

Daily News Thursday December 7 2000

## **Simjee is too judgmental**

Sayed-Iqbal Mohamed

A SIMJEE is judgmental in condemning B Pillay to hell (Muslims will rule the world again, November 27 2000).

The Qur'an and the teachings and exemplary life of Prophet Muhammad and that of all Divine messengers before him (God's peace and blessings on them all) taught us that judgment is God's prerogative.

Perhaps Simjee is unaware of a famous parable of Prophet Muhammad (God's peace and blessings upon him), that of a prostitute and a pious women. A prostitute was granted paradise because of an act of kindness, by securing water for a thirsty dog.

A pious woman on the other hand, who prayed five times daily, went to hell because of her ill-treatment of a cat.

It would be difficult for Pillay to concede that Islam is pure and true when certain Muslims' speech and action betray fundamental principles of Islam, one of which is not to dehumanise any person or denigrate his or her belief. Muslims are not paragons of virtue and while there are Muslims who are God-conscious (pious), the Qur'an also reminds us, for example, that among Jews and Christians, there are those who are pious.

There are several references in the Qur'an to every soul being rewarded for the good it does and facing the consequences of any wrongful action.

The famous poet-philosopher and religious scholar, Sir Muhammad Iqbal, said that by our own action we give direction to our lives, creating heaven or hell.