

Introduction



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Islam

Islam is a Semitic religion, which has over one billion adherents all over the world. Islam means "submission to the will of God". Muslims accept the Qur'an, as the word of God revealed to His last and final prophet, Mohammed (peace be upon him). Islam states that Allah sent messengers and prophets throughout the ages with the message of Unity of God, and accountability in the Hereafter. Islam thus makes it an article of faith to believe in all the earlier prophets, starting with Adam, and continuing with Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, John and Jesus amongst many others (may peace be on them all).

Islam

CONCEPT OF GOD IN ISLAM
by *Dr. Zakir Naik*

The Most Concise Definition of God:



The most concise definition of God in Islam is given in the four verses of Surah Ikhlas which is Chapter 112 of the Qur'an:

"Say: He is Allah,
The One and Only.
"Allah, the Eternal, Absolute.
"He begets not, nor is He begotten.
And there is none like unto Him."
[Al-Qur'an 112:1-4]

The word '*Assamad*' is difficult to translate. It means 'absolute existence', which can be attributed only to Allah (swt), all other existence being temporal or conditional. It also means that Allah (swt) is not dependant on any person or thing, but all persons and things are dependant on Him.

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Surah Ikhlas - the touchstone of theology:

Surah Ikhlas (Chapter 112) of the Glorious Qur'an, is the touchstone of theology. '*Theo*' in Greek means God and '*logy*' means study. Thus Theology means study of God and to Muslims this four line definition of Almighty God serves as the touchstone of the study of God. Any candidate to divinity must be subjected to this 'acid test'. Since the attributes of Allah given in this chapter are unique, false gods and pretenders to divinity can be easily dismissed using these verses.

What does Islam say about 'god-men'?

India is often called the land of 'god-men'. This is due to the abundance of so-called spiritual masters in India. Many of these 'babas' and 'saints' have a large following in many countries. Islam abhors deification of any human being. To understand the Islamic stand towards such pretenders to divinity, let us analyze one such 'god-man', Osho Rajneesh.

Let us put this candidate, 'Bhagwan' Rajneesh, to the test of Surah Ikhlas, the touchstone of theology:

- i) The first criterion is "Say, He is Allah, one and only". Is Rajneesh one and only? No! Rajneesh was one among the multitude of 'spiritual teachers' produced by India. Some disciples of Rajneesh might still hold that Rajneesh is one and only.
- ii) The second criterion is, 'Allah is absolute and eternal'. We know from Rajneesh's biography that he was suffering from diabetes, asthma, and chronic backache. He alleged that the U.S. Government gave him slow poison in prison. Imagine Almighty God being poisoned! Rajneesh was thus, neither absolute nor eternal.

- iii) The third criterion is 'He begets not, nor is He begotten'. We know that Rajneesh was born in Jabalpur in India and had a mother as well as a father who later became his disciples.

In May 1981 he went to U.S.A. and established a town called 'Rajneeshpuram'. He later fell foul of the West and was finally arrested and asked to leave the country. He came back to India and started a commune in Pune which is now known as the 'Osho' commune. He died in 1990. The followers of Osho Rajneesh believe that he is Almighty God. At the 'Osho commune' in Pune one can find the following epitaph on his tombstone:

"Osho – never born, never died; only visited the planet Earth between 11th December 1931 to 19th January 1990."

They forget to mention that he was not granted visa for 21 countries of the world. Can a person ever imagine 'God' visiting the earth, and requiring a visa to enter a country! The Archbishop of Greece said that if Rajneesh had not been deported, they would have burnt his house and those of his disciples.

- (iv) The fourth test, which is the most stringent is, "There is none like unto Him". The moment you can imagine or compare 'God' to anything, then he (the candidate to divinity) is not God. It is not possible to conjure up a mental picture of the One True God. We know that Rajneesh was a human being, having two eyes, two ears, a nose, a mouth and a white flowing beard. Photographs and posters of Rajneesh are available in plenty. The moment you can imagine or draw a mental picture of an entity, then that entity is not God.

Many are tempted to make anthropomorphic comparisons of God. Take for instance, Arnold Schwarzenegger, the famous body builder and Hollywood actor, who won the title of 'Mr. Universe', the strongest man in the world. Let us suppose that someone says that Almighty God is a thousand times stronger than Arnold Schwarzenegger. The moment you can compare any entity to God, whether the comparison is to Schwarzenegger or to King Kong, whether it is a thousand times or a million times stronger, it fails the Qur'anic criterion, "There is none like unto Him".

Thus, the 'acid test' cannot be passed by anyone except the One True God.

The following verse of the Glorious Qur'an conveys a similar message:

"No vision can grasp Him
But His grasp is over
All vision: He is
Above all comprehension,
Yet is acquainted with all things."
[Al-Qur'an 6:103]

By what name do we call God?

The Muslims prefer calling the Supreme Creator, Allah, instead of by the English word 'God'. The Arabic word, 'Allah', is pure and unique, unlike the English word 'God', which can be played around with.

If you add 's' to the word God, it becomes 'Gods', that is the plural of God. Allah is one and singular, there is no plural of Allah. If you add 'dess' to the word God, it becomes 'Goddess' that is a female God. There is nothing like male Allah or female Allah. Allah has no gender. If you add the word 'father' to 'God' it becomes 'God-father'. God-father means someone who is a guardian. There is no word like '*Allah-Abba*' or '*Allah-father*'. If you add the word 'mother' to 'God', it becomes 'God-mother'. There is nothing like '*Allah-Ammi*', or '*Allah-mother*' in Islam.

Allah is a unique word. If you prefix tin before the word God, it becomes tin-God i.e., fake God. Allah is a unique word, which does not conjure up any mental picture nor can it be played around with. Therefore the Muslims prefer using the Arabic word 'Allah' for the Almighty. Sometimes, however, while speaking to the non-Muslims we may have to use the inappropriate word God, for Allah. Since the intended audience of this article is general in nature, consisting of both Muslims as well as non-Muslims, I have used the word God instead of Allah in several places in this article.

God does not become a human being:

God does not take human form:

Some may argue that God does not become a human being but only takes a human form. If God only takes a human form but does not become a human being, He should not possess any human qualities. We know that all the 'God-men', have human qualities and failings. They have all the human needs such as the need to eat, sleep, etc.

The worship of God in human form is therefore a logical fallacy and should be abhorred in all its forms and manifestations.

That is the reason why the Qur'an speaks against all forms of anthropomorphism. The Glorious Qur'an says in the following verse:

"There is nothing whatever like unto Him."
[Al-Qur'an 42:11]

God does not perform ungodly acts:

The attributes of Almighty God preclude any evil since God is the source of justice, mercy and truth. God can never be thought of as doing an ungodly act. Hence we cannot imagine God telling a lie, being unjust, making a mistake, forgetting things, or having any such human failings. Similarly God can do injustice if He chooses to, but He will never do it because being unjust is an ungodly act.

The Qur'an says:

"Allah is never unjust In the least degree."
[Al-Qur'an 4:40]

God can be unjust if He chooses to be so, but the moment God does injustice, He ceases to be God.

God does not make mistakes

God can make mistakes if He wants to, but He does not make mistakes because making a mistake is an ungodly act. The Qur'an says:

"...my Lord never errs."
[Holy Qur'an 20:52]

The moment God makes a mistake, he ceases to be God.

God does not forget

God can forget if He wants to. But God does not forget anything because forgetting is an ungodly act, which reeks of human limitations and failings. The Qur'an says:

"...my Lord never errs, nor forgets."
[Al-Qur'an 20:52]

God only performs Godly acts:

The Islamic concept of God is that God has power over all things. The Qur'an says in several places (Al-Qur'an 2:106; 2:109; 2:284; 3:29; 16:77; and 35:1):

"For verily Allah has power over all things"

Further, the Glorious Qur'an says:

"Allah is the doer of all that He intends."
[Al-Qur'an 85:16]

We must keep in mind that Allah intends only Godly acts and not ungodly acts.

PHILOSOPHY OF ANTHROPOMORPHISM

Many religions at some point believe, directly or indirectly, in the philosophy of anthropomorphism i.e. God becoming a human. Their contention is that Almighty God is so pure and holy that He is unaware of the hardships, shortcomings and feelings of human beings. In order to set the rules for human beings, He came down to earth as a human. This deceptive logic has fooled countless millions through the ages. Let us now analyze this argument and see if it stands to reason.

The Creator prepares the instruction manual:

Suppose I manufacture a video cassette recorder (VCR). Do I have to become a VCR to know what is good or what is bad for the VCR? What do I do? I write an instruction manual: "In order to watch a video cassette, insert the cassette and press the play button. In order to stop, press the stop button. If you want to fast forward press the FF button. Do not drop it from a height or it will get damaged. Do not immerse it in water or it will get spoiled". I write an instruction manual that lists the various do's and don'ts for the machine.

Holy Qur'an is the instruction manual for the human being:

Similarly, our Lord and Creator Allah (swt) need not take human form to know what is good or bad for the human being. He chooses to reveal the instruction manual. The last and final instruction manual of the human beings is the Glorious Qur'an. The 'dos' and 'don'ts' for the human beings are mentioned in the Qur'an.

If you allow me to compare human beings with machines, I would say humans are more complicated than the most complex machines in the world. Even the most advanced computers, which are extremely complex, are pale in comparison to the myriad physical, psychological, genetic and social factors that affect individual and collective human life.

The more advanced the machine, greater is the need for its instruction manual. By the same logic, don't human beings require an instruction manual by which to govern their own lives?

Allah chooses Messengers:

Allah (swt) need not come down personally for giving the instruction manual. He chooses a man amongst men to deliver the message and communicates with him at a higher level through the medium of revelations. Such chosen men are called messengers and prophets of

God.

Some people are 'blind' and 'deaf':

Despite the absurdity of the philosophy of anthropomorphism, followers of many religions believe in and preach it to others. Is it not an insult to human intelligence and to the Creator who gave us this intelligence? Such people are truly 'deaf' and 'blind' despite the faculty of hearing and sight given to them by Allah. The Qur'an says:

"Deaf, dumb, and blind,
They will not return (to the path)."
[Al-Qur'an 2:18]

The Bible gives a similar message in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Seeing they see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand."
[The Bible, Matthew 13:13]

A similar message is also given in the Hindu Scriptures in the Rigveda.

"There maybe someone who sees the words and yet indeed does not see them; may be another one who hears these words but indeed does not hear them." 1
[Rigveda 10:71:4]

All these scriptures are telling their readers that though the things are made so clear yet many people divert away from the truth.

Attributes of God:

To Allah belong the most beautiful names:

The Qur'an says:

"Say: Call upon Allah, or
Call upon Rahman:
By whatever name you call
Upon Him, (it is well):
For to Him belong
The Most Beautiful Names."
[Al-Qur'an 17:110]

A similar message regarding the beautiful names of Allah (swt) is repeated in the Qur'an in Surah Al-A'raf (7:180), in Surah Taha (20:8) and in Surah Al-Hashr (59:24).

The Qur'an gives no less than ninety-nine different attributes to Almighty Allah. The Qur'an refers to Allah as *Ar-Rahman* (Most Gracious), *Ar-Raheem* (Most Merciful) and *Al-Hakeem* (All Wise) among many other names. You can call Allah by any name but that name should be beautiful and should not conjure up a mental picture.

Each attribute of God is unique and possessed by Him alone:

Not only does God possess unique attributes, but also each attribute of Almighty God is sufficient to identify Him. I shall clarify this point in detail. Let us take an example of a famous personality, say Neil Armstrong. Neil Armstrong is an astronaut. The attribute of being an astronaut possessed by Neil Armstrong is correct but not unique to Neil Armstrong alone. So

when one asks, who is an astronaut? The answer is, there are hundreds of people in the world who are astronauts. Neil Armstrong is an American. The attribute of being American possessed by Neil Armstrong is correct but not sufficient to identify him. So when one asks, who is an American? The answer is, there are millions of people who are American. To identify the person uniquely we must look for a unique attribute possessed by none except that person. For example, Neil Armstrong was the first human to set foot on the moon. So when one asks, who was the first man to set foot on the moon, the answer is only one, i.e. Neil Armstrong. Similarly the attribute of Almighty God should be unique. If I say God is the constructor of buildings, it is possible and true, but it is not unique. Thousands of people can construct a building. But each attribute of Allah is unique and points to none but Allah. For example, God is the creator of the universe. If someone asks who is the creator of the universe, the answer is only one, i.e. Almighty God is the Ultimate Creator. Similarly, following are some of the many unique attributes possessed by none other than the Creator of the universe, Almighty Allah:

"*Ar-Raheem*", the Most Merciful

"*Ar-Rahman*", the Most Gracious

"*Al-Hakeem*", the Most Wise

So when one asks, "Who is '*Ar-Raheem*', (the Most Merciful)?", there can only be one answer: "Almighty Allah".

One attribute of God should not contradict with other attributes:

Besides the attribute being unique, it should not contradict other attributes. To continue with the earlier example, suppose somebody says that Neil Armstrong is an American astronaut who was the first human to set foot on the moon and was an Indian. The attribute possessed by Neil Armstrong of being the first man to set foot on the moon, is correct. But its associated quality of being an Indian, is false. Similarly if someone says that God is the Creator of the Universe and has one head, two hands, two feet, etc., the attribute (Creator of the Universe) is correct but the associated quality (in the form of human being) is wrong and false.

All attributes should point to the one and same God:

Since there is only one God, all the attributes should point to one and the same God. To say that Neil Armstrong was an American astronaut who first set foot on the moon, but he was born in 1971 is wrong. Both these unique qualities belong to one and the same person, i.e. Neil Armstrong. Similarly to say that the Creator of the universe is one God and the Cherisher is another God is absurd because God possesses all these attributes combined together.

Unity of God:

Some polytheists argue by saying that the existence of more than one God is not illogical. Let us point out to them that if there were more than one God, they would dispute with one another, each god trying to fulfill his will against the will of the other gods. This can be seen in the mythology of the polytheistic and pantheistic religions. If a 'God' is defeated or unable to defeat the others, he is surely not the one true God. Also popular among polytheistic religions is the idea of many Gods, each having different responsibilities. Each one would be responsible for a part of man's existence e.g. a Sun-God, a Rain-God, etc. This indicates that one 'God' is incompetent of certain acts and moreover he is also ignorant of the other Gods' powers, duties, functions and responsibilities. There cannot be an ignorant and incapable God. If there were more than one God it would surely lead to confusion, disorder, chaos and destruction in the universe. But the universe is in complete harmony. The Glorious Qur'an says:

"If there were, in the heavens
And the earth, other gods

Besides Allah, there would
Have been confusion in both!
But glory to Allah,
The Lord of the Throne:
(High is He) above
What they attribute to Him!"
[Al-Qur'an 21:22]

If there were more than one God, they would have taken away what they created. The Qur'an says:

"No son did Allah beget,
Nor is there any god
Along with Him: (if there were
Many gods), behold, each god
Would have taken away
What he had created,
And some would have
Lorded it over others!
Glory to Allah! (He is free)
From the (sort of) things
They attribute to Him!"
[Al-Qur'an 23:91]

Thus the existence of one True, Unique, Supreme, Almighty God, is the only logical concept of God.

TAWHEED:

Definition and Categories:

Islam believes in '*Tawheed*' which is not merely monotheism i.e. belief in one God, but much more. *Tawheed* literally means 'unification' i.e. 'asserting oneness' and is derived from the Arabic verb '*Wahhada*' which means to unite, unify or consolidate.

Tawheed can be divided into three categories.

1. *Tawheed ar-Ruboobeeyah*
2. *Tawheed al-Asmaa-was-Sifaat*
3. *Tawheed al-Ibaadah.*

A. *Tawheed ar-Ruboobeeyah* (maintaining the unity of Lordship)

The first category is '*Tawheed ar-Ruboobeeyah*'. '*Ruboobeeyah*' is derived from the root verb "*Rabb*" meaning Lord, Sustainer and Cherisher.

Therefore '*Tawheed-ar-Ruboobeeyah*' means maintaining the unity of Lordship. This category is based on the fundamental concept that Allah (swt) alone caused all things to exist when there was nothing. He created or originated all that exists out of nothing. He alone is the sole Creator, Cherisher, and Sustainer of the complete universe and all between it, without any need from it or for it.

B. *Tawheed al-Asmaa was-Sifaat* (maintaining the unity of Allah's name and attributes):

The second category is '*Tawheed al Asmaa was Sifaat*' which means maintaining the unity of

Allah's name and attributes. This category is divided into five aspects:

(i) Allah should be referred to as described by Him and His Prophet

Allah must be referred to according to the manner in which He and His prophet have described Him without explaining His names and attributes by giving them meanings other than their obvious meanings.

(ii) Allah must be referred to as He has referred to Himself

Allah must be referred to without giving Him any new names or attributes. For example Allah may not be given the name *Al-Ghaadib* (the Angry One), despite the fact that He has said that He gets angry, because neither Allah nor His messenger have used this name.

(iii) Allah is referred to without giving Him the attributes of His creation

In a reference to God, we should strictly abstain from giving Him the attributes of those whom He has created. For instance in the Bible, God is portrayed as repenting for His bad thoughts in the same way as humans do when they realise their errors. This is completely against the principle of Tawheed. God does not commit any mistakes or errors and therefore never needs to repent.

The key principle when dealing with Allah's attributes is given in the Qur'an in Surah Ash-Shura:

"There is nothing
Whatever like unto Him,
And He is the One
That hears and sees (all things)."
[Al-Qur'an 42:11]

Hearing and seeing are human faculties. However, when attributed to the Divine Being they are without comparison, in their perfection, unlike when associated with humans who require ears, eyes, etc. and who are limited in their sight and hearing in terms of space, time, capacity, etc.

(iv) God's creation should not be given any of His attributes

To refer to a human with the attribute of God is also against the principle of *Tawheed*. For example, referring to a person as one who has no beginning or end (eternal).

(v) Allah's name cannot be given to His creatures

Some Divine names in the indefinite form, like '*Raooof*' or '*Raheem*' are permissible names for men as Allah has used them for Prophets; but '*Ar-Raooof*' (the Most Pious) and '*Ar-Raheem*' (the most Merciful) can only be used if prefixed by '*Abd*' meaning 'slave of' or 'servant of' i.e. '*Abdur-Raooof*' or '*Abdur-Raheem*'. Similarly '*Abdur-Rasool*' (slave of the Messenger) or '*Abdun-Nabee*' (slave of the Prophet) are forbidden.

C. Tawheed al-Ibaadah (maintaining the unity of worship):

(i) Definition and meaning of 'Ibadaah':

'*Tawheed al-Ibaadah*' means maintaining the unity of worship or '*Ibaadah*'. *Ibaadah* is derived from Arabic word '*Abd*' meaning slave or servant. Thus *Ibaadah* means servitude and worship.

(ii) All three categories to be followed simultaneously.

Only believing in the first two categories of *Tawheed* without implementing *Tawheed-al-Ibaadah* is useless. The Qur'an gives the examples of '*Mushrikeens*' (idolaters) of the Prophet's time who confirmed the first two aspects of *Tawheed*. It is mentioned in the Qur'an:

"Say: 'Who is it that
Sustains you (in life)
From the sky and from the earth?
Or who is it that
Has power over hearing
And sight? And who
Is it that brings out
The living from the dead
And the dead from the living?
And who is it that
Rules and regulates all affairs?'
They will soon say, 'Allah'.
Say, 'Will you not then
Show piety (to Him)?' "
[Al-Qur'an 10:31]

A similar example is repeated in Surah Zukhruf of the Glorious Qur'an:

"If thou ask them, Who
Created them, they will
Certainly say, 'Allah': how
Then are they deluded
Away (from the Truth)?"
[Al-Qur'an 43:87]

The pagan Meccans knew that Allah (swt) was their Creator, Sustainer, Lord and Master. Yet they were not Muslims because they also worshipped other gods besides Allah. Allah (swt) categorised them as '*Kuffaar*' (disbelievers) and '*Mushrikeen*' (idol worshippers and those who associate partners with God).

"And most of them
Believe not in Allah
Without associating (others
As partners) with Him!"
[Al-Qur'an 12:106]

Thus '*Tawheed al-Ibaadah*' i.e. maintaining the unity of worship is the most important aspect of *Tawheed*. Allah (swt) alone deserves worship and He alone can grant benefit to man for his worship.

SHIRK:

A. Definition: The omission of any of the above mentioned categories of tawheed or deficiency in the fulfillment of any criteria of Tawheed is referred to as 'shirk'. (Please note that the Arabic word 'Shirk' has the same sound as in the English word 'ship' and not as in the English word 'shirk', which means 'to evade' 'Shirk' literally means sharing or associating partners. In Islamic terms it means associating partners with Allah and is equivalent to idolatry.

B. Shirk is the greatest sin that Allah will never forgive:

The Qur'an describes the greatest sin in Surah Al-Nisa':

"Allah forgives not
That partners should be set up
With Him; but He forgives
Anything else, to whom
He pleases; to set up
Partners with Allah
Is to devise a sin
Most heinous indeed."
[Al-Qur'an 4:48]

The same message is repeated in Surah Al-Nisa':

"Allah forgives not
(The sin of) joining other gods
With Him; but He forgives
Whom He pleases other sins
Than this: one who joins
Other gods with Allah,
Has strayed far, far away
(From the Right)."
[Al-Qur'an 4:116]

C. Shirk leads to hell fire:

The Qur'an says in Surah Ma'idah:

"They do blaspheme who say:
'Allah is Christ the son
Of Mary.' But said Christ:
'O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord
And your Lord'. Whoever joins other gods with Allah –
Allah will forbid him the Garden, and the Fire
Will be his abode. There will for the wrongdoers
Be no one to help."
[Al-Qur'an 5:72]

D. Worship and Obedience to none but Allah:

The Qur'an mentions in Surah Ali-'Imran:

Say: "O people of the Book!
Come To common terms
As between us and you:
That we worship none but Allah;

That we associate no partners with Him;
That we erect not, from among ourselves,
Lords and patrons other than Allah."
If then they turn back,
Say ye: "Bear witness that we (at least)
Are Muslims (bowing to Allah's Will)."
[Al-Qur'an 3:64]

The Glorious Qur'an says:

"And if all the trees on earth were pens
And the Ocean (were ink), with seven Oceans behind it
To add to its (supply), yet would not the Words
Of Allah be exhausted (In the writing): for Allah
Is Exalted in power, Full of Wisdom."
[Al-Qur'an 31:27]

Our analysis of Concept of God in various Religion shows that monotheism is an integral part of every major religion of the world. However, it is unfortunate that some adherents of these religions violate the teachings of their own scriptures and have set up partners to Almighty God.

An analysis of the scriptures of various religions, reveals that all scriptures exhort mankind to believe in, and submit to One God. All these scriptures condemn the association of partners to God, or the worship of God in the form of images. The Glorious Qur'an says:

"O men! Here is
A parable set forth!
Listen to it! Those
On whom, besides Allah,
You call, cannot create
(Even) a fly, if they all
Met together for the purpose!
And if the fly should snatch
Away anything from them,
They would have no power
To release it from the fly.
Feeble are those who petition
And those whom they petition!"
[Al-Qur'an 22:73]

The basis of religion is the acceptance of Divine guidance. A rejection of this guidance has serious implications for society. While we have made great strides in science and technology, true peace still eludes us. All 'isms' have failed to provide the much vaunted deliverance.

The scriptures of all major religions exhort mankind to follow that which is good and eschew that which is evil. All scriptures remind mankind that good will not go unrewarded and evil will not go unpunished!

The question we need to address is, which of these scriptures provides us with the correct 'instruction manual' that we need to regulate our individual and collective lives?

I hope and pray that Allah guides all of us towards the Truth (Aameen).

**MATERIAL TO BE REFERRED FOR KNOWLEDGE
OF ISLAM**

by

Dr. ZAKIR NAIK

Material to be Referred for the knowledge of Islam

Sr.No :1

Name of the package :Al-Qur'ân Al-Karim

VERSION :7.0

LANGUAGE :English / Arabic

DESCRIPTION : Display of the entire Qur'ânic text in Ottoman calligraphy with vowelization marks and recitation of the Qur'ânic text by two famous reciters with the ability to shift from one reciter to the other at any time. Information features related to the text such as: explanation of difficult terms; showing the occasion of revelation; and Tafsir (Interpretation) of the Holy Qur'an by Al-Qurtubi, Al-Tabari, Ibn Kathir and Al-Jalalain, enabling the user to compare the various interpretations of the same verse. In addition to Arabic, the programme is available in English, Malay, Turkish, French and German. You can copy and print text in any of these languages. Animated display of the points, qualities and manners of articulation, along with practical explanation of the rules of recitation. Extensive search facilities. Thematic search including fourteen main topics. Each main topic is divided into other sub-topics at six levels. Effective aid for memorizing the Qur'anic verses. The programme enables the user to listen to verse in his own voice and compare his recording to the recitation.

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FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE :Arabic / English / French / German / Spanish / Malay / Indonesian

DESCRIPTION : It includes recitations of the entire Qur'an by Shaikh Mohammed Ayoub, Sheikh Khalil Husri, Sheikh Mohammed Siddiq Minshawi,

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PRODUCER :Par Excellence Software Post Box 42671, 38-7th Avenue, Fordsburg 2033, 2092 Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. Tel: 27-11-8300097 Fax:8300947 www.parexcellence.co.za

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Name of the package :Al-Qur'an Al-Karim

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FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English / Arabic / Malay / Indonesian / Turkish / Chinese / Urdu

DESCRIPTION : Yusuf Ali's translation, Pickthall translation, Qur'an pronunciation, view a phonetic pronunciation guide, easily print Arabic script or English text Surah of Ayahs, audio recitation, learn the proper Qur'anic pronunciation by recording voice, Islamic terms and dictionary, Malaysian, Indonesian, Turkish, Chinese and Urdu translations and Arabic Tafseer.

PRODUCER :Micro Systems InternationalAl-Madinah Ta'la Road, P.O. Box 13140, Jeddah 21493, Kingdom of Saudi ArabiaTel: (02) 6515989 / 6533421 Fax:6323640

Sr.No : 4

Name of the package :The Holy Qur'an

VERSION : 1.5

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English /Arabic

DESCRIPTION : It contains the Holy Qur'an, word or words search facilities, statistics about of the Qur'an, display Qur'an, text recitation of the Qur'an and thematic search facility.

PRODUCER :SILICON Electronics Corp. P.O.Box 7917 (S.A.A.F.) Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Tel: 9716-572048Fax:572062

Sr.No : 5

Name of the package :Al-Furqan - Towards a Complete Encyclopedia for Qur'an

VERSION : 1

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English / Arabic / French /Malay / Indonesian

DESCRIPTION : Featrures : True image of the book with sound of Sheikh Al-Hossary, three translation of tafseer in English, French and Indonesian languages, five Arabic tafseer (meaning of the Qur'an), new memorisation techniques for verse and page, recitation of verse surah, hezb part whole the whole about Qur'an, the names of Allah and the tree of prophets in four languages, powerful search engine for letters, words, sound file copying capabilites, more than 16 background to select from, the menu system and many more.

PRODUCER :Khalifa Computer Group (KCG) 162Malik Faisal Street, P. O. Box 339 Imbata, Al-Ramaz Al-Buredi 12411, Al-Jiza,Egypt. Tel+fax: 202-3829604 / 3837794

Sr.No : 6

Name of the package :Holy Qur'an

VERSION :2.1

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English / French / Malaya /German / Persian / Spanish /Turkish

DESCRIPTION : Holy Qur'an in the Osmani Moshaf style with 30 hours recitation by sheik Mahmoud Sadiq Al-Menshawi in six language translation.

PRODUCER :HCI Masters (M)Sdn. Bhd. 115A, Jalan Gasing, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangore, Malaysia, Tele :03-7549970 Fax : 03-7549980 e-mail :kifah@pc.jaring.my

Sr.No : 7

Name of the package :Softrade Qur'an CD

VERSION :2.1

FORMAT : One CD-Rom + One Diskette

LANGUAGE : English /Malaya

DESCRIPTION : The Qur'anic text in Rasm Uthmani, Arranged according to Mushaf Syarif Madinah. Translation of the Qur'an in English (Allama Abdullah Yusuf Ali) and Malay (Tafsir Pimpinan-Ar-Rahman). Complete controll over navigations. Searching facilities.

PRODUCER :Software Trading No. 46, JalanEmpangan, 8/14, 40000 Shah Alam, Selangor, Malayasia Tel : (603)5521586

Sr.No : 8

Name of the package :Hoda - The Holy Qur'an – Treasury

VERSION :2.0

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : Dictionary of words and subjects of Holy Qur'an containing 2000 subjects and words, complete recitation and presenting Holy Qur'an narrations alongwith sound picture.

PRODUCER :Tolou Computer Company P. O. Box61006, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Sr.No : 9

Name of the package : Al-Qur'an Al-Karim - (Holy Qur'an) - A multimedia presentation of Islam's Holy Book

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : Arabic / English / French/ German / Persian / Spanish / Turkish

DESCRIPTION : Entire Holy Qur'an in the Osmani Moshaf style with 30 hours recitation by Mahmoud Sadiq A-Menshawi;Has translation in six languagess.

PRODUCER :Pajohesh

Sr.No : 10

Name of the package : Qur'an Base

FORMAT : 1.44 X 2 Diskette

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : Contents : Translation of the Holy Qur'an, as it was, as it is, some information about Muslims, introductory material on Islam, the Qur'anic commentaries and selections.

PRODUCER : Sound Vision 843 W. Van Buren, Suite 411, Chicago, IL 60607, USA
Tel : (312)2260205

Sr.No : 11

Name of the package : Tafseer Base

FORMAT : 1.44 x 3 Diskette

LANGUAGE : English /Arabic

DESCRIPTION : Contents : Search functions, a statistics system that presents the number of the Qur'anic letters, words, verses. Surahs are included and presented graphics charts, according to the Qur'anic revelations, the order of revelation or the length of the Surah's.

PRODUCER : Sound Vision 843 W. Van Buren, Suite 411, Chicago, IL 60607, USA
Tel : (312)2260205

Sr.No : 12

Name of the package : Al-Qur'an Data Base

FORMAT : Diskette

Sr.No : 13

Name of the package : The Alim

VERSION : 4.5

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : The Alim – a unique and exciting way to study Islam. Look up information from the Qur'an, Hadith, Islamic Law (Fiqh), Islamic History, biographies of the companions of the prophet, dictionary of Islamic terms and general information about Muslims and Islam. Search through volumes of authentic books on Islam in seconds. Learn from the Qur'an. Browse through the different English translations from A. Yusuf Ali to M. Pickthall. Search from the brief synopsis, overview of the history of the Surahs by Maududi or learn to recite in Arabic using a Roman transliteration of the Qur'an. It includes complete audio recitation with proper tajweed by a renowned Qari.

PRODUCER :ISL Software Corp.3037 Featherwood St.Silver Spring, MD 20904
6645, U.S.A. Tel: 800-4433636e-mail:
sales@islsoftware.comwww.islsoftware.com

Sr.No : **14**

Name of the package : The Islamic Scholar

VERSION : 2

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : An information packed, it combines three leading Qur'an translations, together with Hadith, History of Prophets, Islamic history, Muslim contribution to the world and more in a simple intuitive, easy to use Windows compatible interface.

PRODUCER :Par Excellence Software Post Box42671, Fordsburg 2033,
Johannesburg, Republic of SouthAfrica.

Sr.No : **15**

Name of the package : The Islamic Library

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English /Arabic

DESCRIPTION : It includes Noble Qur'an, Summarized Sahih Al-Bukhari, Taqwiyat Ul-Iman, Ar-Raheeq Al-Mukhtum, Bulugh Al-Maram and the Pillars of Islam & Iman in an easy to use programme to facilitate the use of these references. With free text search and cross referencing between Arabic and English text.

PRODUCER :Ariss Computer Inc. Beirut -Lebanaon. Tel: 01-740848 Fax: 01-740862 AraSoft Riyadh,Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.Tel+Fax: 4615461

Sr.No : **16**

Name of the package : E - Ustad

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English /Arabic

DESCRIPTION : It includes Qur'an Multimedia with English Meaning, search and recitation by Sheik Mahmood Khalil Al-Husari, 9500 Hadith from five famous

books of hadith in English like Sahih Bukhari (9 volumes), Sahih Muslim, Sunan Abu Dawoud, Al-Muwatta, Mishkat Al Masibih, Colossal reference, Seera, biography accounts of the life of the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) has been an essential part of islamic intellectual endeavor.

PRODUCER :HCI Masters (M)Sdn. Bhd. 115A, Jalan Gasing, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangaor, Malayasia Tel :03-7549970 Fax : 03-7549980 e-mail : kifah@pc.jaring.my www.jaring.my/hci

Sr.No : **17**

Name of the package : Qala Rasool Allah - Al-Bayan

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English / Arabic /Malay

DESCRIPTION : This programme handles more than 1700 Hadiths agreed upon by the two Imams, Bukhari and Muslim, it provides complete indexing, friendly interface and back tracking through the programme is available, with all its features in Arabic, English and Malaya.

PRODUCER :Sakhr Software P.O. Box 5189, Heliopolis, West Cairo 117711, Egypt Tel : (202) 2494170 Fax :2485542 e-mail : heritage@ritsec1.com.eg

Sr.No : **18**

Name of the package : Explanation of the Forty Hadith Al-Nawawi

VERSION : 1

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English /Arabic

DESCRIPTION : As a contribution for Imam Al-Nawawi's efforts in collecting the most important Forty Hadith (saying of the prophet). It contains the text and sound of all forty hadith explanations, lessons taught, new techniques for memorization and four Islamic games to enhance the understanding and benefits of the prophet's message.

PRODUCER :Khalifa Computer Group (KCG) 162Malik Faisal Street, P. O. Box 339 Imbata, Al-Ramaz Al-Buredi 12411, Al-Jiza,Egypt. Tel+fax: 202-3829604 / 3837794

Sr.No : **19**

Name of the package :Hadith Base

FORMAT : 1.44 x 10 Diskettes

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : Contents: Hadith and its place in Islam, importance of Sunnah in Islam, Imam Al-Bukhari, Sahih Al-Bukhari, the English translation of Al-Bukhari, some useful information about Hadith.

PRODUCER : Sound Vision 843 W. Van Buren, Suite 411, Chicago, IL 60607, USA
Tel: (312)2260205

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN

SR.NO : 1

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : THE HOLY QUR'AN

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : Abdullah Yusuf Ali

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Amana Corporation, 4411 41st Street, Brentwood, Maryland 20722 U.S.A.

EDITION & YEAR : New Revised Edition - 1989

SR.NO : 2

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : THE QUR'AN

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : Saheeh International

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Abul - Qasim Publication House P.O. Box 6156 Jeddah 21442 Saudi Arabia This book has been produced in collaboration with Saheeh International;

EDITION & YEAR : New Revised Edition - 1997

SR.NO : 3

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : THE NOBLE QUR'AN

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : Dr. Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din Al-Hilali and Dr. Muhammed Muhsin Khan

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Maktaba Dar-us-Salam P. O. Box 21441
Riyadh 11475 Saudi Arabia or King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy
Qur'an

EDITION & YEAR : Fourth Revised and Enlarged Edition - 1994

SR.NO : 4

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : THE MESSAGE OF THE QUR'AN

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : Muhammad Asad

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Dar Al-Andalus – Gibraltar, Distributors:
E. J. Brill, Publishers and Book - Sellers, 41, Museum Street London - WC1A1LX

EDITION & YEAR : 1980

SR.NO : 5

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : TAFSIR-UL-QUR'AN

NO. OF VOLS : 4

TRANSLATOR : Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Darul Ishaat, Urdu Bazar, Karachi 1,
Pakistan

EDITION & YEAR : First Edition 1991

SR.NO : 6a

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : HOLY QUR'AN

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Ta-Ha Publishers Ltd. 1 Wynne Road,
London SW9 0BB

EDITION & YEAR : First Edition 1991

SR.NO : 6b

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : THE MEANING OF THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthall – Revised and edited in Modern Standard English by Arafat K. El-Ashi, Ph.D.

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Amana Publications Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.

EDITION & YEAR : First Edition 1996

SR.NO : 7a

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : THE MEANING OF THE QUR'AN

NO. OF VOLS : 6

TRANSLATOR : S. Abul a'la Maududi English Translation by Muhammad Akbar (I-III) and Abdul Aziz Kamal (IV - VI)

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Islamic Publication (Pvt.) Ltd., 13-E Shahalam Market, Lahore, Pakistan

EDITION & YEAR : 12th Edition 1992

SR.NO : 7b

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING THE QUR'AN

NO. OF VOLS : 6 incomp.

TRANSLATOR : S. Abul a'la Maududi English Translation by Zafar Ishaq Ansari

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Islamic Foundation, Markfield Da'wah Centre, Ratby Lane, Markfield Leicestershire, LE670RN- UK

EDITION & YEAR : 1995

SR.NO : 8

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : DAWATUL QUR'AN

NO. OF VOLS : 3

TRANSLATOR : Shams Pirzada English Translation by Abdul Karim Sheikh

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Idara Dawatul Quran, 59, Muhammad Ali

Road, Mumbai, India

EDITION & YEAR : 3rd Edition 1996

SR.NO : 9

NAME OF THE QUR'AN : TAFSEER IBN KATHIR

NO. OF VOLS : 10

TRANSLATOR : Revised by Safiur-Rahman Al-Mubarakpuri and other Scholars.

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Darussalam, P.O. Box 22743, Riyadh 11416, KSA

N.B. : Since translation of the Qur'an is the work of a human being, each and every translation has mistakes. However, the above translations have been mentioned, taking into consideration their positive points and not their mistakes and errors.

BOOKS ON LIFE OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

SR.NO : 1

NAME OF THE BOOK : Muhammad: Encyclopaedia of Seerah

NO. OF VOLS : 8

TRANSLATOR : Afzalur-Rahman

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : The Muslim Schools Trust 78, Gillespie Road London N5 1LN, U.K.

EDITION & YEAR : 1st Edition 1981

SR.NO : 2

NAME OF THE BOOK : The Life of Muhammad

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : Tahia Al-Ismail

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Ta-Ha Publishers Ltd. 1, Wynne Road, London, SW9 0BD, U.K.

EDITION & YEAR : 1995

SR.NO : 3

NAME OF THE BOOK : Muhammad: His Life Based on Earliest Sources

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : Martin Lings

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Inner Traditions International Ltd. One
park Street, Rochester, Vermont – 05767

EDITION & YEAR : 1983

SR.NO : 4

NAME OF THE BOOK : Ar - Raheeq Al-Makhtum The Sealed Nector – Biography
of the Noble Prophet

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : Safi-ur-Rahman Al-Mubarakpuri

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Maktaba Darus-Salam Publication P.O.
Box 22743 Riyadh - 11416 Saudi Arabia.

EDITION & YEAR : 1996

SR.NO : 5

NAME OF THE BOOK : The Life of Muhammad

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : Muhammad Husain Haykal

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Shorouk International 316/318 Regent
Street, Morley House, WI London U.K.

EDITION & YEAR : 1983

ENCYCLOPEDIA ON ISLAM

SR.NO : 1

NAME : The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World

NO. OF VOLS : 4

EDITOR : John L. Esposito

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Oxford University Press, New York, Oxford, U.S.A.

EDITION & YEAR : 1995

SR.NO : 2a

NAME : Encyclopedia on Islam

NO. OF VOLS : 8

EDITOR : H. A. R. Gibb

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : E. J. Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands

EDITION & YEAR : 1991

SR.NO : 2b

NAME : Shorter Encyclopedia of Islam

NO. OF VOLS : 1

EDITOR : H. A. R. Gibb and J. H. Kramers

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : E. J. Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands

EDITION & YEAR : 1995

SR.NO : 3

NAME : The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam

NO. OF VOLS : 1

EDITOR : Cyril Glasse

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Stacey International, London, U.K.

EDITION & YEAR : 1989

SR.NO : 4

NAME : Dictionary of Islam

NO. OF VOLS : 1

EDITOR : Thomas Patrick Hughes

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Rupa & Co. 15, Bankim Chatterjee Street, Calcutta 3831, Pataudi House Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi – 110002

EDITION & YEAR : 1988

Unfortunately there are no comprehensive Encyclopedias on Islam which have been completely written and edited by Muslims. Thus we may have to refer to the above mentioned encyclopedias even though many a times Islam has been misrepresented in them.

comparative religion

Christianity

Christianity is a Semitic religion, which claims to have nearly 1.2 billion adherents all over the world. Christianity owes its name to Jesus Christ (peace be on him). The Holy Bible is the sacred scripture of the Christians:

- a) The Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is the Holy Scripture of the Jews and contains records of all the prophets of the Jews that came before Jesus (pbuh).

The New Testament contains records of the life of Jesus (pbuh).

- b) The complete Bible, i.e. the Old Testament and the New Testament put together, contains 73 books. However, the Protestant Bible i.e. the King James Version, contains only 66 books as they consider 7 books of the Old Testament to be *apocrypha*, i.e. of doubtful authority.

Therefore the Old Testament of the Catholics, contains 46 books and that of the Protestants, 39 books. However the New Testament of both these sects contains 27 books.

comparative religion

Christianity

CONCEPT OF GOD IN CHRISTIANITY

by **Dr. Zakir Naik**

I Position of Jesus (pbuh) in Islam:

- (i) Islam is the only non-Christian faith, which makes it an article of faith to believe in Jesus (pbuh). No Muslim is a Muslim if he does not believe in Jesus (pbuh).
- (ii) We believe that he was one of the mightiest Messengers of Allah (swt).
- (iii) We believe that he was born miraculously, without any male intervention, which many modern day Christians do not believe.
- (iv) We believe he was the Messiah translated Christ (pbuh).
- (v) We believe that he gave life to the dead with God's permission.
- (iv) We believe that he healed those born blind, and the lepers with God's permission.

II CONCEPT OF GOD IN CHRISTIANITY:

1. Jesus Christ (pbuh) never claimed Divinity

One may ask, if both Muslims and Christians love and respect Jesus (pbuh), where exactly is the parting of ways? The major difference between Islam and Christianity is the Christians' insistence on the supposed divinity of Christ (pbuh). A study of the Christian scriptures reveals that Jesus (pbuh) never claimed divinity. In fact there is not a single unequivocal statement in the entire Bible where Jesus (pbuh) himself says, "I am God" or where he says, "worship me". In fact the Bible contains statements attributed to Jesus (pbuh) in which he preached quite the contrary. The following statements in the Bible are attributed to Jesus Christ (pbuh):

(i) "My Father is greater than I."
[The Bible, John 14:28]

(ii) "My Father is greater than all."
[The Bible, John 10:29]

(iii) "...I cast out devils by the Spirit of God...."
[The Bible, Mathew 12:28]

(iv) "...I with the finger of God cast out devils...."
[The Bible, Luke 11:20]

(v) "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgement is just; because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."
[The Bible, John 5:30]

2. The Mission of Jesus Christ (pbuh) – to Fulfill the Law

Jesus (pbuh) never claimed divinity for himself. He clearly announced the nature of his mission. Jesus (pbuh) was sent by God to confirm the previous Judaic law. This is clearly evident in the following statements attributed to Jesus (pbuh) in the Gospel of Mathew:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the Prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

"Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."
[The Bible, Mathew 5:17-20]

3. God Sent Jesus' (pbuh)

The Bible mentions the prophetic nature of Jesus (pbuh) mission in the following verses:

(i) "... and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me."
[The Bible, John 14:24]

(ii) "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent."
[The Bible, John 17:3]

4. Jesus Refuted even the Remotest Suggestion of his Divinity

Consider the following incident mentioned in the Bible:

"And behold, one came and said unto him, 'Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?'

And he said unto him, 'Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.' "
[The Bible, Mathew 19:16-17]

Jesus (pbuh) did not say that to have the eternal life of paradise, man should believe in

him as Almighty God or worship him as God, or believe that Jesus (pbuh) would die for his sins. On the contrary he said that the path to salvation was through keeping the commandments. It is indeed striking to note the difference between the words of Jesus Christ (pbuh) and the Christian dogma of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus (pbuh).

5. Jesus (pbuh) of Nazareth – a Man Approved of God

The following statement from the Bible supports the Islamic belief that Jesus (pbuh) was a prophet of God.

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know."

[The Bible, Acts 2:22]

6. The First Commandment is that God is One

The Bible does not support the Christian belief in trinity at all. One of the scribes once asked Jesus (pbuh) as to which was the first commandment of all, to which Jesus (pbuh) merely repeated what Moses (pbuh) had said earlier:

"Shama Israelu Adonai Ila Hayno Adonai Ikhad."

This is a Hebrew quotation, which means:

"Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord."

[The Bible, Mark 12:29]

It is striking that the basic teachings of the Church such as Trinity and vicarious atonement find no mention in the Bible. In fact, various verses of the Bible point to Jesus' (pbuh) actual mission, which was to fulfill the law revealed to Prophet Moses (pbuh). Indeed Jesus (pbuh) rejected any suggestions that attributed divinity to him, and explained his miracles as the power of the One True God.

Jesus (pbuh) thus reiterated the message of monotheism that was given by all earlier prophets of Almighty God.

NOTE: All quotations of the Bible are taken from the King James Version.

III CONCEPT OF GOD IN OLD TESTAMENT:

1. God is One

The following verse from the book of Deuteronomy contains an exhortation from Moses (pbuh):

"Shama Israelu Adonai Ila Hayno Adna Ikhad".

It is a Hebrew quotation which means:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord"

[The Bible, Deuteronomy 6:4]

2. Unity of God in the Book of Isaiah

The following verses are from the Book of Isaiah:

- (i) "I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."
[The Bible, Isaiah 43:11]

- (ii) "I am Lord, and there is none else, there is no God besides me."
[The Bible, Isaiah 45:5]
- (iii) "I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me."
[The Bible, Isaiah 46:9]

3. Old Testament condemns idol worship

- (i) Old Testament condemns idol worship in the following verses:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:"

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God."
[The Bible, Exodus 20:3-5]

- (ii) A similar message is repeated in the book of Deuteronomy:

"Thou shalt have none other gods before me."

"Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that in the earth beneath, or that is in the water beneath the earth."

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God."
[The Bible, Deuteronomy 5:7-9]

comparative religion

Christianity

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (pbuh) IN THE BIBLE by *Dr. Zakir Naik*

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in the Old Testament:

The Qur'an mentions in Surah Al-Araf chapter 7 verse 157:

"Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (scriptures) in the law and the Gospel".

1. MUHAMMAD (PBUH) PROPHESED IN THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY:

Almighty God speaks to Moses in Book of Deuteronomy chapter 18 verse 18:

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and I will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

The Christians say that this prophecy refers to Jesus (pbuh) because Jesus (pbuh) was like Moses (pbuh). Moses (pbuh) was a Jew, as well as Jesus (pbuh) was a Jew. Moses (pbuh) was a Prophet and Jesus (pbuh) was also a Prophet.

If these two are the only criteria for this prophecy to be fulfilled, then all the Prophets of the Bible who came after Moses (pbuh) such as Solomon, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Malachi, John the Baptist, etc. (pbuh) will fulfill this prophecy since all were Jews as well as prophets.

However, it is Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who is like Moses (pbuh):

- i) Both had a father and a mother, while Jesus (pbuh) was born miraculously without any male intervention.

[Mathew 1:18 and Luke 1:35 and also Al-Qur'an 3:42-47]

- ii) Both were married and had children. Jesus (pbuh) according to the Bible did not marry nor had children.

- iii) Both died natural deaths. Jesus (pbuh) has been raised up alive. (4:157-158)

Muhammad (pbuh) is from among the brethren of Moses (pbuh). Arabs are brethren of Jews. Abraham (pbuh) had two sons: Ishmail and Isaac (pbuh). The Arabs are the descendants of Ishmail (pbuh) and the Jews are the descendants of Isaac (pbuh).

Words in the mouth:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was unlettered and whatever revelations he received from Almighty God he repeated them verbatim.

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."

[Deuteronomy 18:18]

- iv) Both besides being Prophets were also kings i.e. they could inflict capital punishment. Jesus (pbuh) said, "My kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36).
- v) Both were accepted as Prophets by their people in their lifetime but Jesus (pbuh) was rejected by his people. John chapter 1 verse 11 states, "He came unto his own, but his own received him not."
- iv) Both brought new laws and new regulations for their people. Jesus (pbuh) according to the Bible did not bring any new laws. (Mathew 5:17-18).

2. It is Mentioned in the book of Deuteronomy chapter 18:19

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not harken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."

3. Muhammad (pbuh) is prophesised in the book of Isaiah:

It is mentioned in the book of Isaiah chapter 29 verse 12:

"And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned."

When Archangel Gabrail commanded Muhammad (pbuh) by saying Iqra - "Read", he replied, "I am not learned".

4. prophet Muhammad (pbuh) mentioned by name in the old testament:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is mentioned by name in the Song of Solomon chapter 5 verse 16:

"Hikko Mamittakim we kullo Muhammadim Zehdoodeh wa Zehraee Bayna Jerusalem."

"His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."

In the Hebrew language im is added for respect. Similarly im is added after the name of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to make it Muhammadim. In English translation they have even translated the name of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as "altogether lovely", but in the Old Testament in Hebrew, the name of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is yet present.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in the New Testament:

Al-Qur'an Chapter 61 Verse 6:

"And remember, Jesus, the son of Mary, said, 'O Children of Israel! I am the messenger of Allah (sent) to you, confirming the Law (which came) before me and giving glad tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name shall be Ahmed.' But when he came to them with clear signs, they said, 'This is evident sorcery!' "

All the prophecies mentioned in the Old Testament regarding Muhammad (pbuh) besides applying to the Jews also hold good for the Christians.

1. John chapter 14 verse 16:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever."

2. Gospel of John chapter 15 verse 26:

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me."

3. Gospel of John chapter 16 verse 7:

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not

come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you".

"Ahmed" or "Muhammad" meaning "the one who praises" or "the praised one" is almost the translation of the Greek word *Periclytos*. In the Gospel of John 14:16, 15:26, and 16:7. The word 'Comforter' is used in the English translation for the Greek word *Paracletos* which means advocate or a kind friend rather than a comforter. *Paracletos* is the warped reading for *Periclytos*. Jesus (pbuh) actually prophesised Ahmed by name. Even the Greek word *Paraclete* refers to the Prophet (pbuh) who is a mercy for all creatures.

Some Christians say that the Comforter mentioned in these prophecies refers to the Holy Sprit. They fail to realise that the prophecy clearly says that only if Jesus (pbuh) departs will the Comforter come. The Bible states that the Holy Spirit was already present on earth before and during the time of Jesus (pbuh), in the womb of Elizabeth, and again when Jesus (pbuh) was being baptised, etc. Hence this prophecy refers to none other than Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

4. Gospel of John chapter 16 verse 12-14:

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you unto all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me".

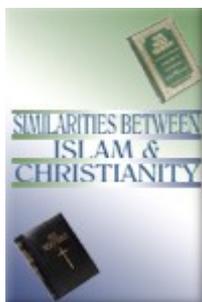
The Sprit of Truth, spoken about in this prophecy referes to none other than Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)_

NOTE: All quotations of the Bible are taken from the King James Version.

comparative religion

Christianity

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY by *Dr. Zakir Naik*



Al-Qur'an 3:64

Al-Qur'an 20:25-28

Greet you in the same manner as Jesus (pbuh) greeted in Hebrew Luke 24:36

'Sholam alay kum'

or Islamic greeting in Arabic Assalaamu alai kum
both meaning 'Peace be on you'.

INTRODUCTION

Similarities / Similar Teachings in the Qur'an and

the Bible which Muslims follow but Christians don't

I ISLAM

1. DEFINITION

A. Meaning of Islam

- (i) Islam is derived from the word *salaam* meaning peace.
- (ii) Submission to the Will of Allah (swt) i.e. God Almighty.

B. Meaning of 'Muslim' – One who submits his will to Allah.

C Islam is not a new religion found by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

2. MESSENGERS IN ISLAM

A. (i) To every nation was sent a Guide or a Messenger
Al-Qur'an 35:24
Al-Qur'an 13:7

(ii) 25 Prophets mentioned by name in the Qur'an

(iii) Islam is the only non-Christian faith that believes in Jesus (pbuh)

(iv) Stories only of some prophets mentioned in Qur'an
Al-Qur'an 4:164
Al-Qur'an 40:78

(v) More than 1,24,000 Messengers according to Hadith

B. (i) Previous Messengers were only sent for their people and nation and their complete message was meant only for a particular time period.

(ii) Moses (pbuh) was only sent for the Jews.

(iii) Jesus (pbuh) sent only for the Jews i.e. lost sheep of Israel.
Al-Qur'an 3:49
Mathew 10:5-6
Mathew 15:24

(iv) Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the Last and Final Messenger for the Whole of Mankind.
Al-Qur'an 33:40
Al-Qur'an 21:107
Al-Qur'an 34:28
Sahih Bukhari Vol.1 Book of *Salaah* Chapter 56 Hadith No. 429

(v) Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) prophesied in the Bible.
Al-Qur'an 7:157
Al-Qur'an 61:6
Deuteronomy 18:18
Isaiah 29:12
Song of Solomon 5:16
John 16:7
John 16:12-14

3. REVELATIONS OF GOD

- A. Several Revelations sent by Allah – Al-Qur'an 13:38.
By name only four are mentioned in the Qur'an.
- B. (i) The Qur'an is the Last and Final Revelation.
- (ii) All previous Revelations before Qur'an were only sent for a particular group of people and for a particular time period
- (iii) The Qur'an was Revealed for the Whole of Mankind
Al-Qur'an 14:1
Al-Qur'an 14:52
Al-Qur'an 2:185
Al-Qur'an 39:41

II PILLARS OF ISLAM:

1. Tauheed: Monotheism

- A. *La ilaha ilallahu, Muhammad-ur-Rasoolullah*
Sahih Bukhari Vol. 1 Hadith No. 7
- B. Believe in Allah and the Last Day, and the Angels and the Book and the Messengers.
Al-Qur'an 2:177
- C. Come to common terms — Worship of one God
Al-Qur'an 3:64
- D. Concept of God
Al-Qur'an 112:1-4
Deuteronomy 6:4
Mark 12:29
- E. *Shirk* – Biggest Sin
Al-Qur'an 4:48
Al-Qur'an 4:116
Exodus 20:2-5
Deuteronomy 5:7-9
- F. Jesus (pbuh) not God. He never claimed Divinity
Al-Qur'an 5:72
John 14:28
John 10:29
Mathew 12:28
Luke 11:20
John 5:30
Acts 2:21
- G. 99 Attributes of Almighty God
Al-Qur'an 17:110
- H. Prefer using name 'Allah' rather than the word 'God' as the word 'God' can be played around with. Allah in the Bible – *Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani*
Mark 15:34
Mathew 27:46

2. Salaah

- A. Not merely Prayers but Programming
Al-Qur'an 5:90

Al-Qur'an 2:188

B. Prayers restrain you from shameful and unjust deeds

Al-Qur'an 29:45

C. *Salaah* timings – for healthy soul five times a day

. Al-Qur'an 17:78

Al-Qur'an 20:130

D. Take off shoes before entering mosque.

(i) Commandment of Allah to Moses

Al-Qur'an 20:11-12

Exodus 3:5

Acts 7:33

(ii) Can Pray with Shoes.

Sunan Abu Dawood – Vol. 1, Book of *Salaah*, Chapter 240,
Hadith No. 652-653.

(iii) Hygienic

E. Ablution

(i) Al-Qur'an 5:6

Exodus 40:31-32

Acts 21:26

(ii) Hygienic

(iii) Mental Preparation

F. Stand shoulder to shoulder, while praying –

Sahih Bukhari – Vol. 1, Book of Adhan Chapter 75 Hadith no. 692

Abu Dawood – Vol. 1, Book of *Salaah* Chapter 245 Hadith No. 666.

G. Sujud – Prostration

(i) To humble your mind, humble your body

(ii) Sujud mentioned 92 times in the Qur'an

Al-Qur'an 3:43

Al-Qur'an 22:77

(iii) Prostration in the Bible

Genesis 17:3; Numbers 20:6

Joshua 5:14; Mathew 26:39

3. **Zakaah**

A. Meaning: Purification and Growth

B. Description: 2.5% of saving every lunar year in charity

Al-Qur'an 9:60

C. If every human being gives *Zakaah*, not a single person will die of hunger.

D. "Wealth does not circulate only amongst the wealthy and the rich"

Al-Qur'an 59:7

E. I Peter 4:8

4. **SAUM - FASTING**

A. Description – one lunar month i.e. during the month of *Ramadaan* every lunar year, Muslims fast, i.e. abstain from food and drinks from sunrise till sunset.

B. Benefits: learn self restraint. If you can control your hunger you can control almost all your desires. It enhances spiritual awareness.
Al-Qur'an 2:183

C. Medical Benefits:

(a) Increases absorption capacity of intestines

(b) Lowers cholesterol.

D. Discourages smoking, alcoholism and other addictions.

E. Bible prescribes Fasting

Mathew 17:21

Mark 9:29

5. **HAJJ**

A. Description – Pilgrimage atleast once in life time if you can afford it

B. Universal Brotherhood – 2.5 million people from all over the world gather, wear two pieces of unsewn cloth, preferably white. Cannot differentiate between rich and poor.
Al-Qur'an 49:13

C. Significance of *Kaaba* – Muslims don't worship it
Psalms 84:4-7

III ISLAM IS A COMPLETE WAY OF LIFE

These five pillars do not constitute complete Islam. Only if the pillars are strong, will the structure be strong.

1. **HUMANS CREATED TO WORSHIP ALLAH**

A. *Jinn* and Man created for worship of Allah
Al-Qur'an 51:56

B. Meaning of *Ibadaah* – root word *Abd* meaning 'slave'.

2. **OBEYING COMMANDMENTS OF ALLAH IS SUBMITTING YOUR WILL TO ALLAH**

A. Abstaining from alcohol
Al-Qur'an 5:90
Proverbs 20:1
Ephesians 5:18

B. Abstaining from prohibited food
Al-Qur'an 5:5
Al-Qur'an 2:173, 5:3, 6:145, 16:115

(i) Dead meat

Leviticus 17:15
Deuteronomy 14:21

- (ii) Blood
Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:14, Deuteronomy 12:16,
I Samuel 14:33, Acts 15:29
- (iii) Pork is prohibited
Leviticus 11:7-8
Deuteronomy 14:8
Isaiah 65:2-5
- (vi) Food on which names beside Allah have been invoked
Acts 15:29; Revelation 2:14

C (i) Being Honest in your Business

- (ii) Helping Neighbours
Al-Qur'an 107:1-7
- (iii) Abstaining from Backbiting
Al-Qur'an 104:1-3
Al-Qur'an 49:11-12
- (iv) Obeying and Respecting Parents
Al-Qur'an 17:23, 24
- (v) Celibacy or Monasticism is prohibited in Islam
Sahih Bukhari: Vol. 7 Book of Nikah, Chapter No. 3, Hadith No. 4
- (vi) Loving, being Kind and Just to your Wife
Al-Qur'an 4:19
- (vii) Abstaining from Adultery
Al-Qur'an 17:32

D Dressing Modestly

- (i) Al-Qur'an 24:30
Mathew 5:27-28
- (ii) Al-Qur'an 24:31
- (iii) Six Criteria for Hijab in Islam
Deuteronomy 22:5
I Timothy 2:9 e.g. of Mary
I Corinthians 11:5-6

E. Circumcision

Acts 7:8
John 7:22
Luke 2:21

F. In short, every Muslim should follow all the Commandments of Allah (swt) and His Messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and abstain from the things they have prohibited.

CONCLUSION

- (a) If Christian is a person who follows the teachings of Christ (pbuh) and not one who worships Christ (pbuh). (We are more Christian than the Christians themselves).
- (b) Muslim is a person who submits his will to Allah.
Jesus (pbuh) said, "not my will but thy will be done." i.e. Muslim.
John 5:30
- (c) Al-Qur'an 5:82

comparative religion

Christianity

Material to be used for Da'wah to Christians

SR.NO :1

NAME OF THE PACKAGE :Nelson's Electronic Bible Reference Library - Basic Edition

FORMAT : Two CD-Rom

LANGUAGE :English

DESCRIPTION : It includes 21 unlocked titles and over 55 additional unlockable Bible Study tools, comprehensive selection of resources for home, school or church use, easy to add additional titles, most powerful Bible Study software available, over 75 titles on 2 CD-Rom, It also includes different types of Bible like the American Standard Version, The Darby Bible, The KJV, The Living Bible, The New Century Version, The revised Standard Version etc. and also contains Commentary / Study Bibles, Maps and Chart, Spirit-Filled Life Library, the Josh McDowell 'Answers' collection, theology / Church history etc.

PRODUCER :Nelson Electronic Publishing

SR.NO :2

NAME OF THE PACKAGE :The Bible Library

VERSION : 3.0

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE :English

DESCRIPTION : It contains over 60 works in one CD-Rom, 12 Bibles plus over 50 commentaries, dictionaries, references, word studies, Hymn stories, Sermon outlines and illustrations, maps and many more.

PRODUCER : EllisEnterprises Inc. 4205 McAuley Blvd. #385, Oklahoma City, OK 73120 Tel: (405)7490273 www.BibleLibrary.com

SR.NO : 3

NAME OF THE PACKAGE : The Sage Digital Library

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : Features: 1997 recipient of the Christian Computing Magazine Reader's Choice Award, a library of over 75 Bibles, commentaries, word studies, theologies, dictionaries, histories, biographies, quotations, maps and so much more, including Mathew Henry's Concise Whole Bible commentary, search capabilities including multi-volume searching and "Touch and Go Librarian", copy, paste and prints text for your own learning needs, contains works from famous church pioneers including John Bunyan, John Calvin, Martin Luther, John Wesley, C.H. Spurgeon, D.L. Moody and many more.

SR.NO : 4

NAME OF THE PACKAGE :Thompson Bible Study Library

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : It provides all the basic tools needed for complete interactive study of the Bible and personal exploration of classic Christian reference works, word search facility, choose what and how you want to study, it gives you the tools and data to study topics, places or characters; to do word studies, parallel text studies, scriptural and historical analysis.

PRODUCER : Kirkbride Bible&Technology P. O. Box 606, Indianapolis, IN 46209-9876, USA NavPress Software1934 Rutland Drive, Suite 500, Austin, Texas 78758, USASales:800-888-9898/512-8356900 Fax: 512-8341888www.WORDsearchBible.com

SR.NO : 5

NAME OF THE PACKAGE :Christian Library - Heritage Edition

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : It includes over 80 Resources - on One CD-Rom, Bibles, commentaries, theologies, word studies, dictionaries, histories, maps, biographies, quotations and more.

PRODUCER : AgesSoftware P. O. Box 1926, Albany, OR 97321, USA Tel:800-2974307 Fax: 541-9170839www.ageslibrary.com

SR.NO : 6

NAME OF THE PACKAGE :Bible Study Companion

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : It contains different versions of the Bible like King James, American Standard Version, Young's Literal Translation, Darby, Latin Vulgate, Spanish R.V.T., French L.S., German E.B. and Dutch L.V., choose one or all ten versions to study, display 2 versions on the same screen for comparison, synchronize the text of both or conduct independent searches, it is a powerful research tools, easy to use.

PRODUCER :Expertsoftware Douglas Entrance, Coral Gables, F;Proda 33134, United States ofAmerica. Fax: (305)5961350

SR.NO : 7

NAME OF THE PACKAGE :Multi Bible

VERSION :3.1

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : It contains the new revised standard Bible, The King James (authorised) Version, the New King James Version with powerful searching capability, every word in every version is indexed, displays all Bibles simultaneously for comparison.

PRODUCER :Innotech Multimedia Corporation 2005 Sheppard Ave East, Suite 200, North York,Ontario, Canada M2J 5B4, Tel: (416) 4923838

SR.NO : 8

NAME OF THE PACKAGE :Bethany Bible

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : Bible search programmes, many many versions of the Bible including the King James, the Derby Bible and the Webster Bible, Bible reference

Books, 26 Bible games & educational programs, Bible study utilities, church organizers.

PRODUCER : Walnut Creek CD-ROM Walnut Creek, California 64596, United States of America.

SR.NO : 9

NAME OF THE PACKAGE : PC Study Bible (Discovery Edition) King James Version

VERSION : 2.1

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : It includes: One Bible version, an exhaustive concordance and an essential set on lined Bible reference works, attachable study notes, a Bible study / reading plan, color Bible Maps & much more. The only Bible study software with fully cross-linked reference works! Instantly find all the information in any reference work that applies to any Bible verse.

PRODUCER : Bible Soft 22014 7th Ave., SO., Seattle, WA 98198, United States of America. Tel: (206) 8240547

SR.NO : 10

NAME OF THE PACKAGE : Quick Verse - with King James Translation

VERSION : 4.0

FORMAT : CD-ROM

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : Put everything you need for personal Bible study, lesson preparation and casual reading at your fingertips! Quickly search the entire Bible for any section, word or phrase, go directly to any verse, instantly add Bible text to any document, read, study and enjoy the scriptures with the world's most popular Bible concordance software.

PRODUCER : Parsons Technology One Parsons Drive, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233, United States of America. Tel: (319) 3959626 www.QuickVerse.com

SR.NO : 11

NAME OF THE PACKAGE : N.I.V. Bible

FORMAT : CD-ROM

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : It includes a full-feature editor for taking notes while studying the Bible, study God's Word utilizing the world's best selling translation of the Bible, fast and powerful search tools for finding important verses, a comprehensive on-line help system, multiple Bible applications including NIV, KJV, NASB and NIV study Bible notes.

SR.NO : 12

NAME OF THE PACKAGE : The CD-Rom Bible

FORMAT : CD-ROM

LANGUAGE : English /HEBREW

DESCRIPTION : The CD-Rom Bible contains the complete Hebrew and English text of the Bible, all 24 books, from Genesis through Chronicles, are available at the touch of a button, this programme has a host of features that simply cannot be found in other products.

PRODUCER : Davka Corporation 7074 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60645, USA
Tel (773) 4654070 Fax: 2629298

SR.NO : 13

NAME OF THE PACKAGE : New Scofield Study Bible

VERSION : 2.0

FORMAT : 1.44 Diskettes X 4

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : The New Scofield Study Bible works with quick verse to give you instant access to all of scofield's notes, references and commentary and ultimately a better understanding of the Bible as a whole.

PRODUCER : Parsons Technology One Parsons Drive, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233,
United States of America. Tel:(319) 3959626

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THE BIBLE

SR.NO : 1

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Holy Bible

VERSION : Authorised King James Version

EDITION & YEAR : 1611

SR.NO : 2

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Master Study Bible (Encyclopedia; Concordance; Words of Christ in Red)

VERSION : Authorised King James Version

EDITION & YEAR : 1983

SR.NO : 3

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Holy Bible

VERSION : Revised Standard Version

EDITION & YEAR : 1952

SR.NO : 4

NAME OF THE BIBLE : The Bible

VERSION : Revised Standard Version

EDITION & YEAR : 1971

SR.NO : 5

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Holy Bible

VERSION : New Revised Standard Version with Apocrypha

EDITION & YEAR : 1989

SR.NO : 6

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Holy Bible

VERSION : New International Version

EDITION & YEAR : Vith Edition 1987

SR.NO : 7

NAME OF THE BIBLE : The Holy Bible

VERSION : The Douay Version of the Old Testament and The Confraternity Edition of the New Testament

EDITION & YEAR : 1950

SR.NO : 8

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Good News Bible (with the Apocryphal / Dueterocanonical books)

VERSION : Today's English Version

EDITION & YEAR : 1979

SR.NO : 9

NAME OF THE BIBLE : New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures

VERSION : Jehovah witnesses Version

EDITION & YEAR : 1984

N.B. : IRF HAS MORE THAN FIFTY DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE

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STUDY BIBLE

SR.NO : 1

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Thompson Chain-Reference Bible

VERSION : King James Version

EDITION & YEAR : Fifth Improved Edition 1988

SR.NO : 2

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Harper Study Bible

VERSION : Revised Standard Version Reference Edition with Concordance and Maps

EDITION & YEAR : 1978

SR.NO : 3

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Holman Study Bible

VERSION : Revised Standard Version

EDITION & YEAR : 1952

SR.NO : 4

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Life Application Study Bible

VERSION : New Living Translation

EDITION & YEAR : 1996

SR.NO : 5

NAME OF THE BIBLE : The Rainbow Study Bible

VERSION : King James Version

EDITION & YEAR : 1989

SR.NO : 6

NAME OF THE BIBLE : The New Testament from 26 Translations

VERSION : (Twenty six different versions / translations)

EDITION & YEAR : 1984

SR.NO : 7

NAME OF THE BIBLE : Eight Translation New Testament

VERSION : Eight different versions: King James Version, The Living Bible, Philips

Modern English, Revised Standard Version, Today's English Version, New International Version, Jerusalem Bible, New English Bible.

EDITION & YEAR : 1974

SR.NO : 8

NAME OF THE BIBLE : The Five Gospels (The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus)

VERSION : New Translation and Commentary by Robert W. Funk, Roy W. Hoover and the Jesus Seminar

EDITION & YEAR : 1993

comparative religion

Christianity

Most Common Questions asked on concept of god in Christianity?

- 1. The Christians' Concept of God is the Trinity i.e. the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, but these three are one. We believe in one God who is a Triune God.**
- 2. The concept of Trinity can be explained by giving the example that water can be present in three states, as solid i.e. ice, liquid i.e. water and gas i.e. vapour, yet it is one and the same water.**
- 3. A person can also be a father, a brother and a businessman at the same time, but yet he is one and the same person. Then why cannot God be "one in three" i.e. God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost?**
- 4. Jesus indicated that he was God when he said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."**
- 5. Is it not mentioned in the Bible that Jesus is the "Begotten Son" of God thus making him God?**
- 6. Jesus clearly claimed Divinity when he said in the Gospel, "I and my Father are one."**

comparative religion

Christianity

TEN MOST COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED BY CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES AGAINST ISLAM

by Dr. Zakir Naik

1. **QUR'AN PLAGIARIZED FROM THE BIBLE :**

Question

Is it not true that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has copied the Qur'an from the Bible?

Answer

Many critics allege that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself was not the author of the Qur'an but he learnt it and/or plagiarised (copied or adapted) it from other human sources or from previous scriptures or revelations.

1. **MUHUMMAD LEARNT THE QUR'AN FROM A ROMAN BLACKSMITH WHO WAS A CHRISTIAN**

Some Pagans accused the Prophet of learning the Qur'an from a Roman Blacksmith, who was a Christian staying at the outskirts of Makkah. The Prophet very often used to go and watch him do his work. A revelation of the Qur'an was sufficient to dismiss this charge - the Qur'an says in Surah An-Nahl chapter 16 verse 103:

"We know indeed that they say, 'It is a man that teaches him,' The tongue of him they wickedly point to is notably foreign, while this is Arabic, pure and clear."
[Al-Qur'an 16:103]

How could a person whose mother tongue was foreign and could hardly speak little but of poor broken Arabic be the source of the Qur'an which is pure, eloquent, fine Arabic? To believe that the blacksmith taught the Prophet the Qur'an is some what similar to believing that a Chinese immigrant to England, who did not know proper English, taught Shakespeare.

2. **MUHUMMAD (PBUH) LEARNT FROM WARAQAH - THE RELATIVE OF KHADIJAH (RA)**

Muhammad's (pbuh) contacts with the Jewish and Christian Scholars were very limited. The most prominent Christian known to him was an old blind man called Waraqa ibn-Naufal who was a relative of the Prophet's first wife Khadijah (r.a.). Although of Arab descent, he was a convert to Christianity and was very well versed with the New Testament. The Prophet only met him twice, first when Waraqa was worshipping at the Kaaba (before the Prophetic Mission) and he kissed the Prophet's forehead affectionately; the second occasion was when the Prophet went to meet Waraqa after receiving the first revelation. Waraqa died three years later and the revelation continued for about 23 years. It is ridiculous to assume that Waraqa was the source of the contents of the Qur'an.

3. **PROPHET'S RELIGIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS**

It is true that the Prophet did have religious discussions with the Jews and Christians but they took place in Madinah more than 13 years after the revelation of the Qur'an had started. The allegation that these Jews and Christians were the source is perverse, since in these discussions Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was performing the roles of a teacher and of a preacher while inviting them to embrace Islam and pointing out that they had deviated from their true teachings of

Monotheism. Several of these Jews and Christians later embraced Islam.

4. THE PROPHET LEARNT THE QUR'AN FROM THOSE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS THAT HE MET OUTSIDE ARABIA

All historical records available show that Muhammad (pbuh) had made only three trips outside Makkah before his Prophethood:

- i. At the age of 9 he accompanied his mother to Madinah.
- ii. Between the age of 9 and 12, he accompanied his uncle Abu-Talib on a business trip to Syria.
- iii. At the age of 25 he led Khadija's Caravan to Syria.

It is highly imaginary to assume that the Qur'an resulted from the occasional chats and meetings with the Christians or Jews from any of the above three trips.

5. LOGICAL GROUNDS TO PROVE THAT THE PROPHET DID NOT LEARN THE QUR'AN FROM JEWS OR CHRISTIANS

- i. The day-to-day life of the Prophet was an open book for all to see. In fact a revelation came asking people to give the Prophet (pbuh) privacy in his own home. If the Prophet had been meeting people who told him what to say as a revelation from God, this would not have been hidden for very long.
- ii. The extremely prominent Quraish nobles who followed the Prophet and accepted Islam were wise and intelligent men who would have easily noticed anything suspicious about the way in which the Prophet brought the revelations to them - more so since the Prophetic mission lasted 23 years.
- iii. The enemies of the Prophet kept a close watch on him in order to find proof for their claim that he was a liar - they could not point out even a single instance when the Prophet may have had a secret rendezvous with particular Jews and Christians.
- iv. It is inconceivable that any human author of the Qur'an would have accepted a situation in which he received no credit whatsoever for originating the Qur'an.

Thus, historically and logically it cannot be established that there was a human source for the Qur'an.

6. MUHAMMAD (PBUH) WAS AN ILLITERATE

The theory that Muhammad (pbuh) authored the Qur'an or copied from other sources can be disproved by the single historical fact that he was illiterate.

Allah testifies Himself in the Qur'an
In Surah Al-Ankabut chapter no.29 verse 48

"And thou was not (able) to recite a Book before this (Book came), nor art thou (able) to transcribe it with thy right hand: in that case, indeed, would the talkers of vanities have doubted."

[Al-Qur'an 29:48]

Allah (swt) knew that many would doubt the authenticity of the Qur'an and would ascribe it to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Therefore Allah in His Divine Wisdom chose the last and final Messenger to be an 'Ummi', i.e. unlettered, so that the talkers of vanity would not then have the slightest justification to doubt the Prophet. The accusation of his enemies that he had copied the Qur'an from other sources and rehashed it all in a beautiful language might have carried some weight, but even this flimsy pretence has been deprived to the unbeliever and the cynic.

Allah reconfirms in the Qur'an in Surah Al A'raf chapter 7 verse 157:

"Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (Scriptures) in the Law and the Gospel"

The prophecy of coming of the unlettered Prophet (pbuh) is also mentioned in the Bible in the book of Isaiah chapter 29 verse 12.

"And the book is delivered to him that is not learned."
[Isaiah 29:12]

The Qur'an testifies in no less than four different places that the Prophet (pbuh) was illiterate. It is also mentioned in Surah A'raf chapter 7 verse 158 and in Surah Al-Jumu'a chapter 62 verse 2.

7. ARABIC VERSION OF THE BIBLE WAS NOT PRESENT

The Arabic version of the Bible was not present at the time of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The earliest Arabic version of the Old Testament is that of R. Saadiah Gaon of 900 C.E. - more than 250 years after the death of our beloved Prophet. The oldest Arabic version of the new Testament was published by Erpenius in 1616 C.E. - about a thousand years after the demise of our Prophet.

8. SIMILARITIES IN THE QUR'AN AND THE BIBLE DUE TO COMMON SOURCE

Similarities between the Qur'an and the Bible does not necessarily mean that the former has been copied from the latter. In fact it gives evidence that both of them are based on a common third source; all divine revelations came from the same source - the one universal God. No matter what human changes were introduced into some of these Judeo-Christian and other older religious scriptures that had distorted their originality, there are some areas that have remained free from distortion and thus are common to many religions.

It is true that there are some similar parallels between the Qur'an and the Bible but this is not sufficient to accuse Muhammad (pbuh) of compiling or copying from the Bible. The same logic would then also be applicable to teachings of Christianity and Judaism and thus one could wrongly claim that Jesus (pbuh) was not a genuine Prophet (God forbid) and that he simply copied from the Old Testament.

The similarities between the two signify a common source that is one true God and the continuation of the basic message of monotheism and not that the later prophets have plagiarised from the previous prophets.

If someone copies during an examination he will surely not write in the answer sheet that he has copied from his neighbour or Mr. XYZ. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) gave due respect and credit to all the previous prophets (pbuh). The Qur'an also mentions the various revelations given by Almighty God to different prophets.

9. MUSLIMS BELIEVE IN THE TAURAH, ZABOOR, INJEEL AND QUR'AN

Four revelations of Allah (swt) are mentioned by name in the Qur'an: the Taurah, the Zaboor, the Injeel and the Qur'an.

Taurah, the revelation i.e. the *Wahi* given to Moosa (a. s.) i.e. Moses (pbuh).

Zaboor, the revelation i.e. the *Wahi* given to Dawood (a.s.) i.e. David (pbuh).

Injeel, the revelation i.e. the *Wahi* given to Isa (A.S.) i.e. Jesus (pbuh).

'Al-Qur'an', the last and final *Wahi* i.e. revelation given to the last and final Messenger Muhammad (pbuh).

It is an article of faith for every Muslim to believe in all the Prophets of God and all revelations of God. However, the present day Bible has the first five books of the Old Testament attributed to Moses and the Psalms attributed to David. Moreover the

New Testament or the four Gospels of the New Testament are not the Taurah, the Zaboor or the Injeel, which the Qur'an refers to. These books of the present day Bible may partly contain the word of God but these books are certainly not the exact, accurate and complete revelations given to the prophets.

The Qur'an presents all the different prophets of Allah as belonging to one single brotherhood; all had a similar prophetic mission and the same basic message. Because of this, the fundamental teachings of the major faiths cannot be contradictory, even if there has been a considerable passage of time between the different prophetic missions, because the source of these missions was one: Almighty God, Allah. This is why the Qur'an says that the differences which exist between various religions are not the responsibility of the prophets, but of the followers of these prophets who forgot part of what they had been taught, and furthermore, misinterpreted and changed the scriptures. The Qur'an cannot therefore be seen as a scripture which competes with the teachings of Moses, Jesus and the other prophets. On the contrary, it confirms, completes and perfects the messages that they brought to their people.

Another name for the Qur'an is the 'The Furqan' which means the criteria to judge the right from the wrong, and it is on the basis of the Qur'an that we can decipher which part of the previous scriptures can be considered to be the word of God.

10. SCIENTIFIC COMPARISON BETWEEN QUR'AN AND BIBLE

If you glance through the Bible and the Qur'an you may find several points which appear to be exactly the same in both of them, but when you analyse them closely, you realise that there is a difference of 'chalk and cheese' between them. Only based on historical details it is difficult for someone who is neither conversant with Christianity or Islam to come to a firm decision as to which of the scriptures is true; however if you verify the relevant passages of both the scriptures against scientific knowledge, you will yourself realize the truth.

a. Creation of the Universe in Six Days

As per the Bible, in the first book of Genesis in Chapter One, the universe was created in six days and each day is defined as a twenty-four hours period. Even though the Qur'an mentions that the universe was created in six 'Ayyaams', 'Ayyaam' is the plural of years; this word has two meanings: firstly, it means a standard twenty-four hours period i.e. a day, and secondly, it also means stage, period or epoch which is a very long period of time.

When the Qur'an mentions that the universe was created in six 'Ayyaams', it refers to the creation of the heavens and the earth in six long periods or epochs; scientists have no objection to this statement. The creation of the universe has taken billions of years, which proves false or contradicts the concept of the Bible which states that the creation of the Universe took six days of twenty-four hour durations each.

b. Sun Created After the Day

The Bible says in chapter 1, verses 3-5, of Genesis that the phenomenon of day and night was created on the first day of creation of the Universe by God. The light circulating in the universe is the result of a complex reaction in the stars; these stars were created according to the Bible (Genesis chapter 1 verse 14 to 19) on the fourth day. It is illogical to mention the result that is the light (the phenomenon of day and night) was created on the first day of Creation when the cause or source of the light was created three days later. Moreover the existence of evening and morning as elements of a single day is only conceivable after the creation of the earth and its rotation around the sun. In contrast with the contents of the Bible on this issue, the Qur'an does not give any unscientific sequence of Creation. Hence it is

absolutely absurd to say that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) copied the passages pertaining to the creation of the universe from the Bible but missed out this illogical and fantastic sequence of the Bible.

c. **Creation of the Sun, The Earth and the Moon**

According to the Bible, Book of Genesis, chapter 1, verses 9 to 13, the earth was created on the third day, and as per verses 14 to 19, the sun and the moon were created on the fourth day. The earth and the moon emanated, as we know, from their original star, the Sun. Hence to place the creation of the sun and the moon after the creation of the earth is contrary to the established idea about the formation of the solar system.

d. **Vegetation Created on the third day and Sun on the fourth day**

According to the Bible, Book of Genesis, chapter 1, verses 11-13, vegetation was created on the third day along with seed-bearing grasses, plants and trees; and further on as per verses 14-19, the sun was created on the fourth day. How is it scientifically possible for the vegetation to have appeared without the presence of the sun, as has been stated in the Bible?

If Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was indeed the author of the Qur'an and had copied its contents from the Bible, how did he manage to avoid the factual errors that the Bible contains? The Qur'an does not contain any statements which are incompatible with scientific facts.

e. **The Sun and the Moon both Emit light**

According to the Bible both the sun and the moon emit their own light. In the Book of Genesis, chapter 1, verse 16 says, "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night".

Science tells us today that the moon does not have its own light. This confirms the Qur'anic concept that the light of the moon is a reflected light. To think that 1400 years ago, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) corrected these scientific errors in the Bible and then copied such corrected passages in the Qur'an is to think of something impossible.

11. ADAM (PBUH), THE FIRST MAN ON EARTH, LIVED 5,800 YEARS AGO

As per the genealogy of Jesus Christ given in the Bible, from Jesus through Abraham (pbuh) to the first man on earth i.e. Adam (pbuh), Adam appeared on the earth approximately 5800 years ago:

- i. 1948 years between Adam (pbuh) and Abraham (pbuh)
- ii. Approximately 1800 years between Abraham (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh)
- iii. 2000 years from Jesus (pbuh) till today

These figures are further confused by the fact that the Jewish calendar is currently on or about 5800 years old.

There is sufficient evidence from archaeological and anthropological sources to suggest that the first human being on earth was present tens of thousands of years ago and not merely 5,800 years ago as is suggested by the Bible.

The Qur'an too speaks about Adam (pbuh) as the first man on earth but it does not suggest any date or period of his life on earth, unlike the Bible - what the Bible says in this regard is totally incompatible with science.

12. NOAH (PBUH) AND THE FLOOD

The Biblical description of the flood in Genesis chapter 6, 7 and 8 indicates that the deluge was universal and it destroyed every living thing on earth, except those present with Noah (pbuh) in the ark. The description suggests that the event took place 1656 years after the creation of Adam (pbuh) or 292 years before the birth of Abraham, at a time when Noah (pbuh) was 600 years old. Thus the flood may have

occurred in the 21st or 22nd Century B.C.

This story of the flood, as given in the Bible, contradicts scientific evidence from archaeological sources which indicate that the eleventh dynasty in Egypt and the third dynasty in Babylonia were in existence without any break in civilisation and in a manner totally unaffected by any major calamity which may have occurred in the 21st century B.C. This contradicts the Biblical story that the whole world had been immersed in the flood water. In contrast to this, the Qur'anic presentation of the story of Noah and the flood does not conflict with scientific evidence or archaeological data; firstly, the Qur'an does not indicate any specific date or year of the occurrence of that event, and secondly, according to the Qur'an the flood was not a universal phenomenon which destroyed complete life on earth. In fact the Qur'an specifically mentions that the flood was a localised event only involving the people of Noah.

It is illogical to assume that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had borrowed the story of the flood from the Bible and corrected the mistakes before mentioning it in the Qur'an.

13. **MOSES (PBUH) AND PHARAOH OF THE EXODUS**

The story of Moses (pbuh) and the Pharaoh of the Exodus are very much identical in the Qur'an and the Bible. Both scriptures agree that the Pharaoh drowned when he tried to pursue Moses (pbuh) and led the Israelites across a stretch of water that they crossed. The Qur'an gives an additional piece of information in Surah Yunus chapter 10 verse 92:

"This day shall We save thee in thy body, that thou mayest be a sign to those who come after thee! But verily, many among mankind are heedless of Our Signs!"
[Al-Qur'an 10:92]

Dr. Maurice Bucaille, after a thorough research proved that although Rameses II was known to have persecuted the Israelites as per the Bible, he actually died while Moses (pbuh) was taking refuge in Median. Rameses II's son Merneptah who succeeded him as Pharaoh drowned during the exodus. In 1898, the mummified body of Merneptah was found in the valley of Kings in Egypt. In 1975, Dr. Maurice Bucaille with other doctors received permission to examine the Mummy of Merneptah, the findings of which proved that Merneptah probably died from drowning or a violent shock which immediately preceded the moment of drowning. Thus the Qur'anic verse that we shall save his body as a sign, has been fulfilled by the Pharaohs' body being kept at the Royal Mummies room in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

This verse of the Qur'an compelled Dr. Maurice Bucaille, who was a Christian then, to study the Qur'an. He later wrote a book 'The Bible, the Qur'an and Science', and confessed that the author of the Qur'an can be no one else besides God Himself. Thus he embraced Islam.

14. **QUR'AN IS A BOOK FROM ALLAH**

These evidences are sufficient to conclude that the Qur'an was not copied from the Bible, but that the Qur'an is the *Furqaan* - 'the Criteria' to judge right from wrong and it should be used to decipher which portion of the Bible may be considered as the Word of God.

The Qur'an itself testifies in Surah Sajda chapter 32 verse 1 to 3

Alif Laam Meem.

(This is) the revelation of the Book in which there is no doubt – from the Lord of the

Worlds.

Or do they say, 'He has forged it'? Nay, it is the Truth from thy Lord, that thou mayest admonish a people to whom no warner has come before thee: in order that they may receive guidance."

[Al-Qur'an 32:1-3]

7 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MARY AND MIRIAM Question

It is mentioned in your Qur'an that Mary was the sister of Aaron (pbuh). Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who wrote the Qur'an did not know the difference between Miriam the sister of Aaron (pbuh) and Mary the Mother of Jesus (pbuh), the time span between both of them was about a thousand years.

Answer

1. IN THE SEMITIC LANGUAGES SISTER ALSO MEANS DESCENDANT

The Qur'an mentions in Surah Maryam, Chapter 19 verses 27-28

"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!'"

[Al-Qur'an 19:27-28]

Christian missionaries say that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did not know the difference between Mary the mother of Jesus (pbuh) and Miriam the sister of Aaron (pbuh). The time span between both was more than a thousand years.

In the Arabic construction of the sentence, sister is also considered as a descendant. Thus, when the people said to Mary, Ukhta Haroon i.e. 'sister of Aaron' it actually means descendant of Aaron (pbuh).

2. SON ALSO MEANS DESCENDANT

It is mentioned in the Gospel of Mathew, Chapter 1 verse 1

"Jesus Christ, the son of David,....".

[Mathew 1:1]

Gospel of Luke Chapter 3, verse 23

"And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph,"

[Luke 3:23]

DID JESUS (PBUH) HAVE TWO FATHERS?

What do you call a person who has two fathers? The explanation of the phrase that Jesus (pbuh) was the son of David (pbuh), is that Jesus (pbuh) was a descendant of David (pbuh). 'Son', here means a descendant.

8.

JESUS (PBUH) DID NOT DIE

Question

Is it not true that your Qur'an mentions in Surah Maryam, Chapter 19 verse 33 that Jesus (pbuh) died and was resurrected?

Answer

JESUS (PBUH) SAID, "THE DAY THAT I DIE", NOT "THE DAY THAT I DIED"

It is mentioned in Surah Maryam, Chapter 19 verse 33

"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)".

[Al-Qur'an 19:33]

The Qur'an mentions that Jesus (pbuh) said "Peace is on me the Day I was born, the day that I die". It is not stated "the day that I died". It is in the future tense and not in the past tense.

1. **JESUS (PBUH) WAS RAISED UP ALIVE**

The Qur'an further says in Surah Nisa, Chapter 4 verse 157-158:

"That they said (in boast), 'We killed Jesus Christ the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah' – 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, Allah raised him up unto Himself; and Allah is exalted in Power, Wise."

[Al-Qur'an 4:157-158]

9. **JESUS IS "A WORD" OF ALLAH AND A "SPIRIT" FROM ALLAH**

Question

Does not your Qur'an mention that Jesus is *Kalimatullah* – "The Word of Allah (swt)", as well as *Ruhullah* – "The Spirit of Allah", indicating his Divinity?

Answer

1. **JESUS (PBUH) "IS A WORD FROM ALLAH" NOT "THE WORD OF ALLAH"**

The Qur'an mentions in Surah Ali 'Imran Chapter 3 verse 45

"Behold! The angels said: O Mary! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus. The son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those Nearest to Allah.

[Al-Qur'an 3:45]

Jesus (pbuh) is referred in the Qur'an as a word from Allah and not as 'the word of Allah'.

"A word" of Allah means a message of Allah. If a person is referred to as "a word" from Allah, it means that he is a Messenger or a Prophet of Allah.

2. THE TITLE OF A PROPHET (PBUH) DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT EXCLUSIVELY BELONGS TO THAT PROPHET (PBUH)

Different titles are given to different prophets (pbuh). Whenever a title is given to a prophet (pbuh), it does not necessarily mean that the other prophets do not have the same characteristic or quality. For e.g. Prophet Abraham (pbuh) is referred to in the Qur'an as *Khaleelullah*, a friend of Allah. This does not indicate that all the other Prophets (pbuh) were not the friends of Allah. Prophet Moses (pbuh) is referred to in the Qur'an as *Kaleemullah*, indicating that God spoke to him. This does not mean that God did not speak to others. Similarly when Jesus (pbuh) is referred to in the Qur'an as *Kalimatullah*, "a word from Allah", it does not mean that the other Prophets were not "the word," of Allah.

3. JOHN THE BAPTIST (PBUH) IS ALSO CALLED "A WORD" OF ALLAH

Yahya (pbuh) i.e. John the Baptist (pbuh) is also referred to in the Qur'an as *Kalimatullah* i.e. a word of Allah in Surah Ali 'Imran, Chapter 3, verses 38-39

"There did Zakariya Pray to his Lord, saying: "O my Lord! Grant unto me from Thee a progeny that is pure: for Thou art He that heareth prayer!

While he was standing in prayer in the chamber, the angels called unto him: "Allah doth give thee glad tidings of Yahya, witnessing the truth of a Word from Allah, and (be besides) noble, chaste, and a Prophet – of the (goodly) company of the righteous."

[Al-Qur'an 3:39]

4. JESUS (PBUH) REFERRED AS RUHULLAH – A SPIRIT OF ALLAH

Jesus (pbuh) also never referred to as *Ruhullah* "a spirit of Allah" but as a spirit from Allah in Surah Nisa Chapter 4 verse 171

"O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Jesus Christ 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 God: 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."

[Al-Qur'an 4:171]

5. SPIRIT OF ALLAH IS BREATHED IN EVERY HUMAN BEING

A spirit from Allah does not indicate that Jesus (pbuh) is God. The Qur'an mentions in several places that Allah breathed into the human beings "His Spirit" in Surah Al-Hijr, chapter 15 verse 29 in Surah Sajdah, chapter 32 verse 9

Surah Al Hijr Chapter 15 verse 29

"When I have fashioned him (in due proportion) and breathed into him of My spirit, fall ye down in obeisance unto him."

[Al-Qur'an 15:29]

Surah Sajdah Chapter 32 verse 9

"But He fashioned him in due proportion, and breathed into him something of His spirit. And He gave you (the faculties of) hearing and sight and feeling (and understanding): little thanks do ye give!"

[Al-Qur'an 32:9]

10. IS NOT THE QUR'AN WRITTEN BY SATAN?

Question

The Qur'an is not the Word of God but on the contrary the handiwork of Satan.

Answer

In reply to a similar allegation put forward by the pagans of Makkah, that the prophet (pbuh) received the revelations from Satan, the following verses were revealed:

Surah Waqiah, chapter 56 verses 77-80

"That this is indeed
A Qur'an most honourable,

In a Book well-guarded,

Which none shall touch
But those who are clean:

A Revelation from the Lord
Of the Worlds."

Kitabim Maknoon means a book well guarded or a protected book, referring to Lauhe-Mahfooz in the heaven, which none shall touch except the *Mutahhareen*. i.e. those who do not have any uncleanness or impurity or evil like sin. This refers to the angels. The satan is absolutely prohibited.

Thus since it is impossible for satan to come anywhere close to it or touch it, the question of him writing the verses of the Glorious Qur'an does not arise.

It is further mentioned in Surah Shura, chapter 26 verse 210-212

"No evil ones have brought
Down this (Revelation):

It would neither suit them
Nor would they be able (To produce it).

Indeed they have been removed
Far from even (a chance of)
Hearing it."

Many people have a wrong concept of satan. They think that satan can probably do everything, except a couple of things that God can do. According to them, satan is slightly below God in power. Since the people do not want to accept that the Qur'an

is a miraculous revelation, they say that it is satan's handiwork.

1. If satan would have written the Qur'an, he would not have mentioned in the same Qur'an in Surah Nahl, chapter 16 verse no. 98

"When thou does read
The Qur'an, seek Allah's protection from Satan the Rejected One."

Is this how you feel satan would write a book? Does he tell you; "Before you read my book ask God to save you from me?"

2. There are several verses in the Qur'an which will give enough evidence that satan is not the author of the Qur'an.

In Surah Al Aaraf chapter 7 verse 200

"If a suggestion from Satan assail your (mind),
seek refuge with Allah; for He hears and knows
(all things).

Why would satan tell his followers, that whenever he gives any suggestions to them, they should seek refuge in Allah (swt) to whom he is an avowed enemy.

3. In Surah Baqarah, chapter 2 verse 168

"O ye people!
Eat of what is on earth, lawful and good;
and do not follow the footsteps of the Evil one,
For he is to you an avowed enemy."

4. In Surah Yasin, chapter 36 verse 60

"Did I not enjoin on you,
O ye children of Adam,
that ye should not worship Satan;

for that he was to you an enemy avowed?"

Satan is intelligent, no wonder that he can put this idea into the minds of people that he himself wrote the Qur'an. Compared to Almighty God, Satan is insignificant, and Allah (swt) is far more intelligent. He knows satan's evil intentions and hence no wonder that He has given the reader of the Qur'an several proofs to show that Qur'an is God's word, and not satan's word.

The Bible mentions in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 3, verses 24-26

"And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand."

"And if a house be divided against itself,
that house cannot stand."

"And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end."

comparative religion

Judaism

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

by Dr. Zakir Naik

(I) INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM:

Judaism is one of the important Semitic religions. Its followers are known as Jews and they believe in the prophetic mission of Prophet Moses (pbuh).

(II) CONCEPT OF GOD IN JUDAISM:

(i) The following verse from the book of Deuteronomy contains an exhortation from Moses (pbuh):

"Shama Israelu Adonai Ila Hayno Adna Ikhad"

It is a Hebrew quotation which means:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord"
[The Bible, Deuteronomy 6:4]

The following verses are from the Book of Isaiah:

(ii) "I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."
[The Bible, Isaiah 43:11]

(iii) "I am Lord, and there is none else There is no God besides me."
[The Bible, Isaiah 45 : 5]

(iv) "I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me."
[The Bible, Isaiah 46:9]

(v) Judaism condemns idol worship in the following verses:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God."
[The Bible, Exodus 20:3-5]

(iv) A similar message is repeated in the book of Deuteronomy:

"Thou shalt have none other gods before me."

"Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that in the earth beneath, or that is in the water beneath the earth."

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God."
[The Bible, Deuteronomy 5:7-9]

In Judaism too, we find the same thread of monotheism, that is seen in

Judaism

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"Shama Israelu Adonai Ila Hayno Adna Ikhad" It is a Hebrew quotation which means

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord"
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(ii) Consider the following verses from the Book of Isaiah :
"I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."
[The Bible, Isaiah 43:11]

(iii) "I am lord, and there is none else There is no God besides me."
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Hinduism

The Islamic Research Foundation (**IRF**) is a registered public charitable trust (No. B-1409, Bom) in Mumbai, India. It was established in Feb. 1991. It promotes Islamic 'da'wah' - the proper presentation, understanding and clarification of Islam, as well as removing misconceptions about Islam - amongst less aware Muslims and non-Muslims

comparative religion

Hinduism

INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM

by **Dr. Zakir Naik**

I INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM:

The most popular among the Aryan religions is Hinduism. '*Hindu*' is actually a Persian word that stands for the inhabitants of the region beyond the Indus Valley. However, in common parlance, Hinduism is a blanket term for an assortment of religious beliefs, most of which are based on the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita.

II INTRODUCTION TO HINDU SCRIPTURES.

There are several sacred scriptures of the Hindus. Among these are the Vedas, Upanishads and the Puranas.

1. **VEDAS:**

- i. The word Veda is derived from *vid* which means to know, knowledge par excellence or sacred wisdom. There are four principal divisions of the Vedas (although according to their number, they amount to 1131 out of which about a dozen are available). According to Maha Bhashya of Patanjali, there are 21 branches of Rigveda, 9 types of Atharvaveda, 101 branches of Yajurveda and 1000 of Samveda).
- ii. The Rigveda, the Yajurveda and the Samveda are considered to be more ancient books and are known as *Trai Viddya* or the 'Triple Sciences'. The Rigveda is the oldest and has been compiled in three long and different periods of time. The 4th Veda is the Atharvaveda, which is of a later date.
- iii. There is no unanimous opinion regarding the date of compilation or revelation of the four Vedas. According to Swami Dayanand, founder of the *Arya Samaj*, the Vedas were revealed 1310 million years ago. According to other scholars, they are not more than 4000 years old.
- iv. Similarly, there are differing opinions regarding the places where these books were compiled and the *Rishis* to whom these Scriptures were given. In spite of these differences, the Vedas are considered to be the most authentic of the Hindu Scriptures and the real foundations of the *Hindu Dharma*.

2. **UPANISHADS:**

- i. The word 'Upanishad' is derived from *Upa* meaning near, *Ni* which means down and *Shad* means to sit. Therefore 'Upanishad' means sitting down near. Groups of pupils sit near the teacher to learn from him the secret doctrines.

According to Samkara, 'Upanishad' is derived from the root word Sad which means 'to loosen', 'to reach' or 'to destroy', with *Upa* and *ni* as prefix; therefore 'Upanishad' means Brahma-Knowledge by which ignorance is loosened or destroyed.

- ii. The number of Upanishads exceeds 200 though the Indian tradition puts it at 108. There are 10 principal Upanishads. However, some consider them to be more than 10, while others 18.
- iii. The Vedanta meant originally the Upanishads, though the word is now used for the system of philosophy based on the Upanishad. Literally, Vedanta means the end of the Veda, *Vedasua-antah*, and the conclusion as well as the goal of Vedas. The Upanishads are the concluding portion of the Vedas and chronologically they come at the end of the Vedic period.
- iv. Some *Pundits* consider the Upanishads to be more superior to the Vedas.

3. **PURANAS:**

Next in order of authenticity are the Puranas which are the most widely read scriptures. It is believed that the Puranas contain the history of the creation of the universe, history of the early Aryan tribes, life stories of the divines and deities of the Hindus. It is also believed that the Puranas are revealed books like the Vedas, which were revealed simultaneously with the Vedas or sometime close to it.

Maharishi Vyasa has divided the Puranas into 18 voluminous parts. He also arranged the Vedas under various heads.

Chief among the Puranas is a book known as Bhavishya Purana. It is called so because it is believed to give an account of future events. The Hindus consider it to be the word of God. Maharishi yasa is considered to be just the compiler of the book.

4. **ITIHAAS:**

The two epics of Hinduism are the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

A. Ramayana:

According to Ramanuja, the great scholar of Ramayana, there are more than 300 different types of Ramayana: Tulsidas Ramayana, Kumbha Ramayana. Though the outline of Ramayana is same, the details and contents differ.

Valmiki's Ramayana:

Unlike the Mahabharata, the Ramayana appears to be the work of one person – the sage Valmiki, who probably composed it in the 3rd century BC. Its best-known recension (by Tulsi Das, 1532-1623) consists of 24,000 rhymed couplets of 16-syllable lines organised into 7 books. The poem incorporates many ancient legends and draws on the sacred books of the Vedas. It describes the efforts of Kosala's heir, Rama, to regain his throne and rescue his wife, Sita, from the demon King of Lanka.

Valmiki's Ramayana is a Hindu epic tradition whose earliest literary version is a Sanskrit poem attributed to the sage Valmiki. Its principal characters are said to present ideal models of personal, familial, and social behavior and hence are considered to exemplify *Dharma*, the principle of moral order.

B. Mahabharata:

The nucleus of the Mahabharata is the war of eighteen days fought between the

Kauravas, the hundred sons of Dhritarashtra and *Pandavas*, the five sons of Pandu. The epic entails all the circumstances leading upto the war. Involved in this *Kurukshetra* battle were almost all the kings of India joining either of the two parties. The result of this war was the total annihilation of Kauravas and their party. Yudhishtira, the head of the Pandavas, became the sovereign monarch of Hastinapura. His victory is supposed to symbolise the victory of good over evil. But with the progress of years, new matters and episodes relating to the various aspects of human life, social, economic, political, moral and religious as also fragments of other heroic legends came to be added to the aforesaid nucleus and this phenomenon continued for centuries until it acquired the present shape. The Mahabharata represents a whole literature rather than one single and unified work, and contains many multifarious things.

C. Bhagavad Gita:

Bhagavad Gita is a part of Mahabharata. It is the advice given by Krishna to Arjun on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. It contains the essence of the Vedas and is the most popular of all the Hindu Scriptures. It contains 18 chapters.

The Bhagavad Gita is one of the most widely read and revered of the works sacred to the Hindus. It is their chief devotional book, and has been for centuries the principal source of religious inspiration for many thousands of Hindus.

The Gita is a dramatic poem, which forms a small part of the larger epic, the Mahabharata. It is included in the sixth book (Bhismaparvan) of the Mahabharata and documents one tiny event in a huge epic tale.

The Bhagavad Gita tells a story of a moral crisis faced by Arjuna, which is solved through the interaction between Arjuna, a Pandava warrior hesitating before battle, and Krishna, his charioteer and teacher. The Bhagavad Gita relates a brief incident in the main story of a rivalry and eventually a war between two branches of a royal family. In that brief incident - a pause on the battlefield just as the battle is about to begin - Krishna, one chief on one side (also believed to be the Lord incarnate), is presented as responding to the doubts of Arjuna. The poem is the dialogue through which Arjuna's doubts were resolved by Krishna's teachings.

comparative religion

Hinduism

CONCEPT OF GOD IN HINDUISM

by **Dr. Zakir Naik**

1. Common Concept of God in Hinduism:

Hinduism is commonly perceived as a polytheistic religion. Indeed, most Hindus would attest to this, by professing belief in multiple Gods. While some Hindus believe in the existence of three gods, some believe in thousands of gods, and some others in thirty three crore i.e. 330 million Gods. However, learned Hindus, who are well versed in their scriptures, insist that a Hindu should believe in and worship only one God.

The major difference between the Hindu and the Muslim perception of God is the common Hindus' belief in the philosophy of Pantheism. Pantheism considers

everything, living and non-living, to be Divine and Sacred. The common Hindu, therefore, considers everything as God. He considers the trees as God, the sun as God, the moon as God, the monkey as God, the snake as God and even human beings as manifestations of God!

Islam, on the contrary, exhorts man to consider himself and his surroundings as examples of Divine Creation rather than as divinity itself. Muslims therefore believe that everything is God's i.e. the word 'God' with an apostrophe 's'. In other words the Muslims believe that everything belongs to God. The trees belong to God, the sun belongs to God, the moon belongs to God, the monkey belongs to God, the snake belongs to God, the human beings belong to God and everything in this universe belongs to God.

Thus the major difference between the Hindu and the Muslim beliefs is the difference of the apostrophe 's'. The Hindu says everything is God. The Muslim says everything is God's.

2. Concept of God according to Hindu Scriptures:

We can gain a better understanding of the concept of God in Hinduism by analysing Hindu scriptures.

BHAGAVAD GITA

The most popular amongst all the Hindu scriptures is the Bhagavad Gita.

Consider the following verse from the Gita:

"Those whose intelligence has been stolen by material desires surrender unto demigods and follow the particular rules and regulations of worship according to their own natures."

[Bhagavad Gita 7:20]

The Gita states that people who are materialistic worship demigods i.e. 'gods' besides the True God.

UPANISHADS:

The Upanishads are considered sacred scriptures by the Hindus.

The following verses from the Upanishads refer to the Concept of God:

- i. "*Ekam evadvitiam*"
"He is One only without a second."
[Chandogya Upanishad 6:2:1]¹
- ii. "*Na casya kascij janita na cadhipah.*"
"Of Him there are neither parents nor lord."
[Svetasvatara Upanishad 6:9]²
- iii. "*Na tasya pratima asti*"
"There is no likeness of Him."
[Svetasvatara Upanishad 4:19]³
- iv. The following verses from the Upanishad allude to the inability of man to imagine God in a particular form:

"Na samdrse tisthati rupam asya, na caksusa pasyati kas canainam."

"His form is not to be seen; no one sees Him with the eye."
[Svetasvatara Upanishad 4:20]⁴

¹[The Principal Upanishad by S. Radhakrishnan page 447 and 448]
[Sacred Books of the East, volume 1 'The Upanishads part I' page 93]

²[The Principal Upanishad by S. Radhakrishnan page 745]
[Sacred Books of the East, volume 15, 'The Upanishads part II' page 263.]

³[The Principal Upanishad by S. Radhakrishnan page 736 & 737]
[Sacred Books of the East, volume 15, 'The Upanishads part II' page no 253]

⁴[The Principal Upanishad by S. Radhakrishnan page 737]
[Sacred Books of the East, volume 15, 'The Upanishads part II' page no 253]

THE VEDAS

Vedas are considered the most sacred of all the Hindu scriptures. There are four principal Vedas: Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samveda and Atharvaveda.

1. Yajurveda

The following verses from the Yajurveda echo a similar concept of God:

- i. *"na tasya pratima asti*
"There is no image of Him."
[Yajurveda 32:3]⁵
- ii. *"shudhama poapvidham"*
"He is bodyless and pure."
[Yajurveda 40:8]⁶
- iii. *"Andhatama pravishanti ye asambhuti mupaste"*
"They enter darkness, those who worship the natural elements" (Air, Water, Fire, etc.). "They sink deeper in darkness, those who worship sambhuti."
[Yajurveda 40:9]⁷

Sambhuti means created things, for example table, chair, idol, etc.

- iv. The Yajurveda contains the following prayer:
"Lead us to the good path and remove the sin that makes us stray and wander."
[Yajurveda 40:16]⁸

⁵[Yajurveda by Devi Chand M.A. page 377]

⁶[Yajurveda Samhita by Ralph T. H. Giffith page 538]

⁷[Yajurveda Samhita by Ralph T. H. Giffith page 538]

⁸[Yajurveda Samhita by Ralph T. H. Giffith page 541]

2. Atharvaveda

The Atharvaveda praises God in Book 20, hymn 58 and verse 3:

- i. "Dev maha osi"
"God is verily great"
[Atharvaveda 20:58:3]⁹

3. Rigveda

- i. The oldest of all the vedas is Rigveda. It is also the one considered most sacred by the Hindus. The Rigveda states in Book 1, hymn 164 and verse 46:
"Sages (learned Priests) call one God by many names."
[Rigveda 1:164:46]
- ii. The Rigveda gives several different attributes to Almighty God. Many of these are mentioned in Rigveda Book 2 hymn 1.

Among the various attributes of God, one of the beautiful attributes mentioned in the Rigveda Book II hymn 1 verse 3, is *Brahma*. *Brahma* means 'The Creator'. Translated into Arabic it means *Khaaliq*. Muslims can have no objection if Almighty God is referred to as *Khaaliq* or 'Creator' or *Brahma*. However if it is said that *Brahma* is Almighty God who has four heads with each head having a crown, Muslims take strong exception to it.

Describing Almighty God in anthropomorphic terms also goes against the following verse of Yajurveda:

"Na tasya Pratima asti"
"There is no image of Him."
[Yajurveda 32:3]

Another beautiful attribute of God mentioned in the Rigveda Book II hymn 1 verse 3 is *Vishnu*. *Vishnu* means 'The Sustainer'. Translated into Arabic it means *Rabb*. Again, Muslims can have no objection if Almighty God is referred to as *Rabb* or 'Sustainer' or *Vishnu*. But the popular image of

⁹[Atharveda Samhita vol 2 William Dwight Whitney page 910]

Vishnu among Hindus, is that of a God who has four arms, with one of the right arms holding the Chakra, i.e. a discus and one of the left arms holding a 'conch shell', or riding a bird or reclining on a snake couch. Muslims can never accept any image of God. As mentioned earlier this also goes against Svetasvatara Upanishad Chapter 4 verse 19.

"Na tasya pratima asti"
"There is no likeness of Him"

The following verse from the Rigveda Book 8, hymn 1, verse 1 refer to the Unity and Glory of the Supreme Being:

- iii. *"Ma cid anyad vi sansata sakhayo ma rishanyata"*
"O friends, do not worship anybody but Him, the Divine One. Praise Him alone."
[Rigveda 8:1:1]⁰
- iv. *"Devasya samituk parishtutih"*
"Verily, great is the glory of the Divine Creator."
[Rigveda 5:1:81]¹¹

Brahma Sutra of Hinduism:

The *Brahma Sutra* of Hinduism is:

"Ekam Brahm, dvitiya naste neh na naste kinchan"

"There is only one God, not the second; not at all, not at all, not in the least bit."

Thus only a dispassionate study of the Hindu scriptures can help one understand the concept of God in Hinduism.

⁰[Rigveda Samhita vol. 9, pages 2810 and 2811 by Swami Satya Prakash Sarasvati and Satyakam Vidyalkar]

¹¹[Rigveda Samhita vol. 6, pages 1802 and 1803 by Swami Satya Prakash Sarasvati and Satyakam Vidyalkar]

as from the sun." The Prophecy confirms:

- i. The name of the Prophet as Ahmed since Ahmed is an Arabic name. Many translators misunderstood it to be '*Ahm at hi*' and translated the *mantra* as "I alone have acquired the real wisdom of my father".
- ii. Prophet was given eternal law, i.e. the *Shariah*.
- iii. The Rishi was enlightened by the *Shariah* of Prophet Muhammad. The Qur'an says in Surah Saba Chapter 34 verse 28 (34:28):

"We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not."

comparative religion

Hinduism

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in Hindu scriptures
 by **Dr. Zakir Naik**

I Muhammad (pbuh) prophesised in Bhavishya Purana

1. **According to Bhavishya Purana in the Prati Sarag Parv III Khand 3 Adhay 3 Shloka 5 to 8.**

"A *malecha* (belonging to a foreign country and speaking a foreign language) spiritual teacher will appear with his companions. His name will be Mohammad. *Raja (Bhoj)* after giving this *Maha Dev Arab* (of angelic disposition) a bath in the *Panchgavya* and the Ganga water (i.e. purifying him of all sins) offered him the present of his sincere devotion and showing him all reverence said, "I make obeisance to thee. O ye! The pride of mankind, the dweller in Arabia, Ye have collected a great force to kill the Devil and you yourself have been protected from the *malecha* opponents."

The Prophecy clearly states:

- i. The name of the Prophet as Mohammad.
- ii. He will belong to Arabia. The Sanskrit word *Marusthal* means a sandy track of land or a desert.
- iii. Special mention is made of the companions of the Prophet, i.e. the *Sahabas*. No other Prophet had as many companions as Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
- iv. He is referred as the pride of mankind (*Parbatis nath*). The Glorious Qur'an reconfirms this

"And thou (standest) on an exalted standard of character"
[Al-Qur'an 68:4]

"Ye have indeed in the Messenger of Allah, a beautiful pattern (of conduct)".
[Al-Qur'an 33:21]

- v. He will kill the devil, i.e. abolish idol worship and all sorts of vices.
- vi. The Prophet will be given protection against his enemy.

Some people may argue that '*Raja Bhoj*' mentioned in the prophecy lived in the 11th century C.E. 500 years after the advent of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and was the descendant in the 10th generation of *Raja Shalivahan*. These people fail to realise that there was not only one *Raja* of the name *Bhoj*. The Egyptian Monarchs were called as Pharaoh and the Roman Kings were known as Caesar, similarly the Indian *Rajas* were given the title of *Bhoj*. There were several *Raja Bhoj* who came before the one in 11th Century C.E.

The Prophet did not physically take a bath in the *Panchgavya* and the water of Ganges. Since the water of Ganges is considered holy, taking bath in the Ganges is an idiom, which means washing away sins or immunity from all sorts of sins. Here the prophecy implies that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was sinless, i.e. *Maasoom*.

2. **According to Bhavishya Purana in the Pratisarag Parv III Khand 3 Adhay 3 Shloka 10 to 27 Maharishi Vyas has prophesied:**

"The *Malecha* have spoiled the well-known land of the Arabs. *Arya Dharma* is not to be found in the country. Before also there appeared a misguided fiend whom I had killed; he has now again appeared being sent by a powerful enemy. To show these enemies the right path and to give them guidance, the well-known Muhammad (pbuh), is busy in bringing the *Pishachas* to the right path. O *Raja*, You need not go to the land of the foolish *Pishachas*, you will be purified through my kindness even where you are. At night, he of the angelic disposition,

the shrewd man, in the guise of *Pishacha* said to *Raja Bhoj*, "O *Raja*! Your *Arya Dharma* has been made to prevail over all religions, but according to the commandments of *Ishwar Parmatma*, I shall enforce the strong creed of the meat eaters. My followers will be men circumcised, without a tail (on his head), keeping beard, creating a revolution announcing the *Aadhaan* (the Muslim call for prayer) and will be eating all lawful things. He will eat all sorts of animals except swine. They will not seek purification from the holy shrubs, but will be purified through warfare. On account of their fighting the irreligious nations, they will be known as *Musalmaans*. I shall be the originator of this religion of the meat-eating nations."

The Prophecy states that:

- i. The evil doers have corrupted the Arab land.
- ii. *Arya Dharma* is not found in that land.
- iii. The Indian *Raja* need not go the Arab land since his purification will take place in India after the *musalmaan* will arrive in India.
- iv. The coming Prophet will attest the truth of the Aryan faith, i.e. Monotheism and will reform the misguided people.
- v. The Prophet's followers will be circumcised. They will be without a tail on the head and bear a beard and will create a great revolution.
- vi. They will announce the *Aadhaan*, i.e. 'the Muslim call for prayer'.
- vii. He will only eat lawful things and animals but will not eat pork. The Qur'an confirms this in no less than 4 different places:

In Surah Al-Baqarah chapter 2 verse 173

In Surah Al-Maidah chapter 5 verse 3

In Surah Al-Anam chapter 6 verse 145

In Surah Al-Nahl chapter 16 verse 115

"Forbidden to you for food are dead meat, blood, flesh of swine, and that on which hath been invoked the name of other than Allah".

- viii. They will not purify with grass like the Hindus but by means of sword they will fight their irreligious people.
- ix. They will be called *musalmaan*.
- x. They will be a meat-eating nation.

The eating of herbivorous animals is confirmed by the Qur'an in Surah Maidah, chapter 5 verse 1 and in Surah Muminun chapter 23 verse 21

3. According to Bhavishya Purana, Parv - III Khand 1 Adhay 3 Shloka 21-23:

"Corruption and persecution are found in seven sacred cities of Kashi, etc. India is inhabited by *Rakshas*, *Shabor*, *Bhil* and other foolish people. In the land of *Malechhas*, the followers of the *Malechha dharma* (Islam) are wise and brave people. All good qualities are found in *Musalmaans* and all sorts of vices have accumulated in the land of the Aryas. Islam will rule in India and its islands. Having known these facts, O *Muni*, glorify the name of thy lord".

The Qur'an confirms this in Surah Taubah chapter 9 verse 33 and in Surah Al Saff chapter 61 verse 9:

"It is He who hath sent His Messenger with Guidance and the Religion of Truth, to proclaim it over all religion, even though the Pagans may detest (it)".

A similar message is given in Surah Fatah chapter 48 verses 28 ending with, "and enough is Allah as a witness".

II Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) Prophesised in Atharvaveda

1. In the 20th book of Atharvaveda Hymn 127 Some *Suktas* (chapters) are known as *Kuntap Sukta*. *Kuntap* means the consumer of misery and troubles. Thus meaning the message of peace and safety and if translated in Arabic means Islam.

Kuntap also means hidden glands in the abdomen. These *mantras* are called so probably because their true meaning was hidden and was to be revealed in future. Its hidden meaning is also connected with the navel or the middle point of this earth. Makkah is called the *Ummul Qur'a* the mother of the towns or the naval of the earth. In many revealed books it was the first house of Divine worship where God Almighty gave spiritual nourishment to the world. The Qur'an says in Surah Ali-Imran chapter 3, verse 96:

"The first house (of worship) appointed for men was that at *Bakkah* (Makkah) full of blessings and of guidance and for all kinds of beings". Thus *Kuntap* stands for Makkah or *Bakkah*.

Several people have translated these *Kuntap Suktas* like M. Bloomfield, Prof. Ralph Griffith, Pandit *Rajaram*, Pandit *Khem Karan*, etc.

The main points mentioned in the *Kuntap Suktas* i.e. in Atharvaveda book 20 Hymn 127 verses 1-13 are:

- a. *Mantra 1*
He is *Narashansah* or the praised one (Muhammad). He is *Kaurama*: the prince of peace or the emigrant, who is safe, even amongst a host of 60,090 enemies.
- b. *Mantra 2*
He is a camel-riding *Rishi*, whose chariot touches the heaven.
- c. *Mantra 3*
He is *Mamah Rishi* who is given a hundred gold coins, ten chaplets (necklaces), three hundred good steeds and ten thousand cows.
- d. *Mantra 4*
Vachyesv rebh. 'Oh! ye who glorifies'.
 - i. The Sanskrit word *Narashansah* means 'the praised one', which is the literal translation of the Arabic word Muhammad (pbuh).

The Sanskrit word *Kaurama* means 'one who spreads and promotes peace'. The holy Prophet was the 'Prince of Peace' and he preached equality of human kind and universal brotherhood. *Kaurama* also means an emigrant. The Prophet migrated from Makkah to Madinah and was thus also an Emigrant.
 - ii. He will be protected from 60,090 enemies, which was the population of Makkah. The Prophet would ride a camel. This clearly indicates that it cannot be an Indian *Rishi*, since it is forbidden for a *Brahman* to ride a camel according to the Sacred Books of the East, volume 25, Laws of *Manu* pg. 472. According to *Manu Smirti* chapter 11 verse 202, "A Brahman is prohibited from riding a camel or an ass and to bathe naked. He should purify himself by suppressing his breath".
 - iii. This mantra gave the *Rishi's* name as *Mamah*. No rishi in India or another Prophet had this name *Mamah* which is derived from *Mah* which means to esteem highly, or to revere, to exalt, etc.

Some Sanskrit books give the Prophet's name as 'Mohammad', but this word according to Sanskrit grammar can also be used in the bad sense. It is incorrect to apply grammar to an Arabic word. Actually *shas* the same meaning and somewhat similar pronunciation as the word Muhammad (pbuh).

He is given 100 gold coins, which refers to the believers and the earlier companions of the Prophet during his turbulent Makkah life. Later on due to persecution they migrated from Makkah to Abyssinia. Later when Prophet migrated to Madinah all of them joined him in Madinah.

The 10 chaplets or necklaces were the 10 best companions of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) known as *Ashra-Mubbashshira* (10 bestowed with good news). These were foretold in this world of their salvation in the hereafter i.e. they were given the good news of entering paradise by the Prophet's own lips and after naming each one he said "in Paradise". They were Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali, Talha, Zubair, Abdur Rahman Ibn Auf, Saad bin Abi Waqqas, Saad bin Zaid and Abu Ubaidah (May Allah be well-pleased with all of them).

The Sanskrit word *Go* is derived from *Gaw* which means 'to go to war'. A cow is also called *Go* and is a symbol of war as well as peace. The 10,000 cows refer to the 10,000 companions who accompanied the Prophet (pbuh) when he entered Makkah during *Fateh* Makkah which was a unique victory in the history of mankind in which there was no blood shed. The 10,000 companions were pious and compassionate like cows and were at the same time strong and fierce and are described in the Holy Quran in Surah Fatah:

"Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah; and those who are with him are strong against unbelievers, (but) compassionate amongst each other."

[Al-Qur'an 48:29]

- iv. This mantra calls the Prophet as *Rebh* which means one who praises, which when translated into Arabic is Ahmed, which is another name for the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

2. Battle of the Allies described in the *Vedas*.

It is mentioned in Atharvaveda Book XX Hymn 21 verse 6, "Lord of the truthful! These liberators drink these feats of bravery and the inspiring songs gladdened thee in the field of battle. When thou renders vanquished without fight the ten thousand opponents of the praying one, the adoring one."

i. This Prophecy of the Veda describes the well-known battle of *Ahzab* or the battle of the Allies during the time of Prophet Muhammed. The Prophet was victorious without an actual conflict which is mentioned in the Qur'an in Surah Ahzab:

"When the believers saw the confederate forces they said, "This is what Allah and His Messenger had promised us and Allah and His Messenger told us what was true." And it only added to their faith and their zeal in obedience."

[Al-Qur'an 33:22]

ii. The Sanskrit word *karo* in the *Mantra* means the 'praying one' which when translated into Arabic means 'Ahmed', the second name of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh).

iii. The 10,000 opponents mentioned in the *Mantra* were the enemies of the

Prophet and the Muslims were only 3000 in number.

iv. The last words of the *Mantra aprati ni bashayah* means the defeat was given to the enemies without an actual fight.

3. The enemies' defeat in the conquest of Makkah is mentioned in Atharvaveda book 20 Hymn 21 verse no 9:

"You have O Indra, overthrown 20 kings and 60,099 men with an outstripping Chariot wheel who came to fight the praised one or far famed (Muhammad) orphan."

- i. The population of Makkah at the time of Prophet's advent was nearly 60,000
- ii. There were several clans in Makkah each having its own chief. Totally there were about 20 chiefs to rule the population of Makkah.
- iii. An *Abandhu* meaning a helpless man who was far-famed and 'praised one'. Muhammad (pbuh) overcame his enemies with the help of God.

III Muhammad (pbuh) prophesised in the Rigveda

A similar prophecy is also found in Rigveda Book I, Hymn 53 verse 9:

The Sanskrit word used is *Sushrama*, which means praiseworthy or well praised which in Arabic means Muhammad (pbuh).

IV Muhummad (pbuh) is also prophesised in the Samveda

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is also prophesised in the Samveda Book II Hymn 6 verse 8:

"Ahmed acquired from his Lord the knowledge of eternal law. I received light from him just as from the sun." The Prophecy confirms:

- i. The name of the Prophet as Ahmed since Ahmed is an Arabic name. Many translators misunderstood it to be *Ahm at hi* and translated the *mantra* as "I alone have acquired the real wisdom of my father".
- ii. Prophet was given eternal law, i.e. the *Shariah*.
- iii. The *Rishi* was enlightened by the *Shariah* of Prophet Muhammad. The Qur'an says in Surah Saba chapter 34 verse 28
"We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not."
[Al-Qur'an 34:28]

comparative religion

Hinduism

Material to be referred for Da'wah to Hindus

SR.NO : 1

NAME : THE PRINCIPAL UPANISHADS

NO. OF VOLS : 1

TRANSLATOR : English Translation and Notes by: S. Radhakrishnan

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Indus - Harper Collins Publishers India Pvt. Ltd. 7/16 Ansari Road, New Delhi 110002 (India).

SR.NO : 2

NAME : THE SACRED BOOKS OF THE EAST: THE UPANISHADS

NO. OF VOLS : Vol. 1 and 15

TRANSLATOR : English Translation by: F. Max Muller

PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS : Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Pvt. Ltd. 41 U.A., Bungalow Road, Jawahar Nagar, Delhi 110007 (India)

SR. NO. : 1

NAME OF THE PACKAGE : The Eternal Religion Hinduism

VERSION :

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : This package includes the origin an evolution of Hinduism, details of places of Hindu interest, more than hundred verses from the Vedas.

PRODUCER : Visonosoft Limited # 12, Canal Bank Rd., R.A. Puram, Chennai 600 028. (India) Tel: 91-44-8553586

SR. NO. : 2

NAME OF THE PACKAGE : India Mystica

VERSION : 2.0

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : Hundreds of pages of text with 400 pictures and illustrations.

Over 400 audios, videos and animations bring alive one of the world's oldest living faiths with the power of multimedia.

PRODUCER : Magic Software Pvt. Limited N-114 1st Flr, Greater Kailash I, New Delhi 110 048, India. Tel: 6476556/6476989/6216965 Fax: (91-11)6472688

SR. NO. : 3

NAME OF THE PACKAGE : Bhagavad Gita

VERSION :

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : Bhagavad Gita - the multimedia book is a full featured interactive CD-Rom which brings to you the quintessence of Cosmic Law in the divine Sanskrit language, in eternal words of Sri Krishna. It also includes: Gita based quiz, Gita based games, Gita based stories, Gita quotes, Gita Management, about Gita, Picture gallery, Gita dictionary, Gita knowledge & wisdom.

PRODUCER : Multimedia Station # 501, 5th Cross, HMT layout, Ganganagar, Bangalore 560032. India. Tel:91-80-3337619

International Sanskrit Research Academy # 627, 1st B Main Rd., Yediur, 7th block (west), Jayanagar, Bangalore 560082, India. Tel: 91-80-640732 e-mail: info@bhagavadgita.com website: www.bhagavadgita.com

SR. NO. : 4

NAME OF THE PACKAGE : The Mahabharata

VERSION :

FORMAT : CD-Rom

LANGUAGE : English

DESCRIPTION : It Contains beautiful hand-painted illustrations, colourful animations, and an original music score. Hours of viewing pleasure.

PRODUCER : Magic's Software Pvt. Ltd. F-6 Kailash Colony, New Delhi 110 048. Tel: 6487229, 6216965, 6476989 Fax: 91-11-6472688 e-mail: mail@magicsw.com website: www.magicsw.com

comparative religion

1. IDOL USED FOR CONCENTRATION

Question:

The Hindu Pundits and Scholars agree that the Vedas and other Hindu religious scriptures prohibit idol worship, but initially because the mind may not be matured, an idol is required for concentration while worshipping. After the mind reaches higher consciousness, the idol is not required for concentration.

Answer :

1. **Muslims have reached the higher level of consciousness**

Muslims have reached the higher level of consciousness. If an idol is required for concentration only in the initial stages and not later on when the mind reaches higher consciousness then I would like to say the Muslims have already reached the state of higher consciousness because when we worship Allah (swt) we do not require any idol or statue.

2. **Child asks why does it thunder?**

When I was discussing with a Swami in IRF. He said that when our child asks us, "Why does the sky thunder?", we reply that "aaye ma chakki pees rahi hai", the grandmother is grinding flour in the heaven; because he is too young to understand. Similarly in the initial stages people require an idol for concentration.

In Islam we don't believe in telling a lie, even if it's a white lie. I will never give such a wrong answer to my child because later on when he goes to school and learns that the thundering sound after lightning is due to the expansion of rapidly heated air, he will either think that the teacher is lying or later on when he understands the fact he will conclude that the father is a liar. If you feel that the child may not understand certain difficult things you should simplify the answer rather than give a wrong fictitious reply. If you, yourself do not know the answer, you should have the guts to be truthful and say 'I don't know'. But many children nowadays will not be satisfied with this answer. If this answer was given to my son, he would say "Abba (father), why don't you know?" This will compel you to do your homework and thus educate yourself as well as your child.

3. **Those in standard one require idol for concentration – (2 + 2 = 4 will remain same in standard one and ten)**

Some pundits while trying to convince me regarding idol worship said that in standard one the student is initially taught to worship God by concentrating with the help of an idol but later on when he graduates he no longer requires the idol to concentrate while worshipping the God.

A very important fact to be noted is that only if the fundamentals of any particular subject is strong, then only will he be able to excel in future for e.g. A teacher of mathematics in standard one teaches the students that $2 + 2 = 4$ irrespective whether the student passes school or does graduation or does a Ph. D. in mathematics, the basics of $2 + 2 = 4$ will yet remain the same, it will not change to 5 or 6. In higher standards the student, besides addition may learn about Algebra, Trigonometry, Logarithm, etc. but the

fundamental of addition will yet remain the same. If the teacher in standard one itself teaches the fundamentals wrong, how can you expect the student to excel in future?

It is the fundamental principal of the Vedas regarding the concept of God that He has got no image, so how can the Scholars even after knowing this fact keep silent at the wrong practice being done by people.

Will you tell your son who is in standard one that 2 plus 2 is not equal to 4 but 5 or 6 and only confirm the truth after he passes school? Never. In fact if he makes a mistake you will correct him and say it is 4 and not wait till he graduates; and if you don't correct him initially you will ruin his future.

2. WATER IS CALLED BY DIFFERENT NAMES IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES – GOD IS CALLED BY DIFFERENT NAMES AS ALLAH, RAM OR JESUS

Question:

Water is called by different names in different languages: in English as water, in Hindi as paani, in Tamil as tanni. Similarly if God is called either Allah, Ram or Jesus, is it not one and the same?

Answer:

1. To Allah belongs the Most Beautiful Names

The Glorious Qur'an says in Surah Isra chapter 17 verse 110

"Say: 'Call upon Allah, or call upon Rahman: by whatever name ye call upon Him, (it is well): for to Him belong the Most Beautiful Names.'"

[Al-Qur'an 17:110]

You can call Allah by any name, but it should be a beautiful name, should not conjure up a mental picture, and should have qualities that only Allah possesses.

2. Water can be called by different names in different languages but something else besides water cannot be called water in another language.

You can call water by various names in different languages, like water in English, paani in Hindi, tanni in Tamil, mai in Arabic, apah in Sanskrit, jal in *Shudh* Hindi, jal or paani in Gujrati, pandi in Marathi, neer in Kannad, neeru in Telugu, vellam in Malayalam, etc. If a person tells me that his friend has advised that everyday early in the morning he should have one glass of paani, but he is unable to drink it because when he drinks it, he feels like vomiting. On enquiry he says that the paani stinks and it is yellowish in colour. Later I realise that what he is referring to as paani is not water but urine. Thus you can call water by different names having the same meaning but you cannot call other things as water or paani.

People may think that the example is not realistic and I agree with them because even an ignorant person knows the difference between water and urine. He will have to be a fool to call urine 'water'. Similarly when any person who knows the correct concept of God, sees people worshipping false gods, he naturally wonders how a person cannot differentiate between

a true God and false gods.

3. **Purity of Gold is not verified by calling it by different names in different languages but rubbing it against a Touchstone.**

In the same way, gold can be called sona in Hindi, gold in English, dhahaba in Arabic. In spite of knowing all these different names for gold, if a person wants to sell you his gold jewellery and says this is 24 carat pure sona, you will not blindly believe, without verifying it with a goldsmith. The goldsmith confirms whether it is gold or not with the help of a touchstone. The yellow glittering jewellery may not be gold, because all that glitters is not gold.

4. **Surah Ikhlas is the Touchstone of Theology.**

Similarly, any person or candidate who is called God cannot be accepted as the true God without verifying him with the touchstone. The touchstone of theology, that is study of God, is Surah Ikhlas chapter 112 of the Holy Qur'an which says:

"Say, 'He is Allah, The One and Only; Allah, The Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not Nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him.'"
[Al-Qur'an 112:1-4]

5. **Any candidate who passes the Acid test can be called God.**

Any candidate who claims to be God and fits in this four line definition, passes the Acid test, is entitled to be called God and worshipped as God.

Suppose a lunatic says that Muhammad (pbuh) is God, (God forbid). Let's put him to the test of Surah Ikhlas.

- i. "Kul hu allah hu ahad" – Say He is Allah, The One and Only;

Is Muhammad (pbuh) one and only? No! he was not the only messenger. There were many other messengers.

- ii. "Allah hus Samad" – Allah, The Eternal, Absolute;

We know that Muhammad (pbuh) had to undergo many hardships. Though he was the mightiest messenger of God, he died at the age of 63 and was buried in Madeenah.

- iii. "Lam ya lid wa lam yulad" – He begetteth not Nor is He begotten;

We know that he was born in Makkah and his parents were Abdullah and Aaminah. He even had several children e.g. Fatimah, Ibrahim (may Allah be pleased with them), etc.

- iv. "Wa lam ya kullahu kufuwan ahad" – And there is none like unto Him.

Though all the Muslims love and revere the Prophet (pbuh) and are supposed to follow each and every of his commandments, yet you will not find a single Muslim in the whole world, who in his senses will ever say that Muhammad (pbuh) is God. The Islamic Creed is, "La illaha illallah Muhammadur Rasoolullah", which means that there is no god but Allah, and Muhammad (pbuh) is the messenger of Allah. This is repeated five times a day during the call for prayer, so that the Muslims are reminded daily that although they respect and obey him, he is only a Messenger and servant of God, and not God Himself.

6. **Verify the Gods you worship.**

Now that we have explained to you how to use the touchstone of theology it

is the duty of everyone to verify with this touchstone, whether the gods that they worship are true or false.

3. HINDUISM IS NOT THE OLDEST AND BEST RELIGION

Question

Hinduism is the oldest of all the religions and thus the, most pure, authentic and best of all the religions of the world.

Answer:

1. **Islam is the oldest religion**

Hinduism is not the oldest of all the religions. It is Islam which is the first and the oldest of all religions. People have a misconception that Islam is 1400 years old and that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the founder of this religion. Islam existed since time immemorial, ever since man first set foot on this earth. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was not the founder of Islam. He was the last and final Messenger of Almighty God.

2. **The oldest religion need not be the purest and the most authentic religion**

A religion cannot be claimed to be most pure and authentic, only on the criterion that it is the oldest. It is similar to a person saying that the water he has kept in an open glass, in his house, outside the refrigerator, for three months is purer than the water which has just been collected in a clean glass, immediately after it has been purified.

3. **The latest religion need not be the purest and the most authentic religion**

On the other hand a religion cannot be claimed to be the purest or authentic, only on the criterion that the religion is new or the latest. A bottle of distilled water which is sealed, packed and kept in the refrigerator for three months is much purer than a bottle of water freshly collected from the sea.

4. **For religion to be pure and authentic, it should not have interpolations, changes and revisions in its scriptures revealed from God**

For any religion to be pure and authentic, its scriptures should not contain any interpolation, addition, deletion or revision. Moreover the religion's source of inspiration and direction should be Almighty God. The Qur'an is the only religious scripture on the face of the earth which has been maintained in its original form. All the other religious scriptures, of all the other religions have interpolations, additions, deletions or revisions. The Qur'an has been in the memory of a multitude of people, intact in its original form ever since its revelation, and now there are hundreds of thousands of people who have preserved it in their memory. Moreover, if you compare the copies made by Caliph Uthman from the original Qur'an which is yet present in the museum in Tashkent and in Koptaki museum in Turkey, they are the same as the ones we possess today.

Allah (swt) promises in the Qur'an, in Surah Al Hijr, chapter 15 verse 9

"We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly guard it (from corruption)."

5. **The oldest religion need not be best religion**

A religion cannot be claimed to be the best religion only on the criterion that

it is the oldest. It is similar to a person saying, that my 19th century car is better than a Toyota car manufactured in 1998, because it is older. He would be considered to be a fool to say that his 19th century car which required a rod to be turned in circles to start it, is better than a key-start 1998 Toyota car, just because it is older.

6. **The latest religion need not be the best religion**

On the other hand a religion cannot be called as the best religion only on the criterion that the religion is new or that it came later. It is similar to a person who says that my 800 cc Suzuki car manufactured in 1999 is better than a 5000 cc Mercedes 500 SEL manufactured in 1997. To judge which car is better, a person should compare the specifications of the car e.g. the power of the car, safety measures, the capacity of the cylinders, the pickup, the speed, the comfort, etc. 5000 cc Mercedes, 500 SEL car manufactured in 1997, is far superior and better than a 800 cc Suzuki (Maruti Suzuki 800) manufactured in 1999.

7. **A religion is best, if it has the solutions to the problems of mankind**

For a religion to be considered the best, it should have the solution to all the problems of mankind. It should be the religion of truth, and should be applicable to all ages. Islam is the only religion which has the solution to all the problems of mankind. e.g. the problem of alcoholism, surplus women, rape and molestation, robbery, racism, casteism, etc.

Islam is the religion of truth, and its laws and solutions are applicable to all the ages. The Qur'an is the only religious book on the face of the earth, which has maintained its purity and authenticity proving itself to be the word of God in all the ages. i.e. previously, when it was the age of miracles, literature and poetry and in present times when it is the age of science and technology. Moreover, Islam is not a man-made religion, but a religion revealed and inspired by Almighty God. It is the only religion acceptable in His Sight.

5. BURYING BETTER THAN CREMATING DEAD BODIES

Question:

Why do Muslims bury dead bodies instead of cremating them, i.e. burning them?

Answer:

1. **Components of human body present in the soil**

Elements that are present in the human body are present in lesser or greater quantity in the soil. Hence it is more scientific to bury a dead body, as it easily gets decomposed and mixed in the soil.

2. **No Pollution**

Cremating (burning) the dead body leads to pollution of the atmosphere which is detrimental to health and harmful for the environment. There is no such pollution caused by burying a dead body.

3. **Surrounding land becomes fertile**

To cremate a dead body several trees have to be chopped, which reduces the greenery and harms the environment and the ecology. When dead bodies are buried, besides the trees being saved, the surrounding land becomes fertile and it improves the environment.

4. **Economical**

It is expensive to cremate a dead body when tons of wood have to be burned. Annually there is a loss of crores of rupees, only because dead

bodies are cremated in India. Burying dead bodies is very cheap. It hardly costs any money.

5. **Same land can be utilised for burying another body**

The wood used for cremating a dead body cannot be reutilised for cremating another dead body since it gets converted to ashes. The land used for burying a dead body can be reutilised for burying another body after a few years since the human body gets decomposed and mixed in the soil.

6. BINDI AND MANGALSUTRA

Why do the Muslim married women not put *bindi* or *tika* on the forehead and wear *Mangalsutra*, like Hindu married women?

1. ***Bindi* or *tika***

Bindi is derived from the Sanskrit word *bindu*, which means a 'dot'. It is usually a red dot made with vermilion powder and is worn by the Hindu women between their eyebrows on their forehead.

Bindi is considered a symbol of 'Parvati' and signifies female energy which is believed by Hindus to protect women and their husbands. It is traditionally a symbol of marriage and is worn by the Hindu married women. It is also called as *tika*.

2. ***Bindi* has become a fashion**

Nowadays, wearing *bindi* has become a fashion and is even worn by unmarried girls and women. The shape of the *bindi* is no longer restricted to a dot and is available in various shapes, including oval, star, heart shaped, etc. It is even available in different bright colours like blue, green, yellow, orange, etc. The material of the *bindi* is no longer restricted to vermilion powder, but is made of coloured felt and other material. It is also available in a variety of designs in combination with coloured glass, glitter, etc.

3. ***Mangalsutra***

Mangalsutra means a thread of good-will. It is a necklace worn specially by Hindu married women as a symbol of their marriage. It consists of two strings of black beads with a pendant usually of gold. The black beads are believed to act as a protection against evil. It is believed to protect the women's marriage and the life of her husband. In southern India, *mangalsutra* is called *tali*, which is a small gold ornament string on a cotton cord or a gold chain.

Hindu Married women are never supposed to remove their *mangalsutra*. It is only cut off when a Hindu lady becomes a widow.

4. **Allah Is the Protector**

Allah (swt), our Creator, is the best to protect human beings. We do not require any red dot or black thread to protect us from evil. It is mentioned in the Glorious Qur'an in Surah Anam Chapter 6 verse 14

"Say: Shall I take for my protector any other than Allah, the Maker of the heavens and the earth?"

[Al-Qur'an 6:14]

It is mentioned in several places in the Glorious Qur'an including

Surah Ali Imran Chapter 3 Verse 150 and Surah Alhajj Chapter 22 Verse 78

"Allah is your Protector, and He is the best of helpers."

Wearing a *bindi* or *mangalsutra* signifies a lack of faith in Almighty God, our Creator, who is the best to protect.

5. **Against the Islamic Dress Code**

Wearing a *bindi* or *mangalsutra* is a sign of Hindu women. The Islamic dress code does not permit a Muslim to wear any sign, symbol or mark which is specially significant of a non-Muslim.

6. **In Islam, Both Married and Unmarried women should not be Teased**

Once, a Hindu friend of mine, while mentioning the benefits of *mangalsutra* said that it easily identifies a married women, and thus prevents them from being teased and molested. According to Islam, each and every woman, whether married or unmarried, Muslim or Non-Muslim, should neither be teased nor molested.

7. TAKING NAME OF EMPEROR AKBAR IN ADHAAN

Question:

Why do Muslims take the name of Emperor Akbar while calling people to pray?

Answer:

1. **Non Muslim misunderstand that Emperor Akbar's name is taken in Adhaan**

Once, when I attended a conference in Kerala, a non-Muslim minister spoke just before my speech. He was highlighting the achievements of the Indian Muslims and their role in the progress of India. He said that amongst the Indian kings, the greatest was Emperor Akbar. No wonder the Muslims take his name five times a day, while calling people to pray. During my speech however, I clarified this misconception.

2. **The 'Akbar' word of the Adhaan has nothing to do with Emperor Akbar**

The word 'Akbar' mentioned in the *Adhaan* which is given to call people to pray has nothing to do with Emperor Akbar of India. The words in the *Adhaan* were used centuries before the birth of Emperor Akbar.

3. **'Akbar' means 'Great'**

The Arabic word 'Akbar' means 'great'. When we say 'Allahu Akbar' in the *Adhaan* we proclaim that 'Allah is Great' or 'Allah is the Greatest' and we call people to worship the one and only Allah who is the Greatest.

8. WHY DON'T MUSLIMS IN INDIA FOLLOW THE ISLAMIC CRIMINAL LAW?

Question

When Muslims in India insist on having a separate Muslim Personal Law for themselves, why don't they also insist on implementing the Islamic Criminal Law for the Muslims; for example implementing the rule that the robber's hands should be

chopped off if a Muslim robs?

Answer:

1. **Muslim Personal Law**
Personal Law is a law concerning an individual person and the persons closely related to him, e.g. laws relating to marriage, divorce, inheritance, etc. It includes laws which are mutually agreed upon by a group of people. This law does not include any crime or an act that will harm the society directly.
2. **India is Secular And Democratic**
In any country, the Personal Law may differ for different groups of people and for different communities. Since India is a secular and democratic country it allows different groups of people to follow their own personal law if they wish.
3. **Islamic Personal Law is the Best**
Muslims believe that compared to all the different types of personal laws available in the world, the best and the most result oriented is the Islamic Personal Law. Muslims of India prefer following the Muslim personal law also because of their own belief in Islam.
4. **Criminal Law**
Criminal law is that law which is associated with a crime or an act which directly affects the society e.g. robbing, raping, murdering, etc.
5. **The Criminal Law should be the same for all people**
In any country, the criminal law unlike the Personal Law cannot be different for different groups of people. It has to be same for all people of different groups and different religions e.g. In Islam if a person robs, his hands are chopped off. This punishment is not prescribed in Hinduism. If a Hindu robs a Muslim, what would be the robber's punishment? The Muslim would want the hands of the robber to be chopped, while the Hindu Law would not agree.
6. **The Muslims in India alone cannot separately follow the Islamic Criminal Law without involving the Non-Muslims**
Even if a Muslim agrees, that as far as he commits a crime he should be given the punishment according to Islamic Criminal Law, it would not be practical. In case an allegation is made against a Muslim for robbery and if the witnesses are Non-Muslims, and if each one follows his own Criminal Law, the punishment in Islam for bearing false witness is 80 lashes, whereas in the Indian Criminal Law, a person giving false witness can easily escape. Thus, for a non-Muslim to falsely accuse a Muslim of any crime is very easy, if both follow their own criminal law. However, if both follow the Indian Law where the punishment is lenient for false witnesses and robbers, it will encourage both the robber to rob as well as encourage the witnesses to give false witness for their own benefit.
7. **The Muslims in India would prefer the Islamic Criminal Law to be implemented on all Indians**
We Muslims would prefer that in India the Islamic Criminal Law be implemented on all the Indians, since, chopping the hands of a thief will surely reduce the rate of robbery in India. Similarly, 80 lashes for giving false testimony will prevent a person from giving false witness.
8. **Islamic Criminal Law is Most Practical**
Islam besides pointing out a crime, it also gives you a solution showing how to prevent the crime e.g. chopping the hands of a robber, death penalty for the rapist. The punishment is so severe that it is a deterrent for the criminal to commit the crime. He will think a hundred times before committing a crime.

Thus if crime has to be reduced or stopped in India the best solution is to implement 'The Common Islamic Criminal Law'.

9. ARE RAM AND KRISHNA PROPHETS OF GOD?

Question:

If according to Islam, messengers or prophets were sent to each and every nation of the world, then which prophet was sent to India? Can we consider Ram and Krishna to be messengers of God?

Answer:

1. Prophets sent to every nation

- a. The Glorious Qur'an mentions in Surah Fatir, chapter 35 verse 24

"... And there never was a people, without a warner having lived among them (in the past)."

[Al-Qur'an 35:24]

- b. A similar message is repeated in Surah Rad, chapter 13 verse 7

"... and to every people a guide."

[Al-Qur'an 13:7]

2. Stories only of some prophets narrated in the Qur'an

- a. Allah (swt) says in Surah Nisa, chapter 4 verse 164

"Of some messengers We have already told thee the story; of others we have not."

[Al-Qur'an 4:164]

- b. A similar message is repeated in Surah Ghafir chapter 40 verse 78

"We did aforetime send messengers before thee: of them there are some whose story We have related to thee, and some whose story We have not related to thee. . ."

[Al-Qur'an 40:78]

3. 25 Prophets of God are mentioned by name in the Qur'an

By name, only 25 Prophets of God are mentioned in the Qur'an e.g. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad (pbuh)

4. More than 1,24,000 prophets of God

According to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), there were more than 1,24,000 prophets sent to this world.

5. All previous prophets sent only for their people

All the prophets that came before Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) were only sent for their own people and were to be followed only for a particular period of time.

Surah Ali Imran, chapter 3 verse 49

"And (appoint him) a messenger to the Children of Israel, . . ."

[Al-Qur'an 3:49]

6. Muhammad (pbuh), the last messenger of God

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the last and final messenger of Almighty God. It is mentioned in

Surah Ahzab, chapter 33 verse 40

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the seal of the Prophets: and Allah has full knowledge of all things."

[Al-Qur'an 33:40]

7. **Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), sent for whole Humankind**

Since Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is the last and final messenger, he was not sent only for the Muslims or the Arabs, but he was sent for the whole of humankind.

- a. It is mentioned in

Surah Anbiya, chapter 21 verse 107

"We sent thee not, but as a mercy for all creatures."

[Al'Qur'an 21:107]

- b. A similar message is repeated in

Surah Saba, chapter 34 verse 28

"We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not."

[Al Qur'an 34:28]

- c. It is mentioned in

Sahih Bukhari, volume 1, Book of Salaah, chapter 56 hadith no. 429

Narrated Jabir bin Abdullah: Allah's Messenger said,

"Every Prophet used to be sent to his nation only but I have been sent to all mankind."

8. **Which prophet was sent to India?**

Regarding the question of which prophet of God was sent to India, and can we consider Ram or Krishna to be prophets of God, there is no text in the Qur'an or Sahih Hadith mentioning the name of the prophet that was sent to India. Since the names of Ram and Krishna are nowhere to be found in the Qur'an and Sahih Hadith, one cannot say for sure whether they were prophets of God or not. Some Muslims, especially certain Muslim politicians who try to appease the Hindus, say Ram *Alai-his-salaam*, i.e. Ram, may peace be on him. This is totally wrong, since there is no authentic proof from the Qur'an and Sahih Hadith that he was a prophet of God. However, a person may say that perhaps they may have been the prophets of God.

9. **Even if Ram and Krishna were prophets, today we have to follow the last Prophet of God i.e. Muhammad (pbuh)**

Even if Ram and Krishna were prophets of God, they were only meant for people of that time and were to be followed only for that particular period of time. Today, all the human beings throughout the world, including India should only follow the last and final prophet and Messenger of God – prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

10. ARE THE VEDAS A REVELATION OF GOD?

Question:

If Allah has sent His books and revelations in every period, then which revelation was sent to India? Can we consider the Vedas and other Hindu scriptures to be the word of God?

Answer:

1. **Revelation sent in every period**

The Glorious Qur'an mentions in Surah Rad, chapter 13 verse 38

"For each period is a book (revealed)."

[Al-Qur'an 13:38]

2. Four revelations of God mentioned by name in Qur'an

By name, only four revelations of God are mentioned in the Qur'an i.e.

Torah, Zaboor, Injeel and the Qur'an

Torah is the revelation which was given to Moses (pbuh)

Zaboor is the revelation which was given to David (pbuh)

Injeel is the revelation which was given to Jesus (pbuh)

and Qur'an is the last and final revelation which was given to the last and final Messenger Muhammad (pbuh).

3. **All the previous revelations sent only for their people**

All the revelations that came before Qur'an were only sent for their own people and were to be followed only for a particular time period.

4. **The Qur'an sent for whole humankind**

Since the Qur'an is the last and final revelation, it was not sent only for the Muslims or the Arabs but it was sent for the whole of humankind. It is mentioned in:

a. Surah Ibrahim, chapter 14 verse 1

"*Alif Lam Ra*. A book which We have revealed unto thee, in order that thou mightest lead mankind out of the depths of darkness into light . . ."

[Al-Qur'an 14:1]

b. **A similar message is repeated in Surah Ibrahim chapter 14 verse 52**

"Here is a Message for mankind: let them take warning therefrom, and let them know that He is (no other than) One God: let men of understanding take heed."

[Al-Qur'an 14:52]

c. Qur'an mentions in Surah Baqarah chapter 2 verse 185

"Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur'an, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgement (between right and wrong)."

[Al-Qur'an 2:185]

d. A similar message is repeated in Surah Zumar chapter 39 verse 41

"Verily We have revealed the Book to thee in Truth, for (instructing)

mankind."

[Al-Qur'an 39:41]

5. **Which revelation sent to India?**

The question that arises is "which revelation of God was sent to India and whether we can consider the Vedas and the other Hindu Scriptures to be the revelations of God?" There is no text in the Qur'an or Sahih Hadith mentioning the name of the revelation that was sent to India. Since the names of the Vedas or other Hindu scriptures are nowhere to be found in Qur'an and Sahih Hadith, one cannot say for sure that they were the revelations of God. They may be the revelation of God or may not be the revelation of God.

6. **Even if the Veda was the word of God today you have to follow the Qur'an**

Even if the Vedas and the other scriptures were the revelations from God, they were only meant for people of that time and were to be followed only for that particular period of time. Today all human beings throughout the world including India should only follow the last and final Revelation of God, i.e. the Qur'an. Moreover since all the previous revelations were not meant to be followed for eternity, Almighty God did not preserve them in their original form. There is not a single religious scripture of any of the major religions which claims to be the word of God and has maintained its pure original text and is free from alteration, adulteration and interpolation. Since the Glorious Qur'an is to be followed for eternity, Allah (swt) has taken upon Himself to maintain its original purity and guard it from corruption. Allah says in Glorious Qur'an.

Surah Hijr chapter 15 verse 9

"We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly guard it (from corruption)."

[Al-Qur'an 15:9]

3. IS ALLAH MENTIONED IN OTHER SCRIPTURES

Question:

"Allah" is the most appropriate name for God in the Qur'an. Is this name "Allah" mentioned in other religious scriptures besides the Qur'an?

Answer:

Almost all the major religious scriptures of the world contain the word "Allah" as one of the names of God.

a. **Elohim El, Elah, Alah**

In the Bible, God is very often referred to as 'Elohim' in the Hebrew language. The 'im' in the ending is a plural of honour and God is referred to as 'El' or 'Elah' in the English Bible with commentary, edited by reverend C. I. Scofield. 'Elah' is alternatively spelled as 'Alah'. The difference in spelling is only of a single 'L'. Muslims spell Allah as 'Allah' while the Reverend has spelled it as Alah and they pronounce it as 'Elah'. Muslims pronounce it as Allah. Hebrew and Arabic are sister languages therefore we say it should be pronounced as 'Allah' and not as 'Elah'.

When I was in school, I was taught 'D, O' is do, 'T, O' is to. What is 'G, O' It is 'go' and not 'gu'. 'N, U, T' is nut, 'C, U, T' cut; 'B, U, T' is but, what is 'P, U, T'? Not 'pat' but it is 'put'. If you ask "Why?" The answer is "It is their language". If I have to pass I have to say 'P, U, T' is 'put' and not 'pat'.

Similarly the right pronunciation for A, L, L, A, H, is Allah.

- b. **Jesus (pbuh) cried out Allah Allah when he was put on the cross**
It is mentioned in the New Testament in the Gospel of Mathew, chapter 27 verse 46 as well as Gospel of Mark, chapter 15 verse 34 when Jesus (pbuh) was put on the cross.

Jesus cried with a loud voice saying "E'-Li, E'-Li la'-ma sa-bach'-tha-ni?" that is to say, 'My God, My God why hast Thou Forsaken Me?' Does this sound like Jehovah! Jehovah! why has thou forsaken me? Does it sound like *Abba Abba*? The answer is 'No'. Hebrew and Arabic are sister languages and if you translate "E'-Li, E'-Li la'-ma sa-bach'-tha-ni" into Arabic it is 'Allah Allah *lama tarak tani*' does it sound similar?

This statement of Jesus (pbuh), "E'-Li, E'-Li la'-ma sa-bach'-tha-ni" is preserved in its original Hebrew in each and every of its translation which is available in more than 2000 different languages of the world and in each and every of them, "Allah" is present.

2. **"Allah" in Sikhism**
One of the names by which Gurunanak Sahib referred to God is "Allah".
- 3.
- a. **"Allah" in Rigveda Book 2 Hymn I verse II**
Even in the Rigveda which is the most sacred scripture of the Hindus, one of the attributes given to God Almighty in Book no 2 Hymn no I verse II, is '*lla*' which if pronounced properly is the same as Allah.
- b. **Allo Upanishad:**
Amongst the various Upanishads one of the Upanishad is named as '*Allo*' Upanishad in which God is referred to as "Allah" several times.

Buddhism

Gautama Buddha was the founder of Buddhism. His original name was Siddharth (meaning one who has accomplished). He was also called *Sakyamuni*, i.e. the sage of the tribe of *Sakya*. He was born in the year 563 B.C. in the village of Lumbini near Kapila Vastu, within the present borders of Nepal.

According to legend, an astrologer foretold his father, the king, that young Gautama would give up the throne and luxury and renounce the world the day he would see four things (i) an old man, (ii) a sick man, (iii) a diseased man and (iv) a dead man. Hence, the king confined Gautama in a special palace which was provided with all worldly pleasures. He was married at the age of sixteen to Yasoddhra.

At the age of 29 after the birth of his first son, Gautama on the same day saw an old man, a sick man, a diseased man and a dead man. The impact of the dark side of life made him renounce the world that same night and he left his wife and son and became a penniless wanderer.

He studied and practised Hindu discipline initially, and later, Jainism. For several years he observed rigorous fasting along with extreme self-mortification. On realising that tormenting his body did not bring him closer to true wisdom, he resumed eating normally and abandoned asceticism.

At the age of 35, one evening as he sat beneath a giant fig tree (*Bodh tree*), he felt that he had found the solution to his problem and felt that he had attained enlightenment. Thus, he came to be known as '*Gautama*', '*The Buddha*', or '*The Enlightened One*'.

Later, he spent 45 years in preaching the truth that he felt he had discovered. He travelled from city to city bare-footed, clean-headed, with nothing more on his self than his saffron robe, walking stick and begging bowl. He died at the age of 80 in the year 483 BC.

Buddhism is divided into two sects viz. *Hinayana* and *Mahayana*

Buddhism

DA'WAH TO BUDDHISTS
by *Dr.Zakir Naik*

I BUDDHIST SCRIPTURES:

Historical criticism has proved that the original teachings of Buddha can never be known. It seems that Gautama Buddha's teachings were memorized by his disciples. After Buddha's death a council was held at Rajagaha so that the words of Buddha could be recited and agreed upon. There were differences of opinion and conflicting memories in the council. Opinion of Kayshapa and Ananda who were prominent disciples of Buddha were given preference. A hundred years later, a second council at *Vesali* was held. Only after 400 years, after the death of Buddha were his teachings and doctrines written down. Little attention was paid regarding its authenticity, genuineness and purity.

Buddhist Scriptures can be divided into *Pali* and *Sanskrit* Literature:

A. Pali Literature :

The *Pali* literature was monopolized by the *Hinayana* sect of Buddhism.

Tri Pitaka

The most important of all Buddhist scriptures is the *TRI-PITAKA* which is in *Pali* text. It is supposed to be the earliest recorded Buddhist literature which was written in the 1st Century B.C.

The *TRI-PITAKA* or Three Baskets of law is composed of 3 books:

1. ***Vinaya Pitaka*: 'Rules of Conduct'**

This is a book of discipline and mainly deals with rules of the order.

2. ***Sutta Pitaka*: 'Discourses'**

It is a collection of sermons and discourses of Gautama Buddha and the incidents in his life. It is the most important *Pitaka* and consists of five divisions known as *Nikayas*. *Dhammapada* is the most famous *Pali* literature and contains aphorisms and short statements covering the truth.

3. ***Abhidhamma*: 'Analysis of Doctrine'**

This third basket contains meta physical doctrines and is known as Buddhist meta physicals. It is an analytical and logical elaboration of the first two pitakas. It contains analysis and exposition of Buddhist doctrine.

B. Sanskrit Literature:

Sanskrit literature was preferred by the *Mahayana*. Sanskrit literature has not been reduced to a collection or in Cannon like the *Pali* literature. Thus much of the original Sanskrit literature has been lost. Some were translated into other languages like Chinese and are now being re-translated into Sanskrit.

1. ***Maha vastu*: 'Sublime Story'**

Mahavastu is the most famous work in Sanskrit which has been restored from its Chinese translation. It consists of voluminous collection of legendary stories.

2. ***Lalitavistara***

Lalitavistara is one of the holiest of the Sanskrit literature. It belongs to the first century C.E., 500 years after the death of Buddha. It contains the miracles which the superstition loving people have attributed to Buddha.

II TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA:

A. Noble Truths:

The principal teachings of Gautama Buddha can be summarised in what the Buddhists call the 'Four Noble Truths':

First – There is suffering and misery in life .

Second – The cause of this suffering and misery is desire.

Third – Suffering and misery can be removed by removing desire.

Fourth – Desire can be removed by following the Eight Fold Path.

B. The Noble Eight Fold Path:

(i) Right Views

(ii) Right Thoughts

(iii) Right Speech

(iv) Right Actions

(v) Right Livelihood

(vi) Right Efforts

(vii) Right Mindfulness

(viii) Right Meditation

C. Nirvana:

Nirvana literally means "blowing out" or "extinction". According to Buddhism, this is the ultimate goal of life and can be described in various words. It is a cessation of all sorrows, which can be achieved by removing desire by following the Eight Fold Path.

III PHILOSOPHY OF BUDDHISM IS SELF – CONTRADICTIONARY:

As mentioned earlier, the main teachings of Buddhism are summarised in the Four Noble Truths:

- (i) There is suffering and misery in life.
- (ii) The cause of suffering and misery is desire.
- (iii) Suffering and misery can be removed by removing desire.
- (iv) Desire can be removed by following the Eight Fold Path.

This Philosophy of Buddhism is self-contradictory or self-defeating because the third truth says 'suffering and misery can be removed by removing desire' and the fourth truth says that 'desire can be removed by following the Eight Fold Path'.

Now, for any person to follow Buddhism he should first have the desire to follow the Four Noble Truths and the Eight Fold Path. The Third great Noble Truth says that desire should be removed. Once you remove desire, how can we follow the Fourth Noble truth i.e. follow the Eight Fold Path unless we have a desire to follow the Eight Fold Path. In short desire can only be removed by having a desire to follow the Eight Fold Path. If you do not follow the Eight Fold Path, desire cannot be removed. It is self contradicting as well as self-defeating to say that desire will only be removed by continuously having a desire.

IV CONCEPT OF GOD

Buddha was silent about the existence or non-existence of God. It may be that since India was drowned in idol worship and anthropomorphism that a sudden step to monotheism would have been drastic and hence Buddha may have chosen to remain silent on the issue of God. He did not deny the existence of God. Buddha was once asked by a disciple whether God exists? He refused to reply. When pressed, he said that if you are suffering from a stomach ache would you concentrate on relieving the pain or studying the prescription of the physician. "It is not my business or yours to find out whether there is God – our business is to remove the sufferings of the world".

Buddhism provided *Dhamma* or the 'impersonal law' in place of God. However this could not satisfy the craving of human beings and the religion of self-help had to be converted into a religion of promise and hope. The *Hinayana* sect could not hold out any promise of external help to the people. The *Mahayana* sect taught that Buddha's watchful and compassionate eyes are on all miserable beings, thus making a God out of Buddha. Many scholars consider the evolution of God within Buddhism as an effect of Hinduism.

Many Buddhists adopted the local god and thus the religion of 'No-God' was transformed into the religion of 'Many-Gods' – big and small, strong and weak and male and female. The 'Man-God' appears on earth in human form and incarnates from time to time. Buddha was against the caste-system prevalent in the Hindu society.

V MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN BUDDHIST SCRIPTURES:

1. **Buddha prophesised the advent of a *Maitreya*:**

- A) Almost all Buddhist books contain this prophecy. It is in *Chakkavatti Sinhnan Suttanta* D. III, 76:

"There will arise in the world a Buddha named *Maitreya* (the benevolent one) a holy one, a supreme one, an enlightened one, endowed with wisdom in conduct, auspicious, knowing the universe:

"What he has realized by his own supernatural knowledge he will publish to this universe. He will preach his religion, glorious in its origin, glorious at its climax, glorious at the goal, in the spirit and the letter. He will proclaim a religious life, wholly perfect and thoroughly pure; even as I now preach my religion and a like life do proclaim. He will keep up the society of monks numbering many thousands, even as now I keep up a society of monks numbering many hundreds".

- B) According to Sacred Books of the East volume 35 pg. 225:

"It is said that I am not an only Buddha upon whom the leadership and order is dependent. After me another Buddha *maitreya* of such and such virtues will come. I am now the leader of hundreds, he will be the leader of thousands."

- C) According to the Gospel of Buddha by Carus pg. 217 and 218 (From Ceylon sources):

"*Ananda* said to the Blessed One, 'Who shall teach us when thou art gone?'

And the Blessed one replied, 'I am not the first Buddha who came upon the earth nor shall I be the last. In due time another Buddha will arise in the world, a holy one, a supremely enlightened one, endowed with wisdom in conduct, auspicious, knowing the universe, an incomparable leader of men, a master of angels and mortals. He will reveal to you the same eternal truths, which I have taught you. He will preach his religion, glorious in its origin, glorious at the climax and glorious at the goal. He will proclaim a religious life, wholly perfect and pure such as I now proclaim. His disciples will number many thousands while mine number many hundreds.'

Ananda said, 'How shall we know him?'

The Blessed one replied, 'He will be known as *Maitreya*'."

- (i) The Sanskrit word '*Maitreya*' or its equivalent in *Pali* '*Metteyya*' means loving, compassionate, merciful and benevolent. It also means kindness and friendliness, sympathy, etc. One Arabic word which is equivalent to all these words is '*Rahmat*'. In Surah Al-Anbiya:

"We sent thee not, but as a mercy for all creatures."
[Al-Qur'an 21:107]

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was called the merciful, which is '*Maitri*'.

- (ii) The words Mercy and Merciful are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an no less than 409 times.
- (iii) Every chapter of the Glorious Qur'an, except Chapter 9, i.e. Surah Taubah begins with the beautiful formula, '*Bismillah Hir-Rahman Nir-Rahim*', which means 'In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful'.

- (iv) The Word Muhammad is also spelt as 'Mahamet' or 'Mahomet' and in various other ways in different languages. The word 'Maho' or 'Maha' in Pali and Sanskrit mean Great and Illustrious and 'Metta' means mercy. Therefore 'Mahomet' means 'Great Mercy'.

2. Buddha's doctrine was Esoteric and Exoteric:

According to Sacred Books of the East, volume 11, pg. 36 *Maha-Parinibbana Sutta* chapter 2 verse 32:

"I have preached the truth without making any distinction between exoteric and esoteric doctrine, for in respect of truths, *Ananda*, the *Tathagata* has no such thing as the closed fist of a teacher, who keeps something back".

Muhammad (pbuh) on the commandment of Almighty God delivered the message and doctrine without making any distinction between esoteric and exoteric. The Qur'an was recited in public in the days of the Prophet and is being done so till date. The Prophet had strictly forbidden the Muslims from hiding the doctrine

3. Devoted Servitors of the Buddhas:

According to Sacred Books of the East volume 11 pg. 97 *Maha-Parinibbana Sutta* Chapter 5 verse 36:

"Then the Blessed one addressed the brethren, and said, 'Whosoever, brethren have been *Arahat-Buddhas* through the long ages of the past, they were servitors just as devoted to those Blessed ones as *Ananda* has been to me. And whosoever brethren shall be the *Arahat-Buddhas* of the future, there shall be servitors as devoted to those Blessed ones as *Ananda* has been to me'."

The Servitor of Buddha was *Ananda*. Muhammad (pbuh) also had a servitor by the name *Anas* (r.a.) who was the son of *Malik*. *Anas* (r.a...) was presented to the Prophet by his parents. *Anas* (r.a...) relates: "My mother said to him, 'Oh Messenger of God, here is your little servant'." Further *Anas* relates, "I served him from the time I was 8 years old and the Prophet called me his son and his little beloved". *Anas* (r.a...) stayed by the Prophet in peace and in war, in safety as well as in danger till the end of his life.

- i) *Anas* (r.a.), even though he was only 11 years old stayed beside the Prophet during the battle of *Uhud* where the Prophet's life was in great danger.
- ii) Even during the battle of *Honain* when the Prophet was surrounded by the enemies who were archers, *Anas* (r.a...) who was only 16 years old stood by the Prophet.

Anas (R) can surely be compared with *Ananda* who stood by *Gautam Buddha* when the mad elephant approached him.

4. Six Criteria for Identifying Buddha:

According to the Gospel of Buddha by Carus pg. 214:

"The Blessed one said, 'There are two occasions on which a *Tathagata*'s appearance becomes clear and exceedingly bright. In the night Ananda, in which a *Tathagata* attains to the supreme and perfect insight, and in the night in which he passes finally away in that ultra passing which leaves nothing whatever of his earthly existence to remain.' "

According to Gautam Buddha, following are the six criteria for identifying a Buddha.

- i) A Buddha attains supreme and perfect insight at night-time.
- ii) On the occasion of his complete enlightenment he looks exceedingly bright
- iii) A Buddha dies a natural death.
- iv) He dies at night-time.
- v) He looks exceedingly bright before his death.
- vi) After his death a Buddha ceases to exist on earth.

- i) Muhammad (pbuh) attained supreme insight and Prophethood at night-time.

According to Surah Dukhan:

"By the books that makes thing clear – We sent it down during a blessed night."

[Al-Qur'an 44:2-3]

According to Surah Al-Qadar:

"We have indeed revealed this (message) in the night of power."

[Al-Qur'an 97:1]

- ii) Muhammad (pbuh) instantly felt his understanding illumined with celestial light.
- iii) Muhammad (pbuh) died a natural death.
- iv) According to Ayesha (r.a.), Muhammad (pbuh) expired at night-time. When he was dying there was no oil in the lamp and his wife Ayesha (r.a.) had to borrow oil for the lamp.
- v) According to Anas (r.a.), Muhammad (pbuh) looked exceedingly bright in the night of his death.
- vi) After the burial of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) he was never seen again in his bodily form on this earth.

5. **Buddhas are only Preachers:**

According to Dhammapada, Sacred Books of East volume 10 pg., 67:

"The *Jathagatas* (Buddhas) are only Preachers."

The Qur'an says in Surah Ghashiya:

"Therefore do thou give admonition, for thou art one to admonish. Thou art not one to manage (men's) affairs."

[Al-Qur'an 88:21-22]

6. Identification of Maitreya by Buddha:

According to *Dhammapada, Mattaya Sutta*, 151:

"The promised one will be:

- i) Compassionate for the whole creation
- ii) A messenger of peace, a peace-maker
- iii) The most successful in the world.

The Maitreya as a Preacher of morals will be:

- i) Truthful
- ii) Self-respecting
- iii) Gentle and noble
- iv) Not proud
- v) As a king to creatures
- vi) An example to others in deeds and in words".

comparative religion

Sikhism

Sikhism is a non-Semitic, Aryan, non-Vedic religion. It is a religion that has the sixth largest following in the world. Some consider it as an offshoot of Hinduism. It was founded by Guru Nanak at the end of the 15th century. It originated in the area of Pakistan and North West India called Punjab, meaning the land of the five rivers. Guru Nanak was born in a *Kshatriya* (warrior caste) Hindu family but was very strongly influenced by Islam and Muslims.

I **DEFINITION OF SIKH AND SIKHISM**

The word 'Sikh' is derived from the word *sisya* meaning disciple or follower. *Sikhism* is a religion of ten Gurus, the first Guru being Guru Nanak and the tenth and the last being Guru Gobind Singh. The sacred book of *Sikhism* is Sri Guru Granth also called *Adi Granth Sahib*.

THE FIVE – 'K's

Every Sikh is supposed to keep the following five 'K's, which also serve to identify him as a Sikh:

- i. *Kesh* – uncut hair.
- ii. *Kanga* – comb; used to keep the hair clean.
- iii. *Kada* – metal or steel bangle; for strength and self-restraint.
- iv. *Kirpan* – dagger; for self-defence.

- v. *Kaccha* – special knee length underwear or under-drawer for agility.

II **CONCEPT OF GOD IN SIKHISM:**

MULMANTRA: THE FUNDAMENTAL CREED OF SIKHISM

The best definition that any Sikh can give regarding the concept of God in Sikhism is to quote the *Mulmantra* – the fundamental creed of Sikhism, which occurs at the beginning of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

It is mentioned in Sri Guru Granth Sahib, volume 1 *Japuji*, the first verse:

"There exists but one God, who is called The True, The Creator, Free from fear and hate, Immortal, Not begotten, Self-Existent, Great and Compassionate."

Sikhism is a monotheistic Religion

Sikhism enjoins its followers to practise strict monotheism. It believes in only One Supreme God who is, in the unmanifest form, called *Ek Omkara*.

In the manifest form He is called *Omkara* and has several attributes such as:

Kartar – The Creator
Akal – The Eternal
Sattanama – The Holy Name
Sahib – The Lord
Parvardigar – The Cherisher
Rahim – The Merciful
Karim – The Benevolent

He is also called *Wahe Guru* – the One true God.

Besides Sikhism being strictly monotheistic, it also does not believe in *Avataravada* – the doctrine of incarnation. Almighty God does not incarnate Himself in what is known as *Avatara*. Sikhism is also strongly against idol worship.

Guru Nanak was influenced by Sant Kabir

Guru Nanak was influenced by the sayings of Sant Kabir so much that several chapters of Sri Guru Granth Sahib contain couplets of Sant Kabir.

One of the famous couplets of Sant Kabir is:

*"Dukh mein sumirana sabh karein
Sukh mein karein na koya
Jo sukh mein sumirana karein
To dukh kaye hoye?"*

"In times of trouble, God is remembered by all
But none remembers Him during peace and happiness.
If God is remembered in good times of happiness
Why should trouble occur?"

Compare this with the following verse of the Qur'an:

"When some trouble toucheth man,
He crieth unto his Lord,
Turning to Him in repentance:
But when He bestoweth
A favour upon him
As from Himself,
(Man) doth forget what he cried
And prayed for before,
And he doth set up
Rivals unto Allah."
[Al-Qur'an 39:8]

The Sikh scriptures therefore emphasise monotheism and God-consciousness.

comparative religion

Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism is an ancient Aryan religion that originated in Persia more than 2500 years ago. Though it has relatively few adherents, less than one hundred and thirty thousand in the whole world, it is one of the oldest religions. Zoroaster was the founder of Zoroastrianism, also commonly known as Parsi-ism. It is also known as the religion of fire worshippers and Magianism.

Parsi Scriptures consist of Dasatir and Vesta or Zend-Avesta. Dasatir is further divided into two parts: Khurda Dasatir and Kalan Dasatir.

Avesta is further divided into Khurda Avesta and Kalan Avesta also known as Zend or Maha-Zend.

The religious scriptures of the Parsis are found in two languages: *Pahlawi* (Pahlawi script resembles the present Persian script) and *Zendi*. Besides these two scripts, some religious literature is found in cuneiform writing.

Some Parsis consider the Zend Avesta to be more authentic than the Dasatir while the others consider Dasatir to be more authentic.

Zend Avesta is divided into three parts:

1. The first part contains *Vendid*.
2. The second part contains *Sirozahs, Yashts and Nyays*.
3. The third part contains *Gathas, Yasha, Visparad, Afrinagan Gahs* and miscellaneous.

DASATIR:

Dasatir means a book of ten parts: '*Das*' meaning 'ten' and '*tir*' meaning 'a part'. Dasatir is also the plural of Dastur, which means law or religious code.

comparative religion

Zoroastrianism

DA'WAH TO ZOROASTRIANS (PARSIS) by **Dr. Zakir Naik**

Da'wah To Zoroastrians (Parsis)

I CONCEPT OF GOD IN ZOROASTRIANISM:

God in Zoroastrianism is known as '*Ahura Mazda*'. '*Ahura*' means 'the Lord' or 'The Master' and '*Mazda*' means 'the Wise'; hence '*Ahura Mazda*' means 'the Wise Lord' or 'the Wise God'. *Ahura Mazda* stands for God, in a strictly monotheistic sense.

Qualities of God according to the Dasatir:

According to the Dasatir, *Ahura Mazda* has the following qualities:

- i. He is One.
- ii. He is without an origin or end.
- iii. He has no father or mother, wife or son.

- iv. He is without a body or form.
- v. Nothing resembles Him.
- vi. Neither the eye can behold Him, nor the power of thinking can conceive Him.
- vii. He is above all that you can imagine.
- viii. He is nearer to you than your own self.

Qualities of God according to Avesta

According to the *Avesta*, the Gathas and the Yasna give various characteristics to *Ahura Mazda* such as:

- i. Creator – Yasna 31:7 & 11
Yasna 44:7
Yasna 50:11
Yasna 51:7
- ii. Most Mighty – the Greatest
Yasna 33:11
Yasna 45:6
- iii. Beneficent – *Hudai*.
Yasna 33:11
Yasna 48:3
- iv. Bountiful – *Spenta*;
Yasna 43:4,5,7,9,11,13,15
Yasna 44:2
Yasna 45:5
Yasna 46:9
Yasna 48:3

Thus, in Zoroastrianism too, we find a concept of an eternal, omnipotent God. Several verses of *Yasna* praise the Lord as a Bountiful Creator.

II MUHAMMED (PBUH) IN THE PARSI SCRIPTURES

1. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in Zend Avesta

It is mentioned in *Zend Avesta Farvardin Yasht* chapter 28 verse 129 (Sacred Books of the East, volume 23, *Zend Avesta* Part II pg. 220):

"Whose name will be the Victorious, *Soeshyant* and whose name will be *Astvat-ereta*. He will be *Soeshyant* (The Beneficent one) because he will benefit the whole bodily world. He will be *Astvat-ereta* (he who makes the people, bodily creatures rise up) because as a bodily creature and as a living being he will stand against the destruction of the bodily (being) creatures to withstand the drug of the two footed brood, to withstand the evil done by the faithful (idolaters and the like and the errors of the Mazdaynians)".

This Prophecy applies to no other person more perfectly than it does to Muhammad (pbuh):

- a. The Prophet was not only victorious at Fatah Makkah but was also merciful when he let go the blood thirsty opponents by saying:

"There shall be no reproof against you this day".

- b. *Soeshyant* means the 'praised one' (refer Haisting's Encyclopedia), which translated in Arabic means Muhammad (pbuh).
- c. *Astvat-ereta* is derived from the root word *Astu* which in Sanskrit as well as in *Zend* means 'to praise'. The infinitive *Sitaudan* in present day Persian means praising. It can also be derived from the Persian root word *istadan* which would mean 'one who makes a thing rise up'. Therefore *Astvat-ereta* means the one who praised, which is the exact translation of the Arabic word '*Ahmed*' which is another name for Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The Prophecy clearly mentions both the names of the Prophet i.e. Muhammad (pbuh) and Ahmed (pbuh).
- d. The Prophecy further says that he will benefit the whole bodily world and the Qur'an testifies this in Surah Al-Anbiya chapter 21 verse 107:

"We sent thee not, but as a mercy for all creatures."
[Al-Qur'an 21:107]

2. **Sanctity of Prophet's Companions:**

In *Zend Avesta Zamyad Yasht* chapter 16 verse 95 (*Sacred Books of the East*, volume 23 *Zend Avesta Part II* pg. 308):

"And there shall his friends come forward, the friends of *Astvat-ereta*, who are fiend-smitting, well thinking, well-speaking, well-doing, following the good law and whose tongues have never uttered a word of falsehood."

- a. Here too Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is mentioned by name as *Astvat-ereta*.
- b. There is also a mention of the Prophet's friends as companions who will be fighting the evil; pious, holy men having good moral values and always speaking the truth. This is a clear reference to the *Sahabas* – the prophet's companions.

3. **Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in Dasatir:**

The sum and substance of the prophecy mentioned in *Dasatir* is, that when the Zoroastrian people will forsake their religion and will become dissolute, a man will rise in Arabia, whose followers will conquer Persian and subjugate the arrogant Persians. Instead of worshipping fire in their own temples, they will turn their faces in prayer towards *Kaaba* of Abraham (pbuh) which will be cleared of all idols. They (the followers of the Arabian Prophet), will be a mercy unto the world. They will become masters of Persia, *Madain*, *Tus*, *Balkh*, the sacred places of the Zoroastrians and the neighbouring territories. Their Prophet will be an eloquent man telling miraculous things.

This Prophecy relates to no other person but to Muhammad (pbuh).

4. **Muhammad (pbuh) will be the Last Prophet:**

It is mentioned in *Bundahish* chapter 30 verses 6 to 27 that *Soeshyant* will be the last Prophet implying that Muhammad (pbuh) will be the last Prophet. The Qur'an testifies this in Surah Ahzab.

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: and Allah has full knowledge of all things."
[Al-Qur'an 33:40]

Atheist

The Islamic Research Foundation (**IRF**) is a registered public charitable trust (No. B-1409, Bom) in Mumbai, India. It was established in Feb. 1991. It promotes Islamic 'da'wah' - the proper presentation, understanding and clarification of Islam, as well as removing misconceptions about Islam - amongst less aware Muslims and non-Muslims.

Atheist

CATEGORISATION OF MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS

Religions of the world can be broadly categorized into Semitic religions and non-Semitic religions. Non-Semitic religions can be divided into Aryan religions and non-Aryan religions.

Semitic religions

Semitic religions are religions that originated among the Semites. According to the Bible, Prophet Noah (pbuh) had a son called Shem.

The descendents of Shem are known as Semites. Therefore, Semitic religions are the religions that originated among the Jews, Arabs, Assyrians, Phoenicians, etc. Major Semitic religions are Judaism, Christianity and Islam. All these religions are Prophetic religions that believe in Divine Guidance sent through prophets of God.

Non-Semitic religions

The non-Semitic religions are further subdivided into Aryan and non-Aryan religions:

Aryan Religions

Aryan religions are the religions that originated among the Aryans, a powerful group of Indo-European speaking people that spread through Iran and Northern India in the first half of the second Millenium BC (2000 to 1500 BC).

The Aryan Religions are further subdivided into *Vedic* and non-*Vedic* religions.

The *Vedic* Religion is given the misnomer of Hinduism or Brahminism. The non-*Vedic* Religions are Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, etc.

Almost all Aryan religions are non-Prophetic religions.

Zoroastrianism is an Aryan, non-Vedic religion, which is not associated with Hinduism. It claims to be a prophetic religion.

Non-Aryan Religions

The non-Aryan religions have diverse origins. Confucianism and Taoism are of Chinese origin while Shintoism is of Japanese origin.

Many of these non-Aryan religions do not have a concept of God. They are better referred to as ethical systems rather than as religions.

comparative religion

Atheist

PROVING THE EXISTENCE OF ALLAH (SWT) TO AN ATHEIST by **Dr. Zakir Naik**

CONGRATULATING AN ATHEIST

Normally, when I meet an atheist, the first thing I like to do is to congratulate him and say, " My special congratulations to you", because most of the people who believe in God are doing blind belief - he is a Christian, because his father is a Christian; he is a Hindu, because his father is a Hindu; the majority of the people in the world are blindly following the religion of their fathers. An atheist, on the other hand, even though he may belong to a religious family, uses his intellect to deny the existence of God; what ever concept or qualities of God he may have learnt in his religion may not seem to be logical to him.

My Muslim brothers may question me, "Zakir, why are you congratulating an atheist?" The reason that I am congratulating an atheist is because he agrees with the first part of the *Shahada* i.e. the Islamic Creed, '*La ilaaha*' - meaning 'there is no God'. So half my job is already done; now the only part left is '*il lallah*' i.e. 'BUT ALLAH' which I shall do *Insha Allah*. With others (who are not atheists) I have to first remove from their minds the wrong concept of God they may have and then put the correct concept of one true God.

LOGICAL CONCEPT OF GOD

My first question to the atheist will be: "What is the definition of God?" For a person to say there is no God, he should know what is the meaning of God. If I hold a book and say that 'this is a pen', for the opposite person to say, 'it is not a pen', he should know what is the definition of a pen, even if he does not know nor is able to recognise or identify the object I am holding in my hand. For him to say this is not a pen, he should at least know what a pen means. Similarly for an atheist to say 'there is no God', he should at least know the concept of God. His concept of God would be derived from the surroundings in which he lives. The god that a large number of people worship has got human qualities - therefore he does not believe in such a god. Similarly a Muslim too does not and should not believe in such false gods.

If a non-Muslim believes that Islam is a merciless religion with something to do with terrorism; a religion which does not give rights to women; a religion which contradicts science; in his limited sense that non-Muslim is correct to reject such Islam. The problem is he has a wrong picture of Islam. Even I reject such a false picture of Islam, but at the same time, it becomes my duty as a Muslim to present the correct picture of Islam to that non-Muslim i.e. Islam is a merciful religion, it gives equal rights to the women, it is not incompatible with logic, reason and science; if I present the correct facts about Islam, that non-Muslim may *Inshallah* accept Islam.

Similarly the atheist rejects the false gods and the duty of every Muslim is to present the correct concept of God which he shall *Insha Allah* not refuse.

(You may refer to my article, 'Concept of God in Islam', for more details)

QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE

The methods of proving the existence of God with usage of the material provided in the 'Concept of God in Islam' to an atheist may satisfy some but not all.

Many atheists demand a scientific proof for the existence of God. I agree that today is the age of science and technology. Let us use scientific knowledge to kill two birds with one stone, i.e. to prove the existence of God and simultaneously prove that the Qur'an is a revelation of God.

If a new object or a machine, which no one in the world has ever seen or heard of before, is shown to an atheist or any person and then a question is asked, " Who is the first person who will be able to provide details of the mechanism of this unknown object? After little bit of thinking, he will reply, 'the creator of that object.' Some may say 'the producer' while others may say 'the manufacturer.' What ever answer the person gives, keep it in your mind, the answer will always be either the creator, the producer, the manufacturer or some what of the same meaning, i.e. the person who has made it or created it. Don't grapple with words, whatever answer he gives, the meaning will be same, therefore accept it.

SCIENTIFIC FACTS MENTIONED IN THE QUR'AN: for details on this subject please refer to my book, 'THE QUR'AN AND MODERN SCIENCE – COMPATIBLE OR INCOMPATIBLE?'

THEORY OF PROBABILITY

In mathematics there is a theory known as 'Theory of Probability'. If you have two options, out of which one is right, and one is wrong, the chances that you will chose the right one is half, i.e. one out of the two will be correct. You have 50% chances of being correct. Similarly if you toss a coin the chances that your guess will be correct is 50% (1 out of 2) i.e. 1/2. If you toss a coin the second time, the chances that you will be correct in the second toss is again 50% i.e. half. But the chances that you will be correct in both the tosses is half multiplied by half ($1/2 \times 1/2$) which is equal to 1/4 i.e. 50% of 50% which is equal to 25%. If you toss a coin the third time, chances that you will be correct all three times is ($1/2 \times 1/2 \times 1/2$) that is 1/8 or 50% of 50% of 50% that is 12½%.

A dice has got six sides. If you throw a dice and guess any number between 1 to 6, the chances that your guess will be correct is 1/6. If you throw the dice the second time, the chances that your guess will be correct in both the throws is ($1/6 \times 1/6$) which is equal to 1/36. If you throw the dice the third time, the chances that all your three guesses are correct is ($1/6 \times 1/6 \times 1/6$) is equal to 1/216 that is less than 0.5 %.

Let us apply this theory of probability to the Qur'an, and assume that a person has guessed all the information that is mentioned in the Qur'an which was unknown at that time. Let us discuss the probability of all the guesses being simultaneously correct.

At the time when the Qur'an was revealed, people thought the world was flat, there are several other options for the shape of the earth. It could be triangular, it could be quadrangular, pentagonal, hexagonal, heptagonal, octagonal, spherical, etc. Lets assume there are about 30 different options for the shape of the earth. The Qur'an rightly says it is spherical, if it was a guess the chances of the guess being correct is 1/30.

The light of the moon can be its own light or a reflected light. The Qur'an rightly says it is a

reflected light. If it is a guess, the chances that it will be correct is 1/2 and the probability that both the guesses i.e the earth is spherical and the light of the moon is reflected light is $1/30 \times 1/2 = 1/60$.

Further, the Qur'an also mentions every living thing is made of water. Every living thing can be made up of either wood, stone, copper, aluminum, steel, silver, gold, oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, oil, water, cement, concrete, etc. The options are say about 10,000. The Qur'an rightly says that everything is made up of water. If it is a guess, the chances that it will be correct is 1/10,000 and the probability of all the three guesses i.e. the earth is spherical, light of moon is reflected light and everything is created from water being correct is $1/30 \times 1/2 \times 1/10,000 = 1/60,000$ which is equal to about .0017%.

The Qur'an speaks about hundreds of things that were not known to men at the time of its revelation. Only in three options the result is .0017%. I leave it upto you, to work out the probability if all the hundreds of the unknown facts were guesses, the chances of all of them being correct guesses simultaneously and there being not a single wrong guess. It is beyond human capacity to make all correct guesses without a single mistake, which itself is sufficient to prove to a logical person that the origin of the Qur'an is Divine.

CREATOR IS THE AUTHOR OF THE QUR'AN

The only logical answer to the question as to who could have mentioned all these scientific facts 1400 years ago before they were discovered, is exactly the same answer initially given by the atheist or any person, to the question who will be the first person who will be able to tell the mechanism of the unknown object. It is the 'CREATOR', the producer, the Manufacturer of the whole universe and its contents. In the English language He is 'God', or more appropriate in the Arabic language, 'ALLAH'.

QUR'AN IS A BOOK OF SIGNS AND NOT SCIENCE

Let me remind you that the Qur'an is not a book of Science, 'S-C-I-E-N-C-E' but a book of Signs 'S-I-G-N-S' i.e. a book of *ayaats*. The Qur'an contains more than 6,000 *ayaats*, i.e. 'signs', out of which more than a thousand speak about Science. I am not trying to prove that the Qur'an is the word of God using scientific knowledge as a yard stick because any yardstick is supposed to be more superior than what is being checked or verified. For us Muslims the Qur'an is the *Furqan* i.e. criteria to judge right from wrong and the ultimate yardstick which is more superior to scientific knowledge.

But for an educated man who is an atheist, scientific knowledge is the ultimate test which he believes in. We do know that science many a times takes 'U' turns, therefore I have restricted the examples only to scientific facts which have sufficient proof and evidence and not scientific theories based on assumptions. Using the ultimate yardstick of the atheist, I am trying to prove to him that the Qur'an is the word of God and it contains the scientific knowledge which is his yardstick which was discovered recently, while the Qur'an was revealed 1400 year ago. At the end of the discussion, we both come to the same conclusion that God though superior to science, is not incompatible with it.

SCIENCE IS ELIMINATING MODELS OF GOD BUT NOT GOD

Francis Bacon, the famous philosopher, has rightly said that a little knowledge of science makes man an atheist, but an in-depth study of science makes him a believer in God. Scientists today are eliminating models of God, but they are not eliminating God. If you translate this into Arabic, it is *La illaha illal la*, There is no god, (god with a small 'g' that is fake

god) but God (with a capital 'G').

Surah Fussilat:

"Soon We will show them our signs in the (farthest) regions (of the earth), and in their own souls, until it becomes manifest to them that this is the Truth. Is it not enough that thy Lord doth witness all things?"

[Al-Quran 41:53]