Rector of Great Mosque of Paris calls for "political Islam" to be abandoned

By Mick Krever, CNN

Islam must be a religion, not a political agenda, the rector of the Great Mosque of Paris told CNN in an interview on Monday, calling for reforms in the training of imams.

"Today we want to appeal for a change in religious thinking in Islam. Now, we don't have to abandon political Islam, a religion which doesn't ask anyone to kill anyone, nor to carry out anti-Semitic acts, or anything means for the country," the rector, Mohammed Bouhlel, told CNN. "Especially in France and French Moslems are trying to grasp with what Islam means for the country."

Last week, a terror attack by gunmen shouting "Allahu Akbar" left 17 people dead at Charlie Hebdo magazine and a kosher supermarket.

"Islam is a religion of peace, a religion of tolerance, a religion which people can live together in which people can be brought up in accordance with the ethics and morals of democracy and I should be an example of humanism," Bouhlel said.

While the Charlie Hebdo cartoon "did shock a number of Moslems," Bouhlel said, "these disagreements must be solved through the justice system.

"They were children, young people who were abandoned, who were in prison, they had dominant religious leaders, in prison, they committed terrorist acts in France," Bouhlel said, "in order to be brought into the political form of Islam."

"We want to reform the training of imams, we don't want to allow these imams just to be trained anywhere or in Afghanistan, spreading fundamentalism," Bouhlel said.

(Quotes translated from Arabic; CNN.com)
2. 請以英文詳細說明此段文字的內容（25%）

理性的公共討論的基礎之一便是「對等性/相互性」（reciprocity）概念，它的真實意思不是「以己之心度人之心」，而是在一定程度上「站在他人立場上看問題」。如果有人一味指責伊斯蘭宗教信仰過於極端，難以與言論自由的西方社會相容的話，那就其本質還是前者，即一種「我能接受自己的神被痛批諷刺，你也無法理智地接受你的神被同樣諷刺」的看法。當下的輿論傾向把宗教信仰放在了一旁，只談如何去捍衛言論自由，這顯然大大錯失了這種想法。繼續堅持言論自由，證明言論自由沒有被幸せ，意味著西方主流社會還需要下一個《查理週刊》，還需要繼續諷刺伊斯蘭宗教信仰。這種姿態，仍然是關鍵相互理解和尊重的大門，並未旨在防止悲劇的重演。

在已遍佈世俗化的東西方社會，穆斯林都是相對特殊的群體，真正的「對等性」要求我們去探知並理解對方的心理承受能力，而非將我們的心理底線強迫他們也接受。在現代社會，宗教信仰終歸是個人的事。法國穆斯林對《查理週刊》不滿的背後，也並非希望顛覆法蘭西政教分離的社會根基，而僅僅是希望自己的宗教信仰得到尊重，或許，穆斯林群體的心理底線與其他群體有所不同，但既然同處一個社會中，我們就應該相互包容和理解，去尊重不同人的不同底線。在「對等性」的基礎上實現差別對待，這才是真正的一視同仁。我們不應忘記的是，言論自由的初衷就是為了尊重差異，避免醞釀極端悲劇。

（擷取自 BBC 中文網 特稿：為言論自由吶喊無助於避免悲劇 網址：http://www.bbc.co.uk/zhongwen/trad/world/2015/01/150112_muslim_freespeech）

3. Please write a short essay on the following paragraph in English. What is the author's argument? Do you agree with the author's argument? Why?（50%）

“Revolutions against homosexuals is ancient, deep and, in its way, sincere, even if some of the politicians leading the backlash do so for cynical reasons…. Nonetheless, there are reasons for optimism, at least in the long term. Urbanisation helps. It is easier to find a niche in a big, anonymous city than in a village where everyone knows your business. Gay life in the Indian countryside is still awful; in Mumbai or Delhi it is much easier, despite being illegal. In rural South Africa, to be openly gay is to court death; yet half of South Africans now say that their neighbourhood is a good place to be gay. As people move to cities, old traditions lose their grip; and by 2050 mankind is expected to be 66% urban, up from 54% today.” (cited from The Economist, October 11th, 2014)