across the country, including the giant stone statues in Bamiyan, were an affront to Islam and should be destroyed.

The Taliban want to establish the world's purest Islamic state and have already issued a series of strict rules governing the way Afghans must live their lives.

Earlier Tuesday the group's Foreign Minister, Maulvi Wakil Ahmed Mutawakil, told CNN Afghanistan would not cave in to pleas that the statues be sold to the international community.

"We are determined to preserve our heritage," said foreign minister Muttawakil. "But we don't want to protect one thing, and that is statues. That doesn't mean they should be given to others."

Meanwhile international condemnation of the Taliban's actions continues to grow and observers say the action is likely to do little to aid the Taliban's quest for international recognition as Afghanistan's rightful rulers.

In Germany, Culture Minister Julian Nida-Ruemelin compared the smashing of the statues to the Nazi book burning.

"This is about a piece of global cultural heritage which the rest of the world cannot be indifferent to," he said.

A Kashmiri separatist group, based in Pakistan, is one of the few groups to have expressed support for the Taliban's actions.

The United Nations special envoy Pierre LaFrance has said he will try to persuade Taliban leaders to lay off their plans, as soon as the Eid ul-Adha ends at the weekend.

He said dozens of smaller, yet still irreplaceable, statues housed in museums across Afghanistan had already been destroyed.

Afghanistan was a center of Buddhist culture before Islam arrived some 1,200 years ago.

[CNN State Department correspondent Andrea Koppel](#) and [Reuters](#) contributed to this report.

From Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan New York Office website

<http://www.taliban.com/letters.htm>

Foreign Affairs Minister addresses Kofi Annan

The IEA Foreign Affairs Minister letter addressed to UN General Secretary as Following:

"His Excellency, Kofi Annan General Secretary of the UN, New York. It's a pleasure of mine to extend my good sentiments to your Excellency.

Since, more than two decades due to the invasion of former Red Army, the devastating war has been continued, and all our economic, social, cultural and educational infrastructures have been destroyed.

Our noble people due to oppressions of invading forces and their puppets were compelled to migrate to other countries, including Iran, Pakistan and other countries of the world.

As a result of heroic resistance and holy Jihad and martyrdom of more than one and half million Afghans, the Red Army had a humiliating defeat, not only Afghanistan was liberated but also great number of Central Asian Moslem countries as well as a number of East European countries were liberated and achieved their independence.

The communist system was annihilated forever. After the break down of Najib regime the people of our country weren't able to taste the flavor of their jihad as the leaders of the Jihadi parties due to their selfishness razed to the ground our people and the country. The dignity of people was degraded by unscrupulous commanders. There was no central government in the country, and almost 16 separate regimes were ruling over Kabul city and other provinces.

There was neither law, nor security. 36,000 dwellings of the people were rubble to the ground. More than 600 thousand people became vagabond and Kabul city was turned down to ashes.

At last, Taliban Islamic Movement emerged and with the full support of the people, the provinces were liberated respectively and now the IEA is ruling over 95% territory of the country. The people under IEA Islamic rule are leading their peaceful lives in the light of Islamic Shariah.

The deadly weapons were collected from the hands of irresponsible individuals. The poppy cultivation has been prohibited throughout the country. But, in less than 5% percent territory of the country a small group of the opposition remnants annoying and torturing the people

under their control, want to restore their evil and corrupt system, under military support of some interfering countries, continue the war in some parts of the country.

On the contrary, the IEA, which has always been in favor of peace and good relations with her neighboring countries and the world states as well, has kept the door of talks and negotiations opened. But, availing the opportunity, the oppositions who are not honest in talks, waging war.

In your speech, you have pointed out the involvement of non-Afghan forces, particularly Pakistani citizens. It should be mentioned that there are no Pakistani or other foreign forces in the ranks of the IEA forces.

As Erick De Mol visited last year the first lines and in his utterances said that:

"There are no adults or any foreign citizens in the ranks of the IEA Islamic Army".

But it is the oppositions who obtain military assistances from spite full countries.

As the recent meeting between commander Masood and Russian defense minister, providing Kolab airbase in Tajikistan and confiscating of many trucks with military consignments for the oppositions are testimonies to our claims.

The IEA once again draw the attention of the World public to prevent the interferences of self-interested countries, so that people of our country under the IEA banner and Islamic rule can lead their peaceful lives.

Availing the opportunity I wish your health and prosperity".