

## **Transcript of Dr Zakir Naik's response to Mohamed Nazim**

Location: Maafaanu stadium, Male', 10:30 pm Friday 28 May 2010

**Nazim:** Dr Zakir Naik. I am a Maldivian. I'm still struggling to believe in religion. That's why I came to the front of this row. ...um... I was born a Maldivian, my parents taught me the religion Islam, they are good practitioners actually...um... I've read a lot of books, I have read the translation of Quruan, Yet I still don't believe in a religion, so what do you say as my verdict in Islam because Maldives is definitely a Muslim state.

**Moderator:** Can you ask the question again?

**Nazim:** My question is I'm a Maldivian. I don't believe in religion. What do you think my verdict would be since Maldives is 100 percent Muslim as many claim but I don't believe so.

**Naik:** (asking to keep his microphone on at all times) The brother poses a question. He's a Maldivian born to a religious family who are Muslims. He read ... he read books on Islam. He read the Quruan but doesn't believe in religion. What is his status? So you have to go and ask the government... because the government tells me 100 percent Muslims, now you say one non-Muslim is there... If you don't believe in religion... You don't believe in religion or you don't believe in Islam? (problem with Nazim's microphone) He doesn't believe in Islam. That means you are a non-Muslim. (problem with Nazim's microphone)

**Naik:** You are not a Muslim?

**Nazim:** I am not.

**Naik:** So then you have to go and ask the Maldivian government... I'm not a Muslim, what should we do... I don't know whether they will take away your nationality or not. I don't know.

**Nazim:** I want to know your opinion on apostasy. Does that come on me or do you think that I was a Muslim because I was born to Muslim parents and because the Maldives is a 100 percent Muslim state... sorry, I don't want to say a 100% a Muslim state.

**Naik:** 100% minus one.

**Nazim:** Whatever.

**Naik:** (smiling and looking around) He poses a question. What is the status in Islam on Apostasy, since I am born as a Muslim. See in the Quran, our Prophet Mohamed says that every child is born as a Muslim. Muslim means a person who submits his will to God...person who submits his will to God. He is called a Muslim. Later on he's influenced by his teacher, by his parents and then he may deviate to idol worship to fire

worship therefore when a person or non-Muslim becomes a Muslim the more appropriate work is revert rather than convert. As far in Islam about apostasy that you're talking about death penalty?.. Are you talking about death penalty?

**Nazim:** Verdict for apostasy is...

**Naik:** What is verdict for apostasy? Now I'm asking you what is your knowledge, your verdict on apostasy, you've read books on Islam.

**Nazim:** As far as I know it's death.

**Naik:** So why don't you go and say that (laughs)... The problem is your knowledge in Islam is weak. What you have done brother... you have done wrong books on Islam. Now because you have read wrong books on Islam therefore you have deviated from Islam. So my request to you is read correct books on Islam... Inshallah, you'll come back to Islam. So my request for you is (audience clapping) you may be saying your parents are (audience clapping)... So what you are doing is you're rejecting the wrong Islam. And even I reject wrong Islam so you've read wrong book... maybe western books maybe books on Islam which are criticizing Islam and you got so much influenced, you say your parents are religious maybe they... I don't know (spread out his hands in front of him)... But if you have been influenced by the wrong practice of Islam that's the reason why you are rejecting the wrong Islam. What I want you to tell me in this talk of mine, I will come to your answer about apostasy, I will come to it. I'm not running away from the answer. I'm asking you in this talk of mine what did you find what was illogical.

**Nazim:** How about trying to convince a robber that there is life after?

**Naik:** Yes? What happen? What... right or wrong?

**Nazim:** I don't think you can convince him.

**Naik:** You tell me one thing. Why robbing is bad. You did... can you telling a reason without life after death? Can you prove to a robber who is intelligent and whose logical and say why it is bad for him? He is not talking bad for others. He's saying prove to you. You should prove to him why it is bad for me if I'm a robber. Without life after death you cannot prove at all... give me one reason?

**Nazim:** I don't know. You have not been able to convince me so far.

**Naik:** Not convinced me? You convince me... it is wrong.

**Nazim:** er... I'm not claiming anything here.

**Naik:** I'm telling I'm a robber. I'm intelligent.. According to you robbing is good or bad?

**Nazim:** I'm sorry we are going into debate... er.. I don't think we need this.

**Naik:** (starts saying something)

**Nazim:** Please answer my question.

**Naik:** (fingers pointed at Nazim) Is robbing good or bad according to you?

**Nazim:** Bad.

**Naik:** So you say it is bad without reason that means you are an illogical person.

**Nazim:** (starts saying something)

**Naik:** You say you cannot, I don't think you have convinced me. That means you are saying things which you have to convince anymore... things which are not logical. So if I give an answer, wait, I'm gonna give answer, again you say I'm not convinced? (shaking his head) What am I gonna do? If a person doesn't know maths, I'm saying  $2+2=4$ , I'm not convinced then what am I gonna do? (audience laughs... Nazim tries to say something) So the problem is, the problem is you have to be educated from starting from the scratch. Time does not permit in Question and Answer time to educate you from the scratch.

**Nazim:** (starts to say something)

**Naik:** You may have...

**Nazim:** Can I ask... Can I ask you one specific question?

**Naik:** No! You cannot.

**Nazim:** Fine...

**Naik:** You have to go behind the queue.

**Nazim:** Sure.

**Naik:** And wait for your time, Fine. After it answer your question on apostasy, apostasy and apostraphy (apostasy)... (audience screaming in the background)

**Naik:** As far as apostasy is a person who is a Muslim. In Islam, there are many cases, it doesn't mean death penalty... It's not death penalty... there are cases in which Sahabas when the Prophet told that this person who was a Muslim became a non-Muslim... kill him... So one of the Sahabas says he's my relative let him go and the Prophet agreed. So

it's... compulsory death penalty is not there. But if the person who reverts who was a Muslim then converts to and becomes a non-Muslim and propagate his faith and speaks against Islam and if it's Islamic rule then the person should be put to death but just because a person whose a Muslim becomes a non-Muslim death penalty is not the ruling.

But if a person in an Islamic state of law which follows Quran and Sunnah, follows Quran... errr Constitution should be Quran... not Muslim state... Islamic state... there's a difference between a Muslim state and an Islamic state. Muslim state means majority are Muslims. Islamic state means people follow Islam. So Maldives is a Muslim state not an Islamic state. You know that? is a Muslim country, is a Muslim country. If you were an Islamic country then would have been questioned. You have freedom of expression. But freedom of expression... is limited... as I told you I don't know of any country in the world which is 100% Islamic... I know countries which are 100% Muslim but not 100% Islamic. So in Islam if a person, a Muslim becomes a non-Muslim it is not death penalty...

(interruption in the tape)

**Naik:** Who was the translator in English?

**Nazim:** Pickthal

**Naik:** Pickthal. I request you to read Abdullah Yousuf Ali.

**Nazim:** I read some of that as well.

**Naik:** Have you read no read full, full translation along with commentary and I want you to tell me what part of the Quran did you not agree with.

**Nazim:** First of all I have to find reason to read the Quran to believe in a religion first.

**Naik:** Oh, first you have to find a reason to believe and then you will read?

**Nazim:** (tried to say something) I have to study all the religion and find out which is best for me?

**Naik:** That's right (smiling) But the thing is that means if you want to eat food you want to taste all the food and then you will say which is the best food you will have?

**Nazim:** Ya

(audience clapping)

**Nazim:** (tries to say something)

**Naik:** (finger pointed at Nazim) Do you eat food daily? Do you eat food daily?

**Nazim:** More than once

**Naik:** Yes... Have you tasted all the food in the world?

**Nazim:** No.

**Naik:** That mean you are illogical person... so what you are talking about logic... (audience clapping hands) I want to see all the religion and good... there is no problem in that... you, you are eating food... the problem with you brother is that, that you are extra smart. (audience clapping hands, Naik scratching his beard). Being extra smart is not good... so that means you are changing your logic if you have a particular fixed principles it should always be the same. Why do you change your principles? For food you are changing your principles. For religion why are you changing? So you say you require a reason to read... did you go to school? Did you go to school?

**Nazim:** Do you need to ask?

**Naik:** I'm asking you, I don't know you. I'm meeting you first time.

**Nazim:** But you are not allowing me to ask questions.

**Naik:** No because you are allowed to ask one question... I'm giving you the answer to your question. While giving the answer, I can ask a question.

**Nazim:** Alright, yes, I did go to school.

**Naik:** So did you have a reason to read all the books. So when you went to school you ask the teacher.. ok, I have a reason to this book? Quran.. when you go to the doctor, when he give you the medicine do you ask all the details... what is this medicine? Why are you giving me this teramycine? Why this? Doctor will say get out from here! ( audience clapping) I'm a doctor... if a patient ask me so many questions.. little questions... he will say ok you are extra smart you think you are a doctor? You go and treat yourself! Quran says (...) Surah Nahl Chapter 16, Verse 43, Surah Ambiya Chapter 21, Verse 7, if you don't know, ask the expert. When you go to school what the teacher said, you agreed with the teacher, certain time you can ask a question, you can't say first you prove to me, then I will read the book? That means your basic education is wrong... I think you have to go back to school! (audience clapping) Go to a good school, go to an Islamic International School which will have the basics strong, then.. Inshallah... you will believe that according to the Quran Surat Imran Chapter 3, Verse 19, (...) The only acceptable religion in the sight of Allah is Islam. And if you see Peace TV, I have debate with Christian missionaries and Hindhus... they are experts. Now, when you see two experts talking you can know which is better. You don't have to taste. Do you mean to say I want to taste poison and then if I die I won't have it? (audience clapping). Some

people... some people... some people learn from their mistakes. Some people learn from people mistakes. So if you can keep on saying in a jungle there are food some are poisonous some are not poisonous...you start tasting... you ask an expert which is poisonous, which is not poisonous. So the Peace TV you can see debates going on export on Hinduism is talking to me, export in Christianity is talking to me, you want to become an expert you will take years, so when the experts are talking you yourself can decide which is more logical, which is more worth following. I have had discussion with doctors and engineers and philosophers, top people in the world, not layman not layman these people have got degrees, Phd's, doctors of divinities, MD and then if a logical person sees that that's the reason, Alhamdhulillahi there are thousands of people who have watch Peace TV who are non-Muslims and they gave the Shahadhaa after watching Peace TV. Hope that answers the question.

**Nazim:** No.