

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/with-the-god-of-battles-i-can-destroy-all-such-villains/>

In a discussion led by Professor Gonzalez, the context and aims of his study are explored, highlighting his interest in the historical and cultural exchanges between Islam and Christianity, particularly through the lens of the Franciscan priests who were influential in California during the 18th and 19th centuries. He reflects on his personal discovery of genetic ties to the Muslim world, leading him to investigate the deeper cultural connections between Muslims and Christians, especially in Spain.

The professor examines the paradox of the Franciscan priests, who often resorted to violence in their missionary work despite Christianity's teachings on peace and love. He notes that the majority of the priests came from southern Spain, where Islamic influence had been significant due to nearly 800 years of Muslim control over the region. Gonzalez argues that principles like jihad and rabat, which were militarized during the Islamic expansion into Spain, were absorbed and adapted by the Christians.

Moreover, he addresses the religious justifications for military actions taken by Spanish Christians, emphasizing their belief that fighting for God allowed them to atone for sins. The cross-cultural exchanges between Islamic and Spanish ideologies created a context where violence was sometimes rationalized as divine will.

In conclusion, Gonzalez suggests future research should focus on the broader cultural connections between the Islamic world and Latin America, using his findings as a cautionary tale about the dangers of conflating divine sanction with moral righteousness in the context of violence. He advocates for a deeper understanding of how such historical attitudes can inform contemporary issues of faith and conflict.