

I....WON

MUHAMMAD

رَبِّكَ هَمْدًا

AND....

وَلَمْ يَخْسِرِ الْمَسِيحَ

DID NOT....LOSE

THE CHRIST

Author: A. DALATI

Translated by: M. AL-SHAMMA

I WON 'MUHAMMAD'

AND

DID NOT LOSE

'THE CHRIST'

BY:

Dr. ABDUL MO'TI AL-DALATI

Translated with Edits by:

M. H. Al-Shamma

In the name of God the Entirely Gracious, the specially Merciful

PRESENTATION

by the author

To those who have awakened the sun, rescued hope, and renewed the youth of Islam ...
To those who have liberated their minds from the shackles of parents, and turned their faces toward the
sky ...
until God answered their prayers ...

To:

Evelyn Coupled, Maryam Jamila, Sabora Uribe, Salma Bwaver, Jeffrey Lang, Murad Hoffman,
Mohammad Sidique, and Yusuf Islam ...
and to others whom we may not know.....but God knows them.

I pray to God to let us taste the mercy that they experienced at the moment they pronounced the
testimony [Shahada] :

'I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of him'

Preface by interpreter

This is not the whole book of Dr. Dalati. Actually I'm presenting here only few chapters (with the approval of the author); my aim is to present the free world a better look to Islam, and to shed some light on the portrayal of Jesus Christ in the Holy Qur'an. The title of the book refers to those people who were related to Jesus, but then, loved him even more after their conversion to Islam!

This book contains stories of some of them, many of them indicated how lost they were, they loved Jesus but could not accept trinity, they found in Islam what they could accept. Some of them were looking for answers, about the meaning of life, that was only and finally fulfilled by Islam.

To many of them, Islam was their final refugee, It came last in their search, after they passed through many faiths and believes, until they finally reached Islam, to be relieved!

Islam testimony [*shahada*] "**There's no Deity but God [Allah]**" refers to the Great Creator of the universe, who has the ultimate power upon each atom of it, God who never begot, nor was begotten, and there's nothing equivalent to him.

Islam came to transfer people from worshiping persons or things, to worship God only, declaring that God will accept nothing less than that from people. And Muslims are obliged to deliver this message to people- not by fight- but by rational dialogue.

The author's declaration that 'We as Muslims call for the demolition of the walls, and the establishment of solid bridges between East and West for the acquaintance of the cultures and people'; as was declared in the Holy Qur'an:

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you tribes so that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted." (Holy Qur'an, 49:13)

In translating this books, I had to do some editing-within the author authorization-for many quotations were translated to Arabic from other languages, that I had to search them in their original languages, and to deny those that I could not find! That also apply to the stories of those who embraced Islam. I must say that I've added some astonishing stories, and denied some that could not find their sources. And I had to use the last update I found regarding information about religion's growth around the world.

One last word I'd like to add is that Dr. Dalati is not only a writer, but also a Poet. So you'll find many poetic images in this book, which stir emotions, but I must say that I've abbreviated many and emphasized on the opinion. I kept the line and opinions of the author.

Maha Al-Shamma

20th May 2011

Page of Holy Qur'an

(<http://Qur'an.com>)

"And indeed, among the People of the Scripture are those who believe in Allah and what was revealed to you and what was revealed to them, [being] humbly submissive to Allah . They do not exchange the verses of Allah for a small price. Those will have their reward with their Lord. Indeed, Allah is swift in account." (Holy Qur'an, 3:199)

"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]." (Holy Qur'an, 3:64)

"And do not argue with the People of the Scripture except in a way that is best, except for those who commit injustice among them, and say, We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you. And our God and your God is one; and we are Muslims [in submission] to Him." (Holy Qur'an, 29:46)

"So whoever Allah wants to guide - He expands his breast to [contain] Islam; and whoever He wants to misguide - He makes his breast tight and constricted as though he were climbing into the sky. Thus does Allah place defilement upon those who do not believe." (Holy Qur'an,6:125)

"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion." (Holy Qur'an, 5:3)

Page of Prophet Muhammad speeches

((All Prophets are brothers and came with a single Message... and I'm more obliged to Jesus son of Maryam [Mary], because no other prophet came between him and me)) (Narrated by Imam Ahmad & Bukhari)

((Good tidings to this nation [The Muslims] with splendor, high rank, victory, and empowerment on Earth)) (Narrated by Imam Ahmad & Ibn Hayan)

((The matter of this religion [Islam] will reach wherever night and day reach, will enter every house. By God's will, all people will hear of it, with glory to Islam, and humiliation to infidelity))
(Narrated by Imam Ahmed)

((This Religion [Islam] will continue to defeat whoever fights it, until the *religion* and it's people are manifest)) (Narrated by Hafiz Ibn Asaker)

((Those who embrace Islam from the scripture people (Jesus or Moses) , will be double- rewarded . And will be sharing rewards and obligations same as we do.)) (Narrated by Imam Ahmed)

((By God, I am unable to abandon my *Mission* as neither of you can get a flame directly from the sun.)) (Narrated by Al-Tabrani and Abu Yali)

Page of Old Testament

'He said: The Lord came from Sinai*, and dawned from Seir* upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran*. With him were myriads* of holy ones; at his right, a host of his own.'

(Deuteronomy 33/2)

*"Sinai" was the place set for Moses mission's start, "Seir" for Jesus, and "Paran" for Muhammad, and "myriads of holy ones" are the number of Muhammad's followers upon Mecca conquest.

'The oracle concerning the desert plain. In the scrub of the desert plain you will lodge, O caravans of Dedanites. 14 Bring water to the thirsty, meet the fugitive with bread, O inhabitants of the land of Tema. 15 For they have fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, from the bent bow, and from the stress of battle. 16 For thus the Lord said to me: Within a year*, according to the years of a hired worker, all the glory of Kedar will come to an end; 17 and the remaining bows of Kedar's warriors will be few; for the Lord, the God of Israel, has spoken.' (Isaiah 21/13-17)

*"Within a year" is a sign to "Bader" Battle, the first Muslims victory upon infidelity."

'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.' (Isaiah 42/1-4)

'Let the desert and its towns lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the inhabitants of Sela* sing for joy, let them shout from the tops of the mountains. 12 Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare his praise in the coastlands.' (Isaiah 42/11-12)

*Sela is a mountain in Medina near Mecca.

[This chapter resembles what actually took place when Muhammad moved from Mecca to Medina to establish the first Muslim Territory, People there received him with joyful ode: "The full moon has risen to us, from the folds of farewell, O You, messenger to us, You came with obeyed command."]

'The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.' (Haggai 2/9)

Page of New Testament

'Then said Jesus: 'With your words I am not consoled, because where ye hope for light darkness shall come; but my consolation is in the coming of the messenger, who shall destroy every false opinion of me, and his faith shall spread and shall take hold of the whole world, for so hath God promised to Abraham our father. And that which giveth me consolation is that his faith shall have no end, but shall be kept inviolate by God.' (Gospel of Barnabas 97/5)

'Then said the priest: 'How shall the Messiah be called, and what sign shall reveal his coming?'

Jesus answered: 'The name of the Messiah is admirable, for God himself gave him the name when he had created his soul, and placed it in a celestial splendour. God said: 'Wait Mohammed; for thy sake I will to create paradise, the world, and a great multitude of creatures, whereof I make thee a present, insomuch that whoso shall bless thee shall be blessed, and whoso shall curse thee shall be accursed. When I shall send thee into the world I shall send thee as my messenger of salvation, and thy word shall be true, insomuch that heaven and earth shall fail, but thy faith shall never fail." Mohammed is his blessed name.'

Then the crowd lifted up their voices, saying: 'O God, send us thy messenger: O Mohammed, come quickly for the salvation of the world!' (Gospel of Barnabas 97)

'Verily I say unto you, that every prophet when he is come hath borne to one nation only the mark of the mercy of God. And so their words were not extended save to that people to which they were sent. But the messenger of God, when he shall come, God shall give to him as it were the seal of his hand, insomuch that he shall carry salvation and mercy to all the nations of the world that shall receive his doctrine. He shall come with power upon the ungodly, and shall destroy idolatry, insomuch that he shall make Satan confounded; for so promised God to Abraham, saying: "Behold, in thy seed I will bless all the tribes of the earth; and as thou hast broken in pieces the Idols, O Abraham, even so shall thy seed do.' (Gospel of Barnabas 43/15)

'And Moses assured the Israelites that God Himself had revealed this to him while in Mount Horeb, saying, "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren [the Arabs], like unto thee, and will put My words in His mouth; and He shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him.' (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18. Acts of the Apostles 22, page222)

**(Arabia would have seemed what it had been for times immemorial,
the refuge of small and bickering nomadic tribes.**

No Semitic people had founded an empire now for more than a thousand years.

Then suddenly the Bedouin flared out for a brief century of splendor.

They spread their rule and language from Spain to the boundaries of China.

They gave the world a new culture.

They created a religion that is still to this day one of the most vital forces in the world.)

(H.G. Wells. A Short History of the World)

O what a great joy, as the joy of the wronged, who was spared by justice,

O what a great joy, as the joy of the captive, the moment of being set free,

O what a great joy, as the joy of homeless lost child, who found his parent,

O what a great joy, as the joy of the thirsty in the desert, who found water,

O what a great joy, as the joy of the bewildered, who found guidance after

doubts,

O you! the religion of guidance and justice, are the best gift of God,

(from divan "Fragrance from heaven" by the author)

Preface by the author

I won 'Muhammad' and did not lose 'The Christ'

'I will not explain this title, for fear to touch it's glow!

Will not analyze it, for fear to detract it's beauty,

I admit that- inside me – I did try,

and I did appeal to vocabularies, yet couldn't! what a paralyzed pen, and what lack of statement!

But, If unable to reach the sprinkled star in the sky,

can I not refer to a star in it's path?.

For the Lord may bless a single word, to make it comprise a whole scripture. (the author)

A Prophet, any Prophet, is not but the perfect human, whom God created for a purpose to spread the glow that leads the minds on all times.

Prophecy transfer God's radiance to humanity, to make things right, after impropriety, and withdraw humans toward the light. In their creation-in both bodies and souls- there are nothing but the goodness and purity. For God produced them to deliver his '**Single Message**' to people.

And it was a long chain of Prophets, that finally needed completeness, which started there at 'Harr'a' cave, where revelation started to '**The sincere and the honest**' [that was Muhammad's nick name among his people]. And the coming story is a special proof of his sincerity, and of his prophecy:-

It occurred that the sun-eclipse synchronized with the death of Muhammad's own child "Ibrahim". So his people said: "The sun eclipsed for the death of Ibrahim", While he simply rejected their speech! And he declared-in his grief-that :((**The Sun and Moon are two signs among other signs of God's creations, and they never Eclipse for the death of anyone**)). (Narrated by Bukhari & Muslim).

This event shows how great he was, for he did not take advantage of the coincidence to control people's minds by falsehood.

And he was sincere in delivering the complete Message, never hid a word of the oracle [Holy Qur'an], otherwise, we wouldn't find such declaration about Virgin Mary [Maryam], as this chapter:

"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." (Holy Qur'an, 3/42)

That carried Virgin Mary up so high!....No one will do this for Mary and Jesus but a revelation from God!

The Prophecy of Mohammed is of sincerity, honesty and faith. A Prophecy that calls for the understanding, awareness, & guidance with contemplation & consideration.

It has been said that (**Thinking leads to Islam and Islam leads to Thinking**). (Al tafkeer faredha Islamia, By Al aqad)

And that (**Free thinking does not threaten Islam, It's the shackles of thinking that does so**). (Al baheth a'n haweyya by Abdul Hakeem bahlaq)

Muhammad was both an Auspicious and a Warner: "**I am not except a Warner and a bringer of good tidings to people who believe.**" (Holy Qur'an, 7:188)

And no temptation nor compromise will take him from that.

"Say [O Muhammad], I do not tell you that I have the depositories [containing the provision] of Allah or that I know the unseen, nor do I tell you that I am an angel. I only follow what is revealed to me. Say, Is the blind equivalent to the seeing? Then will you not give thought?" (Holy Qur'an, 6:50)

And the Holy Qur'an is considered as the first miracle of Islam. Then, the Prophet himself with his character that gathered all the virtues, and how he spread his message, as the second miracle.

(A look at Muhammad's personality allows us to familiarized ourselves with large number of scenes: There is Mohammad the Prophet, the defender, the governor, the speaker, the righter, the orphan, Muhammad who freed the slaves, and Muhammad protector of women, Muhammad the judge, & Muhammad the God's slave. All these wonderful roles made him the best example for human spirit). (Muhammad Prophet of Islam, by Rama Krishna Rao)

(when the Prophet was sent, Freedom rose, Minds were freed, good wills were motivated, hearts were gathered, justice was established.....until the weak felt that God backed them, and the poor felt that the treasury was for them, and the lonely felt that all believers were their brothers)
(Wahy Al resala by Hasan Al-zayat)

The inmate of 'Harr'a':

In a towering cave located upon a mountain-on the road between heaven and earth- was the meeting between Muhammad, coming from the earth, carrying his petitions, and Angel Gabriel coming from the sky, carrying the Message, and the conversation took place:

Gabriel: **Read [Recite].**

Muhammad: **I am not a reader.**

Gabriel: "**Read [Recite] in the name of your Lord who created-1-.Created man from a clinging substance-2-Read [Recite], and your Lord is the most Generous-3-.Who taught by the pen-4-Taught man that which he knew not-5-.**" (Holy Qur'an, 96:1-5)

These Words formed the 'A B C' of human happiness! They were first rays of the lights of the Qur'an, the establish of a new religion, the God gift of mercy to the world.

And so, this book contains the Muslim's word about Jesus Christ.

It also contains speeches of people who chose Islam, their testimonies about how God opened their hearts to accept the glow of Islam.

And speeches of people who rejected Islam, people who saw the truth but denied it!

And speeches of thinkers who saw the spiritual collapse in the Western Modern Culture, and states their shouting to survive.

Finally I conclude my Preface with three cards:

The first card signed by the German poet 'Johann Goethe', contains lines from (Song for Mohammed):

**(Behold this rocky spring, bright with joy like a twinkling star; above the clouds its youth was
nourished by good spirits among the cliffs in the bushes,**

**Below in the valley flowers appear from its footprints, and the meadow derives life from its
breath. But no shaded valley can stop it, no flower, clasping its knees and imploring it with loving
eyes,**

**and now [the spring] swells more grandly: an entire race lifts the prince up high! And in rolling
triumph it gives names to the lands and cities that grow in its path. Irresistibly it rushes onward,
leaving a wake of flaming-tipped towers and houses of marble - creations of its bounty.)**

The second card signed by the Poet of the East 'Muhammad Iqbal, and lines from his poetry 'Selfhood
can demolish the magic of this world; (from Baal-i-Jibreel)

**(I will not wonder if I reach even the moon and the stars,
For I have hitched my wagon to the star. of all stars.**

**First among the wise, last of the Prophets[*Muhammad*],
Who gave a speck of dust the brightness of the Mount.**

**He is the first and last in the eyes of love;
He is the Word of God. He is the Word of God.)**

And the third card contains lines from my[the author] divan (I love you, my Lord), these lines I wrote,
with a small pen, inked with great love:

**(what a confusion, I do not know what to say,
what purity the heart of the herald carried,
what a light to guide the minds,**

**You are the guidance niche, you are the lamp,
what praise would be enough?**

**O messenger heralded by messages,
what a prophet with such merits,**

You are the light .. You are the purity ..

You are the truth that defeated falsehood).

(Regards, prayers and praise be to Allah

**Peace be upon you, O Prophet, and God's mercy and blessingsPeace be upon us and upon the
righteous slaves of Allah.**

I bear witness that there is no God but Allah .. And I bear witness that Muhammad is his slave and Messenger.)

Author Dr. Abdul Mu'ti Al -Dalati, Homs / Syria,

At the eve. of Moses's survival, Ashura [Muharram, 10th.] / 1424 A.H

March 13th. / 2003 A.D

CHAPTER-1-

ISLAMIC CONCEPT OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ son of Mary[Mary] 'peace be upon him' was born without a father! What a wondrous event! But should not be more wondrous than the event of creating the first human-being 'Adam', without parents at all!

“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.” (Holy Qur’an 3:59)

What a comparison stated in this verse, of a strange case with what is stranger! That since people didn't witness the miracle creation of Adam. It was God's wisdom that chose to let them witness Jesus miracle birth, to witness God's might.

Another intention might be to redeem the spiritual balance of Israel breed-to whom Christ was sent- after they were withdrawn with materialism. His miracle birth was a declaration of spiritual world.

And Jesus grew-with God's care and inspection- in the womb of his virgin mother. While the universe continued to exist during that by Gods will and power!

“His command when He intends a thing is that He says to it, Be, and it is.” (Holy Qur’an 36:83)

The story of Jesus birth is recited beautifully, and particularly in Holy Qur’an as this:

“ And mention, [O Muhammad], in the Book, the story of Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place toward the east -16-. And she took, in seclusion from them, a screen. Then We sent to her Our Angel, and he represented himself to her as a well-proportioned man-17-. She said, "Indeed, I seek refuge in the Most Merciful from you, if you should be fearing of Allah-18-.

He said, I am only the messenger of your Lord to give you [news of] a pure boy-19-. She said, How can I have a boy while no man has touched me and I have not been unchaste-20-. He said, Thus [it will be]; your Lord says, It is easy for Me, and We will make him a sign to the people and a mercy from Us. And it is a matter [already] decreed-21-. So she conceived him, and she withdrew with him to a remote place-22-. 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-23-. But he called her from below her, Do not grieve; your Lord has provided beneath you a stream-24-. And shake toward you the trunk of the palm tree; it will drop upon you ripe, fresh dates-25-. 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-26-. Then she brought him to her people, carrying him. They said, O Mary, you have certainly done a thing unprecedented-27-. O sister of Aaron, your father was not a man of evil, nor was your mother unchaste-28-. So she pointed to him. They said, How can we speak to one who is in the cradle a child-29-. [Jesus] said, Indeed, I am the servant of Allah . He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet-30-. And He has made me blessed wherever I am and has enjoined upon me prayer and zakah [alms] as long as I remain alive-31-. And [made me] dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant-32-. And peace is on me the day I was born and the day I will die and the day I am raised alive-33-. That is Jesus, the son of Mary - the word of truth about which they are in dispute-34-. It is not [befitting] for Allah to take a son; exalted is He. When He decrees an affair, He only says to it, Be, and it is-35-” (Holy Qur’an 19:16-35)

And the student of Qur’an senses why it didn't refer to Muhammad's story of birth-since it was a normal one-that this can be considered a proof of the divinity of Qur’an, otherwise, the human nature would have-simply- driven Muhammad to care to mention his story more than Jesus!

Besides, the previous verses, mentioned another miracle of Jesus, his speech in cradle-to prove his mother's innocence-whom Qur’an declared her virginity and purity many times:

“And [mention] the one who guarded her chastity, so We blew into her [garment] through Our angel [Gabriel], and We made her and her son a sign for the worlds.” (Holy Qur’an 21:91)

Moreover, Muhammad glorified virgin Mary in his speeches:

((The most righteous women are Maryam[Mary], and Khadija*))

*Khadija is his first wife, and first believer. (Narrated by Bukhari & Muslim)

Yet Qur’an never mentioned Muhammad's mother! Shouldn't it be? Well, Only if it was invented by him!. But to speaks highly of other Prophet's mother and not mentioning his, this proves that it came from superior source.

This wonderful picture of Maryam in Qur’an, opposes the one that Jews established for her, for they have slandered her chastity brutally!

And here we add a gesture to a contradiction that 'Dr. Shawqi Abu Khalil' alluded in his book, 'Tolerance in Islam' about what an irony to publish the 'New Testament' in combination with the 'Old Testament'! Those two ambivalent!

He suggested that it would be much more convenient to publish the Qur’an, or at least the chapters that glorify Mary and Jesus [Surat Maryam, and Surat Al Imran], to be combined with the 'New- Testament' instead!. (Al tasamuh fil Islam).

Moreover, Muslims speaks highly of Jesus, with the word [Peace be upon him], while Maimonides*

cursed Jesus in Talmud! In Chapter 10 of the English Translation, Maimonides' Mishnah Torah curses Jesus Christ:

It is a mitzvah [religious duty; ARC], however, to eradicate Jewish traitors, minnim, and apikorsim, and to cause them to descend to the pit of destruction, since they cause difficulty to the Jews and sway the people away from God, as did Jesus of Nazareth and his students, and Tzadok, Baithos, and their students. MAY THE NAME OF THE WICKED ROT.
(p. 184) [caps added] *A medieval Jewish philosopher and one of the greatest Torah scholars and physicians of the Middle Ages.

That was a truth that needed declaration.

And so, when Christ grew with the care of his mother, He swapped her love and kindness. **“And [made me] dutiful to my mother, and He has not made me a wretched tyrant.”** (Holy Qur'an 19:32)

While In the New Testament, it stated rudeness! **'When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ 4And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? !** (Gospel of John 2 /3-4)

Christ, a person and a Prophet:

Prevalent Gospels confirmed humanity of Christ 'peace be upon him': **'Jesus said to him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'**
(Gospel of Mathew 8/20)

'As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.' (Gospel of John 8/40)

'Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge' (Acts of Apostles 2/22)

And Christ was like other human beings, gets hungry and eats [that can not be acts of *God*]. **“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. They both used to eat food. Look how We make clear to them the signs; then look how they are deluded”** (Holy Qur'an 5:75)

'In the morning, when he returned to the city, he was hungry' (Gospel of Matthew 21/18)

So this great man-Christ-was charismatic, highly ethical, chosen by God to be a messenger to Israel

breed, and to rule them by law of the 'Torah' and guidance of the 'Bible'. He called upon them to have faith in God alone, and to devote worship to *him* alone, after they deviated....when some of them worshiped calf, and some claimed that “Ezra” is son of God! Some killed Prophets or invented slanders upon them. So Qur'an stated that Christ was sent by God to Israel breed only: **“And He will teach him writing and wisdom and the Torah and the Gospel-48-And [make him] a messenger to the Children of Israel, [who will say], 'Indeed I have come to you with a sign from your Lord in that I design for you from clay [that which is] like the form of a bird, then I breathe into it and it becomes a bird by permission of Allah . And I cure the blind and the leper, and I give life to the dead - by permission of Allah . And I inform you of what you eat and what you store in your houses. Indeed in that is a sign for you, if you are believers.”** (Holy Qur'an 3:48-49)

And in the New Testament: **'He answered, I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'**
(Gospel of Matthew 15/24)

And the Mission of Jesus was mentioned in Holy Qur'an, as it was mentioned in Gospels. **“O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was not 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”** (Holy Qur'an 4:171)

'Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.' (Gospel of John 17/3)

'They replied, The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people' (Gospel of Luke 24/19)

And as with all other Prophets, God supported his Messenger-Christ-with miracles and signs. Jesus could heal the blind and the leper, and return the dead back to life, with authorization from God.

Christ's call is the *Oneness* of God:

Christ 'peace be upon him', walked all over the country, calling the Israel breed to the pure monotheism and to worship God alone, by the verses of the Bible, the wisdom, and the miracles : **“while the Messiah has said, O Children of Israel, worship Allah , my Lord and your Lord.”** (Holy Qur'an 5:72)

“Never would the Messiah disdain to be a servant of Allah , nor would the angels near [to Him].“

(Holy Qur'an 4:172)

'Jesus answered him, It is written, Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him' (Gospel of Luke 4/8)

'Who can forgive sins but God alone?' (Gospel of Mark 2/7)

And previously we read **'that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.'** (Gospel of John 17/3)-which simply can be said as **(There's only one God and Christ is a messenger of his)!**

'Arius*'s central assertion was that **'God was immutable, unique, unknowable, only one'**. Therefore the Arians felt no substance of God could in any way be communicated or shared with any other being. (Gregg, R.C.,ed., Arianism: Historical and Theological Reassessments (1987).*A priest in Alexandria, (c.250-c.336).

And 'Gustav Lobon' the French historian, wrote: **(Nothing indicates that people considered Jesus as God in the first century of Christianity).** (Gustav Lobon:Life of truths)

While 'Johann Goethe' the German poet, said in his Qur'anic studies:

(Jesus felt pure and in calmness thought of the One God;

**Whoever makes himself a God, offends His holy will,
And thus shines what is right, What Mahomet also attained;**

Only by the term of the One, had he the whole world overcome)

(Goethe and Arab World, by Katrina Mommsen)

Jesus announcement of Muhammad's Mission 'peace be upon them':

Gospel was revealed to Jesus by God, **“And We sent, following in their footsteps, Jesus, the son of Mary, confirming that which came before him in the Torah; and We gave him the Gospel, in which was guidance and light and confirming that which preceded it of the Torah as guidance and instruction for the righteous.”** (Holy Qur'an 5:46)

And the word 'Gospel' derives from the Old English 'gōd-spell', meaning "good news" or "glad tidings". It is a 'word-for-word' translation of the Greek word 'εὐαγγέλιον', [euangelion](#) (eu-"good", -angelion "message"). And it was assumed, that the name was driven from the good news of redemption through the propitiatory offering of Jesus Christ for one's sins.

But we assume that it was so called-by *God inspiration*-because it was the last divine book that predicted the imminent mission of the last Prophet, and the descent of the last divine book (Qur'an).**“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." (Holy Qur'an 61:6)

And the source of the word "Qur'an"-*also God-inspired* -was driven from the Arabic word "qira'ah" which means "Reading", in the sense of extrapolation analysis, and understanding. This sense was emphasized by the first word revealed of (Qur'an) which was "Read"[Recite], and the first tool mentioned was "pen".

Frequent predictions about last prophet were mentioned in Gospels, 'now that all the prophets are come except the messenger of God who shall come after me, because so God willeth, and that I may prepare his way' (Gospel of Barnabas 36)

And 'I therefore say unto you that the messenger of God is a splendour that shall give gladness to nearly all that God hath made, for he is adorned with the spirit of understanding and of counsel, the spirit of wisdom and might, the spirit of fear and love, the spirit of prudence and temperance, he is adorned with the spirit of charity and mercy, the spirit of justice and piety, the spirit of gentleness and patience, which he hath received from God three times more than he hath given to all his creatures' (Gospel of Barnabas 44)

And the good tidings recurred '**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near**' (Gospel of Matthew 3/2, 4/17)

'Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near' (Gospel of Luke 10/11)

'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven' (Gospel of Matthew 6/10)

Those who preached 'the approaching of kingdom of heaven' were John [Yahya] and Jesus 'peace be upon them', and their disciples. As we read these words of Christ in Matthew's Gospel:

'Jesus said to them, Have you never read in the scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes ? 43Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. 44-The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.' (Gospel of Matthew 21/42)

So the mission of Christ 'peace be upon him', was the last introduction to the last prophet, who became the 'corner stone', as in *his* speech: **(The resemblance of me and all prophets, is like a house being built, with somuch care and beauty, all but one stone was missing, and people would go around wondering why and when is this stone to be put! So I am that stone, the final prophet.)** (Narrated by Al- Bukhari)

Muhammad Algazali wrote: **(The heavenly laws [religions] were like steps mounting and blocks**

accumulated in the structure of beliefs, morality and community policy. The task of the last block was the completion of the construction, and filling what was left in gaps, it was the cornerstone that holds elements of construction. It is a wise policy driven by divine providence to raise human breed gradually, there is no contradiction or conflict, but synergy and hugging, consistency and stability, then growth and completeness, and flourishing) (Al tasub wal tasamuh baineel maseeheya wal Islam, by Muhammad Algazali)

And so, the prophecy's structure was completed with Muhammad's mission, there's nothing more to be added afterward, **“And We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], the Book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it.”** (Holy Qur'an 5:48)

“This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion.” (Holy Qur'an 5:3)

The end of Christ 'peace be upon him', on earth:

The end of Christ on earth was not less wonderous than his birth! First the jews slandered his mother's chastity, then they rejected his mission! Then their hatred flooded, and led them to make a decision of crucifying him! but God saved him and lifted him. **“And [We cursed them] for their disbelief and their saying against Mary great slander-156- 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”** (Holy Qur'an 4:156-157)

In Barnabas Gospels **'Judas entered impetuously before all into the chamber whence Jesus had been taken up. And the disciples were sleeping. Whereupon the wonderful God acted wonderfully, insomuch that Judas was so changed in speech and in face to be like Jesus that we believed him to be Jesus. And he, having awakened us, was seeking where the Master was. Whereupon we marvelled, and answered: 'Thou, Lord, art our master; hast thou now forgotten us?' And he, smiling, said: 'Now are ye foolish, that know not me to be Judas Iscariot!' And as he was saying this the soldiery entered, and laid their hands upon Judas, because he was in every way like to Jesus'** (Gospel of Barnabas 216)

And nowadays, precisely on Nov.11th 1964, the Church have exculpate the Jews from Christ blood, would they do if were not really convinced that Christ was not the crucified one? And here we exclaim with Dr. Sami Asasa: **(Need it two thousand years, to be corrected?)** (Is the Talmudic Judaism a religion? By Sami Asasa)

As the Qur'an, particularly, mentioned Jesus birth, also mentioned what his attitude will be, on the resurrection day, when the witnesses arise. Jesus-among his brothers the Prophets-in front of the Lord, on the account, **“ 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-116-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.-117-If You should punish them - indeed they are Your servants; but if You forgive them - indeed it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.-118-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.”** (Holy Qur'an 5:116-119)

It will be such a huge question, in a position to be feared, and what a reply of great propriety of Christ with The Lord, **“If I had said it, You would have known it “**, He will not just say "No, I didn't!" such disciplinary with God.

Indeed the history becomes blank story if devoided of the Prophets, and the functioning of the prophets, 'peace be upon them'.

The Muslim History:

A word must be declared regarding Muslim's beliefs. A Muslim is not considered so, unless *he* accept and hallow all of God's prophets, as much as *he* does to Muhammad 'peace be upon him'. If *he* disbelieve or slander any of them, then he is considered out of Islam! disbelieving in any of them is like disbelieving in All of them.

The history of the Muslim is the history of the '**Single Message**' that *all* Prophets received from God to spread among people. And Muslims hallow 'Abraham', 'Moses' and 'Jesus', and the original 'Torah' and 'Gospel' that were revealed from God, same as they hallow, and believe in 'Muhammad' and the 'Qur'an'! As God says: **“The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying], We make no distinction between any of His messengers. And they say, We hear and we obey. [We seek] Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the [final] destination.”** (Holy Qur'an 2:285)

So a Muslim always follow footsteps of the Prophets, considering their history is *his*.

And we [Muslims], since childhood, our hearts blossom with 'Adam' in Paradise, and to 'Noah' in the Ark, to 'Abraham' smashing the 'idols' with his hands, and 'Moses' splitting the sea with his stick, and 'Jesus' son of Mary, when brought in cradle, speaking to his mom's people, and to Muhammad in the cave repeating after Angel Gabriel **"Read[Recite] in the name of your Lord who created"**

We, *Muslims*, **(If the Jews fight us under the banner of Moses, We fight back under the banner of Moses, Jesus and Muhammad,'peace be upon them all')** (said by Sheikh Yousuf Alqardhawiy).

And-thank God-we, Muslims, do not live any conflict toward any divine message or Apostle, and we follow 'Prophet Muhammad's speech, **"I am the most obliged to Jesus, son of Mary"**, that we carry love, toward Jesus and his mother in our hearts, same as we do for the rest of Prophets.

This is our consideration of the Prophets, will their followers ever have the same to our Prophet? It was said that **(Most of the Western, grow up carrying hatred of Islam, while Muslims grow up carrying love of Christ and the Gospel that was revealed to him)**. (Moqademat alolum walmanahij, By Anwar aljindy).

(If Christians knew Islam, and embraced it, They were to honor Christ'peace be upon him'more.)
(said by Muhammad Gareeb).

We hope that the pioneer of people, all people, is the 'Search for Truth'. We believe that honesty with oneself can drive people to sensible review of attitudes and beliefs, and we hope that thinking, and substantive dialogues will do their role in the 'Search for Truth'.

CHAPTER-2-

TESTIMONIES OF THOSE WHO CONVERTED TO ISLAM

**(The greatest battles are fought within the soul,
it is there where victories and defeats are made)**

(Abdul Karim Bakkar*) * Islamic educational thinker

Their lives were aimlessly....they were searching for a meaning. Their souls were inhabited by darkness....so they demanded sustenance of splendor.

Their hearts were wallowing in the mud of material....so they washed them with rosaries of purity....and dipped them into fragrances of Faith.

Similar stories....long and arduous journey, on a road that is fraught with uncertainty and thorns. Then came the great moment, when they pass by the upper turning point in their lives, that divert them ultimately with a single push to reach the top! Where *Islam* is! Where they drop off ignorance, confusion, and loss on *it's* threshold.

The juncture where they declared 'Monotheism Testimony', it's moment is non-measurable by timing, but by ticking of hearts beats! Such a sacred moment that descends from paradise, into their lives precisely, apart from all other people. It is a moment of inspiration that provides tremendous vitality to their minds, and a burst of spiritual power, that control the devotion of life.

Lucky those who are destined to see, the new Muslim at the moment he uttered the testimony.

And I have no doubt that there were angels descending in that place, with angels ascending to raise that fresh odor of faith to God in heaven.

I pray to the Lord, who blessed them with Islam in this life, to bless them with consent in the Hereafter....accompanied by the readers and the author of this book altogether.....Amen.

Muhammad Asad [Leopold Weiss]* (1900–1992)

Austrian reporter

(...all the answers are but waiting for us while we, poor fools, ask questions and wait for the secrets of God to open themselves up to us;

when they, all the while, are waiting for us to open ourselves up to them...) (The road to Mecca)

An Austrian Jew who converted to Islam. He studied philosophy and art at the University of Vienna and then he practised being a reporter in the Arab Middle East and Islamic world, and he settled for a while in Jerusalem, then visited Cairo, meeting the Imam Mustafa Al-Maraghi, where the two men had dialogues about religions, then he began to learn the Arabic language in the corridors of Al-Azhar [Islamic university in Cairo], while he was still a Jew.

Weiss was a man in doubts, searching for the truth. He was astonished and angry at realizing the large gap between the degradation in Muslims world, and the splendors of their religion! One day while sitting with a district coverner in Afganistan [hakim], listening to a song on Daud – the Arabic name for King David – who overcame the powerful Goliath, Asad was not Muslim then. And **'...When it ended, the hakim remarked: 'David was small, but his faith was great...' I could not prevent myself from adding: 'And you are many, but your faith is small.'** the astonishment of his host encouraged him to preceed bitterly about how come the Muslims abanded their fairh, lost their self-confidance and surrender to the thoughts and custom of the West! **'...And how come that so many Muslims are ignorant although your Prophet declared that Striving after knowledge is a most sacred duty for every Muslim man and woman'**

At the end, his host wispered **'But - you are a Muslim... '... 'I laughed and replied: No, I am not a Muslim, but I have come to see so much beauty in Islam that it makes me sometimes angry to watch you people waste it...'** (The road to Mecca)

This shook him deeply, and placed him in front of what he had been escaping from, that kept haunting him until he testified the *Shahada* [Islam declaration] in Berlin years after that!

Asad regarded Islam not as a religion in the conventional, or western sense but as a way of life for all times. In Islam he had found a religious system and a practical guide for everyday living that were harmoniously balanced. **'Islam appears to me like a perfect work of architecture. All its parts are harmoniously conceived to complement and support each other; nothing is superfluous and nothing lacking; and the result is a structure of absolute balance and solid composure.'**

And he considered how the Human's been honord in Islam: **'Contrary to the Christian idea that man is born sinful, or the teachings of Hinduism that he is originally low and impure -- the Islamic teaching contends that man is born pure'**

And'According to the Quran, God did not call for blind subservience on the part of man but rather appealed to his intellect; He did not stand apart from man's destiny but was nearer to you than the vein in your neck; He did not draw any dividing line between faith and social behaviour; and, what was perhaps most important, He did not start from the axiom that all life was burdened with a conflict between matter and spirit and that the way toward the Light demanded a freeing of the soul from the shackles of the flesh. Every form of life-denial and self-mortification had been condemned by the Prophet in sayings like 'there is no world-renunciation in Islam'.

'Human beings will to live was not only recognized as a positive, fruitful instinct but was endowed with the sanctity of an ethical postulate as well. Man was taught, in effect: You not only may utilize your life to the full, but you are OBLIGED to do so.'

Asad spent some six years in the holy cities of Mecca and Madinah, where he studied Arabic, the Qur'an, the hadith[the tradition of the Prophet] and Islamic history. To study Muslim communities and cultures further east, Asad left Arabia for India in 1932. There he met the celebrated poet-philosopher Muhammad Iqbal, the spiritual progenitor of Pakistan.

Asad moved to Pakistan after its creation in 1947 and was charged by its government with formulating ideological foundations for the new state. Later he was transferred to the Pakistan Foreign Ministry to head its Middle East Division, where he endeavored to strengthen Pakistan's ties to other Muslim countries. He capped his diplomatic career by serving as Pakistan's Minister Plenipotentiary to the United Nations—a position he resigned in 1952 to write his autobiography, 'The Road to Mecca'.

After writing this book, he left New York in 1955 and finally settled in Spain. He did not cease to write. At 80, after 17 years of effort, he completed the work that had been his life's dream, and for which he felt all his life till then had been an apprenticeship: a translation and exegesis, or Tafsir, of the Qur'an in English. He continued to serve Islam till his death in Spain on February 23, 1992.

*Sources: 'Islam at the crossroads', & 'The road to Mecca' by Muhammad Asad.

Jeffrey Lang*

Professor of Mathematics at the University of Kansas & former atheist

(Like a vast magnificent ocean, it lures you deeper and deeper into its dazzling waves until you are swept into it. But instead of drowning in a sea of darkness, as described above, you find yourself immersed in an ocean of divine light and mercy.....as I read the Qur'an and prayed the Islamic prayers, a door to my heart was unsealed and I was immersed in an overwhelming tenderness. Love became more permanent and real than the earth beneath my feet; its power restored me and made it so that even I could feel love ... I was happy enough to have found faith in a sensible religion. But I never expected to be touched by such intoxicating mercy.)

Jeffrey Lang is an American convert to Islam and former atheist. He is the author of two best selling works: 'Struggling to Surrender' & 'Even Angels Ask: Journey to Islam in America'.

'It was a tiny room with no furniture, and there was nothing on its grayish-white walls. Its only adornment was the predominantly red-and-white patterned carpet that covered the floor. There was a small window, like a basement window, above and facing us, filling the room with brilliant light. We were in rows; I was in the third. There were only men, no women, and all of us were sitting on our heels and facing the direction of the window.'

It felt foreign. I recognized no one. Perhaps I was in another country. We bowed down uniformly, our faces to the floor. It was serene and quiet, as if all sound had been turned off. All at once, we sat back on our heels. As I looked ahead, I realized that we were being led by someone in front who was off to my left, in the middle, below the window. He stood alone. I only had the briefest glance at his back. He was wearing a long white gown, and on his head was a white scarf with a red design. And that is when I would awaken.'

During ten years of his atheist life, he was to see the same dream several times. He would not be disturbed by the dream, however, for he would feel strangely comfortable when he awoke. It was at the University of San Francisco, where he met a Muslim student who attended his mathematics class. He was soon to develop a friendship with him and his family. And it was much later that one of the family members handed him a copy of the Qur'an.

He was not looking for a religion. Nevertheless, he started reading the Qur'an, but with a strong prejudice. **'You cannot simply read the Qur'an, not if you take it seriously. You either have surrendered to it already or you fight it. It attacks tenaciously, directly, personally; it debates, criticizes, shames, and challenges. From the outset it draws the line of battle, and I was on the other side.'** Thus he found himself in an interesting battle. **'I was at a severe disadvantage, for it became clear that the Author knew me better than I knew myself.'..... 'The Qur'an was always way ahead of my thinking; it was erasing barriers I had built years ago and was addressing my queries.'** He fought vigorously with objections and questions, but it was apparent that he was losing the battle. **'I was being led, working my way into a corner that contained only one choice.'**

It was early 80's, When he discovered a small place at the basement of a church where few Muslim students made their daily prayers. After much struggle in his mind, he came up with enough courage to go and visit that place, and to declare the *shahada*, the proclamation of a new life – **'I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His messenger.'**

Then, he was invited to participate in prayer. He stood up in rows with other students behind a prayer leader named 'Ghassan', and started following them in prayer - **'We bowed down in prostration with our faces on the red-and-white carpet. It was serene and quiet, as if the sound had been turned off. And then we sat back on our heels again. As I looked ahead, I could see Ghassan, off to my left, in the middle, below the window that was flooding the room with light. He was alone, without a row. He was wearing a long white gown and on his head was a white scarf with a red design'**.

'The dream! I screamed inwardly. The dream exactly! I had forgotten it completely, and now I was stunned and frightened. Am I dreaming? I wondered. Will I awaken? I tried to focus on what was happening to determine whether I was asleep. A rush of cold flowed through my body, making me shudder. My God, this is real! Then the coldness subsided, succeeded by gentle

warmth radiating from within. Tears welled up in my eyes.'

Thus Dr. Lang's converted from one who challenged the existence of God, to a firm believer in God! From a warrior who fought a fierce battle against the Qur'an, to one who surrendered to it. And like all Muslim reverts, Dr. Lang felt that he was favored by God's mercy and that it was God *Himself* who directed him to Islam. **'I perceived that God was always near, directing my life, creating the circumstances and opportunities to choose, yet always leaving the crucial choices to me. I was awestruck by the realization of the intimacy and love that reveals, not because we deserve it, but because it is always there and all we have to do is turn to Him to receive it. I cannot say with certainty what the meaning of that vision was, but I could not help seeing in it a sign, a favor, and a new chance.'**

Lang performs the daily five-time prayers regularly and finds much spiritual satisfaction. He finds the *Fajr* [per-dawn] prayer as one of the most beautiful and moving rituals in Islam.

To the question how he finds it so captivating when the recitation of the Qur'an is in Arabic, which is totally foreign to him, he responds; **'Why is a baby comforted by his mother's voice?'** He said reading the Qur'an gave him a great deal of comfort and strength in difficult times. From there on, faith was a matter of practice for Lang's spiritual growth.

On the other hand, Lang pursued a career in mathematics. He received his master's and doctoral degrees from Purdue University. Lang said that he had always been fascinated by mathematics. **'Math is logical. It consists of using facts and figures to find concrete answers'..... 'That is the way my mind works, and it is frustrating when I deal with things that do not have concrete answers.'....'Having a mind that accepts ideas on their factual merit makes believing in a religion difficult because most religions require acceptance by faith'.....'Islam appeals to man's reasoning'.**

*From: Dr. Jeffrey Lang, "Struggling to Surrender", Beltsville, 1994
Dr. Jeffrey Lang, "Even Angels Ask", Beltsville, 1997.....
<http://www.welcome-back.org>

Dr. Murad Hofmann*

A former German diplomat and NATO officer

(I began to see Islam with its own eyes, as the unadulterated, pristine belief in the one and only, the true God, Who does not beget, and was not begotten, Whom nothing and nobody resembles ... In place of the qualified deism of a tribal God and the constructions of a divine Trinity, the Qur'an showed me the most lucid, most straightforward, the most abstract - thus historically most advanced - and least anthropomorphic concept of God.'

'The Qur'an's ontological statements, as well as its ethical teachings, impressed me as profoundly plausible, "as good as gold," so there was no room for even the slightest doubt about the authenticity of Muhammad's prophetic mission. People who understand human nature cannot fail to appreciate the infinite wisdom of the "Dos and Don'ts" handed down from God to man in the form of the Qur'an.)

Dr. Hofmann, was born as a Catholic in Germany in 1931. He was Director of Information for NATO in Brussels from 1983 to 1987. He was posted as German ambassador to Algeria in 1987 and then to Morocco in 1990 where he served for four years. He accepted Islam in 1980, and performed *umrah* [Lesser Pilgrimage] in 1982 and *Hajj* [Pilgrimage] in 1992.

During his college years in New York in 1951. He had a serious car accident. After doing surgery on his chin and lower hip, the hospital surgeon comforted him saying: **'Under normal circumstances, no one survives an accident like that. God has something special in mind for you, my friend!'** He wondered what could be the meaning of the surgeon's remark. He came to know it one day, but much later. **'Finally, thirty years later, on the very day I professed my faith in Islam, the true meaning of my survival became clear to me.'**

In 1961 when he was posted to Algeria as Attaché in the German Embassy, he witnessed the cruelty and massacre that the Algerian population endured. **'I witnessed the patience and resilience of the Algerian people in the face of extreme suffering, their overwhelming discipline during Ramadan, their confidence of victory, as well as their humanity amidst misery.'** He felt it was their religion that made them so, and therefore, he started studying their religious book – the Qur'an. **'I have never stopped reading it, to this very day.'**

'What I experienced is so blissfully Islamic in so many places ... is the tangible effect which Islamic harmony, the Islamic way of life, and the Islamic treatment of space leave on both heart and mind.'

Perhaps more than all of these what made a significant impact on his quest for the truth was his thorough knowledge of Christian history and doctrines. He found it difficult for him to accept that the mankind is burdened with the "original sin" and that God had to have his own son tortured and murdered on the cross in order to save his own creations. **'I began to realize how monstrous, even blasphemous it is to imagine that God could have been fallen short in his creation; that he could have been unable to do anything about the disaster supposedly caused by Adam and Eve without begetting a son, only to have him sacrificed in such a bloody fashion; that God might suffer for mankind, His creation.'**

He went back to the very basic question of the existence of God. After analyzing works done by philosophers, such as Wittgenstein, Pascal, Swinburn, and Kant, he came to an **intellectual conviction of the existence of God**. The next logical question he faced with was how God communicates to human beings so that they can be guided. This led him to acknowledge the need for revelations. But what contains the truth – Judeo-Christian scriptures or Islam?

He found the answer to this question, when he came across the following verse of the Qur'an: **"...no bearer of burdens shall bear the burdens of another"** (Holy Qur'an 6:164,17:15,35:18, 39:7, 53:38)

This verse opened up his eyes and provided the answer to his dilemma. Clearly and unambiguously for him, it rejected the ideas of the burden of **'original sin'** and the expectation of **'intercession'** by the

saints. **'A Muslim lives in a world without clergy and without religious hierarchy; when he prays he does not pray via Jesus, Mary, or other interceding saints, but directly to God – as a fully emancipated believer – and this is a religion free of mysteries.'** According to Hofmann, **'A Muslim is the emancipated believer par excellence'**. Dr. Hofmann continued his professional career as a German diplomat and NATO officer for fifteen years after he became Muslim. The German government distributed his book 'Diary of a German Muslim' to all German foreign missions in the Muslim countries as an analytical tool. Professional duties did not prevent him from practicing his religion. He would politely refuse offers of alcohol. As a Foreign Service officer, he occasionally had to arrange working lunch for foreign guests. He would be participating in those luncheons with an empty plate in front of him during Ramadan. In 1995, he voluntarily resigned from the Foreign Service to dedicate himself to Islamic causes.

He has authored several books on Islam, including (Journey to Makkah). and (Islam: The Alternative) . Many of his books and essays focus on Islam's place in the West and, after Sep.11th , in particular, in the United states. He is one of the signatories of **(A common word between you and me)** an open letter by Islamic scholars to Christian leaders, calling for peace and understanding

* From: Dr. Murad Hofmann, "Journey to Makkah", Beltsville, 1998
Dr. Murad Hofmann, "Islam: The Alternative", Beltsville, 1999
<http://www.usislam.org>

Yusuf Islam [Cat Stevens]*
From Musician to Muslim by Allah's Will

(Man is created to be God's deputy on earth, and it is important to realize the obligation to rid ourselves of all illusions and to make our lives a preparation for the next life. Anybody who misses this chance is not likely to be given another, to be brought back again and again, because it says in Qur'an Majeed that when man is brought to account, he will say, "O Lord, send us back and give us another chance." The Lord will say, "If I send you back you will do the same.)

He was a teenager when he became a big star, and was indulged with liquor and drugs. After a year of financial success and 'high' living, he became very ill, contracted TB and had to be hospitalized.

'It was then that I started to think: What was to happen to me? Was I just a body, and my goal in life was merely to satisfy this body? I realized now that this calamity was a blessing given to me by Allah, a chance to open my eyes.'

Another change came in the form of a near-death experience, Stevens had gone swimming at Malibu Beach, and after a half-hour could barely stay afloat in the perilous currents of the Pacific Ocean. He attempted to swim to land, but the sea was too strong. He realized he was going to drown and he called

out to God. Miraculously the tide swiftly turned, a sudden wave lifted him and he swam easily back to shore.

His inner faith revealed itself further when his elder brother David gave him a copy of the 'Qur'an'. It provided the key to the answers he had been looking for: **'It was the timeless nature of the message'**, he said, **'the words all seemed strangely familiar yet so unlike anything I had ever read before'**.

Privately, Stevens started applying Islam's spiritual values to his own life; he began praying directly to God and gradually cut down drinking, clubs and parties. He retreated from the music business and finally embraced Islam in 1977, changing his name to 'Yusuf Islam'.

While some fans were baffled and dismayed by his decision, his close family respected him for his spiritual conviction and were relieved. According to Yusuf, **'The moment I became a Muslim, I found peace.'**

The Qur'an:

'When I received the book, a guidance that would explain everything to me - who I was; what was the purpose of life; what was the reality and what would be the reality; and where I came from - I realized that this was the true religion; religion not in the sense the West understands it, not the type for only your old age. In the West, whoever wishes to embrace a religion and make it his only way of life is deemed a fanatic. I was not a fanatic, I was at first confused between the body and the soul.'

'I realized that everything belongs to God, that slumber does not overtake Him. He created everything. At this point I began to lose the pride in me, because hereto I had thought the reason I was here was because of my own greatness. But I realized that I did not create myself, and the whole purpose of my being here was to submit to the teaching that has been perfected by the religion we know as Al-Islam. At this point I started discovering my faith. I felt I was a Muslim.'

'On reading the Qur'an, I now realized that all the Prophets sent by God brought the same message. Why then were the Jews and Christians different? I know now how the Jews did not accept Jesus as the Messiah and that they had changed His Word. Even the Christians misunderstand God's Word and called Jesus the son of God.'

'Everything made so much sense. This is the beauty of the Qur'an; it asks you to reflect and reason, and not to worship the sun or moon but the One Who has created everything.'

With the advent of his marriage and the birth of his first child, Hasanah, He turned his attention to education, Yusuf opened and funded the Islamia Primary School in London, which, fifteen years later, made history by becoming the first government funded Muslim school in England.

As a multimillionaire he could have spent the rest of his life in luxurious obscurity, except that his concern for humanitarian and charitable causes took him back into the public spotlight. During the African famine in 1984, he helped establish Muslim Aid, an international relief organization. Today, Yusuf still donates vast amounts of his royalty income to charity. He has for almost three decades concerned himself with education and fund-raising for the plight of those much less fortunate. His U.K. and United Nations registered charity, Small Kindness, provides humanitarian relief as well as social and educational programs to countless orphans and needy families in the Balkans, Iraq, Indonesia and other regions.

*Sources: How I came to Islam - by Yusuf Islam

www.islamtomorrow.com], www.yusufislam.com/biography

Rajaa [Roger] Garaudy*

French Philosopher, former Marxism, Politician

(The only real being is God, in his unity and transcendence, in his creative act.)

Born to Catholic and atheist parents in Marseille, Garaudy converted at age 14 and became a Protestant. During World War II, Garaudy joined the French resistance. He was imprisoned in Djelfa, Algeria, as a prisoner of war of Vichy France. Then he and his fellow prisoners were saved from summary execution because the Arab guards defied orders to shoot them. He subsequently learned that they owed their lives to the **Muslims Guards whose religion forbade them to fire at unarmed men. Their unconditional obedience to a higher authority than their French commandant deeply impressed him and prepared the ground for his conversion over forty years later.**

Following the war, Garaudy joined the French Communist Party. As a political candidate he became a senator. Then a leading party theoretician and authored scores of scholarly works.

How did he come to Islam?

His conviction that **'Western civilization has reached an impasse from which neither Communism nor Christianity can provide an escape route.'** The suicidal myth of Western-style progress and growth has led to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; the ever-increasing gulf between rich and poor; and the ruthless exploitation of the world's mineral resources. In 1979, Garaudy wrote *Appel au vivants* ('Summons to the Living') in which he argued that there was still time to find a solution by listening to the age-old wisdom of non-Europeans and how they perceived their relationship with nature, other people and God. This was followed in 1981 by *L'Islam habite notre avenir* ('Islam inhabits our future'), in which he argued persuasively that Islam is a living force with a vital contribution to make to tomorrow's world. He identified that contribution as 'transcendence and community', two essential dimensions which Western man has lost because of the exaltation of individualism.

Four years later, in *Biographie du XXème siècle* ('Biography of the 20th Century'), he defined transcendence as recognition of man's dependence in relation to God the creator, and thus of absolute values. The philosophical itinerary which led him to this belief, and the meaning which he attached to the words **'God the creator'** are the subject of the rest of the paper. **'The West's false view of man and its consequences.'** Garaudy maintains that the root cause of the present global crisis is a **'false view of man'** which has dominated Western thought since the sixteenth century, and which may in part be

traced back even further. The seeds were sown in ancient Greece when Plato instituted a radical dualism between body and soul, and the sensory and the intelligible. Then in Galileo's conception of the world, mathematics constituted the veritable **'being in itself'** of nature....Slightly later, in France, Descartes formulated his celebrated dictum, **'I think therefore I am'**. Garaudy maintains that Descartes's highly individualistic philosophy underlies modern Western culture and has led to man's progressive alienation from nature and to the fragmentation of society.

In the eighteenth century the links between economics and ethics were severed, and it came to be regarded as a pure science like mechanics or physics. Hence the relationships between human beings and societies were assimilated to those between things, and were held like them to be governed by necessity.....**Science and technology have become ends in themselves rather than means to an end, and man and his environment have become subservient to their autonomous development.....This resulted in economic growth coming to be viewed as an end in itself divorced from all reflection on the meaning and purpose of life.**

Individualism and positivism are not the only causes of the global crisis; what Garaudy calls 'Eurocentrism' Europeans colonised the world in the conviction that they possessed the only true culture, the only universal religion, and the only model of development; and they destroyed other peoples and their cultures in the process.

Islam has an important contribution to make to the future of the world because it values **'transcendence and community'**, two vital dimensions which are lacking in contemporary Western society. He observed that the Islamic community serves ends which go beyond it, ends fixed by God; **the community transcends the individual and God transcends the community.** He was particularly attracted to the basic principles of Islamic economics. **Unlike European law which defines property as 'the right to use and abuse', Islam asserts that 'God alone possesses'. Muslims are therefore forbidden either to accumulate wealth or to squander it. Moreover, the institution of 'zakat', a fixed-percentage charitable tax which is payable annually on both revenue and capital, functions as a form of social security and in theory rules out the possibility of hereditary fortunes.**

As a Communist, and later as a radical Christian, Garaudy believed in transcendence in the sense of surpassing or rising above the present human situation, but his Marxist background made it very difficult for him to countenance a transcendent Deity above and independent of the universe. Shortly before his conversion, however, he appears to have become convinced that such a belief was morally necessary and that the Islamic tradition had within it the resources for making it intellectually tenable.

So much for the moral appeal of belief in God the creator, but is such a belief intellectually viable? **Garaudy observes that the Qur'an is God's Word, and in describing the function of the mihrab or prayer niche in a mosque, the niche does not shelter any statue or image, but it signifies, by this very absence, the God who is here honored, a God everywhere present but everywhere invisible.'The sole but invisible reality.'** According to the Qur'an everything is a manifestation of God. **There is no reality apart from him.**

He defends Ibn Arabi[*interpreter of Holy Qur'an*] against the charge of pantheism. Pantheism consists in considering God as the additive totality of beings. This is not the case at all for Ibn Arabi; for him, this additive totality is nothing other than the sum total of the illusions born from the limited camera work of individuals. It has no reality in itself. **'The only real being is God.'**

When he was on the verge of converting, he had feared losing 'Jesus' message. He had been deeply anxious lest his fellow-Muslims failed to accept the mystery of love, which he held had become through Jesus the warp and woof of every life. **'To fear God is not be afraid of his punishment, it is**

to fear displeasing him, and that is what is meant by love'

*Source: 'From marxism to islam': the philosophical itinerary of Roger Garaudy by: [Neal Robinson](http://rogergaraudy.blogspot.com)
<http://rogergaraudy.blogspot.com>

Abdul-Karim Germanus*

A Hungarian professor of Oriental Studies

**(I am a European man who didn't find my home in being enslaved to gold, power, or domination.
I was influenced by the simplicity of Islam.....**

**Islam transcends by elevating humans from an animal state to the height of refined civilization,
and I hope, or rather I expect, that Islam will once more be able to achieve this miracle at the
time when great darkness will surround us.)**

Germanus was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1884 and was raised as a Christian. He traveled to Istanbul to study Turkish. He excelled in the study of languages, and, in 1912, was appointed professor of Arabic, Persian, and Turkish as well as Islamic history at the Hungarian Royal Academy in Budapest. He was later appointed to the Department of Oriental Studies at the University of Economics in Budapest.

The Bengali-Indian poet 'Tagore' invited him in 1928 to teach Islamic Studies in University in Bengal. He stayed in India for several years where he publicized his conversion to Islam in the Great Delhi Mosque. Henceforth, he was known Abdul-Karim. He was given the privilege of giving the weekly Friday sermon at the mosque. He enjoyed friendship with the famous Pakistani Muslim poet, Muhammad Iqbal. They would have long conversations about the Christian missionaries. [Germanus believed that the problem lays in the European Christian missionaries propaganda, whereas Iqbal believed that the problem lays in Muslim's lack of unity and opposition to anti-Islam missionaries.]

He visited the holy sites in Makkah and Madinah in 1935. He wrote a memoir of his journey to the holy sites in Hungarian called, 'Allahu Akbar', which was translated into several languages. He went on Hajj for a second time in 1939.

Germanus wrote about Islam in various European publications. **(One thing attracted me to Islam, it is the essence of all things, and that thing is the religion of purity, the religion of cleanliness, of both the body and spirit, and social behavior and manners and the human feeling....The Muslim world will keep its true essence through its spirituality and its supreme example. And Islam**

always preserves its foundations of freedom, fraternity, and equality between all human beings.)
And he explains the moment of his conversion as: **'It was a moment of awakening for me because Islam is the true religion. Enlightened minds and free thinkers find tolerance in Islam, in its doctrine and in the Shari`ah [law]. They find truth is Islam which convinces them of its validity. With Islam, free thinkers set themselves loose from the oppression of traditions).**

He worked at the University of Budapest as a professor of history and civilization for more than 40 years. He published several research papers calling for the revival of classical Arabic in the Arab world. He dreamed of a time when all Arab countries would speak the same form of Arabic that would tie Arabs to their rich heritage and history. Throughout his academic career, Germanus waged a war with European Orientalists who supported colonialism. He would use evidence and rational arguments, nevertheless, he was confronted with much antagonism. And he was fired from the university on the grounds that his attitude was not appropriate.

In 1962, he was elected to the Scholarly Organization of Iraq as an overseas member, also, he was elected as a member of the Arabic language academies in both Cairo and Damascus. Then back home in Hungary. He established an organization which ran Muslim's affairs in Hungary and which was able to convince the Hungarian government to recognize Islam as one of the official state religions.

Germanus wrote many books, [The Greek, Arabic Literature in Hungarian, Lights of the East, Uncovering the Arabian Peninsula, Between Intellectuals, The History of Arabic Literature, The History of the Arabs, Modern Movements in Islam, Studies in the Grammatical Structure of the Arabic Language, Journeys of Arabs, Pre-Islamic Poetry, Great Arabic Literature, Guidance From the Light of the Crescent (a personal memoir), An Adventure in the Desert, Arab Nationalism, Allahu Akbar, Mahmoud Timour and Modern Arabic Literature, The Great Arab Poets, and The Rise of Arab Culture.] Germanus passed away in 1979 after having served the cause of Islam and Muslims for nearly 50 years.

*Source: The Moment of Awakening A Hungarian Orientalist Finds Islam By Yasser Hejazi
<http://muhammad.blogspot.com>

El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz [Malcolm X]*

African American Muslim minister, public speaker, and human rights activist.

(I am a Muslim and... my religion makes me be against all forms of racism. It keeps me from judging any man by the color of his skin. It teaches me to judge him by his deeds and his conscious behavior. And it teaches me to be for the rights of all human beings...)

Malcolm X was a leader of the African American people, was known before his conversion to Islam by the devil and ((Detroit Red)) as the leader of racist extremists in his hostility to the whites, but he changed his approach after his conversion to Islam, after his journey of pilgrimage to the sacred land 'Mecca' when he was flooded with brotherhood by white Muslims under the sky of Islam in 1964

The trip proved life altering....he sent messages to his followers saying:

'Never have I witnessed such sincere hospitality and overwhelming spirit of true brotherhood as is practiced by people of all colors and races here in this ancient Holy Land, the home of Abraham, Muhammad and all the other Prophets of the Holy Scriptures. For the past week, I have been utterly speechless and spellbound by the graciousness I see displayed all around me by people of all colors.'

'America needs to understand Islam, because this is the one religion that erases from its society the race problem. Throughout my travels in the Muslim world, I have met, talked to, and even eaten with people who in America would have been considered white, but the white attitude was removed from their minds by the religion of Islam. I have never before seen sincere and true brotherhood practiced by all together, irrespective of their color.'

He returned to the United States with a new outlook on integration and a new hope for the future. This time when Malcolm spoke, instead of just preaching to African-Americans, he had a message for all races. He was shot dead onstage, in 1965.

He has been called one of the greatest and most influential African Americans in history, and in 1998, *Time* named 'The Autobiography of Malcolm X' one of the ten most influential nonfiction books of the 20th century.

*Source: Majaliat al-faisal, no. 270

Abdullah Quilliam* [William]

English solicitor &

Founder of First Mosque & Islamic center in England.

(Islam is erected on the Unity of God, the unity of His religion, and the unity of the Muslims. History demonstrates that the True-Believers were never defeated while they remained united, but only when disunion crept into their ranks.)

Few religious figures have championed their faith the way this man did. He did so despite often facing hostility from his own countrymen. Born in 1856, Quilliam was the son of a wealthy watchmaker. He became a solicitor.

In 1882, he traveled to the south of France then to Morocco and Algeria and it was there that his fascination with Islam began. At the age of 31 he converted to Islam, and changed his name to Abdullah. Thus was just the start of his loud and proud association with Islam. He soon found he had

the knack of convincing others of its merits. He first began holding lectures on his new religion and then founded the Liverpool Mosque and Institute in the small semi on '8 Brougham Terrace, West Derby Street', in 1889.

Within 10 years, he assembled a following of about 150 Muslims, almost entirely of British converts. Scientists and professionals were among Quilliam's group, along with his sons and his mother, who had spent most of her life as a Christian activist. And he produced two journals, 'The Crescent' and 'The Islamic Review', on a printing press in the mosque's cellar. Both were circulated internationally.

He also founded the Medina Home, which cared for illegitimate children and found them foster parents. He set up the Muslim College, a weekly debating society and also wrote a book of Muslim hymns in English. He also wrote a book, 'The Faith of Islam' that was translated into 13 languages, with three editions published. Quilliam proudly said that it had been read by Queen Victoria and the ruler of Egypt. But not everyone appreciated Quilliam's vigour. Soon he was evicted from his house by his landlord, who took exception to his rejection of Christianity. The timing of his book on Islam compounded the vitriolic hatred that some in the Christian community felt for him.

According to Professor Ansari, Quilliam paid a price for his stance. **'Of course, he was lampooned, but it showed that he was a courageous man, as well as a controversial figure. Although other English people had converted, they tended to keep a low profile. Quilliam on the other hand was much more forthright and challenging, making him a high-profile public figure in the process.'**

His efforts to promote Islam brought him praise and powerful friends throughout the Muslim world. The Shah of Persia made him a consul to his country. In 1894, Sultan Abdul Hamid II, the last Ottoman emperor, gave Quilliam the title of "Sheikh al-Islam of Britain", leader of British Muslims. The Sultan of Afghanistan gave him a £2,500 "personal gift", to help him continue his good works.

By the turn of the century, Quilliam had developed ambitious plans to build a mosque from scratch, complete with a dome and minarets. But he left England to the east on 1908, then returned in 1914 under the name of Haroun Leon. He spent much of his time at Qnchan on the Isle of Man.

He died in London in 1932, and was buried in Brookwood Cemetery, near Woking. The prominent Anglo-Muslims Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthall [who each translated the Qur'an], and Lord Headley were all later buried near him.

In 1996 the 'Abdullah Quilliam society' was formed to maintain his legacy, by western Muslim converters, raising funds to restore 8-10 Brougham Terrace to re-open the historic mosque and establish an educational center. And the 'Quilliam foundation', a thinktank aimed at challenging extremist Islamist ideologies, was launched in 2008.

* Source: <http://abdullahquilliam.wordpress.com>

Lord Headley Al-Farooq*

English Engineer, Statesman, and Author

(...Charity, tolerance and broad-mindedness in the Muslim faith come nearer to what Christ himself taught than do the somewhat narrow tenets of the various Christian Churches.)

The 5th Baron of Headley [Sir Rowland George Allanson], was born in 1855, educated in Cambridge, served in the army. And although an engineer by profession he had wide literary tastes. He was twice awarded the Bessemer Premium of the Society of Engineers as also the Silver Medals of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts and of the Institute of Civil Engineers of Ireland. Later he was elected President of the Society of Engineers, London.

Being brought up as a Protestant, he studied Roman Catholicism and was struck by what he called their '**believe this or be damned**' attitude. **'It is the intolerance of those professing the Christian religion, which more than anything is responsible for my secession. I was reared in the strict and narrow forms of the Low Church party. Later, I lived in many Roman Catholic countries, including Ireland. The intolerance of one sect of Christians towards other sects holding some different form of the same faith, of which I witnessed many instances, disgusted me. ...'**

He announced his conversion to Islam at the hand of Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din in 1913, and adopted the Muslim name of Shaikh Rahmatullah al-Farooq. In those days, conversion to Islam meant incurring the wrath and displeasure of family, friends and society, and in the case of those belonging to the higher levels of society, like Lord Headley, it meant losing the respect and reputation in which *one was* held. Not caring for any such worldly loss, Lord Headley boldly and openly proclaimed himself a Muslim and served the cause of Islam till his death in 1935.

As a member of the aristocracy, Lord Headley mixed with the nobility and royalty of England. And he wasted no opportunity to explain Islam in those circles. At one after-dinner speech, attended by various persons, he spoke on the life of the Prophet Muhammad. On another occasion he explained that he had been a Muslim for over 20 years: **'It is possible that some of my friends may imagine that I have been influenced by Mohammedans; but it is not the case, for my convictions are solely the outcome of many years of thought. My actual conversations with educated Muslims on the subject of religion only commenced a few weeks ago and need I say that I am overjoyed to find that all my theories and conclusions are entirely in accord with Islam? Even my friend Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din has never tried to influence me in the slightest degree. He has been a veritable living concordance, and has patiently explained and translated portions of the Qur'an which did not appear quite clear to me and in this respect he showed the true spirit of the Muslim missionary, which is never to force or even to persuade.'**

At the old age of 70, he undertook long journeys to Egypt, South Africa, and India for the cause of Islam. He performed the Haj [pilgrimage] to Mecca in 1923, and in 1927 presided over the deliberations of the All-India Tabligh Conference, which was held at Delhi. He was President of the British Muslim Society, London, and Chairman of Woking Mission Trust as well as the Woking

Mosque Trust. During his visit in 1928 to Hyderabad he succeeded in raising funds to build a Mosque in London and gratefully died before building it.

He wrote several small booklets about Islam and many articles in the monthly *Islamic Review*, the journal of the Woking Mission. He was also the author of several books, most well known amongst them: 'A Western Awakening to Islam'.

*Sources: <http://www.wokingmuslim.org> , <http://media.isnet.org>

Ibrahim Khalil Ahmad* [Philobus]
Formerly Egyptian Coptic Priest and Missionary

(I am especially attracted by the concept of unity of God, which is the most important feature of Islam. God is only One. Nothing is like Him. This belief makes me the servant of God only and of no one else. Oneness of God liberates man from servitude to any human being and that is true freedom.....I also like very much the rule of forgiveness in Islam and the direct relationship between God and His servants.)

Ibrahim Khalil Ahmad [formerly Ibrahim Khalil Philobus], was born in Alexandria in 1919 and was sent to the American Mission schools and got his diploma from Asiut University. He specialized in religious studies as a prelude to join the Faculty of Theology which he got recommendation from three churches to join in 1944. There he was taught by American and Egyptian teachers, '**...studied Islam and all the methods through which we could shake the faith of Muslims and raise misconceptions in their understanding of their own religion**'.

In 1952 he got his master degree from Princeton University in the USA, and was appointed as a teacher in the Faculty of Theology in Asiut, teaching Islam! During that period, he decided to read other than missionaries books on Islam. '**I had so much faith in myself that I was confirmed to read the other point of view.**' The result was, however, exactly the reverse! '**My position began to shake and I started to feel an internal strong struggle, and I discovered the falsehood of everything I had studied and preached to the people**'. But he tried to overcome this internal crisis and continue his work!

In 1954, a missionary conference was held in Aswan, and he spoke all the repeated misconceptions against Islam; and at the end of the speech, the internal crisis came out and he started to revise his position. '**I began to ask myself: Why should I say and do all these things which I know for sure I am a liar, as this is not the truth?**'. As he walked in public garden, he heard a verse of the Qur'an on the radio. It said: "**Say, [O Muhammad], It has been revealed to me that a group of the jinn listened and said, Indeed, we have heard an amazing Qur'an.**" (Holy Qur'an 72:1-2) "**And when we heard the guidance, we believed in it. And whoever believes in his Lord will not fear deprivation or burden.**" (Holy Qur'an 72:13)

That's when he felt deep comfort, and spent the whole night reading the Qur'an, thinking and meditating on these verses : "**If We had sent down this Qur'an upon a mountain, you would have**

seen it humbled and coming apart from fear of Allah .And these examples We present to the people that perhaps they will give thought.” (Holy Qur’an 59:21)

“ You will surely find the most intense of the people in animosity toward the believers [to be] the Jews and those who associate others[in warship] with Allah ; and you will find the nearest of them in affection to the believers those who say, We are Christians. That is because among them are priests and monks and because they are not arrogant-82-And when they hear what has been revealed to the Messenger, you see their eyes overflowing with tears because of what they have recognized of the truth. They say, Our Lord, we have believed, so register us among the witnesses-83-And when they hear what has been revealed to the Messenger, you see their eyes overflowing with tears because of what they have recognized of the truth. They say, "Our Lord, we have believed, so register us among the witnesses.” (Holy Qur’an, 5:82-84)

And “Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them. So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him - it is those who will be the successful-157-Say, [O Muhammad], "O mankind, indeed I am the Messenger of Allah to you all, [from Him] to whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. There is no deity except Him; He gives life and causes death." So believe in Allah and His Messenger, the unlettered prophet, who believes in Allah and His words, and follow him that you may be guided.” (Holy Qur’an, 7:157-158)

It was at that night, he took the decision. He resigned and returned to Cairo, where he met Dr. Muhammad Al Jamal and prepared for a comparative study of 'The Qur’an, the Torah and the Bible', all along with the translation of the Qur’an to be published in America.

It was not until Christmas 1959, that he declared officially his conversion to Islam by a telegram to Dr. Thompson, head of the American Mission in Egypt. Seven of his former colleagues in the mission had tried their best to persuade him to return, and when an old friend wept very much in front of him, he recited before him the verses from the [Qur'an 5:82-84] which we mentioned above, and he said to him:

'You should have wept in humiliation to God on hearing the Qur'an and believe in the truth which you know but you refuse.' And so his official conversion to Islam was in January 1960.

His wife left him, but all of his four children joined him and embraced Islam. The most enthusiastic among them was the eldest 'Isaac' who changed his name to 'Osman', who is now a professor in Sorbonne University in Paris teaching oriental studies and psychology, and writes in 'Le Monde' magazine. Then his wife agreed to come back in 1966, provided that she keeps her religion. **'I accepted this, because in Islam there is no compulsion in religion. I said to her: I do not want you to become a Muslim for my sake but only after you are convinced. She feels now that she believes in Islam but she cannot declare this for fear of her family'.**

In 1973, he performed Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca). And since 1961, He had published a number of books on Islam and the methods of the missionaries and the orientalist against it. Also he held seminars in the universities and charitable societies preaching Islam. **'I received an invitation from Sudan in 1974 where I held many seminars. My time is fully used in the service of Islam.'** And now preparing a comparative study about women in the three Divine religions with the object of highlighting the status of women in Islam.

*Source: Why I embraced Islam?, <http://www.islamicbulletin.org>

Khalid[Arthur] Millasantos*

Held the third position in the compound of the churches of Asia

(Before Islam, I worshiped *me*.....After Islam, I *became* the servant of God.)

A professor who had a Ph.D. in Theology. In 1983, during the course of his Evangelize work, he decided to read the Qur'an to be able to answer Muslims, and asked a Muslim friend to lend him the Qur'an. The Muslim accepted on condition of performing *wadoo*[ablution] before each reciting.

That was his first experience with the Qur'an: **'I felt a fierce internal struggle, there was a voice calling me and urging me to embrace this religion that makes man's relationship with his Lord direct with no need to mediation by a priest, or indulgences for forgiveness.'**

So one day he performed ablution and grabbed the Qur'an and read: **"Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an, or are there locks upon [their] hearts?"** (Holy Qur'an, 47:24)

Upon reading this, he felt a shiver! Then he read: **"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion."** (Holy Qur'an, 5:3)

He says: **'It was then that peace came to my distracted Spirit, and I felt like a new-born.'**

That night, he couldn't bear to wait till sunrise, to go to his Muslim friend and embrace Islam. And to the confusion and astonishment of the Muslim man, Arthur pronounced *Shahada* [testimony].

*Source: (Lem aslam hawla alajanib, By: Mohamed Osman)

Yusuf Estes*

Former Christian, & Federal Prison Chaplain

(Only by His Mercy were we all guided to see the real truth of Islam, by removing the coverings over our ears and the blinders on our eyes, no longer having seals over our hearts - He was Guiding us now.)

(I consider that I have not left the teachings of Jesus Christ, peace be upon him. On the contrary, I feel much closer to Jesus, peace be upon him, and I look forward to His return on earth more than ever before.

Now I am worshiping the same God he worships and I serve the same Lord he serves)

He was born in Ohio, raised and educated in Texas and was a successful marketing entrepreneur and preacher of Christianity. He grew up in a religious home, no drink alcohol, no gamble except Bingo at the church. Religion was a real part of their lives. His father was an ordained minister, who believed that: **'The Bible is the Inspired Word of Man FROM GOD.'**

Yusuf accepted the Lord and considered himself a true Christian, but could not resolve the idea of 'Trinity'. So he searched for 'God' elsewhere: **'I checked out Buddhism, Hinduism, metaphysics, Taoism, different forms of Christianity and Judaism. The one most attractive to me was a combination of *Gnosticism* (Christian mysticism) and *Cabalism* (Jewish mysticism) and *metaphysics*. This actually is a form of pantheism (God being throughout His creation) and is similar to some of the '*Sufi*' mystics of today. But this concept in its entirety repulsed me because I did not want to imagine myself as being a 'part of God.'**

He then decided to uphold the Commandments according to the Old Testament. **'It seemed reasonable to me, that there should only be One God.'**

But when he was approaching 50 years old, he decided he wanted to do something for the Lord. So he joined some evangelists and preachers. They traveled around, giving food, money, assistance to needy, and at the same time calling to the message of Christianity. It was all fine, except the fact that the message *itself* was vague!

'What is the message?!'....'I preached that message myself and thought I understood it as well as anyone else did. The problem is that one time I heard another preacher say: Don't leave your brain in the parking lot with your car....Then it hit me to start thinking about the very serious *problems and real facts about my religion.*'

He realized that [they were teaching concepts that are not from the Bible. That there is no word [Trinity] in the Bible in any version of any language, that Jesus of the English Bible complains about the [crucifixion] 'My God! Why have You forsaken me?' (Mk 15:34)....would a 'Just' God, a 'Fair' God, a 'Loving' God -- punish Jesus for the sins of the people that he called to follow him? Can't God just forgive us and not have to kill Jesus?...Also Jesus DID NOT claim to be God - or even equal to God!]

His friend told him to read the story of Abraham in the Old Testament. Especially the part of sacrificing his son for the sake of God, to get the whole concept of 'sacrifice and obedience' to God. But instead he saw a totally different message there. **'That God did not really want to take the life of an innocent boy for sins that Abraham committed'**, Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice his son to test the loyalty of Abraham. He did not withhold his son from God, so God's angels ordered him to offer a ram in place of his son. God was pleased with his total submission and as a result, God Blessed him and his offspring.(Gen. 22:9-18)

'I asked questions and delved into (those kind of stories) the more I would like to facilitate the truth. Many strange things began to happen. Very strange.'

In 1991, his father started doing business with a Muslim man from Egypt, named 'Mohamed'. Estus

idea about Muslims was horrible, [infidels, hijackers, terrorists] and that [they worship a black box in the desert!] So the idea came to him to change the man to Christian.

But the man said that 'he was ready to come to my religion if my religion was better than his religion. But there was a condition, he said he wanted proof. I told him religion is not about proof. It is about faith'.....'He told me in his religion there was both faith and proof. Strange, I thought. How could there be any proof about God or religion?'

He invited 'Mohamed' all along with a priest friend to come to live with the family. Where conversations about '*Beliefs*' took place every night, and they came to contact the facts about Islam; [Qur'an is only in one version, which didn't change over 1400 years, whilst each of the family carried a different version of the Bible! The *Oneness* of God in Islam. And the fact that Muslims believed in the Bible and in Christ as a true messenger of God; and his miracle birth, and that Jesus will be coming back in the Last Days to lead the believers against the 'Antichrist'.]

That led them all to believe in Islam, the visitor priest was the first to declare the testimony, then Yusuf, his wife, his father, and his step mother. His children were placed in Muslim school, where they memorized much of the Qur'an. Then priests friends started to convert in the same year.

'A whole entire household of people from varying backgrounds and ethnic groups coming together in truth to learn how to know and worship the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe. Think. A Catholic priest. A minister of music and preacher. An ordained minister and builder of Christian schools. And they all come into Islam! Only by His Mercy were we all guided to see the real truth of Islam without any blinders on their eyes any longer.'

'And since my own entrance into Islam and becoming a chaplain to the Muslims throughout the country and around the world, I have encountered many more individuals who were leaders, teachers and scholars in other religions who learned about Islam and entered into it. They came from Hindus, Jews, Catholics, Protestants, Jehovah's Witnesses, Greek and Russian Orthodox, Coptic Christians from Egypt, non-denominational churches and even scientists who had been atheists.'

*Source: www.IslamTomorrow.com

Lady Evelyn Zeinab Cobbold (1867 - 1963)

The first British-born Muslim woman to make the pilgrimage to Mecca.

(It seems that I have always been a Muslim. This is not so strange when one remembers that Islam is the natural religion that a child, left to itself, would develop. Indeed as a Western critic once described it. 'Islam is the religion of common sense.')**

The daughter of the 7th Earl of Dunmore, embraced Islam and in April 1933 performed the Pilgrimage to Mecca at the age of 66. In 1934 she published her book 'Pilgrimage to Mecca' (Murray, London)

'The more I read and the more I studied, the more convinced I became that Islam was the most practical religion, and the one most calculated to solve the world's many perplexing problems, and to bring to humanity peace and happiness.'

'Since then I have never wavered in my belief that there is but one God; that Moses, Jesus, Muhammad and others before (peace be on all of them) were prophets, divinely inspired, that to every nation God has sent an apostle, that we are not born in sin, and that we do not need any redemption, that we do not need anyone to intercede between us and God, Whom we can approach at all times, and that no one can intercede for us, not even Muhammad or Jesus [*unless God permits it -ed.*], and that our salvation depends entirely on ourselves and on our actions.'

'The word 'Islam' means surrender to God. It also means peace. A Muslim is one who is 'in harmony with the decrees of the author of this world', one who has made his peace with God and His creatures.'

'Islam is based on two fundamental truths: (a) the Oneness of God and (b) the Brotherhood of Man, and is entirely free from any encumbrances of theological dogma. Above everything else it is a positive faith.'

'The influence of the Hajj cannot be exaggerated. To be a member of that huge congregation gathered together from the four corners of the earth, on this sacred occasion and on the sacred spot, and to join with this mass of humanity, in all humility, in the glorification of God, is to have one's consciousness impressed by the full significance of the Islamic ideal, is to be privileged to participate in one of the most soul inspiring experiences that have ever been granted to human beings.'

*Source: The Light: <http://aaiil.org>

** This is a sign to the Prophet speech (Every child is born with *Fitrah* [the instinct that guide to *Allah*] but then it's parents divert it to Judaism, Christianity or Magian)

Maryam Jameelah [Margaret Marcus]

Author, Ex-Jew, USA

(What persuaded me that the Quran must be from God and not composed by Muhammad was its satisfying and convincing answers to all the most important questions of life which I could not find elsewhere.)

(I traced the beginning of my interest in Islam to the age of ten. While attending a reformed Jewish Sunday school, I became fascinated with the historical relationship between the Jews and the Arabs. From my Jewish textbooks, I learned that Abraham was the father of the Arabs as well as the Jews. I read how centuries later when, in medieval Europe, Christian persecution

made their lives intolerable, the Jews were welcomed in Muslim Spain, and that it was the magnanimity of this same Arabic Islamic civilization which stimulated Hebrew culture to reach its highest peak of achievement.)

Born in 1943 in New York, at age of 11 till 15, She attended The Ethical Culture Movement which regards all traditional, organized religions with scorn. Then at New York University, she studied 'Judaism in Islam'. which was not convincing to her, '**Although his real aim [*the professor*] was to prove to his students the superiority of Judaism over Islam, he convinced me diametrically of the opposite.'..... 'I soon discovered that Zionism was merely a combination of the racist, tribalistic aspects of Judaism'....'I could no longer consider myself a Jew at heart.'**

It was in this class, that she met a Russian Orthodox Jewish student who converted to Islam later after severe kidney illness experience.

'I was comparing in my mind what I had read in the Old Testament and the Talmud with what was taught in the Qur'an and Hadith and finding Judaism so defective, I was converted to Islam.'

Her family would argue her not to, until she-*herself*- had severe illness that made her quit college for two years under private medical care, steadily growing worse. then in to hospitals, '**where I vowed that if ever I recovered sufficiently to be discharged, I would embrace Islam.'**

'When I embraced Islam, my parents, relatives and their friends regarded me almost as a fanatic, because I could think and talk of nothing else. To them, religion is a purely private concern which at the most perhaps could be cultivated like an amateur hobby among other hobbies. But as soon as I read the Holy Quran, I knew that Islam was no hobby but life itself!'

'My first thought when reading the Holy Quran - this is the only true religion - absolutely sincere, honest, not allowing cheap compromises or hypocrisy.'

She wrote over thirty books about Islamic culture and history, some of which are [Islam and Modernism, Westernization and Human Welfare, Three Great Islamic Movements in the Arab World of the Recent Past, The Generation Gap - Its Causes and Consequences]

'...the Qur'an tells us that those who are guided by no moral considerations other than expediency or social conformity and crave the freedom to do as they please, no matter how much worldly success and prosperity they attain or how keenly they are able to relish the short span of their earthly life, will be doomed as the losers on Judgment Day. Islam teaches us that in order to devote our exclusive attention to fulfilling our duties to God and to our fellow-beings, we must abandon all vain and useless activities which distract us from this end.'

*Source: interview with Maryam Jameelah, <http://maryam--jameelah.blogspot.com>

Dr. Robert D. Crane*

Prominent scholar/activist and expert on international law, economics, international affairs,
and Islamic jurisprudence

(I did not choose to become a Muslim. I am and have always been a Muslim, but did not know it self-consciously until I was 50 years old.)

(My answer to the one who asks me why I became Muslim is: Islam is the religion of monotheism, happiness, peace of mind, and dignified living. If I adhere to it and apply its teachings, it is the religion of Divine Justice.)

(The miracle of the Qur'an is that it has meaning only through the power of our rational intellect. The more we examine it the more meaning it has.)

He is the former adviser to President Richard Nixon, and is former Deputy Director (for Planning) of the United States *National Security Council*. He has authored or co-authored more than a dozen books and over 50 professional articles on comparative legal systems, global strategy, and information management.

His Conversion to Islam in Bahrain:

In 1977-78 he spent a year as Principal Economic and Budget Adviser to the Finance Minister in the Emirate of Bahrain. His conversion to Islam was mainly influenced by the monotheistic and perfect belief in Allah. **'Allah converted me to Islam when I was five years old, and again through a religious experience when I was 21, but I did not know there were other persons in the world who understood what Allah showed me until I met an old man in Bahrain who told me that there is a word for what I worshiped, and this is "Allah." I figured that all Muslims could not be bad, as I had thought before, if this man was so good and was an admitted Muslim. I did not choose to become a Muslim. I am and have always been a Muslim, but did not know it self-consciously until I was 50 years old.'**

From 1982 to the present Dr. Crane has been a full-time Islamic scholar and activist. He was Principal Da'ii (religious instructor) at the Islamic Center, Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C., from 1983 to 1986, which included a year as Director of the Dialogue Commission of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington. He was Director of Publications at the International Institute of Islamic Thought from 1986 to 1988.

Dr. Crane was a Founding Member of The American Muslim Council and from 1992 to 1994 served as Director of its Legal Division. In 1993, he was elected president of the Muslim American Bar Association, which he founded in order to organize Muslim participation in the American Bar Association's work on issues of conscience. From 1994 until the present he has headed his own research organizations focusing on paradigm management designed to shape the agendas of thinktanks, which, in turn, direct public policy. He has authored or co-authored a dozen books and hundreds of professional articles on comparative legal systems, global strategy, and information management. Since September, 2001, he has been an ad hoc weekly columnist for the online journal, The American Muslim.

*Sources: <http://www.turntoislam.com> , <http://www.iiit.org>

Yusha [Joshua] Evans*

Former Christian Youth Minister

'I was raised by my grandparents in Greenville, South Carolina in a very strict Methodist home. In my teenage years, I became very involved in the church and was studying at a small Bible college in my hometown with the intention of eventually enrolling in Bob Jones University. I was learning to read the Bible in Hebrew and Greek and was very interested in textual criticism of the Bible. It was during these years of intense Bible study that **I read the Bible cover to cover a half a dozen times. In doing so, I realized there were many inconsistencies and contradictions. not only in the text, but in the message preached by Jesus himself and what I had been taught all my life based on the writings of Paul. I then realized the Bible was not the inerrant Word of God as I had always been taught. I eventually left Christianity and searched for the truth about God elsewhere.'**

'I studied every religion from Judaism to Buddhism, Wicca to Bushido. While many religions had certain truths to them, they had major tenants or flaws I could not accept. And none gave me the absolute tangible proof I was looking for. All praise is due to God, one day I found myself talking with a young Muslim who invited me to jumua'h, the Friday service and congregational prayer. When I saw the Muslims praying, bowing and prostrating with their heads on the floor, all the verses of the Bible describing the prayer of the prophets came flooding back to me. I asked for a copy of the Quran, read it from cover to cover in three days, found my tangeable proof, and the rest (as they say) is history.'

Yusha currently works as a full time caller to islam and has traveled extensively conducting *da'wah* workshops[calling people to Islam]. He has studied under numerous teachers in the U.S and Egypt.

*Source: thedeenshow.com

And see complete story in: how the bible led me to Islam: <http://www.youtube.com>

Dr. Laurence B. Brown*

American ophthalmologist & former atheist

'Perhaps other religions do not answer the big questions of life, such as "Who made us?" and "Why are we here?" Perhaps other religions do not reconcile the injustices of life with a fair and just Creator. Perhaps we find hypocrisy in the clergy, untenable tenets of faith in the canon, or corruption in the scripture. Whatever the reason, we perceive shortcomings in the religions of our exposure, and look elsewhere. And the ultimate "elsewhere" is Islam.' (Why Islam)

'In 1990, I was in the last year of my ophthalmology residency at George Washington University hospital in Washington, DC. **My second daughter was born October tenth. To my great dismay, she was a dusky blue from the chest to the toes. Her body was not getting enough blood, and the cause was found to be a coarctation of the aorta -- a critical narrowing in the major artery from the heart...I was shattered. Being a doctor, I understood she needed emergency surgery, with a poor chance of long-term survival.** A consultant pediatric cardio-thoracic surgeon was called from across town, and I left him in the neonatal intensive care unit to examine my daughter. With no companion but my fears, I went to the hospital prayer room and fell to my knees.....this was the first time that I even partially recognized God.... I prayed the prayer of a skeptic, "Oh, God, if you are there . . ." **I promised that if God existed, and if He saved my daughter and then guided me to the religion most pleasing to Him, that I would follow. I returned to the neonatal ICU roughly fifteen minutes later, and was shocked when the consultant told me that my daughter would be fine. True to his assessment, within the next two days her condition resolved miraculously, without medicine or surgery. She grew to be a perfectly normal child.'**

'Now, as I said before, I am a doctor. And although the consultant provided a medical explanation for my daughter's miraculous recovery, I simply didn't buy it. I remember him explaining about a patent ductus arteriosus, low oxygenation and spontaneous resolution. But I also remember thinking, **'No,' my daughter's salvation was not a medical miracle, but a divine one...I could easily have assigned my daughter's recovery to the doctor's explanation rather than to a miracle from God. But faith had entered my heart, and it wouldn't leave. We had cardiac ultrasounds taken before and after, showing the stricture one day and gone the next, and all I could think was that God had made good on His part of the deal, and I had to make good on mine. Even if there was a medical explanation, that was nothing more than the pathway by which Almighty God chose to answer my prayer and effect His decree. '**

'For the next few years I tried to fulfill my side of the bargain, but failed. I studied Judaism and a large number of Christian sects. I felt I was on the right track, close to the truth but not upon it. I never fully embraced any specific Christian formula, for I could not reconcile the differences between Christian canon and Jesus' teachings. Eventually I was introduced to the Holy Qur'an and Martin Lings's biography, *Muhammad, His Life Based on the Earliest Sources*.'

'During my years of study, I had encountered the Jewish scriptures' reference to three prophets to follow Moses. I had concluded that John the Baptist and Jesus Christ were two, but that left one. In the New Testament Jesus Christ spoke of a final prophet to follow. When I found the Holy Qur'an teaching the oneness of God, as both Moses and Jesus Christ had taught, I become convinced Muhammad was the predicted final prophet. Suddenly, everything made sense: The continuity in the chain of prophethood and revelation, the *Oneness* of Almighty God, and the completion of revelation in the Holy Qur'an. It was then that I became Muslim.'

'Pretty smart, hunh? No, I would err greatly if I believed that I figured it out for myself. One lesson I have learned is that there are a lot of people more intelligent than I who have not learned the truth of Islam. It is not a matter of intelligence but of enlightenment, for **"...and whoever believes in Allah – He will guide his heart"** (Holy Qur'an, 64:11),

“Allah chooses for Himself whom He wills and guides to Himself whoever turns back [to Him]”
(Holy Qur’an, 42:13),

“And Allah guides whom He wills to a straight path.” (Holy Qur’an, 24:46)

So I thank Allah that He chose to guide me, and I attribute that guidance to one simple formula: recognizing our Creator, praying to Him and to Him alone, and sincerely seeking His guidance. And whom He guides, none can lead astray.'

*Source: Dr. Laurence B. Brown's Conversion Story, <http://negativity-sucks.blogspot.com>

Bogdan Ataullah Kopanski

Polish, now American. Ph.D in History & Politics

Embraced Islam in 1974. **'When I was 12 years old I rejected the illogical and contradictory faith of the Church. Two years later in 1962 I was fascinated by the victorious struggle of the Algerian Muslim Mujaahideen against French Colonialism.'**

In high school and in the earliest days of University education she was a typical example of 'rebel generation' Reds, and was imprisoned twice by the Polish Communist Regime (1968, 1981-82) In 1974 she visited Turkey, to write her M.A. dissertation about Sultan and Caliph Suleiman Kanuni's policy towards the Polish Kingdom. And **'There I was hit by the most beautiful voice of mankind ; ADHAAN, [the call to prayer] My hair stood up. An unknown powerful force led me to an old masjid (mosque) in Istanbul. There, an old, smiling Turkish man taught me the WUDOO , or ablution. I confessed to tears the SHAHAADAH (proclamation of faith) and I prayed my first SALAAT-UL-MAGHRIB (the Evening Prayer)..I swept out the rubbish ideologies...For the first time in my life my mind was relaxed and I felt the pleasure of Allaah's love in my heart. I was a Muslim...'**

*Source://islam100.wordpress.com

Muhammad Ali [Cassius Clay]

American Ex-boxer, Three times World Heavyweight Champion

Embraced Islam in 1965 **'I have had many nice moments in my life. But the feelings I had while standing on Mount Arafat [just outside Makka, Saudi Arabia] on the day of the Hajj [the Muslim pilgrimage], was the most unique. I felt exalted by the indescribable spiritual atmosphere there as over one and a half million pilgrims invoked God to forgive them for their sins and bestow on them His choicest blessings.'**

'It was an exhilarating experience [Pilgrimage] to see people belonging to different colors, races

and nationalities, kings, heads of state and ordinary men from very poor countries all clad in two simple white sheets praying to God without any sense of either pride or inferiority. It was a practical manifestation of the concept of equality in Islam.'

*Source: <http://islam100.wordpress.com>

Sara Bokker

Former Actress and Model, USA

She lived in Florida and South Beach of Miami, a hotspot for those seeking the “glamorous life”. Naturally, she did what most average Western girls do. She focused on her appearance and appeal, **'basing my self-worth on how much attention I got from others.'** she was an actress, a model, and fitness instructor. Then she came to realize that **'my scale of self-fulfillment and happiness slid down the more I progressed in my “feminine appeal”. I was a slave to fashion. I was a hostage to my looks.'**

She sought refuge in meditation, activism, and alternative religions, but eventually realized it all was merely a pain killer rather than an effective remedy. She joined in the ongoing campaigns of election reform and civil rights. And learned that ideals such as justice, freedom, and respect are meant to be and are essentially universal, and that own good and common good are not in conflict. For the first time, **'I knew what -all people are created equal- really meant. But most importantly, I learned that it only takes faith to see the world as one and to see the unity in creation.'**

'One day I came across a book that is negatively stereotyped in the West--The Holy Quran. Up until that point, all I had associated with Islam was women covered in “tents”, wife beaters, harems, and a world of terrorism. I was first attracted by the style and approach of the Quran, and then intrigued by its outlook on existence, life, creation, and the relationship between Creator and creation. I found the Quran to be a very insightful address to heart and soul without the need for an interpreter or pastor.'... 'Eventually I hit a moment of truth'... 'I became “functional” Muslim.'

'I bought a beautiful long gown and head cover resembling the Muslim woman's dress code and I walked down the same streets and neighborhoods where only days earlier I had walked in my shorts, bikini, or “elegant” western business attire. Although the people, the faces, and the shops were all the same, one thing was remarkably distinct: the peace at being a woman I experienced for the very first time. I felt as if the chains had been broken and I was finally free. I was delighted with the new looks of wonder on people's faces in place of the looks of a hunter watching his prey I had once sought. **Suddenly a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I no longer spent all my time consumed with shopping, makeup, getting my hair done, and working out. Finally, I was free.'**

'I find it to be a blatant hypocrisy when some people and so-called human rights groups rush to defend women's rights when some governments impose a certain dress code on women, yet such

“freedom fighters” look the other way when women are being deprived of their rights, work, and education just because they choose to exercise their right to wear the Hijab.'

'Yesterday, the bikini was the symbol of my liberty, when in actuality it only liberated me from my spirituality and true value as a respectable human being. I couldn't be happier to shed my bikini in South Beach and the “glamorous” Western lifestyle to live in peace with my Creator and enjoy living among fellow humans as a worthy person.'

'Today, Hijab is the new symbol of woman's liberation to find who she is, what her purpose is, and the type of relation she chooses to have with her Creator. To women who surrender to the ugly stereotype against the Islamic modesty of Hijab, I say: You don't know what you are missing.'

*Source: Sara Bokker, Former Actress and Model, USA, <http://maszuzu.blogspot.com/2009/07/sarah-bokker>

Jermaine Jackson*

An Ex-Jehovah's Witness, & brother of world-famous star Michael Jackson

(There are many things where there is consensus between Christianity and Islam, and Qur'an presents Holy Christ as a virtuous Prophet. Then, I wondered, why Christian America levels baseless allegations against Muslims?)

In a startling Interview-with Arabic "al-Mujallah" magazine- Jermaine Jackson, brother of world-famous star Michael Jackson, tells how he embraced Islam:

'It was way back in 1989 when I, along with my sister, conducted a tour to some of the countries of Middle East. During our stay in Bahrain, we were accorded warm welcome. There I happened to meet some children and had a light chitchat with them. I put certain questions to them and they flung at me their innocent queries. During the course of this interaction, they inquired about my religion. I told them, "I am a Christian." I asked them, as to what was their religion? A wave of serenity took over them. They replied in one voice ? Islam. Their enthusiastic answer really shook me from within. Then they started telling me about Islam. They were giving me information, much in piece with their age. The pitch of their voice would reveal that they were highly proud of Islam. This is how I paced toward Islam....led me to have long discourses about Islam with Muslim scholars....I made failing attempt to console myself that nothing had happened but I could not conceal this fact any longer from myself that at heart I had converted to Islam.' then he performed *Umrah* [small pilgrimage] to mecca in Saudi Arabia, and there he announced that he became Muslim.

'I found in Islam the answers to those queries which I had failed to find in Christianity. Particularly, it was only Islam that provided satisfactory answer to the question relating to the birth of Christ. For the first time I was convinced about the religion itself. '

'I has seven sons and two daughter who, like me, are fully Islamic-oriented. My wife is still studying Islam. She insists on going over to Saudi Arabia. I trust InshaAllah, she would sooner

join Islam. May God Almighty give us the courage and perseverance to remain on this true religion, Islam. (Ameen)

*Source: <http://www.usislam.org>

Martyr Sabora Uribe [Maria Olastra]

Born in Andalusia in 1949, got a degree in philosophy and psychology from the University of Madrid, and converted to Islam in 1978.

She ran The documentation and publication in the Islamic Council. She was cited in Granada in 1998 by an ultranationalist Spanish, moments after the completion of her article [Muslim in the global village] in which she wrote:

'I believe in the *oneness* of God, and believe in Muhammad as a prophet and messenger, and in his approach to peace and good ... In Islam Human beings are born pure and free, without inherited sin, to accept the position, ability and role in the world'

'Some people [*Muslims*] belong to Arab nationality, but the Arabic language belongs to all of us [the *Muslims*] It is held in a special position inside us, because the Holy Quran was revealed in it's alfa bet, and it was the reporting tool that was used by the Prophet Muhammad 'peace be upon him.'

'Education today is more than any other time, a necessary condition againt drowning in the ocean of media. Our Press is infected with terrible news, because the terrified citizen is easier to be handeled, and will humbly believe whatever been dictated!'

God rest her soul and accept her in heaven.

* Source: Article (Muslima fi el qaria alalamia). Majalat Al-Faisal no.291

Prof. Abdul Ahad Dawud[David Benjamin Keldani](1867-c.1940)

Former Bishop of Uramiah- Persia

'My conversion to Islam cannot be attributed to any cause other than the gracious direction of the Almighty Allah. Without this Divine guidance all learning, search and other efforts to find the Truth may even lead one astray. The moment I believed in the Absolute Unity of God His Holy Apostle Muhammed became the pattern of my conduct and behavior.'

'My writings are not intended to raise a bitter and therefore useless dispute with the Churches, but only invite them to a pleasant and friendly investigation of this all-important question with a spirit of love and impartiality. If the Christians desists from their vain attempt of defining the essence of the Supreme Being, and confess His absolute Oneness, then a union between them and the Muslims is not only probable but extremely possible. For once the unity of God is accepted and acknowledged, the other points of difference between the two faiths can more easily be settled.'

'It would be a mere waste of time here to refute those who ignorantly or maliciously suppose the Allah of Islam to be different from the true God and only a fictitious deity of Muhammad's own creation. If the Christian priests and theologians knew their Scriptures in the Original Hebrew instead of in translations as the Muslims read their Qur'an in its Arabic text, they would clearly see that Allah is the same ancient Semitic name of the Supreme Being who revealed and spoke to Adam and all the prophets.'

'The essence, the person and nature of Allah are absolutely beyond human comprehension, and therefore any attempt to define His essence is not only futile but even dangerous to our spiritual welfare and faith; for it will certainly lead us into error.'

The Trinidadian branch of the Christian Church, for about seventeen centuries, has exhausted all the brains of her saints and philosophers to define the Essence and the Person of the Deity; and what have they invented? All that which Athanasiuses, Augustines and Aquinases have imposed upon the Christians "under the pain of eternal damnation" – to believe in a God who is "the third of three"! Allah, in His Holy Quran, condemns this belief in these solemn words:-

"They are certainly unbelievers, who say God is the third of three, for there is no God but the one God; and if they refrain not from what they say, a painful chastisement shall surely be inflicted on such of them as are unbelievers" (Holy Qur'an, 5:73).

The attributes of God are not to be considered as distinct and separate divine entities or personalities, otherwise we shall have, not one trinity of persons in the Godhead, but several dozen of trinities. An attribute until it actually emanates from its subject has no existence. We cannot qualify the subject by a particular attribute before that attribute has actually proceeded from it and is seen. Hence we say "God is Good" when we enjoy His good and kind action; but we cannot describe Him - properly speaking - as "God is Goodness", because goodness is not God, but His action and work. It is for this reason that the Quran always attributes to Allah the adjectival appellations, such as the Wise, the Knowing, the Merciful, but never with such descriptions as "God is love, knowledge, word", and so forth; for love is the action of the lover and not the lover himself, just as knowledge or word is the action of the knowing person and not himself.'

The Christian auspicious formula: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost", does not even mention the name of God! And this is the Christian God! The Christian Trinity - in as much as it admits a plurality of persons in the Deity, attributes distinct personal properties to each person; and makes use of family names similar to those in the pagan mythology - cannot be accepted as a true conception of the Deity. **Allah is neither the father of a son nor the son of a father. He has no mother, nor is He self-made. The belief in "God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Ghost" is a flagrant denial of the unity of God, and an audacious confession in three imperfect beings who, unitedly or separately, cannot be the true God.'**

'In conclusion, I must remind Christians that unless they believe in the absolute unity of God, and renounce the belief in the three persons, they are certainly unbelievers in the true God, Strictly speaking, Christians are polytheists, only with this exception, that the gods of the heathen are false and imaginary, whereas the three gods of the Churches have a distinct character, of whom the Father - as another epithet for Creator - is the One true God, but the son is only a prophet and servant of God, and third person one of the innumerable holy spirits in the service of the Almighty God.'

*Source: <http://www.islam4all.com/prof.htm>

Raphael Narbaez, Jr.

Comic & former Jehovah's Witness Minister

He is a Los Angeles-based comic and lecturer. He was born in Texas where he attended his first Jehovah's Witness meeting at age six. He gave his first Bible sermon at eight, tended his own congregation at twenty, and was headed for a position of leadership among the 904,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in the United States.

At age twenty, he had become a pioneer minister... **'Jehovah's Witnesses have a very sophisticated training program, and they also have kind of a quota system. You have to devote ten to twelve hours a month to door-to-door preaching. It's like sales management....**

A few things no longer made sense to me. For example, the quota system. It seemed like every time I wanted to turn a corner and get into another position of responsibility, I had to do these secular material things to prove my godliness. It's like if you meet your quotas this month, God loves you. If you don't meet your quotas next month, God doesn't love you. That didn't make very much sense. One month God loves me and one month He doesn't?....

'The other thing I started noticing is tunnel vision. Jehovah's Witnesses are the only ones who are going to be saved in God's new order, nobody else, because all of them are practicing false religions.'

'We criticized the Catholic Church because they had a man, a priest, to whom they had to confess. And we'd say, "You shouldn't have to go to a man to confess your sins! Your sin is against God!....If the sin is against God, shouldn't I directly go to God and beg for mercy?

And 'Jehovah's Witnesses have books for everything that are put out by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society..... I appreciated the books. But if the Bible is the book of knowledge and if it's God's instructions, well, shouldn't we get our answers out of the Bible? Paul himself said find out for yourself what is a true and acceptable word of God. Don't let men tickle your ears.'

'Spiritually I no longer felt at ease. So in 1979, knowing that I could not make headway, I left, disgruntled and with a bad taste in my mouth, because all my life I had put my soul, my heart, my mind into the church. That was the problem. I didn't put it in God. I put it in a man-made organization.'

'I can't go to other religions. As a Jehovah's Witness, I had been trained, through the Scriptures, to show that they are all wrong. That idolatry is bad. Trinity doesn't exist.

I'm like a man without a religion. I was not a man without a God. But where could I go?

'So I just went to the Catholic church close to my house, and I tried it. I remember on Ash Wednesday I had that ash cross on my forehead. I was trying anything I could. I went for about two or three months, and I just couldn't do it anymore....'But it never passed through my mind that there is not a

Creator. I have His phone number, but the line's always busy.'

'I continued to pray, and asked why my prayers weren't being answered....O God, teach me to be a Christian. Don't teach me the Jehovah's Witness way. Don't teach me the Catholic way. Teach me Your way!'

Then he started reading the Qur'an, and found that it mentioned Noah, Lot and Abraham. 'I can't believe it. I never knew Satan's name was Iblis...**When you get that picture on your TV set and it's got a little bit of static and you push that button [klop] - fine tune. That's exactly what happened with the Qur'an.'** Then to learn more, he attended Friday ceremony, and continued to read and read and visit the mosque....

Then I started getting calls from different parts of the country to go and lecture as a Jehovah's Witness minister who embraced Islam. People find me a novelty....Eventually somebody would come up to me and say [Pakistani accent], **"Oh, brother, your talk was so good. But you know, in the Shafi'i school of thought.."**

The only thing I could do was turn to them and say, **"Gee, brother, I'm so sorry, I wish I knew about that, but I don't know anything about Islam except what's in the Qur'an and Sunnah[Prophet tradition]"**

Some of them are taken aback and say, **"Ha-ha! Poor brother. He doesn't know anything. He only knows the Qur'an'....Well, that's what I'm supposed to know. And it's been a very loving protection. I think it's all in Allah's hands."**

*Source: 'From the Watchtower to the Minaret', <http://www.whymuhammad.com>

Shaykh Abd Al Wahid Yahya* [René Guénon] (1886-1951)
French Scholar, writer, philosopher and mystic

'In any case, what Westerners call civilization, the others would call barbarity, because it is precisely lacking in the essential, that is to say a principle of a higher order.' (East And West)

He was born in 1886 to a well off Catholic family of France. From his childhood, he was an extraordinary intelligent and made distinction amongst his classmates. He got his Bachelor's degree with distinction and joined the University of Paris where he studied mathematics for about two years.

During his study, he did not restrict his activities to formal education only but started searching for the 'Ultimate Truth', because he was not satisfied with his ancestral religion; Christianity. He did not accept the so called Christian dogmas and rituals. Consequently, he had not only a thorough and deep comparative study of religions, but also he held discussions and had meetings with thinkers and philosophers of fame. Due to this spiritual journey and mental chaos, he left the university even though his education was incomplete. In 1909 he met two 'Reverts to Islam' who were not only well acquainted with Islam, but also competent in sociology.

The first of these two scholars was Sheikh Abdul Haq, formerly Schamrino of French origin. He was a scholar of repute and edited a magazine namely 'Al-Tareeq'. The Christian name was Iavon Gustav. After his reversion to Islam, he learned Arabic and had full command over it. He used to contribute articles to 'Ansari' magazine which was being published from Egypt.

In 1909, Rene Guenon started a magazine entitled "Al-Maarifat" [Knowledge] with the collaboration of these scholars. which covered Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This journal remained active for about four years and ceased publication in 1912, the year in which Rene Guenon entered the fold of Islam. He took the Islamic name Abdul Wahid Yahya. His 'Reversion to Islam' was the result of his own continuous search for Truth coupled with the cooperation and guidance of Sheikh Abdul Haq and Sheikh Abdur Rahman Elish El-Kebir (El-Alim El-Maliki School of Thought in Egypt), a mystic and competent in Islamic Jurisprudence. As a token of respect, Rene Guenon dedicated his book: "Symbolism of the Cross" to the venerated memory of Sheikh Abudur Rahman who gave him the first idea of the book. In February 1930, Rene Guenon went to Cairo and settled there permanently.

One of his main concerns was to produce an unsentimental analysis of Western ideological and religious development since the Renaissance, focusing on the degradation - as he saw it - of metaphysics, religion and philosophy and consequently of the mentality of the general populace. He explained why the civilization of the West was built on false foundations, like a house built on sand: its positivism, its denial of true tradition and in consequence its metaphysical blindness. He also showed the way to reform this situation by gaining access - through initiation - to the sacred and eternal treasure of timeless wisdom hidden beyond pseudo-sciences. His writings have inspired many engaged readers to search for truth and meaning in an otherwise meaningless world.

***Resources: (How Rene Guenon Discovered Islam) <http://www.islamweb.net>**

(who was Rene Guenon) <http://www.abc.se/~m9783/trg.html>

Conclusion:

Those mentioned, with so many others whom were not mentioned here, but God knows them...I pray that God accepts them all- all along with those whom are still to come-and bless them with mercy, I pray that God raises their grades in heaven, and gather us with them in his mercy on the day of account,Amen.

According to the Religious & Tolerance website (<http://www.religioustolerance.org/worldrel.htm>) which provides a chart of basic information on various religions (latest update Dec.2009)

Basic information on various religions:

Religion	Date Founded	Sacred Texts	Membership ⁵	% of World ⁶
Christianity	30 CE	The Bible	2,039 million	32% (dropping)
Islam	622 CE	Qur'an & Hadith	1,570 million	22% (growing)
Hinduism	1500 BCE with truly ancient roots	Bhagavad-Gita , Upanishads , & Rig Veda	950 million	13% (stable)
No religion (Note 1)	-	None	775 million	12% (dropping)
Chinese folk religion	270 BCE	None	390 million	6%
Buddhism	523 BCE	The Tripitaka (consisting of the Vinaya , the Sutras , and the Abhidharma)	350 - 1,600 million (2)	6% (stable?)
Tribal Religions, Shamanism, Animism	Prehistory	Oral tradition	232 million	4%
Atheists	No date	None	150 million	2%
New religions.	Various	Various	103 million	2%
Sikhism	1500 CE	Guru Granth Sahib	23.8 million	<1%
Judaism	Note 3	Torah, Tanach , & Talmud	14.5 million	<1%
Spiritism			12.6 million	<1%
Baha'i Faith	1863 CE	Alkitab Alaqqdas	7.4 million	<1%
Confucianism	520 BCE	Lun Yu	6.3 million	<1%
Jainism	570 BCE	Siddhanta , Pakrit	4.3 million	<1%
Zoroastrianism	600 to 6000 BCE	Avesta	2.7 million	<1%
Shinto	500 CE	Kojiki , Nohon Shoki	2.7 million	<1%
Taoism Note 4	550 BCE	Tao-te-Ching	2.7 million	<1%
Other	Various	Various	1.1 million	<1%
Wicca Note 5	800 BCE, 1940 CE	None	0.5 million?	<1%

What we want to check on this schedule is the growth rate of different religions indicated in (column no.6) which shows that Islam is the only GROWING religion nowadays with dropping in Christianity and No-Religion.

(Islam is also the fastest-growing religion. In the United States, for example, nearly 80 percent of the more than 1,200 mosques have been built in the past 12 years.) (CNN world news)

(MORE than 14,000 white Britons have converted to Islam after becoming disillusioned with western values, according to the first authoritative study of the phenomenon.) (Times online)

We mentioned these statistics as incentive for the efforts and good deeds. Although this high prevalence does not deny us a charge of default, do not absolve us of the enormous responsibility entrusted to us. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal said: **'The Muslim will be trembling on day of judgment shamefully, when the prophet reprimand: You have taken from me the word of Truth, So why do not you submit it to the people?'**

In her book (Allah's sun over the Occident), Sigrud Hunke says **'Islam came to the whole world, not only for Arabs, and Muslims should follow the path of the Holy Prophet, because the world is in a vacuum that only the teachings of Islam can fill. Europeans have the opportunity to embrace Islam, they Need the savior and no savior but Islam'**

CHAPTER-3-

PROSPECTS FOR THE ISLAMIC TIDE IN THE WEST

"Pass away between me and the people"

Muhammad 'peace be upon him'

In a Village of palm trees, established in the desert, like security after fear, and hope after despair.... Whose is this blessed village?! And who are those disciples who listened to their teacher-at Al Arqam house - and planned to break into difficulties, to break into the heart of the world? What vulnerable poor people who were set to bring the TRUTH to the world! See them years after, with their flags flutter in the East and West. And there, wrote a new book in the history of civilization that overwhelmed the nations of the whole world!! How could such a small village expand to contain the world?! How did those disciples manage to reach their goals?! What power in their hearts led them? The answer simply is ISLAM.

And man nowadays is thirsty. Thirsty, but does not know the lable of the water, and where to find it, there is no doubt that he had heard it's lable, but horrified simply to hear it's title, because the media had imbued people's minds with rumors that this water is poisoned and should not be near it, connected it's lable with terrorism!! However, whoever manage to reach it, was so amazed for the long deception.

Factors of the spread of Islam:

If we extrapolated the proclamations of those blessed people whome we accompanied in the previous pages to unearth the reasons behind their conversion to Islam, we find that these reasons, almost exclusively, and according to their importance and frequency are as follows:

1 - Islam is a religion of instinct and monotheism; This is the first factor in the spread of Islam, Islam has come with true rational human perception of 'God', 'the universe', and 'humans', with quite appropriate legislation that fits human nature. **Islam is the religion of instinct and can be easily**

applied in all the circumstances which facilitated it's spread.

2 – Holy Quran study; This is important to remove doubts and be assured of the divine source of the Holy Quran, and that it is the pure revelation from God, and the fact that it was untouched by corruption through ages of time.

3 - Good example; A Muslim behavior gives practical lessons to people, it's like reading in an open book about the meaning of Islam. As said '**The effect of a single man's deed can be better than thousand men's quotes effect on a single man.'**

4 - The comprehensiveness and balance of Islamic architecture; Some were affected by Muslims mosques and praying, the purity and chastity, the justice, the brotherhood between all Muslims [this had a great meaning for Malcolm X], plus many women were fascinated by the true women status in Islam.

5 - Studying the Scriptures; That leads to nowhere, this is mostly for the religious scholars and priests, and for people when start searching for the truth.

6 – Islamic respect for the Apostles; Mostly for religious scholars who felt connected to Jesus, yet could not accept trinity, found relief in Islam, like Yusuf Estus, & Ibrahim Khalil Ahmad.

7 - The fact that there's no mediation between the Creation and the Creator, or indulgences in Islam.

8 – There is no world-renunciation in Islam; Islam contains no separation between faith and social behaviour; no conflict between matter and spirit. Every form of life-denial and self-mortification had been condemned by the Prophet.

9- Psychological reassurance and the achievement of human rights in Islam.

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world:

Lots of Westerners rush to Islam, overcoming barriers of cultural and social environment, and anti-Islamic propaganda campaigns which distort Islamic principles, history and civilization, disregarding the bitter reality of Muslims world's tardiness, and despite the primitive and spontaneity of means used by Muslims in the invitation to Islam, in spite of all that, Islam is still the most growing religion in the world. as shown in the chart presented on (page 55).

If we know that Islam is spreading with the efforts of scattered individual, with so little efforts and funds comparing to Evangelization campaigns for other religions, that will lead to know with certainty that '**The religion in the sight of God is Islam**'.