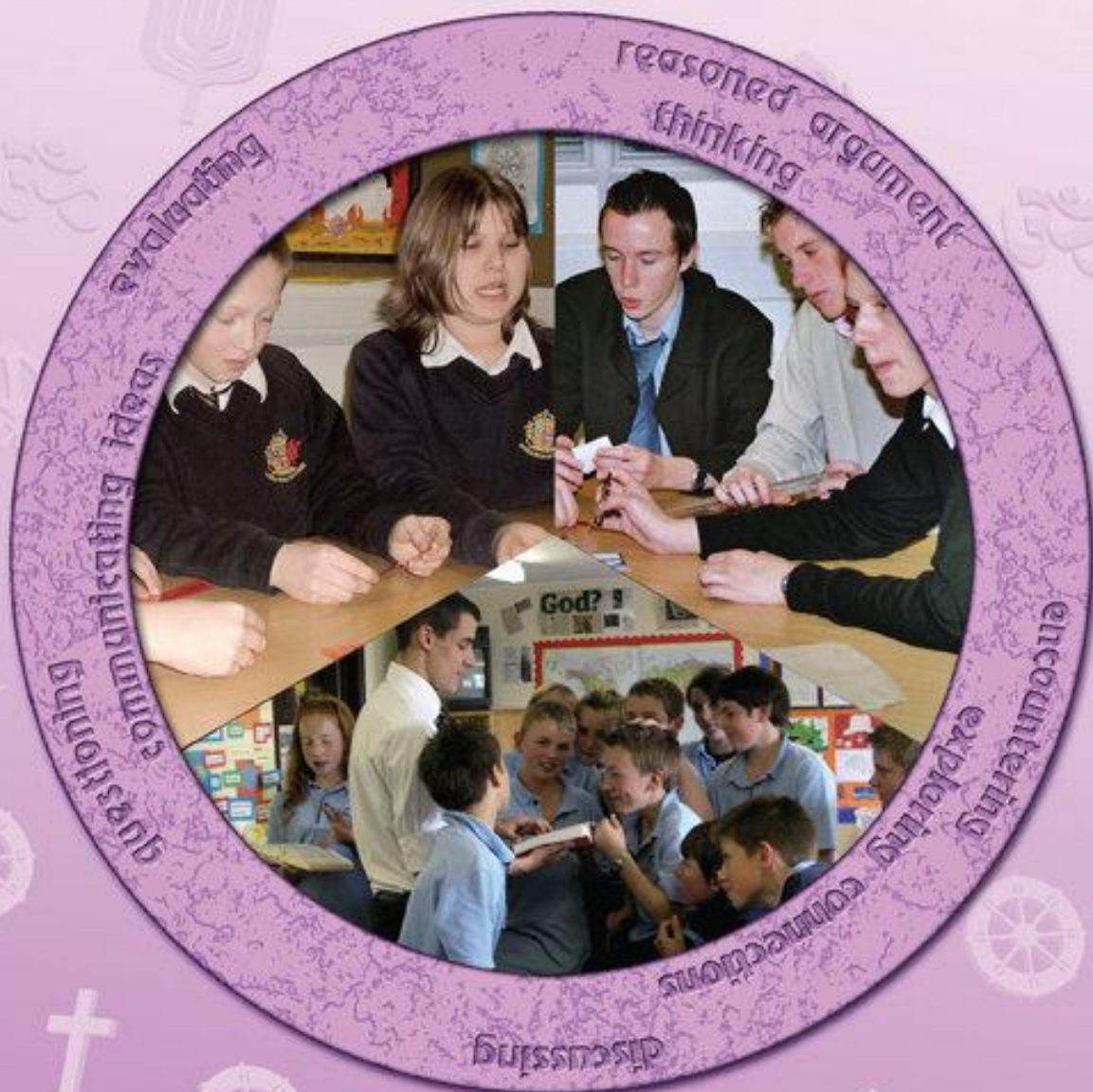


# Thoughtful RE

Edited by Pamela Draycott



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## Case study: in gaol for sending an email

### Shi Tao

Journalist Shi Tao, is serving a 10-year prison sentence in China for sending an email.

#### Background

Before his detention journalist Shi Tao had been working for the Changsha-based magazine *Contemporary Trade News* and had published numerous essays and political commentaries relating to social problems in China.

On 20 April 2004 Shi Tao used his email account to email a US-based website, sharing the details of an internal government directive instructing journalists how to handle media coverage of the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown. He was detained on 24 November 2004, and officially arrested on 14 December 2004.

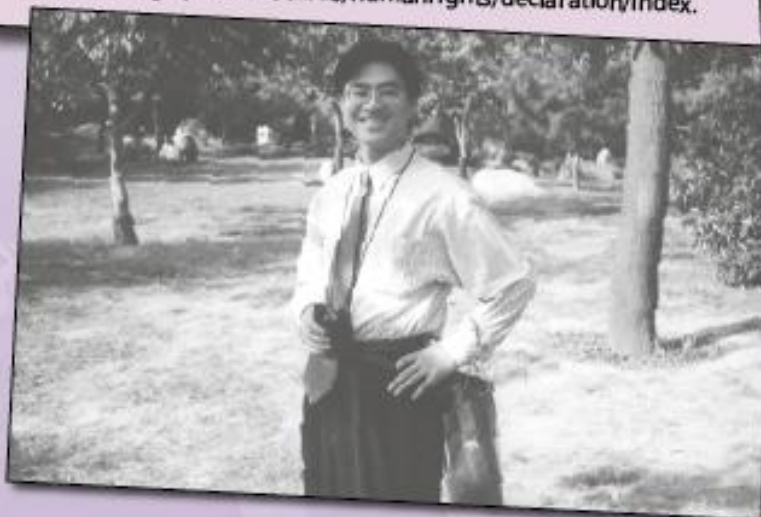
Shi Tao was charged with 'illegally providing state secrets to foreign entities' and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. According to the court transcript, evidence that led to the sentencing of Shi Tao included account-holder information provided by his email provider.

Amnesty International considers Shi Tao a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and for the legitimate exercise of his right to seek, receive and impart information, as guaranteed in international law and the Chinese Constitution.

Amnesty International believes Shi Tao to be one of several targets of a police crackdown in late 2004 and early 2005. During this period, several rights activists and dissidents were reportedly detained or placed under surveillance in their homes. The reasons for these detentions appeared to be to prevent them from engaging in public activities deemed politically sensitive by the authorities in preparation for the 15th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown.

#### Find out more:

- Tiananmen Square: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiananmen\\_Square\\_protests\\_of\\_1989](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiananmen_Square_protests_of_1989)
- Amnesty International: [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights: [www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/declaration/index](http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/declaration/index).



**Activity 1 What language may be found in the Qur'an to describe heaven?**

Read the ayahs of the Qur'an provided by your teacher and highlight in one colour, all the words and phrases used to describe the features of Jannah (paradise or heaven), e.g. gardens of eternity, water flowing constantly.

On your FIRST copy of the table below, record your findings. The first one has been done for you.

**A view of heaven:**

**Activity 1 A Qur'anic view / Activity 2 My view (delete as appropriate)**

**A: Aspects of the natural world**

Reference

55:50

Springs flowing free

**C: Clothing and Jewellery**

Reference

76:21

Pearls well guarded

**B: Food and drink**

Reference

56:32

Fruit in abundance

**D: Human-made luxuries and other features**

Reference

55:76

Green cushions and rich carpets

**Activity 2 What features do I think important?**

In Activity 1, you discovered some of the images that Muslims associate with heaven. Muslims believe that these images can motivate people to obey God's laws and to lead a good life, because they would want to be sent to heaven when they die.

If there is a heaven or another place that you would want to go after you die, what features would you expect to find there? Use a SECOND copy of the table above to list some of the features that you associate with heaven. You might not wish to complete each box.

