

The Noble Status of Jesus and Mary in Islam

**S h a i k h
M u h a m m a d
H a s s a n**

Introduction, Translation and Appendices
by Faisal Ahmad

The Noble Status of Jesus and Mary in Islam



In the Name of God, the Merciful, the
Compassionate



For my daughter, Maryam

*Special thanks to Shazia Ahmad, Jeanne Finley,
and my wife, Sana, for their kind help with the
translation and editing of this book.*

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The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said,

“Both in this world and in the Hereafter, I am the nearest of all the people to Jesus, the son of Mary. The prophets are paternal brothers; their mothers are different, but their religion is one.”

--Narrated by Al-Bukhari

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Translator's Introduction

All praise is due to God, and may peace be upon His beloved Prophet Muhammad¹, and his brothers Jesus, Moses, and Abraham.

The world has never been in more need of learning about Jesus and Mary, whose guidance, mercy, and love for the afterlife, transcend the annals of history.

Few people are truly familiar with the lofty status of Jesus and Mary in Islam. In this age of information there remains a divide for each one of us to traverse, between superficial knowledge and true understanding. Whether you are Christian, Jewish, or Muslim, the translation you have in your hands is meant to be a stepping stone for you across that divide.

It is said that a sincere word penetrates a sincere heart. We recorded these precious words of the eminent Egyptian scholar Shaikh Muhammad Hassan, founder of the prestigious

¹ Please see Appendix II.

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Rahma Channel, during a series of lectures given during the blessed month of Ramadan in the year 2008. As for the tears that swelled in his eyes, and his earnest voice that cracked with heartfelt joy and sorrow, they are beyond expression.

We humbly pray to God that the meanings of this small book rise from its pages and reach inside your heart, as they did for us when translating them. We hope they will be a source of light for you on your path in search true Guidance.

If you are not Muslim, we make a special prayer for you: May God guide you to all that is good, and show you the pathways of true peace and happiness in this world and in the afterlife.

Faisal Ahmad

July 14, 2009

Introduction

Praises are due to God, the Ever-Living; pure and manifold praise that befits His Magnificence and Splendor. I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship but God, the One Supreme Being, who never sleeps. His Veil is Light, such that if it were lifted the vision of the gazer would be set alight by His majesty.

May peace and salutations be upon the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him¹), who fulfilled the trust of conveying the message of Divine Unity² placed upon his shoulders, the one who showed the path to guidance to those who were lost. And peace and salutations to all those who follow him,

¹ 'Peace be upon him' is a prayer customarily said by Muslims when the prophets of God are mentioned. It is symbolized by ﷺ in Arabic.

² Divine Unity, or Tawheed: Negating all false objects of worship, and directing one's sincerest devotions to One God alone.

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and eagerly seek his way of life, until the Last Hour.

Welcome my honored brothers, sisters, friends and colleagues.

The community of faith has many illustrious role models from its men and women. It is impossible to restrict them in number, for they are many. It is not difficult to choose a solitary flower from a barren field, but how can one choose from a beautiful garden filled with blossoms of every color and type?

Likewise, it may be easy to appreciate a lone star glimmering on the horizon, but how so when the sky is filled with brilliant stars? Such is the reality of the noble history of the faithful.

An Auspicious Occasion

Today, we present to you a luminous account of the mercy of Islam. Come with me, gracious reader, as we journey to a bygone era, the era of prophets, to relive the story of a noble woman, a virgin, pure and chaste; a pious and devout worshipper. We will journey through the verses of the Qur'ân to discover a woman whom God has selected above all the women of the earth. This is truly an auspicious occasion. We do this with honor and delight, and say to the whole world, this is the teaching of Islam, of Muhammad ﷺ.

We present to you a paragon of perfection, a radiant light, a story of tolerance and understanding, so the world can hear the words of its Lord, and the words of its Prophet ﷺ, for he is indeed the Prophet for the whole world.

This woman is one God has selected above all the women of the earth, to place within her womb a secret, a most pure person. She is a lady that no woman of the earth can ever reach in rank.

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She is the chaste virgin whom God blew into from His Spirit. She is the most unique mother in the world of motherhood, for she was given a magnificent miracle. We have an engagement with a woman who is the mother of one of the noble Messengers of Strong Will.

She is a lady God has honored through mention in thirty-four different places in the Qur'ân, more than any other of the daughters of Eve.

More than this, she is a woman after whom God named an entire chapter in the Qur'ân¹.

She is a fortress of faith, and a spring of piety, the quintessence of beauty...She is Mary, mother of Jesus.²

Let the world know how the Qur'ân honors Mary, and let the world know how the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ honored Mary.

Let us begin with the words of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and then we shall share some verses from the Garden of the Qur'ân.

¹ The 19th chapter of the Quran, Surah Maryam.

² She is also known to Muslims as Maryam bint 'Imran, as her name appears in the Quran.

The Perfection of Mary

The Truthful Prophet Muhammad ﷺ stated there are four women who reached perfection in faith:

“Mary the daughter of Imran, Asiya the wife of the Pharaoh, Khadija the daughter of Khuwailid, and Fatima the daughter of Muhammad.”¹

He begins his praise with Mary, the paragon of perfection and chastity.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also said:

“The best woman of her time was Mary.”²

O people of the earth, here is Muhammad’s ﷺ reverence for Mary.

In another narration, the Prophet ﷺ once drew four lines on the earth, and then asked his companions:

“Do you know what this is?”

¹ Narrated by al-Bukhari.

² Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim.

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His companions replied, “God and His Messenger know best.” The Prophet ﷺ continued:

“These are the best women of Paradise. They are Khadija, Fatima, Mary, and Asiya.”¹

The Prophet ﷺ informed us that Mary, peace be upon her, is in the High Gardens of Paradise.

Listen to this my dear readers: As you know every baby cries when he or she is born. This is because he is touched by the devil. However, there are two who were never touched by the devil.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught in a hadith narrated by al-Bukhari:

“There is no baby born except that he is touched by the devil, who causes him to cry, except Mary and her son.”

The narrator, Abu Huraira, added: “Read this verse from the Qur’ân if you like”:

¹ Narrated by Ahmad.

﴿ فَلَمَّا وَضَعَتْهَا قَالَتْ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَضَعْتُهَا أُنْثَىٰ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ
بِمَا وَضَعْتُ وَلَيْسَ الذَّكَرُ كَالْأُنْثَىٰ ۖ وَإِنِّي سَمَّيْتُهَا مَرْيَمَ
وَإِنِّي أُعِيذُهَا بِكَ وَذَرِّيَتَهَا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ ﴾
آل عمران: ٣٦

﴿When (Mary) was delivered, (her mother) said: "O my Lord! Behold! I am delivered of a female child!"- and God knew best what she brought forth- "And no wise is the male Like the female. I have named her Mary, and I commend her and her offspring to Thy protection from the Evil One, the Rejected."﴾¹

¹ Surah 3, Verse 36.

A Noble Lineage

Who is Mary, who has such a noble position in our hearts, in our history, in our minds, in this religion that Muhammad ﷺ brought to the world?

In the Qur'ân God says:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ آدَمَ وَنُوحًا وَآلَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَآلَ

عِمْرَانَ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ﴾ آل عمران: ٣٣

«God did choose Adam and Noah, the family of Abraham, and the family of 'Imran above all people,»¹

This verse mentions those whom God favored from among mankind; He favored Adam, made him with His Own Hands, forgave him, and placed him in Paradise. And he favored Noah, who tried all means to guide his people, as is mentioned in the Qur'ân “He said, O my Lord! I have called my people night and

¹ Surah 3, Verse 33.

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day, but my call only increases their flight from the Right,” and when his people rejected, he called on God to not leave the disbelieving people on the earth, and God answered his prayer through the Flood.

God favored the family of Abraham, and it suffices in honor to have brought from his posterity our noble Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

And He favored the family of ‘Imran, from the family of Sulaiman (Solomon), son of Dawud (David).

‘Imran was from the foremost religious scholars of the children of Israel. He married Hannah¹, a pious and noble woman. She was unable to have children. One day she saw a mother bird with her hatchlings in a nest, and she longed for progeny.

She beseeched God to grant her a child, and soon she felt the presence of a baby, moving in her womb. She wanted to show her thanks to God, so she swore to God that the infant stirring in her womb would be committed to the holy temple, Bayt al-Maqdis.

¹ She is known as Hinna in Islam.

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God says in the Qur'ân:

﴿إِذْ قَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ عِمْرَانَ رَبِّ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي

بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي^ط إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ﴿

آل عمران: ٣٥

Behold! a woman of 'Imran said: "O my Lord! I do dedicate unto Thee what is in my womb for Thy special service: So accept this of me: For Thou hearest and knowest all things." 1

She took an oath with God for her child to join the ranks of His sincere worshippers; for him to be lost in the worship of God and to be free from all worldly distractions other than Him.

She said, "O Lord! You hear my prayers, you know of my sincerity, and I will make my child a servant for You." Hannah was a true believer, pious, and God answered her prayers, but there was a surprise in store for her.

¹ Surah 3, Verse 35.

Devotion to God

The months passed quickly, and the newborn baby, to Hannah's surprise, was a girl! There was a secret wisdom in this, for the only ones to be devoted to worship in Bayt al-Maqdis, the Sacred Precinct, before that time were men.

God says in the Qur'ân:

﴿ فَلَمَّا وَضَعَتْهَا قَالَتْ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَضَعْتُهَا أُنْثَىٰ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ

بِمَا وَضَعْتُ ۖ آل عمران: ٣٦ ﴾

***«When she was delivered, she said: "O my Lord! Behold! I am delivered of a female child!"- and God knew best what she brought forth...»*¹**

There is nothing in all of existence except that God knows of it; every leaf that falls from every tree, every raindrop that falls from the sky. He Knows what lies within every mountain, and what lies on the bottom of every

¹ Surah 3, Verse 36.

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sea. And He Knows what is in the womb of every mother.

﴿وَلَيْسَ الذَّكَرُ كَالْأُنْثَىٰ﴾ ^ط آل عمران: ٣٦

“...And no wise is the male Like the female...”¹

Hannah implied by this statement, “Only the male children are allowed to serve in Bayt al Maqdis, but I swore her to Your service.” There is a subtle lesson here: that our prayers are not always answered in the exact way that we want or expect, but God always gives us more than we have asked for and deserve in the final analysis.

﴿وَإِنِّي سَمَّيْتُهَا مَرْيَمَ وَإِنِّي أُعِيذُهَا بِكَ وَذُرِّيَّتَهَا﴾

﴿مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ﴾ آل عمران: ٣٦

“...and I have named her Mary, and I commend her and her offspring to Thy

¹ Surah 3, Verse 36 (cont.)

protection from the Evil One, the Rejected." ﴿١﴾

Mary, in the language of her time, meant 'a female devotee of God.'

When Hannah carried Mary to Bayt al-Maqdis to give her to the care of the worshippers, they were all eager to accept such a noble duty, as she was the daughter of the great scholar 'Imran. They decided to have a draw to see who would have the honor of her care. They tossed their pens in the river, and decided that whoever owned the pen which moved opposite to the current would take upon themselves the honor of caring for Mary.

The winning pen was that of the prophet Zakariya, and the infant Mary was entrusted to his care.

God says in the Qur'ân:

﴿فَنَقَبَلَهَا رَبُّهَا بِقَبُولٍ حَسَنٍ وَأَنْبَتَهَا نَبَاتًا حَسَنًا﴾

﴿وَكَفَّلَهَا زَكَرِيَّا﴾ آل عمران: ٣٧

¹ Surah 3, Verse 36 (cont.)

﴿Right graciously did her Lord accept her: He made her grow in purity and beauty: To the care of Zakariya was she assigned...﴾¹

God caused her to grow into a beautiful child, in an environment of worship, remembrance of God, and humility, and she became a pure, devout ascetic.

﴿كُلَّمَا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهَا زَكَرِيَّا الْمِحْرَابَ وَجَدَ عِنْدَهَا
رِزْقًا قَالَ يَمْرِئُ أَنَّى لَئِذَا قَالَتْ هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ
اللَّهَ يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ﴾ آل عمران: ٣٧

﴿...Every time that (Zakariya) entered (Her) chamber to see her, He found her supplied with sustenance. He said: "O Mary! Whence (comes) this to you?" She said: "From God: for God Provides sustenance to whom He pleases without measure.﴾²

¹ Surah 3, Verse 37.

² Surah 3, Verse 37 (cont.)

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Zakariya was the Prophet of that time, and he was the husband of Mary's sister or aunt. He would come to her room, where she stayed alone, and see something amazing—she was blessed with provision that he had not brought her! *"O Mary! Whence (comes) this to you?"* Few reflect on this verse. Think deeply about it, and know that your provision is from God, and there is no creature on earth except that God provides for it.

God says:

﴿...She said: " It is from God: for God Provides sustenance to whom He pleases without measure.">﴾¹

Perhaps this was to foreshadow that she would, in the near future, be blessed with something much more amazing, and to prepare the hearts of those around her for the miracle soon to come.

She said, *"God Provides sustenance to whom He pleases without measure."* Let me ask, gracious reader, can someone who truly believes in God be left without provision?

¹ Surah 3, Verse 37 (cont.)

Mary Chosen above all Women of the Earth

In this environment of worship, the angels came to give Mary good news. She was to be raised to a high station, a rank no woman achieved before her.

God mentions in the Qur'ân:

﴿وَإِذْ قَالَتِ الْمَلٰٓئِكَةُ يٰمَرْيَمُ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ اصْطَفٰكِ

وَطَهَّرَكِ وَاصْطَفٰكِ عَلٰٓى نِسَاءِ الْعٰلَمِيْنَ

آل عمران: ٤٢

«Behold! the angels said: "O Mary! God hath chosen thee and purified thee- chosen thee above the women of all nations.»¹

This verse is mentioned in the chapter of the Qur'ân entitled, 'The Family of Imran', and this is another honor for Mary, since it is named after her family.

¹ Surah 3, Verse 42.

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God repeats twice in this verse that she was chosen. What sort of chosen status was this?

This most unique honor and distinction was to place a secret in her womb. God chose her to show humanity the absolute perfection and power of God. Whoever tries to use his or her mind to understand the extent of God's power is like one using an ant to move a mountain from one place to another.

God mentions in the Qur'ân:

﴿وَمَرْيَمَ ابْنَتَ عِمْرَانَ الَّتِي أَحْصَنَتْ فَرْجَهَا فَنَفَخْنَا فِيهِ مِنْ رُوحِنَا وَصَدَقَتْ بِكَلِمَاتِ رَبِّهَا وَكُتِبَ عَلَيْهَا الْإِسْمَاءُ الْكُنْيَاءُ وَأُتِيَتْ بِالْغُلَامِ الْكَافٍ﴾
وَكَانَتْ مِنَ الْقَانِنِينَ ﴿التَّحْرِيم: ١٢﴾

«And Mary the daughter of 'Imran, who guarded her chastity; and We breathed into (her body) of Our spirit; and she testified to the truth of the words of her Lord and of His Revelations, and was one of the devout (servants).»¹

¹ Surah 66, Verse 12.

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God created us, o human being; do you not look at your eyes, your ears, your nose, and reflect on the fact that the tears of your eyes have been made saline, and the saliva of your mouth palatable? Look at the heavens, the stars, the creation, the universe. But people are given to forgetfulness, or to feeling haughtiness towards God, and they are heedless of God's Power in the universe.

God simply says to a thing: 'Be', and it is.

God wanted to favor Mary over all women of the earth, from the daughters of Eve, by this miraculous birth, since she was the only woman to ever give birth to a child without a father.

God created Adam and Eve without a father or a mother. And he created Jesus without a father. And He created the rest of humanity from a father and a mother.

If God wants to create from a mother without a father, He can, to show the world He is all powerful.

The Virgin Mary Takes Refuge from the People

Gentle reader, let us go to Surah Maryam [the Chapter entitled 'Mary']. We find the pure, virgin, pious, and noble Mary taking refuge in a place in the East.

God says to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

﴿وَاذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتَابِ مَرْيَمَ إِذِ انْتَبَذَتْ مِنْ أَهْلِهَا
مَكَانًا شَرْقِيًّا ۖ فَاتَّخَذَتْ مِنْ دُونِهِمْ حِجَابًا فَأَرْسَلْنَا
إِلَيْهَا رُوحَنَا فَتَمَثَّلَ لَهَا بَشَرًا سَوِيًّا﴾ مریم: ۱۶-۱۷

﴿Relate in the Book (the story of) Mary, when she withdrew from her family to a place in the East. She placed a screen (to screen herself) from them; then We sent to her our angel, and he appeared before her as a man in all respects.﴾¹

This chaste virgin sought out a place of privacy, so the eyes of man could not see her.

¹ Surah 19, Verses 16-17.

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Suddenly, she is surprised by the presence of a man. Imagine this situation for a young woman who was raised in a house of worship; she was completely innocent, in a place of sanctuary and seclusion, and suddenly a man approached her. She was frightened.

God says in Surah Maryam:

﴿قَالَتْ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِالرَّحْمَنِ مِنْكَ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَقِيًّا﴾

مریم: ۱۸

﴿She said: "I seek refuge from thee to (God) Most Merciful: (come not near) if thou dost fear God.">﴾¹

She sought refuge in the Most Merciful. Here she did not say 'I take refuge in the Most Mighty', but instead 'in the Most Merciful', so God might show mercy on her in her state of weakness and incapacity.

She then said to the man, "If you have *taqwa*," meaning, if you are from those who remember God and from among those stay away from what He forbade.

¹ Surah 19, Verse 18.

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The word *taqwa* in Arabic literally means to stay away from harm and what is a danger.

Taqwa is protection from God's punishment, by the doing of good and staying away from evil.

Gabriel (Jibreel) speaks to Mary

The man reassured her that he was an angel sent by God, to bring good news of a pure and blessed child.

﴿ قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَنَا رَسُولُ رَبِّكِ لِأَهَبَ لَكِ غُلَامًا

زَكِيًّا ﴾ مريم: ١٩

«He said: "Nay, I am only a messenger from thy Lord, (to announce) to thee the gift of a holy son.»¹

The Virgin Mary was shocked, as it was common knowledge that there cannot be a child without a father. God says:

¹ Surah 19, Verse 19.

﴿ قَالَتْ أَنَّى يَكُونُ لِي غُلَامٌ وَلَمْ يَمَسِّنِي بَشَرٌ وَلَمْ

أَكُ بَغِيًّا ﴾ مريم: ٢٠

﴿She said: "How shall I have a son, seeing that no man has touched me, and I am not unchaste?﴾¹

She was a virgin, and she was innocent, and she had not, nor could she ever commit fornication, and how could a baby come without a father? God says:

﴿ قَالَ كَذَلِكَ قَالَ رَبُّكَ هُوَ عَلَىٰ هَيْنٍ ۖ
وَلِنَجْعَلَهُ آيَةً لِلنَّاسِ وَرَحْمَةً مِنَّا وَكَانَ أَمْرًا

مَقْضِيًّا ﴾ مريم: ٢١

﴿He said: So (it will be): Thy Lord saith, 'that is easy for Me: and (We wish) to

¹ Surah 19, Verse 20.

***appoint him as a Sign unto men and a Mercy from Us:It is a matter (so) decreed.﴾*¹**

Everything is easy and within God's Power, for there is nothing to stop the Divine Will. God causes fire to burn, and if He wishes to deprive fire of its power to burn, He can. When Abraham was thrown into the Fire, God said, "O Fire, be peaceful and cool on Abraham." And it became cool.

A knife cuts, but if God wishes to deprive a knife from cutting, He can. Water drowns, but God caused the sea to split for Moses. God is the creator of Causation.

"(We wish) to appoint him as a Sign unto men and a Mercy from Us'," to make him a sign for all people, since he will call people to the truth. He is a mercy to humanity since he will guide them and take them by his hand to the way of God. He will be a noble messenger and a prophet.

The person who came to Mary was Angel Jibreel (Gabriel), God sent him in the form of man, not in his true angelic form, so that she would not be taken by surprise and startled. She was alone in her private quarters, and

¹ Surah 19, Verse 21.

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perhaps she could not bear it if he was in his true angelic form.

When the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ saw Gabriel in his angelic form he was overwhelmed, and he later said: “His Wings filled the horizons with light, and I was thrown down to the ground.”

A Miraculous Conception

God sent Gabriel to Mary to show her that He can create from a mother, without a father, and “*that is easy for Me.*” God says:

﴿فَحَمَلَتْهُ فَانْتَبَذَتْ بِهِ مَكَانًا قَصِيًّا﴾

مریم: ۲۲

﴿***So she conceived him, and she retired with him to a remote place.***﴾¹

Perhaps one may be curious to know how exactly such a pregnancy took place.

¹ Surah 19, Verse 22.

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[According to exegetical works,] Gabriel breathed into Mary's sleeve or into her womb. In this matter we must have a sense of courtesy with God, for He is Powerful and causing such a birth is something easy for Him [though we may not know the specific means by which it occurred].

God says:

﴿وَمَرْيَمَ ابْنَتَ عِمْرَانَ الَّتِي أَحْصَنَتْ فَرْجَهَا فَنَفَخْنَا فِيهِ مِنْ رُوحِنَا وَصَدَّقَتْ بِكَلِمَاتِ رَبِّهَا وَكُتِبَ عَلَيْهَا الْإِسْمَاءُ الْكُنُوزُ الْأَرْبَعُ﴾
وَكَانَتْ مِنَ الْقَانِنِينَ ﴿التَّحْرِيمُ: ١٢﴾

«And Mary the daughter of 'Imran, who guarded her chastity; and We breathed into (her body) of Our spirit (Gabriel); and she testified to the truth of the words of her Lord and of His Revelations, and was one of the devout (servants).»¹

¹ Surah 66, Verse 12.

يَمْرِيْمُ أَفْنِي لِرَبِّكَ وَأَسْجُدِي وَأَرْكَعِي مَعَ

الرَّكَعِيْنَ ﴿ آل عمران: ٤٣ ﴾

"O Mary! worship Thy Lord devoutly: Prostrate thyself, and bow down (in prayer) with those who bow down."¹

She was patient, and felt assured of the greatness of God, and trusted in Him.

Someone might ask, did Mary carry her child for nine months, or did her pregnancy and delivery all occur in one moment's time? The majority of Quranic commentators say that it was a regular pregnancy, for a full term of nine months, even though we as believers know that God is capable of making her pregnant and giving birth in an hour, for He is capable of all things, in whatever time He wishes.

They mention that one of the worshippers in Bayt al Maqdis—Yusuf (Joseph) the Carpenter, who was one of the closest caretakers of Mary—noticed the signs of pregnancy in her. He asked: "O Mary, is there such a thing as

¹ Surah 3, Verse 43.

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cultivation without the planting of seeds, or vegetation without water and sunlight...And is there such a thing as a child without a father?" She replied, "Yes O Yusuf." He said, "How is that possible?" She replied, "Have you forgotten that God created Adam without a father or a mother?"

The Pains of Childbirth

Mary suffered from the pangs and weakness of childbirth like all women suffer, and all those with life in their hearts feel for her suffering.

﴿ فَأَجَاءَهَا الْمَخَاضُ إِلَى جِذْعِ النَّخْلَةِ قَالَتْ يَلَيْتَنِي

مِثُّ قَبْلَ هَذَا وَكُنْتُ نَسِيًّا مَّنْسِيًّا ﴾ ^{مریم: ۲۳}

﴿And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm-tree: She cried (in her anguish): "Ah! would that I had died before this! Would that I had been a thing forgotten and out of sight!"﴾¹

¹ Surah 19, Verse 23.

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She was alone during this time, in a desert, without father or mother, sister, midwife, or doctor to assist her.

Mary said, in a state of desperation: *“Ah! would that I had died before this! Would that I had been a thing forgotten and out of sight!”* We note here that it is permissible to hope for death only to avert affliction related to one’s faith, but not for worldly difficulties.

Suddenly, she heard a voice. It was astonishing; a voice bringing her good news of strength and help from God! Had it come from the tongue of her newborn son, or was it the Angel Gabriel? Some scholars say it was Gabriel, but the strongest view is that it was baby Jesus:

﴿فَنَادَاهَا مِنْ تَحْتِهَا أَلَا تَحْزَنِي قَدْ جَعَلَ رَبُّكِ تَحْنَكِ﴾

سَرِيًّا ﴿٢٤﴾ وَهَزَىٰ إِلَيْكَ الْجَنَّةَ تَسْقُطُ عَلَيْكَ

رُطْبًا جَنِيًّا ﴿٢٥﴾ فَكُلِي وَاشْرَبِي وَقَرِّي عَيْنًا فَمَا تَرِينَ

مِنَ الْبَشَرِ أَحَدًا فَقُولِي إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لِلرَّحْمَنِ صَوْمًا فَلَنْ

أُكَلِّمَ الْيَوْمَ إِنْسِيًّا ﴿مريم: ٢٤ - ٢٦﴾

﴿But (a voice) cried to her from beneath the (palm-tree): "Grieve not! for thy Lord hath provided a rivulet beneath thee; And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm-tree: It will let fall fresh ripe dates upon thee. So eat and drink and cool (thine) eye. And if thou dost see any man, say, 'I have vowed a fast to (God) Most Gracious, and this day will I enter into not talk with any human being'﴾¹

"Grieve not!" for God will protect you from the slanderous tongues of the people. If God is with you, there is no sadness or fear.

God said to Ayyub (Job), as mentioned in another place in the Qur'ân, "Strike with your foot," and behold a spring came forth.

Similarly, we are told here of another miracle. The newborn said to his mother, "*Grieve not! for thy Lord hath provided a rivulet beneath thee; And shake towards thyself the*

¹ Surah 19, Verses 24-25.

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trunk of the palm-tree: It will let fall fresh ripe dates upon thee."

What woman, we may ask, in this state, could shake a palm tree? We know that even a strong man could not cause the trunk of a palm tree to shake. But God commanded Mary to take the means, to shake the palm-tree, ever so slightly, and she was blessed with the falling of fresh dates, whose nutrients are very beneficial for new mothers.

The lesson here is that we must take the means to attain God's sustenance, just as Mary took such means.

The Quranic commentators mention that it was actually not even the appropriate season for dates to ripen, and perhaps there was no actual fruit on the tree, but somehow it was provided for her.

Mary's son then says to her:

﴿فَكُلِي وَاشْرَبِي وَقَرِّي عَيْنًا فَإِمَّا تَرِينَ مِنَ الْبَشَرِ
أَحَدًا فَقُولِي إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لِلرَّحْمَنِ صَوْمًا فَلَنْ أُكَلِّمَ الْيَوْمَ
إِنْسِيًّا﴾ مريم: ٢٦

***"So eat and drink and cool (thine) eye.
And if thou dost see any man, say, 'I have
vowed a fast to (God) Most Gracious, and
this day will I enter into not talk with any
human being'" ¹***

Meaning that she should not speak to anyone, and God would provide proof of her innocence.

The Baby Speaks from the Cradle

Mary came with the newborn baby to her people.

God says in the Qur'ân, describing this incident:

¹ Surah 19, Verse 26.

﴿فَأَتَتْ بِهِ قَوْمَهَا تَحْمِلُهُ، قَالُوا يَمْرِئٌ لَقَدْ
جِئْتَ شَيْئًا فَرِيًّا﴾ (٢٧) يَتَأَخَتِ هَرُونَ مَا كَانَ أَبُوكَ
أَمْرًا سَوْءٍ وَمَا كَانَتْ أُمُّكَ بَغِيًّا﴾ (٢٨) فَأَشَارَتْ إِلَيْهِ
﴿قَالُوا كَيْفَ نُكَلِّمُ مَنْ كَانَ فِي الْمَهْدِ صَبِيًّا﴾

مريم: ٢٧-٢٩

﴿At length she brought the (babe) to her people, carrying him (in her arms). They said: "O Mary! Truly an amazing thing hast thou brought! O sister of Aaron! Thy father was not a man of evil, nor thy mother a woman unchaste!" But she pointed to the babe. They said: "How can we talk to one who is a child in the cradle?"﴾¹

It is as if they said, "Are you waiting for this newborn to speak?" In return, she said nothing, but simply pointed to the baby.

¹ Surah 19, Verses 27-29.

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When the accusations stopped, and the opportunity came for her to defend herself, she trusted in God and instead pointed to the infant. They said, “Are you mocking of us? Do you think a baby can speak?” At this point, God gave this pure baby the ability to articulate. These were his first words:

﴿ قَالَ إِنِّي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ ءَاتَنِي الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلَنِي نَبِيًّا ﴾

مريم: ٣٠

﴿He said: "I am indeed a servant of God: He hath given me revelation and made me a prophet;﴾¹

“I am a servant of God.” He did not say ‘I am God’, nor did he conceal his true nature. Rather his servitude to God was expressed in his first words. “*He hath given me revelation and made me a prophet;*” Jesus made known his servitude to God and his role as a prophet.

Baby Jesus continues, as mentioned in the Qur’ān:

¹ Surah 19, Verse 30.

﴿وَجَعَلَنِي مُبَارَكًا أَيْنَ مَا كُنْتُ وَأَوْصَانِي بِالصَّلَاةِ
وَالزَّكَاةِ مَا دُمْتُ حَيًّا﴾^(٣١) وَبِرًّا بِوَالِدَتِي وَلَمْ
يَجْعَلْنِي جَبَّارًا شَقِيًّا ﴿٣٢﴾ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيَّ يَوْمَ وُلِدْتُ
وَيَوْمَ أُمُوتُ وَيَوْمَ أُبْعَثُ حَيًّا ﴿٣٣﴾ مريم: ٣١-٣٣

"And He hath made me blessed wheresoever I be, and hath enjoined on me Prayer and Charity as long as I live; (He) hath made me kind to my mother, and not overbearing or miserable; So peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die, and the day that I shall be raised up to life (again)!"¹

Can God have a Son?

Jesus, peace be upon him, was also blessed with other miracles, which he performed by the permission of God, such as giving life to clay

¹ Surah 19, Verses 31-33.

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birds, healing lepers, and informing his disciples about what lay hidden in their homes.

However, the fact that Jesus performed these miracles does not mean that we should attribute divinity to him. All of God's prophets were given miracles, as a means of showing the people the truth of their prophecy, and yet we do not ascribe divinity to any of these prophets.

God responds to those who attribute children to Him, saying that it would not be befitting of His Majesty, for He is One and Infinite, exalted beyond the confines of human mortality. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are each of inherently different natures, and the three cannot be combined to be one. Flesh is temporal and perishing, whereas God is Infinite and Ever-Living.

God says in Surah Maryam:

﴿ وَقَالُوا اتَّخَذَ الرَّحْمَنُ وَلَدًا ۚ لَقَدْ جِئْتُمْ

شَيْئًا إِذَا تَكَادُ السَّمَوَاتُ يَنْفَطَرْنَ مِنْهُ ۖ

وَتَنشَقُّ الْأَرْضُ وَتَخِرُّ الْجِبَالُ هَدًّا ﴿٩٠﴾ أَنْ دَعَوْا لِلرَّحْمَنِ

وَلَدًا ﴿٩١﴾ وَمَا يَنْبَغِي لِلرَّحْمَنِ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ وَلَدًا ۚ إِنَّ

كُلَّ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا آتَى الرَّحْمَنِ

عَبْدًا ﴿٩٢﴾ مَرِيَمَ: ٨٨ - ٩٣

«They say: "(God) Most Gracious has begotten a son!" Indeed ye have put forth a thing most monstrous! [It is] as if the skies are ready to burst, the earth to split asunder, and the mountains to fall down in utter ruin that they should invoke a son for (God) Most Gracious. For it is not consonant with the majesty of (God) Most Gracious that He should beget a son. Not one of the beings in the heavens and the earth but must come to (God) Most Gracious as a servant.»¹

¹ Surah 19, Verses 88-93.

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The heavens and the earth, in their harmony, perfection, and order, bear witness to the Unity of the Divine. Every atom in the universe declares God's Oneness through its adherence to God's universal laws. The universe would crumble and fall into chaos and conflict if there were a multiplicity of Divinities, since such deities would inevitably compete and conflict with one another and overlap in authority.

Why would God need a son, if He is already perfect and complete?

God also says:

﴿ذَٰلِكَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ ۖ قَوْلَ الْحَقِّ الَّذِي فِيهِ

يَمْتَرُونَ ۚ مَا كَانَ لِلَّهِ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ مِنْ وَلَدٍ سُبْحٰنَهُ ۚ إِذَا

قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ ﴿٣٤-٣٥﴾ مريم:

﴿Such (was) Jesus the son of Mary: (it is) a statement of truth, about which they (vainly) dispute. It is not befitting to (the majesty of) God that He should beget a son.

Glory be to Him! when He determines a matter, He only says to it, "Be", and it is.﴾¹

Jesus is a word from God, since he is the fulfillment of God's command 'Be', and he was created, without a father. This is because God is Powerful and able to create as He pleases; His Will is Reality.²

God Speaks to Jesus on the Day of Judgment

What can be more beautiful and illustrative than this conversation between God and Jesus (peace be upon him) on the Day of Judgment?

¹ Surah 19, Verse 34-35.

² In fact, many biblical scholars have pointed out that the phrase "son of God" in Aramaic means a holy person, and it is used in the Bible to refer to any pious person. Please see the Appendix IV.

﴿وَإِذْ قَالَ اللَّهُ يَعْيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ ءَأَنْتَ قُلْتَ
لِلنَّاسِ اتَّخِذُونِي وَأُمِّي إِلَهَيْنِ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ قَالِ
سُبْحَانَكَ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أَقُولَ مَا لَيْسَ لِي بِحَقٍّ إِنْ
كُنْتُ قُلْتُهُ فَقَدْ عَلِمْتَهُ تَعْلَمُ مَا فِي نَفْسِي وَلَا أَعْلَمُ مَا
فِي نَفْسِكَ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ ﴿١١٦﴾ مَا قُلْتُ لَهُمْ إِلَّا
مَا أَمَرْتَنِي بِهِ أَنْ أَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ وَكُنْتُ عَلَيْهِمْ
شَهِيدًا مَا دُمْتُ فِيهِمْ فَلَمَّا تَوَفَّيْتَنِي كُنْتُ أَنْتَ الرَّقِيبَ
عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَنْتَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ﴾ المائدة: ١١٦ - ١١٧

﴿And behold! God will say: "O Jesus the son of Mary! Didst thou say unto men, 'Worship me and my mother as gods in derogation of God'?" 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. Never said I to them aught except what Thou didst command me to say, to wit, 'Worship God, my Lord and your Lord'; and I was a witness over them whilst I dwelt amongst them; when Thou didst take me up Thou wast the Watcher over them, and Thou art a witness to all things.”¹

This is the Islamic view of Jesus and Mary. What an honorable and blessed position they hold in the heart of every true believer!

Prophet Muhammad's Kind Words About Jesus

Jesus called people to true monotheism, and he, like all prophets, came with the message of Islam, which means submission and servitude to God. He called to the worship of the One True God.

¹ Surah 5, Verses 116-117.

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Let us share a few words from the Prophet Muhammad about Jesus, may peace be upon them both.

It is narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

"If anyone testifies that None has the right to be worshipped but God Alone Who has no partners, and that Muhammad is His Slave and His Prophet, and that Jesus is God's Slave and His Prophet and His Word which He bestowed on Mary and a Spirit created by Him, and that Paradise is true, and Hell is true, God will admit him into Paradise with the deeds which he had done even if those deeds were few." ¹

These concise words of the Prophet are a summary of the beliefs of Islam. No one can be a believer in Islam unless he believes in Jesus and honors his mother the Virgin Mary. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ loved Jesus as he loved all of the other prophets of God.

It was also narrated by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ that God said:

"The son of Adam slights Me, and he should not slight Me, and he disbelieves in

¹ Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim.

Me, and he ought not to do so. As for his slighting Me, it is that he says that I have a son; and his disbelief in Me is his statement that I shall not recreate him as I have created (him) before.”¹

In fact, God makes clear His true nature to humanity through His revelation. He describes Himself in the concise words of the Qur’ân:

﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ (١) اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ (٢) لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا ۝ (٣) لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ وَلَدٌ ۝ (٤) وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا ۝ (٥)﴾
أَحَدٌ ﴿الإخلاص: ١ - ٤﴾

﴿Say: He is God, the One and Only; God, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; And there is none like unto Him.﴾²

¹ Ibid.

² Surah 112, Verses 1-4.

Equality of all the Prophets

Jesus is a prophet in Islam, just as Muhammad ﷺ is a prophet, and Muslims do not differentiate between them. God says in the Qur'ân:

﴿ءَاَمَنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ
وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلٌّ ءَاَمَنَ بِاللّٰهِ وَمَلَكِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ لَا
يُفَرِّقُونَ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِنْ رُسُلِهِ وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا
غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ ﴿٢٨٥﴾ لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللّٰهُ
نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا لَهَا مَا كَسَبَتْ وَعَلَيْهَا مَا اكْتَسَبَتْ
رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِنْ نَسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا
تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَا إَصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ

قَبِلْنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ^ط وَاعْفُ عَنَّا
وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا وَأَرْحَمْنَا أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ

الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿البقرة: ٢٨٥ - ٢٨٦﴾

The Prophet believeth in what hath been revealed to him from his Lord, as do the men of faith. Each one (of them) believeth in God, His angels, His books, and His prophets. "We make no distinction (they say) between one and another of His prophets." And they say: "We hear, and we obey: (We seek) Thy forgiveness, Our Lord, and to Thee is the end of all journeys.¹

A true believer in Islam does not differentiate between Jesus, Muhammad, Moses, or any of the Prophets. This is the esteem and high rank Islam has given to Jesus.

¹ Surah 2, Verse 285.

God Saves Jesus and Raises Him to the Heavens

Jesus lived his life calling to God, and God saved him from the rabbis of his time who wanted to kill him and accused his mother of fornication¹.

So God raised Jesus onto Himself, and God threw Jesus' image onto one of his disciples, who was taken and killed in Jesus' stead². God had raised Jesus to the Heavens.

¹ The Talmud states in the chapter, Jewish High Court (Sanhedrin 43a): ***On the eve of the Passover, Yeshu was hanged. Forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried: "He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy. Anyone who can say anything in his favour, let him come forward and plead on his behalf." But since nothing was brought forward in his favour he was hanged on the eve of the Passover.*** See the book "Jesus in the Talmud" by Peter Schaefer.

² The *Gospel of Judas* states that it was only an image (i.e. 'the man that clothes me') that was taken and crucified, and that Jesus himself was raised directly to the heavens, without being killed on the cross. The *Gospel of Judas* was one of the

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God says in the Qur'ân:

﴿ وَقَوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ
اللَّهِ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ وَلَٰكِن شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ ^ج وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ
أَخْلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِّنْهُ ^ج مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا أَنْبَاعِ
الظُّلُمِ ^ج وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا ﴿١٥٧﴾ بَل رَّفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ ^ج وَكَانَ اللَّهُ

عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا ﴿النساء: ١٥٧ - ١٥٨﴾

﴿That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of God";- but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:- Nay,

Christian Gnostic (Knowledge) Gospels burned by the Church Fathers at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. A copy of them was discovered in Egypt in the town of Nag Hammadi by a peasant in 1945.

God raised him up unto Himself; and God is Exalted in Power, Wise;»¹

God mentions that the events surrounding Jesus' last days on earth are clouded with uncertainty, and the truth is that Jesus was not crucified, rather he prayed to God to be saved, and God saved him by raising him to the heavens.

Jesus' Descent and the Signs of the Day of Judgment

Jesus will descend towards the Last Hour and call people to believe in the one true God, and slay the anti-Christ (Dajjal). The Prophet ﷺ described the descent of Jesus in this narration:

“...At this very time God would send Christ, son of Mary, and he will descend at the white minaret in the eastern side of Damascus wearing two garments lightly dyed with saffron and placing his hands on

¹ Surah 4, Verses 157-158.

the wings of two Angels. When he would lower his head there would fall beads of perspiration, and when he would raise it up, beads like pearls would scatter from it. Every non-believer who would smell the odor of his self would die and his breath would reach as far as he would be able to see. He would then search for him (Dajjal, the Anti-Christ) until he would catch hold of him at the gate of Ludd (in Palestine) and would kill him.”¹

The descent of Jesus from the Heavens is one of the ten major signs of the Last Hour. He will seek out the Dajjal and slay him as the Prophet has said. When Jesus Christ sees the Dajjal, the Dajjal will melt like salt melts in water.

Jesus will come down as a righteous ruler, establish justice, and there will be great wealth. The Prophet Muhammad also said:

“By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, the son of Mary (Jesus) will shortly descend amongst you people (Muslims) as a just ruler and will break the Cross and kill the swine and abolish the Jizya. Then there will

¹ Narrated by Muslim.

be abundance of money [to such an extent that] nobody will accept charitable gifts.

Then God will reveal to Jesus these words: I have brought forth from amongst My servants such people against whom none would be able to fight; you take these people safely to Tur, and then God would send Gog and Magog ¹ and they would swarm down from every slope. The first of them would pass the lake of Tibering and drink out of it. And when the last of them would pass, he would say: There was once water there.

Jesus and his companions would then be besieged here (at Tur, and they would be so much hard pressed) that the head of the ox would be dearer to them than one hundred dinars and God's Prophet, Jesus, and his companions would supplicate God, Who would send to them insects (which would attack their necks) and in the morning they would perish like one single person. God's Prophet, Jesus, and his companions would then come down to the earth and they would not find in the earth as much space

¹ A barbaric tribe who will overrun the earth towards the end of time.

as a single span which is not filled with their stench. God's Prophet, Jesus, and his companions would then again beseech God, Who would send birds whose necks would be like those of camels and they would carry them and throw them where God would will.”¹

After this, the earth will bring out its blessings and provisions again. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said in an authentic narration:

“Good news and blessings for life after the Messiah, Good news and blessings for life after the Messiah, Good news and blessings for life after the Messiah!”



¹ Narrated by al-Bukhari.

A Call for Peace on Earth

May peace and blessings be upon Jesus and his mother Mary.

Gracious reader, this is a call of peace to the people of the earth. Our Prophet Muhammad is a prophet of peace, and our salutations is Salam, which means 'peace'. Our religion is peace, and our greetings in Paradise will be 'peace be upon you'. The people of the earth must return to the religion of God to be successful, and not extend harm to the Prophets, including the final Messenger sent to humanity, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

I should say, perhaps we Muslims are at fault, since we have not fulfilled our duty of calling our neighbors to the truth, and we have not conveyed the message, so people do not know what our religion says about Mary and Jesus. Mary was never given as much admiration as she was given in the religion of Muhammad ﷺ.

We only ask for fairness, for a little understanding, for justice in understanding

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the life of Muhammad ﷺ. And we say this acknowledging that we have not conveyed the truth that is with us with humility, mercy, and wisdom, to the people of the earth.

We ask God to make us from the people who hear the words of guidance, and follow them.

May peace be upon Prophet Muhammad, his family, and companions.

And may peace, the blessings of God, and His Mercy be upon the followers of guidance.



Introduction to the Appendices

Gracious reader, like love, true faith is the Dominion of God. He guides the hearts of Whom He Pleases. Yet we become worthy of this guidance if we are sincere in our search for the truth. I have included these appendices in the hope that they illustrate some vital concepts in Islam for the seeker of truth.

Islam is the path trod by Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, peace be upon them, a single message taught by them all; it is a way of life, a straight path. It is loving submission to God, seeking His Countenance in the afterlife.

A Muslim is a person who responds to God's call by submitting to His commands, as conveyed through His Prophets.

I hope you will peruse these pages with an open heart, and that your search for truth will bring you to a truly enlightened understanding of the Oneness of God, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and Islam.



Appendix I: The One True God of Abraham

I would like to share a few words with you about a common misconception held about the word 'Allah' in Islam.

Unfortunately many believe that Allah was a deity worshipped by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to the exclusion of the other prophets of God. Actually, "Allah" is the Arabic word that refers to the one true God who created the heavens and the Earth – the God of all the Prophets from Adam to Noah to Abraham to Moses to Jesus to Muhammad (peace be upon them all). The word Allah is the linguistic cognate of the Aramaic word 'Eloh', the word Jesus, peace be upon him, used to call on Allah.

The word Allah is actually closer to the actual word used by Jesus, and Mary, for God, and it is a proper name, and thus it does not have a female or plural form.

Even when the Qur'ân quotes people of other religions speaking about the Creator of

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the Heavens and the Earth, the word Allah is used.

The people of Arabia all referred to the Creator of the heavens and the Earth as "Allah", whether they were Jews, Christians, or pagans. This is the reason why, in pre-Islamic times, many people of all three faiths already carried the name `Abd Allah (servant of Allah).

They included the Prophet's father `Abd Allah b. `Abd al-Muttalib who died before the Prophet (peace be upon him) was born, as well as the prominent Jewish rabbi of Madinah, `Abd Allah b. Salâm, who became one of the most eminent of the Prophet's Companions. Of course, he had been given the name `Abd Allah by his Jewish family long before Islam.

Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, did not call people to worship a new god; rather he called them to return to the pristine worship of the One True God of Abraham. He called them to Islam, or submission to Allah, and to realize the Unity of the Divine, to say: La illaha illa Allah: There is no god worshipped in truth except Allah. He came to rectify the deviations that had crept into Judaism and Christianity over time, and return people to the Straight Path. Allah is the

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One True God of Muslims, Christians, Jews, and all people of faith.

Despite the harsh treatment of his people, Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, kept patient and called to Allah, with gentle words, and beautiful character.



Appendix II: The Prophet

Muhammad ﷺ

There is a verse in the Qur'ân related to Christians and Jews that shows the vast tolerance of Islam for other faiths. It is verse 62 from Surah Baqarah, and it is also in Surah Ma'idah, it reads:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ هَادُوا وَالنَّصَارَى
وَالصَّبِئِينَ مَنْ ءَامَنَ بِاللّٰهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَعَمِلَ
صَالِحًا فَلَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ
وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ﴾ البقرة: ٦٢

﴿Verily those who believe, and those who are Jews and Christians, and Sabians, whoever believed in God, and the Last day, and did righteous good deeds, shall have

their reward with their Lord, on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.﴾

There is no religion on earth more tolerant than Islam. The great Quranic Commentator, Imam Ibn Kathir, clarifies this point. He states: The Jews referred to in this verse are the followers of Moses who held tightly to his teachings and the Torah, until the coming of Jesus. When Jesus came, the Jews were required to accept Jesus and follow him and the Gospel, i.e. the previous Law was abrogated.

Likewise, the Christians mentioned in this verse refers to those who held tightly to the teachings of Jesus and the Injeel (Gospel), until the coming of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. With the coming of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the law of the Gospel was abrogated, and Christians are called by God to follow Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the Qur'ân. These are the nations referred to in the verse, and they will be successful in the afterlife.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught Muslims to be kind to the People of the Previous Scriptures, and to explain to them that these previous scriptures, such as the Bible, have been

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adulterated, and their original texts have been changed. How do we know this?

First, if one searches within his soul, he will find that it is naturally inclined towards the belief in One God alone, without partners or human attributes. This natural inclination towards Tawheed (God's Oneness) is called the Fitrah, or the original pure state of the soul. The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, taught: "Every child is born on the Fitrah, then his parents change him to Judaism, Christianity, or Fire-worship."

Secondly, if one studies the texts of other religions, he will find in them contradictions and that which defies logic and sound reason, which is proof that they are not from God, since God is perfect and anything attributed to Him must likewise be perfect.

We know that God, the Creator of this vast universe, is beyond the limitations of space and time, weakness, and human emotion. However, the current Bible describes God in ways that are not befitting of His Majesty, such as being regretful for creating Adam, searching for Adam in the Heavens, wrestling with Jacob, sending prophets that committed major sins, such as Lot sleeping with his daughters, etc.

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By sound reasoning, a person will realize that God is perfect, and is exalted beyond having these imperfections. Hence the Quranic verse:

﴿لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ﴾
الشورى: ١١

«There is nothing comparable to Him; and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.»

Thirdly, logically speaking, we also realize that it is God alone who created us, provides for us, and sustains the universe. From the perfect motion of the celestial bodies down to the precise order in the subatomic world, all things point to God's power and perfection. Then why would one turn to anyone other than God to answer his prayers? The Qur'an mentions that others cannot even create a gnat.

Finally, we know that there has been a succession of Prophets sent to humanity by God, such as Abraham, Noah, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, peace be upon them. Could the absolute Unity of God (Tawheed) taught by Abraham be any different than the concept of God taught by Jesus?

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Rather, each prophet affirmed the divine message of Tawheed as revealed before him, and did not change it. Attributing partners, co-equals, children, trinity, dualism, pantheism, or anthropomorphism to God are all the result of human tampering with the Divinely revealed scriptures. Whatever you can think of, God is greater than it.

Thus we understand that it is through following Islam and the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ that we adhere to the Divine religion taught by all the prophets of God.



Appendix III: The Holy Spirit: Gabriel (Jibreel)

Another commonly held conception is that the Holy Spirit (archangel Jibreel, or Gabriel) shares in God's divinity. God states in the Quran that He sent His Spirit to Mary, and he blew into her body. 'His Spirit', here, refers to a spirit belonging to God, not a spirit that is part of God. This is similar to the word House of God, which means House belonging to God, not a house that is part of God. This is a type of genitive indicating honor.

The Holy Spirit is not one of the qualities or names of God. Rather the Holy Spirit, Gabriel, is one of God's creations, an angel made from light.

Gabriel must obey the commands of God. Once, the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, asked Gabriel what prevented him from visiting him more often. Then the following verse was revealed through Gabriel:

﴿وَمَا نُنَزِّلُ إِلَّا بِأَمْرِ رَبِّكَ لَهُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِينَا وَمَا

خَلْفَنَا وَمَا بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ وَمَا كَانَ رَبُّكَ نَسِيًّا﴾

مریم: ٦٤

﴿And we (angels) do not descend except by the command of your Lord.﴾

Thus, we understand that saying Gabriel is part of God is contrary to the fact that Gabriel was created by God, and must obey God's commands.

In summary, Gabriel is the angel of revelation, who was sent to all of God's Prophets, and he does not share in God's divinity.



Appendix IV: Was the Trinity Taught by Jesus?

During the time of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ some people claimed that Jesus must be Divine since the Qur'ân calls him Kalimat Allah (Word of God). This concept is sometimes referred to as the logos. Yet if we examine the holy texts linguistically, we find that they actually show that Jesus is God's, and not God.

Jesus, peace be upon him, is a created word from God, since he is the fulfillment of God's command 'Be', and he was created, without a father. Although all of us were created by God's command, "Be", God used a father and mother as the immediate cause of our coming into being. Since Jesus did not have a father, his immediate cause for coming into being was God's command "Be", and this is why he is referred to as a "Word of God."

Logic tells us that a thing cannot have more than one essential nature. A tree cannot be a bird at the same time. We agree that the essence of the word 'God' includes the

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meanings: all-Powerful, Creator, Ever-Living, Self-Standing, Sustainer of the Universe. If we ask ourselves, do these attributes describe Jesus, we say, certainly not. If we ask ourselves, do these attributes apply to the Holy Spirit, again, we say, no. Thus, we can clearly see that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are excluded from the essence of God. In fact, these latter two are in need of a Creator, and are not Creators themselves.

There is also the claim that the Son and the Holy Spirit are attributes of One God, and not part of His essence. The claim is that the Son represents God's Speech, and the Holy Spirit represents God's Giving Life. If we were to accept this claim, then that would mean that God's Hearing, Seeing, Power, Knowledge, Creation, would also need to be added to the Trinity, which would result in a pantheon of gods. Furthermore, is it more logical to worship some of God's attributes, or to worship God Himself, in His essence and entirety? Is the King more worthy of worship, or His servants?

The idea of hypostasis, that Jesus is the human incarnation of God, was first taught by Paul of Tarsus, and not Jesus. This also defies logic. Can a man, who needs to eat and drink,

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was born, and will die, be compared to the all-Powerful Creator of the Universe? Every son depends on his parents for his existence. Jesus could not have existed without the presence of a Creator. From this, we know that he cannot be Divine, since God is all-Powerful, and does not depend on anyone or anything for His existence. Either he is not a Son, or he is not God. Faith cannot contradict logic, since God is the Truth, and logic is the act of deducing truth.

We see in the Bible, for example:

King James Version	New King James Version
Acts 3:26 - Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus , sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.	Acts 3:26 - To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus , sent Him to bless you, in turning every one of you away from his iniquities.

In the KJV, we find that Jesus is made to appear as God's Son, whereas in the NKJV, used by the Mormons and other denominations, we find that he is God's

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servant. This newer translation is more correct if we take a broad look at the Bible. The Greek word found in the text is "pias". It can be used in Greek for either "son" or "servant."

The word "pias" is attributed to Jacob (Israel) in Luke 1:54 and translated as "servant":

"He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;."

It is also applied to King David in Luke 1:69, and once again, it is translated as "servant":

"....the house of his servant David;" (also see Acts 4:25).

However, when it is applied to Jesus (e.g. Acts 3:13, Acts 4:27), it is translated as "Son." (notice that it is not only translated as "son" but as "Son".) Who decides when to use the word son and when to use the word servant?

The word 'Trinity' never occurs in the Bible, and it was never mentioned by Jesus. Jesus, peace be upon him, taught people to follow his example in worshipping God alone. The correct meaning of the biblical phrase, "I and the Father are one" i.e. one in purpose, as is explained by the Qur'ân, where God says: "Whoever obeys the Messenger, has obeyed

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God.” The concept of trinity was officially recognized as church doctrine at the Council of Nicaea, 325 years after Jesus. There were many early Christians who opposed the trinity, and the claim that Jesus was crucified.

The Gospel of Judas was one of the Christian Gnostic (Knowledge) Gospels burned by the Church Fathers at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and a copy of them was discovered in the Egyptian town of Nag Hammadi by a peasant in 1945. The Christian Gnostics believed that Jesus ascended directly to heaven, and was not killed on the cross, but it only appeared so to the people, as is taught by Islam.

It is the duty of every Christian to search for the truth about God, and not simply accept what was taught to them by their forefathers. We should follow guidance and reason, and not blind imitation of those before us. This is what true love of God, Jesus, and all the Prophets, will lead us to do.



Appendix V: Vicarious Atonement?

Another belief that was not taught by Jesus is vicarious atonement, that is, that Jesus, peace be upon him, died on the cross to earn forgiveness for human beings, who are born with the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate from the tree in Paradise.

If we reflect on this, we see that it is illogical as well as unfair. To say that Adam and Eve sinned, and we are born with their sin, and that Jesus must die for us to be redeemed, is like saying: Someone committed a murder, and a second person is held accountable for it in court, and then a third person has to be punished for it!

God is more just than this. God says in the Qur'ân: 'No bearer of burdens shall bear the burden of another.' Every child is born on the *fitra*, the pure, innocent, true nature of Islam, submission to God. All we have to do to seek God's forgiveness is to turn to Him sincerely, and ask of Him. We do not need to go through a priest or intermediary; we can turn to God directly. What some in the church did of

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selling indulgences in order for people to buy forgiveness, and commercializing religion, is far from Jesus' true teachings.

It is not true that God is far away from us. God is close, and knows our innermost thoughts. God says in Surah Baqara: "If my servants ask you about me, I am close, and I answer the call of every supplicant."

These intermediaries, be they Prophets or Saints, will flee from those who called them on the Day of Judgment, and absolve themselves from them.

God says:

﴿إِذْ تَبَرَّأَ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوا مِنَ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوا وَرَأَوْا

الْعَذَابَ وَتَقَطَّعَتْ بِهِمُ الْأَسْبَابُ﴾ البقرة: ١٦٦

"Then will those who were followed absolve themselves of those who followed (them): They would see the Penalty, and all relations between them would be cut off."

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Every true believer should call on God alone, with no partners or intermediaries, and, indeed, God answers the caller.



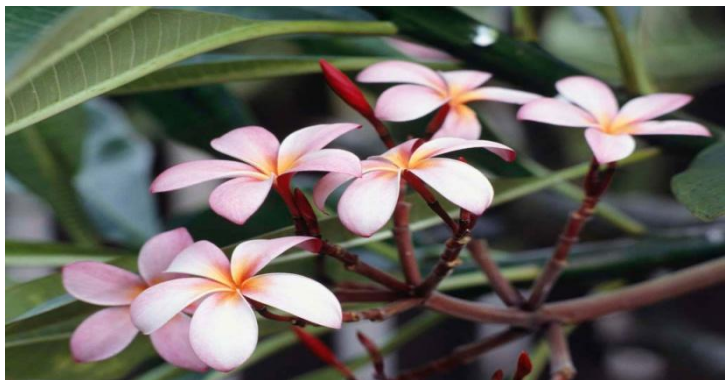
Conclusion

As we reach the end of our journey together, I congratulate you for taking the time to learn more about Islam. We ask God to make us from those who hear the words of guidance, and follow the best of them. I hope all just people in America, Europe, and the world over learn more about Islam, and that you convey what you have learned in this book to those whom you love.

May the noble story of Mary and Jesus in Islam be an inspiration, a perennial rain that gives life to the parched earth; and may it lead you to a life of piety, chastity, and striving for the afterlife.

Finally, I ask you to forgive me for my shortcomings. I seek God's refuge from reminding you of Him, and I myself forgetting Him. If I said anything right, then it is from God alone, and anything else is from the evil of my soul and the devil, and I seek God's forgiveness. And all praise is due to God, Lord of the Worlds.





About the Book

The world has never been in more need of learning about Jesus and Mary, whose guidance, mercy, and love for the afterlife, transcend the annals of history. Few people are truly familiar with the lofty status of Jesus and Mary in Islam. In this age of information there remains a divide for each one of us to traverse, between superficial knowledge and true understanding. Whether you are Christian, Jewish, or Muslim, the translation you have in your hands is meant to be a stepping stone for you across that divide.