

## CHAPTER 19

### CRUCIFIED OR CRUCIPLAYED?

#### LANGUAGE DEFICIENCY

Every word is a frozen picture of what it represents. If we take a word and cogitate on it, we will be able to see or visualise it in our minds. Try – "ship", you will see a ship in your mind. "Handbag", you will see a handbag in your mind. "Cigarette", you will see a cigarette in your mind. But we speak at such a rapid rate that we apprehend words as ideas, thoughts and concepts. Words are the tools wherewith we convey our messages. The greater the vocabulary, the clearer and easier the communication. But wrong words can mar the ideas.

#### THE LANGUAGE CUL-DE-SAC

The Arabic language is very rich in conveying spiritual thoughts and concepts, but English is richer in the field of science and technology. Yet this latter language is letting me down. It seems to have no verbs for incompleted or attempted actions, for example:

1. A man is taken to the gallows, the noose is put around his neck, "he kicks the bucket" meaning the rope is pulled for him to die, but fate intervenes and he is reprieved before he expires. Twenty years later the same man dies by drowning. We want one verb to explain to us what happened – was the man "hanged" or what happened? Not un-hanged. We want just one verb , . . ?

2. Another person is taken to the Electric-Chair for electrocution. He is strapped to the chair. And the switch is put on. A bolt of electricity goes through the man, but the power fails. The man revives, and before another bolt of electricity is shot through him, he is reprieved. A few days later the man dies in a motor-car accident. What was his end? What happened to him on the "Chair"? Was he electrocuted or not? One verb . . . ?

3. Josephus, a Jewish historian, records in his book of "Antiquities" about "crucifixions" in which he intervened and as a result the "crucified" men were lowered from their crosses. One survived! What had happened to him on the cross? was he crucified? The one who did not die by crucifixion, but an attempt was made to crucify him. Was he crucified? One verb . . . ?

### CRUCI-FICTIONS GALORE

The above are hypothetical cases one might say. But we are with history in the making. See page 36, a reproduction from the "Weekend World", dated August 3, 1969. Mr. Pieter van der Bergh, a barman by occupation, was "Crucified" for "kicks!" — just for the thrill of it. In his own words, he simply wanted to prove, "THAT MAN IS MASTER OVER HIS BODY". He was on the cross; he went through the whole process of the crucifixion. To out do the three of Golgotha, he had "An 18 inch spike piercing his thigh" — (picture is reproduced earlier in the book). This barman is still alive and kicking. Was he crucified? One verb . . . ? There is no such verb in English.

When the Jews cried repeatedly to Pilate — "Crucify him! Crucify him! — (*Luke 23:27, John 19:6*), they meant KILL him on the cross — by crucifixion. "KILL" him! Not just "taking him for a ride" on the cross! And, if after all the due ceremony, like that of Mr. Van der Berg, the man did not die by crucifixion, what would you say happened? What verb are you going to use, when you haven't got it in your language?

### MULTIPLE DEFICIENCY?

A South African Englishman, and his American counterpart, Jointly confess<sup>1</sup>: "If the word **crucify** only means to **kill on a cross**, we are at a loss to find an alternative verb to describe the mere act of **impaling on a cross**" <sup>2</sup> (Their own emphasis). Shame on them. They make a mockery of me whilst the deficiency lies in their own language and in their own inability to coin an appropriate word.

With all their "IN -dwelling of the Holy Ghost", the Christian world has failed to coin an appropriate verb to describe, " the mere act of being fastened to the cross", Presently, I will get them out of their misery, **Insha-Allah!** <sup>3</sup>, before the chapter is finished. But why the rhetoric when they still say: "IF the word **crucify** ONLY MEANS to Kill. . .". Will Christendom tell us what else **crucify** means? The world-renowned Oxford Dictionary simply defines **crucify** as "Put to death by fastening to a cross"<sup>4</sup>. The "born-again" authors of "The Islam Debate" cannot solve the problem so I will solve it for them!

1. From the book — "The Islam Debate," page 113.

2. Why does it not occur to them to write "crucify" within inverted commas?

3. If Allah Wills!

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4. See the earlier picture for a more accurate representation of "fastening".

### "CRUCIFIXIONS" NOW FOR KICKS

There is always something new coming out of the East. Now in the Far East, the Philippines have developed a new craze of getting "CRUCIFIED"! They want to walk in the foot-steps of Jesus. — (as seen much earlier in the newspaper clipping). A reproduction from the "SUNDAY NEWS" of Dares-salam, dated May 3rd 1981, reports of multiple "crucifixions" in the Philippines. 'At least seven cases of "crucifixions" were reported in the local press.' There could have been many more "crucifixions" in the hinterland, which the newspapers failed to report. Among those "crucified" was one Luciana Reyes, described as **"the first woman known to have performed the ritual"** of "crucifixion"! A new addition to the fanatical elements of the "crucifixions" is that "the penitent's hands are nailed to a wooden cross".

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Not a single person died by "crucifixion"! (i.e. was crucified). One of the "crucified" men fainted. Another "crucified" man "was up and smoking a cigarette as soon as his hands were bandaged". A vendor "had gone through the ritual (of "crucifixion") for the fifth time". This man has vowed to perform the "crucifixion" ten times! It all sounds like a fairy tale. But there were 25,000 witnesses to four "crucifixions" in one town alone. Some of these "crucifixions" are shown "live on television".

6 SUNDAY NEWS, May 3, 1981

## DAR-ES-SALAAM

# Jesus' footsteps?

CHURCH Leaders are concerned by the increasing number of Filipinos submitting themselves to Penitential whipping, beating and "crucifixion" in a re-enactment of Christ's suffering on the cross.

Flagellants, beating themselves or being whipped till they bleed, are a common sight in Asia's only Roman Catholic country during the holy week. On Good Friday, at least seven cases of "crucifixion" were reported in the local press.

One of these was Luciana Reyes, a 23-year-old factory worker and the first woman known to have performed the ritual.

The publicity generated by this year's events and their increasing attraction to local and foreign tourists have worried churchmen, some of whom have expressed their distaste for the practice.

Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila and leader of the church here, said he opposed this particular form of mortification and penance because it is conducted publicly and it is possible that the penitents are motivated by pride and vainglory.

The church did not encourage the practice nor could it forbid it, he said, because mortification of the flesh can be good for the soul — if the motivation is good.

Forms of penitential mortification go back through the centuries and are deeply rooted in the culture of the Philippines where 75 per cent of the population are Catholics.

"Flagellation was recorded in the Spanish Era", according to National Museum Assistant Director Alfredo Evangelista. The idea of penance was implanted by them.

Oscar Cruz, Archbishop of Pampanga Diocese, just north of here where most of the crucifixions take place, said some features in the practice were not religious.

There were "a good number of fanatical elements," and "crucifixions" had some touristic flavour, he said.

"Crucifixion" where the penitent's hands are nailed to a wooden cross, is a recent addition to penitential custom in the Philippines. The first

cases to receive public notice occurred here in the late 1960s.

One reason for its increase is that the danger of medical complications has been reduced to a minimum, according to Monsignor Teodoro Buhain, Assistant to the Secretary-General of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines.

The "crucifixions", some shown live on television, have now become the climax of Easter week in the Philippines. In some cases, they attract thousands of visitors to provincial towns where the atmosphere is a blend of carnival and deep mourning.

The ceremony at Bacolor in

Pampanga was typical. A procession formed outside the town early on Good Friday morning with the flagellants in front followed by three men dragging huge wooden crosses.

When they reached their destination — a small church yard away from the centre of town — the flagellants beat their fellow-penitents on the arms and back.

A little after midday the penitents were nailed to their crosses and raised up for about a minute.

One man fainted. After being removed from the cross he had to be carried to a waiting bus. Another was up and smoking a cigarette as soon as his hands were bandaged.

The group in the procession said they had been members of a criminal gang and wanted "to atone for the bad we did then, and to improve the prosperity of our families."

In the nearby town of San Fernando, some 25,000 people, many of them tourists, watched as four men were nailed to crosses in two separate ceremonies.

One of them Mario Bagtas, a 33-year-old vendor, had gone through the ritual for the fifth time and, like the bacolor penitents, he promised to return next year.

He said he had vowed to perform the "crucifixions" for 10 years after his wife recovered from cancer.

By Reg Gratton

The Christian world has been notorious in exploiting Jesus to make money. The films on the life of Jesus, everyone of them, was a "box-



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office" record smasher! They have their "Nativity Play", they have their "Passion Play", why not a "CRUCIPLAY"?

Reg Gratton, the correspondent for the "Sunday News", (see the above newspaper clipping again) has solved the problem of the "crucifixions" by having the words in inverted commas. He has used the words "crucifixion" and "crucifixions" five times in his article, and every time when these words appear he has them enclosed in inverted commas. Please check it up. In other words he is saying that it is the "SO-CALLED crucifixion" or the "SO-CALLED crucifixions". The inverted commas are more subtle than the words "so-called". I did not catch the joke on my first few readings of the article. Would you have?

You will note that other alert Journalists have taken the precautions of putting words like "DEAD", "DIED", and "CORPSE" in inverted commas earlier on. Now Reg does the same about the "CRUCIFIXIONS!" Since the word "crucify" is getting stuck in the missionaries' throats, should we not use CRUCI-FICTION instead?

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We can now say without any mental reservation that Pieter van der Bergh went through the process of the crucifixion with all severity and seriousness, but he was not crucified (verb of crucifixion) as the newspaper proclaimed **BUT** that he had been crucified (verb of crucifixion),

Further, we can say that the Christians in the Philippines are not undergoing crucifixions, but that they are undergoing CRUCIFIXIONS in all sincerity. No Passion **PLAYS** or Play-acting with them as they do in films, it is the real thing, being only short of death! Hence, any performance with the cross, where the victim tries to emulate the alleged experience of Jesus, but does not actually die the "ACCURSED DEATH" on the cross, we will rightly call it by its appropriate terms —

CRUCIFICT instead of CRUCIFY (Verb)

CRUCIFICTED instead of CRUCIFIED (Verb)

CRUCIFIXION instead of CRUCIFIXION (Noun)

This simple and natural use of the right words will break the "CROSS" of Christianity which finds itself at the "CROSSROADS", not knowing which

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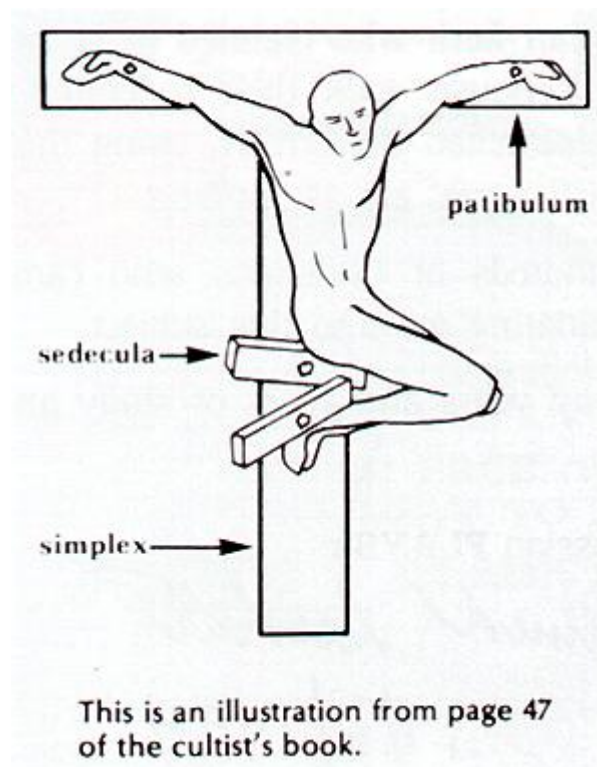
way to turn. And if we use the words frequently enough, we will soon find them in the English dictionaries of the world.

To this end, we have published a hundred thousand copies of this publication for FREE distribution as a first print. Read it, study it and share it with friends and foes alike for the glory of Truth.

AAMEEN!

### TAKE YOUR PICK

"After more than 1,000 hours of studying . . ." the "crucifixion", the author of A CAMPUS CRUSADE publication, "The Resurrection Factory invents another posture for his "lord" and "saviour".



NOW YOU HAVE A MULTIPLE OF CHOICES.

1. FROGI - FICTION as illustrated here.
2. STAKI - FICTION as you see on Page 74
3. CRUCI - FICTION as it appears on Page 33

## AFTERWORD

The Crucifixion or Christ had been pushed down my throat to be the only redeeming factor for mankind since my early encounter with students and priests of Adams Mission when I was in my teens. (See Epilogue: ["Is the Bible God's Word?"](#))

Being a rather impressionable youth, I was amazed at the manner in which scores of young articulate men believed in the Crucifixion as their only factor of salvation and seemed to be concerned about my being condemned to hell for not believing in it.

This subject of the Crucifixion of Christ on which all Christianity is staked, became a serious subject of my studies. I really wanted to know what it was all about and began to study their authority, the "New Testament", on the subject.

Honestly, I do not expect anyone to ask me about my belief as a Muslim concerning the Crucifixion. My belief is the Quranic belief as categorically stated in *Chapter IV, Verse 757*.

I repeat emphatically that the study of the crucifixion was thrust upon me by those of the Christian faith who claimed to be my benefactors and well-wishers. I seriously took their concern for me to heart and studied and researched objectively, using their own sources. The results you will agree are astounding.

I would like to thank the hundreds of Christians who came knocking at my door and for initiating me into this subject.

The foregoing is the result of my years and years of study and research.

Ahmed Deedat