

God's Press Conference

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BABYLON THE BAYOU – Responding to recent events on Earth, God, the omniscient creator-deity worshipped by billions of followers of various faiths for more than 6,000 years, angrily clarified His longtime stance against humans killing each other in a recent press conference.

"Look, I don't know, maybe I haven't made myself completely clear, so for the record, here it is again," said the Lord. "Somehow, people keep coming up with the idea that I want them to kill their neighbor. Well, I don't. And to be honest, I'm really getting sick and tired of it. Get it straight. Not only do I not want anybody to kill anyone, but I specifically *commanded* you not to."

Worshipped by Christians, Jews and Muslims alike, God said His name has been invoked countless times over the centuries as a reason to kill in what He called "an unending cycle of violence."

"I don't care how holy somebody claims to be," God said. "If a person tells you it's My will that they kill someone, they're wrong. Got it? I don't care what religion you are, or who you think your enemy is, here it is one more time: no killing, in My name or anyone else's, ever again."

The press conference came as a surprise to humankind, as God rarely intervenes in earthly affairs. His decision was apparently motivated by the deep sense of shock, outrage and sorrow He felt over recent violence carried out in His name.

"I tried to put it as simply as possible for you people, so you'd get it straight," said God. "I guess I figured I'd left no real room for confusion after putting it in a four-word sentence with one-syllable words, on the tablets I gave to Moses. But somehow, it all gets twisted around and, next thing you know, somebody's spouting off some nonsense about, 'God says I have to kill this guy, God wants me to kill that guy, it's God's will.' It's *not* God's will, all right? News flash: 'God's will' is 'don't murder people.'"

Worse yet, many of the worst violators claim that their actions are justified by pas-

sages in the Bible, Torah, and Qur'an. "To be honest, there *is* some contradictory stuff in there, okay?" God said. "So I can see how it could be pretty misleading. I admit it — My bad. I did My best to make Myself clear, but a lot of imperfect human agents have misinterpreted My message over the millennia. Frankly, much of the material that got in there is dogmatic, doctrinal bull. I turn My head for a second and all this stuff about homosexuality gets into Leviticus, so some people think it's My will to kill gays. It absolutely drives Me up the wall."

God praised the overwhelming majority of His Muslim followers as "wonderful, pious people," calling the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks rare exceptions.

"This whole medieval concept of the *jihad*, or holy war, had all but vanished from the Muslim world in, like, the 10th century, and with good reason," God said. "There's no such thing as a holy war, only unholy ones. The vast majority of Muslims in this world reject the murderous actions of these radical extremists, just like the vast majority of Christians in America are pissed off over those two bigots on *The 700 Club*."

Continued God, "Read the book: 'Allah is kind, Allah is beautiful, Allah is merciful.' It goes on and on that way, page after page. But, no, some jerks have to come along and revive this stupid holy-war crap just to further their own hateful agenda. So now, everybody thinks Muslims are all murderous barbarians. Thanks, Taliban: 1,000 years of pan-Islamic cultural progress down the drain."

Growing increasingly wrathful, God continued: "There are a ton of different religious traditions out there, and different cultures worship Me in different ways. But the basic message is always the same: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Shintoism... every religious belief system under the sun, they all say you're supposed to love your neighbors, folks! It's not that hard a concept to grasp. Besides, it's not like you guys need Me as an excuse to kill

each other — you've been doing that without any help from Me since you were freaking apes!" God said. "The whole point of believing in Me is to have a higher standard of behavior. How obvious can you get?"

"I'm talking to all of you, here! If I've said it once, I've said it a thousand times," continued God, His voice rising to a shout. "Do you hear Me now? I don't want you to kill anybody. I'm against it, no exceptions. How many times do I have to repeat Myself? Don't kill each other anymore — ever!"

Upon completing His outburst, God fell silent, standing quietly at the podium for several moments. Then, witnesses reported, God's shoulders began to shake, and He wept.

New Orleans Homeland Insecurity Color Alert System

In keeping with our mission and overwhelming desire to service the public, Krewe du Vieux puts forth, and puts out, the following color alert definitions. It should be noted that two or more of these alerts can come simultaneously.

Purple, Green & Gold Alert
Watch for flying trinkets, coconuts, maskers, flashing body parts.

Red Light District Alert
Furtive Johns on Canal Street, FBI wiretaps, shredded black book.

Blue Dog Alert
Overpriced pseudo-art defiling jazz fest posters.

Black & Gold Alert
Fumbled expectations, missed kicks, widespread depression.

Orange Jumpsuit Alert
Parish prisoners on the prowl with paint-brushes.

Orange & White Alert
Deadly potholes, Surging Water Board battling geysers.