

No Joke

A rude Danish cartoonist depicted the prophet Mohammad, peace and blessings be upon him, with a bomb in his turban, and, yea, a faithful servant of Allah took up his axe and went and had a heaven-sent word with the scoffing scribbler.

The scurrilous French weekly Charlie Hebdo lampooned Mohammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and, lo, it came to pass that the magazine's offices were miraculously destroyed by heaven-sent fire.

The message is clear: Don't mess with Mohammad, peace and blessings be upon him. Do not parody the Prophet, do not mock the Messenger of God, do not satirise the Seal of the Prophets. Do not insult even one whisker of his beard. No jokes, see?

Or else.

To be fair I've never come across a religion with a sense of humour, although Buddhism comes close with one hand clapping.

I googled "Mohammad, peace and blessings be upon him, tells a joke", and found a friendly Islamic site that gave me the Prophet's take on humour: I tell jokes, but never excessively tell jokes and never say what is not right. Which is perfect for a prophet but not ideal for comics.

When comedians fail to make an audience laugh we say, They bombed. When some of the faithful fail to laugh we say, The comic will be bombed.

Peace and blessings.