

COMMUNISM VERSUS THE TEACHINGS
AND PRACTICES OF THE KORAN

[Following is a translation of an article by
T. Saidbayev in the Russian-language periodical
Nauka i Religiya (Science and Religion), Moscow,
No 4, 1966, pages 48-52.]

In the early postwar years, in Andizhan (Uzbek SSR), there appeared a "saint" about whose power a great deal was said. It was said that with a single look, by the touch of his hand, with his prayers, he could save a man from any misfortune, cure him of any illness. Apparently, the "saint's" success was in no small measure assisted by his eccentricity -- he would appear in all populated places only in a half-clothed state, for which reason he received the nickname "yalangach tura" ("the naked saint"). My mother, a believer, also attempted to obtain the help of the "saint" against a misfortune which had overtaken our family in those years. I insisted on accompanying her.

Near the central entrance to the city bazaar, resting against a fence, sat a corpulent man, naked to the waist and all overgrown with hair. His look was fixed upon some point on the ground; not once did his eyes rise to the people who were standing around him. On the ground in front of him was spread out a large silk handkerchief into which money was being thrown. When our turn came, my mother, having reverently walked up to the "saint," threw a rather large sum of money onto the kerchief, and, in a gesture of hope, lifted her hands for prayer. But the "saint" did not begin to pray or to utter the mysterious words which I had been awaiting with unconcealed curiosity. Softly, through his teeth, he uttered: "Be patient! Allah over everything hath power!"

My mother stood near the "saint" for awhile longer, her hands outstretched to him in perplexity, but he didn't say