



Separation from Criminals, Prov 1:10-11: Defining Terrorists: Target, Objective, & Motive; Historical Predecessors: Hindu Thugs & Islamic Assassins

8. It is obvious that believers should separate from those who advocate criminal behavior:

Proverbs 1:10 - My son, if sinners [עֲבָדִים chatta': those with criminal lust who are to be avoided. “Intensive form signifies men to whom sin has become a habit, thus vicious, wicked” (Keil & Delitzsch, 60).] entice you [עַבְתָּה pathah: to entice; deceive; persuade, to be gullible; “those susceptible to persuasion” (K&D, 60).], do not consent [הַבָּא 'avah: with the negative: not to consent, not to acquiesce, not to be inclined to submit].

NOTE: Those involved in criminal lust often have various motivations to do so from other lust patterns: some are driven by monetary lust, others materialism lust, and still others by chemical lust. Do not consent to this. Many crimes are committed today by those who are addicted to drugs and must steal to feed their habit.

Once the cash or goods are acquired the group—sometimes those who are members of a gang—will use the money and fence the goods in order to buy drugs. Such people are to be avoided. If the law doesn’t eventually discover them they will meet their own end through the horrible death that soon comes to those addicted to drugs.

Proverbs 1:11 - If they say, “Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood [אֶלְכָב 'arav: with intent to kill], let us ambush the innocent [נֵקִי naqiy: an innocent person; the shed blood of an innocent person] without cause [חַנְמָם chinnam: undeserved, without cause, innocent as having no offense];

NOTE: Those mentioned in verse 10 have a system of setting traps for people who are chosen as targets for the sole reason that they have something the criminals want. These people are completely innocent and are therefore attacked without cause.

This is the same circumstance of children who are captured by pedophiles. The children are innocent and are only chosen to assuage the sadistic and perverted desires of the deranged.

Also note that the innocent is the choice target of terrorists since the murder of innocents promotes the objectives of terrorism:

- **Target**— It is commonly held that the distinctive nature of terrorism lies in its deliberate and specific selection of civilians as targets.
- **Objective**— As the name implies, terrorism is understood as an attempt to provoke fear and intimidation. Hence, terrorist acts are designed and intended to attract wide publicity and cause public shock, outrage, and/or fear.
- **Motive**— The acts are intended to achieve political or religious goals, not for personal gain.

Terrorism is a troublesome issue since there is no “official definition” for the phenomenon. It is not a *criminal* act since its targets are randomly selected civilians, its objective is to destabilize an entire population, and its motive is not for the personal gain of the individuals involved.

Terrorism is not *warfare* either since it is not prosecuted by nation states supporting a uniformed military functioning under a formal chain of command.

Until a problem is named it cannot be solved. Therefore we will seek to do that here:

Terrorism is neither a criminal act nor an act of war. Although its purpose is to cause terror in the target population, terrorism is not its sole objective.



Terror is an excessive state of fear and fear finds its source in the sinful nature and is a reaction to the heinous aftermath of indiscriminate attacks on innocent people.

Those who perpetrate these acts have political, ideological, or religious motives but all have a common tactic: the death or injury of innocent people.

However, the innocence of victims is claimed only by the target population. Their killers contend that the targets are guilty by association since they subscribe to a political opinion, an ideological worldview, or a religious belief that is in opposition to theirs.

There has been an historical precedent for this kind of organized evil:

The New Oxford American Dictionary, s.v.:

thug 1 a violent person. 2 a member of a religious organization of robbers and assassins in India. Devotees of the goddess Kali, the Thugs waylaid and strangled their victims, usually travelers, in a ritually prescribed manner.

Origin: early 19th century: from Hindi *thag* 'swindler, thief,' based on Sanskrit *sthagati* 'he covers or conceals.'

Details on this nineteenth century gang of assassins is provided by:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/print/print/religion/religions/hinduism/features/thugs/>

Origins of the word 'Thug'

The English word *thug*, meaning a violent criminal, comes from the Hindi word *thag* (and originally from the Sanskrit word *sthaga*), meaning a thief or villain.

The original Thugs were bands of roving criminals in India who strangled and robbed travellers. Originally these gangs committed murder following precise religious rites to honour Kali \kä-lë\, the Hindu goddess of destruction.

The crime was known as *Thuggee* \thug' gë\, and although it involved a Hindu goddess, there were Muslim Thugs as well.

In the 19th century Thugs were strangling 40,000 people a year but by then many cases of Thuggee were straightforward robbery with no religious significance.

In *Confessions Of A Thug*, written in 1837, Phillip Meadows described how the members of a band of Thugs specialised in different roles. There were the sothaees who lured travellers; the lughaees, who dug the graves in advance; and the bhuttotes, who killed. The victims were strangled with a scarf called a *roomal*. Although the book is fictional, Meadows based some of it on the evidence of a captured Thug called Ameer Ali \a-mër' a-lë\.

A typical Thug killing was done by joining a group of travellers and entertaining and cooking for them so that the travellers were soon off their guard.

At a pre-arranged signal (the code phrase was *bring the tobacco*) the Thugs would strangle the male travellers and take everything of value. The Thugs kept the valuables themselves and dedicated the corpses to Kali.

Although Thugs never attacked English travellers the British government of India decided to eliminate them, and over 3000 Thugs were captured by William Sleeman during the 1830s. 483 Thugs gave evidence against the rest, 412 were hanged and the rest imprisoned or rehabilitated.

Sleeman is still commemorated in the name of the Indian village of Sleemanabad (where it is said that his picture still hangs in the police station).

The Indian population had suffered greatly from Thug activities and supported the British action against the cult

The Thug cult was extinct by 1890, but the concept of 'criminal tribes' and 'criminal castes' is still in use in India.



Thuggee sometimes turns up in adventure books and films – you'll find it in *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and in "Gunga Din" – and it's elegantly described in this passage from Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days*:

"The travellers crossed, beyond Milligam, the fatal country so often stained with blood by the sectaries of the goddess Kali... It was thereabouts that Feringhea, the Thuggee chief, king of the stranglers, held his sway.

"These ruffians, united by a secret bond, strangled victims of every age in honour of the goddess Death, without ever shedding blood; there was a period when this part of the country could scarcely be travelled over without corpses being found in every direction.

"The English Government has succeeded in greatly diminishing these murders, though the Thugees still exist, and pursue the exercise of their horrible rites."

The term "assassin" also has a history that goes back to the early days of Islam when even then the different sects of this satanic counterfeit religion were engaged in disputes over the successor of the caliphate \kā'la-fāt\, the office of the caliph, the successor of Muhammad.

Out from this leadership dispute emerged a band that became known as The Assassins and an early example of modern terrorism. They were from the Ismaili \is-mä-ē' lē\ branch of Muslims known as the Nizari \ni-zä' rī\ who believed that Ismail \is-mä' ēl\, the son of the sixth Shiite imam, should have become the seventh caliph. The rest of Shiite Islam disagreed therefore tempers flared. First a definition:

The New Oxford American Dictionary, s.v.:

Assassin. HISTORICAL: a member of the Nizari branch of Ismaili Muslims at the time of the Crusades, when the newly established sect ruled part of northern Persia (1094-1256). They were renowned as militant fanatics, and were popularly reputed to use hashish before going on murder missions. ORIGIN, from Arabic *hashishi*: "hashish eater."

Details about this group which were actually known as The Assassins are the subject of the following article from the History Channel's Web site:
<http://www.thehistorychannel.co.uk/site/search/search.php?word=assassin>

ASSASSIN

European name for the member of a secret order of the Ismaili sect of Islam. They are known as Nizaris after Nizar ibn al-Mustansir \ni-zä' al-mus-tän' sir\, whom they supported as caliph. The members of the order were distinguished by their blind obedience to their spiritual leader and by their use of murder to eliminate foes.

The order was founded by Hasan ibn al-Sabbah \ka-san' a-shab-bä\ when he gained control (c.1090) of the mountain fortress of Alamut \ä-lä-müt\, located south of the Caspian Sea. The order spread over Persia and Syria, gaining control of many strongholds, and it soon inspired terror throughout the Muslim world. Members were organized into strict classes, according to degree of initiation into the secrets of the order. The most important of the classes were the devotees, who sought martyrdom and were the instruments of assassination.

Hasan and the grand masters who ruled the order after him wielded great political power until the coming of the Mongols. Hulegu Khan \hü-lä' gü käñ\ attacked and destroyed (1256) their fortresses and massacred most of the Persian branch of the sect. The Syrian branch, with which the Crusaders came in contact, suffered a similar fate at the hands of Baybars \bä' bars\, the Mamluk \mam' lük\ sultan of Egypt. Only scattered groups of the order survived; they are said to persist today, particularly in North Syria. Tales of the Crusaders and the writings of Marco Polo brought the Assassins and (Nizar ibn al-Mustansir) into European folklore. The term assassin came into English and is used today to mean murderer, particularly one who kills for political motives.

