

Book Review: Secrets of the Koran

Reviewed by Neil Bulloch

SECRETS OF THE KORAN, by Don Richardson, Regal Books, Ventura, CA., 2003.

Richardson has written a readable, but at the same time, somewhat appalling book. I was shocked as I read it. The first half of the book gives a new meaning to 'inflammatory'. It begins with the title. Why spell the Muslim Scriptures as 'Koran' rather than the preferred 'Qur'an'? Moreover, the title is somewhat misleading as nothing secretive is revealed. The alleged secrets are plainly in the Qur'an and in the Hadith. Perhaps his frustration can be tied to what he says on page 19, 'The more digging I did into the Koran, the more I realized when it comes to Islam, the redemptive analogy approach cannot work.'

I believe he has come away with an understanding of the basic evil inherent in Islam as practiced by 'fundamentalists or extremists', but I do not detect a love for Muslims. Although he does point out the core beliefs of the Muslim holy book, it is his attitude that leaves me in shock.

However—and happily—after the initial waves of harsh and aggressive criticism, Richardson seems to settle down and say some useful things. It would appear he wants to show us the danger inherent in Islam to our western civilization, and he calls us to take up the task of rebutting the Koran, openly and now. Tolerance merely persuades Muslims that we

have no answers, and that, in fact, we fear them. Intimidation is the name of the game. He says that informed Muslims know that the Qur'an does not advocate moderation, so why should we be compliant and complacent? Of course, if we are not careful, we can easily be accused of being 'hate-mongers'.

The best part of the book is the last one hundred pages. Richardson spells out some of the strategies that Muslims are already using in the West to advance their cause. Some of his comments border on being hypothetical, but he often makes a very good case for sounding the alarm. The parable of the farmer who has goats and raised chickens but is pestered by a mongoose is worthy of reflection. Wanting to protect his chickens and their eggs, the farmer kills the mongoose, forgetting that the little animal was the best protection against predatory snakes. Ultimately he loses chickens and goats to pythons. Richardson goes on to say that in the West, secular humanists, agnostics and atheists have tried to get rid of Christianity, believing that no other religion would replace it. But man is a religious being; if he can't have one religion, he will have another. Only a strong Christianity has the wherewithal to stand up to the dangers confronting our world. Islam, Richardson maintains, sees all this and is moving in accordingly.

Seedbed XVIII No. 2

In the end, Richardson calls on us to 'wage truth on Islam'. That is a more balanced response to the world-wide advance of Islam. Let us point

them to Jesus Christ as the only Saviour for all mankind.

Yes, read the book, but read it with care.