



The story

# The Story

behind

## Winds of Danger

This is an ongoing story.

One part is about the question: how do you get people to listen?

Another part of the story is about other questions: what is reality? what is real? whose story is closest to reality?

How do I get people to listen?

It often hasn't been easy for me, getting people to listen.

I'm most inclined to give facts and more facts, arguments and more arguments.

Maybe that should get people to see. It rarely does. It's more likely to get people's backs up. That's been my experience, anyway. There I am, piling on the info, and there they are, far behind the ever larger pile of info, as if it were an ever growing pile of debris.

So ... how do you get people to listen?

I want people to listen to ... not the facts, but the confusion I often feel, around the very different stories about what is going on - most recently around Islam, but also about so many things. This time, if some of the stories I'm hearing about Islam are right, there is danger to the values I live with - freedom of expression, freedom of belief, freedom unless it harms someone else.

I'm not giving facts - those facts are all around.

I am trying to convey the feeling.

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Then there are those other questions: what is real? which version of reality is closest to what is actually happening?

I remember the story about Solomon - the one where there were two women, each claiming a baby was theirs. How to decide?

I know that, if I had been in much of the world in the mid 1930's, it would have been hard to convince people that there was a rising danger in Germany. Chamberlain's policy - appeasement, in the belief that this would be enough to pacify Hitler.

Is this a similar situation, at present, that there is a grave danger on the rise, and most people are oblivious?

Or is this different, and that old echo is an echo, not even close to what is happening?

A very important question.

I'm with different people. With some, the danger is imminent. With others, to suggest there could be a danger is to invite outrage. How could I think anything like that? How awful. I must be an Islamophobe.

I have one response. If I cannot explore something without getting outrage, something wrong is happening. Because this isn't a calm and caring response. This is something meant to stop me rather than show me that my fears don't make sense.

Anyway, it's a long story.

Winds of Danger is one part of my response to what I'm seeing around Islam - and especially to the Western response of appeasement, of what I've heard termed "soft censorship." Soft censorship - the silencing of anything that could be deemed to be even potentially offensive to anyone within Islam. It does not have to do with, is this true or not, but could this offend someone.

A quick reference here to the brilliant nineteenth century philosopher, John Stuart Mills - he believed in liberty until harm, not until offense. People, as he well knew, were inclined to be offended by just about everything.

There's a lot more to his thinking.

But for now, back to The Winds of Danger.

This is a tiny part of my ongoing exploration, not just of what's happening in the West at present, but of lifelong questions about what is real.

# Elsa

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a.k.a.

Ezeena,

Rap Diva