

In the name of Allah , the Merciful and compassionate

A white color Muslim

An Interview with Abdullah Friedrich

By

Sayyad Mohsin Sharifi

Note:

After embracing the religion of Islam, Stephen Friedrich has chosen the name of Abdullah for him. He has been living in Iran for six years. After studying a lot about Heavenly religions, Stephen Friedrich embrace the religion of Islam and at present he is studying in Iran and he is researching about the “Physics in the Quran”. Whatever we will describe in the coming pages, is the keen observations of Stephen Friedrich about Shia community in Germany and his inclination toward Shia school of Thought.

Question: As a first question, would like to tell us about the views and opinions of the German people about the Muslims, particularly about the Shias Muslims?

Answer: As you know that the people of Germany have not a lot of acquaintance with the sacred religion of Islam. In fact, the German people have not hold different views about Shia and Sunni Muslims because they have a lot of information about the religion of Islam. Here I

would like to mention a noteworthy point which is that the although apparently, the people of Germany belong to the Catholic and Protestant sects, yet they are secular and they have not faith in God and the religion does not play any role in their life. That is because; we should not have any expectation that they should have a lot of acquaintance about the Divine Religions. However, on the contrary to it, the economical issues and matters are very important for them.

Question: What of acquaintance the Germans have about Iran and Islamic Revolution?

Answer: They have very little knowledge about the Islamic Revolution of Iran; however I don't mean that the cream of the crop of German society is like the common public. I think the reason of this gap is farness of these two countries. On the other hand, inimical Media against Islamic Revolution and aficionado of America and Israel tried their best to present before them wrong information.

Question: What do you mean either Islam-phobia or Shia-Phobia?

Answer: Yes, exactly this is the fact. Most of the German people don't know about Islam and what they hear about the Muslims from media is all about the extremist Muslims in the Near East countries like Al-Jazzier , Sudan etc, they feel fear from them and they called them fundamentalist. Islam Phobia is propagated in all over the Europe and America and when mention about Iran, they propagate Shia-phobia. It is propagated in Germany that Iran supports the terrorist groups. For example, when I came to Iran and embraced the sacred religion of Islam, I contacted with my family and informed them about it. They asked me, "in which country you are? I replied them, "in Iran."

My family became worried and they said to me, “You have not life security in that country, hurry up, and leave that country. But the fact is that according to saying of Imam Khomeini, Iran is country of Imam of the Time” and I consider this land my house and land

Question: According to your statements, there is very little information about acquaintance of Islam, in such atmosphere, how did you get information about Islam and Shia School of Thought?

Answer: Well , here I would like to mention another point about your first question which is this that although there are many research scholars about Islam and Shia School of Thought in Germany yet they have not any positive impact on the German people. I should confess this fact that when I embraced the religion of Islam, I have not any familiarity with these research scholars. On the basis of my studies, the principle difference between Shia and Sunni school of thought focuses on Imamate. Imam Ali (Peace Be Upon Him) was to take the reign of Leadership and Imamate, after the death of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him and His Progeny). This is the very thing about which the Quran clearly cited and it was obviously shown in the episode of Ghadir and more than eighty thousand people were the eyewitnesses of this event.

I studied the Holy Quran ten times, with different translations, during the course of my studies; the unique personality of Imam Ali (Peace Be Upon Him) created a great impact on me. It is worth-mentioning here that should relate the story of two Christian who came to the Imam Ali (Peace Be Upon Him) and they said to Imam: hand over me the New Testament so that I may decide your case about to that book. You should think about this point, can you show me such personality in the history of religions and can you bring any example of such great personality amongst the leaders.

Question: What kind of interaction and interrelation, the Islamic groups have amongst them in the society of Germany?

Answer: Well, requisite of this answer is this that we should know what kind of Muslim groups dwelled in German society. There are different Shia groups living in Germany like; Zaidi, Imami, and Al'vi and there are also some Sunni groups live with them and some of them are agnostics groups. As you know , we have not exact statistics about them however it is admitted that the population of Shia Muslims is very less than Sunni. In Germany, amongst these groups , activities of Wahabi very influential and this is the very disturbing thing for all Shia as well for me .

Question: Are conflicts between Shia groups and Wahabi sects, visible in Germany?

Answer: well, in Germany, there are conflicts between Shia groups and Wahabiism is existed. They are very active and they have a lot of resources in their hand that are transferred to them by some countries, for propagation. Wahabeism is in state of war against Shias by electronic and printed media. Nevertheless, the government of Germany does not allow these conflicts and challenges should spread to certain levels of the country.

Question: How is social status of Shias in this country?

Answer: Well, as I mentioned that the Muslims have not positive status in Germany that is because we should not expect that they should have ideal condition. Although many Iranians are working in different fields of economics and sciences like medical yet as holistic evaluation , the status and condition of Shia community ,in Germany is not ideal because the Muslims are teased in this country and they are not handed over some good profession. In this country, it very hard for a Muslim to find



lawful (Halal) meat and many Muslims women are facing my problems with Islamic covering in the society. Let me present an example about the condition of the women in this society: girls have common class room during their studies and they have their study unite with the name of exercise and they have swimming class together and it is compulsory for them get numbers in this subject. Now look and imagine , how a Muslims girl is confronting with such situation.

Since many years, particularly, before two years, Iran is facing sanctions from America and European countries that under the submission of America , including Germany, are these challenges and sanctions created their effects on the condition of Shias in Germany?

Answer: Definitely, these sanctions were effective on their lives; because Iran is the home of all the shias around all over the world, naturally, all the incidents that create their effects on Iran, surely they will create effects on all the shias of the world. Being a German, and I became Shia; I oppose the political policies of Merkel under the influence of America.

Being Germans, particularly, the shias of German don't like the Germany should be slave of America and Israel. Iran is grand country, with her culture and with her long history of civilization and that have a lot of resources of energies. Germany has need of fuel energies, including oil. If Germany would not be slave and submissive country to America and Israel, she can easily fulfill its need of resources including oil from Iran.

Question: As a last question, what kind of activities and deeds should be done for the in Germany for the sake of acquaintance of the people with thoughts of Islam and Shia school of Thought?

Answer: It very important topic, here I would like to mention two very important points:

First, good books should be translated in German language or the German people who are living in Iran , they should be appreciate for writing about the religion of Islam and about the pure thoughts Shia School of Thought. For the German people, economics is very important, and it's their top priority. The Muslims and Shia research scholars should write about topic of "economics in Islam" and they should hand over these books to the German society.

Second thing is that effective preachers who have good command on German language should make their presence in German society.

Thanks a lot that you have spare your time of the readers of "Zamana" we pray for your success as well pray for all those are striving for the preaching and spreading of thoughts of pure Islam!