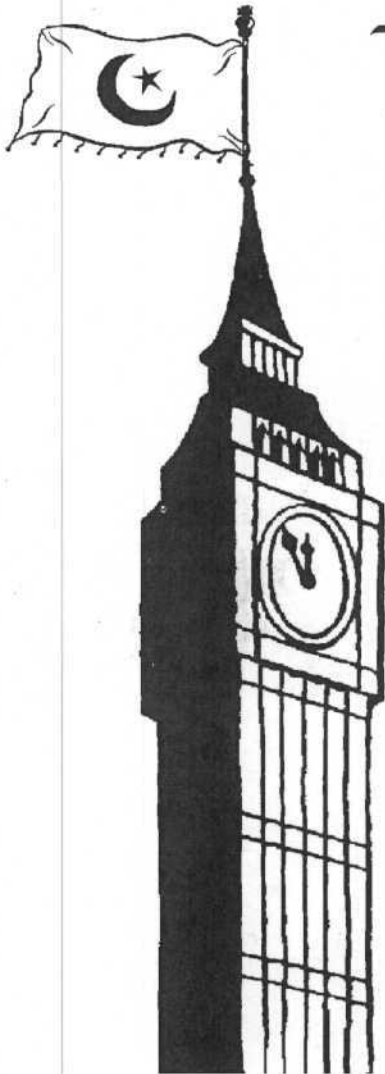




- The Islamic Republic Of - - Great Britain -



"Today, King Charles abdicated from the throne and left the country to retreat into the Himalayan mountains to live as a Buddhist monk following pressure from the public for Britain to become an Islamic state. His son William bin Charlie, having been involved in the Young Muslims for some time, is determined to give the people what they want – and is now known as the Ameer." The news, announced by a scarf-clad Zainab Badawi, was received with takbirs resounding in living rooms across the nation.

Headlines included 'A political and moral victory for Britain' by Al-Asr (formerly The Times), and 'Gotcha Britain!' by Al-Shams (formerly The Sun, which is still somewhat lagging behind!).

So how did this extraordinary turn of events come about? Judge Pickles (Achaar for short) expressed his outrage by declaring:

"It's the woman's fault, she was asking for it." And indeed this appeared to be the case. Two million women marched to Parliament last week demanding their rights for an equitable status in accordance with Shariah (Islamic Law).

The women's actions have added to calls from other directions for the implementation of the Shariah. One campaigner protesting against the usury system – who had been made homeless following failure to keep up with mortgage repayments – explained:

"The interest rates kept going up. The interest I was getting from my savings account just became meaningless to me – especially when I didn't have any money left in there! I was amazed when I was told about the Islamic economic system – it's so fair to everyone. I would never go back to the old way again now."

"Not even if we promised you double the interest rate in your savings account?"

"Never" was the firm reply.

It was not just the (capitalist) Conservatives who were alarmed by the surge in public pressure for change – (lefty) Labour MP's have been equally worried. The attraction of a basic tax of just 2.5% has proved to be irresistible and unable to be matched by any political party, least of all the Labour Party.

The Minister for Culture (Maqsood Al-Rashid) allayed fears that Big Ben would be replaced by a minaret, and that all non-Muslims would be forced to convert at the point of a sword. He said:

"Most British institutions are not contradictory to Islam, and will in fact continue with their functions, merely enhancing and serving the new British Islamic Civilisation. As to the question of non-Muslims; the Qur'an itself states that there is no compulsion in religion, and who are we to argue with the Qur'an?"

In addition the Minister for Health has verified rumours that doctors on the NHS will have more time to be sympathetic to their patients, following a ban on alcohol and a reduction in smoking: the two major causes of illness in Britain. Also, initial fears of an increase in one-handed people, due to the implementation of Haddood (punishment), have not been realised – and at the same time crime figures have been dropping dramatically.

Indeed the energy and passion of the youth now have a new focus. Mosques across the land are bracing themselves for Friday Night Fever, where issues of faith are hotly debated and nights are spent in Qiyyam-ul-Layl.

It seems the whole country is alive with hope and expectation. People the world over are looking to the Islamic Republic of Great Britain, and Immigrations is inundated with applications for entry visas. The promise of material gain has now been superseded by the promise for spiritual gain.

However, one lone man was spotted walking hurriedly towards Departures in Heathrow Airport. His face was not recognisable as he was wearing dark glasses and had a beard. But on closer scrutiny he appeared to be clutching a book to his chest and the words "Satanic Verses" were just visible.....

Salma Yaqub