

Exposing the Myth of the Islamic Jesus

(Did Muhammad Lie about Jesus Christ?)

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This booklet is dedicated to all Muslims worldwide

"May the Truth set you free....." (John 8:32)

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Introduction

Muslims claim to honor Jesus even more than Christians do. They pretend to believe in Jesus to bluff the Christians and particularly the whites in order to convert them to their religion. In fact with conversion in mind, some Muslims will describe Jesus in great flowery language. The idea is to soften the Christian stance to Islam and convert them to Islam. Let us see what Islam has to say about Jesus Christ.

Jesus is known in Islam as Isa (prophet Isa). In the Islamic scriptures, Jesus is frequently called "Al-Masih" (Messiah) and at one time or another is also referred to as "the Word of God", "the Word of Truth", "a Spirit from Him", "the Messenger of God", "the Prophet of God", and "the Servant of God".

The Qur'an mentions quite a lot about Jesus Christ -- some of it truthful, and some of it utter bluffs.

Islam teaches the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

"And Mary, daughter of 'Imran, whose body was chaste, therefore We breathed therein something of Our Spirit. And she put faith in the words of her Lord and His scriptures, and was of the obedient." (Quran 66:12)

"She said: 'How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?' So it will be: Thy Lord saith, 'that is easy for Me: and We wish to appoint him as a Sign unto men and a Mercy from Us': It is a matter so decreed. So she conceived him, and she retired with him to a remote place." (Quran 19:20-22)

In both of these Quranic passages, we can see that orthodox Muslim teachings hold to the fact that Christ was conceived in Mary, despite her being a virgin. Further, it is taught that Mary's conception of Christ was a result of the action of the Spirit of Allah. The virginal conception of Jesus Christ is also explicitly stated to have been a sign to men and a mercy from Allah. Where Islam fails, though, is to understand what this sign pointed to and what the mercy of God through the Lord Jesus Christ really is.

The Qur'an also reports that Jesus Christ was sinless in His life on earth.

"He said: I am only a messenger of thy Lord, that I may bestow on thee a faultless son." (Quran 19:19)

Christ was therefore described to Mary as faultless, indicating that He would be sinless.

Some of the events surrounding the birth of the Lord are taught as well. The Qur'an reports that Jesus spoke at birth.

"But she pointed to the babe. They said: 'How can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle?' He said: 'I am indeed a servant of Allah: He hath given me revelation and made me a prophet'..." (Quran 19:29-30)

The Bible, though, makes no record of this event. Incidentally this event appears in the 2nd century Jewish book of fables, the Midrash. How did it appear in the 7th century Quran is anyone's guess?

In Islam, Jesus Christ is acknowledged as having performed many miracles. He raised people from the dead and healed the sick and infirmed. He had supernatural knowledge of things which people kept secret. He is also reported to have fashioned a bird out of clay, breathed into it, and it came to life.

"And appoint him a messenger to the Children of Israel, with this message: 'I have come to you, with a Sign from your Lord, in that I make for you out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, and breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by Allah's leave: And I heal those born blind, and the lepers, and I quicken the dead, by Allah's leave; and I declare to you what ye eat, and what ye store in your houses. Surely therein is a Sign for you if ye did believe;" (Quran 3:49)

Some of these miracles are true to the Biblical record; the miracle of the clay bird is not. However, we can note that Islam does record Jesus as having performed miracles, through the power of Allah, and that these miracles were for the purpose of serving as signs so that the people might believe.

Islam will even go so far as to teach that Jesus Christ was the Messiah from God, and that He was God's Word and mediator. In the Quran we see the Messianic nature of Jesus Christ supported,

"And remember when the angels said: O Mary! Lo! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a word from him, whose name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, illustrious in the world and the Hereafter, and one of those brought near unto Allah." (Quran 3:45)

The Arabisation of the corresponding Syriac word, translated as "Messiah" is *al-masseh*, which literally means "the anointed one, the messiah", just as does the word *Messiah* in Hebrew.

As the Messiah of God, Jesus was then also reckoned by the Quran to be the Word of God.

"O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was no more than a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him..." (Quran 4:171)

So, does all this teaching about Jesus really honor Him, as Muslim apologists say?

I fear the answer is **NO**. What then about the claim that "Muslims honor Jesus more than Christians do"?

Although the Qur'an speaks highly of Christ and presents miraculous aspects of His life as already mentioned, it also categorically denies the two central teachings of the New Testament--His deity and His crucifixion--and radically misinterprets what they mean. Christ is seen to be a Prophet and Envoy of God (according to one Muslim writer the 2nd greatest of all the prophets after Muhammad), but only a man and nothing more. As a performer of exceptional miracles, he was rescued by God from an untimely end, was raised up to heaven, and (according to the Islamic traditions) will come back to earth again -- to kill Jews, destroy Christianity and setup an Islamic Kingdom in the end free of Jews and Christians! He is not the Savior of the world, and is certainly not God, or "the Son of God".

Muslim beliefs about Jesus Christ

All of the Muslim believes about Jesus Christ come from the Islamic scriptures. They believe in what the Islamic scriptures have to say about Jesus Christ.

According to the Quran, Jesus' true name was Isa. He was a Muslim prophet. His message was pure Islam - surrender to Allah. (Quran 3:84). Isa's original disciples were also true Muslims (Quran 5:111). Like other messengers of Islam before him, Jesus was given a book (the gospel - called the Injil in Islam) by Allah (Quran 6:90, 5:46). Allah also gave the Torah to Moses and the Zabur (Psalms) to David. (Note that Allah says he gave the Torah to Moses and the Psalms to David. He does not say they wrote the books as history tells us. Today it has been found that the Psalms have several authors - all Jewish prophets or rabbis including Moses). Since the books were given to Moses and Jesus, Jews and Christians are called "People of the Book" in the Quran. The one religion revealed in these books was Islam. (Quran 3:18). However, after Jesus the Injil was lost in its original form. Today the Quran is the only sure guide to the teachings of Jesus. To justify why the Torah, the Psalms and the Bible contradicts the Quran on almost every page, the Quran says that the Christians and Jews have corrupted their scriptures (Quran 3:74-77, 113). Although Christians believe Jesus died on the cross and Jews claimed they killed him, in reality he was not killed or crucified, and those who said he was crucified lied (Quran 4:157). According to the Quran, Jesus did not die, but ascended to Allah. (Quran 4:158). It further says that, on the day of Resurrection Jesus himself will be a witness against Jews and Christians for believing in his death. (Quran 4:159). Therefore it asks Christians to accept Islam peacefully. It also commands Muslims to fight and slay the Christians (who do not accept Islam peacefully) until all Jews and Christians become Muslims. (Quran 5:35, 9:30)

The Islamic beliefs about Jesus can be briefly summarized as follows:

1. Muslims believe in the miraculous virgin birth of Jesus Christ to Mary.
2. Believe in Jesus being the Messiah and Word of God (These are just titles given for Jesus and do not have any actual meanings like in the Bible).
3. Believe in Jesus as a prophet and messenger of God
4. Believe that Jesus was born without sin
5. Believe he did lot of miracles
6. Deny that he is the promised Jewish Messiah
7. Deny that he is God in the flesh.
8. Deny his crucifixion and Resurrection.
9. Deny that he claimed to be God.
10. Deny that the gospels were written by the Apostles. According to Islam, Allah gave the gospel to Jesus and the followers of Jesus have corrupted this gospel and converted it into 4 gospels.

11. Believe that he will come again. But the belief is not like Christianity. Islamic sources say Jesus will come again with the sword to kill Jews and Christians and convert the whole world to Islam.

Muslims believe that Jesus was the son of Mary, and was conceived without the intervention of a human father. The Quran describes that an angel appeared to Mary, to announce to her the "*gift of a holy son*" (Quran 19:19). She was astonished at the news, and asked: "*How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?*" (Quran 19:20). When the angel explained to her that she had been chosen for the service of God, and that God had ordained the matter, she devoutly submitted herself to His will.

In the Quran and other Islamic sources, there is no mention of Joseph the carpenter, nor any recollection of the inn and manger story. On the contrary, the Quran describes that Mary retreated from her people (outside the city), and gave birth to Jesus underneath a remote date palm tree. The tree miraculously provided nourishment for her during labor and birth (Quran Chapter 19). Incidentally these stories from Allah's 6th century Quran are also found in the book of Jewish folk tales namely the Midrash Rabbah written in between the 2nd and the 3rd centuries CE.

In spite of the miraculous birth, however, the Quran repeatedly reminds us that Adam, the first human being, was born with neither a human mother nor a human father. Therefore, Jesus' miraculous birth affords him no higher standing or presumed partnership with God. In fact many Muslims believe Adam was greater than Jesus as he was born without a father or mother.

For all that the Qur'an says about Jesus, it still in the main denies His divinity.

"O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was no more than a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His messengers. Say not 'Trinity' : desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah: Glory be to Him: far exalted is He above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs." (Quran 4:171)

Muslims use this passage as a source for their arguments against the divinity of Jesus. Pointing to this, they will say that Jesus was no more than a messenger of Allah, that He was not part of the Trinity, and that Allah is far exalted above having a son, so hence Jesus was not the Son of God.

Another Quranic verse which Muslims use to deny the Trinity is Quran 5:116.

"And behold! Allah will say: "O Jesus the son of Mary! Didst thou say unto men, take me and my mother for two gods beside Allah.?" He will say: "Glory to Thee! never could I say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, Thou wouldst indeed have known it. Thou knowest what is in my heart, Thou I know not what is in Thine. For Thou knowest in full all that is hidden." (Quran 5:116)

You might be wondering how can Allah who claims to be the absolute God make such a blunder? The Christian doctrine of the Trinity is not as what these verses demonstrates. The Trinity certainly does not consist of three separate gods. The Trinity does not consist of God, Jesus, and Mary. (Quran 5:116 clearly demonstrates that the Quran is not from God. Else, how an all-knowing God could commit such a blunder).

Islam denies the deity of Jesus, and reduces him to the status of a prophet only like Daniel or Jeremiah.

"He (Jesus) spake: Lo! I am the slave of Allah. He hath given me the Scripture and hath appointed me a Prophet." (Quran 19:30)

Islam acknowledges His sinlessness, His virgin conception, and that He was indeed from God (as far as being a prophet is concerned). Muslims see and believe that He performed many miracles, and that He is the Messiah who intercedes before God on behalf of man (Muslims believe that Muhammad is a greater interceder than Jesus in front of Allah). Yet, they turn back at understanding and believing what this all means. ***Christ's virgin birth and sinlessness point to His deity.*** His position as the Messiah, who was to die for the sins of the world, made Him the only one who could be the spotless sacrifice for man's sin. God Himself was the only acceptable sacrifice to God to take away man's sin guilt, as He is the only one who has never sinned, and thus is spotless and righteous in His own right. Yet Islam denies this very crux of the issue.

Islam also denies the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Muslims believe that Jesus survived his crucifixion, and later died on earth of natural causes. The Quran says Jesus was not crucified but was raised up to heaven by Allah. In a hadith later on Muhammad clarified that it was Judas Iscariot and not Jesus who was crucified.

Islam talks of the second coming of Christ. But there is a problem here. According to Islamic scriptures (Sunan Abu Dawud, 37:4310, Sahih Muslim 287), Christ will come again with the sword to kill swine's (Jews), destroy crosses (Christianity), abolish the poll-tax (start Jihad) and establish Allah's Kingdom on earth. He will start a jihad after abolishing the poll tax against those who refuse to accept Islam. All those who refuse to convert to Islam will be slaughtered. At the end of the slaughter the only people to remain on earth will be Muslims and they will become very wealthy. It will be a paradise

on earth. The Islamic Jesus will kill the Dajal (Anti-Christ), marry, have children, rule for 40 years, die and be buried in medina beside Muhammad in the fourth grave reserved for him.

Under Islamic law the poll-tax buys the protection of the lives and property of conquered 'people of the Book'. (At-Taubah 9:29) The abolition of the poll-tax means jihad is restarted against Christians (and Jews) living under Islam, who should convert to Islam, or else be killed or enslaved. The abundance of wealth refers to booty flowing to the Muslims from this conquest. This is what the Muslim Jesus will do when he returns in the last days.

According to the Islamic scriptures, on the day of the judgment Muhammad will intercede for Muslims in front of Allah. Muhammad's intercession will be binding on Allah. On judgment day, Muhammad will sit on the throne beside Allah and will decide who goes to heaven and who to hell. In short the role of Jesus in Islam is that of John the Baptist in the Bible. The role of Muhammad in Islam is that of Jesus in the Bible.

The Gospel of Barnabas

No discussion of the Islamic Jesus is complete without a mention of the so-called "Gospel of Barnabas" (not to be confused with the "Epistle of Barnabas", a recognised exhortatory epistle of a second century Christian author). This work is an extra-biblical book which claims to be an account of the life and work of Christ. Muslims love this book, and cite it often in support of the Islamic view of Christ. The reason for this is because the book conforms very much to Islamic theology concerning Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Barnabas denies that Jesus claimed deity, denies that He was the Son of God, and denies His death on the cross. Muslims say that this book was considered authoritative by the early church, but this claim is contradicted by the fact that no church fathers ever cited it in their writings, and that the earliest textual evidence for this book is a sixteenth century Italian manuscript. Some apologists claim that the Gospel of Barnabas is mentioned in "The Gelasian Decree" of pope Gelasius (492-495 AD). Now, a "Gospel in the name of Barnabas" is discussed in that decree, but is rejected along with a host of other writings as spurious and apocryphal, which had been attributed to various Apostles and other first generation Christians⁴. However, this apocryphal gospel was dismissed at the end of the 5th century, while the Gospel of Barnabas preferred by Muslims shows much internal evidence of having originated at a much later date.

Additionally, the Gospel of Barnabas contains many historical mistakes and anachronisms which date to medieval Europe and which would not have existed in the first century AD, and the many Islamic influences in the work seem to indicate the "Gospel" is the work of a medieval European convert to Islam. The style of quotations from the Old Testament found in this work are from the Latin Vulgate, which was not even translated until the very end of the 4th century, and which remained the standard Roman Bible for most of Roman Catholic history to the present. This "Gospel" also contains several references to medieval elements such as wooden wine casks and romanticised duals between lovers, which did not exist in 1st century Palestine. Most revealing are the numerous references to Mohammed (in chapters 44, 54, 97, 112, 163, etc.) which reveals a post-Islamic origin for the work.

In fact, the dating for the creation of the Gospel of Barnabas can positively be placed between 1300 and 1350. This is because of the use by its author of a centennial Year of Jubilee. In chapter 85, the Gospel of Barnabas states, "...Years of the Jubilee, which now cometh every 100 years". In the Old Testament, the Year of Jubilee was set for every fifty years, and this remained the practice (at least in word even if the Jubilee was not kept) throughout the subsequent history of both the Jews and the early and medieval Christian church. Yet, the Gospel of Barnabas says that the Jubilee was changed to being every 100 years. Why? Gairdner supplies the answer by noting that after celebrating this year in 1300, Pope Boniface VIII altered the Jubilee to a centennial event. However, his successor Pope Clement VI

reversed this decision and celebrated the next Jubilee in 1350. Only a person living in that period between 1300 and 1350 would have considered the year of Jubilee as being changed to come every 100 years. Further evidence for dating the "Gospel" to at least this date lies in that it actually, on several occasions, quotes the works of Dante Aligheri (1265-1321)! All of these evidences, plus many, many more which will not be listed here for the sake of space, point to the Gospel of Barnabas as being a complete and utter forgery, produced by an individual steeped in Muslim theology and tradition, yet who was also at least marginally knowledgeable of the "Christianity" of his day. For much more detailed expositions on the reasons why the Gospel of Barnabas can be nothing but a forgery, read the section from their book *Answering Islam: The Crescent in the Light of the Cross* which deals with the Gospel of Barnabas, by Norman Geisler and Abdul Saleeb, and also the essay on this subject by Gerhard Nehls.

Problems in the Islamic version of Jesus

When comparing the Christian and the Islamic versions of Jesus, there are problems galore with the Islamic version of Jesus.

The Quran calls Jesus the word of God and the Messiah. But these have no meaning in Islam? What is the use of such titles? The Quran that Muslims swear to be "Complete" is seemingly "most incomplete" in this regard. On the other hand the Bible gives the same titles to Jesus and fulfils them. The life of Jesus as described in the Bible explains in detail the meaning of these titles.

The Quran speaks of the virgin birth of Jesus. But why was it necessary? The Quran speaks of the sinlessness of Jesus both in birth and during his life. What was the justification for this sinfulness? What was its purpose? The Quran falters in answering this question? Muslims Apologists are quick in giving them own explanation to defend Muhammad, the director of the Quran. According to them, the sinlessness of Jesus was a gift from Allah. This is foolishness. My question to them is why this same gift was not given to Muhammad whom they claim to be greater than Jesus? I would request these blind believers of Muhammad to read the Bible to understand the significance of this sinfulness. Birds have wings and fishes have fins not because they are gifts from God. They serve a certain purpose. So also the sinlessness of Jesus Christ served a certain purpose.

The Quran describes that Mary retreated from her people (outside the city), and gave birth to Jesus underneath a remote date palm tree. The tree miraculously provided nourishment for her during labor and birth. This story is given in the quranic surah named "Mary" (Quran chapter 19). Incidentally this was one of the most popular fables floating in Arabia from the third century onwards. It finds its entry in the Midrash Rabbah, a book of Jewish fables. This is not the only fable in the Quran. There are many others. Like for instance, Jesus making clay birds when he was young and giving life to them, Jesus speaking in his cradle when he was an infant, Abraham destroying his fathers idols, Abraham coming out of the fire unscathed and so on. All these fables are found in the Midrash and the other Jewish apocryphal works. What are such fables doing in the Quran? I leave this question for my fellow Muslims to answer.

Similarly, Islam denies that Jesus is God's Son, using Quran 4:171 where it says that Allah is exalted above having a son. Most Muslims on this consistently think that this idea refers to God physically having a son, in the same way which a mortal human being would, i.e. through sexual procreation. However, they fail to understand that the virgin birth of Christ renders this argument moot. God miraculously caused Mary to conceive, through the overshadowing action of His Holy Spirit, and thus Jesus was born without a human father. This is important, also, in that it confirms His sinless perfection. As Christ was not born through the means of passing the seed of

man down, Christ did not inherit in the human part of His nature the sinfulness which afflicts the mortal human race.

Islam denies the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the sins of mankind. Many fairy tales have been put forth over the years by Muslims wishing to deny the crucifixion of Christ. They say that he really swooned on the cross, did not really die, and was taken down, after which He woke up again. Muslims will claim that it was really Judas who died on the cross, instead of Jesus. They will say that angels removed Him from the cross before He died. Any number of stories are told to get around the simple fact, as seen from all four Gospels and secular sources as well, that Jesus Christ died upon the cross at Calvary. Muslims will make the argument that saying Jesus died on the cross dishonors God as it presumes that one of God's servants would be killed by sinner. The fact notwithstanding that God's Word the Bible records MANY of God's faithful servants who were killed for serving Him faithfully, this argument demonstrates the ignorance of Muslims as to the PURPOSE of Christ's death on the cross. The argument that they think is honoring Jesus Christ really dishonors Him as it denies the very reason He even came among mankind as the God-man. Jesus Christ incarnated to mankind for the specific purpose of dying on the cross! It was His whole reason for coming, to consummate God's plan of salvation for man by serving as the ultimate, final sacrifice for man's sin.

Do Muslims really believe in Jesus Christ?

Muslims mention Jesus and claim to revere him, so we ask the question, "Do Muslims believe in Jesus?" "Muslims believe in Jesus" is a claim which many Muslims in Western nations will often make, so as to encourage greater "dialogue" and openness toward Islam. Because Jesus Christ is mentioned in the Quran, it is said to follow that the Quran honors Him. Islam acknowledges that Jesus Christ was a prophet, that He was born of a virgin, and even that He was sinless. However, simply giving lip service to these facts does not necessarily mean that Muslims understand the significance of these points, or that they are therefore reverencing Jesus. This is because, in the process of mentioning the teaching about Jesus, Islam rejects and denies the central truths about Jesus Christ which are of vital importance.

Just imagine for a moment a group of people who claim to believe in Mahatma Gandhi. They do not deny that Gandhi ever lived. But they deny that he ever visited South Africa, they deny his non-violent movement against the British, they deny his fight for the independence of India and his death at the hands of a Hindu extremist. They deny that the Mahatma is the father of the nation! Can we really claim that this group believes in the Mahatma? I hope you get the picture.

Muslims deny the most important points of the life of Jesus Christ – his divinity and his crucifixion on the cross. Muslims deny the deity of Jesus Christ. They deny that Jesus Christ was God in the Flesh. They also deny that Jesus Christ died for the sin of mankind, was crucified and was resurrected from the dead.

The fact of the matter is that Muslims do not really believe in Jesus Christ. From all this we have seen that while Islam says that they reverence and honor Jesus Christ as a prophet of God, they really call Him a liar and dishonor Him. The Quran came out of the mouth of Muhammad and the hadith collections are also from the mouth of the same person. It is the word of one person - Muhammad on one side against the word of the gospel writers and disciples like Peter and Paul on the other side. Whom would you rather believe?

Christ died to serve as the sacrifice for man which would atone for man's sins. Man cannot save himself through his good works or religious rituals. Christ, who was completely righteous, took the place of every man, woman, and child who ever lived and will ever live. The Muslim claims that Christ did not die is an attempt to negate this. While they think they are honoring Him, they are in fact denying Him, calling Him a liar, and leaving themselves with no hope of eternal salvation. Likewise, the resurrection of Christ from the dead demonstrated His triumph over death and hell, and gives promise of eternal life to all who trust in Him. Without the resurrection of Christ, which Muslims deny implicitly when they deny His death, there is no hope for any man to be saved. Paul realized this and wrote,

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." (I Corinthians 15:14)

The Truth about the Islamic Jesus

The Islamic Jesus is the brain child of Muhammad. The rest of the Jewish prophets converted and projected as Muslim prophets were the deeds of the same person. Muhammad dreamt of himself as a Biblical prophet and maybe even the Jewish messiah. But for him to be a Biblical prophet he had to be connected to Abraham. Hence he Islamicized Abraham and Abraham's succeeding generations. Muhammad projected all of the Jewish prophets including Abraham, Adam, Jacob and Moses as Muslims talking in the name of Allah. Jesus too was cast in a role of a forerunner to Muhammad setting the stage for the coming of Muhammad. To explain the biblical differences with the Quran, Muhammad purported that the Bible was corrupted by the Jews and the Christians.

It was vital for Muhammad to make Jesus a Muslim prophet worshipping Allah. Jesus was the "Lord of miracles" and the ultimate healer. Even six centuries after his crucifixion, people were still talking of him. Christianity was blazing throughout the world winning scores of converts. Muhammad himself could do no miracles to prove his prophet hood, no walking on water, no rising from the dead or any such like deeds that the Jewish prophets routinely performed to demonstrate their divine authority. All Muhammad could do was to talk about the miracles of Jesus and of the Jewish prophets. Hence he badly needed Jesus on his side to con the people into believing that he served the same God.

It was also vital for him to deny Jesus' mission on earth, his crucifixion and subsequent resurrection. Jesus had pronounced himself as "God in the flesh" and the last of the Jewish line of prophets. His mission on earth was to save sinners and die for their sins. Muhammad had to deny it. Else there was no need of Muhammad and his revelations; no one would believe in him being a prophet when a powerful "incarnation of God" existed on earth. To project himself superior to Jesus, Muhammad cooked up the myth of Jesus being a Warner to him (Muhammad), an announcer giving the good news of the coming of Muhammad.

There is plenty of evidence in the Islamic scriptures to show that the picture of the Islamic Jesus as given in the Islamic scriptures is a myth from the mouth of Muhammad, the self professed Islamic prophet. Muhammad is the only source of the Quran. We believe in the Quran solely on his word. There were no special events or deeds to prove his prophet hood. The entire religion of Islam and of the Islamic Jesus hangs on the testimony of one man, Muhammad. As you will see in the article titled, **Was Muhammad a Prophet?**, Muhammad was no prophet at all.

Contrary to popular belief, Islamic scriptures do not project Muhammad as a godly man. They project him as a lustful sadistic warmonger. Muhammad during his lifetime authorized more than 70 terrorist raids on innocent civilians (26 of which he lead himself) and tortured and butchered thousands

in genocidal rage. When he was fifty three, Muhammad married a six-year-old child and took her to bed when she was nine. Then he stole his son's wife using Quranic scripture to justify it. After forcing young girls to watch his men execute their fathers, Muhammad raped them. In ten years, he ordered a score of assassinations and used the sword to force Arabs into submission and used the slave trade to finance Islam. He used Quranic scripture to justify some of the most horrific behavior imaginable - pedophilia, incest, rape, torture, assassinations, thievery and mass murder. It is all there in the Islamic scriptures. Kindly read it. The Islamic scriptures in brief are given at the end of this booklet.

Muslims will tell you that Muhammad married several widows. What they won't tell you is how they became widows? They also won't tell you what was the age of the widows? I will tell you. Most of them became widows as Muhammad and his men killed their husbands during the terrorist raids. Many of Muhammad's wives were captives of war. Most of Muhammad's wives were in the prime of their age (age less than 35).

Now who would you rather believe? The 40 writers of the Bible or the alleged revelations to Muhammad? Were Abraham, Moses and Jesus, Jews or Muslims? Did they speak in the name of Yahweh or Allah? Imagine a situation that has happened hundreds of years back and many writers of the time have written it down. But a thousand years later a man comes who claims to be a prophet and gives his own version of the situation? Would you believe him?

The Islamic Jesus is nothing but clever bluffs on the part of Muhammad to further his own interest!! The Islamic scriptures allow for no other possibility. Muhammad contrived all the "Islamic Lore" to satisfy his own desires. The Sira and the Tariq clearly crucifies Muhammad. Muhammad was no prophet but a dangerous terrorist. Unfortunately there are scores following him to their doom....many of them not out of their own free will. After all Islam is like a fly trap. There are several ways in, but no way out. One can become a Muslim but one may not come out. According to the prophet of Islam,

Narrated 'Abdullah: Allah's Apostle said, "The blood of a Muslim who confesses that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and that I am His Apostle, cannot be shed except in three cases: In Qisas for murder, a married person who commits illegal sexual intercourse and the one who reverts from Islam (apostate) and leaves the Muslims." (Sahih Bukhari 4.260)

Narrated Ikrima: Ali burnt some people [hypocrites] and this news reached Ibn 'Abbas, who said, "Had I been in his place I would not have burnt them, as the Prophet said, 'Don't punish (anybody) with Allah's Punishment.' No doubt, I would have killed them, for the Prophet said, 'If somebody (a Muslim) discards his religion, kill him.' " (Sahih Bukhari 4.260)

This itself should have been enough to see that the prophet of Islam was a fake. But that would be possible only if Muslims would stop being mindless morons, think with their head and not blindly believe in what has been told to them.

The Truth about the Real Jesus Christ

The Truth about the real Jesus is found in the Bible. It is the realization of this truth that changed my life forever and converted me from a strong Muslim to a follower of Jesus Christ.

The Truth is that Jesus Christ was crucified. The only point of contention is whether Jesus was resurrected? His Disciples spread the story that he was resurrected. And so the Gospels and the letters of the disciples to the early Christians contain the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the central truth of Christianity. Today we do not know what happened. We only know that the Gospels preach that Jesus Christ was resurrected and this is a common point throughout the Bible. How can we check if the disciples were telling the truth?

The Truth is found in the life of the disciples. We should ask ourselves the question – what great riches the disciples were expecting when they preached about the resurrection of Jesus Christ? What material benefit did they expect? What did they have to gain? If we compare these disciples to the disciples of Muhammad, then the stories are completely different. Muhammad was a thug, a highway bandit. His disciples expected to gain all his wealth on his death and lead his army of mercenaries to gain more stolen wealth and woman (called booty by Allah in the Quran). And that is exactly what happened. His right hand man and father of Muhammad's six year old wife Aisha, Abu Bakr became the successor of Muhammad (the Caliph). What about the Disciples of Christ? What did they expect to gain?

We should note here that the disciples did not go to some far off country and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. They started preaching in the very same Jerusalem where Jesus Christ was crucified. They were preaching to the same hostile Jews who had crucified Jesus Christ earlier. Among such hostility the only thing they could expect was torture and death. And that is exactly what happened. Each of the disciples faced brutal torture and gruesome deaths for their statements and beliefs about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet they did not cower in submission or stop their preaching's. It is really surprising to see the unmoving faith of these men who had just a few days earlier fled away and hidden themselves, when Jesus was arrested to be crucified. Now, something extraordinary had happened that had changed the attitude of these men. Men will die for what they believe to be true, though it may actually be false. They do not, however, die for what they know is a lie. If ever a man tells the truth, it is on his deathbed. And if the disciples had spread the false story about the resurrection, then the truth would have come out from their mouths during their ghastly torture and death. But it did not happen even with one disciple. Why? And what about the shocking conversion of St Paul? What did he see if that was not Jesus Christ?

In addition the claim of the Gospel writers is backed by over 400 prophecies written by the Jewish Prophets of how the Messiah will be crucified, die and be resurrected. These prophecies were written between 1200 BC to 100 BC, eons before Jesus Christ was actually born or the gospel writers put pen to paper.

The truth about Jesus Christ is that the Jesus Christ of the Bible is the real Jesus, the genuine article. The Muslim Isa is a fake description of Jesus Christ by the fake prophet, Muhammad to further his own interests.

Appendix A – What Islamic Scriptures say about Jesus Christ and Christians

There are many Christians who are fooled into believing (by the Muslims) that Muhammad and Islam talk highly of Christians even calling them the people of the book. This is a lie. Islam allows Muslims to lie for religion. It is binding principle of Islam and is called "Al-Takeyyah" (Al-takiyah). And hence Muslims will lie to you and tell that Islam talks highly of Christianity. To find the truth read the Islamic Sunnah books. It is all there. The term "People of the Book" was coined by Muhammad for Jews and Christians when Muhammad had first claimed to be a prophet of the Jewish God. But the Jews and Christians rejected him and he was a pagan (not a Jew) and also because he presented distorted verses from the Torah and the Tanakh (the Old Testament).

Neither could Muhammad do any miracles. Since the Jews and Christians rejected Muhammad, his anger against them was kindled and the "People of the Book" stuff was all swept into the trash bin. In the coming years Muhammad would kill several thousand Jews and Christians for their sin of rejecting him. It is all there in the Islamic Sunnah. (Read the part on the Islamic Scriptures in Appendix B).

The following is the true face of Islam.

In the Quran, Allah talks of destroying Jesus Christ. Incidentally in the Bible Satan talks of destroying Christ.

"...Say (Muhammad): 'Who then has the least power against Allah, if His will were to destroy Christ, the Messiah, the son of Mary, his mother, and everyone else on earth?'" (Quran 5:17)

Allah/Muhammad defines infidels in Quran 5:17,

"Verily they are disbelievers and infidels who say, 'The Messiah, son of Mary, is God.'" (Quran 5:17)

Allah/Muhammad command Muslims to fight against the Christians on earth and promises the Christians them everlasting torture in hell.

"Believers, fear Allah and seek the way to approach Him, striving hard, fighting Jihad with all your might in His Cause that you may be successful. As for the disbelievers [previously defined as Christians], if they had everything on earth, two times over, to give as ransom for the penalty of the Day of Doom, it would never be accepted from them. Theirs will be a painful torment. They will desire to get out of the fire, but they shall not be released from it. They shall have an everlasting torture." (Quran 5:35)

Not only does Allah command Muslims to fight and destroy the Christians, he himself (Allah) fights against the Christians destroying them.

"The Jews call Uzair the son of Allah, and the Christians say that the Messiah is the son of Allah. That is their saying from their mouths; they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah's (Himself) fights against them, cursing them, damning and destroying them. How perverse are they!" (Quran 9:30)

The Quran states that Allah created Jesus just like the created Adam.

"This is what We rehearse to you of the Signs and Message, a wise reminder. The similitude (likeness) of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: 'Be.' And he was." (Quran 3:58)

For a small book (Formatting like the Bible, the Quran is slightly smaller than the New Testament), the Quran contains surprisingly a large number of verses directed against Jesus Christ and Christians. Here is a sampling of a few of these statements.

"Believers, take not Jews and Christians for your friends. They are but friends and protectors to each other." (Quran 5:51)

"They are surely infidels who blaspheme and say: 'God is Christ, the Messiah, the son of Mary.' But the Messiah only said: 'O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.'" (Quran 5:72)

"Fight those who do not believe in Allah or the Last Day, who do not forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, or acknowledge the Religion of Truth (Islam), (even if they are) People of the Book (Christians and Jews), until they pay the Jizyah tribute tax in submission, feeling themselves subdued and brought low." (Quran 9:29)

"If anyone disputes with you about Jesus being divine, flee them and pray that Allah will curse them." (Quran 3:62)

"From those, too, who call themselves Christians, We made a covenant, but they forgot and abandoned a good part of the message that was sent them: so we estranged them, stirred up enmity and hatred among them to the Day of Doom. Soon will Allah show them the handiwork they have done." (Quran 5:14)

"They are surely disbelievers who blaspheme and say: 'God is one of three in the Trinity for there is no Ilah (God) except One, Allah. If they desist not from saying this (blasphemy), verily a grievous penalty will befall them - the disbelievers will suffer a painful doom.'" (Quran 5:73)

"We [Jews] killed the Messiah, Jesus,' but they killed him not, nor crucified him. It appeared so to them (as the resemblance of Jesus was put over another man and they killed that man). Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself. Those who differ with this version are full of doubts. They have no knowledge and follow nothing but conjecture. For surely they killed him not." (Quran 4:157)

"When Allah's Apostle became seriously sick, he started covering his face with a woolen sheet. When he felt short of breath, he removed it, and said, 'That is so! Allah's curse be on Jews and Christians.'" (Bukhari:V5B59N727)

"Allah's Apostle said, 'On the night of my Ascension to Heaven, I saw Jesus with a red face as if he had just come out of a bathroom. And I resemble Abraham more than any of his offspring.'" (Bukhari:V4B55N607)

"O people of the Book (Christians), do not be fanatical in your faith, and say nothing but the truth about Allah. The Messiah who is Isa (Jesus), son of Mariam, was only a messenger of Allah, nothing more. He bestowed His Word on Mariam and His Spirit. So believe in Allah and say not Trinity for Allah is one Ilah (God)...far be it from His Glory to beget a son." (Quran 4:171)

"Allah forgives not that partners [Christ as God] should be set up with Him; but He forgives anything else, to whom He please; to set up partners with Allah is to devise a sin most heinous." (Quran 4:48)

"O you who believe! Take not into your intimacy those outside your religion (pagans, Jews, and Christians). They will not fail to corrupt you. They only desire your ruin. Rank hatred has already appeared from their mouths. What their hearts conceal is far worse. When they are alone, they bite off the very tips of their fingers at you in their rage. Say unto them: 'Perish in your rage.'" (Quran 3:118)

Appendix B – The Islamic Scriptures

Muhammad and the formation of Islam are completely unknown to secular history. There is no mention of Muhammad anywhere in world history written by Historians. Whatever we know about Muhammad today solely comes from the Islamic sources.

Islamic Scriptures come in three flavors. Firstly there is the Quran. Then there is the Sunnah (Islamic Traditions). And lastly we have the Hadiths. A Hadiths are reports and anecdotes of Muhammad from the mouth of his wives, disciples and companions. Each Hadith features chains of reporters (isnad's). Sunnah is authenticated Hadiths. That is these Hadiths have been traced via the isnad's directly to Muhammad. In this section we will concentrate only on the Quran and the Sunnah since they are reliable source of information on Muhammad.

Muslims believe that the Quran is quite literally the Word of Allah, whereas the Sunnah was inspired by Allah but the wording and actions are Muhammad's. This is the primary difference between the two flavors. Let us check them out.

The Quran

Muhammad and his Quran are the center point of Islam. Muslims practically worship Muhammad and his book. What Jesus Christ is to Christianity is the Quran to Islam. Muslims claim that the Quran is the uncorrupted word of Allah devoid of all errors. They argue that the Quran has not been expressed using any human words. Its wording is letter for letter fixed by Allah.

The Quran is made up of 114 surahs (chapters) arranged in descending order of length. Muslims claim that these surahs were allegedly revealed to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel over a period of 20 years. The surahs are differently named. For instance the 2nd Surah is named "The Cow" (al-Baqarah), the 8th, "The Spoils of War" (al-Anfal) and the 54th, The Moon (al-Qamar). Each surah is divided into verses. There are in total around 6600 verses in the Quran. Overall it is a very small book. Formatted like the Bible, it is slightly smaller than the New Testament.

There are a number of English translations of the Quran. The Quran is named according to the name of the person who has translated the Quran to English. Hence we have Yusuf Ali Quran, Noble Quran, Pickthall Quran, the Ahmed Ali Quran, Shakir Quran and so on. The texts of these Quran's differ slightly due to the different translations by the different translators (just like in the case of the Bible).

Problems with Muhammad's Quran

While Muslims claim that the Quranic texts is word to word fixed by Allah and proclaim it as a miracle from Muhammad, even a cursory reading of the Quran exposes this myth. Let me explain what I mean.

The Quran claims for itself that it is "mubeen" or "clear" and written in pure Arabic and Muslims will tell you so (actually lie to you). But the fact is that roughly one fifth of Quran does not make sense in any language. In other words, a fifth of the Quranic text is just incomprehensible. This means that out of the 6600 Quranic verses, approximately 1200-1300 verses are completely beyond the understanding of man. In Quran 3:7, Allah claims that only he can understand them. That is not the end of it all. In the entire Quran in total only 700 verses can be understood in their entirety. The rest are partly understandable or are open ended leaving a lot to guesswork and resulting in chaos and confusion for most Muslims who have the capability to understand the Quran.

And this is what has caused the traditional anxiety regarding translation. If the Quran is not comprehensible - if it can't even be understood in Arabic - then it's not translatable. Mullahs and Islamic Scholars fear that. And since the Quran claims repeatedly to be clear but obviously is not - as even speakers of Arabic will tell you - Muslims do not want it translated out of the religious Arabic it is written in. At most it can only be by hearted like a parrot and that is what most Muslims are doing without actually understanding it.

The Quran reminds readers that it is "*A Quran in Arabic, for people who understand.*" Despite its repeated assertions to the contrary, however, the Quran is often extremely difficult for contemporary readers - even highly educated speakers of Arabic - to understand. One of the reasons is that the Quran is written in a highly oldish form of Arabic which seems nice to hear but it is very difficult to understand just like old Shakespearian English. Many Muslims claim that this lack of undstandibility as a divine miracle of Allah. The actual fact is that Muslims are so blinded by faith that they can see Miracles everywhere in the Quran.

Some more educated Muslims claim that Arabic is a very complex, artistic and poetical language by nature! A single word can have a host of meanings. So the Quran cannot be understood by even educated Arabs. I refute their reasoning. The Torah is written in Hebrew, a language much more complex and refined than Arabic. And yet the Torah has been completely translated to English without loss of meaning by Jewish Rabbi's. What is stopping the Arabic Scholars from translating it from Arabic?

The reason for the Quranic lack of understandability is simple. It is not of divine origin but was written by Arab Bedouins. One fifth of the Quran does not make sense in any language. Many times there are dramatic shifts in style, voice, and subject matter from verse to verse. Sometimes there is no co-relation at all between two verses of a Surah. Their subject matter and style of presentation differ widely. Adjoining Surahs have no relationship at all. The Quran lacks intelligent transitions between verses and also between

surahs. The best way to imagine the Quran is that some individuals wrote the verses without numbering the pages and then they got blown away due to the desert wind. These verses were collected together by some other individual and joined to give rise to the Quran.

The inconsistencies in the Quran are extremely easy to find. God may be referred to in the first and third person in the same sentence; divergent versions of the same story are repeated at different points in the text; divine rulings occasionally contradict one another. It defends these contradictions by asserting the right to abrogate its own message ("God doth blot out or confirm what He pleaseth") thereby proving that the God of Islam is a whimsical fool who cannot make up his mind (or an Arabic Bedouin depending on which you choose to believe).

Anyone who has read the Bible as well as the Quran will see the superiority of the Bible over the Quran (unless you are intellectually blind). **The Bible claims to be inspired by God but written by Man while the Quran claims that its every letter is fixed by Allah.** So we would expect the Quran to be far more superior to the Bible. But this is not so. Infact the opposite is the case.

And that was just the appetizer. Let's proceed to the main course about the Quranic problems.

Another important things to note is the tone of the Quran. The Quran was revealed in two phases – at Mecca thereby called the Meccan surahs and then at Yathrib (present day Medina) called the Median surahs. The Meccan surahs were revealed earlier to the hijra to Medina. The Meccan surahs by and large preach peace and tolerance while the Median surahs are extremely intolerant of other religions. When Muslims show you tolerant verses like,

"There is no compulsion in religion" (Quran 2:256)

Or

"Bring forth your argument, if ye are telling the truth" (Quran 2:64)

or Quranic verses affectionately calling Christians and Jews the people of the book, be assured that they are purposely deceiving you. According to the Quranic concept of **abrogation** or cancellation of the verses, most of the peaceful verses in the Quran were considered 'Mansuch' or cancelled by the violent ones. Muslims know that but are purposely lying to you to save their face.

All the peaceful verses in the Quran were revealed at Mecca when Muhammad did not have an army at his disposal. A few years after the hijra to Medina when Muhammad raised a army and accumulated a lot of wealth by robbing innocent citizens through raids, he spewed up the violent Quranic verses which command Muslims to wage war and murder non-Muslims or

convert them to Islam either through marriage (for woman) or by force (for men).

Since Muhammad could not remember many of the Quranic verses which he had cooked up earlier (See Tabari I:299) he came up with a noble doctrine. If a later Quranic verse contradicted a Quranic verse earlier revealed, then that old verse was cancelled out by the new verse. This principle of Islam is called as **Abrogation** and is one of the most important principles of Islam. Though Abrogation is a fundamental principle of Islam, most Muslim scholars have trouble pinpointing which are the exact verses abrogated in the Quran. Each Muslim scholar will have a different list of verses abrogated.

Abrogation means to annul or cancel something with appropriate or legal authority. The concept of "abrogation" in the Quran is that Allah chose to reveal ayat (singular ayah – means a sign or miracle, commonly a verse in the Quran) that supercede earlier ayat in the same Quran. The central ayah that deals with abrogation is Surah 2:106,

None of Our revelations do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, but We substitute something better or similar: Knowest thou not that Allah Hath power over all things? (Quran 2:106)

Of course people who think with their brains will struggle with the question of how an eternal revelation of God could have such time-bound revelation in it. It seemed at odds with the nature of God – the all-knowing, all-wise, creator and sustainer of the universe; the eternal, self-existent one. But for muslims such things do not count. They are totally brain dead when it comes to the Islamic scriptures and will never question its integrity and numerous contradictions.

Even among Muslims scholars there is total confusion as to what abrogation covers. Most Muslim scholars hold to the concept that some ayahs in the Quran abrogate other ayahs in the Quran. (But all of them do not hold to the same set of abrogated and abrogating ayahs). Other Muslim scholars are of the opinion that the Quran abrogates the Quran as well as the Sunnah (deed or example of Mohammad). Some Muslim scholars hold that the Quran abrogates all the previous scriptures, specifically the Torah and the Bible. And some Muslim scholars, especially of recent times do not believe in the concept of abrogation at all even though it is clearly indicated in the Quran and the Sunnah.

The issue of abrogation is a very serious problem for the Quran and its claim of divine origin. Which God could be so flimsy in mind that he had to change his commandments? Note that the Quran was revealed to one person Muhammad over a period of twenty years only. Yet according to some Muslim scholars, more than 260 verses of the Quran have been abrogated while many others claim only 5 verses have been abrogated. Compare that to the Bible which was written down by around 40 authors over a period of 1300 years and yet have none of its verses abrogated. The Question that now arises is, Was Muhammad Lying? Or had God gone Nuts?

The problems with abrogation in the Quran is twofold. Firstly if the Quran is the actual Word of God, then it is eternal and, is thus incapable of change. The abrogation problem suggests that the Quran was created, and cannot be the uncreated Word of God. Secondly if the Quran is the Word of God, it should be perfect and no verse can be superior to another. Yet we find the Quranic abrogation principle explained in Quran 16:101, 13:39, 2;106, 87:6-7 and in 17:86. I have dealt with the problem of abrogation in the Quran in my book titled "Is the Quran the word of God?". You can read it in detail over there.

To counter the problem of Abrogation in the Quran, some Muslims have chosen to deny it altogether. Unfortunately for these Muslims Quranic verses Quran 16:101, 13:39, 2;106, 87:6-7 and in 17:86 render their arguments mute. Abrogation is one of the most important principles of Islam and is found in the Quran.

Another important thing about the Quran is that the Surahs are not in chronological order (like in the Bible for instance). They are randomly placed in the Quran. Going through the Quran is not as easy as going through the Bible. The Bible is ordered chronologically. In the Bible Abraham precedes Moses and succeeds Noah. Similarly Jesus comes in a later part of the Bible compared to Jacob and Isaiah. It is not so in the Quran. Verses are arranged randomly without any relation to the preceding or succeeding verses. What this means is that the 2nd Surah may not be revealed earlier than the 8th Surah or the 54th one. Similarly it is extremely difficult to make out the context of most statements in the Quran. It requires the utmost sense of duty and attention on the part of Muslims to plough through the Quran to search for relevant verses.

The Quran contains numerous fables. It mentions trees, stones and clouds that can speak (Quran 41:11). It narrates stories of mountains that have fear (Quran 33:72). Another curiosity is the mythical beings known in Islam as Jinn. Jinns are found only in Arabian mythology. The Islamic Sunnah says that Jinn stand on top of each other's shoulders all the way up to heaven, and listen to what is being discussed. (So how far up is heaven exactly?) They then pass on this information to soothsayers and oracles (Sahih Bukhari Volume 9, Number 650). The Quran says that the stars were created to defend heaven from such eavesdroppers (Quran 37:6-8), as well as saying that the stars are used as missiles (projectiles) to drive them away (Quran 67:5). Further it incorporates mythical characters into its stories. It mentions some Hud, Salih, Shu'ayb, Luqman, and others as prophets of God whose origins are found only in Arabian lore. Most Muslims pass right by these fables without even thinking twice about these myths.

There are hundreds of inconsistencies and scientific and historical errors in the Quran. According to the Quran, Solomon the son of David could understand the speech of Ants (Quran 27:18-19). If the Quran was really the work of God then author would have been knowing that ants cannot talk nor

make sounds. They communicate through chemical trails and smell not sound.

The Quran further says that Alexander the Great was a Muslim prophet who went in search of the setting place of the sun, and saw it setting in a muddy spring. (Quran 18:85-86)

The Quran explaining about embryonic development states that a blood clot is turned to bone and then God "clothes the bones with flesh" (Quran 23:13-14). This is outright wrong. It is scientific fact that living tissue forms first, and then bones grow at a later time, and continue to gain strength (by building calcium) for many years after birth. So much for the divine origin of the Quran.

The Quran states that Allah created the sky in layers. He created seven heavens, and decked the lowest heaven with lamps (Quran 67:3-5) and adorned it with the beauty of the stars (Quran 37:6). The Quran also states that the moon is within these seven heavens (Quran 71:15-16). If the stars (lamps) are in the lowest heaven, they are either closer to the earth than the moon, or are at an equal distance from the earth as the moon. This is a glaring error in the Quran as the stars are much farther away than the moon.

The Quran also lacks context. At many places it is very difficult to make out who is talking to whom or what Allah is saying in the Quran. To help Allah with what he is saying Muslims translators have introduced a lot of missing words in the Quran. When you pick up a copy of Quran and start reading it, notice the words inserted in circular brackets. These are not there in the original Arabic Quran. They have been introduced by the translators to help Allah with his language.

All in all, I will say that the Quran is the most pathetic piece of scripture ever written. It is for those who have never warmed a bench in a school.

The Sunnah

Truly it can be said that the Quran is practically useless. But luckily for the Muslims the Sunnah comes to the aid of the Quran. The Sunnah is mostly made up of Hadiths. Hadiths are reports and anecdotes of Muhammad from the mouth of his wives, disciples and companions. Each Hadith references a verse in the Quran and hence they are extremely important in deciphering the Quran. Muslims believe that the Hadith is divinely inspired scripture directly from Allah. Each Hadith features chains of reporters.

The Quran contains hundreds of commands ordering Muslims to obey Muhammad, to believe in him, to follow his example and so on. And these lifestyle examples and deeds of Muhammad are found in the Sunnah.

To realize how important is the Sunnah and the Hadiths to Islam, realize that the five pillars of Islam are nowhere found in the Quran. They are found in

the Sunnah. In addition each Hadith is tied to a verse in the Quran. Since the Quran lacks context and chronology, the hadiths are extremely important in deciphering the Quran. They give meaning to the practically useless Quran. Without the hadith collections, it is virtually impossible to make sense out of the Quran. It can correctly be said that without the hadiths, the Quran is not fit to be even toilet paper.

Theoretically speaking there are a number of books which detail incidents about the life of Muhammad and hence form the Sunnah. But practically all Muslim scholars agree on a few sources as the authentic and most trusted sources on the life of Muhammad. The rest of the Sunnah sources either are expoundations of these sources or are ones having no historical basis i.e. The chains of reporters mentioned in the hadiths cannot be traced to any of Muhammad's companions or disciples.

The most trusted and reliable Sunnah sources are the history of Islam by Al-Tabari called the **Tarikh al-rulul wal-muluk** (or the **Tarikh**), the biography of Muhammad by Ibn Ishaq called the **Sirat Rasul Allah** (or the **Sira**) and the hadith collections of Sahih Bukhari, Imam Muslim and Ibn Saad. Almost 99% of the history of Islam and the life of Muhammad can be derived from these five Sunnah sources.

The most sacred of the Sunnah sources for Muslims is the "**Sahih Al-Bukhari**". It comes in nine volumes, and contains thousands of Hadiths. It is accepted by all Muslims as the authentic words of Muhammad and ranks as the most accepted book of Islam after the Quran.

However Sahih Bukhari consists of arbitrary hadiths without chronological aspects. Fortunately for Muslims, there are two Sunnah sources that provides the chronology and the context that Islam so badly needs. They are the Sira and the Tarikh. These two books provide the chronology and the context that the Quran and the hadith sources lack. They alone give the Islamic timeline from pre-Islamic times to the conquest of the world by Muslims. Even though Muslims theoretically consider the Quran and the Sahih Al-Bukhari as the two most important books of Islam, it is the Sira and the Tarikh which are the lifeblood of Islam. Without these two books, Islam has no history and no chronology.

Ibn Ishaq's **Sira** is the earliest written book on Islam, written some 120 years after the death of Muhammad. It provides the lone account of Muhammad's life and the formation of Islam. The Sira's chronological presentation is similar in style to the Christian Gospels and this makes it extremely important. Sadly we do not have a original version of this book today. The only edition of Ibn Ishaq which has survived till today is that which was edited and abridged by Ibn Hisham some 50 years later. And in his abridged copy, Hisham wrote that he was omitting text that was detrimental to the spiritual health of the prophet (Muhammad) and would hurt certain people. In other words he sanitized the behavior of the prophet and removed all references which would hurt the projection of Muhammad as

a prophet of God. Thus Ibn Hisham removed most of Muhammad's immoral behavior; behavior that would immediately show the world what a immoral person Muhammad was. Similarly were removed many of the controversial actions of Muhammad; deeds that would crucify Muhammad's claims as a prophet of God.

And that is why the history of **Al-Tarbari** is extremely important. Al-Tabari had a copy of the Sira when he compiled his monumental works and used it for reference. The history of Islam by Al-Tabari (also called the Tarikh) is the most comprehensive and detailed history of Islam and life of Muhammad written some 250-300 years after the death of Muhammad. His works are compiled in a number of volumes and are available in most government libraries. The History of al-Tabari is formatted like the Bible. It begins with Islamic creation and ends with the acts of Muhammad's companions. The history is a compilation of Hadith quotes and Quran passages. Just like the Sira, the history of Al-Tabari is also comprised mostly of Hadiths and is set chronologically. These narrative and chronological Hadith are extremely important and are required to provide the Quran with the context of circumstance, time, and place that it otherwise lacks. Since the Sira has been edited and sanitized by Ibn Hisham we are heavily reliant on Tabari's Tarikh for the oldest uncensored narrative of Muhammad's words and deeds, his god and religion.

The works of Imam Muslim "**Sahih Muslim**" contain hadith collections like that of Bukhari. Bukhari compiled his massive work *The True Traditions* which is consisted of ninety-five books or sections, about 220 years after the death of Muhammad. Muslim published his Hadith collection some five or six years later."

Apart from these there are a few other sources which are also referenced by Muslims. One of them is Waqidi's **Kitab al-Maghazi**, a compilation of Muhammad's raids. It is one of the earliest books written on Muhammad being written some 160 years after the death of Muhammad. While interesting, Waqidi doesn't help explain Islam as he focused on battles and invasions. He doesn't even venerate Muhammad as a prophet. A "mughazi" is an Islamic raid or invasion inspired by Muhammad, so Waqidi's work is only valuable if one is looking to judge Muhammad's skill as a raider or bandit, not a prophet.

Another Sunnah book held sacred by Muslims is the **Kitab at-Tabaqat al-Kabir** by Ibn S'ad. Even though this book is held as authentic by Islamic Scholars, One of the things to notice in this book is that the portrait of Islam's prophet as depicted in this book is especially vulgar and immoral.

Other than these there were a number of hadith collections and biographies of Muhammad written by Muslims. But Islamic scholars consider them as of secondary value as compared with the ones mentioned above. The reason is that these works are not primary sources, as they are themselves based on the sources mentioned above.

In conclusion I will say that Quran is regarded as deficient due to its lack of context and chronological order. Ishaq's Sira is the oldest and most reliable source, but sadly it's composed only of oral reports a century removed from their authors. Islam's most comprehensive history, the Tarikh was written some two and half centuries after the death of Muhammad. Moreover, Bukhari and Muslim are additive but their lack of historical grounding, their late date, and their constant contradictions render them considerably less valuable. But as bad as these are, they are the best Islam has to offer to know the formation of Islam and the life of Muhammad. But the worst news is that these most trusted of Islamic Scriptures do not depict Muhammad as a prophet of God, but a ruthless murderer, pervert and money grabber. They do not show him up as a holy man, but as a bandit leading over 70 robbery raids, a rapist, a sexual offender, a pedophile and a man who spewed up "Scripture" to serve his own interests.

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Rashid Alamir "Brother Rashi" was born to Muslim parents in a small village on the outskirts of Srinagar, Kashmir in 1969. He became a Christian during the May of 1995 while doing his MS degree in the States. In 1998, Alamir became an evangelist to the Muslim world. Alamir is the founder of Muslims for Jesus movement in India and is one of the pillars of the Byzantine Orthodox Church of India (BOCI). He is extremely fluent in Arabic and Urdu and has been instrumental in bringing several thousand lost souls to Jesus Christ both in India and the Arabic speaking Asian and African countries.

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