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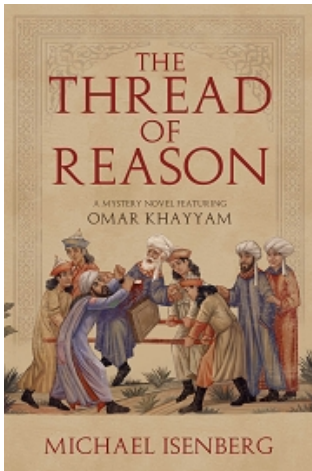
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## New Novel Traces the Roots of Islamic Terror—to the Middle Ages



**March 16, 2018 (Boston, MA)** – When Islamic terror strikes, liberals insist that it has nothing to do with Islam.

Author Michael Isenberg disagrees. His new book, *The Thread of Reason*, shows why. Not only is the ideology of terror deeply rooted in Muslim thought, going back to medieval times, but its sources may be found in the writings of one of the most revered figures in Islam.

Scheduled for release this month, *The Thread of Reason* tells the story of the assassination of Nizam al-Mulk, who ruled the Seljuq Empire, wielding more power than the sultans he served—until the fall night in 1092 when a terrorist’s blade struck him down on the road to Baghdad. Determined to learn who was behind the murder of his chief minister, the sultan turns to the two smartest people he knows: the leading scholar of science, Omar Khayyam, and the leading scholar of shari’ah (Islamic Law), Abu Hamid Ghazali.

“The assassination of Nizam al-Mulk happened in real life,” Isenberg says. “In my fiction book I solve the mystery of who was behind it.

“Khayyam and Ghazali were real people. Khayyam was quite a character. He’s the only figure I came across in my research who played practical jokes. In the west he’s known for a collection of poems he wrote called the Rubaiyat—Sheldon Cooper quoted it on *The*

*Big Bang Theory*. And more than half of the verses were about wine, which, of course is prohibited in Islam. But in the Muslim world he's mainly known for his work in astronomy and mathematics. I know some of my right-of-center friends don't believe me when I say that medieval Muslims made contributions to science, but Khayyam's career shows that they did. I think the real story isn't whether these contributions occurred, but why they stopped.

“And that's where Ghazali came in. He argued that science wasn't useful because it couldn't prove the great truths of the Muslim religion. And people listened. Within a hundred years Muslims mostly gave up writing books about science and literally started burning them. And during the same period, thanks to Ghazali's influence, they also started cracking down on the enforcement of shari'ah and stepping up persecution of Jews and Christians. *The Thread of Reason* is going to be the first in a series of books that shows how this happened, but basically they built exactly the kind of society that today's jihadists are trying to build, with disastrous results.

“The influence of Ghazali on today's jihadists is undeniable. Hasan al-Banna, who started the Muslim Brotherhood, used to read his works at bedtime. And if you look at some of the cruel edicts that ISIS issued, they're almost word for word the same as Ghazali's legal writings. I even found one ISIS propaganda document where they quoted Ghazali. So here's this guy who's a revered figure in Islam—he's been called the greatest Muslim after Muhammad—and he gave the jihadists their blueprint. And that speaks directly to the question of whether the terrorists are Islamic.”

Isenberg brings wide-ranging experience to his fiction, drawn from a checkered career as a Six Sigma Black Belt, weapons merchant, astrophysicist, and manufacturer of cigarette filters. In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, he began to research the Muslim world and found both its achievements and its self-inflicted collapse so fascinating, he had to tell the story.

*The Thread of Reason* is published by Monteferro Press, established in 2012 to serve the untapped market for conservative and libertarian literature. The company strives to publish well-written and entertaining fiction that delivers a powerful message of freedom.

**To obtain a review copy of *The Thread of Reason* or schedule an author interview, please contact Michael Isenberg at [NewsRoom@MonteferroPress.com](mailto:NewsRoom@MonteferroPress.com)**