

Coming in May 2003

VOICES

ACROSS BOUNDARIES

a multifaith magazine



Killing for Our Beliefs

Charles Taylor ♦ *Thupten Jinpa*
Arvind Sharma ♦ *Mary Malone*
Seyyed Hossein Nasr ♦ *Leonard Levin*
and others

Volume 1 #1 – Spring 2003

Introducing...

a new Canadian multifaith magazine treating public events from a perspective of faith and matters of faith in an accessible way.

In each issue of *Voices*, people representing a variety of faith stances share their insights into social, cultural, ethical and spiritual questions. *Voices* publishes essays, commentary, reviews, art, fiction, poetry, photography and creative nonfiction. The magazine will appear three times in 2003, and bi-monthly starting in 2004.

INAUGURAL ISSUE, SPRING 2003

“Killing for our Beliefs”

How was Gandhi's idea of non-violence inspired by Hindu teachings — and how did those same teachings inspire his assassin? Why did Buddhist monks committed to pacifism take up arms when Chinese troops invaded Tibet? What do Muslims mean by *jihad*? What is “killology” and how does it help us understand why people kill? The inaugural issue of *Voices* explores these and many other questions.

UPCOMING ISSUES, FALL & WINTER 2003

Voices' second issue (Fall 2003) will take a look at “Sex Selection: From Infanticide to Biotechnology,” and our third issue (Winter 2003) will examine the way in which different faiths and cultures conceive of community.

VOICES

ACROSS BOUNDARIES

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Letters
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Intersections
Religious calendar

THEME SECTION

Sacred Killing

The sources of violence

Does Hinduism Teach Peace?

The story of Gandhi and his assassin

Islam and the World

Interview with Seyyed Hossein Nasr

Cosmic Showdown

*The road to violence in the
Christian traditon*

The Buddhist Monks' Dilemma

Resisting Chinese oppression in Tibet

Have You Only One Blessing?

The struggle against religious chauvinism

Culpable Nonviolence

The moral ambiguity of pacifism

We Hold These Truths to be

Self-Evident

Col. Dave Grossman and “killology”

KILLING FOR OUR BELIEFS

Charles Taylor

Arvind Sharma

Wanda Romer Taylor

Mary Malone

Thupten Jinpa

Leonard Levin

Ernie Regehr

Louisa Blair

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The intertwining of sacred and secular

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Holy War, Holy Peace

book by Marc Gopin

Amen

film by Costa-Gavras

Aftermath

book by Susan J. Brison

Robert Fisk

John Cornwell

Judy MacDonald

A taste of what you will find in this issue:

“Sovereignty based on popular will introduces the dilemma of how to deal with minority groups that are no longer subordinate and can challenge the legitimacy of the majority political identity. This is why the twentieth century, the age of democracy, was also the heyday of ethnic cleansing.”

— Charles Taylor in *“Sacred Killing”*

“[Unlike traditionalism,] fundamentalism is the flip side of the modernist coin. In its current forms it could not exist without modernism, both adopting modernist technology and rejecting modernist culture. And the fundamentalists appeal is strong in the Muslim world because the threat to Muslim identity has been so great since World War II.”

— Seyyed Hossein Nasr in *“Islam and the World,”*
an exclusive interview with *Voices Across Boundaries*

“It became increasingly important for me to have some understanding of how monks like Gen Tagya — who clearly knew well the Vinaya precepts by which members of the Buddhist monastic order live their lives — had reconciled, at least in their hearts, the challenges posed by the dictates of their ethical teachings on the one hand and the need to protect their fellow Tibetans and their faith against a brutal occupying army on the other.”

— Thupten Jinpa in *“The Buddhist Monks’ Dilemma”*

“One should not imagine that the contrast between violence and nonviolence is one between shedding blood in one situation and not shedding blood in the other. Blood, it seems, can get shed in both types of struggle....Any attempt to disturb the status quo will be met with resistance, any attempt to overcome that resistance will lead to struggle and any such prolonged struggle will most likely lead to bloodshed and loss of life. So the great question is not whether blood will be shed or not — the question is *whose blood* is going to be shed.”

— Arvind Sharma in *“Does Hinduism Teach Peace?”*

“‘We are safer than we have been in decades,’ said [Lt.-Col. Dave] Grossman. ‘No planeload of people will ever allow themselves to be used as a weapon again. They are willing to fight. Next time they’ll all be hopping up and down on the guy’s crunchy little body.’ Grossman is the man to teach them what to do, and how to survive the psychiatric consequences. Because the problem is that most of us don’t really like killing people.”

— Louisa Blair in *“We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident”*

“All the great religions, in the fullness of time and understanding, come to develop from within their own resources of spiritual strength, a medicine for their own illness, a religious cure for their own chauvinistic tendencies. History teaches us that all religions have undergone this process to some extent, and that nobody is perfectly good or hopelessly incurable.”

— Leonard Levin in *“Have You Only One Blessing?”*

“This brings us full circle to whether an exclusively secular humanism can sustain civic cultures with meaningful ethical commitments. The evidence is unpromising, judging not only by the state of public life in the world’s most advanced democracies but also by the sheer scale of ‘secular’ ravages in the past century, from the Nazi Holocaust and Soviet totalitarianism to Vietnam, Pol Pot’s Cambodia and Rwanda-Burundi.”

— Aryn Sajoo in *“Freedom from Secular Fetters”*

ACROSS BOUNDARIES MULTIFAITH INSTITUTE

is a new Canadian educational organization providing a venue in which people from diverse traditions and beliefs can begin to communicate with one another, in a context of growing mutual understanding and sympathy.

As well as *Voices Across Boundaries*, the activities of ACROSS BOUNDARIES MULTIFAITH INSTITUTE include:

- ◆ sponsoring regular lectures, seminars, mini-courses and research
- ◆ developing study materials
- ◆ organizing multifaith conferences and summer retreats
- ◆ publishing *Vox Feminarum*, a twice-yearly magazine focusing on feminist spirituality
- ◆ maintaining a website

“I am encouraged by the establishment of a new multifaith institute in Canada called Across Boundaries...I believe we should take every opportunity to create harmony wherever we can and that Across Boundaries can make a significant contribution in this direction.”

— His Holiness the Dalai Lama

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