

nervous in here because I have watched in a lot of places how one man's religion which may look nonsensical to the other person, they have some particular element that when you destroy it you destroy that individual and you create more strife than somewhat and I guess we have all lived through a pretty classical example of how little incidents can trigger into pretty big things. The famous Reverend Sileven incident and the whole thing of certification, of course, is one element. Now whether you believe Reverend Sileven is the craziest maniac that was ever allowed loose or whether you believe he is a saint sent here by God to lead his people into the promised land, the point is a lot of people have been affected by that and it hasn't solved any particular problem the way we have gone at it. I want to just tell you a brief story, my first real experience with differing religious beliefs. I was about a seventeen, sixteen year old kid wondering around the world by myself, ended up in a place called Iran out in the very, very wild boonies where everybody was a Moslem and a very strict Moslem, Shiites, and was starting the month of Ramadan, and I had a friend there who agreed as how if I would put on proper clothing and go with him I could watch the parade. Well, I went with him, wore my head cover, and I watched the people go down the street, hundreds, thousands. They had dung, that is cow manure in their hair and on their bodies and they were carrying chains and whipping themselves on the back until their backs were raw, and the gentleman explained to me that from sunset to sunrise they didn't let any food or water pass their lips. Well, I was watching and seeing people with minds that I thought had to be at least as sensible as the other average person in the world literally whipping themselves raw on their backs, and as I say, putting cow manure on their face and head, and I said, you know, these have got to be the craziest loonies I ever saw in my life calling this religion. Well, he turned to me, he said, you think so, huh? And I said, yeah, this is just plumb bonkers. Well, he says, kind of offended, he says to me, he says, well, what religion are you, and I said, well, I am a Catholic, and, of course, then I was a very strict Catholic. You know you went to Hell if you ate meat on Friday and all that stuff. And he says, well, you do the same thing in your Catholic religion. I said, we do not, there ain't nobody this crazy in that religion. And he says, yeah, you do the identical thing only you don't do it very seriously. He says, don't you have something called the Ash Wednesday? I say, well, yeah. He says, what is that? I says, well, we rub ashes on your forehead. And he say, why? I said, well, to symbolize that dust you are and into dust you are going to return. He says, well, they are doing the same