
ELEVEN FACTS ABOUT JESUS AND HIS MOTHER (MARY) IN ISLAMIC TEACHINGS

The Clear Religion Series - Part 3

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*NO DOUBT THIS LIFE IS AN EXAMINATION
WHICH NEEDS YOUR FULL CONSIDERATION
AS TO WHAT YOU WILL TAKE TO
YOUR FINAL DESTINATION
ONLY TRUE BELIEF AND GOOD DEEDS ARE
YOUR WAY TO SALVATION*

(Muhammad Sherif)

CONTENTS

HONORIFIC PHRASES IN THIS BOOK	3
ABOUT THE WORD ‘LORD’	4
ABOUT THE WORD ‘ALLAH’	5
INTRODUCTION	7
ELEVEN FACTS ABOUT JESUS (PBUH) AND HIS MOTHER (MARY) IN THE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS	9
1. <i>The status of Jesus (pbuh) in Islam</i>	9
2. <i>The beginning of Jesus’ lineage</i>	10
3. <i>The status of Mary</i>	11
4. <i>The news about Jesus (pbuh)</i>	12
5. <i>The birth of Jesus (pbuh)</i>	12
6. <i>Subsequent miracles of Jesus (pbuh)</i>	13
An important note	16
7. <i>Human qualities of Jesus (pbuh)</i>	16
8. <i>The prophethood of Jesus (pbuh)</i>	18
9. <i>The mission of Jesus (pbuh)</i>	18
10. <i>The ascension of Jesus (pbuh)</i>	20
11. <i>The second coming of Jesus (pbuh)</i>	20
<i>Conclusion</i>	22
A CALL TO REASON	23
THIS IS IT	25
A WHISPER	27

2 Eleven facts about Jesus

HOW TO BECOME A MUSLIM	31
TO SUM IT UP...	37
BIBLIOGRAPHY	39
APPENDIX	40
GLOSSARY OF ISLAMIC TERMS	43

HONORIFIC PHRASES IN THIS BOOK

(the Exalted): used after the mention of God/Allah to express:
Glorified and Exalted is He

(bpuh): *Blessings and peace be upon him*; used after mention of the Prophet Muhammad

(pbuh): *Peace be upon him*; used after mention of any prophet or after mention of Angel Gabriel

(May Allah be pleased with him): used after mention of a male Companion of the Prophet

(May Allah be pleased with her): used after mention of a female Companion of the Prophet

ABOUT THE WORD ‘LORD’

The word *lord* in English has several related meanings. The original meaning is ‘master’ or ‘ruler’, and in this sense it is often used to refer to human beings: ‘the lord of the mansion’ or ‘*Lord So-and-So*’ (in the United Kingdom, for example). The word *Lord* with a capital L is used in the lexicon of Islam to refer to the One and Only God—Allah. In Islam, there is no ambiguity about the meaning of this word. While it is true that one may occasionally use the word *lord* (whether capitalized or not) to refer to a human being, in Islamic discourse the reference of this term is always clear from the context. Whereas for Christians, Hindus and other polytheists, the word *Lord* with a capital L may refer to Allah, to Jesus or to some imagined deity, for Muslims, there can be no plurality of meaning. Allah alone is the Lord, and the Lord is Allah—not Jesus, not Rama, not any other being.

ABOUT THE WORD ‘ALLAH’

Although the English word ‘God’ has often been used interchangeably in this book with the word Allah, there is a difference. ‘Allah’ is the word in Arabic that is translated as ‘God’. However, ‘Allah’ has a much more precise meaning than ‘God’. ‘Allah’ is not merely an Arabic term for the word ‘god’. Instead, the root word of the word ‘Allah’ is *ilah*, which means ‘a god’. There are countless numbers of made-up ‘gods’, but only One True God worthy of worship, Whose name is Allah. The word ‘Allah’ literally means ‘the worshipped’, or ‘the God’. Allah is, thus, the proper name for the **only Being that is worthy of worship in truth**, the True Creator of the universe. By saying ‘Allah’, Muslims are, in essence, negating every other entity which people wrongfully worship, while affirming worship to Him alone. The name ‘Allah’ is how God Almighty has referred to Himself in the Quran, and how Prophet Muhammad (blessings and peace be upon him) also referred to Him. Therefore, in this work, the term ‘Allah’ will often be used in reference to this One and Only God Who is worthy of worship.

INTRODUCTION

Allah (the Exalted), the Most Kind, Most Compassionate, did not leave people to go astray. He sent prophets to tell us Who created us and why, what rights He (being our Lord) has over us, what rights we have if we obey Him, what His attributes are, how to worship Him, the reality of death, and what happens after death: paradise for those who follow His messengers, and hellfire for those who do not.

Allah, the Most Kind and Wise, did not leave the followers of Jesus (pbuh) to forever suffer splits and conflicts among themselves over the reality of his personality. Indeed, He sent Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) to reveal the facts and resolve what people perceived as a mystery or a point of great division.

This humble work sheds light on the personality of a great prophet, Jesus, the son of Mary (peace be upon them both). It details his characteristics and clarifies all the doubts about his personality, by referring to specific references in both the Bible and Islamic sources. These are supported with theoretical and logical proofs that ultimately establish Prophet Jesus at the correct level in the mind of the fair reader, without going to any extremes or engaging in any deviation.

I would like to thank all those respected scholars who gave me a chance to learn and quote extensively from their books, especially Dr Jamal Badawi, Dr Bilal Philips, Ahmed Deedat, Dr Naji Arfaj and Brother Muhammad bin Abdullah Caraballo. Their wonderful works formed the foundation on which I built my book *Who Deserves to Be Worshipped?*, from which this book was adapted.

With this short introduction, I leave you to peruse this book.

Kind regards,

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ELEVEN FACTS ABOUT JESUS (PBUH) AND HIS MOTHER (MARY) IN THE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS

The Quran highlights the important aspects of Jesus' birth, along with his miracles, his mission, and his ascension. The Quranic account of Jesus' ministry confirms most of his miracles mentioned in the Bible; it even identifies some that are not mentioned in the Bible. What we know about Prophet Jesus Christ (pbuh) can be divided into two topics: his personality and his message. The following are eleven facts that you should know about Jesus (pbuh) in the Islamic teachings.

1. The status of Jesus (pbuh) in Islam

Islam teaches that Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is one of the most respected prophets because of his efforts in spreading the word of Allah. Muslims display a true spirit of love towards him and his mother, Mary. There is not a single disparaging remark against Prophet Jesus (pbuh) or any other prophet in the entire Quran or in other Islamic literature or Islamic history books. Evidence of praise for Jesus (pbuh) is the fact that his story, along with that of his mother, is mentioned in three places in the Quran: Chapters 3, 4, and 19. In fact, an entire chapter of the Quran (Chapter 19) is named 'Maryam' (Mary) in her honour.¹

Another sign of praise is that the name of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) is mentioned twenty-five times in the Quran; in contrast, Prophet

1 Readers should note that this honour has not been given to Mary in the New Testament, and none of its books is named after Mary or her son Jesus. It is also noteworthy that there is no chapter in the Quran named after any of Prophet Muhammad's wives or daughters.

Muhammad (pbuh) is mentioned by name only four times. This proves that Islam honours all prophets for the message they have in common; it did not disregard earlier prophets with the coming of another.

Jesus (pbuh) has been referred to in the Quran by many titles: Ibn Maryam (son of Mary), the Messiah (the anointed one), Abdullah (slave of Allah), and *Rasool Allah* (Messenger of Allah).

This praise and glorification agree with what Jesus (pbuh) is reported to have said about the prophet who would succeed him, “He will glorify me.” (John 16:14)²

2. The beginning of Jesus’ lineage

The Quranic account of Jesus (pbuh) starts with the story of his grandmother, the wife of Imran. When she conceived Mary, she vowed to dedicate her unborn child to the worship of Allah and to the service of *Bayt al-Maqdis*.³

Mary grew up to be very righteous. She dedicated herself to the service of Bayt al-Maqdis and to the worship of Allah, the Exalted, and she received provisions from Him. Therefore, it is no mystery as to why she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus (pbuh). The Quranic verses inform us:

{[Mention, O Muhammad,] when the wife of ‘Imran said: My Lord, indeed I have pledged to You what is in my womb, consecrated [for

2 The translations of Bible verses are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).

3 *Bayt al-Maqdis* is the Islamic name for Jerusalem, especially for its place of worship, which was built many centuries before Moses (pbuh) and has been destroyed and rebuilt many times throughout history. After the death of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the second Islamic caliph, Umar ibn al-Khattab, ruled Palestine and built the Islamic mosque that remains in that location today.

Your service],⁴ so accept this from me. Indeed, You are the Hearing, the Knowing. But when she delivered her, she said: My Lord, I have delivered a female—and Allah was most knowing of what she delivered—and the male is not like the female. I have named her Mary, and I seek refuge for her in You and [for] her descendants from Satan, the expelled [from the mercy of Allah]. So her Lord accepted her with good acceptance and caused her to grow in a good manner and put her in the care of Zachariah. Every time Zachariah visited her in the prayer chamber, he found with her provision. He said: O Mary, from where is this [coming] to you? She said: It is from Allah. Indeed, Allah provides for whom He wills without account. } (*Quran* 3: 35-37)

It is interesting to note that when the mother of Mary delivered her child, she was a bit disappointed to discover that she did not have a son, because she had always wished for her child to be dedicated to the worship of Allah. Little did she know that this very child would be extremely righteous and would end up being the mother of Jesus himself. This was better for her than a son, hence Allah's words: { ...and Allah was most knowing of what she delivered... }

3. The status of Mary

Mary, mother of Jesus, is very highly respected in Islam. Her story is an important one that is mentioned several times in the Quran. Mary is mentioned by name thirty-one times in the Quran, and an entire chapter is named after her. This is an honour that not even the women in Prophet Muhammad's family were accorded. Although there are stories and anecdotes in the Quran about other women of strong faith, and others of importance in the history of the three Abrahamic religions, none other than Mary is actually mentioned by name.

Allah has said:

4 meaning through service to Bayt al-Maqdis.

{And [mention] when the angels said: O Mary, indeed Allah has chosen you and purified you and chosen you above the women of the worlds. O Mary, be devoutly obedient to your Lord and prostrate and bow with those who bow [in prayer]. That is from the news of the unseen which We reveal to you [O Muhammad]...} (*Quran* 3: 42-44)

4. The news about Jesus (pbuh)

When Mary approached adulthood, she was informed well before Jesus' birth about the honour of bearing this noble son. It was the angel Gabriel (pbuh) who appeared in front of her with this news. The following verses in the Quran describe the dialogue between Mary and the angel:

{[And mention] when the angels said: O Mary, indeed Allah gives you good tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary—distinguished in this world and the hereafter and among those brought near [to Allah]. He will speak to the people in the cradle and in maturity and will be of the righteous. She said: My Lord, how will I have a child when no man has touched me? [The angel] said: Such is Allah; He creates what He wills. When He decrees a matter, He only says to it: Be—and it is.}

(*Quran* 3: 45-47)

5. The birth of Jesus (pbuh)

Mary conceived this child miraculously (and this was the first miracle of Jesus) and retired to a distant place where she waited for the birth of her child. This amazing story has been related to us in Chapter 19 of the Quran, titled Maryam (Mary):

{So she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a remote place. And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree. She said: Oh, I wish I had died before this and was in oblivion, forgotten. But he called her from below her: Do not grieve; your Lord has provided beneath you a stream. And shake toward you the trunk of the palm tree; it will drop upon you ripe, fresh dates. So eat and drink and

be contented. And if you see from among humanity anyone, say: Indeed, I have vowed to the Most Merciful abstention, so I will not speak today to [any] man.} (*Quran 19: 22-26*)

Allah created Adam from neither a man nor a woman, while he created Eve from the rib of a man (Adam). He has created the rest of humanity, both male and female, from the union of males and females. From the union of a man and woman, He can create males only, females only, both males and females, or no offspring at all (if one or both of them are infertile). He is the Creator and All-powerful. He can create from elderly men and women, as He did with Prophets Abraham and Zachariah and their wives, who were given Isaac and John the Baptist, respectively. Bearing that in mind, the creation of Jesus through the medium of a woman, but without the intervention of a man, is certainly possible and in accordance with the notion that Allah creates whoever and however He wills; thus, it is not difficult to believe and accept.

{Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him: Be—and he was.}

(Quran 3: 59)

6. Subsequent miracles of Jesus (pbuh)

Prophet Jesus (pbuh) was blessed with the ability to perform many miracles. This supported his claim that he was a prophet sent by Allah Almighty, Who has said:

{...And We gave Jesus, the son of Mary, clear proofs and supported him with the pure spirit...} (*Quran 2: 87*)

Muslims do not hesitate to accept that Jesus (pbuh) performed miracles. At the same time, Muslims do not elevate Jesus (pbuh) to the position of Allah or describe him as the ‘son of God’. They do not

consider him to be anything more than a divinely-inspired man: a messenger and prophet of Allah.

The same applies to all the other prophets, since many of them were blessed with different miracles as well.

The first miracle associated with Jesus (pbuh) was that he was born from a mother without any human intervention (father). Allah gave the divine command “Be,” and he was created.

The Quran has mentioned the miraculous creation of both Adam and Jesus in the following verse (which was mentioned in the previous section):

{Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him: Be—and he was.}

(Quran 3: 59)

The Quran has mentioned that Jesus’ miraculous birth did not change his status as a human; in other words, he did not evolve from a human being to become Allah or a son of Allah. If that had been the case, then Adam would have had a greater right to such an honour, since he was born without a human father OR mother.

Another miracle was that Allah gave Jesus (pbuh) the ability to speak as a new-born baby, a blessing which helped save his mother from the harsh slander of her own community. This remarkable story has been narrated in the Quran:

{Then she brought him to her people, carrying him. They said: O Mary, you have certainly done a thing unprecedented. O sister of Aaron, your father was not a man of evil, nor was your mother unchaste. So she pointed to him. They said: How can we speak to one who is in the cradle, a child? [Jesus] said: Indeed, I am the slave of Allah. He has given me the scripture and made me a prophet. And He has made me blessed wherever I am and has enjoined upon me prayer and zakah as long as I remain alive, and [made me] dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant. And peace is on

me the day I was born and the day I will die and the day I am raised alive.}⁵ (*Quran 19: 27-33*)

Other subsequent miracles performed by Jesus (pbuh) have also been mentioned in the Quran:

{[The day] when Allah will say: O Jesus, son of Mary, remember My favour upon you and upon your mother when I supported you with the pure spirit and you spoke to the people in the cradle and in maturity;⁶ and [remember] when I taught you writing and wisdom,⁷ and the Torah and the Gospel,⁸ and when you designed from clay [what was] like the form of a bird with My permission, then you breathed into it, and it became a bird with My permission; and you healed the blind and the leper with My permission; and when you brought forth the dead with My permission; and when I restrained the children of Israel from [killing] you when you came to them with clear proofs and those who disbelieved among them said: This is not but obvious magic.} (*Quran 5: 110*)

Indeed, the Islamic account of the miracles bestowed on Jesus (pbuh) describes more miracles than those known to Christians. Points 10 and 11 below describe two more miracles associated with Jesus (pbuh) and his role as the Messiah.

5 It should be noted that this amazing miracle was not mentioned anywhere in the New Testament.

6 This means that Jesus called people to worship Allah both while he was a baby in the cradle and when he reached adulthood.

7 ‘Wisdom’ here means the correct and profound understanding of religion.

8 In this context, ‘Gospel’ refers to the original form of revelation given to Jesus, not the Gospels that exist in the Bible today. According to Quranic exegesis, Jesus had memorized this revelation as well as the Torah (the scripture revealed to Moses).

An important note

As shown in the previous verse, it was emphasized after mentioning each miracle that whenever Jesus (pbuh) performed a miracle, he informed people that it was by Allah's permission. He made it clear to his followers that he was not performing the miracle by himself. As Dr Philips points out:

There are texts in the New Testament which confirm that Jesus did not act on his own. Jesus is quoted in John 5:30 saying: I can of mine own self do nothing... In Acts 2:22, Paul writes: Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs **which God did through him** in your midst, as you yourselves know...⁹

7. Human qualities of Jesus (pbuh)

Islam forbids the deification of human beings (going to excess in the exaltation of human beings—prophets or otherwise—to the point where they perceive them to be divine). On the other hand, Christian beliefs teach that Jesus (pbuh) was human and divine at the same time. Addressing both the Jews and the Christians, Allah has said in the Quran:

{O People of the Scripture,¹⁰ do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah, and His word which He directed to Mary, and a soul [created at a command] from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say: Three; desist—it is better

9 Philips, *The True Message of Jesus Christ*, 45.

10 Allah begins this sacred verse with a word of respect; the Jews and the Christians are addressed as learned people who have received revelation in the form of scripture.

for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth, and sufficient is Allah as Disposer of affairs. Never would the Messiah disdain to be a slave of Allah, nor would the angels near [to Him]. And whoever disdains His worship and is arrogant—He will gather them to Himself all together. And as for those who believed and did righteous deeds, He will give them in full their rewards and grant them extra from His bounty. But as for those who disdained and were arrogant, He will punish them with a painful punishment, and they will not find for themselves besides Allah any protector or helper. O humankind, there has come to you a conclusive proof from your Lord, and We have sent down to you a clear light. So those who believe in Allah and hold fast to Him—He will admit them to mercy from Himself and bounty and guide them to Himself on a straight path.} (Quran 4: 171-175)

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) also warned against the deification of humans. He said:

«O people, beware of going to excesses in religion, for verily people before you were destroyed for going to excesses in religion.» (Recorded by Ibn Majah and Nasai with a sound chain of narration)

Being a human prophet, Jesus (pbuh) did not ask people to worship him, and there is no evidence in the Bible that he did so. Allah has informed us in the Quran that on the Day of Judgement, He will gather all the nations in front of Himself and will ask the messengers how they were received by their peoples and what they said to them. Among those who are going to be questioned is Jesus (pbuh):

{And [beware the day] when Allah will say: O Jesus, son of Mary, did you say to the people: Take me and my mother as deities besides Allah? He will say: Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right. If I had said it, You would have known it. You know what is within myself, and I do not know what is within Yourself. Indeed, it is You who is Knower of the unseen. I said not to them except what You commanded me—to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. And I was a witness over them as long as I was among

them; but when You took me up, You were the Observer over them, and You are, over all things, Witness. If You should punish them—indeed they are Your slaves; but if You forgive them—indeed it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise. Allah will say: This is the day when the truthful will benefit from their truthfulness. For them are gardens [in paradise] beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever, Allah being pleased with them, and they with Him. That is the great attainment.} (*Quran 5: 116-119*)

It is clear that Jesus' essence is different from Allah's essence, so it is not logical to say that Jesus is the son of Allah.

8. The prophethood of Jesus (pbuh)

The Islamic view of Jesus (pbuh) is a moderate one, as it lies between the two extremes. The Jews rejected Jesus (pbuh) in his role as a prophet of Allah and called him an impostor. The Christians, on the other hand, considered him to be the son of God (Allah) and 'God-incarnate' in some cases; thus, they began worshipping him. Islam considers Jesus (pbuh) to be one of the greatest prophets of Allah, Who has said:

{The Messiah, son of Mary, was not but a messenger; [other] messengers have passed on before him. And his mother was a supporter of truth.¹¹ They both used to eat food. Look how We make clear to them the signs; then look how they are deluded.}

(*Quran 5: 75*)

9. The mission of Jesus (pbuh)

Now one might ask: what was the real mission of Jesus (pbuh) according to the Quran?

11 Mary was a pious, virtuous woman who never claimed that she was the mother of God or that her son was God.

The answer is that Jesus (pbuh) propagated the message of monotheism: worship of Allah alone, as prescribed in the original Gospels. He worked hard to propagate this message, inviting all of the people of Israel to accept it. On the Day of Judgement, when Allah asks Jesus whether he instructed the Christians to worship him and his mother, Jesus will reply:

{I said not to them except what You commanded me—to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord...} (*Quran 5: 117*)¹²

The prophecy of Muhammad (bpuh) as a successor to Christ was a part of Jesus' message. Allah has mentioned:

{And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said: O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad. But when he came to them with clear evidences, they said: This is obvious magic.}
(*Quran 61: 6*)

Though the Bible has been altered a great deal over time, it contains remnants of the original true message revealed to Prophet Jesus (pbuh). In this regard, the messenger of whom Jesus gave glad tidings and prophecies is still referred to in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

Jesus was a link in a long line of prophets and messengers whom Allah sent to various civilizations and nations whenever they needed guidance or deviated from His teachings. Jesus was sent by Allah especially to preach to the Jews, who had deviated from the teachings of Moses and other messengers. Just as he was supported by Allah miraculously in his conception, birth and childhood, he was also

12 For details, refer to Section 17.3, “Revival of the doctrine of monotheism”, in my book *Who Deserves to Be Worshipped?*

supported by numerous miracles to prove that he was a messenger from Allah. However, a majority of Jews rejected his ministry.

It must be noted that Jesus Christ (pbuh), son of Mary, was the last in the line of prophets sent to the Jewish people exclusively.

10. The ascension of Jesus (pbuh)

Jesus' ascension is the last miracle that was given to him while he was on the earth. The Jews and Romans attempted to kill him, but Allah replaced him with another man who resembled him, and it was this man who was killed. Jesus (pbuh) was neither killed nor crucified; rather, he was raised to Allah. To this day, the Christians believe that Jesus himself was the one who was killed, but Allah has said:

{And [for] their saying: Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah. And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain. Rather, Allah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise.} (*Quran 4: 157-158*)

11. The second coming of Jesus (pbuh)

In the Islamic teachings, there is clear evidence indicating the second coming of Jesus (pbuh) before the final hour; this will be his final miracle. He will return not as God, as the Christians believe, but as Jesus, Allah's messenger and slave, as he has always been. One of the purposes of his coming will be to correct the misconceptions surrounding his message and mission. According to a statement of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), he will stay for forty years, and these will be the happiest years of life on this earth. During that time, those who had misconceptions about him will correct their understanding and believe in him as a messenger, not as the son of God (Allah).

It was narrated by Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him)¹³ that the Messenger of Allah (bpuh) said:

«By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, it will not be long before the son of Mary descends amongst you, a just judge and ruler. He will break the cross, kill the swine and abolish the *jizyah*.¹⁴ Money will be so plentiful that no one will accept it. At that time, a single prostration will be better than this world and everything in it.¹⁵

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) then said: Read if you wish (the following verse of the Quran):

{And there is none from the People of the Scripture but that he will surely believe in Jesus before his death. And on the Day of Resurrection, he will be against them a witness.}(Quran 4: 159)»

(Recorded by Bukhari)

In another narration, Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said that:

«Among the things that Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) was recorded to have said regarding Prophet Jesus' return is the following:

13 Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) was one of the closest Companions of Prophet Muhammad (bpuh). It should be noted that the words, actions and tacit approvals of Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) have been narrated by the Companions and have subsequently been recorded. A Companion, according to the majority of scholars, is one who met personally with Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) during his lifetime and was a Muslim at the time of meeting him. Thus, one will find much of the history of the Prophet (bpuh) through such narrations, called hadiths.

14 *jizyah*: a tax paid by Christians and Jews living under Muslim protection. (The Muslims do not pay *jizyah*, but they must give a percentage of their personal wealth as obligatory charity to designated categories of recipients, such as the poor and the needy.)

15 This is because with the coming of Jesus, people will know with certainty that the final hour is very near.

There will be no prophet between Jesus and me, and Jesus will return. When he does, you will know him. He will be a well-built man of ruddy complexion, and he will descend wearing a two-piece garment. His hair will look wet, though no water will have touched it. He will fight people to establish Islam and he will break the cross, kill the swine and cancel the jizyah. During his time, Allah will destroy all religions except Islam, and the Antichrist will be killed.¹⁶ Jesus will remain on Earth for forty years, and when he dies, Muslims will pray the funeral prayer for him.»

(A sound hadith recorded by Abu Dawood)

Jesus' return will be one of the signs of the Day of Judgement. It will be the final miracle given to him before he dies.

Conclusion

The eleven points in this chapter shed light on the personality of Jesus (pbuh) from the Islamic perspective. Splits and conflicts regarding the reality of Jesus' personality have existed over the last twenty centuries, as Christian teachings were heavily polluted with man-made thoughts and Roman beliefs, causing them to stray far from the inspiration revealed to Jesus (pbuh). These controversies have been cleared away by the teachings of Islam.

16 The Antichrist is also called the 'false Christ'; he is a man who will claim that he is Allah, and he will be followed by ignorant people, but Prophet Jesus will find him and kill him.

A CALL TO REASON

A concluding suggestion: consider what everyone has in common.
Come, let us reason together:

{Say: O People of the Scripture, come to a word that is equitable between us and you—that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of Allah. But if they turn away, then say: **Bear witness that we are Muslims** [submitting to Him].} (*Quran* 3: 64)

In the noble Quran, {People of the Scripture} is the respectful title given to the Jews and the Christians. Muslims are being commanded to invite them with noble and respectful words: O People of the Book, O learned people, O people who claim to be the recipients of divine revelation of a holy scripture, let us gather onto a common platform: that we worship none but Allah, because none but Him is worthy of worship and because He is our Lord and Cherisher, our Sustainer and Evolver, worthy of all praise, prayer and devotion.

These truths are basic and an integral part of any human being's intellect. Sort through the layers of indoctrination that hide this simple fact, and one will be able to see that deep down, every human being retains the simple and obvious concept of Allah. In essence, every human being agrees that there is only One God worthy of worship, One God Who is free of partners, helpers, and anything that is ascribed to Him falsely.

THIS IS IT

In this book, you have been shown the right path, and Allah has given you the ability to distinguish right from wrong. He has also given you the freedom of choice as to whether or not to accept the message of Islam. If you accept His call, you will be warmly welcomed into paradise. If you reject it, you will end up with the biggest loss ever imagined: the loss of paradise and the guarantee of dwelling in hellfire for all eternity. Take a moment to comprehend what **eternity** really means. It is a very frightening realization.

To those who have been faithful Christians, you are warmly welcome to embrace Islam because:

- ❖ Jesus asked his followers to follow Muhammad (bpuh) whenever he appeared.¹⁷
- ❖ When Jesus comes back before the end of this world, he will follow Muhammad (bpuh) and abide by his teachings.

Yes, since Jesus called his true followers to follow it while he was on the earth, and he will follow Islam when he comes back, all faithful Christians should follow Islam as well.

To those who have been believing Jews, remember that Abraham and Moses surrendered themselves completely to their Lord, whether they called Him Elohenu, God, or Allah. All pride in ethnicity or ancestry is vain; what will matter in the end is your individual relationship with your Creator. This means total submission: Islam.

To those of other faiths or those who, until now, did not feel that they had any faith at all, consider this message **now**, without any

17 See al-Rassi, *The Amazing Prophecies of Muhammad (bpuh) in the Bible: Twenty-Eight Proofs from the Bible of Muhammad's Prophethood*.

reluctance or hesitation, before it is too late—**before death overtakes you**. It could be soon. Who knows?

A WHISPER

Some people are not able to find the truth because of their blind commitment to their beliefs. Their tenacious adherence is usually not based on an intellectual understanding of the teachings but on powerful cultural and emotional influences. Because they were brought up in a particular family or society, they firmly cling to the beliefs of that group, believing that they are upholding the truth.

There are others who are convinced about the religion of Islam and are mentally ready to embrace it. However, when they contemplate the drastic changes it will bring to their lives, changes that might not please their families and communities, they hesitate, and even after taking the decision, they sometimes go back and change their minds later.

It is whispered in their ears that no matter how much money, prestige, status, and power an unbeliever may have possessed in this life, he or she will never have enough to buy entrance into paradise. In the hereafter, the poorest inhabitant of Earth who has testified to the truth of Islam will be far happier and more dignified than the richest person who did not accept the message of Islam.

Rejecting Allah's message is the biggest sin that one can commit. For this reason, while the soul is still in his or her body, the wise individual should take this opportunity; he or she is still alive to accept Allah's message before it is too late. The time for repentance is limited because once death arrives, it is no longer possible to obtain forgiveness.¹⁸ Allah has mentioned:

{[For such is the state of the disbelievers] until, when death comes to one of them, he says: My Lord, send me back that I might do

18 Compiled from Caraballo, *My Great Love for Jesus Led Me to Islam*.

righteousness in that which I left behind. No! It is only a word he is saying...}¹⁹ (*Quran 23: 99-100*)

Religion is, without question, the most important aspect of a person's life, for it determines whether or not a person is rightly guided. It follows, therefore, that choosing the true faith is the most important personal decision one must make, and this decision needs to be based on clarity and total conviction. When it comes to matters of religion and creed, nothing must be left to chance because the one who is truly guided—as opposed to the one who is not—will surely find eternal happiness in the hereafter!

Having been presented with the previous proofs, we should use our intellect to analyse and reason. A crossroad has been reached, and Allah (Glorified is He) calls on all people to follow the clear, straight road and avoid all the murky, dubious ones. The right path has now become distinct from the wrong path, as Allah has mentioned:

{There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong, so whoever disbelieves in taghoot and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing.}

(*Quran 2: 256*)

It is my duty and responsibility, as a resident of this great planet, and as one who has submitted my free will to the law and commandments of the Supreme Being, to urge all human beings to stay away from the worship of false deities—to stop putting their faith in statues, sphinxes, figures, amulets, talismans, horseshoes, and any other objects that have been manufactured by humans or created by

19 The unbelievers will ask for a 'second chance' when they see the angels ready to punish them, but it will be too late; they were given the time, the intellect and the guidance, but they neglected it for years until time ran out.

God. After first repenting, a person should submit completely to the will of Allah, the Only God of the universe.

HOW TO BECOME A MUSLIM

Every religion has its own requirements for conversion.

Someone who wants to become Jewish must pledge all of the following:

- 1) To enter the 'eternal covenant' between God and the people of Israel and to become a Jew of his or her own free will;
- 2) To accept Judaism to the exclusion of all other religious faiths and practices, which means to deny the prophethood of Jesus and Muhammad (bpuh) and to deny the revelations that God sent to humankind through them;
- 3) An undivided loyalty to Judaism and to the Jewish people under all circumstances;
- 4) To commit to learning the Torah and other Jewish knowledge; and
- 5) To raise his or her children as Jews.

To be a Christian, one must:

- 1) Believe that God (Allah) has a partner, a mother, and a son;
- 2) Believe that every new-born baby is born sinful;
- 3) Believe that God became a man and descended to Earth to die for the sins of the people;
- 4) Deny the prophethood of Muhammad (bpuh) publicly; and
- 5) Deny that the Quran is a revelation from Allah, the Exalted.

However, to become a Muslim is simple. One must:

- 1) Bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah (in other words, disown all false gods),
- 2) Bear witness that Muhammad (bpuh) is His messenger,
- 3) Believe in all the six articles of faith, and
- 4) Worship Allah as taught by Prophet Muhammad (bpuh).

Hence, becoming a Muslim is a simple and easy process. If anyone has a real desire to be a Muslim and has full belief that Islam is the true religion of God, all he or she needs to do is to pronounce the *shahadah*, the testimony of faith.²⁰ Pronunciation of this testimony with a sincere heart brings the person into the fold of Islam. It is the main gateway to Islam.

Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) said:

«Whoever testifies that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, Who has no partner; that Muhammad is His slave and messenger; that Jesus is the slave of Allah, His prophet, and His word²¹ which He bestowed in Mary and a spirit created from Him; that paradise (heaven) is true; and that the hellfire is true—Allah will eventually admit him into paradise, according to his deeds.»

(Recorded by Bukhari)

The first part of the testimony consists of the most important words of truth that Allah has ever revealed to His noble prophets, “There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah.” He has stated:

{And We sent not before you any messenger except that We revealed to him that: There is no deity except Me, so worship Me.}

(Quran 21: 25)

Bearing this testimony implies that all forms of worship—whether praying, fasting, supplicating, seeking refuge, or offering an animal as sacrifice—must be directed to Allah and to Him alone. Directing any form of worship to other than Allah (whether to an angel, a prophet, Jesus, Muhammad [bpuh], a saint, an idol, a statue, the sun, the moon,

20 The words of the *shahadah* are: *Ash-hadu al-la ilahailla Allah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Abduhu wa Rasooluhu*. (I testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and I testify that Muhammad is His slave and messenger.)

21 It means that Jesus was created when Allah said the word “Be”; when He said it, Jesus was created in the womb of his mother, Mary.

a tree, a cross, or anything else) contradicts the fundamental message not only of Islam but of all the prophets; it is an unforgivable sin in the hereafter, so one must repent before death.

The second part of the testimony means that Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) is the slave and the chosen messenger of Allah.²² This implies that a true Muslim obeys and follows the commands of the Prophet (bpuh) as mentioned in the collections of his hadiths. One must believe in what he has said, practice his teachings, and avoid what he has forbidden because the hadiths were, in fact, revelations and inspiration conveyed to him by Allah.

As mentioned earlier, Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) was sent in order to implement the Quran in a practical way through his sayings, deeds, and legislation, as well as all other facets of his life. When his wife Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) was asked about his character, she replied:

«His character was that of the Quran.»

(Recorded by Muslim and Abu Dawood)

Hence, to truly adhere to the second part of the shahadah is to follow his example in all walks of life. Allah has mentioned:

{Say [O Muhammad]: If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.} (*Quran* 3: 31)

A true Muslim must strive to mould his or her life and character to emulate the Prophet (bpuh), for he was a living example for human beings to follow. Allah has said to His Prophet (bpuh):

{And indeed, you are of a great moral character.} (*Quran* 68: 4)

22 The meaning of worship is, simply, total submission and complete obedience to Allah's commandments in belief, intentions, statements, and actions. This is what is meant by 'slavery to Allah' in Islam.

Allah has also said to all people:

{There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often.} (*Quran 33: 21*)

When one enters the fold of Islam, all previous sins are forgiven; one starts a new life of piety and righteousness since he or she, in essence, has repented from the ways and beliefs of the previous life. One man told the Prophet (bpuh) that he would accept Islam only under the condition that Allah would forgive his sins; the Prophet (bpuh) asked him:

«Do you not know that accepting Islam destroys all sins that came before it?» (Recorded by Muslim)

As soon as a person accepts Islam, he or she is free of all previous sins. The person's record is wiped clean, as if he or she was born that very day. One should try as much as possible to keep his or her records clean and strive to do as many good deeds as possible; the more good deeds, the more he or she will be elevated in paradise.

It should be emphasized again that accepting Islam does not mean turning your back on the messages of previous prophets (peace be upon them all). Indeed, it is a fulfilment of those messages. Therefore, if you are a Jew or a Christian, accepting Islam and following Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) is a fulfilment of the messages which Moses and Jesus (peace be upon them) brought, as has been clearly described and proven in my book *The Amazing Prophecies of Muhammad (bpuh) in the Bible: Twenty-Eight Proofs from the Bible of Muhammad's Prophethood*.

On the other hand, rejecting Islam means turning your back not only on Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) but also on Prophets Moses and Jesus. Doing so is actually a clear violation of their messages, and it diminishes your hope of paradise in the hereafter.

It is now up to you to decide where your own future home will be.
I wish you all the best!

TO SUM IT UP...

The creation and existence of everything in this world has a purpose and wisdom behind it. Human beings are the most superior creation because Allah has given them the intellect, has created everything for them, and has given them power and knowledge over most of the creation. There is obviously a specific purpose behind their existence, and this has been elaborated in this book.

Wise people are expected to behave and act in accordance with the purpose of their existence; they should not remain oblivious to the final destination, which they are going to reach one day or another.

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APPENDIX

For Further Information about Islam

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- ❖ islamhouse.com/en/ (thousands of free books)
- ❖ iera.org/shop/ (free downloads)
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GLOSSARY OF ISLAMIC TERMS²³

<i>abu</i> (or <i>abi</i>)	father (of)
<i>Bayt al-Maqdis</i>	the Islamic name for Jerusalem
hadith	a statement or action of Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) that was remembered and recorded by his Companions and followers
<i>jizyah</i>	a tax paid by Christians and Jews living under Muslim protection. (The Muslims do not pay <i>jizyah</i> , but they must give a percentage of personal wealth as obligatory charity to designated categories of recipients, such as the poor and the needy.)
<i>shahadah</i>	the Islamic testimony of faith: <i>Ash-hadu al-la ilaha illa Allah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Abduhu wa Rasooluhu</i> . (I testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and I testify that Muhammad is His slave and messenger.)
<i>taghoot</i>	idols; everything evil that is worshipped
<i>zakah</i>	obligatory charity payable by Muslims, to be distributed to poor Muslims who qualify as recipients

23 If a word has become part of the English language (i.e., is found in a dictionary of Standard English), that spelling is used in this book.