

# Jesus Christ and the Quran

José del Carmen Rodríguez Santamaría

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Comparison of the Jesus of the New Testament and that of the Quran shows that they are fundamentally different. It is contended that these differences can be understood as the result of a very clear and concrete aim of

Prophet Muhammad: to dismiss the biblical idea that God is Holy and to declare that the fundamental character of God is His mercy.

## 1 Blessing

The Author is aware of the fact that Christianity is a despicable sect for Muslim believers. This is not of their own but on behalf of the Prophet, who outlawed us once and for all:

*They disbelieve those who say, "God is the Messiah the son of Mary." But the Messiah himself said, "O Children of Israel, worship God, my Lord and your Lord. Whoever associates others with God, God has forbidden him Paradise, and his dwelling is the Fire. The wrongdoers have no saviors."* (The Quran 5: 72, we rely on the translation of the Quran by Itani, [11] (2012))

So, I thank in advance to all those Muslim believers that employ their time in reading and analyzing this work and in considering our demands. May the True God and his Christ bless them.

## 2 A word about historicity

Christianity was founded in Palestine by Jesus of Nazareth some 2000 years ago. Islam was founded in Arabia by the Prophet Muhammad some 1400 years ago. The work of many copyists has made possible for us to read both sacred books, the Bible and the Quran. Nevertheless, it is natural to consider that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, are less trustworthy than the Quran. To begin with, the original Quran was written or dictated by the very Prophet while Jesus made no written product at all: it was their Apostles and followers, maybe decades after he died, who wrote about his deeds and words. So, a question is mandatory: how are we going to know what part of the Gospel is true if any? This matter is already settled for a Muslim believer:

*So woe to those who write the Scripture with their own hands, and then*

*say, "This is from God," that they may exchange it for a little price. Woe to them for what their hands have written, and woe to them for what they earn.* (The Quran 2:79)

This accusation makes sense: who has not battle with the temptation of money? Bless are those that remain in the battle field. Nevertheless, accusations that make sense must not be used to put forward a judicial sentence. Rather, those accusations must be investigated thoroughly prior to a verdict and a punishment. It happens that many scholars have researched the theme and have produced nice, motivating works. See (Wikipedia, [14] 2019a). In particular, it is straightforward to discover that there are many open lies in the Bible. Example: it is said that the people that fled out of Egypt in the Exodus were more than half a million (Numbers 1:46). This is obviously false: a desert has not enough wood for cooking for so many people. Compare (Wikipedia, [15] 2015b). So, patriotic lies are many and are in general easily recognized. But to go beyond this, a serious work must be done. Nevertheless, that work would be worthless for a Muslim believer because the New Testament is considered to be no more than a copy of copies.

So, a simple question to study is: how fair is the procedure of making copies of copies? Some light on this problem is shed by the case of the philosopher Plato. This Greek writer lived around 2400 years ago. He became a recognized authority all around the world thanks to the expansionist program of Alexander the Macedonian. The Greek culture was so impressive that it survived the conquering of the world by the Roman Empire. In fact, his glory is still blasting in our days (Stanford, [13], 2019): "Plato (429?–347 B.C.E.) is, by any reckoning, one of the most dazzling writers in the Western literary tradition and one of the most penetrating, wide-ranging, and influential authors in the history of philosophy."

The question that we want to discuss right now is the following: How did the works of Plato reach our hands? We have some manuscripts inherited from Constantinople but the most enlightening part came to Europe around the tenth century with the Arabic culture and philosophy after the conquering of Spain by Arabs, well before the beginning of the Renaissance. In short: our knowledge of Plato is due in good measure to Arabs (Wikipedia, [16] 2015c).

Armed with the best good will, we can ask now : is Plato, i.e., the Plato known to us thanks to Arabs, authentic? It is not known. The problem is that a premeditated distortion by Christian copyists has not been discarded

(Mininger [10] 2009, sourced is unavailable by 2019). But curiously enough, the fidelity of Muslim copyists has not been questioned. The argued reason is that Christian copyists had a purpose: to make the words of Plato as similar as possible to those of Paul (compare rameshdesilva, [12], 2013). Such a motivation is not compelling for a muslim copyist.

Henceforth, we are invited to accept the idea that faithful copying and translation is possible. Now, what is the case of the New Testament and of the Bible in general? The problem is that just to become acquainted with the thematic is an extremely time consuming activity. So, a practical solution has been adopted by the Author. It has two directives. In the first, we define our canon, the sources that will be considered as authorized:

1. The Jesus preached by the Gospels is intended to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament. This means that Jesus was not the product of historic appropriate circumstances but of the plan of God to save humanity from their sins.
2. A secure version of the Old Testament can be found in the Hebrew Bible whose modern version is based on the Dead Sea Scrolls that are at present the most ancient manuscripts of that book (Eckhard, [4] 1995).
3. The authors of most modern Christian Bibles have made their best to agree with the Hebrew canon. But differences and struggles exist (Baker, [1] 2013).
4. La Bible de Jérusalem, [3], a work in progress, enjoys the best prestige among specialists. Anyway, all Christian Bibles agree on all those crucial points that are of interest for us and that will be touched at here. Our cites have been taking from *The World English Bible* [20], (2008).

In the second directive, we will keep in mind that everyone that has ever worked in translations knows that this activity is extremely difficult and that perfect faithfulness can never be claimed. So, we will not consider separated, isolated verses. Instead, we will concentrate on the overall religious pattern that emerges from the Bible, its central message, the one that is repeated and reinforced over and over. That message is: God is holy and Jesus

is the holiness of God. The Prophet Muhammad clearly grasped the importance of this pattern so, He made his best to teach that it is false. Instead, He imposes another pattern as the fundamental character of God: *God is merciful with the believer, merciless with the disbeliever and, by the will of God, the instrument of severe chastise is the Muslim believer himself.* Our aim is to develop this thematic thoroughly.

### **3 Jesus is a central figure**

Jesus is the central figure in Christianity and he is also a very important person in the Islam. Or, maybe, Do we have two different persons?

#### **3.1 Are both accounts on Jesus about the very same person?**

The Jesus of the Quran fundamentally diverges from the Jesus of the Gospel. So, a mandatory question is: do both literary figures refer to the same person?

Our answer is a sharp yes because both sources agree in so many details that one must conclude that both accounts refer to the same historic person. The next point illustrates this decision:

#### **3.2 Jesus is the light of the world**

Jesus is a very important figure in both religions, Christianity and Islam. That importance is at unison depicted in many forms, for instance:

Again, therefore, Jesus spoke to them, saying, ``I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).

Prophet Mohammad also perceived the light in Christ and consequently wrote:

*In their footsteps, We sent Jesus son of Mary, fulfilling the Torah that preceded him; and We gave him the Gospel, wherein is guidance and light,*

*and confirming the Torah that preceded him, and guidance and counsel for the righteous. (The Quran, 5:46)*

Let us now pay attention to two points concerning the teaching of Jesus.

### **3.3 Jesus was a creationist**

A reason because of which Jesus is accepted by so many persons is that he is highly human. Say, many humans look at their hands and give thanks God for them. In modern jargon, these persons are creationists, i.e., they believe that they were created by a Person, the Creator. So, they see in Jesus somebody like themselves:

He answered, ``Haven't you read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall join to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?' So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, don't let man tear apart.'` (Matthew 19:4-6)

We see that the so common oppression of women by men -infidelity, divorce, poligyny and the like- is not in the mind of the Creator to whom Jesus submits.

In spite of the differences in regard with the vision about marriage, the Prophet sharply teaches that life was created:

*God created every living creature from water. Some of them crawl on their bellies, and some walk on two feet, and others walk on four. God creates whatever He wills. God is Capable of everything. (The Quran 24:45)*

And, what about mankind?

*The likeness of Jesus in God's sight is that of Adam: He created him from dust, then said to him, "Be," and he was. (The Quran 3:59)*

This teaching of both religions, Christianity and Islam, about our creation is denied by modern science as follows: everything that science recognizes points to the fact that life is just a special state of matter that exists thanks to a long process of evolution that connects in a natural way matter with life.

Now, science is very powerful. So, believers must choose: to believe science and reject own religion else to remain faithful and appear as stupid. To change things we need very mature thinkers, well prepared and ready to work very hard. If you feel yourself challenged in this regard, let me to invite you to build upon my experience that is consigned in my site ([www.ejristos.com](http://www.ejristos.com), [8] 2019).

On the other hand, where will you get strength to resist the troubles that will fall upon you? The next point has helped me day after day so much that I am sure it also will help you:

### **3.4 Love your enemy**

Jesus is very famous for his preaching about the love towards enemies:

``You have heard that it was said, `You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? If you only greet your friends, what more do you do than others? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5: 43-48).

Now, it is usual to listen at news about assassinations of Christian believers by Muslims. So, one might think that the administration of conflicts

in the Quran is a simple matter of force. But this is not that simple: the search for righteousness in spite of hate is preached by the Quran:

*O you who believe! Be upright to God, witnessing with justice, and let not the hatred of a certain people prevent you from acting justly. Adhere to justice, for that is nearer to piety, and fear God. God is informed of what you do.* (The Quran, 5:8)

To do good to the enemies is also a principle shared by Islam:

*And if anyone of the polytheists asks you for protection, give him protection so that he may hear the Word of God; then escort him to his place of safety. That is because they are a people who do not know.* (The Quran, 9:6). Comment: this was written when the Prophet was in war against the pagans, see 9:5.

This is a kind of humanitarian right for time of war that everyone in every culture will appreciate. In general, there are many points of contact between Islam and Christianity but the differences are so huge that the two religions are not miscible: no one can love both Christ and Muhammad. Everyone must make an election, choosing one and rejecting the other. Let us see why.

## 4 Differences between Christianity and Islam

The Prophet shows good knowledge of the Gospel. He claims that Jesus was a faithful servant of God but that his Apostles distorted the truth:

*They have no knowledge of it, except the following of assumptions.* (The Quran 4:157)

The Prophet brought forth no proof of his accusation. For instance, he never shows in which way the Christ of the Gospel fails to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament. **By contrast, the Prophet used to remade the life and teaching of Jesus together with delicate points of the Old testament as it pleased him.** The consequence is that Christianity and Islam are divergent in the most fundamental points. Let us consider in the sequel some important points of this divergence.

## 4.1 The death of Christ

All four Gospels agree that Jesus was crucified and that he died. Both claims are rejected by the Quran. In effect:

In regard with the crucifixion and death of Jesus, Apostle John claims to be a direct witness. His report is the following:

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also the coat. Now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. Then they said to one another, ``Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to decide whose it will be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which says, ``They parted my garments among them. For my cloak they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things. But there were standing by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Therefore when Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, ``Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to the disciple, ``Behold, your mother!" From that hour, the disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now finished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ``I am thirsty." Now a vessel full of vinegar was set there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop, and held it at his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, ``It is finished." He bowed his head, and gave up his spirit. Therefore the Jews, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies wouldn't remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special one), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Therefore the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was already dead, they didn't break his legs. However one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. He who has seen has testified,

and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, that you may believe. For these things happened, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, ``A bone of him will not be broken." Again another Scripture says, ``They will look on him whom they pierced." (John 19:23-37)

What does the Prophet Muhammad says about the death of Jesus? This is what he says:

*And for their saying, "We have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the Messenger of God." In fact, they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but it appeared to them as if they did. Indeed, those who differ about him are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it, except the following of assumptions. Certainly, they did not kill him. Rather, God raised him up to Himself. God is Mighty and Wise. There is none from the People of the Scripture but will believe in him before his death, and on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them. (The Quran, 4:157-159)*

So, the Prophet denies that Jesus was crucified and that He died.

## **4.2 The resurrection of Christ**

One must die to get resurrected. So, the Quran implies that Jesus was not resurrected by God. Nevertheless, the resurrection of Christ is witnessed by John as follows:

Now on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went early, while it was still dark, to the tomb, and saw the stone taken away from the tomb. Therefore she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ``They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have laid him!" Therefore Peter and the other disciple went out, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran together. The other disciple outran Peter, and came to the tomb first. Stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying, yet he didn't enter in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and entered into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying, and the cloth that

had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but rolled up in a place by itself. So then the other disciple who came first to the tomb also entered in, and he saw and believed. For as yet they didn't know the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes. But Mary was standing outside at the tomb weeping. So, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. They told her, ``Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, ``Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, and didn't know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ``Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She, supposing him to be the gardener, said to him, ``Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, ``Mary." She turned and said to him, ``Rabboni!" which is to say, ``Teacher!" Jesus said to her, ``Don't hold me, for I haven't yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brothers, and tell them, `I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "(John 20: 1-17)

Both the death and resurrection of Christ was announced by the Old Testament:

For you will not leave my soul in Sheoli , neither will you allow your holy one to see corruption. You will show me the path of life. In your presence is fullness of joy. In your right hand there are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:10-11)

To successfully deny the death of Christ and his resurrection is necessary to reject the prophecies by Isaiah, who wrote some 700 years before Christ the following:

Who has believed our message? To whom has the arm of Yahweh been revealed? For he grew up before him as a tender

plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no good looks or majesty. When we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised, and rejected by men; a man of suffering, and acquainted with disease. He was despised as one from whom men hide their face; and we didn't respect him. Surely he has borne our sickness, and carried our suffering; yet we considered him plagued, struck by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought our peace was on him; and by his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. Everyone has turned to his own way; and Yahweh has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he didn't open his mouth. As a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he didn't open his mouth. He was taken away by oppression and judgment; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living and stricken for the disobedience of my people? They made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death; although he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased Yahweh to bruise him. He has caused him to suffer. When you make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed. He shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of Yahweh shall prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light and be satisfied. My righteous servant will justify many by the knowledge of himself; and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53: 1: 12).

The resurrection of Christ was prophesied to follow a death under great suffering:

You, who have shown us many and bitter troubles, you

will let me live. You will bring us up again from the depths of the earth. (Psalm 71:20)

### 4.3 The second coming of Jesus

Jews do not accept Jesus as the Messiah because many prophecies depict him as a glorious savior and that has nothing to do with the Jesus of the New Testament. Therefore, the resurrected Jesus to be the Messiah must return again to complete his mission given by God. Actually, this is a prophecy extremely well contextualized in chapters 24 and 25 of Mathew: Jesus will come to pay everyone according to his or her deeds. Points of interest: wisdom, faithfulness, mercy, respect for the Lord that allows no oppression of fellows.

Now, the second coming of the Lord is a great taboo for the Prophet. It is not mentioned and the following verse is the one and only that can be possibly related to it but only if one believes the Chrisitan teaching that says that the Lord will come again:

*He is a portent of the Hour, so have no doubt about it, and follow Me. This is a straight way.* (The Quran 43:61. Jesus was introduced in verse 57 as the son of Mary).

The Quran itself has no more indications about the second coming of Jesus but Muslims have a lot of additional literature which develops the theme with many details. Many biblical topics have there a counterpart and in general Jesus is made a servant of the Islam.

Nevertheless, I know from first hand that some Muslims love the second coming of Jesus. So, every Muslin, every person, must know what Jesus comes to do:

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then

shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed [thee?] or thirsty, and gave [thee] drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took [thee] in? or naked, and clothed [thee? ] Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did [it] not to one of the least of these, ye did [it] not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (Matthew 25: 31-46).

#### **4.4 The Son of God**

We read in the banner of the Psalms that God has a Son but the Quran emphatically rejects such an idea. The Psalms say:

Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take counsel together, against Yahweh, and against his Anointed, saying, ``Let's break their bonds apart, and cast their

cords from us." He who sits in the heavens will laugh. The Lord will have them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his anger, and terrify them in his wrath: "Yet I have set my King on my holy hill of Zion." I will tell of the decree. Yahweh said to me, "You are my son. Today I have become your father. Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron. You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore be wise, you kings. Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve Yahweh with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Give sincere homage to the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath will soon be kindled. Blessed are all those who take refuge in him. (Psalm 2)

The Son of God is also a prophecy by Isaiah:

But there shall be no more gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time, he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali; but in the latter time he has made it glorious, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in the land of the shadow of death, on them the light has shined. You have multiplied the nation. You have increased their joy. They rejoice before you according to the joy in harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as in the day of Midian. For all the armor of the armed man in the noisy battle, and the garments rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born. To us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, on the throne of David, and on his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with

justice and with righteousness from that time on, even forever. The zeal of Yahweh of Armies will perform this. (Isaiah 8:23-9:7)

One can say that the Gospel of John is from beginning to end a song to the Son of God:

As soon as it was day, the assembly of the elders of the people was gathered together, both chief priests and scribes, and they led him away into their council, saying, ``If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, ``If I tell you, you won't believe, and if I ask, you will in no way answer me or let me go. From now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all said, ``Are you then the Son of God?" He said to them, ``You say it, because I am." (Luke 22:66-70)

Contrary to this, the Prophet makes fun of the idea of a son of God:

*The Jews said, "Ezra is the son of God," and the Christians said, "The Messiah is the son of God." These are their statements, out of their mouths. They emulate the statements of those who blasphemed before. May God assail them! How deceived they are! (The Quran 9:30).*

## **4.5 Jesus is the Lord**

Jesus always acknowledged God as his lord. But he declares that he is the Lord over all that was created:

At that time, Jesus answered, ``I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you hid these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in your sight. All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows the Son, except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and he to whom the Son desires to reveal him. (Matthew 11:25-27)

The reaction of the disciples of Jesus to this claim is not homogeneous:

But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had sent them. When they saw him, they bowed down to him, but some doubted. Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, ``All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28:16-20).

Observe that some of his disciples bowed down to Him in recognition of his position but not all. This division among believers of Christ is observed until this day. Our aforementioned citations about Jesus is what guide those that bowed down to Him. Those that prefer to not bow down to Jesus are guided by linguistic quarrels and for verses like the next, in which Jesus is acknowledged as the the Lord but at the same time is not given sharing with the deity of God the Father:

Now concerning things sacrificed to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. But if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he doesn't yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, the same is known by him. Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that no idol is anything in the world, and that there is no other God but one. For though there are things that are called ``gods," whether in the heavens or on earth; as there are many ``gods" and many ``lords"; yet to us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we live through him. (1 Corinthians 8:1-6)

The reaction of the Quran to the claim of Jesus that He is the Lord is the following:

*Say, "O People of the Book, come to terms common between us and you:*

*that we worship none but God, and that we associate nothing with Him, and that none of us takes others as lords besides God.” And if they turn away, say, “Bear witness that we have submitted.” (The Quran 3:64).*

## **4.6 The lamb of God**

The Lamb of God, i.e., a lamb that will be provided by God himself, is a prophecy given by Abraham:

On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place far off. Abraham said to his young men, ``Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go yonder. We will worship, and come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. He took in his hand the fire and the knife. They both went together. Isaac spoke to Abraham his father, and said, ``My father?" He said, ``Here I am, my son." He said, ``Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, ``God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they both went together. (Genesis 22:4-8)

Jesus fulfills this prophecy:

The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, ``Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, `After me comes a man who is preferred before me, for he was before me.' I didn't know him, but for this reason I came baptizing in water: that he would be revealed to Israel." (John 1: 29-31)

The Quran presents a very different version of Abraham:

*Then, when he was old enough to accompany him, he said, "O My son, I see in a dream that I am sacrificing you; see what you think." He said, "O my Father, do as you are commanded; you will find me, God willing, one of the steadfast." Then, when they had submitted, and he put his forehead down. We called out to him, "O Abraham! You have fulfilled the vision."*

*Thus We reward the doers of good. This was certainly an evident test. And We redeemed him with a great sacrifice. And We left with him for later generations. Peace be upon Abraham. (The Quran 37:102-109)*

Notice the message: the command of God according to the Quran was to initiate a sacrifice to express with this an unconditional love to God but not to accomplish it: God is merciful and so, He demands no sacrifice for the sin. The answer of the Bible to this reasonable objection that disposes of the Holiness of God is:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

#### **4.7 The Son of God is the lamb of God**

The case of Abraham sacrificing his own son is so penetrating that one usually thinks of it as a wonderful story. Now, from the stand of God it is not a story: Was God unable to scrabbling around at the heart of Abraham to know whether or not he loved Him? So, if it is not a story, what it is? It is a prophecy: God will provide a lamb for a sacrifice and the Lamb will be the very Son of God.

#### **4.8 The Savior**

The Gospel joyfully declares that Jesus is the Saviour but such an idea is explicitly contradicted by the Prophet. The Gospel says:

There were shepherds in the same country staying in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. Behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, ``Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. For there is born to you, this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a feeding trough." Suddenly, there was with the angel a

multitude of the heavenly army praising God, and saying, ``Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men." It happened, when the angels went away from them into the sky, that the shepherds said one to another, ``Let's go to Bethlehem, now, and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." They came with haste, and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby was lying in the feeding trough. When they saw it, they publicized widely the saying which was spoken to them about this child. Luke 2:8-17

The rejection by the Prophet of the idea of a Saviour is as follows:

*No burdened soul can carry the burden of another. Even if one weighted down calls for help with its burden, nothing can be lifted from it, even if they were related. You are to warn those who fear their Lord inwardly, and perform the prayer. He who purifies himself purifies himself for his own good. To God is the ultimate return. (The Quran, 35:18)*

#### **4.9 Jesus is the High Priest**

A fundamental difference between the Islam and Christianity is the role assigned to the High Priest. Christianity adopted the role that was assigned by the Old Testament: the High Priest is the one and only mediator between God and you:

Then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary; and he shall make atonement for the Tent of Meeting and for the altar; and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. ``This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel once in the year because of all their sins." It was done as Yahweh commanded Moses. (Leviticus 16:33-34)

By contrast, the Islam is sharply against that concept because according to the Islam if someone looks for God, just realize the obvious truth:

*To God belongs the East and the West. Whichever way you turn, there is God's presence. God is Omnipresent and Omniscient. (The Quran, 2:115)*

And once you believe in God and in His Prophet, you are done, just follow the light as it is written in the following beautiful poem:

*God is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The allegory of His light is that of a pillar on which is a lamp. The lamp is within a glass. The glass is like a brilliant planet, fueled by a blessed tree, an olive tree, neither eastern nor western. Its oil would almost illuminate, even if no fire has touched it. Light upon Light. God guides to His light whomever He wills. God thus cites the parables for the people. God is cognizant of everything. In houses which God has permitted to be raised, and His name is celebrated therein. He is glorified therein, morning and evening. By men who neither trading nor commerce distracts them from God's remembrance, and from performing the prayers, and from giving alms. They fear a Day when hearts and sights are overturned. God will reward them according to the best of what they did, and He will increase them from His bounty. God provides for whomever He wills without reckoning. As for those who disbelieve, their works are like a mirage in a desert. The thirsty assumes it is to be water. Until, when he has reached it, he finds it to be nothing, but there he finds God, Who settles his account in full. God is swift in reckoning. Or like utter darkness in a vast ocean, covered by waves, above which are waves, above which is fog. Darkness upon darkness. If he brings out his hand, he will hardly see it. He to whom God has not granted a light has no light. (The Quran, 24: 35-40)*

Now, which is the stand of God in regard with the question about the need of an intermediary? To know it, we can read the chapter 16 of the book of Numbers. Very special is the following text:

Moses said to Korah, ``Hear now, you sons of Levi! Is it a small thing to you, that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do the service of the tabernacle of Yahweh, and to stand before the congregation to minister to them; and that he has brought you near, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? and do you seek the priesthood also? Therefore you and all your company are gathered together

against Yahweh: and Aaron, what is he that you murmur against him?" (Numbers 16: 8-11)

So, Moses and Aaron represent the point of view of God and of Christianity while Korah and his fellows represent the common sense that is proclaimed by the Islam. The decision of God in favor of the Christian point of view was signed with a massacre of all the dissidents. Nevertheless, we cannot as yet claim that the problem was a theological one because a political instability was also on the stage. How to know which was the true cause of that massacre? We can give a clear cut solution to this question if we investigate the role of the Priesthood in other places of the Old Testament. Consider, for instance, the following:

Yahweh has sworn, and will not change his mind: ``You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek." (Psalm 110:4)

We see that the Priest is an eternal necessity for the communication between sinners and God. Christianity sees in Jesus the full satisfaction of that need:

For such a high priest was fitting for us: holy, guiltless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; who doesn't need, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices daily, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. For he did this once for all, when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men as high priests who have weakness, but the word of the oath which came after the law appoints a Son forever who has been perfected. (Hebrews 7: 26-28)

That is why we obey the commandment of the Lord:

Whatever you will ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you will ask anything in my name, I will do it. (John 14: 13-14)

## 4.10 Atonement for the sin

The Quran has prescriptions for returning back to God in the case of sin. We see a nice and practical religion. Not in vain Islam has nearly one billion believers. It says:

*And those who, when they commit an indecency or wrong themselves, remember God and ask forgiveness for their sins -and who forgives sins except God? And they do not persist in their wrongdoing while they know. (The Quran, 3:135)*

*And so their Lord answered them: "I will not waste the work of any worker among you, whether male or female. You are one of another. For those who emigrated, and were expelled from their homes, and were persecuted because of Me, and fought and were killed—I will remit for them their sins, and will admit them into gardens beneath which rivers flow—a reward from God. With God is the ultimate reward." (The Quran, 3:195)*

*But repentance is not available for those who commit evils, until when death approaches one of them, he says, "Now I repent," nor for those who die as disbelievers. These -We have prepared for them a painful torment. (The Quran, 4:18)*

*Whoever commits evil, or wrongs his soul, then implores God for forgiveness, will find God Forgiving and Merciful. (The Quran, 4:110)*

*Except those who repent, and reform, and hold fast to God, and dedicate their religion to God alone. These are with the believers; and God will give the believers a great reward.(The Quran, 4:146)*

*God does not hold you accountable for your unintended oaths, but He holds you accountable for your binding oaths. The atonement for it is by feeding ten needy people from the average of what you feed your families, or by clothing them, or by freeing a slave. Anyone who lacks the means shall fast for three days. That is the atonement for breaking your oaths when you have sworn them. So keep your oaths. Thus God makes clear His Revelations to you, that you may be grateful. (The Quran, 5:89)*

*Except for those who repent, and believe, and do good deeds. These - God will replace their bad deeds with good deeds. God is ever Forgiving and Merciful. Whoever repents and acts righteously -has inclined towards God with repentance. (The Quran, 25:70-71)*

*Whoever commits a sin will be repaid only with its like. But whoever works righteousness, whether male or female, and is a believer—these will*

*enter paradise, where they will be provided for without account. (The Quran 40:40)*

*O you who believe! Shall I inform you of a trade that will save you from a painful torment? That you believe in God and His Messenger, and strive in the cause of God with your possessions and yourselves. That is best for you, if you only knew. He will forgive you your sins; and will admit you into gardens beneath which rivers flow, and into beautiful mansions in the Gardens of Eden. That is the supreme success. (The Quran, 61: 10-12)*

*O you who believe! Repent to God with sincere repentance. Perhaps your Lord will remit your sins, and admit you into gardens beneath which rivers flow, on the Day when God will not disappoint the Prophet and those who believed with him. Their light streaming before them and to their right, they will say, "Our Lord, complete our light for us, and forgive us; You are capable of all things." (The Quran, 66:8)*

Let us turn now to Christianity. The atonement or expiation for sin has three parts. The first one is to turn back to God and to recognize that you have sinned. The second is to present Jesus to God as the personal offering for the sin. The third is to live a holy life. More specifically:

First: Turn back to God and recognize that you are not too holy:

*Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a spring of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men. They bend their tongue, as their bow, for falsehood; and they are grown strong in the land, but not for truth: for they proceed from evil to evil, and they don't know me, says Yahweh. Take heed everyone of his neighbor, and don't trust in any brother; for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbor will go about with slanders. They will deceive everyone his neighbor, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves to commit iniquity. Your habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, says Yahweh. Therefore thus*

says Yahweh of Armies, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how should I deal with the daughter of my people? Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceit: one speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in his heart he lays wait for him. (Jeremiah 9:1-8)

Second: Present Jesus as your sacrifice by your sin:

But Christ having come as a high priest of the coming good things, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation, nor yet through the blood of goats and calves, but through his own blood, entered in once for all into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify to the cleanness of the flesh: how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:11-14)

Third: live a holy life. Since this is impossible, confess your sins:

Confess your offenses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The insistent prayer of a righteous person is powerfully effective. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it didn't rain on the earth for three years and six months. He prayed again, and the sky gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. Brothers, if any among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins. (James 5:16-19)

#### **4.11 Sacrifices of thanksgiving to God**

The Quran invites to thank God for His blessings with a sacrifice:

*We have given you plenty. So pray to your Lord and sacrifice.* (The Quran 108:1-2)

The concept of sacrifice of thanksgiving in Christianity is given by the next verse:

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. (Romans 12.1)

#### **4.12 Sacrifices of expiation for sin**

The Quran explicitly warns in one of its most beautiful verses that sacrifices are not intended to be expiation for sin but rather as a form to share the blessing of God with the poor:

*Neither their flesh, nor their blood, ever reaches God. What reaches Him is the righteousness from you. Thus He subdued them to you, that you may glorify God for guiding you. And give good news to the charitable.* (The Quran, 22:37)

The Quran explains with extreme care that no one can do something that possibly might induce others to think that a sacrifice serves as expiation for sin:

*O you who believe! do not kill game while you are in pilgrim sanctity. Whoever of you kills any intentionally, its penalty shall be a domestic animal comparable to what he killed, as determined by two honest persons among you—an offering delivered to the Kaabah. Or he may atone by feeding the needy, or its equivalent in fasting, so that he may taste the consequences of his conduct. God forgives what is past. But whoever repeats, God will take revenge on him. God is Almighty, Avenger.* (The Quran 5:95)

By contrast and in regard with sacrifices, Jesus is in Christianity the sacrifice for the atonement of sin:

But now apart from the law, a righteousness of God has been revealed, being testified by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. For there is no distinction, for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; whom God set forth to be an atoning sacrifice, through faith in his blood, for a demonstration of his righteousness through the passing over of prior sins, in God's forbearance; to demonstrate his righteousness at this present time; that he might himself be just, and the justifier of him who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:21-26)

#### **4.13 The worst of all sins**

Sins are no problem for the Prophet Muhammad : just repent and come to God. This is so because for the Quran, God is merciful by his very nature. But things are completely different for the Bible: by his very nature, God is holy. So, the holiness of God demands from his servants to be holy and their sins can be atoned exclusively by the dead of Christ. So, if you do not have Christ, you have no peace with God. That is why rejecting Christ is the worst of all sins.

Now, is this poetry?

To decide this question, the Reader is invited to consider the exiles of the Jews in the light of the prophecies of the Bible. In first place, an exile must not happen unless the patience of God gets totally wasted:

And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me; Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat. And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you. And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours. And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell

therein shall be astonished at it. And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. (Leviticus 26:27-33)

So, the Jews were exiled in 587 BCE according to the specific prophecies given by Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The Jews were carried to what today is Iraq. They were allowed to return after 70 years. But they all were from the tribe of Judah and although few in number, they were enough to reestablish the nation.

After the resurrection of Jesus there are two events that are related to our discussion. The first is the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus in 70CE when the Jews rebelled against Rome and the Temple was destroyed. The second is an exile properly that happened around 133CE when the Jews were forbidden by the Roman Emperor Hadrian to enter the city with exception of the day of mourning. The Diaspora, as this exile is called, finished in 1945 just after the end of World War Two. So, the Diaspora lasted more than 1800 years, i.e., around 25 times the duration of the first exile. This contrast of durations immediately arises a question: What was that great sin that the Jews made to deserve so hard a punishment? From the political point of view the answer is immediate: this was a retaliation of the Roman Empire against two rebellions caused by ethnic, taxing and religious tensions. Is there something else behind these apparent causes? Yes. Precisely, Jesus has a proposal that arises from his strong conviction in that God is the ultimate Ruler of the History of the world. This belief is clearly expressed in his conversation with Pilate. Thus, the answer given by Jesus to the question of the cause of the exile can be read from various of his prophecies, for instance the following, in which he also predicts the total destruction of the Temple:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus

went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to [him] for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.(Matthew 23:37-24:2)

We clearly see that for Jesus the cause of the exile is that the Jews rejected him. But, how is this related to politics? Elaborating the point of view of Jesus, we reread the history as follows: as God hardened the heart of the Pharaoh that retained the Israelites from leaving Egypt so, He hardened the heart of Titus in the 70 and that of Hadrian in the 130s. In fact, in this last occasion, nearly half a million of Jews were killed. And that is why those Jews awake in me a sense of admiration: they preferred to die instead of celebrating the building inside Jerusalem of a temple to false gods and to follow the religious restrictions dictated by the Roman Empire ( Wikipedia, [17] 2017a + links therein).

To conclude: what is the worst sin that a person and a people can commit? From the Biblical point of view it is to reject the tenderness, love and discipline of Jesus the beloved Son of God. Who is blessed and wise enough to understand this and to put it into practice?

#### 4.14 Cleanness

The Quran prescribes to be clean for praying:

*O you who believe! When you rise to pray, wash your faces, and your hands and arms to the elbows, and wipe your heads, and your feet to the ankles. If you had intercourse, then purify yourselves. If you are ill, or travelling, or one of you returns from the toilet, or you had contact with women, and could not find water, then use some clean sand and wipe your faces and hands with it. God does not intend to burden you, but He intends to purify you, and to complete His blessing upon you, that you may be thankful.*  
(The Quran 5:6)

By contrast, in Christianity it is commanded to have very clear concepts: apart from the death of Christ in place of yours, there is nothing that can clean you:

This is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and don't tell the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we haven't sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not sin. If anyone sins, we have a Counselor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. And he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. One who says, "I know him," and doesn't keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth isn't in him. But whoever keeps his word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: he who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked. Brothers, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Again, I write a new commandment to you, which is true in him and in you; because the darkness is passing away, and the true light already shines. He who says he is in the light and hates his brother, is in the darkness even until now. He who loves his brother remains in the light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in the darkness, and walks in the darkness, and doesn't know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (1 John 1:5 - 2:11)

## 4.15 Holiness

The next sample of commands illustrate how nice, practical and sublime could be the holiness inspired by the Quran:

*And do not go near the orphan's property, except with the best of intentions, until he has reached his maturity. And honor your pledge, because the pledge involves responsibility. And give full measure when you measure, and weigh with accurate scales. That is fair, and the best determination. And do not occupy yourself with what you have no knowledge of. The hearing, and the sight, and the brains—all these will be questioned. And do not walk proudly on earth. You can neither pierce the earth, nor can you match the mountains in height. The evil of all these is disliked by your Lord. (The Quran 17:34-38)*

On its side, the Bible is very clear when demanding holiness:

Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man will see the Lord, looking carefully lest there be any man who falls short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and many be defiled by it; lest there be any sexually immoral person, or profane person, like Esau, who sold his birthright for one meal. (Hebrews 12:14-16)

But at the same time, the Bible declares that the most holy among men has no reason to be proud of:

Yahweh looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there were any who understood, who sought after God. They have all gone aside. They have together become corrupt. There is none who does good, no, not one. (Psal 14:2-3)

So, you must be holy but you cannot. Who and how will solve this contradiction? The solution is a sacrifice for the sin, not anyone but one that could satisfy the Holiness and justice of God. It is the sacrifice of Jesus, who offered his life for the sin of the world.

## 4.16 On the oneness of God

Some Islamic believers have transmitted me the feeling that Christianity is for them a despicable religion. As a matter of fact and as we have reviewed it, the Quran explicitly claims that Christianity is full of lies in both of its sources, the Old and New testaments. There is besides another crucial difference with respect to the nature of God that is terrible for a believer in Islam: for the Quran God is one but God is a contradiction for Christianity: God is one but has three Persons that are strongly associated.

The oneness of God is explicit and continuously reminded in the Quran:

*Your God is one God. There is no god but He, the Benevolent, the Compassionate. (The Quran, 2:163)*

The Quran strongly rebukes the idea that God has associates:

*They disbelieve those who say, "God is the Messiah the son of Mary." But the Messiah himself said, "O Children of Israel, worship God, my Lord and your Lord. Whoever associates others with God, God has forbidden him Paradise, and his dwelling is the Fire. The wrongdoers have no saviors." They disbelieve those who say, "God is the third of three." But there is no deity except the One God. If they do not refrain from what they say, a painful torment will befall those among them who disbelieve. souls prompts them to do. The wrath of God fell upon them, and in the torment they will remain. Will they not repent to God and ask His forgiveness? God is Forgiving and Merciful. The Messiah son of Mary was only a Messenger, before whom other Messengers had passed away, and his mother was a woman of truth. They both used to eat food. Note how We make clear the revelations to them; then note how deluded they are. Say, "Do you worship, besides God, what has no power to harm or benefit you?" But God -He is the Hearer, the Knower.(The Quran, 5:72-76)*

By contrast, Jesus claims that He and God are one:

Jesus answered them, ``I told you, and you don't believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, these testify about me. But you don't believe, because you are not of my sheep,

as I told you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give eternal life to them. They will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." (John 10:25-30)

And, how does that unity function?

While he said these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered into the cloud. A voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!" (Luke 9:34-35)

The third Person of God is the Holy Spirit. The way Jesus presents Him is terrific:

Most certainly I tell you, all sins of the descendants of man will be forgiven, including their blasphemies with which they may blaspheme; but whoever may blaspheme against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin. (Mark 3:28-29)

Is the Holy Spirit an invention of the New testament? No, He has a mission that He has been working in since the creation of man:

Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I don't go away, the Counselor won't come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. When he has come, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment; about sin, because they don't believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to my Father, and you won't see me any more; about judgment, because the prince of this world has been judged. (John 16:7-11)

The believers in Christ have a responsibility with the Holy Spirit:

Flee sexual immorality! ``Every sin that a man does is outside the body," but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

It was amazing for me to see that the Prophet also accepts a Holy Spirit that is, of course, dissociated from God. Nevertheless, there is a reason for this: when the Prophet corrects a certain Biblical text, he claims that he does it because of that Holy Spirit:

*When We substitute a verse in place of another verse -and God knows best what He reveals- they say, "You are an impostor." But most of them do not know. Say, "The Holy Spirit has brought it down from your Lord, truthfully, in order to stabilize those who believe, and as guidance and good news for those who submit." (The Quran 16:101-102)*

As a result of those corrections, the Holy Spirit of the Quran is quite distinct than the Holy Spirit of the Gospels. In fact, it is because of the Holy Spirit of the Quran that the Prophet deprives Jesus from every lordliness. But in Christianity things are quite contrary:

Therefore I make known to you that no man speaking by God's Spirit says, ``Jesus is accursed." No one can say, ``Jesus is Lord," but by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:3)

#### **4.17 The family of God**

While the Trinity is a stumbling stone for Muslims, it is just the beginning for Christianity: we must deal with the Family of God and moreover with the plan of God for the eternity. The Family of God is introduced as follows:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him. Without him

was not anything made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn't overcome it. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. The same came as a witness, that he might testify about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but was sent that he might testify about the light. The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own, and those who were his own didn't receive him. But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name: who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. The Word became flesh, and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-14)

At the end of time, the Family of God will consist of resurrected persons that will inhabit the Kingdom of God, a political institution, in which the holy will of God will not be trespassed:

But now Christ has been raised from the dead. He became the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since death came by man, the resurrection of the dead also came by man. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then those who are Christ's, at his coming. Then the end comes, when he will deliver up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when he will have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For, "He put all things in subjection under his feet." But when he says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that he is excepted who subjected all things to him. When all things have been subjected to him, then the Son will also himself be subjected to him

who subjected all things to him, that God may be all in all. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

By contrast, for the Prophet the term 'Family of God' is just a plasmeme. As we have seen, the Prophet explicitly says that God has no sons and no associates.

#### 4.18 Praying

The relation of the believer with God in Christianity follows the formalism given by Jesus:

``In that day you will ask me no questions. Most certainly I tell you, whatever you may ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now, you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full''. (John 16:23-24)

This formalism is disposed by the Quran. Instead, the believer must follow the next prescription:

*O you who believe! When you rise to pray, wash your faces, and your hands and arms to the elbows, and wipe your heads, and your feet to the ankles. If you had intercourse, then purify yourselves. If you are ill, or travelling, or one of you returns from the toilet, or you had contact with women, and could not find water, then use some clean sand and wipe your faces and hands with it. God does not intend to burden you, but He intends to purify you, and to complete His blessing upon you, that you may be thankful.* (The Quran 5:6)

#### 4.19 The sin of Adam and Eve

The Quran and the Bible have different versions with clearly different purposes of the sin of Adam and Eve and the form as God dealt with them. The Bible refers a sin that is punished with death while the Quran refers a transgression that is pardoned without much problem. The account of the Bible reads:

Yahweh God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. Yahweh God commanded the man, saying, \Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it; for in the day that you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:15-17)

The Quran claims:

*But Satan whispered to him. He said, "O Adam, shall I show you the Tree of Immortality, and a kingdom that never decays?" And so they ate from it; whereupon their bodies became visible to them, and they started covering themselves with the leaves of the Garden. Thus Adam disobeyed his Lord, and fell. But then his Lord recalled him, and pardoned him, and guided him. He said, "Go down from it, altogether; some of you enemies of some others. But whenever guidance comes to you from Me, whoever follows My guidance, will not go astray, nor suffer. But whoever turns away from My Reminder, for him is a confined life. And We will raise him on the Day of Resurrection blind."* (Quran 20:120-124)

## 4.20 Cain and Abel

The Bible is taken by Christian fundamentalists as the word of God verbatim. I am fundamentalist but not in regard with the letter but with the concepts. So, the Bible is for me a work of engineering that implements a purpose: to bring the word of God to a given culture in order to optimize its understanding, long term memorization and nationalism. Example:

The history about Cain and Abel is devoid of literal meaning: some few persons that live in an eden know nothing about household affairs, sheep or agriculture. So, what was the purpose of the messenger of God when he wrote the story of Cain killing Abel because of the reaction of God to an offering of vegetables?

The problem the author faced was the following: each person being tremendously intelligent knows that plants are fundamental to human nutrition. Besides, he or she believes that plants and rain come from God. Hence, he or she would thanks the god of agriculture for them. So, offerings consisting of plants and/or of their fruits shall be well represented among religious cults. For instance, Dagon, the main divinity of the Philistines was

presumably the god of alimentary abundance = agriculture + fishing. Now, the vision of the Hebrew religion was that the true God, the Creator and Judge, is different than the gods that were worshiped by Canaan people. At the same time, the Hebrew cult was already defined around bloody sacrifices of sheep and bowls. So, how to teach that false gods, demons actually, were rejected by the true God? The author of Genesis solves the problem inventing the marvelous story of Cain and Abel in which the type of sacrifice decides who is accepted by God and who is rejected. It is not excluded that Cain and Abel was already a popular, not elaborated tale: popular legends can never be overvalued. How good was the work of this engineer of the Word? From the very fact that we know his writings after some 2500 years, it is clear that his work was excel.

Summarizing, the first 3 chapters of Genesis were addressed to make clear the following points:

- God is with us. He loves us. He likes to speak with us. He cares for us. He wants us to live. He is good.
- Human beings are allowed by God to do many things but some few ones are forbidden and cause us to die: if we sin, if we infringe the law of God, we die.
- There are spirits that slander God. They make great and partially true promises. They have a purpose: they want you and me to die eternally. They are done if we die. They are bad.
- Eve sinned by listening at the word of the Evil: “ you will not die”. Adam sinned by listening the word of Eve, something like “I ate from the fruit of the garden and I did not die”.
- Once the bad enters into the human kind, it becomes constitutive. Its fruits might be reaped rapidly and be really catastrophic. So, Cain kills his own brother precisely because Cain got involved in a race for getting pleasant to the eyes of God. Is not that precisely what originated the bloody separation of muslim believers into Sunites and Chiites?
- God is holy and tolerates no sin: there is no pardon. The sentence of death will be inexorably executed.

- It is possible to restore the peace with God by offering a clearly specified sacrifice. You have no right to be original. The only allowed sacrifice is to kill somebody that it could die in place of you. So, God accepts the sacrifice of Abel but not that of Cain.
- Forget not that God is holy. So, the offer shall be holy too.
- In short, the story about Cain and Abel is just a prophecy that has been fulfilled in Christ, the Son of God, the sacrifice that dies in place of us.

## 4.21 Polygyny

I have seen that women suffer too much around me, in a Christian society, because of oppression by men. Very rarely I see a woman that claims that God has delivered her from that oppression. Most ladies remain in vicious circles of pain. In particular, it seems perfectly clear that every woman wants and needs to be the only woman of her man. So, problems begin with infidelity, which the Quran allows officially.

The Quran justifies polygyny (the right of a man to take various wives up to four) as a remedy to take care of orphans due to war:

*If you fear you cannot act fairly towards the orphans -then marry the women you like -two, or three, or four. But if you fear you will not be fair, then one, or what you already have. That makes it more likely that you avoid bias. (The Quran 4:3)*

A doubt arises: is polygyny a social remedy and only a remedy? The answer is negative: polygyny is something intrinsic to the Quran, so much that it is announced to be a fundamental institution in paradise:

*The inhabitants of Paradise, on that Day, will be happily busy. They and their spouses, in shades, reclining on couches. They will have therein fruits. They will have whatever they call for. Peace -a saying from a Most Merciful Lord.(The Quran 36:55-58)*

The words of Jesus explicitly interdicts the idea of polygyny after the resurrection:

Jesus answered them, ``Isn't this because you are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God? For when they will rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (Mark 12:24-25)

This implies that after resurrection the concept of marriage of whatever kind loses its meaning. The resurrection implies a new nature in which the joy of life will not depend on sexual relations. In particular, women resurrected to eternal life will not have that strong and obsessive need of being loved and so, they will not surrender themselves to the oppression by men. They will be free.

#### **4.22 Who will enter paradise?**

Both religions teach that we were created. From this we conclude that the Creator has a natural right to judge us. That is why some people will go to the eternal suffering and the rest will enjoy paradise.

The Quran is very specific in declaring a sufficient prerequisite to enter paradise:

*These are the bounds set by God. Whoever obeys God and His Messenger, He will admit him into Gardens beneath which rivers flow, to abide therein forever. That is the great attainment. (The Quran 4:13)*

Christ also presents a necessary and sufficient prerequisite to have eternal life:

Jesus said to her, ``I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies. Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

Let me to propose you a test that you can use to know whether you will enter paradise or not. So, answer the following question: Are you longing for passing the eternity with Jesus, the Son of God that became the lamb

of God that takes away the sin of the world? If your answer is positive, live accordingly, in holiness and in fear of the Lord.

## 4.23 The paradise as an award

The following is a promise made by the Quran to its believers:

*But for the righteous there is triumph. Gardens and vineyards. And splendid spouses, well matched. And delicious drinks. They will hear therein neither gossip, nor lies. A reward from your Lord, a fitting gift. Lord of the heavens and the earth, and everything between them—The Most Merciful—none can argue with Him. (The Quran 78:31-37)*

We see that the purpose of the paradise of the Quran is to satisfy the desires of the flesh. The situation in Christianity is quite different: the paradise fulfills the longing of God to be near to His family:

I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away, and the sea is no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people, and he will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away from them every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more. The first things have passed away." He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." He said, "Write, for these words of God are faithful and true." He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give freely to him who is thirsty from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes, I will give him these things. I will be his God, and he will be my son. But for the cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:1-8)

## 4.24 Happiness

Many believers of both Islam and Christianity seem to accept a simple equation that relates God and happiness:

Happiness = God

The Quran says that in the following words:

*Unquestionably, God's friends have nothing to fear, nor shall they grieve. Those who believe and are aware. For them is good news in this life, and in the Hereafter. There is no alteration to the words of God. That is the supreme triumph.* (The Quran 10:62-64)

An analogous message is found in the Bible, in Psalm 1:

Blessed is the man who doesn't walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in Yahweh's law. On his law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also does not wither. Whatever he does shall prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For Yahweh knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish.

Nevertheless, I am now an old man and so I can say that people suffer too much in this world, much more than any theology can resist. In the best case, the heart of the man is filled in anxiety and hurry and to make a break he fills it with pleasures, i.e., with activities whose only one purpose is pleasure.

In consequence, I preach Jesus crucified to take away the sin of the world and I have seen that this message gives happiness in very diverse cultures. But I also have seen that the ensuing happiness is transient. So, I am now

more humble and I preach my Jesus as a prerequisite for pleasing God but happiness is a problem that we must solve by an immense exercise of wisdom and not only by faith. In particular, God by Himself maybe the very cause of terrible suffering, such as it was lived by Job many centuries ago:

``He has put my brothers far from me. My acquaintances are wholly estranged from me. My relatives have gone away. My familiar friends have forgotten me. Those who dwell in my house, and my maids, count me for a stranger. I am an alien in their sight. I call to my servant, and he gives me no answer. I beg him with my mouth. My breath is offensive to my wife. I am loathsome to the children of my own mother. Even young children despise me. If I arise, they speak against me. All my familiar friends abhor me. They whom I loved have turned against me. My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh. I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. Have pity on me, have pity on me, you my friends; for the hand of God has touched me. Why do you persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?'' (Job 19:13-22)

#### **4.25 Satan has been judged**

The Quran mentions no demons, which are totally bad spirits. Nevertheless, it mentions spiritual entities that are somehow similar to them. These are the jinn that are sinner spirits that eventually might be converted to Islam:

*Say, "It was revealed to me that a band of jinn listened in, and said, 'We have heard a wondrous Quran. It guides to rectitude, so we have believed in it; and we will never associate anyone with our Lord. (Quran 72:1-2)*

This plainly contradicts the teaching of Jesus, who is completely against the possibility of a negotiation with Satan:

Now is the judgment of this world. Now the prince of this world will be cast out. (John 12:31)

## 4.26 The Islam is not the Antichrist

The Prophet is completely sure that He is a messenger of God. So much that He promises the paradise to those that believe in Him:

*As for those who believe and do righteous deeds -these are the inhabitants of Paradise, wherein they will dwell forever. (The Quran 2:82)*

Very contrary to this, we have listed many ways in which Islam contradicts Christ in fundamental points. Does this means that Islam is the Antichrist? No, and this gets clear from the next characterization of the spirit that will guide the Antichrist:

Beloved, don't believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit who doesn't confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist, of whom you have heard that it comes. Now it is in the world already. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God listens to us. He who is not of God doesn't listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:1-6)

We cannot apply these words to Islam. In fact, one can read in the Quran:

*The Messiah son of Mary was only a Messenger, before whom other Messengers had passed away, and his mother was a woman of truth. They both used to eat food. Note how We make clear the revelations to them; then note how deluded they are. (The Quran 5:75)*

So, the Quran recognizes that Jesus ate food. Therefore, Jesus was flesh. So, the words of John do not apply to Islam. I am glad of this because it is

easy to fall into error. In fact, there are some people that consider and teach that Islam has been inspired and guided by the spirit of the Antichrist -the last and most powerful human enemy of Christ before the end comes. That is false.

Nevertheless, be on guard: the Antichrist will knock on the door of your heart. But do not worry: Hold tie to Christ and to the Gospel preached by his Apostles.

#### **4.27 Unmasking demons**

I have found many persons that say about themselves that are guided. They pretend that their guide is God directly, or an Angel of God, or a goddess, or a spiritual master, or an alien, or the soul of the grandmother and so on. As a rule, no one of them tests the spirits: for them it is obvious that God is their guide. They do not know that even Jesus was tempted by the evil who showed him how powerful and great it was:

Again, the devil took him to an exceedingly high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory. He said to him, ``I will give you all of these things, if you will fall down and worship me". Then Jesus said to him, ``Get behind me, Satan! For it is written, `You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall serve him only.' " Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and served him. (Matthew 4:8-11)

By the way, let us pay attention to the innermost desire of Satan: to be worshiped as God, respected and obeyed.

Testing spirits is very important here. Why? Let us see:

The Gospel presents a very different Jesus than that of the Quran. A believer in Islam has been taught that the disciples of Jesus falsified the truth, maybe without a bad intention but because a lack of supernatural knowledge to see beyond appearances. He or she also believes that Prophet Mohammad had the needed supernatural knowledge thanks to the revelation of a spirit that the Prophet refers to as Holy Spirit and Angel Gabriel:

*Say, "Whoever is hostile to Gabriel -it is he who revealed it to your heart by God's leave, confirming what preceded it, and guidance and good news for the believers." Whoever is hostile to God, and His angels, and His messengers, and Gabriel, and Michael—God is hostile to the faithless. (The Quran 2: 97-98).*

Now, we can make sure that the Prophet indeed was guided by a spirit:

*The Prophet told something in confidence to one of his wives. But when she disclosed it, and God made it known to him; he communicated part of it, and he avoided another part. Then, when he informed her of it, she said, "Who informed you of this?" He said, "The All-Knowing, the All-Informed, informed me." (The Quran 66:3)*

With this we learn that the Prophet received guidance from a spirit. It might be normal to think: "The Guide revealed hidden facts. So, he is from God". Let us to say that to unveiling secret facts is no proof at all that a spiritual guide comes from God. Counterexample:

A young man was given three prophecies by a lady that was the founder of a new religion. Let us cite one of them: a General (of the Armed Forces) will call you. Such a prophecy was so ridiculous that it was forgotten until the moment when it was fulfilled: the young man was trying to connect one of his friends but he dialed the wrong number. Another young man answered and he presented himself as a soldier in service of a General. As the error was recognized an excuses were offered, communication was terminated. Some few instants later the man that made the wrong call received another call: "This is General such and such, How did you get my number? Forget it and erase it from every memory".

Few people would resist the impact created when three specific and highly improbable prophecies are fulfilled and so, they would fall surrendered under the feet of the prophet, be he from God or from the evil. But in the aforementioned case, it was obvious to decide that the prophetess was a false one because part of her new religion was to adore an image that she saw in a vision. In general, Christianity is an abundant source of false religions. These are fully characterized by possibly strategic changes to the Gospel and

a longing for money, sex and fame. To get sex they might declare promiscuity, polygamy, polygyny, homosexuality, pedophilia as part of what they call holiness.

In general, prophets abound everywhere and there are always followers for everyone of them. As important instances, some centuries before the birth of the Prophet, there was another one at Iran. He is known as Mani, the founder of Manichaeism. As the Prophet, he also claimed to be, among other things, the counselor that Jesus promised ( Wikipedia, [18] 2017b ). Iran also has a very influential prophet: Zoroaster, who lived some centuries before Christ. He has some similitudes with the Prophet Muhammad and has been accepted by Muslim believers as a true prophet. (See Wikipedia on Zoroaster).

We see that many powerful spirits guide diverse persons but their fruits show that they are not always messengers of God, rather they follow the evil. These phenomena of false prophets were also well known to the early Christian Church:

And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14)

Now, how did the early Christians discerned the nature of spirits that offered guidance? One method is by observing fruits. Say, there are many false religions that mix Christianity and occultism (the quest for supernatural powers and guidance). It seems that supernatural powers indeed come but not alone, instead they are accompanied with sinful somnambulism. Practitioners know in that way that the chosen religion is a false one, i.e., that powers are given by demons that demand a price to be paid: sinful automatism.

Let me now to pay attention to one specific and simple method to test spirits that is based on the knowledge of the strongest desire of evil spirits. Demons long for being worshiped, obeyed and respected. Now, the expected Messiah must fulfill a prophecy in regard with his power over demons:

Those who dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him. His enemies shall lick the dust. (Psalm 72:9)

This prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus:

They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. When he had come out of the boat, immediately a man with an unclean spirit met him out of the tombs. He lived in the tombs. Nobody could bind him any more, not even with chains, because he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him, and the fetters broken in pieces. Nobody had the strength to tame him. Always, night and day, in the tombs and in the mountains, he was crying out, and cutting himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and bowed down to him, and crying out with a loud voice, he said, ``What have I to do with you, Jesus, you Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, don't torment me." For he said to him, ``Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" (Mark 5:1-8)

So, which is the method to test spirits? It is very simple:

Refuse to obey the voice of the spirit you want to test and invoke the name of Jesus.

What will happen if this is done? If the spirit is a demon, he will break in gross words. This behavior is not proper of the angels of God:

But Michael, the archangel, when contending with the devil and arguing about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him an abusive condemnation, but said, ``May the Lord rebuke you!" (Juda 1:9).

Such phenomena continue to happen in our days. A Christian counselor told me: "a young man came to me and said that he heard an inner audible voice screaming bad words and that cursed God. This seemingly created a heavy pressure over the believer who loved God with all his heart. So I advised him to pray: 'Lord, these words are not mine'". The following is the witness of another Christian believer from a different country and culture than the former: "I ceased to follow the guidance of a spirit because apart from the ordinary wonderful visions that I got used to I began to receive too

many accusations and visions out of order, say, nude female demons. So, I disobey now its orders, and in response the spirit begins to vociferate rude words. Or if the guiding spirit is displaying a vision, I begin to claim the name of Christ the Holy Son of God. As a consequence, the vision aborts and the spirit cries a curse”.

We see that the pattern is simple: when a Christian believer has enough power in Christ to frustrate the desire of the guiding spirit of being a respected and obeyed god, it responds with gross words. It becomes clear that the spirit is not a messenger of God.

What happens if no one interdicts the work of the evil as a guiding spirit? The output is extremely varied, from massive suicides to assassination of babies to schizophrenia to the foundation of a new religion to nothing at all (at least to my eyes). All this is extremely complex and it is easy to judge wrongly. For instance, there was a time when I believed that the name of Jesus was an easy to manage almighty tool to cast demons. Now, I know that this is not that simple. There are demons that do not obey the order to leave. Besides, some demons obey the order and leave but just to return back later. The solution tried by the Church is not a session of deliverance but a long treatment that can be extended for years or even for a life.

Let us turn now to the Quran. What does the Quran says about testing spirits? In spite of many references to jinns in the Quran, it has nothing like the aforementioned procedure to test spirits in our days by simple humans.

#### **4.28 Power vs. Power**

One can see that the discussion between Islam and the Gospel of God has no end. Both opponents have plenty of answers for whatever comes to the mind of the other. An instance follows:

The words of Jesus imply that the searching of the Truth must have a preparation: to examine the heart to see what is in there and to make the appropriate amendments if necessary:

This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light;

for their works were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and doesn't come to the light, lest his works would be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his works may be revealed, that they have been done in God. (John 3:18-21)

To answer, the Islam reaffirms that God is not Holy, that He does not suffer by your sins and so He can easily forgive every transgression:

*O People of the Book! Our Messenger has come to you, clarifying for you much of what you kept hidden of the Book, and overlooking much. A light from God has come to you, and a clear Book. God guides with it whoever follows His approval to the ways of peace, and He brings them out of darkness into light, by His permission, and He guides them in a straight path. They disbelieve those who say, "God is the Christ, the son of Mary." Say, "Who can prevent God, if He willed, from annihilating the Christ son of Mary, and his mother, and everyone on earth?" To God belongs the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth and what is between them. He creates whatever He wills, and God has power over everything. The Jews and the Christians say, "We are the children of God, and His beloved." Say, "Why then does He punish you for your sins?" In fact, you are humans from among those He created. He forgives whom He wills, and He punishes whom He wills. To God belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and what lies between them, and to Him is the return. (The Quran 5: 15-18)*

And so on. The Quran even has a commandment in regard with the management of rhetoric:

*Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good advice, and debate with them in the most dignified manner. Your Lord is aware of those who stray from His path, and He is aware of those who are guided. If you were to retaliate, retaliate to the same degree as the injury done to you. But if you resort to patience—it is better for the patient. So be patient. Your patience is solely from God. And do not grieve over them, and do not be stressed by their schemes. God is with those who are righteous and those who are virtuous.(The Quran 16: 125-128)*

So, will the rhetoric continue forever and ever? We all know that the

rhetoric is nice but that also can make one to get sick of it. What to do?

The history of Islam shows that an endless war of rhetoric is brought to a finish by a successful act of power:

*God had given you victory at Badr, when you were weak. So fear God, that you may be thankful.* (The Quran 3:123)

The result is nearly one billion of Islamic believers, many of which fear God sincerely. It is for them that I have written this material that they could experience over themselves the spiritual power of Christ, which is very different than the power of the sword. In effect, those persons that train themselves to be powerful also live tired if not exhausted. If that is your case, Christ has the power to give rest to your soul:

*Behold, my servant whom I have chosen; my beloved in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my Spirit on him. He will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not strive, nor shout; neither will anyone hear his voice in the streets. He won't break a bruised reed. He won't quench a smoking flax, until he leads justice to victory. In his name, the nations will hope."* (Isaiah 42:1-4; cited by Matthew 12:18-21)

So, you have a responsibility before the True God: to read, analyze and apply the teaching of Jesus, such as it is consigned in the original Gospel.

#### **4.29 The great prerequisite**

Christ imposes over those that want to please God the following prerequisite:

*"If therefore you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift"*. (Matthew 5:23-24)

How good are Christian believers to obey this command? My witness is the following: we are not worth a single word of approval. In general, one

needs special and delicate training to learn to pray for those that wrong us but once this is done, it is so pleasant that one becomes a Christian for the eternity. This is me.

The Quran has no explicit counterpart to this. Anyway, meekness is also an asset of the Islam:

*The servants of the Merciful are those who walk the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, "Peace."* (The Quran 25: 63)

How good are Muslim believers to obey this command? My witness is the following: if I mention that Muslims use to kill my Christian brothers, some Muslim believers peacefully clarify that they do not belong in those violent factions. Others recall the so much innocent blood that my Christian brothers have shed over the ages. But no one assumes responsibility for the dead, be they Christian or whatever: I consider that we must teach one another to do this, to assume the responsibility of having killed and oppressed so many people in the name of God.

#### **4.30 You shall not murder**

The Bible emphasizes that it is God who gives life and kills. By contrast, human beings are not given the right to kill another human being:

You shall not murder (Exodus 20:13)

Jesus backs this command and has a punishment for assassins:

```Behold, I come quickly. My reward is with me, to repay to each man according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who do his commandments, v that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify these things to you for the assemblies.`

I am the root and the offspring of David; the Bright and Morning Star." (Revelation 22:12-16)

Notice that murdering can be implemented in too many peaceful ways apart from violent measures, say, robbery to the public treasure because of which less jobs will be created and less medical care will be given to persons in need. And what about international treaties that favor just the group of people in charge but condemn others living now or in the future?

In general, one is not exempt of having to kill somebody in legitimate self-defense. Or in a war. Or by accident. So, if someone wants the blessing of killing nobody, he or she must know that this is impossible. To say the least, everyone belongs in a political system whose stability is always built on blood. Say, thieves are continuously killed in my city in order that I could safely walk on some principal streets. That is why it is holy to pay taxes. Pay them in the measure you can.

On the other hand, Muslim believers must battle with verses like the following:

*O Prophet! Strive against the disbelievers and the hypocrites, and be stern with them. Their abode is Hell—what a miserable destination!* (The Quran 8:73).

My country is Christian and amidst us assassination is very common. Were this verse be given to us, we would have a religious visa to kill one another just by branning him that wrongs us as hypocrite, insincere, false, or dishonest. My point is that we, human beings, are prone to hate one another but in murdering, the realization of hate, there is no future or hope. By contrast, I have seen that a sincere reconciliation heals the soul. That is why I preach Jesus as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

### **4.31 War affairs**

The human species is terribly violent. As a rule, every human group does the best to use its religious system to gain, conserve or recover resources and power over land and human beings. This was a commandment in the Old

Testament as well as it is in the Quran that does it openly, without hesitation and, of course, in the name of God:

*Fighting is ordained for you, even though you dislike it. But it may be that you dislike something while it is good for you, and it may be that you like something while it is bad for you. God knows, and you do not know. (The Quran 2: 216)*

*When you encounter those who disbelieve, strike at their necks. Then, when you have routed them, bind them firmly. Then, either release them by grace, or by ransom, until war lays down its burdens. Had God willed, He could have defeated them Himself, but He thus tests some of you by means of others. As for those who are killed in the way of God, He will not let their deeds go to waste. He will guide them, and will improve their state of mind. And will admit them into Paradise, which He has identified for them. (The Quran 47:4-6)*

By contrast, Jesus adopted the behavior of a lamb even one that was sacrificed. Nevertheless, Christian countries might classify as number one in stealing, killing, and destroying all around the world. But one cannot stand inactive. Since war is a daily activity, Christian believers are invited to grow in meekness:

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.  
(Matthew 5:5)

and to work actively for the peace:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9)

In this regard, the history of mankind shows that many people have died because of religious wars. Now, in many cases, the religious coloring of wars is one more strategy to disguise the coveting for money, land, and people. Nevertheless, some cases may remain in which people get involved in blood affairs because somebody is trying exclusively to defend his or her God. What to do?

The very first thing that we can do is to teach everybody that God needs no defense at all. Or imagine an ant trying to defend an elephant. So, if God is really God, let Him defend Himself according to His will. This directive, that is footed on the most elementary common sense, is found here:

Then the men of the city said to Joash, ``Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has broken down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the Asherah that was by it.'' Joash said to all who stood against him, ``Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? He who will contend for him, let him be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because someone has broken down his altar.'' (Judges 6:30-31).

So, if a false god needs no defense, Does the True God need to be defended?

One question remains: why are there so many peaceful believers among Muslims given that the Quran openly commands to kill, torture and exploit peoples? The fundamental reason is that war is not paradise so, when peace is productive, most human beings prefer peace. And by the same token, when war is productive, it becomes a great temptation. Let us notice now that the Quran converts war into a very productive enterprise by promising paradise and other spiritual winnings to warriors. May the True God and his Christ bless all them that have resisted the temptation of walking into such a trap of the evil.

### **4.32 Religious atrocities**

Christianity has committed too many atrocities in the name of God. I thank personally all those that have investigated the issue, say, Kelsos, [7], (1996). And also all those that remind me of that. But atrocities refer not only to blood shedding but also to unjust international treaties.

It is pretty clear that all those atrocities pile up over my shoulders. And so, they heavily pressure over my hearth. I suffer because I do know that an atrocity is a great sin before God. For those that long for justice, let me say that God is not a thief nor one of their accomplices and so, the justice of God is already on the way.

On the other hand, Muslim believers are commanded to commit atrocities in the name of their God. But they have no excuse: their consciousnesses know the very same thing that Jesus knew:

''You have heard that it was said to the ancient ones, 'You shall not murder;' and 'Whoever shall murder shall be in danger of the judgment.' But I tell you, that everyone who is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council; and whoever shall say, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of the fire of Gehenna. (Mathew 5:21-22)

No matter what your religion could be, keep yourself away from killing, torturing, kidnapping, raping, slaving or slandering somebody: the lake of fire is already burning. Instead, learn to pray for your personal enemies day and night and you will know how beautiful the peace of God is.

### 4.33 Penalty for rejection

The penalty for rejecting the Prophet is tortures plus eternal fire. In effect, the Prophet says:

*As for those who disbelieve, I will punish them with a severe punishment, in this world and the next, and they will have no helpers. (The Quran, 3:56)*

*If only you could see, as the angels take away those who disbelieve, striking their faces and their backs: "Taste the agony of the Burning." (The Quran, 8:50)*

But rejecting Jesus brings no eternal penalty. Why? Because the natural state of every man is that of being condemned for the eternity and the mission of Jesus is to save him. Jesus means Saviour:

For God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him. He who believes in him is not judged. He who doesn't believe

has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. (John 3:17-18).

#### **4.34 Reading with responsibility**

The Prophet declares the following in regard with the prophets of the Old testament and Jesus:

*Say, "We believe in God, and in what was revealed to us, and in what was revealed to Abraham, and Ishmael, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the Patriarchs; and in what was given to Moses, and Jesus, and the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we surrender."*  
(The Quran 2:136)

Now, we must be very careful and read with responsibility. This verse expresses the inner satisfaction of the Prophet that originates from a reform that He proposes: He made a refurbishment of the Bible as it pleased him and he observes in hindsight that his work was pretty good. So, a plain, exact, explicit and true reading of the previous verse is as follows:

*Say, "We believe in refurbished God, and in what was revealed to us to refurbish the Bible, and in what was revealed to refurbished Abraham, and refurbished Ishmael, and refurbished Isaac, and refurbished Jacob, and the refurbished Patriarchs; and in what was given to refurbished Moses, and refurbished Jesus, and the refurbished prophets from their refurbished Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we surrender."*  
(Explicit reading of the Quran 2:136)

#### **4.35 Jesus as a servant of Muhammad**

The Jesus of the Gospel of God is:

- As a spirit: He was the first creation of God.
- As a man: He is the Son of God.
- As a master: He teaches us that God has feelings and that his wrath cannot be dismissed anyhow except by death.

- As a savior: He is the lamb of God that through his death takes away the sin of the world.
- As a resurrect man: He is the promise of God for every believer in what Christian people must be transformed.
- As a king: He was given power and authority from God to be the Lord over everything that was created.
- As the glory of God: He will return again to close this age and to inaugurate the eternity of God in which He will live amidst His family.

All this qualities are officially denied by the Quran. Under those circumstances, Jesus is like a bird that is deprived of all its feathers. Nevertheless, the Quran dresses Him anew in marvelous robes:

*When God will say, "O Jesus son of Mary, recall My favor upon you and upon your mother, how I supported you with the Holy Spirit. You spoke to the people from the crib, and in maturity. How I taught you the Scripture and wisdom, and the Torah and the Gospel. And recall that you molded from clay the shape of a bird, by My leave, and then you breathed into it, and it became a bird, by My leave. And you healed the blind and the leprous, by My leave; and you revived the dead, by My leave. And recall that I restrained the Children of Israel from you when you brought them the clear miracles. But those who disbelieved among them said, 'This is nothing but obvious sorcery.'"* (The Quran 5: 110.)

In general, the refurbished Jesus of the Quran can be succinctly described in the following words:

- He was born after a virginal conception (also preached by the Gospels).
- He was given the power to make miracles even since He was in the cradle.
- He was given a word from God, thus He is a prophet (also fundamental in the Gospel).
- He was risen alive to heavens without being dead and resurrected.

When I looked at this Jesus I thought to myself: What is this Jesus apart from a Beauty Queen?

The answer given to my question by the Quran is astonishing: Jesus is a highly esteemed prophet in the Islam because He gave signs from heaven that the Quran is the word of God and that Muhammad is his Prophet. In fact, the Quran says that the mission of Jesus was to predict the future coming of the Prophet:

*And when Jesus son of Mary said, "O Children of Israel, I am God's Messenger to you, confirming what preceded me of the Torah, and announcing good news of a messenger who will come after me, whose name is Ahmad." But when he showed them the miracles, they said, "This is obvious sorcery." (The Quran 61:6)*

Next, the Quran puts a curse in the words of Jesus against those people that disbelieve the coming Prophet:

*Cursed were those who disbelieved from among the Children of Israel by the tongue of David and Jesus son of Mary. That is because they rebelled and used to transgress. They used not to prevent one another from the wrongs they used to commit. Evil is what they used to do. You will see many of them befriending those who disbelieve. Terrible is what their souls prompts them to do. The wrath of God fell upon them, and in the torment they will remain. Had they believed in God and the Prophet, and in what was revealed to him, they would not have befriended them. But many of them are immoral. (The Quran 5: 78-81)*

On the other hand, the claim that the mission of Jesus was to announce a coming prophet is not supported by the New Testament. Jesus, nevertheless, promised that He will send a counselor:

I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, that he may be with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world can't receive; for it doesn't see him, neither knows him. You know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)

Observe that the context clearly points to a spirit that lived with the apostles although they did not see Him and that will be with us forever. So, it makes no sense to apply this verse to a human being. In any case, it cannot be applied to the Prophet Muhammad because the promised spirit is clearly eternal but the Prophet died on Monday, 8 June 632, in Medina, in the house of his wife Aisha (Lewis, [9], 2008).

So, the Bible needs to be strongly twisted to make it concordant with the Quran.

## **5 In hindsight**

Let us try now to capture what is behind the aforementioned differences between Christianity and Islam.

### **5.1 God is Holy**

If we put all aforementioned points together, a pattern arises and shows that the most crucial difference between Christianity and all other religions, Islam included, is related to the holiness of God. In fact, for Christianity God is Holy while for all other religions, Islam included, God is not. Instead, for the Islam God is merciful.

Now, all religions agree that God is both Holy and merciful. So, it might be possible to imagine that we are completely misled by trying to create a disjunction between holiness and mercy. But the problem is that these two qualities contradict one another and so one must choose which is more important. In this regard, the Prophet clearly teaches that one can just turn to God and be pardoned because the essential quality of God is mercy. But in Christianity, the fundamental aspect of the character of God is His Holiness and therefore God must be healed in the correct form from the wounds caused by our sin. Let us carefully notice that if Christianity is correct, then the Islam is a terrible deceit that deprives Muslim believers to be accepted by God. Let us explain that up to some detail.

The declaration of the Quran about the nature of God is as follows:

*THE OPENING (al-Fatihah)*  
*In the name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful.*  
*Praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds.*  
*The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.*  
*Master of the Day of Judgment.*  
*It is You we worship, and upon You we call for help.*  
*Guide us to the straight path.*  
*The path of those You have blessed, not of those against whom there is anger,*  
*nor of those who are misguided.*

I find these verses highly poetic. Moreover, the whole Quran is highly coherent with this directive: God is merciful by its very nature and this is his fundamental quality.

On the other hand, Holiness is for the biblical God a synonym of exclusivity, of exclusive possession, of full consecration:

You shall make a plate of pure gold, and engrave on it, like the engravings of a signet, 'HOLY TO YAHWEH.' (Exodus 28:36)

To be Holy means to be absolutely intolerant to any fault against this consecration. The behavioral consequence of that holiness is that one jealously observes the accorded terms of the consecration and does not commit sin (= transgression). A comparison may help to understand the implication of sin:

If one is wronged and the aggressor recognizes his or her fault and asks for forgiveness, one usually feels peace and of course one with joy expresses forgiveness. That happens because our wrong deeds are usually insignificant. But sometimes we wrong others very heavily and one knows that sincere repentance is not enough. For instance, if a faithful and beloved wife commits adultery, the husband sometimes would prefer to die: the concept of pardon simply has no meaning. The same happens with God.

Now, according to the Quran, God is merciful, more than anyone can imagine, and so He is ready to forgive if only you repent and ask for forgiveness. By contrast, according to Christianity, God is Holy and so each

transgression is for God a heavy unfaithfulness. The concept of pardon simply has no meaning.

Or, does someone believe that God will negotiate his anger in exchange for some words or by pretty songs or for the blood of animals or by human sacrifices or by good deeds? Such possibilities are not in the Bible. Now, let us state very clearly that the sacrifices of the Old Testament were not for buying the love of God: they were just a prophecy of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God for the sin of the world.

So, you must die because of your sin but this death is the eternal fire. Nevertheless, the Son of God, who indwelt with God since the beginning of time, became the man Jesus of Nazareth and died for our sins. So, if you offer to God the death of Jesus in place of yours, you will get reconciled to God. Next, you must strive to live as Jesus did: in holiness. By contrast, in the Quran such conception of the Holiness of God is impossible: God is merciful, and if you repent, His great love overcomes any possible feeling of grief or anger because of your sin.

## 5.2 Repentance and conversion

If you want to come to God, to the God of Jesus, you need to repent and to be converted to Him. This implies that you must hate sin and train yourself in doing others what you want them to do for you:

Therefore whatever you desire for men to do to you, you shall also do to them; for this is the law and the prophets. ``Enter in by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter in by it. How narrow is the gate, and restricted is the way that leads to life! Few are those who find it''.  
Matthew 7:12-15.

It is very easy and maybe desirable to go by the world trampling others and speaking lies: anymore. Anymore. Else you will not be with Jesus in his Kingdom.

### 5.3 The impossible project of the Prophet

Which was the aim of the Prophet to refurnish the Bible ?

The prophet reformed the Bible at pleasure. That was done not by the study of excavations, or by linguistic analysis or by whatever other work. Instead, those reforms are naturally understood as an attempt to carry out a very clear intellectual purpose: to erase from the Bible any trace of the Holiness of God, his absolute intolerance to sin, and to enhance His mercy as the fundamental character of God.

Let us highlight that the Prophet was aware that He had a project in his mind: absolute merciful monotheism. Thanks to that project, He was able to judge what He listened from spirits and to decide what was in agreement with that project and what was against it. Indeed, to be aware of that project is a duty for every Muslim:

*We never sent a messenger before you, or a prophet, but Satan interfered in his wishes. But God nullifies what Satan interjects, and God affirms His revelations. God is Omniscient and Wise. In order to make Satan's suggestions a trial for those whose hearts are diseased, and those whose hearts are hardened. The wrongdoers are in profound discord. And so that those endowed with knowledge may know that it is the truth from your Lord, and so believe in it, and their hearts soften to it. God guides those who believe to a straight path. Those who disbelieve will continue to be hesitant about it, until the Hour comes upon them suddenly, or there comes to them the torment of a desolate Day. Sovereignty on that Day belongs to God; He will judge between them. Those who believe and do good deeds will be in the Gardens of Bliss. (The Quran 22:52-56).*

Let us try to say in some few words, fairly and understandably even for children, what the difference between the two faiths consist in:

The death of Jesus, the Son of God, is for a Christian believer the sacrifice for the sin to The-Only-God-that-is-Holy. But, which is the sacrifice for the sins of a Muslim? The Muslim believer responds: We need no sacrifice for our sins because God is merciful, just repent and turn back to Him.

Is the Muslim project accomplished by the Quran? Not: the accomplishment is very poor. The reason is that the Holiness of God pervades the Old Testament with many prophecies. Now, not all those prophecies were refurnished by the Prophet. As a blatant omission we have the passover. It was presented in the Bible as a circumstantial ritual and nothing else. But it is also a prophecy of God in regard with the coming Messiah, which was the atonement of God for our sin and a promise that His blood will save us from the eternal death:

Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, ``This month shall be to you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, `On the tenth day of this month, they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household; and if the household is too little for a lamb, then he and his neighbor next to his house shall take one according to the number of the souls; according to what everyone can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You shall take it from the sheep, or from the goats: and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at evening. They shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel, on the houses in which they shall eat it. They shall eat the flesh in that night, roasted with fire, and unleavened bread. They shall eat it with bitter herbs. Don't eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted with fire; with its head, its legs and its inner parts. 12:10 You shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; but that which remains of it until the morning you shall burn with fire. This is how you shall eat it: with your belt on your waist, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste: it is Yahweh's Passover. For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and animal. Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute

judgments: I am Yahweh. The blood shall be to you for a token on the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and there shall no plague be on you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be to you for a memorial, and you shall keep it a feast to Yahweh: throughout your generations you shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.' ' (Exodus 12: 1-14)

So, we conclude:

1. The inner coherence of the Quran is very high: the primary quality of God is His unbounded, unrestricted mercy.
2. The Bible emphasizes that the primary quality of God is His Holiness, His absolute intolerance to sin. So, the Bible is highly incompatible with the Quran.
3. In spite of the efforts of the Prophet, the refurbished Bible is not coherent with the Quran: the holiness of God anyway resounds as a thunder, say, in the Passover, which was not remade by the Prophet because He did not understand that it was a prophecy.
4. The Bible as a whole is highly coherent and complete: God is primarily Holy but his bountiful mercy is shown in that He provided in Jesus, his beloved Son, an atonement for our sin. (Note: the Old testament is not complete: the accomplishment of the prophecy of the passover is not found in the Old Testament.)

## 6 Jesus else Mohammad

We have clearly seen that in many fundamental concepts the Prophet and Jesus present divergent views and that they obey different purposes. The Islam is designed to reinforce the idea that God is merciful and so he is ready to forgive us. On its side, Christianity emphasizes the Holiness of God and highlights that to repent and to ask for forgiveness is not enough to heal the wounds in the heart of God created by the sin: the only thing that produces rest in God is our death, our eternal death. But Jesus, the beloved

Son of God, died for us and his death was accepted by God to take away the sin of the world. So, to get acceptance by God, one must offer to God the death of Jesus in place of ours.

As we have seen, the two points of view are irreconcilable. Let us underscore it: The Islam and Christianity are irreconcilable. So, as sunrise is different from sunset so are the Prophet and the Christ of the Gospel different one from another. If one is the light, the other is the darkness. If one of them says the truth, the other is a liar. If one is a messenger of God the other is a messenger of Satan. Therefore, one must conclude that it is impossible to follow both at the same time.

Since one of them is an impostor, one would like to know what will happen to him and to his followers. The following verse illuminates this terrible question:

A false witness will perish, and a man who listens speaks to eternity. (Proverbs 21:28)

So, if one of Jesus or Muhammad will be received by God into Heavens, the other will be cast by Him into the Lake of Fire.

Since one must choose one or the other, how are we going to know where is the truth?

## 6.1 A test

The Quran has a very specific proposal to decide where is the truth:

*And if anyone disputes with you about him, after the knowledge that has come to you, say, "Come, let us call our children and your children, and our women and your women, and ourselves and yourselves, and let us invoke God's curse on the liars."* (The Quran, 3:61)

Now, if you agree to carry out this test, you automatically become a Muslim and at the same time you reject Christ. In effect, it is not in the law of Christ to invoke the curse of God over people much less over innocent children:

It came to pass, when the days were near that he should be taken up, he intently set his face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before his face. They went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, so as to prepare for him. They didn't receive him, because he was traveling with his face set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples, James and John, saw this, they said, \Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from the sky, and destroy them, just as Elijah did?" But he turned and rebuked them, \You don't know of what kind of spirit you are. For the Son of Man didn't come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." They went to another village. (Luke 9: 51-56)

The law of Christ in this regard is very clear:

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.  
(Romans 12:14)

It is convenient to underscore that God has reserved for Himself the right to cause pain, death and every sort of trouble. Nevertheless, He longs for not having to resort to that. Prophet Jonah refers this in the following words:

The people of Nineveh believed God; and they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from their greatest even to their least. The news reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. He made a proclamation and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, ``Let neither man nor animal, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed, nor drink water; but let them be covered with sackcloth, both man and animal, and let them cry mightily to God. Yes, let them turn everyone from his evil way, and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows whether God will not turn and relent, and turn away from his fierce anger, so that we might not perish?" God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way. God relented of the disaster which

he said he would do to them, and he didn't do it. But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. He prayed to Yahweh, and said, ``Please, Yahweh, wasn't this what I said when I was still in my own country? Therefore I hurried to flee to Tarshish, for I knew that you are a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, and you relent of doing harm. Therefore now, Yahweh, take, I beg you, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live." Yahweh said, ``Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made himself a booth, and sat under it in the shade, until he might see what would become of the city. Yahweh God prepared a vine, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to deliver him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the vine. But God prepared a worm at dawn the next day, and it chewed on the vine, so that it withered. It happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a sultry east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he fainted, and requested for himself that he might die, and said, ``It is better for me to die than to live." God said to Jonah, ``Is it right for you to be angry about the vine?" He said, ``I am right to be angry, even to death." Yahweh said, \You have been concerned for the vine, for which you have not labored, neither made it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night. Shouldn't I be concerned for Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred twenty thousand persons who can't discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much livestock?" (Jonah 3:5 - 4:11).

Now, remember and never forget that you were made by God in His image. Next, apply this to your life:

Revise your past life and remember that when you asked God for a chastise for your enemies then headache overcame you and your arterial tension grew dangerously. When you continued to do so, your ulcers almost killed you. Now, if this was made as you followed some principle of your religion,

you will immediately know that it is a false one, that it does not heal your heart. It is time for you to come to the true religion, one that will put you in the way of healing as you apply its principles to your prayers:

Ask God for blessings for your enemy, for those who curse you, for those who hate you, for those who mistreat you and persecute you. Headache associated with hate will diminish and ulcers will recede. In general, your healing will be as abundant as the blessing you ask for, although you might need professional assistance. Next, gave a look over the religions of the world to see which one makes of this experience a tenet of its theology. If you find one, be glad for you have found a religion that will help you as in this life as in the other: the Gospel of God is for the eternity.

Anyway, when my soul is too harmed I pray the Lord for justice. After some time I get rest and so, I return to my usual prayers for blessing.

## 7 Conclusion and demands

Many differences exist between the Bible and the Quran. We have dealt with the most important in regard with the fundamental aspect of the faith: the way a believer is accepted by God.

The Bible teaches that the Holiness of God cannot be negotiated: since you are a sinner, you die, but God so loved the world, that He gave his one and only Son, Jesus, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

By contrast, the Prophet makes his best to teach that God is merciful and that this is His fundamental characteristic and so there is no sacrifice for the sin: just repent and come back to God. In that way, the Prophet makes fun of the Holiness of God and of His pain because of our sins. The teaching of the Prophet contradicts the Bible but for him this is no problem: He edits the Bible at pleasure. As a byproduct, the Prophet converts Jesus into one of his servants. Although his editing work is not complete, its completion can correctly be given as an exercise. The reason is that the Prophet showed how to proceed because He clearly depicted a theological project: all one must do is to take into account that mercy is the fundamental quality of God and, to avoid boring, one must include some traces of holiness and of other virtues of God embedding them in every day's life.

The only problem with that editing work is that one must teach lies against the truth that the Christian tradition always have taught and because of which many persons have suffered martyrdom. But, on which charges? Pliny the Younger, a Roman governor of the province of Bithynia located at the northern Turkey, described Christian believers circa 110 AD in a letter to the Emperor Trajan as follow: On a fixed day they used to assemble before dawn to sing an antiphonal hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath not for any criminal purpose, but to commit no fraud, no robbery or adultery, to bear no false witness, and not to deny any debt when asked to pay up. (EyeWitness to history, [5], 2013). The fixed day was Sunday on which they celebrated the resurrection of Jesus who died for our sins and that received from God the right and power to become Lord over everything that was created. Observe that the lordliness of Jesus is applied not to rule over others but before everything else to dominate over

own desires to live a holy life thanks to the power of the Holy Spirit. All these facts were denied by the Prophet by a mere editing work that is not only literary: it has served in the past and serves today as excuse to murder and persecute Christians (The Guardian, [6], 2018). Anyway, Christian with difficulty will prove that they are free of sin against their murders (BBC, [2], 2013).

Now, let me to put forward my immediate demands:

1. Judge correctly those Muslim believers that kill, torture, kidnap, enslave or rape people that they consider disbelievers. They are faithful to the Quran. They do what the Quran commands. Nevertheless, they have no excuse. In fact, they know by instinct that they are not that holy to wrong others because of their sins or beliefs.
2. To recognize that each believer in the Quran is united with those assassins. By the same token, every Christian is united with all those assassins that committed so many atrocities in the name of God through the ages and that continue to do so today by means of unjust international treaties. That unity cannot be denied: how can we avoid enjoying so much welfare and military power that has been built on the fruit of oppression, injustice and destruction of the Earth?
3. Make a visible choice: to continue the same way else to actively work for a change. If a change was the election, use not those religious assassins to kill yourself. Instead, be active and clear but also meek, prudent and wise. You cannot do that unless you pray for your enemies day and night that the True God and his Christ blessed them.

## 8 Acknowledgments

This work resulted from my conversations with Amir Zarifi. Apart from this, I got inspiration from many Muslim believers. Example: I was invited to a party organized by a group of Muslim believers -this happened in a Christian country where the young men were recently newcomers. I assisted and behold, there were some 20 men and only two women. With music at the background, at certain moment two men formed a couple and began to dance. Very soon a young Muslim approached them and made his best to

transmit a message: This is sinful and must be stopped. The message was accepted and the dancers ceased playing the role of a couple. Some few minutes later a new try began but it was stopped as a new admonition was made. All this happened in peace, even with tenderness and represents one of the most wonderful experiences of my life.

## 9 Why did I Write this essay

I was walking along a field and a large and robust car approached me to my encounter. When I projected its trajectory, I arrived to the conclusion that the car should pass over a great hole in the mouth of a cistern of the sewer system. But I did not warn the driver because by that time I already had noticed that no one needs warnings because everyone always knows what to do for every occasion and so no counseling was ever necessary. Nevertheless, I stopped to see what he would do. The result was a strong stumbling of the machine, which spectacularly jumped but thanks to its robust design it survived whole. Immediately the driver broke in curses against me and added: *You knew that there was a hole and you did not make a warning.* Silence was my only response.

That happened long ago when I was a very young man but my mind remembers the incident in spite of the fact that some 45 years have elapsed. Now, I find myself in a similar situation: I know that Muslim believers happily go making their way but I do know that there is a great hole in front of their trajectory: I know that the Prophet Muhammad is not a messenger of God. The purpose of this essay is to warn everyone of this by showing how divergent is the Jesus presented by the Quran than the Jesus revealed by the New Testament. Such great difference prompts a challenge: to choose the Prophet else Christ. The criteria to make an election is to see which message better fits the human heart. Therefore, this is a personal decision. This does not mean that one is free before the true God to choose whatever comes to the mind: He gave us reason and abundant data to take the correct decision. In consequence, He will judge us for our election.

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