

**WHAT IS ISLAM?
ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

WHAT IS ISLAM?



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1 INTRODUCTION

ALL PRAISES BELONG TO ALLAH, AND SALUTATIONS UPON OUR PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PEACE BE UPON HIM).

This booklet aims to provide information to those interested in learning more about Islam, offering a brief understanding of the faith. It is also intended for those who have accepted Islam but are still new to it.

A. For those interested in learning more about Islam:

May you be guided onto the straight path. Understand that this too is a blessing from Allah (God). A slave woman was once praying in the early hours of the morning. As she prayed, her master overheard her saying, “***For the love you have for me, Allah (God).***” Immediately, he reprimanded her and advised her to say, “***For my love for you, Allah (God).***”

Her master meant that, as a sinner, she could not claim Allah’s (God’s) love for her. She responded beautifully, “***Were it not for Allah’s (God’s) love for me, he would not have given me the ability to supplicate to him.***” Understand well that nothing exists, nothing occurs, and nothing transpires without the will of Allah (God).

As a reader of this book, whether you seek to learn more about Islam, pursue academic studies, find fault with the religion, or for any other reason, you are reading this booklet, as ordained by Allah (God) himself. The permission of Allah (God) allows you to access this material, which many others will never have the opportunity to do. This is the truth. Now, you can meditate on its meaning and be guided accordingly.

May Allah (God) bless you, and the writer. Aameen.

B. For those who have accepted Islam:

Welcome to a religion of peace. May we remain on the straight path, the path of guidance, not the path of those who have strayed. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said that one who accepts Islam is cleansed of all their previous sins and is as pure as a newborn baby. Regardless of your past, all that is erased upon your entrance into Islam. How merciful is your Lord?

The book will briefly highlight key aspects of Islam. Many colleagues and people which we are often associated to have enquired of the understanding of what Islam really means, as the media has, through propoganda, distorted the true meaning of Islam and have indoctrinated the minds of the masses in this regard. For this reason, we hope, ALLAH (God) willing, this book will give you a basic understanding of what Islam is about.

2 WHAT IS ISLAM?

The word Islam literally means “**Peace**” and “**Submission**”.

2.1 Peace:

Islam is a religion that promotes peace among Allah’s creation, whether human or not. The greeting between two Muslims, commonly known as “***Assalaamualaikum***,” translates to “***May peace be upon you.***” The media has been instrumental in perpetuating the misconception that Islam is a religion of terrorism. Terms such as “*suicide bombers*” and “*terrorists*” have been used to associate Islam with these acts. However, any person with common sense will recognize that such associations are inaccurate.

One can never be sure of the truthfulness of the media.

The media is frequently criticized for its perceived bias and agenda-driven reporting. This is evident in political coverage as well. For instance, the news reporting that a killer is a Muslim does not necessarily confirm this. It is therefore prudent to critically evaluate the information presented by the media.

More importantly, even if a so-called terrorist is indeed a Muslim, this does not imply that the religion itself propagates towards such behavior. This would be analogous to

suggesting that Hinduism believes in rape because of one Hindu man who committed the act. Or that Christianity promotes adultery because many Christian men are committing adultery. This would be an incredibly foolish argument.

2.2 Submission:

Secondly, Islam means submitting oneself to Allah (God). This entails worshipping Allah (God) alone and understanding that the foundation of one's existence is to be completely devoted to Allah (God) alone. Submitting oneself to Allah (God) also means renouncing that which Allah (God) has prohibited and acting upon that which has been commanded.

3 FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

The Prophet Muhammad (Upon whom be peace) said that Islam rests upon 5 pillars. We shall expound on each pillar herein-below.

3.1 FIRST PILLAR: Faith (Imaan)

Imaan is faith. It is to believe implicitly, without any doubts whatsoever, in the core beliefs of Islam. This entails:

3.1.1. Believing in one Allah (God)

As Muslims, we believe:

- ❖ Allah (God) is ONE.
- ❖ Allah (God) is eternal.
- ❖ Allah (God) was not created, and Allah (God) does not have children.
- ❖ Allah (God) is unique. There is no one like Allah (God).
- ❖ Allah (God) is not human.
- ❖ Allah (God) is most powerful.
- ❖ No person can do without the decree and control of Allah (God).

Unlike Hindus, Christians, and Pagans, Muslims believe that there is only ONE Allah (God), and not more.

Unlike Christians, Muslims believe that Isaa/Jesus (peace be upon him) is NOT Allah (God), but a prophet of Allah (God), just like Ibraheem (Abraham), Nooh (Noah), Musa (Moses) etc.

3.1.2. Believing in the Angels

Just as Christians, Jews and some other faiths, Muslims also believe in Angels. Muslims believe that Angels, unlike humankind, are infallible (perfect and sinless). They worship Allah (God) at all times, and some Angels have also been appointed with specific duties and roles.

There are those Angels, who are in charge of controlling the weather, those who have been appointed to take life (death) and most famously, amongst other faiths such as Christianity and Judaism, is the angel Jibraeel (who is known as Gabriel in English) as the Angel responsible for bringing revelation to the chosen prophets of Allah (God). However, one should note that despite these roles being assigned to them, they cannot fulfill their duties without the command and power of Allah (God).

3.1.3. Believing in the Revealed Books

In Islam, Muslims believe in the ORIGINAL texts revealed to the prophets:

- ❖ The Torah given to Moosa (Moses).
- ❖ The Zaboor (the scripture) given to Dawood (David).
- ❖ The Injeel (Bible) given to Isaa (Jesus).
- ❖ The Quran given to Muhammad (peace be upon him).

As Muslims, we believe in each of the ORIGINAL books. However, we believe that during each prophet's time, that particular book needed to be followed. Now, in this era, this is the period of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and so the Quran, and no other text, must be followed.

Note:

✚ **Jews** believe in Moses (peace be upon him) and the book (Torah) revealed to him, and believe that David was NOT given any book, but that he was, a righteous man instead. They reject Jesus (peace be upon him) and Muhammad (peace be upon him) as being prophets, and claim that they were liars instead. They believe that Jesus (peace be upon him) and Muhammad (peace be upon him) wrote the books they claim were revealed to them, and that it was not revealed by God himself.

✚ **Christians** believe in Jesus (peace be upon him) and the book (Bible) revealed to him. They also believe in Moses (peace be upon him) and the previous prophets but believe that the Bible is now the current book of

guidance, which has replaced the previous texts revealed. They reject Muhammad (peace be upon him) and claim that he wrote the Quran. In effect, they believe he was a liar, who dishonestly claimed that the Quran was revealed by Allah, but that it was written by him instead.

✚ **Muslims** believe in the book revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as the book (Quran) of guidance. They also believe in both Jesus (peace be upon him) and Moses (peace be upon him), as well as the previous Prophets, but believe that each nation had a Prophet to follow, and this nation, in this period, which will now last until the day of judgement, must follow the Quran alone for their salvation. For example, if one was alive during the period of Jesus (peace be upon him), the book of guidance would have been the Bible and those who followed the Bible were on the straight path. Those who did not, were misguided. Whereas this current era is the period of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and so one must necessarily follow the Quran to be successful.

3.1.4. Believing in the Prophets

Muslims, as well as Christians and Jews believe that Allah (God) chose Prophets amongst different groups of people to be commissioned with the duty and responsibility of calling

people towards the straight path. These Prophets were given the duty of warning people against committing sin, and encouraging them to doing good deeds. Famous Prophets which most people are aware of are: Ebrahim (Abraham); Nooh (Noah); Ismail (Ishmael) etc.

As mentioned above, Jews believe in Moses (peace be upon him) but reject Jesus (peace be upon him) and Muhammad (peace be upon him). Whereas Christians accept Moses (peace be upon him) and believe in Jesus (peace be upon him) but reject Muhammad (peace be upon him). Muslims, however, believe that both Moses (peace be upon him) and Jesus (peace be upon him) were prophets, but that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the last and final prophet.

A key difference between Christianity and other religions is that Christians believe that Jesus (peace be upon him) was a God (or a part thereof) and not a man. Muslims believe that Jesus (peace be upon him) was not a God, but merely a prophet.

How can Allah (God) be a human? Would it not be disrespectful to the greatness of Allah (God) to reduce Allah (God) to the qualities of Man.? Does Allah (God) need to sleep, eat, or excrete as Jesus (peace be upon him) needed to? Would this not reduce the idea of what it means to be Allah (God)?

DID YOU KNOW THAT MUSLIMS LOVE JESUS?

- Muslims hold deep love and reverence for Jesus.
- We believe that he was born miraculously without any male intervention.
- We believe in the very first miracle of Jesus Christ (Peace be upon him) which was that he spoke in infancy to defend his mother against allegations of adultery.
- Many Muslims name their children after him as a sign of respect and admiration.
- In Arabic, Jesus is known as 'Īsā.
- Muslims believe that Jesus performed miracles and was compassionate in nature. However, we view Jesus (peace be upon him) as a prophet of God, not as God Himself.
- He is regarded as one of the five greatest prophets, holding a distinguished rank among them.

NOTE:

Prophets are chosen and sent by Allah (God) for the guidance of humanity. They were normal humans living amongst men. Allah (God) selected them to be his Prophets after imbuing in them the essential qualities of Prophethood. He appointed them by sending revelation through the angel Jibraeel (Gabriel).

WHO IS MUHAMMAD?

Muhammad (peace be upon him) was born in the sixth century. Prior to Prophethood he was known amongst his people as the truthful and righteous one. At the age of 40, he received revelation of the first verses of the Quran by the angel Jibrael (Gabriel) and was given the responsibility of being a Prophet for mankind. At the beginning of his duties, he was mocked. At the end of his lifetime, the whole of the Arabian Peninsula had accepted Islam. This was achieved in a space of 23 years.

He was tall and well-built, with a broad chest, rosy cheeks, and exceptional beauty. His character was noble and gentle, marked by kindness and humility. He never used offensive language and avoided unnecessary or idle talk. He cared deeply for the poor and emphasised their importance in society.

He stood for justice, showing no preference for any person, tribe, or race.

"There is no virtue for an Arab over a non-Arab, nor for a non-Arab over an Arab, nor for a white person over a black person, nor for a black person over a white person, except by righteousness." - Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

He encouraged kindness and respect towards women.

"The most perfect of believers in faith are those with the best character, and the best of you are the best in behaviour to their women." - Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

3.1.5. Believing in Resurrection, Day of Judgement & the Hereafter

Every Muslim believes this world is temporary and that everyone will eventually die. Afterwards, we'll all be resurrected and gathered before Allah (God) on "The Day of Judgement". Our good and bad deeds will be weighed against each other. Those with more good deeds will go to paradise, while those with more bad deeds will go to hell. Even those who committed evil but believed in Islam will go to hell for their wrongdoings (if they died without repenting). However, they'll eventually be allowed into paradise for their faith in Islam.

This is a fundamental difference to Christianity, as Christians, by way of the idea of atonement (Jesus dying on the cross for the sins of mankind) believe that all Christians will be given entrance into paradise without reckoning.

Imagine you had ten children. Nine were utterly corrupt, while the tenth was an obedient and righteous son. Now, suppose you develop a deep love for this righteous son and a preference for him. Would you kill him and then allow the remaining nine children to do as they please, whether that means committing rape and murder? Would they still be forgiven because of the death of their beloved righteous son? Can this make any sense?

Furthermore, what is the point of divine laws, such as feeding the poor, and avoiding major sins such as killing/raping others,

if, a person will still be given entrance to paradise, whether they uphold the laws or not?

Imagine you're the principal of a school. For grade 1 students, you'd spend your time in the classroom, formally advising each one that the only thing they need to memorize for the upcoming exam is that $1 + 1$ equals 2. This is the key to passing and moving on to grade 2. Now, imagine a student answers the question as 3. Can this child pass and progress to grade 2?

In conclusion, would it make sense to have standards, policies etc. if whether you uphold the law or not, you are still going to be given entrance into Paradise?

This is a very key difference between Muslims and Christians, as Muslims believe that the hell fire is real, and that Muslims, too, can be placed into the fire for failing to abide by the Islamic laws.

NOTE: Statistics indicate that individuals who believe they'll be granted paradise without the risk of burning in hell fire are more prone to violence, such as killing and raping others, as either way, their actions will lead them to paradise.

3.2. SECOND PILLAR: Praying (Salah)

Praying is a necessary condition as a Muslim. Muslims pray 5 times a day. The first one at the time prior to dawn, the second one during the noon period, the third during the mid-afternoon period, the fourth after sunset, and the fifth at night.

3.3. THIRD PILLAR: Charity (Zakaat)

Whilst voluntary charity is encouraged in Islam, the word “Zakaat” deals with compulsory charity which Muslims must pay every year: 2.5% of one’s excess wealth must be given as zakaat.

There are Muslims which are exempted from this if their possessions, cash etc. are below the required threshold. Zakaat is paid to those poor Muslims who have little to no livelihoods.

The idea of Zakaat is to spend for the love of Allah (God), and to try and improve the adverse conditions of man.

3.4. FOURTH PILLAR: Fasting (Saum)

Almost everyone knows what it means to fast. However, in Islam, during one month of the year, known as ‘Ramadhan’, it is compulsory for Muslims to fast. From dawn (about 90

minutes before sunrise) until sunset, NOTHING can be consumed by the one who is fasting. It is NOT permissible to drink water as well.

3.5. FIFTH PILLAR: Pilgrimage (Hajj)

The Muslim holy lands are situated in the cities of Makkah and Madinah, Saudi Arabia.

The Ka'bah is located in Makkah. Muslims congregate around the Ka'bah and perform tawaaf (the ritual of walking and praying around the Ka'bah seven times), with the aim of drawing Allah's (God's) love.

Madinah is around 500 km's away from Makkah, and is significant due to the Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) Masjid (place of worship) being located there. The Masjid also hosts the grave of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) himself.

Once a year, there is a period of 5 days in the month known as *Zhul Hijjah* (in the Islamic calendar) in which Muslims, (who can afford it) go to perform the rituals of Hajj in the holy lands (at least once in their lifetime).

4. WHY WERE WE CREATED AND THE HISTORY OF OUR EXISTENCE?

Muslims believe that Allah (God), after creating the earth, informed the angels that Allah (God) would create mankind to live on earth as a test for them. Those who abided by Allah's (God's) commands would go to heaven where they would live forever or to hell for those who failed to abide by Allah's (God's) commands.

The angels voiced their concerns over the creation of man saying that man will not abide by Allah's (God's) commands and that they should not be created. However, Allah (God) told them that he is aware of the attributes of man which they were not aware of.

Allah (God) created the prophet Adam (peace be upon him), as the first human to be created, and used the properties of sand in creating Adam (peace be upon him), whereas the angels are made from celestial light, and the jinn are made from fire. Allah (God) then, in order to ensure the superiority of Man is well established, ordered the Angels to prostrate to Adam (peace be upon him) once Adams body had been molded and completed. This event took place in heaven.

[NOTE: THE JINN ARE A CREATION MADE FROM FIRE. SOME ARE GOOD, OTHERS ARE EVIL. SATAN IS FROM AMONGST THE JINN-KIND. IN ISLAM, HE IS REFERRED TO AS IBLEES, AS WELL AS SHAYTAN]

The angels abided and prostrated to Adam (peace be upon him), however, Iblees i.e., the Devil, refused to prostrate out of pride, and said that he is made from fire whereas humans are made from clay.

Hence, he claimed it would not be befitting to prostrate to something created from a lesser substance. As a result, thereof, Allah (God) expelled Iblees from heaven. Before being expelled, Iblees told Allah (God) that he would prove the inferiority of man by leading men astray for the rest of time.

Adam (peace be upon him) felt lonely in paradise, and so Allah (God) created Hawa (Eve) to be his companion in paradise. Eventually, Allah (God) sent both Adam and Eve to Earth where humans would then reside, until the day of Judgement.

Adam (peace be upon him) was given laws and regulations to live by, and for his offspring to follow as well.

The reason for our existence, quite simply, is to worship Allah (God). This world is a test and is very temporary. For the limited time that we are here, we have to worship Allah (God) and treat Allah's creation (mankind and animals) with kindness and respect. Furthermore, our beliefs must be in line with those beliefs mentioned above.

5. MAJOR SINS

- i. Associating partners with Allah (God).
- ii. Neglecting ones 5 daily prayers.
- iii. Murder.
- iv. Failure to pay *Zakaat* without a valid excuse.
- v. Failure to fast in *Ramadhan* without a valid excuse.
- vi. Indulging in black magic.
- vii. Failure to perform pilgrimage if one has the means.
- viii. Pre-marital sex.
- ix. Adultery.
- x. Charging and receiving interest.
- xi. Breaking family ties.
- xii. Consuming alcohol/intoxicants.
- xiii. Eating pork and carrion.
- xiv. Being disrespectful to parents.
- xv. Being an unjust leader.
- xvi. Treating others cruelly.
- xvii. Dishonesty.
- xviii. Listening to music.
- xix. Backbiting of others.
- xx. Stealing/theft, etc.

6. YOUR BELIEF OF ISLAM

While you may not have expressly said it, or may not have even considered it, if you do not believe in Islam, it means that you are basically saying the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is a liar - that he was not a prophet and that the Quran was in fact written by him, and not revealed by Allah (God).

One cannot claim that the Quran is the word of Allah (God), but not be a Muslim. As the Quran states that no other way, but the way of Islam, is the true path.

7. DISPROVING YOUR BELIEF

For the sake of keeping this booklet concise, a thorough rebuttal of each religion/Atheistic beliefs will not be conducted.

Living in Johannesburg, South Africa, the majority encounters we have with non-Muslims are Christians. For this reason, a short but concise rebuttal of Christianity will be conducted.

Should the reader be an atheist/agnostic, kindly contact us via email (our details have been mentioned on the cover) and request a copy of our publication titled: "*Disproving Atheism in 10 minutes*".

NOTE:

ISLAM DOES NOT PROMOTE DISRESPECT AND HATRED. ANY INTER-RELIGIOUS REBUTTAL IS MEANT FOR GUIDANCE AS OPPOSED TO DISRESPECT.

i. REFUTING CHRISTIANITY:

Christianity can be somewhat simplified into 2 categories:

7.1. *Those Who Believe in the Trinity*

- ❖ Mainstream Christians believe in a complicated understanding of God, which essentially is make-up of the trinity (Father; Jesus; The Holy Spirit).

❖ When probed, almost all Christians which I have spoken to, do not understand the working nature of the trinity when trying to make sense of it.

❖ The main assertions are:

1. Jesus is divine
2. The father, the son, and the holy spirit are co-equal and co-eternal

❖ We shall respond to each claim separately, hereinunder:

JESUS IS DIVINE

❖ According to the doctrine of the trinity, Jesus is divine. Jesus, the father, and the holy spirit each make up 1/3 of the nature of God. If this is the case, then:

- When Jesus ordered his disciples to pray, and then subsequently prayed himself by prostrating on the ground [**Matthew 26:39**], who was he then prostrating to? Himself?
- Furthermore, in the **Book of Matthew (27:46)**, the incident of the crucifixion is recorded as Jesus (peace be upon him) exclaiming “*Eli, Eli, lema*

sabachthani” translated as “*My god, my god, why have you forsaken me?*”. Firstly, if Jesus is = God, who is he crying out to? Secondly, if indeed he is God, is he crying out that he has forsaken himself?

- If Jesus (peace be upon him) is 1/3 of God, did God sleep then, eat, use the toilet? Can this be God then?
 - Christians believe that Jesus (peace be upon him) was crucified. Was 1/3 of God killed then in that moment?
 - If Mary gave birth to Jesus (peace be upon him), then did a woman from earth give birth to God?
- ❖ According to the doctrine of the trinity, Jesus is 1/3 of the makeup of God. Hence, he is divine. If this is the case, surely Jesus would thus be all knowledgeable, right?

However, when Jesus was asked about the final hour (the day of judgement) he said “*But of that day and hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the son, but only the father*”. **[Mark 13:32]**

In the book of **[Mark 11, 12-14]**, an incident is related wherein Jesus, whilst in a state of hunger is walking to Bethany, and sees a fig tree in the distance. He walks towards it in lieu of satisfying his hunger. However, on approaching it, he finds that the tree was out of season, and there was no figs. He thus, according to the book of Mark, curses the tree.

A question arises: If Jesus was all knowledgeable (as he is supposedly = God), how does he not know:

(1) when the hour is? (As per Mark 13:32)

(2) the true reality of the tree (it not bearing any fruits), until only closer inspection? (As per Mark 11: 12-14)

- ❖ If the grandeur of Jesus (peace be upon him) comes from him being born without a father, then why don't Christian's worship Adam for having both no mother and father?

CO-EQUAL & CO-ETERNAL

- ❖ There are two approaches in pointing out to a Christian of the fallacious idea of 3 deities, being co-equal and co-eternal. We shall mention same separately, hereinunder:

APPROACH 1: THE LOGICAL PROOF

- ❖ In Sunday church, the phrase that the father, the son and the holy spirit are all CO-EQUAL AND CO-ETERNAL are repeatedly mentioned, as this is the core principle of their belief.
- ❖ If indeed, the father, the son (Jesus), and the holy spirit are CO-EQUAL and CO-ETERNAL, a question arises, if the father willed for an earthquake to occur, does the father require the permission of Jesus (peace be upon him) and the Holy Spirit? Is there a conference meeting prior to every decision being made?
- ❖ **IF YES, CONSENT IS NEEDED**, this would mean they believe that the father, who is meant to be independent (as an attribute of God), is actually dependent on Jesus (peace be upon him) and the Holy Spirit. This would be saying Allah (God) is independently dependent. Therefore, a logical fallacy (does not make sense).
- ❖ Would it make Allah (God) a God if he required the consent of others? The idea of Allah (God), is a deity in control of everything, and not one which requires the permission of others.
- ❖ If the father requires the permission of Jesus (peace be upon him), then when Jesus (peace be upon him) was

“so called” crucified, did Jesus consent to the decision of his own crucifixion prior to it?

- ❖ On the other hand, IF NO, CONSENT IS NOT NEEDED: Then they are rejecting the core-principle of their doctrine, that each member which is part of the trinity are CO-EQUAL and CO-ETERNAL.

- ❖ Imagine there is a business run by three partners, which all have equal shares in the partnership. Can one partner sell the business vehicle without the permission of the others? No. Because they are all co-equal.

- ❖ Similarly, if for example, rain was to descend from the skies, by way of a CO-EQUAL principle, the Father will need permission from the Son for rain to descend, prior to it descending, otherwise they will not be CO-EQUAL. However, if this is indeed the case, then does this make the father independent? Which should be a quality of God.

- ❖ The above refutation can be used against Hinduism too, as the idea of polytheism (more than one god) carries the same logical fallacy, whether it be by way of 3 gods (as in the above case) or 300 gods (whatever the number may be as purported by Hindus).

APPROACH 2: THE ABSENCE OF THE DOCTRINE OF CO-EQUAL & CO-ETERNAL BEING MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

- ❖ As mentioned above, in order to be Christian, one has to firmly believe that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, are CO-EQUAL and CO-ETERNAL. If you do not believe this, you are a heretic, deviant, non-Christian.
- ❖ However, of notable concern, is that, in the entire bible, there is **no clear verse** which says that all three (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are CO-EQUAL & CO-ETERNAL.
- ❖ Surely, a divine book should categorically and unequivocally stipulate the fundamental belief of the religion it is propagating?
- ❖ Consider this in contrast to Islam and the Quran. The doctrine of Islam is TAUHID (Oneness of Allah) and not three deities as propagated in Christianity. However, the Islamic position is clearly set out in the Quran, in chapter 112 titled "*The Chapter of Sincerity*", wherein Allah states:
 1. *Say He is Allah the one*
 2. *Allah is Eternal*
 3. *He neither begets nor is born,*
 4. *Nor is there to Him any equivalent*

- ❖ Hence, the Islamic position is unequivocally mentioned, which should be the case if the book is divine. It should be a book of clarity, and not create more confusion, otherwise it defeats the purpose for which it was revealed.
- ❖ To further illustrate the lack of clarity and uncertainties faced by Christianity, and its formalization, a brief glance of history truly outlines same.
- ❖ Around 300 years after the alleged crucifixion of Jesus, a man by the name of Constantine became the emperor of Constantinople (modern-day, Istanbul, Turkey), and in an act of trying to garner support, conveniently proclaimed his adoption of the Christian faith. His plan would prove to be successful, as his empire drastically expanded, as Christians immediately pledged their allegiance to him. However, not long after this, he experienced trouble from within.
- ❖ One of the early church fathers, *Arius*, shared the view that the father was greater than the Son, Jesus, and that they were NOT co-equal. Whereas, on the opposite end there was *Athanasius*, also an early church father, who believed in the notion of CO-EQUALITY.
- ❖ Thus, Constantine to curb the growing divide, which ultimately would've divided and weakened his empire,

decided to convene a meeting in the year 325 AD, which would be famously referred to as the Council of Nicaea.

- ❖ At this hearing, bishops from all over were invited to formally vote for or against the adoption of the principle “CO-EQUAL and CO-ETERNAL” as, clearly, there was no concrete evidence supporting same.
- ❖ Perhaps, the word “vote” would prove to be a misnomer, as any bishop which opposed such an idea (co-equal and co-eternal) faced the threat of exile, and were coerced into voting in favor of it. This is clearly evidenced as Arius, at the spearhead of the opposing party (referred to as *the Arians*) refused to vote in favor of such a view and was thereafter exiled.
- ❖ Therefore, the crux of their belief i.e., the trinitarian understanding of God, was not only not mentioned in the Old Testaments, but nowhere found in the New Testaments too! **Would Allah (God) actually want someone to believe in something not clearly specified?**

7.2. Those Who Believe Jesus (Peace Be Upon Him) was not God but rather a Prophet (The Last Prophet). AND, those who believe that the father is greater than the son (the last prophet) and thus, disbelieve in the prophethood of Muhammad (Peace be upon him)

This would kind of mean that they are not really 'Christian' but in any event, the rebuttal of this would then be in the proof of the Quran. Any person who follows this belief would need to disprove the authenticity of the Quran or be able to find an excuse/reason for any miracle of the Quran.

8. PROOF OF QURAN

The proof of the Quran can primarily be found in two key points. Firstly, the onus is on the other party to disprove it. Secondly, the onus is on the Muslim to prove its veracity. Regardless of the approach, the proofs of the Quran will be highlighted, as Muslims don't need to shy away from this burden of proof.

A famous method of testing the Quran involves 4 crucial factors.

8.1. Reproduction Challenge

The Quran itself challenges mankind. The Quran challenges one and all to produce ONE *surah* (*chapter*), or even a part thereof and rival it to the Quran. **[Chapter 2: Verse 23]**

Since non-Muslims believe that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was just a liar who invented the Quran, they are thereby challenged to produce at least one *surah* or even a part thereof like that in Quran. The Quran is challenging all to prove their claim.

If you believe that the Quran is the word of Allah (God), then you are actually a Muslim. However, note that the Quran states that only Islam can be followed. So, you cannot claim that yes, it is the word of Allah (God) but I am not Muslim. That

would be like saying you can count on your fingers that $1+1 = 2$ but you follow the belief that $2-1 = 3$.

8.2. Preservation

QURAN

To date, the **Quran** is the only revealed text, which has remained unchanged. This is an undisputed historical fact. The Quran has been preserved through written texts as well as in the hearts of mankind. Young children, as young as 4 years and 5 years of age have memorized the Quran from the start until the end. Which means there is no opportunity to change it.

TORAH

The **Torah**, on the other hand, which was sent to Moses (peace be upon him) had gone completely missing and this is evidenced by the fact that at the time of Jesus (peace be upon him), there were FOUR different versions of the Torah [*Emanuel Tov, The Text-Critical Use of the Septuagint in Biblical Research, p. 79*]

Furthermore, the Torah (Old Testament) is acclaimed to have been kept in the kingdom of Judah, in the '*House of the lord*'. Historically, the house of the lord was destroyed twice. Once

by the Egyptian king, and the second, by the king of Israel. There was no trace of the Torah thereafter. It was confirmed destroyed. However, interestingly (suspiciously), 18 (EIGHTEEN!) years after King Josiah's accession, the high priest *Hilkiah* claimed to have somehow found the Torah after 18 years, in the same building which no other onlooker managed to stumble upon [**II Kings Chapter 22 and Chronicles Chapter 34**]. This is logically impossible. Instead, it was Hilkiah himself who forged the document and claimed to have found it!

BIBLE

The Bible of Jesus on the other hand, is undisputedly not present in modern times. The language spoken at the time was Aramaic. There is no trace of it today.

Instead, there is the New Testament which is made up of books written by people such as Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. These "Books" were not from God, but written by said individuals (Mathew, Mark, Luke & John), which were allegedly the disciples of Jesus. However, the argument in support of why it is then accepted as the modern-day bible, is the theory that when writing these books, they (i.e., Mathew, Mark, Luke and John) were assisted by the Holy Spirit, and thus, makes their books divine.

NOTE: LUKE, JOHN, MARK AND MATHEW, WHOM THE GOSPELS ARE ATTRIBUTED TO, WERE NOT THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS!

THEY WERE RESEARCHERS WHO HAPPENED TO SHARE THE SAME NAME AS THEM! CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS HAVE NO PROOF TO SUGGEST OTHERWISE.

8.3. Contradictions

To date, no person has ever claimed that the Quran has contradictions in it. Despite living in a generation of instant research due to the internet, NO person has ever found contradictions in the Quran. In many novels, the author starts of by apologizing for any mistakes he may have made in the book. The Quran, however, begins by saying that the Quran has NO mistakes at all. **[Quran: Chapter 2: Verse 2]**

You will not find in one place of the Quran that $1+1 = 2$, whereas elsewhere it says $1+1=3$.

On the other hand, if we look at the books included in the Bible, there are manifest errors in the account of certain incidents.

The Christian account of Jesus's alleged crucifixion has Judas as the antagonist villain of the story. The person responsible for having disclosed Jesus's identity, which ultimately led to the alleged crucifixion. Of relevance to this sub-topic, is the contrasting accounts of Judas subsequent fate thereafter.

The Book of Matthew [27: 3-8] has it that Judas felt remorseful after the alleged crucifixion, and hence, threw away the bribe money he had received for disclosing Jesus' whereabouts and committed suicide thereafter.

Whereas, in **The Book of Acts [1:18]**, Judas is recorded to have purchased a field with the bribe money, and whilst

entering the field, he slipped and died from his entrails coming out.

This is a clear contradiction, and a major difference in the accounts given. **If the writers of the books were assisted by the Holy Spirit, could a member of the trinity commit an error in providing different accounts of Juda's final fate to the two above-mentioned writers?**

Can a book be accepted as divine which has such clear contradictions?

8.4. Miracles

8.4.1. Medical

The Quran clearly stipulates the stages of human embryology; stipulating each stage of human conception, and then further explaining the embryo. **[Chapter 23: Verses 12-14]**

Only in the late 1800's were medical experts, through technology, able to determine that which the Quran explained almost 1250 years prior to that.

How could it be possible that a man (Muhammad peace be upon him), is accused of writing such information, whilst living in a desert without any access to information.

8.4.2. Predictions

During a period in which the Persian Empire was the superpower, the Quran predicted that the Romans would defeat the Persians within 9 years. **[Chapter 30: Verses 2-4]**

This is a miracle, which if it did not occur, would immediately disprove the Quran. We can, by now, assume what happened next: The Romans defeated the Persians.

This is a miracle which if one applies his mind to, is truly remarkable. It is easy to take a wild chance and tell a man on the street that one day he will become rich. As the time frame is not stipulated, hence, there is ample time for it to be true.

On the other hand, if you have to tell someone on the side of the street that within a stipulated period of time, example, 9 years, you are going to become very wealthy, there is a great deal of pressure added, as failure to become rich results in the active predication being disproven, and the claim of the book being divine being nullified in the process.

Notably, the Romans were so weak at the time in which the prediction was made, it would be like predicting that an infant child would soon be able to beat up an experienced fighter.

Furthermore, the books of history record that after 8 years, even then it seemed impossible for the Romans to be successful in defeating the Persians. Shortly later, in keeping

with the prediction of the Quran i.e., victory within 9 years, the Romans were successful.

8.4.3. Science

The Quran refers to the home of a spider as “*the flimsiest of homes*”. **[Chapter 29: Verse 41]**

After female and male spiders copulate, if the male does not quickly escape, the female eats the male. Generally, a home is built for protection, whereas with spiders, it is built to destroy those who enter. This is a miracle of the Quran.

The Quran further states that the female spider is responsible for making the home. Science now confirms that it is indeed the female spider which is the stronger of the two. **[Chapter 29: Verse 41]**

The Quran is filled with miracles, too many to mention in a short booklet. But above are just some of the many miracles for any reader to ponder.

Consider it. Can anyone possibly claim that 1447 years ago, a man who, historically, is accepted to have been unable to write, be able to write such a glorious book?

You, as a reader, have been given consciousness, instead of using it to disprove, meditate and reflect.

THE PROPHET (PEACE BE UPON HIM) WAS MOCKED FOR HAVING LOST BOTH HIS SONS DURING THEIR INFANCY. THE NON-BELIEVERS WOULD SAY THAT HE IS LIKE AN ANIMAL WITHOUT A TAIL (I.E. HIS LEGACY WOULD BE WIPED OUT WITHOUT A SON BEARING HIS NAME).

THE VERSES OF QURAN WERE REVEALED SAYING THAT THOSE WHO MOCK THE PROPHET (PEACE BE UPON HIM) WOULD BE FORGOTTEN AND THE PROPHET'S (PEACE BE UPON HIM) NAME WOULD BE REMEMBERED FOREVER.

TODAY, IT IS A WORLD FACT, THAT THE MOST COMMON NAME IS "MUHAMMAD".

A MAN WHO WAS MOCKED, JEERED AND LAUGHED AT, EVENTUALLY WOULD GO ON TO BECOME THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN TO HAVE EVER LIVED.

CAN THIS MAN HAVE BEEN A LIAR?

CAN THE BOOK, WHICH WAS REVEALED TO HIM, BE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY HIM?

9. CONCLUSION

The topic of religions, viewed in light of others, is one that is very difficult to summarize. For this reason, we have tried our best to include a summary of what we felt was important to share.

We sincerely hope that we have done so respectfully, without any air of arrogance. The idea of life is not in the accumulation of wealth, but in finding the true path. May we all be guided onto that path. Aameen.

For those inspired by this book and seeking to embrace Islam, we kindly encourage you to visit your local Masjid (Muslim place of worship) and speak with the Imam (leader) there. The process of accepting Islam is relatively brief, but it should not be initiated independently without the guidance of an experienced Imam.

We are confident that most readers are familiar with, at least, one Masjid in their area or know someone who can guide you to the local Masjid.

If you are unable to find a Masjid or a knowledgeable Muslim to guide you, please do not hesitate to contact us via the email address provided on the cover for further assistance.

For those reading this book solely for academic purposes, we encourage you to approach it with a different mindset. Read it

with the intention of seeking guidance rather than simply acquiring information.

For those reading this book with the intention of mocking and ridiculing Islam by finding seemingly illogical beliefs, we sincerely hope that Allah (God) guides you.

Lastly, to all Muslims, whether new Muslims or born Muslims, we pray that Allah (God) keeps us on the straight path and allows us to be a source of guidance for others. Aameen

NOTE:

Many people find issues with religion due to moral qualms, such as women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and polygamy.

However, it's important to remember that 'morality' is not objective. What may be abhorrent today was once considered normal, and vice versa.

Instead of basing your religion on your current set of morals, consider basing it on evidence such as the Quran and its miraculous nature.

Once it becomes apparent that such a book (the Quran) cannot be attributed to anyone else, but God, it logically follows that one's morality should align with its teachings.

10. NON-MUSLIM VIEWS ABOUT THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (peace be upon him)

"I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind... I became more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet, the scrupulous regard for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission."

- Mahatma Gandhi (Young India, 1924)

"My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels."

- Michael H. Hart (The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History, 1978)

"It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia, who knows how he taught and how he lived, to feel anything but reverence for that mighty Prophet, one of the great messengers of the Supreme."

- Annie Besant (The Life and Teachings of Muhammad, 1932)

"Four years after the death of Justinian, in 569 AD, was born in Mecca the man who, of all men, exercised the greatest influence upon the human race... Muhammad."

- Dr. William Draper (A History of the Intellectual Development of Europe, 1875)

"If greatness of purpose, smallness of means, and astounding results are the three criteria of human genius, who could dare compare any great man in modern history with Muhammad?"

- Alphonse de Lamartine (Histoire de la Turquie, Paris, 1854, Vol. II, p. 276)

"He was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without the Pope's pretensions, Caesar without the legions of Caesar. Without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a palace, without a fixed revenue, if ever any man had the right to say that he ruled by a divine right, it was Muhammad."

- Christian clergyman Rev. R. Bosworth Smith (Muhammad and Muhammadanism, 1874)

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