

The antidote against the illness of misconceptions.

Written with the sole intention to enlighten my beloved...

Sincerely, your beloved. Something from my heart directed to your heart...

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“Invite to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and fair preaching, and reason with them in a way that is better. Truly, your Lord knows best who has gone astray from His Path, and He is the Best Aware of those who are guided..” (16:125)

.....

Indeed, all thanks and praise is due to Allah, we seek His help and His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil within ourselves and the consequences of our evil actions. Whoever Allah guides will never be led astray and whoever Allah allows to go astray will never find guidance. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship but Allah, the Lord of Abraham, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger, who was sent with the Qur’an and was the last of messengers sent; thus sealing the line of prophethood.

I ask Allah the Lord of the Heavens and the Earth and everything in between to allow this paper to be a means of shedding the light of Islam through the darkness of misconception, ameen.

What does Islam mean?

Islam means submission to the Creator and one who submits to the Creator is theoretically a Muslim. Hence, all the Biblical/Qur’anic figures of God from Adam, Eve, Enoch, Jonah, Elijah, David, Solomon, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Sarah, Job, Zechariah, Moses, Aaron, John, Mary, Jesus, etc are considered Muslims, which may be surprising to many. Yes, Muslim’s do believe in all of the Prophets and Messengers and the original scriptures brought: such as the scrolls of Abraham, the Psalms of David, the Torah of Moses, and the Gospel of Jesus prior to the Qur’an revealed to Muhammad, may the peace be upon all the beloved Prophets listed. Chapter 3, verse 84 of the Qur’an reads: “Say (O Muhammad): "We believe in Allah and in what has been sent down to us, and what was sent down to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob and the twelve sons of Jacob and what was given to Moses, Jesus and the Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between one another among them and to Him (Allah) we have submitted (in Islam)."

What do Muslims believe in?

There are mainly two dimensions to the set of beliefs which Muslims have. This is comprised of the 5 pillars of Islam and the 6 articles of faith.

The 5 pillars of Islam are:

1. The testimony that there is no deity worthy of worship but Allah and that Muhammad is His messenger, this known as the shahada
2. The establishment of 5 daily prayers, known as the salat.
3. Obligatory charity, payed from the wealthy to the poor. This is known as zakat.

4. Making the pilgrimage to Makkah, known as hajj.
5. And the fasting in the holy month of Ramadan.

The 6 articles of faith are:

1. Belief in Allah, His Oneness, His Lordship, and His monotheistic worship.
2. Belief in the Angels.
3. Belief in the divine books revealed to the Messengers.
4. Belief in the Prophets sent to mankind – From Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, and the list goes on.
5. Belief in the Day of Judgement.
6. Belief in Allah’s predestination. The concept that everything that happens is by the will and wisdom of Allah.

The essence of Islam:

Islam is the Abrahamic religion. A definite and precise statement, yes, but what does this mean? It means that Islam is the religion which Abraham himself practiced. As the Qur’an says: *Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was one inclining toward truth, a Muslim [submitting to Allah]. And he was not of the polytheists.* (3:67). We as Muslims believe in the same Prophets and Messengers and recall similar narrations in their prophetic stories. In Judaism, the central language is Hebrew which is why they refer to God as “Yahweh”. In Christianity, God is commonly referred to as simply “God” or sometimes “Jehovah” another variation of the Hebrew name Yahweh. The central language in Islam is Arabic, we as Muslims call God by the name “Allah”, which is commonly translated into ‘The God’.

Many ask the question as to why is Arabic so significant to the Islamic religion? Why are the prayers strictly in Arabic? The answer to these questions are that it creates unity among the worshippers and gives them a central focus which is mutual among all of them. A beautiful example of this is how a Muslim from Nigeria could travel to Japan and still pray in the mosque with the Japanese Muslims, why? Because they all have a central language which their religion implemented. A Muslim could travel anywhere in the world and pray in the mosque with the congregation no matter the native language they speak due to this beautiful concept. “Oneness” is a distinguishing quality in Islam. One God, one scripture, one messenger that was sent to us, etc. Another reason why Arabic is so significant in Islam is because this was the eloquent language which the Qur’an was revealed. Allah sent the angel Gabriel to Muhammad (peace be upon him) with a revelation which was in the Arabic language, and as Muslims we aspire to master the language the revelation was revealed in, as it is a means to understand the revelation in its original form. This does not mean that we cannot supplicate to our Lord and ask Him for assistance. The prayer which Muslims engage in is indeed a physical type of remembrance which is filled with a set phrases, praying the Lord. As Muslims we are also able to ask our Lord for anything in our mother tongue. The physical prayer is in Arabic, while our requests to our Lord remains in a language which we understand. This is one of the beauties of Islam. Many also associated Islam with the deviant groups who proclaim Islam which they see throughout the media today. Islam is heavily against oppression and terrorism is a branch from

the roots of oppression. The proof for this can be found in the Qur'an: *"Allah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who fought not against you on account of religion and did not drive you out of your homes. Verily, Allah loves those who deal with equity"* (60:8). The Qur'an also states: *"Because of that, We decreed upon the Children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unjustly - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely. And our messengers had certainly come to them with clear proofs. Then indeed many of them, [even] after that, throughout the land, were transgressors."* (5:32). Furthermore, it was narrated by a disciple of the Prophet Muhammad that: *"oppression will be darkness on the Day of Resurrection."* (Authentic narration from the al-Bhukari traditions). The groups such as ISIS, Al-Shabab, Al-Qaeda and the others **are** groups of deviancy. These extremist groups were also predicted by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as being renegades. These are people who interpret the religion as they wish with a desire to shed blood, while being motivated with hate. The Prophet Muhammad even went as far as saying they will be dogs of the Hell-Fire. A beautiful quote by the Prophet Muhammad reads: *"Indeed, whoever kills a 'dhimmi' (a innocent non-muslim who isn't in combat) that has a covenant from Allah and a covenant from His Messenger, then he has violated the covenant with Allah and the covenant of His Messenger, so he shall not smell the fragrance of Paradise; even though its fragrance can be sensed from the distance of seventy autumns."* This beautiful quote shows the respect and safety Allah has legislated for the people who aren't on the battlefield fighting against the Muslims. With such clear evidences in the religion, it is intriguing that one would still deviate in their beliefs and become terrorists. Indeed it is one of the many plots of Satan to misconstrue the real image of Islam.

The significant differences between the other Faiths:

"And argue not with the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), unless it be in (a way) that is better (with good words and in good manner, inviting them to the Oneness of God with His Verses), except of those of them who act unjustly, and say (to them): "We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you; our God and your God is One (i.e. Allah), and to Him we have submitted (as Muslims)." (29:46). The main difference between Islam and Judaism and Christianity, is that Islam believes in Jesus and Muhammad, while Judaism disbelieves in both. Furthermore, Islam is the strict monotheistic worship of God with no partners or associates, while Christianity intertwines the essence of the Lord of the universe and one of the greatest messengers sent to mankind, Jesus. Allah says in the Qur'an, (112:3-4) that *"He begets not, nor was He begotten; And there is none no-equal or comparable unto Him"*. A question to my Christians of sincerity: The Jews stopped after Moses and disbelieved in the Prophet sent after Moses, whose name was Jesus. So, how certain are you that another Prophet wasn't sent after Jesus who you may be disbelieving in? The same way the Jews ignore the Prophethood of Jesus, you as well are ignoring the Prophethood of a Messenger sent after Jesus, as in the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them all).

The unforgivable sin:

In Islam the most dangerous sin one can fall into is the sin of “**shirk**”. This is the concept of associating anything or anyone to Allah. The Lord of all the scriptures said in the Qur’an, “*And your God is One God - Allah, there is none who has the right to be worshipped but He, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful (2:163)*. In the the same chapter, Allah says: “*And of mankind are some who take (for worship) others besides Allah as rivals (to Allah). They love them as they love Allah. But those who believe, love Allah more (than anything else). If only, those who do wrong could see, when they will see the torment, that all power belongs to Allah and that Allah is Severe in punishment” (2:165)*. This sin is so severe Allah says in the Qur’an that there is no chance of someone being forgiven for it, if they die upon it. Allah says: “*Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with him in worship, but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He pleases, and whoever sets up partners with Allah in worship, he has indeed invented a tremendous sin.” (4:48)*. With that said, true success in this world is to worship Allah with no partners.

The antidote against the illness of misconception. As humans in a diverse and peculiar world we tend to absorb information from various sources. In my opinion the two sources we take from the most would be word of mouth and the media. How many times have we took the effort to read and research for ourselves as to what is the truth. Do we determine what is true by what we were taught? Are we practicing our religion due to what our parents followed? If this is the case, when have we ever thought for ourselves? Do we plan on living our lives with a tunnel-like vision, solely directed on what we were taught? How confident are we knowing that the Day of Judgement is fast approaching? As Allah says in the Qur’an: “*And everyone of them will come to Him alone on the Day of Resurrection (without any helper, or protector or defender”)(19:95)*.

As stated earlier, the biggest sin is to associate anything or anyone to the Lord, with that said; the most virtuous act would be to do good solely for the sake of Allah. The Lord, the Most-High sent messengers to various nations as they fell into error. Which error was this? The biggest error; associating anything or anyone to Allah. Allah says in His book: “*Then We sent Our Messengers in succession, every time there came to a nation their Messenger, they denied him, so We made them follow one another (to destruction), and We made them as (true stories for mankind to learn a lesson from them). So away with a people who believe not.” (23:44)*. Furthermore, the roles of the messengers were to call the people back to what was most beloved to the Lord of all creation, which was our sincere servitude to Him alone. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent to mankind as David, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, John, Jesus (peace be upon them), were sent to the Children of Israel. A verse in the Qur’an states: “*O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Now has come to you Our Messenger (Muhammad) making (things) clear unto you, after a break in (the series of) Messengers, lest*

you say: "There came unto us no bringer of glad tidings and no warner." But now has come unto you a bringer of glad tidings and a warner. And Allah is Able to do all things."(5:19).

Jesus and what Islam teaches regarding him:

Please do not feel offended or disrespected as this was strictly written to enlighten those who decide to read this. The following paragraph will explain on how Jesus is viewed in the religion of Islam. Muslims respect and revere Jesus (peace be upon him), and await his second coming. They consider him one of the greatest of God's messengers to mankind. A Muslim never refers to him simply as Jesus', but always adds the phrase "peace be upon him." The Qur'an confirms his virgin birth (a chapter of the Qur'an is entitled 'Mary') in her time, and Mary is considered the purest woman in all creation. The Qur'an describes the creation of Jesus as follows: *"Behold! the Angel said, 'God has chosen you, and purified you, and chosen you above the women of all nations. O Mary, God gives you glad tidings of a word from Him, whose name shall be the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, honored in this world and the Hereafter, and one that shall speak to the people from his cradle and in maturity, and shall be of the righteous.'* She said: *'O my Lord! How shall I have a son when no man has touched me?'* He said: *'Even so; God creates what He wills. When He decrees a thing, He but says to it, "Be!" and it is.'* (3:42-7) Jesus (peace be upon him) was born miraculously through the same power which had brought Adam (peace be upon him) into being without a father: *"Truly, the likeness of Jesus unto Allah is as the likeness of Adam. He created him of dust, and then said to him, 'Be!' and he was."* (3:59) During his prophetic mission, Jesus (peace be upon him) was granted and performed many miracles. The Qur'an tells us that he said (interpretation of meaning): *"I have come to you with a sign from your Lord: I make for you out of the clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, and breathe into it and it becomes a bird by Allah's leave. And I heal the blind and the lepers, and I raise the dead by Allah's leave."* (3:49). Other miracles include speaking soon after birth in defense of his mother's piety. God's other gifts to him included healing the blind and the sick, reviving the dead, and, most importantly, the message he was carrying. These miracles were granted to him by God to establish him as a prophet. According to the Qur'an, he was not crucified, but only appeared so; instead, Allah raised him unto Heaven. (Qur'an, Chapter Maryam) Neither Muhammad (peace be upon him), nor Jesus (peace be upon him), came to change the basic doctrine of the belief in one God, brought by earlier prophets, but to confirm and renew it. In the Qur'an Jesus (peace be upon him), is reported as saying that he came: *"To attest the law which was before me. And to make lawful to you part of what was forbidden you; I have come to you with a sign from your Lord, so fear God and obey me."* (3:50). Allah also says in the chapter entitled "Mary": *It befits not (the Majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son [this refers to the slander of Christians against Allah, by saying that Jesus is the son of Allah]. Glorified (and Exalted be He above all that they associate with Him). When He decrees a thing, He only says to it, "Be!" and it is. And Jesus said (to the Children of Israel: "And verily Allah is my Lord and your Lord. So worship Him (Alone). That is the Straight Path. (19:36-37). It was also narrated by one of Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon) disciples that: I heard the Prophet saying, "Do not exaggerate in praising me as the Christians praised the son of Mary, for I am only a Slave. So, call me the Slave of Allah and His Apostle."*(Authentic narration from the al-Bukhari traditions)

Did early Christianity become mixed with polytheistic beliefs?

With regard to how the followers of this religion deviated after that from pure **'Tawheed'** (Oneness of God) to idolatrous beliefs and the worship of Jesus and his mother besides God, this is something which happened early on in Christian history:

It says in the *American Encyclopedia*:

The belief in the Oneness of God – as a theological movement – began at a very early stage in history, and in fact it preceded the belief in trinity by many decades. Christianity developed from Judaism, and Judaism firmly believes that there is one God.

The path that led from Jerusalem (the home of the first disciples of Christ) to Nicea (where it was decided in 325 CE that Christ was equal to God in essence and eternal nature) can hardly be described as a straight path.

The doctrine of trinity which was affirmed in the fourth century CE bears no resemblance to the original teachings of Christ concerning the nature of God. Au contraire, it is the opposite, a deviation from that teaching. Hence it developed in opposition to the belief in One God... (27/294).

You can refer to the views of some of those Christians who still believe in the Oneness of God in the same *American Encyclopedia*, 27/300-301

Will Durant says:

When Christianity conquered Rome, the new religion (i.e., Christianity) was infused with the blood of the old idolatrous religion: the title of archbishop, worship for the great mother, and an innumerable number of lords who gave peace of mind and were like who exist in all places and cannot be detected with the senses. All of this came into Christianity as the blood of the mother comes into her child.

The civilized empire handed over power and administration to the papacy and the impact of the word replaced the impact of the sword. The preachers of the church started to assume positions of power.

Christianity did not put an end to idolatry, rather it reinforced it. The Greek mind came back to life in a new form, in the doctrines and rituals of the church. The Greek rituals appeared in the rituals of the monastic saints. From Egypt came the idea of the holy trinity, the day of reckoning, eternal reward and punishment, and man's eternal life in one of the other. From Egypt also came the worship of the mother and child, the mystical union with God, the union which led to Platonism and agnosticism, and the erasing of Christian doctrine. And from Persia came the belief in the return of the Messiah and his ruling the earth for 1000 years.

Qissat al-Hadaarah, 11/418 (The Story of Civilization)

Despite the element of atheism in the words of Durant, which is something that he is known for, and which is apparent in his claim that the idea of eternal reward or punishment came from the Egyptians, tracing the origins of deviant idolatry in Christianity is no longer a secret, and he is not the only one who has researched them. In his book *Christianity and Idolatry*, Robertson states that Mithraism, which is a religion of Persian origin, flourished in Persia approximately six centuries before the birth of Christ, and it reached Rome around the year 70 CE, where it spread throughout the Roman lands. Then it reached Britain and spread to a number of British cities. What concerns us here about this religion is that it says:

- That Mithras, after whom it is named, was an intermediary between God and man (for a similar doctrine in Christianity, see Acts 4:12).
- He was born in a cave or in a corner of the earth (cf. Luke 2:8)
- His birthday was December 25 (which is the day celebrated by the Christians as the day when Jesus was born)
- He had twelve disciples (cf. Matthew 10:1)
- He died to save the world (cf. I Corinthians 15:3)
- He was buried but he came back to life (cf. I Corinthians 15:4)
- He ascended to heaven in front of his disciples (cf. Acts 1:9)
- He was called "Saviour" (cf. Titus 2:13)
- Among his attributes is that he is like a peaceful lamb (cf. John 1:29)
- The "Divine supper" was held in his memory every year (cf. I Corinthians 11:23-25)
- One of his symbols was baptism
- Sunday was sacred to them

The French Orientalist Leon Jotah, in his book *"An Introduction to Islamic philosophy"* is of the view that the origin of the Christian trinity is to be found in Greek philosophy, specifically in the ideas of modern Platonism, which took the basis of the idea of trinity as a view of the Creator of the universe from Plato, then developed it to a great extent, so that the resemblance between this idea and Christianity became greater. So (in their view) the Creator, the One Who is absolutely perfect, appointed two intermediaries between him and mankind, who emanated from Him, and were also part of Him at the same time, meaning that they are contained in His essence. These two entities are reasoning and divine spirit. Then he said:

The marriage of Jewish belief and Greek philosophy did not only produce philosophy, rather it produced a religion too, namely Christianity which imbibed many ideas from the Greeks. The Christian concept of divinity is taken from the same source as modern Platonism. Hence you see many similarities between the two, although they may vary in some details. They are both based on a belief in trinity, in which the three "persons" are one.

This is what the American writer Draper refers to:

Idolatry and polytheism entered Christianity through the influence of the hypocrites who occupied positions of influence and high positions in the Roman state by pretending to be Christians, but they never cared about religion and were not sincere at all. Similarly Constantine had spent his life in darkness and evil, and he did not follow the commands of the church except for a short while at the end of his life. (p. 337)

Although the followers of Christianity gained some power, to the extent that they managed to have Constantine appointed as ruler, they failed to eradicate idolatry completely. As a result of their struggle, their principles became fused with idolatry, from which point there developed a new religion in which Christianity and idolatry were manifested equally.” (Extracted from: <http://islamqa.info/en/12634>)

Examining the concept of original sin:

“If you really examine the Christian teaching on human sin with an open mind, you will see that they say that God sacrificed His only son to atone for the sins of mankind, and that this son was a god. If it was true that he was a god who was beaten, insulted and crucified, and died, then this doctrine contains elements of blasphemy because it accuses God of weakness and helplessness. Is God really incapable of forgiving the sins of all His servants with just one word? If He is Able to do all things (and the Christians do not dispute this fact), then why would He need to sacrifice His son in order to achieve the same thing? (Glorified and exalted be He far above what the wrongdoers say about Him!)

“He is the Originator of the heavens and the earth. How can He have children when He has no wife? He created all things and He is the All-Knower of everything.” [Qur’an 6:101 – interpretation of the meaning]

An ordinary man would not accept anyone harming his child; he would come to his defence, and would never hand him over to an enemy who would insult him, let alone leave him to face the worst kind of death. If this is the attitude of a mere created being, what then of the Creator? (Extracted from: <http://islamqa.info/en/2690>)

The Promised Day:

The Promised Day in Islam is the day which was promised by Allah. This is the day where mankind would be brought to account and rewarded or punished regarding their deeds. As God says in the Qur’an: *“And warn them of the Day of grief and regrets, when the case has been decided, while (now) they are in a state of carelessness, and they believe not.”* (19:39). Success and salvation in Islam is the concept of living righteously and dying upon a term called **“Tawheed”**, this is the sincere worship of God alone with no associates. This is in fact the religion Abraham preached as the Qur’an says: *“Allah has spoken the truth; follow the religion of Abraham and he was not a idolator.”* (3:95). Allah also says in the Qur’an that we will flee from our most beloved in this world: *That Day shall a man flee from his brother, And from his mother and his father, And from his wife and his children. Everyman, that Day, will have enough to make him careless of others.* (80:34-37). The our Lord also says: *“And (remember) when Allah will say (on the Day of Resurrection): ‘O ‘ Jesus, son of Mary! Did you say unto men: ‘Worship*

me and my mother as two gods besides Allah?' "He will say: "Glory be to You! It was not for me to say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, You would surely have known it. You know what is in my inner-self though I do not know what is in Yours, truly, You, only You, are the All-Knower of all that is hidden and unseen. Never did I say to them aught except what You (Allah) did command me to say: 'Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.' And I was a witness over them while I dwelt amongst them, but when You took me up (Into ascension), You were the Watcher over them, and You are a Witness to all things. If You punish them, they are Your slaves, and if You forgive them, verily You, only You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise." (5:116-118). Furthermore, the evidence in regards to achieving salvation can be expressed in these two beautiful verses: "Verily, those who believe [in the Oneness of Allah, and in His Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) including all obligations ordered by Islam] and do righteous good deeds, they are the best of creatures. Their reward with their Lord is (Eden) Paradise (Gardens of Eternity), underneath which rivers flow, they will abide therein forever, Allah Well-Pleased with them, and they with Him. That is for him who fears his Lord."(98:7-8).

Conclusion:

If you are blessed enough to read this, please know that I mean no offence by this. Rather I wish the best for you. The Lord knows how often I cry in regards to my loved ones, I want nothing but the best for the people who showed me the most love in my life. As Abraham (peace be upon him) tried to call his dear father to the oneness of God, I will make my attempt to my beloved family. The Qur'an, 19:41-43: "And mention in the Book (the Quran) Ibrahim (Abraham). Verily! He was a man of truth, a Prophet. When he said to his father: "O my father! Why do you worship that which hears not, sees not and cannot avail you in anything? "O my father! Verily! There has come to me of knowledge that which came not unto you. So follow me. I will guide you to a Straight Path."

Note:

Muslims do not belittle Jesus (peace be upon him) nor deny the mighty Prophet he is. Rather we say that Jesus was only a messenger to uphold and distinct the Al-Mighty Being which God Himself is. It is unlike God's nature to have weaknesses, shortcomings such as: sleep, hunger, pain, etc. The Lord of the universe is far exalted above such shortcomings. "None has the right to be worshipped but He, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. It is He Who has sent down the Book (the Quran) to you with truth, confirming what came before it. And he sent down the Torah and the Gospel. (3:2-3)

With this, I conclude with a few verses: Chapter 3, verse 98 reads: "O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Why do you reject the 'Ayat' of Allah (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) while Allah is Witness to what you do?"

"O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Do not exceed the limits in your religion, nor say of Allah aught but the truth. The Messiah (Jesus), son of Mary, was (no more than) a Messenger of Allah and His Word, ("Be!" - and he was) which He bestowed on Mary and a spirit created by Him; so believe in Allah and His Messengers. Say not: "Three (trinity)!" Cease! (it is)

better for you. For Allah is (the only) One God, Glory be to Him (Far Exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And Allah is All-Sufficient as a Disposer of affairs. The Messiah will never be proud to reject to be a slave to Allah, nor the angels who are near (to Allah). And whosoever rejects His worship and is proud, then He will gather them all together unto Himself.” (4:171-172)

Assumptions and misconceptions are due to ignorance, and the cure to ignorance is indeed learning. We as people fear what we do not understand, but ironically Islam isn't as strange as you thought it to be was it? I believe that this religion is the truth with all my sincerity, and this is the reason as to why I decided to write this; I would be a wreck if any of my close family were to die without me offering the truth. Furthermore, God is not the author of confusion...

I again, ask Allah the Lord of the Heavens and the Earth and everything in between to allow this paper be a means to shed the light of Islam through the darkness of misconception, ameen!

And by the **will of the Lord**, this will be the **antidote...** From **your beloved..**