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THE HOLY QURAN
IN THE EYES OF THE WESTERN POLITICAL LEADERS

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In the past the Western colonialists have had always to confront agitation and opposition from the Muslim masses in the Mid-East countries. The history of Egypt, Turkey, Palestine and other Muslim countries of the previous ~~centuries~~ centuries bear witness to this fact. They in their maneuvers to dominate and exploit the Muslims have had to face stiff resistance.

But they were shrewd enough to research into and understand the root cause behind the unity and awakening of the Muslim masses. They embarked upon such steps as to undermine their power and shake up their faith and unity. They came to realize that the strength of the Muslim masses stemmed from their staunch faith in Islam enforced and upheld by their reverence for the non-altering heavenly book- the Holy Qura'n

GLADSTONE'S FEAR OF
THE HOLY QURA'N

As such every effort was made to break the solidarity of the Muslim masses. This is evident from the concepts so well expounded by the Victorian Age British Prime Minister Gladstone who is reported to have said in the House of Commons while holding up the Holy Qura'n in his hands "So long as the Egyptians (Muslims) have got this book with them, we shall never be able to enjoy quiet and peace in the land" (Al-Jihadul Akbar- Nov-74- Brooklyn N.Y.)

It is mentioned that this recommendation of Gladstone was promptly followed up by a committee formed then to decide on ways and means how to erode into the faith of Muslim Egyptians in the Holy Qura'n. It was resolved to send educated experts to Egypt who could launch such campaigns which would weaken the faith of these people and make them suspicious of the truth of the holy book. The aim was to discourage people gradually from referring to it and make them turn against the Islamic way of life and thinking.

In the course of this political and vicious move, a learned man by the name Dunlop was sent to Egypt as a teacher. He prepared several books containing such lessons which were nothing but propaganda in disguise. One of the lessons on history was introduced to show Egypt lagged behind without progressing because of Islam and the Qura'n, alleging that Egyptians were much more civilized prior to the advent of Islam in their country.

First such ill-intentioned programs succeeded to a small extent in influencing the youths at schools. But then the holy men of Al-Azhar University came to know what was happening and protested to the authorities demanding an end to the anti-Islamic propaganda.

NAPOLEON 'S VIEW OF THE HOLY QURA'N The renown French revolutionary leader of the 18th century Napoleon Bonapart is said to have once gone to a library and asked for a book to read. Incidentally the book brought to him turned out to be the holy Qura'n, on opening of which the following verse came to his notice:

"SURELY THE QURA'N GUIDES TO THAT WHICH IS MOST UPRIGHT
AND GIVES GOOD NEWS TO THE BELIEVERS WHO DO GOOD THAT THEY
SHALL HAVE A GREAT REWARD" (Sura 17 v 9)

On going through the translation and meaning of this verse, he became deeply engrossed perhaps on the influence of the holy book on the people who believed in it. It is said that night he was overtaken by deep thinking and less sleep.

Repeatedly Napoleon went to that library to study other verses of the holy Qura'n. The impression on him was such that he expressed his opinions in these words:

" If the Muslims were to implement into practice the useful teachings of this book, they would never have to face any subjugation or humiliation, except that if a separation could be caused between them and this book." (Maktabe Islam Vol 18-11)

From the foregoing it is evident that the enemies of Islam in the West knew very well what the power-base of the Muslim masses was. They had realized that it was the holy Qura'n which provided them with all the guidance and strength they needed to face their enemies.

What is unfortunate is the fact that the Muslims themselves have been neglectful of this fact. They have tended to ape the West and rely upon their support and guidance in defiance of the teachings of the holy book with the result that many Muslim countries today continue to suffer from neo-colonialism and economic slavery.