THE LETTERS OF DR UMAR AZAM: LETTER NO. L1862

To: *lisa.friend@dailymail.co.uk*

Dated: 29 November 2001

Dear Editor,

Thanks you very much for your very satisfactory reply. I shall be buying THE DAILY MAIL myself, and will recommend your newspaper to other members of the Muslim Community.

Regards,

Dr Umar Azam BA PhD DCL Dip.FJ Dip.IM (AUTOR)

Dear Dr Azam

Thank you for contacting us about article on Islam and the headline and picture which accompanied it.

The Daily Mail has respect for anyone?s genuinely held religious beliefs (as opposed to fanatical or bigoted prejudices), Christian, moslem, Jewish and so on, all on a level playing field.

The Mail now understands how both the headline and the use of the picture upset and offended its Moslem readers and we offer them our apologies. Indeed you may well have seen that we printed such an apology and also a letter from the Secretary General of the Moslem Council of Britain explaining the reasons for the reactions of the Moslem community.

I am glad to say that the Moslem Council of Britain has accepted our explanation and our apology.

The mistakes on our pages were human errors made by sub-editors (not the author of the article) who were ignorant of how they would be regarded among the Moslem Community. The Christian tradition is very different and a picture of Jesus us regarded as a compliment and greatly welcomed.

Everyone at the Mail now fully understands why this caused such ill-feeling and we will all work to make sure it never happens again.

The mail, while maintaining its own firmly held family values, will try to continue its policy of appealing right across the whole of our multi-cultural society.

Yours sincerely

Robin Esser

Executive Managing Editor