

## **Obama Imparts His Wisdom On India**

On November 6 the smartest man in the world addressed a group of students at St. Xavier's College in Mumbai, India, where he took questions. One year earlier, Muslims murdered 166 innocent citizens in terrorist attacks in that country. India's neighbor and long-time foe, Pakistan, has nuclear weapons and has an unstable government that might someday be taken over by radical Muslims. Perhaps not surprisingly, therefore, the first question asked of Obama was, "What is your take, or opinion on jihad?"

Obama responds, "Well, you know, uh, the phrase jihad has a lot of meanings in Islam, um, and is subject to a lot of different interpretations. But I will say that, first, Islam is one of the world's great religions, and, uh, more than a billion people who practice Islam, the overwhelming majority, view their obligations to their religion as, as ones that reaffirm peace, and justice, and fairness, and tolerance. I think all of us recognize that... this... great religion... in the hands of a few extremists, has been distorted to justify violence towards innocent people that is never justified, uh, and, so I think one of the challenges that we face, is... how do we... uh, isolate those who have these distorted notions, uh, of religious wars... and... reaffirm those who see faiths of all sorts, whether you are a Hindu or a Muslim or a Christian or a Jew or any other religion or you don't practice religion... that... we can all treat each other with respect and mutual dignity and some of the universal principles that Gandhi referred to, uh, that those are what we're living up to, uh, as we, uh, live in a nation, uh, or nations, that have very diverse religious beliefs, uh, and... and that's a major challenge, it's a major challenge here in India but it's a challenge obviously, uh, around the world, and young people like yourselves can make a hug impact, uh, in... in... in reaffirming that you can be a... a strong observer of your faith without putting somebody else down or visiting violence on somebody else. Uh, I think a lot of these ideas form very early and how you respond to each other, uh, is gonna be uh, probably as important as any speech that a president makes, uh, in encouraging the kinds of religious tolerance that I think is so necessary in a world that's getting smaller and smaller, uh, where more and more people of different backgrounds, different races, different ethnicities are interacting and working and learning from each other, and those circumstances, uh, you know, I... I think all of us have to fundamentally reject the notion that violence is a way to mediate the, uh, our differences. Okay?"

It can be assumed that few Indians slept better because of Obama's answer.

One can only imagine how Obama might have reacted had he been in office when rupturing gas tanks were in the news:

Question: "What is your take, or opinion on exploding gas tanks on Ford Pintos?"

Obama: "Well, uh, we have to understand that transportation is a very important part of our lives, uh, uh, and some of us, you know, prefer to walk, while others ride bicycles, and still others use motorcycles. And we should all respect the right of others around the world, uh, to, uh, choose their own, uh mode of transportation. And all modes of

transportation must be respected, including automobiles, and mass transit, and bicycles, and walking, and jogging, and, for you young people in the audience, even skateboards. And, you know, many of us formed our opinions at a very early age. Some of us grew up in Ford households, or Chevy households, or Dodge households, and even Toyota or Honda households... but, uh, all makes of cars are great and we all need to respect the choices of others. So I think that, uh, nothing I can say as president is as important as respecting the vehicle choices of others, and uh, it goes without saying that all great nations share the value of great automobiles, regardless of the race or religion of the workers who manufacture them. Okay?"

*Don Fredrick*  
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