

JIHAD

by

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Variously translated as simply 'the struggle' — largely against freedom (anarchy), capitalism (ostensible usury), emancipation (slighting cultural diktats), seduction and ecstasy (most men folk excluded) — the Muslim jihad strikes many Westerners, including this author, as the index of a fervidly punitive people. The question lingers: why are so many Muslim leaders so adamant, harsh, unsympathetic — not at all affected by the kindly sermons of John Lennon? So why the stridency in Islam, particularly in the ascendent Wahabi faction? Possibly because of the double whammy of Islam: Muslim men are entitled, nay commanded, to be tough, importunate, daring, remorseless, while their women folk may resist the slights of secondary status by basking in their proliferating son's attainment of valour and honour? It can be a heady combination. One destined to cleanse all renegades, agnostic and dissolute. In such a climate people like Osama bin Laden and Anwar al-Awlaki can remain iconic divines. Is it so surprising that American feminists are generally so patient with the creed? Is Islam the summary means of ridding the world of unrepentant or jaded white Christian men? One does wonder. Many Western Christian communities are losing adherents, are in fact on their knees. An Arab proverb says: The falling camel attracts many knives! Who chooses the weak horse over the strong?